

**ROD M. LINCOLN COLLECTION**  
Mss. 4059

Inventory

Compiled by  
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	2 linear ft.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Plaquemines Parish, La.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1933-1987
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1933-1958.
<b>Language</b>	English.
<b>Summary</b>	Photographs, topographical drawings and papers relating Freeport Sulphur Co. and the company town of Port Sulphur, La. The collection was compiled by Rod M. Lincoln, a resident of New Orleans, La., and Supervisor of Training and Development of Freeport-McMoRan Inc., the successor company to Freeport Sulphur C.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Photographic negatives require permission of the curator.
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<b>Citation</b>	Rod M. Lincoln Collection, Mss. Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Locations</b>	C:117-118, OS:L, 65:60

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Freeport Sulphur Co. founded Port Sulphur, La., in 1932 in order to establish a base for its mining operations and shipping. It was developed from sparsely settled farmland and marshlands in Plaquemines Parish, to provide housing for employees, and thereby promote a stable workforce for the company. Freeport provided utilities, municipal services, town leadership and recreation for the community; consequently, the civic life of residents was closely tied to their employer. However, as time passed, the Freeport Sulphur Co. divested itself of property and involvement in the governance of the town. As the number of employees at the plant was reduced, Freeport Sulphur Co. became less important in the everyday life and economic activity of Port Sulphur. Land that was no longer needed for mining or plant operations was transferred to the parish or sold to private individuals. As a result, Port Sulphur grew into an independent township.

The Freeport Sulphur Co. underwent many corporate changes throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among these were the acquisition of the Cuban American Nickel Co. and the formation of Freeport Oil Co. After a merger with McMoRan Oil and Gas in 1981, the company name became Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Rod M. Lincoln, a resident of New Orleans, La., was the supervisor of Training and Development for Freeport-McMoRan Inc., and compiled this collection.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of photographs, topographical drawings and papers relating to Freeport Sulphur Co., its plant and mine operations, and the town of Port Sulphur, La. The majority of photographs show images of plant operations, mines and ports. They depict sites at Grand Ecaille Mine, Grandepont, and Port Sulphur in Plaquemines Parish. Other photographs show images of Port Sulphur and its residents. Drawings consist of blueprints, maps, plats and engineering drawings for industrial and residential construction. Papers reflect the close relationship between Freeport Sulphur and the town it established, as well as its subsequent withdrawal from the town's affairs.

**LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Papers, 1933-1962, 1969, undated.**

**Series II. Graphic material, 1939-1983.**

**Series III. Photographs, 1933-1983, undated.**  
**Subseries 1. Freeport Sulphur Co., 1933-1979, undated.**  
**Subseries 2. Town of Port Sulphur, 1937-1983, undated.**

**Series IV. Printed items, 1933-1987, undated.**

**Series V. Artifacts, undated.**

## SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series, I. Papers, 1933-1962, 1969, undated.**

Papers consist of correspondence, notices, informal reports and announcements that reflect the involvement of Freeport Sulphur in the development and governance of Port Sulphur, La. Material distributed to residents provides news on town affairs, and informs them of regulations, leisure activities, medical care, the sulphur industry and job safety. Notices discuss a wartime security plan and encourage residents to plant vegetable gardens and conserve fuel during World War II. They also contain employee rosters for the Grande Ecaille plant (1933-1935) and a report on the post-war sulphur supply (Jan. 1, 1946). News on the shortage and surplus of sulphur continues in the 1950s.

Papers show Freeport Sulphur becoming less involved in town affairs as time passes as the company begins to concentrate more on its operations and the sulphur industry, and less on community affairs, as it begins to divest itself of residential properties. A memorandum announces the formation of the Freeport Oil Co. as a division of Freeport Sulphur Co. (Jan. 30, 1956). Papers relating to the Cuban Nickel Co. include an organizational chart for a joint project (Aug. 22, 1957), a press release announcing a name change to Freeport Nickel Co. (Nov. 20, 1958), and employee rosters (Aug., Oct 1, 1959). Papers also include short histories of Freeport Sulphur (ca. 1952, undated). The last dated item in this series is a letter of response from the employment supervisor to a job applicant (April 15, 1969).

### **Series II. Graphic material, 1939-1968, undated.**

This series is comprised of blueprints, maps, plats and engineering drawings for the construction of plant facilities and subdivisions at Grande Ecaille and Port Sulphur, La. Additionally, there is a drawing produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the Barataria levee along the railway line (undated).

### **Series III. Photographs, 1933-1983, undated.**

**Subseries 1.** Freeport Sulphur Co. Photographs, 1933-1979, undated.

This subseries is comprised of photographs and negatives produced by the Freeport Sulphur Co. that reflect daily operations, mining, and transportation. Photographs depict sites at Grand Ecaille Mine, Grandport, and Port Sulphur in Plaquemines Parish. Photographs include views of sulphur mines, plant facilities, loading docks, pumping stations, equipment, business offices, and employees at work. Photographs show early construction sites (1933) and document exploration and drilling of wells in North Louisiana (undated) and the site of a blowout accident (undated). Aerial views show plant facilities and surrounding canals used for transport, and high floodwaters caused by Hurricane Camille (1969). Additionally, photographs contain shots of the Joliet Terminal, Ill. (undated). There are also color photographs of the *Louisiana Brimstone*, a tanker used for transporting liquid sulfur (undated). Negatives are of unidentified individuals.

**Note:** Several photographs bear descriptive notes.

**Subseries 2.** Town of Port Sulphur Photographs, 1937-1983, undated.

Photographs include images of town construction sites, public buildings, neighborhoods, houses, and National Security Awards ceremony (1944). Photographs of the hospital include interior rooms as well as the exterior view (1946). In addition, a photograph of a Port Sulphur house illustrates the damage caused by Hurricane Betsy in 1965. There are also photographs of the town's dedication ceremony in 1983.

**Series IV. Printed items, 1933-1987, undated.**

This group contains journal articles, newspapers, newspaper clippings and booklets pertaining to the sulphur industry, security, and the town of Port Sulphur. Articles relate to drilling, mining, processing, and transport. Several articles describe a new floating sulphur mine in Bay Ste. Elaine, La. (1952). Industry publications include *Sulphur is Where You Find It* (1954), *Sulphur, Ally of Agriculture and Industry* (1969), and two issues of *Freeport-McMoRan Reporter* (Oct. 1983, 1987). Booklets relating to security include *Technical Aspects of Sabotage* (1950), *Principals of Plant Protection* (1950) and *The Threat of Red Sabotage* (1950). Printed items also relate to the history and growth of Port Sulphur (1940, 1945-1946, March 1953, undated). Newspaper clippings report community events and provide news on the sulphur industry and the Freeport Sulphur Co. A Louisiana highway map is also found in this series (undated).

**Series V. Artifacts, undated.**

Artifacts consist of two paperweights, produced from elemental sulphur, to commemorate the first day of production at the Caillou Island mine.

**INDEX TERMS**

**Terms**

**Series**

Chemical plants--Design and construction.	II , III.1
Company town architecture--Louisiana--Port Sulphur.	II, III
Company towns--Louisiana--Port Sulphur.	I, III.2-IV
Cuban Nickel Co.	I
Grande Ecaille (La.)--History.	II
Freeport Sulphur Co.	1-IV
House construction--Louisiana--Port Sulphur.	II, III.2
Levees--Louisiana--Plaquemines Parish.	II
Plaquemines Parish (La.)--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	I-IV
Port Sulphur (La.)--History.	I, III.2-IV
Sabotage in the workplace--United States.	IV
Sulfur industry--Louisiana--Employees.	I-IV
Sulfur mines and mining--Louisiana--Plaquemines Parish.	III.1, IV
United States. Army Corps of Engineers. New Orleans District.	II

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
C:117	1	1-3	<b>Series I. Papers, 1933-1969, undated.</b> Papers, 1933-1950.	
	2	1-7		Papers, 1951-1969, undated.
C:117	2	8	<b>Series II. Graphic material, 1939-1983.</b> Graphic material, 1957, undated.	
OS:L		1		Graphic material, 1939-April 1954.
		2		Graphic material, Aug. 1954-1983,
		3		Graphic material: Baratavia levee, undated.
		roll 1		Graphic material: Port Sulphur, 1939-1947
	roll 2	Graphic material: Grande Ecaille plant, 1954, Citrus City subdivision, undated.		
65:60		1	<b>Series III. Photographs, 1933-1983, undated.</b> Negatives-access restricted; permission of the curator is required.	
C:118	3	1-14	<b>Subseries 1.</b> Freeport Sulphur Co., 1933-1979, undated.	
OS:L	4	1-9	<b>Subseries 1.</b> Freeport Sulphur Co., undated.	
		1	<b>Subseries 1.</b> Freeport Sulphur Co., undated.	
	4	10-20	<b>Subseries 2.</b> Town of Port Sulphur, 1937-1983, undated.	
C:118	5	1-14	<b>Series IV. Printed items, 1933-1987, undated.</b> Printed items, 1933-1987, undated.	
OS:L		4		Printed items, 1943-1983.
C:118	6		<b>Series V. Artifacts, undated.</b> Paperweights, undated.	