

# **Niederhut Carriage Company**

## **Mss.01229**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
<b>Creator - Interviewer</b>	Krout, Linda, 1988
<b>Creator - Interviewee</b>	Niederhut, Albert, 1910-1971
<b>Creator - Interviewer</b>	Oliner, Stanley, 1938-2012
<b>Title</b>	Niederhut Carriage Company
<b>Date</b>	1887-1971
<b>Extent</b>	1.5 Linear feet .5 lf + 3 flat boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Collection [Box]</b>	.5 lf + 3 flat boxes
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection contains material from the Niederhut Carriage Company, a successful Denver business that existed for eighty years from 1892 to 1972. Founded by two German immigrants, brothers William G. Niederhut and Henry E. Niederhut, the company began manufacturing custom truck bodies in the 1920s as the United States began predominantly using automobiles for transportation. Much of the manuscript material highlights the daily business and accounting practices of the company. An album and collection of photographs document the many truck designs used by the company for numerous clients, as well as the inner workings of the Niederhut Company workshop. A detailed oral history of the company is also included, compiled from an interview with Albert Niederhut, Henry's youngest son. The collection is invaluable for</p>

its documentation of a long-running Denver business, and the relationship it had with the Denver community at large.

**Preferred Citation note**

Cite collection as: Niederhut Carriage Company Collection, Mss.01229 (accession 88.311.1-.45), History Colorado. Cite individual accession numbers when applicable.

## Historical note

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The Niederhut Carriage Company was a family-owned business that was successful for eighty years. The company started by shoeing horses and making wagons and carriages. It smoothly made the transition from horse-drawn vehicles to automobile manufacturing in the 1920s. After this time it concentrated on building custom truck bodies for various local merchants.

The company was founded by two brothers, William G. Niederhut and Henry E. Niederhut, in about the year 1892. It started out as Niederhut Bros., then changed to the East Denver Carriage Works, and later stayed as The Niederhut Carriage Company. After a number of years the brother, William, quit the business to start another in Tincup, Colorado, leaving the carriage company to Henry. The company was then run by Henry and his three sons: Ernest H., Edward L., and Albert. Henry was the president, Ernest was the secretary, and Edward and Albert were wood workers. The Niederhuts, along with a few other men, managed to keep the company alive until the early 1970s. The Niederhut Carriage Company was a prime example of a successful business in Denver's past.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection includes a number of photographs, including an album (used as a company catalog), photos of trucks made by the company, and of the company building, workshop, and crew. The collection also includes a company decal, color slides of various carriages and trucks, an oral history made with Henry Niederhut's youngest son, Albert, and various business records in the form of a cancelled check, company letterhead, property deeds, design book, accounting journal, day books, and an inventory book. The material covers much of the company's founding and activity from 1887 up to 1971, however a fire at the Niederhut Carriage Company in the mid 1960s destroyed many of the original records.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

### Conditions Governing Use note

Open to researchers without restrictions.

### **Provenance**

The materials were donated to History Colorado by company founder Henry Niederhut's son, Albert Niederhut, in 1988. The interview transcript and audiotape cassette of Albert's oral history of the company was compiled that same year by History Colorado.

### **Processing Information note**

Originally processed by Linda Krout, April 1988. Reprocessed by Kevin Smith, October 2013.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Niederhut Carriage Company. (Denver, Colo.)

### **Genre(s)**

- Accounting Books of account
- Deeds.
- Inventory
- Photo albums
- Photographs.
- Slides--Color

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Denver (Colo.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Niederhut, Henry E., 1863-1953

- Niederhut, William G., 1890-1910

### **Subject(s)**

- Carriage and wagon making.
- Carriage industry.
- Carriage manufacturers and dealers
- Carriages (vehicles)
- Trucks
- Trucks--Bodies
- Trucks--Frames.

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### **Accession number**

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88.311.1-.45

## Collection Inventory

**FF 1 Interview with Albert Niederhut, Colorado Historical Society - Transcript and Audiotape Cassette March 14, 1988**

**FF 2 Property Deeds, Titles, Bill of Sale, and Real Estate Bond 1887-1917, 1941, 1953**

**FF 3 Cancelled Check of East Denver Carriage Works 1897**

**FF 4 Blank Letterhead/Stationary - The Niederhut Carriage Co. ND**

**Photographs 1894-1940**

FF 5 Building and Workshop, Niederhut Carriage Co. 1894-1895, 1914, 1916, 1926

FF 6 Carriages 1896, 1916, 1929, ND

FF 7 Motor Carriages for The Colorado Packing and Provision Co. 1918

FF 8 Trucks for Pepsi Cola ND

FF 9 Trucks for Supreme Bakers 1938, 1940

FF 10 Trucks for Carlson-Frink Co. ND



**Niederhut Carriage Company Decal**

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FF 11 Trucks for Other Clients 1938, ND

FF 12 Niederhut Photo Album 1914-1918, 1932-1939

**FF 13 Niederhut Carriage Company Decal ND**

**FF 14 Slides - Carriages and Trucks May 1971, ND**

**Item 15 Design Book 1937-1961**

**Item 16 Inventory Book [1948-1968]**

**Accounting Books 1892-1970**

Item 17 Accounting Book 1892-1895

Item 18 Accounting Book [1924-1936]

Item 19 Accounting Book 1926-1970

**Day Books 1891-1971**

Item 20 Day Book 1891-1892

Item 21 Day Book 1894-1895

**Day Books**

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Item 22 Day Book 1898-1900

Item 23 Day Book 1900-1902

Item 24 Day Book 1959-1964

Item 25 Day Book 1968-1971