

**From:** [Celeste Wiley](#)  
**To:** [Emmons, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Opinion on copyright  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 08, 2020 2:13:21 PM

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Ah, okay. I definitely think you're free and clear then. They were the property of DOT and deaccessioned by the DOT, so they fall under public domain.

**Celeste Wiley, MS, CA**  
Visual Materials Archivist

The South Carolina Historical Society Archives  
205 Calhoun Street, Room 340  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(p) 843-723-3225, ext. 116

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**From:** Emmons, Karen <[kemmons@historiccharleston.org](mailto:kemmons@historiccharleston.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** Celeste Wiley <[Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org](mailto:Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Opinion on copyright

They were taken by the SC DOT. They were acquired when a DOT employee called Katherine (before my time) to say they were being thrown out unless HCF wanted them. Of course, there's no written documentation of that. They're from the 1960s.



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**From:** Celeste Wiley <[Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org](mailto:Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 08, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Emmons, Karen <[kemmons@historiccharleston.org](mailto:kemmons@historiccharleston.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Opinion on copyright

In theory, anything done by the State for a Public project is copyright free/public domain.

BUT - if the images were taken by an independent contractor, they could be under that person's copyright. It would totally depend on their contract.

Where have you located these images and how old are they?

**Celeste Wiley, MS, CA**  
Visual Materials Archivist

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**From:** Emmons, Karen <[kemmons@historiccharleston.org](mailto:kemmons@historiccharleston.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 1:42 PM

**To:** Celeste Wiley <[Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org](mailto:Celeste.Wiley@schsonline.org)>

**Subject:** Opinion on copyright

Hola Celeste!!

I'm second-guessing myself now but wouldn't photographs taken by the SC Dept. of Transportation be public domain, especially since they document properties that would be impacted by eminent domain for the construction of new roads????

Hope all's well with you (& your mom post 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment).

K