Dating Photographs

**Format**
- Different photographic processes and formats were used during different time periods.
- Identifying the format and/or process can help provide a date range.

**Details**
- Pay close attention to any items in the photo.
- Be on the lookout for things like props, cars, signs, buildings, etc., as these can help determine a date.

**People**
- Examine the people in the photo and look closely at hairstyles, clothing, and ages.
- Clothing and hairstyles changed frequently over the years.
- If you know the person in the photo, ask yourself: How old does he/she look? Compare that to known dates (like birth, death, marriage, etc.).

**Photographer/ Studio**
- Check the bottom or the back of the photo for any information on the photographer or studio.
- If a name is provided, research it and see if you can determine how long this person or studio was in business.
Resources

Format


Details


Photographer/ Studio

- Directory of Minnesota Photographers (Minnesota Historical Society) – www.mnhs.org/people/photographers

People