



For more than 40 years, Carol Highsmith has greeted every single day with one mission: to document every nook and cranny of the United States through her photography. A new PBS documentary ***Capturing America: The Carol Highsmith Story*** follows this 80-year-old maverick as she chases a dream as vast and challenging as America itself.

A self-described nomad, Carol captures and documents life in America in the late 20th and

early 21st centuries, visiting all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

From the nation's majestic mountains and quirky roadside attractions to its most unforgettable characters, both known and unknown, journey with Carol through six states as she wraps up her life's work and completes her study of America.

When completed, Carol's collection will amount to a projected 100,000 images, all destined for the Library of Congress where they live copyright and royalty free for all of America to use and enjoy.

"When I was a child, we couldn't wait to get out on a road trip," remembers Carol. "The whole backseat was mine. I would look out over America and to me, it was a dream. I was hooked." More than four decades and countless miles later, her childhood dream is a national treasure. "We're lucky to be Americans, and we need to have a record of our times."

As we celebrate America's 250th, this priceless archive is Carol's gift to a country she has loved since those early road trips. With unfathomable energy and determination, what is revealed is a woman who found purpose after pain and a love for people and place that will fill you with pride and hope.

Capturing America: The Carol Highsmith Story is a co-production of KAG Productions, LLC and Louisiana Public Broadcasting. The film premieres on LPB June 29th and will be available on PBS stations nationwide starting July 4, 2026. Later this fall, the film will be part of a national PBS pledge drive, more details to come.

American Lens with Carol Highsmith is a 6-part companion series covering Carol's epic trip through four Midwestern states: Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. Come along as Carol meets folks proud of their history and traditions. Episodes of *American Lens* will drop on PBS' YouTube channel coming later this fall.

To see the film's trailer, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/1200110492?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

To see Carol's more than 70,000 images on the Library's web site, please visit: [About this Collection | Highsmith \(Carol M.\) Archive | Digital Collections | Library of Congress](#)