



Guide to the Pueblo Grande de Nevada Manuscript Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f11s9r>

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Background	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Olson, Pat
Title:	Pueblo Grande de Nevada Manuscript Collection
ID:	MS-00208
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1924 to 1983
Physical Description:	1.30 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	1.08 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Pueblo Grande de Nevada Manuscript Collection (1924-1983) contains journal articles, photocopies of artifact inventories, reports, correspondence, and field notes related to the Pueblo Grande de Nevada archaeological site located in the Overton Valley of Southern Nevada. The bulk of the materials are related to Mark R. Harrington's archaeological reports, journal articles, and data from sites throughout the Overton and Moapa valleys. The collection also includes materials related to the Boulder Dam Park Museum (Lost City Museum of Archaeology) located in Overton, Nevada, which housed many of the artifacts and photographs from Harrington's archaeological sites.

Preferred Citation

Pueblo Grande de Nevada Manuscript Collection, 1924-1983. MS-00208. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Background

The Pueblo Grande de Nevada, also known as Nevada's "Lost City," was a Native American urban site occupied by Basketmaker, Hisatsinom, Puebloan (previously contextualized as Anasazi), and Paiute communities from 300 AD to 1150 AD. The city consisted of housing structures of 20 or more rooms, with one building containing more than 100 rooms. Adjacent to the city were salt mines that indigenous communities mined for trade throughout the region. The Pueblo

Grande de Nevada site was flooded during the creation of Hoover Dam's Lake Mead reservoir. The collection's materials relate to archaeological data associated with collecting and cataloging cultural objects before the reservoir's completion.

In 1924, John and Fay Perkins, two brothers from Overton, Nevada discovered artifacts in the Moapa Valley. The Perkins brothers notified Colonel James G. Scrugham, the Governor of Nevada from 1923-1927, of their findings. As more discoveries were made during 1924, and the increasing conversations over Hoover Dam and its accompanying reservoir put the sites at risk, Governor Scrugham contacted Mark Raymond Harrington, an archaeologist working with the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian (MAI) in New York City to record the sites before they were potentially ruined. Harrington traveled to the Moapa Valley and noted the historical importance of the archaeological findings. The MAI funded the initial years of Harrington's research, but in 1934 the National Park Service took over funding for the archaeological digs. Harrington used Civilian Conservation Corps labor (Company 974 and 573), and was also joined by Zuni workers, to preserve and catalog as many cultural items as possible before the valley was flooded for the creation of Lake Mead reservoir, which submerged the "Lost City" along with the town of St. Thomas, Nevada.

Harrington and his staff worked throughout the 1920s excavating, photographing, and cataloging the physical remains of burials, Native American cultural objects, and housing structures. Photographs and saved objects from numerous sites under Harrington's management were housed in the Lost City Museum of Archaeology (formerly the Boulder Dam Park Museum) located in Overton, Nevada.

References:

"The Lost City." The National Park Service website, accessed on August 15, 2018. <https://www.nps.gov/lake/learn/the-lost-city.htm>

Harry, Karen G. and James T. Watson. "The Archaeology of Pueblo Grande de Nevada: Past and Current Research within Nevada's 'Lost City.'" *Kiva*, 75:4 (Summer 2010): 403-424. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/20799346.pdf>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Pueblo Grande de Nevada Manuscript Collection (1924-1983) contains journal articles, artifact inventories, reports, correspondence, and field notes related to the Pueblo Grande de Nevada archaeological site located in the Overton Valley of Southern Nevada. The collection concerns excavations of human remains and cultural objects removed from Native American graves throughout Southern Nevada. The collection specifically relates to archaeologist Mark R. Harrington, and archaeological data from sites located in Overton, Moapa, Valley of Fire, Red Rock, Pyramid Lake, Kane Springs, Virgin River, the "Lost City," and Lake Mead, Nevada. His research focused on Puebloan sites throughout Southern Nevada, and he was assisted in the

location and research of sites by Zuni, Paiute, and Shoshone staff and community members. The collection also includes materials related to the Boulder Dam Park Museum (now named the Lost City Museum of Archaeology) located in Overton, Nevada, which housed many of the artifacts and photographs from Harrington's archaeological sites.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect cultural resource areas. Restrictions are noted at the file level of this inventory.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1983 by Pat Olson; accession number T-143, 1981-132. Olson compiled the manuscript and photograph collections on Pueblo Grande de Nevada. Olson worked for Nevada's Department of Museums and was a Field Archaeologist for the Lost City Museum in Overton, Nevada during the 1980s.

Sources:

http://articles.latimes.com/1988-09-22/news/mn-3453_1_nevada-s-lost-city-museum.

Olson, Kathryn and Pat Olson. *Nevada's Lost City: A Treasure Trove of Mystery. Overton: Lost City Museum, 1985.*

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Lee Hanover reboxed and arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Pueblo Grande de Nevada Photograph Collection, 1926-1980. PH-00143. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Archaeology
- Overton (Nev.)
- Lost City Museum
- Mead, Lake (Ariz. and Nev.)
- Saint Thomas (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Journal articles: subjects relating to Mark R. Harrington and later excavations by archaeologists, includes Harrington's published documents on the Moapa Valley, 1925-1936 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Brochure: Boulder Dam Park Museum, Overton, Nevada, 1936	box 01
Program: Moapa Valley 100th anniversary, 1965 January 8	box 01
Pueblo Grande de Nevada: Record Reconciliation report, prepared for the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 1980 September	box 01
Pueblo Grande de Nevada: Record Reconciliation report, prepared for the State Historic Preservation Office, 1980 September	box 01
National Register: application and correspondence on nominating Pueblo Grande de Nevada, 1980	box 01

Reconnaissance report: A Preliminary Reconnaissance of Pueblo Grande de Nevada, with photographs, 1980 April 20	box 01
Report: Notes on a Preliminary Survey of Lost City, Nevada, 1983 May 10	box 01
Book 1: Heye Foundation: artifact index cards, 1924-1940	box 01
Book 2: artifact inventories from the Museum of the American Indian and the Lost City Museum, 1953-1971	box 01
Book 3: correspondence and artifact inventories concerning Lake Mead and Overton, Nevada archaeological sites, 1934-1976 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Book 4: field notes and artifact drawings, 1941	box 02
Book 5: field notes from foremen Fay Perkins and Willis Evans on Pueblo Grande de Nevada, undated	box 02
Book 6: field notes from foremen Fay Perkins and Willis Evans on Pueblo Grande de Nevada, undated Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Book 7: journal articles on Pueblo Grande de Nevada, 1924-1937	box 02
Book 8: correspondence: Governor Scrugham regarding Nevada archaeological projects, 1924-1935	box 02
Book 9: Harrington's reports, articles, site index locations, and notes, 1926-1936 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect cultural resource areas. Files are closed and "not to be used without permission of the Southwest Museum [of the American Indian], Los Angeles, California." Restricted materials are housed in Box SH-042. Contact Special Collections and Archives for more information.	box SH-042
Untitled book: correspondence: regarding the nomination of Pueblo Grande de Nevada to the National Register, and a report on the Reconnaissance of Pueblo Grande de Nevada, 1979-1983	box 02