



Guide to the Union Plaza Photograph Collection

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Table of Contents

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

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Title:	Union Plaza Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00316
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1970 to 1971
Physical Description:	0.73 Cubic Feet (1 shared box of negatives and 6 hanging folders.)
Physical Description:	0.40 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Union Plaza Photograph Collection, approximately 1970 to 1971, consists of photographic prints and negatives taken during the construction of the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Images portray the construction process, the surrounding area and businesses, and the completed project.

Preferred Citation

Union Plaza Photograph Collection, approximately 1970-1971. PH-00316. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Background

The Union Plaza Hotel and Casino, now the Plaza Hotel and Casino, opened its doors in a grand opening ceremony on July 2, 1971 in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. The inclusion of "Union" in its original title was in reference to the Union Pacific Railroad station that originally stood at the site. In 1906 the first train station was constructed in the style of Spanish-Revival architecture. It was replaced in 1940 with a Streamline Moderne train station designed by H. L. Gogerty, a well-known architect from Los Angeles, California, complete with a Union Pacific Railroad shield. In 1970, to make room for the newly anticipated hotel and casino property, the station was demolished. When the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino opened, however, there was a ticket window and sitting room dedicated to Amtrak trains that passengers could only access inside the casino, making it the only train station attached to a casino in the country.

Co-owned by longtime Las Vegans Sam Boyd, a veteran gaming executive; J. Kell Houssels Jr., an attorney; Jackie Gaughan, who owned several downtown properties; and Frank Scott, a developer whose ties to the Union Pacific Railroad provided them the ability to purchase the land, the opening of the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino signaled a new wave of development and growth in downtown Las Vegas.

The Plaza Hotel and Casino, as it is known today, has been featured in a number of motion pictures, and is still one of the favorite casinos of many visitors.

Sources:

"Plaza Hotel," Online Nevada Encyclopedia, accessed April 15, 2020, <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/plaza-hotel>

"Our History," Plaza Hotel and Casino, accessed April 15, 2020, <https://www.plazahotelcasino.com/about-us/our-history/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Union Plaza Photograph Collection, approximately 1970 to 1971, consists of photographic prints and negatives taken during the construction of the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Images portray the construction process, the surrounding area and businesses, and the completed project.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1999; accession number 99-19.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Nicole Batten wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Casinos -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Design and construction

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints, approximately 1970 to 1971	folder 01
	folder 02
	folder 03
	folder 04
	folder 05
	folder 06
Photographic negatives, approximately 1970 to 1971	box SH-032