



Guide to the Ernest Mitchell Pratt Photographs

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 27, 2026. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1jd53>

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	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.
Creator:	Price, Barbara
Creator:	Pratt, Ernest Mitchell, 1876-1945
Title:	Ernest Mitchell Pratt Photographs
ID:	PH-00206
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1932 to 1936
Physical Description:	0.75 Cubic Feet (2 oversized boxes, 1 folder (shared box))
Physical Description:	1.40 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Ernest Mitchell Pratt Photographs (approximately 1932-1936) consist of black-and-white photographic prints, signed and unsigned, taken by Pratt while Hoover Dam was under construction. Many prints are signed and mounted, and two are noted as award-winning photographs shown at the Annual International Salon of Camera Pictorialists in Los Angeles, California. There are additional working prints included alongside the final prints for most of the scenes. Also included in the collection is one small photograph of Pratt. This collection was formerly known as the Price Photograph Collection.

Preferred Citation

Ernest Mitchell Pratt Photographs, approximately 1932-1936. PH-00206. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1jd53>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Ernest Mitchell Pratt was born on April 24, 1876 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a commercial photographer and pictorialist in California. He also photographed the construction of the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) on the Arizona and Nevada border. Pratt died on August 23, 1945 in Los

Angeles, California. Source: Ernest Mitchell Pratt Collection of Photographs (Collection 1217). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Ernest Mitchell Pratt Photographs (approximately 1932-1936) consist of black-and-white photographic prints, signed and unsigned, taken by Pratt while Hoover Dam was under construction. Many prints are signed and mounted, and two are noted as award-winning photographs shown at the Annual International Salon of Camera Pictorialists in Los Angeles, California. There are additional working prints included alongside the final prints for most of the scenes. Also included in the collection is one small photograph of Pratt. This collection was formerly known as the Price Photograph Collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are grouped by scene.

[^ 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 1975 by Barbara Price; accession number 75-345.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Ryan DiPaolo wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2024, Sarah Jones de-framed 5 photographs hanging in the reading room, grouped the photographs by scene, rehoused the material, and updated the inventory in ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)
- Construction

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
View of lower-level concrete mixing plant with Mack trucks in the foreground (1 of 3 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 3 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 1 box 01
View of lower-level concrete mixing plant with Mack truck on the right, telephone lines visible in the background (2 of 3 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 2 box 01
View of lower-level concrete mixing plant and Mack trucks on Nevada side (3 of 3 views): photograph, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 3 box 01
View of lower-level concrete mixing plant, Mack trucks, and other unlabeled buildings from opposite direction: photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 4 box 01
View of upper-level construction area with Mack trucks parked outside a building, other buildings visible in the distance: photograph, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 5 box 01
Lower-level construction area next to river with buildings and Mack trucks; small structures visible across the water: photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized folder 6 box 01
Downstream face of dam under construction with two intake towers visible in background: photograph, approximately 1932	

Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints	oversized box 01	folder 7
Upstream view of dam under construction with two intake towers under construction in foreground: photograph, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints	oversized box 01	folder 8
Mack truck crossing temporary steel suspension bridge immediately below lower portals of diversion tunnels: photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 3 Photographic Prints	oversized box 01	folder 9
Excavation of lower diversion tunnels: photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 4 Photographic Prints	oversized box 01	folder 10
Three gravel pits, likely on Arizona side: photograph, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 11
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (1 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 5 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 12
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (2 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 13
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (3 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 14
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (4 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 3 Photographic Prints General: Includes one photograph selected and shown at the Annual International Salon of Camera Pictorialists in Los Angeles, California.	oversized box 02	folder 15
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (5 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 6 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 16
View of first-aid and hospital buildings near the lower diversion tunnels and temporary bridge (6 of 6 views): photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 3 Photographic Prints General: Includes one photograph selected and shown at the Annual International Salon of Camera Pictorialists in Los Angeles, California.	oversized box 02	folder 17
View of Colorado River and Black Canyon with temporary suspension bridge from above: photographs, approximately 1932 Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	oversized box 02	folder 18
Four cars driving on unfinished road, likely near Hoover Dam: photograph, approximately 1932	oversized box 02	folder 19

Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints

View of winding road, likely near Hoover Dam: photograph, approximately 1932	oversized box 02	folder 20
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Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints

Single car driving on paved road, likely near Hoover Dam: photograph, approximately 1932	oversized box 02	folder 21
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Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints

Car driving on road with snow-capped mountains in the background, a white building (possibly LDS Temple) in the distance; unknown location: photograph, approximately 1932	oversized box 02	folder 22
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Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints

View of Hoover Dam and two intake towers under construction, looking downstream; buildings along the river and temporary bridge can be seen in the background: photograph, approximately 1932	oversized box SH-081	folder 23
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Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints

Ernest Mitchell Pratt, approximately 60 years old: photograph, approximately 1936 (pho025736)	oversized box 02	folder 24
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Physical Description: 1 Photographic Prints