



Guide to the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History Records

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History
Contributor:	Brooks, Richard H. (1926-2011)
Title:	Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History Records
ID:	UA-00096
Date [inclusive]:	1939 to 2022
Physical Description:	5.35 Cubic Feet (6 boxes, 3 flat files, 6 rolls)
Physical Description:	8.06 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History Records (1939-2022) detail the creation of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History in Las Vegas, Nevada founded by Richard H. Brooks, a professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The records are comprised primarily of correspondence between Brooks and members of the Southwestern Anthropological Association (SWAA), the Society for California Archaeology (SCA), and the meetings and exhibitions of the Nevada State Museum. The collection also contains financial statements that describe expenses for supplies, research, and excursions. Also included are anthropological, archaeological, and historical publications, as well as administrative files and Richard Brooks' correspondence with the Nevada Archaeological Survey (NAS). The collection also includes architectural floor plans for the Classroom and Physical Education, the original space that was converted into the museum in 1980, and plans for the redesign of the Barrick Museum and the Harry Reid Environmental Research Center addition.

Preferred Citation

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History Records, 1939-2022. UA-00096. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1b36h>

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Historical Background

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History was founded by Richard H. Brooks in 1967 in Las Vegas, Nevada. At the time, Brooks was the director of the Desert Research Institute (DRI). DRI owned the museum until the ownership was transferred to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1969. The museum's primary operations included exhibitions that displayed artifacts and artworks of the archaeology, history, and geology of Southern Nevada. The museum's mission was to "collect, preserve, study, and exhibit those objects that will serve to illustrate the story of man and nature in this region." In 2011, the museum changed its focus and became the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art.

Sources:

"About Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art." University of Las Vegas, Nevada. Accessed September 30, 2019. <https://www.unlv.edu/barrickmuseum/about>.

"History Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art." University of Las Vegas, Nevada. Accessed September 30, 2019. <https://www.unlv.edu/barrickmuseum/history>.

"Richard Brooks." *Las Vegas Review-Journal, Legacy*, July 31, 2011. Accessed September 30, 2019. <https://obits.reviewjournal.com/obituaries/lvrj/obituary.aspx?n=richard-brooks&pid=152817944>.

Chronology	
1967	Richard Brooks founded the Museum of Natural History under the Desert Research Institute.
1969	DRI transferred ownership of the museum to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
1989	The Museum of Natural History was renamed the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History in honor of Las Vegas philanthropist, Marjorie Barrick.
2011	The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History became the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art after a change in mission.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History Records (1939-2022) detail the creation of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History in Las Vegas, Nevada founded by Richard H. Brooks, a professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The records are comprised primarily of correspondence between Brooks and members of the Southwestern Anthropological Association (SWAA), the Society for California Archaeology (SCA), and the meetings and exhibitions of the Nevada State Museum. The collection also contains financial statements that describe expenses for supplies, research, and excursions. Also included are anthropological, archaeological, and historical publications, as well as administrative files and Richard Brooks' correspondence with the Nevada Archaeological Survey (NAS). The collection also includes architectural floor plans for the Classroom and Physical Education, the original space that was converted into the museum in 1980, and plans for the redesign of the Barrick Museum and the Harry Reid Environmental Research Center addition.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were received periodically from the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art; accession numbers 2019-096, 2022-002, 2023-037, 2025-101, and 2025-115.

Processing Note

In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Mary Anilao processed the materials and wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2020, Mary Anilao processed an addition to the collection and updated the finding aid. In 2022, Tammi Kim processed the 2022 addition and updated the finding aid. In 2023, Sarah Jones processed the 2023 addition of architectural drawings. In 2025, Sarah Jones updated the finding aid to include the 2025 accession. In 2026, after reviewing miscellaneous donated materials, Landon Paljusaj added one item to the collection and updated the finding aid.

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Names and Subjects

- Archaeology
- Anthropology
- Correspondence
- Southern Nevada
- Architectural drawings (visual works)
- Museums (buildings)
- Exhibitions
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- History
- University of Nevada System. Desert Research Institute

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Museum budget, renovation, and operation files, 1963 to 1989	box 01
Grant and program files, statements of operations, 1968 to 1975	box 02
Project files, exhibit information, 1939 to 1971	box 03
DRI meeting files; newspaper clippings and slides of the museum, 1964 to 1989	box 04

Correspondence, 1939 to 1989	box 01
	box 02
	box 03
	box 04
Correspondence with NAS, Sheilagh and Richard Brooks' resumes, 1975 to 1982	box 05
Classroom and Physical Education building floor plans by Jack Miller & Associates, 1959	flat file 06
Classroom and Physical Education building floor plans for the Barrick Museum of Natural History by Cambeiro and Cambeiro, Ltd., 1980	flat file 06
Barrick Museum of Natural History Environmental Research Center addition: blueprints, 1991 November 25 Physical Description: 85 Sheets	flat file 13
Barrick Museum of Natural History Environmental Research Center addition: project manual, approximately 1991	box 14
TEM (Transmission Electron Microscope) Renovation: permit/bid set, 2003 February 07 Physical Description: 10 Sheets	roll 07
Barrick Museum of Natural History: copies of original floor plan with notes, 1980 Physical Description: 4 Sheets	roll 08
Barrick Museum of Natural History: first floor piping plan, 1988 January 05 Physical Description: 1 Sheets	roll 09
Barrick Museum of Natural History remodel for Q.A. Laboratory Phase II: final set, 1982 September 24 Physical Description: 10 Sheets	roll 10
Barrick Museum of Natural History Phase II-C: lighting, alarm system, and details, 1980 November 21 Physical Description: 8 Sheets	roll 11
Barrick Museum of Natural History Phase II-C: estimated construction costs, 1980 November 20	box 14
Barrick Museum of Natural History remodel Q.A. laboratory: floor plan, 1985 Physical Description: 17 Sheets	roll 12
QA Lab remodel: hot water system, demo plan, air handling plan, schematics, and details, 1985 June Physical Description: 6 Sheets	roll 08
Barrick Museum of Natural History: original floor plans with annotations of remodel plans, 1980 to 1989	roll 09

Physical Description: 13 Sheets

Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret together in the Nevada Southern Gym for <i>Viva Las Vegas</i> dance sequence: photographic prints, approximately 1963	flat file 15
Physical Description: 2 Items	
Native American portraits: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 1999	flat file 15
Physical Description: 3 Items	
Promotional posters for exhibitions, approximately 1980 to 1999	flat file 15
Aerial photograph of UNLV campus, approximately 1980 to 1999	flat file 15
Exhibit catalog for <i>Seeing/Seen</i> , curated by Erica Vital-Lazare, 2021 to 2022	box 05