

Photograph Project at the Arizona State Archives

The Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, History and Archives Division, encompasses in its collection 70,000 photographic images. These represent unique documentation of the governmental and cultural history of Arizona, including photographs from most legislatures beginning in 1875.

Other collections include: C.S. Fly's images and glass plates documenting the Indian Wars and Tombstone in 1880's; Thomas Henry Bate's photos of Prescott, military groups at Ft. Whipple and Native American communities in Yavapai County around 1900; The Wheeler Expedition of the 1870's exploring Northern Arizona and the Grand Canyon; Joseph Fish Collection of Territorial and Mormon history; 2000 pre-1920 postcards, many colorized; State Land Survey undertaken to value land upon admission to statehood; The 1923 Colorado River Survey, mile-by-mile panoramic images from Lee's Ferry to the west end of the Grand Canyon; 6000 photographs of road construction and highways, from 1915 to the 1960's, documenting activities of the Arizona Highway Department; McClintock photographs of Arizona from 1890-1920; WPA, CCC and ERA photographs of Arizona projects in the 1930's; and a large collection of lost mining camps, ghost towns, cowboy life and early Arizona lore.



30,000 of these images have been accessioned into a database which is search able by subject, photographer or location.

5500 photographs have been digitized and are available as digital printouts for a reasonable cost. The Department plans to make both the database and thumbnail versions of these images available on our web site in the near future.



The program has also included removal of 5000 nitrate negatives (pre 1950) to freezers. Glass plate negatives predating 1900 have been preserved, printed and digitized.

Color images from the 1930's-1970's represent one of the most endangered formats in any historical institution. These are being preserved by digitization and reprinting.

The Photo Archivist and Preservation Officer at the State Archives are available for consultations with local libraries and historical societies throughout Arizona, and to assist institutions interested in preserving, digitizing, accessioning and organizing photographic collections.

For further information about the Photograph Project, contact Laurie Devine, History and Archives Division 602-542-4159.