



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Richard E. Stearns photographs of archeological
sites and artifacts, circa 1930-1960

Sarah Ganderup

2015

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Richard E. Stearns photographs of archeological sites and artifacts
Date:	circa 1930-1960
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.73-40
Creator:	Stearns, Richard E. (Archaeologist)
Extent:	26 Color prints 22 Sketches 600 Prints (circa; silver gelatin and contact prints (including stereographic images)) 325 Negatives (circa) 3 Maps
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

The photographs in this collection accompanied Stearns' donations of artifacts to United States National Museum, specifically accessions 160003, 187165, 188274, 191329, 247561, and 308221. The photographs were transferred from the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1973.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of Natural History's Department of Anthropology holds artifacts donated by Stearns, in accessions 163264, 176236, 182055, 183968, 186144, 188274, 200211, 202602, 247561, and 308221.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Additional photos by Stearns can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in MS 4524.

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 73-40, Richard E. Stearns photographs of archeological sites and artifacts, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Richard E. Stearns (1902-1969) was a commercial photographer and amateur archeologist of Maryland's prehistory. He was known for his photographic documentation, particularly of sites and specimens, most notably at Conowingo, a large village site on the Susquehanna River. In the 1930s, he became a curator for the Department of Archeology of the Natural History Society of Maryland, a position he held for over thirty years. In the 1940s, Stearns published Nicholas Yinger's investigations of the Hughes site, as well as his own investigations of sites in Maryland.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes photographs of excavations and artifacts relating to Stearns' archeological work in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. There are also some sketches of artifacts and excavation sites, as well as notes on pictured artifacts. One photo album relates to Stearns' work in Florida, while the other contains photographs of various sites in Maryland, including Conowingo.

The collection relates to work in Sussex County in Delaware; the District of Columbia; Bay, Collier, Flagler, Franklin, St. John's, St. Lucie, and Volusia counties in Florida; Glynn County in Georgia; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties in Maryland; Horry County in South Carolina; and Loudon and Page counties in Virginia.

Local Call Number(s)

USNM ACC 160002, USNM ACC 187165, USNM ACC 188274, USNM ACC 191329, USNM ACC 247561, USNM ACC 308221, NAA Photo Lot 73-40

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Excavations (Archaeology)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Maps
Photographs

Places:

Florida -- Antiquities
Glynn County (Ga.) -- Antiquities
Horry County (S.C.) -- Antiquities
Maryland -- Antiquities
Sussex County (Del.) -- Antiquities
Virginia -- Antiquities
Washington (D.C.) -- Antiquities