



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

William Gedney Beatty glass
plate negatives collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	William Gedney Beatty glass plate negatives collection
Date:	circa 1892-1900
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.160
Creator:	Beatty, William Gedney (Photographer)
Extent:	5 Glass plate negatives 1 Contact print
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
Summary:	The William Gedney Beatty glass plate negatives collection contains 5 photographs depicting Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwelling sites at Mesa Verde, Colorado prior to restoration, circa 1892-1900. The collection was photographed or collected by architect and artist W. Gedney Beatty.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of A. Hyatt Mayor, 1956.

Related Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center also holds the John Wetherill lantern slide collection (NMAI.AC.106), which contains glass lantern slides depicting Mesa Verde shot by Wetherill circa 1892.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Gedney Beatty glass plate negatives collection, image #, NMAI.AC.160. National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

William Gedney Beatty was born in New York on Jun 27, 1868 to John C. Beatty and Hetty Bull Beatty. W. Gedney worked in New York City as an architect and painter. He was also a collector and bequeathed large collections of books and gemstones to museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His siblings included Robert Beatty (1872- 1942) and Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968), who was a successful mining entrepreneur and collector. W. Gedney died on July 1, 1941.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 5 glass plate negatives (and 1 contact print) depicting Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwelling sites (pre-restoration) at Mesa Verde, Colorado, circa 1892-1900. The photographs depict Spruce Tree House and Cliff Palace prior to archaeological preservation.

It is unclear whether architect W. Gedney Beatty (1869-1941) shot the photographs or he collected them.

Arrangement

Photographs arranged in catalog number order in glass plate negative box 56-2.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Photographs
- Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Cultures:

- Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Types of Materials:

- Glass plate negatives

Places:

- Mesa Verde National Park (Colo.)

Container Listing

Box B8 (glass plate negatives)

N32839: [Spruce Tree House, circa 1892-1900](#)

1 Glass plate negative

1 Contact print

[Image\(s\): Horse and wagons](#)

Notes: Glass plate negative depicting Ancestral Puebloan site Spruce Tree House (pre-restoration) at Mesa Verde, Colorado (later established as Mesa Verde National Park). The original glass plate negative is cracked, however, a contact print was made from the negative at some unknown point in time before it broke.

Box 56-2 (glass plate negatives)

N32840: [Spruce Tree House, circa 1892-1900](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Glass plate negative depicting Ancestral Puebloan site Spruce Tree House (pre-restoration) at Mesa Verde, Colorado (later established as Mesa Verde National Park).

Culture: Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Box 56-2 (glass plate negatives)

N32841: [Cliff Palace, circa 1892-1900](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Glass plate negative depicting the Ancestral Puebloan site of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde, Colorado (later established as Mesa Verde National Park).

Culture: Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Box 56-2 (glass plate negatives)

N32842: [Cliff Palace, circa 1892-1900](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Glass plate negative depicting the Ancestral Puebloan site of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde, Colorado (later established as Mesa Verde National Park).

Culture: Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)

Box 56-2 (glass plate negatives)

N32843: [Cliff Palace, circa 1892-1900](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Glass plate negative depicting the Ancestral Puebloan site of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde, Colorado (later established as Mesa Verde National Park).

Culture: Pueblo (Anasazi) (archaeological)