

Guide to the John Willis Photographs of Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, and South Dakota

WA Photos Folio 155



Matthew Daniel Mason

October 2018

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 155

CREATOR: Willis, John, 1957- , photographer

TITLE: Photographs of Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, and South Dakota

DATES: 2010-2011

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Inscriptions in English.

SUMMARY: Inkjet prints of photographs by John Willis that document sites, events, and persons in Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, and South Dakota in 2010-2011.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.waphotosfolio155>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.waphotosfolio155>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Willis on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2012.

Conditions Governing Use

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

John Willis, Photographs of Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

John Willis (born 1957)

John Willis is a documentary photographer and instructor of photography at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. His monographs include *Recycled Realities*, co-authored with Tom Young (Center for American Places, 2002) and *Views from the Reservation* (Center for American Places, 2010). Willis has photographs in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, among others. He is also a co-founder with Bill Ledger of the In-Sight Photography Project, a photography outreach project to youth in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Content Description

Inkjet prints of photographs by John Willis that document sites, events, and persons in Arizona, Connecticut, New Mexico, and South Dakota in 2010-2011.

Photographs of Arizona include views of Canyon de Chelly and Winslow as well as communities at Navajo Nation including Chinle, Kayenta, and Tuba City, as well as discrete groups of images in Window Rock of the Navajo Military Graveyard and "wheatpaste" photographic poster murals by physician photographer James Edward Thomas, also known as Chip Thomas or "jetsonorama." Other images include views of the Navajo Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant located near Page.

A single view in Connecticut documents a billboard near Waterbury.

Photographs of New Mexico include views of El Santuario de Chimayó in Chimayo, Edgewood, El Morro National Monument, Penitentiary of New Mexico, Silver City, Truth or Consequences, and Zuni Indian Reservation.

Photographs of South Dakota document sites at Interior as well as documenting the town's Interior Frontier Days, a rodeo held on Independence Day weekend.

The inkjet prints in this series measure 28.8 x 43.2 centimeters on paper of various sizes approximately 33 x 48 centimeters.

Signed by photographer and manuscript titles on verso of most prints.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Arizona, 2010-2011, II. New Mexico, 2011, III. South Dakota, 2011.

Collection Contents

Series I: Arizona, 2010–2011

Series I is organized into six subseries: Canyon de Chelly, Chinle, Navajo Indian Reservation, Navajo Generating Station, Navajo Veterans' Cemetery, and Winslow.

Canyon de Chelly		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1-4	Untitled <i>4 inkjet prints</i>	2011
Chinle		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	<i>Navajo Reservation</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	Untitled	2011
Navajo Indian Reservation		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7-13	<i>Navajo Elder, Bird Springs Housing</i> <i>7 inkjet prints</i> Portraits made at a senior center in Tsidi To'ii (known as Blue Springs before 2012), which is a Chapter, a semi-self autonomous local government, in the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah.	2010
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>Empty Phone Booth</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Graffiti on Water Tower</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 16-20	<i>Jetsonorama, Navajo Graffiti Artist</i> <i>5 inkjet prints</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 21	<i>Jetsonorama, Navajo Graffiti Artist's Work on Site</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 22	<i>Little Miss and Mr. Singer, Little Singer Community School</i>	2010
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 23	<i>Navajo Housing</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 24	<i>Navajo Tree Garden</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 25	<i>Roadside</i>	2011
Navajo Generating Station		
Navajo Generating Station is a coal-fired powerplant located on the Navajo Nation, near Page, Arizona.		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 26-27	Untitled <i>2 inkjet prints</i>	2011

Navajo Veterans' Cemetery

Chiefly Detail views of weathered United States flags at Navajo Veterans' Cemetery at Window Rock, Arizona.

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 28	<i>Navajo Veteran's Flag #1</i>	2011
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b. 2 (Oversize), f. 29	<i>Navajo Veteran's Flag #2</i>	2011
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b. 2 (Oversize), f. 30	<i>Navajo Veteran's Flag #3, Navajo Military Graveyard</i>	2011
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b. 2 (Oversize), f. 31	<i>Veteran's Graveyard</i>	2011
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Winslow

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 32-33	<i>Site of Pueblo Ruins 2 inkjet prints</i>	2011
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Series II: Connecticut

Waterbury

b. 2 (Oversize), f.
34

After You Die

2011

Series III: New Mexico, 2011

Series III is organized into eight subseries: Chimayo, Edgewood, El Morro National Monument, Penitentiary of New Mexico, Silver City, Truth or Consequences, Zuni Indian Reservation, and Unidentified Sites.

Chimayo		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 35-36	<i>El Santuario de Chimayó</i> 2 inkjet prints Willis identifies the locality as Esperanza, New Mexico.	2011
Edgewood		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 37	Untitled	2011
El Morro National Monument		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 38	<i>The Wall Petroglyphs from Pueblo People and Carvings from Spanish Explorers</i> Detail of carved inscriptions on El Morro, a sandstone promontory also known as A'ts'ina (Zuni for "place of writings on the rock") and Inscription Rock.	2011
New Mexico State Penitentiary		
The New Mexico State Penitentiary is a men's maximum-security prison located in unincorporated Santa Fe County. In 1980, Cell Block 4 of the prison was the scene of one of the most violent prison riots in the correctional history of the United States. This section of the prison was closed in 1998 and is now referred to as the "Old Main."		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 39	Cell	2010
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 40	Site of 1980 Riot	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 41-43	Untitled 3 inkjet prints	2010
Silver City		
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 44	<i>Glad Tidings Church</i>	2011
Truth or Consequences		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 45	<i>Even on the Right Track</i>	2010
Zuni Indian Reservation		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 46	<i>Road to Zuni Reservation</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 47-49	Untitled 3 inkjet prints	2010

Unidentified Sites

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 50	<i>Biking Sign</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 51	<i>Power Plant</i>	2010
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 52	<i>Roadside Altar</i>	2010
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 53	<i>Roadside Altar by the Rio Grande</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 54	<i>Under the Highway</i>	2010

Series IV: South Dakota, 2011

Series IV is organized into two subseries: Interior and Interior Frontier Days.

Interior		
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 55	<i>Annie, Budget Hotel Pool</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 56	<i>Cowboy Corner</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 57	<i>Gas Station</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 58	<i>Interior Business District</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 59	<i>Interior City Jail</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 60	<i>Largest House in Interior</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 61	<i>Looming Storm</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 62	<i>Motel Owner</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 63	<i>Tourist Sleeping, Interior Church</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 64	<i>Welcome Sign</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 65-71	Untitled <i>7 inkjet prints</i>	2011
Interior Frontier Days		
Rodeo held on Independence Day weekend at the Interior Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds in Interior, South Dakota. Identified by Willis as "Freedom Days, 4th of July Rodeo."		
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 72	<i>Learning the Rules</i>	2011 July
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 73	<i>Reservation Border Town</i>	2011 July
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 74-75	Untitled <i>2 inkjet prints</i>	2011 July

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Fourth of July -- South Dakota -- Interior -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah -- Portraits
Navajo Indians -- Pictorial works
Rodeos -- South Dakota -- Interior -- Pictorial works

Acquired From

John Willis, bookseller

Geographic Names

Arizona -- Pictorial works
Chelly, Canyon de (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Chimayo (N.M.) -- Pictorial works
Chinle (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Connecticut -- Pictorial works
Edgewood (N.M.) -- Pictorial works
El Morro National Monument (N.M.) -- Pictorial works
Interior (S.D.) -- Pictorial works
Navajo Indian Reservation -- Pictorial works
Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah -- Pictorial works
New Mexico -- Pictorial works
Silver City (N.M.) -- Pictorial works
South Dakota -- Pictorial works
Truth or Consequences (N.M.) -- Pictorial works
Waterbury (Conn.) -- Pictorial works
Window Rock (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Winslow (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Zuni Indian Reservation (N.M.) -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Inkjet prints
Photographs

Names

Thomas, James Edward, 1957-