

# Guide to the O'Keeffe at Abiquiu.

YCAL MSS 263



by Matthew D. Mason

August 2007

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 263

**CREATOR:** Wood, Myron

**TITLE:** O'Keeffe at Abiquiu

**DATES:** 1978-1981

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.02 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Photographs created by Myron Wood that document the homes and activities of artist Georgia O'Keeffe in Abiquiu, New Mexico, 1978-1981. Images include interiors and exteriors of the O'Keeffe residence in the village of Abiquiu and her summer home at Ghost Ranch and objects within them. The collection includes portraits of O'Keeffe, her acquaintances, including her gardener Estiben Suazo and his daughter and her maid, Candalaria Suazo, as well as her manager Juan Hamilton.

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

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## 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.okeeffeabiquiu>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Sharon Keim on the Martin Greenblatt Foundation Book Fund in American Literature, 2007.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The O'Keeffe at Abiquiu Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Myron Wood, O'Keeffe at Abiquiu. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Most of the photographs in this collection appeared in Myron Wood and Christine Taylor Patten, *O'Keeffe at Abiquiu* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995).

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## Myron Wood (1921-1999)

Myron Wood was a photographer and Assistant Curator of Photography at The Taylor Museum of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center from 1951 to 1961 and the photographer for Colorado College for over thirty-five years.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs created by Myron Wood that document the homes and activities of artist Georgia O'Keeffe in Abiquiu, New Mexico, 1978-1981. Images include interiors and exteriors of the O'Keeffe residence in the village of Abiquiu and her summer home at Ghost Ranch and objects within them. The collection includes portraits of O'Keeffe, her acquaintances, including her gardener Estiben Suazo and his daughter and her maid, Candalaria Suazo, as well as her manager Juan Hamilton.

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## Arrangement

Photographs in the collection are arranged in the order the images appear in Myron Wood and Christine Taylor Patten, *O'Keeffe at Abiquiu* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995), this consists of images in the book and an image from the back of the dust jacket, followed by images that did not appear in the work, which are arranged alphabetically by their title.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Photographs, 1978-1981

54 photographic prints on 35.6 x 43.2 cm mounts

The location for all of the images (except where noted) depict the residence of Georgia O'Keeffe in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

b. 1, f. 1	<p>Palette <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Miss O'Keeffe's Palette. (page 4-5)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 2	<p>Small rock <i>Photographic print, 14.6 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Stone. The rock seemed to me like an animal skull, suggesting that things are not as they seem. (page 6)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 3	<p>O'Keeffe with Sculpture and Painting <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 19.1 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: In the Studio. O'Keeffe's intense gaze was penetrating. (page 8)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 4	<p>O'Keeffe Sculpture Through Window <i>Photographic print, 19.1 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Stoa. A stoa is a Greek architectural term for columns in front of an opening. (page 9)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 5	<p>O'Keeffe Resting <i>Photographic print, 9.6 x 16.6 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Napping in the Afternoon Sun. Often Miss O'Keeffe's dogs, Inca and Jingo, would join her in a siesta. (page 11)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 6	<p>Gardener <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Gardener Estiben Suazo. Estiben (called Steven by Miss O'Keeffe) looked after the garden and did many household chores. When I showed her this photograph she said, "That sweet old thing." (page 16)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 7	<p>O'Keeffe and Juan Hamilton <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 23.5 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Book Caption: Miss O'Keeffe and Juan Hamilton. With its two skylights, the living room had perfect light. Juan suggested the picture, put two chairs together, and as he and Miss O'Keeffe sat their body gestures mirrored one another. (page 17)</p>	1980

b. 1, f. 8	<p>Black Door, Snow <i>Photographic print, 15.3 x 19.1 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Magic Snowfall. Miss O'Keeffe said the reason she bought the house was the black door. (page 18)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 9	<p>Ladder <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 22.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Ladder after Light Snow. In the manner of traditional New Mexican pueblos, a simple ladder leans against an outside wall. (page 29)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 10	<p>Chow <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.3 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Inca. An old Japanese saying asserts that "Snow is a grandmother to the dog." (page 30)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 11	<p>Snowfall <i>Photographic print, 23.5 x 14.6 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Transformation. Soft, large flakes of a typical early spring snowfall sifted gently down. (page 32)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 12	<p>Snowy Courtyard with Ladder <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 16.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: After a Light Snow. The window in the background looks to me like a painting. (page 33)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 13	<p>Snow-covered shrub and antlers <i>Photographic print, 19.1 x 22.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: March Snow. Miss O'Keeffe told me with a chuckle that she was always afraid that the horns above the doorway would one day fall on her. (page 35)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 14	<p>O'Keeffe Walking <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 23.5 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: North Courtyard. Miss O'Keeffe walked regularly in the New Mexican sunlight. (page 36)</p>	1980
b. 1, f. 15	<p>Door and Bench <i>Photographic print, 14.6 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Bench Corner. A droll example of disrespect for architectural tradition. (page 38)</p>	1980

b. 1, f. 16	Rear of Entrance <i>Photographic print, 10.5 x 17.8 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: The Gate. Rays of sun seemed to burn a pattern in this doorway. (page 39)	1980
b. 1, f. 17	Garden, Dark Window <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.0 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: North Garden Wall. <i>Abstraction</i> is seen through the wall to the garden. (page 40)	1980
b. 1, f. 18	Courtyard Door <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Shadow. Handwrought architecture leaves much for the eye to discover. (page 41)	1980
b. 2, f. 19	Door and Antlers <i>Photographic print, 21.6 x 16.6 cm.</i> Location: Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Recuerdos (Memories). Cracks in the adobe wall mirror the patterns of the bones. (page 42)	1981
b. 2, f. 20	Bones and Firewood <i>Photographic print, 23.5 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Backbone. The wooden shelf that the bones rested on at Ghost Ranch ran like a backbone through the photograph. (page 44-45)	1981
b. 2, f. 21	Elk Horns <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Elk Horns in a Passageway. These horns hung in the zaguan, a passage between the main entrance and the patio. Miss O'Keeffe told me that Estiben, for want of anything to do, once carved his initials on the back of the horns, much to her dismay. (page 47)	1980
b. 2, f. 22	Interior Doorway <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Fractured Sunlight. The door leads from the Indian room into the roofless room. (page 48)	1980

b. 2, f. 23	<p>Bodes Calendar <i>Photographic print, 15.3 x 22.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: The Indian Room. When I made this photograph the calendar was rustling in the breeze; I took a clothespin from the basket to keep it still. It was the only object I moved or added in all the photographs I made at Miss O'Keeffe's house. (page 55)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 24	<p>Interior Court with Pot <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 23.5 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: In the Roofless Room. Shadows from overhead gave the black pot an elegant setting. (page 57)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 25	<p>Paining and Cushions <i>Photographic print, 17.8 x 22.6 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: <i>Pansies and Forget-Me-Nots, 1927.</i> A wall with a banco (bench) in the living room. (page 65)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 26	<p>Calder Mobile, Fireplace <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Mobile by Alexander Calder. Estiben's arrangement of firewood ready for lighting has its own beauty. (page 69)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 27	<p>Rattlesnake Skeleton <i>Photographic print, 17.8 x 13.4 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Rattlesnake Skeleton. This skeleton was displayed in a glass-covered inset in the adobe back of the living room. (page 70)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 28	<p>M's Fan a gift from Miss O'Keeffe <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 17.8 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Feather Fan. The fan reminded me of the range of tones in O'Keeffe's paintings. (page 71)</p>	1978
b. 2, f. 29-30	<p>Wall Cove <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> <i>2 photographic prints</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Wall Cove with Treasures. I printed this negative so that the shape of the niche barely appears in the stark white wall. (page 73)</p>	1980
b. 2, f. 31	<p>Small Living room, Fireplace <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 23.5 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Living Room Wall Fireplace. Another instance of Estiben's handiwork. (page 74)</p>	1980



b. 2, f. 32	Dining Room Fireplace <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Corner Fireplace in the Dining Room. The massive hearthstone is crowned by Estiben's beautifully laid fire. (page 75)	1980
b. 2, f. 33	"Daffodils, Dining Room" <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Daffodils and the Corner Fireplace. I was struck by the contrast of the delicate flowers against the rough plywood tabletop. (page 75)	1980
b. 2, f. 34	Garden and Rock Abiquiu <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Rock as Prototype. The earth shape of this rock echoes a form that O'Keeffe painted time and again. Some rocks in the garden were moved from season to season. This one never moved. (page 76)	1980
b. 2, f. 35	Garden In Snow <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 14.0 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Winter Garden. I photographed these massive stump forms in the snow to find the strongest relationship with the lacy background. (page 88-89)	1980
b. 2, f. 36	Iris <i>Photographic print, 8.9 x 14.3 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Iris. Irises grew profusely in the garden. (page 90)	1980
b. 3, f. 37	D. H. Lawrence's Horse <i>Photographic print, 16.6 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: D. H. Lawrence's Horse. Miss O'Keeffe laughingly referred to this skull, which she found on the Taos ranch where the novelist lived, as "D. H. Lawrence's horse." (page 91)	1980
b. 3, f. 38	Well Head Cover <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Wellhead Cover. Miss O'Keeffe and Estiben played a kind of chess with these stones. As they passed by, one person would make a move and the other would respond later, or the next day. (page 92-93)	1980
b. 3, f. 39	Dried Corn Stalks <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico  Book Caption: Mulch Pile. I looked at these stalks for a long time, finding order in the designs and earthen tones. (page 94-95)	1979

b. 3, f. 40	<p>South Wall <i>Photographic print, 23.5 x 18.5 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Fantastic Landscape. Water from snow melting on the roof and seeping up from the garden floor creates an otherworldly impression of mountains and village buildings. (page 97)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 41	<p>The Sheets <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 14.6 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Among the Sheets. Estiben's daughter, Candalaria, was Miss O'Keeffe's housekeeper. (page 99)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 42	<p>Ghost Ranch <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.9 cm.</i> Location: Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: O'Keeffe House at Ghost Ranch. This is the house that the painter first occupied when she moved to New Mexico; the setting inspired many paintings. Miss O'Keeffe often climbed to the roof of this house to paint the glorious cliffs. (page 111)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 43	<p>Campo Santo <i>Photographic print, 15.9 x 22.9 cm.</i> Location: Medanales, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: The Old Cemetery. (page 115)</p>	1978
b. 3, f. 44	<p>Chimneys <i>Photographic print, 8.9 x 13.4 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Chimneys. The surface of the rough adobe and the adze marks on the lintel attest to the handwork of local architecture. (page 117)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 45	<p>Rio Grande <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 12.7 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: The Gorge. The Rio Grande River as it flows near Taos, New Mexico. (page 118)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 46	<p>Courtyard <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 14.0 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Book Caption: Stones on the wellhead cover were used like chess pieces by O'Keeffe and her gardener, Estiben; she moved them almost every day. (Back of Dust Jacket)</p>	1980
b. 3, f. 47	<p>Canyon Pool <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 19.1 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico</p> <p>Not in Book</p>	1978

b. 3, f. 48	Formal Entrance <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 13.4 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 3, f. 49	Great Tree <i>Photographic print, 17.8 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1978
b. 3, f. 50	"Great Tree in Garden, Snow" <i>Photographic print, 16.6 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 3, f. 51	Living Room Fireplace <i>Photographic print, 16.2 x 24.2 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 3, f. 52	O'Keeffe <i>Photographic print, 22.6 x 13.7 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 3, f. 53	The Gardener's Signature <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.3 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 3, f. 54	"Twigs, Wall and Snow" <i>Photographic print, 24.2 x 15.3 cm.</i> Location: Abiquiu, New Mexico Not in Book	1980
b. 4	Myron Wood and Christine Taylor Patten, <i>O'Keeffe at Abiquiu</i> (New York: Harry N. Abrams)	1995

## **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.

### **Geographic Names**

Abiquiu (N.M.) -- Pictorial works  
Ghost Ranch (Abiquiu, N.M.) -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints

### **Names**

Hamilton, Juan, 1945- -- Portraits  
O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986 -- Homes and  
haunts -- New Mexico -- Abiquiu  
O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986 -- Portraits  
Patten, Christine Taylor, 1940- (O'Keeffe at  
Abiquiu)  
Suazo, Candalaria -- Portraits  
Suazo, Estiban, 1900-1982 -- Portraits  
Wood, Myron  
Wood, Myron, 1921-1999 (O'Keeffe at Abiquiu)

### **Contributors**

Wood, Myron  
Patten, Christine Taylor, 1940-  
Patten, Christine Taylor, 1940- (O'Keeffe at  
Abiquiu)