

C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.
Creator:	Baker, Charles Duncan (C.D.)
Title:	C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks
ID:	MS-00272
Date [inclusive]:	1909-1966
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks are comprised of the notebooks and informational texts Charles Duncan "C.D." Baker created and used between 1909 and 1966 while he served as the County Surveyor for Clark County, Nevada and the City Engineer for Las Vegas, Nevada. The field notebooks contain survey coordinates and elevation data for much of early Las Vegas and provide important information on early property boundaries, historical elevations, and lengths of existing streets from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Preferred Citation

C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks, 1909-1966. MS-00272. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Charles Duncan "C.D." Baker (1901-1972) was a prominent man in Las Vegas, Nevada history. He was instrumental to the expansion and development of the city before 1940 as City Engineer as well as a successful state and local politician. He was born on February 26, 1901 in Terra Haute, Indiana. He received a Bachelor's of Science in civil engineering from the Rose Polytechnic Institution and went to work for the Indiana Highway Department. He moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to teach math and coach basketball in 1922. In 1923, Baker moved to Juneau, Alaska where he served as a deck officer in the United States Coast Geodetic Survey for four years.

After returning to Las Vegas in 1926, he completed several engineering projects for Leigh Hunt. Baker was a partner in the Boulder Dam Townsite Company until 1932 and a full-time mineral surveyor for the State of Nevada and Clark County, Nevada until 1933 and 1936, respectively. He was then named Superintendent of the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Beginning in 1936, C.D. Baker held the position of City Engineer for Las Vegas, Nevada. He ran for the mayorship in 1940 and lost, but won a position in the State Legislature that same year. Baker was called for active military duty in 1941 and served as a colonel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering stationed in Hawai'i. He married Florence Langford when he returned to Las Vegas in 1945 and the couple had two children. Baker ran for the Nevada State Senate in 1946 and served one term in office. He was elected mayor of Las Vegas in 1951 and served two consecutive terms, retiring from politics in 1959. After his political career ended, Baker ran a real estate business until his health forced him to retire in June 1966. His wife, Florence, died on October 8, 1965. He married Louise Walker of Reno, Nevada in 1970. Besides his career in politics, C.D. Baker was active in the community. He was on the committee to build the convention center, a member of the Nevada State Eagles and the Las Vegas Elks, and the Vice President of the Nevada Savings and Loan. He died February 17, 1972, one week shy of his 71st birthday.

Source: Neichin, Stephen. *Charles Duncan Baker: A Biography*, November 12, 1973.

"Death Claims C.D. Baker at 71," *Las Vegas Sun*, February 19, 1972.

"C.D. Baker," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, February 7, 1999.

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Scope and Contents Notes

The C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks are comprised of the field notebooks and informational texts, dated 1909 to 1960, of Charles Duncan "C.D." Baker, City Engineer and County Surveyor, who was responsible for planning and supervising most downtown Las Vegas street construction prior to World War Two. The field notebooks contain survey coordinates and elevation data for much of early Las Vegas. The notebooks provide important information on early property boundaries, historical elevations, and the lengths of existing streets at the time.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

The finding aid was revised and enhanced by Franklin Howard to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. June 2015

Access Note

Collection is open for research

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1987 by Al Hurdato and the Boyle Engineering Corporation; accession number 1987-002.

Processing Note

In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Christina Molina began the creation of the finding aid. In 2015, Franklin Howard completed the revisions and enhancements, bringing the description up to current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Charles Duncan Baker Papers, 1951-1972, MS-00141. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Mayors -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- Legislators--Nevada--Las Vegas--Biography
- Surveyors -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- Civil engineers -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- Baker, Charles Duncan (C.D.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Field Notebook "A 2 Complete", 1921 August-December	Box 01
Field Notebook "A 3 Complete", 1921 November-1922 July	Box 01
Field Notebook "A 4 Complete", 1921 July-1922 October	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 1 Complete", 1922 September	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 3 Complete", 1924 April-1927 October	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 11 Complete", 1929 January-1930 January	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 12 Complete", 1929 January-October	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 13 Complete", 1929 March-1930 March	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 15 Complete", 1929 April-1930 June	Box 01

Field Notebook "B 17", 1929 November-1931 March	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 19 Gypsum Claims Topogo., Complete", undated	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 20 Complete", 1930 May-1931 March	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 22", 1930 October-1932 October	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 23", 1931 February-1932 May	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 25", 1932 October-1933 April	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 26", 1932 April-1933 September	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 27", 1933 December-1934 July	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 28", 1933 December-1937 February	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 29", 1933 December-1934 July	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 30", 1934 August-1938 November	Box 01
Field Notebook "B 31", 1935 August-1938 February	Box 01
Field Notebook "T 59", 1965 February-1966 February	Box 01
Field Notebook "T 61", 1966 January	Box 01
Field Notebook "Book No. 1", 1947 January-1950 May	Box 01
Field Notebook "Book No. 2", 1946 April-1947 January	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book No. 16", 1947 September-1948 November	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book 20", 1948 July-September	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book 21", 1948 October-1950 January	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book 24", 1950 November-1953 January	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book 27", 1951 March-1953 February	Box 02
Field Notebook "Book No. 37 Levels for Street Grading", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook Index, undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "City of Las Vegas No. 1", 1962 February-April	Box 02
Field Notebook "City of Las Vegas No. 2", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Greater Las Vegas Unit No. 2", 1959 September-1960 March	Box 02
Field Notebook "Greater Las Vegas Unit No. 3", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Streets and Grades Book No. 6", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "City Disposal Works No. 9", 1947 April-June	Box 02
Field Notebook "Mined and Roads No 13", 1947 May-1949 March	Box 02
Field Notebook "Field Ties No. 14", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Flood Control", 1960 November-December	

	Box 02
Field Notebook "Las Vegas Valley Water District Flamingo Road No. 1", 1961 May-June	Box 02
Field Notebook "Las Vegas Valley Water District Flamingo Road No. 2", 1961 June	Box 02
Field Notebook "City of Las Vegas Sewers", 1956 November-December	Box 02
Field Notebook "City of Las Vegas Sewers", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Sahara Avenue Interceptor Sewer Arville to Lindell", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "North Las Vegas Reservoir", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "City of North Las Vegas and Prescott Corp. Topo.", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Airport X Sects No. 2", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Nellis X Sects and Drainage", undated	Box 02
Field Notebook "Nellis AFB NEL 2 Onsite", 1958 May-June	Box 02
Field Notebook "Nellis AFB NEL 3 Offsite", 1958 May-July	Box 02
Field Notebook "A.E.C. Connecting Road", 1963 May-1965 July	Box 02 and 03
Field Notebook "A.E.C. Jackass Flat Road", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "McNeil No. 4", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Westchester", 1960 September-1961 May	Box 03
Field Notebook "Washington Addition Subdivision", 1959 June-1960 February	Box 03
Field Notebook "Sunset Manor", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Las Verdes Hts. Unit No. 1", 1956 April-1957 September	Box 03
Field Notebook "Las Verdes Hts. Unit 2 and 3", 1959 September-1960 February	Box 03
Field Notebook "Rainbow Canyon Unit No. 4", 1962 December-1963 February	Box 03
Field Notebook "Brentwood Grades", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Hollydale Grades", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Fremont Estate", 1960 August	Box 03
Field Notebook "Levels Sunrise Estates", 1956 February	Box 03
Field Notebook "Kelso Turner II", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Kaspert Park Topo", undated	Box 03

Field Notebook "Dawson Park", 1958 April-1960 March	Box 03
Field Notebook "X Sects Clamart", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Clarmart Homes X Secs", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Clamart Homes Inc.", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Southwest Gas Corp. Pipeline Survey and Secs. Ties", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Basic", undated	Box 03
Daily Log, 1965 April-June	Box 03
Field Notebook "Misc. Survey No. 5", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook property of L.E. Tyson, Blair, Nebraska, undated	Box 03
Field Notebook, undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "Gutters and Sidewalks", undated	Box 03
Field Notebook "L.E. Tyson Dept. of Roads and Irrigation, Norfolk, Nebraska", undated	Box 03
Manual of Instructions for Surveying Mineral Lands of the U.S., 1909	Box 03
Union Pacific System Rules and Instructions of the Maintenance of the Way Dept., 1923	Box 03
Chemists' Pocket Manual, undated	Box 03
Helps to Successful Contracting, 1934	Box 03
Maps Las Vegas, undated	Box 03
Misc. maps and data, undated	Box 03