

Photographic Surveys of Hoover Dam Site

Where Conventional and Stereoscopic Methods Solve Difficult Mapping Problem

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Photographic Surveys of Hoover Dam Site

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Col. Claude H. Birdseye

Photographic surveys of the Hoover Dam site were made in 1930 and 1931. The purpose of these surveys was to obtain a topographic map of the Hoover Dam site and the surrounding area. The Hoover Dam is a concrete gravity dam located in Black Canyon, Nevada. The dam is 726 feet high and 1,224 feet long. The Hoover Dam project was authorized by the Hoover Dam Act of 1922. The Bureau of Reclamation had already made all the preliminary surveys and had decided on the general plan. They required, however, the necessity of topographic surveys for construction purposes. The Bureau decided to contract for this work and specifications were issued on June 2, 1930, covering four main items: all covering the use of aerial photography.

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The first requirement was for a contour map of about 15 square miles of valley area above the Hoover Dam site. The second requirement was for a topographic map of about 15 square miles of valley area above the Hoover Dam site, including a stretch of the river about 1,000 ft. above and below the actual site, and extending to the 1,075-ft. contour, to a scale of 1 in. = 50 ft., with a contour interval of 5 ft.

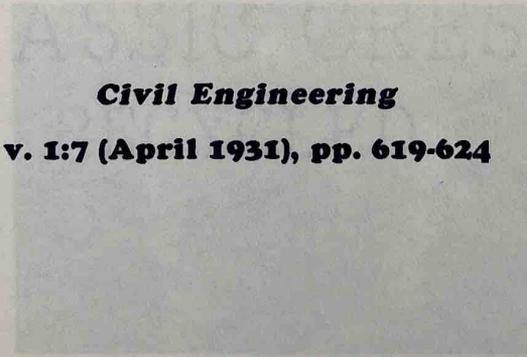
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Location of Hoover Dam Site, Nevada, U.S.A.

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