

Irrigation at a Cost: The Garrison Diversion Unit

In 1968, the United States Congress approved construction of the Garrison Diversion plan, developed to provide irrigation from the Missouri River. Some promoted it, but others challenged the environmental impact. Some would lose their land and homes to the project. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the Garrison Diversion unit and its effects on the land and people of North Dakota.

Archival Collections

10435 Greater North Dakota Association Records

Minutes include by-laws, financial statements, resolutions, and minutes of the Executive Committee, Industrial Committee, Board of Directors, and joint meetings with the North Dakota Automobile Association. Minutes relate primarily to administration of the Association, tourism, promotion of economic development, Missouri River diversion plans, plans to establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and relations with the North Dakota Automobile Association prior to their split in 1925.

10463 Milo W. Hoisveen Papers

Papers consist primarily of papers and speeches, but also include correspondence, editorials, hearing material, memoranda, newsletters, newspaper clippings, reports and legislative testimony/statements relating to irrigation and water resource management in North Dakota, the Garrison Diversion, and other projects. Most reports were prepared by Hoisveen as State Engineer or as a consultant for various groups, including the North Dakota Water Users Association, North Dakota Water Management Districts Association, and the North Dakota Soil Conservation Committee.

10514 North Dakota Water Users Association Records

Subject files, correspondence, reports, bylaws, project files, publications, photos, committee files, and legislative files. Organization dedicated to development of North Dakota's water resources.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Missouri River
- Pick-Sloan project
- Garrison Dam

People

- Lyndon B. Johnson, 1908-1973
- Governor Clarence Norman Brunsdale, 1891-1978
- Martin Cross, 1906-1964

Locations

- Carrington, North Dakota

Journal Articles

Report on Historic Sites in the Garrison Reservoir Area, Missouri River
Ray H. Mattison – *North Dakota History* Vol. 22 Issue 1 & 2

Fort Berthold and the Garrison Dam
Roy W. Meyer – *North Dakota History* Vol. 35 Issue 3 & 4

The Garrison Diversion Dream and the Politics of Landscape Engineering
Priya A. Kurian & Robert V. Bartlett – *North Dakota History* Vol. 59 Issue 3

10781 Garrison Dam Relocation Oral History Interviews

Garrison Dam Relocation Oral History Interviews, 1999. 6 audio cassettes. The six members of the Three Affiliated Tribes were interviewed. The interviewees were in their teens during discussion and construction of Garrison Dam. They describe how they learned about the dam, how relocation was accomplished, their attitudes toward the dam and relocation, and the economic, social, and cultural impact of relocation on their lives, their families' lives, and the region. The collection includes transcripts, data sheet, and donor agreements.

11116 North Dakota Humanities Council, Larry Remele Memorial Fellow Reports

Collection consists of audiocassettes, papers, programs, and reports to the people of North Dakota tabloids by Larry Remele Memorial Fellows of the North Dakota Humanities Council.

11517 Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection

Research, writings, working and subject files, and other materials created or collected by Hudson. Major subjects include the written, recorded or photographed tribal and oral histories of the MHA Nation, Elbowoods, the bottom lands of the Missouri River prior to development of the Garrison Dam, Native American veterans, Native American ranching, and the Cross family. Included are records of tribal, state and federal government proceedings leading up to construction of the Garrison Dam and the subsequent impacts on the tribe and its communities. The collection includes: writings and correspondence of Martin Cross, father of Marilyn Cross Hudson, who served 6 terms on the MHA Nation Tribal Council, 4 of those terms as Chairman; photographs, records and documents of Chief Old Dog, grandfather of Marilyn Cross Hudson; cemetery records, both on and off the Fort Berthold Reservation, and; boarding school records.

20474 Howard Holmgren Papers

Typescript of a brief history of water diversion plans and activities in North Dakota, entitled "Missouri River Diversion Project."

21081 Committee to Save North Dakota, Inc. Records

Three bumper stickers, copies of comics and headlines from newspapers, two brochures, and nine photographs. The Committee to Save North Dakota, Inc. was an organization of activists and landowners along the McClusky Canal route who opposed the Garrison Dam project. In 1972, the group filed a suit to require environmental impact statements for the project.

30181 Governor. Administration. Arthur Link Records.

Boxes of note 165-170, 214, 264, 302-303

Records consist of administrative subject files, correspondence, news releases, proclamations, clippings, publications, and extraditions.

31233 Governor. William L. Guy Records.**Boxes 148-149**

Series consists of correspondence; subject files; news releases; minutes of state agencies, boards, and commissions; reports of state and federal agencies; brochures and pamphlets; constituent correspondence; photographs; memoranda; and printed material. Series relates primarily to administration of executive branch state agencies, state institutions, legislation, the Midwest Governors' Conference, and the National Governors' Conference.

31477 Health. Water Supply and Pollution Control. International Garrison Diversion Study Board File

Series consists of correspondence and reports investigation the possible effects of the Garrison Diversion Project.

31489 Health. Environmental Health Chief. Committee Files.

Committee Files. Consists of memoranda and correspondence between organizations and committees associated with the Department on health and environmental issues. Public health administration--North Dakota; Correspondence 1987/12/08 Initial Accession. Inventory available.

31496 Water Commission. Administration. Fred Fredrickson Records

Water Commission, State. Administration. Fred Fredrickson records, 1942-1963. 32 ft. Series consists of correspondence, reports, notes, plans, survey, minutes, and publications concerning Fredrickson's efforts to secure federal funding for water and other projects in North Dakota. Arranged alphabetical by subject. The December 19, 2006 accession contains correspondence, 1953, .05 ft, which has been transferred back into the collection from publications.

31602 Governor. Administration, George A. Sinner Records.

Series consists of correspondence, subject files, news releases, minutes of state agencies, boards, and commissions, reports of state and federal agencies, brochures and pamphlets, constituent correspondence, photographs, memoranda, and printed material. Series relates primarily to administration of executive branch state agencies, state institutions, legislation, the Midwest Governors' Conference, and the National Governors' Conference.

31851 Water Commission. Legal Division. Federal and State Court Cases

Contains state court cases in the Water Commission is either active in or interested in. Includes legal documents, correspondence, research, and articles. Files in the series cover a wide variety of topics.

32276 Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Records

Consists of Garrison Diversion Conservancy District records. Includes briefing paper, Recreation Committee Project Reports, Reassessment Outline, Providing Solutions to North Dakota's Water Needs, and minutes of the Recreation Committee, Stakeholders' Committee, and Board of Directors, Garrison Diversion Unit Recreation Sites Tourism Survey, and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting minutes.

32437 Transportation, Department of. Local Government, Administration. Garrison-Oahe Interagency Meetings

Transportation, Department of. Local Government, Administration. Garrison-Oahe Interagency Meetings. Consists of reports on the developments along the reservoir, letters, proposed five year development plan on Missouri River and meeting reports produced by the Local Government Division.

32519 Water Resources. Audiovisual Collection

Contains moving image and audio recordings concerning the regulation of waterways in North Dakota. Includes 8mm, Digital and VHS tape recordings of flood events and water levels during droughts, audio recordings are on audio cassette and include speech giving by Dwight Eisenhower at the dedication of Garrison Dam and meetings about Devils Lake and Devils Lake outlet. Inventory available.

41263 Benson County. Auditor, Garrison Diversion drawings

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Missouri River Basin Project. Devils Lake detail land classification shows soil factors, topographic factors, land drainability, drainage factors, land owners by section, township and range.

Books

Garrison Diversion Unit Revised Recreation Plan: Technical Report
1984 - prepared by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept.
Call Number: 333.78 G2422 1984

The Impact of Garrison Diversion on Outdoor Recreation in North Dakota
1968 – coordinated and edited by Jean E. Walterson
Call Number: 333.78 N814p 1968gd

Written Statement of Senator David Nething, Chairman of the Legislative Oversight Committee in Support of the Garrison Diversion Unit : Before the Public Works Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, United States Senate
1977 – Senator David Nething
Call Number: 333.91309784 N4699w 1977

Public Hearing: December 13, 1984, Minot Municipal Auditorium, Minot, North Dakota, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m
1984—Garrison Diversion Unit Commission
Call Number: 333.913 U5813p 1984

Garrison Diversion Unit: Answer Book
1977 – Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Call Number: 333.91315 G242a 1977

Water, Agriculture, Wetlands: A New Partnership for Progress
1988 – North Dakota Water Users Assn.
Call Number: 333.918 W3242 1988

An Improved Wildlife Plan, Initial Stage Garrison Diversion Unit
1975 — U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Call Number: 333.954 Un3i 1975

Garrison Diversion Unit
General Information File

Garrison Dam
General Information File

Online Resources

[Summary of North Dakota History—Garrison Diversion](#)
State Historical Society of North Dakota website

[SHSND Photobook](#)
State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)
Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)
State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[Garrison Diversion](#)
Current website of the Garrison Diversion project

[Lake Sakakawea](#)
North Dakota Parks and Recreation website

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



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