

Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

**FBI File on
Howard Hughes**

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Introduction

Covering from 1945 to the 1980s, this FBI file on enigmatic billionaire Howard Hughes contains engaging information and documentation on Hughes's business activities in his various enterprises—aircraft manufacturing, Trans World Airlines, movie making, and gambling. Also included are reports of sex, movie stars, the details of Hughes's disappearance in 1970, and the part of the Latter-day Saints' church in his contested will. Of particular interest is the large number of personal letters written by Hughes in his own handwriting.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI, pursuant to provisions of that legislation, has deleted certain documents or portion of documents. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, with newspapers as a subsection. The FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

Roll Notes

FBI File: 62-78335

Part 1

Roll 1, 0003-0218

Mar 1945-Mar 1949

Background on John William Meyer, Public Relations

Director for Hughes Aircraft Corp., and his association with Howard Hughes

Investigation into the allegation that Howard Hughes relied on his association with Elliott Roosevelt to ensure certain transoceanic contracts

Investigation into Johnny Meyer, as a representative for Howard Hughes, and his dealings with the Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

Investigation into the activities of Johnny Meyer and his connections in Hollywood

Report of the allegation that Howard Hughes had invited Bugsy Siegel as a guest for the inaugural flight of the "Constellation" from Los Angeles to New York

Report of the law suit filed by Howard Hughes against the National Motion Pictures Association concerning censorship of "The Outlaw," produced by Hughes

News articles:

New York Daily Mirror (n.d.)

"Hughes' Meyer a Veteran Front Man"

Washington Times (Mar 1949)

"Wallgren Crap Game Probe"

FBI File: 62-78335

Sub-A

Roll 1, 0219-0435

Jul 1947-Jun 1948

News articles:

Washington News (Jul 1947)

“Hughes’ Girlies Flee Hill Subpena”

The Washington Post (Jul 1947)

“Krug Testifies He Attended Big Parties of
Howard Hughes”

Washington Times Herald (Jul 1947)

“Big Names Linked to Hughes Plane Contract Parties
in N.Y.”

Washington Times Herald (Jul 1947)

“Probers Find New Evidence On Hughes’
Lavish Parties”

N.Y. Daily Mirror (Aug 1947)

“Brewster Invites Clark to Probe Him;
General Pins Plane Contract on Elliott”

Washington Times Herald (Aug 1947)

“Nightclub Girl Names Meyer in Paternity Suit”

“Gen. Brewster Charges ‘Fixed’ Poker Games
Got War Contracts”

Washington Post (Aug 1947)

“Meyer Flees; Hughes Grins; Senators Fume”

Washington Times Herald (Nov 1947)

“U.S. Urged to Put Big Tax Bite on Hughes”

Washington Post (May 1948)

“Minority Report Exonerates Hughes”

FBI File: 95-211845

Oct 1976-Mar 1981

Roll 1, 0437-0901

Investigation into a forged, handwritten will allegedly
belonging to Howard Hughes

Fingerprint and handwriting comparisons in the fraud case
against Melvin E. Dummar

Purported Will of Howard R. Hughes;

Melvin E. Dummar, Suspect; Alleged Forgery

Photocopy: In the Matter of the Estate of Howard Robard
Hughes, Jr., Deceased; Annette Cano Lummis,
Barbara Cameron, et al. vs.

Harold Rhoden, substitute of Noah Dietrich

(Eighth Judicial District Court, State of Nevada,
Jul 8, 1977)

Photocopy: In the Matter of the Estate of Howard Robard
Hughes, Jr., Deceased; Annette Gano Lummis, et al.
vs. Harold Rhoden, substitute for Noah Dietrich
(Eighth Judicial District Court, State of Nevada,
Dec 19, 1977)

FBI File: 95-211845-83

Oct 1976-Dec 1977

Roll 1, 0903-1228

Estate of Howard Hughes

Claimants to the Estate of Howard Hughes and testimony
regarding the invalidity of an alleged will referenced to
Melvin Dummar

News article:

Las Vegas Sun (Mar 1978)

“Forgery Job Poor in ‘Mormon Will’ “

Photocopy: KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,
signed: Howard R. Hughes (Nov 1970)
Samples of handwritten notes, signed "Howard"
Photocopy: "Mormon Will" alleged to have been written
by Howard Hughes

FBI File: 95-211845-84

Mar 1981

Roll 1, 1230-1241

Estate of Howard Hughes

Photocopy: "Letters from the invisible billionaire"
(*Life Magazine*, Jan 1971)

FBI File: 46-70074

May 1976

Roll 1, 1243-1251

Estate of Howard Hughes; Melvin Dummar

Fraud Against the Government

FBI File: 62-99801

Roll 1, 1252-END

Aug 1947-Dec 1977

Roll 2, 0003-0211

Howard Hughes, Income Tax Matter

Investigation into Howard Hughes and the allegation of
Income Tax irregularities

Background information on Johnny Meyer

Background information on Howard Hughes

Investigation of Howard Hughes and possible real estate
interests in Miami (Aug 1955)

Investigation into the positive identification of Howard
Hughes for the State of Nevada regarding the issue
of a hotel/casino gaming license (Dec 1967)

Investigation into the alleged disappearance of Howard Hughes (Dec 1970)

News article:

The Washington Post (Aug 1971)

“Howard Hughes and His Hired Hands”

Investigation into the biography of Howard R. Hughes, published by McGraw-Hill and *Life* magazine as an allegedly fraudulent publication (Jan 1972)

Investigation into a \$100,000 gift allegedly from Howard Hughes to President Nixon’s re-election campaign

News article:

The New York Times (Nov 1973)

“Versions of Gift by Hughes Differ”

Fingerprint verification indicating that Howard R. Hughes died Apr 6, 1976

Investigation into the verification of a will left in the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City as that of Howard Hughes

FBI File: 62-99801-Sub A

Jul 1958-May 1976

Roll 2, 0212-0238

News articles:

N.Y. Journal American (Jul 1958)

“Hughes and His Flying Plywood”

Report of an attempt by Howard Hughes to buy two million shares of the American Broadcasting Co. (ABC)

Nevada court upholds the “firing” of Robert Maheu, head of Howard Hughes’ Nevada operations

News article:

N.Y. Sunday Times (Feb 1971)

“The Las Vegas Loser”

Robert Maheu files a \$50 million dollar law suit against
Howard Hughes, claiming defamation of character
Investigation into the fraudulent "Mormon Will" allegedly
left by Howard Hughes

FBI File: 79-31517

Dec 1970-Sep 1971

Roll 2, 0239-0265

Investigation into the allegation that Howard Hughes is
missing

FBI File: 87-119739

Jan 1972-Oct 1972

Roll 2, 0265-0334

Investigation of fraudulent biography on Howard Hughes
News article:

The New York Times (Jan 1972)

"Author is Said to Suspect He was Duped on Hughes"

"Swiss Link Woman to 'Hughes' Funds"

"Zurich Said to Ask FBI to Talk to Irvings in Bank
Case"

The Washington Post (Feb 1972)

"Swiss Charge Irvings With Criminal Fraud"

Fraud by Wire: Investigation into author Clifford Irving
obtaining funds for his alleged fraudulent biography
of Howard Hughes

FBI File: 95-179917

Sep 1972

Roll 2, 0335-0351

Howard Hughes Latent Print Examination

FBI File: 98-20355

May 1943

Roll 2, 0352-0356

Investigation into crash of Howard Hughes aircraft, Lake Mead, Nevada for possible sabotage

FBI File: 139-3777

Dec 1970-May 1974

Roll 2, 0357-0564

Investigation into the alleged disappearance of Howard Hughes and the possibility that he is registered at the Britannia Beach Motel in Nassau

News articles:

The Washington Post (Nov 1971)

“Howard Hughes’ Forces Rebuff Search”

The New York Times (Nov 1971)

“Garbage and Grand Jury Figure in Howard Hughes Controversy”

FBI File: 60-0-1136

Oct 1965-Jul 1968

Roll 2, 0566-0571

Investigation into the acquisition of the Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas, by Howard Hughes and possible Antitrust Law violation

News article:

The Evening Star (Oct 1965)

“Antitrust Issue Spreads Widely”

Report of an attempt by Howard Hughes to purchase the controlling interest of the American Broadcasting Co.

FBI File: 62-0-80584

Nov 1972

Roll 2, 0572-0573

Allegation that Howard Hughes participated in dirty politics
during the 1972 presidential campaign

FBI File: 62-9-11-986, 1041, 1058, 1116

Feb 1967-Mar 1968

Roll 2, 0574-0583

Criminal Intelligence Program, Cleveland Division
Report of an illegal gambling operation known as the
Kinsman Social Club

FBI File: 62-9-15-570

Sep 1967

Roll 2, 0584-0586

Criminal Intelligence Program, Detroit Division

FBI File: 62-9-33-592

Mar 1966

Roll 2, 0587-0589

Criminal Intelligence Program, Weekly Summary

FBI File: 62-9-53-763

Sep 1967

Roll 2, 0590-0592

Criminal Intelligence Program, Detroit Division

FBI File: 62-9-65-800, 801, 802, 819, 834

Jul 1967-Mar 1968

Roll 2, 0593-0606

Criminal Intelligence Program, Las Vegas Division
Report of hotel property purchased by Howard Hughes
Report that Howard Hughes will introduce computerized
“cheat proof” control of gambling

FBI File: 62-33094-A

Aug 1947

Roll 2, 0607-0608

News article:

Washington Times Herald (Aug 1947)

“Fair Enough” by Westbrook Egler

FBI File: 62-33094-5-A

Aug 1947

Roll 2, 0609-0610

News article:

The Daily Worker (Aug 1947)

“Cover-Up for War Profiteering”

FBI File: 62-33783-376

Aug 1943

Roll 2, 0611-0612

Endorsement of Russell Birdwell who had been a public-relations man for Kaiser-Hughes cargo planes

FBI File: 62-33943-43

Feb 1948

Roll 2, 0613-0625

Attorney Richardson Dilworth, Philadelphia, attacks the competence of the U.S. Attorney’s office

News articles:

The Philadelphia Inquirer (Feb 1948)

“City Manager System Offers No Cure for Our Governmental Pains”

“Gleeson Asks ‘Dishonesty’ Data”

“U.S. Jury Probes Dilworth Charge”

The Evening Bulletin (Feb 1948)

“Sharfsin Reply Blasts Dilworth”

FBI File: 62-51687-A

Jul 1945

Roll 2, 0626-0627

News article:

Washington Times Herald (Jul 1945)

“Congress Probes Ownership of Airlines Which
won Routes”

FBI File: 62-60303-A

Jan 1948

Roll 2, 0628-0629

News article:

Times Herald (Jan 1948)

“These Charming People”

FBI File: 62-60527-45590

Dec 1955

Roll 2, 0630-0633

Department of the Army Name Check Request
re: Howard Hughes

FBI File: 62-61132-82

Roll 2, 0634-0636

FBI File: 62-74921-3

Feb 1947

Roll 2, 0637-0638

Request for the address or telephone number of
Howard Hughes

FBI File: 62-75147-26-117 & 119

Feb-Sep 1968

Roll 2, 0639-0649

Criminal Intelligence Program, Las Vegas Division
Report of a card switching scheme designed to cheat the
Howard Hughes Frontier Hotel

FBI File: 62-12114-A

Jun-Dec 1950

Roll 2, 0650-0652

News articles:

The Washington Post (Jun 1950)

“Wire-Tapping Tangles McGrath”

“Tough Anti-Wiretap Law Proposed by Senate Group”

FBI File: 62-26225-46-254

May 1946

Roll 2, 0653-0658

Juvenile delinquency; criticism of the Howard Hughes produced motion picture “The Outlaw” as glorifying violence

Information on mobster Bugsy Siegel and his interest in Las Vegas

FBI File: 62-75147-44-54

Mar 1946

Roll 2, 0659-0660

Vice Conditions, Las Vegas

Report concerning interest of racketeers in Las Vegas

FBI File: 62-75147-53-94

Jan 1951

Roll 2, 0661-0675

Washington Field Office, General Crime Survey

FBI File: 62-76095-20

Jul 1947

Roll 2, 0676-0689

Design Proposal: 100 Ton Cargo Plane

FBI File: 62-81080-4

Apr 1958

Roll 2, 0690-0693

Miscellaneous Information

Report concerning Howard Hughes' association with
movie star Lana Turner

FBI File: 62-81093-265 & 267

Jul 1946

Roll 2, 0694-0698

Racketeering Activities, Los Angeles Field Division

Report that Bugsy Siegel had been invited by Howard
Hughes to participate in the inaugural flight of a
Constellation plane from Los Angeles to New York

FBI File: 62-82088-1

Jun 1946

Roll 2, 0699-0701

Background into an unnamed racketeer who had been em-
ployed by Howard Hughes

FBI File: 62-87258-1

Apr 1948

Roll 2, 0702-0704

Report concerning U.S. Representative Chet Hollifield

FBI File: 62-87267-29

Jan 1950

Roll 2, 0705-0707

News article:

Los Angeles Times (Jan 1950)

"Anti-Red Producer Sued by Bit Player"

FBI File: 62-92543-8

Jun 1948

Roll 2, 0708-0709

Report concerning U.S. Representative Helen Gahagan
Douglas

FBI File: 62-92645-1X1,

Jun-Sep 1950

Roll 2, 0710-0766

News article:

The Washington Post (Jun 1950)

“Neeley Asks Justice Dept. for Wire-Tap Information”

Investigation of Police Lt. Joseph W. Shimon and possible
involvement in tapping the phone of Howard Hughes
during the Senate War Investigating Committee hearings

FBI File: 62-77860-A

Mar 1949-Sep 1950

Roll 2, 0767-0875

News article:

Daily Mirror (Mar 1949)

“Asks Probe of Wallgren’s Reported \$50,000 Winning”

Interview of Police Lt. Joseph W. Shimon regarding the
wire-tapping of Howard Hughes’ telephone in 1947

News articles:

Washington Times Herald (Aug 1950)

“Lucas’ Phone Tapped; Probe Set by Senate”

Washington News (Aug 1950)

“Wiretaps Not Illegal: No ‘Wash’ of Shimon”

Washington Star (Aug 1950)

“FBI Investigating Shimon Activity for House Unit”

Investigation into the allegation that Howard Hughes con-
ducted surveillance of Sen. Owen Brewster

FBI File: 62-92645-133, 213, & Sub-A
Aug-Oct 1950 **Roll 2, 0876-0886**
Lt. Joseph W. Shimon, Washington Police Dept., Misc.

FBI File: 62-116006
Oct 1958 **Roll 2, 0887-0890**
Report that President Dwight Eisenhower will christen the
new Boeing 707 jetliner at Washington National Airport

FBI File: 62-101375-39 & 48
Nov 1959-Apr 1960 **Roll 2, 0891-0894**
Criminal Section, Investigative Division
Misc. information concerning Robert A. Maheu
Associates

FBI File: 62-1010-1 & 2
Jun 1954 **Roll 2, 0895-0900**
Research, Crime Records
Report of an unbalanced individual sending religious ma-
terials to prominent people, including Howard Hughes,
and asking Hughes for \$10 million to build a church

FBI File: 63-4296-26-429 & 438
Aug 1959 **Roll 2, 0901-0915**
CRIMDEL, CRS
Report that Frank J. Matula, Jr., appointed International
trustee by James Hoffa, must serve a six-month jail
sentence for lying to a state committee

Report of controversy concerning the leasing of submerged
oil lands by the city of Los Angeles
Report on postal restrictions
Report on controversy concerning available seating at the
Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles
Report on the impending conviction of Mickey Cohen
Report on the enforcibility of California Anti-Trust Laws
Poker parlors limited in Gardena
Howard Hughes dropped from lawsuit waged by former
business associate Noah Dietrich

FBI File: 63-5327-2421

Roll 2, 0916

FBI File: 63-11043-253X6

Jan 1968

Roll 2, 0917-0919

Edward Levinson, Misc. Civil Suit

FBI File: 66-2341-26-11

Sep 1943

Roll 2, 0920-0921

White Slave Traffic Act Survey

FBI File: 87-0-4356

Mar 1963

Roll 2, 0922-0924

Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property

Prosecution involving theft of documents from the firm of
Chester C. Davis dropped due to insufficient evidence
of a Federal violation

FBI File: 94-3-4-1115-3 **Roll 2, 0925-0929**
May 1941
Photocopy of Current Biography, Apr 1941, featuring a
 biography of Howard Hughes

FBI File: 94-4-684-A
Aug 1947 **Roll 2, 0930-0931**
News article:
 Daily Worker (Aug 1947)
 "Pepper Charges GOP 'Politics' Behind Hughes
 Contract Probe"

FBI File: 94-4-2695-73
Jan 1950 **Roll 2, 0932-0934**
Motion Pictures Production, Research Matter

FBI File: 94-4-2695-54 and 96
Jan 1949-Oct 1952 **Roll 2, 0935-0940**
RKO Pictures, Incorporated Research
Investigation into stock purchase and organized crime

FBI File: 94-4-3657-A
Jul 1947 **Roll 2, 0941-0942**
News article:
 Washington Times Herald (Jul 1947)
 "Broadway" by Danton Walker

FBI File: 94-4-5798-24 **Roll 2, 0943**

FBI File: 94-8-1106-3X1

Dec 1948

Roll 2, 0944-0946

Excerpt from "El Imparcial," San Juan in which the writer
commends the Congressional Un-American Activities
Committee and their work

News article:

"Batiborrillo Capitolino" (Dec 1948)

by John O'Donnell

FBI File: 94-8-1144-20

Jan-Mar 1943

Roll 2, 0947-0951

Newspaper Enterprise Association, Espionage
Map, "How the Japanese in Manchukuo and Aleutians
Menace Siberia"

FBI File: 94-36027-8, 9, & Sub-A

Aug-Oct 1947

Roll 2, 0952-0956

Dispute between Howard Hughes and Sen. Owen Brewster

News article:

PM Daily (Aug 1947)

"Grandpa Recalls When Brewster was Taken for a Ride"

FBI File: 94-42546-7

Feb 1950

Roll 2, 0957-0959

Letter to Hoover

FBI File: 94-50053-99

Aug 1971

Roll 2, 0960-0962

News article:

The Washington Post (Aug 1971)

"Howard Hughes and His Hired Hands"

FBI File: 100-0-17142

Dec 1942

Roll 2, 0963-0966

Handwritten letter to J. Edgar Hoover

FBI File: 100-0-17758

n.d.

Roll 2, 0967-0972

Correspondence to J. Edgar Hoover warning that Howard
Hughes may be easily duped

News article:

(uncredited) Oct 20, 1952

“Wm. E. Dodd, Jr., Son of Former Envoy, Dies at 47”

FBI File: 94-5-76849

Feb 1971

Roll 2, 0973-0976

Religious booklets returned to sender

FBI File: 94-8-6-A

Aug 1947

Roll 2, 0977-0978

News article:

The Washington Post (Aug 1947)

“Brewster Committee Staff Faces Shake-Up”

FBI File: 94-8-350-443 & 1161

Oct 1951-Jan 1962

Roll 2, 0979-End

Excerpts from Drew Pearson radio broadcasts