



An aerial photograph showing a vast, dry, and cracked landscape. In the upper left, there are some dark, irregular shapes that appear to be remnants of water or wet mud. The rest of the landscape is a mix of light brown, tan, and dark brown patches, indicating different soil types and the extent of drought. A few small, isolated structures and what looks like a small cluster of buildings are visible in the lower right, surrounded by sparse, dry vegetation. The overall scene is one of extreme aridity.

■ Hoover Dam formed Lake Mead, and in 1938 the lake swallowed the town of St. Thomas, Nev. As the lake filled, the town disappeared under 18 m (60 ft) of water. But fluctuating lake levels have revealed the town many times since 1938. Now, severe drought has made the town a tourist spot. Read more about the town in *WEF Highlights* at news.wef.org/ghost-town-emerges-from-the-depths-of-lake-mead. Chelsea Kennedy/National Park Service

The foundation of the St. Thomas Schoolhouse sat underwater for many years after Lake Mead filled. As water levels declined, the town resurfaced in 2002. Lake Mead National Recreation Area



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A National Park Service employee surveys the foundations at St. Thomas, Nev., in 2007. The town was submerged by water when Lake Mead filled in 1938.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

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The waters of Lake Mead begin to take over the city of St. Thomas, Nev., in 1937. Lake Mead National Recreation Area

The Gentry Hotel in St. Thomas, Nev., welcomed visitors to what is now a ghost town.
Gladys Gentry Collection



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