



RESEARCHING A HISTORIC PROPERTY

People research historic properties for many reasons including:

- Documenting the history of a building for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or a local register such as the Phoenix Historic Property Register.
- Providing property owners with a better understanding of the physical history of a building for a more accurate rehabilitation and/or restoration.
- Providing a link to the people and events historically connected with the building.

When researching, keep in mind that you will be developing a narrative history and determining where your property fits into the city's history and development. Properties can be individually significant, but may also derive significance as part of a larger historic district.



The following are questions to keep in mind when researching your historic property?

- What is the historic name of the property?
- How many structures and other resources make up the property?
- What are the construction dates?
- What is the architectural style(s)?
- Who were the architect and builder? Are either well known for their skill or expertise? Is this a particularly unique example of their work?
- Does the property include a rare building or property type or is it representative of many other properties in its vicinity?
- Does it exemplify a particular architectural style or exhibit unique craftsmanship or details?
- What changes have been made over time and when? Are the changes significant?
- How large is the property? Where is it located, and what are its boundaries?
- What is the development history of the area? How does it relate to a tract or subdivision developed during a particular period of time?
- How was the property used during its period of significance and how is it used today?
- Who occupied or used the property historically? Did they individually make any important contributions to Phoenix history?
- Does the property have important ethnic/cultural associations?



RESEARCH MATERIALS



Researching a property entails the careful examination of both primary (archival and original) and secondary sources of information.

The following list identifies potentially useful types of materials:

- ❖ **Building permits**
- ❖ **Directories - annual city and county**
- ❖ **Newspapers**
- ❖ **Maps**
- ❖ **Aerial photos**
 - Architectural/construction drawings
 - Census records
 - County histories
 - Court documents
 - Estate records
 - Oral histories - interview former owners and older neighbors.
 - Photographs and postcards
 - Tax appraisal records
 - Title deeds
- ❖ Indicate resource materials that are most helpful to average owner.

GUIDE TO SOURCES

Below are some of the archives located within the greater Phoenix metropolitan area and a partial listing of their current sources. Call the individual repositories for complete listing.

Arizona Historical Society: Museum & Library at Papago Park

Archives/Library

1300 N. College

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-929-0292

- Newspapers
- City and county directories
- Photographs/postcards
- Birth and death records
- Census records
- City and county maps



Arizona State University - Charles Hayden Library

Arizona Collection -Luhrs Reading Room

Tempe, AZ 85251

480-965-4932

- County histories
- City and county directories
- Photo collection
- Government documents
- Census records
- Newspapers

Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records - State Capitol

1700 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-542-4159

www.dlapr.lib.az.us/

- Sanborn fire insurance maps
- County histories
- City directories
- Photographs/postcards
- County deeds until pre-1920s
- Birth and death records
- Census records
- City and county maps and atlas
- Newspapers

Burton Barr Central Library -Arizona Room Collection

1221 N. Central Ave., Fourth Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-262-4636

- Aerial photo maps
- Sanborn fire insurance maps
- Photo collection - including McClintock photo and correspondence file
- Neighborhood and county histories
- City and county directories - including business directories
- City and county maps including plat maps
- Newspapers and periodical index

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office -Arizona State Parks

1300 W. Washington St., Second Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-542-4009

www.pr.state.az.us



Maricopa County Recorders Office

111 S. Third Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-506-3535

www.recorder.maricopa.gov

- Deed records
- Plat maps
- Birth and death records
- Census records
- City and county maps
- Estate/inventory records
- Mortgage records

City of Phoenix Engineering and Architectural Services Department

Central Records Public Service Counter

200 W. Washington St., Third Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-495-7274

- Aerial photos (1961- present)
- Parcel and right-of-way maps
- Plat maps

City of Phoenix Development Services Department

Building Records

200 W. Washington St., Second Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-262-7800

- Building permit records
- Construction plans

City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office

200 W. Washington St., 17 Floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-261-8699

www.phoenix.gov/HISTORIC

- Historic property inventory forms and files
- Sanborn fire insurance maps
- Aerial photos (1936,1940,1949,1957,1959)
- City directories



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