

HERITAGE BULLETIN

12

Tips, Ideas & More to Help Preserve Oregon's Heritage

RESEARCH TIPS AND SOURCES

JUNE 2008

There is no single source to gather information about places. Quality research efforts require time, travel, communication and patience. Many sources are available on the internet, but you should still need to visit libraries, museums and government offices in person.

Research Tips

- Give yourself time.
- Plan for research and copying fees.
- Take a pencil, many places do not allow pens.
- Take a digital camera, they may be allowed for hard to copy items like maps.
- Be friendly and appreciative.
- Confirm the reliability of the all sources, particularly the internet.
- Be aware that all sources have flaws, it is best to confirm with an alternate source if possible.
- Keep track of sources and reference them when you use the information. Photocopies of source information can be helpful.
- Make a research plan that includes the goals of the research and information desired. This will help you focus your time. It will also help research staff get you the right sources.
- Ask for help. All archives, museums and government agencies use slightly different systems.
- No source is perfect! Always try to find other sources for confirmation of information. Tax assessor's dates of construction may be wrong, obituaries and even grave markers can be inaccurate. Be especially cautious of on-line sources. Know who is providing the information and how they got it before you use it.



Types of Sources

- Deeds – property boundaries, ownership, etc.
- Abstract of Title - ownership
- Maps – property boundaries, ownership, neighboring properties, etc.
- Photographs – design, period, socioeconomic information, environment, etc.
- Newspapers and Periodicals – advertising, directories, obituaries, society news, marriage and birth announcements, public events, real estate and construction



articles, and tons more

- Diaries, Journals and Letters – family information, business information, etc.
- Census Records – family members, ages, employment, employees, property size and use, ethnic background, etc.
- Tax Records – legal description of property, property values, building information, ownership, relationship to city and county boundaries, etc.
- Directories – addresses, employees, related businesses, etc.
- Estate & Probate Records – property, value, personal items, family and business relationships, etc.
- Trade Journals – business information, associations, etc.
- Church Records – birth, death, marriage, baptism, etc.
- Oral Histories – family and business information, events, etc.
- State Gazetteers – business information, etc.
- Military Records – Pension records, status, addresses, possibly personal information like marriage certificates, personal letters, etc.

Where to Find These Sources

Oregon State Archives arcweb.sos.state.or.us/

State Records
 Local Government Records
 Genealogical Records
 Journals
 Business Records
 Estate & Probate Records
 Tax Records

Oregon Historical Society www.ohs.org

Photographs
 Newspapers and Periodicals
 Diaries, Journals and Letters
 Artifacts
 Estate & Probate Records
 Trade Journals
 Oral Histories
 State Gazetteers

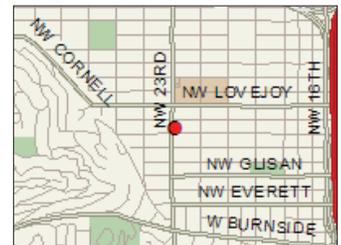
University of Oregon Special Collections and Archives

libweb.uoregon.edu/speccoll/

Photographs
 Newspapers and Periodicals
 Diaries, Journal and Letters
 Local Publications
 Directories
 Trade Journals

Local Historical Societies and Museums

Photographs
 Artifacts



- Newspapers and Periodicals
- Diaries, Journals and Letters
- Local Publications
- Directories
- Census Records
- Estate & Probate Records
- Donation Land Claim Survey Materials
- Trade Journals
- Oral Histories
- State Gazetteers

Local Genealogical Societies

- Diaries, Journals and Letters
- Newspapers and Periodicals
- Directories
- Census Records
- Donation Land Claim Survey Materials
- Local Libraries
- Photographs
- Newspapers and Periodicals
- Diaries, Journals and Letters
- Directories
- Census Records
- Metzger Land Ownership Maps
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- State Gazetteers

City Government Offices

- Maps
- Property Information

County Government Offices

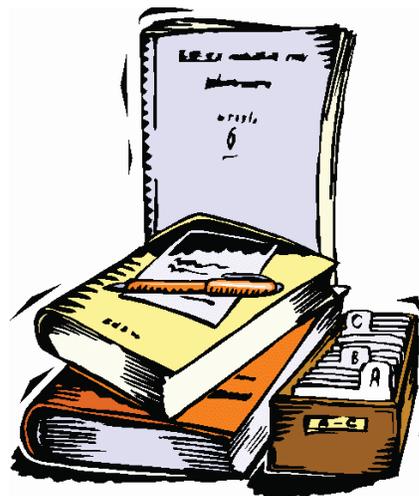
- Surveyor Maps (Surveyors' Office)
- Deed and Land Maps (Assessor's Office)
- Donation Land Claim Survey materials
- Estate & Probate Records (Court)
- Tax records

State Government Offices

- Oregon Department of Transportation
 - Maps
 - Photographs
 - Publications
- Oregon Fish and Wildlife
 - Maps
 - Photographs

Federal Government Offices

- Bureau of Land Management
 - Maps



Photographs
Donation Land Claim Survey materials
Homestead Records

Library of Congress

Photographs
Maps
Documents

United States Forest Service

Maps
Photographs

National Archives

Homestead Documents
Military Records prior to World War I

Federal Resources Center

Military Records following World War I

Tribal Government Offices

Photographs
Maps
Diaries, Journals and Letters
Oral Histories
Artifacts
Census Records
Property Documents

Other

Thomas Guides
Metzger Map - buy from Oregon Blue Print.
Title Information - title company files or title search.
Business or Agency Records of current property owner
Church Records
Local newspaper offices



Library of Congress