



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 & events historically connected with the building.
- ❖ When researching, keep in mind that you will be developing a narrative history & determining where your property fits into the city's history & 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 & other resources make up the property? What are the construction dates? What is the architectural style(s)?
- ❖ Who were the architect & builder? Is either of them 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 & when? Are the changes significant?
- ❖ How large is the property? Where is it located, & 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?
- ❖ How was the property used during its period of significance & 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 associations with ethnic/cultural/social groups?

RESEARCH MATERIALS

Researching a property entails the careful examination of both primary (archival & original) & secondary sources of information. The following list identifies useful research materials:

- ❖ Building Permits
- ❖ Estate Records
- ❖ Directories – annual city & county
- ❖ Court Documents
- ❖ Newspapers
- ❖ Photographs & Postcards
- ❖ Maps
- ❖ Aerial Photos
- ❖ Title Deeds
- ❖ Architectural/Construction Drawings
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ County Histories
- ❖ Oral Histories – interview former owners & older neighbors
- ❖ Tax Appraisal Records

GUIDE TO SOURCES

Below are some of the archives located within the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area & a partial listing of their current sources. Please call the individual repositories for complete listing.

Arizona Historical Society: Museum & Library at Papago Park Archives/Library

1300 North College

Tempe, AZ 85281

AHSTempe@azhs.gov

<http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/>

You may access and search the library catalogue and digital collections at

<https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/research/library-archives/>

- ❖ Manuscripts
- ❖ Personal Papers
- ❖ Oral Histories
- ❖ Newspapers & Periodicals
- ❖ City & County Directories
- ❖ Photographs / Postcards
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ City & County Maps

Arizona State Library Archives & Public Records - State Capitol

1700 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4159

<http://www.azlibrary.gov/>

- ❖ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- ❖ County Histories
- ❖ City Directories
- ❖ Photographs / Postcards
- ❖ Newspapers
- ❖ County Deeds until pre-1920s
- ❖ City & County Maps & Atlas
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office - Arizona State Parks

1100 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 542-4009

<http://azstateparks.com/shpo>

- ❖ National Register Listing & Historic Survey Files

Arizona State University - Hayden Library Arizona Collection & Luhrs Reading Room

300 E. Orange Mall
Tempe, AZ 85251
(480) 965-4932

<http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/>

- ❖ County Histories
- ❖ City & County Directories
- ❖ Photo Collection
- ❖ Government Documents
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ Newspapers

Maricopa County Recorder's Office

111 S. Third Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 506-3535

<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>

- ❖ Deed Records
- ❖ Plat maps
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ City & County Maps
- ❖ Estate/Inventory Records
- ❖ Mortgage Record

Bureau of Land Management

Informational Access Center
One N. Central Ave., Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
(602) 417-9200

<http://www.blm.gov/az/>

- ❖ Mining Claims & Districts
- ❖ GLO Maps (Homestead Claims & Patents)

Burton Barr Central Library - Arizona Room Collection

1221 N. Central Ave., 2nd floor
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 262-4636

<http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/>

- ❖ Aerial photo maps & other photos
- ❖ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- ❖ Newspapers & Periodical Index
- ❖ Neighborhood & County Histories
- ❖ City & County Directories – including business directories
- ❖ City & County Maps including Plat maps
- ❖ Photo Collection – including McClintock photos & correspondence

City of Phoenix Archaeology Office – S’edav Va’aki Museum

4619 E. Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona

(602) 534-1573

<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/arts-culture-history/sedav-vaaki>

- ❖ Survey files
- ❖ Archeological reports
- ❖ Archaeological database

City of Phoenix Public Works

Central Records Public Service Counter

200 W. Washington St., 7th floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

(602) 262-4935

<https://www.phoenix.gov/streets/cip-records-management-maps>

- ❖ Aerial Photos (1961- present)
- ❖ Plat Maps
- ❖ Parcel & Right-of-way Maps
- ❖ GIS Data

City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department – Central Records

200 W. Washington St., 3rd floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

(602) 262-7800

You may submit a Public Records Request at

[https://cityofphoenixaz.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(qwhum4hml2b1johmtch2otof\)\)/support/home.aspx](https://cityofphoenixaz.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/(S(qwhum4hml2b1johmtch2otof))/support/home.aspx)

- ❖ Building Permits Records
- ❖ Construction Plans

City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department - Historic Preservation Office

200 W. Washington St., 3rd floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

(602) 261-8699

<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation>

- ❖ Historic Property Inventory forms & files
- ❖ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- ❖ Aerial Photos (1936,1940,1949,1957,1959)
- ❖ City Directories

City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department – My Community Map

Online resource with parcel specific information

<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/maps>

- ❖ Zoning districts
- ❖ Special planning overlays, including historic preservation overlay
- ❖ Permit information