

HERITAGE BULLETIN

12

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

RESEARCH TIPS AND SOURCES

JUNE 2015

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.

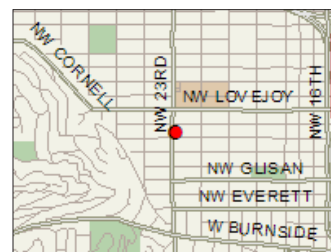
Research Tips

- 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 cautions 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

sos.oregon.gov

State Records
Local Government Records
Genealogical Records

Journals
Business Records
Estate and 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

library.uoregon.edu/speccoll/index.html

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 and 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

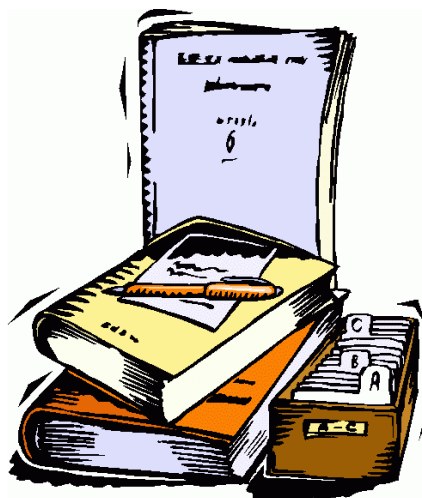
Surveyor Maps (Surveyors' Office)
 Deed and Land Maps (Assessor's Office)
 Donation Land Claim Survey materials

Estate & Probate Records (Court)
 Tax records

State Government Offices

Oregon Department of Transportation
www.oregon.gov/odot/Pages/index.aspx
 Maps
 Photographs
 Publications

Oregon Fish and Wildlife
www.dfw.state.or.us/
 Maps
 Photographs



Federal Government Offices

Bureau of Land Management

www.blm.gov

Maps

Photographs

Donation Land Claim Survey materials

Homestead Records

United States Forest Service

www.fs.fed.us

Maps

Photographs

Library of Congresswww.loc.gov

Photographs

Maps

Documents

National Archiveswww.archives.gov

Homestead Documents

Military Records prior to World War I

Federal Resources Centerwww.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel

Military Records, 20th century

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*