

LOCAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH GUIDE

Interested in a local building? Perhaps one you own, live in or work at? Follow these beginning steps to get started:

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

If the building you are interested in is located in a Historic District, check out the district's compiled survey which may have information regarding prior owners, alterations over time, and uses. Reach out to the City of Missoula Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Johnson, and request a copy of the survey.

johnsone@ci.missoula.mt.us

406.552.6638



MISSOULA COUNTY RECORDS

Visit Missoula County Clerk and Recorder and request a deed search. The incredibly helpful staff will aid in finding all available records for the building, and will consult on which office to visit next for continuing your records search.

[Missoula County Recording](#)

200 W. Broadway

406.258.4752

POLK DIRECTORIES & THE MONTANA RESEARCH ROOM

Use Polk Directories to research prior names and addresses associated with the building and what it was used for. The Missoula Public Library has a full set in the Montana Room, as well as access to digital search engines including Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, *Missoulian* Newspaper Index and more.

[Montana Collection](#)

455 E. Main

406.721.2665

ARCHIVES

[Mansfield Library – Archives and Special Collections](#)

Request an image/document search at the University of Montana – Missoula's largest repository of all things related to the Garden City's past.

library.archives@umontana.edu

406.243.2053

[Montana Memory Project](#)

MMP is Montana's one stop shop for all things digitized whether it be documents, photographs, yearbooks, newspapers or the likes.

mmp@mt.gov

[Historical Museum at Fort Missoula](#)

HMFH has a mountain of local information in their archives. Call the curator and discuss of anything may be related to your project.

406.258.3472

[Rocky Mountain Military Museum](#)

For all your local military history needs, located at Historic Fort Missoula.

info@fortmissoula.org

406-549-5346

[Library of Congress – Digital Collections](#)

The Library of Congress contains a great amount of information including historic *Missoulian* newspapers, sound recordings, Historic American Building Survey (HABS), photographs and more.

MAPS

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps may help in tracking physical alterations to the building over time, and may have information about prior uses. One can use the username: [bitterroot](#) password: [welcome1&](#). They also have physical copies at Missoula County Records.

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#)

RESTORATION/PRESERVATION/REHABILITATION of HISTORIC BUILDINGS

[City of Missoula Historic Preservation Commission](#)

Your Local Resource. Are you considering an alteration to your historic property? The local Historic Preservation Commission is here to assist you! Historical architects are available to guide your design to a level that is compatible with the historic fabric of your property – free of charge. Contact the Planning Section of Development Services at (406) 552-6628 for more information or Elizabeth Johnson, City of Missoula Historic Preservation Officer at johnsone@ci.missoula.mt.us.

[Technical Preservation Services – Preservation Briefs](#)

The National Park Service's Preservation Briefs provide guidance on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings. These publications help historic building owners recognize and resolve common problems prior to work. The briefs are especially useful to [Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program](#) applicants because they recommend methods and approaches for rehabilitating historic buildings that are consistent with their historic character. Be sure to also check out the [National Center for Preservation Technology and Training](#).

[The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#)

(downloadable) Guidelines for the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic buildings.

PRIVATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Hire a cultural research consultant for professional quality research - there's actually quite a few in Missoula.

The full list can be found here (this list covers the entire inter-mountain west):

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/docs/Consultants.pdf>

LOCAL ADVOCACY/NONPROFIT GROUPS

[Preserve Historic Missoula](#) [Montana Preservation Alliance](#)

STATE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES/PROGRAMMING

[MT State Historic Preservation Office](#)

[Montana Heritage Commission](#)

[National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

[National Register of Historic Places](#)

PRESERVATION PLANNING AND POLICY

Missoula City Code

[Title 20 – Zoning – Chapter 20.30 – Historic Preservation](#)

[Title 20 – Zoning – Chapter 85 – Review and Approval Procedures – Section .085 – Historic Preservation Permit](#)

[Historic Resources in Missoula](#) – individually listed buildings on the National Register of Historic Places

[Historic Districts in Missoula](#) – listed districts on the National Register of Historic Places

[Preservation Green Lab/Research & Policy Lab](#) – informational studies and statistics

STORIES & FOLKLORE

Read non-academic stories and folklore written by Missoula’s local history buffs.

[Missoula Current - Harmon’s Histories](#)

[Forgotten Wilma Blog](#)