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
HMFM 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