

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, Emy Scherrer, and request a copy of the survey.

escherrer@ci.missoula.mt.us

406.552.6638

MISSOULA COUNTY RECORDS

Visit Missoula County Records and request a deed search. The incredibly helpful staff will aid in finding all available records for the building. Be sure to bring a thumb drive for all the documents found.

2147 Ernest Avenue (a bit off the beaten trail)

406.258.3457

POLK DIRECTORIES & THE MONTANA RESEARCH ROOM

Use Polk Directories to research prior names 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.

301 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 holder of all things Garden City 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.

<http://montanamemory.org/>

MAPS

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#)

Sanborns 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: welcome. They also have physical copies at Missoula County Records.

PRIVATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Hire a cultural research consultant, 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/Portals/11/shpo/docs/Consultants.pdf>

