

Research Tips and Sources

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.

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 cautious 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.



Oregon Heritage

www.OregonHeritage.org

oregon.heritage@opr.d.oregon.gov

(503) 986-0690

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/special-collections

- 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

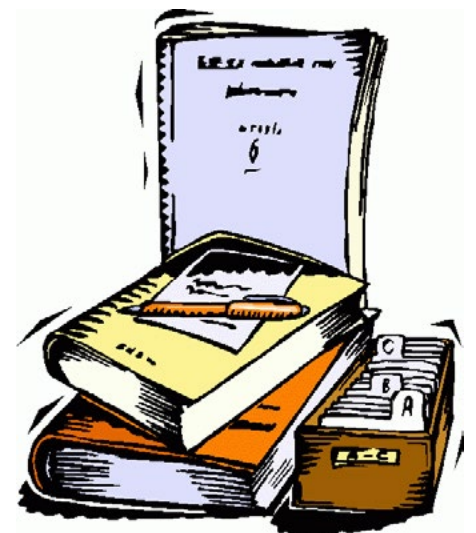
www.oregon.gov/odot/Pages/index.aspx

- Maps
- Photographs
- Publications

- Oregon Fish and Wildlife

dfw.state.or.us

- Maps
- Photographs



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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

- **Bureau of Land Management**
www.blm.gov
 - Maps
 - Photographs
 - Donation Land Claim Survey materials
 - Homestead Records
- **Library of Congress**
www.loc.gov
 - Photographs
 - Maps
 - Documents
- **United States Forest Service**
www.fs.usda.gov
 - Maps
 - Photographs
- **National Archives**
www.archives.gov
 - Homestead Documents
 - Military Records prior to WWI
- **Federal Resources Center**
www.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



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