



**People research historic properties for many reasons, including:**

- ❖ Documenting the history of a building for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or a local register such as the Phoenix Historic Property Register.
- ❖ Providing property owners with a better understanding of the physical history of a building for a more accurate rehabilitation and/or restoration.
- ❖ Providing a link to the people & events historically connected with the building.
- ❖ When researching, keep in mind that you will be developing a narrative history & determining where your property fits into the city’s history & development. Properties can be individually significant, but may also derive significance as part of a larger historic district.

**The following are questions to keep in mind when researching your historic property:**

- ❖ What is the historic name of the property?
- ❖ How many structures & other resources make up the property? What are the construction dates? What is the architectural style(s)?
- ❖ Who were the architect & builder? Is either of them well known for their skill or expertise? Is this a particularly unique example of their work?
- ❖ Does the property include a rare building or property type, or is it representative of many other properties in its vicinity?
- ❖ Does it exemplify a particular architectural style or exhibit unique craftsmanship or details?
- ❖ What changes have been made over time & when? Are the changes significant?
- ❖ How large is the property? Where is it located, & what are its boundaries?
- ❖ What is the development history of the area? How does it relate to a tract or subdivision developed during a particular period of time?
- ❖ How was the property used during its period of significance & how is it used today?
- ❖ Who occupied or used the property historically? Did they individually make any important contributions to Phoenix history?
- ❖ Does the property have important ethnic/cultural associations?

**RESEARCH MATERIALS**

Researching a property entails the careful examination of both primary (archival & original) & secondary sources of information. The following list identifies potentially useful types of materials:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ❖ Building Permits                   | ❖ Aerial Photos   |
| ❖ Estate Records                     | ❖ Title Deeds   |
| ❖ Directories – annual city & county | ❖ Architectural/Construction Drawings                       |
| ❖ Court Documents                    | ❖ Census Records  |
| ❖ Newspapers                         | ❖ Oral Histories – interview former owners & older neighbor |
| ❖ Photographs & Postcards            | ❖ County Histories  |
| ❖ Maps                               | ❖ Tax Appraisal Records                                     |

## **GUIDE TO SOURCES**

Below are some of the archives located within the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area & a partial listing of their current sources. Please call the individual repositories for complete listing.

### **Arizona Historical Society: Museum & Library at Papago Park Archives/Library**

1300 North College

Tempe, AZ 85281

AHSTempe@azhs.gov

<http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/>

You may search LISTA, the library collection catalogue online, for both the Tempe & Tucson branches at <http://lista.azhist.arizona.edu>

- ❖ Manuscripts
- ❖ Personal Papers
- ❖ Oral Histories
- ❖ Newspapers & Periodicals
- ❖ City & County Directories
- ❖ Photographs / Postcards
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ City & County Maps

### **Arizona State Library Archives & Public Records - State Capitol**

1700 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-542-4159

<http://www.lib.az.us/Default.aspx>

- ❖ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- ❖ County Histories
- ❖ City Directories
- ❖ Photographs / Postcards
- ❖ Newspapers
- ❖ County Deeds until pre-1920s
- ❖ City & County Maps & Atlas
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records

### **Arizona State Historic Preservation Office - Arizona State Parks**

1300 W. Washington St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-542-4009

<http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/index.html>

- ❖ National Register Listing & Historic Survey Files

**Arizona State University - Hayden Library Arizona Collection & Luhrs Reading Room**

Tempe, AZ 85251

480-965-4932

<http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/>

- ❖ County Histories
- ❖ City & County Directories
- ❖ Photo Collection
- ❖ Government Documents
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ Newspapers

**Maricopa County Recorders Office**

111 S. Third Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-506-3535

[www.recorder.maricopa.gov](http://www.recorder.maricopa.gov)

- ❖ Deed Records
- ❖ Plat maps
- ❖ Birth & Death Records
- ❖ Census Records
- ❖ City & County Maps
- ❖ Estate/Inventory Records
- ❖ Mortgage Record

**Bureau of Land Management**

Informational Access Center

One N. Central Ave.

Suite 800

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

602-417-9200

<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html>

- ❖ Mining Claims & Districts
- ❖ GLO Maps (Homestead Claims & Patents)

**Burton Barr Central Library - Arizona Room Collection**

1221 N. Central Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-262-4636

<http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/default.jsp>

- ❖ Aerial photo maps & other photos
- ❖ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- ❖ Newspapers & Periodical Index
- ❖ Neighborhood & County Histories
- ❖ City & County Directories – including business directories
- ❖ City & County Maps including Plat maps
- ❖ Photo Collection – including McClintock photos & correspondence

**City of Phoenix Archaeology Office - Pueblo Grande Museum & Cultural Park**

4619 E. Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona

602-534-1573

<https://phoenix.gov/parks/culture/museum/pueblo/index.html>

603-Survey files

604-Archeological reports

605-Archeological database

**City of Phoenix Engineering & Architectural Services Department**

Central Records Public Service Counter

200 W. Washington St., 6th floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-495-7274

<https://phoenix.gov/publicworks>

Plat Maps

Parcel & Right-of-way Maps

**City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department – Central Records**

200 W. Washington St., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-262-7800

- ❖ Building Permits Records
- ❖ Construction Plans

**City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department - Historic Preservation Office**

200 W. Washington St., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Phoenix, AZ 85003

602-261-8699

<https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd>

- Historic Property Inventory forms & files
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Aerial Photos (1936,1940,1949,1957,1959)
- City Directories