



# Monrovia Public Library

## HOUSE RESEARCH GUIDE

CITYOFMONROVIA.ORG/YOUR-GOVERNMENT/LIBRARY under Key Links: Local History Resources

Researching a home takes time tracking down leads and finding nuggets of information in unexpected places.

The steps for finding information are outlined below.

### Date your house

If you don't know the year your house was built, call Community Development, 626-932-5565. If their records are incomplete, call the LA County Recorder, 800-201-8999 option 3. Knowing the date saves time by using resources that cover the appropriate date range.

### Identify names associated with your house

If you know the occupants, architect or builder of your house, it's easier to gather more information from historical sources in the Library. Don't know names?

- **Check City building permits 1911 - present.** They can be accessed online through the City's website or in person from the Library. **An appointment to use the equipment to view permits is required. Call Adult Services to schedule, 626-256-8259.**
- **City directories** often have occupations, spouses and (sometimes) children listed in addition to the homeowner. The Library has directories (with gaps) from 1908–1971. **In Library use only with I.D.**
- **The *Street Address Index*** covers 5 historical books found in the Library and is arranged by street and then specific address. If you find your address, make sure to note the page number and the title of the book you will ask for at the Adult Services Reference Desk. *Index available in Library & online.*
- **The *Home/Home Tours Index*.** Materials listed in the index are kept in the Heritage Room clipping file. If you find your address mentioned ask the reference librarian to bring the files out for you. **In Library use only with I.D. Index available in Library & online.**

**Once you have a name** your next step is using local history books and clipping file resources.

- Search the history book indexes. Again, note the page number and title of the book so you know what to ask for in the Library. *Indexes available in Library & online.*

### Are there library resources other than the books that have been indexed?

Yes. **The history books most heavily used** for Monrovia history research are at the Adult Services Reference Desk and are for in-library use. Some circulating copies are also available.

**The earliest Monrovia newspapers (1886-1923)** are online through the Library website or the *History and Heritage* blog, [mplheritage.blogspot.com](http://mplheritage.blogspot.com), under *More ways to find Monrovia history*. Newspapers on microfilm, with some notable gaps, are from 1886–1992. **To view newspapers later than 1923, schedule an appointment at the Adult Services Reference Desk, 626-256-8259.**

The Library maintains a clipping file of notable people and items of interest to the history of the City. Ask the Adult Services Reference Librarian if you are looking for someone/something specific. The Librarian has access to the file index and can search for you. **Items from the Heritage Room require I.D. and may be used in Library only.**

### Beyond the Library

If you've exhausted the resources the Library has to offer, or you are hoping to landmark your home and need guidelines:

#### Early Monrovia Structures Research

[earlymonroviastructures.org](http://earlymonroviastructures.org)

Invaluable for understanding the City's districts, types of architecture, and some of the leading citizens

#### Monrovia Historic Preservation Group (MOHPG)

[mohpg.org](http://mohpg.org)

Their website outlines the criteria and forms required for landmarking and applying for benefits under the Mills Act.

#### Monrovia Historical Museum

[monroviahistoricalmuseum@gmx.com](mailto:monroviahistoricalmuseum@gmx.com)

626-256-9537

#### L.A. County Office for real estate records

County Clerk: 800-201-8999 Option 3