

Tracing the History of Your Monterey House

Each house holds a story. Someone cleared the land it stands on. Someone sketched out its design. Someone dug a trench and laid the foundation stones and put up the walls. Someone paused while shingling the roof to look out over the surrounding houses and maybe caught a glimpse of the bay and listened for a moment to the barking of the sea lions. A family moved into the house. They cooked their meals there and argued and snuggled on the couch on a Sunday afternoon and worked on jigsaw puzzles and hung stockings over the fireplace for the holidays. A teenaged daughter re-painted the walls of her room purple. Her father added a sun porch out back. The family moved away, and another family moved in, and then another, each one stamping their own mark on the house. Your house. Are you curious about its story?



MTY-6617 California History Room, Monterey Public Library

This guide gives you a list of resources you can use to find out more about your Monterey house. The list includes resources available within the Monterey Public Library as well as elsewhere.

How to Use This Guide

If you have a specific question about your house, go to Part 1: “What Do You Want to Know?” The guide poses a series of questions, and for each question suggests a list of resources you can use to answer that question. You can then go to the suggested resource in Part 2 to find out more.

If you are just generally curious about the resources available for house research, you can browse the list of resources in Part 2. The guide starts with resources available at the Monterey Public Library and moves on to resources further afield. There’s a table of contents at the beginning of Part 2 to help you find a particular resource quickly.

Let’s get started.

Part 1: What Do You Want to Know?

For each question you might have about your house, this guide suggests avenues you can explore to find the answer. The suggestions are listed in order of usefulness. If the first suggestion doesn't lead you to the answer, move onto the next. For more information on a particular suggestion, see the expanded description of the mentioned resource in Part 2 of this guide.

When was my house built?

1. Ask to see the "property jacket" for your house at the City of Monterey Permit and Inspection Services Department (Section J, "Government Resources"). If the City issued a building permit for your house, that permit will show the date of construction. For older houses that pre-dated the permit process, the property jacket might include other information to help you date your house. (Note that not every house has a property jacket.)
2. Check with the County of Monterey Assessor (Section J, "Government Resources") to see when the property first incurred taxes for "improvements".
3. If you have an older house that might be considered historic, see if the house is included in one of the Historic Surveys (Section C). The survey often includes at least an estimate of the age of the house.
4. If your house is in the city core, look at the Sanborn maps (Section B, "Maps") to see when the structure first appears. The maps weren't updated every year, but you can narrow down the construction period to the range of years between one map update and the next.
5. If you can't find more definitive data, you can often date the house by its style. See Section I, "Architectural References".



HPF-8161, California History Room, Monterey Public Library

Who was the original owner? The subsequent owners/occupants?

1. Build a "chain of title" for your house. The chain of title is the list of owners of a property. To build the chain of title, you start with the current owner (you)

and work backwards. From whom did you buy the property and when? Then, from whom did that person buy the property? Each transaction is represented by a deed/title that's on file with the County of Monterey Recorder (Section J, "Government Resources"). Each deed/title you find takes you one more step back in time. The person who sold (or otherwise transferred) the house (the "grantor") at some previous time was once the buyer (or recipient, the "grantee"), and that previous transaction gives you the name of that grantor, who in turn was once the grantee, and so on. For more details on finding records in the Recorder's office, see the expanded notes for that resource in Part 2, Section J.

2. Use the Directories (Section A) to look up your address and see who was living in your house over the years. Note that some addresses have changed.
3. If you have a house with some historic value, see if your house is included in one of the Historic Surveys (Section C). Some surveys or historic reports include information about the early owners.
4. Census records (Section D) can give you the names of people living at your address from 1850 to 1940. Finding the address in the enumeration lists can be tedious because there is no reverse index by address.
5. Check with neighbors about their memory of previous owners and occupants.

How can I find out more about the life of a previous owner?

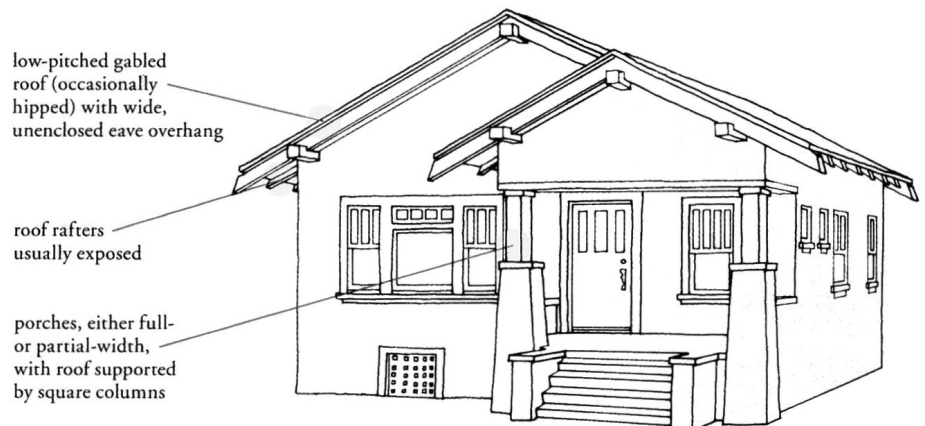
1. Check out the resources listed in Section G, "Biographies". You can find biographies of early settlers and prominent citizens. Obituaries and yearbook records also add to the story.
2. If the previous owner was an artist or author or had a role in civic affairs, look in the Clippings File (Section E).
3. Census records (Section D) let you build a picture of a family over the years.
4. For people who don't make the news, reviewing genealogical records is an effective way to learn about them and their family history. You can consult the Monterey County Genealogy Society (Section K) for tips on genealogical research in Monterey. Or visit the Monterey Family History Center (Section K), where volunteers are available to guide your research. The Monterey Public Library also has a genealogy guide on its website. Check with the staff if you have more questions.
5. Talking with family and neighbors (Section L) is often a great way to learn about previous owners.

Who was the architect? The builder?

1. Ask to see the “property jacket” for your house at the City of Monterey Permit and Inspection Services Department (Section J, “Government Resources”). Blueprints and building permits often include the name of the architect and builder. (Note that not every house has a property jacket.)
2. Ask to see the “address file” for your house at the City of Monterey Planning Department (Section J, “Government Resources”). Any zoning changes for the property might include the name of the owner among the paperwork (though the owner’s name is incidental to a zoning change).
3. Use deed/title records in the Recorder’s office to build the chain of title as described above in “Who was the original owner?” If your house was part of a development, the builder will show up on one of the early deeds, usually along with a mortgage holder. Look for a transaction where a person buys bare land and then resells it with new improvements.
4. If you own a house with historic value, check the Historic Surveys (Section C) for a reference to your house. These surveys sometimes report the name of the architect and builder.

What style is my house?

1. The book “Architecture of the Monterey Peninsula” (Section I) shows some of the common local architectural styles.
2. Another reference, “A field guide to American houses” (Section I), provides a more complete description of architectural styles found in houses across the United States, including here in Monterey. Finding the style of your house can also help you date it.
3. If your house was part of an Historic Survey (Section C), you can often find the style noted in the survey.



Adapted from: McAlester, “A Field Guide to American Houses”, p568

How has my house changed over the years?

1. Ask to see the “property jacket” for your house at the City of Monterey Permit and Inspection Services Department (Section J, “Government Resources”). Building permits give an idea of significant changes to the house. Note that not all owners were diligent in taking out the required permits for modifications, and not every house has a property jacket.
2. Ask to see the “address file” for your house at the City of Monterey Planning Department (Section J, “Government Resources”). Any requests for changes to zoning (for example, a variance to build a fence close to the road) will show up in the address file.
3. Consult the Sanborn maps (Section B) to see how the footprint of your house might have changed.
4. For historic houses, the Historic Surveys (Section C) often chronicle the changes to the house over time.
5. Family and neighbors (Section L) might have memories of remodeling work to the house.

How does my house fit into the history of the neighborhood? The city?

1. Check with your neighborhood association (Section L) to get some first-hand insight from other residents near you.
2. If you live in one of the city’s older neighborhoods, consult the Historic Surveys (Section C). The surveys usually describe historically significant houses in the context of the history of the neighborhood.
3. The book “Architecture of the Monterey Peninsula” (Section I) takes a broad brush to the architectural styles of the local area and includes a sense of the history of residential housing.

What’s next?

If you want to dig deeper into the story of your house, you will want to browse the resources listed in Part 2. For example, the photograph collections in the California History Room at the Monterey Public Library, the Monterey County Historical Society, and elsewhere could include a picture of your house or one of its owners. Or an article in *Game & Gossip* magazine might have referenced your house. Because some of these resources aren’t indexed, your search will take time, with no assurance of finding what you’re after. But along the way you’ll surely find something unexpected and delightful that will enrich your connection to our Monterey community.

Part 2: Resources

Contents

A.	Directories	7
1.	Polk Directories	7
2.	Haines Directories	7
3.	Hill-Donnelly Directories	8
4.	Directory of Monterey (various publishers)	8
B.	Maps	9
1.	Sanborn Maps	9
2.	Other Map Resources	10
C.	Historic Surveys	10
1.	Key to the city	10
2.	Index to Key to the City by Donald M Howard	11
3.	McCray's City of Monterey, February 1884 map - a total study	11
4.	National Historic Landmark District and Downtown Area Context Statement and Reconnaissance Survey, Monterey, California	11
5.	Report for the Monterey citywide survey: downtown area	11
6.	Reconnaissance historic survey: lower old town	12
7.	Draft Monterey Upper Old Town historic context statement and reconnaissance survey	12
8.	A new look at old neighborhoods: historic resource survey	12
9.	Washboard Alley to Lighthouse Ave. : the old New Monterey, 1847-1937	12
10.	New Monterey historic context statement and reconnaissance survey	12
11.	Final Cannery Row cultural resources survey report	13
12.	Final historic context statement and reconnaissance survey for the Oak Grove neighborhood	13
13.	Historic buildings survey	13
14.	Pacific Grove Historic Resources Inventory, 2004	13
15.	Pacific Grove historic home tour.	14
16.	Other Surveys and Reports	14
D.	Census Records	14
1.	U.S. Census of California	14
2.	Great registers of Monterey County	15
E.	Clippings File	16
F.	Photographs	16
1.	California History Room Archives	17
2.	California Views	17
G.	Biographies	17
1.	Biographical indexes to Monterey County histories.	17
2.	El Susurro. (Monterey High School Yearbook)	18
3.	El Paisano-- words and pictures. (Monterey Peninsula Community College Yearbook)	18
4.	Obituaries	18
5.	Other Biography Resources	19
H.	Periodicals	19
1.	Monterey County Herald (<i>formerly</i> Peninsula Daily Herald <i>and</i> Monterey Peninsula Herald)	19
2.	Monterey life.	20
3.	Game & gossip.	20
4.	Noticias de Monterey: Monterey History and Art Association quarterly.	20
5.	The Board and batten newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society.	20

I.	Architectural References	21
1.	Architecture of the Monterey Peninsula, _____	21
2.	A field guide to American houses _____	21
J.	Governmental Resources	21
1.	City of Monterey Permit and Inspection Services Department _____	21
2.	City of Monterey Planning Department _____	22
3.	County of Monterey Assessor _____	23
4.	County of Monterey Recorder _____	23
K.	Historical Societies	25
1.	Monterey County Historical Society _____	25
2.	Monterey County Genealogy Society _____	25
3.	Monterey County Local History Directory of Archives and Resources _____	26
4.	The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove _____	26
L.	Family and Neighbors	26
M.	For Further Research	27
1.	General References on House Research _____	27

A. Directories

1. Polk Directories

Polk's Monterey Peninsula directory: including Monterey, Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Pacific Grove, Sand City and Seaside.

by R.L. Polk & Co.

Publisher: South El Monte, Calif. : R.L. Polk & Co.

917.9476 POL[K]

Holdings: 1926, 1930, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1954/5, 1956-87 (except 1961, 1983/4, 1986); also 1885 and 1933 at the Pacific Grove Library

A forerunner of our familiar telephone books, these directories not only listed residents by name but included a reverse directory by address (and later by telephone number) in back. To see who was living in your house at a particular time, use the reverse directory. (Note that some addresses have changed over the years.) Then look up the name listing for that person to see additional information, such as occupation or spouse. By extending your search to nearby addresses, you will get a sense of the socio-economic character of your neighborhood over the years.

2. Haines Directories

Haines Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz city & suburban criss-cross directory.

by Haines and Company.

Publisher: Union City, Calif. : Haines and Co.

917.9476 HAI

The Haines directories, picking up from where Polk has left off, provide a reverse directory by address for the years 1976 to present. The directory gives the occupant name and telephone number and notes whether the address is for a business and/or a residence.

3. Hill-Donnelly Directories

Hill-Donnelly cross reference directory for Monterey & San Benito Counties, California.

by Hill-Donnelly Corporation.

Publisher: Tampa, Fla. : Hill-Donnelly Corporation, 19-- -
917.9476 HIL

The Library has Hill-Donnelly reverse directories for the years 1974, 1990, and 2001.

4. Directory of Monterey (various publishers)

Directory of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Vista Del Rey and Del Monte Grove [1905/1906; 1907]

by Perry, T.F.

Publisher: Compiled and published by T.F. Perry ; Printed at the Office of the Daily Review, Pacific Grove, Calif., 1905-

Directory of Monterey, New Monterey, Del Monte Grove, Seaside, Vista del Rey, Del Monte Heights: 1911

Publisher: [s.l.] : Weybret-Lee Co., c1911

Directory of Monterey, Del Monte Grove, Seaside, Del Monte Heights, Carmel: 1913

by Rust, E.C.

Publisher: [s.l.] : Weybret-Lee Co., c1913

A directory of Monterey, Del Monte, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea and Seaside [1916/1917]

by -- City Directory Company; Monterey Daily Cypress

Publisher: Monterey, Calif.; City Directory Company, 1917-

Directory of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Del Monte, Pebble Beach and Seaside for 1922-1923

by -- Peninsula Directory Co

Publisher: [S.l.] : Peninsula Directory Co., 1922

917.9476 DIR(E)

These early directories of Monterey and the Peninsula are indexed by name only. If you already know the name of an owner of your house in the early-20th Century, these directories might provide additional information about that person. If you don't have a name, you must go page by page to find an address.

B. Maps

1. Sanborn Maps

Printed version-

Map of Monterey, Monterey Co., Cal.

by Sanborn Map Company.

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Sanborn Map Company, 1926

MAP/2-10 (2/1926); MAP/2-11 (8/1926 corr 12/49 & 9/56); MAP/2-12 (8/1912 corr 2/24); MAP/2-13 (8/1926 corr 2/56); MAP/2-14 (8/1926 corr 1/59 & 5/60)

Microfilm version-

Sanborn fire insurance maps; city of Monterey and other California cities

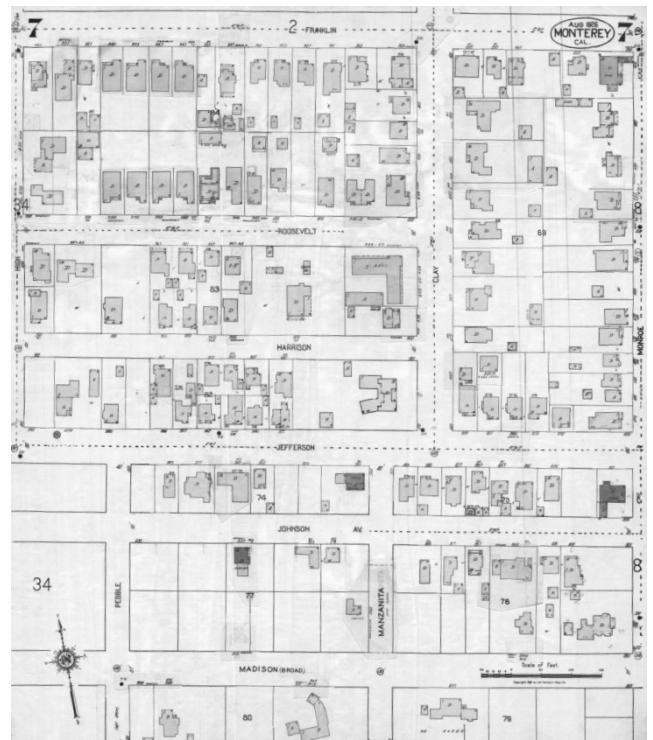
by Sanborn Map Company; Chadwyck-Healey, Inc.

Publisher: Teaneck, NJ : Chadwyck-Healey, Inc., 1983

MIC 917.9476 SAN (Reel 37: Maps of Monterey include: March 1885; May 1888; March 1892; May 1905; August 1912; August 1926; 1962)

These detailed early maps of the city core of Monterey were originally intended to help fire insurance companies assess liability. The maps show the footprint of all structures, with color coding to indicate construction materials, so they are a great resource for tracking new construction and remodeling work over the years.

One caveat to using the Sanborn maps is that the company updated their maps by cutting and pasting new hand-drawn overlays onto an earlier base map. So, for example, the page might say 1926 (the year of the base map), but the structure could have been pasted in for a correction released in 1949. Only by looking at the first page of each set of maps, where you can find the index of corrections, can you be sure of the range of possible construction dates for a structure on the map.



Sanborn Map, Monterey, 1962, Sheet 7

The Library's printed versions of the Sanborn maps are very fragile and are accessible only by appointment with Archivist.

To see the microfilm version of the Sanborn maps, ask at the Front Desk. The microfilm version is in black-and-white, so the information portrayed by the original color coding is lost, but a greater range of years is available on microfilm. Since the microfilm reel contains maps for more than just Monterey, first find the first map in the Monterey series and then navigate to the date you want.

2. Other Map Resources

The Monterey Public Library's California History Room holds hundreds of maps and plans of the city, dating from the earliest years to present. Check the library catalog or consult with the Museums and Archives Manager to find maps that show your house in relation to the broader neighborhood and city over the years.

For subdivision and other recorded survey maps, see the section on maps under the listing for the County of Monterey Recorder (Section J) later in this guide.

Some commercial Internet resources offer historical maps for a fee. Two examples that have old Monterey maps are:

- Historicaerials.com
- Terraserver.com

C. Historic Surveys

The City of Monterey's rich collection of historic buildings has been the focus of many heritage surveys. Some of these surveys address entire neighborhoods, giving an overview of each building of possible historic significance, while others concentrate on a single house. The surveys often include the cultural and social context of the area as well. The California History Room at the Monterey Public Library maintains a collection of most publicly available surveys. Surveys commissioned by the City are available on its Historic Preservation website. The most useful surveys for researching the history of your home are listed here.

1. Key to the city

by Howard, Donald M.

Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : Monterey Peninsula Historiography Press,
2002

979.476 HOW

These four volumes (1a, 1b, 2, and 3) trace land development in old Monterey through maps and deed records from about 1835 through 1935. Howard has gathered a trove of information on successive owners for each parcel, including some biographical notes and news clippings. Finding a particular property in these

volumes can be challenging. Start by referring to the separate “Visual Index to the Historic ‘Keys’ of Donald M Howard” (979.476 HOW) to locate the city block with your house. Then go to that block in Howard’s volumes. You can also use the separate index by Shirley Ray (see next resource), which provides a glimmer of hope for finding information in Howard’s “Key”.

2. Index to Key to the City by Donald M Howard

by Ray, Shirley.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Monterey Public Library, California History Room, 2003

979.476 RAY

Unlocks the information buried in Howard’s four volumes. You can look up either a street name or block number, and Ray’s index points you to the volume(s) and page(s) in Howard’s “Key”.

3. McCray's City of Monterey, February 1884 map - a total study

by Howard, Donald M.

Publisher: [s.l.] : Monterey Peninsula Historiography Press : author; 2006

979.476 HOW

Starting with the Assessor’s map of Monterey drawn in 1884 by surveyor F. P. McCray, Howard uses deed records to trace the evolution of city lots well into the next century. This resource complements Howard’s “Key to the city” with additional information on deed records.

4. National Historic Landmark District and Downtown Area Context Statement and Reconnaissance Survey, Monterey, California

by Architectural Resources Group, for the City of Monterey.

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Architectural Resources Group, 2012

Available online at:

https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/43709878/NHLD-Downtown_HCS_%26_Survey_Final_Adopted_Feb%202012_w_Reso.pdf

This recent historic survey provides an illustrated history of the City of Monterey to give context to buildings of the downtown area. Survey sheets provide details on individual buildings, and the report lists which buildings might qualify as historical properties.

5. Report for the Monterey citywide survey: downtown area

by Circa: Historic Property Development; Monterey (Calif.).

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Circa: Historic Property Development, 2001

720.9476 CIR

Though older than the previous survey – the report was issued in 2001, but evaluations were done earlier (in the 1990s) – this historic survey offers another perspective on historic buildings in the downtown area.

6. Reconnaissance historic survey: lower old town

by Archives and Architecture: Heritage Resource Partners.

Publisher: San Jose, Calif. : Archives and Architecture, 2005

720.9476 ARC

Also available online at:

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/4.Lower.Old.Town.Survey.Part1.pdf>

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/4.Lower.Old.Town.Survey.Part2.pdf>

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/4.Lower.Old.Town.Survey.Part3.pdf>

This historic survey documents the historic buildings in Monterey's core (Lower Old Town).

7. Draft Monterey Upper Old Town historic context statement and reconnaissance survey

by Circa Historic Property Development

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Circa Historic Property Development, 2007

711 MON

Also available online at:

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/66.Upper.Old.Town.Survey.pdf>

This survey first gives the historic context for the neighborhood between Clay Street and the Presidio and then lists the properties in this 22-block area and evaluates their historic significance.

8. A new look at old neighborhoods: historic resource survey

by Brovarney, Dot.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Planning Department, 1987

711.5 BRO

This pair of historic surveys – Volume 1 for Old Town and Volume 2 for New Monterey – is somewhat older than other surveys but still includes valuable information about historic houses in these two neighborhoods.

9. Washboard Alley to Lighthouse Ave. : the old New Monterey, 1847-1937

by Howard, Donald M.

Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : Donald M. Howard, 2001

979.476 HOW

If your house is located in New Monterey, this resource can show you the change in ownership over the years as the area developed from the original Mexican grants to its current pattern.

10. New Monterey historic context statement and reconnaissance survey

by Architectural Resources Group; Monterey (Calif.) Planning Dept.

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Architectural Resources Group, 2013

720.9476 ARG

Also available online at:

www.dropbox.com/s/qkwo2nnpcsmggih/14_1222_New_Monterey_HCS_and_Survey_Report_WEB.pdf?dl=0

This survey traces the history of the New Monterey area and surveys the historic houses that dot this neighborhood.

11. Final Cannery Row cultural resources survey report

by Architectural Resources Group; Monterey (Calif.) Planning Dept.

Publisher: San Francisco, Calif. : Architectural Resources Group, 2001

720.9476 ARC

Also available online at:

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/3.CRow.Intensive.Survey.Part1.pdf>

<http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/3.CRow.Intensive.Survey.Part2.pdf>

This historic survey catalogs the buildings in the Cannery Row area of Monterey and provides the historic context for the development of that neighborhood. Much of that area is dominated by commercial and industrial buildings, but the report includes the few residential structures as well.

12. Final historic context statement and reconnaissance survey for the Oak Grove neighborhood

by Pacific Municipal Consultants; Monterey Planning Commission.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : PMC, 2007

979.476 PMC

Also available online at:

http://monterey.org/Portals/1/peec/historic/Oak_Grove_HCS_Combined.pdf

This survey outlines the historic context of the Oak Grove neighborhood and catalogs the buildings in the area, giving more detail for those properties with historic significance.

13. Historic buildings survey

by Nomellini, Elizabeth.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : 1982

917.9476 NOM

This historic survey covers the main Monterey buildings only and has limited use for residential research. However, the survey includes many photographs, which can help in identifying house styles.

14. Pacific Grove Historic Resources Inventory, 2004

by Pacific Grove Heritage Society

Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : City of Pacific Grove, 2004

979.476 PAC (Pacific Grove Public Library)

This historic survey covers houses in the City of Pacific Grove.

15. Pacific Grove historic home tour.

Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : Pacific Grove Heritage Society, 1982
728.370976 PAC

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove mounts annual home tours of historic properties in that town. The accompanying booklets for the tours include detailed information about the houses, focusing on their historic significance. The Monterey Public Library holds copies of these tour guides for the years 1982 through 1999, collected in two volumes (v.1, 1982-92; v.2, 1995-99).

16. Other Surveys and Reports

Some historically significant houses have been the subject of an Historic Preservation Report or Historic Structure Report. Usually prepared by an architectural consultant or preservation specialist, these reports provide a detailed description of the home and a chronicle of its previous owners. The report might also contain photos, news clippings, floor plans, and other items that give context to the house and its neighborhood. Unfortunately, very few houses in Monterey have been surveyed at this level of detail, and the Monterey Public Library doesn't have all of these reports, some of which were privately commissioned. Still, if you think your house is historically important, you can search for a possible historic report in the library catalog under the name of the first owner or the address. See also Section J, "Governmental Resources".

D. Census Records

1. U.S. Census of California by U.S. Bureau of the Census MIC/317.3 UNI

The Library holds eight reels of microfilmed census records, one for each decennial census from 1850 through 1930 (excepting the 1890 census, which was lost in a fire at the Federal Commerce Building in 1921):

1850 Reel 29/T-6
1860 Reel 60/M-653
1870 Reel 74/M-593
1880 Reel 69/T-9

State California TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
County Monterey SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION
Township or other division of county Monterey Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division Monterey
Enumerated by me on the 12 day of June, 1900.

LINE NO.	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		NATIVITY	
			SEX	AGE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person
72	Robert M. Mame	Wife	F	May 1871 28 7 10	California	Monterey
73	Ray	son	M	Oct 1891 8 5	California	Monterey
74	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
75	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
76	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
77	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
78	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
79	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
80	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
81	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
82	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
83	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
84	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
85	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
86	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
87	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
88	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
89	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
90	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
91	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
92	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
93	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
94	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
95	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
96	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
97	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
98	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
99	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey
100	Ray	daughter	F	May 1897 3 5	California	Monterey

1900 Reel 94(T-623
1910 Reel 89/T-624
1920 Reel 122/T-625
1930 Reel 179/T-626

Ask at the Front Desk for access to these reels.

Census records provide a wealth of information about each person residing in the city, including age, ethnic origin, occupation, marital status, immigration status, and any family members living with them. The census area is divided into districts, and census-takers fan out to enumerate each household in that district. You can flip through the records page by page to find the street address for your house and see who was living there on the date of the census. (Be aware that some street numbers have changed over the years.)

The 1940 Census has been published, but the library doesn't yet have the microfilm for this year. These records are available online at the U.S. National Archives or through one of the genealogical services (e.g., familysearch.org or ancestry.com). See also section K, "Historical Societies".

2. Great registers of Monterey County

The Great Registers are early voter lists, and though they don't include as much information as a full census (and exclude people who weren't eligible to vote, such as women), they do provide some limited biographical data about people residing in Monterey County in the last half of the 20th Century.

1866-1867 poll list

by Monterey Public Library California History Room.
Clipping File: Census before 1990

1879 great register of Monterey county

Publisher: Salinas, Calif. : Monterey County Clerk.
929.3 EIG

Great register of Monterey County, State of California, 1890

by -- Monterey County Genealogy Society
Publisher: Salinas, Calif. : Monterey County Genealogy Society, 1993
929.3 GRE

Great register of Monterey County, State of California, 1894

by Pacific Grove Heritage Society.
Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : Pacific Grove Heritage Society, 2009
Pacific Grove Public Library Ref/917.94 PAC

E. Clippings File

The California History Room of the Monterey Public Library maintains an extensive collection of newspaper clippings organized by subject in a bank of file cabinets. The clippings come mostly from the *Monterey County Herald* newspaper but include clippings from other newspapers as well. Most of the clippings date from before 1995.

For researching the history of your house, these subject headings might be most useful:

- **Architects:** If your house was designed by a local architect, look under his/her name in the Architects clipping file.
- **Artists:** If an artist once lived in your house, look under his/her name in the Artists clipping file.
- **Authors:** If an author once lived in your house, look under his/her name in the Authors clipping file.
- **Biography:** If a well-known person once lived in your house, look under his/her name in the Biography clipping file.
- **Neighborhoods:** This file includes clippings on Monterey's 14 distinct neighborhoods.
- **New Monterey:** Includes clippings specific to the New Monterey neighborhood.
- **Oak Grove:** Includes clippings specific to the Oak Grove neighborhood.

To consult the clipping files, ask at the Front Desk for access to the California History Room.

F. Photographs

Photographs often reveal surprises unrelated to the photographer's subject. You might find a particular house or person in the background. At the least, the photograph will suggest something about the lifestyles and economic conditions of the time. Aerial photos help trace changes to land use as the city developed.



HPF-5043, California History Room, Monterey Public Library

1. California History Room Archives
Monterey Public Library

The Monterey Public Library's California History Room includes over 27,000 historical images of Monterey and the Monterey Region in its archival repository, including postcards, panoramas, aerials, and other formats. Photograph research is by appointment with the Museums and Archives Manager.

2. California Views
- The Pat Hathaway Photo Collection
469 Pacific Street
Monterey, California 93940-2702
831-373-3811
www.caviews.com/

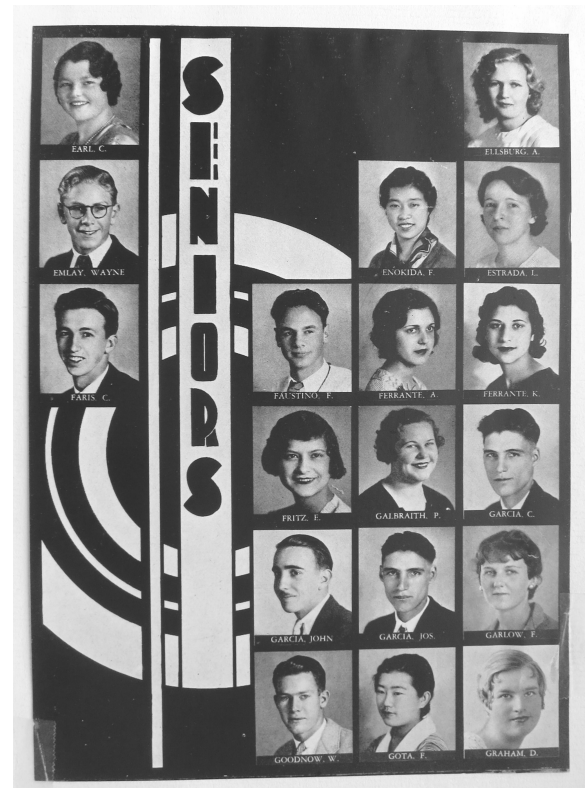
This private, fee-based photo archive includes over 22,000 photographs of Monterey County as well as photographs from elsewhere in the State. A selection of these images are represented on the California Views website, which also has information about licensing fees.

See also the listing for the **Monterey County Historical Society** (Section K) for information about their collection of some 30,000 photographs of Monterey County.

G. Biographies

- 1. Biographical indexes to Monterey County histories.**
by Guinn, James Miller; Watkins, Rolin G; Barrons, Henry D; California Pioneer Project.
Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Library, 2001
979.476 BIO

At the end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th, five histories of Monterey County were commissioned by prominent citizens, most of whom paid to be included. This index helps you locate a biography within those five histories.



Excerpted from: Monterey High School Yearbook 1933

2. El Susurro. (Monterey High School Yearbook)

by Monterey High School.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : The School, 1910-

373.05 MON

The Library holds most annual Monterey High School yearbooks from 1908 to present. If a previous owner of your house went to high school in Monterey or worked at the high school, you can find early biographical information in these school yearbooks.

3. El Paisano-- words and pictures. (Monterey Peninsula Community College Yearbook)

by Monterey Peninsula College.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : The School, 1949-

378.05 MON

The Library holds Monterey Peninsula College school yearbooks from 1949 to 1959 (with some years missing). If a previous owner of your house went to the community college in Monterey or worked at the college, you can find early biographical information in these school yearbooks.

4. Obituaries

For most of us, the obituary will be the only time our life story will be summarized in print. Obituaries, generally written by a friend or relative of the deceased, vary widely in the scope and reliability of biographical information, but a good obituary can give you a sense of the character and deeds of the person. An obituary also provides clues about further research, such as family connections. Obituaries are a great resource for finding out about previous owners and occupants of your house.

For people who died in Monterey County in the last 100+ years, any obituary would have been published in the local newspaper: the *Monterey County Herald* (and its early incarnations, the *Monterey Daily Cypress*, the *Monterey American*, the *Peninsula Daily Herald*, and the *Monterey Peninsula Herald*). If you know the date of death, you can browse the obituary page of the *Herald* over the subsequent several days. Ask at the Front Desk for access to the *Herald* on microfilm.

If the person you're researching died after the early 1990s, you can find a shortcut to the obituary by searching the **Monterey County Herald Obituary Index**. This index directs you to the specific date and page of the obituary, saving you the trouble of browsing the newspaper.

The Obituary Index is available online at:

www.pacificgrovelibrary.org/herald-index (January, 1995 onwards)

or in print form in the California History Room:

920 MON (two volumes: 1993-1996 and 1997-1999)

If you don't know when the person died, you can get that information from the **California Death Index**, which is available online from various free genealogy sites, including familysearch.org and rootsweb.ancestry.com. These online sites let you quickly search the Death Index for California deaths between 1940 and 1997. For earlier deaths (1905-1939), familysearch.org provides digital images of the original paper records. These index records list the deaths in alphabetical order, and you can browse the records page by page until you find the name you're looking for.

5. Other Biography Resources

Researching a person's life story is a treasure hunt, and the information on the lives of most people has not been summarized in a single published biography. You will find biographical information scattered throughout many of the resources described elsewhere in this guide. Take special note of the Directories, Census Records, Clipping File, and Periodicals. And don't forget the Historical Societies section, where you'll find information on genealogy research.

H. Periodicals

1. **Monterey County Herald (formerly Peninsula Daily Herald and Monterey Peninsula Herald)**

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Monterey Peninsula Herald Pub. Co.
(no call number); latest six months in paper, earlier issues on microfilm; pre-1923 issues under the name of the *Herald's* predecessor: *Monterey Daily Cypress*

The Monterey Peninsula's daily newspaper offers a wealth of information on daily life in the area since the early years of the 20th Century. You can browse the real estate section for a perspective on the changing local architecture over the years, look at display ads and classified ads for an idea of what things cost, and generally scan the pages for a glimpse into the social context over the life of your house. To browse the newspaper, ask at the Front Desk for access to the *Herald* on microfilm.

To research a particular name or subject in recent issues (1995 to current), you can use one of two indices. The **Monterey County Herald Obituary Index** catalogs local news articles for the period from January, 1995, through the end of June, 2003. This index is available online at:

www.pacificgrovelibrary.org/herald-index

The **NewsBank** database, available through the Monterey Public Library's website, offers full-text searching of the *Herald's* pages from 2002 to present.

Note: For earlier newspapers, the Monterey Public Library holds copies of various local papers dating back to the first days of the town. These papers include the *Monterey American*, *Peninsula Advocate*, *Monterey New Era*, *Monterey Evening*

Herald, Monterey Daily Express, Monterey Argus, and California Star. Most issues are available on microfilm, but some are in facsimile. For help with early newspapers, ask at the Front Desk.

2. Monterey life.

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Alarcon Communications Group.

050 MON

Billed as "The magazine of California's spectacular central coast", this magazine has articles and advertisements that can give you sense of Monterey life in the 1980s, the years for which the library has holdings. The lack of an index makes it difficult to find specific information about a person or house.

3. Game & gossip.

Publisher: Los Angeles : [s.n.], 1926-

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : [s.n.], 1950-1976

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : June Sorentz, 1977

050 GAM

Originally billed as "social and sporting news", with emphasis on the upper social classes of the Del Monte scene, this magazine slowly broadened its social and geographical scope to include middle-class society throughout the Monterey Peninsula. Also published under the titles "What's Doing" and "California Life", the magazine has little information on houses but gives a particular view of local social customs.

4. Noticias de Monterey: Monterey History and Art Association quarterly.

by Monterey History and Art Association (Monterey, Calif.).

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Monterey History and Art Association

050 NOT

This historical association quarterly includes articles on early pioneers and history, with some information on notable early buildings, though few houses. The Monterey Public Library holds bound volumes of the newsletters from 1990 to 1999. A table of contents at the end of volume 1 lists articles from 1957-67, and a separate bound volume indexes articles from 1968-2000.

5. The Board and batten newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society.

by Pacific Grove Heritage Society (Pacific Grove, Calif.).

Publisher: Pacific Grove, Calif. : Pacific Grove Heritage Society

050 BOA

For house research in Pacific Grove, this newsletter includes articles on many historic properties. A separate index helps locate information. The Monterey Public Library holds issues from 1986 through 2002 in bound volumes and then as individual newsletters to current (published intermittently).

I. Architectural References

1. Architecture of the Monterey Peninsula,

by Janick, Richard; Boone, Laurie; Seavey, Kent

Publisher: Monterey, Calif. : Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, 1976

720.973 MON

This survey of local architectural styles covers some of the most common styles from the missions to the present.

2. A field guide to American houses

- The definitive guide to identifying and understanding America's domestic architecture

by McAlester, Virginia Savage.

Publisher: New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2013

728.0973 MCA

This guide provides descriptions and illustrations of architectural styles of ordinary houses across the United States, with tips on how to distinguish one style from another.

J. Governmental Resources

1. City of Monterey Permit and Inspection Services Department

580 Pacific Street, Room 4

Monterey, CA 93940

831-646-3890

The Permit and Inspection Services Department maintains information on all properties within the City of Monterey in multiple forms. The older information may be found in a "property jacket" (folder) for most properties in the city. Each "property jacket" includes



the history of building permits for that property and might include such supporting materials as blueprints (stored on microfiche), engineering reports, and correspondence. The permit history is a great way to track changes to your house over the years. The earliest “property jackets” are archived on microfilm. Later “property jackets” are physical paper folders, and starting in the mid-90s much of the information has been computerized. The Permit and Inspection Services Department has started digitizing the most recent permit documentation.

You can ask to see the “property jacket” for your house by stopping at the front desk of the Permit and Inspection Services Department during office hours. The building official will retrieve the “property jacket”, in whatever form it’s available, and help you understand the material and notes in the file. If the “property jacket” is on microfilm, you can use the film reader right in the office. You can also ask for copies of the materials (except for copyrighted documents).

2. City of Monterey Planning Department

570 Pacific Street (Colton Hall, ground floor)
Monterey, CA 93940
831-646-3885

The Planning Department maintains a separate file for many houses in the city. These so-called “address files” include information on any exception issued to the house’s zoning, such as a variance or use permit. Supporting documentation might include blueprints, news clippings, staff reports, or meeting minutes from various commissions. Though the Planning Department doesn’t keep owner demographic information per se – the focus is on the house, not the occupant – some supporting material might include information about the owner. Houses that have had an architectural review have an additional file with material from the Architectural Review Commission (ARC). (The Planning Department is in the process of consolidating the “address file” and ARC file into one single file.)

For houses designated as historic or potentially historic, the “address file” will include more information. Since alterations to potentially historic houses must meet certain preservation standards, the file will contain information about those alterations. The file for a house designated as historic will include copies of any historic report or survey and documentation of the reasons for the historic designation. Alterations to an historic house must go through an historic preservation review process, so the file will include details on alterations to the house.

In addition to the “address file”, houses designated as historic have documentation prepared by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). These reports, which are maintain in binders organized by street name, generally contain more historical

information than you can find in the “address file”. One example is an early blueprint that might be too fragile or rare to be kept in a folder that gets heavy use.

You can ask to see any available “address file”, Architectural Review Commission report, and Historic Preservation Commission report for your house by stopping at the front desk of the Planning Department during office hours. The planners will pull up all materials specific to your house and help you understand the information in the reports. You can also ask for copies of the materials (except for copyrighted documents).

3. County of Monterey Assessor

Monterey County Government Center Administration Building
168 West Alisal Street, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831-755-5035

At the Assessor’s office, you can ask for a “building report” for your home. This report includes all of the documentation that the Assessor used to determine the value of your property, including size, rooms, condition, and any sketches. The cost is \$1 per page. (Basic information about a property is available in a “property characteristics” report, which you can order for \$8. This report doesn’t include the sketches, and you’re generally better off asking for the full “building report”.)

For information about the previous sales and list of owners for your home, use one of the self-service computers at the Assessor’s office to bring up an Assessor Inquiry. To make the inquiry, you’ll need the Assessor Parcel Number (APN) for your property, which is available either on your tax bill or from one of the Assessor clerks. The Assessor Inquiry shows all of the information about a single property. To see the list of owners, go to the Ownership History tab. On other tabs you can see the sales for this property and the transfer tax paid. Here’s a hint: divide the transfer tax by .0011 to calculate the purchase price. If you’re not comfortable with using the self-service computers, one of the Assessor clerks can bring up the information on their computer and show you.

4. County of Monterey Recorder

Monterey County Government Center Administration Building
168 West Alisal Street, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831-755-5041

Titles, Deeds, and Other Documents

The place to view actual documents related to the history of your home is the County Recorder’s office. There, you can use a public access computer to find any

Tracing the History of Your Monterey House

recorded document, such as titles, deeds, liens, restrictions, and judgments. (There are two computer systems to choose from: one, the easiest to use, has documents going back to 1978, and the other lets you see older documents.) The documents are organized by owner name ("grantor/grantee"). You can use the ownership history you got from the Assessor's office to search for documents under those names. Or, you can start with the name of the person you bought your home from and find previous deeds and owners stepping back over the years from buyer to seller. Whichever way you manage your search, the owner name will lead you to a list of documents associated with that name. You can then view the actual document on the screen. If you want copies, the Recorder clerk can make them for \$2 per page.

For some older documents, the scanned image is not legible. For these, the Recorder clerk can order the original bound book for you to look at.

When searching for documents by owner, keep in mind that a person might have owned more than one property. You need to review each document to make sure it pertains to your property. Also, the owner name can be different on different documents. For example, one document might have the grantor as "SMITH JOHN" and another document might show it as "SMITH JOHN T". The computer generally will find these variations, and you can pull up the documents associated with each variation.

The computerized official records of the Recorder's office from 1978 to present are available on the Recorder's website. You can search the records from any computer with Internet access, but you can't view the actual documents. For that, you need to go to the Recorder's office.

Maps

The Recorder's office is also a great source for maps. Here, you can find the original subdivision map for your property and perhaps other maps as well. Since maps are not indexed by property, you need to do a bit of searching. Basically, you look through each of the documents you discovered in your owner search and check the property's legal description for a reference to a map. That reference will give the book (or volume) and page, and you can take this information to a Recorder clerk, who can show you how to view the information on one of their computers. You can get copies of maps for \$5 per sheet.

Recorded at the request of: _____
Return to: _____
JOHN WIEGAND
3 La Cintilla
Orinda, California 94563

RECORDED AT REQUEST
Mar 31 3 05 PM '78
OFFICE OF RECORDER
COUNTY OF MONTEREY
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

REEL 1230 PAGE 50
G. 13920

THIS BOX FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF COUNTY RECORDS REEL 1230 PAGE 50

GRANT DEED
(Individual Grantor)
Order No. _____

For value received ANNE MULLIGAN

GRANTS to JOHN WIEGAND and MARGARET WIEGAND, husband and wife, as joint tenants

* All that real property situate in the City of Monterey State of California County of Monterey

BEGINNING at a point on the southerly line of Madison (also spelled Maddison) Street, from which point of beginning a 4" x 4" post marked "D.J.C. 94" bears N. 46° 57' W. 150 feet distant; thence S. 43° 03' W. 114.23 feet to a station, from which a granite monument bears N. 51° 14' W. 14.54 feet distant; thence S. 51° 14' E. 95.29 feet to a station, from which a granite monument bears S. 51° 14' E. 51.42 feet distant; thence N. 43° 03' E. 107.11 feet to the said southerly line of Madison (also spelled Maddison) Street; thence northwesterly and along the said southerly line of Madison (also spelled Maddison) Street N. 46° 57' W. 95.00 feet to the point of beginning. Being a portion of Lot "A" as shown upon a "Map of Romie C. Jacks Subdivision No. 1" recorded April 19th, 1921, in Book 2 of "Maps and Grants of Outside Lands" at page 23 in the Office of the County Recorder of Monterey County.

44.66
TRANSFER TAX PAID
MONTEREY COUNTY

WITNESS our hand this 30th day of March, 1978

* For joint tenancy deed add after grantee names: "as joint tenants"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Monterey
March 30 1978 before me, THOMAS J. TITMUS, Notary Public, in and for said County and State, personally appeared ANNE MULLIGAN, Kathleen Mulligan and Helen M. Clark, as Attorney's in Fact for the said ANNE MULLIGAN, Kathleen Mulligan and Helen M. Clark, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Notary Public
THOMAS J. TITMUS
NOTARY PUBLIC, FOR MONTEREY COUNTY OF CALIFORNIA
My Commission Expires March 20, 1979

END OF DOCUMENT

Vital Records

Information on vital records – births, marriage licenses, and deaths – is useful for finding out more about previous owners. Though the County Recorder maintains files of vital records for Monterey County, indexed by name, very little of this information is accessible by the public. For a vital event that happened within the county, you can see only the date of that event.

K. Historical Societies

1. Monterey County Historical Society

Boronda Adobe History Center
333 Boronda Road
Salinas, CA 93907
831-757-8085
<http://mchsmuseum.com/salinas/>

Founded in 1933, and incorporated in 1955, the Monterey County Historical Society is a non-profit organization maintains a collection of archival materials. These documents are available to the public. For example, the collection includes a building lot survey (Solares) of Monterey completed in 1838. From the American period, the collection has early court records, great registers, wills, and other civil records. The archives also house a wide range of some 30,000 photographs of Monterey County from the mid-1800s to the 1930s (available for purchase), old newspapers, and a variety of miscellaneous historical documents.

The Society's website has indexed some information online, including a name index. To use the archives, you can make an appointment by calling the Society.

2. Monterey County Genealogy Society

PO Box 8144
Salinas, CA 93912
<http://mocogenso.org/>

The Monterey County Genealogy Society offers support and research assistance to family history researchers, including people looking for biographical information about previous owners of their house. The Society also maintains a few archival documents, such as Monterey County birth records. The Society works closely with the Monterey Family History Center (1024 Noche Buena Street, Seaside; 831-394-1124), where you can find an extensive collection of printed and microfilmed genealogical material, as well as computers for Internet research. Volunteers are available to guide your research.

3. Monterey County Local History Directory of Archives and Resources

www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/MCLHD.html

A project of the Monterey County Historical Advisory Commission in conjunction with the Monterey Regional Collections Roundtable, this online directory lists local archives and local resources for Monterey County history and give an idea of the holdings for each resource. This online directory is a great resource for people who want to extend their house research to a broader historical context.

4. The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove

605 Laurel Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 1007
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
831-372-2898
www.pacificgroveheritage.org

The Heritage Society of Pacific Grove raises awareness of the town's history and encourages restoration and preservation of its historic buildings. The Society maintains a museum – Ketcham's Barn – which houses historic artifacts and a collection of architectural heritage photos and other historic photos. The Society also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

L. Family and Neighbors

Consider contacting the previous owners or their descendents to find out more about your house. They might have photographs of the house before it was remodeled. Or they might be able to relate anecdotes of what it was like living there in earlier years.

Likewise, your neighbors, especially those who have lived in the neighborhood a long time, probably have stories about your house and its previous occupants. And have you checked your neighborhood association? The City of Monterey comprises 16 separate neighborhoods, many of which have a neighborhood association where neighbors band together to promote the quality of life in their neighborhood. You can contact the association for your neighborhood to see what other people know about your house as well as to get a better perspective of residential issues in your area. You can find the contact information for your neighborhood association on the City of Monterey's website at <http://monterey.org/en-us/Residents/Neighborhoods>. Or check with the City Clerk's Office.

M. For Further Research

1. General References on House Research

Houses and homes: exploring their history.

by Howe, Barbara; Fleming, Dolores; Kemp, Emory; Overbeck, Ruth Ann

Publisher: Lanham, Md. : Altamira Press, 1997

307.336 HOU

For those wanting to dig deeper, this book provides research techniques for researching a house history, starting with a historical framework and working onto the house itself, to see how social, cultural, and technological forces shaped the history of a particular house. The book provides ideas for amateur sleuths as well as the professional. Extensive bibliographies help you take house research to the next level of detail.

Did you find what you were looking for?

We hope this guide helped with your research. Did you run into any stumbling blocks? Can you think of any way we can improve the guide to make it more useful? Please let us know. You can reach us by email at libchr@monterey.org.

Monterey Public Library
California History Room
December, 2015