



Monrovia Public Library

HOUSE RESEARCH GUIDE

Researching a home takes time tracking down leads and finding nuggets of information in unexpected places. Though the Library has resources to start your search, it is usually necessary to also go further afield to other City departments, government offices, or organizations. This guide will get you started....

Library Resources

Our history books sometimes yield information on occupants or builders. Start by using the book indexes in the Library or online on the Library's website. If you find information in an index, be sure to note the page number and the source to speed your research.

There are three indexes which correspond to a variety of resources and are being updated frequently:

Street Address Index

This index lists specific street addresses found in the history resources that have been indexed so far. The addresses listed are both residential and commercial.

Picture Index

This index includes photographs and other illustrations from a variety of books in the library's collection.

Homes and Home Tours File Folders Index

These items are stored in file folders in the Heritage Room and may be accessed by asking the reference librarian to bring them out to you. *Library use only with I.D.*

Major Library Resources

Monrovia's Heritage, Vols. 1 & 2

Compiled by the Monrovia Historical Society in 1980 & 1982, contain photos and short histories of notable homes. *Library use only. (Indexed)*

Monrovia's Heritage: an architectural perspective

Compiled by the Monrovia Preservation Group in 1996, contains annotated photos of notable houses, maps and general information on architectural styles. *Library use only.*

Picturesque Monrovia

Published in 1929, contains photos of residences, landscapes and public buildings. *Library use only.*

History of Monrovia

John L. Wiley, 1927. *Circulating copies available. (Indexed)*

History of Monrovia and Duarte

Charles F. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. E.B. Norman, 1938. *Library use only. (Indexed)*

The Monrovia Blue Book

Charles F. Davis, 1943. *Library use only.*

The Monrovia-Duarte Community Book

Charles F. Davis, 1957. *Library use only. (Indexed)*

Historical Volume and Reference Works

Seth I. Colver, 1964. Chapter on Monrovia starts on page 271. *Library use only. (Indexed)*

Monrovia Centennial Review 1886-1986

Peter Ostrye, 1986. *Circulating copies available. (Indexed)*

City Directories

City and telephone directories often listed occupations and other useful information. Though not complete, the library has directories from 1908-1971. *Library use only with I.D.*

Building Permits: historical

Historical permits for houses are on microfiche and may be scanned and emailed. **To make an appointment, call the Adult Services Reference Desk @ 626-256-8259.**

Newspapers

Old newspapers provide a wealth of information for those patient enough to go through rolls of microfilm. Obituaries, building permit notices and articles about local citizens can help fill in some gaps left by other public records. **Digitized copies of newspapers from 1886-1923** may be accessed through our website or the *History and Heritage* blog under *More ways to find Monrovia History*. **An appointment is required to view microfilm. Call the Adult Services Reference Desk @ 626-256-8259.**

The Library's collection covers the following papers on microfilm (though some dates are missing):

Monrovia Planet: Dec 1886 - June 1888

Monrovia Messenger: July 1888 - March 1891; May 1908; Jan - Dec 1909; July - Dec 1915

Monrovia News Weekly: 1907 - 1912

Monrovia Daily News: Feb 1910 - Feb 1929

Monrovia Daily News Post: March 1929 - June 1929

Monrovia News Post: July 1929 - July 1992

See over for more resources...

City of Monrovia Resources

City of Monrovia Planning Department, City Hall, 415 S. Ivy, 626-932-5565

The Planning Department has building permits, Sanborn fire insurance maps and Public Works maps.

If you need permits the library doesn't have, or you don't have internet access, visit the Planning Department in City Hall. If online permits for your property are not available or they give you permits to view, you may use the Library's microform scanner. **To make an appointment, call the Adult Services Reference Desk @ 626-256-8259.**

Online Building Permits: historical—current

For those with internet access at home, building permits are online on the City's website. First log on to *cityofmonrovia.org*:

- In the *Search* box, type in **onbase**
- Select either *About My House* or *Online Permits* to find the link
- Scroll down to **Click here to continue to Onbase** in the blue bar. **Internet Explorer** is strongly recommended.

Websites, Organizations and Government Resources

Early Monrovia Structures Research

This website, *earlymonroviastructures.org*, is invaluable for understanding the City's districts, types of architecture, and some of the leading citizens.

Monrovia Historic Preservation Group (MOHPG)

If you are thinking of trying to landmark your home, MOHPG formed in 1980 to formalize preservation efforts in Monrovia. Their website, *mohpg.org*, outlines the criteria and forms required for landmarking and potentially applying for benefits under the Mills Act. They are a great resource for information. They also have information about the *Monrovia Historical Society*.

Monrovia Historical Society
P.O. Box 1898
Monrovia, CA 91017

Steve Baker, City Historian
626-256-3423

Monrovia Historical Museum
742 East Lemon Avenue
626-256-9537
MonroviaHistoricalMuseum@gmx.com

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Hwy.
Norwalk, CA 90650
1(800) 815-2666

Los Angeles County Recorder
Real Estate Records Section
P.O. Box 53195
Los Angeles, CA 90053-0195
Tel.: 562-462-2133

Co. of Los Angeles Public Works Building and Safety Division
125 S. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007
626-574-0941



For further assistance, please call the Library at 626-256-8274 or email Carol Kampe at ckampe@ci.monrovia.ca.us