RESEARCH YOUR HISTORIC HOME

A SOHO Guide to Discovering the History of Your House

Every old house has a story. Here's how to find yours.

Is your house historic? How old is it? Who lived there? Who built it? What did the neighborhood look like when your house was new?

You don't have to be a professional historian to find the answers.

Researching the history of your home can be fascinating—and sometimes a little frustrating. Records may be incomplete, names may be misspelled, addresses may have changed, and the information you need may be hiding in an unexpected place.

This guide will help you get started. Whether you are simply curious about your house, preparing to restore it, or considering historic designation, the process begins the same way: follow the clues.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Start with what you already have. Walk around your property and photograph the house from every side. Photograph the front door, windows, porch, roofline, exterior materials, garage, fences, landscape and any unusual architectural details.

Then gather anything you already have: old photographs, original plans or drawings, deeds, title documents, insurance papers, building permits, letters or family papers, information from previous owners, remodeling records and old real-estate listings.

Ask previous owners what they know. Ask your neighbors what they remember. A neighbor who has lived on the block for decades may know something that no database will tell you.

Keep a research file as you go. Save copies of documents, record where you found them, and write down the date you accessed each source.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The following nineteen steps guide you through researching your historic home.

STEP 1 - GET TO KNOW YOUR HOUSE

Start with the architecture

Before searching for documents, look at the building itself. Try to identify its architectural style and the features that give it its character. Look at roof shape and materials; windows and doors; porches or verandas; siding, stucco, brick or other exterior materials; chimneys; foundations; decorative details; garages and other outbuildings; landscaping and site features; and additions and alterations.

Helpful resource

National Park Service Preservation Brief 17 is an excellent introduction to identifying the features that define a historic building. | National Park Service Preservation Briefs
https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/preservation-briefs.htm

SOHO tip Don't assume that an alteration makes a house uninteresting. Changes made during a property's history can themselves tell an important story.

STEP 2 - FIND OUT WHETHER YOUR HOUSE IS ALREADY HISTORIC

Check the City's historic resource information
The City of San Diego maintains information about historic resources through its Historical Resources and Historic Preservation Planning programs. Start with the City's historic resource information and the California Historical Resources Inventory Database (CHRID).
https://sandiego.cfwebtools.com/search.cfm?display=search

The City of San Diego's CHRID provides public access to information about historic resources within the city. Search the CHRID to determine whether your property has been identified or designated as a historic resource.

The search function is limited and requires some care to produce useful results. When searching for your property, it is best to enter only your street number, without the street name or other information. This will return all properties with that street number, giving you a broader set of results and reducing the chance of overlooking your property, which may be listed under an unexpected address format.

If you find your property, make note of how it is listed in the CHRID, including the address or property name used and its Historic Resources Board (HRB) number, if applicable. This information will make it easier to locate the record again later.

Important A property that does not appear in a database is not necessarily without historic significance. Historic surveys and inventories are not complete records of every property that may qualify for designation.

Check for a historic district
Your property may be individually designated, located within a designated historic district, a contributor to a historic district, included in a previous historic survey, or located in an area identified for future study.

Check historic contexts and surveys
Information about a neighborhood, architectural style, development period or type of resource may be available on the City's historic contexts and surveys page, which includes completed, draft, and other materials. | City of San Diego - Historic Contexts and Surveys
https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/historic-preservation-planning/contexts

Check City of San Diego Community Planning Profiles Website
General Plan & Community Plans
https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community-plans

ITEMS YOU OBTAIN HERE

A. Surveys of Historic Structures
Look for the City of San Diego or your city or county's recent surveys. The City of San Diego has conducted surveys of historic structures and included these survey results in the appropriate community plan documents. It may take some searching to find this information.

First, identify the property's planning area or neighborhood. Then go to the community profile page and select the planning area. Within that profile, look for the community plan and for the survey.

B. Information about your neighborhood
While searching for the survey data, check the community planning documents for your neighborhood's history as part of the historic context statements in the plan's historic resources section.

STEP 3 - FIND OUT WHEN THE HOUSE WAS BUILT

Don't depend on a single source
Compare assessor records, lot books, deeds, building permits, residential building records, notices of completion, city directories, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, newspapers and historic photographs.

City of San Diego Digital Archives
The City's Digital Archives include historical municipal records. Among the most useful collections for house research are land records, deeds, lot books and city directories.
City of San Diego - Digital Archives
https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives

SOHO tip Start with the Digital Archives before making a trip downtown. You may be able to find records that earlier researchers had to locate in person.

STEP 4 - FIND THE PROPERTY'S LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Why it matters
Addresses change. A street may have been renamed, a house number may have changed, or a property may have been subdivided or combined. The legal description—including subdivision, lot and block—can be extremely important.

Look for
Subdivision name, lot number, block number, parcel information, and legal description.

Subdivision maps
A subdivision map can tell you when the land was subdivided, the original lot and block configuration, the size of the lots, street names, and how the neighborhood was originally laid out.

STEP 5 - FOLLOW THE CHAIN OF TITLE

What it can reveal
A chain of title can help identify the first owner, subsequent owners, dates of transfers, property descriptions and names of grantors and grantees.

Start with what you have
If you purchased your house recently, check your closing documents. Your title company may have provided a preliminary title report or other ownership information.

SOHO tip Don't immediately try to trace every owner. Start with the earliest owner you can identify and work forward. Record each name, date, and source as you go.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE CHAIN OF TITLE

Conducting the title search at the San Diego County Recorder's Office may be one of the most time-consuming parts of your research. You may decide to hire a title company or an architectural historian to do this research for you.

You will need to visit multiple county departments for the necessary records.

By doing your research in the following order, the documents you collect will build on each other and assist you in finding and filling in all of the essential details and information.

ITEMS YOU OBTAIN HERE

A. Residential Building Record

You'll need the assistance of the county clerk to get a copy of the Residential Building Record. They will ask for identification before giving you this document. If you are researching someone else's property (as a professional researcher, for example), you will need the owner's written permission. If you are researching your own home, present your driver's license with your address. There are fees for copies, for each page of copying the report, and for any county documents you require.

B. Subdivision Map

Ask for the subdivision map. The map will include the legal description. If it is not clear, ask the clerk for the written legal description.

C. City lot and block showing the first owner and when the house was built

At the Records Department, ask the clerk for a mapping technician to help you with the lot and block database. This material is held on a restricted access computer that is only accessible with the mapping tech login and password. The lot and block database shows the taxes paid in a handwritten spreadsheet format and spans a period of time from approximately 1900-1944. You will need to know the legal description (for the lot and block numbers) and subdivision name. Start at a period of time when you think your house was built. You will know that you have the first tax assessment for the property when it lists the first dollar amount under the heading "houses or buildings."

This identifies the first assessment as of January 1 that year, so the house was most likely completed the year before. The name of the person (and sometimes a different mailing address) who paid the taxes is usually the first owner. Once you find the lot and block record for the first owner needed for your report, print out the document. Continue to record the subsequent owners or those who paid the taxes for your chain of title research.

County mapping techs aren't often asked to find these resources. Some are better at using the database than others. If the mapping tech who helps you is unfamiliar with this database, ask for someone with more experience.

D. Chain of Title

Ask the clerk for assistance in using the departments' computer tools to search for the title documents. The title documents needed for your report are for the first and current owners. Use the documents you have gathered including the legal description and names from the lot and block books, to further your search.

Search grantor and grantees indexes. These will include all property transfers, including transfers between family members creating a list showing the grantor, grantee, dates, document numbers, and page numbers.

E. Miscellaneous Records - Notice of Completion
After you have identified the first owner, search for a Notice of Completion of construction by looking by year through Miscellaneous Records. If you have already identified the builder or that the house was built on speculation, the Notice of Completion may be in the builder's name. Once you find the grant deed, use that date and search backwards in time, looking for the description by lot and block, not just the name. Be aware that there is not always a Notice of Completion on file with the county. Searching newspaper archives is another tool, but that may be more tedious. When a Notice of Completion is filed, it provides a definitive date for the purposes of your report.

Tip: You'll also find public records such as mortgages, wills, and tax records at the County Clerk's office. Mortgage records may contain detailed descriptions of buildings. Will and probate records may list one or more of the previous owners. Local tax records may reveal the dates of additions and improvements to property by a change in the valuation, and the file usually provides an estimated date of construction. It may also contain an older photograph of your house and perhaps other structural information.

City of San Diego - Deeds and Land Records
Historical land records and deeds.
1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA 92101
City of San Diego Digital Archives
https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/lot-books

STEP 6 - USE LOT BOOKS TO FIND THE EARLY HISTORY

Why lot books matter
For older San Diego properties, lot books can be especially valuable. They can help establish when improvements first appeared on a property and identify people associated with the parcel.

What to look for
Look for the first appearance of a building or improvement. Then compare that information with deeds, directories, newspapers, and other records.

City of San Diego - Lot Books
Historical lot books are available through the Digital Archives.
City of San Diego Digital Archives
https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/lot-books

STEP 7 - FIND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE

City directories
Directories can tell you who lived at the address, what they did for a living, whether they owned or rented, where they worked and sometimes the names of other household members.

Search creatively
Search by address + surname; surname + occupation; and surname + neighborhood. Don’t search only for the address.

Check the San Diego City and Haines Directories year by year at the Central San Diego Public Library, on the ninth floor in the Genealogy and San Diego History section, and at the San Diego History Center Research Archives. Use these directories to identify the people associated with your house, including owners and occupants, their professions, and the architect or builder.

Residents of your house
Make a chronological list starting with earliest owners and occupants associated with your house and state their professions. You can also access the City of San Diego City Directories online through 1925 from your home computer. Scroll to the bottom to see other years available.

San Diego Public Library - California Collection
The San Diego city directories from 1886–2021, along with newspapers, maps and other local historical resources are available in the Central Library's California Collection.
https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/central-library/special-collections/california-collection

STEP 8 - SEARCH NEWSPAPERS

What newspapers can reveal
Search for the property address, street name, subdivision name, owner's name, architect, builder, business name, social events, weddings, deaths, real-estate transactions, building announcements and neighborhood events.

Newspaper archives showing building permits and notices of completion
While at the Central Library, if you know approximately when your house was built but don't know the architect or builder, ask the librarian to pull microfilm and search through the *San Diego Transcript* for building notices or notices of completion. You can also search the *San Diego Union* or *Evening Tribune* at both the Central Library's ninth floor, Genealogy/San Diego History collection.

Real estate sections started appearing in the Sunday editions of the *San Diego Union* in the 1920s. If your house was built after 1927, you can search the Southwest Builder & Contractor website. | https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/012477763

For areas outside of the City of San Diego, check local newspapers that were active during the period your home was constructed. Include all articles you find relating to your house in your report.

SOHO tip Try different spellings. Older newspapers frequently contain typographical errors, and searches of digitized text can misread names and addresses.

San Diego Public Library - California Collection
Historic newspaper and local-history resources are available in the Central Library's California Collection. | https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/central-library/special-collections/california-collection

STEP 9 - LOOK AT SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

What they can show
Sanborn Maps can show the footprint of a building, additions, porches, garages and outbuildings, neighboring structures, streets and alleys and property uses.

Sanborn Fire Maps, 1921, 1942, 1956 are located on the computers on the ninth floor at the Central Library, with original paste up books in a back room. They can also be found at the History Center. Check the 1921, 1942, 1956 Sanborn Fire Maps for your city. These contain drawings of the footprint of a building and show your house with changes over time. By comparing the maps from different years, you can establish an approximate date of construction and determine when and what types of additions or alterations have been made to the building and surrounding property or streetscape.

Dating back to the late 1800s the Sanborn Fire Maps are available on microfilm in the Newspaper Room at the Central Library (the librarian has an index). They are also available online to library cardholders at Digital Sanborn Maps (https://sdpl.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://digitalsanbornmaps.proquest.com) or at the Library of Congress (https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?q=san+diego+county). Include fire map copies in your report.

How to use them
Compare maps from different years. Look at the entire block, not just your house.

San Diego Public Library - California Collection
The library's map collection includes Sanborn Maps.
https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/central-library/special-collections/california-collection

STEP 10 - LOOK FOR BUILDING PERMITS AND OTHER CITY RECORDS

What records can reveal
Building records can help establish construction dates, additions, alterations, architects, contractors, owners, building costs and intended uses.

City of San Diego Development Services Department (DSD)

ITEMS YOU OBTAIN HERE

A. Permits
Make an appointment to work with a records clerk to obtain any and all permits that may have been issued for the property. Before you go to your appointment, you may check for permits from home. This is another place to find copies of water and sewer records, another way to document the construction date. You may also search the department's computer for permits that are available online if that helps you complete the permit search.

You can find sewer hook-up and lateral records through the City of San Diego Maps and Records (https://www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/customer-support/gis-maps-records) page or by contacting the Development Services Department Records Section (https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/records).

B. 800' Scale Maps
Just outside the Records Department are City of San Diego 800' scale maps. Ask the clerk to help you find the map for your area. Request a copy of the map.

Current City guidance
The availability of records varies by property and date. Check the City's current Development Services information before assuming that a record is held by the City.

City of San Diego - Historical Resources
(619) 446-5300 (Appointment recommended)
Current historical resources and records guidance | https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/historical-resources.

STEP 11 - FIND HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Look for
Photographs of the house, photographs of the street, neighborhood photographs, architectural drawings, photographs of former owners and historic streetscapes.

San Diego History Center
The History Center's research archives and digital collections include photographs, manuscripts, maps, books, oral histories, ephemera and other historical materials. Current access arrangements should be checked before an onsite visit.

Check under owners' names, neighborhoods, architectural files, family scrapbooks, or aerial photographs.

Order copies of the historic photographs you need and include them in your report with credit given to the appropriate source. | San Diego History Center - Research Services
https://sandiegohistory.org/research_services/

The Library of Congress also has catalogued 19th-century lithographs of many cities and towns. These provide a fairly accurate view of many buildings that existed at the time the lithographs were created. | Library of Congress - Search Photos, Prints, Drawings
https://www.loc.gov/photos/collections

Even if your specific house is not in the Library of Congress Historic American Building Survey (HABS) collection, HABS is an extraordinary tool for historical home research because it serves as an architectural pattern book. If you own a 1920s bungalow or a 19th-century farmhouse, you can search HABS for identical architectural styles in your region. The meticulously detailed measured drawings, cross-sections, and historical narratives provide invaluable guidance for undertaking a period-accurate restoration. | Historic American Building Supply
https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/

Research Tip
Search for your neighbors. A photograph of the house next door—or the entire block—may reveal your property in the background.

STEP 12 - RESEARCH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Ask Who developed the neighborhood? When was it developed? Who was the intended market? What transportation served the area? What businesses, schools, churches and institutions shaped it? What architectural styles were popular? What industries or occupations brought people there? Did particular cultural or social communities shape its history?

City historic contexts
The City's historic contexts place individual properties within broader historical patterns. Contexts may address particular neighborhoods or themes such as Modernism, LGBTQ heritage, African American heritage, Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage and women's history. | City of San Diego - Historic Contexts and Surveys
https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/historic-preservation-planning/contexts

Remember
Your house may be significant because it tells a larger San Diego story.

STEP 13 - RESEARCH THE ARCHITECT OR BUILDER

Look for biographical information on residents and architects and builders. If you know that a prominent local architect designed your house, check the architectural drawing files at SDHC.

Check SDHC archives for biographical information about the architect, builder, first owner and other occupants of your property. Ask the librarian or photograph manager to show you the book *San Diego Architects, 1868-1930*, compiled by USD. Also check the SDHS biographical files and computerized index for further information.

Search local biographical histories compiled by Smythe, Black, McGrew, Heilbron, and *Who's Who in San Diego* (1936).

At the Central Library, check the *San Diego Union* index for all the people you are researching.

Ask
What other buildings did the architect or builder design? Were they recognized as a master architect or builder? Did they specialize in a particular style or neighborhood? Was your house part of a larger development? Are other examples of their work still standing?

STEP 14 - RESEARCH THE FIRST OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS

Research
Look at occupations, businesses, civic activities, professional achievements, organizations, community involvement, military service, publications and family history.

Be careful
Don't assume that every famous person who lived in a house makes the property historically significant. Do document what the person actually did, when they lived there and why their association with the property may matter.

NOTE: For historic designation purposes, the City of San Diego has specific criteria for determining whether a person associated with a property is historically significant. Most residents

will not meet these criteria. Review the criteria to determine how much research you want to undertake for this section and use your judgment.

Keep in mind, however, that any information you uncover about past residents has value**.** Consider including brief biographical information in your report—even when a resident does not meet the City's criteria for significance. Doing so helps memorialize the people who lived in the home and creates a record for current and future owners, researchers, and generations to come. Otherwise, the work you have done may simply be lost or left for someone else to undertake again.

A resident's historical importance may also become clearer or change over time. For that reason, when possible, it is worthwhile to preserve biographical information, obituaries, and other relevant records along with the sources where you found them. Think of this as creating a lasting research record for the property.

Research tip Use Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com) at the Central Library, where access is free, otherwise, a subscription is required. Ancestry can be particularly useful for locating U.S. Census records and other information about property owners and residents, including birth and death information, occupations, family members, places of residence, and other biographical details.

You may include copies or summaries of relevant biographical information in your report, with proper credit given to all sources used. Sources might include Ancestry, the University of San Diego (USD), architectural drawings from the San Diego History Center (SDHC), newspapers, obituaries, city directories, historical societies, or other archival and research collections.

STEP 15 - PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

Create a timeline
Combine your evidence into a simple chronology. For example: subdivision created, first building assessment, first known owner, first directory listing, property transfers, additions, alterations, and later owners.

Why it helps
A timeline can reveal patterns that are not obvious when you are looking at individual documents.

STEP 16 - ASK WHETHER YOUR HOUSE MAY BE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Why does the property matter?
Ask whether the property represents an important part of San Diego's history; is associated with an important person or event; is an important architectural example; represents the work of a significant architect, builder or designer; has recognized historical status at another level; or contributes to a significant historic district.

Official criteria
The City's current historic resource criteria and guidelines should always be consulted when evaluating a property for formal designation. | City of San Diego - Historical Resources
https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/historical-resources

STEP 17 - IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING HISTORIC DESIGNATION

Current City process
For an individual property, the City currently requires an Individual Historical Resource Nomination and a Historical Resources Research Report, along with an "At-a-Glance" Report Summary and other required materials. City staff reviews the application, and the Historical Resources Board is the final decision maker.

Important Do not rely on an old application form or an old version of a SOHO guide. Check the City's current requirements, fees and submission instructions before beginning a nomination.
City of San Diego - Individual Historical Resource Nomination
https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/permits/individual-historical-resource-nomination
Historical Resource Research Report - Guidelines and Requirements
https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/programs/historical/pdf/hrbreport.pdf

USGS MAPS
You will need both historic and current USGS maps of your property.

1. Go to the USGS Map Locator (https://store.usgs.gov/map-locator)
2. Enter the property's street address, city, and ZIP code in the box below **Map Locator**. A pin will appear on the map showing the property's location.
3. Zoom in on the property. The map will display identifying information, including longitude and latitude coordinates and nearby landmarks.
4. On the right side of the screen, click the **Map Layers** icon (a small box that looks like a folded map). Select **USGS Topo**.
5. Click the pin marking the subject property, then click **View Products**.
6. A list of available maps will appear on the right side of the screen, with thumbnails and publication years. Scroll through the entire list to identify the oldest map. Maps are not necessarily listed in chronological order.
7. Click **View** next to the oldest map. A new browser tab will open with the map. Download it so you can examine it more closely and confirm that it covers the correct property.
8. Return to the list of available maps and locate the most recent map.
9. Click **View** and download that map as well.

Site plan
If you do not already have a scaled site plan, you will need one for your report. The plan should show the property in relation to the street, including buildings and hardscape features. If necessary, contact a local architect to prepare one. SOHO's Old House Resource Directory (https://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/resourcedirectory.htm) can help you locate an architect familiar with historic properties.

Having determined the architectural style of your structure and assessed the integrity of its exterior features, your report must describe how the house was constructed and the building materials used. Examine all four sides of the building, documenting its size and details such as doors, windows, roof, walls, porches, balconies, moldings, and other architectural features. Identify original materials wherever possible.

A popular reference guide is Virginia & Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

Photographs of each side of the building are required in the report. If the property includes other structures, those also need to be photographed and included.

STEP 18 - KNOW WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

Consider consulting a qualified architectural historian or historic preservation professional if the property is complicated, records conflict, you need a formal report, you are preparing a nomination, the property has extensive alterations, or you simply do not have the time.

SOHO Old House Resource Directory
SOHO maintains preservation-related resources for homeowners, including professionals and services. | SOHO Old House Resource Directory
https://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/resourcedirectory.htm

STEP 19 - LEARN ABOUT THE MILLS ACT

What it is
The Mills Act is a state-authorized historic preservation property-tax program administered locally by participating jurisdictions. In San Diego, owners of designated historical resources may apply for a Mills Act contract that can provide a property-tax reduction in exchange for maintenance and restoration of the resource.

Important Local historical designation is required before entering a Mills Act agreement in the City of San Diego. The program carries preservation responsibilities, and application periods, fees and requirements can change.

Current City information
Use the City's current Mills Act information for eligibility, application timing, fees, contract terms and responsibilities. | City of San Diego - Mills Act
https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/historical-resources/mills-act

A FEW IMPORTANT RESEARCH RULES

- **Follow the evidence.** If two sources disagree, don't simply choose the date you like best. Find another source.
- **Record your sources.** Write down where every important fact comes from.
- **Don't assume.** A real estate listing, plaque, or family story may be wrong or only partly right. Verify what you can.
- **Search names in multiple ways.** Try initials, full names, married names, occupations, and different spellings.
- **Search the neighborhood.** Your house may appear in a photograph, survey or newspaper article without being identified by address.
- **Save everything.** Websites change and digital records move. Save copies of important documents when permitted.
- **Be patient.** Historical research is detective work. One clue often leads to another.

YOUR HOUSE HISTORY WORKSHEET

As you research your house, use this worksheet (https://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/images/househistoryworksheet26.pdf) to gather the basic facts and clues you uncover along the way. These basics will give you a useful foundation should you later decide to prepare a formal nomination or consult with a preservation professional.

MORE RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING YOUR HOUSE

We have deliberately kept this list shorter than earlier versions of the guide. Start with the resources most directly related to your question, then expand your research as needed.

Your report should include proper credit given to all sources used, i.e., USD, architectural drawings SDHC, SOHO, etc.

City of San Diego

- Historical Resources | https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/historical-resources
- Historic Preservation Planning | https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/historic-preservation-planning
- Historic Contexts and Surveys | https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/historic-preservation-planning/contexts
- Digital Archives | https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives
- Land Records | https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/landrecords
- Deeds | https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/deeds
- Lot Books | https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/lot-books
- Individual Historical Resource Nomination | https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/permits/individual-historical-resource-nomination
- Mills Act | https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/historical-resources/mills-act
- California Collection | https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/central-library/special-collections/california-collection

San Diego History Center

- Archives | https://sandiegohistory.org/archives/
- Research Services | https://sandiegohistory.org/research_services/

Additional

- California Office of Historic Preservation | https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/
- National Park Service - Preservation Briefs | https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/preservation-briefs.htm
- San Diego permit lookup | https://sdpricehub.com/permit-lookup/
- SOHO Old House Resource Directory | https://www.sohosandiego.org/resources/resourcedirectory.htm

FURTHER READING FROM SOHO

These selected articles from SOHO's earlier publications provide additional background and preservation advice. They are intentionally presented as a small, curated library rather than as part of the main research process.

- Owners of Old Homes | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2001-2/ownersoldhomes.htm
- Four Treatment Approaches | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2002-1/four.htm
- Mills Act Information | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2002-2/millsact.htm
- Historic Districts - What Are They? | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2003-2/histdistricts.htm
- Seven Key Benefits that Historic Preservation Offers | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2004-2/seven.htm

- Historic Landscape Concern | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2004-2/landscape.htm
- First Do No Harm - Advice for the New Old House Owner | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2006-4/noharm.htm
- Every Bungalow Represents Our History | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2007-1/bungalow.htm
- Character Matters | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2008-34/character.htm
- Preserving Community Character | https://www.sohosandiego.org/reflections/2008-34/preserving.htm

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT OLDER SOHO RESOURCES

Some SOHO articles and publications linked on this page were written years ago and are provided for historical and educational reference. Laws, regulations, fees, programs and government procedures can change. For current requirements, always consult the appropriate government agency.