House history resources at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library, 2505 SE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) has a large collection of library and online resources for the house historian. One can do much of their house history work at the GFO library.

Summary of resources

City directories. City directories are one of the first resources used for tracing house histories. The GFO library has a large collection of Portland and other Oregon city directories.

Biographical material. Use the GFO printed resources to learn about whom the house inhabitants were.

High school and college yearbooks. The library has a large collection of Oregon yearbooks. Search the online catalog for titles. [http://www.gfo.org]

Multnomah County deeds. The library has a large collection of microfilmed Multnomah County deed indexes and deeds – mostly nineteenth century. For other indexes, deeds, and block books, visit the Multnomah County Public Research Room, Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland.

Donation Land Files. The library has the complete set of microfilmed Oregon Donation Land Claim files.

Books. See the selected list beginning on page 4. For others, see the GFO library catalog.

More details

Computer databases on the GFO computers
The GFO library has six Internet computers that patrons may use. In addition, patrons with their laptop computer or iPad can use the free Wi-Fi.


Multnomah County Library Databases (available to county residents with a library card)
Sanborn Maps
The Oregonian Historical Archive from America’s Historical Newspapers
Maps


Property records


Access point for Oregon GIS offices. ORMAP. http://www.ormap.net.

Public Records Online Directory, a portal to official websites for recorder and assessor offices http://publicrecords.netronline.com/.


Portland City Directories

To determine the pre-1930s address, use the 1933 Street Re-Numbering Report on the City of Portland Archive webpage, http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/webdrawer/rec/2685610.

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Portland East Suburban including Fairview, Gresham, Parkrose, Troutdale, and Wood Village

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Miscellaneous


Genealogical Forum of Oregon Book Resources:


Hugh, Howard. *How Old is This House? A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses*.


Spencer, Omar C. Story of Sauvies Island. Portland: Binfords & Mort, [19—].


Abstract of Title. A title company creates an abstract of title (or chain of title), which acts as a short history of the land and all the people who have an interest in that land. See the special collections near the copy machine for the following volumes.

Abstract of Title (blocks 1-10 in Reservoir Park) Portland: by the author, 1945.

Abstract of Title (blocks 5,7,10 in Reservoir Park) Portland: by the author, 1943.

Abstract of Title (Thomas Tice DLC, Capitol Hill) Portland: Western Title Company, 1943.

Abstract of Title to Lot numbered 2 in block numbered 21 in South St. Johns, in the County of Multnomah and State of Oregon Portland: Title Guarantee & Trust Co, [19--].

Abstract of Title to Lots 1 and 2 in block 13 in Elmhurst, Multnomah County, Oregon Portland: Lawyers Abstract and Trust.

Abstract of Title to Lots 5 and 6, Blocks 186, City of Portland in the County of Multnomah, and State of Oregon. Chapman Homestead Deed Records.

Abstract of Title–Clare Addition Deed Records 1866-1922, Oregon: Abstract Co. Record Co.
Abstract of Title–Glenside Deed Records 1859-1922, Oregon: Western Abstract.
Abstract of Title–Irvington Block 71, Portland: Union Abstract Co. of Portland.
Abstract of Title–Laurelhurst Deed Records, Portland: Title & Trust Co.
Abstract of Title–South St. Johns Deed Records 1866-1914. Title Guarantee & Trust Co.
Abstract of Title–Valley Vista Deed Record 1895–1912 Oregon & California Railroad Co. Wiles Abstract & Title Co.
Abstract of Title: Esson’s Sub-division: North St. Johns, Portland: Peninsula Title Abstract &,
1941.
Abstract of Title: Montclair: City of Portland, Oregon 1870–1908. Portland: Title & Trust Co.
Abstract of Title: Tremont Park: Deed Records 1871–1929. West Coast Title Ins. Co.
Abstract of Title: Vernon Addition: Deed Records 1884–1931. Lawyers Title & Trust Co.
Abstract of Title: Whittaker Donation Land Claim, Portland: Union Abstract Co. of Portland, 1926.