

RESOURCES TO RESEARCH YOUR HOME

Here are some resources you can use to research the history and ownership of your vintage home. Before beginning it will be helpful to have the assessor's information for your home, which can be found on your property tax bill: assessor's ID number, map book, page, and parcel number.

1. On the Internet, search "parcel viewer" and enter your address. This will yield the year built, square footage, and an assessor's description of the property. Keep in mind that the information may not always be accurate.
2. In the Monrovia Library there are city directories and telephone directories which can help in finding the original owner of the home. Knowing the year your house was built will narrow your search of the directories. Usually, the person residing at the address will be the owner, but be aware that the resident could be a renter.
3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (available for the years 1888, 1892, 1897, 1907, 1913, and 1923) show the footprint of homes throughout the city. Looking at successive maps can help determine when and if additions were made to the home as well as narrowing the time when the home was built. Copies of these maps are located at the Los Angeles Memorial Library for purchase. The City of Monrovia also has a set on file (go to the Building Dept. at City Hall).
4. The following web address will take you to a great resource from the Los Angeles Public Library to help find the history of your house:
<http://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/research-guides/history-your-house>

There are a few books which have information about early Monrovia, and these may assist you in your search, especially if one of the owners of your home was a well-known figure in the city. However, be advised there is little information about most of the homes in Monrovia in these volumes. They are:

- (1) *History of Monrovia* (John L. Wiley, 1927, 291 pages), a history of the area from the time of the Indians up to 1927.
- (2) *Picturesque Monrovia* (Charles F. Davis, 1929, 64 pages) that is mostly pictures of older homes and buildings built before 1929.
- (3) *Monrovia-Duarte Community Book*, (Charles F. Davis, 1957, 384 pages) that contains the history of Monrovia from 1542 to 1957 (mostly from World War I to 1957) with over half the book dedicated to biographies of noteworthy Monrovians.
- (4) *History of Monrovia and Duarte*, (Charles F. Davis & Mr. & Mrs. E.B. Newman, 1938)
- (5) *Monrovia Blue Book*, (Charles F. Davis, 1943).
- (6) *Monrovia Centennial Review* (Peter C. Ostrye, 1985, 268 pages), a one-hundred-year history from 1886 to 1986.
- (7) *Monrovia's Heritage, Volumes 1 & 2* (T.M. Hotchkiss, 1982) contains house histories with pictures. Volume 1 covers houses built 1886 to 1900; Volume 2 covers 1900 to 1920.
- (8) *Monrovia Messenger, Souvenir Edition* (1897, 24 pages), a history information about the major business buildings and homes built before 1897.

All of these publications are available at the Monrovia Library. Also check out their History Blog at www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/monrovia-public-library.

(9) *Monrovia's Heritage: An Architectural Perspective* was published by MOHPG in 1996 and contains short house histories of 111 homes in Monrovia.

The Monrovia Library also has early Monrovia newspapers on microfiche and is in the process of converting them to digital images. Newspapers start at 1887 but the years 1892 to 1907 are missing.

A copy of the home's original deed is available at the Norwalk Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office, 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk. Information cannot be obtained by an Internet search or by phone, so a trip to this location may be necessary. However, it is possible to mail a request for the information.