

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

A GUIDE TO DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY OF A BUILDING
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Investigating the history of a building involves checking numerous sources at historical societies, museums, libraries, courthouses, federal agencies, title companies, city administration offices, and other public agencies and private companies that maintain maps, land records, and architectural drawings. Researchers usually want to answer several questions: When was the building erected? Who was the original owner? Who were the subsequent owners? Who was the architect (if any) and the builder? Has the building been altered or added to, and if so how and when? Other information, much of it quite interesting, will emerge in the course of one's research. For example, contemporary newspapers sometimes document the careers of developers and early owners and suggest the attitude of townspeople toward the building. Photographs will document how the building was ornamented and furnished. All of the sources described below have limitations and must be interpreted with care. For a list of sources and their locations, see the accompanying checklist.

When was the building erected? Dating a building is a complex task that involves combining information from many sources. Often the result is not one date but a range of time within which the building was constructed. The first resource to check is the building itself. Because architectural styles have been popular in successive periods in America and because our building technology has gradually increased in complexity, the style and technology of the building can be general indicators of its period. Architectural pattern books and catalogs contemporary to a building's construction suggest the materials and plans that were available. Information about local sources of materials--brickyards, quarries, lumbermills--is often available in the local news columns and advertisements of newspapers. Some buildings have cornerstones indicating a date of construction. Cornerstones are not always absolutely accurate, and they should be checked against other sources.

City and rural directories published by R. L. Polk and Company and other companies will indicate whether an address or rural route was occupied during a particular year. The earliest Polk directories are arranged by name of occupant; later directories have additional

sections arranged by address.

Maps of various kinds will locate buildings, and when the map itself is dated it can help in the search for a construction date. Town maps published by the Sanborn Map Company are particularly useful in architectural history, as they show the location, construction, and size of a building at a particular date. Maps resulting from surveys by the General Land Office, the United States Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and county surveyors show the locations of buildings and can be especially useful in dating rural buildings. Some maps do not show buildings, but they do indicate land ownership. Maps published by the Metsker Company are in this category. Subdivision records and plat maps generally do not show buildings or owners, but they can help one date the division of land into residential and commercial lots. Maps are available in many places: local libraries, historical societies, private companies, and governmental agencies and offices at all levels.

Records of deeds, mortgages, assessments, estates, and mineral claims are located at the courthouse or county office building for the county in which the building is located. These records include the legal description of the property, the names of owners, the dates of sale and patent filings, and the value of the property. While most deeds will not describe the improvements made on a property, a significant change in the value of the property or a mortgage placed on the property may indicate construction of a building or extensive remodeling. Because deed research has these limitations, it should always be supplemented with other sources. At a local title and abstract company a similar chain of title may be obtained, usually for a fee.

Local newspapers often reported the construction of a building as it was under way. Through the early 1900's, construction of houses and other new buildings in Boise, for example, was reported in the first week of the new year. Throughout the year, brief mentions of houses and other buildings may appear in the local news columns, while the construction of a major building may warrant a headlined article. Buildings are mentioned in connection with their names, owners, architects, or developers; it is very rare to find a building mentioned by address.

Photographs can assist a researcher in trying to date a building. For example, if the construction dates of neighboring buildings are known or if a datable event is pictured, a photograph may make it possible to narrow the range of years within which a building was constructed. Researchers should be wary of photographs as historical documents, however; their reported dates are often inaccurate.

One of the best sources of information about an old building may be the memories of people who have lived in the community for years and who remember the building's construction. Pursuing this kind of research demands training in the techniques of oral history

interviewing, but the researcher who develops those skills will be rewarded with contextual as well as specific information. Dates obtained in oral history interviews may not be absolutely accurate, but again they will help narrow the range of years within which the building was built. In some cases interviewees have been proven quite accurate about dates.

Finally, in some communities building permits were required early enough to be of use. Building permits, found in city records or in archives at libraries or historical societies, record a property owner's intention to build a structure.

Who was the original owner? Who were the subsequent owners?

Some of the sources already consulted for a construction date will also suggest the names of original and subsequent owners. In the city and county directories the names of residents are listed, and in many cases the resident at a particular address owned the house where he or she was living. Directories also list the names of businesses located in commercial buildings; frequently the business person leased space in the building rather than owning it. Early names of buildings are indicated in directories, and these often correspond to the original owner or a major developer of the structure.

Telephone directories also list residents and businesses with their addresses, helping one locate owners during particular periods.

Telephone directories sometimes list the names and addresses of business blocks.

Maps sometimes identify the owners of property at the time the map was compiled. Owners' names can be found either in the map surveyor's notes or as a label on the map itself.

Deed research or a visit to the local title company will produce a list of owners of the property. If this research is done in the county records, one should begin with the name of a recent owner or a known early owner and work back in time through the grantee/grantor indexes.

When they report the construction of houses and other buildings, local newspapers usually cite the name of the person who commissioned the building. In addition, local news columns may include references to the owner's business activities and public service.

Oral history interviews will often turn up the names of people who have owned or lived in a building. In the case of a community's oldest buildings, towns people may remember only interim owners rather than the earliest ones. Often interviews will reveal additional information about the owner's activities and position in the community.

Building permits will indicate the name of the person or contractor proposing to build or do work on a structure; sometimes this person was the owner of the structure.

Further documentation about building owners will turn up in the United States Census, where households are listed by precinct. In the 1900 and 1910 censuses, enumerators asked whether residents owned their homes or rented. Within some towns, addresses are given.

Other information includes people's occupations, ages, races, the value of their estates, birthplaces, and so forth. As with all the primary sources discussed here, this information should be carefully evaluated and compared with other sources.

If a building owner was prominent in the local community, he or she may be documented in manuscript collections, photographs, obituaries, books, and articles, available at libraries and historical societies and museums.

Who was the architect and the builder? Architect-designed buildings were a source of pride in a community, and local newspapers often mentioned architects and builders as their buildings were under construction. If there is no newspaper documentation, it can be difficult to document those responsible for building design and construction unless architect's plans, commission books, and account books survive. These may be found in manuscript collections at libraries or historical societies or on file with the architectural firm or its successor firm. The architects of important buildings may also be discussed in secondary sources.

Has the building been altered or added to, and if so how and when? Those questions are probably the most difficult of all to answer. Chief among the sources that will help the researcher here are photographs and the town maps published by the Sanborn Map Company. Photographs can suggest where changes have occurred and, if dated, approximately when. Sanborn maps indicate the exterior configuration of a building and the materials of its construction, making it possible to document changes like reroofing, the addition of brick veneer, the addition of porches or extra rooms, or the extension of the building to two stories. Sanborn maps are also useful in determining if a building has been moved from one part of a lot to another, or moved entirely from its original lot. Moving a building did occur frequently enough, even in the early years, that one should keep this possibility in mind. Oral-history interviews, building permits, and architectural drawings are other sources that can help document the nature and date of alterations and additions. In addition, deed research that shows a sudden jump in property value may indicate that a building has been remodeled. An important document is the building itself; alterations can leave clues like breaks or discolorations in moldings, doorways, walls, or floors. Additions may be built in a much more recent style or with much more recent materials than the original section of the building. Documenting alterations and additions to a building, like documenting its construction date, may result in a collection of facts that are suggestive but not conclusive.

A Checklist of Research Sources

An asterisk indicates that the source is available at the Idaho State Historical Society Library. Local libraries and historical societies or museums may have the same kinds of information as are available at the Idaho State Historical Society. Other likely

locations of source material are mentioned as appropriate.

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDES:

- *Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. "Surveying Historic Buildings." Idaho Local History Technical Leaflet Series. (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1985).
- *"Description and Utilization of the Sanborn Map." (Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1949).
- *Ellsworth, Linda. "The History of a House; How to Trace It." Technical Leaflet 89. (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1976).

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE GUIDES:

- *Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture; A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945. (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1977).
- *Hart, Arthur A. "Architectural Styles in Idaho: A Rich Harvest." Idaho Yesterdays, Volume 16, No. 4 (Winter 1972-73), pp. 2-9.

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORIES AND REGISTERS:

- *Idaho Historic Sites in the National Register. Information includes location, ownership, description, history, bibliography, maps, and photographs; arranged by county and town.
- *Idaho Historic Sites Inventory. Information includes location, brief description, brief history; indexed by location.

DIRECTORIES:

- *Gem State Rural's Farm Directory, Ada County. 1917-1918.
- *Gem State Rural's Farm Directory, Canyon County. 1917-1918.
- *Hardware Dealers' Magazine. 1927 Merchandise Rating Register of Hardware Merchants, 33rd Annual Edition. Compiled by the Hardware Dealers' Magazine, NY. Edwin C. Johnston, Franklin Johnston, Publishers. Lists hardware merchants for entire U.S.
- *Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company directories:
 - Summer, 1922. Includes Boise, Caldwell, Council, Emmett, Glenss Ferry, Idaho City, Middleton, New Plymouth, Payette, Placerville, Silver City, Star, Weiser.
 - Summer, 1925. Includes Boise, Caldwell, Council, Emmett, Glenss Ferry, Idaho City, Meridian, Middleton, Mountain Home, Nampa, New Plymouth, Parma, Payette, Silver City, Star, Weiser, Wilder.
 - 1934-1981. Boise and vicinity, including Caldwell, Emmett, Homedale, Idaho City, Jordan Valley (Oregon), Kuna,

Marsing, Melba, Meridian, Middleton, Nampa, Parma, Star, Wilder, and (after 1972) Eagle, and Garden City.

- *The Merchants' Protective Association. Rating book for Idaho, 1903. Lists name, occupation, and, in most cases town where the person lives.
- *Polk, R. L., & Company. Oregon, Washington and Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886-1887. Volume 2. Portland, Oregon, 1886. (Photocopy)
- *Polk, R. L., & Company. Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1891-92. (Photocopy)
- *Polk's Idaho State Gazetteer. 1901-1902.
- *Polk's Idaho-Utah Gazetteer. 1912-1913. Information includes names of businesses and their proprietors.
- *Polk, R. L., & Company. Idaho State Gazetteer and Business Directory. 1916.
- *Polk's Utah-Idaho Gazetteer. 1930-1931.
- *R. L. Polk and Company city directories, microfilm and bound volumes, various Idaho towns, various dates. See Reference Series Number 445 for a list of Idaho State Historical Society holdings, and Reference Series Number 773 for an explanation of the renumbering of street addresses in Boise. Boise directories are indexed by street address, 1891 edition and 1927 through current editions.

ATLASES AND MAPS:

The Idaho State Historical Society map collection includes many maps in addition to those listed below. The following list includes only those maps most likely to assist a researcher interested in architectural history.

Ada County:

- *Ada County Atlas and Rural Directory. County Atlas Company. 1967.
- *Boise Junior College site plan. 1941.
- *Dunbar and Hollister map of Ada County. Ca. 1906-10. Information includes owners of rural property.
- *Eagle Island ranch building layout. n.d.
- *Metsker's Atlas of Ada County. 1938. Information includes owners of rural property.
- *Plat maps of Boise. 1863, 1891, 1895, 1917, 1928, ca. 1942.
- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (bound copies)
 - Boise, 1888
 - Boise, 1905, with corrections 1907
 - Boise, 1912, with corrections 1916, 1918, 1921, 1922
 - Boise, 1912, with corrections 1934, 1940, 1941, 1947
 - Boise, 1912, with numerous corrections between 1913 and 1945
 - Boise, 1956, with corrections in 1959, 1961
- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)

Boise, 1884, 1888, 1893, 1903, 1912, 1912 with pasteovers to 1947
 Eagle, 1914, 1923, 1923 with pasteovers to 1925
 Kuna, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1931
 Meridian, 1907, 1912, 1923, 1923 with undated pasteovers
 Star, 1911, 1923, 1923 with pasteovers to 1945

Adams County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Council, 1914, 1922, 1922 with undated pasteovers
 New Meadows, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1931

Bannock County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Downey, 1915, 1915 with pasteovers to 1929
 Lava Hot Springs, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
 McCammon, 1909, 1909 with pasteovers to 1945
 Pocatello, 1892, 1900, 1907, 1915, 1921, 1921 with
 pasteovers to 1929

Bear Lake County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Montpelier, 1892, 1900, 1907, 1915, 1915 with pasteovers to 1940
 Paris, 1892, 1900, 1907, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
 *Plat map of Paris. Ca. 1980
 *Plat map of St. Charles. N.d.

Benewah County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Plummer, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945
 St. Joe, 1912, 1912 with pasteovers to 1928
 St. Maries, 1905, 1908, 1912, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1946

Bingham County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Aberdeen, 1915, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945
 Blackfoot, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1897, 1898, 1907, 1911, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1950
 Firth, 1955
 Shelley, 1909, 1918, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Blaine County:

- *Intermountain Map Company maps of Wood River Valley [T1N, R19, 20, 21E; T2N, R19, 20, 21E]. N.d. Information includes owners of rural property.
- *Metsker's County Map of Blaine County. N.d.
- *Zoning map of Ketchum. 1974
- *Sanborn Map Company map of Hailey (Xerox). N.d.
- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 - Bellevue, 1885, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1907, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers to 1945
 - Carey, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
 - Hailey, 1885, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1907, 1920, 1920 with pasteovers to 1945
 - Ketchum, 1885, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1955

Boise County:

- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 - Idaho City, 1900, 1914, 1925, 1925 with undated pasteovers

Bonner County:

- *Insurance survey map of E. C. Olson Sawmill and Camp, Priest River vicinity. 1933
- *Insurance survey map of Elkins Resort, Coolin vicinity. 1951
- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 - Clarks Fork, 1912, 1912 with pasteovers to 1927
 - Kootenai, 1891, 1910, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1946
 - LaClede, 1921
 - Priest River, 1903, 1912, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers to 1950
 - Sandpoint, 1904, 1909, 1915, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1948

Bonneville County:

- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 - Eagle Rock (later Idaho Falls), 1884, 1888, 1890
 - Idaho Falls, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1900, 1903, 1905, 1911, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1949

Boundary County:

- *Plat map of Bonners Ferry. 1960
- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 - Bonners Ferry, 1910, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Butte County:

- *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)

Arco, 1915, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Camas County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Fairfield, 1915, 1920, 1920 with undated pasteovers
Soldier, 1915

Canyon County:

*Canyon County Atlas and Rural Directory. County Atlas Company.
1967
*Insurance survey map of Bowmont (draft). 1926
*Metsker's Atlas of Canyon County. 1938. Information includes
owners of rural property.
*Plat map of Caldwell. 1908
*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Caldwell, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1900, 1908, 1911, 1921, 1921
with pasteovers to 1950
Middleton, 1923, 1923 with pasteovers to 1931
Nampa, 1892, 1900, 1905, 1907, 1911, 1921, 1921 with
pasteovers to 1949
Parma, 1908, 1911, 1923, 1923 with pasteovers to 1945
Wilder, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1945
*Standard Atlas of Canyon County. 1915. Also includes Emmett,
Fruitland, New Plymouth, Payette.

Caribou County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Bancroft, 1915, 1915 with pasteovers to 1929
Grace, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
Soda Springs, 1907, 1915, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers

Cassia County:

*Metsker's County Map of Cassia County. N.d.
*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Albion, 1909, 1928 with undated pasteovers
Burley, 1911, 1915, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1949
Oakley, 1913, 1921

Clark County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Dubois, 1909, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Clearwater County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Elk River, 1914, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
Orofino, 1910, 1914, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers to 1944

Custer County:

*Metsker's county map of Custer County. N.d.
*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Mackay, 1915, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Elmore County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Glenns Ferry, 1911, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
Mountain Home, 1892, 1900, 1907, 1920, 1920 with pasteovers
to 1945

Franklin County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Franklin, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
Preston, 1907, 1915, 1929, 1929 with pasteovers to 1950
Weston, 1909, 1909 with pasteovers to 1929

Fremont County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Ashton, 1909, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929
St. Anthony, 1900, 1903, 1907, 1915, 1921, 1921 with
pasteovers to 1946

Gem County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Emmett, 1909, 1911, 1917, 1923, 1923 with pasteovers to 1945

Gooding County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Bliss, 1917, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
Gooding, 1909, 1915, 1915 with pasteovers to 1945
Hagerman, 1911, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
Wendell, 1909, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Idaho County:

*Insurance survey map of Riggins. 1931
*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Cottonwood, 1901, 1910, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers

Ferdinand, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1945
 Grangeville, 1901, 1910, 1910 with pasteovers to 1945
 Stites, 1910, 1910 with pasteovers to 1929
 White Bird, 1914, 1918, 1918 with pasteovers to 1929

Jefferson County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Rigby, 1913, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929
 Roberts, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929

Jerome County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Eden, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1945
 Hazelton, 1917, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1928
 Jerome, 1909, 1918, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1950

Kootenai County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Coeur d'Alene, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1908, 1921, 1921 with
 pasteovers to 1951
 Harrison, 1901, 1905, 1908, 1918, 1918 with pasteovers to
 1928
 Post Falls, 1890, 1896, 1908, 1912, 1912 with pasteovers to
 1928
 Rathdrum, 1892, 1896, 1908, 1912, 1912 with pasteovers to
 1946
 Rose Lake, 1921, 1921 with undated pasteovers
 Spirit Lake, 1910, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Latah County:

*Insurance survey map of Harvard. 1919, corrected 1932 and 1938
 *Insurance survey map of Joel. 1924
 *Insurance survey map of Princeton. 1929
 *Plat maps of Moscow. N.d.
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Bovill, 1916, 1916 with pasteovers to 1928
 Deary, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1928
 Genesee, 1891, 1893, 1901, 1909, 1929, 1929 with undated
 pasteovers
 Juliaetta, 1900, 1909, 1909 with pasteovers to 1929
 Kendrick, 1893, 1901, 1905, 1909, 1909 with pasteovers to
 1946
 Moscow, 1888, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1896, 1904, 1909, 1928, 1928
 with pasteovers to 1957
 Potlatch, 1910, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers

Troy, 1909, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
 Vollmer, 1901 (see Lewis County) (Vollmer later renamed
 Troy)

Lemhi County:

*Metsker's County Map of Lemhi County. N.d.
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Salmon City, 1901, 1911, 1911 with pasteovers to 1946

Lewis County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Craigmont, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers
 Ilo, 1912
 Kamiah, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1929
 Nez Perce, 1904, 1910, 1910 with pasteovers to 1929
 Reubens, 1914, 1914 with undated pasteovers
 Vollmer, 1893, 1901 (see Latah County), 1905, 1912 (Vollmer
 was later consolidated with Ilo and renamed Craigmont)
 Winchester, 1910, 1929, 1929 with undated pasteovers

Lincoln County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Richfield, 1909, 1920, 1920 with pasteovers to 1928
 Shoshone, 1884, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1907, 1911, 1928, 1928
 with pasteovers to 1944

Madison County:

*Insurance survey map of Rexburg. 1938
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Rexburg, 1900, 1903, 1907, 1918, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers
 to 1946
 Sugar City, 1909, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929

Minidoka County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Heyburn, 1911, 1911 with pasteovers to 1928
 Paul, 1918, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
 Rupert, 1911, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1950

Nez Perce County:

*Plat maps of Lewiston. 1874, 1953
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Culdesac, 1910, 1910 with pasteovers to 1929

Lapwai, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1946
 Lewiston, 1888, 1891, 1896, 1900, 1904, 1909, 1918, 1928,
 1928 with pasteovers to 1945

Oneida County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Malad City, 1892, 1900, 1907, 1915, 1929, 1929 with
 pasteovers to 1945

Owyhee County:

*Sanborn Map Company map of Silver City, June 1903.
 *Silver City maps. Ca. 1978
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Bruneau, 1914, 1914 with pasteovers to 1928
 Silver City, 1903

Payette County:

*Payette Valley ownership map. N.d.
 *Plat map of Payette. N.d.
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Fruitland, 1912, 1913 with pasteovers to 1945
 New Plymouth, 1911, 1911 with pasteovers to 1925
 Payette, 1893, 1900, 1908, 1917, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers
 to 1950

Power County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 American Falls, 1907, 1911, 1927, 1927 with pasteovers to
 1945

Shoshone County:

*Aerial map of Wallace. 1969
 *Insurance survey maps of Clarkia. 1924, 1925, 1938
 *Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
 Black Bear, 1905, 1915
 Burke, 1892, 1901, 1905, 1909, 1918, 1927, 1927 with
 pasteovers to 1945
 Frisco, 1916
 Gem, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905, 1908, 1915, 1927, 1927 with
 undated pasteovers
 Kellogg, 1915, 1918, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers to 1949
 Mullan, 1892, 1901, 1909, 1918, 1927, 1927 with pasteovers
 to 1945
 Murray, 1896, 1908, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1945

Wallace, 1891, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905, 1908, 1927, 1927 with
pasteovers to 1949
Wardner, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1905, 1908

Teton County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Driggs, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929
Victor, 1921, 1921 with pasteovers to 1929

Twin Falls County:

*Plat map of Twin Falls. N.d.
*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Buhl, 1909, 1911, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1945
Filer, 1911, 1918, 1922, 1922 with undated pasteovers
Hansen, 1922, 1922 with undated pasteovers
Hollister, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1945
Kimberly, 1911, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1940
Milner, 1909
Rogerson, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to 1928
Twin Falls, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1922, 1922 with pasteovers to
1950

Valley County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Cascade, 1928, 1928 with undated pasteovers
McCall, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers to 1931

Washington County:

*Sanborn Map Company maps: (microfilm)
Cambridge, 1911, 1911 with pasteovers to 1946
Midvale, 1911, 1911 with pasteovers to 1945
Weiser, 1888, 1893, 1900, 1914, 1928, 1928 with pasteovers
to 1950

IDAHO:

*Federal survey maps. The Idaho State Historical Society has a
partial collection that can be supplemented by checking the
complete Idaho files at the Bureau of Land Management.
*Highway maps. Indexed by names of locations, cabins, ferries,
roads, mines, creeks, and rivers.
*Idaho Department of Transportation maps of Idaho cities.
*U.S. Forest Service maps. Indexed by names of locations,
cabins, ferries, roads, mines, creeks, and rivers.
*U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. Indexed by names of
locations, cabins, ferries, roads, mines, creeks, and

rivers.

Other maps may be available at agencies like the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and local irrigation districts.

Sanborn maps may also be available at local insurance companies or insurance rating bureaus. The University of Idaho, Moscow, has a large collection of Idaho Sanborn maps dating from 1884 through 1929.

California State University at Northridge has a collection of Sanborn maps from the 1910's through the 1960's. The Library of Congress holdings for Idaho are quite complete for the period 1884 through the 1930's, with later corrections and additions.

TITLE ABSTRACTS:

*Boise and Ada County subdivisions. MS439 (4 boxes), arranged by name of subdivision.

DEEDS:

Deed information can be researched in the county clerk-recorder's office of the county in which a building is located. Title companies do this same service for a fee. Information about land ownership and water rights can be obtained from local irrigation districts and at the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

A legal description of the property, important when doing deed research, is available at the county assessor's office.

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