HOW TO RESEARCH HISTORIC STRUCTURES & LANDSCAPES

Roger Roper (State Historic Preservation Office) & Holly George (Public History) | Utah Division of State History
December 16, 2019 | Salt Lake City, UT

WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Agenda Overview

SCHEDULE
11:00am – 12:00pm
• Welcome & Overview
• Research Sources & Sequences
• Online Sources & Digital Sleuthing

12:00pm – 12:15pm
• Examine Documents from the Research Center

12:15pm – 1:00pm
• Documentation Case Studies
  ○ Different Sources for Different Resources
  ○ How to Prioritize
  ○ Placing Results in Context
• Wrap-Up

GOALS FOR TODAY
• Understand the key research sources and what information they can provide
• Learn how to scope out and move forward with a research plan
• Options for adapting when things don’t go as planned
• Understanding the importance of placing research results into a meaningful context
Module Instructor

Roger Roper
Deputy SHPO, Historic Preservation
Utah Division of State History
roper@utah.gov

RESEARCH SOURCES & SEQUENCES

Roger Roper  (State Historic Preservation Office)
| Utah Division of State History

Research Stages

**Basic Questions**
- When built?
- By whom?
- For what purpose?
- Subsequent owners & uses?

**Advanced**
- Analysis & evaluation
- Contexts & comparisons: similar resources, key events or trends, etc.
Title Search

Identifies Historic Owners & Potential Construction Date

929 E 200 South, Salt Lake City

Original and subsequent owners:
Chain of Titles:
1885 Cha, H. Mathews
1892, Sept. 5th. C. F. H. Tows
Late 1950's E. E. Jensen
1891, Feb. 13 Frederick L. E. Heyer
1916, Nov. 11 Emilie Caroline Heyer
1931, June 8 Emma H. Norris
1976, Jan. 5 Homeowners Loan Corp. (by foreclosure)
1979, Sept. 13 C. R. Stark & wife, Emma (by contract with American Savings
Savings & Loan Co.)
1958, Aug. 19 C. R. stark & wife Emma (by deed)
1991, April 29 C. R. Stark to Wasudok Investment Co.
(Walter Wendelboth), real estate contract, $200,000

Thoroughness and details matter in document research

“Life events” can be chronological markers more than specific dates

Other Sources for Determining Construction Date

- Sanborn Maps
- General Land Office (GLO) / Cadastral Survey Maps
- Aerial photos
- Photographs
- Building Permits
- City Directories
- Interviews and family records
- County Assessor tax records
- Newspaper articles
Sanborn Maps

1911 Sanborn Map

1898 Map

https://collections.lib.utah.edu/
Cadastral Maps (aka GLO Maps)

Bureau of Land Management
Photos from Other Sources

Compton Photo Collection, USU Special Collections
https://archives.usu.edu/

Aerial Photographs

Family Photos
Historical & Biographical Sources

- Newspapers
- Polk City Directories
- State Gazetteers & Phone Books
- Obituaries
- Census Data
- Local Histories
- Genealogy/Family Histories
- Biographical Indexes & Encyclopedias

Newspapers

- Ancestry.com
- Newspapers.com
- DigitalNewspapers.org
- FamilySearch.org
- What else?
Obituaries

Census Data

Genealogy
Family/Personal Histories

1983 personal account of the construction of the Toyack FFA Chapter House in Roosevelt in the 1930s.

Biographical Indexes & Encyclopedias

- Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah
- Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude
- Utah Since Statehood: Historical and Biographical
Photographs

George Hotel, Kanosh, Millard County

Interior Details

George Hotel, Kanosh, Millard County

Architectural Terminology Guides
What I Know

- Oletha Deaton, from a 1944 San Juan Record notice
- Lived at the Home of Truth in San Juan County in the 1940s
- Employed as a cook at Big Indian Copper Mine in 1944
- Associated with New Age spirituality

A Few Places to Look

- Ancestry.com
- Familysearch.org
- Digitalnewspapers.org
- Utah State Archives: archives.utah.gov
- Newspapers.com
- Books.google.com
- Mountain West Digital Library: mwdl.org
- Pioneer Database: 1847–1868: history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/
- Myheritage.com
This search gave me good clues to work with:

- Mother: Marian Deaton
- Place: Florida
- Worked at Frost Café in Monticello

The more bits of information you have, the more sleuthing you can do.

- Enter as much information as you can
- Guessing birthdates will help
- Don’t insist on exact spellings
DOCUMENTATION CASE STUDIES:
Different Sources for Different Resources, Prioritizing, Results in Context

Roger Roper  (State Historic Preservation Office)
| Utah Division of State History
Family Tradition: Hotel built in 1888 by the railroad, specifically involving Dominic Tarpey, who is reportedly shown in this photograph.

Gazetteers

Alma Compton Photograph Collection, USU Special Collections
John Steele House, Toquerville

Books & Articles

Utah Historical Quarterly

Christensen Farmstead, Spring City
Cemeteries & Obituaries

Ecker Hill, Summit County

Photos from 1984-85 National Register of Historic Places Nomination
Placing Research in Context

**KEY ELEMENTS | WHO, WHY, WHEN?**
- Out-of-state developers/promoters
- Streetcar access
- Professional occupants: attorneys, judge, educators, businessmen, etc.
- Religious diversity
- Panic of 1893
- Annexation into the city proper

Urban Apartments, Salt Lake City

- Approx. 200 buildings
- Masonry construction
- 3 stories or more
- Face major streets

Context | WHEN?

Two major apartment building types emerged during the early 20th century:

1) Walk-up
   - 1902 - c.1920
   (WWI)

2) Double-loaded corridor
   - c.1920-1931
   (Depression)
Survey of Building Permits

Key Elements
- Rising Land Values / Financial Issues
  - (denser housing needed/wanted; affordability)
- Population Boom
  - 1900-1910: 76% increase (53,000 – 93,000)
  - 1900-1930: 164% increase (53,000 – 140,000)
- Inadequacy of older houses
- New types of residents (“transitional”)
- Transit available: electric streetcars

Research in Context | WHY?

Research in Context | WHERE?

Urban Apartment Locations, 1902-1931
Primarily east-central neighborhoods
SELLING POINTS OF URBAN APARTMENTS
- Modern conveniences
- Proximity to downtown
- Safety

Issues:
- Gender
- Age
- Life stage
- Persistence rates
- Income/Occupation
- Convenience (transit, flexibility, proximity to work, etc.)
- Safety
- Affordability

Sources:
- City directories
- Sanborn maps
- Census records
- Building permits
- Newspapers (real estate sections, etc.)
- Personal accounts
- Building features and configurations

Variety of Sources = Accurate Profile
And the Cycle Continues...

1909

2019

WRAP UP

Key Takeaways

- Understand the key research sources, where to find them, and what info they can provide
- Learn how to scope out and move forward with a research plan
- Options for adapting when things don’t go as planned
- Understanding the importance of placing research results into a meaningful context
What principles and/or strategies have you gained from today that you can apply to your organization?

Recommended Resources for Today

Utah Division of State History State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) [https://history.utah.gov/preservation/](https://history.utah.gov/preservation/)

**HANDOUTS**
- Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR HOUSE, revised 11/2019
- Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (Researching, Documenting, Completing Site Form, Survey Checklist, Biographical Research, Title Search, Site Form and example), revised 11/2019

**NEXT STEPS**
1) Have a building you want to research? Contact the Utah SHPO to have an initial conversation about the best ways to get started...
2) Access electronic copies of handouts from this workshop at [https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/steps-ut/](https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/steps-ut/)

Wrap Up! Thanks for Coming!

- This workshop is part of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums’ Office of Museum Services Skills Lab training series. Subscribe to our newsletter to learn about new topics in coming months!
- This workshop is part of StEPs-UT, a partnership between the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Utah Division of State History, and Utah Humanities, with funding from the Utah Department of Heritage & Arts, the State of Utah, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Emily Johnson | Utah Division of Arts & Museums
emilyjohnson@utah.gov | 801.245.7289

Jennifer Ortiz | Utah Division of Arts & Museums
jenortiz@utah.gov | 801.245.7288

Meg van Frank | Utah Humanities
vanfrank@utahhumanities.org | 801.359.9670