

Researching Your Historic Building

Two good places to research the history of your building are at the Loveland Public Library and at the Loveland Museum/Gallery at 503 N. Lincoln Avenue. Reference librarians and museum staff are available to help. Keep in mind that it's unlikely any one source will provide all the information you need to nominate a property for the Loveland Historic Register.

| Location | Resource | Information |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Loveland Public Library | City Directories | Look for the former occupants of your building in City Directories. Directories contain names, addresses and occupations of residents, for most years between 1904 and the present. Ask a reference librarian for access. (Some directories are also held by the Museum/Gallery.) |
| | Local History Books | Look for your building and its former occupants in local history books, located in the Nonfiction and Reference sections at 978.868. Ask a reference librarian for assistance. Look especially for: <i>Historical Images,</i> <i>Historic Loveland Churches,</i> <i>History of Larimer County,</i> <i>Loveland Historic Downtown ,</i> <i>Loveland Big Thompson Valley Centennial ,</i> <i>Loveland Publishers & Pioneers,</i> <i>Over Hill and Vale</i> (3 volumes). |
| | Oral History Transcripts | Oral histories are available in the 978.868 non-fiction and reference sections. Most are indexed in <i>Loveland's Partnership in History</i> . Some oral histories are also kept at the Museum/Gallery, mainly concerning the Great Western Sugar Company. |
| | Loveland's Partnership in History | Look for references to your building and its former occupants in <i>Loveland's Partnership in History</i> , an index of photographs, historic maps, oral histories, and other resources. Historic photos indexed here are available at the Loveland Museum/Gallery. |
| | Newspaper Index | Look for newspaper entries concerning the former occupants of your building. The library has microfilm of most Loveland newspapers since 1891. You can print copies for a fee or scan to disk. Many obituaries, births, name changes, and other significant events are indexed in a library card catalog. |
| | Architectural Style Reference Books | Look in <i>Loveland Historic Preservation Survey</i> (978.868-Marmor) to see if the style of your building has been determined. For more about the styles see <i>A Guide to Colorado's Historic Architecture and Engineering</i> at: http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/colorados-historic-architecture-engineering-field-guide Look through architectural style books in the 720 – 728's section. |
| | Loveland Vertical File | The Loveland Vertical File contains a wealth of information on historic events, individuals, families, and properties gathered from a variety of sources, including local newspapers and publications. Ask a reference librarian for help. |
| | Historic Maps | The Library maintains a collection of historic maps of Loveland. Ask a reference librarian for help. |
| | Building Records | Library staff can access digitized building records that may show when changes were made to your building. |

The Loveland Museum/Gallery collects the social, natural, and cultural history and pre-history of Loveland, Colorado. Objects that reflect Loveland's unique development are welcomed additions to the collection. Photographs and historical document are of particular interest. Feel free to contact the Curator of Collections at 970.962.2413 with any possible donations or questions.

It's a good idea to make an appointment before visiting the Museum/Gallery (962-2410) so that staff may assist you.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Loveland Museum/Gallery | Property Record Cards | Look for your building's old property record card(s) at the Museum/Gallery. These cards contain a small photo, a floor plan, the owner's name, and a legal description of the property. You may be able to tell when major additions or changes were made to your building. Museum staff can assist in locating a record. |
| | Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps | Fire Insurance Maps provide a detailed depiction of historic Loveland. Loveland maps from 1886-1918 are available online at http://libcudl.colorado.edu:8180/luna/servlet/UCBOULDERCB1~21~21 through the CU Digitization project. The Museum/Gallery has maps from 1906 and 1937 and can make copies; make an appointment if possible. |
| | Historic Building Survey | Any properties featured in <i>Loveland's Historic Downtown</i> currently have an Architectural Inventory Form (for the Colorado Cultural Resource Survey) on file at the Museum/Gallery, providing detailed information. Historic Building Surveys may also be obtained from the City of Loveland (see below). |
| | Historic Photos | The Museum/Gallery keeps bound copies of historic Loveland photos, under the following subjects: Street scenes; Great Western Sugar Company; Schools, students and teachers; People/portraits; Events; People/families; Vehicles and transport; Namaqua churches, houses, and public buildings; Business, industry and agriculture; Valentine remailing; Lake Loveland; and Countryside/Big Thompson Canyon. |
| Other Resources | Loveland Historical Society | The Loveland Historical Society may be helpful in your research. You may write the Historical Society at 503 N. Lincoln Ave, Loveland, CO 80537. |
| | Larimer County Clerk and Recorder | This office maintains records on deeds, mortgages, and sales to the 1860s. Deeds are indexed by seller (grantor) and buyer (grantee); work your way backwards from the most recent owner. You may do this on your own or hire a Title company. |
| | Colorado Historical Society | The State Historical Society maintains various records, including Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dating to the 1880s. You may contact the Society (303-866-3682) to research a particular address, builder, or architect. The Society's Hart Library in Denver may be searched online at: http://www.historycolorado.org/researchers/researchers . |
| | City of Loveland Community and Strategic Planning | The City of Loveland has historic building surveys; information on the nomination process for the Loveland Historic Register; and information about financial incentives for historic preservation. The department can be reached at 962-2577. |
| | Church Records | Local churches may have records available on births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, and other events. |
| | National Park Service | National Registry Bulletin, <i>Researching a Historic Property</i> (Eleanor O'Donnell, 1998) provides detailed guidance. It is available online at http://www.nps.gov |