

# RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF MY HOME WORKSHEET

## 1. WHAT I KNOW (OR THINK I KNOW) ABOUT MY HOME'S HISTORY:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR BUILT: \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS RENOVATED OR ADDITIONS ADDED: \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIOR OWNERS: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. SEARCH FOR EXISTING REPORTS

IS MY HOME LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES? YES/NO

IS MY HOME IN A NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES/NO  
IF YES, WHICH ONE?

UNIONTOWN-ALAMEDA

SHIVELY-MCCLURE

ASTORIA DOWNTOWN

IS MY HOME CONSIDERED HISTORIC BY THE CITY OF ASTORIA? YES/NO

IS MY HOME IN A HISTORIC INVENTORY AREA? YES/NO  
IF YES, WHICH ONE?

YOU CAN USE THE OREGON HISTORIC SITES DATABASE FOR SOME OF THIS ([HTTP://HERITAGEDATA.PRD.STATE.OR.US/HISTORIC/](http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/)). YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD DISTRICT NOMINATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ([HTTP://NPGALLERY.NPS.GOV/NRHP/SEARCHRESULTS/EB47DF197EAD4B08A0BA3349770489F8?PAGE=1&VIEW=LIST](http://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/SEARCHRESULTS/EB47DF197EAD4B08A0BA3349770489F8?PAGE=1&VIEW=LIST)). OTHER LOCAL INVENTORIES CAN BE LOCATED THROUGH LCPS, CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND THE ASTORIA LIBRARY.

**ATTENTION!!! WHILE AT CITY HALL FINDING OUT IF YOUR HOUSE IS HISTORIC, YOU MAY WANT TO ASK THEM IF YOU ARE IN A SLIDE ZONE (INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE) AND ASK TO SEE THE "ADDRESS" OR "GEO" FILE ON YOUR PROPERTY. THE FILE MAY CONTAIN NOTHING, BUT IT MAY HAVE PERMITS, PLANS, CORRESPONDENCE, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.**

**ONLY THE CITY OF ASTORIA CAN DEFINITELY TELL YOU IF YOUR HOME IS CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE A HISTORIC PROPERTY.**

**3. IDENTIFY OLD ADDRESSES**

**ATTENTION!!! IN 1909, ASTORIA STREET NAMES CHANGED!  
IN 1955, ASTORIA ADDRESS NUMBERS CHANGED!  
OTHER HOMES MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED OR REORIENTED!**

THE CITY FOR 1955 DIRECTORY SHOWS THE FOLLOWING OCCUPANT: \_\_\_\_\_

THE CITY DIRECTORY FOR 1953-54 SHOWS THEM LIVING AT: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOES THIS APPEAR TO BE THE SAME HOUSE? YES/NO

IT APPEARS MY HOME'S ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. OTHER ADDRESSES ASSOCIATED WITH MY HOUSE INCLUDE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. COMPILE A LIST OF OCCUPANTS (USE CITY DIRECTORY RESEARCH FORM)**

TO FIND THIS INFORMATION YOU CAN USE OLD POLK CITY DIRECTORIES. THEY ARE AVAILABLE AT CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ONLINE THROUGH SUCH SITES AS ANCESTRY.COM.

YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO LOOK AT U.S. CENSUS RECORDS. ALSO AVAILABLE AT BOTH LOCATIONS.

**5. CHECK TAX RECORDS**

USE WEBMAPS TO ACCESS PROPERTY INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

- LEGAL DESCRIPTION
- TAX APPRAISAL INFORMATION
- OWNER (IF NOT YOU)
- SURVEYS

**ATTENTION!!! IF YOU ARE AT THE CLATSOP COUNTY TAX ACCESSORS OFFICE (IT'S THE DESK RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE COUNTY CLERK – ASK FOR THE “JACKET” TO YOUR ADDRESS, YOU MAY FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS.**

**6. CHECK DEED RECORDS**

CLATSOP COUNTY CLERK 820 EXCHANGE STREET, SUITE 220, ASTORIA. SEE THE RECORDS RESEARCH/COPY REQUEST FORM.

## 7. CHECK THE SANBORN MAPS

THE SANBORN MAP COMPANY WAS A PUBLISHER OF DETAILED MAPS OF U.S. CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES. THE MAPS WERE ORIGINALLY CREATED TO ALLOW FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO ASSESS THEIR TOTAL LIABILITY IN URBANIZED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

YOU CAN ACCESS MANY OF THEM IN PHYSICAL FORM AT THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITE. THOUGH, YOU WILL NEED A LIBRARY CARD AND PASSWORD TO GAIN ACCESS THIS WAY.

## 8. NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS CARD CATALOGS THAT WILL LEAD YOU DOWN FASCINATING PATHS. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE PLACES WHERE THE “ART” OF RESEARCH HELPS. TRY TO THINK OF CREATIVE WAYS TO FIND THE INFORMATION YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AND WHEN LOOKING AT MICROFILMS, BROWSE THE ARTICLES A LITTLE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU WILL END UP.

IN THE ARCHIVES, BE SURE TO SEARCH FOR ANY NAMES, EVENTS, OR ADDRESSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR HOUSE UP TO THIS POINT.

## 9. PHOTO ARCHIVES

THERE ARE VERY USEFUL PHOTO ARCHIVES AT THE CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AS WELL AS SARA’S OLD PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK. ALSO BE SURE TO VISIT THE CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S OLD FLICKR WEBPAGE, THERE ARE SOME GREAT PHOTOS AVAILABLE THERE TOO.

## 10. GENEALOGY

THERE ARE MANY GENEALOGY SITES OUT THERE, AND THEY TYPICALLY REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP, BUT THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS IS AMAZING. WE USE ANCESTRY.COM. ASTORIA’S CITY DIRECTORIES ARE ON THERE, AS WELL AS MANY OLD YEARBOOKS, U.S. CENSUS DATA, ETC.

ALSO, NOW THAT YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR HOME, YOU BETTER SEARCH FOR THEM TOO. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEONE MAY HAVE UPLOADED A PHOTO OF “GRANDMA’S HOUSE.”

## 11. ORAL HISTORIES

## 12. ONLINE SLEUTHING

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