

Whittier Public Library

❖ *Ascertain Your Home's Old Address*

Street addresses in Whittier were changed in the mid-1960s to conform to the Los Angeles County numbering system. **Whittier Street Number Changes** R 388.411 (available at Central and Branch), contains both old and new addresses for properties in Whittier.

❖ *Find the Names of Former Occupants*

The names of occupants of a home or business are listed in the city directories. Central Library has city directories from 1903 to 1977, (after which they were no longer published), and Haines Criss-Cross directories from 1972 to the present.

The date of a building's construction may be indicated by the first appearance of its address in a directory.

❖ *Look for Your Home's Original Footprint*

Central Library has fire insurance maps for Whittier for 1888, 1891, 1894, 1900, 1907, 1912, plus a 1925 map updated to 1941. These maps—called Sanborn Maps—(WH 912.794) show the footprints of buildings extant in Whittier in the years the maps were published. Sanborn maps are available on microfilm for use in the library. Please ask for them at the Reference Desk.

❖ *Check for Articles in the Newspaper*

There may be articles about your home or its former residents in the newspaper. The Library's Newspaper Index covers 1892 to 1950 and 1990 to the present. Newspapers on microfilm can be viewed and copied in the Audio-Visual Department at Central.

Whittier newspapers from 1892 to 1935 are available online at www.whittierlibrary.org.

❖ *Search Memorabilia and Photographs*

Arrange to look at the Whittier History

Collection of photographs, clippings and ephemera at Central Library. Please note that our collection is always growing and changing. A librarian can retrieve items for your use in-house during regular library hours, or you can make an appointment to visit the Whittier History Room.

A partial index to the Whittier History Collection is located at the Reference Desk. Please ask there for assistance.

❖ *Read Local Histories*

You may find information or photographs of your house in these local history publications (available at Central and Branch):

Founders and Friends R 979.493 PEA

A selective history of buildings and families

Old Whittier, 1904 R 979.493 WHI

A photographic survey of residential and commercial buildings in the early 1900s.

Pioneer Families of Whittier R 979.49492 MAT

A biographical history of families located in Whittier prior to 1900, it also contains photographs of some early homes.

City Building Department

❖ *Although building permit records are not comprehensive, they may help you ascertain the date of construction and any alterations that have been made to your home.* 562.567.9320

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder

❖ *The Real Estate Records section of the Registrar Recorder's Office maintains records of all real estate transactions in Los Angeles County from 1850 to the present. If you know the title of and names on the document, as well as the year or range of years to be searched, you may obtain a copy of an historical real estate record.*

Information line: 562.462.2133

Website: http://rrcc.lacounty.gov/Recorder/Real_Estate_etc.cfm

Whittier Museum

❖ *The Whittier Museum is a private, nonprofit institution owned and operated by the Whittier Historical Society. The museum maintains a collection of photographs, biographies, family histories, city directories and books on local history.*

Call for an appointment to use the Museum's Research Library and Archives: 562.945.3871.

6755 Newlin Avenue www.whittiermuseum.org

About the Cover Photo

Pictured on the cover is the home, located on the northeast corner of Painter and Hadley, of Whittier pioneer Lindley M. Baldwin. A realtor who subdivided the Thomas Ranch into the town of Whittier, Baldwin also at times aided in directing the State School, served as postmaster, and ran a furniture store. Baldwin, a Quaker, helped organize several new Friends' meetings in the state. His wife, Sarah, reigned as queen of the City's diamond jubilee in 1947, when she was 94.

Do You Live in an Historic Home?

❖ *The City of Whittier strives to preserve the character and integrity of its historic properties and its four designated historic districts: Central Park, College Hills, Hadley-Greenleaf, and Earham. More than 2,500 homes are listed in the City's Historic Home Survey. To find out whether your home is listed, contact the Planning Division at City Hall.*

Altering Your Historic Home

❖ *If your home is listed on the historic survey or is located in an historic district, you must obtain approval from the City's Historic Resources Commission before altering the exterior of your home (an addition or window replacement, for example).*

Rehabilitating Your Historic Home

❖ *Rehabilitation is defined as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values."*

Appropriate methods of rehabilitating your historic home are detailed in *Standards for Rehabilitation*, a booklet available from the Department of Interior:

www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/rhb/stand.htm or web-search: *Standards for Rehabilitation Department of Interior.*

Consult the City Planning Division

❖ *Before you begin alterations or rehabilitation, contact the City Planning Division to find out which City planning ordinances apply to your home and how to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness, if one is required.*

City Hall ❖ 13230 Penn Street ❖ 562.567.9320

MORE RESOURCES

On the Web

Researching the History of Your Home

A bibliography prepared by David L. Langenberg of the University of Delaware Library:

<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/hist/resguide/house-bib.htm>

House Detective: Finding History in Your Home

Smithsonian National Museum of American History

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/house/pdfs/webhouseguide.pdf>

Additional Reading

Duchscherer, Paul, *Inside the Bungalow.*

728.373 DUC

Duchscherer, Paul, *Outside the Bungalow.*

717 DUC

Green, Betsy J., *Discovering the History of Your*

House and Your Neighborhood 907.2 GRE

Howe, Barbara J., et al., *Houses and Homes:*

Exploring Their History. 973 HOU

Hugh, Howard, *How Old is This House?*

728.028 HOW

Light, Sally, *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home.*

R 728.37 LIG

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses.*

R 728.83 McA

Moss, Roger W., *Victorian Exterior Decoration.*

698.12 MOS

Powell, Jane., *Bungalow Bathrooms.* 643.52 POW

Powell, Jane., *Bungalow Kitchens.* 643.3 POW

Central Library
7344 S. Washington Ave.
562.567.9900
fax 562.567.2880



Whittwood Branch
10537 Santa Gertrudes Ave.
562.567.9950
fax 562.567.2881

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www.whittierlibrary.org



Look into the History of
*Your
Whittier
Home*



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