

Research Resources and Program Information

Research Resources by topic and type

The following noncomprehensive list includes in-person and digital resources. Many hard-to-find sources of information can also be found by using your favorite search engine and talking to historians, librarians, and research assistants at archives and genealogical and historical societies.

Architectural Style

A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Understanding America's Domestic Architecture (Find which libraries have it.)

American House Styles: A Concise Guide (Find which libraries have it.)

["What Style is Your House?"](#) by the Iowa Architectural Foundation

["Architectural Styles Categories"](#) by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Books, Periodicals, Journal Articles, and Other Secondary Sources

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

[State Library of Iowa](#)

[Annals of Iowa](#)

[The Goldfinch](#)

[The Palimpsest](#)

[Iowa Heritage Illustrated](#)

Various libraries, genealogical and historical societies (some have access to online journal articles and ebooks; locations available through your favorite search engine or the [Iowa Culture App](#))

[Archive.org](#)

[Google Books](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[JSTOR](#)

[EBSCO](#)

[Hathi Trust Digital Library](#)

[State Historical Society of Iowa Educator Primary Source Sets](#)

[Iowa Pathways](#)

[Biographical Dictionary of Iowa](#)

To find out whether any libraries have a specific book or periodical (which your local library can often get for you through interlibrary loan):

[The Iowa Locator](#) (SILO)

[WorldCat](#)

Census and Demographic Data

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

[State Data Center](#)

[FamilySearch.org](#)

[Ancestry.com](#)

[Iowa Genealogical Society](#)

City and County Directories

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

Various libraries, genealogical and historical societies (some offer access to online copies)

[Archive.org](#)

[Google Books](#)

[Hathi Trust Digital Library](#)

[FamilySearch.org](#)

[Ancestry.com](#)

County Histories

See **Books, Periodicals, Journal Articles, and Other Secondary Sources**

County Records (Vital, Land, Property Transfer, Tax, Voting, etc.)

County recorder offices (locations available through your favorite search engine)

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

[Iowa Genealogical Society](#)

[FamilySearch.org](#)

[Ancestry.com](#)

[Iowa Land Records](#)

How to Research and/or Survey a Property Guidance

["Researching a Historic Property"](#) National Park Service

["Walk Through Historic Buildings: Learn to Identify the Visual Character of a Historic Building"](#) National Park Service

["How to Write a Building Description"](#) Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (includes information on how to survey a property)

[History Detectives' Building Background](#) - Checklist, Public Broadcasting System

["Historic House Research Guide"](#) Indiana Landmarks

How Old is This House? by Hugh Howard, Noonday Press, 1989

Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood by Betsy J. Green, Santa Monica Press, 2002

Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History by Barbara J. Howe, Dolores A. Fleming, Emory L. Kemp, and Ruth Ann Overbeck, American Association for State and Local History, 1987

House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home by Sally Light, Golden Hill Press, 1989

In-Person Repositories

[State Historical Society of Iowa](#) (Museum, Library and Archives, State Historic Preservation Office)

[State Library of Iowa](#)

[Iowa Genealogical Society](#)

Local libraries, genealogical and historical societies, archives, and museums (locations available through the [Iowa Culture App](#) or your favorite search engine)

Universities and colleges (locations available through the [Iowa Culture App](#) or your favorite search engine)

County recorder offices (locations available through your favorite search engine)

Maps and Atlases

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

Various local libraries, archives, and historical societies (locations available through your favorite search engine or the [Iowa Culture App](#))

[General Land Office Records - Bureau of Land Management](#)

[Historic Aerial Photo Project](#) (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)

[Hixson Plat Map Atlases of Iowa](#)

[Iowa Aerial Photo Indices](#)

[Iowa Counties Historic Atlases](#)

[Iowa Geographic Map Server](#) (Iowa State University)

[Iowa Digital Library](#) (University of Iowa)

[Iowa Heritage Digital Collections](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#) (in person)

[State Library of Iowa](#) (online)

[Library of Congress](#) (online)

Newspapers

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

[Library of Congress: Chronicling America](#)

[Newspapers.com](#)

[NewspaperArchive.com](#)

[Google News Archive](#)

Prints, Photographs, and Postcards

[State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center](#)

[Library of Congress Prints and Photographs](#)

Various libraries, archives, and genealogical and historical societies (locations available through your favorite search engine or the [Iowa Culture App](#))

[Ebay.com](#)

[Ancestry.com](#)

Program Information

The following links provide further information on programs that can aid historic preservation in your community.

Certified Local Government Program (CLG)

[Benefits, resources, and how to apply](#)

[List of active CLG programs](#)

See also Grants

Grants

State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

[Historic Resource Development Program \(HRDP\) grants](#)

[Certified Local Government \(CLG\) grants](#)

[Other Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs opportunities](#)

[National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

[Jeffris Foundation](#)

Iowa Historic and Archaeological Site Inventory

[Information, form, and instructions](#)

[Historic sites throughout Iowa](#) (list available through the Iowa Culture App)

National Register of Historic Places

[How to nominate a property](#)

[NPS nomination guidance and instructions](#)

[NPS copies of nominations](#)

[Iowa State Historic Preservation Office guidance, forms, frequently asked questions, etc.](#)

Review and Compliance

[Section 106 basics and review process](#)

Tax Credits

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits

[Application and review process](#)

[Iowa Economic Development Authority partner information](#)

Property Tax Exemption

[Basics and how to apply](#)

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits (Technical Preservation Services, main page <https://www.nps.gov/tps/>)

[Tax credit basics](#)

[Federal tax credit application instructions and forms](#)

[Preservation guidance](#)

[Iowa State Historic Preservation Office federal tax credit program information](#)