How to Research the History of Your Santa Cruz House

Where to Begin & What You Need to Know

Joe Michalak
May 2022
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Introduction

Researching the history of a house has been transformed from what used to be a daunting slog through an endless stream of unindexed public documents, old newspapers, and city directories. With the digitization of public records (census, voting, immigration, birth/death) and newspapers, coupled with the availability of high-speed connectivity, many barriers to access have been diminished or removed entirely. Except for deeds detailing owners and property descriptions, the bulk of relevant data—census, immigration, birth, death, and marriage records can now be located with a few keystrokes without leaving the comfort of your home. Local newspapers, a primary source for data, are now digitized/scanned, and serve as the equivalent of today’s social media, capturing the personal triumphs and tragedies of everyday life. While social media can be deleted with a keystroke, the stories buried in historical newspapers are forever archived. Besides cataloging births, deaths, marriages, and the social life of a community, newspapers tracked property transfers, building permits, and the work of architects and builders. Today, much of this data is easily accessible if you know where to look.

The one exception is the historical deeds of trust that identify sellers (Grantor), buyers (Grantee), and provide an exact property description. Tracing ownership still requires physically examining indexes and deeds at the Recorder’s Office. This guide is an attempt to provide a roadmap for researchers so that they can avoid detours, potholes, and false trails along the way.

Where to Begin: Building a Chain of Title—The Paper Trail

County Geographic Information Services (GIS) [http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/default.aspx?tabid=93] This should be the first place to start a search with either an address or an APN number (Assessor’s Parcel Number: “00921145”).

This site will be a source for:

Links to the Assessor’s Office to find basic information about the house: property characteristics, lot and house size, approximate build date, number of rooms, etc.

Property transfer data. This record will give you the most recent deed transfer information that you can use to expand your research.
**Parcel Map.** Link to the Assessor’s Office for a map showing the size/measurement of your parcel and neighboring parcels.

Santa Cruz County Assessor Office
http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/ASR/

**Recent property transfers:**
Note Document Transfer # (book/page) to find deeds in Recorder’s bound volumes/microfilm.

**Property Characteristics:**
Parcel Size,
No. of buildings, rooms,
Year built: this data for historical homes is often inaccurate.
**Recorded and Non-Recorded Maps.** These very useful historic maps can provide ownership clues. They sometimes offer the owner’s name, date of transfer, and the trust deed data (book/pg). Maps can also show the historic development of a neighborhood.

**Next Steps: Tracing Ownership—Santa Cruz County Recorder’s Office**

The next step is crucial to establishing property ownership. The property transfer data (Deed document number and/or book/page) obtained from the Assessor’s database will give you the initial information to find previous owners. The Recorder maintains two databases:

1) **Current Deeds: 1978 to date**—searchable by APN or Name (Grantor/Grantee) on computer workstations; deeds viewable and printable.

Current deeds searchable by name, APN, book/page and type of instrument. Deeds are viewable/printable at the Recorder’s Office, but not online.
2) **Historic Records: 1850–1977.** These earlier deeds are found by searching the **bound volumes** organized by date and indexed under the names of the Grantor/Grantee. Using the book/page reference, you can search the Recorder’s computer database for copies of deeds of trust. These deeds are stored on microfilm and retrieved using computer workstations. Early deeds are also available in written form in bound volumes. Recorder’s staff can also print copies of historic deeds for a fee.

Use the bound index volumes to trace ownership. Start with the current Grantor (seller) and find out who they got the property from as Grantee, making certain the property description is correct as you proceed. Keep going Grantor to Grantee until you find the original owner, keeping a record of Grantor/Grantee, book/page reference and transaction dates for future use.

Sometimes ownership clues may be gleaned by examining historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

For a growing city like Santa Cruz, house numbers were not static, and changed often. Searching local newspapers under earlier house numbers often identifies property owners and property transaction dates. Further clues may be found in city directories. When searched by address, directories may identify residents and often indicate their profession.

**Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps**

“Sanborn maps are detailed maps of U.S. cities and towns in the 19th and 20th centuries. Originally published by The Sanborn Map Company (Sanborn), the maps were created to allow fire insurance companies to assess their total liability in urbanized areas of the United States. Sanborn maps are valuable for documenting changes in the built environment of American cities over many decades. Specific changes in an individual site such as when a building was expanded or torn down, can often be dated within a reasonably accurate time frame, depending on how many different map editions for that city are available.”

Sanborn maps show the footprint of a structure, its shape, type of construction, location, boundaries, street names, and house and block numbers. Comparing the 1928 with the 1950 Sanborn map for Berkeley Way illustrates the kinds of development changes that can be discovered.

Maps reflected the growth of neighborhoods and while Berkeley Way was developed in the early 1900s, the earliest map didn’t appear until 1928. Comparing street listings in annual city directories helps fill in the gaps by providing a more accurate assessment of neighborhood expansion.

Maps were issued in color and updated as needed. The Key to the 1917 map using color-coded symbols, described in detail the type of building construction, materials used, windows, location of water pipes, hydrant, fire alarm and numerous other elements related to engineering and safety.

What Sanborn maps are available and where?
Maps are available on microfilm, in bound volumes, and online. Sanborns are available at the Library of Congress, the Santa Cruz Public Library, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH) and UC Santa Cruz (UCSC). Maps cover Aptos, Ben Lomond Boulder Creek, Capitola, Corralitos, Felton, Freedom, Lorenzo, Pajaro, Santa Cruz, Soquel, and Watsonville. Please see Appendix for locations and coverage. Please note that this list is incomplete as bound volumes for various years exist at various locations, but their availability may be sketchy.
Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn
Maps (color images). From 1886–1920. High quality images; coverage of Santa Cruz County cities varies.

Santa Cruz Public Library (Microfilm only and bound volumes)

Museum of Art & History (Archives)
Maps: Santa Cruz: 1956, v. 1 & 2; 1961, v 1 & 2; 1965, v 1 & 2 (bound volumes)

UC Santa Cruz: https://digitalcollections.library.ucsc.edu/
Maps available online, but not remotely for non-UCSC users, who may use online system at McHenry and Science & Engineering library workstations. Results may be downloaded and emailed. Search interface is intuitive with high quality images. Some pre-1900 maps are only available in paper form at the Science & Engineering Library and may be photographed using natural light.

San Jose Public Library
Maps: 1886, 1888, 1892, 1905, 1928, 1950 available online from ProQuest. Available to any citizen of California with presentation of ID at the Library (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando St., San José, CA 95112) https://www.sjpl.org/house

**LAND OWNERSHIP MAPS (CADASTRAL)**

Standard Map Service (Plat), 1931, 1944, 1947 (Not currently available online at UCSC Digital Collections. These maps will be available when UCSC completes its overhaul of its digital collections website in 2022). The Standard Map Atlas is a useful for validating property ownership information developed from other sources. Local coverage includes three years (1931, 1944, 1947): includes names of property owners and large parcels.

Contrast the development of Berkeley Way and surrounding area. Large swatches of land were undeveloped in the 1930s, but by 1947 most of the property adjacent to Branciforte Creek was built up. Both Reed Way and Belvedere Terrace underwent transformation.

The names on the map help confirm grantor/grantee data.
Foreman & Wright, Survey Map of the City of Santa Cruz, 1866. (1944 rendition Online at the County of Santa Cruz, Geographic Information Service(GIS). The Foreman & Wright Survey Map was commissioned as part of the Town of Santa Cruz's incorporation application to the State of California.

Hatch Map, 1889. (High resolution map is online at the Library of Congress). Compiled and published by Andrew Jackson Hatch. This map is the first official map of Santa Cruz County showing not only landowners, but towns, creeks, roads, and mountains. The original lithographed map is divided into 51 sections. Because of its large size (5 feet wide by 4 feet high), the online version at UCSC is divided into 32 tiles for easier viewing. Stanley D. Stevens has published a rich history of the origins of the map, its creator, and the numerous individuals named on the map. *Names on the Map, Santa Cruz: Museum of Art & History, 2020.*

Section of 1889 Hatch Map showing portions of Watsonville and Pajaro.

1923 City of Santa Cruz Survey Map
Arnold Baldwin, Surveyor

1923 City of Santa Cruz Survey Map. Arnold Baldwin, Surveyor. Map identifies original developers of major tracts and parcels. Includes some identification of smaller parcel owners. Baldwin, a graduate engineer from UC Berkeley served as the County Surveyor for twenty years until his death at the age of 72 in 1955. Not available online; UCSC Special Collections.
BUILDING PERMITS

The Santa Cruz City Council issued building permits until the mid-1920s, after which permits were issued by the Building Department. The permit history of a house in the City of Santa Cruz can be obtained from the Planning Department (Zoning Desk, 2nd fl.). The County issues permit histories at the Assessor’s Office; homeowner ID required. Local newspapers are a valuable source for locating building permit information and deed transactions. Newspapers published this type of data up until the 1950s. Not to be overlooked are the Santa Cruz Genealogical Society’s valuable indices covering building permits in the City of Santa Cruz as reported in local newspapers from 1909–1924. Available at the Public Library. County of Santa Cruz permits are accessible online from 1985; prior to 1985 are available at the Zoning Counter.

DISCOVERING THE PROPERTY OWNERS

Once you’ve uncovered some bits of data on property owners, whether it’s based on a title search, or information gleaned by searching newspapers and city directories, or examining Sanborn maps to track address changes, there is no one method that works for everyone. If access to the Recorder’s Office is problematic, you can piece together bits and pieces of data by searching addresses/names in newspapers to discover property transactions and owners. Once you have a name, you can trace that person through city directories, U.S. Census records, birth, death, and marriage records, and land ownership maps. Here are some of the key sources to guide you on your journey.

ANCESTRY.COM

(Online at Santa Cruz Public Library or personal subscription) Premier source for wide-range of data including: Census/Voter records, Birth/Marriage/Death, Immigration, Military service, City Directories (Santa Cruz, 1902–1981, with gaps), and Family Trees.

Public Member Trees can provide a rich trove of data on family members, especially if they are public trees, not private. Look for members who cite a large number of sources as the content has often been validated. Avoid the ones who merely replicate the work of others and offer no new data or repeat errors.
Public Member Tree record from Ancestry.com for Clara Alice Martin, aka, Alice Taylor. Note the chronological personal history, list of family members and list of validated linked sources. Clicking on any of these sources will expand your research further.

1880 U.S. Census record for Alice Taylor, aka, Clara Alice Martin.

**Newspapers**

**Newspapers.com** (Available remotely to SCPL card holders) Aggregates over 20,000 newspapers from 1770–2000s. Includes newspaper archive for:

- **Santa Cruz Sentinel (various titles)**, (1862–2005) with coverage gaps, 1913–1931.
- **Santa Cruz Evening News**, (1907–1941) Some gaps in coverage.
- **Santa Cruz Surf**, (1883-1907) Rich source of local history and opinions not covered by other papers. (Microfilm copies of all papers and print indexes available at SCPL).

**Other Newspaper sources:**
- **Watsonville Register-Pajaronian**, (1864–2012) Available from SCPL link, or [https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/1411/Watsonville-Historical-Newspaper-Archive](https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/1411/Watsonville-Historical-Newspaper-Archive)

**California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC)** Online at SCPL or at CDNC.UCR.EDU. California papers from 1846–1922; same coverage as Newspapers.com for local papers. Includes **Daily Alta California**, 1846–1891; **Sacramento Daily Union**, 1851-1899, **San Francisco Call**, etc. Can perform sophisticated Boolean searches (AND, OR, NOT), a function not available on Newspapers.com.

**NewsBank**, (Available remotely to SCPL card holders) **Santa Cruz Sentinel**, 1999–to present (supplements **Newspapers.com** which only indexes **Santa Cruz Sentinel** up to 2005).
**San Jose Mercury-News and San Francisco Chronicle** (1985–to present)
Covers thousands of U.S. and world news sources besides newspapers.
**New York Times** (SCPL online with registration requirements).

**City Directories/Phone Books**
City directories and phone books are useful for placing people at a particular place at a particular time. They may also tell you a person's occupation and where they worked.

**Ancestry.com/Heritage Quest**
Online coverage of Santa Cruz City Directories from 1902–1981. Some gaps in coverage. Includes directories for many cities across the U.S.

**Santa Cruz Public Library**
(Genealogy Room, Downtown Library)

**Santa Cruz City Directories**, 1921–1968 (Print) Early City & Phone Directories under various titles available on microfilm.

**Museum of Art & History** (Archives) **Santa Cruz City Directories**, 1921–1968 (Print); Local Phone Books, 1907+ (Print)

**Historic Photos**
Old photographs convey a clear idea of a structure's former appearance and help establish a building's relationship to its surroundings. In addition to the sources listed here, a prime commercial source for historical photographs is the collection at **Covello & Covello Photography**. The firm was founded by the late photographer Ed Webber in 1938 and provided news photos to the Santa Cruz Sentinel from 1938 to 1969. Besides thousands of stock negatives, Covello & Covello has an extensive collection of photographs from mid-nineteenth century through the 1930s. https://www.covellocovello.com/ Contacting individuals who post Public Member Trees on Ancestry.com can also be a rich source for personal photos.

**Santa Cruz County Historic Photographic Collection, UCSC Library Digital Collections.**
UCSC's collection of photographs spans more than 100 years of Santa Cruz city and county development and activity. Notable subjects include Santa Cruz architecture before and after the Loma Prieta Earthquake (1989). “The collection documents communities and towns, some now gone; businesses and stores; industries: logging, mining, farming, ranching; the natural surroundings: beaches, forests, rivers, creeks, lagoons; cultural events and entertainment;
theater, exhibits, celebrations, parades; institutions: government, churches, schools, libraries; military displays and recreation: team sports, camping, and fishing; and means of transportation: railroads, streetcars, airplanes, automobiles, ships and boats. The bulk of the photographs (almost 11,000) document the city of Santa Cruz, but there are many images of the North and South county as well.”

The Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH) Photo Archive has an extensive collection of historic Santa Cruz County 19th Century and early 20th Century photographs covering a wide-range of topics. https://archives.santacruzmah.org-guides/photograph-collection/

Santa Cruz Public Library has a large collection of photographs from the 1860s through the 2000s.

Discover over two million photographs, documents, letters, artwork, diaries, oral histories, films, advertisements, musical recordings, and more. The collections in Calisphere have been digitized and contributed by all ten campuses of the University of California and other important libraries, archives, and museums throughout the state. Calisphere provides free access to more than 2,000 collections contributed by more than 300 cultural heritage organizations (libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies) in California. Each of these organizations has specific collection emphases, which may be informed by local history, activities, research interests, or other topics significant to its communities.
The Santa Cruz Historic Building Surveys provide a comprehensive planning tool for the identification, evaluation, and treatment of historic properties. The Surveys inventory (vI, 1976, vII, 1989, vIII, 2013) over six hundred structures; are available for download at the City's website. Criteria for evaluation is based on standards developed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Surveys are based on a comprehensive evaluation of each property based on specific criteria for analyzing the integrity of each structure as well as the historic significance of past occupants and any events important in local, regional, or national history.

Each property is extensively researched to document historic authenticity and integrity (DPR 523).

Example of historic evaluation form for 512 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz. The house was designed by architect Edward L. Van Cleek for Frank Alzina, son of early pioneer Francisco Alzina. Frank was a butcher, married to esteemed local teacher Lora Effey. Until 2006, The home was owned by Hulda Hoover McLean, Santa Cruz County’s second female supervisor.

Surveys are the first place to look to see if your house is listed as a historic resource. The County of Santa Cruz maintains a list of historic properties and can be obtained by contacting the Planning Department. The City of Capitola maintains a list of historic structures (Planning Department) as well as the City of Scotts Valley, https://www.scottsvalley.org/239/City-Historical-Landmarks.
**Historic Context Statements**

Historic Context Statements provide an overview of the historic development of a city with examples of property types such as districts, buildings, and features, which represent the patterns of growth. Context Statements are critical for understanding, identifying, evaluating, and protecting those resources which give each community its individual character and sense of place. If you want to discover how a city developed its character, these surveys are essential. The County of Santa Cruz and the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Watsonville context statements are available on their websites or from their Planning Departments.

**Architectural Styles**

The architectural development of local communities is examined in Historic Context Statements as an overview, but a detailed analysis of individual properties and their history is not included. For the City of Santa Cruz, John Chase’s, *Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture* offers a broad survey of neighborhoods, and the individual properties of historic significance. The earlier editions (1975, 1979) formed the basis of the City of Santa Cruz, Historic Building Surveys (1976, 1989). The 3rd ed., published in 2005 also includes biographies of local architects/designers/builders. A supplementary list of buildings designed/built by local firms is appended. Also includes a detailed and comprehensive bibliography of local historical resources written by Judith Steen.
At 880 pages, Virginia McAlester’s 2013 monumental *Field Guide to American Houses* is the premier source for detailed descriptions of styles and their origin. Well-illustrated with hundreds of drawings and photos.

The interpretation of an architectural style may vary depending on the knowledge of the architect/builder, availability of materials, and regional differences. The interpretation of the Queen Anne style may vary considerably over a wide range of structures. While some have candle-snuffer corner turrets and wrap-around porches, others are a blend of Colonial Revival, Shingle, or Craftsman style. Often there is an abundance of brackets, decorative trusses, and an entry door with a single pane at the top.

**McAlester, excerpt from 1984 edition.**

**The City of Santa Cruz, Historic Building Survey, vIII (2013).**
**Biographical Sources**

“The subject of your research, of course, will determine which, if any, biographical or historical reference sources will be useful for information on owners and occupants. Of the biographical and historical books concerning Santa Cruz County, Elliott’s, Santa Cruz County, California, authored by Rev. S. H. Willey, Dr. C. L. Anderson, Edward Martin, and others, published in 1879, is the earliest and perhaps the most important architectural source. Its many engravings provide an extensive record of the town’s appearance at the time.” John Chase, *The Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture, 3rd. ed.* Santa Cruz: Museum of Art & History, 2005.

Leon Rowland, wrote a local history column, “Circuit Rider” for the *Santa Cruz Evening News* in the 1940s. This column and other research formed the basis for *Santa Cruz: The Early Years*, (Paper Vision Press, 1980). Rowland provides a vivid, detailed account of the early settlers and the times they lived in, profiling some of the most significant historical figures, their accomplishments and deeds. Also included is an exhaustive account of *Los Fundadores*, the founding families of Santa Cruz. Rowland maintained a vast card file on local historical figures and events. The repository is now available online at UCSC: https://library.ucsc.edu/speccoll/rowland-collection-about-the-rowlands. Another newspaper reporter, Ernest Otto, wrote “Old Santa Cruz,” a column for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* from the 1930s until the early 1950s. While not a historian, his work detailed people and events as he experienced them first hand. Preston Sawyer, *Sentinel* proofreader and photographer, wrote a column, “Santa Cruz Yesterdays,” from 1948–1959. Each week he contributed an old photo and wrote a historical account of events surrounding the photo.

**A Last Detail**

In 1990, The Santa Cruz County Historical Trust, published, *Every Structure Tells A Story*. While technology has advanced, making public sources more accessible, the research tools discussed are still valid today. It is well worth the time to consult *Every Structure* for its broad description of city directories, land ownership maps, local newspapers, and bibliographies. Although out-of-print, it is available for download the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History.

Joe Michalak, Please send comments and corrections to: joemich1@gmail.com. This document will be revised frequently. ©2022
APPENDIX
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS
MARCH 2022

LEGEND:

**LOC:** Library of Congress: [https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps](https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps)

**UCSC:** Available over the Internet for UC Santa Cruz faculty, staff, and students only; available to all others at workstations at McHenry and the Science & Engineering library. Data may be downloaded and results emailed.

**MAH:** Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (Archives)

**SCPL:** Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch.

**NOTE:** Maps used color-coded symbols, describing in detail the type of building construction, materials used, windows, location of water pipes, hydrant, fire alarm and numerous other elements related to engineering and safety. All Sanborn maps are in digital format and in color unless otherwise indicated.

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<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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<td>UCSC</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>UCSC</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>UCSC</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>UCSC</td>
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<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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*(The year 1927 is not available online at UCSC.)*
1933
(*Note: 1888, 1892, 1905, 1917, included with Santa Cruz)

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<td>1902</td>
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<td>SCPL (b/w microfilm; bound volumes in color.)</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>MAH (bound volumes in color)</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>MAH &quot;&quot;&quot;&quot;</td>
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<td><em>(Note: 1905, 1917, 1928, 1950 include Twin Lakes &amp; Del Mar; Capitola included with 1888, 1892, 1905, 1917)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Soquel:</strong></td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1908</td>
<td>LOC; UCSC</td>
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<td>1920</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>UCSC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WATSONVILLE: 1886 LOC; UCSC 1888 LOC; UCSC 1892 LOC; UCSC 1902 LOC; UCSC 1908 LOC; UCSC 1920* LOC; UCSC 1940 UCSC 1950 UCSC 1956 UCSC 1962 LOC; UCSC

*(Includes Watsonville Junction in Monterey County)

Screen shot of Aptos, 1888. (UC Santa Cruz, Historical Information Gatherers database.)

Bay View Hotel (still standing, 2022)
Published Sources

These sources complement the Bibliography created by Judith Steen for John Chase’s *3rd Edition of the Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture*, 2005 (reprinted with corrections, 2007). There is no overall recent history of Santa Cruz County, but these volumes provide insight into the people who played a significant role in the communities that constitute Santa Cruz County. Some of these volumes were created before the availability of online research tools for genealogy, local newspapers (Newspapers.com, est. 2012), and archives. Therefore, discrepancies between what was known then, and what information may be easily discovered today, will exist. Please note that besides the volumes listed here, there is an additional number of significant works on local history published (including an Online History Journal) by the Museum of Art & History: https://www.santacruzmah.org/history-collection


*Building Permits in the City of Santa Cruz: Reported in Newspapers 1909 through 1924*. Compiled by the Early Santa Cruz Newspaper Indexing Committee of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. Santa Cruz: Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, 1994. *Permits listed by street and name. Supplemented by Santa Cruz, California, Building Permits from Early Newspapers* (ca. 1910-1954), compiled by Sara A. Bunnett (Santa Cruz: Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, 2004).


Francis, Phil. *Santa Cruz County, A Faithful Reproduction in Print and Photography of Its Climate, Capabilities and Beauties*. (Cover title: *Beautiful Santa Cruz County*). San Francisco: H. S. Crocker Co., 1896.

Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, 1994. *Permits listed by street and name*. Supplemented by *Santa Cruz, California, Building Permits from Early Newspapers (ca. 1910-1954)*, compiled by Sara A. Bunnett (Santa Cruz: Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, 2004).


*Historic Context Statements*. Context statements have been published for the County of Santa Cruz (1994), City of Santa Cruz (2000), Capitola (2004), and City of Watsonville (2007). Context statements provide an overview of the historic development of a city with examples of property types such as districts, buildings, and features, which represent the patterns of growth.


*A Legal History of Santa Cruz County: An Account of the Local Bench and Bar Through the End of the Twentieth Century*. Santa Cruz: Museum of Art & History, 2006.


Martin, Edward. *History of Santa Cruz County, California, with Biographical Sketches*, Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1911. Available to download at: https://openlibrary.org/works/OL9305166W/History_of_Santa_Cruz_County_California


Stevens, Stanley D., Names on the Map: History of the 1889 Hatch Map, the “first” official map of Santa Cruz County, California, Santa Cruz: The Museum of Art & History, 2020.
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL RESOURCES

To further aid your research on local history topics please consider the varied collections of the many local archives, museums, and libraries in Santa Cruz County, nearby collections, as well as the vast virtual collections offered by the University of California through its Online Archive of California (OAC) and Calisphere. While the breadth of coverage will vary, all of these institutions maintain collections of books, manuscripts, photographs, and local artifacts that may help one discover information on historic properties and the individuals who occupied them.

APTOS HISTORY MUSEUM
7605-B Old Dominion Ct.
Aptos, CA 95003
(831) 688-1467
aptoshistorymuseum@gmail.com

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
For research questions, call or email.
410 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
831-464-0322
capitolamuseum@gmail.com

EDNA E. KIMBRO ARCHIVE

The purpose of the Edna E. Kimbro Archive is to organize, preserve and protect in perpetuity the resources associated with Edna Kimbro’s personal library and research. The goal is to make this material accessible to researchers, students, professionals, and the public, and to provide research support to further the study of early California history. The Archive specifically contains material focused on the
history of the Juan Jose Castro Adobe, the Castro family, as well as subsequent owners of the historic adobe. Resources related to the adobe since the California State Park’s acquisition are also preserved in the Archive. There are extensive research files on the Santa Cruz Mission Adobe, Mission Hill, the Branciforte Adobe and Villa de Branciforte, the Bolcoff Adobe at Wilder Ranch, and the adobes in Monterey and elsewhere in California. The archive also includes the Fred Webster Collection (earth-en building structural engineer who worked with Edna), the Villa de Branciforte Collection (research of Marion Pokriots and Ed Silveira/Villa de Branciforte Preservation Society), and other archaeological and artifactual materials that further the understanding of our area’s early history.

For more information please contact Charlene Duval at: cduval@cruzio.com

ONLINE ARCHIVE OF CALIFORNIA (OAC) provides free public access to detailed descriptions of primary resource collections maintained by more than 300 contributing institutions including libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums throughout California and collections maintained by the 10 University of California (UC) campuses. Open the virtual doors of these institutions from our home page. The key is the OAC’s more than 55,000 online collection guides. You can use these to browse, locate resources, or view selected items digitally (the OAC contains more than 240,000 digital images and documents) or learn how you can gain access to the physical objects. The OAC’s comprehensive online collection guides make it easy to find collections and locate individual objects. These guides provide detailed descriptions of the items in a collection, as well as background, historical studies, and analyses (when available). Selected items have been digitally scanned for immediate online viewing. See: https://oac.cdlib.org/

PAJARO VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Borina Archive & Alzora Snyder and Jane Borg Research Center has numerous collections of information and physical artifacts documenting various aspects of Pajaro Valley history. There are thousands of photographs and documents in the following file collections: family, business, organization, agriculture, church, school, building and homes. Some special collections include Betty Lewis, William Weeks, Charley Parkhurst and the extensive costume collection. The Volck Museum and Tank House contain the larger artifact collections. Access to these collections is by membership or through special arrangement. https://www.pajarovalleyhistory.org/archives/

Please phone for appointment: 831.722.0305 or email: info@pajarovalleyhistory.org

SAN LORENZO VALLEY MUSEUM
12547 Highway 9, P.O. Box 576
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
831-338-8382
https://www.slv museum.org/index.html

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY (MAH)
705 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
https://www.santacruzmah.org/history-collection

The Archive is open by appointment and offers research material pertaining to all aspects of Santa
Cruz County history. Please contact MAH at 831.429.1964 x7019 or archives@santacruzmah.org for any research requests.

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY
Downtown Branch
224 Church Street
831-427-7707

The library collection contains a wide-range of material on Santa Cruz County history, including local history articles, photographs, and a large collection of books about California and local history. Information on local history collections will be found here:
https://history.santacruzpl.org/omeka/#_ga=2.195257644.1201677463.1650513103-1095214277.1638835805

SOURISSEAU ACADEMY FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
Special Collections Reading Room, 5th Floor
150 E. San Fernando St.
San José, CA 95112

The Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History is located in the Special Collections Reading Room of the King Library, at San Jose State University. Sourisseau maintains an extensive photograph and ephemera collection relating to the history of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Mateo, and Alameda counties. The Academy staff of historians and archivists provide research assistance and access to our archives. Sourisseau currently houses over 350 photos that relate to Santa Cruz County. Some finding aides are on the Online Archive of California (OAC) and some photo collections are on Calisphere. See www.sourisseauacademy.org
Contact email: research@sourisseauacademy.org

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

“We are here to preserve, share, and promote the Library’s unique primary sources for the use of UCSC’s academic community as well as the general public. Our collections include the University Archives, photographs, maps, rare books, and the archives of many individuals and organizations. These materials support a variety of research projects in the arts, humanities, and history of science. We support the University’s academic program and its instructional and research interests, document the cultural heritage of the Santa Cruz region, and maintain the historical record of UCSC.”
Browse Digital Collections: https://digitalcollections.library.ucsc.edu/
For Current Reading Room Hours: https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/speccoll

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS/CORRECTIONS TO JOE MICHALAK:
joemich1@gmail.com
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