

## Property Information Search at the SAHSRL

There are many reasons why users may be interested in the historic information of a property. Patrons who are interested in property information include realtors, archaeologists, property buyers, and researchers. Here are a list of property search resources at the Research Library:

- FMSF – Florida Master Site Files:

The Florida Master Site File is the State of Florida's official inventory of historical, cultural resources.

Categories of resources recorded at the Site File include:

- Archaeological sites
- Historical structures
- Historical cemeteries
- Historical bridges
- Historic districts, landscapes and linear features

The Site File also maintains copies of archaeological and historical survey reports and other manuscripts relevant to history and historic preservation in Florida. The Site File currently holds information on more than 200,000 cultural resources and copies of over 22,000 manuscripts. Site File staff are available to assist citizens, government agencies and historic preservation professionals in performing searches and obtaining information from our inventory.

The official site for FMSF is <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/master-site-file/>

- Property Card Index:

Another resource found in Aston are the Property Card Index files. These documents are kept on 16mm negative reels. To find with reel and frame number, we must have the PIN (Parcel ID Number). If the researcher does not have this number, it can be found on the St. Johns County Property Appraiser's Site: <https://www.sjcpa.us/>

- Please note if Research Library staff pulls the Property Card information there is a \$10 charge for the research time. There is NO GUARANTEE what information will be found.

- Colonial St. Augustine Vertical Files:

These files are found inhouse at the Research Library. Arranged by specific street address or street these files contain newspaper clippings, reports, maps and other material related to that address.

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps of Florida:

As per University of Florida's George A. Smather's Library Website - The maps were mainly designed to help fire insurance agents determine the degree of damage to a property and show accurate information to help them determine risks and establish premiums. They showed the size (including color-coding), shape and construction of buildings (brick, adobe, frame, etc), dwellings (including hotels and churches), and other structures such as bridges, docks and barns. Along with fire stations, you could also find water facilities, sprinklers, hydrants, cisterns, and alarm boxes as well as firewalls, windows, doors, elevators and chimneys and roof types. The maps included street names, property boundaries and lot lines, and house and block numbers. Other information such as the latest census figures, prevailing winds; railroad lines and Indian reservations and topography were included. Today, the maps are an invaluable guide to inner-city history, land use, and historic preservation.

The Research Library has copies of various years, but you can also find them online here: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/sanborn>

- City Directories:

A city directory is a listing of residents, streets, businesses, organizations or institutions, giving their location in a city. They are arranged alphabetically and geographically by street name. You can see the list of available city directories on our [online catalog](#).