

## **PENSACOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESOURCE CENTER: Your Research Source for Northwest Florida History**

The Pensacola Historical Society division of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. maintains an extensive collection of archival materials available to the public for research:

**Local Images:** 50,000+ photograph collection contains images dating from the mid-1800s to the present, including portraits, street scenes, notable buildings, residences, fortifications, ships, industries, the Navy, and festivals; as well as a myriad of other subjects; large collections of film and glass negatives by local photographers; extensive collections of postcards, local brochures, and handbills.

**Civil War:** correspondence; diaries; maps and drawings; military documents; woodcut images from *Harper's Weekly* and other similar publications.

**Genealogy:** Thousands of local family trees; city directories; telephone books; cemetery records; records of the Spanish Land Grants; deeds; extensive files of local newspaper clippings; and census records. Ancestry.com and GenealogyBank.com are available on our computers.

**Building Restoration and Period Redecoration:** Architectural Review Board files; building files for structures in The Pensacola Historic District, The North Hill Preservation District, The Old East Hill Historic District, The Downtown Preservation District, the West-East Hill area, the East Hill area, and the Belmont Devilliers (West Hill) area; vintage builder's magazines show paint schemes and construction techniques; advertisements for vintage furniture, accessories, hardware, appliances, etc.

**Maps and Blueprints:** Late-19<sup>th</sup> through mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps of Pensacola; hundreds of local and southeastern US maps from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present illustrating early communities, roads, rail-lines, streets and local landmarks; blueprints and subdivision plats from several local 20<sup>th</sup> Century architects and realtors; large format aerial maps of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties from 1964 through 1997.

**The Lelia Abercrombie Historical Reference Library:** many out of print and hard to find volumes about Northwest Florida, its industries, events, and people; books and pamphlets for artifact identification, dating, and basic conservation techniques.

**Local Social Life:** collections of scrapbooks; correspondence and family papers; newspapers and periodicals; greeting cards, event invitations, and ephemera; documents and ephemera from local military events and activities; fraternal and other organizational records; lithographs; broadsides; governmental and political documents; documents and ephemera relating to the Escambia Human Relations Commission and other Pensacola organizations during the local segregation struggles of the 1960s.

**Advertising and technology:** thousands of magazine advertisements from the 1890s through the 1960s categorized by subject; mail-order catalogs; owner's manuals; and direct mail advertising.

**Businesses:** business ledgers; business forms; documents and correspondence from business associations and unions, especially the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and related organizations.

**Newspapers:** A large collection of various local newspapers, including but not limited to microfilm of Pensacola papers from 1843-1905, bound copies of the *Pensacola Gazette* from 1834-1854, single editions of various papers from 1823-1877, and a few copies of *The Colored Citizen*. We do not have every year, or every edition of most of these papers, but we do have a good collection of early Pensacola newspapers.

**If we don't have what you're looking for, ask where else to look.  
We may have some ideas to help!**

**Research hours:** Tuesday thru Friday, 10 am - 4 pm.  
Closed all state holidays and December 24 through January 1.

**Research fee:** \$5.50 per day;  
Free to members and students from area schools and universities.  
For a full list of fees, please visit our website at [www.historicpensacola.org/collections.cfm](http://www.historicpensacola.org/collections.cfm)

**Please Note:** Due to staffing limitations and the advance preparation necessary to provide access to most of the museum's collections, we ask researchers to contact us to schedule an appointment. This allows us to determine what collections are needed, assure that they will be available, and explain any restrictions that may apply.

**Location:**  
110 Church Street  
The Resource Center is located beside the J. Earle Bowden Building (120 Church Street), the administrative offices of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

**Contact Information:**  
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