

Additional Resources

Historic homes and properties provide direct, tangible connections to local history and culture. The stories tied to these locations and the information gathered plays an important role in the preservation of these unique, local spaces. Marker programs provide an excellent way to document historic sites, preserving the heritage of our local communities for future generations.

Polk County Historical Commission Historic Marker Program

Polk County History Center
100 E. Main Street
Bartow FL, 33830
(863) 534-4386
www.polkhistorycenter.org



The Polk County Historical Marker Program honors the rich history of the county. Markers are available in three sizes and are used to promote and preserve the county's heritage. Information on the marker process and guidelines for submission can be found at the Polk County History Center.

National Register of Historic Places National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
www.nps.gov

The National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic Places. Information on the National Register nomination process, as well as educational and restoration publications can be found on the website. The Polk County History Center also has copies of some National Register bulletins.

For more information on researching your home or property, please see the online workshops titled Preserving Polk Pride: Researching and Promoting Polk County's Historic Sites available on PGTV and at www.polkhistorycenter.org.



www.flheritage.com

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Polk County History Center

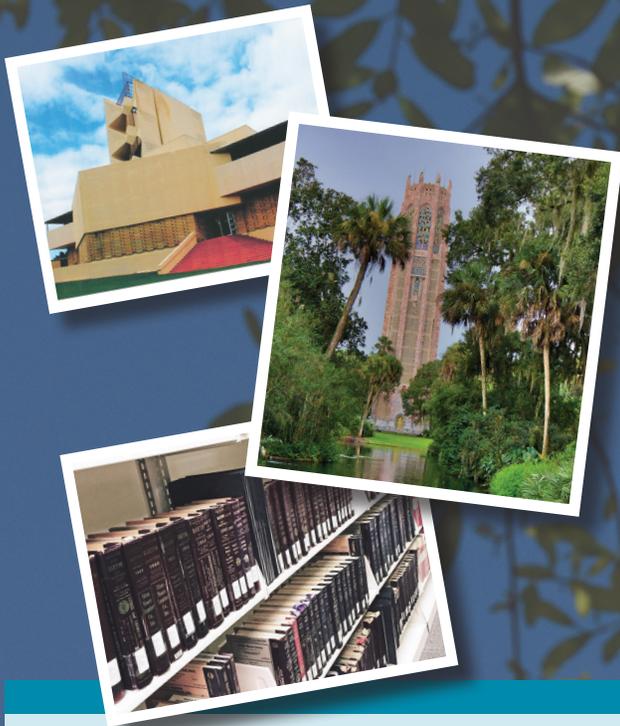
100 E. Main St. • Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-4386
www.polkhistorycenter.org

Open Tuesday through Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preserving Polk Pride: Resources for Researching Your Historic Property



A Guide to Polk County Resources



Preserving Polk Pride

Historic homes and properties have much to tell us about the rich history and development of a particular location. Communities across Polk County have historic locations which not only provide a window into the past but create a unique sense of place and connection to the county's historical heritage.

This brochure is designed to connect researchers to valuable resources in county and state agencies, at local libraries and archives, and with vibrant local and national preservation programs.

Library Records

One of the most common places to begin the research process is in public libraries and local archives. The archival and research items in the library at the Polk County History Center, public libraries, and local special collections contain excellent resources for historical research.

Polk County History Center Historical & Genealogical Library

100 E. Main St.
Bartow FL, 33830
(863) 534-4380
www.polkhistorycenter.org

Serving Polk County since 1937, the Historical & Genealogical Library houses a variety of resources tracing the history of the area. Researchers can access city directories, historical maps, census and vital records, newspapers, county histories, historical vertical files, and museum exhibits. The History Center is also the hub of the Polk County Heritage Trail and can provide information on local historical societies and museums across the county.

Polk County Library Cooperative

For a complete list of library branches visit: www.mypcl.org for more information.

The Polk County Library Cooperative website and branch locations contain information on numerous county-related historical subjects. Researchers can access the library catalog, search state and national historical databases, and request interlibrary loan items from the Library Cooperative's website.

Lakeland Public Library Special Collections

100 Lake Morton Drive
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 834-4280
www.lakelandgov.net/library/Home

The collection contains numerous resources related to the history of Lakeland and Polk County. Items in the collection include Sanborn and architectural maps, city directories, photographic and postcard collections, manuscript collections, city and historic district records and newspaper files.

County Records

County records contain valuable sources of information for residents researching their historic homes and properties. Researchers can access a variety of official records, including deeds, liens, mortgage records, marriage and death certificates, property records and maps, tax information, and easements and leases.

Polk County Property Appraiser

255 N. Wilson Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-4777
www.polkpa.org

To begin your search, utilize the digital maps and database which provides the parcel ID, names, site and address. Names gathered from the Property Appraiser's office are needed to search records housed in other county offices.

Polk County Tax Collector

430 E. Main St.
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-4700
www.polktaxes.com

The Tax Collector records are a subset of the Property Appraiser. These records give ownership and legal descriptions. Digital property records date back to 1999 and microfilm records are available to 1949.

Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Court

255 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-4000
www.polkcountyclerk.net

The Clerk of Circuit Court office keeps the official records for the county dating from 1861. Records available online include deeds from 1957 to present. For earlier deed information, you must visit in person. Additional information available includes liens, mortgage records, marriage licenses, some death certificates, wills and probates, easements and leases.