

# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

WATSONVILLE HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section  
900 N Street Room 200  
9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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First laid out as a town in 1852, the city of Watsonville boasted an estimated population of 53,920 people as of 2018. In addition to being situated on a historic California rancho and being the birthplace of Martinelli's sparkling cider, this area was also the chosen residence of famous California architect W. H. Weeks. Not surprisingly, given this city's historic nature, it has a number of historical societies and museums celebrating everything from the region's rich agricultural heritage to its fire department. If you are looking for exciting local information resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Watsonville!

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### [Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Watsonville on Internet Archive!



**URL:** <https://archive.org/>

**Type in Search Box:** (Watsonville) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

**Select Option:** "Search Full Text of Books"

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### [Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Watsonville. You can see them on Calisphere!



**URL:** <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

**Type in Search Box:** ("Watsonville")

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## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our Watsonville resources.



### Catalog

If you are looking for Watsonville materials your best source is our [catalog](#). You can do a general search on the catalog but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 7 of this research guide!



**URL:** [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank)



### California Information File II

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Watsonville deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



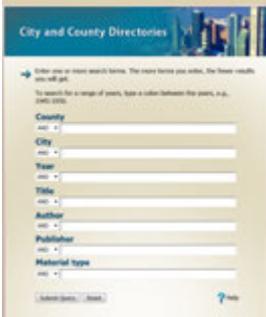
**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Search Box:**

1. Watsonville

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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### City Directories

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Watsonville



### Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryPhonebk.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Watsonville

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Watsonville has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

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| <b>Type</b>                 |                             | <b>Residents</b>                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Maps</a>        | <a href="#">Newspapers</a>  | <a href="#">Vitals</a>             |
| <a href="#">Books</a>       | <a href="#">Periodicals</a> | <a href="#">African Americans</a>  |
| <a href="#">Images</a>      | <a href="#">Statistics</a>  | <a href="#">Chinese Americans</a>  |
| <a href="#">Manuscripts</a> |                             | <a href="#">Japanese Americans</a> |
|                             |                             | <a href="#">Women</a>              |



| <b>Subject</b>              |                           |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <a href="#">Aeronautics</a> | <a href="#">Festivals</a> | <a href="#">Politics</a>  |
| <a href="#">Agriculture</a> | <a href="#">Fiction</a>   | <a href="#">Railroads</a> |
| <a href="#">Business</a>    | <a href="#">Highways</a>  | <a href="#">Religion</a>  |
| <a href="#">Cooking</a>     | <a href="#">Migration</a> | <a href="#">Taxes</a>     |
| <a href="#">Education</a>   | <a href="#">Oil</a>       | <a href="#">Water</a>     |

## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

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### California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections from a variety of counties.



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Santa Cruz:  
Watsonville

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### Map File

Looking for a Watsonville map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.



**Subject Headings:** Santa Cruz County

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### Photographic File

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file card catalog.



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Santa Cruz:  
Watsonville

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## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Watsonville information contained in the following resources.

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### Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual cities. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Santa Cruz:  
Watsonville

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### Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Watsonville. Most are not online.

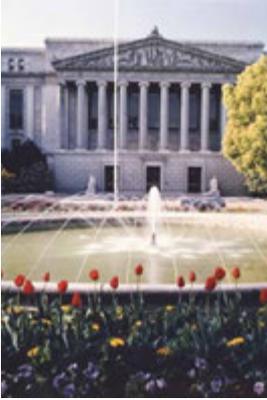


**Subject Headings:** Counties: Santa Cruz:  
Watsonville

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course, the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations



### Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
- <https://www.library.ca.gov/services>

### Other Organizations

[Santa Cruz County Recorder](#)

[Santa Cruz County Museums Partnership](#)

[Watsonville Public Library](#)

[Pajaro Valley Historical Association](#)

[Agricultural History Project](#)

[Rodgers House](#)

[Watsonville Fire Museum](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/rcd/index.htm>
- <http://www.santacruzcountymuseums.org/index.html>
- <https://cityofwatsonville.org/202/Library>
- <https://www.pajarovalleyhistory.org/>
- <http://aghistoryproject.org/>
- <https://www.santacruzcountyfair.com/fairgrounds/attractions/rodgers-house-1>
- <https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/465/History-of-the-Department>

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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:  
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>