

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

FORT BRAGG HISTORY



BY

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Founded in 1857, Fort Bragg was a military post under the command of Lieutenant Horatio Gates Gibson. As of 2018, it had an estimated population of 7,359 people. Fort Bragg's buildings are all fairly recent with the exception of 449 Franklin Street, which is an original building from the when the town was a military post. Another unique attribute of Fort Bragg is its reputation as being the only coastal city with a railroad connection. Travelers on the railroad have the pleasure of watching the scenic route outside their windows from Noyo River to the redwoods. 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 Fort Bragg!



[Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

Type in Search Box: (Fort Bragg) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

Select Option: "Search Full Text of Books"



[Digitized Images](#)

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



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

Type in Search Box: ("Fort Bragg")

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 Fort Bragg resources.



Catalog

If you are looking for Fort Bragg 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

Type in Subject Box: (Fort Bragg)



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 Fort Bragg deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Fort Bragg

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface for "City and County Directories". It includes a header with the title and a background image of city buildings. Below the header, there is a search instruction: "Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get. To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1940-1950." The search form contains several input fields: "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", "Publisher", and "Material type". Each field has a small "GO" button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Submit Query" button and a "Help" icon.

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

Type in Search Box:

1. Fort Bragg



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Telephone Directories". It includes a header with the title and a background image of a telephone keypad. Below the header, there is a search instruction: "Type in the city to search. If you get too many results, add the year to your search." The search form contains several input fields: "Location-White Pages", "Location-Yellow Pages", "Year", and "Material type". Each field has a small "GO" button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Submit Query" button and a "Help" icon.

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

Type in Search Box:

1. Fort Bragg

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

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

Type

[Maps](#)

[Books](#)

[County Histories](#)

[Images](#)

[Manuscripts](#)

[Newspapers](#)



Subjects and Residents

[Business](#)

[Cooking](#)

[Education](#)

[Fiction](#)

[Legal](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Native Americans](#)

[Politics](#)

[Shipping](#)

[Railroads](#)

[Streets](#)

[Water](#)

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.



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: Mendocino: Fort Bragg



Map File

Looking for a Fort Bragg 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: Mendocino County



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: Mendocino: Fort Bragg

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

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: Mendocino: Fort Bragg

Postcard Files



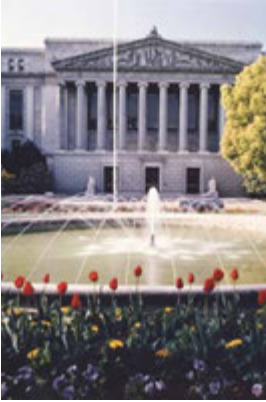
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Fort Bragg. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Counties: Mendocino: Fort Bragg

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



[Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society](#)

[Fort Bragg Headlands Consortium](#)

[Mendocino Assessor, Clerk, Recorder](#)

[Mendocino County Library](#)



URLs:

- https://www.fortbragghistory.org/?page_id=87
 - <https://www.fortbraggheadlandsconsortium.org/>
 - <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections>
 - <https://www.mendolibrary.org/home>
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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/>