

Oral Histories

Gum Springs
Heritage
Resource Study,
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Historic Preservation Information Series



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Department of Planning and Development, Heritage Resources Branch

What is oral history?

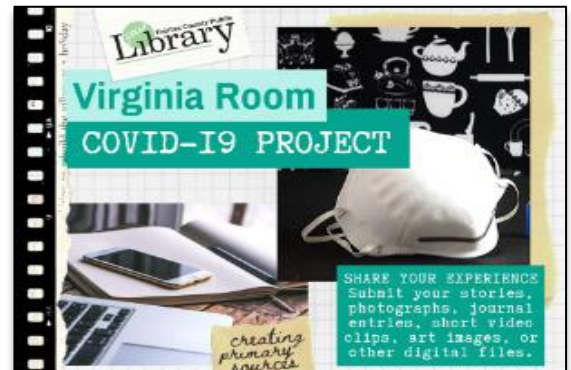
Oral history is the collection and study of historical information from individuals or groups who have personal knowledge and accounts of past events. Oral history is the oldest type of historical documentation and predates the written word.

Why are oral histories important?

Oral histories can capture stories and narratives which have been omitted from written historical records. Oral traditions, like storytelling, can preserve cultural identity and add wider perspectives to recorded history.

How are oral histories used?

Oral histories can be used to better understand motivations, causes, and impacts of historical events by capturing first-person accounts of events and cultural traditions. They require diligent preparation and ethical standards which must respect the individuals, communities, and cultures being documented. They are recorded, either through audio or video recording, to preserve information in its original format, directly from the recollection of the interviewee. Oral histories are considered part of the historical record. For example, oral histories were used as part of the historical record when the Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 was listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* in 2021.



The Virginia Room incorporated oral histories into the Covid-19 Project



Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 in Gum Springs.

Questions? Please contact Laura Kviklys, Senior Preservation Planner
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Scan the QR code or visit,
<https://bit.ly/44EiXli> to learn more.

