ABOUT DENSHO

For more than twenty years, Densho has documented and preserved the Japanese American experience from before, during, and after World War II. Our website offers hundreds of oral histories, photos, documents, educational resources, and an encyclopedia of Japanese American history.

As we continue our work to preserve this critical part of American history, we also want to enable members of our community to be their own historians and archivists. Learn more at www.densho.org.

This project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.
Preserve The Past

WHY PRESERVE HISTORICAL MATERIALS?
We understand history through the materials (photographs, documents, etc) that survive today. Preserving these items helps us understand and learn from the past.

WHAT ARE HISTORICAL MATERIALS?
Historical materials aren’t just in archives, libraries, and museums. We have them in our own homes. They can be photographs, letters, diaries, artwork, community publications, home movies, and audio recordings.

SAFEGUARD HISTORICAL MATERIALS IN YOUR OWN HOME
- Store historical materials in a stable environment (preferably below 75 degrees F and 50% humidity).
- Keep materials in boxes, plastic or paper sleeves, albums, and folders that have been identified as archival safe.
- Use soft pencils when writing on materials. Avoid ink pens and markers.
- If possible, store materials unfolded or unrolled.
- Remove all staples, paper clips, rubber bands, or pins, and do not use tape or adhesives on the materials.

You can also scan and preserve materials digitally. Visit www.densho.org/FamilyArchives to learn more.

Share Your Collection

If you have historical materials related to the Japanese American experience and you would like to share them with Densho, please contact us.

WHAT KINDS OF HISTORICAL MATERIAL IS DENSHO LOOKING FOR?
We are seeking photographs, documents, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, artwork, full copies of community publications/newspapers, home movies, and audio recordings.

WHAT WILL DENSHO DO WITH MY HISTORICAL MATERIALS?
We scan the materials, return them to you along with your own digital copies, then make materials available in our Digital Repository (ddr.densho.org).

CONTACT US
If you have a collection you would like to contribute to Densho or questions about preserving historical materials, please contact us at collections@densho.org or 206-320-0095, ext 110.