Local Historical Research Sources

La Plata County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

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The GIS data base is accessible on-line and provides information on land ownership, parcel details (size, land type, parcel number), and a legal description of the parcel. In addition, some parcels have "yellow card" information and plat map information. Yellow cards are handwritten notes with historical information about the parcel. They can provide an important start-point for researching a parcel. Plat maps are maps depicting townsites, subdivisions etc indicating individual property boundaries.

To access the GIS information, go to:
http://www.co.laplata.co.us/government/departments/g_i_s___mapping and click on 'Link to new mapping site.' A map of the county with main state and county roads will appear. Using the arrow, click on your parcel. The map will zoom in with each click until you can see the parcel lines. When you can see your parcel, click on the little tool bar "i" just above the map, then click on your parcel again. The ownership and other details of your parcel will appear on the left of the screen. To view the old card information, click on the 'Details' tab in the pop up section a then click on 'Community Info.' Expand the + sign in 'Parcel Information' and click on 'Property Record Card' to view the old 'yellow cards.'

Go to the 'Map layers' tab and click on boundaries and any other helpful layer. Click 'refresh map" and click on your parcel again. Be sure to click on yellow cards and 'view' to see the yellow card historic information.

With the ownership information displayed, you can also click on "Eagleweb" and get assessor's information. You'll need to create a free account and then the assessor information will appear with various subpages to view. If there are 'attachments,' click on them to see property photos and a map.

One of the most important pieces of information to be obtained from the GIS database is the legal description of the parcel. This will be expressed as Township, Range, and Section and perhaps, quarter sections. You will need this information as you research other types of records.