

HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH QUICK SHEET

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This is a quick checklist of where to go to find the information you need to research your house or building.

ABBREVIATION KEY: AFPL: Atlanta-Fulton Public Library; AHC: Atlanta History Center; DCH: Decatur City Hall; DHC: DeKalb History Center; DPL: Decatur Public Library; EU: Emory University; GASHPO: Georgia State Historic Preservation Office; GSU: Georgia State University; Mf: Microfilm; UGA: University of Georgia.

REMEMBER: A house/building must be within the city limits for information about it to be found on city building permits, city directories, and certain maps. Also note that the City of Atlanta renumbered houses/businesses in 1892 and 1926. Information will be found under the house number at the time of the event.

1. DATE (and history of ownership)
 - a. Building Permits: AHC (Atlanta), DCH (Decatur)-call ahead.
 - b. City Directories: AFPL, AHC (Mf), DHC, DPL (Mf), EU; Ancestry.com;
 - c. Deeds (chain of title, ownership): County Courthouse, GAArchives (Mf). FamilySearch.org under Land & Property, varies by county.
 - d. Newspapers: Mf at AHC & DPL, *Atlanta Constitution* at Newspapers.com and at GA Archives via ProQuest, as well as UGA. *Atlanta Journal* and other cities at GenealogyBank.com for other cities.
 - e. Tax Records: County Courthouse (online now) via Tax Assessors Office; older Tax Digests at GAArchives (1870s-present), some on Mf on Ancestry.com. See DHC Guide for more details.
 - f. Title searches: AHC, DHC.
2. MAPS
 - a. Atlanta 1928 Map Series: AHC, DHC, GASHPO.
 - b. Other: check AHC, DHC.
 - c. Plats: County Courthouse, separate plat books, Deed Index P for Plat, with the deed; see also DHC for 1910s to 1930s. plat-showing the divisions of a piece of land
 - d. Sanborn (GA 1884-1941): UGA: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn>, AHC, DHC, DPL-Mf. ProQuest at university libraries.
3. ARCHITECT (not always found)
 - a. American Institute of Architects (AIA) Office, Atlanta (Biographical info on later architects). You have to know the name of the architect.
 - b. Architects and Builders in Georgia Collection: GASHPO.
 - c. Books on specific architects.
 - d. Building Permits: AHC (Atlanta); for Decatur, see DCH-call ahead.

- e. *Industrial Index (1912--)*: Columbus, GA Public Library.
 - f. *Manufacturer's Record (1887--)*: EU (Mf), originals at GSU.
 - g. Newspapers: See above under 1. d. for newspapers. And Mf at libraries.
 - h. Plans for some are on file at AHC.
 - i. Wells, John E., Manuscript Collection, Library of Virginia (Georgia Files), copies pending donation to DHC. (from *Manufacturer's Record*)
4. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON ORIGINAL AND LATER OWNERS
- a. Ancestry.com: Census, GA Death Index to 1998, GA Death Certificates to 1940+, Passports, WWI draft data (full name, date of birth).
 - b. Biographical Sketches on prominent people: AFPL index (?); AHC; biographical volumes at libraries; DHC subject files; GAArchives.
 - c. Google the name in quotes, check Googlebooks.
 - d. Interviews with descendants.
 - e. Newspapers for obituaries, see GA Death index on Ancestry.com.
 - f. U. S. Census (thru 1950): Ancestry.com; Mf at libraries, GAArchives.
5. PHOTOGRAPHS (of house, property)
- a. Archival repositories/museums/online collections: AHC, DHC, GSU
 - b. Interview present or earlier owners, or their descendants.
 - c. Local Historians/experts- ask them for guidance.
 - d. Newspapers: See 1 d. above. Mf of AJ and AC at AFPL, AHC, DPL, EU.
 - e. Postcards. Books by Gary Doster; Online at GAArchives and other sites.
 - f. Publications about neighborhood/ the area.
 - g. Title Files (Land Title Abstracts) at AHC (companies that used to do title checks); DHC.
6. NEWSPAPERS- see above under 1 d.; Mf at UGA Library of most Georgia cities and towns (now Digitized at UGA/DLG). Atlanta newspapers had a special page for building activity, always worth checking. ProQuest at university libraries. Lots on Newspapers.com and Genealogybank.com.
7. RESEARCH FILES
- a. Atlanta Urban Design Commission (City of Atlanta).
 - b. County historical societies, county archives-a few have them.
 - c. Decatur Preservation Commission.
 - d. Neighborhood Associations/ Tours of Homes groups.
 - e. Surveys, check GASHPO and online via NAHRGIS at UGA.

See: DeKalb History Center's *Researching Your House (and more!)* online at www.dekalbhistory.org, then "Research & Archives," then "House/Property Resources" and then "Researching Your House."

See: www.dca.ga.org and go to the "Historic Preservation Division" area, then "Documents," then see "Research and Documentation." There you will find "Documenting a Property in Atlanta," and "Documenting a Property in Georgia."