

HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH QUICK SHEET

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January 25, 2020

This is a quick checklist of where to go to find the information you need to research your historic 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 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 and GenealogyBank.com for other cities. EU, GSU.
 - e. Tax Records: County Courthouse (lots online now), cards at 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.
 - d. Sanborn (various years): UGA: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn>, AHC, DHC, DPL-Mf. ProQuest at university libraries.
3. ARCHITECT (not always found)
 - a. AIA Office, Atlanta (Biographical info on later architects).
 - 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.

RESEARCHING YOUR HISTORIC HOUSE IN THE METRO-ATLANTA AREA

TOP TEN SOURCES TO CHECK TO GET STARTED January 25, 2020

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Questions to ask/answer?

1. When was my house built?
2. Whom was it built for? Who lived in it/owned it over the years?
3. Who was the architect?

SOURCES TO CHECK:

1. City Directories: (If the house is within the city limits, check city directories at the central libraries, historical society, history centers, or Georgia Archives.) Ancestry.com.
2. Deeds: (At: county courthouse; microfilm at Georgia Archives if before 1900); on FamilySearch.org, digitized, up to early 20th century. Differs per county.
3. Interviews: (What does the last owner know about the previous owners? The neighbors? Can you find a previous owner or family member to interview?)
4. Building Permits: (If within the city limits, check for Atlanta at the Atlanta History Center from the 1890s; for Decatur at the Decatur City Hall, starting in 1930.)
5. Maps: (See if the house is on a historic map located at the history centers, college and university special collections, or the Georgia Archives.) UGA online maps.
6. Census Records: (Check online at www.ancestry.com or on microfilm at an archival or library facility to find more about the people who lived in the house.)
7. Cemetery Records: (To find the death dates for the people who owned your house, in order to look up their obituary in the newspaper to learn more about them.)
8. Architectural Plans and Pattern Books: (If you find an architect's name on the building permit, check various archives/history centers for plans or at HPD/DNR for biographical material on the architect.) Google the name in quotes.
9. Tax Records: (You could start your search by checking online or in person at the County Tax Assessor's Office for the tax information on the property. It will give you the land designation for your property and sometimes previous owners.)
10. Newspapers: (Check newspapers for information about your neighborhood's development, people who lived in the house, obituaries, social news, and sales ads.) The *Atlanta Constitution* is online at newspapers.com and at the GA Archives and some libraries on ProQuest. UGA DLG has lots of GA newspapers online.

HOUSE HISTORY MATRIX OUTLINE KHT 2020

Historic Name _____

Names known by locals, not necessarily historic: _____

Address (and any previous historic addresses): _____

Date Built (Begun/Completed) _____

Owner (original) _____

Architects _____

Builder/contractor _____

Area Background:

-City _____

-Subdivision, party of the city, when began? _____

-Plat for the block/area _____

-Maps found on: Sanborn:
Atlanta 1928 series:

First Owner(s) _____

-Years owned (or lived there if
different) _____

-Biographical info./sketch?, Age, occupation, reason for leaving? Children:

-Published sketches? Checked:

Attach as reference info.

-Obituary:

-Social Registers:

Other owners/residents: list same info for them. If too many, just list names and dates
and occupations as basics from city directory.

EVENTS- any special social events held here? Weddings? Visitors?