My Old House: Searching for Your Home’s Story…

Print Sources (ALPL Holdings)

Green, Betsy J. Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood. Santa Monica, California: Santa Monica Press, 2002. EZG.6 G7952d


City and County Directories, Gazetteers

County Histories, Historical Atlases, and Plat Books

Example:


As of 3/20/13, the ALPL holds histories, atlases, and Plat books on most Illinois counties. The Boyd titles for approximately half of the counties in the states have been added to the collection.

Newspapers on Microfilm
Newspaper coverage of events such as property sales, construction, published dates related to estates and sales, building permits, etc., may be useful. You will need approximate dates of activity to make this resource meaningful.

**Print Sources** (The title below is available in the listed local libraries.)

Howe, Barbara J. *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History.*
Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1987

*Illinois State Museum*: 973 HOWE  
*Vespasian Warner PLD*: 907.2 H  
*Lincoln Library*: 973.072 HOU

**Electronic Sources**

[Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  

(Information from Ancestry Library Edition that will be helpful includes population schedules of the U.S. Census. Street names and/or house numbers begin appear on the census in 1900, while post offices, townships, ward/district information may appear as early as 1850. Information from the following types of data may be located on this website as well.)

--Agricultural Census schedules  
--Digital land ownership atlases and maps  
--City directories that have been digitally archived

Bureau of Land Management, Government Land Office Records:  

Digital Sanborn Maps:  

HAARGIS:  
[http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/hargis/](http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/hargis/)

Historic Map Works: Residential Genealogy:  

Illinois State Archives:  
(The databases and online resources below are some of the best choices on this website to consult when looking for information on properties and real estate.)

--Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database

--Federal Township Plats of Illinois

--County Fact Sheets

(The Illinois State Archives website is also a good place to begin looking for information about the following types of records, but you will probably need to seek additional information through local sources or the Regional Archives Depositories as well.)

--Public Land Grants

--Deeds

--Wills and/or Probate

--Tax Assessments


propertyshark.com
- lists all sales of a property for a certain number of years.


**Resources for Assistance with Restoration of Historic Buildings**

Fever River Research Firm: http://www.illinoisarchaeology.com/

Landmarks Illinois: http://www.landmarks.org/

**House & Building Plans Sources**


*Illinois Issues*, Jan 1990 (Capitol Plans). Springfield: Sangamon State University. **F896.7 I2962**

*The Radford American Homes; 100 House Plans*. Riverside, IL: Radford Architectural Co., 1903. **WIS83 R128r**

Ranlett, William H. *The Architect...Details...* New York: Dewitt & Davenport, 1847. **WIS R211a**


**House Plans & Research Sources-Chicago**


*Chicago Architecture Annual.* Chicago, IL: Metropolitan Press Publications, 1985. **F89 C53.7 M594a**


**Illinois Military Tract**

Illinois Intelligencer—Extra. List of Lands Entered on the Books of the Auditor of Public Accounts, for the State of Illinois, Subject to Taxation for the Several Years Set Forth (with Interest and Costs) and upon which the Taxes Have Not Been Paid…Lands in the Military Tract…in the Name of the Original Patentees…. [Vandalia, Illinois, 1828-1831]. HT896 I298L. Vault Oversize Flat Shelf


Whig and Intelligencer—Extra. List of Lands Entered on the Books of the Auditor of Public Accounts, for the State of Illinois, Subject to Taxation for the Several Years Set Forth 9with Interest and Costs) and upon which the Taxes Have Not Been Paid…lands in the Military Tract…in the Name of the Original Patentees…. [Vandalia, Illinois, 1832]. HT896 1298Lw Vault OverSize Flat Shelf

Gwen Podeschi & Caitlin Crane
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