

LINKS/RESOURCES TO USE WHEN RESEARCHING A HOME or BUILDING:

Even if you have a street address from city directories, etc., you will need to start with the legal description of the building/site which can be found on various documents: Wills, deeds, insurance policy/claims, tax rolls, plats, maps, county atlas, county histories, grants, bounty land, census records post 1880 can give street addresses, etc.

(For local research in Houston, Texas)

https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/docs_pdfs/candeleite_Guide_To_Your_Neighborhood_History.pdf

*****Step by step guide how to research a building/neighborhood (much of the guide is helpful researching in other cities and states)

<https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/>

City of Houston Planning Department

Maps of historic districts

Lists of designated Landmarks and Protected Landmarks

Tax Incentives

Historic Designation applications

<https://www.harriscountyarchives.com/>

Harris County Archives

11525 Todd St # 300

(near Hempstead and 34th Street but on the West side of Hempstead Highway)

archives@hctx.net

713 274-9680 - (must make an appointment)

most, bound city directories for Houston

old tax sheets for properties, although they threw out many of them, so kinda hit or miss if they have one for your specific address - email ahead and let them see if they have that particular tax sheet and some even have old photo

original bound volumes of Harris County marriages, deeds, probate, mortgage, maps, plats etc. records

<https://preservationhouston.org/research>

Preservation Houston - non-profit advocate for historic preservation

Many links are included in this website to other sites for researching historic buildings

www.houstonlibrary.org

(likely need Houston Public Library card to access other areas but not city directories)

City Directories, newspapers, genealogy as well as other links to sources, can be accessed by

click on search button

click on genealogy

scroll down to "Houston City Directories"

<https://houstonlibrary.org/hmrc>

Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) is a research library and archives that houses materials such as photographs, documents, maps (Sanborn maps too), building plans, journals, oral histories, newspapers, and books for the study of Houston's history. HMRC is located in the historic Julia Ideson Building in downtown Houston

<https://www.houstonhistoryalliance.org/>

The Houston History Alliance is an organization that serves as a resource for Houston's existing historical, preservation, and educational organizations and institutions, and includes many links to other historical/preservation organizations and archives

For Texas search)

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/>

Texas Historical Commission

How to designate an historic Texas site in the National Register of Historic Places or Recorded Texas Historical Landmark/Marker

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/texas-historic-sites-atlas>

Atlas features more than 300,000 site records, including data on Official Texas Historical Markers and National Register of Historic Places properties in Texas. Also included are cemeteries, courthouses, museums, and sawmills across the state.

https://vintageaerial.com/?c=FB20210923&utm_source=%7B%7Bsite_source_name%7D%7D&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=%7B%7Bcampaign.name%7D%7D&utm_content=%7B%7Bplacement%7D%7D&fbclid=IwAR1NT1Xtwz6YohOeSt6wWDghWdoiUJHLiLzGnAApTRHO7likXWyV5pExyqM

Collecting and presenting aerial photos of rural America in a way that evokes personal, family, and community memories and encourages the sharing of our common history.

Vintage Aerial is eight people of widely varying backgrounds who have come together in a common cause that each of us holds dear: preserving the heritage of rural America and sharing it with anyone and everyone who cares. We are passionate about history, about families and their shared experience, about story-telling, about technology and its powers. We created Vintage Aerial to share our passion for preserving the heritage of rural America – its images, its stories, its legacies.

Our collection of over 18 million photographs spans the second half of the 20th century, documenting a time in American history when life revolved around rural communities and small farms. Our common American heritage happened in that time, in those rural communities. We want to share the period preserved in these photos, and the memories they represent, with the generations who came too late to experience it firsthand.

Vintage Aerial uses the latest in digital imaging and data storage technology to preserve these irreplaceable visual heirlooms. We are saving yesterday's memories with today's technology, for the tomorrows to come.

<https://www.tshaonline.org/home>

Handbook is entirely online and includes 27,391 encyclopedic entries on the influential people, eras, and events of Texas history. Its staff of editors continuously works to add and update entries to ensure its accuracy and comprehensiveness.

(For broader research in US)

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm>

National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources and SEARCH for properties listed in National Register.

<https://houstonlibrary.org/genealogy-7314>

Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research, Houston TX has lots of searchable records and numerous links to other resources

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) collections are among the largest and most heavily used in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The collections document achievements in architecture, engineering, and landscape design in the United States and its territories through a comprehensive range of building types, engineering technologies, and landscapes

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps>

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions. Sanborn Maps were completed for towns of 5,000 plus populations, and were updated periodically as towns grew !

NOTE: HMRC has numerous, original volumes for City of Houston

<https://www.facebook.com/>

Search Facebook for existing pages for Family Historical pages, City and County Historical pages, etc OR create your own page for your surname or city or county historical group or subject, etc - for whatever subject which interests you and helps you to find others with same interest

Examples:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/337782839899674>

Twelve Pioneer Families of SW Missouri (Lawrence County)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OwsleyFamily>

Owsley Family Historical Society

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/718031682175890>

Early 20th Century Homes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1818140811835389>

San Patricio County, Texas History Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1158077974219964>

Sears Kit Homes

www.familysearch.org

Family Search, division of Church of Latter Day Saints

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>

TopoView highlights one of the USGS's most important and useful products, the topographic map. In 1879, the USGS began to map the Nation's topography. This mapping was done at different levels of detail, to support various land use and other purposes. As the years passed, the USGS produced new map versions of each area. TopoView shows the many and varied topographic maps of each of these areas through history. This can be particularly useful for historical purposes, such as finding the names of natural and cultural features that have changed over time.

This interface was created by the National Geologic Map Database project (NGMDB), in support of topographic mapping program managed by the National Geospatial Program (NGP). Geologic mapping and topographic mapping at the USGS have a long tradition together (see 1888 report). The NGMDB project is proud to assist the NGP in bringing these maps to the Web.

www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov

Records of the Federal Government's General Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management

<https://support.google.com/earth/answer/21955?hl=en>

Install Google Earth Pro -

Google Earth Pro on desktop is free for users with advanced feature needs. Import and export GIS data, and go back in time with historical imagery. There are over 100 Rumsey historic maps that have been overlaid onto the modern GoogleEarth. When you click on the Rumsey icon, you can access thousands of other maps. Also through the Newberry Library, Chicago, you can see the historic formation of counties from their origin up to today. Also you can take your own legal description and overlay onto the modern GoogleMap. Incredible website !!!!!!!!!!! Available on PC, Mac, or Linux.

<http://uark.libguides.com/c.php?g=79066&p=506548>

Arkansas Maps

<http://ulib.iupuidigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/IndianaPlat/id/2147>

Indiana Plat Books

<https://www.kshs.org/p/county-atlases-or-plat-books/13859>

Kansas Property Ownership

<http://digital.shsmo.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/plat>

Missouri Plat Maps

<http://web.lib.unc.edu/nc-maps/interactive/overlay.php>

North Carolina Overlay Maps

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/GLOHCM/>

Texas Historic County Maps

<https://library.harvard.edu/libraries/harvard-map-collection>

Harvard Map Collection, Digital Maps

<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries Project

<http://www.nhgis.org>

National Historical Geographic Information System (University of Minnesota)

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>

David Rumsey's Historical Maps

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>

New York Public Library Digital Collection (photos, maps, etc)

<https://dp.la/>

Digital Library of America

<https://metadata.library.illinois.edu/collections>

Historical Maps online - University of Illinois

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/index.html>

Perry-Castaneda Map collection

<https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>

USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer

www.loc.gov/maps/collections/

Library of Congress, Map Collections

www.oldmapsonline.org

Search engine for historical maps

<https://archive.org>

Internet archive

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/chia>

Core Historical Literature of Agriculture

www.hathitrust.com

Hath/Trust

www.filsonhistorical.org

Filson Historical Society - Kentucky

<https://history.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Historical Society catalog

www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/maps.html

Hargrett Library at University of Georgia

www.old-maps.co.uk/

Landmark and Ordinance Survey, Great Britain

www.library.yale.edu/MapColl/online.html

Yale University Map collection

www.unc.edu/awmc/

Ancient World Mapping Center, University of North Carolina

www.usm.maine.edu/maps/home.html

Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine

<https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/about.html>

NOAA Office of Coast Surveys

www.alabamamaps.us.edu/

University of Alabama map collection

www.hnoc.org/

Historic New Orleans Collection

www.olemiss.edu/

University of Mississippi maps from 1900

www.mdah.state.ms.us/

Mississippi Department of Archives

www.libraries.uta.edu/ccon/

University of Texas at Arlington

www.digicoll.library.wisc.edu/History/

University of Wisconsin Digital History

www.villanova.edu/library/digital/

Villanova Digital Library

www.docsouth.unc.edu/

Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina

<http://www.tractplotter.com/>

Tract Plotter (free)

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<http://www.directlinesoftware.com/home>

DeedMapper (subscription)

<http://www.arcgis.com>

ArcGIS (subscription)

Other sites for a fee subscription, membership or book to purchase:

<https://historicalcommission.harriscountytexas.gov/Lists/HistSocieties/DispForm.aspx?ID=30&ContentTypeId=0x01003A40D2B00CD7754583711B698DA26967> (membership)

Harris County Historical Society encourages, advocates and administers the discovery, collection, preservation and publication of historical information, records, oral histories, visuals and other materials relating to the history of Harris County, and to educate the public about the important history of Harris County, Texas.

<https://houstonhistorymagazine.org/> (subscription)

Houston History, a magazine published by the Center for Public History at the University of Houston, is the voice of history and culture throughout the Houston area. It aims to provide Houstonians with the opportunity to learn about all aspects of Houston's history. The articles published will seek to educate and entertain while exploring important aspects of Houston's history and culture. Includes many links to other historical/preservation organizations and archives

<https://www.usgs.gov/products/maps/overview>

These are general-use maps at medium scales that present elevation (contour lines), hydrography, geographic place names, and a variety of cultural features, such as dots for buildings, a cross for a church, and a cross in a circle for cemeteries, etc.. Current-generation topographic maps are created from digital GIS databases, and are branded "US Topo." Historic maps originally published as paper documents in the period 1884-2006 are available as scanned images. NOTE: Randy Pace suggests finding the oldest map available, as they are periodically updated. I have found old ones on sites such as www.eBay.com

www.arphax.com (check your local library to see if they already have the Family Map book you need - per John Dorroh, Clayton Library Friends, Director of Acquisitions, Clayton Library has acquired ALL the available books from this source, but if you may want your own personal copy. For out of print copies, Randy Pace has found some on eBay.com; go to:

Family historians know how much valuable information can be learned by analyzing land records from our nation's early settlers, and these researchers have gained much by utilizing "first-owner" land records found in indexes compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Greg Boyd, a software engineer, lawyer, businessman, and genealogist, has taken those records and mapped them, county by county, through much of the 25 of 29 public-land states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska,

New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. Note: Texas books are in a totally separate series: the Texas Land Survey Maps series.

<https://www.historygeo.com/> - subscription (can be accessed through Clayton Library with your HPL card)

Brought to you by Arphax Publishing Co., HistoryGeo.com is a family history software service for linking old maps and land records to your genealogy research. Until recently, we were probably best known for providing online versions of the Family Maps and Texas Land Survey Maps book series, but that perception has changed since the release of our revolutionary First Landowners Project. Instead of looking at landowner maps township by township, the website has a SINGLE, INTERACTIVE MAP containing over 12.3 MILLION LANDOWNERS among 30 states (all 29 of the public land states in the Continental U.S., plus Texas). The website is constantly expanded map coverage, and has the ability to keep track of all the early homesteaders you're researching. Sign up for their newsletter at: <https://www.historygeo.com/v3/newsletter/>

<https://hgftx.org/>

Houston Genealogical Forum was organized October 21, 1957, in the Historical Room of the Houston Public Library. Membership required.

To promote best practices through educational seminars presented by local, national, and international experts in a broad range of genealogical and historical subjects.

To keep our membership apprised of the latest developments in genealogical research.

Publishes "The Record" about a wide array of historical and genealogical subjects

To find out-of-print, rare books that you cannot find at Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research or your local genealogical/historical society libraries go to:

<https://www.worldcat.org/> (free)

www.bookfinder.com

www.booksamillion.com

www.amazon.com

www.arcadiapublishing.com

www.googlemaps

There are also several genealogical sites by subscription (check with your local library to see if they have a library edition subscription first accessible with your library card), such as:

www.ancestry.com

www.myheritage.com

Your ancestors wrote and saved postcards..... here are links to antique postcard shows, dealers on the internet.... where you can find an image of your ancestors places of worship, schools, workplaces and even sometimes their actual farm or home... Good luck hunting !!

<http://courthousesquare.net/>

Hundreds of antique postcard shows around the country.... There are two antique postcard shows in early October and March of each year !! Check out calendar of antique postcard shows in your area ! Also many areas of the country have antique postcard collecting clubs. Houston has the Tomball Postcard Club and the Houston Postcard Club that have monthly meetings. Google postcard collecting and find clubs, shows and dealers in your area !

I attended my first antique postcard show in Houston in Oct 1984 and found a real photo anrique postcard image of the Santa Fe Railroad Round House, Clovis, Curry Co NM, where my great-grandfather worked !

[https://www.hippostcard.com/browse/?show_only\[\]=listed this month&keywords=Real+or+RP+or+RPPC&listing_type=product&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Postcards%20211005-10055](https://www.hippostcard.com/browse/?show_only[]=listed+this+month&keywords=Real+or+RP+or+RPPC&listing_type=product&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Postcards%20211005-10055)

List prepared by Randy Pace but it is not by any means an exhaustive list:

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