

YOUR OLD HOUSE

Researching and Renovating Your Home



A publication of the
Special Collections Division of the
Akron-Summit County Public Library

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COVER:

697 West Market Street, Akron, OH

Home of S. Samuel Miller, founder of
Mohawk Rubber Company

from *West Hill Sketch Book*
published by the West Hill Land Company,
ca. 1905

How old is my house? Who built it? Who lived here? How did this neighborhood develop? How can I restore and renovate my house? These are some of the questions new or established homeowners may have about their homes. Researching the history of your house can provide answers to these questions, and may possibly reveal other interesting facts about the house you live in. There are a number of resources at the library and in our community that can assist with your quest for clues and answers to your home's history. This pathfinder includes a selected list of resources that may be found at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, as well as other institutions in our community. For assistance with any of these resources, or help finding additional information, please visit our website www.akronlibrary.org/specialcollections or contact the Special Collections Division at Main Library at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE AT THE AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

City Directories

City directories are an excellent source for learning more about the people who lived in your house. City directories, usually published annually, are divided into two primary sections. The alphabetical directory lists businesses, organizations and heads of the household, including place of employment and/or occupation and name of spouse. Some early directories may also include the names of children. City directories can help to approximate the year a house was built. The street directory is arranged alphabetically by the name of the street, and lists

residents by address. City directories may also provide clues to the ethnic makeup of a neighborhood. A scan of street listings may reveal that most residents were of a particular ethnic or cultural group. One caveat of city directory research is that street numbering systems often changed during the early part of the twentieth century.

Akron City Directories

1859-present (including most years for Cuyahoga Falls and Barberton)

Akron City Directories for the years 1859-1969 are also available in a digital format and may be browsed or searched via the Library's website from the following link:

<https://www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/historic-city-directories>

Biography File

In these files may be found copies of newspaper articles about local individuals that have appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal and other publications. It is arranged alphabetically.

Obituaries

Obituaries can be a valuable source of biographical information about local residents. Special Collections holds the Akron Beacon Journal on microfilm from 1841, and obituaries are indexed in the Hayes Research Library's Ohio Obituary Index, **<https://www.rbhayes.org/main/ohio-obituary-index/>**, a statewide index to obituaries published in a variety of newspapers and other sources including the Akron Beacon Journal and its predecessor papers.

Ohio Death Certificates, 1908-1953

Biographical information included on death certificates typically includes birth date, occupation, place of birth, parents' names and place of birth, and cause of death. Digital images of these records may be searched and viewed online through *FamilySearch*: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1307272>. FamilySearch requires the creation of a free account to use their resources.

County and City Histories

In the late 19th century, many county histories were published. These books frequently included biographical sketches about members of a community. Special Collections has an extensive collection of city and county histories for Summit, as well as other counties in Ohio, and other states. Additional full text local histories are available through the Library's **Genealogy & Local History databases**. Some may also be found on Google Books at <http://books.google.com/> and on Internet Archive at <https://archive.org>.

Family Histories

Special Collections owns a large collection of published family histories. Check the online catalog or consult with a Special Collections staff member for more information about this collection.

Estate Records

Estate records can provide valuable information about former house owners. Special Collections has Summit County Probate Court estate records on microfilm for 1841-1944. You may browse the index using the link under "View Images in this Collection" in the Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996 collection at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1992421>.

Census

The United States started taking a census of its citizens in 1790. Before 1850, censuses only name the head of household. Beginning in 1850, they name each individual in the household. Depending upon the year of the census, you may learn much additional information about those listed. You may access census records using the following databases: American Ancestors, Ancestry Library Edition, FamilySearch, Fold 3, Heritage Quest and MyHeritage. See the Library website for our list of **Genealogy & Local History databases**.

Land and Property Records

Special Collections has microfilm of the Grantor Index to Deeds from Trumbull, Portage, Medina, and Stark Counties, 1795-1840 and the Grantor and Grantee Indexes for Summit County, 1840-1914. You may also access them by using the FamilySearch catalog, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>. We also have a Summit County Grantee/Grantor Land Records Index, 1795-1840 in print.

Atlases, Plat Books and Maps

Special Collections maintains a collection of 19th and 20th century Summit County maps and historical atlases. See a Special Collections staff member for more information about this collection, or visit the Online Map Room on Summit Memory, <https://www.summitmemory.org/digital/custom/map>.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970

These detailed maps, produced by the D.A. Sanborn Company, depict commercial and residential sections of cities in the United States. Each map indicates the site, size and shape, building material, and use of homes, commercial buildings and factories. Sanborn maps for Ohio are accessible from Library website's list of **Genealogy & Local History databases**. Special Collections also has these maps on microfilm for the city of Akron and some communities in Summit County.

Other Genealogical and Local Historical Sources in Special Collections

Special Collections maintains many other genealogical and local history resources in multiple formats that may provide additional information about former homeowners. Our Archives Catalog (link at www.akronlibrary.org/research/databases-by-title#a) includes records for many items in our collections, including photographs. In addition, our digital collections site www.SummitMemory.org includes thousands of images of Summit County, including many of local houses. For further assistance, check with a Special Collections staff member, or visit the Special Collections website at: www.akronlibrary.org/specialcollections.

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL RECORDS

Summit County Fiscal Officer

175 S. Main St.

Akron, OH 44308

<https://fiscaloffice.summitoh.net/>

The Fiscal Office holds records and documents pertaining to real estate taxes and property values.

Auditor's Division (3rd Floor)

330-643-2636

- Real estate assessments
- Property appraisal
- Estate taxes
- Personal property taxes
- Mobile home taxes

Recorder's Division (4th Floor)

330-643-2712

- Deeds
- Mortgages
- Plats and Tax maps
- Easements
- Financial statements
- Land contracts

Treasurer's Division (3rd Floor)

330-643-2587

- Real estate taxes, delinquent taxes and tax certificate liens

OTHER LOCAL RESOURCES

The University of Akron Archival Services

Polsky Building LL10

225 S. Main St. (Enter from High St.)

Akron, OH 44325-1702

330-972-7670

www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives/

The University of Akron Archival Services collects, preserves, and provides access to primary and secondary source materials that document the history of the University of Akron and the region. It is also a local government records repository for a nine-county region that includes Summit and Portage counties and holds a variety of government records that may be useful in researching the history of a house.

Check their website for current hours.

BOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

House History Research

These titles in the Special Collections Division may provide additional suggestions for researching the history of your house and neighborhood.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Forms for Summit County

On our website at <https://www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/local-history/national-register-of-historic-places-summit-county>

Residential Architecture of Roy Firestone: Summit County, Ohio

Two oversized scrapbooks, with alphabetical and street indexes
Ohio--Summit County--Architecture (Reference copies only)
Also on our **Online Books page**.

Bauman, Libby

The Century Homes of Bath

977.136 B347ce

Dept. of Planning & Urban Development, City of Akron
Akron Historic Landmark Survey

720.28 Ak733a

Frazier, Kevan Delany

Model Industrial Subdivisions: Goodyear Heights and Firestone Park and the Town Planning Movement in Akron, Ohio, 1910-1920

977.136 F848mo

Gordon, Stephen C.

How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory

Ohio--History G (Circulating copy in Science & Technology.)

House History Research (continued)

Green, Betsy J.

Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood

907.2 G795d

Houck, Maurcia DeLean

If These Walls Could Talk-- : An Easy Guide to Tracking Your House's Genealogy

728.3707 H835i

Howe Barbara J., et al.

Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History

307.336 H842h

Light, Sally

House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home

728.37 L723h

Myers, Sharon

The First 119 Homes in Silver Lake: And How the Village Developed 1808-1930

977.136 M996f

Newkirk , Lois for the Hudson Heritage Association

Hudson: A Survey of Historic Buildings in an Ohio Town

720.9771 H885

Architectural Style

Architectural styles vary greatly among American cities and neighborhoods. A number of factors contribute to this. In Akron, for example, many homes in Goodyear Heights are of the English cottage architectural style. The reason for this is that F.A. Seiberling, the founder of Goodyear and developer of Goodyear Heights, had a preference for that style. The Library has many resources that can help you determine the style of your home.

Howard, Hugh

How Old Is This House?

Science & Technology Division 728.028 H849h

Massey, James C.

House Styles in America: The Old-house Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes

Science & Technology Division 728.372 M416h

Morgan, William

Abrams Guide to American House Styles

Science & Technology Division 728.3709 M849ab

Phillips, Steven H.

Old House Dictionary: An Illustrated Guide to American Domestic Architecture

Science & Technology Division 720.321 P563o

RESTORING AND RENOVATING YOUR HOUSE

Restoring or renovating an old house can be a rewarding experience. The library has an extensive collection of books to help you plan, design, and carry out your plans.

Jenrette, Richard Hampton

Adventures with Old Houses

Science & Technology Division 643.7 J54ad

Lawson, Jeanne B.

Complete Guide to Renovating Older Homes

Science & Technology Division 643.7 L425co

Lubeck, Aaron

Green Restorations, Sustainable Building and Historic Homes

Science & Technology Division 643.7 L928gr

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

Our Culture & AV Division has many how-to videos for renovating your home. A selection follows, but be sure to check the library's catalog for more.

So You're Renovating! Do-It-Yourself Video Collection **Fine Homebuilding** DVD Workshop

Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford

Ask This Old House television program

PERIODICALS

These titles are available in the magazines and newspapers section of the Science & Technology Division at Main Library. Some may also be available at branch libraries. Check the online catalog for a complete list of holdings.

American Bungalow: www.americanbungalow.com

Arts & Crafts Homes: <http://artsandcraftshomes.com>

Early American Life: www.ealonline.com

Old-House Journal: www.oldhousejournal.com

Preservation: www.preservationnation.org/magazine

This Old House: www.thisoldhouse.com/toh

Traditional Home Magazine: www.traditionalhome.com

Victorian Homes: www.beckettmedia.com/vh

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Cleveland Restoration Society and Preservation Resource Center of Northeastern Ohio

Sarah Benedict House

3751 Prospect Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44115-2705

216-426-1000

www.clevelandrestoration.org/

As a statewide and local partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this organization provides free technical assistance, resources, educational programs, and events to individuals and organizations pursuing historic preservation opportunities in Northeast Ohio. A monthly e-newsletter gives information on regional events, workshops, and the latest on local & national preservation news.

Heritage Home Program

<http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org/>

The Heritage Home program of the Cleveland Restoration Society offers free technical advice, construction resources, “how to” articles, contractor bid review, and custom work specifications to owners of older homes. Construction staff can also make a free site visit to your property to look at old house maintenance issues and make recommendations for preservation or repair projects. Great low interest financing is also available for homeowner projects.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION SERVICES

Historic Preservation Planning Program

National Park Service

1201 Eye St., NW, 2255

Washington, DC 20005

www.nps.gov/preservation-planning/

National Register of Historic Places

National Park Service

1201 Eye St., NW

8th Floor (MS 2280)

Washington, DC 20005

202-354-2213

www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm

National Trust for Historic Preservation

2600 Virginia Avenue NW
Suite 1100
Washington DC 20037
800-944-6847
<https://savingplaces.org/>

State Historic Preservation Office

Ohio History Connection
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2474
614-298-2000
shpo@ohiohistory.org
<https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office>

Sponsors “Building Doctor” programs to help homeowners identify and solve problems associated with old houses.

Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron

Preservation House
2074 W. Market St.
Akron, OH 44313
330-374-3787
www.preservationakron.org

A non-profit organization whose goal is to raise the consciousness of preservation in Akron and Summit County by actively encouraging the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and adaptive reuse of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods that are of historic or architectural importance. Meetings with guest speakers are held at various local historic sites throughout the year. In addition to cooperating and participating with other community organizations and local governments, PTP recognizes our community’s preservation efforts, sponsors conferences, tours and workshops, and publishes a newsletter.

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Preservation and Restoration Consultants

714 N. Portage Path

Akron, OH 44303

330-315-3298

<https://www.stanhywet.org/education-resources>

Stan Hywet has experts in architectural restoration, renovation and collections preservation on staff who can assist you with restoration and preservation of your home, office, historic landmark, or personal collection.

USEFUL WEBSITES

National Park Service

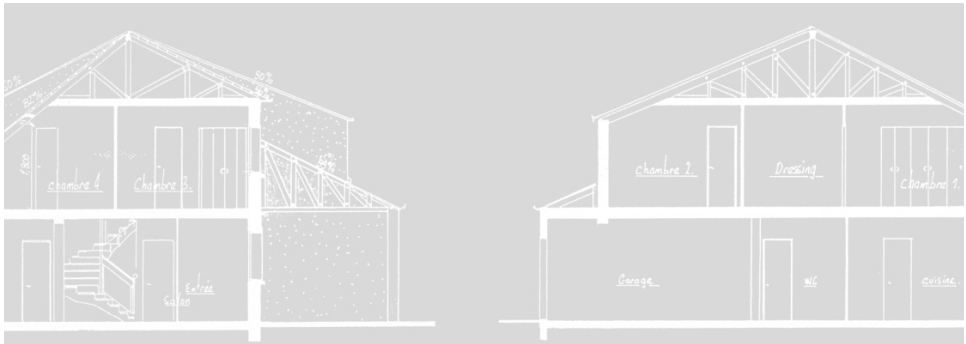
Technical Preservation Services for Historic Buildings

Preservation Briefs

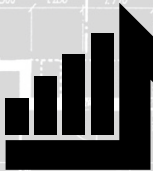
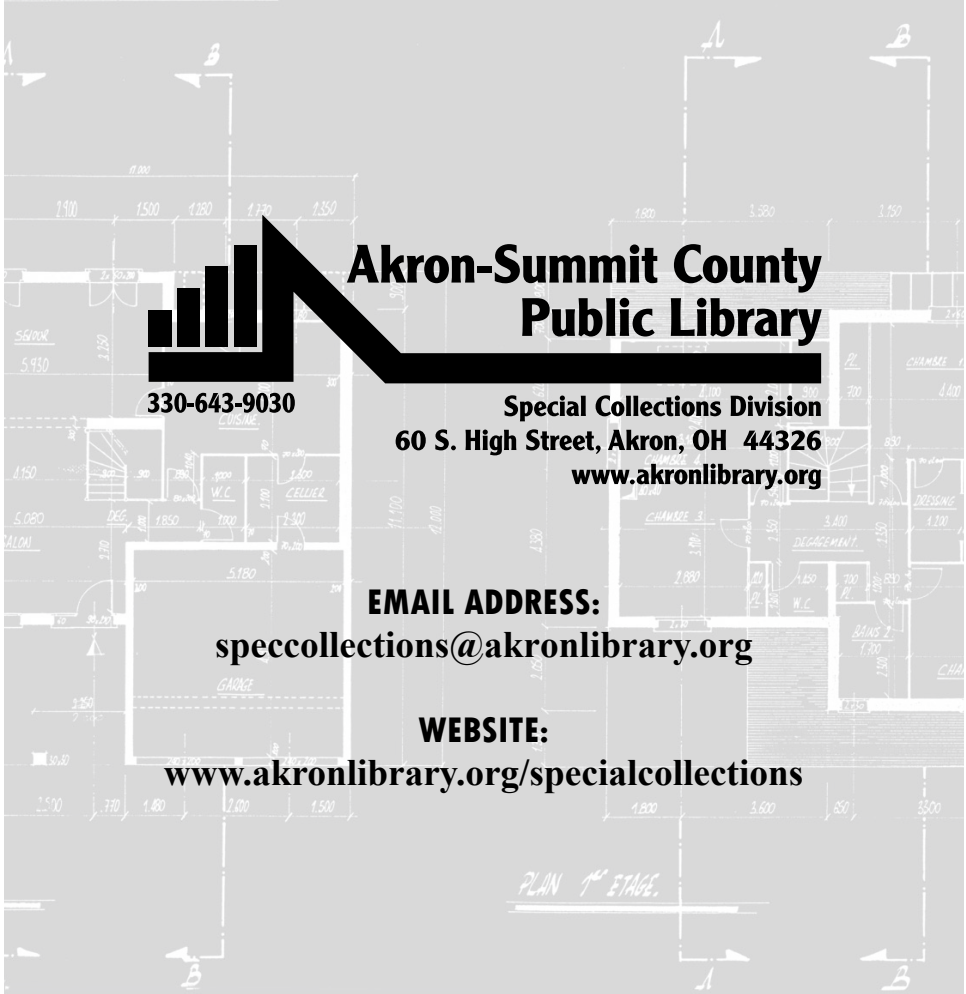
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm>

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>



COUPE A.A' COUPE B.B'



330-643-9030

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Special Collections Division
60 S. High Street, Akron, OH 44326
www.akronlibrary.org

EMAIL ADDRESS:
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

WEBSITE:
www.akronlibrary.org/specialcollections