

How to Research Your Neighborhood

Presented by the *Ryerson & Burnham Libraries*
 Saturday, November 16, 2013

First Steps: Defining Your Neighborhood

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| <i>Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs: A Historical Guide</i> F548.18 .K43 2008 | This print resource is organized alphabetically, and each entry contains a bibliography. |
| <i>Chicago Historic Resources Survey</i> NA735.C4 C378 1996 | Focused on historic architecture, this source is divided by Community Area (official city neighborhood designation) and provides helpful Community Area maps. |
| City of Chicago Community Areas Map | http://www.cityofchicago.org/dam/city/depts/doi/general/GIS/Chicago_Maps/Community_Areas/Community_Areas_W_Numbers.pdf Official Community Area map from the City of Chicago website |
| <i>Encyclopedia of Chicago</i> | http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org Many neighborhoods have entries in the Encyclopedia, which include historical details, information on significant events and people, current demographic information, and bibliographies. |
| A Look at Cook | http://www.alookatcook.com/ This free online source will assist you with locating ward boundaries and census enumeration districts. |
| Chicago Ancestors | http://www.chicagoancestors.org Search by address to locate information on neighborhoods, historic structures, and Chicago events. |

Neighborhood History Resources

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| Library Catalog (http://ryerson.artic.edu) | Use the default author/subject search to find books on Chicago history or on specific neighborhoods. For example: Chicago (Ill.) – History Loop (Chicago, Ill.) Search by keyword for terms such as Pilsen, Ravenswood, Streeterville |
| <i>Images of America</i> series | These neighborhood histories are heavily illustrated with period photographs. Specific titles can be found by searching the catalog for the neighborhood, or you can locate a list of all the books available in the library by searching the online catalog for the title <i>Images of America</i> . |
| <i>History of Chicago</i> F548.3 .A5 1975 | This history of the city, published in 1886, contains detailed accounts of life in Chicago through 1884, including information on neighborhoods. |

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| <i>Historic City: The Settlement of Chicago</i> F548.3 .C48 1976 | Information on settlement patterns of Chicago neighborhoods is available in this source, which includes color-coded maps depicting the areas different ethnic groups lived and how those change over time. |
| <i>Chicago in Maps: 1612 to 2002.</i> F548.3 .H94 2005 | Historic maps of the city from the 17 th to the 21 st century are depicted and described in this reference source, which also includes a bibliography. |
| <i>Streetwise Chicago: A History of Chicago Street Names.</i> F548.67 .A1 H38 1988 | Learn about the history of each street name in this reference work. |
| Subscription Databases | Available within the library at http://www.artic.edu/databases America: History & Life Chicago Tribune Historical Archive JSTOR Sanborn Insurance Maps of Illinois |
| Free Online Resources | City of Chicago Neighborhood Guide: http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/list/ Chicago Public Library Digital Collections: http://www.chipublib.org/images/index.php Chicago Daily News Photographs Collection: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/ Newberry Library Neighborhood Research Page: http://www.newberry.org/chicago-neighborhood-guide |

Architecture Resources

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| <i>AIA Guide to Chicago.</i> NA735 .C4 A43 2004 | A guidebook organized by neighborhood, with a preface that contains an overview of the development of Chicago architecture, with useful maps of annexations and the fire boundaries. Many entries are illustrated. |
| <i>History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago.</i> TH25 .C4 R35 1999 | A detailed account of the development of the built environment in Chicago, describing the architects, sites, costs, construction methods and construction materials for individual buildings, and listing primary-source accounts and images of each structure. |
| <i>Chicago Historic Resources Survey: An Inventory of Architecturally and Historically Significant Structures.</i> NA735 .C4 C378 1996. | Results of a 1980s survey of Chicago historic structures are contained in this publication, which contains information on the date of construction, architect, building style, and landmark status of each listed building. An excellent map of Chicago's community areas and guide to building styles are also included, as is an extensive bibliography. The inventory is also available online: http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarksweb/search/home.htm |
| Historic American Buildings Project/Historic American Engineering Record | Architectural drawings, photographs, and written documentation on more than 30,000 historic structures is available on the HABS/HAER page: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/ Information on the Illinois structures is also available in print on the open shelf as NA735.C4 I45 1960z. |
| <i>National Register of</i> | Building history, legal property descriptions, remarks on the significance of |

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| <i>Historic Places: Nomination Forms for Chicago Buildings.</i> NA735 .C4 N38 1978. | each structure, and bibliographies of further reading are included in the nomination forms submitted to the National Park Service for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. |
| <i>Landmark Neighborhoods in Chicago.</i> NA735.C4 L363 1981 | Detailed descriptions of 10 landmark districts in Chicago are included in this resource, which also contains a guide to 12 popular styles of Chicago homes, descriptions of individual landmark buildings in the city, and a bibliography of Chicago Landmarks Commission publications. |
| Ryerson & Burnham Libraries Archival Collections | http://www.artic.edu/research/archival-collections Photographs, floor plans, architectural drawings, oral histories of architects |
| Burnham Index | Look for articles on an architect or a building, most useful for the Chicago area in the 20 th century. This includes references to the <i>Art Institute of Chicago Architecture Scrapbook</i> . |
| Sanborn Insurance Maps | This subscription database is available within the library. Fire insurance maps show the footprint of structures as well as the building material, use (residential, corporate, etc.) and other information. The maps provide a snapshot of a neighborhood at a specific moment in time. Chicago Public Library's neighborhood index to the Sanborn Insurance Maps is freely available online: http://www.chipublib.org/cplbooksmovies/research/sanbornindex.php |
| Library Catalog (http://ryerson.artic.edu) | Enter building name (example: Uptown Theater (Chicago, Ill.)) Enter architect last name, first name (example: Sullivan, Louis) |
| Subscription Databases | Available within the library at http://www.artic.edu/databases America: History & Life American Periodicals Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals Chicago Tribune Historical Archive and Chicago Tribune JSTOR |
| Free Online Resources | Chicago History Museum Architecture and Building History Resources: http://www.chicagohistory.org/research/resources/architecture City of Chicago Commission on Chicago Landmarks Page: http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarksweb/web/home.htm |

House History Resources

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| Your House Has a History | http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarksweb/static/pdf/Your_House_Has_A_History.pdf An excellent step-by-step guide to researching your home, issued by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks |
| Cook County Assessor's Office | http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property_Search/Property_Search.aspx Search by address to find your property identification number; many homes also have an estimated age listed |
| Chicago History Museum Architecture and Building History Resources | http://www.chicagohistory.org/research/resources/architecture Address conversion tools, building permit index, criss-cross directories, and more |
| Chicago Ancestors | http://www.chicagoancestors.org/tools |

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| | Address conversion tools, city directories, and links to other useful sites. |
| Architecture Guides | <p>These sources contain images and diagrams to help you identify the style of your home:</p> <p><i>Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945.</i> NA705 .B55 1981.</p> <p><i>What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture.</i> NA 705 .P6 2003.</p> |
| Periodicals | <p>Periodicals may lead you to information on construction and permit applications, as well as floor plans and photographs of completed residences. Examples include:</p> <p><i>American Contractor</i> (1898-1912). Microfilm 2000 14. Free online index: http://www.chsmedia.org/househistory/1898-1912permits/search.asp</p> <p><i>Economist</i> (1888-1929). Microfilm 1994 4.</p> <p><i>Inland Architect and News Record</i> (1883-1908). Microfilm 1972 5.</p> <p>Some images from periodicals have been digitized and are available in the Ryerson & Burnham Archives collection search: http://www.artic.edu/research/archival-collections</p> |
| Directories | <p>Locate information on the architect or inhabitants of your home. Examples include:</p> <p><i>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).</i> NA736 .W5 1996</p> <p><i>Chicago Architects Blue Book.</i> Stack 4, 720.3 C53a</p> <p><i>Chicago Blue Book.</i> Stack B, 917.731 C53bL</p> <p><i>Handbook for Architects and Builders.</i> Stack 4, 721 I29</p> |
| Subscription Databases | <p>Available within the library at http://www.artic.edu/databases Search by address in the following databases (remember to convert the street address if searching prior to 1909)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals Chicago Tribune Historical Archive</p> <p>You can also use Ancestry.com (available at the reference desk) to access the U.S. Federal Census schedules and see who lived in your home during census years. You will need to use A Look at Cook to determine the ward in order to browse the census by enumeration district.</p> |

Public Art Resources

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| <p><i>Chicago Sculpture.</i> NB235.C45 R53 1981.</p> | <p>An overview of sculpture in the city, with chapters on the World's Columbian Exposition, fountains, sculpture and architecture, monuments, and public art. Many sculptures are illustrated, and maps and a bibliography are provided at the end of the book.</p> |
| <p><i>Guide to Chicago's Public Sculpture.</i> NB235.C45 B3 1983.</p> | <p>This guide to Chicago's public sculptures is organized geographically, and includes a section on sculpture in the city's cemeteries. Each entry is illustrated, and a chronology of sculpture in the city is available here, as is a bibliography.</p> |
| <p><i>Guide to Chicago's Murals.</i> ND2638.C4 G73 2001.</p> | <p>Organized geographically, this guide contains a map and brief introduction to each region, followed by an illustrate description of each mural. A section on murals that have been lost or destroyed is also included, as are artist biographies and a bibliography.</p> |
| <p><i>Urban Art Chicago: Chicago's Community Murals, Mosaics, and Sculptures.</i> N8845.C5 G83 2000.</p> | <p>This guide to Chicago public art contains a brief history of murals in Chicago, and is organized geographically. A map and introduction to the artwork in each region starts each section of the work, after which each artwork is illustrated and described. Biographies of selected artists, and a bibliography are also included.</p> |
| <p>Ryerson Index</p> | <p>Look for articles on an artist, particularly if the artist was in the Chicago area and was active in the early 20th century. This includes references to the <i>Scrapbook of Art and Artists of Chicago</i>.</p> |
| <p>Library Catalog (http://ryerson.artic.edu)</p> | <p>Enter phrases such as the following as a default author/subject search: Painting – Illinois – Chicago Public Sculpture – Illinois – Chicago Street art – Illinois – Chicago Try keyword searches to combine artists and locations, for example: Picasso and Chicago</p> |
| <p>Subscription Databases</p> | <p>Available within the library at http://www.artic.edu/databases Art Full Text Art Retrospective Chicago Tribune Historical Archive Chicago Tribune</p> |
| <p>Free Online Resources</p> | <p>City of Chicago Public Art Guide: http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/dca/Public%20Art/publicartguide1.pdf</p> <p>Chicago Transit Authority. Public Art on the CTA: http://www.transitchicago.com/art/</p> <p>Chicago Public Art Blog: http://chicagopublicart.blogspot.com/</p> <p>Chicago Public Art Group's Public Art Map: http://www.cpag.net/home/map.html</p> |

Beyond the Ryerson & Burnham Libraries

The following repositories have strong collections of Chicago history materials, and are open to the public. Please call ahead prior to visiting, as hours and services may change.

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| <p>Chicago History Museum Research Center</p> | <p>1601 N. Clark Street http://chicagohistory.org/research Hours: Tuesday-Friday 1:00-4:30 pm, Saturday 10:00 am-4:30 pm Free to members, open to others for a \$5 daily fee or \$15 annual fee</p> <p>Premier collection of Chicago history materials includes directories, maps – including Sanborn atlases, newspapers, photographs, architectural archives</p> |
| <p>Chicago Public Library Harold Washington Library Center</p> | <p>400 S. State Street http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/p/Index/ (312) 747-4300 Current hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-9:00 pm, Friday-Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.</p> <p>Chicago history materials include directories, government documents, newspapers, neighborhood history collections</p> |
| <p>Chicago Public Library Sulzer Regional Library Northside Neighborhood History Collection</p> | <p>4555 N. Lincoln Avenue http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/sulzer-regional/p/Northside/ (312) 742-4455 Hours: Tuesday 2:00 pm-5:00 pm and by appointment</p> <p>Archival collections on several northside neighborhoods, as well as directories and newspapers.</p> |
| <p>Chicago Public Library Woodson Regional Library Vivian G. Harsh Collection</p> | <p>9525 S. Halsted Street http://www.chipublib.org/branch/details/library/woodson-regional/p/FeatHarsh/ (312) 745-2080 Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-9:00 pm, Friday-Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.</p> <p>African-American history and literature collection includes local periodicals and African-American directories</p> |
| <p>Cook County Recorder of Deeds</p> | <p>118 N. Clark Street, Room 120 County Building http://www.ccrd.info/ (312) 603-5050 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm</p> <p>Tract books allow you to trace property ownership</p> |
| <p>Illinois Regional Archive Depository at Northeastern Illinois University</p> | <p>5500 N. St. Louis Ave. http://library.neiu.edu/whereinthelibrary/irad.html (773) 442-4506 Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm</p> <p>Chicago records include atlases and maps (Sanborn atlases 1907-1972), directories, and government documents</p> |
| <p>Newberry Library</p> | <p>60 W. Walton Street http://www.newberry.org (312) 255-3605 Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am-1:00 pm</p> <p>Chicago directories, genealogies, maps, newspapers, and periodicals</p> |

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| University of Illinois Chicago Daley Library Government Documents Department | 801 S. Morgan, 3 rd floor http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/documents/services/ (312) 996-2738 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm Collection of atlases and street maps focused on the Chicago region, and microfilm index to building permits, 1872-1955 (http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/documents/services/building.shtml) |
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Hiring a Researcher

Some Chicago repositories maintain lists of freelance researchers. Please contact individual researchers directly to inquire about rates and turnaround times.

Chicago History Museum Freelance Researcher List:

<http://chicagohistory.org/documents/research/resources/CHM-FreelanceResearchers.pdf>

National Archives Chicago Area Freelance Researcher List:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/hire-help/chicago.html>

Newberry Library Freelance Researcher List:

<http://newberry.org/sites/default/files/textpage-attachments/researchers.pdf>