



Northside Neighborhood History Collection House History Checklist

Current address: _____

Pre-1909 address: _____

Getting started

- **Guide from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks:** [Your House Has a History](#)
- **Street number changes** – Most street numbers changed in 1909. If your house was built before 1909, find the pre-1909 address in this [street renumbering guide](#).
- **Street name changes** - did the street name change? See this [list of street name changes](#).

General Building Information, including building permits

- [Index to the American's Contractor](#), Chicago's building permit column, 1898–1912
- Referral: Chicago History Museum has building permits on microfilm (1872-1954)
- [Digitized building permits](#) from UIC
- [Chicago Historic Resources Survey](#), for pre-1940 structures
- [Cook County Assessor's Office](#) – search to find the age of your home

Maps

- Illinois Sanborn Maps:
 - for 1920s-1950 consult CPL's Government Documents department using [Ask a Librarian](#).
 - Some available from the [Library of Congress](#)
 - Some available through Illinois Fire Insurance Maps Online (CPL online resources)
 - [Sanborn Map abbreviations](#)
- Illinois Fire Insurance Maps Online (FIMo; CPL online resources) - high-definition, color fire insurance maps, including Sanborn maps; real estate atlases; plat books and others
- [Robinson's Map of Chicago](#), 1886 (also available through Ancestry.com)
- [Rascher's Atlas of Lake View Township](#), 1887
- [Jefferson Park Township and Norwood Park](#) real estate map and publishing company, 1908
- [City of Chicago Property Viewer](#): 80 Acre, Sanborn, and Sidwell maps
- [Chicagoinmaps.com](#) gathers links to historic maps of Chicago

Former Residents

Reverse Directories

- [Chicago Elite Directory 1883-1884](#)

- [Blue Book 1876-1916](#)
- [1928 Polk Criss Cross](#)

Referral: Chicago History Museum – criss cross directory: 1928, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1978 to present

City Directories

- [Jefferson Township](#), 1886-87 (print copy in NNHC)
- Lake View Township, 1885-1889 (access through Ancestry Library Edition)
 - NNHC has print copies of 1886, 1887
- Ravenswood, 1891 (print copy in NNHC)
- Chicago City Directories (microfilm: incomplete run from 1839 – 1928, also see ancestry.com and HeritageQuest)

Census Information

- [Familysearch.org](#) – free registration required
- Ancestry Library Edition (available through CPL online resources - normally in-library use only; currently available to CPL patrons off-site through December 31, 2020)
- HeritageQuest (CPL databases)

(As a workaround for the missing 1890 census, try searching for males living in Chicago in the 1888, 1890, 1892 Chicago, Illinois Voter Registration access via Ancestry Library Edition)

Census Information - Enumeration Districts

- To find the EDs for Chicago use <https://www.stevemorse.org/>. Once you have the ED, search Ancestry Library Edition or [familysearch.org](#)

Newspapers

Available through CPL [online resources](#)

- Historic Chicago Tribune, Chicago Defender, and Chicago Sun Times
- Chicago Examiner, February 1908 - April 1918
- Chronicling America - full text of more than 500 U.S. newspapers from 1836 to 1922
- Newspapers.com Illinois collection

Photographs

- [CPL Northside Neighborhood History Collection](#) and [CPL Digital Collections](#)
- [Explore Chicago Collections](#)
- Referral: Chicago History Museum -- photograph collection
- [images.chicagohistory.org](#) – digital collections from the Chicago History Museum
- Referral: Percy Sloan Collection at Newberry. [Map of photos](#)
- [Chicago Ancestors](#) (Newberry)
- [Charles W. Cushman Photographs](#) at U of Indiana—mostly south side steel mill; Bronzeville; Loop

Did a crime take place in my house?

- [Chicago Police Department Homicide Record Index: Homicide in Chicago, 1870-1930](#)

If you have any questions, please contact northsidehistory@chipublib.org