



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](#) (actual link: <http://www.chsmedia.org/househistory/polk/Menu/PolkA.pdf>)
Note that this directory lists Chicago Streets in alphabetical order, and then street addresses in numeric order for each street. For each street address, it then shows the names of the occupants. Each letter of the alphabet has a different link. The one shown above gets you to the “A” streets. To search for a street name beginning with a different letter, very carefully change “POLKA) in the url to POLK followed by the letter of the alphabet you are looking for. Example: To get to the B streets, the url is <http://www.chsmedia.org/househistory/polk/Menu/PolkB.pdf>

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 EDs for each Census Year, use <https://www.stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>. Remember to change the drop-down list in the site title to the Census Year you are looking for.
- Once you have the ED, search Ancestry Library Edition or [familysearch.org](#)
- For help on using Census documents, browse other resources <https://www.stevemorse.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