

History of a House

A Guide to Researching Your House



Sources at Herrick District Library

Books

Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood, by Betsy J. Green
c2002 *Gen 907.2 Gre*

House Histories: a guide to tracing the genealogy of your home, by Sally Light
c1989 *728.09 Lig*

How to research your house: every home tells a story, by Pamela Brooks
c2007 *Gen 929.1072 Bro, 929.1072 Bro*

Researching American Land Records, c2002 by Kyle J. Betit *Gen 929.1072*

City Directories

Herrick has Holland/Zeeland City Directories available beginning in 1894. From 1894 until 1921 the directories list residents alphabetically by name only, but beginning in 1921 there is a list of names and also of streets and house numbers. These directories will tell you who was living in the house in a specific year.

Historic District

If you own a home in Holland's Historic District there may be information about your house at the library. Check the *Holland Area Resources Collection* next to the Reference Desk.

Newspapers

The Holland City News (1872-1977) and the Holland Sentinel (1912-present) are available on microfilm at the library. However, there is only a partial index available which was compiled by a local historian, and houses are not generally indexed, so newspapers are most helpful if you have a specific date you are searching.

Plat Maps

These maps document ownership of property. They are available for Ottawa and Allegan Counties (and some other Michigan counties) beginning in the mid 1800s. You will find city directories and plat maps in the Genealogy Department.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Maps that were created for insurance companies who wanted detailed information about buildings for insurance purposes. Herrick has the following years on microfilm for Holland (1883, 1889, 1893, 1896, 1902, 1908, 1916, 1925).

Other Sources

Holland Assessors Office

For houses in the City of Holland you can go to the website, www.cityofholland.com, then go to *Property and Tax Data*. In *Property and Tax Data* click on the *I Agree* button at the bottom of the page. You can search for information on your house by name, address or parcel number. Photographs are available for some houses. The Holland Assessor's Office is located at City Hall next to the Library.

Holland Museum

For older records you can check the Holland Museum for tax records for Holland City and Holland Township. Tax records should be available beginning when Holland became a city in 1867. You should bring a legal description of your property which is on your title or mortgage. A legal description might begin " Lot 21, Ex N 8 Ft Thereof ..."

Register of Deeds

At the Register of Deeds you can look up past owners of a house by name only, not by address. The Register of Deeds is not able to give a date that a house was built.

*For searches in Ottawa County **1946 or later:***

Ottawa County Register of Deeds
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
616-994-4510

*For searches in Ottawa County **before 1946:***

Ottawa County Courthouse
Public Resource Center
414 Washington
Grand Haven, MI 49417

For searches in Allegan County:

Allegan County Register of Deeds
113 Chestnut Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0390

