

RESEARCHING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY AT THE YORK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Uncovering the history of your home or property can be interesting and rewarding, but requires detective work. The Library & Archives has numerous resources for property research.

It is strongly recommended that you begin your research by tracing the chain of title (all previous owners) by searching the recorded deeds at the York County Recorder of Deeds Office. Please keep in mind that not all deeds have been recorded. The Library & Archives has deeds on microfilm from 1749-1850. It may be necessary to begin with recent property transfers and work backwards. These names and dates will become the “keys” to using the following resources in Library & Archives:

- 1850 Moody’s York Borough map: lists select property owners, churches and other public buildings in York
- 1860 Lake and Shearer map of York County: large wall map that lists select property owners as well as mills, schools and railroads
- 1876 Atlas of York County: township maps that list select property owners as well as mills, schools and railroads
- 1976 Atlas and Plat Book for York County
- Architectural books
- Dempwolf Architectural Drawings and other architectural drawing collections
- Family files and genealogies
- Grant Voaden Mill Collection
- Manuscript files on businesses, locations, people and properties
- Pennsylvania land grants: 18th and early-19th century warrants and surveys submitted to the Proprietors of Pennsylvania for the issuance of a land patents. Dr. Neal Hively has published a series of maps and books for York and Adams County land grants. Photocopies of over 13,000 surviving land records from this process are available.
- Photograph collection
- Postcard collection
- Published municipality histories
- Sanborn fire insurance maps (primarily for York City)
- Tax maps
- York city and county directories
- York County histories (which include biographical sketches and township histories): 1886 History of York County by Gibson; 1907 History of York County by Prowell
- York County tax records, available on microfilm for 1762-1849)
- South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society publications: No. 47, Notes and Documents Concerning the Manorial History of the Town of York; No. 63, Gazetteer of York and Adams Counties; No. 68, U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 York County, Vol. 1: Chanceford, Fawn & Hopewell Townships; No. 73: U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 York County, Vol. 2: Dover & Manchester Townships

These materials are available in the Library & Archives, located at 250 East Market Street, York, PA 17403, Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 5pm. There is an \$8.00 daily admission fee for non-members. See the Visitors Service desk for membership information.

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