

Resources for Researching the History of Your House

Compiled by the Sussex County Library Local History and Genealogy Dept.

Oral History:

Word of mouth

Inferred Data:

Architectural styles and designs

Physical Evidence:

Building materials such as nails, latches, hinges, door molding

Documentary Sources:

Property deeds:

Full deeds available at the Sussex County Clerk's Office:

- Online: https://sussexcountyclerk.org/ 1950present
- In-person: 1785-present

Deed abstracts at the Library:

- Richard M. Stevens Collection
- Clyde Downing publications "Sussex County, New Jersey Deed Abstracts" RH 929.3749

Early Land Records from the NJ State Archives: https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/dos_archivesdbportal/index.aspx

Search Deeds by:

- Owner name (Grantor = Seller, Grantee = Buyer)
- Deed Book and Page numbers

Resources for gathering data:

- Sussex County Tax Parcel Viewer: <u>https://gis.sussex.nj.us/parceldocviewer/</u>
- NJ Parcels: https://njparcels.com/

Wills

- Sussex County Surrogate's Office
- Sussex County Library Resources: Richard M. Stevens Collection, Ancestry.com

Documentary Sources (Cont.):

Wills (Cont.)

Sussex County Library Resources: New Jersey Archives Abstracts of Wills RH974.9 NEW

Census records

HeritageQuest or Ancestry.com

Tax ratables

 Some historical ratables lists were published in the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, which is available at the Library.

Directories

 Sussex County Library carries Newton Town
 Directories, and Ancestry.com provides access to other towns outside of Sussex County.

Newspapers

 Stanhope Eagle 1885-1950, New Jersey Herald 1849-present, Lake Hopatcong Breeze 1894-1982, and more

Vertical files

 The Library keeps clippings and pamphlet files about towns, buildings, lakes, farms, and more.

Historic Sites Surveys

- Local historic sites surveys at the Library such as Morris County historic sites survey [Borough of Netcong] RH 974.974 MOR
- HABS (Historic American Building Survey) reports available online at the Library of Congress

Maps

 1860 map of Sussex County by G.M. Hopkins from Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3813s.la000466/



Documentary Sources (Cont.):

Maps (Cont.):

 Sanborn Maps from Princeton University (also available through Library of Congress): https://library.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/aids/sanborn/sanborn-web.htm

Construction permits—See your municipality's building or construction department

Books, including these reference books from the Local History Department:

- The New Jersey House by Helen Schwartz
 RH 728 SCH
- How Old is This House? A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses by Hugh Howard RH 728.028 HOW
- How to Research the History of a House by George
 A. Chidley
 RH 728.097 HOW
- House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home by Sally Light
 RH 728.37 LIG
- The Dating of Old Houses by Dr. Henry C. Mercer RH 729 MER
- Map of Sussex Co, NJ by Griffith Morgan Hopkins RH 912.7497 HOP
- Early Architechture of Warren County by Dennis Bertland RH 974.978 BER