



## Genealogy of a House: Sources for Researching the History of Your House

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO): [www.hpo.ncdcr.gov](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov)

*These HPO sources can help you determine whether your house has previously been identified, photographed, and described in an architectural survey, included in an architectural survey publication, or located within a National Register historic district. See next page for information about accessing original survey files.*

**Books on North Carolina Architecture and County and Municipal Architectural Survey Publications:** [www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/bibliog.htm](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/bibliog.htm). Purchasing information is indicated when known. Many are out of print, but some may be available in local libraries, by interlibrary loan, or through used book dealers. A complete collection can be found in the HPO staff library.

**National Register of Historic Places Listings in North Carolina** by county, with links to nomination PDFs and map locations in HPOWEB: [www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/NR-pdfs.html](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/NR-pdfs.html). There are almost 3,000 NR listings, of which about 570 are historic districts together encompassing tens of thousands of properties. Nomination PDFs are searchable. The page includes a link to a text string search tool that will search keywords and phrases across all nominations: [www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/NC\\_NRnominationSearch.html](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/NC_NRnominationSearch.html)

**HPOWEB:** Online GIS service mapping 100,000 buildings, districts, and features in the statewide historic property survey: <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb>. The advanced version includes current parcel data: <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/default.htm?config=AdvancedUser.xml>

**The North Carolina Survey Status Report** provides a detailed account of historic property survey projects since the early 1970s: [http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/gis/NC\\_Survey\\_Status\\_Report\\_12-2014.pdf](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/gis/NC_Survey_Status_Report_12-2014.pdf)

**Digital NC: North Carolina City Directories Online:** [www.digitalnc.org/collections/city-directories/](http://www.digitalnc.org/collections/city-directories/)  
*You have the option to download a PDF of the entire directory and search offline. Digital NC also has online collections of newspapers and college yearbooks.*

### Deeds and Real Estate Records Online:

For Wake County, deeds and other legal documents back to 1785 may be viewed online at <http://services.wakegov.com/booksweb/>.

Wake County real estate records may be found at <http://services.wakegov.com/realestate/>.

Other counties may have similar services; check with county government websites and see *North Carolina Land Records and Deeds Directory* at

<http://publicrecords.onlinesearches.com/North-Carolina-Land-Records-and-Deeds.htm>.

Zillow.com and PropertyShark.com provide real estate information nationwide; basic service is free.

### Historic Maps Online:

- *North Carolina Maps:* <http://www2.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/index.html>. Sanborn Insurance Maps through 1922 are available free on this site. Click the Sanborn Maps tab.
- *Sanborn Maps North Carolina* (<http://sanborn.umi.com/>), a product of ProQuest, is the most complete set of North Carolina Sanborn maps available online and includes maps after 1922. This subscription site is available in libraries throughout North Carolina through NC LIVE ([www.nclive.org/](http://www.nclive.org/)). Ask your local library for information about accessing this site.
- Later Sanborn maps are also accessible (for a fee) from *Environmental Data Services:* [www.edrnet.com/environmental-services/sanborn-maps](http://www.edrnet.com/environmental-services/sanborn-maps).
- *Going to the Show* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/gtts/>) a project documenting the experience of moviegoing in North Carolina in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, contains images of over 750 Sanborn map sheets. These map images have been stitched together and georeferenced, enabling users to compare them with maps from other years, and with recent street maps and satellite images.

**Other Sources:**

**Books Available from Amazon.com and other online sources:**

*House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*, by Sally Light, Golden Hill Press 1989.

*Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood*, by Betsy J. Green, Santa Monica Press, 2002

**National Park Service Preservation Briefs:**

*Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation*. Preservation Brief 35.

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/35-architectural-investigation.htm>

**Historic Property Survey Files:**

**Original Historic Property Survey Files** from field surveys sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office since the early 1970s typically contain photo proof sheets, field notes and sketches, and interview notes; some have typewritten summary descriptions, research notes, correspondence, and other materials.

Files for counties in the central and eastern regions are curated in room G33 in the basement of the Archives/State Library Building, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, and may be examined by appointment only 9 AM-12 and 1-3 PM Tuesday through Friday. For an appointment, contact Chandra Burch, [chandra.burch@ncdcr.gov](mailto:chandra.burch@ncdcr.gov), 919-807-7286.

Files for the 25 western counties are located at the Western Office of Archives and History, 176 Riceville Road, Asheville NC 28805. For an appointment, contact Annie McDonald, [annie.mcdonald@ncdcr.gov](mailto:annie.mcdonald@ncdcr.gov), 828-296-7230 x 223. A map showing the three service regions of the Survey and National Register Branch is below; it may also be viewed online at [www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/spbranch.htm](http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/spbranch.htm).

