

HOW TO RESEARCH A BUFFALO BUILDING: SELECTED SOURCES IN THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



LAFAYETTE SQUARE, 1904

KEY

*	= Oversized book
Folio	= A really oversized book!
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
HSS	= In Humanities & Social Sciences
POP	= In Popular Materials Department
RBR	= In Rare Book Room
Ref.	= Reference book, cannot be borrowed

Grosvenor Room
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, New York 14203-1887
(716) 858-8900
www.buffalolib.org
Revised June 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library has a number of resources to help you research a house, mansion, factory, store, church, office building, or neighborhood in Buffalo.

While there isn't any one book or database of all houses and buildings in Buffalo, there are multiple sources that will help you narrow down a building's age and identify at least some of its occupants. In some cases, you can identify the architect, the first owner, and the exact year of construction.

Unfortunately, we have relatively few sources for houses and buildings in the towns and villages of Erie County. To research buildings outside of the City of Buffalo, start by looking at town or village histories, which often include pictures or descriptions of major buildings. We also suggest contacting the appropriate town hall and asking about tax records and building permits.

HOW-TO BOOKS ABOUT ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH

Since no one is born knowing how to research a house, we have some books that walk you through the process.

HSS Ref. *E159 .G69 1996

Greenberg, Gail

Comprehensive Guide for Listing a Building in the National Register of Historic Places

Sausalito, CA: Lucid Press, 1996

GRO Ref. *E159 .O36 1991

O'Donnell, Eleanor

Researching a Historic Property [National Register Bulletin #39]

[Washington, D.C.] U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Div., 1991

Online in full text at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/>

GRO Ref. E180. H68 1997

Howe, Barbara J., et al

Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History

Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, ©1997

GRO Ref. NA7205 .H678 1999

Houck, Maurcia DeLean

If These Walls Could Talk: An Easy Guide to Tracking Your House's Genealogy

Rockport, ME: Picton Press, ©1999

GRO Ref. & HSS NA7205 .H73

Howard, Hugh

How Old Is This House?

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1989

GRO Ref. & HSS NA7205 .L43

Light, Sally

House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home

Spencertown, NY: Golden Hill Press, ©1989

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

Very few local architects, contractors, and their work have been documented in book form.

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B8 B2925

Architectural Portfolio of Some of the Buildings Erected by M. E. Beebe & Son, Architects...

Buffalo, NY: The Wenborne-Sumner Co., 1895

GRO Buffalo F129 .B853 R389 1996

Whitman, Roger

The Rise and Fall of a Frontier Entrepreneur: Benjamin Rathbun, "Master Builder and Architect"

Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press and Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, ©1996

GRO Buffalo *HD9715 .U54 C59

John W. Cowper Company

Fifty Years in Construction

Buffalo, NY: The Company, ©1965

HSS NA54 .N7 A3

University of the State of New York

Registered Architects

[Albany, NY]

A bi-annual directory of architects practicing in New York State. We have 1946-1972.

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

GRO Buffalo *NA735 .B9 L68 1996

Wachadlo, Martin

Louise Blanchard Bethune and Her Office: Partial List of Known Works, 1883-1897...

[Blasdell, NY: Martin Wachadlo, 1996?]

HSS NA736 .W5

Withey, Henry & Elsie

Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)

Los Angeles, CA: New Age Pub. Co., ©1956

A good source for everyday architects rather than superstars; includes some Buffalonians

GRO Buffalo *NA737 .C69 M56 2001

Mingus, Nancy

John Hopper Coxhead: The Client Connections

[Baltimore, MD: Goucher College], ©2001

GRO Buffalo *NA737 .G727 A4 1997

Mead, Gerald C., ed.

E. B. Green: Buffalo's Architect

[Buffalo, NY]: Buffalo State College Foundation, ©1997

GRO Buffalo *NA737 .K48 K25 1977

The KSFL Partnership

[Buffalo, NY:] Kidney, Smith, Fitzgerald, Laping, [1977]

HSS *NA Z5941 .C64

Avery Obituary Index of Architects and Artists

Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1963

Includes some Buffalonians

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL BUILDINGS

The following volumes are found in the Grosvenor Room and may not be borrowed. In a few cases, there are duplicate copies in the Humanities & Social Sciences Department, which you may borrow. This list is not exhaustive. For example, we have a separate handout for **Frank Lloyd Wright** and for the **New York Central Terminal**.

GRO Buffalo *F120 .W28 1989

Wallace, David H.

The Ansley Wilcox House and its Furnishings: Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Buffalo, New York

Harpers Ferry, WV: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center, 1989

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B86 D45 2003

Dunn, Edward T.

Buffalo's Delaware Avenue: Mansions and Families

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, 2003

GRO Buffalo F129 .B875 O248 2006

Wachadlo, Martin

Gracious Living in Buffalo Oakland Place

Buffalo, NY: Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, ©2006

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B875 P593 2006

Brown, Christopher N.

Historic Plymouth Avenue: A Survey of the History and Structures of Plymouth Avenue from Hudson Street to Porter Avenue in Buffalo, New York

Buffalo, NY: Kleinhans Community Association, [©2006]

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL BUILDINGS

GRO Buffalo F129 .B88 A2 2000

Parkside Past & Present: Second Annual Parkside Community Association Home Tour
[Buffalo, NY: Parkside Community Association], 2000

GRO Buffalo F129 .B88 A23 1996

Historic Allentown Tour of Homes: 1996
Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association, Inc.], 1996

GRO Buffalo F129 .B88 A233

Secrets of Allentown: The ... Allentown Tour of Homes & Taste of Allentown
[Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association?], various dates

GRO Buffalo F129 .B88 A25 2003

Levine, Linda R.
Beautiful Buffalo: Preserving a City
Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, ©2003

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B88 A26 1982

Pollack, Susan M., ed.
A New Look at an Old Neighborhood: Historic Homes of Buffalo's Linwood Avenue Preservation District, 1820-1982
Buffalo, NY: Linwood-Oxford Association, ©1982

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B88 B74 1998

An Architectural Profile: 1898-1998
Buffalo, NY: M & T Bank, 1998

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B88 B76 1999

Brown, Chris
Walking Tour February 20, 1999
Buffalo, NY: Kleinhans Community Association, [1999]
Symphony Circle area

GRO Buffalo F129 .B88 C93 1989

Discovering Our Past, Designing Our Future : A History of the Buffalo Cyclorama Building
[Buffalo, NY: Ciminelli Companies, 1989?]

GRO Buffalo *F129 .B88 E4 1993

Efron, Sonia R.
Buffalo's Brick Italianates: An Allentown Legacy
Buffalo, NY: [S. Efron], ©1993

GRO Buffalo *HN45 .B8 B8 1994

Historic Firehouses of Buffalo, N.Y.
Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Fire Historical Society, 1994

GRO Ref. LD701 .B43 R87 1993

Rupley, Frances
A Walking Tour of the University at Buffalo & Other Area Architectural Treasures
Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1993

GRO Buffalo N525 .A8 1987

Sanford, John Douglas
The Gallery Architects: Edward B. Green and Gordon Bunshaft
Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, ©1987

GRO & HSS *NA730 .N42 E8

Fox, Austin, ed.
Erie County's Architectural Legacy
Buffalo, NY: Erie County Preservation Board, ©1983
A good source for significant buildings outside of Buffalo

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL BUILDINGS

GRO NA735 .B83 B83

Kowsky, Francis, et al

Buffalo Architecture: A Guide

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, ©1981

GRO Buffalo *NA735 .B83 C52

Olenick, Andy

Classic Buffalo: A Heritage of Distinguished Architecture

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, ©1999

GRO Buffalo NA735 .B9 B84 1997

Wachadlo, Martin, comp.

Buffalo Architects and Architecture as Noted in the "Building Intelligence" Section of *Sanitary Engineer/Engineering Record*, 1879-1897

[Blasdell, NY: M. Wachadlo], ©1997

GRO Buffalo NA735 .B9 B85 1996

Wachadlo, Martin, comp.

Buffalo Architects & Architecture in *The Architectural Era*, 1888-1891

[Buffalo, NY: Martin Wachadlo, 1996]

GRO Ref *NA735 .B9 H55

Hitchcock, Henry Russell

Buffalo Architecture 1816-1940 [Catalog of the] Exhibition, Buffalo, Albright Art Gallery...

[Buffalo, NY: Albright Art Gallery, 1940?]

GRO Buffalo *NA735 .B9 R3

Randall, John D.

Buffalo and Western New York Architecture and Human Values

Buffalo, NY: Artcraft-Burow, 1976

GRO Buffalo *NA958.5 .I58 B36 1986

Banham, Reyner

A Concrete Atlantis: U.S. Industrial Building and European Modern Architecture

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, ©1986

Prominently features Buffalo's grain elevators

GRO Buffalo NA2440 .B9

American Institute of Architects. Buffalo Chapter

Catalogue of the 2nd Annual Architectural Exhibition, March 18 to 30

[Buffalo, NY: Matthews-Northrup], 1895

GRO Buffalo NA4433 .B9 C66 1993

Conlin, John H.

Buffalo City Hall: Americanesque Masterpiece

Buffalo, NY: Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, ©1993

GRO Buffalo NA4483 .B8 B38 2001

Baltes, Warren

Connecticut Street Armory Centennial

Buffalo, NY: [The Author?], 2001

GRO Ref. NA5230 .N72 E75 1994

Fox, Austin M.

Church Tales of the Niagara Frontier

Buffalo, NY: Western New York Wares, ©1994

GRO Buffalo NA5235 .B8 A7

Armstrong, Elizabeth

The Building of a Church: An Architectural Study, 1889-1973

Buffalo, NY: First Presbyterian Church, [1974]

BOOKS ABOUT LOCAL BUILDINGS

GRO Buffalo *NA5235 .B8 E34 2003

Ederer, Martin F.

Buffalo's Catholic Churches: Ethnic Communities and the Architectural Legacy

Buffalo, NY: Bates Jackson, ©2003

GRO Ref. *NA5235 .B8 N37 1995

Napora, James

Houses of Worship: A Guide to the Religious Architecture of Buffalo, New York

Thesis (M.Arch.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1995

GRO Buffalo *NA6835 .B9 S5 1994

Shea's Buffalo Theatre: Buffalo Performing Arts Center, Buffalo, New York

Elmhurst, Ill: Theatre Historical Society of America, ©1994

GRO Buffalo *NA7205 .B43 1993

Bennett's Small House Catalog, 1920

New York: Dover Publications, ©1993

GRO Buffalo NA7238 .A44 M3 1987

McMillan, Louise

A Field Guide to the Architecture and History of Allentown

Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association, 1987

GRO Buffalo *RC445 .N73 B84 1982

Historic Structures Report and Re-Use Feasibility Study of the H.H. Richardson Designed Complex, Buffalo State Hospital Buildings

[Buffalo, NY: Foit-Albert & Associates Architects, 1982]

GRO Buffalo *TH1610 .L665 1999

Longiaru, Christine M.

A History of Architectural Cast Iron in Buffalo, New York: 1850-1900

Thesis (M.A.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1999

GRO Buffalo *TH4461 .L47 1998, 3 vols.

Leary, Thomas E.

Historic American Engineering Record: Buffalo Grain Elevators

[Buffalo, NY?]: ©1998

GRO Buffalo *TR647 .E54 B84 1997

Engel, Gerrit

Buffalo Grain Elevators

[Munchen?] G. Engel, ©1997

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, DRAWINGS & BLUEPRINTS

Unfortunately, architectural drawings and blueprints for local buildings are very rare. The Library does not possess drawings or blueprints for buildings other than some of our branch libraries.

Drawings and floor plans for a few major Buffalo buildings have been published in architectural journals. Those articles can be found in the *Vertical File* and are cited in the *Local History File*.

Buffalo City Hall has a collection of 20th century plans and drawings. See *Where Else Can I Research My House?* at the end of this handout.

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, DRAWINGS & BLUEPRINTS

GRO Ref. *NA7205 .R435 2001

Reiff, Daniel D.

Houses From Books: Treatises, Pattern Books, and Catalogs in American Architecture, 1738-1950: A History and Guide

University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, ©2000

Author teaches at SUNY/Fredonia; book features several houses in WNY

HSS Ref. NA7207 .C85 1994

Culbertson, Margaret

American House Designs: An Index to Popular and Trade Periodicals, 1850-1915

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, ©1994

ATLASES

The following atlases show the diagrams or footprints of every building in Buffalo. These atlases help establish a time frame for the construction of your building.

The Grosvenor Room also owns *Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlases*. Besides showing streets and buildings, Sanborns include the number of stories, type of building material and for the larger commercial holdings, the business name. The Grosvenor Room has Sanborn maps for the City of Buffalo in hard copy 1880-1963 and on microfilm 1981-1986. Sanborn maps for Buffalo and many other cities and towns in New York State can also be accessed through the "Sanborn maps of New York 1867-1970" online database.

Folio F129 .B8 H7 1872

Atlas of the City of Buffalo, Erie Co., New York: From Actual Surveys & Official Records

Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, ©1872.

Folio F129 .B8 H7 1884

Atlas of the City of Buffalo, New York: From Official Records, Private Plans and Actual Surveys

Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, ©1884

Folio F129 .B8 H7 1891

Atlas of the City of Buffalo, NY: From Official Records, Private Plans and Actual Surveys

Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1891

Folio F129 .B8 A54 1894, 3 vols.

Atlas of the City of Buffalo, New York

New York: American Atlas, 1894

This atlas has been fully scanned online at http://www.erie.gov/atlas/buff_94/city_atlas.html

Folio F129.B8 N25, 3 vols.

The New Century Atlas of Greater Buffalo

Philadelphia, PA: Century Atlas Co., 1915

BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

These include building permits approved by the Common Council. Building permits were apparently required for wood frame buildings but not for masonry (brick or stone) ones. Permits provide a construction date and, in some cases, the original permit on file in City Hall supplies an architect's name.

From 1854 to 1887, permits are found in the Index by the owner's last name.
From 1887 to 1906, permits are found in the Index under *Permits*, then by the owner's last name.
From 1907 to 1950, permits are found in the Index under *Permits*, then by the address.

Original permits are on file at City Hall. See "Where Else Can I Research My House?" at the end of this handout.

GRO Buffalo JS662 .A2

Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo

Buffalo, NY: [various publishers], 1854-1996

CENSUS RECORDS

The Grosvenor Room has Federal and New York State Census records from 1790 to 1930 on microfilm, with print indexes for 1790 to 1870, 1900, and 1910. Federal censuses provide a wealth of information on individuals, households, and families. Because they are arranged geographically, you do not need to know the names of occupants in order to find a house or household in census records.

A set of Buffalo Ward Maps are also available, which will help you pinpoint the correct roll of census microfilm.

Federal censuses can also be searched by personal name in *Ancestry Library* and *Heritage Quest*. See *Databases* for more information.

CITY DIRECTORIES

The Grosvenor Room has Buffalo City Directories from 1828 to the present. The earliest list mostly men's names and addresses, but later editions include occupations, wives' or widows' names, and whether the person was a homeowner [h] or residing/renting [r] at the address.

From 1929 to the present, Buffalo city directories include an address section, which enables you to locate occupants when you know only the address. These pages are often pink or green and are found at the end of the directory.

The first suburban directories appeared in the late 1950s, also with address sections. There are very few town or village directories from before World War II.

Buffalo city directories from 1832 to 1993 are also available on microfilm in the Grosvenor Room. They have not been digitized in any comprehensive manner.

DATABASES		AVAILABILITY
<p>Researchers can browse Federal census records online in Ancestry Library and Heritage Quest. Learning the names of a building's occupants will help you turn up biographical information about previous residents.</p>		
<p>http://multisearch.buffalolib.org/buffalo.asp</p>		
	<p>Provides access to more than 1 billion names. Includes city directories, 450 million census records from the U.S. Federal Census between the years 1790 and 1930, plus immigration, vital, military, court, church and ethnic records.</p>	<p>Available for walk-in use at every public library in Erie County, no at-home access</p>
	<p>Offers the full-text of articles from this newspaper, 1989 – present, including historic sites, demolitions, property transactions, prominent buildings.</p>	<p>Available for walk-in use at every public library in Erie County, no at-home access</p>
	<p>Contains U.S. federal census records from 1790-1930, family genealogies, local histories, tax lists, city directories, land and probate records, birth, marriage and death records, and genealogical and local history serials from the Periodical Source Index (PERSI).</p>	<p>For walk-in use at every public library in Erie County or from home with a valid Buffalo & Erie County Public Library card</p>
	<p>Sanborn fire insurance maps are detailed property and land-use records. Provides access to maps for towns and cities in New York state.</p>	<p>Available for walk-in users at the Central Library only, no at-home use.</p>

DEEDS & PROPERTY RECORDS	NOTES
<p>If you own the building in question, your search will go much faster if you have the abstract of title, a document which lists all previous owners of the parcel. Copies of deeds are available only at the Erie County Clerk's Office. See "Where Else Can I Research My House?" at the end of this handout.</p>	
<p>GRO Ref. F118 .L58 1991 Livsey, Karen E. Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824: Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1991</p>	<p>These two volumes index thousands of names of early settlers who purchased land from the Holland Land Company. A small number of the houses they built from this period survive today.</p>
<p>GRO Ref. F118 .L583 1996 Livsey, Karen E. Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835: Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1996</p>	<p>Unfortunately, deeds do not record when buildings were erected or demolished on a parcel of land.</p>
<p>GRO Ref. F127 .E6 E73 1981 Deed Tables...in the County of Erie, N.Y., as Sold by the Holland Land Company... Knightstown, IN: The Bookmark, 1981</p>	<p>Originally published in 1859, reprinted in 1981.</p>

LOCAL HISTORY FILE

The Local History File is primarily a card index for Buffalo newspapers and periodicals from the 1930s to the 1980s, with some earlier and later entries. Here you might locate articles about the owners and occupants of buildings. Try these headings:

[Name of Architect, e.g. Wright, Frank Lloyd]
 Apartment Houses
 Architects
 Architecture
 Buildings
 Churches
 Homes [by address]
 Homes [by owner's name]
 Hospitals. State Hospital
 Hotels
 Stations. New York Central
 Streets – [name of street]

PERIODICALS & INDEXES	NOTES
GRO Buffalo *F116 .L36 The Landmarker Buffalo, NY: Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier	
GRO Buffalo *F129 .B8 W38 Western New York Heritage Magazine Buffalo, NY: Western New York Heritage Institute, 1997 to the present	A glossy, full-color quarterly magazine about people, places, things, and events in the history of Western New York. Often features notable buildings. Indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> and in PERSI (Periodical Source Index), a component of the <i>Heritage Quest</i> database.
GRO Buffalo HD268 .B9 B9 Buffalo Realtor [Buffalo, NY]: Buffalo Real Estate Board, 1920-1921, 1929	Features real estate news in the Buffalo area.
GRO Buffalo *NA1 .P74 Buffalo Preservation Report Buffalo, NY: Preservation Coalition of Erie County, 1991-1999	In-depth articles about Buffalo buildings, neighborhoods, history, and preservation battles. Indexed online in the <i>National Trust Index</i> (see <i>Selected Websites</i>). Some articles are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
HSS *NA1 .S6 Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians	We have v.1 (1941) to v.60 (2001). Occasionally features local buildings.
HSS *NA1 .S6 Index Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians Index	Indexes vols. 1-20, 1941-1961.
HSS Ref. NA7207 .C85 1994 Culbertson, Margaret American House Designs: An Index to Popular and Trade Periodicals, 1850-1915 Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, ©1994	A guide to house plans that were published in magazines and other periodicals in America
*NA Z5941 .C63, 12 vols. Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1963	The Avery Index will help you find articles about Buffalo buildings published in architectural journals from before 1963. The Central Library has many of the journals indexed in it.

PICTURES

A small Picture File, shelved at the end of the Vertical File, offers mounted photographs of Buffalo buildings and streetscapes. They tend to show prominent buildings, mansions, and downtown scenes. The sources and dates of these pictures are mostly unrecorded. The Library has very few pictures of average, individual houses.

For additional pictures, see our related handout, *Buffalo Illustrations*, which goes into great detail about finding vintage photographs of Buffalo buildings and streets in books and other publications in our collection.

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society has an extensive photograph collection. See *Where Else Can I Research My House?* at the end of this handout.

RARE BOOK ROOM (RBR)

RBR has a few collections by 19th century Buffalo photographers. These pictures tend to focus on downtown, parks, mansions, and the harbor. To see an index of available pictures, ask at the Grosvenor Room Information Desk for desk guide #37, *Rare Book Room Index*.

Material in the Rare Book Room may be seen by appointment (716-858-8900). The following works are relevant for architectural researchers.

RBR MAG. *B83 V.1

Buffalo Real Estate News

Buffalo, NY: Geo. M. Bailey, 1890-1891

RBR MSS. C37 1926

George Cary, 1859-1945 Papers, 1885(ca.)-1926

RBR WNYO 1884.W5

Wilson & Smith (Firm)

Early Buffalo Land Records

[Buffalo, NY: The Firm, 1884?]

RBR WNYO 1915.B43

Hubbell, Mark, ed.

Beautiful Homes of Buffalo

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Truth Pub. Co., ©1915

RBR WNYO 1924.E39

A Selection of Photographs Illustrating Work of Edw. B. Green & Sons, Architects, One Niagara Square, Buffalo

Buffalo, NY: The Firm, 1924

RBR WNYO 1925.B53

Selections from Work of Bley & Lyman, Architects

Buffalo, NY: Architectural Catalog Co., [1925?]

RBR WNYO 1925.T2

Sullivan's Book of Homes

Buffalo, NY: T. Sullivan & Co., ©1925

RARE BOOK ROOM (RBR)

RBR WNYO 1965.D9

Durston, Helen G.

Early Landmarks of the Niagara Frontier: A Selection of Pencil Impressions

[Buffalo, NY: Published by the Salisbury Club, with the permission of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 1965]

RBR F129.B8 N94 1909

Nye Park: Buffalo's New Residence Section, Overlooking the Park Lake in Beautiful Delaware Park

Buffalo, NY: S. B. Nye Co.; Nye Park Co., 1909

RBR *HD251 .R25

The Real Estate and Builders' Monthly: A Practical Journal Devoted to Improved and Unimproved Property in City and County

Buffalo, NY: Haas & Klein

RBR has scattered issues from 1884 to 1887

RBR Folio NA737 .O8

Orr, Ulysses

Houses Designed by Ulysses G. Orr of Buffalo, N.Y.

[Buffalo, NY: The Author, 1911?]

RBR TH1655 .B9

Buffalo Eagle Iron Works Co., Buffalo, N.Y.

Catalogue of Architectural Designs of Window Caps and Sills, Door Caps, Columns, &c., for Stores, Public Buildings, &c.

Buffalo, NY: Jewett, Thomas & Co., 1854

SCRAPBOOKS

The Buffalo scrapbooks in GRO were compiled roughly from 1900 to 1960, and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings and ephemera. All are indexed in the *Local History File*. The following volumes are of particular interest to architectural researchers:

*BR560 .B85B8, 13 vols.

Churches in Buffalo and Vicinity

*F129 .B8B855

Churches of Buffalo, Clippings 1858-1934

*F129 .B8B6922

Buffalo Civic Stadium

*F129 .B8B69242, 2 vols.

Buildings in Buffalo

*F129 .B8B6925, 2 vols.

Homes in Buffalo and Vicinity

*F129 .B8B6926, 2 vols.

Hotel, Taverns, and Restaurants in Buffalo

*F129 .B8B6929

Public Buildings in Buffalo

*F129 .B8B69292, 2 vols.

Public Buildings in Buffalo: The Courts and Jail

*HD7304 .B9B89, 2 vols.

Housing in Buffalo and Vicinity

SCRAPBOOKS
*HE372 .B8B815, 3 vols. Buffalo Streets
*HF5472 .U7B9B88 Buffalo Markets
*LA339 .B9B93, 7 vols. Schools of Buffalo
*LA339 .B9B94, 2 vols. Schools of Buffalo: Private and Parochial
*LA339 .B9B95, 4 vols. Schools of Buffalo: Colleges
*PN2277 .B8B8, 3 vols. Theater and Convention Halls in Buffalo
TF270 .B9 New York Central Station, Clippings 1925-1929 <i>Shelved in Workroom. Ask librarian to retrieve.</i>
*TL726.4 .B8B8 Buffalo Airport

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
http://ah.bfn.org/ Buffalo Architecture and History	An extensive, well-illustrated online encyclopedia of notable architects, buildings, houses, neighborhoods, and more in the Buffalo area
http://www.buffaloresearch.com/built.html Built in Buffalo: How to Research Buildings in Buffalo, NY	A guide to online and offline sources for researching Buffalo houses and buildings
http://www.erie.gov/atlas/buff_94/city_atlas.html City of Buffalo Atlas 1894	All three volumes scanned online in full color. Shows individual buildings.
http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk/recordretrieval.phtml Erie County Clerk Record Retrieval	Property transactions from 1993 to the present are searchable here.
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/index.html Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), 1933 to present	A few dozen major Buffalo buildings and structures are documented here with pictures and text
http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ National Register of Historic Places	See what buildings in Erie County have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.
http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/catdat.html National Trust Index: Periodical Articles	Note the log-in instructions. Search on <i>Buffalo</i> to find citations for as many as 100 articles on Buffalo buildings
http://urbandesignproject.ap.buffalo.edu/pub/concrete_atlantis.htm Rediscovering the Concrete Atlantis	A collection of essays by some of the most important scholars in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area. Online for free in full text.
http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/ Researching a Historic Property	A National Register Bulletin published by the National Park Service

SOCIETY DIRECTORIES OR SOCIAL REGISTERS

These focus largely on Buffalo's west and north sides, including an address section like City Directories. Dau's also provides a club membership list. Despite their geographic limitations, these books are an important source.

Buffalo Address Books are also available on microfilm in the Grosvenor Room.

GRO Buffalo F129 .B8 A182

The Buffalo Address Book and Family Directory

Buffalo, NY: Stoddard and Seward, 1885-1915

GRO Buffalo F129 .B8 A19

The Society Blue Book for Buffalo (Dau's)

New York: Dau Publishing Company, 1903-1940

VERTICAL FILE

The Grosvenor Room Vertical File contains articles and clippings on local architects, prominent buildings, and significant neighborhoods in the Buffalo area. See these headings:

Architects

Architecture

Neighborhoods

VIDEOS	NOTES
Ask for these videos in the Popular Materials Department. They may be borrowed.	
CS14 .T723 1997V #33 [VHS] Tracing Your House's History [West Caldwell, NJ]: S. Conte, [1997]	An episode of the <i>Family Historian</i> television program
NA5235 .B8 B83 2002VC [DVD & VHS] May, Christy Anne, producer Buffalo's Houses of Worship Buffalo, NY: WNED, ©2002	A tour of twelve of Buffalo's sacred landmarks, buildings of exquisite style designed to inspire awe, preserving traditions and providing ties to the past. They are repositories for incredible artwork, and places to sing and pray.
NA5235 .B8 C6 1997V [VHS] A Collection of Polish Churches in Buffalo & Niagara Falls [Buffalo, NY]: Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, ©1997	History and description of active and closed Polish churches in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York
NA6835 .B9 S49 2004V [DVD] Newberg, Rich A Palace for Buffalo Buffalo, NY: LIN Television Corp., [2005], ©2004	Documents the history of Shea's Buffalo theater, which opened in 1926 and was once one of the country's most elaborate movie palaces. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and experts, Shea's Buffalo has been restored to its original glory and now attracts national Broadway touring companies.

WEB2: THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://web2.buffalolib.org>

Web2 is the online catalog of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes all the books, magazines, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Grosvenor Room, the Rare Book Room, other departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library in Erie County.

Anyone may search WEB2 for free on the internet using the address above. To find additional architectural sources that are not listed here, try these Subject searches in WEB2:

ARCHITECTS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
ARCHITECTURE DOMESTIC BUFFALO N Y
ARCHITECTURE DOMESTIC NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
ARCHITECTURE DOMESTIC DESIGNS AND PLANS
ARCHITECTURE NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
ARCHITECTURE NEW YORK STATE ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO N Y BUILDINGS STRUCTURES ETC
BUFFALO N Y GUIDEBOOKS
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
CHURCH BUILDINGS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
CITY PLANNING NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
HISTORIC BUILDINGS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
HISTORIC BUILDINGS NEW YORK STATE ERIE COUNTY
HISTORIC DISTRICTS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
HOUSE CONSTRUCTION NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
HOUSING NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
OFFICE BUILDINGS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
PARKS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
REAL PROPERTY NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
SLUMS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
THEATERS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH MY HOUSE?	NOTES
<p>Architecture & Planning Library University at Buffalo 176 Hayes Hall 3435 Main Street Buffalo, New York 14214-3087 (716) 829-3505 askASL@buffalo.edu http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/ap/</p>	<p>Has the online version of the Avery Index of Architectural Periodicals, Digital Sanborn maps for NY State, plus a collection of Masters' theses dealing with buildings, neighborhoods, and city planning issues in Buffalo</p>
<p>Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Research Library 25 Nottingham Court Buffalo, NY 14216 (716) 873-9644, ext. 306 http://www.bechs.org/research.htm</p>	<p>Has the records of the E.B. Green architectural firm, Sanborn maps & other atlases, and a large collection of vintage house photographs.</p>
<p>Buffalo City Hall Department of Economic Development, Permit and Inspection Services 324 City Hall Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 851-4972 http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/EDPIS</p>	<p>Has original building permits on file. Also has some Buffalo building plans, most for 20th century construction or additions. Builders were not required to submit plans until around 1908 or so.</p>
<p>City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center 85 River Rock Drive, Suite 301 Buffalo, NY 14207 (716) 874-6401 or (716) 570-8721 http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/City_Clerk/RecordsManagement</p>	<p>Has Tax & Assessment Roll Books, 1815-1997; Assessors Land Maps, 1855, 1870, 1912; Polk directories, incomplete set 1856-1985. Please call before arriving to verify staff is on site.</p>
<p>Erie County Clerk 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 858-8865 Fax (716) 858-6550 ErieCountyClerk@erie.gov http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk.phtml</p>	<p>All deeds and property transactions in Erie County are recorded here. This is a self-serve facility. Deeds are filed chronologically, not by address.</p>