

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



Mark Twain House, 472 Delaware Avenue  
Pastel painting by Mary Ann Kaleta, RBR Print 55

## KEY

- \* = Oversized book
- Folio = A really oversized book!
- Buffalo = Buffalo Collection, Grosvenor Room
- NON-FICT = Central Non-fiction, *can be borrowed*
- Media = Media Room, *can be borrowed*
- RBR = Rare Book Room
- Ref. = Reference book, *cannot be borrowed*
- Stacks = Closed Stacks, *may be borrowed*

Grosvenor Room  
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, New York 14203-1887  
(716) 858-8900  
[www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org)  
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## GETTING STARTED

The Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library has a number of resources to help you research a Buffalo house.

While there is no comprehensive source that documents all the houses and buildings in Buffalo, there are many resources 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.

Outside of Buffalo: Unfortunately, we have relatively few sources for houses and buildings in the towns and villages of Erie County. 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.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### **Q: Are there photographs of my house?**

**A:** For most houses, no. Images of some homes (mostly West Side and/or owned by prominent people) may be found in newspaper articles and books in the Buffalo Collection. The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society has an extensive photograph collection with hundreds of house pictures. Unfortunately, not every Buffalo building has been photographically documented. See "Pictures," page 12 of this guide for more information.

#### **Q: Can you do the research for me?**

**A:** Librarians can assist you with your research by providing resources and referrals. There are local researchers that may perform in-depth research for a fee. Ask a librarian for a list of researchers.

#### **Q: Where do I start?**

**A:** The best way to start your research is by looking at the deed for your house and then working backwards...

Your search will go much faster if you have the abstract of title (also known as the property abstract or the "chain of title"), a document which lists all previous owners of the parcel (note that they may differ from the actual residents of the property.) *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.*

This is a very useful document that lists owners, dates, and actual property descriptions. It does not give the exact date that the building was constructed.

In addition to these documents, there are various resources available in the Grosvenor Room to help you determine your house's history, including city directories, common council proceedings, and atlases. If the original or previous owners were prominent, there may be information available in the Local History File or the newspaper Scrapbooks.

## GETTING STARTED

### Consider the historical context of the house...

**WHO:** Who were the original owners? Were they merchants, factory workers, self-employed artisans, or professional people? What kind of a house or building did they need?

SEARCH IN: City directories (*search by address in the Ancestry database--see the City Directory section of this guide*), Census records, Local History File.

**WHO:** Who was the architect?

SEARCH IN: The permit on file with Buffalo City Hall, Local History File.

**WHAT:** What are the features of the house? Can it be dated by its architectural style? (e.g., Art Deco, Victorian, Brick Italianate, etc.)?

SEARCH IN: Books—Buffalo Houses, Styles of Architecture in Buffalo, NY webpage:  
<http://www.buffaloah.com/a/archsty/index.html>

**WHEN:** Is the house in an older neighborhood, close to downtown and likely built during the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Or is it part of later developments (1920s-1960s)?

SEARCH IN: Common Council Proceedings, City directories.

**WHERE:** What is the “land lot” number (not the house or street number)? Land lot numbers never change; street numbers and street names often do.

SEARCH IN: Atlases, maps

**WHY:** Was it the result of quick development, or as part of the planned growth of a neighborhood?

**HOW:** Was the structure built by skilled craftsmen working from architects’ plans, or by anonymous laborers working for a large development association, or on their own?

SEARCH IN: Common Council Proceedings, Local History File.

## HOW-TO BOOKS ABOUT HOUSE RESEARCH

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

NON-FICT \*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. NA7205 .H73

Howard, Hugh

**How Old Is This House?**

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1989

GRO Ref. NA7205 .L43

Light, Sally

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

Spencertown, NY: Golden Hill Press, ©1989

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES - GENERAL SOURCES

The following volumes are found in the Grosvenor Room and may not be borrowed. In a few cases, there are duplicate copies in the Non-Fiction section, which you may borrow. This list is not exhaustive.

Buffalo F129 .B88 A25 2003

Levine, Linda R.

**Beautiful Buffalo: Preserving a City**

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, ©2003

Buffalo \*F129 .B88 B74 1998

**An Architectural Profile: 1898-1998**

Buffalo, NY: M & T Bank, 1998

Buffalo N525 .A8 1987

Sanford, John Douglas

**The Gallery Architects: Edward B. Green and Gordon Bunshaft**

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, ©1987

Buffalo NA735 .B83 B83

Kowsky, Francis, et al

**Buffalo Architecture: A Guide**

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, ©1981

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES – GENERAL SOURCES

Buffalo \*NA735 .B83 C52

Olenick, Andy, and Richard O. Reisem

**Classic Buffalo: A Heritage of Distinguished Architecture**

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, ©1999

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?]

Buffalo \*NA735 .B9 R3

Randall, John D.

**Buffalo and Western New York Architecture and Human Values**

Buffalo, NY: Artcraft-Burow, 1976

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

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

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

RBR WNYO 1925.B53

**Selections from Work of Bley & Lyman, Architects**

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

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

RBR WNYO 1925.T2

**Sullivan's Book of Homes**

Buffalo, NY: T. Sullivan & Co., ©1925

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

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]

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES – ALLENTOWN

Buffalo F129 .B88 A23 1996

**Historic Allentown Tour of Homes: 1996**

Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association, Inc.], 1996

Buffalo F129 .B88 A233

**Secrets of Allentown: The ... Allentown Tour of Homes & Taste of Allentown**

[Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association?], various dates

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES - ALLENTOWN

Buffalo \*F129 .B88 E4 1993

Efron, Sonia R.

**Buffalo's Brick Italianates: An Allentown Legacy**

Buffalo, NY: [S. Efron], ©1993

Buffalo NA7238 .A44 M3 1987

McMillan, Louise

**A Field Guide to the Architecture and History of Allentown**

Buffalo, NY: Allentown Association, 1987

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES - DELAWARE DISTRICT

Buffalo F129.B843 B4 2008

Hubbell, Mark, ed.

**Beautiful Homes of Buffalo**

Buffalo : Western New York Heritage Press, c2008

Buffalo \*F129 .B86 D45 2003

Dunn, Edward T.

**Buffalo's Delaware Avenue: Mansions and Families**

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, 2003

Buffalo F129 .B875 O248 2006

Wachadlo, Martin

**Gracious Living in Buffalo Oakland Place**

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

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

Buffalo \*NA735 .B83 C52

Olenick, Andy, and Richard O. Reisem

**Classic Buffalo: A Heritage of Distinguished Architecture**

Buffalo, NY: Canisius College Press, ©1999

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

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES - PARKSIDE

Buffalo F129 .B88 A2 2000

**Parkside Past & Present: Second Annual Parkside Community Association Home Tour**

[Buffalo, NY: Parkside Community Association], 2000

Buffalo F129.B843 B4 2008

Hubbell, Mark, ed.

**Beautiful Homes of Buffalo**

Buffalo : Western New York Heritage Press, c2008

## BOOKS: BUFFALO HOUSES – WEST SIDE

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.

Buffalo F129.B843 B4 2008

Hubbell, Mark, ed.

### **Beautiful Homes of Buffalo**

Buffalo : Western New York Heritage Press, c2008

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]

Buffalo \*F129 .B88 B76 1999

Brown, Chris

### **Walking Tour February 20, 1999**

Buffalo, NY: Kleinhans Community Association, [1999]

*Symphony Circle area*

## PLANS & CATALOGS

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.

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

Buffalo \*NA7205 .B43 1993

### **Bennett's Small House Catalog, 1920**

New York: Dover Publications, ©1993

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*

Stacks NA7207 .C85 1994

Culbertson, Margaret

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

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, ©1994

## BOOKS: ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

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

STACKS 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: ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

GRO Ref. 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*

Buffalo \*NA737 .G727 A4 1997

Mead, Gerald C., ed.

**E. B. Green: Buffalo's Architect**

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

Stacks \*NA Z5941 .C64

**Avery Obituary Index of Architects and Artists**

Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1963

*Includes some Buffalonians*

RBR Folio NA737 .O8

Orr, Ulysses

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

[Buffalo, NY: The Author, 1911?]

*Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.*

## 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 print 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. See our separate *Atlas* guide for more information.

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

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.

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.

## DIRECTORIES, CITY

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.

**Suburbs:** 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.

### Lookup by address:

From 1929 to the present, Buffalo directories include an address section, which allows 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.

**NEW!** Search by address using keyword search in Ancestry database: Buffalo directories, 1861-1960. Found in the "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989" collection.

**NEW!:** Buffalo City Directories 1832-1868 are now digitized online:

<http://www.nyheritage.org/collections/buffalo-city-directories>

## DIRECTORIES, SOCIAL OR SOCIAL REGISTERS

These focus largely on Buffalo's west and north sides, including an address section like City Directories. *The Society Blue Book* 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.

Buffalo F129 .B8 A182

### **The Buffalo Address Book and Family Directory**

Buffalo, NY: Stoddard and Seward, 1885-1915

Buffalo F129 .B8 A19

### **The Society Blue Book for Buffalo (Dau's)**

New York: Dau Publishing Company, 1903-1940

## DATABASES

## AVAILABILITY

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.

<http://www.buffalolib.org/content/research>

	<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 use at every public library in Erie County, <b>no at-home access</b>.</p>
	<p>Offers the full-text of articles from this newspaper, 1989 – present, including historic sites, demolitions, property transactions, prominent buildings.</p>	<p>For use at any library or from home with a valid Buffalo &amp; Erie County Public Library card number.</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 &amp; 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>For use at any library or from home with a valid Buffalo &amp; Erie County Public Library card number.</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. <b>Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824: Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company</b> 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. <b>Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835: Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company</b> 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 <b>Deed Tables...in the County of Erie, N.Y., as Sold by the Holland Land Company...</b> Knightstown, IN: The Bookmark, 1981</p>	<p>Originally published in 1859, reprinted in 1981.</p>
<p>RBR WNYO 1884.W5 Wilson &amp; Smith (Firm) <b>Early Buffalo Land Records</b> [Buffalo, NY: The Firm, 1884?] <i>Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.</i></p>	

LOCAL HISTORY FILE
<p>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:</p>
<p><i>[Name of Architect, e.g. Wright, Frank Lloyd]</i> <i>Apartment Houses</i> <i>Architects</i> <i>Architecture</i> <i>Buildings</i> <i>Homes [by address]</i> <i>Homes [by owner's name]</i> <i>[Name of previous owner, last name first]</i> <i>Streets – [name of street]</i></p>

PERIODICALS & INDEXES	NOTES
Buffalo *F129 .B8 W38 <b>Western New York Heritage Magazine</b> 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.
Buffalo HD268 .B9 B9 <b>Buffalo Realtor</b> [Buffalo, NY]: Buffalo Real Estate Board, 1920-1921, 1929	Features real estate news in the Buffalo area.
Buffalo *NA1 .P74 <b>Buffalo Preservation Report</b> 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> .
RBR MAG. *B83 V.1 <b>Buffalo Real Estate News</b> Buffalo, NY: Geo. M. Bailey, 1890-1891	<i>**Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.</i>
RBR *HD251 .R25 <b>The Real Estate and Builders' Monthly: A Practical Journal Devoted to Improved and Unimproved Property in City and County</b> Buffalo, NY: Haas & Klein	<i>**Rare Book Room item; please see a librarian or call 858-8900 for an appointment.</i>  <i>RBR has scattered issues from 1884 to 1887</i>
Stacks *NA1 .S6 <b>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</b>	We have v.1 (1941) to v.60 (2001). Occasionally features local buildings.
Stacks *NA1 .S6 Index <b>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians Index</b>	Indexes vols. 1-20, 1941-1961.
Stacks NA7207 .C85 1994 Culbertson, Margaret <b>American House Designs: An Index to Popular and Trade Periodicals, 1850-1915</b> Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, ©1994	A guide to house plans that were published in magazines and other periodicals in America
Stacks *NA Z5941 .C64, 12 vols. <b>Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals</b> 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
<p>A small Picture File, shelved at the end of the Vertical File, includes 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.</p> <p>For additional pictures, see our related handout, <i>Buffalo Illustrations</i>, which goes into great detail about finding vintage photographs of Buffalo buildings and streets in books and other publications in our collection.</p> <p>The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society has an extensive photograph collection. See “<i>Where Else Can I Research My House</i>” at the end of this handout.</p>

## 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 house researchers:

\*F129 .B8B6925, 2 vols.

**Homes in Buffalo and Vicinity**

\*HD7304 .B9B89, 2 vols.

**Housing in Buffalo and Vicinity**

\*HE372 .B8B815, 3 vols.

**Buffalo Streets**

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
<a href="http://www.buffaloah.com/">http://www.buffaloah.com/</a> <b>Buffalo Architecture and History</b>	An extensive, well-illustrated online encyclopedia of notable architects, buildings, houses, neighborhoods, and more in the Buffalo area
<a href="http://www.buffaloresearch.com/built.html">http://www.buffaloresearch.com/built.html</a> <b>*Built in Buffalo: How to Research Buildings in Buffalo, NY</b>	A guide to online and offline sources for researching Buffalo houses and buildings *Includes a BECHS list of over 1000 houses and their architects.
<a href="http://www.erie.gov/atlas/buff_94/city_atlas.html">http://www.erie.gov/atlas/buff_94/city_atlas.html</a> <b>City of Buffalo Atlas 1894</b>	All three volumes scanned online in full color. Shows individual buildings.
<a href="http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk/recordretrieval.phtml">http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk/recordretrieval.phtml</a> <b>Erie County Clerk Record Retrieval</b>	Property transactions from 1993 to the present are searchable here.
<a href="http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/index.html">http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/index.html</a> <b>Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record</b> (HABS/HAER), 1933 to present	A few dozen major Buffalo buildings and structures are documented here with pictures and text
<a href="http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/">http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/</a> <b>National Register of Historic Places</b>	See what buildings in Erie County have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.
<a href="http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/catdat.html">http://www.lib.umd.edu/NTL/catdat.html</a> <b>National Trust Index: Periodical Articles</b>	Note the log-in instructions. Search on <i>Buffalo</i> to find citations for as many as 100 articles on Buffalo buildings
<a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/">http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/</a> <b>Researching a Historic Property</b>	A National Register Bulletin published by the National Park Service

## 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*

## THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH MY HOUSE?	NOTES
<p><b>Architecture &amp; Planning Library</b>            University at Buffalo            176 Hayes Hall            3435 Main Street            Buffalo, New York 14214-3087            (716) 829-3505            askASL@buffalo.edu  <a href="http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/apl/">http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/apl/</a></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>

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH MY HOUSE?	NOTES
<p><b>Buffalo History Museum's Research Library</b>            1 Museum Court            Buffalo, NY 14216-3199            library@buffalohistory.org            716.873.9644 x 306  <a href="http://buffalohistory.org/Learn/Research-Library.aspx">http://buffalohistory.org/Learn/Research-Library.aspx</a></p>	<p>Has the records of the E.B. Green architectural firm, Sanborn maps &amp; other atlases, and a large collection of vintage house photographs.</p>
<p><b>Buffalo City Hall</b>            Department of Economic Development, Permit and Inspection Services            301 City Hall            Buffalo, NY 14202            (716) 851-4972  <a href="http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/EDPIS">http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/EDPIS</a></p>	<p>Have original building permits on file. Also have some Buffalo building plans, most for 20<sup>th</sup> century construction or additions. Builders were not required to submit plans until around 1908 or so.</p>
<p><b>City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center</b>            85 River Rock Drive, Suite 301            Buffalo, NY 14207            (716) 874-6401 or (716) 570-8721  <a href="http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/City_Clerk/RecordsManagement">http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/City_Departments/City_Clerk/RecordsManagement</a></p>	<p>Has Tax &amp; 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><b>Erie County Clerk</b>            92 Franklin Street            Buffalo, New York 14202            (716) 858-8865            Fax (716) 858-6550            ErieCountyClerk@erie.gov  <a href="http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk.phtml">http://www.erie.gov/depts/government/clerk.phtml</a></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> <p><b>A deed grantee index, 1808-1897 is also online at <a href="http://www.familysearch.com">www.familysearch.com</a>; look for New York Land Records, 1630-1975 → Erie</b></p>

# BUFFALO HOUSE HISTORY WORKSHEET

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Street name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Chain of Title.</b> Previous owners (from Erie County Clerk's Office, Property Search)			
Date	Seller (Grantor)	Buyer (Grantee)	Notes

<b>Sanborn Maps &amp; Atlases</b>					
Start with the most recent date and work backwards					
Year	Title of Map	Name of Tract	Lot Number	House Number	Name on Lot/Tract

**Directories**

Note: For city directories 1929 to the present, use address section in the back. Prior to 1929, can search only by occupant.

Year	Address (if different)	Home (h) or Business (b)	Names of occupants	Occupations	Notes

**Other information**

Permits:

Construction:

Architect:

Notes: