



Index to Building Permits listed in the Buffalo Common Council Proceedings, 1887-1906

For many years, building permits in Buffalo were approved by the Common Council and listed in the published annual proceedings. Permits were required for wood frame buildings (most houses), but not for brick or stone construction. The permits listed in the proceedings usually provide this brief description:

- The name of the permit requestor (builder/home owner/business name)
- Dimensions of proposed construction
- Location--lot number, address, street name, and/or distance from nearby streets

Physical copies of the [Proceedings of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo](#), 1854-1996, are in the Grosvenor Room at the Central Library.

Some years can also be found online. See those listed on this site:

<https://buffaloresearch.wordpress.com/>

Please note: the **original permit, with more information**, is at Buffalo City Hall:

Permit & Inspection Services
65 Niagara Square, Room 301
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-851-4926

Using an estimated year from other sources in your building research, such as the city property records or city directories, you can browse the years of the proceedings. Each volume has an index at the front with a section for Permits. For 1887 to 1906, this permit section is in alphabetical order by the last name of the permit requestor. We created this index by address/street to make searching these years more efficient when you only know the address.

Tips for using this index

- Streets are listed in alphabetical order, then by the numbered address. Check for the address as well as the unnumbered section at the end of each street. Many permit listings did not include an exact address, only approximations, i.e. Crowley Ave. & Ontario Street.
- Street names in the Proceedings were very inconsistent in spelling and in the use of Ave., St., etc. We have attempted to correct inaccurate street names when possible by cross-referencing city directories, maps, and the reference book [Index to records of streets...of the city of Buffalo, from 1814 to 1896.](#)

- Consider street name changes. Your street may have had an earlier name. See our list of [Street Name Changes](#).
- If you see multiple dwellings listed at one address, we split the permit entries that originally listed several addresses under the same name. Check the surrounding addresses for the other buildings that person or business applied for.
- **_not listed** in the street column means that either the name of the street was not included in the description of the permit, or the permit for that person was not listed on the page.
- Keyword search for a personal name or business name with the Find function, CTRL F.

Always check the original page of the Common Council proceedings for any information that may have been left out of our index. For more information on the building, contact the Permit & Inspection Services office at City Hall.

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