

House History Checklist

Chicago Public Library
Sulzer Regional Library
Northside Neighborhood History Collection

Current address: _____

Pre-1909 address: _____

Guide

- [Your House Has a History](https://tinyurl.com/yaosl44k)—<https://tinyurl.com/yaosl44k>

Street number changes

- Was it built before 1909? To find the pre-1909 address go to— <https://tinyurl.com/y7vkyo7l>

Street name changes

- Did the street name change? List of street name changes— <https://tinyurl.com/ybixe8l6>

General Building Information

Building Permits

- Index to the *American's Contractor*, Chicago's building permit column, 1898–1912
<https://tinyurl.com/ydyphbtbf>
- Referral: Chicago History Museum—Building permits on microfilm (1872-1954)
- Referral: UIC Daley Library

Maps

- Illinois Sanborn Maps (CPL databases)
- Illinois Sanborn Maps (Library of Congress) – <https://tinyurl.com/yeh8uxbd>
- Sanborn Map abbreviations—<https://tinyurl.com/y6vud65k>
- Robinson's Map of Chicago, 1886—<https://tinyurl.com/yapt9non> and (ancestry.com CPL databases – **In library only**)
- Rascher's Atlas of Lake View Township, 1887 – <https://tinyurl.com/y8wkct55>
- Real Estate Map and Publishing Company Jefferson Park Township and Norwood, 1908--
<https://tinyurl.com/yd5rxtmf>
- City of Chicago Property Viewer: 80 Acre, Sanborn, and Sidwell maps—<https://tinyurl.com/ycdmclxv>

Chicago Historic Resources Survey—pre-1940 structures— <https://tinyurl.com/y8od3ly9>

Former Residents?

Reverse Directories

- Chicago Elite Directory 1883-1884— <https://tinyurl.com/ya3stuwv>
- Blue Book 1876-1916 – <https://tinyurl.com/ybpslawg>
- 1928 Polk Criss Cross -- <https://tinyurl.com/yd33k8fh>

City Directories

- Jefferson Township, 1886-87 (print copy in NNHC)— <https://tinyurl.com/vcgonze4>
- Lake View Township, 1885-1889 Ancestry Library Edition (**In-library use only**)
NNHC has print copies of 1886, 1887
- Ravenswood, 1891 (print copy in NNHC)
- Chicago City Directories (microfilm: incomplete run from 1839 – 1928, also see ancestry.com)

Census Information

- [Familysearch.org](https://familysearch.org)
- Ancestry Library Edition (**In-library use only**)
- HeritageQuest (CPL databases)

(As a workaround for the missing 1890 census, try searching for males living in Chicago in the 1888, 1890, 1892 Chicago, Illinois Voter Registration access via Ancestry Library Edition (**In-library use only**))

Census Information - Enumeration Districts

- To find the EDs for Chicago – [A Look at Cook](#)
Once you have the ED, search Ancestry Library Edition (**In-library use only**) or familysearch.org

Newspapers

- Chicago Examiner: Feb. 1908 - April 1918
- Historic Chicago Tribune or Chicago Defender
- Chicago Defender, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune
- Chronicling America

Photographs

- [CPL Northside Neighborhood History Collection](#) and [CPL Digital Collections](#)
- [Explore Chicago Collections](#)
- Referral: Chicago History Museum -- Photograph collection
- Referral: Percy Sloan Collection at Newberry. [Map of photos](#)
- [Chicago Ancestors](#) (Newberry)
- [Charles W. Cushman Photographs](#) at U of Indiana—mostly south side steel mill; Bronzeville; Loop

Did a crime take place in my house?

- [Homicide in Chicago 1870-1930](#) <http://homicide.northwestern.edu/database/>

If you have any questions, please contact northsidehistory@chipublib.org.