

Resources for Information, cont.

Tulsa County Assessor

<http://www.assessor.tulsacounty.org/assessor-property-search.php>

Property description and ownership

Tulsa Foundation for Architecture

<http://tulsaarchitecture.com/>

Resources on Tulsa architecture and architects

Tulsa Preservation Commission

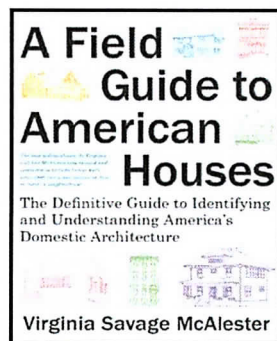
<http://tulsapreservationcommission.org/>

Tips and resources

Books & Magazines

A Field Guide to American Houses

Virginia Savage McAlester



Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood

Betsy J. Green

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

Sally Light

Many More Historic Tulsa Homes

John Brooks Walton

Old House Journal

Available at Tulsa City-County Library

Books & Magazines, cont.

Old House Interiors

Available at Tulsa City-County Library

One Hundred Historic Tulsa Homes

John Brooks Walton

One Hundred More Historic Tulsa Homes

John Brooks Walton



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Washington, DC. 20005.



Research the History of a Building



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Getting Started

When you are looking at a historic building, you cannot help but wonder about its history. Research on a building can be divided into two parts—a history of its occupation and its architectural history. Some buildings have seen several owners and several alterations, while others have seen few owners and little alteration.

Where do you start? What are the best sources of information? There is no single method to research the history of your building, but it helps to set some objectives or questions you want to answer during your research. For example:

- When was my building built?
- What did my building originally look like?
- Who were the previous owners?

When you begin your research have a notebook, pencil, and jump drive handy! Even a portable scanner is useful during visits to the library. Always document your steps and record your information, so you can retrace your steps, if necessary.

Remember some buildings will have more information, like the residence of a famous person or a building by a famous architect. You may not find your answers right away but keep searching!



New 6-room bungalow, large living and dining room, 3 bedrooms, bath, kitchen with Putman breakfast room, large basement; attractive features, mantel, oak floors, in fact everything to make a first class home. A 2-car garage. This property on a corner lot so arranged that you have room for another house. Priced at \$11,500, with terms.

Initial Steps

First, take a look at the building. You will want to identify the era or decade the building was constructed and any changes. Using a guide, you can identify a style, the period of construction, and any changes created by renovations or additions. You will also want to look at the form of the building and its interior layout, doors, and windows. Historic buildings may undergo several renovations. Original material can be covered with other materials, like asbestos siding. Porches may be enclosed, or attics may be converted into a second story.



Also, gather preliminary information about the property to assist your next research steps using:

- **Tulsa County Assessor Property Search** for information on current and past property owners and a legal description of the property.
- **Abstract Record** for the record of transactions about a tract of land.
- **City Directories** for information on occupancy, owners' occupations, spouse's name, etc.
- **Maps** for a record of development and any changes in an area, like a neighborhood.

Resources for Information

Ancestry
<http://www.ancestry.com/>
Historical records for individuals including census and military

Antique Home
<http://www.antiquehome.org/>
Architectural styles and home plans

Building Technology Heritage Library
<https://archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritage/library>
Pre-1964 architectural trade catalogs, house plan books and technical building guides

Chronicle America (Library of Congress)
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
Historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922

National Park Service– Technical Services
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/about.htm>
Guidance on preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings

Neighborhood Association *if applicable*
Neighborhood history

Oklahoma Historical Society– Research Center
<http://www.okhistory.org/research/index>
Variety of Oklahoma historical records

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office
<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoplanning.htm>
Guidance on preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings

Sanborn Maps
http://guides.tulsalibrary.org/house_history
Historic fire insurance maps with building material and forms

Tulsa City-County Library
http://guides.tulsalibrary.org/house_history
Resources on Tulsa architecture and homes