



Museum/History Research Center  
Burlington, Wisconsin

## Discover the History of Your House/Property

- What is the address of the property?
- What do you know about the house/property?
- Do you know the names of previous owners? If so, who lived there when?
- Do you have the abstract/title/legal description/tax ID number?  
lot/block number (city) or section/township/range (rural)
- What do you want to know?

**Search the Burlington Historical Society website:** <https://burlingtonhistory.org/>

- General search bar on top of page, enter family name(s), street address
- Records - People of Burlington Vicinity, and Burlington Events
- Resources - city and telephone directories, miscellaneous items including the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Gallery - photos, maps
- Any other areas relating to house/property

**At the Burlington Historical Society Museum/History Research Center:** 232 N. Perkins Blvd  
*Bookshelves*

- Old and New Street Names and Building Addresses (Burlington city) binder - look for old address for previous owners names, did the address change in 1962 (also on website under resources/miscellaneous at <http://flowpaper.burlingtonhistory.org/AddressChanges1962>)
- City directories and phone books - look for previous owners
- "Houses" Binders - see if there are any photos of your house
- Family Maps of Racine County, Wisconsin (homesteads, roads, towns, etc)

*File Cabinets*

- A-Z Genealogy/Family files - research names of the people who lived in your house
- House files

*Ask volunteer to access*

- Tax Rolls/Assessments (City of Burlington) - 1910-1997
- Plat books/maps - Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties
- Ascension records (artifact inventory) - email [burlingtonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:burlingtonhistory@gmail.com) if not available onsite

## Background on Researching Houses and Property:

- Area Research Center, UW-Parkside** - Learn how to locate tax roll entries for real estate and land parcel information in Kenosha and Racine counties including Register of Deeds and Area Research Center <https://libguides.uwp.edu/c.php?g=912188&p=6570670>
- Preservation Racine - How to Do House Research in Racine Guide** - House research starter resources, includes styles/dates of homes  
<https://preservationracine.org/research/>
- Library of Congress - House History** - <https://guides.loc.gov/house-history>

## Researching Houses and Property

- County Register of Deeds, Land Information/GIS (Geographic Information Systems)**
  - Racine County** - <https://www.racinecounty.com/>  
Register of Deeds - <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/register-of-deeds>  
Property - <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/county-treasurer/tax-inquiry>
  - Kenosha County** - <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/>  
Register of Deeds - <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/522/Register-of-Deeds>  
Property and Taxes - <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/963/Property-Taxes>
  - Walworth County** - <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/>  
Register of Deeds - <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/228/Register-of-Deeds>  
Maps & GIS - <https://gisinfo.co.walworth.wi.us/mapsandapps/>
- UW Area Research Centers** - May request inter-library loans from the Wisconsin Historical Society - <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>
  - UW-Parkside** (Kenosha, Racine counties) - 900 Wood Rd, Library, Kenosha  
<https://www.uwp.edu/learn/library/archives/>
  - UW-Whitewater** - 800 West Main Street, Anderson Library, Whitewater  
<https://www.uww.edu/library/archives>
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation** - land patents, survey plats and field notes - <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/>
- Original Surveyor Field Notes & Maps** - <https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/pages/home.aspx>  
<https://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/SurveyNotes/SurveyNotes-idx?type=PLSS&town=T003N&range=R019E>

## Information on houses, farms and properties show up in a variety of sources:

- Newspapers - obituaries, who moved where, local news columns, advertisements
- Plats and Maps - atlases, Sanborn insurance maps, Google Maps/Earth, aerial photos
  - City of Burlington maps - <https://www.burlington-wi.gov/183/City-Maps>
  - GIS - <https://mapping.kenoshacountywi.gov/InteractiveMapping/>
  - Map Book - <https://arcgis.racinecounty.com/MapBook/>
- Photo collections; Directories - cities, counties
- Real estate - records including appraisals, descriptions (Zillow.com, etc)
- Census records - some have added property details besides who lived at the address
- Family/home sources - letters, addresses, address books, stories shared, estate records
- Libraries - collections of books, family histories, newspapers, directories
- Municipalities - maps, property tax information, links to local resources
- Historical societies, museums, research centers, genealogical societies

*Compiled by the Burlington Historical Society, revised September 2024*