



Austin History Center ★ Austin Public Library  
**REAL PROPERTY INFORMATION SOURCES**  
at the Austin History Center



<http://www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc>

The Austin History Center (AHC) holds many different types of resources to help you research the history of a property in Travis County. These resources can help you identify when a structure was built, the owners/occupants, the architect, and/or the building materials used.

Before you start, you will need the address of the property, the owner(s) name, and the legal description (addition name/lot and block number). Another useful number to know is the City Tax ID Parcel #. The legal description and the Tax ID Parcel # can be found in the Travis Central Appraisal District website [ <http://www.traviscad.org/> ] (the Tax ID Parcel # is the same as the Ref ID2 number in the TCAD record). The research takes time, patience, and luck to connect the dots from beginning to end, or at least to the time period in which you are interested.

## CITY DIRECTORIES

City Directories are perhaps the best place to start in your property research. You can fairly quickly estimate the year of construction of your property as well as compile a “genealogy” of the building. The AHC owns directories for Austin dating back to 1872. Listings in the directories are arranged in three ways:

1. Name (person or business)
2. Street address (after 1905; for years earlier, there was no street index)
3. Business type (similar to yellow pages)

Unless you know that there has been only one owner of the property, it is best to use the street index. Work your way backwards in time (this can be done incrementally) to trace the building’s history, taking note of individuals or businesses at the address. To date the property, trace the address backwards until it no longer appears in the directory. For example, if an address is listed in the 1920 directory but not the 1919 directory, you can estimate the date of construction as 1919. The estimated date of construction is back-dated one year from the year of the directory because data was collected for the directory the year before it was published.

To get more information about the property, cross check the names against the alphabetical name index to gather information about an individual’s occupation or the type of business conducted at the address.

While using the street index, pay close attention to possible street name and/or number changes. At different times, the city has renamed and/or renumbered streets, which affects your research.

The AHC also has **telephone books** and **Criss-Cross** directories dating back a number of years. These can also be used to research your property, but they generally have less information than the City Directories. The AHC also has a couple of **Travis County Directories (1894-95 & 1898-99)**. These directories show the number of acres of land owned in the county next to the names.

## MAP COLLECTION

### Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Sanborn maps offer detailed, block level maps of the city, including showing footprints of buildings and detailing building materials used. The AHC has Sanborn maps from 1885 to 1971 on microfilm. These maps were not produced every year but were issued with periodic corrections. The AHC has:

1. 1885
2. 1889
3. 1894
4. 1900
5. 1922
6. 1935
7. 1935 – corrected to 1961
8. 1935 – corrected to 1971.

Each volume is self indexed with an overall area map and an alphabetical index by street name and building name.

In addition to the microfilm, these maps are also available online from the library's databases pages, made available through the TexShare program from the State Library. This database, called "Texas Digital Sanborn Maps," is available to remote users with an Austin Public Library Card at:

<http://www.austinlibrary.com/databases/index.cfm?action=subject&id=025>

There is also a hard copy set of the 1935 edition, corrected to 1956, in the Reading Room and is also available electronically in the Reading Room.

### Map Volumes

The AHC has a number of bound map volumes from various publishers. These volumes detail block level property descriptions for Travis County and include property ownership information. Most of the volumes are organized by City Tax ID Parcel #, which is divided in four parts:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> # (1 digits) = Quadrant #
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> # (4 digits) = Section #
  - a. The first two numbers together (#-####) is usually the page number. Sometimes this number is preceded by a "9" (9-#-####) to denote unincorporated County land.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> # (2 digits) = block # (the blocks are denoted on the map by the bolded, underlined numbers)
4. 4<sup>th</sup> # (2 digits) = parcel #
  - a. Use these last two numbers to find the property on the map

**NOTE: The City Tax ID Parcel # is the same as the Ref ID2 Number in the Travis Central Appraisal District Record**

These map volumes are found in the Reading Room. Volumes in the collection include:

- **1930s.** *Travis County Plat Book.* S. D. Heffington, County Tax Assessor. 2 volumes. These volumes are indexed by neighborhood, addition, or subdivision name.
- **1952.** *Block Maps of Austin Texas and Surrounding Area.* 2 copies. Indexed by addition names and geographically on a General City Map. A912.76431 B1 1952

- **1957.** *Bracey's Block Maps of the City of Austin*. 2 copies. Indexed by addition name and city map (missing from one of the volumes); it gives property dimensions, land value and building value. A912.76431 Br 1957
- **1965.** *Jenkins Land Guide to Austin Texas*. Block maps showing ownership and dimensions of land in Austin with an alphabetical list of owners. Indexed by City Map, using official city section numbers. A333 Je 1965
- **1973.** *Real Estate Atlas of Tax Maps*. Realty Data, Inc. Three volumes: Volume 1 lists by parcel number; Volume 2 shows tax assessments (city, county); Volume 3 is a supplement containing replacement pages and various maps. A346.0432 Au 1973
- **1973.** *Austin and Travis County*. 2 volumes. National Printers of America. Two unindexed map volumes arranged by city tax parcel ID #. Maps date ca. 1971-1973. Call Number: A346.0432 Tr 1973 (Travis County); A346.0432 Au (Austin)
- **1979.** *Real Estate Property Index of Travis County Texas*. Real Estate Data, Inc. 3 volumes of indexes (street address, parcel number and owner name – Austin only), but no accompanying map volume. A346.0432 Re 1979
- **1980.** *Real Estate Property Index*. REDI, Inc. Five volumes and addendum. Indexed by parcel number, owner name, and street address. Two map volumes (city, county) arranged by parcel #. Addendum lists 1980 appraised values. A346.0432 Re 1980
- **1981.** *Real Estate Atlas of Travis County Texas*. REDI, Inc. 4 volumes: alphabetical ownership index and 3 map volumes. A346.0432 Re 1981
- **1981.** Loose sheets of plat maps from NPA. A346.0432 TR
- **1981.** *Real Estate Property Index, Travis County, Texas*. 2 volumes: County alphabetical ownership index and City of Austin map volume. A346.0432 Re

In addition to those volumes, the AHC has an Archives collection with appraisal maps. This collection, **AR.1996.008**, is from the **Appraisal Associates of Austin**. The collection contains 6 bound map volumes, arranged by Parcel Number, ranging from the 1940s to the 1960s. Geographic coverage is scattered.

### **Other Maps**

The AHC has over 1000 maps of Austin and Travis County from the mid 1800's to the present, including street, topographic, zoning and other special maps. The collection includes some maps of specific neighborhoods or areas. Maps are indexed in the AHC card catalog.

## **ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES**

The Architectural Archives collection contains over 35,000 drawings and project files from buildings designed by local architectural firms. Dozens of firms are represented, including Page, Southerland & Page; Jessen & Jessen; Fehr & Granger, and many others. Drawings, blueprints, tracings, etc., are indexed by property owners, architects, and by address in the Architectural Archives card catalog at AHC. Project files are inventoried in a notebook shelved with the archives finding aids, and these inventories are arranged alphabetically by architect.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

The AHC has over 100,000 photographs arranged in three categories:

- House Building (HB) – files arranged by street address, usually showing one building or city block. These files are searchable in the online catalog by address.
- AF – Biography – biography files arranged by subject's last name. These are also searchable in the online library catalog
- AF – Subject – subject files arranged by subject headings. A list of these headings is available in a printed index in the Reading Room. Of particular interest to property researchers are the “AF – Streets – Named Streets” files.

### **Aerial Photographs**

Additionally, the AHC has a large collection of aerial photos: Aerial photos come from a variety of sources (city, state and federal government) and reveal clues about development in the areas covered. The AHC has sets, in varying states of completion, for the following years: 1940, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1958, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1968, and 1984. Indexes exist for most of these sets.

Also available are a few bound sets of aerial photographs:

- *Austin, Texas*. MPSI, 1984. This set is located with the Map Volumes mentioned above.
- *1985 Atlas*. Aerotech.
- *Austin Aerial Photo Atlas 1989<sub>2</sub>* (A912.76431).
- *Metropolitan Austin Aerial Photo Atlas*. Aerotech, 1996.
- *Landiscor's Austin Real Estate Photo Book*. Landiscor, 2000.

## CITY OF AUSTIN RECORDS

The AHC serves as the official archives for the City of Austin and holds many records relating to property in the city.

### **Building Permits**

Permit records include a variety of information about properties, such as approximate dates of construction (for new construction as well as remodels), owners names, approximate values, and in some cases, drawings or footprints of the buildings. The AHC holds the following series of records:

- **Building Permit Cards, 1939-1979.** These cards are arranged alphabetically by address and provide owner's name, permit number, contractor, the type of construction, and the cost or value estimate of the work.
- **Inspection Permits, 1967-1982.** These have much of the same information as the permit cards and were completed by inspectors during or after construction. These cards sometimes include a footprint sketch of the structure.
- **Permit Applications, 1951-1979 (microfilm).** These records are arranged by permit number and provide much more detail than the permit cards. In addition to owner's name, contractor, etc., the applications include the architect (when applicable), construction details, including materials used, and a footprint of the structure.

The City's Development Assistance Center maintains all the official City of Austin permit information. Recent permit information (1980s – present) is available online at: <https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/pierivr.htm> The Development Center does NOT keep residential plans, but they do keep commercial plans. Requests for these plans, as well as assistance with other information about city permits, are available onsite. Their office is at 505 Barton Springs (One Texas Center) on the Second Floor.

### **Tax Records**

Tax records provide the names of property owners and the tax assessed for each property. A significant increase in taxable value is usually an indicator of an improvement to a piece of land and can be an indicator of building construction.

The AHC holds some records from the city's Tax Department (AR.1991.016). Within this collection be found an incomplete set of Detail Files (1920s-1930s), arranged by plat number, Appraisal Cards (1940s-1960s), arranged by plat or parcel number, and some AISD tax rolls (1981). There is no index to the plat numbers and they appear to be a city tax ID number; the parcel numbers are described above in the "Maps" section. These cards list not only who owned the property, but the types of improvements and sometimes include a footprint of the building.

In addition to the paper files, the AHC has a microfilm set of city tax reports, 1908-1943. This 39-reel set lists annual tax records, arranged alphabetically by property owner.

The AHC also has tax records from the County. There is a microfilm set of Travis County Tax Rolls, 1840-1910. The tax rolls arranged in alphabetical order by owner name and include such information as abstract, certificate and survey numbers, original grantee, acreage, and value. For property in the city, lot and block numbers and divisions are included. The AHC also has other scattered land records in hard copy – see the section below on Travis County Records for more information.

## **TRAVIS COUNTY RECORDS**

The County government generates a large amount of records relating to land issues, usually relating to property ownership and conveyance. Many of these records are still housed with the County (located in the County Clerk's Office, 854-9188), but some records have been transferred to the AHC or microfilmed and made available at the AHC.

### **Microfilm Records**

#### **Deeds, 1840-1886.**

Deed record proof of property ownership and include owner's name and place of residence, date of property transfer, and the legal description of the property at the time of transfer. There are two indices – grantors (sellers) and grantees (buyers). Names are arranged in a roughly alphabetic order – by first letter and first vowel. For example, Townsend is under To and Taylor is under Ta. Records not available at the AHC are available from the County Clerk's Office.

#### **Survey Records, 1838-1948 (scattered).**

Surveys determine the exact locations and boundaries of a particular piece of property. Surveyor's field notes are the basis for legal descriptions of property. The records are usually self-indexed within each volume

#### **Probate Records, 1840-1918.**

These records can be used to track property transfers as part of an inheritance or estate. The records are indexed alphabetically by the deceased.

#### **Plat Records. 1877-1976.**

These records show the original platting of neighborhoods in Austin. There is an index by neighborhood, subdivision or addition name. If not known, the name of the subdivision can be found in the legal description of the property.

### **Hard Copy Records**

#### **Travis County Supplemental Tax Roll 1896-1912 (scattered).**

County property owned by Travis County residents listed in alphabetical order by owner's name. Also county property owned by nonresidents and a roll of property unrendered with owners unknown.

#### **Travis County City Lot Register (prior to) 1879-1974.**

Organized by legal description of the property it indicates owner and assessed value in a given year. A list of names and the years in which they paid taxes can be used to find deeds of sale. Significant increases and decreases in listed tax value can indicate the construction or removal of a building. Some years are indexed.

#### **Travis County Assessor's Land Register 1877-1890.**

In numerical order by abstract number. Gives certificate number, survey number, class, original grantee, quantity, description, by who rendered and value.

#### **Travis County Land Register 1891-1936.**

In numerical order by abstract number. Gives scrip or certificate number, survey number, acres in grant, original grantee, by who rendered, acres rendered, value, and amount fixed by board of equalization.

**Travis County Record 1873-1893.**

In alphabetical order by taxpayer's name. Lands sold for taxes delinquent on the Adjustment Roll of 1873-92. Property from outside Travis County listed by abstract number. City lots and outlots in order by number.

**Travis County Transfers 1916-1917.**

In alphabetical order by seller it lists to whom sold, description of lot(s), outlot, division. Remarks include subdivision name, date of sale and amount paid, and page from deed record.

**Travis County Real Estate Mortgages, 1876-1894.**

Chronological ledgers of property mortgaged in Travis County. Includes names of individuals involved and description of the property mortgaged.

## ARCHIVES COLLECTIONS

The AHC has many archival collections that may prove useful in your property research. These collections are from property developers, banks, land agents, property associations, and related entities and may provide some clues about your property's history. These collections will often detail a small part of town and/or time period, and some collections are more fully processed than others. Few of these collections have any indexing by property information, so gleaning information may prove time consuming in many cases. For more information about each of these collections, consult the bound finding aids in the Reading Room, arranged numerically by collection number.

### **AR.1991.015 Abstracts of Title Collection.**

Date span is 1852-1981. This collection is arranged alphabetically by subdivision name and then by block and lot number(s). Where available, the exact street address is also provided.

### **AR. I.006 Sheffield (Wilhelmine) Papers.**

Files from a local real estate agent, with the bulk of the material covering 1936-1938. Information about properties for sale, including the Dancy and Westfield Additions. The most complete files contain photographs, descriptions of property (property briefs), house plans, notes and plats. The majority of the property is residential with some businesses and lots for sale.

### **AR.2001.001. Freeman (D.C.) House Records.**

Information about properties on the 600 block of East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

### **AR.I.005 & AR.1998.003. Heritage Society of Austin Records.**

Since its inception, the Heritage Society has sought to preserve the built environment of Austin. This collection includes office files, etc., relating to the organization, including project files on many projects they commissioned. There is also a box of photographs of properties the organization has researched.

### **AR. 1993.011. Real Estate Auction Records.**

Contains miscellaneous information about real estate auctions and foreclosures in Texas in the 1990s.

### **AR.1994.081. Travis County Historical Commission Records.**

These records are arranged chronologically and includes reports on most of the properties reviewed by the commission for historical status.

### **AR.2001.013. Searight [Allen] Papers.**

Includes documents and maps/plats relating to property in the Slaughter League (South Austin).

### **AR.F.004. Calcasieu Lumber Company Records.**

The Calcasieu Company started in the home business in 1916, offering the 1<sup>st</sup> installment homes for Austin. Unfortunately, the AHC has few records from this aspect of its business, but there is some information related to their loan holdings.

### **AR.2002.038. NCNB Texas National Bank Real Estate Appraisal Group Records.**

This unprocessed collection contains sale information on properties, mostly commercial, from the 1950s to the 1990s.

**AR.2007.003. Old West Austin National Register Historic District Records.**

Surveys of properties in Old West Austin used in researching and preparing the National Register historic district nomination for Old West Austin.

**AR.R.019. Maddox Brothers Records.** The Maddox Brothers were land agents working throughout the state. Of particular interest in this collection will be the ledger books, which are self-indexed.

**AUSTIN FILES**

The Austin Files collections are basically vertical files containing newspaper clippings, brochures, pamphlets, and other ephemeral items. The collection is arranged in three categories, exactly like the photo collection mentioned above.

- AF-House/Building: Files of information about buildings, and structures in the area arranged by street address. Addresses are searchable in the FindIt online catalog.
- AF-Biography: Information files about Austin/Travis County residents, past and present, for owners, residents, architects, and contractors. Names are searchable in the FindIt online catalog.
- AF-Subject: Topics ranging from “Aeronautics” to “Zilker Park” and including files on some subdivisions and street names. Folder headings are listed in a printed index available in the Reading Room.

These files can be used to flesh out your research. For example, after you complete the City Directory research for the property you are investigating, you should have a list of names of individuals or businesses (or both). You can then check to see if we have files on these names.

The AHC also has a small **Postcards** collection within the Austin Files collection (AF Postcards P6150). These postcards date back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Postcards can be a good source for additional historic images of a property or site, and in some cases is the only source of images.

## BOOKS

The AHC has over 35,000 books related to Austin and its history. You can search the online catalog or consult the card catalog to search topics and/or people associated with the property you are researching. Also, the AHC has many books related to Austin architecture.

*Abstract of Land Titles of Texas.* Call #: A 333.34 TE

Multiple volumes and supplements dating back to 1838. These volumes record tracts of land of varying sizes usually awarded to encourage settlement or as a reward for military service. **Land certificates** were awarded to individuals who were called **grantees**. A grantee could sell or “assign” their certificates to another, who became an **assignee**. Some tracts of land were settled by the assignee, rather than the grantee, but still bear the name of the owner of the original certificate, or grantee. After fulfilling the conditions of the grant, such as making improvements, the grantee or assignee could apply for a **patent**, or the legal conveyance of title for the property.

American Institute of Architects. Austin Chapter. *Austin and Its Architecture.* 1976. Call #: A 720.976431 AM [DESK REFERENCE]

*Architecture for the Emerging American City.* 1985. Call #: A 720.976431 AR

*At Home After 1840: Twenty-seven Buildings in Austin.* 1966. Call #: A 917.6411 AU6AT

*Austin, Its Architects and Architecture, 1836-1986.* 1986. Call #: A 720.976431 AU [DESK REFERENCE]

*Austin Women in Architecture.* Call #: A 720.976431 AU  
AHC has two years of this directory.

*Barton Creek Showcase of Homes.* 1997. Call #: A 728.3709764 BA 1997

City of Austin. *Structures Zoned Historic.* Call #: A720.976431 AU [DESK REFERENCE]  
9 volumes of historic landmark survey forms, arranged by address.

Dolman, Wilson E. *East Austin Historic Sites Inventory.* 2006. Call #: A 976.431 DO  
2 volumes – one contains surveys, two contains photographs.

Duncan, Patricia L. *The Austin Bungalow: A Study of Form and Style.* 1987. Call #: A 728.373 DU

Freeman, Marsha Doty. *East Austin: An Architectural Survey.* 1980. Call #: A 711.5 FR

Hafertepe, Kenneth. *Survey and Multiple Property Nomination of Abner Cook Structures in Austin.* 1989. Call #: A 724.23 HA

Hardy, Heckm Moore & Myers. *Historic Resources Survey of East Austin.* 2000. Call #: A976.431 HA

Harris, August W. *Minor and Major Mansions in Early Austin.* 1955, 1958. Call #: A 917.6411 AU67H  
AHC also has a supplement volume at the same call number.

Heritage Foundation. *Historic Architecture Evaluation Inventory.* Call #: A 720.9764 AU PHASE 1 1<sup>ST</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> STR

Historic American Buildings Survey. *Texas Catalog: A List of Measured Drawings, Photographs and Written Documentation in the Survey, 1974*. 1974. Call #: A 720.9764 HI

Howard, Hugh. *How Old Is This House? A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses*. Call #: A 728.028 HO [DESK REFERENCE]

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. 1984. Call #: A917.304927 Ma

Myers, Terri. *Manor Historic Resources Survey*. 2007. Call #: A 976.431 MY

*National Register of Historic Places in Travis County*. Call #: A 976.431 NA [DESK REFERENCE]  
4 volumes of National Register nomination forms.

*Original City of Austin Lots*. Call #: A 976.431 DR [DESK REFERENCE]

*Parade of Homes*. Call #: A 728.3709764 PA

AHC has the following years: 1953, 1956, 1965, 1967-1972, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1984, 9185, 1988, 1991-1993, 1996, 1998, 2003

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture*. 1998. Call #: A 720.9730904 RI

Teas, Wendy A. *The Bungalows of Hyde Park*. 1987. Call #: A 728.3730976 TE MAY 15, 1987

University of Texas. School of Architecture. *Travis Heights: A Critical Period*. 1975. Call #: A 711.409764 TE

Walker, John P. *An Architect Developing*. Call #: A 711.555 WA

Wark, David. *Abner Hugh Cook: Master Builder and Citizen of Austin*. 1981. Call #: A 720.924 C771W

Williamson, Roxanne K. *Austin, Texas: An American Architectural History*. 1973. Call #: A 720.9765 WI [DESK REFERENCE]

----- *Victorian Architecture in Austin*. 1967. Call #: A 720.9764 WI

## PERIODICALS

Newspapers and magazines can often be a good source of information about a property (provided you can find the relevant articles!).

### Newspapers

The AHC has a complete run of the *Austin American Statesman*, in its various name-states, available on microfilm. Indexing for the *Statesman* is spotty – consult the guide in the Reading Room. Also, if you have a date of sale of a property, you can try checking the newspaper around that date for a notice or advertisement, which sometimes included a picture.

### Magazines

The AHC has an extensive magazine/periodical collection, and magazines relating to architecture, home and living, and even professional association newsletters may provide information. Titles in the AHC collection that may be of interest include:

- *Builder/Architect*. 1995-2001
- *Texas Architect*. 1959-2007
- *Austin Homes & Gardens*. 1979-1996
- *Austin Home & Living*. 1996-2006
- *Austin Homes Illustrated*. 1976-1978
- *Austin House & Home*. 2000-2001
- *Distinctive Homes*. 1993-1996
- *Home and Land*. 1940.
- *Homes and Land of Greater Austin*. 1976-1992.
- Society of Architectural Historians, Austin Chapter, newsletter. 1976-1991; Texas Chapter, newsletter, 1989.
- Women's Architectural League of Austin Newsletter, 1977-78, 1984-93
- American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter – various newsletters, 1978-87, 1987-88, 2000-07

## ONLINE RESOURCES

There are a number of online resources available that may assist you in property research; some are free and some are subscription based.

Free:

- **Travis Central Appraisal District.** <http://www.traviscad.org> This website includes information about tax appraisals in Travis County since the consolidation of the appraisal district in the 1990s. The database is searchable by owner name, property address, or account number. The database includes property information, including legal description, owners name(s), appraised values, historical values back to the late 1990s, and other property details. Plat maps are also available for selected properties
- **Historic Sites Atlas.** <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us> This site is maintained by the Texas Historical Commission and includes site records about the 300,000 Texas Historical Markers and National Register of Historic Places properties in Texas. The records include textual descriptions of the properties, historic images, and interactive maps. Users can search by historic designation, county, address, site name, or keyword.
- **Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).** [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/) The HABS project, along with the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), is administered by the National Park Service and documents the built environment through drawings, images, and written histories. All the HABS reports are available online here, hosted by the Library of Congress, and new reports are added annually. There are over 30 reports on Travis County properties.

Subscription:

- **Texas Digital Sanborn Maps.** <http://www.austinlibrary.com/databases/index.cfm?action=subject&id=025> The Sanborn Maps (described above in the “Maps” section) are available in this database from ProQuest and subscribed to by the Texas State Library. Remote access is available to Austin Public Library card holders, or users can access this database at any APL location.

### Online Research Guides

- **City of Austin Historic Preservation Office.** [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/downloads/research\\_house.pdf](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/downloads/research_house.pdf) This guide was written by the City’s historic preservation officer and is geared towards helping researchers compile the necessary information for a City of Austin Landmark.
- **Texas Historical Commission.** <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/publications/pubguide.shtml> This is the publications page for the THC and they offer a number of guides on preserving historic properties. Explore this site further for information about how to apply for a Texas Historic Landmark or a National Register of Historic Places designation.
- **National Register Bulletin: Researching a Historic Property.** <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb39/> “The purpose of this bulletin is to introduce the beginner to some basic sources and techniques for the collection of data for nominating a historic property to the National Register of Historic Places”

## OTHER USEFUL LOCAL SOURCES FOR PROPERTY RESEARCH

**CITY OF AUSTIN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CENTER**, 505 Barton Springs Road (One Texas Center), 512-974-2747, 8:00-3:00 Monday-Friday  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/default.htm>

- City of Austin Building Permits
- Plans for commercial buildings

**HARRY RANSOM HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER**, 21st and Guadalupe Street, University of Texas campus, 512-471-8944, 9:00-5:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-12:00 Saturday  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu>

- 30 million literary manuscripts
- 1 million rare books
- 5 million photographs
- 100,000 visual artworks
- Nineteenth century bird's eye view maps by August Koch

**MILLER BLUE PRINT**, 501 W. 6<sup>th</sup>, 512-478-8793  
<http://www.millerblueprint.com/>

- Sells topographical maps (United States Geodetic Survey) of counties, which include RM and FM roads, cemeteries, and private roads – especially useful in rural areas.
- Sells aviation maps, which give elevations

**TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**, 1700 Congress (Stephen F. Austin Building), 512-463-5277. Archives and Records Division, Mon—Fri 7:30am to 5:30pm  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives.html>

- Preserves 35.5 million documents containing information about land grants and transactions dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Website has an extensive page on the history of Texas public lands

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION LIBRARY**, Congress and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 512-463-5753.  
<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/thclibrary/libdefault.html>

The library is located at 1510 N. Congress Ave. one block north of the State Capitol. Call to make arrangements for special projects. Hours are by appointment only; closed state and national holidays.

- 3,000 books, most of which focus on some aspect of Texas' rich heritage
- 11,500 historical marker files, which number about 11,500, and a file collection of the state's
- 2,500 National Register sites
- Survey reports of archeological and cultural resources
- Maps from the 1936 county survey

- Slides and photos of state historic sites and buildings
- City and county histories
- A general reference section
- A collection of archeology and history periodicals

**TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**, 1201 Brazos, 463-5480. Mon—Fri 8am to 5pm.  
<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/agency/index.html>

- Ad Valorem Tax Records
- Photographs
- Index of death certificates
- Census records
- City directories
- Genealogical Collection
- Confederate and other pensions
- Index to Vertical Files available on website

**TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, 1000 Guadalupe, 512-854-9020 (information). County Clerk's Office, 5501 Airport Blvd., 512-854-9188.  
[http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county\\_clerk/default.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/default.asp)

- Deed records can be searched here and copies purchased
- Marriage, birth, death, divorce records (not always open to the public)
- Probate records (wills)
- County Court records (property disputes, sanity hearings)
- Builders and Mechanics Liens

**TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT**, 8314 Crosspark Drive, 512-834-9317  
<http://www.traviscad.org/>

- Plat maps (maps for tax purposes, indicate divisions and subdivisions of tracts of land). Searchable database online for current appraisals.

**UT ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING LIBRARY**, University of Texas at Austin campus, Battle Hall 200, 512-495-4620. Hours vary by school calendar, but are extensive  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/>

- Open to the public
- Student documentary reports, including drawings, photos
- Microform reproductions of complete HABS/HAER inventory
- Microform reproductions of properties listed in the National Register
- Books and periodicals

**ALEXANDER ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE**, University of Texas at Austin campus, Battle Hall 200, 512-495-4621. Mon—Fri, by appointment only

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/aaa/index.html>

**UT DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY**, University of Texas at Austin campus, Sid Richardson Hall 2.101, 512- 495-4515. Mon-Sat 9am to 5pm  
<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/>

- Texas Collection, with books, periodicals, clipping files, and more
- Map Collection, especially Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps cover 426 Texas cities, 1877-1951
- Nineteenth century census records
- Archives and Manuscripts, with papers, photographs, and records of persons and groups significant to Texas
- Texas Newspapers Unit, with 2,000 newspapers published in Texas since 1829



Austin History Center ★ Austin Public Library  
810 Guadalupe (9th and Guadalupe)  
P.O. Box 2287  
Austin, Texas 78768  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/>