

## DOCUMENTING A PROPERTY IN ATLANTA

How and where do you research your historic building in the metro-Atlanta area? Detailed research into the history of a building involves more than determining its construction date and its style. It is important to know something about the neighborhood and era in which it was built, and for whom it was built. What was the owner's role in the community? What was his or her occupation? Was the building built for a prominent family or a working-class household? Was it built for speculation? Was a trained architect involved or was the design purchased from a mail-order house? What social events took place there?

### I. AGE

The information discussed below is designed to help you find the answers to many of these questions about a historic property.

#### A. Deeds (Land History)

Deeds are land records that can be traced from the current owner backwards, from the known to the unknown. They include the name of the owner, the location of the property, sale price, and the date the property changed hands. Arrangement is chronological, in the order of entry. Normally deeds are indexed, but the indices are alphabetical by the name of the seller (grantor), listed in a "direct index" and the name of the buyer (grantee) listed in another index called the "reverse index."

A sale or change of ownership is a good sign that a new building might have been built subsequent to the filing of the original deed, but only if this date correlates with the presumed construction date of the building. A large jump in the sale price is also an indicator of a new building (or of an addition).

Deeds are found in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, in the county where the land is located. Most pre-1900 deeds have been microfilmed by the Georgia Department of Archives and History (State Archives) and are available at the State Archives in Morrow on microfilm. Only those pre-1900 deeds have been microfilmed. Check at: <http://sos.georgia.gov/archives/>

Some title searches can be found at the Atlanta History Center (AHC) that include the history of a property as taken from the deed records. These have been donated by law firms and are found in the manuscripts under the names "Walter McElreath," "Hugh P. Luttrell," and "Mitchell and Mitchell" and include many plats for suburbs from the 1890s.

Table 1: Dates of Existing Deed/Land Records for Counties Within the Metro-Atlanta Area

<b>County:</b>	<b>Creation Date:</b>	<b>Existing Deeds:</b>
Campbell*	1828	1828-1932 (merged with Fulton Co.)
Cherokee	1830	1830 to present
Clayton	1858	1858 to present
Cobb	1832	1864 to present
DeKalb	1822	1842 to present

Douglas	1870	1870 to present
Fayette	1821	1821 to present
Fulton	1853	1853 to present
Gwinnett	1818	1871 to present
Henry	1821	1821 to present
Milton*	1857	1864-1932 (merged with Fulton Co.)
Paulding	1832	1848 ? to present
Rockdale	1870	1870 to present

\*Deeds for Campbell and Milton counties, which merged with Fulton in 1932, are found in the Fulton County Courthouse.

### **B. Tax Records (City and County)**

Tax records in Georgia are called digests, and are maintained at both the city and county level. A county tax digest contains the name of the owner of the property, a brief description of the property (commonly just the acreage) and a value for the property. It does not list buildings and indicates the existence of a building only if it is within the city limits.

County tax digests were created yearly in each county. Each digest or tax book is divided (as is the county) into subdivisions called Georgia Militia Districts (GMDs). Within each district, since the 1950s, taxpayers are listed in roughly alphabetical order; they are not arranged by street address or land designation. Thus you must know the owner of the property in order to locate the appropriate entry. City-owned property also appears in the county tax digest.

Again, a jump in the value of a property is considered evidence that some new building was constructed or added to since the previous digest. A similar interpretation can be made of the value appearing in the category "household furnishings." Rural property was evaluated only by acreage, without reference to the number or age of buildings.

There are normally only two locations for county tax digests: the county courthouse and the State Archives. Sometimes the digests are available at a local historical society.

To locate an existing digest dated prior to 1870, you should check at the State Archives, where all known pre-1870 digests are on microfilm. The State Archives also has on deposit original digests from the early 1870s to the present for every Georgia county. These may duplicate those held by the county, but the State Archives set is complete. Existing city tax records are held at the city hall unless they have been transferred to a local historical society. The county tax office, in many cases, has mapped and computerized the current information, which is available online for many Georgia counties. Current property records often have an estimated or known date of construction, as well as a record of recent additions and/or outbuildings.

### **C. City Directories**

An Atlanta City Directory was first published in 1859. After 1870, Atlanta directories were published annually. A few Georgia cities had earlier ones.

From the earliest editions, directories list the name of an individual, occupation or place of work,

and usually home address. Businesses had separate entries, and occupations were grouped in the back of the directory in a classified business section. Entries are alphabetical by person or business name, so to make use of early city directories it is necessary to know the name of the owner or occupant of the structure. Later (after 1877 in Atlanta), they include a cross-reference list of buildings by house and street number.

To determine the date of construction, one strategy is to determine the earliest listing of the owner you suspect built the structure at an address that matches that of the property under study. Depending on the time lapse between directories, this could help pin down the proposed date of construction. After 1877, Atlanta directories can be used to determine the earliest appearance of a house or building at a given address.

**WARNING:** Many cities have renumbered their houses and businesses. The 1892 and 1926 Atlanta directories give both old and new house numbers because they were renumbered in those years. The original number will be useful in a building permit search.

Georgia city directories are hard to find. The only complete bibliography is in the *Georgia Research: A Handbook for Genealogists, Historians . . .* (2001) compiled by Robert S. Davis, Jr. and Ted O. Brooke for the Georgia Genealogical Society. Metro-Atlanta directories are commonly found at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (APL), Atlanta History Center (AHC), the DeKalb History Center (DHC) and other local libraries. Other metro-area towns may be included in Atlanta directories.

#### **D. Maps**

The Digital Library of Georgia has online map collections, as well as many other resources available at: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were published for incorporated towns. They are useful maps for determining a building's age, location, use, footprint, construction material, and number of stories. Sanborn Maps are one of the most useful resources for historic preservation research in Georgia. These are now available on-line at: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn>. Other good sources for the maps are in the University of Georgia's Science Library map collection, and on microfilm at the Decatur, Georgia, public library. They are also available on microfilm at Georgia State University, and at the Atlanta History Center, both in Atlanta. A list of all Sanborn Maps known to exist is published in *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress: Plans of North American Cities and Towns Produced by the Sanborn Map Company* (1981).

Plat Maps are usually created when a property is sold and are filed in the county courthouse at the same time the deed is recorded. They are especially important when researching the history of a neighborhood, as plats were required for each neighborhood created as a subdivision. Plats are commonly available for individual properties as well; by the 1920s they were required for every piece of property sold. Some families retain plats to rural property. Ask the owner if such a plat exists in family papers. County courthouses maintain plat books; some counties have plats indexed by district and lot number. In the Fulton County Courthouse, the first several volumes of deed indices have a separate index to plats listed under the letter "p". Other counties have other systems.

Adair Realty Company Plat Books, dating from the 1860s to recent years, are available at AHC. The majority are for the period from 1880 to 1910. AHC also has neighborhood plats in the Visual Arts Catalog and in the Mitchell and Mitchell Title Searches Collection.

Many other maps may show the existence of a building at a given time. AHC can give guidance on any area within present-day Atlanta and Decatur, as can DHC for Decatur. AHC also maintains 19<sup>th</sup>-century City Atlases, some of which show specific buildings, and maps showing Civil War activities in the metro-Atlanta area.

Table 2: Sanborn Maps of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area

Atlanta

Avondale Estates (1959)  
Brookhaven (1928)  
Buckhead (1928)  
Chattahoochee (1928) Whittier Mills, Bolton Road Area  
Clairmont Park (1928) Decatur, intersection of Scott Blvd. and Clairmont Road  
College Park (1928)  
Decatur (1928)  
Druid Hills (1928)  
East Atlanta (1959), area surrounded by Memorial Dr., Moreland Ave, Greenleaf Rd  
East Point (1928)  
Hapeville (1928)  
Inman Yards (1928), Marietta Blvd., near Perry Homes  
Kirkwood (1928)  
Lakewood (1928), Southeastern Fairgrounds site  
Lakewood Heights (1928) east of the fairgrounds, Capitol Ave.W; Sawtell on S & E  
Oakhurst (1928) Decatur area, S. of College Ave., N. of Boulevard, Oakview Rd.  
South Atlanta (1959), Jonesboro Road area, north of Lakewood Heights (see above)

Greater Metro Atlanta

Acworth (1930)  
Austell (1925)  
Buford (1921, 1931)  
Canton (1921, 1930)  
College Park (1911, afterwards in Atlanta)  
Conyers (1884, 1895, 1901, 1909, 1921)  
Dallas (1895, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1923)  
Decatur (1911, afterwards in Atlanta)  
Douglasville (1895, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1923)  
East Point (1911, afterwards in Atlanta)  
Fairburn (1892, 1903, 1909, 1921, 1929)  
Fayetteville (1923)  
Hampton (1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1923)  
Hapeville (1911, afterwards in Atlanta)

Jonesboro (1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1923)  
Lawrenceville (1924)  
Lithonia (1895, 1901, 1909, 1923)  
Marietta (1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1923)  
McDonough (1905, 1911, 1923)  
Palmetto (1885, 1890, 1900, 1909, 1924)  
Roswell (1924)  
Stone Mountain (1924)  
Suwanee (1923) in Gwinnett County

In 1927-1929, the City of Atlanta, in conjunction with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, published a series of more than 50 topographical maps similar to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps published today. The 1927-1929 series covers much of central Atlanta and vicinity. Because of the scale (1" = 200'), these maps are detailed enough to indicate shapes of houses and buildings. A complete set is housed at AHC. Current USGS maps are available for purchase online from the U.S. Geological website at: <http://store.usgs.gov>. The National Register of Historic Places uses the 7.5 minute topographical maps.

Historic USGS 15, 30, and 7.5 minute topographic maps for Georgia from the 1880s through the 1950s are available online at the Digital Library of Georgia website or at the State Archives.

Panoramic or Bird's Eye View Maps are another useful type of graphic record from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that shows an aerial view of a town with houses, buildings, streets, etc. A national inventory and history of these maps can be found in *Views and Viewmakers of Urban America*, by John W. Reps (University of Missouri, 1984). A number of these early "aerial" photographs (which actually predate the airplane) show the Atlanta area (1871, 1892, 1919) and can be found at AHC.

### **E. Building Permits**

Building permits contain the date a building was started, and, rarely, the day it was completed. They give the name of the builder and commonly the architect, cost, address, construction materials, etc. Atlanta building permits are arranged alphabetically by street name, and then within the street, by street/house number. You should take into account the 1926 renumbering. The new street numbers have not been annotated to the building permits; therefore the old street number must be known, and ideally, the original owner, so that the address can be verified. Permits are the most exact records of a building's actual construction date, since the date of issuance of the permit is always on the document. The specific construction date can sometimes lead you to an article about the building in the local newspaper.

Building permits are usually only available for large cities. Atlanta has copies of early permits dating from 1897 and available on microfilm at AHC. There is also a Log Book located in the City of Atlanta Building Permit Office where permits were recorded. It is often easier to check it than the actual permits. Some building permits were published in the newspapers in Atlanta and other cities. Permits cannot always be located for all buildings.

## F. Miscellaneous Sources

Newspaper articles. Since the 1880s, most newspapers (especially in small towns) have carried columns devoted to local news. Newspapers in larger cities had columns devoted to activities in surrounding towns. These columns often contained building news, especially about houses. Local news columns might also indicate the names of the builders of the house or at least a clue as to the contractors of the period. There are no indices for any metro-Atlanta newspapers until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even then these indices are not likely to index building news, except for major public buildings. After about 1915, newspapers carried more building news. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Sunday edition of the *Atlanta Journal* contained a Real Estate page devoted to building news; other community newspapers probably did as well. After discovering the specific construction date of a building, you should definitely check the most appropriate newspaper for a possible mention of the project, an architect's rendering, or a photograph.

Hearsay. Interview the neighbors of your property and ask when they think the building was constructed. Try to find a previous owner or a member of the family to interview; one of these people may have a good idea as to when the building was built. Hearsay is not always reliable, but it may provide traceable clues.

Architectural analysis. Try to analyze logically when the house appears to have been built. Identification of the original owner suggests an era. Using this knowledge in conjunction with an architectural styles guidebook such as *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings* (available at: <http://www.gashpo.org/>) can help you interpret features of the house: floor plan, overall arrangement, porch, columns, roof shape, window arrangement, etc. You should also observe the way in which these features were crafted. Are they handmade or machine-made? There are many books to assist you; one book is *A Field Guide to American Houses*, by Virginia and Lee McAlester (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984).

Unpublished material including manuscripts, family or business papers, letters, etc. can provide information. When interviewing the previous owner's family, this is the type of material you should ask about. Perhaps a piece of stationery will carry a business logo or an illustration of the building. If the family was prominent, check at an archives or historical society where the family or business papers might have been donated.

Telephone directories could be helpful to establish the year an individual moved into a house, or at least when a telephone was installed. AHC has the best Atlanta collection. Atlanta-Fulton Public Library also has a good collection in Ready Reference in Special Collections.

Neighborhood newsletters. Although these date back only to the late 1960s in Atlanta, they can be a useful source. Many include interviews with older or former residents and other research about the neighborhood. AHC has the best Atlanta collection. Emory University Special Collections also has some of these.

Vertical file/subject file. This is how librarians refer to loose newspaper clippings or other items on a particular subject. Check those at AHC and APL. At AHC check the following categories: homes (alphabetical), apartments (by name of apartment building), neighborhoods (alphabetical), as well as the personality files if the owner was prominent. Before beginning research, know the

name of the owners/occupants of the property and the correct street address. Ask at APL Special Collections for files covering different Atlanta topics and biographical sketches of prominent Georgians.

Cornerstones are found primarily on public buildings, churches, schools, lodges, etc. Instead of, or in addition to, a cornerstone, there might be a plaque inside the building. Remember that the date on the cornerstone is the date the stone was laid and thus when construction began rather than when it was completed. Private homes seldom have cornerstones.

Building committee minutes are important for community buildings such as churches, schools, and lodges. Minutes should include the date construction began and was finished, and the architect's name.

City Records for Defunct Towns. AHC has records of several formerly incorporated areas now absorbed into Atlanta: Edgewood, Kirkwood, Oakland City, and West End.

Census. The U.S. Census has been taken every ten years since 1790. The most commonly used schedules, or portions, are the population schedules, including the slave schedules for 1850 and 1860. The schedules for agriculture, manufacturing and industry, and social statistics (all 1850-1880) are useful in building research. Beginning in 1850, the census recorded data on everyone in a household, age, occupation, and the value of property. In the 1880 census, a listing of city residents by street name and number was begun, indicating that a house was present. Census records can be found at AHC, State Archives, APL and other public libraries in metro-Atlanta, and at the National Archives-Southeast Region in Morrow. The slave schedules for 1860 list the number of slave cabins on each plantation. The agricultural census gives the number of acres on each farm and a listing of farm products and amounts. The manufacturing census lists businesses such as factories, gristmills, etc., and their products. The social statistic census schedule gives community information such as data on schools, churches, libraries, etc., although it does not name the specific institutions.

Photographs can document the existence of a building at a certain time or event, such as a natural event (fire, snow, flood) or a family event (marriage, death, family visit, christening, etc.). The date of the building could be determined by the age of a person in the photograph. Do not just ask for "old pictures of the house," but look at any family photographs during the time the family lived in the house.

Gazetteers. Although earlier gazetteers exist, those that are helpful in documenting historic buildings are those that were published in Georgia from the mid-1870s to about 1915. Gazetteers include valuable details about small communities. The information is arranged in alphabetical order by name of community and within each entry is a list of businesses or owners of businesses. The entries resemble a mini-city directory. They do not list street addresses but give useful statistical data on the community: population, rail connections, churches, banks, etc. They do not list all citizens, just ones in key businesses, or in small towns, all businesses. Gazetteers can be good sources for information on rural areas, businesses, and towns. One of these, *The Georgia State Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1881-82, lists owners by types of business. (For example, flour and gristmill owners are listed by towns, alphabetically; other

occupations are listed as well.) The University of Georgia, the State Archives, the Georgia Historical Society, and the Atlanta History Center are the best repositories in which to seek gazetteers.

Posters and broadsides were published for some neighborhoods and subdivisions by the developer to advertise the beginning of the project. They commonly show the plat or layout of the proposed neighborhood and were often reprinted in the newspapers. Check your neighborhood association or local library/historical society for these. There is no known collection of them.

Dun and Bradstreet. The R.G. Dun Co. issued annual credit lists, which are as useful as gazetteers and city directories. AHC has only one volume, #201 for July 1918, entitled: *The Mercantile Agency, Reference Book...Merchants, Manufacturers and Traders*. This volume would be especially useful in dealing with small communities that had no city directory. A complete set is at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Atlanta Board of Realtors. These files of real estate appraisals and photographs dating from the 1920s to the 1970s have been donated to AHC.

## II. ARCHITECT

Knowing the architect enables you to seek out other buildings or plans designed by the same architect, thus providing a better understanding of the architect's work, techniques, or materials used. Many house designs were taken from architects' pattern books or mail-order catalogs, such as Sears and Roebuck's, while others were built using designs found in popular national magazines. Following are some sources for determining the identity of the architect, in addition to the sources discussed previously.

### A. Architectural Advertisements, Architect's Catalogs, Pattern Books, Mail Order Catalogs and Builder's Guides

Rarely, advertisements for major building products list buildings; for example, a Ludowici Tile Co. advertisement listed 50 buildings that used that product and named the architects. There is no systematic way to find such ads. Some architects published catalogs of their existing works, or a retrospective book may have been published of their works. Some architects published pattern books, giving many designs from which a potential customer could choose. One Atlanta-based architect who published a number of pattern books was Leila Ross Wilburn, Atlanta's best-known designer of bungalows. AHC has several of her scrapbooks and three published pattern books, as well as books and portfolios of other architects.

Mail order catalogs offered plans and specifications for houses; some offered materials as well. In other words, you could order an entire house - plans, instructions, and pre-cut materials - to be delivered to your lot. For a good article on the subject, see David M. Schwartz, "When home sweet home was just a mailbox away," *Smithsonian* November 1985, 90-101; and by the same author, "Houses That Came in the Mail," *The Saturday Evening Post* May/June 1986, 52-55, 95-96. A book on the subject, *Houses By Mail*, written by Katherine Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl is another resource (Preservation Press: 1986).

A builder's guide was a book that offered specific elements of a house for sale, such as doors, windows, molding, mantels, ornamentation, etc.

A good source that discusses many of these types of publications is Michael A. Tomlan's, "Popular and Professional American Architectural Literature in the late Nineteenth Century," (Ph.D. Dissertation, Cornell University, 1983).

## **B. Architectural Plans**

Plans of defunct architectural firms or deceased architects are extremely rare. The only known repository collecting plans of Atlanta-based architects is AHC, which maintains an Architectural Drawings Catalog. Some major firms are still in business and could be contacted directly (e.g., Robert & Co. and Henry Howard Smith for Francis P. Smith and Pringle & Smith), as they retain most of their original plans. A list of the location of any known plans of early Atlanta architects is available from AHC.

## **C. Architects and Builders in Georgia Project**

This is a collection of biographical information on architects known to have worked in Georgia. Some files contain only a small amount of information, while others are quite extensive. The files contain no cross-reference of buildings by location, and no actual plans or drawings. Most of the information is unprocessed and is on file at HPD.

## **D. Architects in Atlanta (information available at AHC)**

Bodin, Daniel; of firm Frazier and Bodin; *Residences Designed by Frazier and Bodin Architects* (1930s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuxedo Park and Valley Road (1930s)

Brown, A. Ten Eyck; *Ten Eyck Brown Architectural Catalog* (1924)

Bruce, A.C.; *Bruce & Morgan Architects* (Bruce & Morgan) (1883)

Denny, Willis F.; Two Portfolios (VAC)

Downing, Walter T.; *Domestic Architecture* (1895)

Wilburn, Leila Ross; Three pattern books (1920s) (Mss)

Publications that give a career assessment of some other Atlanta-based architects include these below; however, this list is not exhaustive, check for other sources at:

<http://www.worldcat.org>

*Lewis Edmund Crook, Jr. Architect, 1898-1967* (1984) by William R. Mitchell, Jr.

*The Architecture of James Means, Georgia Classicist* (2001) by William R. Mitchell, Jr.

*J. Neel Reid, Architect, of Hentz, Reid & Adler and the Georgia School of Classicists* (1997) by William R. Mitchell, Jr.

*American Classicist: the Architecture of Philip Trammell Shutze* (1989) by Elizabeth Dowling.

### **E. Trade Magazines/Periodicals**

From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the present, there has been a proliferation of magazines devoted to architecture and related trades (brick, concrete, engineering, etc.). Some publications listing Georgia buildings are identified below. Public buildings are generally noted, private residences less often. Entries generally give the cost, approximate date of construction, and architect's name. Many contain good advertisements and illustrations of products.

*Southern Architect and Building News.* 1889-1932 - no complete set exists. AHC has 1889-1892, 1890s, 1920s-1932. Emory and APL have 1926-1932.

*The Industrial Index.* 1906-1950s. Bradley Library, Columbus, GA, main location, some at Columbus State College, and University of Georgia.

*The Manufacturer's Record.* 1882-1960s. GSU has complete set.

*The City Builder.* 1916-1940s. AHC has full set and an index.

*Dixie Contractor.* (1926- ) Decatur, GA. No known reference set.

*Dodge Report/Dodge Bulletin.* (1891-) No known reference set.

### **F. Popular Magazines**

Many still-published national magazines are great sources of data about styles, building materials, etc., for the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Many libraries have early issues worth researching.

Examples:

*House Beautiful.* 1896-present

*Ladies' Home Journal.* 1883-present

*House and Garden.* 1901-present

*Better Homes and Gardens.* 1922-present

### **G. Architectural Magazines**

National architectural associations, such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and other professional associations publish their own periodicals. Many of these are now available online. Following are some of the titles available in the Architecture Library at the College of Architecture at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech):

*American Architect*

*American Architect and Building News*

*Architect and Engineer*

*Architectural Forum (Brickbuilder)*

*Architectural Record*

The Georgia Tech library also has the *Carnegie Study of Architecture of the South* 1927-1943 (photographs by Francis Benjamin Johnson) and the Historic American Buildings Survey

(HABS) on microfiche. HABS is also available at: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh>. On microfilm are 128 reels of American architectural books, a copy of the catalog of the Avery Memorial Architectural Library at Columbia University, copies of the HABS measured drawings, and numerous other architectural books.

### III. PICTORIAL DATA

#### A. Photographs

Be on the lookout for photographs and postcards pertaining to the property you are researching. Daguerreotypes were introduced in 1839, so photographs after this year may be available. After the 1890s, photographs were sometimes made into postcards. Present owners of the building may know of the location of this type of material. Many institutions such as UGA, GSU, GHS, and AHC have now digitized their photo collections, so be sure to check their online collections, as well as their Special Collections. The Digital Library of Georgia can be searched by county, time period, collection, and holding institution. The comprehensive list of photographs available is located at: <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Photographs.html>

Local historical societies commonly maintain photographic collections, as well as copies of photographic books. The State Archives has copied photographs from around the state through its "Vanishing Georgia" photographic project. AHC has a large, indexed photo collection on Atlanta. The local public library may also maintain a collection. Remember not to center your request on your specific building as a similar or neighboring building may help in efforts to document a specific feature or style.

Family photographs are also valuable.

AHC has the Gay Boiling Shepperson Collection of photographs taken in Georgia during the 1930s during the first half of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era. These include schools, jails, and other civic buildings, and improvements to existing buildings.

The Georgia State University Special Collections/Archives has the collections of several Atlanta photographers and should be consulted.

There has been a proliferation of photo history books, including many of metro-Atlanta communities: DeKalb County, Roswell, and Gwinnett County, to name but a few. You should always check for this type of publication, specifically the Arcadia Publishing company series.

#### B. Postcards

Publication of picture postal cards began in the late 1890s, but did not become widespread until the early 1900s. The most useful era for research is 1908-1914; after 1917 quality diminished. Private homes are featured less frequently. AHC, APL, GHS, UGA, and the State Archives have postcard collections, but there is no known complete collection of Georgia postcards.

#### C. Site Visits

A visit to a similar building is invaluable for discovering missing details.

## IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. General

Check at: <http://www.worldcat.org> for books available at all libraries on any subject.

Check the Historic Preservation Division's web page at: <http://www.gashpo.org/> for other guides and resources.

Davis, Robert S. Jr. *Research in Georgia* (Easley, S.C.: The Southern Historical Press, 1981). Although styled as a guide to the State Archives, it is an extremely useful guide to the records of Georgia courthouses.

Dorsey, James E., and Arthur Ray Rowland. *A Bibliography of the Writings on Georgia History* (Spartanburg: The Reprint Co., 1978). This list covers primarily Georgia publications from 1900 to 1970. For later works, consult Dorsey's supplemental volume and his annual update in the Georgia Historical Quarterly.

Dorsey, James E. *Georgia Genealogy and Local History: A Bibliography* (Spartanburg: The Reprint Co., 1983). Arranged by counties and a good guide to material published specifically on certain counties. Annual updates have appeared in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and since 1989 in the Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Eakle, Arlene H. and Johni Cerny, eds. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Co., 1984.) This is more than a genealogy work, it is the best guide to researching into local records, including city, business, church, etc.

Ellsworth, Linda, "The History of a House: How to Trace It." *Technical Leaflet 89* (Nashville, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, September 1976).

Merritt, Carole, and Carolyn Brooks, eds. *Historic Black Resources* (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1985). A guide to evaluating resources, with an excellent bibliography of works on African American historic resources (available at: <http://www.gashpo.org/>).

Mooney, Elizabeth. "The Tales That Houses Tell." *Historic Preservation* (February 1985).

Vider, Elise. "Getting to Know Your House." *Historic Preservation* (March-April 1982).

### B. Atlanta City Metro Area

Ansley Park Civic Association. *Historic Living in Ansley Park* (Atlanta: The Association, 1982, updated 1993). History of major houses in this in-town neighborhood and plat maps of the development.

Atlanta Urban Design Commission, *Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook* (Atlanta: The Commission, 1981).

Garrett, Franklin M. *Atlanta and Environs* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1954), 2 vols. A chronological history of Atlanta from its founding to the 1940s. A third volume contains biographical material on many prominent citizens.

McDonald, T.C. *Freemasonry and its Progress in Atlanta and Fulton County, Georgia* (Atlanta: The author, 1925).

Preston, Howard L. *Automobile Age of Atlanta* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1979).

## V. ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

AHC	Atlanta History Center	<a href="http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/">http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/</a>
APL	Atlanta-Fulton Public Library	<a href="http://www.afpls.org/central-library">http://www.afpls.org/central-library</a> Special Collections has local materials.
State Archives	Georgia Department of Archives and History	<a href="http://sos.georgia.gov/archives/">http://sos.georgia.gov/archives/</a>
DHC	DeKalb History Center	<a href="http://www.dekalbhistory.org">http://www.dekalbhistory.org</a>
GSU	W.R. Pullen Library, Georgia State University	<a href="http://www.library.gsu.edu/">http://www.library.gsu.edu/</a>
HPD	Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office)	<a href="http://www.gashpo.org/">http://www.gashpo.org/</a>

*The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Its mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance.*

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.*

\* \* \*

*This publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products or consultants constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.*

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., HPD Historian (1986)  
Revised April 2011 by Gretchen Brock and Lynn Speno