

Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood

Betsy J. Green

Santa Monica Press (May 2002)

Great Buildings Ahead: A Guided Tour of Central Oklahoma's Architectural Landmarks: For Walking & Motoring

Harold Hite, ed.

American Institute of Architects, Central Oklahoma Chapter/Metropolitan Library System, (1989)

Heritage Hills: Preservation of a Historic Neighborhood

Bob Blackburn

Western Heritage Books (1990)

Historic Photos of Oklahoma City

Larry Johnson

Turner Publishing (2007)

Jackson Area Neighborhood Profile—1998

Heartland Coalition (1998)

Neighborhood profiles for Central Park, Edgemere, Jefferson Park, Paseo, 1996

Heartland Coalition (1998)

Nichols Hills: A Residential Community

Konrad Keesee and Ann Taylor.

s.n. (2007)

The Nichols Hills Tradition

Robert Orbach, ed.

American Fidelity Group, 199?

North East 1-B Area Plan 1982–1992

Oklahoma City Planning Division (1982)

OKC: Second Time Around: A Renaissance Story
Steve Lackmeyer and Jack Money

Full Circle Press (2006)

Oklahoma City, 1890 to 1930, Platted, Parked & Populated

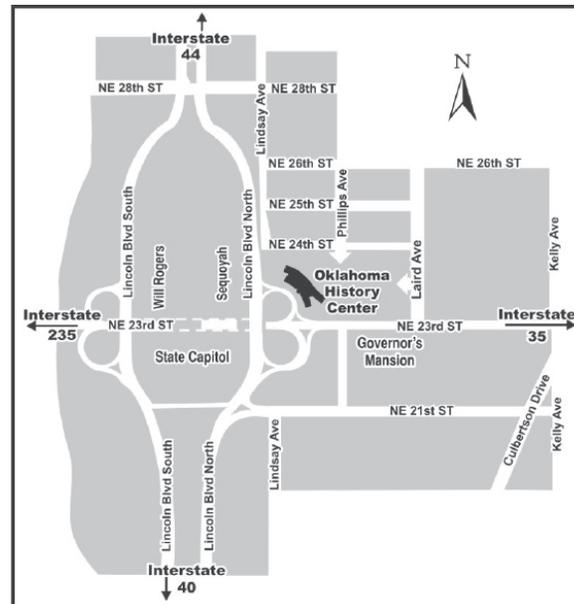
Jan Jennings and Herbert Gottfried

Planning Division, Oklahoma City Community Development Department (1982)

Oklahoma Homes: Past and Present

C. R. Goins and J. W. Morris

University of Oklahoma Press, (1980)



www.okhistory.org/research

Oklahoma History Center

800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Contact the Research Center

405-522-5225

research@okhistory.org

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOME

RESEARCH GUIDE

An Introduction to Researching the History of Your Home in the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center

Researching in Oklahoma County

Want to know more about your house? Here are some guidelines for researching your home in Oklahoma County. Some of the resources will be helpful for you even if your home is not in central Oklahoma. It will depend on what records are available for your county.

Use the **Oklahoma County Assessor's** site to track the ownership of your home. This website is at assessor.oklahomacounty.org. You can search by name or address. When you have located the entry for your home, be sure to note the subdivision name and the legal description, including the block and lot number. This site will also provide you with the names of the previous owners, but may be incomplete. State and Local Government on the Net at www.statelocalgov.net will guide you to online government records for other jurisdictions.

Use the **subdivision name** and **legal description** to search for information on your house at the County Clerk's website at oklahomacounty.org/261/County-Clerk. Some of the actual documents can be viewed at countyclerk.org/RegistrarofDeeds.html. Use these sites to construct a legal history of your home.

City Directories

Look up the address or former owners in **city directories**. City directories have more information than a telephone directory—in addition to the name of the person, you will find their spouse, address, their profession or work position, and in some cases, in the back portion of the directory, the neighbors and whether they owned the home. You can find a list of directory holdings in the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Research Center at okhistory.org/research/books.

Maps

Sanborn maps are large-scale maps produced by the Sanborn Map Company of Pelham, New York. Designed to aid fire insurance company's assessment of properties, these maps are useful for tracking changes in cities and towns. The Research Center has over 3,000 Sanborn maps for a number of towns in Oklahoma. Many public libraries, including the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System, have a subscription to Oklahoma Sanborn maps that can be accessed with your library card.

Another good resource is the interactive map of downtown Oklahoma City at okhistory.org/research/hillerman. Shown are street and aerial views from the late 1920s to the 1960s.

Newspapers

The newspaper is a great place to find information on the neighborhood in which your house is located. For example, when Crestwood opened in the 1920s, there were multiple ads for many of the homes including line drawings and descriptions. Searching the newspaper for the name of your subdivision may yield information as well.

The Gateway to Oklahoma History offers free access to early Oklahoma newspapers online. Visit gateway.okhistory.org. You can also use the digital archives of the *Oklahoman*—remember to search by address as well as by name. In some periods, the names of numbered streets will need to be spelled out (e.g., twelfth) as will the directions (e.g., northwest rather than NW). Try a variety of searches to retrieve this information. This may turn up marriage licenses, divorces, birth announcements, social events, crimes, and a variety of events that occurred at your address.

State Historic Preservation Office

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office has resources available that may assist in your search. Explore the National Register of Historic Places, the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, and more. Visit okhistory.org/shpo for details, or contact them at 405-521-6249.

Libraries

Be sure to check with your local library. They may have a local history section with materials specific to your area. These can include city directories, newspapers, and clippings files. Look in the catalog for materials on your neighborhood as well as the city or area.

Helpful Tips

After you have identified the names of some of the persons who lived in your home, you may wish to search the OHS Research Center's catalogs for materials about those persons or photographs of them. Remember to search for the name of the subdivision as well.

Remember to work back and forth between the names and addresses you collect and the city directories and newspapers for information about the persons who owned your home.

Published Resources

A Crown Heights History
s.n., (1996)

An Early History of Capitol Hill: Compiled from the Files of the Capitol Hill Beacon and Other Sources to Mark the 60th Anniversary of This Community Newspaper, Founded September 15, 1905
Capitol Hill Beacon (1965)