

House History

Do you want to know the history of a house or find its architect, builder, or previous owners?

Use this guide to find resources that can help you with your search.

Most of the items listed here are available in the Nicholson Information Commons, on the 2nd floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#) in downtown Saint Paul.

Start Here

[House and Building History Research](#)

A guide to researching homes and other buildings, compiled by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Directories

[City Directories](#)

Beginning with the 1929 volume there is a listing by street name and then by number, which can be used to trace former residents. The names section can then provide more information on that person and sometimes other members of the family. Directories from [1856-1922 are available online](#).

[The Dual City Blue Book](#) (1895-1923)

A social register of the Twin Cities. Listings are by street address, but not everyone is listed.

House History Handfile

Index to information about famous houses in Saint Paul, filed by street address and by the name of the house (which is usually the name of the first owner).

Available at the reference desk in the Nicholson Information Commons, on the 2nd floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#). Please ask a librarian for assistance.

House History Notebook

A collection of articles and other materials on how to research house history.

Available at the reference desk in the Nicholson Information Commons, on the 2nd floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#). Please ask a librarian for assistance.

Saint Paul Subject Handfile

References to parts of books, magazines, newspapers, newspaper clippings, etc. Look under **Houses** and under the names of houses. Located in the Nicholson Information Commons.

Available at the reference desk in the Nicholson Information Commons, on the 2nd floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#). Please ask a librarian for assistance.

Secondary Resources

Books

[Historic St. Paul Buildings](#) (1964) - F614 .S4K7

Photographs, architectural information, architect's name, owners and construction dates of many St. Paul houses.

[Saint Paul Architecture](#) (1975) - NA735 .S3 S3

Descriptions of what types of house and when they were built for many St. Paul neighborhoods. Contains many photographs of individual houses and descriptions of some.

[A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota](#) (1977) - NA730 .M6G3

Short architectural descriptions of many St. Paul homes with a few photographs.

[Saint Paul Omnibus: Images of the Changing City](#) (1979) - NA735 .S24S24

Descriptions of individual houses, architectural profiles of neighborhoods including information on additional houses and many photographs.

[St. Paul's Historic Summit Avenue](#) (1978, 2004) - F614 .S4S365

Historic and architectural information on most of the homes on Summit Avenue.

[Minnesota Houses: An Architectural & Historical View](#) (1967) - NA7235.M6K4

Many St. Paul houses discussed in the text. Arrangement is by architectural style, with no index.

[Historic Sites Survey, St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) (1981-1983) - F612 .R2H5

Information on historic sites in St. Paul. Volume 3 contains information on individual houses.

[Building the Future from Our Past](#) (1975) - NA108 .S24 O42

Information on the historic Hill District. There is only a little information on individual houses, but a good deal of information on the development of the neighborhood.

Newspapers and Magazines

St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch Newspaper Index - 1967 - 1996.

In the print index, look under **Houses** or under the name of the house if it has one.

- Indexes and microfilm are in the Magazine Room on the 3rd Floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#).
- [Online coverage](#) begins with 1988.

Subject Guides

Americans with Disabilities Act

Census Resources

COVID-19 Vaccine

Elections & Voting

Federal Government Statistics

Government: United States

Government: Minnesota

Government: Saint Paul & Ramsey County

House History

Immigrant & Refugee Resources

Magazines

Newspapers

Biography Clippings File

Obituaries and Death Notices

Other Libraries

Resources on Race

Special Collections

Auto Repair Collection

F. Scott Fitzgerald Reading Alcove

Foundation Collection

Saint Paul Collection

Severson Collection

Taxes

Vital Records

Wellness Resources

Winter Carnival

[St. Paul History and Area Business Index](#)

Index to clipping files available on microfilmed aperture cards. Search under **Houses**, names of famous houses, and names of individuals. Aperture cards are kept in the Magazine Room on the 3rd Floor of the Central Library.

Minneapolis Star and Tribune Index

Occasionally articles on St. Paul houses would appear. Search under **Houses-SP**.

- Indexes and microfilm are in the Magazine Room on the 3rd Floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#).
- [Online coverage](#) begins in 1986.

Ramsey County History Magazine

[Our Minnesota Index](#) (1976) - F601 .O8.

An index to the Minnesota periodical collection in the [South St. Paul Library](#) covering approximately 1965-1975.

Try **St. Paul--Historic Houses**, **Minnesota--Historic Houses**, **Historic Houses**, **Houses**, and names of famous people for information about their houses.

[Minnesota History Index](#) - Ref F601 .M63

References are to volumes on *Minnesota History* and then to page numbers.

Use the headings **Houses** and the names of people. Later issues are indexed in the St. Paul Subject Handifile.

- [1915 - 1929](#)
- [1930 - 1967](#)
- [1968 - 1987](#)

[Architecture of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota: Journal Articles, 1980-1988](#) - FS-245 .A7C39 1990.

A bibliography of articles that appeared in architectural journals over an 8-year period.

The majority of articles cover modern construction and commercial or public buildings, but some articles on houses are included.

St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch Morgue

Clipping file of articles from the Pioneer Press and Dispatch from 1910 to the 1940s. Look under **Houses--St. Paul**, **St. Paul--Houses**, **Construction--St. Paul**, neighborhood names, etc.

- The subject file is currently unavailable for browsing. Please ask staff for assistance.
- The [biographical file index can be browsed online](#). These clippings are located in the Nicholson Information Commons, on the second floor of the [George Latimer Central Library](#).

Subject Guide to the Saint Paul Collection

Located at the Nicholson Information Commons reference desk. Last updated in 1982, but can still provide guidance to much of the collection.

Other Resources

[Ramsey County Historical Society Research Center](#)

- Building permits, photo archives, a directory of architects and historic site surveys.

Neighborhood Histories

[Search the library catalog](#) by neighborhood name.

Check the Neighborhood card file at the [George Latimer Central Library](#).