

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

<http://www.library.austintexas.gov/ahc>



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

**The most important thing to know when beginning property research is that it can take a significant amount of time and effort on your part, depending on what you hope to accomplish.** Staff members in the Austin History Center Reading Room can suggest resources that you might use, provide you access to the resources and teach you how to use them, but the ultimate responsibility for carrying out the research will be yours.

Please also be aware that your search may come to involve additional City offices or governmental agencies, as our holdings are not comprehensive for all types of property information or date ranges. We will be happy to refer you as necessary.

**Useful information to have before you begin:**

- Address of the property
- Legal description of the property (subdivision/addition name, lot and block number) and the Geographic ID number. These can be searched on the Travis Central Appraisal District site: [http://www.traviscad.org/property\\_search.html](http://www.traviscad.org/property_search.html)

**This guide is divided into three sections:**

1. A list of the various resources for property research housed at the Austin History Center
2. Frequently asked property research questions/scenarios and strategies for approaching them
3. Other sources of property information in Austin

## Section 1: Sources of information on real property at the Austin History Center

### CITY DIRECTORIES

City Directories are perhaps the best place to start in your property research. 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)

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.

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. There is a key available at the reference desk to tell you the original names of east-west downtown streets prior to 1884/85. There is also a list of street address and name changes made by the City of Austin Public Works Department from 1934 to 1964 shelved with the City Directories.

**Note: Additional tips for using these directories to find specific kinds of information about your property are found in section 2.**

### 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. Sanborn maps were not produced every year but were issued with periodic corrections. Each volume is self-indexed with an overall area map and an alphabetical index by street name and building name. The AHC has the following Sanborn maps.

Hard copy bound volumes: 1935, corrected to 1956. Found in the Reading Room.

On microfilm:

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

Paper printouts from the above microfilm (shelved in General Collection, call number A 912.76431 SA 1885): 1885, 1889, 1894, and 1900 through 1922

Accessible online:

- 1885, 1889, 1894, 1900, 1922, 1935 and 1935 corrected to September 1961 can be accessed through ProQuest “Texas Digital Sanborn Maps.” Remote access is available to Austin Public Library card holders, or users can access this database at any APL location: <http://library.austintexas.gov/database/texas-digital-sanborn-maps>. These maps are presented in black and white.
- 1885, 1887, 1889, 1894, 1900 and 1921 are available through the Perry-Castañeda Library at the University of Texas: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/texas.html>. These maps are presented in color.

### **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 Geographic ID #, which is divided in four parts:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> # (1 digit) = 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

**Notes: The City Tax ID Parcel # is the same as the Geographic ID Number in the Travis Central Appraisal District Record. Be aware that these maps deal with property boundaries only, not structures on a property.**

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.
- **1941.** [*Austin Plat Book*]. Indexed by Geographic ID #. A 346.0432 AU.
- **1952.** *Block Maps of Austin Texas and Surrounding Area*. 2 copies. Indexed by addition names and geographically on a General City Map. A 912.76431 BL 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. A 912.76431 BR 1957
- **Circa 1960s.** [*Austin and Travis County Plat Maps*]. Six volumes. Arranged by Geographic ID #. A 346.0432 T698 v1-v6
- **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. A 333 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. A 346.0432 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: A 346.0432 Tr 1973 (Travis County); A 346.0432 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. A 346.0432 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. A 346.0432 RE 1980
- **1981.** *Real Estate Atlas of Travis County Texas*. REDI, Inc. 4 volumes: alphabetical ownership index and 3 map volumes. A 346.0432 RE 1981
- **1981.** Loose sheets of plat maps from NPA. A 346.0432 TR
- **1981.** *Real Estate Property Index, Travis County, Texas*. 2 volumes: County alphabetical ownership index and City of Austin map volume. A 346.0432 RE

### **Other Maps**

The AHC has over 700 maps of Austin and Travis County from the mid-1800s to the present, including street, topographic, zoning and other special maps. The collection includes some maps of specific neighborhoods or areas. An inventory of Austin History Center map holdings is found in the Maps Guide binder in the AHC Reading Room. Researchers can also ask reference staff to perform a search in the database from which the Maps Guide is printed.

**Note: Land use/zoning maps need to be used with the zoning ordinance for their corresponding year or the next closest year back in time. AHC cataloged zoning ordinances can be found under call number A 352.09764 AU76OZ [YEAR].**

## **ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES**

Drawings, blueprints, tracings, etc., are indexed by property owners, architect, and by addresses in the architectural archives database (see Reading Room staff for assistance) and many, but not all, of these are also indexed in the Architectural Archives card catalog. Finding aids for the architectural collections are located in the Architectural Archives binder in the Reading Room and online at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html).

## **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 Austin Public Library 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.

### Austin-American Statesman Photographic Morgue (AR.2014.039)

The negatives from the *Statesman* newspaper from 1958-1982 primarily document newsworthy events, but sometimes include documentation of houses and commercial properties, or events such as house fires or demolitions. These are organized by date, and were indexed with handwritten logbooks. Logs have been transcribed and can be access in spreadsheets online (see <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00442/ahc-00442.html>.) Because the collection is not fully processed, not all negatives may be accessible.

### 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 years: 1938 - 2007. An inventory and guide to the aerial collections is available in the Reading Room and online (see <http://library.austintexas.gov/ahc/aerial-photographs>).

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*, (A912.76431).
- *Metropolitan Austin Aerial Photo Atlas*. Aerotech, 1996.
- *Landiscor's Austin Real Estate Photo Book*. Landiscor, 2000.

**Note: Please see the section 2 FAQ on using these photographs for evidence in zoning and city code issues.**

### Digitized Photographs

Over 6,000 photographs from subject files and other archival collections are available online through the Portal to Texas History. Photos of many businesses, commercial properties and some residences are included. See <http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ASPL/browse/>

### **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 and contractor or architect names. 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 stored in same area as permit cards.** 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.

- **Applications for Certificate of Occupancy, 09/28/1960-03/23/1961, 1967-02/1978. Microfilm stored in same area as permit cards. Records are scattered and incomplete.** Applications for Certificate of Occupancy for new and remodeled residential, multifamily and commercial buildings, as well as assorted projects such as swimming pools. Arranged by street address within a given date range. Accompanying Application Approval sheets are minimally or not at all filled out for each address, lacking final signatures, dates of approval and Certificate of Occupancy numbers.

The City's Development Assistance Center maintains all official City of Austin permit information.

Permits 1939-present may be searched online at:

[https://www.austintexas.gov/devreview/a\\_queryfolder\\_permits.jsp](https://www.austintexas.gov/devreview/a_queryfolder_permits.jsp). To ensure a comprehensive permit search, a combination of the online search, a physical search at the AHC and consultation with a Development Office reviewer should be conducted as there have been some errors and omissions over time in conversion to digital format and data migration.

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. Location, hours and contact information follows in section 3 of this guide.

## 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.

### City of Austin

The AHC holds some records from the city's Tax Department (AR.1991.016). This collection has several different sets of information (microfilm and text documents) that provide property value assessment information. See the finding aid of the collection for a description of the entire collection:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00412/ahc-00412.html>. Some particularly useful items for finding property values are:

- **Tax records, 1876-1952, excluding 1892-1907. Microform.** The method by which a property can be located in the rolls varies by date span (examples: by ward, block and lot; by owner name; by plat number, etc.). See Reading Room staff for assistance. These records can be useful compared to county tax rolls because they list land and improvement values separately, allowing researchers to tell if a structure was present.
- **Appraisal sheets, circa 1940s. Set is incomplete. Archives stacks boxes 13-16, oversized volumes boxes 1-4.** Arranged by plat number, then by legal description. Provides parcel and improvement values, utilities, use, number of units and rooms, information about foundation, floors, exterior walls, roof, interior walls, ceilings, millwork, electrical and additional details (plumbing, heating, cooling, porch, garage, etc.). Importantly, includes building diagram. Does not list owner name.
- **Appraisal cards, circa 1950s and 1960s. Set is incomplete. Archives stacks boxes 9-22.** Arranged by parcel number. Provides same level of information as appraisal sheets above.

### Travis County

- **Travis County Tax Rolls, 1840-1910. Microfilm.** 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.

- **Note: In cases where we lack records for a particular date or the microfilm that we have is unreadable, clearer duplicates might be found with the County Clerk (contact information in the final section of this guide).**
- **Travis County City Lot Registers (prior to) 1879-1974. Travis County Room.**

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 (up to 1894 we have deed records on microfilm, after this they are held by the County Clerk). Indexed by subdivision name.

  - **Note: Because most of the volumes for this record set are very large and heavy we may require that you make an appointment when a staff member can work with you in the room where they are stored. This helps us to minimize wait times for other customers caused by transporting the oversize volumes to and from the Reading Room. This requirement is particularly important on weekends, when we have minimal staffing.**

### **Travis Central Appraisal District**

- **Tax records, 1973-2011. Microform.** From a date perspective, these pick up where the Travis County City Lot Registers leave off (see above), but they are City of Austin Tax Appraisal numbers obtained by the Travis Central Appraisal District. Some years provide separate listing of land and improvement values. The method by which a property can be located in the rolls varies by date span (examples: by ward, block and lot; by owner name; by plat number, etc.). The most complete records are 1981-2011, organized by owner name. See Reading Room staff for assistance. These form archival collection AR.2014.027. Finding aid available online: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00435/ahc-00435.html>.

### **Other Real Property Records**

#### **Deeds, 1847-1894. Microfilm.**

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

**Travis County Assessor's Land Register 1877-1890. TRAVIS COUNTY ROOM, ROW 2G.**

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. TRAVIS COUNTY ROOM, ROW 2G.**

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 Transfers 1916-1917. TRAVIS COUNTY ROOM, ROW 2D.**

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.

- **Note: The County government generates a large amount of records relating to land issues, usually relating to property ownership and conveyance. Many real property records are still housed with the County Clerk (contact information included in the final section of this guide).**

## 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 or view available finding aids online.

**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. Finding aid online:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00184/ahc-00184.html>

**AR.I.006. Wilhelmine Sheffield 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.

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00627/ahc-00627.html>

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

**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. Finding aid online:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00068/ahc-00068.html>

**AR.1991.016. Austin (Tex.). Tax Department Records.**

The City of Austin Tax Department was responsible for assessing and collecting City of Austin taxes until the early 1980s when the Travis Central Appraisal District was created and the Travis County Assessor-Collector took over responsibility for collecting taxes. The collection contains property detail files, property appraisal sheets and cards, real property tax rolls, scrapbooks and a photo album dating from 1871 to 1981. Finding aid online: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00412/ahc-00412.html>

**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 spanning 1967-2006 are arranged chronologically and include reports on most of the properties reviewed by the commission for historical status. Finding aid online:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00335/ahc-00335.html>

**A.R.1996.008. Appraisal Associates of Austin Records**

Appraisal Associates of Austin was an Austin, Texas real estate appraisal and consultant business. The collection contains real estate appraisals and photographs of individual Austin properties, as well as several urban renewal projects dating from the early 1950s to the early 1970s. Finding aid online:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00368/ahc-00368.html>

**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.

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00504/ahc-00504.html>

**AR.2000.014. Dawson Neighborhood Association Records.** The records of this south Austin neighborhood group contain information on some zoning, city code and development issues related to specific properties within the area roughly bounded by Oltorf Road, Ben White/290, South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and Congress Avenue. Finding aid online: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00162/ahc-00162.html>

**AR.2001.001. D.C. Freeman House Records.**

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

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00418/ahc-00418.html>

**AR.2001.013. Allen Searight Papers.**

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

**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. In addition to the survey sheets there are research files pertaining to the neighborhoods of Enfield, Bryker Woods and Pemberton Heights that detail how the

neighborhoods developed and provide information about the people who lived there. Finding aid online: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00066/ahc-00066.html>

**AR.2011.015. Becker Family Papers.**

Herman Becker founded the Becker Lumber Company in 1913 on Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas. In addition to milling and selling lumber the Becker Lumber Company financed and facilitated the building of homes for customers. The collection contains real estate transaction documents related to the building of homes and land sales, as well as materials related to the operations of the Becker Lumber Company. <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00209/ahc-00209.html>

**AR.2011.038. Grooms Addition Conservancy Records.**

The Grooms Addition Conservancy was originally formed in the early 2000s as the Grooms Addition Local Historic District Committee in order to preserve historic homes in the Grooms Addition, the largest subdivision of the North University neighborhood in Austin, TX. In 2012, the committee became the Grooms Addition Conservancy, which documents the area by recording images of the homes and the stories of their occupants. The collection primarily consists of photographs of various homes in the Grooms addition, as well as documents that relate to the conservancy's attempts to have those homes declared as historic landmarks. The materials in the collection date from the late nineteenth century through 2011. <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00398/ahc-00398.html>

**AR.2014.027. Travis Central Appraisal District Records.**

The Travis County Central Appraisal District (TCAD) has been responsible for providing accurate appraisal of all property in Travis County since 1981. Records include City of Austin tax rolls dating from 1973 to 1980 and Travis Appraisal Central District appraisal rolls dating from 1981 to 2011. Finding aid online: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00435/ahc-00435.html>

## AUSTIN FILES

The Austin Files are folders containing newspaper clippings, brochures, pamphlets, and other short printed items. The collection is arranged in the same three categories as 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 Austin Public Library 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 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 (also available online: <http://library.austintexas.gov/ahc/austin-files-0>).

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.* 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. A 720.976431 AM

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

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

*Austin, Its Architects and Architecture, 1836-1986.* 1986. A 720.976431 AU

*Austin Women in Architecture.* A 720.976431 AU

AHC has two years of this directory.

Barentine, Joseph Powell. *Clarksville National Register District: History of Ownership.* 1984. A 976.431 BA

*Barton Creek Showcase of Homes.* 1997. A 728.3709764 BA 1997

Bush, David. *Hill Country Deco: Modernistic Architecture of Central Texas.* 2010. A 720.9764 BU

City of Austin. *Structures Zoned Historic.* A 720.976431 AU

9 volumes of historic landmark survey forms, arranged by address.

Dolman, Wilson E. *East Austin Historic Sites Inventory.* 2006. A 976.431 DO

2 volumes – one contains surveys, two contain photographs.

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

Dwyer, Charles P. *The Immigrant Builder: Or, Practical Hints to Handy-Men : Showing Clearly How to Plan and Construct Dwellings in the Bush, on the Prairie, or Elsewhere, Cheaply and Well, with Wood, Earth, or Gravel.* 1884. A 728.37 DW

Freeman, Martha Doty. *East Austin: An Architectural Survey.* 1980. A 711.5 FR

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

Hardy, Heck, Moore, & Myers. *Historic Resources Survey of East Austin.* 2000. A976.431 HA

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

Heritage Foundation. *Historic Architecture Evaluation Inventory*. 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. A 720.9764 HI

Howard, Hugh. *How Old Is This House? A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of  
 American Houses*. A 728.028 HO

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. 1984. A 917.304927 Ma

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

*National Register of Historic Places in Travis County*. A 976.431 NA  
 4 volumes of National Register nomination forms.

*Original City of Austin Lots*. A 976.431 DR

Palliser, Palliser & Co. *Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details: Containing Nearly Two Hundred &  
 Fifty New & Original Designs in all the Modern Popular Styles*. 1887. A 728.37 PA

*Parade of Homes*. A 728.3709764 PA  
 AHC has the following years: 1953, 1956, 1965, 1967-1972, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1984, 185, 1988,  
 1991-1993, 1996, 1998, 2003

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

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

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

*Victorian Architecture in Austin*. 1967. A 720.9764 WI

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

Walker, Lester. *American Homes: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Domestic Architecture*. 2002. A  
 728.370973 WA

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

Williamson, Roxanne K. *Austin, Texas: An American Architectural History*. 1973. A 720.9765 WI

Woodward, George E. *Woodward's National Architect ...: 1000 Original Designs, Plans and Details, to  
 Working Scale, for the Practical Construction of Dwelling Houses for the Country, Suburb and Village.  
 With Full and Complete Sets of Specifications and an Estimate of the Cost of Each Design. 1874-77*. A  
 728.37 WO V1

## PERIODICALS

### 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 binders in the microfilm 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.

Databases covering some years of the *Statesman* are available in the AHC Reading Room or off-site to users with an Austin Public Library card:

- *Austin American-Statesman (Historical)* has PDFs of articles and ads. See <http://library.austintexas.gov/database/austin-american-statesman-historical>
- *Newsbank* and *Factiva* databases have the *Austin American-Statesman* back to 1989 (note that these contain only transcriptions of articles, not their original presentation). See <http://library.austintexas.gov/database/newsbank> and <http://library.austintexas.gov/database/factiva>.

### 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:

- American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter – various newsletters, 1978-87, 1987-88, 2000-07
- *Austin Home & Living*. 1996-2006
- *Austin Homes & Gardens*. 1979-1996
- *Austin Homes Illustrated*. 1976-1978
- *Austin House & Home*. 2000-2001
- *Builder/Architect*. 1995-2001
- *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.
- *Texas Architect*. 1959-2007
- Women's Architectural League of Austin Newsletter, 1977-78, 1984-93

To see what additional titles and details are available check our website:

<http://library.austintexas.gov/ahc/periodicals>

## 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 Databases:

- **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 five years, as many as three past deed transactions, 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://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>  
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.
- **EDIMS** <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/search.cfm>  
The City of Austin has digitized and made available online City Council minutes going back to 1870. Keyword searching is available, although it works better for typed minutes than handwritten ones. Searching for neighborhood, subdivision or street names, names of people or businesses, and sometimes street addresses can provide information.
- **Sanborn Maps.** <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/texas.html>  
Austin maps for years 1887, 1885, 1889, 1894, 1900 and 1921 are available through the Perry-Castañeda Library at the University of Texas.
- **City of Austin Historical Survey Wiki.** <https://soa.utexas.edu/programs/historic-preservation/work/austin-historical-survey-wiki>  
The Austin Historical Survey Wiki is a new interactive tool for the City of Austin. The Wiki allows users to find and contribute information about historic buildings, sites, and landscapes of the past and present that tell the history of Austin.
- **City of Austin Permit Search.** [https://www.austintexas.gov/devreview/a\\_queryfolder\\_permits.jsp](https://www.austintexas.gov/devreview/a_queryfolder_permits.jsp)  
Building and remodeling permits 1939-present may be searched online.
- **City of Austin Development GIS Viewer.** <http://www.austintexas.gov/GIS/DevelopmentWebMap/>  
Geographic Information Systems tool featuring views to Development (including building footprint views for 1987, 1997 and 2003), Planning, Zoning, Drainage and Floodplain information.

### Subscription Databases:

- **Texas Digital Sanborn Maps.** <http://library.austintexas.gov/database/texas-digital-sanborn-maps>  
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.

- **Austin American-Statesman (Historical)**  
<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/austin-american-statesman-historical> PDFs of articles and ads.
- **Newsbank**  
<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/newsbank>. Transcriptions of articles from the Austin American-Statesman back to 1989 (not in their original presentation).
- **Factiva**  
<http://library.austintexas.gov/database/factiva>. Transcriptions of articles from the Austin American-Statesman back to 1989 (not in their original presentation).

### Online Research Guides

- **City of Austin Historic Preservation Office: *Researching Your House in Austin.***  
[www.austintexas.gov/.../Researching\\_Your\\_House\\_in\\_Austin.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/.../Researching_Your_House_in_Austin.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/learn/publications>  
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/pdfs/nrb39.pdf>  
“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”

## **Section 2: Frequently asked property research questions/scenarios**

### **What are the basic first steps that I should try for researching a property?**

The two most basic sources of information on property in the Austin History Center's collections are House-Building Files and city directories. House-Building files, both the text and photograph components, are only available in person in the AHC's Reading Room. They have not been digitized online. To see if we have text or photograph files for your address, simply request them from one of the staff members in the Reading Room by giving the address of the property that you are researching.

City directories provide the name of (and sometimes other useful information about) the occupants, both residential and business, at an address in a given year. Every directory has a section that works like a regular telephone book with names arranged alphabetically and the person or business's contact information following the name.

After 1905 each book also has a section that is cross-referenced by address, so you can look up an address and figure who or what was located there. These are useful for creating a "genealogy" of the property. Here is how you would do that:

- Use the street index described above. 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.
- From there you might also consider looking up the business name in the AF Subject index or searching the library's catalog for biographical files for the people whose names you found in the directory listings.

### **I want everything that you have about my house/building (or, I wish this worked like Google).**

Honestly, we also wish that! As this guide has mentioned many times, property research, like archival research in general, just takes some time and commitment as things stand. The results can be well worth the effort.

One tool that we can offer that works a little bit like Google is a staff access-only House-Building Database. Staff can search this by address, building name, and a number of other factors and will show us all on one line whether we have House-Building photograph or text files and/or architectural drawings for an address. Work is also underway to add the year that buildings were constructed (if we can find that information), whether the building has been demolished and when, architect names, and other sources of information about the building in our collections (such as subject files or archival collections). This additional information has been entered for a lot of included addresses, but not all. Please ask Reading Room staff to search this database for you.

## **When was my house/building built?**

There are a few different ways to try to determine this and please be forewarned that sometimes very firm evidence that could give an exact date or year does not exist. Here are methods to try, going from simplest to most complex:

- Request any House-Building files for the address. These may contain clues about the original construction date.
- If you suspect that the house was built between 1939 and 1979 request that staff members check whether we have a permit card or permit application for the address. The date of the original building permit will of course closely align with when the house or business was built.
- Ask staff to check whether we have architectural drawings for the building. The dates on these would be close to the construction date.
- Use the city directories for year-by-year research to try to establish a date. See the answer to the first FAQ in this document for detailed instructions.
- Determine the legal description for the address, and then search through Travis County City Lot registers and compare the assessed value of the property from year to year. If you see a relatively stable value over time and then a sharp increase, this is a good indicator that a building was added to the property. **\*\* This method may require you to make an appointment as the volumes used are very heavy and large and require some special handling.**

Please note that the Travis Central Appraisal District building dates are often not accurate for properties built before 1990.

## **Who was the architect of my house/building?**

You may or may not be able to find out absolutely who was responsible for designing or constructing a building. Sometimes this information is simply lost to time. Try the following:

- Request the text House-Building files for the address, if we have one. Sometimes items in these will name the architect or contractor.
- If you suspect that the house was built between 1939 and 1979 request that staff members check whether we have a permit card or permit application for the address. Sometimes these name the architect or contractor for a property.
- Ask staff to search the Architectural Archives database for your address. We may find drawings of the building at your address, and these would be associated with a particular architect.

## **Who owned this house/building?**

Unfortunately we cannot always provide you with this information. We have some deed records for specific, early years in Austin's history (see Travis County records above), which would tell you who owned a piece of property at that time. For more recent transactions, you will need to contact the Travis County Clerk, who records all deeds for Travis County. Contact information follows in the next section of this guide.

What you can find at the Austin History Center is who lived at or had a business at an address at a particular time. This information is found in our city directories, which are cross-referenced by address beginning in 1905. You could also use tax records to find out who was paying taxes on a property in a particular year. If the name in the city directory and the name in the tax record are the same, it is a pretty good guess that this person was the owner. There are, of course, special situations where the person

rendering taxes on a property is not the same person who holds the deed to a property. As well, renters will appear in city directory listings since they are at the address at the time that the information was collected for publication, even though they do not own the property.

### **How do I find property values/tax records or other information about pieces of property that are now part of the UT campus or other government property (and have likely been demolished)?**

For general information, you can follow our usual advice for property research, such as requesting House-Building text and photograph files for the address. As well, you can compile a “genealogy” of the address by using the city directories to determine who lived at the address in various years or what business was there. This will only work for the years when the property would have been listed individually at that specific address, rather subsumed under the larger public entity address.

You can also use the city directories to get an exact address for the purpose of requesting House-Building files if you do not already know it. Choose the directory for a year when you know the name of someone who lived there (or a business you know was there) and use the address-level listings to read through the names that appear on the street in question until you see that name listed and then make note of the street number that appears by the name.

Finding property values and tax information in this case can be rather complicated and take some time. You will probably need assistance from Reading Room staff. Here are the steps to take:

- First find the general area of the property in a plat book prior to the sale/eminent domain takeover of the property in order to get a subdivision name and the block number for the property (you can make a guess at the lot number when you look at the plat, too, and confirm it later). Write these pieces of information down.
- Find a city directory from around the same year and look up the property by address. Make note of all of the names of people with addresses surrounding the property, plus the person listed at the property in this year.
- Request a city lot register from the same year. Look up the subdivision that you wrote down and start reading down the block numbers to get to the one that you wrote down from the plat map. Look for names that match the ones from the directory to determine that you’re in the right area. Once you find the name of the person who lived in (or at least paid taxes on) the property for that particular year, you have the legal description for the property by putting together the subdivision name and lot and block numbers from this person’s line in the book.
- You can then use this legal description to find tax information for other years, or potentially to narrow down exactly when the property was subsumed by public entity. That would be the year that it stops appearing in tax records under that legal description. The legal description becomes null once the parcel becomes government property and it will no longer be listed as no taxes are being paid on it.
- Another source of possible information is the Appraisal Associates of Austin Records (AR.1996.008). This real-estate appraisal and consultant business worked with many University-seized properties from the early 1950s to the early 1970s. See <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00368/ahc-00368.html>.

### **How can I find more information about my subdivision/neighborhood, such as when it was established or who owned the property before it was subdivided?**

There are several places to search with this topic:

- You can find out when a neighborhood was officially platted by looking up the subdivision name from your property’s legal description in our Travis County Plat Records, 1877-1976 on

microfilm. These records are described above in this guide. More recent plats are available through Travis County.

- Searching the name of the neighborhood or subdivision in the City of Austin’s public records database will uncover city council meeting discussions of the area (see EDIMS under Online Resources, above).
- The City of Austin also offers some annexation maps online that might help you determine when your neighborhood came into the city limits (see <http://austintexas.gov/department/completed-annexations>).
- More recently published (and some older) neighborhood plans include a neighborhood history section. Some of these may be found online (see <http://austintexas.gov/page/neighborhood-planning-areas>) and others can be found onsite at the AHC through a search of the Austin Public Library online catalog (see <http://austin.bibliocommons.com/>).
- The AHC may have an AF Subject file on the neighborhood or subdivision or an archival collection (the records of neighborhood associations and groups organized around historic preservation can be especially useful) that may offer information. Search methods for each of these are described above.
- Searching the neighborhood or subdivision name in the library catalog will determine whether relevant reports or books are available. See <http://austin.bibliocommons.com>.
- You can use land use maps and their associated zoning ordinances to see what kinds of uses have been allowed in your area over time. See Maps, above, for further description.

**I need photographic evidence of a structure/feature prior to [x-year] to resolve a permit/city code/zoning problem.**

We encounter this issue with some frequency in our Reading Room and see that it can cause people distress. Sometimes we are able to help and sometimes the evidence simply does not exist in our collections. Either way, with your time and willingness to research, we will try our best.

- The first and most straightforward step would be to request the House-Building photograph and text files for the address in question. If we have files for your address, and luck is on your side, these may contain the kind of evidence that you need. The contents of these files are made almost entirely of donations from the public, which can make things hit or miss when looking for a very specific type of image or other documentation.
- You can also try our aerial photographs. Please come to our Reading Room with time on your hands to pursue this option, as it can be time consuming. We will work with you and our detailed index to figure out which series of photographs might be the best match of time period and geographic coverage for your needs. We have to work with you to drill down to the correct frames that might show your property. Some important caveats for this option are that we do not always have a good match of ideal year and ideal coverage for a specific property. Aerial photography coverage in our collection can be spotty. As well, please know going into this research that these photographs are taken from very high up and unfortunately do not work like “Google Earth,” allowing you to zoom in on what you need. They are paper prints and we can provide you with a magnifying glass or photographic loupe, but sometimes this still does not provide the necessary clarity.

If we are able to locate the property in question and you are willing to place a photographic reproduction order (keeping in mind that these start at a charge of \$15 plus tax, take 3-4 weeks to process without rush fees, and that rush orders are only approved depending on our current order workload), our photography department can sometimes enlarge the specific area that you need in order to provide better clarity of the

feature that you need to document. It does depend on the original shot and what it provides the photographer to work with.

### **How do I research my house if I suspect it was moved from one location to another?**

Request any permit cards for your address if you suspect that it was moved between 1939 and 1979. Relocating a structure should have necessitated a permit. Sometimes people did not file the required paperwork, however, and then a permit will not exist. Please be aware that the card, if it exists, may not say the original address of the house if it was outside of the city limits. Other than that, if you happen to have “before and after” addresses for the house, or street names at least, you can try looking at the House-Building or AF Subject street photograph folders for each location and see if you have luck in matching up images of the house.

### **How do I trace ownership of a property back before the neighborhood was platted/subdivided?**

The first thing to do would be to look up the current subdivision’s name in the Travis County Plat Records, 1877-1976 described, above, in this guide. The index entry for the subdivision will give you the date that an application to subdivide was filed, the number of lots or acres included, the subdivider or owner and the volume and page number in the plat records. It will also give you the name of the original grantee for the land (unless this was a resubdivision, in which case it will say “Resub of [subdivision name]” and then you would look at that subdivision’s entry for the original grantee name. The actual plat record contains all of the above with a lot of legal language added in, and a plat map.

As the *Handbook of Texas History* states, “The history of land grants in Texas is a long and complex one” and grants were awarded for a variety of reasons over time (see <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mpl01> for more information). Once you have the grantee name you can try seeing if we happen to have a biographical file on the person by asking staff or searching the grantee’s name in the Austin Public Library catalog. We may or may not have information on the person. You may also try working with the Texas General Land Office to find more information about the grant/grantee. Contact information follows in the next section of this guide.

If you are trying to trace a history of land being subdivided over time, rather than just to get back to the source grantee’s name, you will need to work with Reading Room staff to pull older plat maps that include owner names in order to reconstruct the legal description of the property. See the question above on tracing land now in the public domain for some additional tips on this process.

### **How do I research my property if I think that it was outside of the city limits?**

Our holdings are stronger for areas that are within the city limits or have been for a long time. Resources for researching properties at the Travis County level are more limited. We have a few Travis County directories for scattered years shelved adjacent to our city directories collection. As well, more recent city directories include the larger metropolitan area rather than the strict confines of the city limits.

Finally, our circa 1930s and circa 1960s bound plat map volumes include county areas. There does not appear to be a good system to finding a particular map in the circa 1930s volumes other than by simply flipping through the pages. The county properties will start with 09 in the geographic ID number. For the circa 1960s maps you can flip through to find a page with streets near to where you know that the property exists now and then use the reference numbers at the edges of the page to locate the page number that will have the county area that includes the property in question. Again, the geographic ID number (and, consequently, the sequence number on the front of the volume that you will ultimately need from this set) will begin with 09.

## Section 3: Other local sources for property research

**CITY OF AUSTIN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CENTER**, 505 Barton Springs Road (One Texas Center) | 512-974-2747 | Hours vary by service | <http://austintexas.gov/development>

- City of Austin Building Permits
- Plans for commercial buildings

**MILLER BLUEPRINT**, 501 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street | 512-478-8793 | Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:30 pm | <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 Avenue (Stephen F. Austin Building) | 512-463-5277 | Archives and Records Division, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm | <http://www.glo.texas.gov/>

- 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 | By appointment only | <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/learn/texas-historical-commission-thc-library>

- 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 Street | 512-463-5480 | Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:45pm | <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>

- 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 CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT**, 8314 Crosspark Drive | 512-834-9317 | Monday-Friday 7:45 am-4:45 pm | <http://www.traviscad.org/>

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

**TRAVIS COUNTY ARCHIVES**, 5555 Airport Boulevard, Room 507 | 512-854-4675 | Monday-Friday by appointment only | <http://www.traviscountyhistory.org/>

- Tax rolls and county surveyor records. The survey records primarily date prior to 1930 and deal with land, not structures. More recent surveys are not normally recorded by the county and are best obtained directly from the surveyor.

**TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK**, 5501 Airport Boulevard | 512-854-9188 | Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm | <http://www.traviscountyclerk.org>

- 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

**UT ALEXANDER ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE**, University of Texas at Austin campus, Battle Hall 200 | 512-495-4621 | By appointment Monday through Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm | <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/aaa/index.html>

- Drawings of many historic Texas buildings and buildings from the UT campus.
- Additional drawings for some of the local architects represented in the AHC's collection.

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

- 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

**UT DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY**, University of Texas at Austin campus, Sid Richardson Hall 2.101 | 512- 495-4515 | Monday-Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Some Saturdays 9:00 am to 2:00 pm | <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

**UT HARRY RANSOM HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER**, 21st and Guadalupe Street,  
University of Texas campus | 512-471-8944 | 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
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

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