

Research Sources

Identifying Architectural Styles

A Field Guide to American Houses, by Virginia & Lee McAlester. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990. The definitive guide to architectural styles, this book explains the defining characteristics of domestic architectural styles in the United States, provides a brief history of the style, and specifies the years during which each style was popular.

House Research

Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History, by Barbara J. Howe, et.al. American Association for State & Local History, 1995.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780761989295/Houses-and-Homes-Exploring-Their-History>

“This volume in the Nearby History series helps the reader document the history of a home. The reader will learn to examine written records, oral testimonies, visual sources, and the house’s surroundings. The author covers American housing patterns, the individual characteristics of houses in different regions, construction techniques and materials, household technology, and family life styles.”

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps

Available online at the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/>

Michigan County Atlases and Histories

Available online at the University of Michigan Library: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/>

Local Historical Organizations

A directory of history organizations throughout Michigan is available online at the Historical Society of Michigan’s website: <https://hsmichigan.org/resources/local-historical-organizations/>

Genealogy Resources (United States Census, city directories, etc.)

Michigan Electronic Library: <https://mel.org>

Ancestry.com: <https://www.ancestry.com/> (fee)

City Directories: <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Aladdin Company (mail-order “kit homes”)

Catalogs for the Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan, are available online at the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University:

https://www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/ResearchResources/Michigan_Material_Local/Bay_City_Aladdin_Co/Pages/default.aspx

Property Tax Rolls

Property tax rolls are held by your county treasurer’s office. They are organized by year and within the year by township, village, or city.

Property Deeds

Property deeds are held by your county register of deeds office.

Newspapers:

Digital Newspaper Portal. Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University:

<https://www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/Pages/Michigan-Digital-Newspaper-Portal.aspx>

Chronicling America, Library of Congress: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Newspapers.com (fee)

NewspaperArchive.com (fee)

Your local library may have your community newspaper(s) either on microfilm or digitized.

Consultants

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office’s list of Consultants Meeting Federal Qualifications for Archaeology, History, and Architectural History:

<https://www.miplace.org/48d545/globalassets/documents/shpo/programs-and-services/archaeology/archaeology-in-michigan/archaeologist-architectural-historian-and-historian-consultants-list.pdf>