# Historical Home Research in Medina County

**Medina County District Library**
210 S. Broadway St., Medina, Ohio 44256
330-725-0588 • www.mcdl.info

10/13

## Before You Begin

Congratulations! You've just bought an old house or are thinking about it, and you want to research its history. So where do you start? This handy guide will help you on your way.

First, it's important to remember that while every house has a history, not every old home is a historical home. Nor is every old home going to have documentation of its architecture, builder, or date of construction.

***Please note, there are no historical architectural plans on file in Medina County.***

## Helpful Materials at the Library

1. The Medina Library has a file folder in the Franklin Sylvester Room labeled "Historic Home Research" which is located in the Subject Files drawer. It contains a number of useful articles about researching historic homes.

2. On the Medina Shelves R977.135 under BUILDINGS there are 2 3-ring binders titled "Historic Homes of Medina." It contains newspaper clippings and reports on different historic homes in Medina County.

3. In the same area is the 1 volume 3-ring binder titled "Ohio Historic Home Inventory for Medina County." This lists the houses that were registered as historic homes in Medina County in the 1980s.

4. *Building a Firm Foundation* by Susan McKiernan and Joann King describes the different architectural styles that have been used in Medina County during different periods.

5. The Medina Library has microfilm of the tax duplicates of Medina County from 1819-1838. Usually, a big jump in the taxes paid indicates that a building has been added. **Do not start your research here.** You must work your way from the present to the past.

# The First Steps

1. Visit the Medina County Auditor's web site: **www.medinacountyauditor.org**
   Do a property search using the address or the owner's name. Record the Parcel Number. Click the "Tax Map" tab and print the tax map. Click the "Transfers" tab to see the most recent transfers. Note the names and dates of the transactions.

2. Visit the Medina County Recorder's web site: **www.recorder.co.medina.oh.us/index.htm**
   Search by the earliest owner's name of by the parcel number (omit the hyphens). Trace the ownership as far back as you can online.

3. Now, it is time for you to visit the Recorder's Office in the County Administration Building. Continue tracing the ownership in the sectional index.
   - Locate the oldest owner you could find in the Grantee column.
   - Find the Grantor's name to the left of the grantee's name.
   - Then search for the Grantor's name in the Grantee column to determine from whom they purchased the property.
   - Take notes of each transaction recording this information:
     - Volume and page number of deed
     - Type of deed: warranty, estate, etc.
     - Grantee's Name
     - Date of deed
     - Acreage
     - Grantor's Name
   - Repeat this procedure until the end of the first volume, which is around 1954.
   - Continue the above steps in the Old Section Index for your city or township.

4. **Watch out for:**
   - Changes in acreage. One person may have owned more than one property in a lot.
   - Splits in the chain of ownership. One large farm may have been acquired from different sources.
   - Written notes that indicate the city lot you are searching for was annexed from a township. You must then turn to the township sectional book to continue your search.

5. Look at each transaction using your notes. Begin with the oldest deed. Read the descriptions carefully, comparing it to your copied or printed tax map, to make sure your home is located in the same place as the old deed describes. Notice the purchase price. If the property changed hands in a brief period of time with a sharp increase in price, the house was most likely built in the interim.
6. If you think your home was built after 1872, go to the Auditor's office and ask for assistance.

7. If your house was built before 1872, visit the Medina County Historical Society and ask to see the Tax Duplicates.

8. Beginning with 1872, locate the township in the tax duplicates and then find the property owner within the township. Note the evaluations for land and buildings. Continue this process, year by year, until you locate the year in which there is not building evaluation. The house was built in that one year time span.

**Map of Ohio Land Deed Sections**

## More Suggestions

- Use the materials at the library to determine the style of your home to get a general idea of when it was built.
- Check foundations, etc. for any indication that the home was moved to the present location.
- Seek out neighbors or other people in the community who may know something about the house. They may have a photograph, a letter, or even lived there as a child!
- If possible, locate descendants of the people in your chain of ownership for possible photos or stories relating to your house.
- If you think your house is very historical, visit the National Register of Historic Places web site: **www.nps.ogv/nr/research/**

# For More Information

**Medina County Recorder's Office**
County Admin. Building, Rm. 117
144 N. Broadway St.
Medina, OH 44256
330-725-9782
www.recorder.co.medina.oh.us/index.htm

**Medina County Auditor**
Tax Map Office
144 N. Broadway St.
Medina, OH 44256
330-725-9754
www.medinacountyauditor.org

**Medina County Historical Society**
P.O. Box 306
206 North Elmwood St.
Medina, OH 44258-0306
330-722-1341
www.medinahistorical.com

**National Register of Historic Places**
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
NC 400
Washington, DC 20240
202-343-9536
www.nps.gov/nr