



Greenwich Village Workshop, July 2016

GREENWICH VILLAGE RESOURCES

CONDUCTING BUILDING RESEARCH

Researching a building or neighborhood in New York can be a fun and rewarding experience. There are many resources available and a selection of these are listed below to get you started.

Books

1. Beard, Rick and Leslie Cohen Berlowitz. **Greenwich Village Culture and Counterculture**. NY: MCNY, 1993.
2. Chapin, Anna Alice. **Greenwich Village**. NY: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1925. Access online at archive.org/details/greenwichvillage00chap3
3. Dolkart, Andrew S. **The Row House Reborn: Architecture and Neighborhoods in New York City, 1908-1929**. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.
4. Dunlap, David W. **From Abyssinian to Zion: A Guide to Manhattan's Houses of Worship**. NY: Columbia University Press, 2004.
5. Harris, Luther S. **Around Washington Square: An Illustrated History of Greenwich Village**. MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.
6. Lockwood, Charles. **Bricks and Brownstone: The New York Rowhouse 1783-1929**. NY: Abbeville Press, 1972.
7. Stokes, I. N. Phelps. **The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909**. NY: Robert H. Dodd, 1915-1928. Access online at archive.org
8. **AIA Guide to New York City**. Edited by White, Norval, Elliot Willensky, and Fran Leadon. NY: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Is it a City Landmark?

1. Dolkart, Andrew and Matthew A. Postal. **Guide to New York City Landmarks**. NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2008.
2. **NYC Department of Buildings' Building Information System**
nyc.gov/bis
 - Provides block & lot, permit violation information and landmark status
3. **New York City DoITT Map**
maps.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap/
 - Search address to retrieve basic information
 - Click "Show Additional Data on Map" to see landmark status

Is it a State or National Landmark?

Some buildings & historic districts are not city landmarks but do have a state/national designation.

1. **National Register of Historic Places**
nps.gov/nr/research/
 - Provides a spreadsheet of properties listed on the National Register
2. **NY State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS)**
<https://cris.parks.ny.gov/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>
 - Provides a database & interactive map

NYC Landmark Designation Reports

1. **Neighborhood Preservation Center's Designation Reports Database**
neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/designation_reports/index.php
2. **NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's Reports**
nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/publications/designation.shtml

Visit in Person

1. **Department of Buildings**
www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/index.page
 - For building records not already available through their online system
2. **Municipal Archives**
nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/archives.shtml
 - Tax assessment records, building permits and photographs
3. **Department of Finance**
www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/index.page
 - Records of building ownership, deeds, and mortgages

Finding People/Businesses

1. **Genealogical Research at the New York Public Library**
nypl.org/about/divisions/milstein/genealogy
 - City directories, census records
2. **Census Records**
https://archive.org/details/us_census
 - US Census databases, 1790-1930
3. **National Archives**
archives.gov/research/census/

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History, Preservation & Neighborhood Groups

- 1. Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation**
gvshp.org
 - GVSHP was founded in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, East Village, and NoHo.
- 2. Village Alliance**
villagealliance.org
 - The Alliance works with area residents, businesses, cultural and academic institutions in the Business Improvement District to ensure the district continues to grow and succeed.

Local Library Collections & Blogs

- 1. Jefferson Market Library:**
www.nypl.org/locations/jefferson-market
 - Local history references
 - Copies of printed designation reports
- 2. Off the Grid Blog (GVSHP):**
<http://gvshp.org/blog/>
 - Area preservation updates
 - Historic information & trivia

Looking for Maps

- 1. David Rumsey's Historical Map Collection**
davidrumsey.com/
- 2. Library of Congress Map Collection**
<https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/>
- 3. Museum of the City of New York Collection Portal**
collections.mcny.org/Explore/Borough/Manhattan/
- 4. New York Historical Society**
nyhistory.org/library/research
- 5. New York Public Library Map Division**
nypl.org/about/divisions/map-division
- 6. Historic Map Works**
www.historicmapworks.com/

Online Book & Text Repositories

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Google Books
books.google.com/2. The Making of America Collection
moa.library.cornell.edu/3. Internet Archive
archive.org/index.php | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. ProQuest
www.proquest.com/<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access at a NYPL branch5. JSTOR
www.jstor.org/<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access at a NYPL branch |
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Building Documentation

- 1. A Brief Guide to Researching the History of Your NYC Home**
nypl.org/blog/2011/10/14/guide-researching-your-homes-history
- 2. Office of Metropolitan History**
www.metrohistory.com
 - Building permit database, 1900-1986.
- 3. Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide**
rerecord.cul.columbia.edu/
 - Information on building activity in NY, 1868-1922.
- 4. Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS)**
a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/
 - Ownership, mortgage & sales information.
- 5. Department of Building's Property Profile Overview**
a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp
- 6. Real Estate Brochure Collection**
nyre.cul.columbia.edu/
- 7. I-Cards**
www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/index.page
 - Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development records of apartment buildings erected before 1938, including plumbing, sketched plans, etc.
- 8. Rowhouse Manual**
http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/lp_rhmanual.pdf
 - a guide to protect, maintain, and enhance architecturally and historically significant homes.

Scouring the Newspaper

- 1. Chronicling America**
chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
 - Digitized newspapers, 1836-1922.
- 2. New York Public Library's Newspapers**
nypl.org/node/5623
 - Information on how to find historic newspapers.
- 3. New York Times Archives**
nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html
 - Some searches require a subscription.

Looking for Images

- 1. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Online Catalog**
loc.gov/pictures/
- 2. Museum of the City of New York Collections Portal**
collections.mcny.org/
- 3. NYC Department of Records and Information Services**
nyc.gov/html/records/html/home/home.shtml
 - Photo collection includes tax photographs from 1940s & 1980s.
- 4. New York Public Library's Digital Collections**
digitalcollections.nypl.org/