

House History Resource Guide

Highlighting resources for researching your house's history.



Collections in the Indiana Room

City Directories	A listing of residents, streets, business, and organizations that was published annually in Anderson. The library holds directories from 1876-Present.
Horizontal Files & Maps	Our Horizontal Files contain U.S. Geological Survey Maps of Madison County, some plat maps, and other topographical maps. Please see our Horizontal Files Index for more details on specific maps held. Plat Maps: Plat maps are detailed drawings of land divisions including parcels, blocks, streets, easements, etc. Sanborn Fire Maps: Originally utilized for Fire Insurance purposes, these detailed maps contain information about the size, shape, etc.. These are available through our online resources.
Vertical Files	We hold some newspaper clippings, brochures, and pamphlets of historic homes in Madison Co., especially if they were architecturally significant.
Microfilm	Contains numerous resources related to property history including estate docket books, land grants, some deed books, and mortgage books. Please see the microfilm index for more details & specific dates.
Newspapers <i>Available through APL's online subscriptions</i>	If you know the address or information about previous residents, especially if the property was notable architecturally or historically, searching through newspapers may yield articles or photos.

Madison County Government Resources

Auditor's Office

Phone: 765-641-9419
Address: 16 East 9th St., Anderson, IN, 46016

The [Auditor's Office](#) handles transfers of owners of real property, maintains information on property boundaries, determines property taxes, and more. Visit their map resource to research property information such as the value and taxation history of a property.

Recorder's Office

Phone: 765-641-9613
Address: 16 East 9th St., Anderson, IN, 46016,
Room 205

The [Recorder's Office](#) handles the official, permanent recorder of legal property documents such as deeds, liens, and mortgages.

Assessor's Office

Phone: 765-641-9401
Address: 16 East 9th St., Anderson, IN, 46016

The [Assessor's Office](#) determines the fair market value of all real and personal property for tax purposes and would have records on the properties' values.

Indiana Organizations

Indiana Landmarks

Website: www.indianalandmarks.org

Indiana Landmarks assists with restoration questions and is dedicated to revitalizing communities and saving historic, culturally significant buildings and properties.

Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, DNR

Website: www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation

DHPA promotes the conservation of Indiana's cultural resources. This includes conducting the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Survey, maintaining the Indiana State Historic and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD), and facilitating the National Register of Historic Places list for Indiana.

Online Resources

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory Website: www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/county-survey-program/	This is a survey of historic properties and structures by county that is maintained by the Division of Historic Preservation and Architecture & Indiana Landmarks. Madison County's report is available through Indiana Landmarks. You can either purchase a copy of the report or make an appointment to view the library's research copy (317-639-4534).
Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archeological Research Database (SHAARD) Website: www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/county-survey-program/shaard-database	Allows users to search cultural resource information in Indiana including National Register nominations and some county surveys. As of 2025, SHAARD includes the cemetery registry, historic bridge inventory, and information on building on the National Register of Historic Places in Madison County. The IHSSI survey for Madison Co. has not been uploaded yet and must be accessed physically via Indiana Landmarks.
Vintage Aerial Website: www.vintageaerial.com	The exterior of your house may have been captured via aerial photography, especially if it was between the 1950s to 1990s. Vintage aerial is a free database with over 19 million aerial photos.
Indiana Album Website: www.indianaalbum.com	Indiana Album is a nonprofit organization that borrows, digitizes, catalogs, and shares photographs, postcards, and graphics in Indiana. Search their online database.

Further Readings

- *Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood* by Betsey J. Green (Copy available in Indiana Room- IND GEN 907 Green)
- *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home* by Sally Light (Copy available in Indiana Room - IND GEN 728 Light)
- "House History: A Guide to Uncovering the Stories of Local Buildings and Properties," by the Library of Congress (www.guides.loc.gov/house-history)

- "Historic House Research Guide" by Indiana Landmarks (www.indianalandmarks.org/2016/06/historic-house-research-guide/)
- "House History" by Indianapolis Public Library (www.indyp.l.org/research-learn/house-history)