

TIPS ON WHERE TO GO AND HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR HOUSE IN ST. CHARLES AND KANE COUNTY

1. **Kane County Recorder's Office**, P.O. Box 71, Geneva Illinois 60134, phone 630-232-5935
Bring your house's **tax ID number** (it's on your property tax bill) and the **legal description of the property** (it's on the purchase documents) and go to the Recorder's Office. Here they will help you find the previous owners of the property. This office has land records available from 1836.

Some Basics:

WD = Warranty Deed conveys title to real estate

(grantor = seller, grantee = buyer)

TD = Trust Deed which represents indebtedness, similar to a mortgage

R = Release when indebtedness or other obligation is satisfied

2. **St. Charles Heritage Center**, 215 East Main Street, St. Charles IL 60174, phone 630-584-6967
T-Sat 10am-4pm, all research is by appointment only.
The museum has a number of architectural style reference books in its library as well as **City Directories** that list who owned the properties in St. Charles during various years. The museum also has photographs of a few of the homes in St. Charles but not all of the homes and general histories written about St. Charles people and places. Please note, unfortunately the Museum does not have a written history or photographs for each historic property.
3. **St. Charles Public Library**, 1 South Sixth Street, St. Charles IL 60174, phone 630-584-0076
The library has back issues of the **St. Charles Chronicle** on microfilm although finding anything relevant to your house will be a matter of chance. The library has architectural magazines and general histories of St. Charles. The library also has Internet access to **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps**, these are excellent resources for seeing how your neighborhood developed. The Sanborn Maps can also help establish the original footprint of the house, and the materials used in construction.
4. Interview former owners of your home or long-time neighborhood residents. But use this information with caution unless it is documented. It is also highly recommended to make photocopies of all documents when possible, or noting the sources used exactly. If you have performed a reasonably thorough study of your house, consider offering the material to the St. Charles Heritage Center for its collection when you are done.
5. **St. Charles Public Works Department**, phone 630-377-4486
Public Works records building permit applications and other information pertaining to water hook up and electrical service.
6. **St. Charles Township Assessor**, www.stcharlestownship.org
Click on Township Assessor section. Website shows the home and lists previous sales as well as specifics of the home itself, may include when addition were made to the structure if building permits were issued.