

# Historical Home Research in Medina County

**Medina County District Library**  
210 S. Broadway St., Medina, Ohio 44256  
330-725-0588 • [mcdl.info/Genealogy](http://mcdl.info/Genealogy)



8/18

## Before You Begin

Congratulations! You've bought an old house or are thinking about it, and you want to research its history. So where do you start? This 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

- The Medina Library has a file folder in the Virginia Wheeler Martin Family History and Learning Center labeled **Historic Home Research** which is located in the Subject Files drawer. It contains a number of useful articles about researching historic homes.
- On the Medina Shelves R977.135 under BUILDINGS there are 3-ring binders titled **Historic Homes of Medina**. They contain newspaper clippings and reports on different historic homes.
- In the same area is the 1 volume 3-ring binder titled **Ohio Historic Home Inventory for Medina County**. This lists the homes registered as historic in the 1980's.
- *Building a Firm Foundation* by Susan McKiernan and Joann King describes the different architectural styles used in Medina County during different time periods.
- Ask for microfilm of tax duplicates of Medina County from 1819-1838. Usually, a big jump in taxes paid indicates a building has been added.

# The First Steps

**Always begin in the present and work your way back to the past.**

1. Visit the Medina County Auditor's website: **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 website: **recorder.co.medina.oh.us/index.htm**  
Search by the earliest owner's name or by the parcel number (omit the hyphens). Trace the ownership as far back as you can online.
3. Now, 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.

**OR**

Use the Lot Number, which is located on the deed.

- The office staff can show you the Index to Deeds & Mortgages.
- Look up the property by lot number to locate the chain of owners.
- Note the transaction date and the volume and page of the deed.
- Look up the deeds. These are also located in the Recorder's Office.

## **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 by 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.

## In Addition:

- Look at each transaction. Begin with the oldest deed. Read the descriptions carefully, comparing it to your copied or printed tax map, to ensure your home is located in the same place the deed describes. Notice the purchase price. If the property changed hands in a brief time period with a sharp increase in price, the house was most likely built in the interim.
- If you think your home was built after 1872, go to the Auditor's office and ask for assistance. If your house was built before 1872, visit the Medina County Historical Society and ask to see the Tax Duplicates.
- Beginning with 1872, locate the township in the tax duplicates. 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 a building evaluation. The house was built in this one year time span.

## More Suggestions

- Get an idea of when it was built by using materials at the library.
- Check foundations, etc. for indications the home was moved to the present location.
- Seek out neighbors or community members who may know about the home. They may have a photo, letter, or even lived there!
- Locate descendants of former owners for photos or stories relating to the home.
- If you think your house is historical, visit the National Register of Historic Places website: [nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm)

## For More Information

**Medina County Recorder's Office**  
County Administration Building, Rm. 117  
144 N. Broadway St.  
Medina, OH 44256  
330-725-9782  
[recorder.co.medina.oh.us/index.htm](http://recorder.co.medina.oh.us/index.htm)

**Medina County Auditor's Office**  
County Administration Building  
144 N. Broadway St.  
Medina, OH 44256  
330-725-9754  
[medinacountyauditor.org](http://medinacountyauditor.org)

**Medina County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 306  
206 North Elmwood St.  
Medina, OH 44258-0306  
330-722-1341  
[medinahistorical.com](http://medinahistorical.com)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
NC 400  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-343-9536  
[nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm)