

SEARCHING THROUGH THE WINDOW OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S HOME

A. What do I need to do before beginning my research?

1. Obtain a legal property description
2. Take a picture of the present day structure.
3. Do some online searching.
Use key words on any search engine,
WI Historical Society (wisconsinhistory.org)
Bureau of Land Management (gloreCORDS.blm.gov)
4. Determine the architectural style and builder and/or designer.
5. Learn who lived in or owned the building and something about their lives
6. Create a timeline Start with the present and work backwards.
7. Ask questions.

B. Develop a plan of action

C. Explore all possible resources

1. Maps---plat, Sanborn
2. Tax Assessment of various years
3. Deeds or Land Records-Abstracts when available
4. Published Histories
5. Published Directories----Business, City, Farmer, Telephone
6. Census Information
7. Local Newspapers----obituaries of past owners
8. General Background References
9. Photos or Postcards

D. For a full scale search remember to:

1. Explore all possible resources.
2. Record known facts and document each fact.
3. Keep asking questions and recording. Mostly Listen, Listen, And Listen!

You can search your ancestor's home by **The Building, The Land, or Its Location.**

Remember to look thru the windows of your ancestor's home and discover yourself.

Helpful Resources Properties and Building Searching

Boyd, Gregory A. Family Maps of Green County, Wisconsin. Norman, Oklahoma: Arphax Publishing Co. 2007

Green, Betsy. Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood. Santa Monica, CA: Santa Monica Press LLC. 2002.

Light, Sally. House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home. Spencertown, NY: Golden Hill Press. 1989.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.