

# Maps

## Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

In the 1860s the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company created detailed maps to allow access to fire insurance liability coverage. Sanborn maps include the footprint of the building, construction materials, height, building use, and lot lines.

The Bethlehem Area Public Library has Sanborn maps on microfilm that include the years 1885, 1892, 1897, 1904, 1912, modified 1912. There

is an original copy of the 1892 book in the Bethlehem Room and Penn State University Libraries has an almost complete collection of digitized Sanborn maps of cities and towns in Pennsylvania from the years 1884 through the mid 1950s.



## Local Maps

Besides BAPL's Map Collection, The Lehigh Valley Historical Maps Consortium consists of Lehigh Valley maps from local libraries, museums, and historical societies interested in making their maps available digitally as well as listing physical maps and the institution that houses them.



## Property Records and Deed Research

When searching for the history of a home, start with the current deed. A deed is listed on property/tax records or can be obtained at the county Recorder of Deeds office. The deed shows the property's ownership as it transfers titles. Begin the search with the current owners and work backwards. The grantor is the seller and the grantee is the buyer.

### Lehigh County Deed Research

Recorder of Deeds Division  
Lehigh County Courthouse  
455 W. Hamilton Street,  
Rm 122  
Allentown PA 18101  
Phone: 610-782-3162

Lehigh County Tax  
Assessment Office



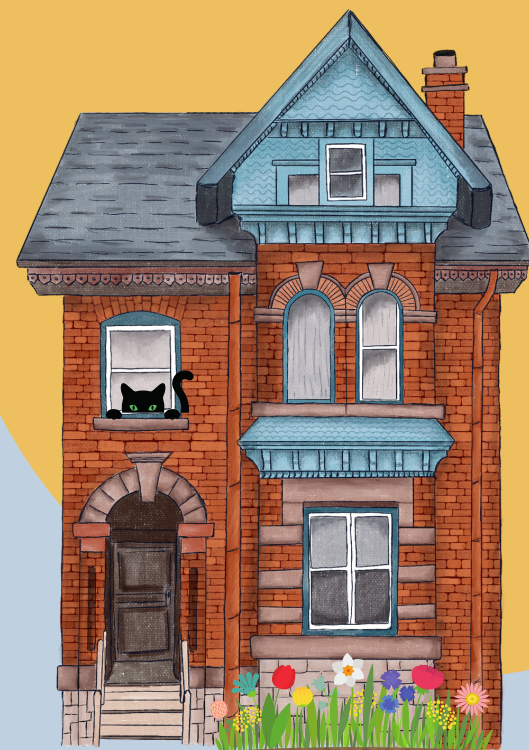
### Northampton County Deed Research

Northampton County  
Courthouse  
Recorder of Deeds  
Division, Room L116  
669 Washington Street  
Easton PA 18042-7477  
Phone: (610) 829-6210

Northampton  
County  
Tax  
Assessment



# HOUSE RESEARCH GUIDE



**BETHLEHEM AREA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Learning Starts Here*

## City Directories

City directories provide information on individuals, their occupations, addresses, and business names. The Bethlehem Area Public Library's local history collection in the Bethlehem Room includes directories dating from 1895 to the present and includes directories from the Greater Bethlehem Area. Their call number is 917.48.



## Other Information

BAPL has a partial obituary and local news index compiled from the Bethlehem Globe-Times. If you know the death date of your subject, you can look for an obituary in the microfilm of the Bethlehem Globe-Times, available at the Bethlehem Area Public Library and at Lehigh University. The index is an ongoing project.

Census records for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Pennsylvania Census data is available in microfilm at BAPL from the years 1790-1920. This information is also available on Ancestry Library Edition through use in the library only and on HeritageQuest which has free access with your library card.

## Architecture Resources

Title: ***Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans***

Author: G. Edwin Brumbaugh

Call number: **Local History 728 1933**

Title: ***Discovering the History of your House and your Neighborhood***

Author: Betsy J. Green

Call number: **907.2 2002**

Title: ***A Field Guide to American Houses : the Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture***

Author: Virginia McAlester

Call number: **728.097**

Title: ***Pennsylvania's Architecture***

Author: Irwin Richman

Call number: **Local History Pamphlets 720.9748 1969**

Title: ***Pennsylvania German Architecture***

Author: Richard S. Montgomery

Call number: **Local History Pamphlets 728 1945**

Title: ***Philadelphia Architecture***

Author: American Institute of Architects

Call number: **Local History Pamphlets 720.9748 1961**

## Online Research

Ancestry Library Edition

Bethlehem Globe-Times Index

Family Search

Find-a-grave

HeritageQuest

*Morning Call* Obituary Index at the Allentown Public Library

NewsBank - *Morning Call*, *Express-Times* and other Pennsylvania Newspapers

Newspapers.com - Library Edition



## Digital Collections

Liberty High School Collection

The Marlene Spector Levine Postcard Collection

The World War II Clippings Collection

