



House / Property Research at Grey County Archives

Researching the history of your house or property can be a challenging, but rewarding, process. Some of the resources below may help you to uncover an important piece of your house's story.

Wondering where to begin? Knowing your address and property description (lot, concession), and, if applicable, former township name (e.g., Derby) is helpful. Available online, Grey County GIS maps are a useful resource for finding this information. Visit <https://maps.grey.ca>

Archival Resources

Code	Description	Useful for...
GF24	Land Abstract Indexes	Lists of transactions registered on a property, such as sales, mortgages, etc. Archives holds indexes for Grey County, covering approximately mid-1800s to mid-1900s.
AF12	Fire Insurance Plans	Graphic, "birds-eye-view" of buildings, streets, usually limited to core or industrial areas. Contain a wealth of information, such as building construction (e.g., wood, brick). Archives holds plans for Owen Sound, Clarksburg, Durham, Hanover, Meaford, Neustadt, Thornbury.
PF66	Directories	Finding previous occupants of an address. Archives holds various local directories covering approximately mid-1800s to mid-1900s.
WIF	Tweedsmuir Histories	Locally-produced, scrapbook-style history books can include narrative family histories, photographs of houses and/or farm properties.
MF	Real estate advertisements in local newspapers	Sale listings can include information about house, outbuildings, property size, landscape features.
PF353	Aerial photography	Ontario Dept. of Lands and Forests [Air Photos of Southern Ontario], 1954-55.
PF77	Historic Research Files - Architecture	Files of newspaper clippings related to local houses, architecture.
PF49S20	Owen Sound Historical Society	Research, photographs related to Owen Sound houses, architecture collected by the OS Historical Society.
PF137	Markdale & Area Preservation Society	Research related to Markdale houses, architecture.
PF/AF	Private family collections, family histories	Correspondence, photographs, ephemera related to previous occupants of a house.

Reference resources

Houses in South East Grey: A Study of History and Architecture

How Firm a Foundation: Historic houses of Grey County

Old Ontario Houses: Traditions in Local Architecture

Various township, municipal history books

Online resources

Grey County Archives database

<https://eloquent.grey.ca/public>

OnLand

<https://www.onland.ca/ui/>

Fire Insurance Plans (links to local plans held at other institutions)

<https://greyroots.com/collections-and-research/archives-research/external-resources>

Grey County GIS maps

<https://maps.grey.ca>

Tweedsmuir Histories

<https://greyroots.com/collections-and-research/archives-research/tweedsmuir>

Interested in visiting the Archives?

Visit <https://greyroots.com> for more information about Archives hours of operation, admission.