

Resources for researching the history of your house or property

If you are researching the history of your home or property to satisfy your curiosity, apply for historic designation, or for some other reason, the Denton Public Library and other local entities have the following resources available:

Denton Record-Chronicle: The Emily Fowler Library has microfilm from 1909 to 2018 along with earlier historic Denton city and county newspapers.

Tips for searching newspapers:

- The Portal To Texas History has digitized those early newspapers and the Record-Chronicle up to about 1980. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>
- There is a gap of 22 years (1981-2002) that have not been digitized anywhere yet. Therefore, one will have to use microfilm to view those issues. The Emily Fowler Library has some indexes for those years for major events, stories, people, etc.
- Our Local News Index on the Genealogy homepage of the Library website has >>>>
- NewspaperArchives (can be accessed on the DPL website https://library.cityofdenton.com/screens/sc_resources.html) Provides access to the DRC from 1909-1979. You can use this resource at all library locations. It is also available remotely with a valid DPL library card.

Denton Doings: this was a locally published “society” news magazine published from 1949 to 1972. Has mentions of particular individuals, events, businesses, etc. Can be used to learn more about the people who may’ve lived in one’s house or events there. All issues can be found on the Portal To Texas History.

City of Denton Permit Cards: the Emily Fowler Library has thousands of historic permit cards that contain valuable information on construction, lot information, etc. Contact the Special Collections Department to learn more.

Denton County Clerk Real Property Records Search: all deeds, plats, property, etc. are recorded at the County level-not the City. This database contains documents going back to the latter part of the 19th century. These records are indispensable for establishing the chain of ownership for land. These records may contain other names besides the primary grantor or grantee. Mechanic’s Liens may give info on contractors, original specs for a structure, etc. <https://denton.tx.publicsearch.us/>

Denton County Office of History and Culture: located in the historic 1896 Courthouse on the Square in downtown Denton, this is the primary repository for Denton County history. They have old tax cards, photos, documents, etc. Please contact them directly with your questions. <https://www.dentoncounty.gov/289/History-Culture>

Denton CAD: The Denton Central Appraisal District has records going back only about 12 years but will have the legal description which can be used in the County Clerk’s Real Property

Records Search for older information. Also has a nice interactive map.

<https://www.dentoncad.com/>

City Directories: historical city directories list properties by street, by name, and sometimes have old phone numbers. These are invaluable for finding out who lived at an address. Our collection at the Fowler Library is pretty extensive and complete back to the 1940s, but is very limited before that. We also have historical phone books which duplicate that information and is more complete going back to the 1920s.

Maps: historical maps of Denton can be found at the Fowler Library. Please ask librarian for access to them.

Video Tutorial on Library's Website: If you go to library.cityofdenton.com and click on "Classes and Events" then under "Programs on Demand" you will find a tutorial entitled "Hunting Your House History". This is free to anyone and covers much of what is mentioned in this document.

<https://my.nicheacademy.com/dplondemand>

Happy Hunting!