



RESEARCHING THIS OLD HOUSE

1. Why Research?

- Curiosity or interest.
- Helps in restoration or repair work.
- To participate in historical programs.
- Tax incentives (income producing building).

2. When - The Order of Things.

- Architectural features of your house.
- Title (deed) search (present back to original builder).

3. Architecture of your house.

- Study the exterior
Shape, materials used, additions, roof, neighborhood houses, location on lot, location in town, outbuildings, etc.
- Study the interior
Basement, attics, nails, screws, moldings, latches and hinges, beams, framing, additions, fireplaces, chimneys, floor plans, windows, etc.

4. The Registry of Deeds.

- Records Office in Painesville
Look for indexes, deed books, plan books, and maps.

Beginning the Title Search

Start with your own deed.

- Property description: size, shape, and location.
- 'Reference' Record: name of the person who conveyed the property to the grantor, when, in what book, and what page it is filed.
- Continue this process until the chain is completed - no dwelling appears on the land in question.
- Things to note: Size of property, Price, Spouses and relatives that witnessed the document, Property numbers: lot, range, etc., Townships.

Obstacles

- Missing documents - go back to the Index Books and look up by name.
- Errors in the registry: spelling, names omitted, handwriting.

Bonuses

Deeds may show if parts of the house was moved, rights for burial grounds.

Plan Books and Early Maps

- Land surveys are kept in Plan Books (Registry of Deeds).
 - Early maps, atlases, insurance maps, tax maps.
- County Offices, Historical Societies, Libraries.

Other Places to Search

Directories, photos, drawings, genealogies, Annual Town Reports, scrapbooks, manuscripts (private papers), tax records, building inspector's files, insurance records, cemetery records, census records, oral histories, newspapers, and any other creative way you can think of.