



Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society  
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## Research Guide: Who's Been Living in My House?

A list of resources for researching the history of your house in Sedgwick County, Kansas (MHGS = Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society; WPL = Wichita Public Library)  
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- A general checklist of things to do while researching the history of any house or building:  
<http://www.kshs.org/research/pdfs/househistorychecklist.pdf>
- An overview of the development of Wichita, focusing on residential development and architecture. It includes some specific properties: [https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg\\_thematics/view/37](https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg_thematics/view/37)
- A book on Wichita's registered historic homes:  
<https://www.wichita.gov/Planning/PlanningDocument/Discover%20Historic%20Wichita!%20booklet.pdf>
- City Directories: Give you the names of residents, owning or renting. Start with the address section to get family name, then go to alpha listing for more residents. MHGS, WPL, Ancestry.com
- US Federal Census and Kansas State Census: Give you family members, occupations, and property values every 10 (maybe 5) years. Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, WPL, MHGS
- Legal Property Records:
  - Sedgwick County Appraisers Office  
[http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/appraiser/real\\_property.asp](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/appraiser/real_property.asp): Gives you the current legal owner of a property
  - Sedgwick County Recorder of Deeds: Ownership transfers (don't need if you have a title abstract)
  - Title companies: Many companies have title abstracts which you probably have to pay for, unless you can borrow from homeowner. If you purchased the house, you should be able to get the abstract from your title company
- Photographs:
  - [WichitaPhotos.org](http://WichitaPhotos.org)
  - <http://mhgswichita.org/om/>
  - Other photograph collections exist at WPL, WSU Special Collections, Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, MHGS
- Newspapers
  - For digitized Wichita papers before 1923, search <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
  - WPL has complete microfilm copies of Wichita papers
  - GenealogyBank has digitized Wichita Eagle from 1969 to 1984 (WPL)

- WSU has something called the Tihen notes, which serve as an unofficial, incomplete index to Wichita papers from 1872 to 1982:  
[http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/local\\_history/tihen/](http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/local_history/tihen/)
- Maps
  - Sedgwick County Clerk's Maps, with original plat maps, tax maps, quartersection maps and aerial photos: <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/gis/>
  - City planning map, with city boundaries by decade: <https://www.wichita.gov/Planning/PlanningDocument/Growth%20by%20Decade%20map.pdf>
  - 1882 Sedgwick County Atlas: <http://www.kshs.org/p/countyatlasesorplatbooks/13859>
  - Sanburn Fire maps, which show individual buildings:  
<http://luna.ku.edu:8180/luna/servlet/view/all/where/Wichita?showAll=when&sort=Identifier,Area,Citation,Classification>
  - Paper map collections at WPL, MHGS, WSU Special Collections
- Other Miscellaneous Resources
  - MHGS has books and files on residents, houses, occupations, businesses, churches, etc.
  - Wichita Public Library has a local history room on the second floor, with resources including Who's Who in Wichita 1929 & 1963.
  - WSU Special Collections has the papers of Morris Realty, a developer in College Hill and Sleepy Hollow.
  - WSU Public History Department might have had students who have written about your house or families. There are copies in the library.
  - Historic Midtown Citizens Association: <http://midtownwichita.org/index.html>
  - Wichita-Sedgwick County Historic Planning Dept:  
<http://www.wichita.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/Pages/Preservation.a.spx>
  - Wichita Historic Preservation Alliance: <http://www.historicpreservationalliance.com/>
  - Kansas State Historical Society: database of registered buildings <http://www.kshs.org/p/national-andstateregisters/14635>
  - The city of Wichita conducted a survey of historical buildings in south central Wichita:  
<http://www.kshs.org/resource/survey/wichitasouthcentralreport.pdf>
  - A report with a focus on buildings owned by African Americans in Wichita:  
[https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg\\_thematics/view/36](https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg_thematics/view/36)
  - A brief introduction to researching historic properties: <http://www.kshs.org/p/researchinghistoric-properties/14639>
  - A website with helpful articles about what you can learn from the architecture of a house:  
<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/architecture-and-design/finding-the-history-in-your-home.shtml>
  - Another site examining old house styles:  
<http://architecture.about.com/od/housestyles/tp/housestylesindex.htm>
  - An extremely irreverent set of essays on US home architecture styles:  
<https://mcmansionhell.com/archive/tagged/looking%20around>
  - More maps, not just for Sedgwick County: <http://www.historicmapworks.com/>