

The Art & Science of Researching your Old House

Aimée Keithan, Educational Programs Manager, Greater Portland Landmarks
akeithan@portlandlandmarks.org
(207) 358.7084

Note: Create a spreadsheet with your source, the date of the source, and your notes. Arrange it chronologically to track the timeline of your house. Research large to small—gather information from maps, then move into property records to get names, then research individual names through census records, vital records, city directories, and newspapers to reveal the lives of inhabitants.

Resource	Website	QR Code
Sanborn Fire Maps at Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?searchType=advanced	
Maps at Osher Map Library	https://oshermaps.org/	
Maps at David Rumsey	https://www.davidrumsey.com/	
Property information at Maine Parcel Viewer via ArcGIS	https://hub.arcgis.com/apps/maine::maine-geolibrary-parcel-viewer-application/explore	
Augusta Property Tax Maps at Town of Augusta	https://www.augustamaine.gov/index.php?section=property-tax-maps	
Documents and maps at Digital Maine Repository	https://digitalmaine.com/	
Maine City Directories at Maine State Library	https://www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/city.shtml	
Maine Memory Network at Maine Historical Society	https://www.mainememory.net/	
Maine State Archives	https://archives.maine.gov/	

Probate (will) records at Maine Probate	https://www.maineprobate.net/search/	
Property Records (by county) at Maine Registers of Deeds Association	https://www.maineregistryofdeeds.com/	
Local records at Kennebec Historical Society	https://www.kennebechistorical.org/	
HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) at Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/	
Genealogy, census, and vital records at Ancestry.com (subscription required or use free at library)	www.ancestry.com	
Genealogy, census, and vital records at Family Search (free but must create account)	https://www.familysearch.org/en/united-states/	
Genealogy resources via Lithgow Library	https://www.lithgowlibrary.org/genealogy/	
Newspapers at Newspapers.com (subscription required)	https://www.newspapers.com/	
Maine Newspaper Project at Digital Maine	https://digitalmaine.com/newspapers/	
Chronicling America digitized newspapers at Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/	