



House History



Cook Memorial Public Library District

Resources

There is not a one-stop-shop for information about a Libertyville house. The following organizations are key to Libertyville house research.

Cook Memorial Library

413 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-362-2330
likref@cooklib.org
<http://www.cooklib.org>

Lake County Chief County Assessment Office

18 N. County Street – 7th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-377-2050
assessor@lakecountyil.gov
<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/376/Search-by-Address>

Lake County Recorder of Deeds

18 N. County Street - 6th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085
847-377-2575
<http://lakecountyil.gov/258/Recorder-of-Deeds>

Libertyville Community Development Department Building Division

200 E. Cook Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-918-2020
<http://libertyville.com/78/Building-Division>

Libertyville Historical Society

Ansel B. Cook House
413 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(224) 513-7426
info@libertyvillehistory.org
<http://libertyvillehistory.org>

Libertyville Township Assessor

359 Merrill Court
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-362-5900
Info@LibertyvilleAssessor.org
<http://www.libertyvilletownship.us/about-us/assessor>

Need assistance?

Contact Jenny Barry or Sonia Schoenfield at the Cook Memorial Library, 847-362-2330.

Where can I find a photograph of my house?

COOK MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Libertyville Houses

Local History Ref Libertyville 977.321 LIB

A collection of images of Libertyville houses photocopied from photographs in the Libertyville Historical Society archives.

MainStreet Libertyville House Tour booklets (2004-present)

Local History Ref Libertyville 728.37 LIB

Lasting Impressions: 50 historic homes of Libertyville

Local History Ref Libertyville 728.37 LAS

House File in the Local History File cabinet

Hundreds of folders containing clippings and other information on specific houses.

Local newspapers

Cook Memorial Library Digital Collections - <http://vitacollections.ca/cmpldnewsindex/search> or Newspapers.com

Occasionally the local newspaper printed photos of houses - when the house was built, when it was for sale, house walks, events such as fires, or if a house was moved.

Illinois Digital Archives – Libertyville History Collection

Over 3500 items scanned from the Libertyville Historical Society collection including over 1000 house photos. Search by street name for best results. <http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/cookmemo11/search/>

OTHER SOURCES

Libertyville Historical Society

Many of the house photographs in the Society's collection have been digitized and added to the Illinois Digital Archives mentioned above. The Society may have some photographs that have not yet been digitized. Contact the Society for research assistance.

Libertyville Township Assessor

A photograph is often attached to the property card at the Assessor's office. Free single copies are made for property owners.

Lake County Chief County Assessment Office

Online Property Tax Assessment Information will have a recent photograph of a house.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency - HARGIS

The Historic and Architectural Resources Geographic Information System (HARGIS) is the public portal to Illinois' historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Pages/HARGIS.aspx>

How old is my house?

TAX ASSESSMENTS

Libertyville Township Assessor

Year built is based on a survey of homeowners conducted in the early 1970s. Use additional resources to confirm date.

<http://www.imslake.org>

BUILDING PERMITS

Libertyville Community Development Department – Building Division

Building Division records generally begin in the 1950s. Permits may include date of construction, builder, architect, plus any subsequent changes to a residence. Residents can request information about their own property.

DEEDS

Lake County Recorder of Deeds

Deeds pertain to land ownership and most often do not indicate whether there is a structure on the land. However, tracing the land ownership back as far as possible, and/or finding the plat of subdivision for the area in which you live, will help determine if the Assessor's Office date is in the right ballpark.

To track the ownership of your property, start with the name of the grantee on your current deed. Then work backwards, looking up the names of the grantees on subsequent deeds. Search deeds in person or online for a fee.

<https://www.lakecountyl.gov/2341/Search-Property-Records/>

MAPS

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

These maps show the layout of Libertyville in 1897, 1907, 1912, 1924, 1933 and 1948. Early maps cover the center of town. Later maps expand outward. The maps show streets, block numbers, lot lines, outlines of commercial and residential buildings. The year your house first appears on the map can serve as a guideline. Cook Memorial Library (online database, in-library use only, black & white), Library of Congress (online, color) and the Libertyville Historical Society (print, color).

Plat maps

Plat maps show land ownership. On some maps a small square marks the location of an existing building. It may, or may not be, the existing structure. Cook Memorial Library (incomplete run from 1861 – 2020, mostly Libertyville Township).

Lake County Maps Online

Historical Lake County plat maps and aerial photographs. Use to find Property Identification Numbers (PIN), links to assessment information, and historical plat maps and aerial photos. <https://maps.lakecountyl.gov/maponline/>

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Look for items in the Libertyville happenings/personal column, real estate transfer notices, or tax assessments. Cook Memorial Library Digital Collections - <http://vitacollections.ca/cmpldnewsindex/search> or Newspapers.com.

Who lived in my house?

TAX ASSESSMENTS

Libertyville Township Assessor

Call or visit the office. Ownership information back to the 1980s.

DEEDS

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<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2341/Search-Property-Records/>

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Cook Memorial Library (incomplete 1904-1959 online & incomplete 1961-2003 print) & **Libertyville Historical Society** (incomplete 1904-2012). <https://www.cooklib.org/local-history/>

Browse telephone book listings by name. House numbers begin to appear in the 1920s. House numbers are generally not given for rural residences or farms. The 1949 and 1951 Street Guides provide a listing of owners by street within the city limits.

CITY DIRECTORIES

Cook Memorial Library

The Libertyville section of the Waukegan city directories from 1901-1925 (incomplete) printed from Ancestry.com Library Edition are in the Local History Reference collection. Haines Criss-Cross Directory from 2011-present available upon request.

How do I learn more about these people?

U.S. CENSUS

Cook Memorial Library

Use Ancestry.com Library Edition or FamilySearch.org available through the Genealogy page.

<https://www.cooklib.org/genealogy/>

House numbers appear in the 1930, 1940, and 19550 census in Libertyville. Earlier censuses will have street names, but not house numbers. Do not assume that the census entries are in the order of the houses on the street. The census taker would go house to house, but perhaps skip a house if the owners were not home.

OTHER SOURCES

Cook Memorial Library

Obituaries

Obituary Index (1894-1999) - <https://vitacollections.ca/cmpldnewsindex/BrowseByLastName>

Obituaries available online (1894-1926) or on microfilm (1927-1999).

Genealogy Resources

Visit the Genealogy page to access resources such as Ancestry.com Library Edition, FamilySearch.org, and Fold3. The library also has a large collection of print resources.

Local History Collection

Browse the Local History book collection and check the Local History File in the lower level of the Cook Park library.

Local Newspapers

Cook Memorial Library Digital Collections - <http://vitacollections.ca/cmpldnewsindex/search> or Newspapers.com. Other newspapers available through the America's News database (Libertyville Review, Daily Herald, and Chicago Sun-Times) and the Chicago Tribune on the library's Research page.

Libertyville Historical Society

The Society maintains a Families file. Contact the Society for research assistance.

Architectural Information

BOOKS

Cook Memorial Library

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994.
728.0973 CAR

Hunter, Rebecca L. *Mail-order Homes: Sears Homes and Other Kit Houses*. Oxford: Shire, 2012.
728.37 HUN

McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.
728.0973 MCA

OTHER SOURCES

Building Technology Heritage Library

The Building and Technology Heritage Library is a collection of American and Canadian, pre-1964 architectural trade catalogs, house plan books and technical building guides.

<https://archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritagelibrary>

