



Bloomingdale Neighborhood Workshop, March 2015

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES CONDUCTING BUILDING RESEARCH

Researching a building or neighborhood in New York can be a fun & rewarding experience. There are many resources available to anyone interested. Some of these resources are listed below to get you started on your very own search.

Library Collections

Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Collection, New York Public Library Bloomingdale Branch

nypl.org/about/locations/bloomingdale

1st Floor - Reference Office, 150 W. 100th Street, New York, NY 10025 (near SE corner of Amsterdam Ave. & W. 100th St.)

• Contains materials collected by the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group since 2000. For a catalogue of the collection by themes visit

upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com/bloomingdale-library-neighborhood-history-collection.html

• Items in the collection of special interest, including The Old Community (W. 98th & 99th Street Association), Manhattantown Demolition (1954 – 60) & the Bloomingdale Conservation Project are noted on the BNHG website upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com/special-library-collections.html

Books

1. Alpern, Andrew. **Luxury Apartment Houses of Manhattan: An Illustrated History**. NY: Dover, 1992.
2. Dolkart, Andrew. **Morningside Heights: A History of Its Architecture & Development**. NY: Columbia University Press, 1998.
3. Dunlap, David W. **From Abyssinian to Zion: A Guide to Manhattan's Houses of Worship**. NY: Columbia University Press., 2004.
4. Hawes, Elizabeth. **New York, New York: How the Apartment House Transformed the Life of the City (1869-1930)**. NY: Knopf, 1993.
5. Hesselgren, G.C. Publishing Co. **Apartment Houses of the Metropolis**. NY: G.C. Hesselgren Publishing Co., 1908. *Access online at archive.org*
6. Salwen, Peter. **Upper West Side Story: A History and Guide**. NY: Abbeville Press, 1989.
7. Stokes, I. N. Phelps. **The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909**. NY: Robert H. Dodd, 1915-1928. *Access online at archive.org*
8. Susi, Michael V. **The Upper West Side**. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub, 2009.
9. Tunick, Susan. **Field Guide to Apartment Building Architecture: An Illustrated Overview . . .** NY: Friends of Terra Cotta/NYS, 1986.

History, Preservation & Neighborhood Groups

1. **Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group**
bloomingdalehistory.com/
 - Organizes walking tours, programs & workshops.
2. **Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District**
columbusamsterdambid.org
3. **Landmark West!**
landmarkwest.org/
 - Promotes interest in the landmarks of the UWS & advocates to protect them from development. Numerous educational resources online.
4. **Park West Community Network**
parkwestcommunitynetwork.org/pwcnHistory.html
 - Offers a digital brochure on the history of Park West Village.

Visit in Person

1. **Department of Buildings**
nyc.gov/html/dob/html/bis/bis.shtml
 - For building records not already available through their online system
2. **Municipal Archives**
nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/archives.shtml
 - Architectural drawings, building permits & photographs
3. **NYC Registrars Office**
nyc.gov/html/dof/html/property/recording_documents.shtml
 - Conveyance records, deeds & ownership

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Is it a City Landmark?

1. Dolkart, Andrew and Matthew A. Postal. **Guide to New York City Landmarks**. NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2008.
2. NYC Department of Buildings' Building Information System
nyc.gov/bis
• Provides block & lot, permit & violation information and landmark status
3. New York City DoITT Map
maps.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap/
• Search address to retrieve basic information
• Click to "Show Additional Data on Map" to see landmark status

Is it a State or National Landmark?

Some buildings & historic districts are not City landmarks but do have a state/national designation.

1. National Register of Historic Places
nps.gov/nr/research/
• Provides a spreadsheet of properties listed on the National Register
2. NY State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS)
cris.parks.ny.gov
• Provides a database & interactive map

NYC Landmark Designation Reports

1. Neighborhood Preservation Center's Designation Reports Database
neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/designation_reports/index.php
2. NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's Reports
nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/publications/designation.shtml

Looking for Maps

1. David Rumsey's Historical Map Collection
davidrumsey.com/
2. Library of Congress Map Collection
loc.gov/maps/collections/
3. Museum of the City of New York Collection Portal
mcny.org/
4. New York Historical Society
nyhistory.org/library/research
5. New York Public Library Map Division
nypl.org/about/divisions/map-division

Online Book & Text Repositories

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| 1. Google Books
books.google.com/ | 4. ProQuest
www.proquest.com/
• Access at a NYPL branch |
| 2. The Making of America Collection
moa.library.cornell.edu/ | 5. JSTOR
www.jstor.org/
• Access at a NYPL branch |
| 3. Internet Archive
archive.org/index.php | |

Building Documentation

1. A Brief Guide to Researching the History of Your NYC Home
nypl.org/blog/2011/10/14/guide-researching-your-homes-history
2. Office of Metropolitan History
www.metrohistory.com
• Building permit database, 1900-1986
3. Real Estate Record and Builders Guide
rerecord.cul.columbia.edu/
• Information on building activity in NY, 1868-1922
4. Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS)
a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/
• Ownership, mortgage & sales information
5. Department of Building's Property Profile Overview
a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp
6. Real Estate Brochure Collection
nyre.cul.columbia.edu/

Looking for Images

1. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Online Catalog
loc.gov/pictures/
2. Museum of the City of New York Collections Portal
collections.mcny.org/
3. NYC Department of Records and Information Services
nyc.gov/html/records/html/home/home.shtml
• Photo collection includes tax photographs from 1940s & 1980s
4. New York Public Library's Digital Collections
digitalcollections.nypl.org/

Scouring the Newspaper

1. Chronicling America
chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
• Digitized newspapers, 1836-1922
2. New York Public Library's Newspapers
nypl.org/node/5623
• Information on how to find historic newspapers
3. New York Times Archives
nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html
• Some searches require a subscription

Finding People/Businesses

1. Genealogical Research at the New York Public Library
nypl.org/about/divisions/milstein/genealogy
• City directories, census records
2. CensusRecords.net
censusrecords.net/
• US Census databases from 1790 to 1930
3. National Archives
archives.gov/research/census/