



## Greenwich Village Workshop, June 2015

# GREENWICH VILLAGE RESOURCES

## CONDUCTING BUILDING RESEARCH

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

### Local Library Collections & Blogs

1. Jefferson Market Library  
[nypl.org/about/locations/Jefferson-market](http://nypl.org/about/locations/Jefferson-market)
  - Local history references
  - Copies of printed designation reports
2. *Off the Grid* Blog (GVSHP)  
<http://gvshp.org/blog/>
  - Area preservation updates
  - Historic information & trivia

### Books

1. Beard, Rick and Leslie Cohen Berlowitz. *Greenwich Village Culture and Counterculture*. NY: MCNY, 1993.
2. Chapin, Anna Alice. *Greenwich Village*. NY: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1925. *Access online at [archive.org](http://archive.org)*
3. Dunlap, David W. *From Abyssinian to Zion: A Guide to Manhattan's Houses of Worship*. NY: Columbia University Press., 2004.
4. Harris, Luther S. *Around Washington Square: An Illustrated History of Greenwich Village*. MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.
5. Lockwood, Charles. *Bricks and Brownstone: The New York Rowhouse 1783-1929*. NY: Abbeville Press, 1972.
6. Stokes, I. N. Phelps. *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909*. NY: Robert H. Dodd, 1915-1928. *Access online at [archive.org](http://archive.org)*

### History, Preservation & Neighborhood Groups

1. Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation  
[gvshp.org](http://gvshp.org)
  - GVSHP was founded in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village and NoHo.
2. Village Alliance  
[villagealliance.org](http://villagealliance.org)
  - The Alliance works with area residents, businesses, cultural and academic institutions in the Business Improvement District to ensure the district continues to grow and succeed.

### Visit in Person

1. Department of Buildings  
[nyc.gov/html/dob/html/bis/bis.shtml](http://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](http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/archives.shtml)
  - Tax assessment records, building permits & photographs
3. NYC Registrars Office  
[nyc.gov/html/dof/html/property/recording\\_documents.shtml](http://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](http://nyc.gov/bis)  
• Provides block & lot, permit & violation information and landmark status
3. New York City DoITT Map  
[maps.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap/](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/designation_reports/index.php)
2. NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's Reports  
[nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/publications/designation.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/publications/designation.shtml)

#### Looking for Maps

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

#### Online Book & Text Repositories

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

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

#### Looking for Images

1. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Online Catalog  
[loc.gov/pictures/](http://loc.gov/pictures/)
2. Museum of the City of New York Collections Portal  
[collections.mcny.org/](http://collections.mcny.org/)
3. NYC Department of Records and Information Services  
[nyc.gov/html/records/html/home/home.shtml](http://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/](http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/)

#### Scouring the Newspaper

1. Chronicling America  
[chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)  
• Digitized newspapers, 1836-1922
2. New York Public Library's Newspapers  
[nypl.org/node/5623](http://nypl.org/node/5623)  
• Information on how to find historic newspapers
3. New York Times Archives  
[nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html](http://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](http://nypl.org/about/divisions/milstein/genealogy)  
• City directories, census records
2. CensusRecords.net  
[censusrecords.net/](http://censusrecords.net/)  
• US Census databases from 1790 to 1930
3. National Archives  
[archives.gov/research/census/](http://archives.gov/research/census/)