

# Research Your House History

## Resource Guide

WORTHINGTON  
LIBRARIES



The following resources can offer information about the history of your Worthington house, including its age, previous owners and changes and improvements to the structure.

As you research your house, please reach out to the Worthington Historical Society and Worthington Libraries. Staff can assist you with searching and may have additional sources of information that are not accessible online.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

#### Franklin County Auditor

<https://www.franklincountyauditor.com/>

Search by owner, address, parcel ID, map and more. Includes the year built (dates prior to 1920 may be inaccurate), as well as transfers of ownership, improvements made to the property, and a recent photograph of the property. Be sure to click the "Transfers" link along the left-hand column, then click "Historical Parcel Sheets (PDF)" to see older transfers.

#### Franklin County Recorder

<https://recorder.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Choose "Search Records" to search by a known owner. Below the search bar, select "Search Index & Full Text (OCR)." Deeds provide the name of the grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer), date of transfer, lot number and physical description including boundaries and size.

### CITY DIRECTORIES

#### City of Worthington

Worthington Memory: <http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/explore/genres/directory>

Online directories available: 1928, 1933, 1939, 1952, 1962 and 1966.

Worthington Historical Society

Print directories available: 1928, 1933, 1939, 1942, 1950-53, 1955-57, 1959-62, 1966-67, 1986.

- Of particular note, the 1928 "First Directory of Worthington, Ohio" (<http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/scrapbook/text/first-directory-worthington-ohio>) features on page three a guide to Worthington's street names that were legally changed in July, 1928.

#### Columbus Ohio Suburban Directory

Available in print at Old Worthington Library - the earliest year available is 1983 (<https://catalog.clcoho.org/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=34.1033.0.0.13&pos=2&cn=1441727>) - as well as at the Columbus Main Library, with city directories dating from 1856 on.

#### Ancestry.com

<https://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/explore/databases/ancestry-library-edition>

Through Worthington Libraries, you may explore "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995," which includes directories from Columbus ranging from the 1850s to 1960. This resource is available inside a Worthington Libraries location only.

### NEWSPAPERS

#### "The Worthington News" via Ohio Memory

<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll97>

From 1925 through 1963, this newspaper is fully readable and searchable through the Ohio Memory website. Try searching for street address, names of former owners, architects and contractors/builders.

Worthington-area newspapers from before 1925 and after 1963 can still be searched using the news index on Worthington Memory (<http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/news>), and accessed via microfilm at Old Worthington Library. You'll find a complete list of the library's microfilm holdings here: <https://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/visit/locations/old-worthington-library/worthington-room>. Please contact [worthingtonmemory@worthingtonlibraries.org](mailto:worthingtonmemory@worthingtonlibraries.org) to request scanned copies of microfilm articles via email.

Newspapers existed in the 1800s that are available either on microfilm at Old Worthington Library ("The Western Intelligencer"), or for which physical copies are held at the Historical Society ("The Gladiator"). Should you have an older home, reach out for more information about these periodicals as potential resources.

### **"The Columbus Dispatch"**

<https://www.worthingtonlibraries.org/explore/databases/columbus-dispatch-historical-and-current>

Use your Worthington Libraries card to access editions from 1871-present.

## PHOTOS

### **Worthington Memory**

<http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/scrapbook>

Worthington Libraries' local history website includes photographs of some homes and streets in and around Worthington. If you have photos of your home from any era that you'd like us to add to the site, let us know!

### **Columbus Metropolitan Library**

<https://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/digital/search/searchterm/worthington/field/coveraa/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort>

The library's "My History" collection features some photographs of Worthington homes.

Finding historic pictures of your home can be difficult. However, don't give up if you can't find anything online - please reach out to the Worthington Historical Society with any additional requests, as it's possible they have images in their collection that have not been digitized.

## WORTHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESOURCES

The following files are available by appointment, and contain a variety of information on different families, people, buildings and sites in Worthington that were shared by descendants and researchers.

### **Family Files**

<http://worthingtonhistory.org/resources-and-links/family-biographical-files-at-the-worthington-historical-society/>

### **Buildings and sites**

<http://worthingtonhistory.org/buildings-sites-files/>

### **Abstracts**

<http://worthingtonhistory.org/abstracts/>

## BOOKS

**Histories of Structures in Worthington and Sharon Township** by Robert W. McCormick. 1992.

<http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/scrapbook/text/histories-structures-worthington-and-sharon-township-0>

Offers detailed histories of selected buildings and homes in Worthington and Sharon Township, drawing on deed records, mortgage records, tax records, plat maps, census data, village and city council minutes and directories, manuscript collections, contemporary newspaper accounts and published histories.

**Linking Past to Present** by the Sharon Flint Residents' Historical Association and Helen O. Epps. 1998.

<http://www.worthingtonmemory.org/scrapbook/text/linking-past-present>

This book provides a detailed look at the development of the Flintridge Terrace neighborhood, including photographs of houses.

**Worthington Neighborhoods** by Virginia McCormick. 2006.

<https://catalog.clcoho.org/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=34.1033.0.0.13&pos=3&cn=1211067>

Available in print at Worthington Libraries and the Worthington Historical Society, this book offers a look at the development of 23 neighborhoods in Worthington.

# MAPS

Looking at historic maps can tell you a lot about your property and street, including previous owners, locations of and changes to structures and the development of the neighborhood. Options for historic maps of the Worthington area include the following:

## Scioto Company Town Lots, 1803

<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll36/id/24952/>

*This is the original plat map of Worthington, which shows the area bounded by modern-day North, South, Morning and Evening streets.*

## Plat of Sections 2 and 3 of Sharon Township, 1804-11

<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll36/id/19878/>

*This plat map includes the names of owners for the area of Sharon Township surrounding downtown Worthington.*

## Sharon Township Tax Maps 1842-1940

<https://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/digital/search/searchterm/sharon%20township%20maps>

*Hosted on the Columbus Metropolitan Library's website, these maps show property owners for Sharon Township over a nearly 100-year span.*

## Sanborn Insurance Maps 1922, 1929

[https://oaks.kent.edu/search?s=worthington&s\\_title=&s\\_author=&s\\_keyword=&collections=&author=&keyword=&format=&subject=&community=&date=&sort\\_order=ASC&f%5B0%5D=county%3A22273](https://oaks.kent.edu/search?s=worthington&s_title=&s_author=&s_keyword=&collections=&author=&keyword=&format=&subject=&community=&date=&sort_order=ASC&f%5B0%5D=county%3A22273)

*Created by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, these two maps show streets and buildings in the downtown Worthington area, including detailed information on measurements, location of windows and doors, and more. You can download the images in order to zoom in and view in detail.*

## Redlining in Columbus, 1936

<https://engagingcolumbus.owu.edu/redlining/>

*This map of Columbus includes areas of Worthington, which were designated as grade "B" ("Still desirable") and "C" ("Declining"). These maps were created by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation for 239 cities in the U.S. throughout the 1930s, meant to indicate the level of security for real estate investments. Grades were assigned based on factors such as likelihood of flooding, but were primarily made based on the racial makeup of the residents.*

## City of Worthington

Subdivision plat maps, and others: <https://oh-worthington2.civicplus.com/409/Record-Plan-Search>

Interactive maps: <https://www.worthington.org/156/Interactive-Maps>

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OLD WORTHINGTON LIBRARY 820 HIGH STREET  
NORTHWEST LIBRARY 2280 HARD ROAD  
WORTHINGTON PARK LIBRARY 1389 WORTHINGTON CENTRE DRIVE

614.807.2626

[worthingtonlibraries.org](http://worthingtonlibraries.org)

