

**HISTORICAL HOME  
RESEARCH**

IN THE  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



## **Section I - Real Estate Deed Transfers/Title Search**

Property Details -Bexar County Appraisal District  
([www.bcad.org](http://www.bcad.org))

- Click on Bexar CAD-Property Search
- Search type: click on property address
- Fill in: street number and street address (do not include Street, Avenue, Boulevard, etc.)
- Click on search
- Property search results: click on view details
- Print the property search results (you will need this information later)

### **Bexar County Courthouse**

100 Dolorosa  
San Antonio, TX 78205

### **Bexar County Clerk's Office**

Basement #15  
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Help Desk: 210-366-9582 or 877-526-3282

1. Log on to [www.countyclerk.bexar.landata.com](http://www.countyclerk.bexar.landata.com)
2. Need to register to use the sight (*registration and use are free*)
3. Login-Search
4. Select Application
  - Application Menu, select 1837- Current
  - Searches Available, click on Grantor/Grantee
  - Primary Search-Grantor/Grantee, fill in name of current owner, leave search as both, click go search
  - View images; print any you want to include in your research; read carefully from beginning to end of documents (they might

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pertain to another property and not the one you are researching); check only the listings dated earlier than your last deed transfer

- Return to Search Menu, Searches Available, click on Grantor/Grantee
- Primary Search-Grantor/Grantee, fill in name of last seller
- Print Results

You will go through the Grantor/Grantee search several times. *Remember, “grantee” is the buyer, the “grantor” is the seller.*

## **Section II - Building Permits**

### **Newspaper Archives -**

[www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com)

- Research address and originalowner’s name  
*FREE* access to Newspaper Archives at all city library branches

*Subscription:* Annual \$5.99/month  
Semi-Annual \$7.99/month  
3 Month \$9.99/month

### **Permits issued 1980 to present:**

City of San Antonio  
Anna Galimore  
1901 S. Alamo St., Suite 283  
San Antonio, TX 78283  
Fill out an open records request

**Permits issued 1921 - 1980**

Municipal Archives & Records Facility  
George Whitfield, Jr. Building  
719 S. Santa Rosa  
Donna Guerra/Archivist  
(210) 207-7029  
donna.guerra@sanantonio.gov  
Monday- Friday, 7:45 AM-4:30 PM

*When you contact Donna make sure you  
have the address and the legal description,  
she will need the New City Block Number*

**Once you have narrowed down the year, date and  
month building permit was issued or at least a year  
and the month (if it was built in 1920 or later):**

**San Antonio Public Library/Central Library**

600 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Texana/Genealogy Department  
Frank S. Faulkner, Jr./Supervisor  
(210) 207-2500

*Important:* call for hours; this  
department has different hours from the  
library

- Search for building information in:  
*Service Bulletin for the San Antonio Builders  
Exchange*  
Jan.-Dec. 1920 to present  
(In the later bulletins the information is about  
commercial and public buildings)

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### **Section III - Census Records**

- 1880 Census: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (Free)
- 1790-1930 censuses: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (\$300 annual fee) or *free at the public library* in Texana/Genealogy department
- 1860-1930 censuses: use public library database "Heritage Quest" (with SAPL library card from home)

### **Section IV - City Directory Resident Search**

#### **Central Library Texana /Genealogy**

City directories on film, from 1877-1970

City directories books, 1960-present

- City directories start listing residents by address in 1903.
- Always look for residents by address a few years prior to the year the city has on record as the year the house was built.
- Starting in 1903, look at the address listing first, then look for the persons listed to find out what their occupations were.
- Remember that just because a person is listed as the owner of the house in the title research, they might not live at that address; the house could be a rental.
- Look for residents at an address every five years; people were not as mobile as we are today. In most cases there is no need to look at every single year.

**San Antonio Conservation Society**

107 King William Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78204  
Elizabeth B. Standifird/Librarian  
(210) 224-6163

**Section V - Individual or Family Research**

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

[www.pilot.familysearch.org](http://www.pilot.familysearch.org)

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

[www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com)

- San Antonio Conservation Society
- San Antonio Public Library/Central Library/Texana
- Obituaries in newspapers at the Central Library:
  - *Express*, 1867-present
  - *San Antonio Light* 1882-1992
  - *News*, 1918-1994
- obituaries in card catalog listed alphabetically 1919, 1923-1960
- Google search (home address and person's name and city)

**UTSA/Institute of Texan Cultures**

Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
801 East Durango Blvd.  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Tom Shelton/Senior Curator  
(210) 458-2241

**Bexar County Courthouse**

100 Dolorosa Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Alfred Rodriguez/Spanish Archivist  
(210) 335-2125

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## **Section V1 - Other contacts**

**City of San Antonio**  
**Office of Historic Preservation**  
1901 S. Alamo  
San Antonio, Texas 78283  
(210) 215-9274

## **Section VII – Maps**

San Antonio Public Library Database

<http://www.mysapl.org/>

- Click on Databases
- List of resources, scroll down and click on Texas Digital Sanborn Maps
- Log in with your name and card number (you must be a member of the San Antonio Public Library)
- Click on Browse Maps, select state, city, date (most used 1911-1951)
- Review the index or key to find the volume and sheet where your property is located

San Antonio Central Public Library/Texana

- Sanborn maps on microfilm, 1885-1971
- Birdseye/Koch, 1872, 1886
- Street maps, start in 1865, list of original maps at Texana desk

**Section VIII - Locating Vintage Photographs**

Look for descendants of the original family; do an Internet search of names listed in census records, city directories and obituaries.

- San Antonio Public Library/Texana vertical files
- UTSA/Institute of Texan Cultures Library
- City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation
- San Antonio Conservation Society