



CHEVY CHASE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Beyond the CCHS Archive and Research Center

There are endless archives and online collections to visit after your research visit at the CCHS Archive and Research Center. Below is a list of institutions and online resources for researching Chevy Chase residents and their homes.

- For additional clues, be sure to ask your **neighbors** and **former residents** for photographs and information. A longtime neighbor might have an interesting story or photographs of your house. For example, your house might be in the background of a neighbor's family photograph.

Key Books on the Architectural and Social History of Chevy Chase, MD:

- Clare Lise Kelly, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland*. Published by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001. Order or download this book at http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/places_from_the_past/ You can reach Clare Lise Kelly at the Historic Preservation Unit, Montgomery County Planning Department, www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic or at 301-563-3402 or by email Clare.Kelly@montgomeryplanning.org.
- Elizabeth Jo Lampl and Kimberly Prothro Williams, *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital*. Published by Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.
- Joan Marsh and Frances Stickles, *The Placenames of Chevy Chase, Maryland*. Published for CCHS by Back Channel Press, 2011.

Historic Newspapers:

- **Washington Post Historical Newspapers through ProQuest:** Use this comprehensive online searchable archive for *Washington Post Historical Newspapers* from 1877 to 1995. With a variety of queries you may find real estate transfers, architect information, real estate sales listings, articles and obituaries about former residents as well as news events that occurred at your property. If you have a library card, you can access ProQuest online through the Montgomery County Library website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.
- **The *Washington Evening Star*, 1852-1981:** Available at The People's Archive at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, DC Public Library, 901 G Street NW -- and online at

<https://www.dclibrary.org/eveningstar>. To access the digital database for the Evening Star, you will need a DC library card. Montgomery County residents can get cards in person or online: <http://dclibrary.org/getacard>. For information about the Washingtoniana Collection (founded in 1905), go to <https://www.dclibrary.org/washingtoniana>

- **Other Historical Newspapers at Chronicling America:** For other historical newspapers published between 1777 and 1963, search this online archive developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. For the DC metropolitan area, you will find *The Washington Herald*, *The Washington Times*, and many others. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

State and Local Government Agencies:

- **Montgomery County Land Record Office**, 2nd floor of the Judiciary Center, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County deeds and mortgages related to land sales are now available online, accessed through the Maryland Land Records Office. For District of Columbia properties, use the **DC Recorder of Deeds**, 515 D St., NW, for property owner and sales records.

See our CCHS handout “PERFORMING A DEED HISTORY” for more information about using the Maryland Land Records Office.

- **Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):** Use this resource if you need to consult maps, including Sanborn Fire Insurance atlases. <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/>
- **Maryland State Archives:** Use this repository for blueprints, court and municipal records, land records, photographs, vital records and much more. <http://www.msa.md.gov>
 - See also the **Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP)** from the Maryland Historical Trust: https://mht.maryland.gov/research_mihp.shtml
- **Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property Data Search.** Use this website to confirm the current owners, block and lot numbers, original construction date, and last real estate transfer. <https://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx> Please note that the date of construction may not be reliable – paper tax assessment documents are available at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis should be consulted for verification.

Libraries: Resources include city directories, clipping files, historic maps and atlases.

- **The Maryland Room, Hornbake Library, UMD College Park.** Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and other resources available for use at this reading room. <http://www.lib.umd.edu/special/about/home>
 - See also “Researching Historic Homes, a guide available on the University of Maryland University Libraries website. <http://lib.guides.umd.edu/content.php?pid=166406&sid=1409503>
- **Maryland Maps Collection, UMD Digital Collections:** Searchable database for maps. <http://www.lib.umd.edu/mdmap>
- **DC Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Library, The People’s Archive.** Contains archived building permits for DC properties, cemetery records, census data, church records, city directories,

club and organization records, maps, oral histories, newspapers, personal papers, photographs, and vital statistics. You will need a DC library card. <https://www.dclibrary.org/thepeoplesarchive>

- Specifically, the **Washingtoniana Collection** includes DC government documents, real estate materials, yearbooks, and more. <https://www.dclibrary.org/washingtoniana>
- See also **Dig DC** for more digital collections from The People's Archive. <https://www.dclibrary.org/digdc> To access Dig DC, you will need a DC library card. Montgomery County residents can get cards in person or online: <http://dclibrary.org/getacard>
- **Montgomery County Public Library.** Use the online databases to access historic newspapers such as the *Washington Post* and the genealogical database **Heritage Quest**. You must have a library card to access these databases. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/collection/online-resources.html>
- **The H. Furlong Baldwin Library at the Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC).** Five centuries of resource material on Maryland history. Library is located in Baltimore, with some online digital collections. <https://www.mdhistory.org/library/>
- **DC History & Local Area Studies Research Guide.** Resources compiled by librarians at American University. <https://subjectguides.library.american.edu/dchistory>

Archives:

- **DC History Center.** An online searchable collection of artifacts, manuscripts, and photographs. <http://dchistory.org/>
- **DC Office of Public Records and Archives.** Located at 1300 Naylor Court NW. Holdings include birth certificates, death certificates, marriage records, land records, and more. Visit <https://os.dc.gov/service/district-columbia-archives> to learn more and schedule an appointment.
- **Maryland State Archives.** Use this repository to access blueprints, court and municipality records, land records, tax assessments, photographs, vital records, and more. <http://www.msa.md.gov>
- **Digital Maryland.** A collaborative, statewide digital preservation program led by the Maryland State Library Resource Center and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. <https://www.digitalmaryland.org/>
- **Montgomery County Historical Society, Jane C. Sween Library,** 42 W. Middle Lane, Rockville. Archives, maps, photographs, city directories, wills, census records, and newspapers, including the Sentinel on microfilm. Unfortunately, the Sentinel is not indexed, so you need to know the approximate dates involved if you are looking for local reaction to a story you have learned about elsewhere. The library charges a fee for research (\$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, free for members). <https://www.montgomeryhistory.org/jane-c-sween-library/>
- **Montgomery County Planning Department / Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission Historic Preservation Section.** Use this resource if you need to consult maps, including Sanborn Fire Insurance atlases. See also the photo archive. <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/>
- **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park and downtown DC.** A resource for census data, photographs, and veteran's records. www.nara.gov

- **Library of Congress.** The LOC's online historical collections contain over 11 million digital files, some of which include blueprints and architectural drawings of homes in Chevy Chase, manuscripts, maps, photographs, etc. www.loc.gov

Online Search and Genealogical websites:

- **EBAY:** If you query a particular street name or address, or the names of current and former residents, you may find something offered for sale that provides a clue for your house history.
- **Heritage Quest Online:** Search census records, books, and other important federal record sets in this ProQuest online database. If you have a library card, you can access Heritage Quest online through the Montgomery County Library website.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/collection/online-resources.html#Genealogy>
- **Ancestry.com:** This subscription service allows you to search a variety of materials, including government documents, yearbooks, city directories, as well as the family trees that other members have made public. <http://home.ancestry.com/>
- **Family Tree:** Access some of the same materials offered on Ancestry.com through this related website. <http://www.familytree.com/>
- **Library of Congress Local History and Genealogy Reference Services.** The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical and local historical publications. Visit <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/> to learn more about their online holdings or plan a visit.