



# Haunted House or Historic Home?

Research your house to find out!

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# Ever wanted to learn about the history of your house?

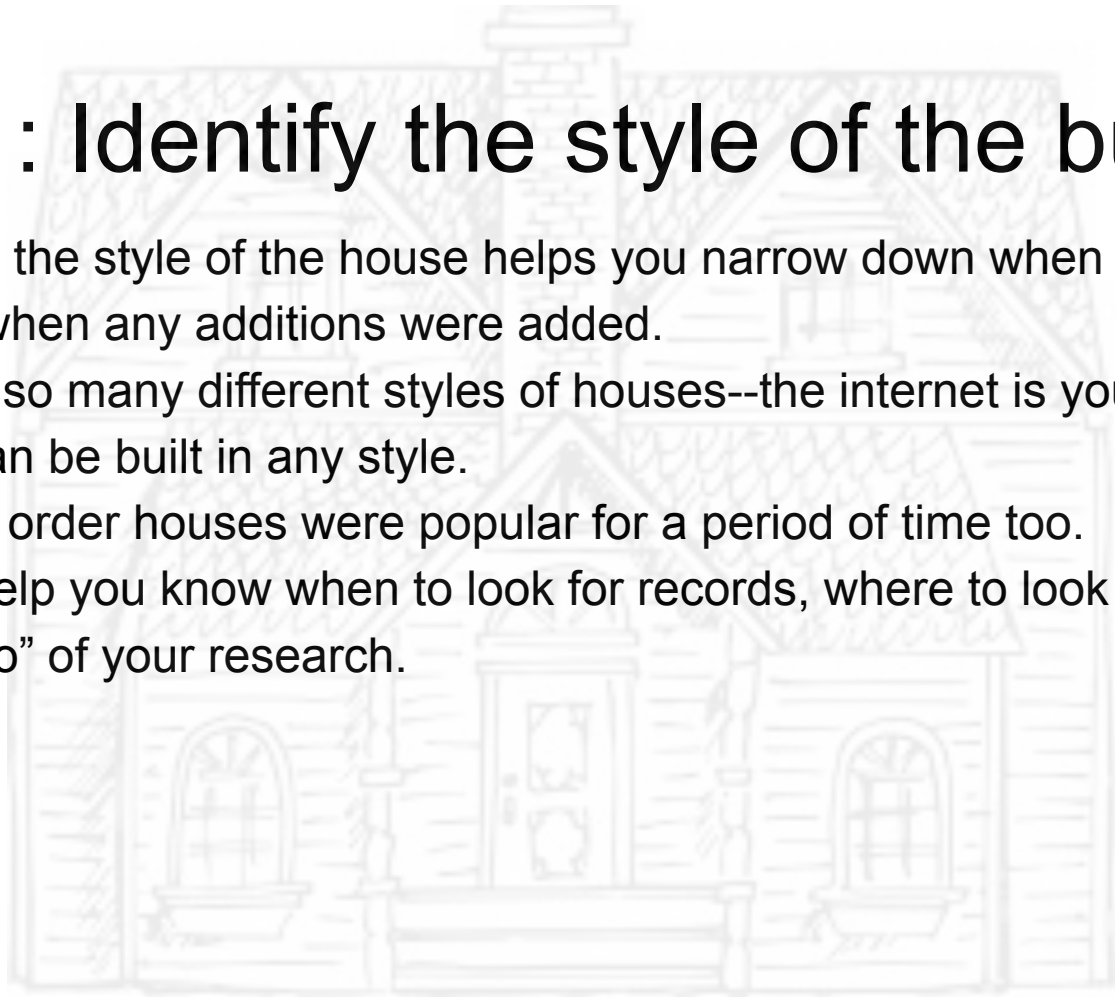
- When was it built?
- Who lived there?
- What happened there?
- Was your lot part of a larger farm?

## Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

- Already on the National Register of Historic Places?
  - You can get a copy of the initial filing
- Abstract of Title?
  - Title Insurance Companies use to create a completed research report of a property prior to issuing insurance
- Chain of Deeds
  - List of who owned the property and when the title changed hands
  - Make one of these if you can't find the Abstract of Title

# Step 1: Identify the style of the building

- Identifying the style of the house helps you narrow down when the house was built and when any additions were added.
- There are so many different styles of houses--the internet is your friend.
- Houses can be built in any style.
- Kit or mail order houses were popular for a period of time too.
- This will help you know when to look for records, where to look and can lead to the “who” of your research.



# Basic Styles- Just a few of the older ones

Craftsman (1905-1930)

Colonial Revival (1870-on)

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)

French Colonial (1700-1850)

New England Colonial (1600-1700)

Southern Colonial (1600-1700)

Spanish Colonial (1600-1850)

Spanish Colonial Revival (1780-1840)

Federal (1780-1840)

Gothic Revival (1830-1880)

Italianate (1840-1885)

Octagon (1850-1870)

Queen Anne (1880-1900)

Victorian / Second Empire (1860-1890)

Great site with visuals:

<https://99percentinvisible.org/article/style-house-visual-guides-domestic-architectural-designs/>



## Step 2: Maps

- This may help to keep track of what property you are looking for, especially if the property has been divided at some time.
- Land ownership
- Physical Address and Mailing Address may not be the same thing.
- Legal Property Description-physical description of where.
- Places change names and addresses can change.
- Start your paper trail and use maps to help you.
- Places to start looking.
  - Sanborn Maps
  - Google Earth and Google Maps
  - Plat maps and Plat books
  - Historypin
  - David Rumsey Map Collection
  - HistoryGeo (subscription)

# Step 3: Records

- Property is one of the few things that records have been kept from early days. Sales, transfers, property changing hands was recorded by the government.
- Make a chain of ownership to know who owned the property and when it changed hands. Note any changes you notice in the property...lots split, building added, etc.
- Each county keeps records in different locations. A Google search can help determine where you need to contact to find:
  - Deeds
  - Bill of Sales
  - Transfers
  - Mortgages
  - Liens
  - Tax assessments
  - Deeds
  - Wills and Estates
  - Building Permits
  - Lessor/Leasee
  - Grantor/Grantee
  - Tax Records
  - Court Records
  - Permits

# Step 3: Records Continued

- Typically in Ohio
  - Auditor's office
    - Information regarding the physical description of property and buildings, typically most recent sale.
    - Some county auditor's pages can be searched online through a property search by name of owner or address.
    - Some county auditor's require you to physically come in or call to do research.
  - Recorder's office
    - May be called something different in different counties.
    - Keeps records of all deeds.
    - Some records may be accessible online, others may require a visit to the office, or a mix of the two...depending on what material has been digitized

# Step 4: People



- Use the names you found in Step 3 to start your research.
- Check the local library or local history room for:
  - Census Records and Schedules
    - Population
    - Agriculture Schedules
  - Cemetery Records
  - Directories
  - Obituaries
  - Newspaper Articles
  - Vertical or Surname Files
  - County Histories





# Land Sales

- Federal
  - Patent or Public Land Sales
  - Eastern Federal-Land States and Western Federal-Land States
  - Records can be held at:
    - Eastern or Western Land Offices
    - Bureau of Land Management
    - National Archives and Records Administration
- State
  - First transaction know as patent or grant
  - Records held at National Archives and Records or State Archives

# Terms

**Gable-** highest point of the wall formed by the slope of the roof

**Gable roof-** roof with slope of roof in 2 directions

**Dormer-** window coming out of the roof with it's own roof

**Hip roof-** roof with slopes in 4 directions

**Eave-** Edge of the roof that hangs over the walls

**Cornice-** Finished edge where the roof meets the wall

**Molding-** Decorative surface along the edge of a door window, column as a decorative feature

**Façade-** front of the building

**Turret-** small tower in the corner of a building

**Pitch-** how steep the something is

**Deed-** written agreement where property changes hands

\*Administrator's Deed- person dies intestate

\*Quickclaim Deed

\*Sheriff's Deed

\*Trust Deed

\*Warranty Deed

**Farm-** land devoted to agriculture purposes

**Grantee-** person buying the property

**Grantor-** person selling/giving the property

**Intestate-** Dies without a will

**Lien-** Property has been used as collateral for a loan

**Plat/Plot-** a map of an area usually to scale

**Probate-** Proving a will in court

# Additional Resources

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