



## TIPS FOR RESEARCHING YOUR HOUSE'S HISTORY (COMPILED FROM SUGGESTIONS BY CT LIBRARIANS)

*Make a list of the questions you want to answer through your research. They may include: Who built the structure? When was it built? How did the house (land, and property) change over time? Who owned the house, and who lived there? Then try out the suggestions below – they may lead you to other helpful resources. Help yourself to our other handouts, for Killingworth-specific information.*

### **Local Town Hall**

Visit the town clerk's office for Vital Records (birth, marriage, and death certificates). Find your town's contact for Vital Records here:

**<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Vital-Records/Connecticut-Town-Vital-Records-Directory>**

You can also access Land Records (including deeds and maps, historical and current). Be aware of changes to properties (divided lands) and renumbering of lots.

### **Local Library and Local Historical Society**

Most public libraries and historical societies work collaboratively, referring questions to each other and supplementing each other's collections. Through one or the other, you may find historical articles, biographies, ephemera, celebration booklets, local recipe books, oral histories, maps, and other images to help support your research.

**The Killingworth Library owns the Historic Survey of the Town of Killingworth from 1979, which includes the architectural history of houses around town. Please see a librarian for access.**

### **Propertyrecordcards.com**

Under a property's field card, you can learn:

- the home's style
- the construction type
- the date it was built
- information on any outbuildings
- permits for newer additions

*(This website is used to retrieve and review real property data and assessments currently for Towns and Cities located in Connecticut. Any questions in regard to the information listed on a property are to be addressed to the Assessor. This website hosts the data only and is not responsible for the accuracy of the content.)*



## **Historical Connecticut Images and Stories**



**<https://cslib.contentdm.oclc.org/>**



Connecticut State Library digital collections feature materials from the State Library, the Museum of Connecticut History, and the Connecticut State Archives.



Go to Page 3 for the **WPA Architectural Survey**, searchable by town.



**<https://ctdigitalarchive.org/>**



A collaborative digital repository program, gathered from museums, libraries, and archives from around the State. Search specific contributors or the whole collection – enter your town's name into the search box and see what appears!



**<https://connecticuthistory.org/>**



Read the latest entries in an ever-expanding collection of high-quality essays and short reflections. Browse the stories by town, topic, or person. New content added every week.



**<https://vintageaerial.com/>**



Explore millions of historic aerial photos! Search by address, keyword, county, state, or use the Search Map feature.



## **Genealogy**



You may want to learn more about the people who lived in your house! You can piece together their stories using historical tax lists, probate records, military records, and census data.



Most online genealogy databases are subscription-based; check with your local library for access.



The Connecticut State Library provides a variety of historical databases on their site:



**<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/az.php>** - many require a State Library card to access, but the card is free and easy to get! Details here: **<https://ctstatelibrary.org/about/library-card/>**



For in-person genealogy assistance in Connecticut, check out Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown or the Connecticut State Library in Hartford.



**Killingworth Library subscribes to Godfrey Library's database The Scholar, and FamilySearch.org. Both are accessible on the library's in-house computers.**



**If you need assistance with these databases, please schedule time to meet with Assistant Director Tammy!**



**Good Luck, and Have Fun!**

