

IX

APPENDIX

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HOUSE

Knowing as much as possible about your house will help you when contemplating changes and undertaking rehabilitation. Below are several sources available for finding information about your house:

MASTER SITE FILE FORMS

Between 1989-1990, the City of West Palm Beach conducted a survey of its historic and architectural resources. A minimal amount of information was compiled on each property over fifty years old at the time. This information was entered on the State of Florida's Master Site Files forms. Copies of the forms are located in the City's Historic Preservation Division and the original form is on file in Tallahassee in the Division of Historical Resources, Master Site File. Information on the Master Site File may include the site name, the architect, the builder, date of construction, building materials, architectural features, historical significance, level of integrity, and the photo identification number. Contact-size photographs and negatives for most of the historical properties are maintained by the Historic Preservation Division.

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Construction Services Department of the City provides research assistance. They have access to permit applications, plans, property cards, and permit ledgers. Much of this information is in the process of being converted to microfiche. Most commercial plans are retained permanently. Residential plans are retained for 15 years only. The research provided by the Construction Services Department may help you date additions and alterations to your property. A research request form must be submitted. Depending on the volume of requests, it may take several days to receive a response to your request.

WEST PALM BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The West Palm Beach Public Library has a collection of City Directories. You can use the street listing section of the City Directory to see who lived in your house over the years. You can cross check the name in the alphabetical section to see the occupation of the resident.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

If you know the name of an early occupant of your residence, information on that person might be available in the files of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. They also have an extensive photograph collection and a collection of more than 10,000 drawings of local architectural commissions – most of these are in Palm Beach, but a few are in West Palm Beach. The Historical Society has limited hours and research facilities. An appointment should be requested by calling (561) 832-4164.

PALM BEACH COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE

The Downtown Service Center on the first floor of the County Governmental Center at 301 North Olive Avenue can also provide some assistance in researching property records. We have found, however, that the documentation of construction dates are more accurate in City records.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

City and County

City of West Palm Beach

<http://www.cityofwpb.com>

One-Stop-Shop (Construction Services Department)

<http://onestopshop.wpbgov.com/onestop/onestop.asp>

Municipal Code

<http://www.municode.com>

Online Codes

Florida

West Palm Beach

Chapter 94 – Zoning and Land Development Regulations

(includes the Historic Preservation Ordinance)

Property Appraiser's Office

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/papa/>

Historic Preservation

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

<http://www.achp.gov/>

City of West Palm Beach Historic Preservation Division

http://www.cityofwpb.com/Hist_Pres/index_historic.htm

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Incentives

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/>

Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation (Office of Cultural and Historical Programs)

<http://www.flheritage.com>

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation

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

Historical Society of Palm Beach County

<http://www.historicalsocietypb.org>

National Park Service (*National Register of Historic Places*)

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>

National Park Service (*Heritage Preservation Services*)

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/YESs>

National Trust for Historic Preservation

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

Recent Past Preservation Network

<http://www.recentpast.org>

Historic Architectural Styles

Common Architectural Styles and Features

<http://www.stfx.ca/people/Istanley/History/glossary.htm>

Historic House Architecture

<http://www.ragtime.org/arch>

House Styles and Home Architecture

http://www.architecture.about.com/library/bl-styles_index.htm or
<http://www.architecture.about.com>

Rehabilitation Information

Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings

<http://www.hadd.com/materials>

John Leeke's Historic Home Works

<http://www.historichomeworks.com>

Historic Preservation Related Publications

Old House Journal

<http://www.oldhousejournal.com>

Old House Interiors

<http://www.oldhouseinteriors.com>

Preservation

<http://www.nationaltrust.org/magazine>

GLOSSARY

ALTERATION – Any construction or change to a resource.

ARCADE – A series of arches resting on piers or columns.

BALCONET – A low ornamental railing outside a door or window.

BALCONY – An elevated platform projecting from a building and enclosed by a railing or wall.

BALUSTER – A post supporting a railing.

BALUSTRADE – A row of balusters joined by a railing.

BAY WINDOW – A window or series of windows projecting out from a wall to form an alcove inside.

BRACKET – A decorative support for a projection.

CANTILEVER – A beam or other structural member which projects beyond its supporting wall or column.

CAPITAL – The top of a column, pillar, or pilaster.

CARTOUCHE – A shield relief surrounded with ornamental scrollwork.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – A document evidencing approval by the Historic Preservation Board or the Historic Preservation Division for work proposed by an applicant.

COLUMN – In Classical architecture, a cylindrical support.

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY - A property that contributes to the historic significance of a historic district by location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and thus adds to the district's sense of time, place, and historical development.

CORBEL – A brick, stone, or wood member that projects from within a wall, usually to support a weight.

CORNICE – A decorative horizontal molding on top of a wall.

CUPOLA - A small vaulted, circular or polygonal structure attached to the roof of a building.

DEMOLITION - Any act or process that partially or totally destroys a resource.

DENTICULATION - Having a cornice molding consisting of a series of small, tooth-like, square or rectangular blocks (dentils).

EAVE – The part of the roof that projects over the wall.

FAÇADE – The exterior face of a building.

FANLIGHT – A semicircular window, shaped like a fan, with radiating sash bars, placed over doorways or another window.

FENESTRATION – The design, placement, and pattern of windows.

FINIAL – The top ornament on a post, gable or spire.

FRENCH DOOR – A door with glazed panels extending the full length of the door.

FRONTISPIECE – A decorated front wall or bay of a building.

GARLAND – An ornament in the form of a wreath or swag of leaves, fruits or flowers.

HISTORIC DISTRICT - A geographically definable area designated by the City Commission as possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of properties united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

INFILL - A new building constructed on a vacant lot within a historic district.

KNEE BRACES – An angled brace between the roof and wall of a building.

LALLY COLUMN – A metal support column filled with concrete.

LINTEL – A horizontal beam above a door or window.

LOGGIA – A colonnaded or arcaded space or porch, open to the air on one or more sides.

MEDALLION - An ornamental plaque often bearing a figure or flower in relief.

MODILLION – An ornamental block or bracket.

MOLDING – The decorative or finishing strip between two architectural elements.

MULLION – The division between multiple windows.

MUNTIN – The small members that divide, or appear to divide, glass in a window frame.

NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY - A classification applied to a property within a historic district signifying that it does not contribute to the qualities that give the historic district cultural, historical, architectural, or archaeological significance as embodied in the criteria for designation of a district, but which because of its location within a district must follow the review procedures required by the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

OUTRIGGER – A beam extending outward from a main structure to support the projection of a floor or roof.

PALLADIAN WINDOW – An arched window flanked by narrower windows with flat lintels.

PARAPET - A low wall at the edge of the roof, terrace or balcony.

PEDIMENT – The triangular end of a gable above a façade or over a portico.

PILASTER - A shallow, rectangular feature projecting from a wall and having a capital and base.

PORTICO – The entrance to a building consisting of a porch with a roof supported by columns.

PURLIN – A roof timber placed horizontally on the principal rafters to support the common rafters on which the roof covering is laid.

QUOINS – A decorative treatment of the corners of a building using stone or brick that is different from the adjoining surfaces.

RESOURCE - A building, site, structure, object, or district.

ROOF PITCH – The degree of slope or inclination of a roof.

RAFTER – A beam extending from the ridge of a roof to its eaves.

RAFTER TAIL – The exposed end of a rafter that projects beyond a wall.

REHABILITATION – The process of repairing or altering a property so that an efficient contemporary use is achieved, while preserving those significant historical, architectural, or cultural features which establish the character of the property.

RESTORATION – The process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time, which may involve the removal of later additions or alterations, or the replacement of missing features.

RIDGE – The horizontal line where two roof slopes meet at the top.

SGRAFFITO – A decorative effect achieved by cutting or scratching through a layer of plaster, stucco or paint.

STRING COURSE – A horizontal band running across a building, usually for decorative purposes, also known as a belt course.

TRANSOM – A small horizontal panel or window above a door or larger window.

TRELLIS – A frame supporting open latticework, used as a support for growing vines or plants.

UNDERLAYMENT (SHEATHING) – The boards which are nailed on roof rafters and over which the roof covering is laid.

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