

Researching the history of a house or other building requires careful research, patience, and luck. The Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center has resources that can assist you with this rewarding and fascinating project.



1517 South Street, Davenport (1915)

General Hints:

- **Always work backward from the present.**

Going back through time helps to pick up address changes, resident changes, and other information that can be confusing.

- **Double check names and dates with more than one source, if possible.**

If the information was not found on a deed or other official document or record, it may not have been reported correctly.

- **A deed or title search of the property on which the building or residence stands will help you get started.**

If you own the building or residence, your title abstract may have much of the information you need to get started.

- **Ask staff for help as needed, but be willing to do your own research.**

There's no substitute for the triumph of personally finding the information you need!



Davenport City Directories 1856-present

Beginning in 1890-91, there is a special section in each volume that lists heads of households and businesses by street address.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1886, 1892, 1910, and c. 1948

These detailed maps show the general outline of buildings and how a structure is situated on the property. They may also show outbuildings, the materials used in construction, and the number of stories.

Scott County Tax Records 1849-1970

A sudden change in the assessed value of a property generally indicates that improvements--the construction or renovation of a building, for example--have been made.

Scott County Land Records Grantor/Grantee Index 1839-1890 and Scott County Deed Records 1838-1885

Land Records can be used to trace ownership of a specific piece of property. Additional land records are available at the Scott County Courthouse.

Newspaper Index 1993-present and Vertical File assorted dates

Our in-house newspaper index and our vertical clipping file include articles about residences and buildings. These articles may be located by address, owner, or event. Please ask for these sources at the Special Collections Desk.

Our newspaper collections are outlined in a separate brochure, available in the Special Collections Center.

Historic Properties Database

This database compiles information from a variety of sources. It is arranged by street address and is cross-referenced to a portion of the library's photograph and documents collections.

Davenport City Building Permits 1920-1983

If any structural changes were made to a property that necessitated a city permit, information about these changes may be recorded in this microfilm. The entries are arranged by street address.

Federal Census Records 1840-1930

And State Census Records for Scott County

1836-1925 (with some omissions)

Beginning with the 1850 Federal Census, each Census lists everyone who lived at a particular address, unlike the city directories, which list only the head of the household.

Scott County Probate Records and Will Books 1838-c.1920

These records can help trace the heirs of a specific property owner. They may also include inventories of personal property that can tell you how a residence was furnished.

Scott County and Davenport Histories

These histories (SC977.769) often include brief biographies of city and county residents, as well as the histories of local business and industry. Promotional publications (SC 917.7769) can also be helpful in providing photographs of buildings and residences, and histories of a business.

Davenport Historical Architectural Survey 1982

This survey gives information on residences and commercial buildings that were considered of historical and architectural significance when the survey was taken. Some information about the original owner is given, as well as a list of sources that include information about the building. Please ask for the survey at the Special Collections Desk.

Photographs

Our collections are indexed by address, building name, and/or the name of the person who originally ordered the photos. Photographs of a specific neighborhood or street may also include your building.
Please see our Photograph Collections brochure.

Our library is also a member of the Upper Mississippi Valley Digital Image Archive, which is slowly scanning and indexing the photograph archives of several area public and academic libraries, museums, and historical societies. You may view the online index at www.umvphotoarchive.org.
There is an UMVDIA brochure available at participating institutions.



630 East 7th Street (1880s)
Antoine LeClaire House

The Special Collections Center also holds materials that can assist you in researching the history of the persons that lived in the residence or owned the building that you are researching. Among these materials are Scott County birth, marriage, and death records, early Davenport newspapers on microfilm, and cemetery indexes. Please see our other brochures for further information on specific area of our collections.



3009 Fair Avenue (1912)

The Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center has many other local history and genealogy resources available. Please check our other brochures for information about these resources.

Special Collections' Hours

Monday & Thursday
12 - 8

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, and Saturday
9:30 - 5:30

Sundays: 1 - 4 (until April 27, 2008)

If you cannot visit the Davenport Public Library, the Special Collections Center does look up specific records for a fee. The standard charge for specific records for which a date is supplied is \$3.00 each, which includes the copying and mailing of up to 5 pages. Patrons may request up to five records at a time. Lengthy records, such as divorce or probate files, may require payment of a research fee.

The *standard* charge for our research service is \$15.00, which includes 60 minutes of research and the mailing or faxing of up to 5 photocopied pages (\$15.00 minimum). Extra copies are 20 cents each

Please contact the
Richardson-Sloane Special Collections
Center

The Davenport Public Library:
321 Main Street, Davenport, IA 52801
(563) 326-7902

SpecialCollections@davenportlibrary.com
[http:// www.qcmemory.org](http://www.qcmemory.org)

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Researching the History of Your House or Building



1505 Grand Avenue (1914)
Residence of Dr. Charles E. Glynn

**At the
Richardson-Sloane
Special Collections
Center
Davenport Public Library**