Land Record Research in Houston, Harris County, Texas

Houston and Harris County Land Records, 1845 – Present

Where to go to research in Harris County records, listed by department:

Office of the County Clerk:

Harris County Administration Bldg.
1001 Preston St.
Houston TX 77002

Hours: 8a-4:30p Mon-Fri (713) 755-6411 http://www.cclerk.hctx.net

4th Floor: computers for database access and microfilm readers for film viewing and non-certified copies are made while you wait until 4pm. See website for on-line databases.

The County Clerk's Office maintains all Real Property Records:

Deeds, Mortgages, Contracts, Leases, Tax Liens, Abstracts of Judgment, Lis Pendens, Mechanics and Materialmans Liens, Powers of Attorney, and various other instruments. The title to, and ownership of, all real estate in Harris County is determined from records in the County Clerk's Office.

The **County Clerk's Office** files, registers and records the following records: Subdivision Map Records, Partnership Agreements, Tax Receipts, State and Federal Tax Liens, Landlord Liens, and Bills of Sale as well as many other records not relating to property.

The **County Clerk's Office** is also the custodian of all records for Four (4) County Civil Courts of Law and Four (4) Probate Courts.

Microfilm Records Available:

Direct and Reverse Indexes to Deeds from 1836 – 1961 Registers of Deeds from 1836 – current Index to Restrictions from 1836 – 1960 Index to Maps from 1836 – 1960 Abstracts of Judgments Hospital Liens, State Liens, Lis Pendens Tax Records, Condo Records, Affidavits, Bills of Sale, Maps and Attachment Liens

Archives of the County Clerk's Office:

The "Coffee Pot" Building	Hours: 8a-4:30p Mon-Fri
102 San Jacinto, Suite A	(2-story bldg. adj to the Criminal Justice Center)
Houston TX 77002	713-755-5170

Here are the actual bound Indexes and Deed Books from 1836-1960, some contracts, mortgages and plat map records. Ask for what you want at the service counter and it will be brought to you to use at one of the tables. If the microfilm in the Clerk's Office is unreadable check the book here to see if the actual page is more legible. Copies can be made at \$1.00 per page.

Office of the Tax Assessor & Collector:

Harris County Administration Bldg. 1001 Preston St., 1st Floor Houston TX 77002 hours: 8a-4:30p Mon-Fri 713-368-2216 Property Tax Research http://www.tax.co.harris.tx.us

Block Books and property tax records dating back approximately 6 years are in the office across the hall from the actual tax business office.

Bastrop Warehouse

720 Bastrop Houston TX 77003 hours: 8a-4p Mon-Fri 713-755-9505

They have Block Books for Harris County 1945 through 1986. The first copy is free. There is a nominal charge for additional copies.

Harris County Facilities & Property Management:

The Harris County Archives and the Harris County Records Center are in this division of county organization.

Harris County Records Center	hours: 8a-4p Mon-Fri
4625 Crites	Records Mgr. Paul R. Scott
Houston TX 77011	713-921-8820
	713-924-4126 FAX

Call to make an appointment and find out what records are available. If you can't find what you want elsewhere, it might be here. Paul says there are lots of "orphan records" that are have been sent there because no one knows where to send them or they got there by mistake. There is really no way to list everything. However, Paul says he has 1634 linear feet of Harris County Bldg. Assessment records that date from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Harris County Archives

1201 Franklin, 12th floor (Criminal Justice Center) Houston TX 77002 open by appointment in January 2004 Sarah Canby Jackson, CA Harris County Archivist 713-368-7640 713-368-7461 FAX E-mail: sarah_jackson@fpm.co.harris.tx.us

The Archives is often in need of volunteers.....(you get to see a lot of records that no one else has access to yet). Call Sarah to schedule volunteer time. Call her if you are looking for something you can't find elsewhere.

Public Infrastructure Department, Services:

Surveying	hours: 8a-4:30p
1001 Preston, Basement	713-755-5372
Houston TX 77002	

It is best to call in advance to make an appointment. They have the ability to make copies and probably will make one or two at no charge.

They have some copies of original Harris County surveys but mostly copies of "field notes" of original surveys. Many of their records were destroyed in the floods of Tropical Storm Allison in June 2001.

TEXAS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Texas, a brief history:

In 1836, five sites were temporary capitals of the Republic of Texas (Washington-onthe-Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco and Columbia) before Sam Houston moved the capital to Houston in 1837. In 1839, the capital moved to Austin. Texas was annexed to the United States as the 28th state on December 29, 1845. Texas seceded from the US and joined the Confederate States of America on January 28, 1861. Texas was readmitted to the Union on March 30, 1870, following the period of Reconstruction.

Land division system:

Texas is one of twenty state-land states (no federal land grants) and consequently does not use the federal township and range method of survey. Instead, the metes and bounds survey system is used with select large tracts subdivided into numbered units.

The Texas General Land Office:

The Republic of Texas Congress established the General Land Office in 1836, shortly after Texas won independence from Mexico. The General Land Office, which was in

Houston at that time, was originally responsible for managing the public domain by collecting and keeping records, providing maps and surveys and issuing land titles. When Texas was annexed, it reserved the right to control land distribution within its own territory. Before 1900, land was used, by the Texas government, to secure and pay off debt, reward veterans, encourage economic development, and finance public schools. Texas' generous public lands program created extensive records and a wealth of information for historical research. These records include files on individual tracts of land, records of land certificates, claims files, maps and other useful sources of information. For further information via the Internet: http://www.glo.texas.gov/

When land was distributed by the State of Texas, it was in the form of a **grant**. Title to that land was in the form of a **patent**. Typically the procedure began with an **application** for land, made through the land office, usually in the county recorder's office. A successful application resulted in a **warrant** for survey. The warrant was an authorization for surveyors to mark, plat (draw), and record a formal description for official title. Sometimes the property had already been surveyed and the warrant was used to obtain and accept the previous survey. The **survey** was next recorded in the appropriate land office. Upon the return of the survey, the patent was prepared. The **patent** indicated completion of the land acquisition process and was the first sale of a piece of property. Once the patent was issued, the property became part of "private" or individual land ownership and subsequently sold in the form of a **deed**. Patents have been the most commonly preserved records of land acquisition. All land grants for Texas are housed in the Texas General Land Office in Austin. Many grants made during statehood are in county deed books, which are referenced through grantor/grantee indexes with the grantor being listed as "State of Texas".

Houston, Harris County, Texas, a brief history:

In August of 1836, brothers J.K. and A.C. Allen bought 6,642 acres of unimproved land near the head of Buffalo Bayou and named it Houston. The nearest settlement was Harrisburg, laid out by John Harris in 1826. What is, now, known as Harris County was one of the original 23 counties in Texas, created in 1836, but from 1836 to 1840 it was known as Harrisburg County.

Read the section "About County Records" on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission website <u>http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/local/aboutrecords.html</u> for a good explanation of the wealth of information county records can provide, particularly real property, probate, and tax records.

Land records that may provide genealogical information:

Primary:

Abstract of Title – a condensed chronological history of all recorded instruments in the chain of title which affect the title.

Bill of Sale – a written instrument given to pass title of personal property from seller to buyer. Usually used for portable property.

Bond – a certificate that serves as evidence of a debt and of the terms under which the debt is undertaken.

Deed – a written instrument, usually under a seal, conveying property from a grantor to a grantee. It must be in proper legal form and executed as specified by the State of Texas and recorded as required by the State. Deed books are part of the public records found in the county clerk or recorder's office in which copies of deeds, transferring real property in that jurisdiction, are recorded. These books are also known as *libers*.

Deed of Gift – transferring land without reciprocal consideration Deed of Trust – made to pay off a mortgage or creditors Quitclaim Deed – transfers interest in a property without the guarantee of a good title.

Warranty or General Warranty Deed – a deed, which, by use of appropriate language, creates a covenant of warranty. It is a contract, with reference to the title, under which the grantor (seller) agrees to pay damages if the title fails.

Grants – The Republic and the State of Texas issued various land grants to men who were settlers (Headrights, First-class grants, Second-class grants, Third-class grants, Fourth-class grants and Preemption grants), applied for them, or earned them by service to Texas. In 1855, a fire destroyed records of warrant recipients and the muster rolls needed by veterans of the Texas Revolution, and their heirs, to prove their right to land not yet claimed. For two years no certificates were issued. In 1857 the legislature established a Court of Claims to check unpatented land certificates for fraud and to issue certificates to legitimate claimants who had not yet received them.

- a. Bounty Warrants from 1835 –1888 the Republic and the State of Texas promised land to the veterans of the Texas Revolution based on the length of service.
- b. Donation Grants a grant of land made by Texas to soldiers after service had been rendered, and which had not been promised in advance.
- c. Veteran Donation Land Grants in 1879 land was substituted when pension money ran out for surviving indigent veterans and Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
- d. Confederate Scrip Land Grants in 1881 there were many indigent Civil War veterans and widows in Texas. The state gave land in lieu of money.

Lien – a charge against a property, making it security for the payment of a debt, judgment, mortgage, or taxes; it is a type of encumbrance. A specific lien is against certain property only. A general lien is against all of the property owned by the debtor.

Mortgage – an interest created by a person in regards to a particular property to secure the payment of a debt or performance of some other obligation. This interest may be a lien, or a conditional title interest, subject to defeasance when the debt is paid or the obligation fulfilled. A borrower who gives a mortgage is the mortgagor and the lender

who receives the pledge is the mortgagee. The mortgage is given by the borrower not the lender. The term "mortgage" comes from the French "mort", meaning dead, and "gage", meaning pledge. Thus, when a mortgage note is paid off, the pledge is canceled or becomes dead.

Plat or Ownership Maps – a plat map is a public record containing maps of land, showing the division of the land into streets, blocks, and lots and indicating measurements of the individual parcels.

Poll Tax Records – a tax levied on each person within a particular class (for example, adult male) rather than on his property or income is called a poll, head, or capitation tax.

The poll tax was authorized in Texas in 1837. It wasn't until approximately 1904 that the poll tax and voter registration were combined. When the records began in Harris County isn't known since all the poll tax records from the County Clerk's office have been destroyed.

The records from the Assessor and Collector of Taxes begin in 1931 and end in 1965 and these records can be found in the Harris County Archives. The HCA website is: <u>http://www.hctx.net/archives/</u> (see Tax Records below)

Tax Records – tax receipts give legal property descriptions and "block books" provide maps of subdivisions and details of ownership of individual lots.

A complete list of the records are available on the Harris County Archives website - <u>http://www.hctx.net/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/Inventory%20-</u><u>%20Voting%20Records.pdf</u>.

The records are accessible to the public and are the original books. The archive records also have the Voting Precinct Street Guides starting in 1951 which are a big help since the records are organized by precinct.

Secondary:

Amnesty Papers – case files of applications from former Confederates of Presidential Pardons 1865-1867 are a seldom-used source for land and property Research. Amnesty papers have been filmed by the National Archives and are also available at the Family History Library. Texas is in Group 1 – 72 rolls of microfilm.

Apprentice Papers – an agreement by which a person indentures himself, to someone with land or property, with the understanding that, at the end of the time period specified, the indentured person will attain a settlement. In Texas, this sort of record appears mostly in probate or other civil court records.

Dower Release – in a legal sale of property, a wife was required to release her dower right before the sale could be final. Dower Right was a life estate that a wife acquired in her husband's property. Conventionally, this right was a life estate in 1/3 of all the property that the husband owned at any time during the marriage. While the husband was alive this right was an expectancy. This expectancy could not be defeated, by the husband, by sale or mortgage.

Power of Attorney – an instrument authorizing a person to act as an agent of the person granting it.

Probate records – land and personal property may be detailed in the will and court papers attached to the Texas probate process.

Additional Resources for Land Research:

City Directories – older Houston Directories have listings by name AND by street address. The owner of the property is indicated by a symbol next to the name. In some directories the name of the wife and the number of minor children are listed with the name of the "head of the household". Often, the listing will include occupation, place of employment and widowhood. In the listing by address, everyone residing at a particular address is listed. There ARE inconsistencies in this type of record as the information was often gathered by canvass and some areas were not canvassed at all. A lack of English language skills on the part of the resident or canvasser could lead to misinformation also.

City, County, State Land Maps – looking at a map from the time period being researched gives clues as to the usage and development of the land. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, while unreliable for accurate date verification, give information about structures and businesses. Some maps show original land survey boundaries.

Newspapers – Look at classified listings (for land and home sales), society pages, and obituaries (which used to list the home address of the deceased). The information gleaned may not be "legal" but it is often interesting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bounty and Donation Land Grants of Texas 1835-1888/ by Thomas Lloyd Miller 976.4 M651 TEX

A Handbook for Texas Abstracters and Title Men/ by Frank A. Stamper 976.4 S783 at Clayton Library and the Central Library/Texas Room

Land & Property Research in the United States/ by E. Wade Hone 929.1072073 H772 USA

The Source: a Guidebook of American Genealogy/ edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking 973.S724 USA

Texas Confederate Scrip Grantees/ by Thomas Lloyd Miller 976.4 M651 TEX

Texas County Records: A Guide to the Holdings of the Local Records Division of the Texas State Library of County Records on Microfilm/ by Michael Haskett 976.4 T355 TEX

Unpuzzling Your Past: a Basic Guide to Genealogy/ by Emily Anne Croom 929.1 C948USA

WEBSITES:

<u>http://www.co.harris.tx.us</u> - click on Harris County A-Z or County Directory to get everything from building addresses (with photos and maps) to the Directory, which lists departments, divisions, and employees with their phone numbers and email addresses. There is a great map of downtown Houston with pertinent buildings coded to an index.

<u>http://www.cclerk.hctx.net/</u> - this website features an online database, which was input in 1988, but you'll find some records that go back to the 1960's. The General Information section details the records maintained by the County Clerk's Office.

http://www.tax.co.harris.tx.us - the Harris County Tax Office website

<u>http://www.houstonlibrary.org</u> - this is the Houston Public Library's website and quickest way to access the library catalog

<u>http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton</u> - takes you directly to the website of the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research in Houston

http://www.tsl.state.tx.us - is the website for the Texas State Library in Austin

http://www.glo.state.tx.us - the website for the Texas General Land Office in Austin

<u>http://www.tsha.utexas.edu</u> - the Texas State Historical Association website, featuring The Handbook of Texas Online

http://www.familysearch.org - click on CATALOG to search the LDS Library catalog

http://www.thc.state.tx.us - The Texas Historical Commission website

Various University Websites:

Rice University:

http://www.rice.edu/fondren - Rice University's Fondren Library and the Woodson Research Center at Rice University's Fondren Library http://library.rice.edu/collections/WRC University of St. Thomas

http://www.stthom.edu - click on Doherty Library to check the catalog for the University of St. Thomas

University of Houston

http://info.lib.uh.edu - University of Houston Library system website

Varied Additional Resources:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Family History Centers:

1101 Bering Drive	call for hours
Houston TX 77057	713-785-2105

16331 Haver Houston TX 77090 call for hours 281-893-5381

Click on the LDS website <u>http://www.familysearch.org</u> and click on CATALOG to search the LDS Library catalog. Available microfilm and books can be ordered through the local Family History Centers and viewed there. Note: make sure the information you are ordering is for Houston, Harris County and not Houston County. The catalog sometimes confuses the two. Many records in the Clayton Library and in the Texas Room were filmed by the LDS Library.

University Libraries: Rice University Fondren Library St. Thomas University Doherty Library University of Houston Library System

http://www.rice.edu/fondren http://www.stthom.edu http://info.lib.uh.edu

All three libraries have collections of "Texana", books on Texas and books related to early Texas records and Texas pioneers (although not necessarily classified as genealogy). Except for the odd reference that might be found in one of these collections, these libraries are not useful in researching specific Harris County land records.

Listing, by type of record:

Deed Records:

1837-1866 Direct + Reverse Indexes, Deeds – Clayton Library-microfilm
1837-1886 Direct + Reverse Indexes, Deeds – Texas Room-microfilm
1836-1961 Direct + Reverse Indexes to Deeds – County Clerk's Office-microfilm
1836-current Registers of Deeds – County Clerk's Office-microfilm
1836-1960 Direct + Reverse Indexes, Deeds – County Clerk's Archives-print

Mortgages, contracts, plat maps:

1836-1960 - County Clerk's Office-microfilm 1836-1960 - County Clerk's Archives-print 1897-1945 (plat maps) – Texas Room – microfilm

Tax Records:

1837-1900 Tax Rolls – Clayton Library-microfilm 1837-1910 Tax Rolls – Texas Room-microfilm Various tax records, possibly 1836-1961 – County Clerk's Office-microfilm Various tax records from 1912-1986 - Harris County Archives-microfilm Poll Tax and Exemptions 1931-1965 - Harris County Archives-microfilm Block Books 1915-1976 – Harris County Archives-microfilm + print Block Books 1945-1986 – Bastrop Warehouse for the Tax Assessor's Office-print Block Book Maps – date range unknown – Harris County Archives Assessor's Abstracts 1895-1914-Harris County Archives City Lots & Blocks 1901-1919

Probate Records: all on microfilm

Probate Execution Docket 1836-1856 – Clayton Library, Texas Room Probate Case Papers (indexes) 1906-1935 – Clayton Library, Texas Room Probate Minutes 1837-1886 – Clayton Library, Texas Room Probate Record 1837-1882 – Clayton Library, Texas Room

Surveys:

Field Notes and Harris County Surveys – County Survey Dept.- print 1836-1946 Survey applications, surveys, survey field notes – Texas Room – microfilm

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps:

1924,'25,'29,'34,'45,'46,'50 – not every volume of each year- Texas Room - microfilm 1890,1896,1907,1924,'25,'27,'29 – not every volume – Texas Room - print Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps can also be accessed online, through the Houston Public Library Texshare Program, if you have HPL Power Card.

Maps, in general:

Clayton Library and the Texas Room have hundreds of useful maps. The County Clerk's Office has various maps on microfilm. The County Clerk's Archives also has maps in print.

Houston Public Library System – Locations for Houston and Harris County Land Records, 1845 - Present

The website for the Houston Public Library System is <u>www.houstonlibrary.org</u>. Click on "Catalog" to search the holdings in the library system. The two locations of most interest, to those doing genealogy research in land records, are the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research and The Texas Room and Archives located in the Central Library Julia Ideson Building.

When searching the website catalog, use "and" to connect words. "Harris and County and Texas" yields the most titles. Refine the search to "Harris and County and Land and Records (or Titles)" and fewer titles will be shown. You can further limit browsing by choosing to search Clayton or Central Texas Room holdings only.

Clayton Library for Genealogical Research 5300 Caroline Houston TX 77004-6896 Phone 832-393-2600 http://

http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton

On the first floor near the information desk is the "Ready Reference" section and the microprint finding aids. The microprint finding aids are in several maroon binders labeled by state. Binders are updated more regularly than the website. Deed, probate information, Land Commissioner Minutes, County Court and District Court minutes on microfilm are duplicates of those in the Texas State Library in Austin. However, Clayton does not have all the reels that are available in Austin, particularly deed records after 1860. Most reels that contain land references are in cabinet 90, drawer 10 or cabinet 88, drawer 1 in the 2nd floor microprint area. There are also miscellaneous land records and city directories on microfiche on the second floor as well as microprint finding aids binders that duplicate or contain more updated information than those on the 1st floor. Listed below are the microfilm holdings at Clayton that contain actual records or references to and descriptions of property.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY COURT CIVIL MINUTES, 1837-1840

Index: Each volume individually indexed. Reel 1314451 1837-1840

DEED RECORD, 1837-1866

Reel 1313527 Mar-My (part)

 Index: For indexes to the Deed Record request the following reels:

 Direct:

 Reel 1313524 A-BI

 Reel 1313525 Bo-D

 Reel 1313525 E-F (part)

 Reel 1313526 E-F (part)

 Reel 1313526 G-H

 Reel 1313527 I-Map

Reverse:

44 Mar-R
44 Sa-SI (part)
45 Sa-SI (part)
45 Sm-Z

An older index to the Deed Record, 1837-1850, for surnames C-D only is available on Reel 1314098.

Reel 1313530 W-Z (part)

1852-1853 Vol. Q (to page 149)	Reel 1313833
Reel 1313754	1858-1859 Vol. U (from page 190)
1852-1853 Vol. Q (from page 148)	1859 Vol. V (to page 731)
1854-1855 Vol. R	Reel 1313834
1855-1857 Vol. S (to page 257)	1859 Vol. V (from page 730)
Reel 1313832	1859-1860 Vol. W
Reel 1313832	1859-1860 Vol. W
1856-1857 Vol. S (from page 256)	1860-1861 Vol. X (to page 475)
1857-1858 Vol. T	Reel 1314098
1858-1859 Vol. U (to page 191)	1865-1866 Vol. 2 (original)

LAND COMMISSIONERS MINUTES, 1838-1855

Index: Each volume individually indexed. Reel 1314450 Reel 1314451 Reel 131838 Vol. A 1839-1848 Vol. C 18 1838 Vol. B

Reel 1314450 1848-1855 Vol. D

(PROBATE) EXECUTION DOCKET, 1836-1856 Reel 1314097 1836-1856

PROBATE CASE PAPERS, 1906-1935

Although the Probate Case Papers were not filmed, indexes to the papers, 1906-1935, were available by requesting the following reels: Reel 1313930 A-W Reel 1314027 W-Z

PROBATE MINUTES, 1837-1886

Index: For indexes to the Probate Minutes request the following reels:

Reel 1313929 to Vols. A-M Reel 1313930 to Vols. N-Z, 1-49 Note: Pages 1-78 of Volume A of the Probate Minutes were missing. Reel 1314097 1837-1841 (original) Reel 1314027 1837-1841 (transcribed) 1841-1847 Vol. A 1848-1851 Vol. B 1851 Vol. C (to page 61) Reel 1314028 1851-1855 Vol. C (from page 61) 1855-1861 Vol. D 1861-1866 Vol. E (to page 361)

Reel 1314029 1861-1866 Vol. E (from page 361) 1866-1870 Vol. F 1870-1878 Vol. G Reel 1314030 1878-1880 Vol. H 1880-1881 Vol. I 1881-1882 Vol. J (to page 133) Reel 1314031 1881-1882 Vol. J (from page 133) 1882-1883 Vol. K 1883-1885 Vol. L (to page 313) Reel 1314032 1883-1885 Vol. L (from page 313) 1885-1886 Vol. M

PROBATE RECORD, 1837-1882

Index: For an index to the Probate Record, 1837-1891, request Reel 1313929. 1857-1864 Vol. M Reel 1314032 1853-1863 Vol. N (to page 193) 1837-1839 Vol. A Reel 1314038 Reel 1314033 1853-1863 Vol. N (from page 193) 1838-1851 Vol. B 1850-1852 Vol. O 1838-1842 Vol. C 1850-1851 Vol. P (to page 487) 1837-1850 Vol. D (to page 285) Reel 1314039 Reel 1314034 1850-1851 Vol. P (from page 487) 1837-1850 Vol. D (from page 285) 1862-1866 Vol. Q 1839-1851 Vol. E 1866-1871 Vol. R 1842-1857 Vol. F (to page 431) Reel 1314040 Reel 1314035 1866-1867 Vol. S 1842-1857 Vol. F (from page 431) 1869-1871 Vol. T 1839-1855 Vol. G 1871-1877 Vol. U (to page 201) 1849-1851 Vol. H Reel 1314096 1850-1854 Vol. I (to page 180) 1871-1877 Vol. U (from page 201) Reel 1314036 1877-1882 Vol. V 1850-1854 Vol. I (from page 180) 1878 Vol. W (to page 315) 1849-1855 Vol. K Reel 1314097 1854-1857 Vol. L (to page 405) 1878 Vol. W (from page 315) Reel 1314037 1864-1880 Vol. X 1854-1857 Vol. L (from page 405)

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

DISTRICT COURT MINUTES (11TH DISTRICT), 1837-1908

Reel 1009265 1837-1838 Vol. A 1838-1841 Vol. B 1841-1842 Vol. C 1842-1844 Vol. D

DISTRICT COURT MINUTES (61ST DISTRICT), 1903-1907

Reel 1009289 1906-1907 Vol. 4

OFFICE OF THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

TAX ROLLS, 1837-1900

Reel 110101	Reel 110104
1837-1872	1888-1894
Reel 110102	Reel 110105
1872-1881	1894-1897
Reel 110103	Reel 110106
1881-1888	1897-1900

REFERENCE BOOKS:

There are too many to mention here. Refer to the library catalog or peruse the shelves in the Harris County or Houston sections in the stacks. See the bibliography in this section for a list of books used in gathering the information in this website.

MAPS:

Clayton Library has hundreds of U.S., state, county, city and "special use" maps in flat drawers under the stairway.

HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY DIRECTORIES:

1866.....1964 located in cabinet 70, drawer 7, 2nd floor microfiche There are some print copies of directories on the first floor but some of the older ones cannot be copied.

The Texas Room (HMRC) (Texas and Local History Collection)Central Library – Julia Ideson Building500 McKinneyhours: 9a – 6p Mon-SatHouston TX 77002Phone 832-393-1658Houston Metropolitan Research Center (Archives and Manuscripts Dept.)Phone 832-393-1669hours: 9a – 6p Mon-Fri

Register with the librarian. There are finding aids behind the librarian's desks and on the tops of various cabinets, but this is NOT a "self-serve" collection. Ask which shelves you are allowed to peruse unaided. The "good stuff" is in the closed stacks. Let the librarians know what you are looking for and they will be glad to help you.

The following list of Texas Room (HMRC) microfilm shows holdings more extensive than those at Clayton Library particularly for actual deed records.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY COURT CIVIL MINUTES, 1837-1840

Index: Each volume individually indexed. Reel 1314451 1837-1840

DEED RECORD, 1837-1886

Index: For indexes to the Deed Record request the following reels:

Direct:

Reel 1313524 A-Bl Reel 1313525 Bo-D Reel 1313525 E-F (part) Reel 1313526 E-F (part) Reel 1313526 G-H Reel 1313527 I-Map Reel 1313527 Mar-My (part)	Reel 1313528 Mar-My (part) Reel 1313528 N-R Reel 1313528 Sa-SI (part) Reel 1313529 Sa-SI (part) Reel 1313529 Sm-V Reel 1313529 W-Z (part) Reel 1313530 W-Z (part)
Reverse:	1

Reel 1313530 A-B	Reel 1313744 Mc, Maa-Map (part)
Reel 1313742 C-G	Reel 1313744 Mar-R
Reel 1313743 H-L	Reel 1313744 Sa-SI (part)
Reel 1313743 Mc, Maa-Map (part)	Reel 1313745 Sa-SI (part)
	Reel 1313745 Sm-Z

An older index to the Deed Record, 1837-1850, for surnames C-D only is available on Reel 1314098.

Deeds:

Deeus.	
Reel 1313745	1840-1841 Vol. F (to page 353)
1837-1838 Vol. A (to page 164)	Reel 1313748
Reel 1313746	1840-1841 Vol. F (from page 353)
1837-1838 Vol. A (from page 163)	1841-1842 Vol. G
Reel 1314098	1842-1843 Vol. H (to page 512)
1828-1843 Vol. B	Reel 1313749
Reel 1313746	1842-1843 Vol. H (from page 512)
1837-1849 Vol. B (transcribed)	1843-1844 Vol. I
1838-1839 Vol. C	1844-1845 Vol. J (to page 539)
Reel 1313747	Reel 1313750
1839 Vol. D	1844-1845 Vol. J (from page 538)
1839-1840 Vol. E	1845-1846 Vol. K
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PROBATE CASE PAPERS, 1906-1935

Although the Probate Case Papers were not filmed, indexes to the papers, 1906-1935, were available by requesting the following reels: Reel 1313930 A-W Reel 1314027 W-Z

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

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DISTRICT COURT MINUTES (61ST DISTRICT), 1903-1907

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OFFICE OF THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

TAX ROLLS, 1837-1910

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MAPS:

There are thousands of maps in the Texas Room collection...city, county, state and special interest maps of every size and condition.

The <u>Zingery maps</u> are self-serve with an index to help find the correct map. The earliest map is from 1955 but original land surveys are noted.

<u>Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps</u>, while unreliable for accurate date verification, are interesting. The collection is incomplete. Actual bound copies from 1890, 1896,1907, 1924, 1925, 1927 and 1929 can be requested from the librarian but not all volumes of a

particular year are available. The microfilm is also incomplete. The years 1924, 1925, 1929, 1934, 1945, 1946, and 1950 are on film but not every volume for each year.

HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY DIRECTORIES:

Print copies and microfiche are available. Criss-Cross directories are also available in the area behind the librarian's desk.

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