

## What's Your House's Story?

*Every house has a story — some are happy, some are sad, some are long, some are short. But every story tells us something about the people who made this community what it is today.*

*Perhaps your home was used on the Underground Railroad or maybe someone famous slept there.. Often, you can find that even the most “boring” house has something to tell.*

*How do you find these stories? It involves time, patience and the urge to play detective. If you like digging through the past to find the present and maybe the future, then house history work is for you.*

*Stop, read and enjoy — and remember to listen to your house. It's trying to tell you something.*



**Prepared by Gerald R. Smith,  
Broome County Historian**

Broome County Local History & Genealogy  
Center  
Broome County Public Library  
185 Court Street

Phone: 607-778-3572

Fax: 607-778-6429

E-mail: [localhistory@bclibrary.info](mailto:localhistory@bclibrary.info)

## Every House Has A Story



## How to Research Your House History

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## Where to Begin?



Take a good look at your home and discover its secrets —

- Can you tell by looking how your house was constructed?
- Have walls, doors or windows been moved, closed or added?
- Did your home have porches — where were they and what did they look like?

## What Style is My House?

Architectural styles can help date your home. Examine the architecture pages to identify the style and time period for your home

- Federal Style—1790-1830
- Greek Revival—1830-1860
- Victorian—1850-1910 and includes several styles including
  - ◆ Gothic Revival
  - ◆ Italianate
  - ◆ Queen Anne
  - ◆ Stick
  - ◆ Eastlake
- Bungalow—1910-1930
- Colonial Revival—1910-1940
- Four Square—1915-1945

- Ranch—1950-1970
- Cape Cod—1945-1970
- Split-Level—1960-2000
- Contemporary—1960-present

## What Tools Can Be Used?

There are many tools, many of which can be found at the Broome County Local History & Genealogy Center at the Broome County Public Library. These tools include the following

- Deeds and Abstracts list land owners. These are found at the County Clerk's Office
- Maps
  - ◇ Wall maps—1855 map
  - ◇ Atlases—1866, 1876, 1885
  - ◇ Plat Books—1908
  - ◇ Insurance Maps— Sanborn maps dating from 1887 to 1960
- City Directories—1858 to 1982
- Photographs—Index books
- Biographical tools
- Published histories
- Unpublished histories



## What Resources Are Available to Restore My Home?

- P.A.S.T.—A good place for help and advice on house styles, proper restoration techniques and approved vendors
- Target Zone grants and loans—check with your city or village and town planners
- State and National Register of Historic Places
- Restoration companies
- Magazines devoted to topics
- Books devoted to topic—there are many found at local libraries



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