

Building and Neighborhood History

H-DC: Washington DC History and Culture (a member of H-Net)



Research Key: Square and lot
(aka Legal definition) found on maps
Orient yourself--find yourself on a map.

Go to the earliest maps likely to show your building/neighborhood, starting with 1887.

Building research before 1887
(Capitol Hill, Georgetown) is tough and requires visiting other institutions, such as National Archives.

- Tax assessments prior to 1887:
- National Archives
- Record Group 351
- General Assessment Books (irregular)*
- Georgetown, 1800-1819, 1835-1879
- Washington City, 1814-1879
- Washington County, 1855-1864 and 1868-1879:
- Taxbooks (annual)*
- Washington City, 1824-1879
- Georgetown, 1871-1879
- Washington County, 1871-1879

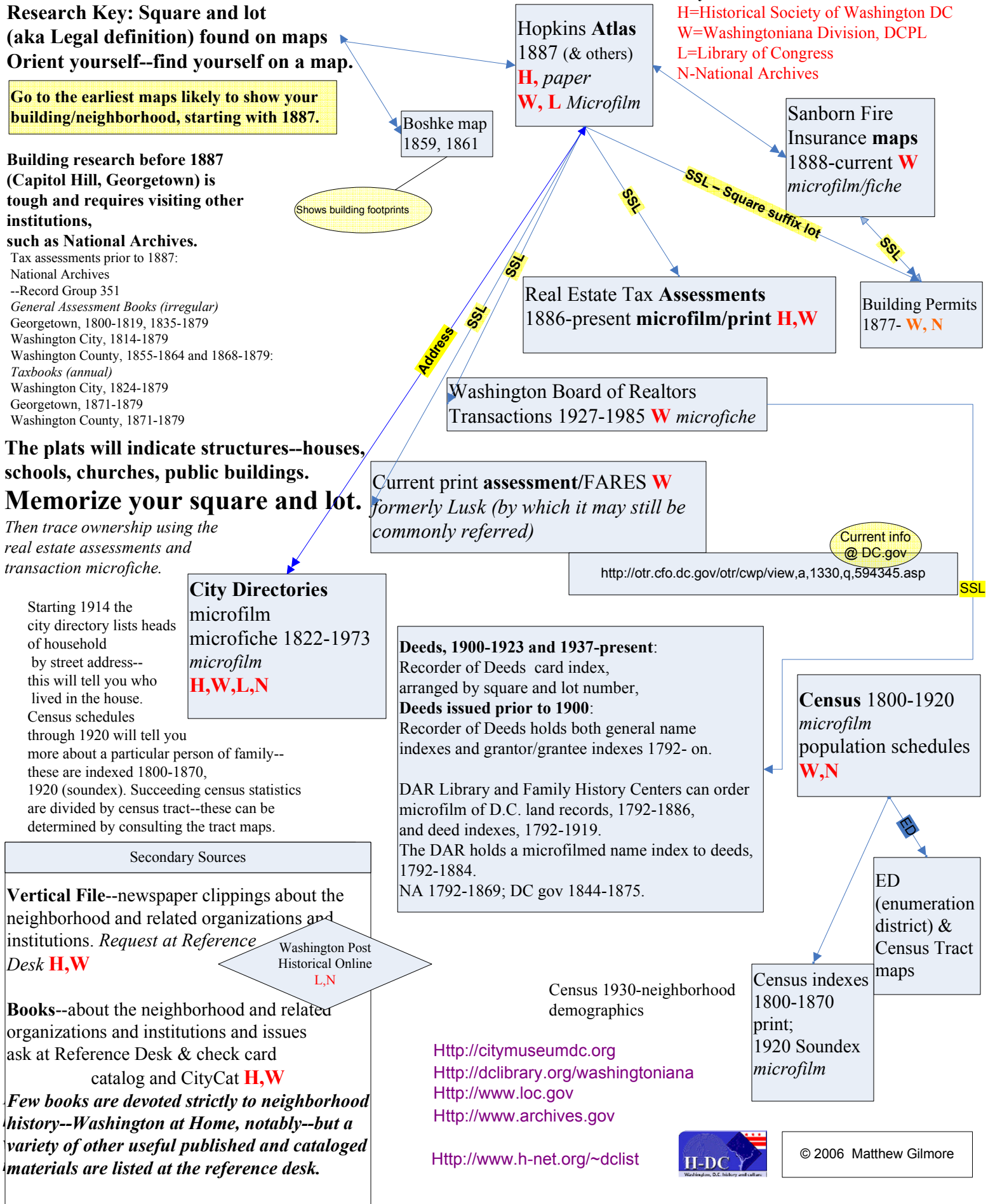
The plats will indicate structures--houses, schools, churches, public buildings.

Memorize your square and lot.

Then trace ownership using the real estate assessments and transaction microfiche.

Key

- H=Historical Society of Washington DC
- W=Washingtoniana Division, DCPL
- L=Library of Congress
- N=National Archives



City Directories
microfilm
microfiche 1822-1973
microfilm
H,W,L,N

Deeds, 1900-1923 and 1937-present:
Recorder of Deeds card index, arranged by square and lot number,
Deeds issued prior to 1900:
Recorder of Deeds holds both general name indexes and grantor/grantee indexes 1792- on.

DAR Library and Family History Centers can order microfilm of D.C. land records, 1792-1886, and deed indexes, 1792-1919.
The DAR holds a microfilmed name index to deeds, 1792-1884.
NA 1792-1869; DC gov 1844-1875.

Census 1800-1920
microfilm
population schedules
W,N

Secondary Sources

Vertical File--newspaper clippings about the neighborhood and related organizations and institutions. *Request at Reference Desk* **H,W**

Books--about the neighborhood and related organizations and institutions and issues ask at Reference Desk & check card catalog and CityCat **H,W**

Few books are devoted strictly to neighborhood history--Washington at Home, notably--but a variety of other useful published and cataloged materials are listed at the reference desk.

Washington Post
Historical Online
L,N

- [Http://citymuseumdc.org](http://citymuseumdc.org)
- [Http://dclibrary.org/washingtoniana](http://dclibrary.org/washingtoniana)
- [Http://www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)
- [Http://www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
- [Http://www.h-net.org/~dclint](http://www.h-net.org/~dclint)

