
 **Mapping your
Homes History**
By Janice Wiegley



Where to start

Can you date your house by a certain type?

For example:

- Georgian 1700-1780
- Federal 1780-1820
- Italianate 1840-1885
- Cobblestone 1820-1860

These are guidelines only. Rural areas were behind the times as far as architectural styles go.

Regional variations of one style can look like another.

Cobblestone example: The Ward House. Circa 1836
The Cobblestone Museum.



Home particulars

Changes to your house

alterations such as wall treatments changed over time

Oldest to newest types of treatments:

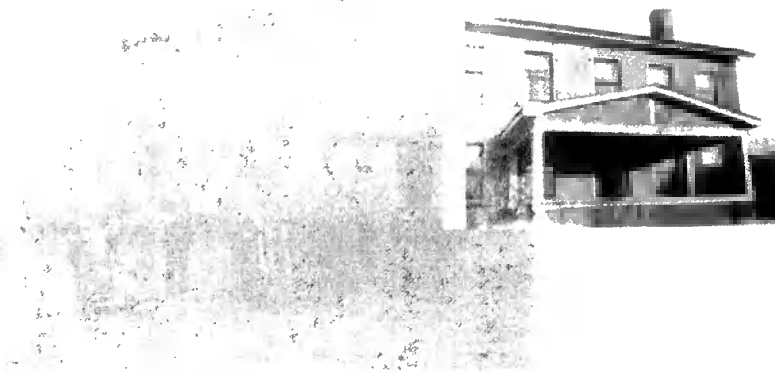
- Paneled
- Wainscoting
- Chair rails
- Base board

Other aspects of your house can tell a tale as well

- Fireplace
- Attics
- Wood joinery
- Roofs
- Chimneys
- Number and arrangement of rooms

House examination problems

Additions
Renovations
Newer materials and changes in old styles



Deeds

- Legal writing/documents to convey transfer of real property
- Deeds are at the county clerks office
- Special note: Know your geography. For example Niagara county originally included Erie county and the county seat was in Buffalo.
- Who owned the land
- Size of the land purchased
- Any potential mortgages
- Purchase price
- Inheritance transfers
- Sometimes can include a drawing of the plot of land

Big Big Problem.

They rarely ever mention the onsite dwelling/house



Do not overlook deeds

A wealth of information

Can sometimes provide some surprising information

- Middle initials
- Marital status
- Geographic location of lost family members
- New or unknown family relations
- Ancestors signatures
- relationships



Chaining the title

Researching a deed owner by owner. This can be done all the way back
The original owners.

Grantor/grantee Index

Find the grantee index book with the dates your are looking for.

Note: more recent data will be on the computer.

Find the name of the grantee you are looking for

The line will include the grantor and the deed book (liber #) and page #


Go the deed book which was specified in the index.

Recommendation: get a copy from the desk clerk.

The grantor becomes the new grantee if going backwards

Tax Assessors Office

Welcome Niagara County's
Assessment Information Page




Select a Municipality - Please Click the Dropdown Arrow to Pick a Municipality

Newfane OARS

Announcements

This new website provides access to assessmer Municipalities.

Welcome to the Town of Newfane's Assessor's Page



<http://www.niagara.oarsystem.com/Home.aspx>

Search Property Information

Do you agree to all the Terms outlined in the...

Quick Search

Search Assessment Data

Enter SBL	SBL Search Tips	Submit
Street Address	Street Address Search Tips	Submit
Street Finder	Street Finder Search Tips	Submit
Owner Name	Owner Name Search Tips	Submit

Section 1 of 1		Ownership Code				
Block # - Description	0919 - Followup ball lead sep	Zoning	RS			
Construction Quality	2	Wood Spm	1			
Green Floor Area	4296	Water Supply	1 - Out/public			
Number of Stories	2	Utilities	4 - Gas & elec			
Story Height	12	Seismic Stron	Seismic 20 - 20201			
Year Built (Effective Year Built)	1922 - 0	Neighborhood Code	28376			
Condition	3 - Normal	Land Property Info				
Building Perimeter	192	Sale Date				
Government Purpose	0	Sale Price				
Basement SQFT	0	Transfer Sale	NO			
Year Construction %	0	Acres Length	NO			
Sanitary %	0	Plot Owner Name				
		Deed Book				
		Deed Page				
		Deed Date				
Improvements						
Imp #	Description	Quantity	Condition	Year Built	SQFT	Dimensions
No Improvements						
Land						
Site #	Land Type	Acres	Front	Depth	SQFT	Soil Rating
1	22 - Secondary	2.7	0	0	0	Land: 2 Rating
1	27 - Primary	1	0	0	0	Land: 1 Rating
Owner Information						
Owner Name	Address 1	Address 2	City/State/Zip			
Historical Society, Inc.	PO Box 115		Newfane NY 14108			
Board of Newfane	PO Box 115		Newfane NY 14108			
Exchange Data						
Public Description	Assessed	Exempt/Other %	Block Value	Block Value		

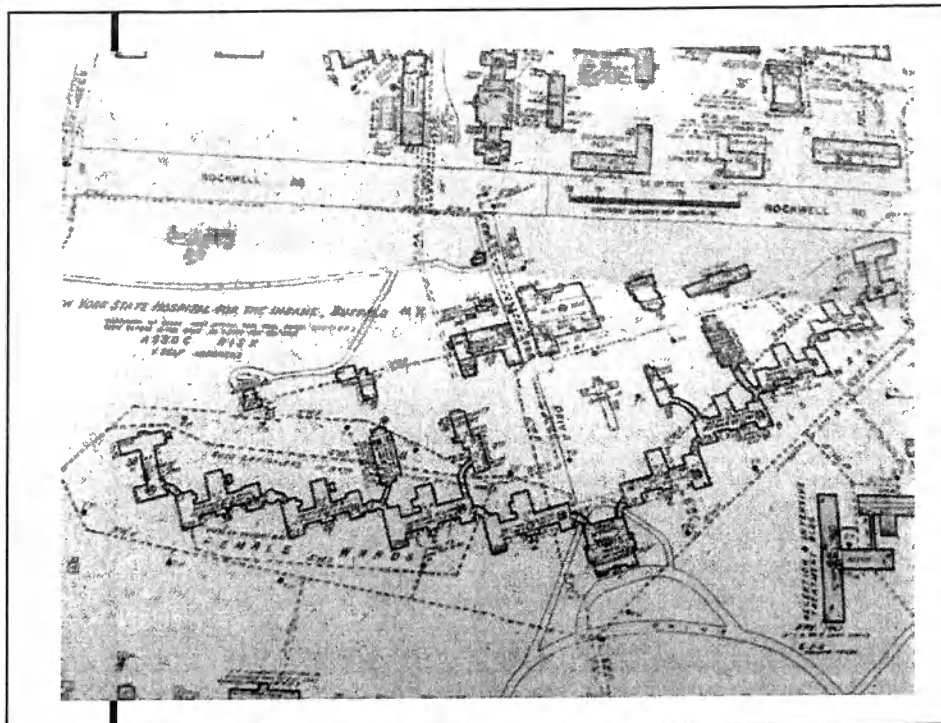
Insurance Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Used to assess fire insurance liability in urbanized areas.
Valuable in documenting changes

- Gasport
- Lockport
- Middleport
- Village of Newfane
- Wilson



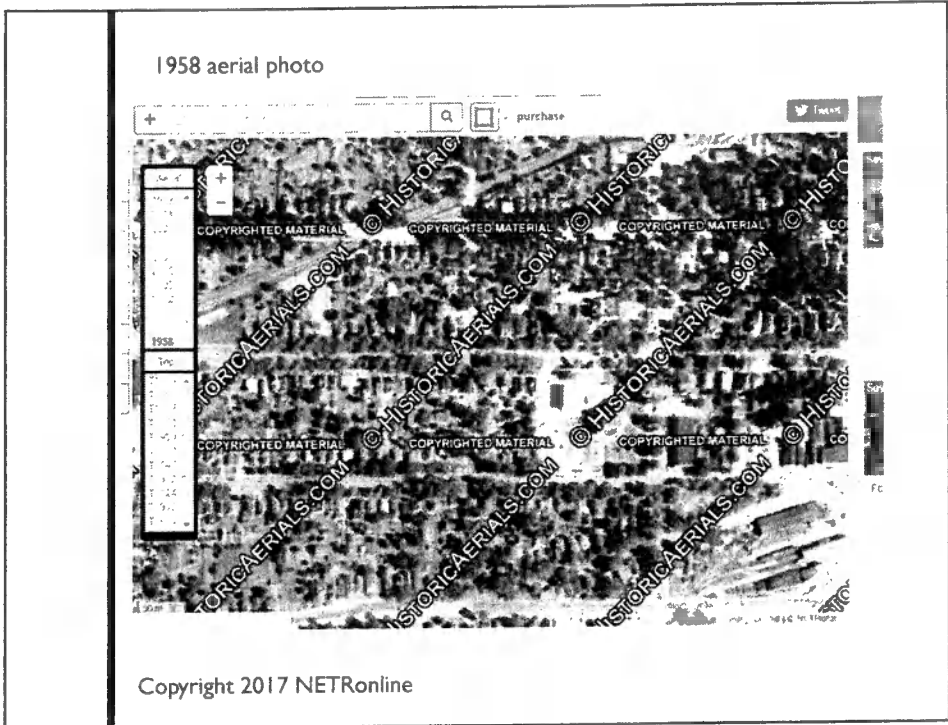


Historic Aerials

www.historicaerials.com

Shows aerial photographic views of a selected area.
Also has topographic maps.
Dates for each vary according to location.





Other places to look

- Census records
 - Address
 - Rent or owned
 - Type of house – frame, stone etc.
- Mortgage Index
- Newspapers
- Directories
- Surrogate file inventories

into market.

BARN BURNED—A CHILD BURNS TO DEATH.
 —A barn on the premises of Mr. Abram Phillips of Newfane, was burned yesterday forenoon.

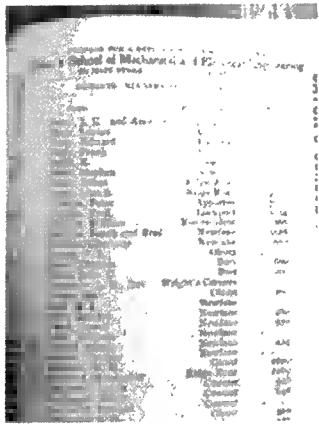
Two of Mr. Phillips' boys were in the barn at the time playing with firecrackers, from which the barn probably took fire. One of the boys, about 3 1/2 years old, was burned to death. The other, a year or two older, escaped. Hay and grain were destroyed by the conflagration. Loss about \$2000.


Lockport Daily Journal June 19, 1863

1869 Niagara County Directory

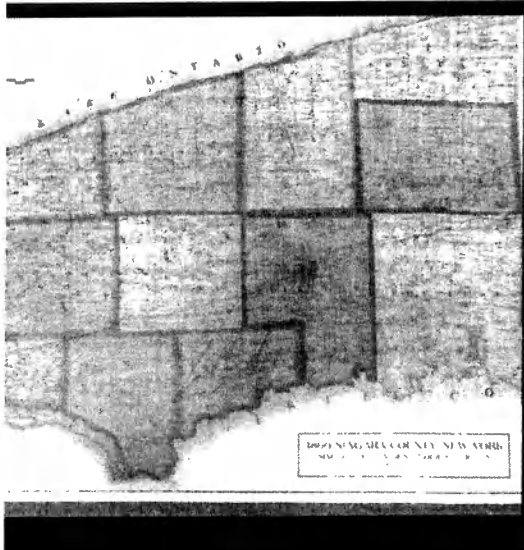
Perrigo, Franklin. (Hess Road) lot 8, deputy postmaster and farmer 1.
Perrigo, Milton E., (Hess Road,) section 11, lot 8, fruit raiser and farmer 70.
Perry, Edward, (Cooper,) lot 88, farmer 120.
PERRY, FRANK A., (Lockport,) lot 12, agent for patent brick machine.
Phillips, David, (New Fane,) lot 8, hop cultivator and farmer 100.
PIKE, JARVIS B., (New Fane,) (W. S. & J. B. Pike.)
Pike, William Rev., (New Fane,) Baptist clergyman.
PIKE, WILLIAM S., (New Fane,) (W. S. & J. B. Pike.)

1901 Niagara County Directory





Maps



1860 Niagara County Map
Poster version



1875 Niagara County
Atlas



