

Your Home History Book:

capturing the story of your home!



What to purchase?

1. At any craft store or photo shop, purchase your choice of **archival quality** or **acid free** photo album or scrapbook. Photo albums have plastic pages in which to **insert** your information. Scrapbooks have paper pages on which to **attach** your information. Use what you prefer. One that **opens to allow reorganization or addition of pages** is most convenient. We've seen many at Garden Ridge, Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics, and camera shops. For higher quality, order from an archival supplier such as www.lightimpressions.com. And you may prefer to create a **totally digital** home history book using your computer and a digital camera!

Where to Research?

2. Visit the **Greensboro Public Library Central Library 2nd floor North Carolina Collection** to look up your home's former residents using old bound collections of the **Greensboro City Directory**. The **Greensboro City Directory** is not your typical phone directory! It is an annual directory printed according to *street address*. It indicates who lived at your address, their phone number, and early years often reveal occupations. So start with **the earliest you believe your home existed**, and look up your home's address in each year from that time forward. Most of our Fisher Park neighborhood homes were built between 1902 and 1930, but the City Directory goes back to 1879! As the Librarians for City Directory years not on the shelf. Many have been transferred to microfilm to protect the fragile paper directories.
3. While visiting the **Greensboro Public Library Central Library 2nd floor**
 - **stop by the Reference Desk** and ask if there are any local history resources about any prominent families you've discovered that lived in your home. A Librarian will point you to any appropriate file folders or biographical books.
 - peruse **Gayle Hicks Fripp's** books about Greensboro's history and seek mention of your home's former owners or home photos. Success is more likely if your home's owners were prominent citizens. But there are several Fisher Park homes noted in her book **Images of America. Greensboro. Volume II. Neighborhoods**, specifically in Chapter 3 (1901-1920) on pages 58-61, and also in Chapter 4 (1921-2945) on pages 86-89, 91, and 102-103.
 - browse the book **Greensboro: an Architectural Record** by Marvin Brown (1995) and see if there is a photo of your home or mention of former residents of your home. Fisher Park homes are mostly noted in the Fisher Park section on pages 279-309. But a few extra Fisher Park buildings are pictured on pp. 23, 83 (note the old wooden bridge in Fisher Park!) and pp. 92-93, 96, 98, and 100-101.
 - ask to see the oversized 9 volume set of books entitled **Art Work of Piedmont Section of North Carolina** which show some larger homes of prominent citizens. (This resource is also conveniently available online at <http://libweb.uncc.edu/archives/texts/piedmont/> thanks to the Archives at UNC-Charlotte.)
 - ask to see the booklet **An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Greensboro, NC** by Ruth Little Stokes. (This is not, however, a major resource for Fisher Park homes.)

4. Contact the **Greensboro Historical Museum** and make an appointment with Stephen Catlett, Archivist, (373-2976) to see if there are any files or photos about your home or prominent families that lived in your home. Ask to see the **Insurance Maps of Greensboro NC** by the Sanborn Map Company, printed in 1902, 1907, 1913, 1925, etc until the 1950's. These maps indicate when buildings and outbuildings were first documented, originally for fire insurance purposes. Stephen Catlett has various files of photographs, postcards, and some prominent family manuscript collections including the personal papers of Captain Basil J. Fisher, for whom our neighborhood is named.
5. Visit the **Guilford County Tax Department, Tax Mapping section**, 201 South Eugene Street (phone 641-4879) and request a copy (25 cents) of your property's **typed tax record card**, which shows your home's sales transactions. Also request a quick printout of the current **Guilford County Property Record for your home**. It shows the "footprint" of your home, square footage, characteristics of the building, outbuildings, tax value, etc. This is on computer back to 1982, and on typed cards back to the 1800's in some instances. This is surprisingly quick.
6. Visit the **Guilford County Register of Deeds, Land Records Research Center and Vault area**, 201 South Eugene Street (phone 641-7556) and **ask for help** locating all the deeds issued for your property or home. Start with your own (current) deed, and work back in time. Every deed leads back in time to the preceding deed. Grantor/Grantee Indexes are used from 1771 thru 1981. Indexes for 1982 forward are on computer. Many records are on microfilm. Older ones are in wonderful old books. Photocopies are 25 cents each. This may take 1 to 2 hours depending on the number of former owners.
7. Some of # 5 & #6 can be accomplished via the Internet, but easier said than done! Try www.co.guilford.nc.us If you can figure it out, go for it!
8. Ask **elderly neighbors** if they recall who lived in your home or have old photos of your home.
9. At the very least, please take a **photo of your present home and family** to include. Ask your family, especially children, to **write brief remembrances** of special times or activities at your home today.
10. What else can **you** think of to include? A typed story of your family? Blueprints from your architect? Pressed flowers from your garden? Personalize your home's history.
11. Finally, please **create an extra one or two summary pages** that most effectively represents your home's history. It could be simply a list of whoever lived in or owned your home, and when, and at least one picture of it's current appearance, front and rear. Or it could be a more complex historical narrative. You decide! If several neighbors **submit those one or two pages to the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, we could create a Fisher Park Home History collection**. Once compiled, this could be safely stored at the Greensboro Historical Museum Archives or the Central Public Library. If possible, we'd also digitize the pages and make the entire neighborhood book available at our web site for all to see! Yet it all requires "homework" from our neighbors.

Thanks for participating in our Home History Book project, first envisioned in 2002 during the Fisher Park Neighborhood centennial celebrations!

(A Home History WORKSHOP was held May 11, 2002, 10 a.m.-Noon at the Central Public Library, as one of many Fisher Park Centennial celebrations in 2002!)