

Harris County Archives  
Records Used to Research Property

Assessor and Collector of Taxes

Assessor Abstracts (1895 – 1914)

- 7 volumes of Assessors Abstracts and 10 volumes of City Lots and Blocks for Houston and other cities in Harris County.
- Lists property owners, land, and valuation by year.

Block Books – (1915 – 1997)

- 640 volumes including special books for subdivisions and apartments from the 1970s.
- Block Books continue the information available in the Assessor's Abstracts with maps detailing locations of blocks and tract numbers.
- Original volume and page numbers still identify property unless it has been replatted.
- 4 volumes of Assessor's maps arranged by abstract number.

Microfilm

- Over 12,000 rolls of microfilm include block books, tax rolls, inventories, personal property tax, banks, railroad, minerals, and mobile homes.

Voting Records

- 96 volumes of poll tax records (1931 – 1965) – incomplete. Includes names, addresses, age, residency in Texas, Harris County, and precinct, occupation, place of birth, race (occasionally). These records are useful in documenting neighborhoods.
- Voting Records – 305 volumes (1966 – 1998). Registered voters by precinct.

Charles R. Brace Papers (1877 – 1975)

As a partner with E. L. Crain, Brace developed neighborhoods in Houston including Southside, Pineview, East Baytown, Oak Forest, Garden Oaks, and Timbergrove. His papers include maps, printed materials, newspaper clippings and legal records. Of particular interest are the Crain Read-built Home Catalogs. To read further about the collection, please see <http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/FA-Brace,%20Charles%20R.%20MCO04.pdf>.

Heritage Society Map Collection (1862 – 1960)

Over 110 maps, blueprints, and printed materials document land use in Houston and Harris County. Of significance are early plats of subdivisions. Please contact the archives for further information.

Harris County Community Development Records (1977 – 1995)

Of particular interest are the 10.5 cubic feet of client files documenting rehabilitation of individual homes and neighborhoods from 1984 – 1998. Arranged by community and then by street, the files record the condition of the housing, work performed, and costs incurred through correspondence, reports, financial applications, and photographs. The more than fifty loose snapshots found in the records may or may not be identified, but have value as records of housing conditions in the 1980s and 1990s in Harris County.

The finding aid is available at

<http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/FA-HCCCommunityDevelopmentCR29.pdf>

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**Bond Certification Records (1894 – 1949)**

10 cubic feet of records created by the Attorney General's office in Texas verifying elections for bond issues. These records can be useful in researching public buildings, works, and roads. For further information, please check the finding aid at:  
<http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/FA-Bond%20Certification%20Records%20MC017.pdf>

**Abstracts of Title (1910 – 1958)**

The Harris County Archives currently has 58 abstracts of title which trace land ownership from the Republic to when they were written. These are significant records since title companies no longer do this research. They are an excellent historical resource. Please check the Pathfinders section on the archives webpage.  
<http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/archives/Page.aspx?PageID=73>