

The Abstract

The best way to approach a history of your home is through the abstract.

- If you received a copy of your abstract when you purchased your home it will be a wonderful resource for your search. The abstract records all of the transactions dealing with your property, but only the land itself. It will not detail the construction or demolition of buildings or other improvements specifically.
- If you did not receive an abstract when you purchased your home it is possible to recreate the document through a land record search at the property records office of the county in which your property is located. This can be a somewhat lengthy process and will require you to physically go to the county offices.

Once you have a record of the transactions it is possible to go through the previous owners and see what you can determine about them and about the property through their history.

- Often properties are used as places of business or other activities and can make for interesting histories.
- You can also search out descendants of those residents and potentially locate photographs or other details of changes that may have been made to the house or lot.

Other possible resources

The Resource Library at the WBLAHS has a couple of other resources that do not apply to all properties, but may be helpful.

- **Address Renumbering Cross Reference**
Homes particularly on the north side of White Bear were renumbered with the introduction of the 9-1-1 emergency system in the 1980s. All homes were required to conform to the grid system in order to be locatable by emergency services. This directory cross-references the new numbers with the old.
- **Fire Department Log Books**
The White Bear Lake Fire Department Log Books are held by the WBLAHS and are currently in the process of being indexed by address. If the fire department was called out to a fire at a certain address the log would include details on the damage and how many firefighters were needed to put out the fire.
- **Ramsey County Historic Sites Survey**
In the early 1980s Ramsey County did a basic survey on what they deemed to be historic structures throughout the county. Copies of the worksheets completed as part of that survey are on file at the WBLAHS.

An additional possible resource with more recent information would be the property files kept on each property within the City of White Bear Lake. Those can be accessed through the Building Department on the first floor of White Bear Lake City Hall.