

the area for a long time what they know about your house or if they have old photographs or pictures.

9. PROPERTY RECORDS

Wills, insurance records, and probate records provide lists of personal belongings, and may explain objects that came with your house at purchase or which you've found over time.

10. OBITUARIES

Obituaries are a great way to learn more about former occupants. You can learn where the person or family lived, their children, and their local affiliations.

11. Ellis County Museum, Inc.

The Ellis County Museum, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of Ellis County. It was organized in 1968 by local citizens to serve as a repository for materials contributing to the historical interpretation of the county.

Ellis County Museum

201 S. College St.
Waxahachie, TX 75165
972-937-0681

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txecm/>



Finding the History of Your House

A Guide to the Best Resources for Historic House Research

NPS
Nicholas P. Sims Library

515 W. Main St.
Waxahachie, TX 75165
972-937-2671
www.simslib.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SimsLibrary/>

Learning the history behind your house can be fascinating and fulfilling work; however, it can be hard to determine what materials you need and where to look for them. Here are suggested resources for learning the history of your house in Ellis County, Texas.

Some of the following sources are available through Sims Library and may require a library card.

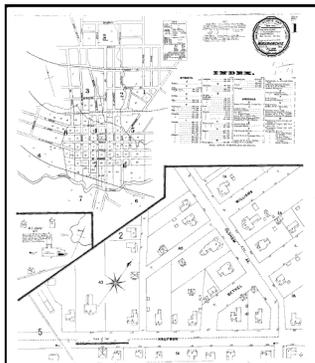
1. HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

An exhaustive study of Waxahachie's historic resources, conducted in 1985 and 2004, and available online.

<http://www.waxahachie.com/Departments/HeritagePreservation>

2. OLD MAPS

Texas Digital Sanborn Maps are an easy way to learn the lot and square



number of your home which are helpful when you are looking for tax assessments and deeds. These are available online through Sims Library.

www.LibraryofTexas.org/texshare

3. ELLIS COUNTY APPRAISAL

Search their online database for property listings. They offer lists of historical properties for both Waxahachie and Ennis. Visit their office for information not included online. <http://www.elliscad.org/index.htm>

3. TAX ASSESSMENTS, DEEDS, BUILDING PERMITS, & OTHER LAND RECORDS

Land records are useful in establishing a chain of title for your property, from its original owners to the current owner, as well as construction on the house over time.

Ellis County Tax Assessor

109 S. Jackson St.
Waxahachie, TX 75165
Phone: (972) 923-5150

<http://www.co.ellis.tx.us/Directory.aspx?did=38>

4. CENSUS DATA

The census is taken every ten years, and data from it is made available seventy-two years later. This means data from the 1940 census is the latest available census. You can learn a great deal about your home's former occupants through the census. Sims Library offers census access through **Heritage Quest** and **Ancestry: Library Edition**.

5. CITY DIRECTORIES

City directories, the predecessors to modern phonebooks, are a useful tool in learning the previous occupants of your home, as well as their occupations. **Waxahachie City Directories** from 1895 to 2000 are available at Sims Library.

6. NEWSPAPERS & VERTICAL FILES

A great deal of information about a house, architect, builder, or resident can be found in newspapers and vertical files at your library. Our microfilm collection includes the Waxahachie Daily Light and Waxahachie Enterprise newspapers from back to 1876, as well as other area papers.



7. ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, & SUBDIVISIONS

If you find the architect or builder of your home, or the name of the subdivision, you might be able to locate the plan, a drawing, or common features.

8. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, IMAGES, & MEMORABILIA

Locate and interview a former owner or resident, or ask a neighbor who has lived in