



Circa 1880s

HOW OLD IS MY GREENPORT VILLAGE HOUSE?

LEARN ABOUT YOUR HOME'S HISTORY

Updated February 3, 2022

People who own or buy old and historic homes want to know their history and provenance. How old is my house? Who built it? What did the house originally look like? The resources below will help you to learn more about your Greenport house.

Village of Greenport Cultural Resource Center

In the late 1970s two local artists, Stephen Kelemen and Joseph Cardia, organized a group of artists, writers and photographers to form a creative team called The Cultural Resource Center. In January of 1978 the group, working with young, 32-year-old Greenport Mayor Joseph Townsend, received an impressive \$92,346 grant to hire staffing and begin their work. One of their first projects was creating a detailed inventory of over 600 separate buildings in the incorporated Village and recording historical information on them. Their records are a great source of information about your house or property. Most of these inventoried were private homes and recorded information such as:

Address

Present Owner/Possible Previous Owners

Building Description

Initial Construction Date

Architect/Builder

Historical and Architectural Importance, Sources & Map References

These descriptions, most with photographs, are housed in the Greenport Village Hall and may be accessed by completing a "Public Access to Records" Freedom of Information Law form (FOIL). No charge if you want the response by e-mail. If you need hard copies, it's a quarter per standard size page, and the cost of reproduction if too large to be copied in-house.

Village Hall

236 Third Street
Greenport, NY 11944
(631) 477-0248

Hours:

Monday- Friday
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Check for holiday closings

FOIL Form: <http://villageofgreenport.org/files/file/SCANwebfoil.pdf>

FOIL Procedures & Fees: <http://villageofgreenport.org/files/Public-Access-to-Records-Procedure.pdf>

OTHER PATHS TO FOLLOW

Visit the Website of the New York State Office of Historic Preservation:

The Cultural Information Resource System (CRIS) is an advanced Geographic Information System <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>. The CRIS program provides access to New York State's vast historic and cultural resource databases and now digitized paper records. Greenport houses that were included in the 1977 building inventory can be found on CRIS. Individual house records include history, builder information and a photo.

You can also use the Village of **Greenport FOIL** process noted above.

Visit the Southold Town Tax Assessor's Office:

At Southold Town Hall there is an inventory "Property Record Card" for all real estate property within each municipality. The data on the cards include, but is not limited to, detailed information on the improvements located on the property, sales history, including permit numbers and a sketch of the building(s) footprint. Call ahead for an appointment.

Southold Town Hall

53095 Route 25

PO Box 1179

Southold, NY 11971

(631) 765-1937

Hours:

Sunday	Closed
Monday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday	Closed

Visit the Suffolk County Historic Documents Library

310 Center Drive South
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 852-2000

The Office of the County Clerk holds land records dating from the mid -1600's, and you can do a TITLE SEARCH there. These do not always contain descriptions of the house or other buildings found on the land. Even so, a deed is a good place to begin researching the history of your house.

This page will show you steps to follow to do your research:

<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Elected-Officials/County-Clerk/Historic-Documents-Library>

Hours:

Sunday	Closed
Monday	9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Friday	9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday	Closed

Visit Local Libraries:

Each of these libraries has a wealth of local information that may assist in the research of the age of your house. What may be of interest in your search is their genealogy files, scans of old local newspapers and miscellaneous materials donated from local families.

Some have done a fantastic job scanning old local newspapers. They also have constructive links to other databases that may help you research your home. Call ahead for an appointment.

Floyd Memorial Library

539 First Street
Greenport, NY 11944
(631) 477-0660

<https://floydmemoriallibrary.org>

Hours:

Sunday	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Monday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Saturday	9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Southold Library

53705 Main Road
Southold, NY 11971

Hours:

Sunday	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Monday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Saturday	9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Mattituck-Laurel Library

13900 Main Road
Mattituck, NY 11952
(631) 298-4134

Hours:

Sunday	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Monday	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Contact The Census Bureau:

Website: <https://www.census.gov/>

Sometimes you are able to discover the names of family members who lived in the home, as well as their ages, birth states, year of immigration, marriage status, occupations and other interesting information. According to the National Archives, not all of this information is available for every census. For instance, from 1790 to 1840 only the “head of household” is listed in census records.

Style Guides That Maybe Helpful:

<https://www.oldhouses.com/styleguide>

<http://www.howoldismyhouse.com/how-old-is-my-americian-house.html>

<https://www.antiquehomesmagazine.com/historic-style-guide/>

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS:**The Official Village of Greenport Website:**

You will find there the 2020 Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey

<https://villageofgreenport.org/files/Greenport-Reconnaissance-Level-Survey-Report.pdf>

This report contains a lot of information on historic homes, buildings, and neighborhoods in Greenport.

Stirling Historical Society

319 Main Street

Greenport, NY 11944

(631) 524-8760

Office in The Berger House, 319 Main Street.

Hours:

Saturday 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Sunday 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Stirling Historical Society is a wealth of local records, documents, maps and expert advice and direction for research. Call to make an appointment.

Neighbors

Often neighbors, especially those that grew up in the Village, are helpful sources for information about neighboring homes and earlier residents or they can share stories with you that could lead to future information.

Ancestry.com

Not only does this website create family trees, but the data it collects is often in the form of a census. Many indicate the street as well as the street number.

Findagrave.com

Green Hill Cemetery, Greenport

Saint Agnes Cemetery, Greenport

Sterling Cemetery, Greenport

Or nearby:

Arshamomaque Cemetery, Southold

East Marion Cemetery, East Marion

Orient Village Cemetery, Orient

Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Southold

Presbyterian Church Old Burying Ground, Southold

Willow Hill, Southold