

Researching Your House in Greenport (House Genealogy)

How Old Is My House?

Knowing the age of your home is one of the first steps in understanding its history. The architectural style of a house can offer significant clues about when it was built. Below are some common architectural styles found in Greenport and their estimated timeframes:

- **Bungalow (1905-1930):**
Characteristics: One or one-and-a-half stories, low-pitched roof, wide eaves, exposed rafters, often a front porch and simple, open interiors.
- **Vernacular Farmhouse (1850-1890):**
Characteristics: Two stories with a gable facing the street, often with a side wing or barn-like structure. These homes were practical and functional for farming families.
- **Victorian (1860-1910):**
Characteristics: Three stories, asymmetrical facades, steeply pitched roofs, porches, and often decorative details like gingerbread trim and bay windows.
- **Greek Revival:**
Characteristics: Symmetrical facades with columns, pediments, and classical details inspired by ancient Greek architecture.
- **Gothic Revival:**
Characteristics: Pointed gables, steep roof pitches, intricate decorative woodwork or stonework, creating an elegant and romantic aesthetic.
- **Italianate (1840-1885):**
Characteristics: Wide overhanging eaves, decorative brackets, tall windows, and porches.
- **Colonial and Cape Cod:**
Characteristics: Simple, rectangular homes with steep roofs and dormer windows (Cape Cod). Colonials tend to be more symmetrical with brick facades and gable roofs.

Books & Resources for Identifying House Styles:

- **A Field Guide to American Houses** by Virginia Savage McAlester
A comprehensive guide to American residential architecture, covering a wide range of

house styles with clear illustrations.

- **American House Styles** by John Milnes Baker
An easy-to-understand overview of common house styles in America and their historical context.
- **House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home** by Karen P. Light
A step-by-step guide for researching the history of your home and its architectural style.
- **The Houses of New York** by Christopher Gray
A detailed guide to identifying and understanding the architecture of homes in New York City and beyond, focusing on the city's history and development.
- **Victorian Homes: A Treasury of Designs and Decoration** by Marsha R. Ivins
A fantastic resource for Victorian-era homes, full of examples and advice on design features unique to the style.
- **The Encyclopedia of American Architecture** by William H. Pierson Jr.
A reference book covering various periods and styles of American architecture, including residential structures.
- **National Trust Guide to Historic Houses of the United States** by National Trust for Historic Preservation
Includes detailed information about significant historic houses throughout the U.S., useful for comparing with homes in your local area.

Historical Maps

- **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1884-1926):**
These maps provide detailed depictions of buildings in Greenport. You can explore the Sanborn maps for Greenport by visiting the [Library of Congress Sanborn Maps Collection](#).

Greenport Historic District on NYS Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS):

To explore Greenport's National Register Historic District, follow these steps:

1. Visit the [NYS CRIS website](#).
 2. Click **"I agree"** on the terms screen.
 3. On the next screen, click **"Proceed as guest"**.
 4. At the top of the next screen, next to the CRIS logo, you'll see **"Home"**, **"Submit"**, **"Search"**, and **"Communicate"**. Click on **"Search"**.
 5. In the search options on the left, click on **"National Register"** (it's between "Survey" and "Library").
 6. On the next screen, click on the box labeled **"Listing Name"** and type **Greenport Village**.
 7. Click the **"Search"** button in the lower left-hand corner.
 8. This will take you to the National Register Listing for Greenport Village.
 9. Under the **"Projects"** section, click on the magnifying glass labeled **"View"**.
 10. You will now see a map of the Historic District. You can zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) to see more or less detail.
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Who Lived in My House?

Discovering the people who lived in your home is an exciting part of genealogical research. Here are several ways to uncover the past occupants:

- **Livebrary's Historic Newspapers:**
Explore a collection of historic newspapers from Long Island and beyond. Visit [Livebrary's Historic Newspapers site](#) to search for articles, notices, and more related to your home or its previous owners.
- **New York State Historic Newspapers:**
Search historic newspapers from Suffolk County and beyond for specific names, addresses, or events. Visit the [New York State Historic Newspapers website](#) to search newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- **Suffolk-Times Obituary Index, 1910-2003** (compiled by Jeffrey M. Walden, Mattituck-Laurel Library):
This searchable index provides obituaries published in *The Suffolk Times* from 1910 to 2003. Search by decade or surname to find obituaries for previous residents or their relatives. [Search the Suffolk-Times Obituary Index on LIGenealogy.com](#).
- **Livebrary Genealogy Resources:**
Livebrary offers a variety of genealogy tools, including access to databases and records that can assist in finding information about the families who once lived in your home. [Visit Livebrary's Genealogy Resources page](#).

- **Census Records:**
Federal and state censuses provide detailed information on past residents, including ages, occupations, family structure, and places of birth.
 - **Vital Records:**
Birth, marriage, and death certificates provide further details about previous inhabitants. These records are available through state and local archives and can often be accessed online or at libraries.
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Additional Resources

- **Greenport Village Clerk's Office**
The Village Clerk's Office maintains property ownership records from 1960 to the present, helpful for tracing more recent ownership or obtaining zoning and permit information.
 - **Contact Information:**
Email: chall@greenportvillage.org
Address: 236 Third Street, Greenport, NY 11944
Phone: (631) 477-0248
- **Suffolk County Clerk's Office – Researching Property Records**
The Suffolk County Clerk's Office in Riverhead houses important legal documents, including deeds, mortgages, and other property records. The archives extend back to the late 1800s.
 - **Access Online Records:**
Visit the Suffolk County Clerk's [Online Records page](#).
- **FamilySearch:**
An excellent online resource for accessing a variety of historical documents, including land records, family genealogies, and more. Visit [FamilySearch](#) to begin your search through millions of historical records, including land and property records.
- **Local Historical Societies:**
 - **Stirling Historical Society:**
The Stirling Historical Society is a valuable resource for researching the history of Greenport. They may have archives, oral histories, and other resources that provide additional context.
 - **Contact Information:**
Phone: (631) 477-5918

Email: stirlinghistsocietygpt@gmail.com
Website: [Stirling Historical Society Website](#)

Local Library Resources

- **Greenport Library's Local History Collection:**

The local history section at the Greenport Library offers books, photographs, maps, and other documents detailing the history of Greenport and its homes. Visit the Local History Room or contact the library for assistance in navigating the archives.