

Basic Deed Research for House History

Finding the date a house was built is fairly straightforward these days with so much information available online. Briefly, tracing the ownership of a property involves first finding the Book and Page of the current deed.

Starting at the Medford Online Assessment Database, type in the address of the property you are researching and you get a sheet describing the property.

MEDFORD, MA **VISION**
GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

[Search](#) [Street Listing](#) [Sales Search](#) [Back](#) [Home](#)

Property Lookup

Search: 110 Alliston Street Address

Enter an Address

(c) 2022 Vision Government Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

MEDFORD, MA **VISION**
GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

[Search](#) [Street Listing](#) [Sales Search](#) [Back](#) [Home](#)

110 ALLSTON ST [Sales](#) [Print](#) [Field Card](#) [Map It](#)

Location 110 ALLSTON ST **Mblu** K-04/ 89/ / /

Acct# 6693 **Owner** TENNEY WILLIAM A

Assessment **PID** 6693

Building Count 1

Current Value

Assessment			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2022			

Owner of Record

Owner TENNEY WILLIAM A	Sale Price
Co-Owner GEROULD SUSAN	Certificate 24542/0078
Address 110 ALLSTON ST	Book & Page 24542/0078
MEDFORD, MA 02155	Sale Date 05/17/1994
	Instrument 00

Ownership History

Ownership History					
Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Instrument	Sale Date

Look for the Book and Page of the property. This is where the deed is located at the Registry of Deeds in Cambridge.

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

mass Southern Middlesex Registry of Deeds

Recorded Land Book Search

Registered Land (Land Court)

Search Number: Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current)

PLEASE NOTE

Recorded Land Documents are indexed from 01/02/1974 and Registered Land documents are indexed from 01/02/1974. This means that documents before this date may not be listed if you search by Name or Address. Documents should be listed if you search by Book and Page number.

- For Instructions/Help:
 - Download the [Search Instructions](#) PDF for general search information.
 - Download the [Image Viewing and Printing Instructions](#) PDF.
 - Download the [Download Instructions](#) PDF for Basket details.
- This site uses Pop-ups when printing and downloading documents
 - [Test Pop-ups](#) to see if the pop-up blockers are properly disabled.
- This site uses Adobe Reader when printing and downloading documents
 - If you do not have Adobe Reader installed, download from [Adobe Reader](#).
- Send us Your [Feedback](#).
- Perform a [Printer Test](#).

Note: If you are still having trouble navigating these search functions or cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the Registry of Deeds.

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

Book: 21542 Page Number: 0078 Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current)

Registry of Deeds

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Registry Home | Select Another Registry | Contact Us | Refinance Calculator

Middlesex South - Maria C. Curtatone, Register

208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge MA 02141
Tel: (617) 679-6300
Fax: (617) 577-1289
Email: midsexsouth@sec.state.ma.us
Office Hours for Recording:
Monday-Friday
8:00a.m. - 3:45p.m.

Home | Feedback | Contact

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Citizen Information Service
One Ashburton Place, Room 1611
Boston, MA 02108-1512
Tel: (617) 727-7030
Toll Free: 1 (800) 392-6090

PLEASE NOTE

Recorded Land Documents are indexed from 01/02/1974 and Registered Land documents are indexed from 01/02/1974. This means that documents before this date may not be listed if you search by Name or Address. Documents should be listed if you search by Book and Page number.

- For Instructions/Help:
 - Download the [Search Instructions](#) PDF for general search information.
 - Download the [Image Viewing and Printing Instructions](#) PDF.
 - Download the [Download Instructions](#) PDF for Basket details.
- This site uses Pop-ups when printing and downloading documents
 - [Test Pop-ups](#) to see if the pop-up blockers are properly disabled.
- This site uses Adobe Reader when printing and downloading documents
 - If you do not have Adobe Reader installed, download from [Adobe Reader](#).
- Send us Your [Feedback](#).
- Perform a [Printer Test](#).

Note: If you are still having trouble navigating these search functions or cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the Registry of Deeds.

When you hit Search, you will get a listing of the relevant documents.

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com
Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

* Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078 Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078 Document Types: Search All Document Types Town: Search All Towns From: 1/1/19

Select All Invert Selection Deselect All Print Search Result View: 20/Page 50/Page 100/Page

Rec. Date	Book/Case	Type Desc.	Town	Doc. #
<input type="checkbox"/> 5/17/1994	24542/78	DEED	MIDDIFORD	359

PLEASE NOTE

Recorded Land Documents are indexed from 01/02/1974 and Registered Land documents are indexed from 01/02/1974. This means that documents before this date may not be listed if you search by Name. Documents should be listed if you search by Book and Page number.

- For Instructions/Help:
 - Download the [Search Instructions](#) PDF for general search information.
 - Download the [Image Viewing and Printing Instructions](#) PDF.
 - Download the [Download Instructions](#) PDF for Basket details.
- This site uses Pop-ups when printing and downloading documents
 - [Test Pop-ups](#) to see if the pop-up blockers are properly disabled.
- This site uses Adobe Reader when printing and downloading documents
 - If you do not have Adobe Reader installed, download from [Adobe Reader](#).
- Send us Your [Feedback](#).
- Perform a [Printer Test](#).

Note: If you are still having trouble navigating these search functions or cannot find what you are looking for, please contact us at [masslandrecords.com](#).

Select the document you want to view (there may be more than one) and a new screen with more details appears.

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com
Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

* Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078 Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078 Document Types: Search All Document Types Town: Search All Towns From: 1/1/19

Select All Invert Selection Deselect All Print Search Result View: 20/Page 50/Page 100/Page

Rec. Date	Book/Case	Type Desc.	Town	Doc. #
<input type="checkbox"/> 5/17/1994	24542/78	DEED	MIDDIFORD	359

View Details View Images

Doc. #	Rec. Date	Rec Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.
359	05/17/1994	11:11:00.000	DEED	2

Street # 110 Street Name ALLSTON

Grantor/Grantee-4

LEVIN LOUIS R & AL
TARASUK JENIFER A & AL
DANNY WILLIAM A & AL
GERGOLD SUSAN & AL

[Search Home](#) [Search Criteria](#) [Search Options](#) [Search Help&Support](#) [FAQ](#) [Basket](#)

masslandrecords.com

Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

* Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Book: 24542 Page Number: 0078 Document Types: Search All Document Types Town: Search All Towns From: 1/1/1900 To: 12/31/2012

Select All	Invert Selection	Deselect All	Print Search Results	View: 20Page 50Page 100Page	
Rec. Date	Book/Page	Type Desc.	Town	Doc. #	
<input type="checkbox"/>	51171994	24542/78	DEED	METPCB02	382

View Details **View Images**

Doc. #	Rec. Date	Rec Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.
359	05/17/1994	11:11:00.000	DEED	2

Street #	Street Name
110	ALLSTON

Grantee/Grantor-->

LEVIN LOUIS R & AL
 KARASIA FENI LOPEL & AL
 JENNIS WILLIAM A & AL
 GILROUD SUSAN & AL

5

24542-078

QUITCLAIM DEED

WE, LOUIS R. LEVIN and PENELOPE A. TARASUK of 110 Allston Street, Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, for consideration paid, and in full consideration of \$____ DOLLARS grant to WILLIAM A. TENNET and SUSAN GEROULD, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, of 33 Preston Road, Somerville, MA

WITH QUITCLAIM COVENANTS

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Medford, bounded and described as follows:


Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of the land herein conveyed at land now or formerly of Nye, thence running:

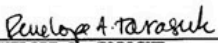
EASTERLY	on lands of said Nye and now or formerly of one Nolte, one hundred thirty-four and one twelfth (134 1/12) feet thence running by said Allston Street about fifty-seven and one-half (57 1/2) feet to a bound;
SOUTHERLY	thence
WESTERLY	seventy-six and 66/100 (76.66) feet to a bound; thence
NORTHERLY and	
WESTERLY	on a curved line by land of said Nye fifty and 55/100 (50.55) feet; thence
WESTERLY	by land of said Nye three and 79/100 (3.79) feet to other land of said Nye; thence
NORTHERLY	on said land of Nye thirty-two and 32/100 (32.32) feet to the point of beginning.

Subject to restrictions of record as far as the same may now be in force and effect.

For Grantor's title see deed of Miriam C. Schneider dated December 13, 1976 and recorded with said Deeds at Book 13111, Page 143 Middlesex South Registry of Deeds.

Witness our hands and seals this _____ day of April 16, 1994.


LOUIS R. LEVIN


PENELOPE A. TARASUK

*** MASS. EXCISE TAX: 1133.16 ***
PREMISES: 110 Allston Street, MEDFORD, MA 02155
MSD 05/17/94 11:11:58 359 25.08

JW

6

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com

Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

Book: 1311 Page Number: 143

Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Book: 1311 Page Number: 143 Document Types: Search All Document Types Towns: Search All Towns From: 1/1/19

Select All Insert Selection Download All Print Search Results View: 20/50/100/All Pages

Doc. #	Doc. Date	Doc. Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.
12151426	12/11/14	DEED	MEDEX000	00275172

View Details View Images

Doc. # Doc. Date Doc. Time Type Desc. # of Pgs.
12151426 12/11/14 DEED MEDEX000 0

Street # Street Name
ALLSTON ST

Grantor/Grantee-4

SCHNEIDER MIRIAM C
LAYN LOUISE
TARASUK PENELOPE A
LAYN PENELOPE A

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com

Southern Middlesex Recorded/Registered Land

Book: 1311 Page Number: 143

Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Book Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Book: 1311 Page Number: 143 Document Types: Search All Document Types Towns: Search All Towns From: 1/1/19

Select All Insert Selection Download All Print Search Results View: 20/50/100/All Pages

Doc. #	Doc. Date	Doc. Time	Type Desc.	# of Pgs.
12151426	12/11/14	DEED	MEDEX000	00275172

View Details View Images

Doc. # Doc. Date Doc. Time Type Desc. # of Pgs.
12151426 12/11/14 DEED MEDEX000 0

Street # Street Name
ALLSTON ST

Grantor/Grantee-4

SCHNEIDER MIRIAM C
LAYN LOUISE
TARASUK PENELOPE A
LAYN PENELOPE A

MASSACHUSETTS GUTBLAIN DEED BOOK 1311 PG 143

110.75

I, MIRIAM C. SCHNEIDER, Maine
of South Freeport in the Town of Freeport, Cumberland County, MA, do hereby
being memorialized, for consideration paid, and in full consideration of \$50,000.00
grant to LOUIS B. LAYN AND PENELOPE A. TARASUK, ALSO KNOWN AS PENELOPE
A. LAYN, of 43 Irving Street, Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with gutblain remainders

the parcel:

[Description and accretions, if any]

a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Medford, bounded and described as follows:

beginning at the Northwest corner of the land herein conveyed at land now or formerly of Nye, thence running

EASTERLY on lands of said Nye and now or formerly of one Nolte, one hundred thirty-four and one twelfth (134 1/12) feet to Allison Street; thence running

SOUTHERLY by said Allison Street about fifty-seven and one-half (57 1/2) feet to a bound; thence

WESTERLY seventy-six and 66/100 (76.66) feet to a bound; thence

NORTHERLY and

WESTERLY on a curved line by land of said Nye fifty and 55/100 (50.55) feet; thence

WESTERLY by land of said Nye three and 79/100 (3.79) feet to other land of said Nye; thence

NORTHERLY on said land of Nye thirty-two and 32/100 (32.32) feet to the point of beginning.

For my title, see Middlesex South District Deeds, Book 553, Page 208, and Estate of Mildred R. Meyer, Middlesex Probate Docket #479091, and Deed from Edward J. Meyer to Miriam C. Schneider dated December 15, 1975, and recorded in Middlesex South District Deeds in Book 1311, Page 193.

Witness my hand and seal this thirteenth day of December, 1976

Miriam C. Schneider

STATE OF MAINE
CUMBERLAND ss. December 13, 1976

Then personally appeared the above named Miriam C. Schneider

<p>hereto duly authorized this twenty third day of October A.D. 1919.</p> <p>Medford Savings Bank by Charles B. Buss, Treasurer (Corporate seal)</p> <p>Signed and sealed in presence of, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. October 23, 1919. Then personally appeared the above named Charles B. Buss, as Treasurer aforesaid, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Medford Savings Bank before me, Earl B. Munro, Notary Public. My Commission expires Feb. 16, 1923. -----</p> <p>Middlesex ss. Oct. 23, 1919. 12h. 55m. P.M. Rec'd & Recorded.</p>	<p>4226</p> <p>491</p>
<p>KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that we, Philip T. Redfern and Dorothy S. Redfern, his wife in her own right both of Medford in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other good and valuable consideration paid by Edward J. Meyer of said Medford, County aforesaid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Edward J. Meyer and his heirs and assigns forever a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said MEDFORD bounded and described as follows: viz:- Beginning at the North-westerly corner of the land herein conveyed at land of Nye, thence running Easterly on lands of said Nye and one Solte one hundred thirty-four and one twelfth (134 1/12) feet to Allston Street; thence running Southerly by said Allston Street about fifty-seven and one-half (57 1/2) feet to a bound; thence Westerly seventy-six and sixty-six one hundredths (76.66) feet to a bound; thence Northerly and Westerly on a curved line by land of Nye fifty and fifty-five one hundredths (50.55) feet; thence Westerly by land of Nye three and seventy-nine one hundredths (3.79) feet to other land of Nye; thence Northerly on said land of Nye thirty-two and thirty-two one hundredths (32.32) feet to point of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to the said Dorothy S. Redfern by her father Francis F. Streater her mother being deceased by deed dated December 9, 1916 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, book 4166, page 247. This conveyance being hereby made subject to the taxes for the year 1918. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said Edward J. Meyer and his heirs and assigns to their own use and behoof forever. And we do hereby, for ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators covenant with the said grantee and his heirs and assigns that lawfully seized in fee simple of the granted</p>	<p>REDFERN et al to MEYER</p> <p>***** * U.S. * * Rev. * * Stamps * * \$6.00 * * P.S.D. * * Oct. 23 * * 1919 * *****</p>

As you go back in time with the deeds, they become a little more difficult to read. Before there were the typed structured format deeds like the ones we have just seen, there were typewritten deeds in a long, run-on narrative. Careful reading should uncover the references to the property description and to the prior deed, as shown here.

Plots are bounded, and thirty feet to Irving street; then running and running east and bounded south by Irving street one hundred and forty feet to the place begun at. A being Lot No. 30 on a plan of lands of E. F. Hastings and J. H. J. and the lot conveyed to me by Brewster and others containing sixteen thousand four hundred square feet. To have and to hold the above-granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Edward W. Loring, his heirs and assigns, to his and their use & behoof forever. And I the said James M. Voker for myself and my heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant with the said Edward W. Loring his heirs and assigns; that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the above-granted premises; that they are free from all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Edward W. Loring his heirs and assigns forever as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs, executors, and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Edward W. Loring his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons who will sue within of J. the said James M. Voker and Pamela wife of the said James M. Voker in token of her release of all right and title of or to built down and homestead in the granted premises, have herunto set our hands and seals this seventeenth day of October in the year of Our Lord eighteen hundred & twenty one. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence James M. Voker (real) of that W. Macy, Middlesex ss Oct 17th Pamela Voker (real) 1871. Then personally appeared the above-named James M. Voker and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed; Before me, Sam. A. Gleason, Justice of the Peace, Middlesex ss Oct 21, 1871. Read and Recorded. Attest: Chas. S. Strong, Regt.

to know all men by these Presents.

When you go further back in time, the deeds were hand-written and unless you are able to read 19th century cursive, these may be difficult to decipher.

To all people to whom this presents shall come greeting, know: Ri: Russell of
 that Richard Russell of Medford Towne in the County of Middlesex in the
 Massachusetts Colony in New England married. for and in consideration of one m^d Jonathan Wade
 messuages or tenement wherein he now dwells to witte granted, bargained, ^{for his wife and land in}
 and sold by Jonathan Wade of Ipswich in the County of Essex in the
 Colony abovesaid married. together with some lands therunto appertaining
 as will more particularly and fully appaere by his deed of gift
 by him signed and sealed, bearing the same date with these presents.
 As also for and in consideration of five hundred and fifty pounds sterl. 550^l
 to mee well and truly paid by the said Jonathan Wade the writte
 whereof he do by these presents acknowledge, and therewith to be
 fully satisfied and contented, and thereof and of each part &
 parcell thereof do fully, clearly & absolutely, acquit, discharge, and
 discharge him the said Jonathan Wade his heirs, executors, and
 administrators for ever by these presents, have granted, bargained, and
 sold, aliened, enfeoffed, and confirmed, and by these presents do fully
 clearly & absolutely grant, bargain, and sell, alien, enfeoff
 and confirm unto him the said Jonathan Wade the fourth
 part of all the lands w^{ch} he lately pur chased of Mr. Edward Collins at

And when you go way back, to the mid 1600s as shown here, the writing gets quite tough. Beautiful, but sometimes hard to read. By the way, this was part of the transaction when Richard Russell sold most of Medford to Jonathan Wade in 1661.

Usually there is a point where a property was sold as an empty lot only, and then a few months later sold or mortgaged with a building on the lot. This gives us the time-frame when the house was built. In the late 19th century it was quite usual for houses to be built in 3 to 4 months, and even over the winter months.

If a house appears to have been put up after about 1893 or so, it is quite likely that a building permit is available for viewing at the Building Department at City Hall. Just ask to see the folder for the address you are researching.

Permit No. 136	Sept. 17 19 18
Owner	Wilbur E. Barnard
Builder	L.H. & F.W. Lovering
Street	48 Vernon W. 3 Lot No.
Concrete block garage	
12' x 20'	
Estimated cost \$500	

The early building permits were on 3x5 index cards and listed the owner, sometimes the builder, the date, and often a construction cost estimate. Remember, however, that houses built before 1896 had different street addresses than today – all the addresses in the entire city were renumbered that year. This can lead to some confusion when researching that period.

The process I have just described is generally pretty easy. This applies to so-called Recorded Land for the vast majority of property transactions. There are also Registered Land transactions that have gone through Land Court for various reasons. These are a little harder to follow and pretty much require going to the Registry in Cambridge in person.

Some deeds also have a reference to a map or plan stored at the Registry. Some of the more recent plans are available through the Registry's web site, but older plans, say before 1928, can be found in the large Plan Books at the Registry in Cambridge. The Medford Historical Society hopes to make electronic versions of these earlier plans (going back to 1700) available to researchers at our headquarters.

Some Resources Helpful in Researching House Histories

- **Medford Property Descriptions at Medford Online Assessment Database:**
<https://gis.vgsi.com/medfordma>
- **Deeds online at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds:**
<https://www.masslandrecords.com/middlesexsouth/>
- **Middlesex Grantor (seller) and Grantee (buyer) index of deeds at FamilySearch.com (Massachusetts Land Records 1620-1896)**
- **Medford Building Department at City Hall (building records from about 1892 to present – no building records before Medford became a City in 1892)**
- **Plans and maps at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds (some on-line, most early plans stored at Registry of Deeds in Cambridge)**
- **Medford Directories at MHSM, Medford Public Library, and Ancestry.com:**
<https://medfordhistorical.org>
- **Medford Town Annual Reports at MHSM and Medford Public Library:**
<https://medfordhistorical.org>
- **Medford Tax Lists at MHSM and Medford Public Library:**
<https://medfordhistorical.org>
- **Boston City Directories 1789-1900 at Boston Athenaeum Digital Collections:**
<https://www.bostonathenaeum.org/digital>
- **U. S. Census Listings at Ancestry.com**
- **U. S. Newspapers at Newspapers.com (subscription)**
- **19th Century U.S. Newspapers from Gale Primary Sources through Boston Public Library Online Resources**
- **Massachusetts Digitized Real Estate Atlases at State Library of Massachusetts:**
<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/127850>
- **Vital Records of Massachusetts to 1850 (births, deaths, marriages):**
<https://ma-vitalrecords.org>
- **Medford Historical Register Online at Medford Public Library:**
<https://medfordlibrary.org/resources/local-history/medford-historical-register/>
- **Medford Historical Maps on MHSM website:**
<https://www.medfordhistorical.org/mapping-medford/medford-historical-maps-online/>
- **Medford Historical Maps at HistoricMapWorks.com**
- **Medford and Massachusetts Historical Maps online at the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at Boston Public Library:**
<https://www.leventhalmap.org/>
- **Sanborn Insurance Maps of Medford at Library of Congress:**
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location:massachusetts%7Clocation:middlesex+county%7Clocation:medford>

- Family Histories and Connections at FamilySearch.com
- Genealogical Research at Ancestry.com
- Charles Brooks "History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from its first settlement in 1630 to 1855" – Revised, Enlarged, and Brought Down to 1885 by James M. Usher:
https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofm00broo_0

This document was prepared by Will Tenney and was a handout at a lecture entitled "House Histories and Fascinating Finds" given at the Charlotte and William Bloomberg Medford Public Library on Thursday, January 12, 2023.