







# Researching Your House's History

A publication of the Palmyra Community Library, Local History Room  
2020

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Note: Appreciation is given to the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County. Their pamphlet, "Researching Your House's History: Research Guide," was used as a template for the design of this pamphlet.

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## **Overview**

There is a plethora of information in Palmyra and Wayne County that can assist you as you delve into the history of your house. The key is knowing where to look. This pamphlet is designed to get you started. As you dig deeper you may find that it is not only your house you begin to know a little better, but you might find yourself intrigued with those who once lived in your house and the lives they lived. A house history often goes hand in hand with genealogy research and you will find that to discover your house's history you may also become a genealogist. In fact, some have stated that you could interchange the words, "House History" with "House Genealogy." They both work.

You will find very few pictures of your home from long ago. Sometimes your top option is to find pictures of street views, parades, etc. This works best if your home sits on a main street. The Palmyra Community Library has pictures such as these in the Local History Room. More on those resources later.

Have fun. Take a lot of notes and pictures if you can. Be gentle to the resources you are able to touch. Respect the resources and the people who keep them safe. They have rules and they need to be followed.

## **The Palmyra Community Library House & Building History Project**

Over the past century, local historians have contributed to the Local History Room at the library by collecting photographs, histories, scrapbooks and genealogical and family information about Palmyra families. One of the most frequently asked questions the library staff receives is, "I want to learn the history of my house." Past historians and local history contributors did not gather any of that information. The library has decided to make that one of the goals for the library's Local History Room from this year forward. We have established a House & Building History Project that will build, with your help, a file of house histories for future generations. To that end, a form has been included in your pamphlet that you can fill out at your leisure and return to the library. We hope you will enjoy the process.

## Why?

There could be several reasons why you want to learn about your house.

- Historic preservation or designation
- Curiosity about the architecture or structure
- Curiosity about the people who lived there
- Building date
- Ghosts or spirits – yes, some want to know, or believe their home may be inhabited by ghosts or spirits and want to learn more about past residents.

## Tips

Not until early in the 20th century were records typewritten. Many of our old homes predate that so you can expect to see handwritten records in deeds, mortgages, minutes and all kinds of things. Usually, handwriting was quite good, though not always. Additionally, some writing is old style and it might be difficult to decipher at first. Keep at it. The more you read it the easier it becomes. You can learn more by perusing these links. A glossary of select terms found in deeds and other records has been included in this document to assist you.

Tips for Reading Old Handwriting (from Ancestry.com)

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Tips-for-Reading-Old-Handwriting>

Old House Web: "Finding the History in your Home"

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/architecture-and-design/finding-the-history-in-your-home.shtml>

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Terms to know	
<b>Deed:</b>	A deed transfers property from one owner to another.
<b>Grantee:</b>	Buyer.
<b>Grantor:</b>	Seller.

## Let's Get Started

Note: House histories are public record and you can research any house you would like.

Sometimes it helps to talk with former owners, neighbors, and older residents of the town, if possible, to gather an oral history. You can learn a lot just from having a conversation.



### **Start with you!**

Begin with yourself as the current owner and work backwards. The best place to start is by taking a look at your deed. If you don't have it or can't find it, you can locate the deed filed in The Wayne County Clerk's office.

### **Deeds**

Deeds are located at the Wayne County Clerk's Office in Lyons. (See Resources for this and other helpful contact information).

### **Step 1**

Locate the **Index to Grantee/Grantor** book that includes the letter of your last name and the year your purchase took place. For example: Index to Grantee/Grantor H-L 1870-1910.

### **Step 2**

Locate your name. They are listed in alphabetical order under the column, "Grantee." Next to that column is another column, "Grantor." You are the Grantee as you were the purchaser. The index lists the recording date of your deed and what Deed book and page number to look for to find your particular deed. There is also an Index to Grantor/Grantee book so that if you only know the seller but not the buyer, you can look there. All but the earliest indexes are typewritten and easy to follow.

### **Step 3**

Locate the appropriate Deed book and go to the correct page. Your deed will be there. Read through it and use your worksheets to take lots of notes. Remember, **NO PHOTOGRAPHY!** If you need a copy made, the staff is more than happy to accommodate you.

### **Step 4**

Repeat this process to go back as far as you can or as you want. You should be able to follow the deed back to the original land grant.

These steps build your **Chain of Title**.

The deed includes the buyer, the seller, property size and location, neighbors, and the cost, among other items. In some cases a will might be referred to and you can look at wills, as well, at the County Clerk's office.

If a property was mortgaged, there will be a record of that in the County records. You will see the grantor, the grantee, the terms of the mortgage and the amount of the mortgage.

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### **Now What?**

Perhaps you're quite happy with finding your deed and tracing back to an owner or two. Wonderful. Stop here. If you are like most people, though, you will want to know more. Possibly one of the owners of your home had an intriguing name. Was it a single woman? Who

was she and how did she come to own your home? Was one of the owners a person of high esteem in the town? Which owner made an improvement in your home that you especially like and why? Was he a whaler? A doctor? A minister? A shop owner? Were there servants? Were they farmers? Was your lot always that big or did the size change? Did the farmer grow crops, raise animals, have an orchard? Was there a barn on the property? What was your old shed used for?

This is where your search continues and at the same time you may learn a little more about your house through the people who lived there.

### **Nearby**

The Town of Palmyra Assessor's office can be a wealth of information and all it takes is a phone call or a stop in the office, but please call ahead. Every property in Palmyra has a folder and in that folder there is a gold mine of information relating to your house. You are welcome to stop in the office and peruse your property file. If you need copies you can coordinate that with the Assessor. What kinds of information will you find in your folder?

- Pictures. It's quite possible there are pictures going back a number of years, perhaps 30-40 years or so. You may be able to see if your house was a different color, different siding, etc. Any issued permits will be in there for such things as additions, remodels and improvements, new outbuildings, swimming pools, and even the removal of such things as barns. Assessment information is in there. Drawings, maps, property identification information, a copy of your deed, approximate build date, a property description, other buildings on the property, etc., might also be in your folder.

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### **Other Resources**

#### **Federal Census Records**

1850 and prior. There was no home-related information recorded. Beginning with the 1850 census, a column for "Value of Real Estate Owned," was included. From this information you get an idea of how wealthy or poor your property owner may have been.

In the 1860 census an additional column was added to include "Value of Personal Estate," which provides more information regarding wealth.

By 1880 the census includes street name and house number. This information will match your deed. Remember, house numbers and street names can change over time.

The 1900 census identifies additional information such as whether the person is a renter or owns their own home, if it's mortgaged or if it's a farm. If the property is a farm, another census called the Farm Schedule, or Agricultural Census can be viewed beginning in 1850. This census



includes details such as acreage, the number and kinds of animals and crops a person may have had and their value. A partial example of the Agricultural Census has been included in the Samples section of this document.

Record all the information available from the census and other records you find for a property owner.

By 1930, an additional column was included and that was whether or not the occupant had a radio. That could be an indication of affluence.

The 1940 census includes where the occupant lived in 1935, a non-census year.

### **Maps**

Compare one map of one year to another map of a subsequent year. Does your property have a building on it? Example: A map of 1850 may not have a building on it. When you look at a map from 1874 there is now a building on your property. Then you know some type of building was added to your property between 1850 and 1874. That does not necessarily mean the building you have on your property today is that same building. You will need to do further research to answer that question.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps can be found on the **Library of Congress** web page at loc.gov and type in Palmyra, New York and locate the maps.

**Historic Palmyra** – land maps and insurance maps.

**Palmyra Community Library** – land maps.

**Wayne County Clerk's Office** – land maps.

**Wayne County Historian** – land maps.

**Town of Palmyra (Clerk's Office)** – street maps and other maps. NOTE: You are able to view the street maps but they are in fragile condition and require minimal handling. If you would like to view one, contact the Palmyra Historian, via the Palmyra Town Hall who will coordinate usage. The historian will assist and monitor any use.

### **Town and County Directories**

These can be a wealth of information, especially for businesses and the people who owned and ran them. Some directories list inhabitants, too. Check with the County Historian to view. The library and Historic Palmyra, Inc. may also be able to help. Some directories may be online digitally.

### **Newspapers**

The library has many hardcopy issues of local newspapers dating back to the 1800s. They also

exist on microfilm and now are available digitally. To search the newspaper digitally, go to the Palmyra Community Library's web site: [www.palmyracommunitylibrary.org](http://www.palmyracommunitylibrary.org) and click on the Local History tab. From there, scroll down and click the link that says, "Issues of Palmyra Newspapers."

### **Photographs**

Chances are you will not easily find photographs of your property. If your home or its residents were well known, then pictures are more likely to exist. Newspapers may have pictures of your home (rare) or possibly the people who lived there. The Local History Room at the library has Family Photo Files and also Genealogy Files. You are welcome to search those for photographs or other information regarding your home's prior inhabitants.

Also check:

- With the Palmyra Assessor to view your property file. There may be pictures of your house in your folder.
- Historic Palmyra, Inc.
- Palmyra Historian (at the Town Hall)

### **Property Records**

- Palmyra Assessor
- Wayne County Clerk's Office

### **Town minutes**

The town minutes are available on Palmyra's web site at [www.palmyrany.com](http://www.palmyrany.com) and are searchable.

### **Articles, People and General History and Information**

#### **Local newspapers:**

Search digital newspapers online at: [www.palmyracommunitylibrary.org/local-history](http://www.palmyracommunitylibrary.org/local-history) then scroll to the link "Issues of Palmyra Newspapers." You will be able to search by keyword.

#### **Ancestry.com**

Ancestry.com is available at the Palmyra Community Library for free. You will not be able to save your data but you can print and email the data to yourself.



## Fees

Wayne County Clerk's Office: You are not allowed to take pictures. However, you can ask that the staff make you a photocopy of the page(s) you need. Some very old books may be stored offsite and they may not be able to obtain a copy for you at that time. They will send it to you. Photocopies: \$.65/page.

Palmyra Community Library: Photocopies and photographs (no flash) are allowed. The Local History Room is available for research. You will need to sign in at the main circulation desk and sign out when you leave. Note that you may be asked to have your bag looked into before you leave. There is also a surveillance camera in this room. All materials are to be left on the table after you use them for the staff to put away. No food or drink in this room.

Photocopies can be made by you if the item is not too delicate. If in doubt, please ask first. Otherwise, the library can provide a photo or do the photocopying for you. This will depend on the staff's availability. Color copier. \$.15/page, payable in cash or by check at the circulation desk.

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**Publications of Interest** and that are found in the OWWL library system. If you don't have a library card, stop at the Circulation Desk on the first floor to obtain one. They are free but do require a driver's license, identification or piece of mail with your current address on it for proof of residency.

The Palmyra Community Library and the library's Local History Room has numerous books of regional interest.

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book. Palmyra, New York. 1964.

Cook, Thomas L. PALMYRA AND VICINITY. Palmyra, N.Y. 1980[1930]. Includes index.

Hayes, Bonnie J. PALMYRA: Images of America. Arcadia Publishing, SC: 2004.

Light, Sally. HOUSE HISTORIES: A GUIDE TO TRACING THE GENEALOGY OF YOUR HOME. Golden Hill Press, Inc., NY: Spencertown, 1989.

Lotyczewski, Halina. A road to the past: Palmyra's village streets in 1870. Hoffman Foundation Essay. 2000. REF.

McAlester, Virginia Savage. A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN HOUSES: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING AMERICA'S DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE. Alfred A. Knopf, NY: 2015.

Morrison, W.E. MORRISON'S HISTORY OF PALMYRA WAYNE CO., NEW YORK. W.E. Morrison & Co., NY: 1976[1877].

Olson, Erin. A picture perfect past: an architectural study of Palmyra 1840-1900. Hoffman Foundation Essay. 1999. REF.

Troskosky, Betty. PALMYA—A BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. Historic Palmyra, Inc., NY: 1989.

Walker, Lester. AMERICAN HOMES: THE LANDMARK ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE. Workman Publishing Co, NY: 1996.

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## Glossary

**Deed:** A deed transfers property from one owner to another.

**do:** same as the previous entry

**et vir:** and husband

**et uxor or ux:** and wife

**Grantee:** buyer

**Grantor:** seller

**Liber:** book

**No or without issue:** a person who has no living lineal descendants.

**Rod:** 5 1/2 yards or 16 1/2 feet

**Chain:** A **chain** (ch) measures 66 feet, or 22 yards, or 100 links.

**Link:** 7.92 inches

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## Local Resources

### Palmyra Town Assessor

1180 Canandaigua Rd.

Palmyra, NY 14522

315-597-2184

### Preservation Commission

<http://www.palmyrany.com/government/village/preservation/home.htm>

### Historic Palmyra, Inc.

132 Market St.

Palmyra, NY 14522

315-597-6981

[www.historicpalmyrany.com](http://www.historicpalmyrany.com)



**Palmyra Community Library**

402 E. Main St.  
Palmyra, NY 14522  
315-597-5276  
315-597-1375 - fax

**Palmyra Historian**

1180 Canandaigua Rd.  
Palmyra, NY 14522  
315-597-5521

**Wayne County Clerk's Office**

9 Pearl St.  
Lyons, NY 14489  
315-946-7470  
<https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/index.php/county-clerk/>

**Wayne County Historian**

Wayne County NY Public Safety Building  
7376 State Route 31  
Lyons, NY 14489  
315-946-5470  
<https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/index.php/office-of-the-county-historian/>

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**EXAMPLES/SAMPLES/FORMS FOLLOW**

1. Deed example.
2. Deed Log Sample
3. Deed Log Blank Form
4. Map Worksheet
5. Directories Worksheet
4. Agricultural Schedule/Census Information
5. Palmyra Community Library House & Building History Project Form

DATE

1.

Grantor  
Grantee

John Byers, and )  
Lucy, his wife, )  
to )  
Thomas Byers. )  
(Warranty Deed. Dated Apr. 3, 1886. Record-  
ed Apr. 5, 1886 at 8 A. M., in Book 146  
of Deeds at page 431.)

CONSIDERATION, \$1200.00.

Property  
size +  
location.  
Neighbors

Conveys, ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, situate in the  
Town of Palmyra aforesaid, bounded & described as follows,  
Beginning at a stake in the centre of the highway at a corner  
of the farms of & owned by Lorenzo Parkes and John Byers Jr.;  
thence north <sup>50 1/2</sup> 84° west nine chains & ninety six links to the  
east line of the farm owned by Henry R. Durfee; thence south  
6 3/4 - degrees west along line of said Durfee farm twelve chains  
& eighty two links; thence south (86°) eighty six degrees east  
nine chains & ninety four links to a stake in the centre of  
the highway; Thence north <sup>79 1/2</sup> 6 3/4 degrees east along the centre  
of the highway twelve chains and fifty links to the place of  
beginning containing Twelve & Fifty nine hundredths Acres of  
Land.

2.

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In the matter of the Last Will and  
Testament  
of  
Thomas Byers, deceased.

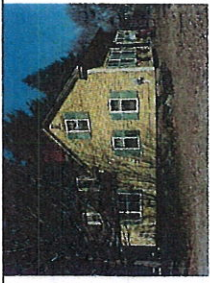
\* Will. Dated May 1,  
1896. Probated Jan.  
\* 16, 1899. Recorded  
Jan. 28, 1899 at 9  
\* A. M., in Book 181  
of Deeds at page 189.  
\*

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Said Will recites among other things as follows:-

Second:- All the rest, residue and remainder of my property,





Street Name  
Town, State

Current Owners:  
Built: 1850

# SAMPLE DEED LOG SAMPLE

Transfer Date	Grantor (Seller)	Grantee (Buyer)	Book & Page	Notes	Price
20 Sept 1980	Harold S. Hammond		7070: 285	31 years to date (grantee)	\$38,500.00
20 May 1930	Ella B. Dunn	Harold S. Hammond Grace E. Hammond	2520: 191	Border burying ground John Bishop, curtesy 50 years	
29 March 1920	Sarah A. Bishop	Ella B. Dunn Irving A. Dunn	2208: 105	10 years	
9 Dec 1918	Mary Fales	Sarah A. Bishop	2165: 236	2 years	
24 April 1885	Leonard Fales	Mary H. Fales	1208: 110	54 years	\$1
18 April 1864	Simon Hubbard	Leonard Fales	680: 549	107 Rods 21 years	\$450

Courtesy: [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)











AGRICULTURAL SCHEDULES: 1850 TO 1900.

747

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

SCHEDULE 3.—PRODUCTIONS OF AGRICULTURE IN \_\_\_\_\_, IN THE COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, IN THE STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_; ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1870.

\_\_\_\_\_, Assistant Marshal.

Post-office: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF AGENT, OWNER, OR MANAGER.	ACRES OF LAND.			PRESENT CASH VALUE.		Total amount of wages paid during the year, including value of board.	LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1870.								PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1870.								
	Improved.	Wood-land.	Unimproved.	Of farm.	Of farming implements and machinery.		Horses.	Mules and asses.	Milch cows.	Working oxen.	Other cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Value of all live stock.	Wheat.		Rye.	Indian corn.	Oats.	Barley.	Buckwheat.	Rice.	Tobacco.
															Spring.	Winter.							
	No.	No.	No.	Dolls.	Dolls.		Dolls.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Dolls.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1870—continued.

Cotton.	Wool.	Peas and beans.	Potatoes.		Orchard products.	Wine.	Produce of market gardens.	Dairy products.			Hay.	Seed.			Hemp.	Flax.	Flaxseed.	Silk cocoons.	Sugar.		Bees.		Forest products.	Value of home manufactures.	Value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter.	Estimated value of all farm productions including produce and additions to stock.	
			Irish.	Sweet.				Butter.	Cheese. <sup>1</sup>	Milk sold.		Clover.	Grass.	Hops.					Maple.	Cane.	Molasses.	Wax.					Honey.
Bales, (450 lbs.)	Lbs.	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	Dolls.	Gals.	Dolls.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Gals.	Tons.	Bu.	Bu.	Lbs.	Tons.	Lbs.	Bu.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Hbds (1,000 lbs.)	Gals.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52

<sup>1</sup>This will include only such cheese as is made upon the farm. Milk sent to cheese factories will be regarded as milk sold off the farm.

1880.

SCHEDULE 2 (7-306).—AGRICULTURE.

“Farms,” for the purpose of the agricultural schedule, include all considerable nurseries, orchards, and market gardens, which are owned by separate parties, which are cultivated for pecuniary profit, and employ as much as the labor of 1 able-bodied workman during the year. Mere cabbage and potato patches, family vegetable gardens, and ornamental lawns, not constituting a portion of a farm for general agricultural purposes, will be excluded. No farm will be reported of less than 3 acres, unless \$500 worth of produce has been actually sold off from it during the year. The

latter proviso will allow the inclusion of many market gardens in the neighborhood of large cities, where, although the area is small, a high state of cultivation is maintained and considerable value produced.

“A farm is what is owned or leased by 1 man and cultivated under his care. A distant wood-lot, or sheep pasture, even if in another subdivision or district, is to be treated as a part of the farm; but wherever there is a resident overseer, or a manager, there a farm is to be reported.

“The amounts of the various crops will be estimated according to the best judgment of the proprietor or manager where no exact account is kept.”

[7-306.]

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 Supervisor's district: No. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 Enumeration district: No. \_\_\_\_\_ }

NOTE A.—The light dotted perpendicular lines, which divide the spaces intended for numbers on this schedule, are intended to separate the units, tens, etc., from each other, and the enumerator should be careful that the figures are written within the small space so formed, thus: 

: 74
421
: 59

 the units in the right-hand

small spaces.  
 NOTE B.—Make an affirmative entry by a slanting line (thus: /) in one of the three columns 2, 3, and 4, according as the fact is in the case of each farm—in column 2, if the occupier is the owner of the farm; in column 3, if he is the tenant at a fixed money rental; in column 4, if he conducts it for a share of the product.

NOTE C.—Enumerators will observe that there are 100 questions relating to each farm, which are arranged in four successive divisions of each schedule page.







SCHEDULE 2.—PRODUCTIONS OF AGRICULTURE IN \_\_\_\_\_, IN THE COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_, ENUMERATED BY ME THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JUNE, 1880, \_\_\_\_\_, ENUMERATOR.

HOPS, 1879.		POTATOES (IRISH), 1879.		POTATOES (SWEET), 1879.		TOBACCO, 1879.		ORCHARDS, 1879.						NURSERIES.		VINYARDS.			MARKET GARDENS.		BEES, 1879.		FOREST PRODUCTS.	
Area.	Crop.	Area.	Crop.	Area.	Crop.	Area.	Crop.	Apple.			Peach.			Total value of orchard products of all kinds sold or consumed.	Acres.	Value of produce sold in 1879.	Acres.	Grapes sold in 1879.	Wine made in 1879.	Value of produce sold in 1879.	Honey.	Wax.	Amount of wood cut in 1879.	Value of all forest products or consumed in 1879.
								Bearing trees.	Bushels, 1879.	Acres.	Bearing trees.	Bushels, 1879.	Acres.											
Acres.	Lbs.	Acres.	Bush.	Acres.	Bush.	Acres.	Lbs.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Dollars.	No.	Dollars.	No.	Lbs.	Gals.	Dollars.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Cords.	Dollars.
70	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

1890.

SCHEDULE NO. 2.—AGRICULTURE.

“‘Farms,’ for the purposes of the agricultural schedule, include, besides what are commonly known as farms, all considerable nurseries, orchards, and market gardens owned by separate parties, which are cultivated for pecuniary profit, and employ as much as the labor of 1 able-bodied workman during the year. Mere cabbage and potato patches, family vegetable gardens, and ornamental lawns, not constituting a portion of a farm for general agricultural purposes, will be excluded. No farm will be reported of less than 3 acres unless \$500 worth of produce has been actually sold from it during the year. The latter proviso will allow the inclusion of many market gardens in the neighborhood of large cities, where, although the area is small, a high state of cultivation is maintained and considerable values are produced.

“A farm is what is owned or leased by 1 man and cultivated under his care. A distant wood-lot or sheep pasture, even if in another subdivision or district, is to be treated as a part of the farm; but wherever there is a resident overseer, or a manager, there a separate farm is to be reported.

“The amounts of the various crops may be estimated

according to the best judgment of the proprietor or manager where no exact account is kept.

“Special instructions as to certain inquiries are contained on the schedule. Those instructions and the following additional explanations should receive the careful attention of all enumerators.

“*Improved* or *unimproved* land should be carefully noted. All land once plowed is *improved* unless afterwards abandoned for cultivation, like the ‘old fields’ of the South. Western enumerators will pay especial attention to this instruction, and not be guided by local customs. Rocky, hill, and mountain pastures are *not improved*, but fields used for pasture as a part of a rotation of crops *are improved*.

“Weeks of hired labor should be obtained by adding together the number of weeks *each* individual of the help employed was at work, thus: 1 man hired by the year should be counted as 52 weeks; another man for 26 weeks as 26 weeks; 2 men in hay and harvest, each 6 weeks, as 12 weeks; and 1 woman in the dairy for a year as 52 weeks; making a total for that farm of 142 weeks of hired labor.

“Farmers should be encouraged to give as full and complete answers to the various questions as possible, and the fact should be impressed upon them that they, above all others, are interested in having the returns of the census as near the truth as it is possible to get them.”





## Palmyra Community Library House & Building History Project (established 2020)

**About:** The Palmyra Community Library, 402 E. Main Street, Palmyra, NY has a Local History Room which includes maps, scrapbooks, genealogical files and photographs, newspaper indexes, local history books, regional and community interest holdings, files and other information that relates to Palmyra's rich history. One of the questions the staff gets regularly is, "How can I find out more about my house?"

The library has established a Palmyra House & Building History Project, where histories of properties in Palmyra are collected and preserved. Space in the library's local history room has been created to hold these histories. An associated pamphlet, "Researching Your Property's History," is a how-to guide to assist you and is available to photocopy. See the circulation desk.

**How:** Fill out this form and return it to the library. This will become a public document and by submitting this form you agree and understand this.

### Your House or Building (PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

1	<b>Address (current. Include house or building #):</b>	<b>Name of property, if applicable:</b>
	<b>Address (if ever known by another address):</b>	
	<b>Parcel ID# or Map#, if known:</b>	

2	<b>Name of Owner (current. Last name 1<sup>st</sup>):</b>	<input type="radio"/> Residence <input type="radio"/> Business <input type="radio"/> Barn, etc. <input type="radio"/> Building, other
	<b>If you are not the current owner, did you ever own this property?    YES    NO</b>	
	<b>Years you have owned this property:</b>	<b>Known or estimated year built:</b>
	<b>Architectural style, if known:</b>	
	<b>Names of any previous owners, if known:</b>	

Address (current): \_\_\_\_\_

3

**Any interesting architectural features about this property?**

**Any known additions or subtractions from this property?**

4

**Any historical or interesting FACTS about your property? Add additional pages, if necessary.**

5

**Any folklore or unproven anecdotes or interesting stories about your property? Add additional pages, if necessary.**

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