

Researching Bridgeport Buildings



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Last updated January 2019

The Bridgeport History Center has a unique variety of materials relating to the rich architectural history of Bridgeport. These include books, surveys of our historic districts, and key documents that have helped place many Bridgeport buildings and districts on the National Register of Historic Places.

This guide is designed to assist with research about city districts and local buildings. The collection comprises both local districts and federal districts. If you are unsure of local neighborhood names within the city, [please refer to this map](#) put out by the City of Bridgeport. If you are unsure of federal names within the city, [please refer to this map](#). Also included in this guide are a number of additional resources meant to provide context for architectural styles, matters related to historic preservation, common terms, and information about nearby areas.

Surveys of Bridgeport Historic Districts

In the 1970s and 1980s, a number of Bridgeport neighborhoods were evaluated for consideration to be entered into the National Historic Register. While not uniform with regards to format, these surveys usually include overviews and histories of the given district, survey forms for select homes in the area, and select photographs. There are often longer summaries of importance for the neighborhood, and lists of homeowners at the time the survey was completed. The Bridgeport History Center owns hard copies of the following. The National Parks Service has digital copies available.

- Barnum/Palliser Historic District
- Bassickville Historic District
- Black Rock Gardens Historic District
- Black Rock Historic District
- Bridgeport Downtown North Historic District
- Bridgeport Downtown South Historic District
- Deacon's Point Historic District
- Division Street Historic District
- East Main Street Historic District
- East Bridgeport Historic District
- Gateway Village Historic District
- Golden Hill Historic District
- Lakeview Village Historic District
- Marina Park Historic District
- Railroad Avenue Industrial District
- Remington Village Historic District
- Remington City Historic District
- Seaside Village Historic District
- Sterling Hill Historic District
- Stratfield Historic District

- William D. Bishop Cottage Develop. Historic District
- Wilmot Apartments

Surveys for Individual Buildings and Other Material

Other Bridgeport buildings and surveys are also represented in the collection. Like the Historic District Surveys above, online links have been included wherever possible.

Additional Sources

Bridgeport History Center Map Collection

The Bridgeport History Center's collection of Bridgeport maps helps to chart the growth of the city of Bridgeport. Included are maps that relate to the National Historic Districts above, as well as older maps that indicate changes made to the city over the years. Please consult our map listing to see if there are any items relevant to your research.

Sanborn Fire Maps

The Sanborn Fire Maps are available both through computer access and microfilm at the Bridgeport History Center. Covering years [X], they offer extensive details of properties in Bridgeport, as their original purpose was to help provide fire insurance documentation.

Plat Maps and Atlases

Books

The following books are held by the Bridgeport Public Library and are meant to offer assistance in understanding architecture, historic preservation, and providing additional context. Represented are reference resources for terminology, books on specific architectural styles common in the city of Bridgeport and surrounding area, and historic preservation information. This is not an exhaustive list of the Bridgeport Library's holdings, and we encourage you to search our catalog for additional material. If "R" is included as the first letter in the call number, that means that the book is in the reference collection; If "HC" is included as the first two letters in the call number that the book is in the History Center.

- Bezat, Barbara and Lathrop, Alan K. *Drafting a house history*. St. Paul : Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, 1979. HC 728.37 B574d
[AVAILABLE ONLINE](#)
- Garrett, Wendell D. *American colonial : Puritan simplicity to Georgian grace*. New York, N.Y. : Monacelli Press, 1995. 724.973 G239a
- Grow, Lawrence and Von Zweck, Dina. *American Victorian : a style and source book*. New York : Harper & Row, 1984. 728.0973 G884a
- Longstreth, Richard W. *The buildings of Main Street : a guide to American commercial architecture*. Walnut Creek, CA : AltaMira Press, 2000. HC 725.2 L857b
- Meister, Maureen. *Arts and crafts architecture : history and heritage in New England*. Hanover : University Press of New England, 2014. 720.97409034 MEISTER

- Rypkema, Donovan D. *Feasibility assessment manual for reusing historic buildings*. Washington, DC : National Trust for Historic Preservation, [200-?] HC 720.28 RYPKEMA
- Weeks, Kay D. *The Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties : with guidelines for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring & reconstructing historic buildings*. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, 1995. HC 720.288 WEEKS
- Whiffen, Marcus. *American architecture, 1607-1976*. Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press, 1981. R 720.973 W572am

Periodicals

The Bridgeport History Center subscribes to the following magazines related to architecture and historic preservation. The most current issues are available on our magazine rack. Back issues are held in our closed stacks, and may be requested at the time of your visit.

- *Connecticut Explored*. v.8, no. 1 Winter 2010- HC Magazines
- *Connecticut preservation news*. v. 12 - New Haven : Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1989-. HC Magazines
- *Preservation*. v. 9- Washington, D.C. : National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1996-. HC Magazines

Databases

The Bridgeport Public Library subscribes to a number of databases that may be accessed through the library. There are additional resources available for free as well.

- [Chronicling America](#) is a historic newspaper database maintained by the Library of Congress. If you are seeking information about special projects or commercial buildings, this may be a useful resource.
- [Historic Mapworks](#) is available through the Bridgeport Public Library System. It contains hundreds of thousands of historic maps, which can be used a number of ways to help locate properties and changes over time.
- [National Register of Historic Places database](#) holds digitized assets of the National Register of Historic Places. You can search within for specific buildings that are on the register and have been made available online.

Websites and Library Guides

There are extensive sources on the Internet dedicated to architecture and historic preservation. This list is meant to offer assistance on other locations that have excellent information. Library guides hosted by other institutions will also have additional websites and resources.

- [American Landscapes Survey](#)
- [Antiquities Act](#)
- [Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office](#)
- [Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic](#)
- [National Historic Preservation Act](#)
- [National Register of Historic Places:](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Places:](#)
- [Old House Research](#) at the Connecticut State Library
- [Preservipedia](#)
- [Preservation Directory:](#)
- [University of Maryland, Historic Preservation](#)