

John B. Coleman Library Resources

Houston Architecture Resources using Sanborn Maps and Census Data

Sanborn Maps

<http://sanborn.umi.com>

Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

American FactFinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html>

HCAD

<http://www.hcad.org/records/real/>

Galveston CAD

<http://www.galvestoncad.org/Appraisal/PublicAccess/>

How to use the HCAD (Harris County Appraisal District site)

First click on 'Property Address' for the search.

There are 2 options, one if you know the exact number, and one for a range.
Start here: enter 1100 to 1300 Main.

How many addresses?

Note that it only brings up the first 10 immediately:

ACCOUNT INFORMATION						
Account Number	Owner Name	Property Address	Zip	Impr Sq Ft	Appraised Value	Market Value
0402700010082	HELMICK BEVERELY	1100 MAIN	77375	12,000	\$328,969	\$328,969
0012430000009	VALIKA REAL ESTATE LLC	1101 MAIN ST	77002	6,156	\$665,400	\$665,400
0340510090008	VASQUEZ ELVIRA	1101 MAIN ST	77587	2,044	\$42,625	\$42,625
0650930050008	CURRENT OWNER	1101 MAIN ST	77506	0	\$0	\$0
0012440000001	MACYS TX I LP	1110 MAIN ST	77002	739,865	\$10,156,519	\$10,156,519
0012430000001	BPF REAL ESTATE	1111 MAIN ST 485	77002	196,072	\$4,326,216	\$4,326,216
0340510090009	GROTE IRMA	1111 MAIN ST	77587	1,126	\$37,745	\$37,745
0261830000008	UNIVERSITY OF ST THOMAS	1117 MAIN ST	77006	2,932	\$0	\$0
0650930050028	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN	1117 MAIN ST	77506	0	\$0	\$0
0340500980009	GARZA ORLANDO & EDNA	1121 MAIN ST	77587	1,650	\$37,662	\$37,662

The first 10 records of the search are displayed. To view all, click below.

[View More](#)

Choose one and explore what sort of information it provides.

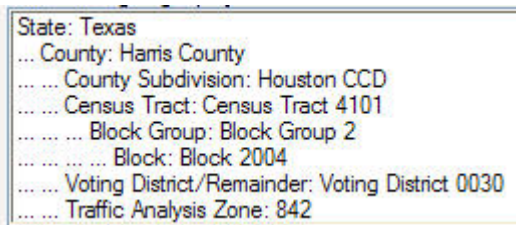
What is the range you need for *this* project? How many houses?

This gives you a good starting point- what year was the house built that you chose?

How to use the American FactFinder site

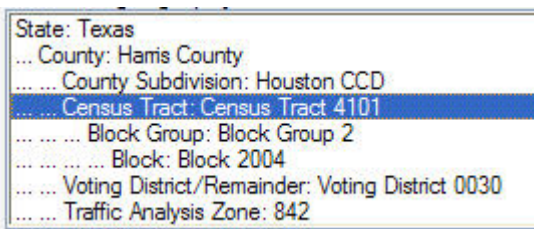
Now we know a target address, go to the FactFinder site. On the left side, there is a link down at the bottom for 'specific address.' Click this, and then enter the address and zip code (77019)

Note the information it provides:



State: Texas
... County: Harris County
... .. County Subdivision: Houston CCD
... .. Census Tract: Census Tract 4101
... .. Block Group: Block Group 2
... .. Block: Block 2004
... .. Voting District/Remainder: Voting District 0030
... .. Traffic Analysis Zone: 842

Now select the Census Tract number:



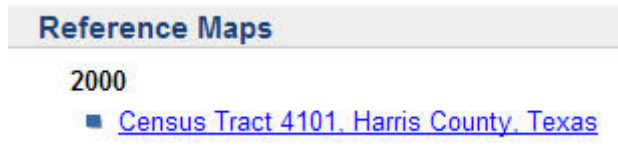
State: Texas
... County: Harris County
... .. County Subdivision: Houston CCD
... .. Census Tract: Census Tract 4101
... .. Block Group: Block Group 2
... .. Block: Block 2004
... .. Voting District/Remainder: Voting District 0030
... .. Traffic Analysis Zone: 842

And click 'ok'

Look at the information this pulls up.

Feel free to explore.

If you click on the reference map:



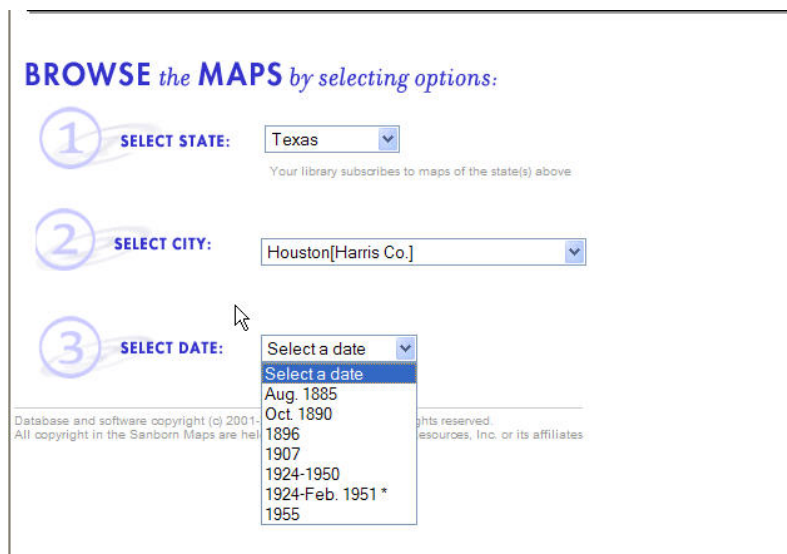
...you'll see a map that you can narrow down to a street level.

How to use the Sanborn Maps

This is a multi-step process:

First select a state (we only have access to Texas) and city (choose Houston).

There is a drop down box by date; look and see the date ranges. Your screen should look like this:

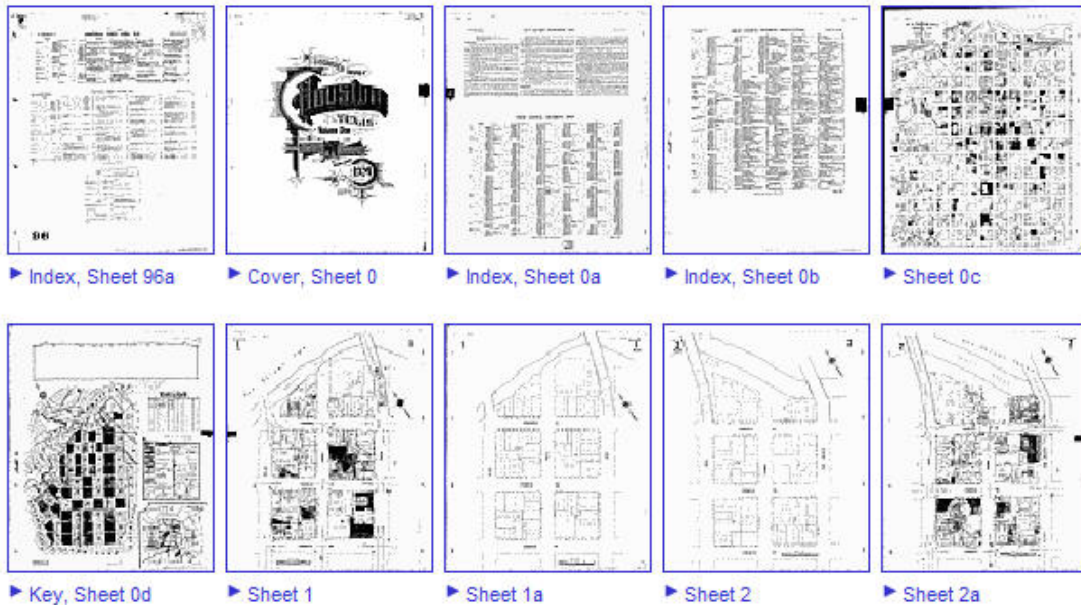


This is where we have to do some detective work. The 1955 date, as we see, is a survey of shopping centers at that time; there were a lot of them being built. Houston was growing.

The asterisk by the second to last date range indicates that this was the result of census data.

Why the range? The first date is when the map was initiated, and the last date is the finish date.

Let's open this range up. You see small pictures, and there are two to focus on; the Key Sheet and Index Sheet:



The Index Sheet is an alphabetical index by street name or building. They have address ranges as well:

		SHEET	
Drew Ave.,	-----	sheet	*83
"	-----	number	*75
"	-----		*84
"	-----	701-725	*76
"	-----	1000-1124	*85
"	-----	1001-1125	*77
"	-----	1400-1524	*86
"	-----	1401-1525	*78
"	-----	1600-1824	*87
"	-----	1601-1825	*79
"	-----	1900-2114	*88
"	-----	1901-2115	*80

If you have ever used a Key Map™ then you understand the concept behind the Key Sheet.

The problem is that we often can be fooled into thinking that this is a Key to the whole city- it isn't.

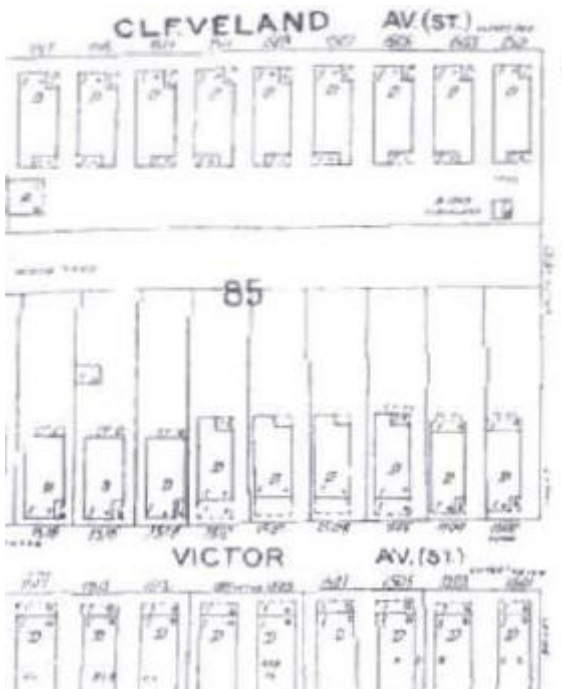
We must realize that there are volumes for different parts; just as in a Key Map™ the pages refer you to which page to turn, the edges of the volume tells you which volume to open up next; this is why you need to have a good idea of where the place is currently- you could spend a lot of time on just one volume.



The volume we need is 5.

Now we can start to look at the index for this street, and find that the sheet we need to open is 514.

Here is the address:



Great!!

Now we can look to see what this street looked like BEFORE this house was built.