



## House Research 101

Step 1: What is already done for you?

- [MACRIS](#)
- Map: [Plan of Newburyport, MA 1851](#)
- [Mary Baker's Interactive Map](#)
- Your Deed

Step 2: Create a spreadsheet to track data: Grantor/Grantee information, book, page, and date

Step 3: Start with the most recent deed and search for the book/page at the [Salem Deeds](#) website. If you don't have your deed, you can search by name or street.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds  
A Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin, Secretary  
John L. O'Brien, Register

Return to Home  
Select Language |  
5/26/2020, 1:16:36 PM

Search Info Recorded Land Registered Land Plans/Engineering Index Books

Name Search Street Search Extended Search **Book & Page Search**

Images available: 1/1/1640 Book 1 Page 1 to Book 38547, Page 306, 05/26/2020  
Indexes available: 1/2/1951 Book 3793 Page 408 to 05/26/2020 Inst 275

Start Date:(mm/dd/yyyy or yyyy) End Date:(mm/dd/yyyy or yyyy)  
12/31/2020

Last Name or Business Name: Type Last Name or Business Name Here  
3 Character Last Name must check off Exact Search Type

First Name: Type First Name Here

Match Type:  Like Names  Exact Names

Type of Search:  Grantor  Grantee  Both Grantor & Grantee

Continuous list with no paging  Do not crop long lines of text

Search

John O'Brien, Register  
SMITHSONIAN  
AWARD WINNING  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS  
for innovative use  
of technology to  
benefit society

Searches  
Recently Recorded Documents  
Special Projects  
Recording Info

*Need help? Click here*

Step 3: Continue using the book/page information in the deeds to work back in time. The goal is to find a deed that does not include a dwelling. (Disclaimer: Not all of the earlier deeds included specific language about the dwelling so other resources may need to be used.)

### Filling in the Gaps

- Old maps. Houses were renumbered around 1915 and street names have changed over time.
  - [Plan of Newburyport 1851](#)
  - [Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1888-1914](#)
  - Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1926, with edits from 1952: NPL
- Index Books at Salem Deeds
  - Search by the name of grantor or grantee. Always start with the most recent sale and then work methodically back in time. Do not jump in time or make assumptions! Use the deed descriptions and abutters throughout the entire process.

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John O'Brien, Register  
SMITHSONIAN AWARD WINNING REGISTRY OF DEEDS for innovative use of technology to benefit society

Need help? Click here

- [Online NPL sources](#)
- [Historic Newspapers](#) through the NPL database. Use the YouTube tutorials if needed.
  - [Lesson 1](#): Search Basics
  - [Lesson 2](#): Special Features
- NPL Archival Center. Sharon Spieldenner is VERY helpful! Contact her!  
[sspieldenner@newburyportpl.org](mailto:sspieldenner@newburyportpl.org)
- Tax records - NPL
  - 1786-1861 at the library
  - 1861-1871 destroyed
  - 1871- available in City Hall basement (not open to public)
- [Vital records](#)
- Probate records- [American Ancestors](#) (Subscription website but early probate documents are free.)
- Family genealogy - NPL and online
- Digitized books
  - Currier's [History of Newburyport 1764-1905](#), Vol 1. This includes great information about street names and dates of construction.
  - Currier's [History of Newburyport 1764-1905](#), Vol 2
  - Currier's [History of Newbury 1635-1902](#)
  - Currier's ["Ould Newbury"; Historical and Biographical Sketches](#)
- Ancestry.com - Subscription required or free at the NPL
- Census reports
- Newburyport Street Directories - NPL
- Architectural Information - [Newburyport Preservation Trust](#)

Interested in a historic plaque? Learn more through the [Newburyport Preservation Trust!](#)

