

# Services

**Visit Us Online**  
[www.library.lapeer.org](http://www.library.lapeer.org)

- ▶ Order or renewbooks
- ▶ Check out eBooks & eAudiobooks\*
- ▶ Stream & download free music & movies\*
- ▶ Check out eMagazines
- ▶ Find great resource web links
- ▶ Manage your library account

## Visit Us In Person

- ▶ Seven locations
- ▶ Wireless printing & 24/7 wireless access
- ▶ Public computers with internet & printing
- ▶ Books, DVDs, audio CDs & more
- ▶ Magazines and newspapers
- ▶ Research assistance
- ▶ Faxing, scanning, copying available
- ▶ Free educational programs
- ▶ Children's Story Time
- ▶ Book clubs
- ▶ Credit & debit cards accepted
- ▶ Public meeting rooms

*The Lapeer District Library serves 60,000 residents throughout Lapeer County. The Lapeer District Library and the Family Literacy Center are partners for literacy.*

\*Patrons residing in Lapeer District Library's legal service area have full access to digital material. Those patrons out of the legal service area have limited digital access. A description of LDL'S legal service area may be found at [www.library.lapeer.org](http://www.library.lapeer.org)

# Locations

## Marguerite deAngeli (Main Branch)

921 West Nepessing Street, Lapeer, MI 48446  
Phone: 810-664-6971 Fax: 810-664-5581  
Monday -Thursday 9-8, Friday & Saturday 9-5,  
Sunday 1-5 (Closed Sundays in Summer)

## Clifford Branch

9530 Main Street, Clifford, MI 48727  
Phone: 989-761-7393 Fax: 989-761-7541  
Monday 2-7, Wednesday 11-4, Thursday 2-7

## Columbiaville Branch

4718 First Street, Columbiaville, MI 48421  
Phone: 810-793-6100 Fax: 810-793-6243  
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10-6

## Elba Branch

5508 Davison Road, Lapeer, MI 48446  
Phone: 810-653-7200 Fax: 810-653-4267  
Tuesday 11-5, Thursday 1-7

## Hadley Branch

3556 Hadley Road, Hadley, MI 48440  
Phone: 810-797-4101 Fax: 810-797-2912  
Monday & Wednesday 10-6,  
Tuesday & Thursday 11-7, Saturday 9-2

## Metamora Branch

4018 Oak Street, Metamora, MI 48455  
Phone: 810-678-2991 Fax: 810-678-3253  
Monday & Friday 9-4, Wednesday &  
Thursday 10-6

## Otter Lake Branch

6361 Detroit Street, Otter Lake, MI 48464  
Phone: 810-793-6300 Fax: 810-793-7040  
Monday 10-4, Tuesday 10-6, Thursday 1-6

[www.library.lapeer.org](http://www.library.lapeer.org)

# Lapeer District Library Genealogy of a House

**Architecture | Maps |  
Surveys | Histories |  
Records | And More...**



William Peter's Mansion, Columbiaville, circa 1910

 **Lapeer  
District  
Library**

*Where your story begins.*

March 2026

## Start Here

### Architecture

Looking at the style of your house, along with its construction techniques and materials, may help you narrow down the years in which it was built. For examples of historic houses built in Michigan, check out these books at the DeAngeli Library:

- *Architecture in Michigan* by Wayne Andrews (720.9774 An)
- *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia & Lee McAlester (728.0973 Mca)
- *Great Architecture of Michigan* by John Gallagher (720.9774 Gal)

### Books available at other libraries include:

- *Identifying American Architecture* by John J. G. Blumenson
- *Buildings of Michigan* by Kathryn Bishop Eckert

### Word of Mouth

Neighbors may know some of the previous owners and other details about your house's history, such as when additions or other work may have been completed. You should try to verify any information you learn this way, since memories are not always accurate. However, these conversations may provide enough clues to steer you in the right direction.

### Register of Deeds

This county office is responsible for keeping track of property ownership. Start your search by entering your name or the name of the person who sold you the house. From there, you should be able to find out who sold the house to that person, for how much, and when, allowing you to create a chain of ownership.

You will also find a legal description of the property, which can be used to search for additional information.

Search the Lapeer County Register of Deeds Office online at:

- [https://www.lapeercounty.org/landweb.dll/\\$/](https://www.lapeercounty.org/landweb.dll/$/)

You may login as a guest. If you need more information you may contact the Deeds office at:

- (810) 667-2011.

## Maps & Surveys

### Plat Books & Atlases

Plat books are maps that document property ownership. The **DeAngeli Library** has Lapeer County plat maps from 1874, 1921, 1937, and 1966 to the present. The **Lapeer County Genealogical Society** and the Register of Deeds Office also have additional plat maps. You can find subdivision plat maps online at:

- <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bcc/sections/landsurvey/subdivisions/subdivisions>

Lapeer County atlases for the years 1874, 1893, 1906, and 1921 can be viewed online at:

- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Search for "Lapeer County Atlas," then click on "Full View" to see the atlas you want.

### Land Patents

The Bureau of Land Management maintains more than 9 million historic land documents, including survey plats, field notes, homestead patents, military warrants, and railroad grants, created after the Land Ordinance of 1785 authorized the transfer of public lands to private individuals.

These records are available online at:

- [www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx)

### Rural Property Inventory

In the 1930s, the federal Works Progress Administration surveyed rural properties in Michigan and other states, documenting building types, construction dates, materials, condition, utilities, dimensions, and land use.

Rural Property Inventories for Lapeer County cover 1936–1942 and are available at the:

- **Archives of Michigan: (517) 373-3559.**

### Fire Insurance Maps

Fire insurance maps, often called "Sanborn maps," are a valuable source of information about older buildings. They show details such as exterior materials, roofing types, and building layout.

These maps can be viewed at the **Archives of**

**Michigan in Lansing at (517) 373-3559** or online at:

- [https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location\\_state:michigan%7Clocation\\_county:lapeer+county](https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location_state:michigan%7Clocation_county:lapeer+county)

## Histories & Records

### Local Newspapers

If your house is historic or has experienced a fire or other significant event, there may be an article in the local newspaper. The **DeAngeli Library** has Lapeer County papers for most years on microfilm. These are not indexed, so it's best to search only if you have specific dates to start with.

### Property Tax Records

For homes built before 1960, tax records can provide clues about construction dates. While they don't directly indicate when a building was built, a sudden increase in assessed value often signals construction or additions. Contact your township hall for tax records and assessed values.

### County Histories

Common in the 19th century, county histories often included biographical statements, portraits, and pictures of residences. The DeAngeli Library has several copies of **History of Lapeer County (977.442 Hi)**, which can also be viewed online:

- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

### Historical Houses

Lapeer County has 26 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. You can view them online at:

- <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/mi/Lapeer/state.html>

### City Directories

City directories are usually arranged by street address and provide names and sometimes occupations of past residents. They can be viewed at the **Library of Michigan: (517) 373-1300**. The **DeAngeli Library** also has some Lapeer County directories from 1927 to the present.

### Good Luck!

Researching the history of your house is like a treasure hunt, so you'll need some luck! For questions about this guide, call the reference desk at **DeAngeli Library: (810) 664-6971**.