



Researching Building Permits



LANDMARKS INFORMATION SERIES • NO. 3

LOCATION

Landmarks Commission
of Kansas City, MO
414 E. 12th Street,
26th floor City Hall
phone: (816) 513-2902
fax: (816) 513-2899
landmarkcommission@kcmo.org
www.kcmo.org

TIME

City Hall is open from
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

Please call the Landmarks Office
at (816) 513-2902 to make an
appointment to research your
building permit.

Where are the Building Permits?

1900 to 1970: Original Permits are located the Landmarks Office, 26th floor, City Hall. These permits are also on microfilm in Development Services on the 5th floor of City Hall

1970 to Present: Development Services, 5th floor, City Hall

1986 to Present: Online on in KIVA permitting system at
<http://kivaweb.kcmo.org/kivanet/2/permit/index.cfm>

To research permits in Development Services ask to make an appointment with a Permit Specialist at (513-1500, #3).

Researching Permits

Permits are filed by street name (31st, Main, etc.), street type (St., Terr, Blvd., etc), street direction (E, W, NE, etc.) then street number. A Landmarks staff member can assist you in finding your permit.

Permit No.	9741
Date	4-19-1910
Location	1-3-5-7-9-11-13-15 S. Aske
Appl. No.	
REMARKS:	27-4 Apt Flats 66' X 49' 2514 Brick-Stone Cora. Pt.
Expires	9-1-1910
Amount	815.00
Owner	E. A. Johnson
Builder	" "
Arch.	

Typical Early Building Permit

CAN'T FIND YOUR PERMIT?

Here are some tips for researching permits.

Do you think the building was constructed before 1900?

Kansas City originally published permits in local papers before 1900. If you think your building was constructed before this date, you may have to research the local papers at the Central Library at 14 W. 10th Street to find a date.

Was the building constructed before the land was annexed into Kansas City?

Many buildings were constructed before the City annexed the property. Kansas City would only retain permits for work after annexation. The Landmarks Office has a map showing the areas of annexation and date of annexation to help you determine when your property was annexed into the city.

Has the street name changed for the property you are researching?

Street names change over time as areas are annexed or streets are renamed in honor of an individual, place or event. Checking old maps may give an indication of a street name change. The Landmarks office contains plat maps from 1886, 1891, and 1907. Sanborn maps are also available at the Central Library and online at the library website at www.kclibrary.org.

Did you check all of the permits for the block?

A common practice in the past was to issue a single permit for multiple buildings. For example, a permit may be issued for 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, and 1908 Main Street to construct five dwellings. This type of permit would be filed under the first address on the permit. So check the permits for the entire block to see if your address is on another permit.

Is your building located on a corner?

Many times when permits are issued, especially on a corner lot, the final address for the building after construction is different than the one on the permit. For example a building located at 1800 Walnut Street may have an original permit for 100 E. 18th Street.

Is there a permit on the block that you are researching that does not match up with any buildings on the block?

Similar to corner lots, many times when permits are issued, the final address for the building after construction is different than the one on the permit. Sometimes it is necessary to match up permits for all the buildings on a block and see if a permit does not match up with an existing building. If you find a permit that does not match to a building, you may have found your permit. Verify if the permit is correct by matching it up with the water permit for the building.

The Landmarks Staff is available to assist you in your research efforts.

If you have specific questions, please call the Landmarks Office.

We are happy to help owners with the preservation of Kansas City's historic treasures.