

Where to find Property Information

by Christine Bruzzese

Property history. The City Register office in each borough is the primary source for locating details on ownership, sales, mortgages, liens, etc. Contact the City Register offices by telephoning 311 or 1-800-NEW YORK. Please note that in the borough of Staten Island (Richmond County), the County Clerk's office handles these matters. Also, check the Department of Finance website at www.nyc.gov/dof. Click on the link for Property to learn more.

Real estate valuation. Department of Finance issues the *Property Tax Annual Report* containing general statistics on property values and taxes. The City Hall Library maintains copies of this publication from 1990 to the present. Municipal Archives keeps copies of assessed valuations of individual properties from 1789 to 1979. See the Department of Records website at www.nyc.gov/records for further information on Archives holdings.

Historical Publications *Annual Reports* of the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments, Tax Department and Tax Commission as this agency was variously known, are kept in the City Hall Library, dating from 1873 to 1975. These publications offer statistics on real estate tax, valuations and tax-exempt property. Also, the city has published various reports on taxation, tax incentive programs and related topics that may be consulted.