

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY FACT SHEET

Newspapers & Microfilm Center

Telephone: (215) 686-5432 Email: erefNEWS@freelibrary.org

Directories housed at the Newspaper Dept, Free Library of Philadelphia:

Cole's cross reference directory: Philadelphia 1973 – 2007 (one year from present edition)

Keystone Telephone Directory

Philadelphia Address Telephone Directory

Philadelphia City Directories

Philadelphia White and Yellow Pages

1902 – 1943
1927 – 1969
1785 – 1936
1879 – 2016

• Telephone Directories

- o Telephone Directories are organized:
 - White pages are ordered alphabetically by name of resident or business.
 - Yellow pages list businesses in order by subject.
 - Address directories are in order alphabetically by street, then numerically by street address.
- o These directories can be used to determine either the name or address of the resident of a property.
- The Free Library of Philadelphia Newspaper & Microfilm Center holdings:
 - Philadelphia telephone white and yellow pages, 1879-2016.
 - Philadelphia address telephone directories cover 1927-1969.

City Directories

- o The Philadelphia City Directories are an alphabetical listing by name of residents of the city, including occupation and address.
- Published between 1785 and 1936. We do not hold directories for the years 1928 or 1931-1934. The information in a published directory is current for the previous year.
- o Complete runs of city directories are available on microfilm in the Newspaper & Microfilm Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Archives, and Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Cole's Cross Reference Directory

- o Cole's Cross Reference, or "Reverse Directory," lists streets alphabetically with addresses in numerical order. Listings usually include the resident's name, phone number and length of time at that address.
- Copies are available on microfilm from 1973-2007 in the Newspaper & Microfilm Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

General Information:

By checking a directory, a researcher can determine the years a resident occupied a property. If an approximate time span is known for a person's residence at a property, it is helpful to start with a broad search of the beginning, middle and end years. Then narrow the search from there. Names of the owners of a property can be ascertained from the chain-of-title/property deeds.

Contact Information:

1. The Genealogical Society of PA, 2100 Byberry Rd., Suite 111, Philadelphia, PA 19116 Phone: (267) 686-2296; Email: info@genpa.org; Webpage: http://www.genpa.org

2. The Historical Society of PA, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 Phone: 215-732-6200; Fax: 215-732-2680; Webpage: http://www.hsp.org/node/2034

3. Newspaper and Microfilm Center, Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: 215-686-5432; Email: erefnews@freelibrary.org; Webpage: www.freelibrary.org

4. Philadelphia City Archives, 548 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 Phone: 215-685-9401; Email: archives.info@phila.gov ; Website: phila.gov/departments/department-of-records/city-archives/