



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	1902 – 1943
Philadelphia Address Telephone Directory	1927 – 1969
Philadelphia City Directories	1785 – 1936
Philadelphia White and Yellow Pages	1879 – 2007

• **Telephone Directories**

- 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.
- 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, 1879-2007.
 - Philadelphia address telephone directories cover 1927-1969.

• **City Directories**

- 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.
- 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**

- 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, 2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-3010
Phone: (215) 545-0391; Email: ExecDir@GenPA.org; Webpage: <http://www.genpa.org/GSPInquiryProcs2.html>
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, 3101 Market Street, Suite 150, Philadelphia, PA, 19104
Phone: 215-685-9401; Email: archives@phila.gov; Website: <http://www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm>