

## How to research the owners of your home

To find out who has lived in your house, go to [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net) and register for an account. It is free.

If you live in the city, select “Baltimore City” from the dropdown at the top left of the screen. Then, look on the left sidebar and choose to search by address.

The screenshot shows the Baltimore City website header with the city seal and contact information for Lavinia G. Alexander at the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for HOME, SELECT NEW COUNTY, RELATED LINKS, HELP!, CONTACT US, and END SESSION. The main heading is "Search Baltimore City Land Record Indices". On the left is a sidebar menu with options like Block, Address, Instruments, Individual Search, Corporation Search, Corporation Soundex, Individual Soundex, SDAT, Block Books, Active Indices, Retired Indices, and Plats.net. The main content area has a "Jump to new volume" section with input fields for Clerk, Book, and Page, and buttons for Go! and Clear. Below that is a "Street Address Search" section with a date range of Jul. 1, 1972-May. 23, 2016 (verified through May. 18, 2016). A "PLEASE NOTE" explains that search returns only records where the street address was entered into the Remarks field. There is a "\* Required fields" section with input fields for House No. and Street, and a note: "Do not enter street types (avenue, street, lane, etc.).". Below that are dropdown menus for AS (set to Both), Date Range (set to All dates), and Sort By (set to Date Ascending). At the bottom are Search! and Clear buttons.

This search will return all transactions on your home that date later than 1972. The ones labeled “Deed” are the ones transferring the ownership of the home. From this list you can determine all the people who owned your home during that period.

**MDLANDREC** | A Digital Image Retrieval System for Land Records & Indices for Baltimore City

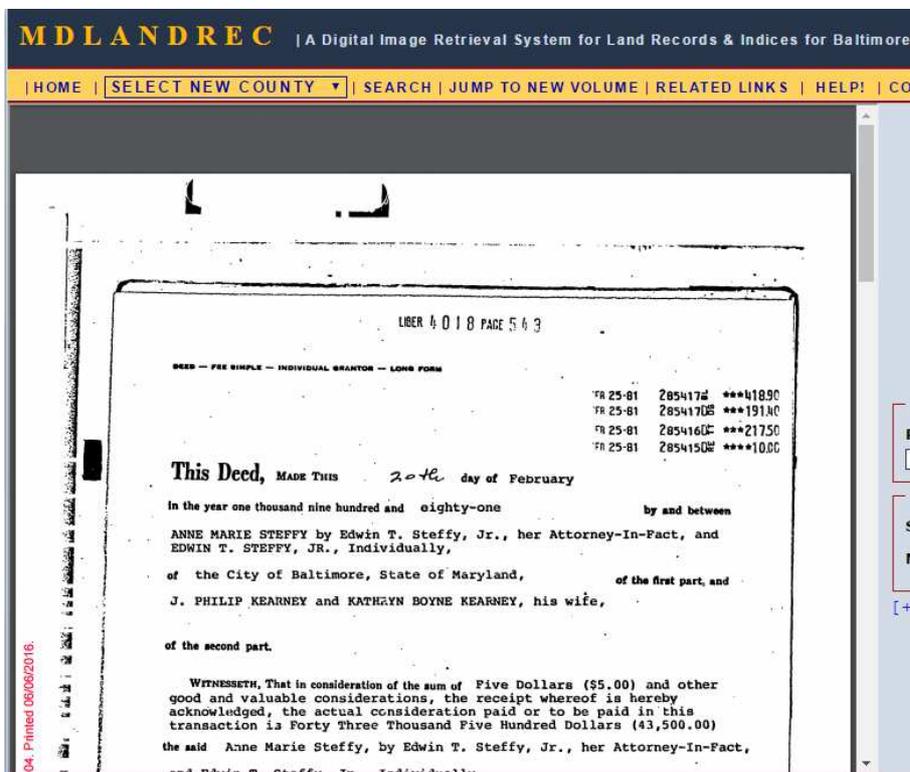
| HOME | [SELECT NEW COUNTY](#) | SEARCH | JUMP TO NEW VOLUME | RELATED LINKS | HELP! | CONTACT US | END SESSION |

Search Results for:  
 County: BC House No.: 417 Street: Westgate AS Grantor/Grantee for all dates  
 Displaying 49 records of 49 total records.  
 Displaying 1-49 of 49 records.  
 [NEW SEARCH]  
 You have 0 record(s) in your marked list.

[REMOVE all](#) entries from marked list  
 [DISPLAY](#) marked list  
 [PRINT](#) full search results

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Recorded	Grantor/Grantee	Instrument Type	Book/Page	Remarks
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantor: STEFFY, ANNE M BY ATTY	DEED	Book 4018, pp. 543-544	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantor: STEFFY, EDWIN T JR	DEED	Book 4018, pp. 543-544	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantee: KEARNEY, J PHILIP	DEED	Book 4018, pp. 543-544	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantee: KEARNEY, KATHRYN B	DEED	Book 4018, pp. 543-544	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantor: KEARNEY, J PHILIP	MTGE	Book 4018, pp. 545-548	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantor: KEARNEY, KATHRYN B	MTGE	Book 4018, pp. 545-548	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD BLOCK: 8035
<input type="checkbox"/>	1981-02-25	Grantee: STEFFY, EDWIN T JR	MTGE	Book 4018, pp. 545-548	NES WESTGATE 834-1 1/4IN SE EDMONDSON K/A 417 WESTGATE RD

To go back farther than the oldest "Deed" entry shown, click on the Book/Page link to go to the court record book containing a copy of that deed.



Somewhere in that deed, you will see language that says, “Being the same lot of ground conveyed...” That language will tell you the previous sale or other transaction on the property. Sometimes this may consist of a refinanced mortgage, a change in title, or even transfer of the original ground rent. After you have read a few of these you will learn to tell the difference!

of beginning. The improvements on said lot of ground being now known as No. 417 Westgate Road.

BEING the same lot of ground in a Deed dated March 10, 1954, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City in Liber M.L.P. No. 9423, folio 266 from Bernard J. Russell to Anne Marie Steffy and Edwin T. Steffy, Jr., as joint tenants and not as tenants in common.

The entry above points you to a book M.L.P No. 9423, page 266, in 1954. Use this citation to find the previous transfer of the property. Select “Jump to a new volume” at the top of the screen and enter the book/page information there.

The screenshot shows the MDLANDREC website interface. At the top, it says "MDLANDREC | A Digital Image Retrieval System for Land Records & Indices". Below that is a navigation bar with "HOME", "SELECT NEW COUNTY" (with a dropdown arrow), "SEARCH", "JUMP TO NEW VOLUME", and "RELATED LINKS". The main content area has a section titled "Jump to new volume" with a form containing three input fields: "Clerk" with "MLP" entered, "Book" with "9423" entered, and "Page" with "266" entered. There are "Go!" and "Clear" buttons. Below the form is a "NOTE: Search returns single page." At the bottom of the page, there is a dark header with "BALTIMORE CITY SUPERIOR COURT (Land Record.. 1 / 2)" and a refresh icon. The main body of the page shows a document with some text, including "that lot of ground situate in Baltimore City".

Now you will have another deed to examine. Continue to follow the references back.

If you live in the county, select “Baltimore County” from the dropdown at the top left of the screen. Baltimore County apparently has no indices by address, so you’ll have to get started another way.

You can choose to locate your own purchase deed, by using the individual search and restricting your search by date. The results list will look just like the list above, showing Deeds as well as other transactions such as mortgage refinances. Select your deed to look for the citation of the previous sale.

Alternatively, you can select “SDAT” from the left sidebar and locate your property in the real property assessment database, searching by street address. This search returns the current assessment information for the property, as well as transfers made after August 1, 1964.

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services

**MARYLAND** .gov DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION

HOME ABOUT REAL PROPERTY BUSINESSES FORMS & APPLICATIONS STATS & REPORTS SERVICES

Real Property Data Search ( w1) [Guide to searching the database](#)

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If you experience difficulties using this system try either Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox to complete a successful data search.

Select the county in which to search:

Select the search method to proceed:

[Continue](#) ➔

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services

**MARYLAND** .gov DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION

HOME ABOUT REAL PROPERTY BUSINESSES FORMS & APPLICATIONS STATS & REPORTS SERVICES

Real Property Data Search ( w1) [Guide to searching the database](#)

Enter Premises Address for BALTIMORE COUNTY

Street Number:   
Street Number is not required.

Street Name:   
Do not enter street name suffixes (Avenue, Street, Lane, etc.)

[New Search](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

Real Property Data Search ( w1) [Guide to searching the database](#)

Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

[New Search](#)
[Previous](#)

<a href="#">View Map</a>	<a href="#">View GroundRent Redemption</a>	<a href="#">View GroundRent Registration</a>	
<b>Account Identifier:</b>	District - 01 Account Number - 0119320800		
<b>Owner Information</b>			
<b>Owner Name:</b>	SMO INCORPORATED	<b>Use:</b>	COMMERCIAL
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	C/O WILLS GROUP 6355 CRAIN HWY LA PLATA MD 20646-4267	<b>Principal Residence:</b>	NO
		<b>Deed Reference:</b>	/26216/ 00542
<b>Location &amp; Structure Information</b>			
<b>Premises Address:</b>	5317 EDMONDSON AVE 0-0000	<b>Legal Description:</b>	LT SES EDMONDSON AV 5317 EDMONDSON AVE

Scroll down to the section labeled "Transfer Information," and you will see the previous sale of the property including the book and page information where it says "Deed1." Take this book and page information, return to mdlandrec.net. and search for that book and page.

Transfer Information			
<b>Seller:</b> SMO REALTY LLC	<b>Date:</b> 09/28/2007	<b>Price:</b> \$0	
<b>Type:</b> NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER	<b>Deed1:</b> /26216/ 00542	<b>Deed2:</b>	
<b>Seller:</b> SHELL OIL COMPANY NEW YORK DATA	<b>Date:</b> 12/11/2000	<b>Price:</b> \$353,603	
<b>Type:</b> ARMS LENGTH IMPROVED	<b>Deed1:</b> /14857/ 00107	<b>Deed2:</b>	
<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>	
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>	

## Search Baltimore County Land Record Indices

» **Instruments**

- » Individual Search
- » Corporation Search
- » Corporation Soundex
- » Individual Soundex

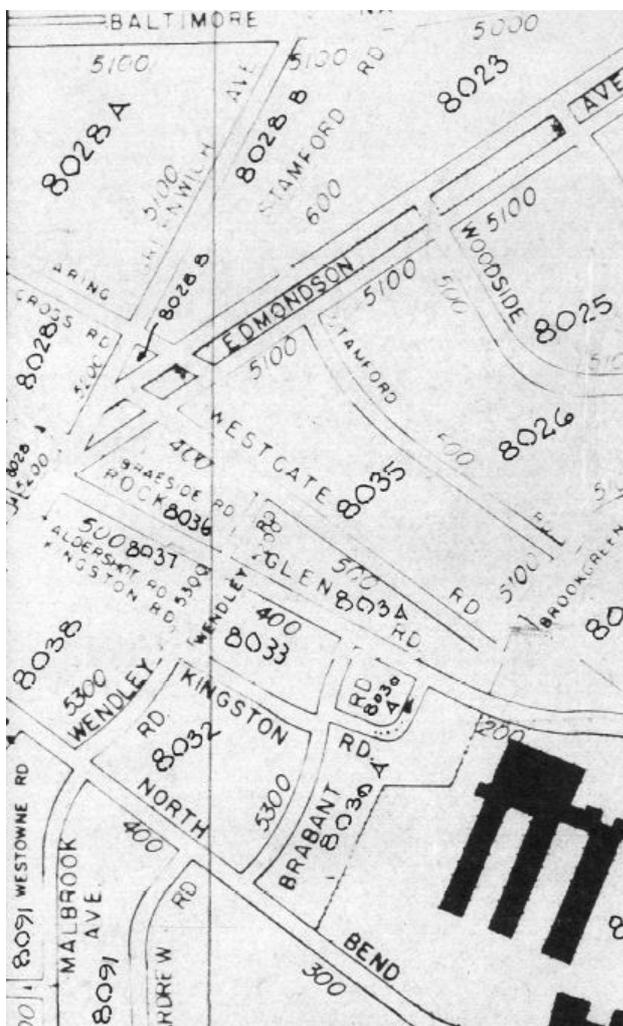
Jump to new volume

Clerk 
 Book \* 
 Page \*

**NOTE:** Search returns single page.

This will show you a deed, and in the deed you can find the clause that specifies when the property was previously transferred, the same as the example above for a city deed.

If it happens that you have owned your house since before the indices begin, then perhaps you still have your settlement papers from your purchase, and can locate the deed with its citation of the previous transfer. If you are in the city, you can also look at the block books (linked on the left side of the Baltimore City search page), which are a very interesting source of information although they can be quite hard to read. You'd need to know which block you live in; this map might help. (The vertical line is the city/county boundary.)



You can also browse through the “Active Indices” to city deeds, found on the left side of the Baltimore City search page.

Then in the Series drop down select either a grantor (seller) or grantee (buyer) index. If you are trying to find your own deed, you’d be the grantee. Clicking “Search” will return a long list of index volumes. Page forward till you find the index including the year you bought your home.

**BALTIMORE CITY SUPERIOR COURT**  
**(Land Records, Grantee Index)**  
**1851-1982**  
[\[New Search\]](#)

Displaying 451-600 of 880 records.  
[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#)

Dates ▲	Description ▲	Source ▲	Accession No. ▲
1959-1959	F-L. 1959/01-1959/04		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_450</a>
1959-1959	M-R. 1959/01-1959/04		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_451</a>
1959-1959	S-Z. 1959/01-1959/04		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_452</a>
1959-1959	A-E. 1959/05-1959/08		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_453</a>
1959-1959	F-L. 1959/05-1959/08		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_454</a>
1959-1959	M-R. 1959/05-1959/08		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_455</a>
1959-1959	S-Z. 1959/05-1959/08		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_456</a>
1959-1959	A-E. 1959/09-1959/12		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_457</a>
1959-1959	F-L. 1959/09-1959/12		<a href="#">MSA_CE166_458</a>

Locate the volume that includes your last name and the months in which you bought your home, and select the link in the right column to open the pages of the index.

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1959		Faa - Fah					J. F. C.	
DATE	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	Instrument	Location of Property	No. Folio			
					No.	Folio		
April 2	Rader	Ira G.	Brothy S. Weintrent	Deed	N D Great Rd	530	537	
Feb 17	Rodger	M. Joseph Pietke	Mitchells for h ans of Belts. Co.	Rel	M & F 4475-413	563	111	
" 19	Rader	Samuel Ruth G.	Land Record Holding Co.	Asst	7110 Brookhill Rd	565	57	
" 21	Fabrizio	Samuel M Mary	Equitable Life Assurance Society of N Y	Std-Rel	6423 Brookway St	582	314	
April 27	Paggio	Rosario M Gonetta	Mattunely and J. L. Lane	Std-Rel	3613 Park Heights Ave	43	155	

You will have to do a lot of paging or skipping forward to get to the right pages, but you will be rewarded with a book and folio number where you can find the deed.

Baltimore County has similar Active Indices to grantors and grantees to help you get that first book/page citation.

Good luck!