

Embarking on a journey to uncover your home's history can be both enlightening and rewarding.

Here's a concise guide to get you started.

## About

**The Historic District Study Committee (HDSC)** researches and evaluates proposed historic districts to support the preservation of Royal Oak's architectural and cultural heritage.

Established under Ordinance § 82-1, the committee plays a vital role in identifying and protecting historically significant areas within the city.

The committee is composed of seven members, appointed by the City Commission, who serve staggered three-year terms.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Royal Oak City Hall (203 S. Troy Street), Conference Room 116.

For more information or to get involved, contact Carol Schwanger, Staff Liaison, at [CarolS@romi.gov](mailto:CarolS@romi.gov).



Royal Oak  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT  
STUDY COMMITTEE**



**UNCOVER  
THE STORY OF YOUR  
ROYAL OAK HOME**



PREPARED BY THE  
**Historic District  
Study Committee**

**Ever wondered  
about the tales your  
home could tell?**

## Dive into Property Records

Trace the lineage of your property through official records available through the **Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds**.

This office maintains records of land transactions, including deeds and mortgages. Accessing these documents can help you establish a chain of ownership, revealing previous owners and significant changes to the property. Call 248-858-0581 or visit [oakgov.com](http://oakgov.com) and search "land records."

## Explore the History Room

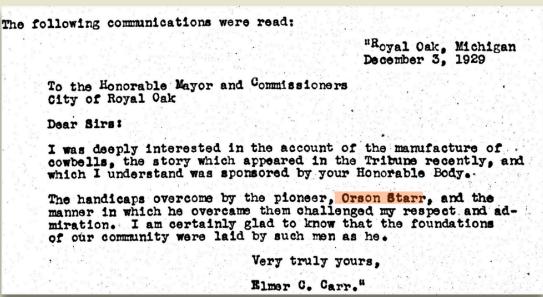
In the **Royal Oak Public Library's Local History Room** you'll find city documents, yearbooks, city directories, old phone books, and Bresser's directories. These materials provide insights into past residents and the evolution of your neighborhood. Call 248-246-3727 or visit 222 E 11 Mile Road.

Starnaman Saml R (Evelyn M) s1smn Bohn  
Alum (Det) h3010 N Connecticut av  
Starnes Buster (Kathleen) millwright  
Chrysler (Det) h3010 N Wilson av  
--Jas H mach Udylite Corp (Det) r3010  
N Wilson av  
--Ray D mach Udylite Corp (Det) r3010  
N Wilson av  
**Starr** Bessie A (wid John A) h3122 Crooks  
rd  
--Bill J (Helen) s1smn Montgomery Ward  
h467 W Barrett av (RO Twp)  
--Clara E h3123 Crooks rd  
--Edwin C (Eliz P) supvr Reichhold Corp

## Embrace Digital Resources

Expand your research with online tools:

- View the **official minutes of the Royal Oak City Commission**, dating back to the city's incorporation in 1891. Visit [romi.gov/minutes](http://romi.gov/minutes).



- The library digitized its holdings of **The Daily Tribune** microfilm from November 1877 – September 2015. Users can search by name, address, keyword, or browse by date. It's particularly helpful for users

### The Starr Cow Bells

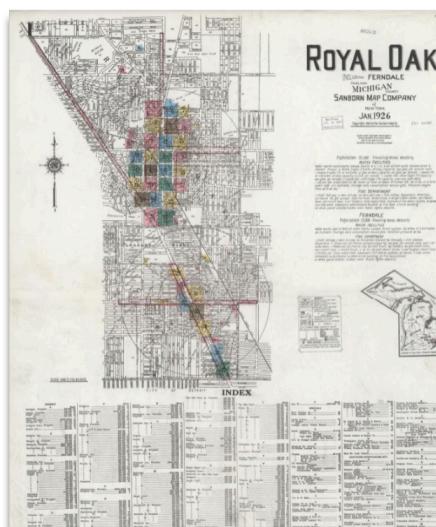
Verses composed by Miss Ella E. Starr, 3123 North Main street, granddaughter of Orson Starr, whose cow bell factory was Royal Oak's first industry, have been recited at historical programs. They were presented before the Oakland County Pioneer society, and were featured at an historical meeting of Oak Ridge Woman's club in the Starr homestead.

trying to glean a picture of what life was like in Royal Oak in the past. Visit [ropltribune.org](http://ropltribune.org). For assistance in accessing or searching the databases, contact the Adult Reference Desk at (248) 246-3727.

## Find Your House on A Map

Sanborn Maps and historical aerial photos can help reveal past structures, property boundaries, and changes to your home and neighborhood over time.

- **Sanborn Maps** can be found on the Library of Congress website at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov).
- **Aerial photos** between 1949 and 1997 can be found at [romi.gov/aerial](http://romi.gov/aerial)



## Utilize Genealogical Tools

Delve deeper into the lives of former residents.

- The **Ancestry Library Edition** is accessible within the Royal Oak Public Library, this database allows you to search U.S. Census records, military records, vital statistics, and more. It's a treasure trove for both novice and seasoned researchers. The Ancestry Library Edition is available for free at the Royal Oak Public Library, 222 E 11 Mile Road.

	Magazine	2 P. W.	
34			
35	125 180 Star Ober	67 m N	Farmers
36	— Maria	62 E N	Keeping House
37	— Vernon	18 M N	Oil Lamp
38	— Bob Albre	22 3 N	Domestic Journal
39	127 184 Stein David	26 7 N	Farmers
40	— Lottie	26 N	Keeping House
	No. of dwellings, 7	No. of white families, 7	No. of males foreign born, 0
	" " families, 7	" " colored males, 0	" " females, 0

**Embarking on historical exploration requires patience and curiosity. Each document and record you uncover adds a piece to the puzzle, bringing the rich tapestry of your home's past to life.**

**Happy researching!**