



Introduction to Texas City Directories

Archives and Information Services
Second Saturday Workshop Series
June 8, 2019

What this session covers

- What you can find in city directories
- How to access TSLAC's city directories
- Other Texas city directory resources



What's in a city directory?

- It varies a great deal! Most common pieces of information include:
 - Name (individual name or business name).
 - Address.
 - Telephone number.
 - Name of spouse.
 - Occupation.
 - Whether the home is owned or rented.



What's in a city directory?

Berlocher, J, avenue C, between 23d and 24th streets.
Berchtold, H, bootmaker, 23d street, between avenue B and C—
residence avenue C, between 22d and 23d streets.
Bethge, F. J, upholsterer, avenue D, between 22d and 23d streets.
Beug, C, carpenter, avenue M, between 17th and 18th streets.
Beyer, Otto, printer, avenue G, between 13th and 14th streets.

Clipping from Galveston City Directory, 1859. Source: Portal to Texas History.
TSLAC also owns this volume.

- Name.
- Occupation.
- Business address.
- Residence address.
- No spouses listed.
- No phone number (too early).
- No exact address.



What's in a city directory?

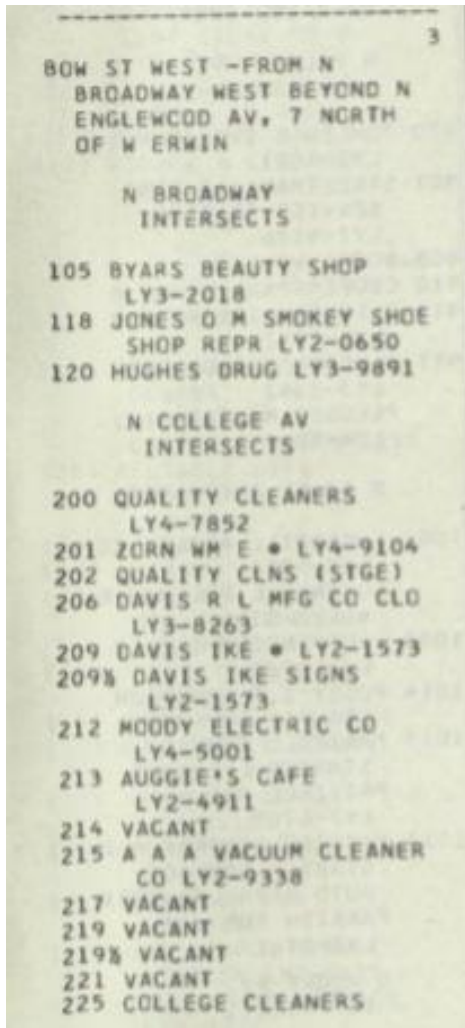
Abernathy Arthur H, bucker Smelter,
r same.
Abernathy Edgar, fireman, h 1215 N
Ochoa.
Abernathy Emma, (c) dom Hotel Nor-
mandie, r ws Hidalgo av 1 s E 2d.
Abernathy Henrietta (wid J B), r 1215
N Ochoa.
Abernathy J Carl, h 1215 N Ochoa.
Abernathy Kitty M Miss, tchr, h 1215
N Ochoa.
ABERNATHY RALEIGH, sec-treas.
the Myers Co, h 1215 N Ochoa, S-W
phone 2788.
Abeyta Eduardo V, clk Mrs J I Graves,
r 1315 N Florence.
Abila, see **Avila**.

- (c) = “colored”
- (wid) = “widow”
- h = home
- r = residence

Clipping from El Paso City
Directory, 1909. Source: TSLAC



What's in a city directory?



- Street section lists addresses in alphabetical and numerical order.
- Phone numbers.
- Tells us what a street would have looked like: Residential? Business? Both? Vacancies?

Clipping from Tyler City Directory, 1963. Source: TSLAC



What's in a city directory?



- Business listings.
- Advertisements.
- Product illustrations.
- Gives us a sense of the types of goods and services in a given area and time.

Clippings from Waco City Directory, 1890-1891. Source: TSLAC



TSLAC City Directories

- Cities and dates listed on our [city directories](#) listing are part of our Genealogy collection. They can be used in the Reference or Genealogy Reading Rooms.
- **In person use.** Staff will orient you to the city directories.
 - You are welcome to scan pages using our overhead book scanner. We recommend you bring a flash drive. We do not allow photocopies of our city directories.
- **Unable to visit?** TSLAC staff can search 1 name in 1 directory for 1 year.
 - If we find a result, we will scan the page and send it to you via email. Then you can send another request.
- If neither option meets your needs, consider contacting a [private researcher](#).



Other City Directory Sources

- **The Portal to Texas History's [City Directories Collection](#)**. Hosted by the University of North Texas, the Portal includes a collection of digitized city directories that can be searched and narrowed down by county and time period.
- **The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History's [Texas Directories Collection](#)**. Located at the University of Texas at Austin, this collection includes telephone and city directories for most Texas cities and towns from roughly the late 19th century through the present day.



Other City Directory Sources

- [Ancestry.com](#)*: **U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995.**
A collection of directories for U.S. cities and counties in various years.
- [Worldcat.org](#). A catalog of library holdings worldwide, including libraries' holdings for city and telephone directories.
- [Find a Texas Library](#) **in the area of your research.**
Some libraries may maintain collections of city directories for their area.

*Access to Ancestry Library Edition available on-site at TSLAC.



Related Materials

- [Genealogy Resources at TSLAC](#)
- [Census Records](#)
- [Newspapers](#)
- [County Records](#)
 - Such as deeds or other property records

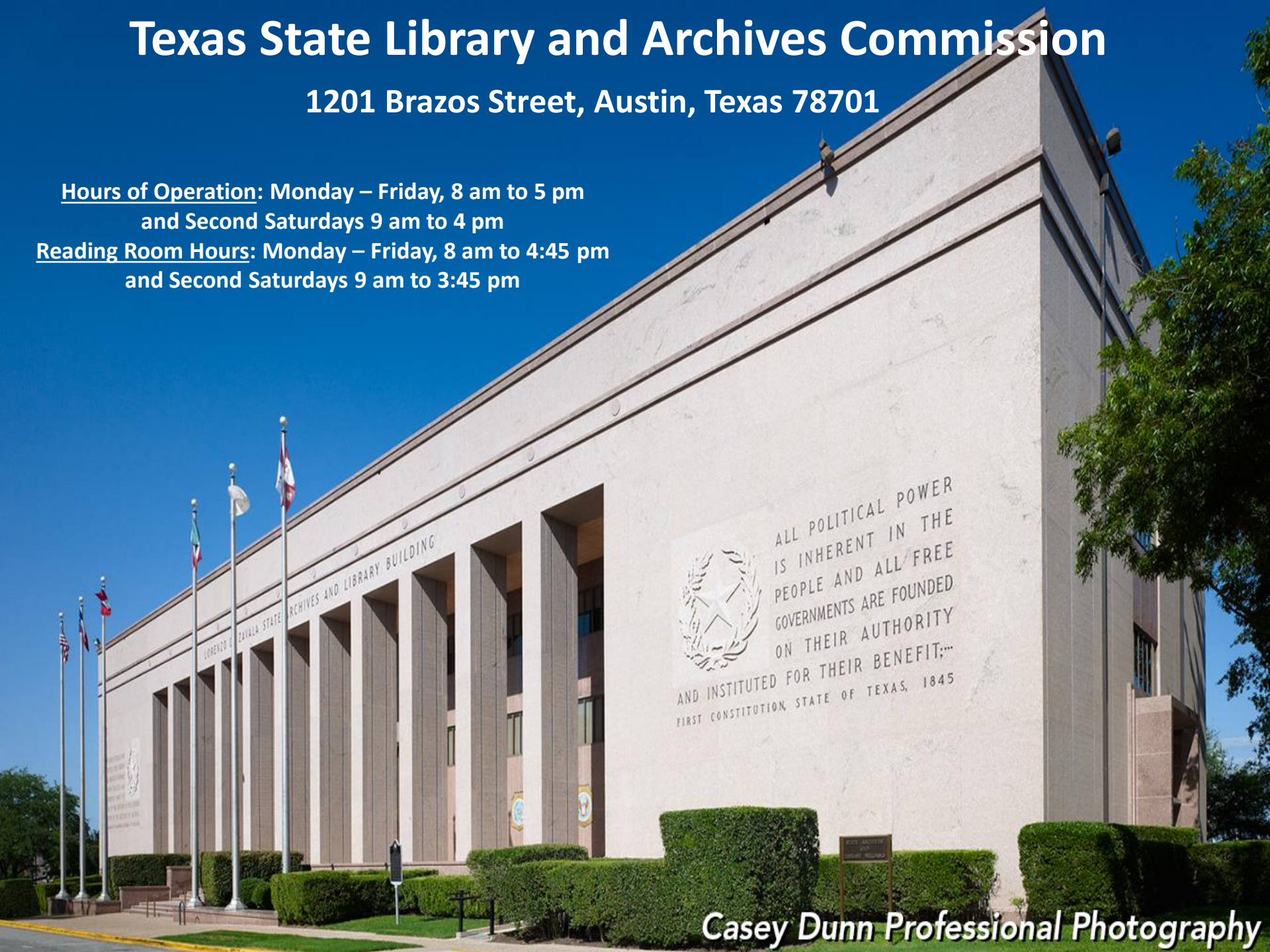


Texas State Library and Archives Commission

1201 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm
and Second Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm

Reading Room Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 am to 4:45 pm
and Second Saturdays 9 am to 3:45 pm



Casey Dunn Professional Photography

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