Directions
On West 75th Street, one block west of South Pulaski Road.

**15 miles southwest of downtown Chicago**, 30 miles southeast of O'Hare International Airport, and 2 miles southeast of Midway Airport.

**5 miles south of the Pulaski Road exit on the Stevenson Expressway** (I-55), 5 miles west of the 79th Street exit on the Dan Ryan Expressway (I-94), and 7 miles north of the Cicero Avenue exit on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

**Near the South Pulaski Road** and West 75th Street bus stop of the Chicago Transit Authority bus 53A (the South Pulaski Road route). Passengers can transfer from the 53A to other buses, subways, and commuter trains serving the Chicago area.

Contact Us!

**Research hours**: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
Hours subject to change due to special programs and weather. Please check our web site for current hours. We are closed on all Federal holidays.

**Telephone**: 773-948-9001
**E-mail**: chicago.archives@nara.gov
**Web site**: www.archives.gov/chicago

General Information Leaflet 48, Revised 2018
There is no digital substitute for the experience of holding an authentic historical record, for being on-site as you learn from professionals how to search documents while you discover your own connections to our nation’s past.

- We sponsor programs that educate the public about archives, history, genealogy, and related subjects.
- We partner with colleges and universities, historical and genealogical societies, veterans organizations, museums, and other archives.
- We host student interns, school groups, educators, and others who want to learn more about archives.
- We recruit and train volunteers who want to learn more about history while helping researchers.

Access is free—to documents, displays and exhibits, online genealogy subscription services, events, and more.
At the National Archives you can...

Explore our Records
Curious about history? Writing a school paper? Searching for information about the impact of Federal programs? Anyone who needs historical information created or received by the Federal Government—historians, genealogists, lawyers, scholars, Government officials, environmentalists, students, teachers, veterans—may search our holdings for answers.

Our records are diverse in form and content, including correspondence, name lists, reports, contracts, case files, photographs, maps, posters, and drawings which document the actions and reactions of the Government and the American people as they dealt with issues and events such as immigration and naturalization, the environment, technological change, the Great Depression, war, and the evolution of a multicultural nation.

Two public research areas are available to you—the research room, for use of original documents from our holdings, and the computer search room, for use of online and microfilmed materials.

“This was the most awesome workshop I have attended in my 19 years of teaching! The staff is extremely knowledgeable, helpful, and fun to work with. Your facility is beautiful.”
—Pat P., Chicago, IL
At the National Archives you can…

**Look for your Family History**
We can assist as you search for information about your family. We have the Federal population censuses for all states, 1790–1940 (the 1940 census is online only); annual censuses of American Indian tribes in Minnesota and Wisconsin; selected military service and pension indexes; passenger arrival lists; and select naturalization records for the Federal courts in the Great Lakes region. Free computer access is available for researchers wanting to view Ancestry or Fold3 for family history.

**Consult our Expert Staff**
We are here to help you with your questions. In fact, we encourage you to ask us questions. If you have a specific request or just need help, our staff is here to guide you to your answers as you get started and throughout your exploration. If during your search you do not find the needle in the haystack you are seeking, you will find something unexpected, unique, and fascinating.
Discover our Education Programs

For Students
Looking for materials to use for reports, in class, or to support your research project? Use our records:
- as primary sources for your research project;
- to demonstrate or illustrate the questions or answers in your paper;
- to enhance your presentation; or
- as research for National History Day projects.

For Educators
We assist teachers and home-schooling parents in the use of primary source documents with curriculum. Resources permitting, we
- teach workshops for educators at our facility and in schools;
- provide copies or images of primary sources suitable for use in the classroom;
- co-sponsor workshops with recipients of Teaching American History grants;
- provide educational lesson plans containing primary source documents.

Field Trips and On-Site Visits
Refresh your learning objectives with our resources. Work with our education staff to custom design a research visit with primary sources for yourself, colleagues, or your students. In-service presentations with facsimiles of the documents are also available. Programs are standards based and can emphasize cross-curricular connections.

Primary records can support school curriculum and cover a wide scope of topics including: immigration and citizenship, African Americans and Native Americans, westward expansion, the Civil War, Indian affairs, the Great Depression, World War I and World War II, the environment, invention and technology, organized crime, the labor movement, Civil Rights, the Federal courts and their impact on everyday life, and more.

Become a Volunteer!
Interested in history or genealogy? As a volunteer you will help generations of people learn about their history, and you will play a vital role in the success of our programs. Whether you are between careers or working, a college or graduate student, or a retiree, a satisfying volunteer experience awaits you!

- Genealogy research assistants help patrons research their family history.
- Preservation volunteers perform various tasks including the preparation of original records for public use and data entry.

Please ask us for more information!

“I wanted to thank you again for everything you did to help me on my visit to your facility. I can’t tell you how much your help meant to me. . . . found more information than I ever imagined during my visit.”
—Brian R., Tallahassee, FL
National Archives and Records Administration

Anyone who has cleaned out a family attic knows the importance of keeping family records. You may have military records from relatives who served in one of the World Wars—or even the Civil War. Or pictures of your great-great grandparents on the day they became American citizens. Now imagine the task of the National Archives and Records Administration—record keepers for all historically valuable records created by agencies of your Federal Government.

From one building on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the National Archives has grown to 13 archives locations nationwide, from Atlanta to Seattle.

Make an Appointment to Use Original Records

Our staff is here and ready to assist you. Because research is time-consuming, you may need to visit more than once. Please call 773-948-9001 before visiting to assure that records are available.

Please bring a valid photographic identification such as a driver's license, passport, or student ID so that we can issue you a researcher's card.

Please plan on leaving your personal belongings in a locker. Laptop computers and digital cameras without the flash are permitted.

Get Copies of Records

For a fee, our staff will make or arrange for copies of records and provide certified copies for legal use.

You can use self-service copiers for a fee to make paper copies from microfilm.

“We wanted to thank you for the wonderful visit you provided to our class yesterday. We all learned a great deal, and more than one student commented upon how “cool” it was to see the original documents of history firsthand.”

—Dan R., Chicago, IL