

How to Research DC Deeds in Zooniverse Through the University of Minnesota Mapping Prejudice Site

This is supplemental information. If you have not already watched the training video or participated in a training session, please do so.

Get Started

Click <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/take-action/volunteer> to sign up for a community mapping session and to create a Zooniverse account. (Scroll down to find what you need.)

Or watch a training video on that same page and get to work anytime. Not everything in the training video applies to DC, though.

To access the research after creating a Zooniverse account, go to <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/mappingprejudice/mapping-prejudice>

IMPORTANT:

- Make sure your **user name** is in the upper right corner. If not, **sign in** so your work will be saved.
- Scroll down and choose **Washington, DC**.

Covenants

- Look for a covenant (or partial covenant) only on the page that comes up.
- Be sure to transcribe the entire covenant, including any part of it that might be on a preceding or following page.
- If part of the covenant is missing (because the preceding or following page is missing), click on Option 4, "I can't figure this out." You'll be asked to describe the problem; then you'll move on to a new deed.
- If you see one deed ending on the page and another beginning below that one, there could be a racial covenant in each. If so, choose Option 3, "There are multiple covenants on this page."
- Deeds covering multiple squares may also have multiple covenants. Choose Option 3.
- When transcribing a covenant, **include any typos or misspellings**. (Don't correct them.)
- Leave out phrases like "and these covenants shall run with the land" or "subject to a penalty of \$2,000." **Do** include phrases pertaining to exceptions for servants.
- If it's too complicated, click on Option 4.

Examples of DC Covenants

the above-described property, and no part thereof, shall ever be sold, transferred, leased, rented to nor occupied by any negro or person of African blood

said property shall never be rented, leased, sold or conveyed to or in trust for any negro or colored

person, or person of negro blood or extraction, nor used as a place of business or abode by such persons

no part of the above described land and premises shall be used or occupied by any negro or negroes, or person or persons of the negro race or blood, as a place of abode or residence, but such covenant shall not prevent such person or persons of the negro race or blood from being employed in and about the land and premises or from having access thereto for the conduct of business thereon on discharging the duties of his or their employment

the above-described property and no part thereof, shall ever be sold, transferred, leased, rented to nor occupied by any negro or person of African blood

said property shall never be used or occupied by, or sold, demised, transferred, conveyed unto or in trust for, leased or rented, or given to negroes or any person or persons of negro blood or extraction or to any person of the Semitic race, blood or origin, or Jews, Armenians, Hebrews, Persians Syrians, except that this paragraph shall not be held to exclude partial occupancy of the premises by domestic servants of any owners of the said property.

Geographic Information

For most deeds, Option 1 (1 or more lots in a single square) will be the correct one.

The Liber and Folio numbers often listed in the property descriptions relate to hard-copy documents. Please ignore them.

Make sure you're looking for the geographic info in the same document that the covenant is in.

Lot, Square, and Subdivision

If there are multiple lots, list them like this: **1,2,3,4,5** (no spaces)

We're counting partial lots, e.g. *the front half of lot 3*, as full lots, so this should be entered simply as **3**.

Sometimes the lot and square numbers are buried within long paragraphs. For example:
... known and distinguished as Lot numbered Twenty-eight (**28**) in Harry Wardman and Thomas P. Bones' subdivision of Lots 3 and 4 in Block numbered Eleven (11), "High View", as per plat recorded in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia in Liber 43 at folio 147; said Block numbered Eleven (11) being known for purposes of taxation and assessment as Square numbered Thirty-five Hundred and Thirty-five (**3535**).....

In the above case, the lot is **28**, and the square is **3535**. Everything else is the history of the property, and we don't need it.

Sometimes, after a long, complicated description of the property, a sentence will appear containing the needed information: *Said property now known for purposes of taxation as Lot **80** in Square **5989**.*

A square described as “Square South of Square 6223” should be entered as **6223S**.
If you can’t find a square number, type in “NONE.”

Third field: For our purposes, the “subdivision” is always **DC** (and nothing more). Ignore references to names such as “High View” in the above property description.

Seller and Buyer

Make sure you’re looking in the same document that the covenant is in.

The name of the seller (or grantor) is almost always followed by the term “party of the first part.”

The name of the buyer (or grantee) is usually followed by the term “party of the second part.”

The seller or buyer could be one or more persons or a corporation.

If more than two names are listed, include only the first two.

Separate two names with “and” or commas.

It’s okay to correct obvious typos in the names.

If the first page of the deed is missing, you can usually find the seller’s name on the last page, in the Notary statement. Sometimes the buyer’s name is at the end of the deed, too.

If you can’t find the information, leave the fields blank.

Date

The date is in the first sentence of the deed: the date the deed was “made,” not the recording date.

If the first page is missing, you can usually find the date of the deed at the bottom of the last page, in the Notary section.

If you can’t find a date, use **1 January 1970**.

Miscellaneous

Click on the small “i” at the bottom right of the page to see what word/s caused the deed to be flagged as likely containing a racial covenant.

Click on the circles below the page to toggle between other pages in the document.

To check your stats, click on your user name in the upper right corner, then “Profile,” and then “Your Stats.”