

How to Find Information about Real Estate

by Christine Bruzzese

Real Estate Auctions. Public auctions of city-owned real property are sponsored by Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Division of Real Estate Services. Brochures are published in advance of the auction date, describing the procedures, property to be auctioned and providing information on zoning, property values, etc. Holdings are from 1961 to the present. Auctions were originally under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Service Administration and then the Department of General Services.

Property tax reports. From 1990 to present, Department of Finance has published *Annual Report on the Real Property Tax*, detailing the market and assessed values of property in New York City and presenting information on current and historical tax rates. Information on individual properties is not given. Holdings cover 1990 to 2005. Industrial and Commercial Incentive Program was created by Local Law in 1984 to encourage modernization and restoration of existing commercial structures by offering property tax exemptions. *Annual Reports* from 1987 to 1996 describe the program, its objectives and benefits and offer statistics on number of projects in each borough, taxes exempt and more.

Calendars. The Mayor's Office of Contract Services prepares *Calendar of Public Hearings on Real Property Acquisitions and Dispositions*. Published biweekly to monthly since

1990, this calendar summarizes hearings on disposition of real estate by various city agencies. *Calendar of the In Rem Foreclosure Release Board* deals with related real estate matters. Coverage is from 1991 to present.

Loft Board. Decisions of the New York City Loft Board were published beginning in 1985 in *Loft Board Reporter*. Holdings cover 1985 to 1997. Also available are *Bulletins* from the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals, which renders decisions on real estate and zoning matters.

Other Resources. Check the library catalogue for reports from current and defunct city agencies. Entities such as the Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy at New York University and the Citizens Budget Commission often prepare reports on real estate, housing and related topics. For assistance in locating current sale prices of properties and overview of the real estate market, contact the Science Industry and Business Library (SIBL) at New York Public Library. The website is www.nypl.org/research/sibl.

Websites. Department of Finance at www.nyc.gov/dof offers links to property information and publications. Department of Citywide Administrative Services at www.nyc.dcas/html/auctions provides results of the most current real estate auction and explanation of real estate leasing. Check the Department of Records website at www.nyc.gov/records/html/govpub/home under the topic "Housing & Buildings" for current city agency reports.

