

City directories are a valuable source of information. They typically list the name, occupation and address of all residents in a town, city or region. To conserve space for each listing, city directories often use abbreviations. Below is a reference list of the most common abbreviations found in city directories.

A couple of things to note:

- If no identifier is given after an address, it is assumed to be a street.
- For a list of first name abbreviations, see the article [First Name Abbreviations](#).
- For a list of occupation abbreviations, see the article [List of Occupation Abbreviations](#).

ab	above
agcy	agency
agt	agent
al	alley
agrl	agricultural
apt	apartment
assn, Assn	Association
auto	automobile
av, Av	avenue
b, bdg, bds	boards (room and board)
bdg hse	boarding house
bel	below
bet	between
bld, bldg	building
blk	block
blvd, boul	boulevard
br	branch
bros	brothers
c, cor	corner
causew	causeway
ch, Ch	church
chmbrs	chambers
civ	civil, civic
ck	creek
co	county

col, col'd	colored
coll	college
com	commission, commons
com'l	commercial
confry	confectionary
cres	crescent
ct	court
dept	department
dist	district
div	division
do	ditto (or the same as above)
dom	domestic
drugst	drugstore
e, E	east
Ea	east
ec	east central
elec	electric
e.s.	east side
est	estate
ex, exch	exchange
f	freeholder
fcty	factory
fl	floor
for	forest
ft	foot
frt	freight
gdns	gardens
gds	goods
gen, genl	general
govt	government
gr fl	ground floor
gt	great
h	house, householder (owns the house)
hd	hand
hdqtrs	headquarters
hdw	hardware
heth	heath
hngr	hangar
ho	house

hosp	hospital
imp	import
implts	implements
imptr	importer
inc	incorporated
ins	insurance
jct	junction
l	lives
la	lane
lbr	lumber
ldg	lodging
ltd, Ltd	Limited
mdse	merchandise
mer	merchant
mfg	manufacturing
mfr	manufacturer
mkt	market
mn	man
mut	mutual
n, N	north
n, nr	near
nc	north central
n.e.	northeast
n.s.	north side
n.w.	northwest
natl	national
off	office
op, opp	opposite
pass	passenger
ph	penthouse
pk	park
pkwy	parkway
pl	place
p.o.	post office
pt	point
propr	proprietor (owner)
prov	province
r	roomer or resides (renter)
r, rr	rear

R.C.	Roman Catholic
rd	road
regd	registered
real est	real estate
res	residence, resides
ret	retail, retired
rm	room
rms	rooms (renter)
RR	rural route
rw	row
Ry	railway
s, S	south
sc	south central
sch	school
s.e.	southeast or side entrance
ship	shipping
side	side entrance
soc	society
spec	special
sq	square
st	store
s.s.	south side
sta	stable
sta, stn	station
sum res	summer residence
s.w.	southwest
t	tenant
tav	tavern
tel	telephone
teleg	telegraph
ter	terrace
tn	town
tp	township
trans	transportation
trans	transfer
trav	travelling
up	upper
var	variety
w, W	west

wc	west central
ware	warehouse
wf, whf	wharf
w.s.	west side
whol	wholesale
wid	widow
wks	works
wlk	walk
wmn	woman
yd	yard