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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Cape May County's Consolidated Public Records Electronic Search System (PRESS)?

A: This system is designed for current property owner searches. The system pairs tax parcel data and Google maps with land records recorded with the County Clerk.

Q: How does Cape May County's Consolidated Public Records Electronic Search System (PRESS) work?

A: To initiate a search

1. Select one of the three search options:
 - By Name
 - By Address
 - By Block and Lot (and Qualifier if a Condominium Unit)
2. Select the municipality within Cape May County from the drop-down list.
3. Fill in the search criteria.
4. Select **Submit** to run the search. If you decide to change your search before selecting **Submit**, click **Clear** to start again.

Q: How do the search options operate?

A: Regardless of how you initiate your search, when you select a property from the Search Results List, the detail page always displays an identical set of records. The three options below simply provide different ways to get to the same data.

- **By Name.** This search is based on the current property owner name from the tax parcel data. This search will not yield results from past owner history. If the name searched is not a current owner, the system may provide a partial result or show the error message **No matching property record found....**
 - Initiate the search based on the owner's surname, e.g., Jones, because parcel tax data is stored as Last Name, First Name.
 - If known, follow the last name with a comma and the initial of the first name, e.g., Jones, R.

- A match on the current owner’s name will display the detail page (inner screen with Google Map) with current and prior deed (sales) records for that property. The system will also display additional property records that may be related to the owner’s name – this could be for the same property or other properties within Cape May County.
- **By Address.** This search is based on the property street address.
 - Initiate the search based on only the *first* part of the street name and do not enter street number (e.g. for 123 Main Street, search for Main to display a list of all properties on Main Street).

It should be noted that parcel tax index data contains abbreviations, so 123 Main Street may very well have been indexed as 123 Main ST. Therefore, use only the street name, or enter the street number with the name to narrow down the search.

- **By Block and Lot.** This search is based on tax parcel data—block, lot, and qualifier (if the property is a condominium unit).

Every attempt has been made to ensure that information on this site is accurate, however the success of your search result may be affected by issues such as lack of parcel data captured on older records, or by changes made to block and lot designations by the municipal tax assessor.

- This is probably the most precise search, as the search result should only display properties with that block and lot. If the property is part of a condominium, your search may yield two or more results. Each condominium unit has a unique qualifier which is part of the tax parcel data. For best results we recommend that you search by block and lot, leaving off the qualifier.

Q: In conducting my search, why is less more?

A: We recommend that you start your search by entering the minimal amount of search data. This will yield a larger result which can then be narrowed down.

Q: What if I need a prior owner search or other information that is not included in PRESS?

A: The Cape May County Clerk’s Land Records Search, a complete database of public land records, can be found under **Land Records Public Search** on www.CapeMayCountyClerk.com Our Public Records team can be reached at 609.465.1023 to assist you during business hours.