

# Project Profile: Portico Search

## Online Property Search for Butler County

### The Impact of COVID-19

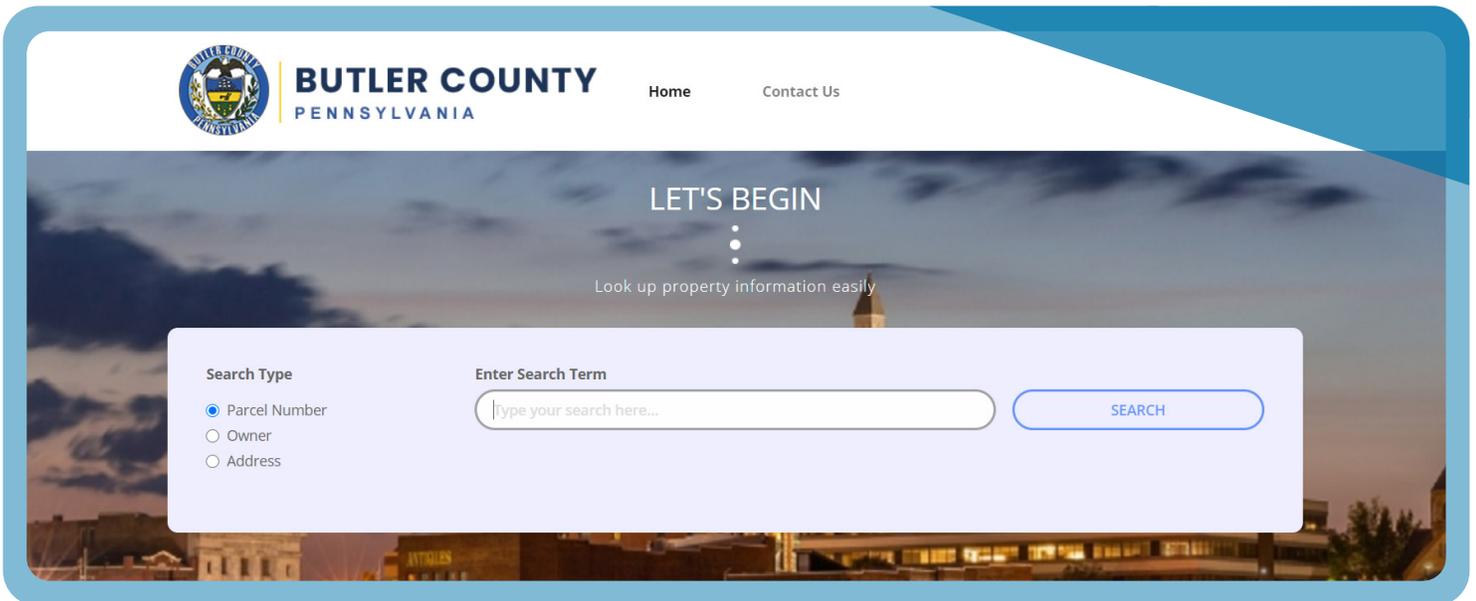
As limited hours, shift-splits, remote work, and quarantine shutdowns started to become the new reality, the Butler County Assessor's Office was finding it difficult to adapt using their current technology and methodologies. The process of the public requesting information through foot traffic into the office, phone calls, and emails needed an upgrade. Having a tool to field incoming requests is something the County had on the backburner, but the steady and subsequent uptick in property information requests made the project that much more urgent.

*"I knew this was something that had not been done before, but Sidwell listened to what we needed and did it. Their team made the development process extremely easy and the end product is spectacular."*

Amy Francis, CPE  
Butler County, PA Chief Assessor

### Adapting During a Historical Pandemic

As public servants, the County was looking to adapt to the current environment and prevent delaying processes that would further impact the economy. Fortunately, the County had recently transitioned their data maintenance efforts from paper and pencil methods to a digital environment. This made their next step an easier reality – providing a publicly available search tool for property data.



With a short turnaround required and the knowledge that no one provided a product quite like they had envisioned, the County reached out to Sidwell to relay their vision of a customized search tool to lighten the influx of requests for property information. They needed a website with a simple property data search option tied to their property tax system. This would enable the public to easily go to the website, type in an address, and find the information they are looking for – including property sketches.

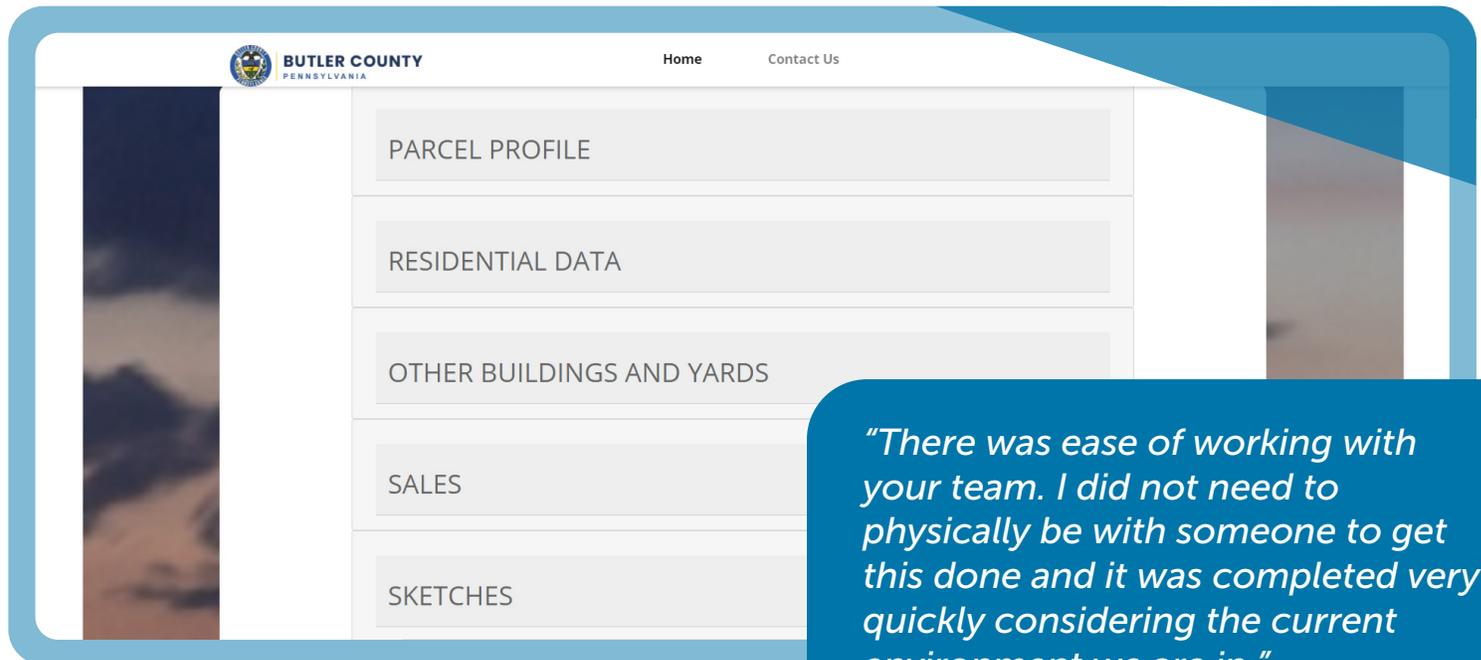
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### Sidwell Developed a Search Tool for Butler County

The type of solution the County was looking for did not exist, but with Sidwell's extensive understanding of land records – development was not out of reach. With years of experience developing and delivering solutions to local governments and access to in-house development resources, this project was a natural fit for both Sidwell and the County. The development of the desired solution, now called Portico Search, was completed in two months' time.

Portico Search is a flexible platform that allows the solution to live in the cloud, on-premises, or as a hybrid of both, while still allowing for frequent data updates. This solution features searchable property records (parcel number, address, and owner) and access to the parcel profile, residential data, sales, and sketch information.



*"There was ease of working with your team. I did not need to physically be with someone to get this done and it was completed very quickly considering the current environment we are in."*

Amy Francis, CPE  
Butler County, PA Chief Assessor

### Portico Search Provided the County with Optimal Results

- With paper and pencil methods fully behind them, the County was finally able to reduce their record storage.
- The County now has a more efficient and timely method of distributing property data.
- The public can retrieve the data they need with a search tool that is accessible 24/7 versus during business hours only.

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### Relieving Hardships for Realtors, Appraisers, and Surrounding Municipalities

This historical pandemic has certainly shifted the way everyone works and with Portico Search the County has been able to relieve some of the hardships many are facing. Though the site has only been live for three months, the County has received glowing reviews from realtors, appraisers, and surrounding municipalities.

The realtor community is thrilled that they are now able to easily access essential information on properties they are listing for sale. Appraisers are realizing some of the biggest benefits of this searchable website as the public continues to buy, refinance, and sell in the current environment. The traditional process of walking through properties to assess value has been significantly altered, but appraisers can now utilize this property search tool in place of a physical walk-through. Surrounding municipalities, specifically the Planning and Zoning Departments, are also able to use the site to search parcel numbers to see where builders and developers are at in a parcel's lifecycle as they move through the stages of approving, recording, subdividing, and valuing a property.

**RESIDENTIAL DATA**

<b>Style</b>
Basement
Finished Basement Area
Year Built
Total Living Area
Fuel Type
Heating
Heating System
Fireplaces
Full Baths
Half Baths
Bedrooms
Family Rooms
Total Rooms

**PARCEL PROFILE**

Parcel
Address
Owner
Owner Address
Tax District
School District
Acreage
Legal Description
Land Use Code
Square Feet
Deed Book
Deed Page
Land Value (2020)
Building Value (2020)
Total Value (2020)

### View the Butler County, PA Portico Search Site:

<https://propertytax.mygisonline.com/butlerpa/index.html>



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