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How to Trace Old Issues of Stock

If you have an old stock certificate, you need to first look at a few things on the certificate itself.

- Look for the company name and location of incorporation.
- There also may be a CUSIP number and the name of the person with whom the security is registered on the certificate itself. (A CUSIP number is an identification number assigned to all stocks and registered bonds. The Committee on Uniform Securities Identification Procedures (CUSIP) oversees the entire CUSIP system.)

Once you have this information, the Internet is a great resource!

- The Secretary of State or Corporations Commissioner in the state where the stock was first issued would have information about the entity and of possible name changes. Use our links to [all 50 states' business registration offices](#).
- Visit the website of [Moody's Corporation's](#) and check their list of stocks.
- Look up the CUSIP number on [Fidelity Investment's website](#) (free) or, for a fee, access [Standard & Poor's](#) website.

Companies specializing in tracing old stock certificates can do the research for you for a fee. And, if the certificate ends up having no trading value, they may offer to purchase it for a collector's value.

- Scripophily.com
- OldStockResearch.com
- Stock Search International, Inc.