

# History of your house



*DR10447 - State rental house. Carina - Brisbane, ca 1954*

Research Guide to the history of your house  
at Queensland State Archives

## Research Guide to the history of your house

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Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series ID (for a series of records)
- A Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.**

Queensland State Archives holds records which may assist researchers in identifying and dating homes. This guide outlines the main series including architectural and block plans, maps, electoral rolls, council, land title office and Lands Department records, and records of public authorities responsible for providing financial assistance to applicants for the purposes of erecting dwelling houses.

## Architectural style and design records

### Queensland Housing Commission

#### **Architectural Drawings**

Circa 1/1/1959–31/8/1974

Series ID [S19591](#)

#### **Drainage Construction Sketches**

18/11/1941–6/2/1964

Series ID [S19574](#)

## Queensland Government Savings Bank

#### **Workers' Dwelling Loan Registers**

14/3/1910–19/2/1955

Series ID [S3962](#)

#### **Housing for Servicemen Loan Register**

17/7/1944–7/12/1945

Series ID [S3956](#)

### State Advances Corporation

#### **Building Revival Scheme Loan Applications Registers**

1/8/1932–19/5/1958

Series ID [S3959](#)

### Workers' Dwellings Board

#### **Workers' Homes Plan Books**

Circa 1/1/1911–Circa 31/12/1928

Series ID 19561

#### **Architectural drawings of Workers' Dwellings**

2/6/1914–6/12/1915

Series ID [S19554](#)

### Electoral rolls and Post Office directories

Queensland State Archives holds electoral rolls from 1860 onwards. As rolls provide names and addresses it is possible to use electoral rolls to date occupancy and construction of a house. For more information, please read [Research guide to State electoral rolls](#).

The Post Office directories are also useful for researching trades and professions. The Post Office directories from 1868 to 1949 are available at the [State Library of Queensland](#).

### Local government records

Local authority records include rate books, valuation registers, registers of ratepayers, and sanitary rate books which are useful for approximating dates of the construction and occupation of a house.

Search the [ArchivesSearch](#) catalogue to find records for councils, shires or boards for the locality of the property you are searching. Over time, a locality may have several changes to local governance, with consequent name changes. This will be shown in the Agency information on the catalogue listing.

The records held for various local government entities will vary – for example, the Purga Divisional Board records include an index to ratepayers and rate books, while the Nebo Divisional Board records include minute books, rate books, rate cash books, and valuation registers; the Cairns City Council records include valuation rolls and the Cloncurry Shire Council records include sanitary rate books. Information contained in these different records varies, but typically the information included in these records is noted below:

- The index to ratepayers records each ratepayer's name, rate book number, area, situation and rateable value of his or her land, total rates due and, amount paid
- Rate books typically include rate number, name of person rated, name of owner of rateable property, description and situation of rateable property, rateable value, general rate in the pound, arrears, and total amount charged
- Rate cash books include date, number in rate book, by whom paid, whether person paying is owner or occupier, number of receipt, folio in the rate book, and amount

- Valuation registers include number, name of occupier, trade of occupier, name and residence of owner, description of rateable property (county, parish or town, portion, etc.) and rateable value
- Valuation rolls include the owner's name, address, dimensions of the land, unimproved value, water/sewerage, date of valuation and the date the valuation takes effect
- Sanitary rate books include the occupier/owner's names and rate book number, arrears from previous year, payments by month for a one-year period, total paid and the yearly balance.

### Lands Department records

When Crown land has been purchased, or alienated from the Crown, it comes under the jurisdiction of the Titles Registry Office. Generally, research of subsequent transfers of ownership is by the Titles Registry, for a fee. However, these Queensland State Archives records may be useful for tracking deeds and leases:

#### **Index to Non-Current Lessees**

Circa 1/8/1885–Circa 31/12/1993

Series ID [S14000](#)

This index records persons who held Crown leasehold including selections, occupation licenses, pastoral and special leases, non-competitive leases, road leases, perpetual leases. Details name and address of lessee or selector, selection or lease number, land agents district, form of tenure. Note: Current Crown leases are held by the Department of Resources.

Refer to the following Research Guides for more information: [Land Agents' records](#), [Land Codes](#), and [Land tenure records](#).

#### **Sales of Crown Land and Special Leases**

19/12/1859–Circa 31/12/1962

Series ID [S14026](#)

This series records the sale of Crown land at auction. Information may include the date and place of sale; the date of proclamation for later sales; a description of the land, etc.

#### **Indexes to Land Purchases**

Circa 1/1/1860–31/12/1921

Series ID [S10397](#)

This index records town and country land purchases. References to the survey plan numbers are also sometimes provided.

#### **Registers of Perpetual Leases**

Circa 1/1/1915– 31/12/1981

Series ID [S13800](#)

These registers record transactions on perpetual leases including number of lease; land agent district; lessee; dates when lease was authorised, requisitioned, passed and issued; lot number; etc.

#### **Journal of Dealings**

28/1/1916 - 17/8/1926

Series ID [S14020](#)

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Journal of dealings for perpetual town and suburban leases include number of dealing; date of receipt; registration fee paid; number of perpetual lease; nature of dealing - mortgage, transfer, transmission release, record of death or marriage, correction of name, sublease; transferred from and transferred to; date of registration and subsequent dealings.

### **Auction Perpetual Lease Files**

Circa 1/1/1915–31/12/1992

Series ID [S17961](#)

Files may include reports on land, transfers, mortgages, rents, improvements, valuation; Government Gazette notices, survey plans; leases; issue of deeds of grant, etc.

## Maps and block plans

Parish and cadastral or property maps are useful for researching surveyed land and structures such as windmills. Maps can be searched in ArchivesSearch using keyword searches on place names including name of town, parish, county, shire or pastoral district. Refer to the [Research Guide to Maps](#) for more information for genealogical and local history research, and the *Search procedure, Maps* available in the Reading Room.

Town maps and block plans are useful for showing the location of buildings. There are a range of block plans for towns and cities. The plans vary in the amount of detail provided but may include construction materials of buildings, names of proprietors of businesses and details of property usage. Use the word 'block' and the name of the town or city in the online catalogue ArchivesSearch.

## Survey Office

### **Town Maps**

Circa 1/1/1867 - Circa 31/12/1990

Series ID [S17610](#)

### **Estate Maps**

Circa 1/1/1891 - Circa 31/12/1977

Series ID [S5738](#)

These maps advertised land offered for sale or lease as town and suburban allotments.

## Real Property Dealings

### **Real Property Dealings**

Circa 01/01/1813 – 30/11/1971

Series ID [S1215](#)

This series comprises memoranda of conveyancing for land transfers transacted under the *Real Property Act 1861*. The memoranda record the names of seller and buyer (or sometimes mortgagor and mortgagee) and details of the land transferred and the sum of money paid. To find records in this series up to 1923, try searching [S16266](#), [S16277](#) and [S16279](#).

### Titles Registration Office

The journals of encumbrances and conveyances provide an avenue for researching transfers of land ownership. To begin, researchers must have an approximate date of sale/purchase and the name of either the buyer (encumbrancee) or the seller. Similarly, approximate dates and names are needed to trace subsequent transfers. The journals are arranged chronologically, and then by name. Details include where land situated (local authority area, particularly areas of Brisbane), nature of deed, journal volume and folio number.

#### **Indexes to Journals of Encumbrances**

Circa 1/1/1890 - Circa 31/7/1921

Series [S16244](#)

#### **Indexes to Journals of Conveyances**

Circa 1/1/1890 – Circa 31/7/1921

Series ID [S16245](#)

#### **Indexes of Journals of Encumbrances and of Conveyances**

Circa 1/2/1862 - Circa 31/12/1889

Series ID [S16276](#)

#### **Journal of Conveyances and Encumbrances**

Circa 27/02/1862 – 29/07/1865

Series ID [S16279](#)

These journals may be useful for finding records in *S1215, Real property dealings* up to 1923.

#### **Journals of Conveyances**

1/8/1865 - 1/10/1923

Series ID [S16266](#)

These journals may be useful for finding records in *S1215, Real property dealings* up to 1923.

#### **Journal of Encumbrances**

1/8/1865 - 31/10/1923

Series ID [S16277](#)

These journals may be useful for finding records in *S1215, Real property dealings* up to 1923.

#### **Letterbooks, Certificates of Title**

Circa 1/10/1864 - Circa 30/11/1893

Series ID [S16253](#)

#### **Transmission books**

Circa 1/5/1897 - Circa 31/7/1928

Series ID [S16258](#)

#### **Register of the Intra-Office Transmission of Documents**

14/3/1924 - 4/7/1946

Series ID [S16259](#)

## Justice and Attorney General's Department

### **Register of Appeals Against Shire Valuations**

11/8/1909

Series ID [S16305](#)

## Land Court, Townsville

### **Urban Valuation Register**

[undated]

Series ID [S6846](#)

Details include subdivision, allotment and section numbers, area, valuation, appeal number, name and address of appellant, agent and determination of the court.

## Valuer-General's Department

### **Valuation Rolls**

Undated

Series ID [S10218](#)

Records are arranged by valuation district, shire council, city/town, then by parish, or division for cities. Details include valuation district, division and number, name and address of owner, county, parish, town, street, house name or number, whether water and sewerage are provided, date when values take effect in valuation rolls, description of land, area, unimproved value, date valuation notice issued, value and type of improvement.

### **Notifications of Change of Property Ownership (VG1), Brisbane Valuation District**

Circa 1/1/1946 - Circa 31/12/1973

Series ID [S17911](#)

Includes names and addresses of vendors/purchasers, selling prices, descriptions of properties, date/s of agreements, terms of sale, improvements, the total sale price of the property, and the date of sale.

## Photographs of houses

Photographs of houses are not in a single series of records at Queensland State Archives. Photographs taken by various public agencies are available, and many are digitised in [ArchivesSearch](#). These photographs were taken for the purpose of the business of the government. Refer to the heading *Other sources of information* for private, and other collections of photographs of houses in Queensland.

### Brisbane City Council

The [Brisbane City Council Archives](#)' (or Brisbane City Archives) unique collection of resources includes:

- aerial photographs taken in 1946, 1952, 1961 and 1974
- original surveyor's field books from 1911 to 1973, with the plan to sewer Brisbane including details of existing buildings and other permanent fixtures
- rate registers for all parishes within the Brisbane City Council from 1940 to 1974
- first road layout maps for the City centre; streets in the years 1874, 1904, 1948 and 1956
- street name records from the first edition in 1926.

The Brisbane City Council Archives has published a booklet entitled [Researching Your Family's Home with Hyperlinks V2](#) outlines resources for house histories and answers some frequently asked questions.

Brisbane City Archives  
Skyline Business Centre  
15/107-123 Muriel Avenue  
Moorooka  
Telephone: (07) 3403 8888 or (07) 3403 1711  
Email: [archives@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:archives@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

### Other sources of information

Other research facilities include:

- local council heritage resources, and local studies groups in [public libraries](#)
- [Titles Queensland](#)
- the [John Oxley Library at State Library of Queensland](#)
- the Fryer Library's [Architecture Collection](#) at the University of Queensland.

Online resources include:

- online image database titled [Australia in Pictures](#) includes Queensland workers' weatherboard homes from 1900 to 1950
- [QImagery](#) - Queensland Government's online collection photographs since the 1930s
- [Corley Explorer](#) – Frank and Eunice Corley's photographs of houses from the 1960s to the 1970s.

### Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).  
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.