Maps

Research Guide to maps at Queensland State Archives
Queensland State Archives has a large collection of maps and charts. The focus of the collection is Queensland, from 1824 to the present, although there are a small number of maps of the whole of Australia and of Papua New Guinea. The collection comprises published and unpublished maps and plans produced by the Department of Lands and its predecessor agencies, and by other government departments such as Mapping and Surveying, Mines, Railways, Harbours and Marine, Irrigation and Water Supply, and Forestry. There are also sundry plans drawn by private surveyors and contractors.

Maps may show roads, railways, topographic features and property boundaries of various land tenure type. Cadastral maps show boundaries of selections, occupation licences, pastoral leaseholds, special leases and Crown reserves. Cadastral maps often show the Lands Department numbers which correspond to selections, occupation licence file and other land tenure numbers. The maps usually give the names of pastoral holdings, and in many cases, the names of early selectors or owners of freehold title. These details can be used to find information in Lands Department and its successor agencies records held at Queensland State Archives.

Town maps often show public buildings, such as court houses, post offices, schools, police stations and railway stations. Maps and survey plans of rural areas may also show station homesteads, windmills, stockyards, bores, dips and outstations.

This guide provides the main series of maps and charts held at Queensland State Archives. References to these records are found in ArchivesSearch, the Queensland State Archives' online catalogue including cadastral maps, topographic maps, survey plans and thematic maps.

Cadastral maps

These maps show sizes and boundaries of properties, topographical features, roads and railways. In the main, cadastral maps at Queensland State Archives are parish maps and town maps. There are also county, pastoral district and local authority maps. The phasing out of the older methods of mapping based on imperial standards of measurement and land subdivisions of parishes and towns was part of the agreement on a national approach to mapping, incorporating the Australian Map Grid (AMG) and introducing new cadastral series.

1:25 000 Scale Cadastral Maps
Circa 1/1/1972–31/12/1992
Series ID S4893

Arranged by name and area number. Details include towns and suburbs, county, parish, local authority and pastoral district boundaries, land tenure details including freehold and leasehold tenure, mining leases and types of selection.

Parish maps at Queensland State Archives are mainly in the following series:

Parish Maps
Circa 1/1/1893–31/12/1989
Series ID S17619

These maps with a scale of forty chains to an inch are arranged by name of parish and county. Details include selection numbers for selections of prickly-prickly development, perpetual lease, sugar workers' auction, perpetual lease and auction purchase freehold, workers' homes perpetual and freehold leases, miners' homestead, soldiers' non-competitive and pastoral holding.
Parish maps are item listed in ArchivesSearch, try searching using the names of the parish and the county. For example, type in the words - Tuchekoi March – to find maps for the Parish of Tuchekoi, County of March. The Queensland parish directory is available in the Reading Room or online.

Town maps include the following:

**Moreton Bay Penal Settlement Maps and Architectural Drawings**
28/9/1830–Circa 31/12/1848
Series ID S3739

Provides details of the surveyed layout and plans of buildings in the convict settlement at Moreton Bay (now Brisbane) for the period 1830 to 1848.

**Town Maps**
Circa 1/1/1867–31/12/1990
Series ID S17610

Details include name of parish, county, Land Agent District and real property description.

Pastoral district maps include county maps in artificial series created by Queensland State Archives. View the pastoral district key map on the map viewer in the Reading Room to find the pastoral district.

**Burke District Maps - Z Series**
Circa 1/1/1876–31/12/1958
Series ID S2126

**Burnett District 2 Mile Maps - DG1 Series**
Circa 1/1/1878–31/12/1920
Series ID S1008

**Cook District Maps - N Series**
Circa 1/1/1848–31/12/1988
Series ID S1853

**Darling Downs District 2 Mile Maps - BG1**
Circa 1/1/1871–31/12/1929
Series ID S1018

**Gregory North District Maps - X Series**
Circa 1/1/1877–31/12/1905
Series ID S2121

**Gregory South District Maps - W Series**
Circa 1/1/1891–31/12/1905
Series ID S2184
South Kennedy District Maps - J Series
Circa 1/1/1868–31/12/1898
Series ID S1885

North Kennedy District Maps - L Series
Circa 1/1/1885–31/12/1912
Series ID S2172

Leichhardt District Maps - G Series
1/4/1860–Circa 31/12/1929
Series ID S1882

Maranoa District Maps - R Series
Circa 1/1/1860–31/12/1928
Series ID S2178

Mitchell District Maps - Y Series
Circa 1/1/1881–31/7/1939
Series ID S2123

Moreton District Maps - A Series
Circa 1/1/1830–31/12/1988
Series ID S2058

Moreton District, County of Stanley maps – A1 series
Circa 1/1/1824–31/12/1987
Series ID S1748

Port Curtis District Maps - F Series
Circa 1/1/1859–31/12/1983
Series ID S2115

Warrego District Maps - T Series
Circa 1/1/1865–28/2/1900
Series ID S2067

Wide Bay/Burnett Districts Maps - D Series
Circa 1/1/1865–31/12/1929
Series ID S1872

Queensland four and two mile series were drawn over blocks away from the coast. The series includes the following:
Queensland 4 Mile Maps - 4m1 Series
Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1942
Series ID S1021

Key map, Item ID ITM614729 on map viewer in Reading Room

Queensland 4 Mile Maps - 4m2 Series
Circa 1/1/1929–31/12/1974
Series ID S1022

Key map, Item ID ITM614728

Queensland 4 Mile Maps - 4m3 Series
Circa 1/1/1965–31/12/1975
Series ID S1023

Key map, Item ID ITM661662

Queensland two-mile series maps
1/1/1928–31/12/1974
Series ID S1026

Key map, Item ID ITM614728

Moreton District 2 mile series and 40 chain series were drawn over blocks along the Queensland coast and parts of the Maranoa and Warrego Pastoral Districts. These maps are part of series of maps known as the 'named series'. The map series have a letter and number title in the description, e.g. AG1, AG2, BG1, DG1, JG1, NG1, RG1, TG1. View key map for pastoral districts on map viewer in Reading Room. See pastoral district maps for more detail. The series include the following:

Moreton District 2 Mile Maps - AG1 Series
Circa 1/1/1870–31/12/1944
Series ID S1017

Moreton District 40 Chain Maps - AG2 Series
Circa 1/1/1885–31/12/1932
Series ID S1016

Thematic maps

Thematic maps are usually cadastral maps which refer to a particular subject or group of subjects. The thematic maps at Queensland State Archives cover subjects such as geographical surveys, electorates, census districts, local authorities and pastoral runs.

Topographic maps

These maps show surface features including mountains, hills and rivers. Elevations including the height of the land are depicted by contour lines. Other details include trigonometric stations, roads, lighthouses, telegraph lines, bridges, embankments, railway lines, cemeteries and schools.
References to topographical maps drawn by the Lands, Forestry and other government departments are found in ArchivesSearch. Queensland State Archives also holds 1:63, 360 (1 mile:1 inch) topographical maps drawn by the Australian Army.

**Queensland 1:63, 360 Scale Military Maps**  
Circa 1/1/1923–31/12/1965  
Series ID S1029

**1:25, 000 Scale Topographic Maps**  
Circa 1/1/1971–31/12/1988  
Series ID S2016

### Survey plans and related records

**Survey Plans**  
Circa 1/1/1853–13/2/1961  
Series ID S17667

This series includes surveys of selections, roads, reserves, towns and portions for sale. Information may include portion, selection or Crown grant number, parish, county, district or land agent district, name of lessee or owner, etc. The description of each item may include the names of lessees or owners; portion, selection or Crown grant number; parish; and type of survey. Detailed information on survey plans includes bearings and distances, survey marks such as reference trees, property descriptions, area, descriptions of country such as soil and vegetation, buildings, fences, tracks, deed of grant numbers and road names. This series is of duplicate plans.

Note: some original survey plans are still housed with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. For information you may contact the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying. The preferred contact for the Museum is email Museum@dnrm.qld.gov.au.

**Identification Survey Plans**  
13/9/1871–13/4/2018  
Series ID S21139

Identification surveys are conducted to establish or reinstate part or all of any existing property boundaries. This may be required for a number of reasons (e.g. to build a fence or to settle a neighbouring boundary fencing dispute).

**Survey Field Books**  
2/1/1886–15/7/1998  
Series ID S21141

This series consists of Survey Field Books which were created by authorised surveyors for the Survey Office of the Lands Department. All measurements taken were recorded in a field notebook (bearings and distances). From the surveyor’s measurements in the field, a survey plan was drawn.

**Permanent Survey Mark Atlas Maps**  
Circa 1/1/1980–31/12/1997  
Series ID S20490

Also known as Permanent Survey Control Atlas maps, these maps record every known survey control point across Northern Queensland from the time of settlement.
Field survey files
Series ID S20574

This series of Moreton Bay Regional Council field survey files contains documentation on strategic infrastructure surveys, also surveys requested by Council. This series contains records of survey services necessary for engineering, construction and maintenance, including the certification and legal compliance aspects.

Railway maps

All Queensland railways, and a large number of railway proposals, are represented in the collection of more than 6000 railway survey plans and maps dated from 1865 to 1966. Railway maps are found by searching ArchivesSearch. For more information see the Research Guide to Railway records.

Admiralty and hydrographic charts

Admiralty and hydrographic charts were primarily for the guidance of mariners. Charts include physical features near the coast, depths and navigational hazards as well as positioned marks and aids such as buoys, beacons and lights. After 1921, the Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic Service took responsibility from the British Admiralty for charting work from the Equator to Antarctica, between 60 E and 160 E. The latest amendment date is at the bottom of the sheet.

The series include the following:

Hydrographic Charts and Maps
Circa 1/1/1802–31/12/2013
Series ID S2010

To find charts and maps in this series, search Hydrographic Charts and maps - key map and indexes, Series ID S4828.

Hydrographic Charts and Maps - Key Map and Indexes
Circa 17/5/1910–30/5/1973
Series ID S4828

This series is used to find hydrographic charts and maps in Series ID S2010.

Department of Harbours and Marine charts and plans

This collection consists of Queensland area charts and plans of vessels, equipment and wharf facilities created by the Department (previously the Department of Harbours and Rivers). The series include the following:

Hydrographic Charts and Marine Drawings
Circa 1/1/1860–30/9/2010
Series ID S5756

Details include regular water depth, positions and least depth over all shoals, wrecks, reefs, banks, position of the coastline (HW and LW mark), tidal stream measurements and observations, navigation marks, lights, sailing directions and details of wrecks.
Irrigation and Water Supply Commission plans and drawings

Queensland State Archives holds a collection of plans and drawings including the following:

- artesian bores and tanks
- Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme
- irrigation project drawings (sites and equipment)
- Theodore town and irrigation system
- town water supplies
- investigations and projects on various systems.

These plans and drawings are mainly in the following series:

**Irrigation and Water Supply Maps and Plans**
1/1/1894–31/12/1969
Series ID S3430

**Irrigation and Water Supply Plans and Drawings**
Circa 1/1/1908–31/12/1960
Series ID S4890

**Co-ordinator General's Office**

Maps and plans created by the Co-ordinator General's Office relate to the hydro-electric schemes on the North Johnstone River, Barron River, Tully Falls and Herbert River. In the main, these records date from 1915 to 1965. Following are examples:

**Barron River Hydroelectric Extension Project - Prints (drawings)**
Circa 1/1/1955–Circa 31/12/1965
Series ID S12011

**Field Books - Herbert River**
Circa 1/1/1959–Circa 31/12/1961
Series ID S12007

**Tully Falls Hydro-Electrical Project Plans**
Circa 1/1/1954–Circa 31/12/1964
Series ID S12010

**Hydro-Electric Investigation Papers**
Circa 1/1/1944–Circa 31/12/1964
Series ID S6871

**Hydro-Electric Investigation Drawings**
19/10/1950–2/1/1963
Series ID S18509
Mines Department

**Mines Series Maps - 1:100, 000**  
Circa 1/1/1969–31/12/1986  
Series ID S4579

This series shows boundaries of mining tenures, location of railways and roads, gold and other mineral leases with lease numbers, topographical and cadastral details.

**Transport and Main Roads**

**Aerial Survey Photographs**  
Series ID S21154

Note: the Queensland Spatial Catalogue - https://qimagery.information.qld.gov.au/ contains most of these aerial photographs. This series comprises aerial survey photographic prints commissioned or undertaken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and its predecessors, as required for planning, design and maintenance of transport infrastructure throughout Queensland. Individual film numbers may match aerial images found online at QImagery.

**Natural Resources, Mines and Energy**

**Interim Floodplain Assessment Overlay Maps**  
Circa 1/8/2011–19/1/2015  
Series ID S21132

These maps produced after the 2011 flood event, cover most Queensland's catchment areas.

**Cadastral Atlases**  
Circa 1/12/1971–1/12/1987  
Series ID S21134

These atlases were used to collect names for inclusion in the Queensland place names database.

**Land Tenure Investigation Maps**  
Circa 1/1/1980–31/12/1997  
Series ID S20488

This series of maps gives the names and location of land tenures in the Northern Queensland region, including in some cases the types of leases.
Primary Industries and Fisheries

Forestry Camp Maps
Circa 1/1/1860–17/6/1999
Series ID S19146

Forestry camp maps analyse and represent spatial data on forest management operations and National Parks in graphical form. They are mainly forest survey enabling assessment for timber production and protection. Note: some forestry maps are still housed with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. For information you may contact the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying.

Brisbane City Archives

- **Early drainage maps to 1925**
  These historical plans are from 1848 to 1925. Prior to amalgamation the local authorities managed the drainage work within their local boundaries;

- **Brisbane City “key” Map series 1925 to 1965, later known as 4 chain maps**
  As production of the first Brisbane Town Plan approached in 1957, Council authorised a major revision of the 4 chain maps to align with the State Grid, resulting in 226 maps in total;

- **Aerial Images**
  The Brisbane City Archives recommends QI Imagery website because it is the most extensive historical collection of aerial imagery for Queensland dating from 1930s.

Other information

- **Digitised maps in our catalogue**
  An example is McKellar’s Official Map of Brisbane and Suburbs, search ArchivesSearch using the keywords *McKellar official map* to find maps in Series ID S1688

- **Search procedure: Maps**
  This step-by-step process for finding maps is available in the Reading Room. Reference details for the map series at Queensland State Archives are in the Queensland State Archives’ online catalogue;

- **Digitised maps on our map viewer in the Reading Room**
  Many of our most popular maps including the cadastral (parish) maps are available to download free of charge from our map viewer.

Need more information?

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