

Miner's homestead lease records



DR2637 - Overseer's home, Stanthorpe, October 1918

Research Guide to miner's homestead lease records at Queensland State Archives

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 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.

Historical context

The *Gold Fields Homestead Act, 1870* encouraged gold miners and others to become permanent residents on the gold fields of Queensland. From 1 March 1871, it repealed the *Gold Fields Towns Lands Act 1869* and enabled any holder of a miner's right, business license, gold mining lease, or any other authorised adult resident to make application for a lease of land on a proclaimed gold field. The applicant must have been resident on the field for not less than six months and the application had to be lodged at the office of the Commissioner in charge of the gold field. The area applied for was not to exceed 40 acres. The number of applicants was restricted to one hundred on each gold field and leases were transferable. Any miner with a valid miner's right was able to search for gold on the land.

The *Goldfields Homestead Lease Amendment Act 1880* enabled holders of a miner's right to apply for a lease not exceeding a quarter of an acre within the limits of a township for residence or business purposes. This amendment also directed that all rents and revenue from the leases be paid to a special fund to be expended on roads, bridges and other public works on the respective goldfields under the relevant local authority.

The *Goldfields Homestead Leases Act 1886* repealed the previous acts and it changed the areas of proposed leases. Leases could now be up to half an acre within township limits, five acres within two miles of the town boundaries and forty acres beyond two miles. The *Mineral Homestead Leases Act 1891* authorised the issue of homestead leases in mining districts, for mining other than gold, on terms which were the same as for the gold fields homestead leases.

The *Mining Act 1898* repealed a number of acts including those about gold fields homestead leases and mineral homestead leases. Part VIII of this Act was provision for miners' homestead leases to be taken up within gold or mineral fields, for minerals other than gold. Areas were limited to one acre within the boundaries of a proclaimed township; five acres within two miles of town boundaries; forty acres beyond two miles and within five miles of a town boundary; and eighty acres outside of the five mile radius. The aggregate area applied for by any one person within the limits of the same gold or mineral field was not to exceed eighty acres.

The *Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913* created Miners' Homestead Perpetual Leases. This Act repealed Part VIII of the *Mining Act* and was to be read in conjunction with the *Mining Act* - the principal Act.

The *Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913* was repealed by the *Land Act 1994*. This Act transferred the miners' homestead leases to tenure under the jurisdiction of the Lands Department. Leases applied for under the repealed 1913 Act were to be administered as if the Act was still in force. Leases were withdrawn, rejected, surrendered, forfeited, resumed or cancelled. Leases were numbered within each area. Files may include the application for the lease; description of the land; the decision of the Minister for various transactions (eg. transfer of lease, application for subdivision); reports on applications; maps; survey plans; sketch maps; details of mortgage; lease document; notification of marriage or death; wills; and correspondence.

For a list of relevant legislation, see the final page of this guide.

Miners' Homestead Lease files

When you have the MHL (Miners' Homestead Lease) or MHP (Miners' Homestead Perpetual Lease) file numbers, you may search for the file in [ArchivesSearch](#). Please note, over time the descriptive metadata has changed which can make finding the entry in the catalogue difficult, and you may need to ask for assistance.

If you do not have the file number, there are two main options for searching for file numbers, you can either

- search the Registers held at QSA, see details below, or
- view the 40 chain to the inch parish maps held at QSA, eg. map of Parish of Herberton, County of Cardwell, 1928, [ITM626063, DR95771](#) includes lease numbers in the Etheridge gold fields. For details parish maps held at QSA, refer to the [Research guide to Maps](#).

Registers of Miners' Homestead Leases

18/1/1872 – 17/8/1995

[S19418](#)

Use the digitised registers to find MHL (Miners' Homestead Lease) or MHP (Miners' Homestead Perpetual Lease) file numbers in [S35](#) eg. ITM1484175, [DR86267](#), 1872 to ITM1484739, [DR97245](#), 1992

Miners' Homestead Lease Files

23/9/1871 – 13/8/2012

[S35](#)

To find MHL, Miners' Homestead Leases or MHP, Miners' Homestead Perpetual Leases, use [S19418](#).

Card Register of Miners Homestead Leases

1/3/1871 – 17/8/1995

[S19420](#)

These cards record leases issued, whether cancelled, transferred or forfeited, and the yearly rent paid. These cards provide access to the series of Miners Homestead Lease volumes, S19418 and files, S35. Cards may also include Residence Areas. Search the cards by district, then by lease number and name.

Mining Titles Freeholding (MTFL) Leases

10/03/1983–23/03/1995

[S21599](#)

To find lease numbers, use [S21038](#).

Other Miners' Homestead Lease records – Etheridge Shire Council

Account Ledgers

20/10/1882 – circa 31/12/1910

[S18741](#)

Register of Miners' Homestead Leases and Oaks Fields' Rates Paid

1/1/1914 – 31/12/1926

[S18753](#)

Mining Wardens

Bowen

Register of Applications to Lease Crown Land

1/03/1890 - 31/08/1921

[S14279](#)

Bundaberg

Registers of Miners' Homestead Leases

16/6/1906 – 24/1/1922

[S6657](#)

Charters Towers

Register of Miners' Homestead Leases

25/7/1874 – 5/3/1912

[S7362](#)

Registers of Survey Plans for Miners' Homestead Leases

1/8/1874 – 16/10/1947

[S9598](#)

Chillagoe

Register of Miners' Homestead Leases

1/3/1909– 31/12/1971

[S8448](#)

Cloncurry

Registers of Miners' Homestead Lease Applications

22/6/1899– 29/7/1911

[S9130](#)

17/12/1877 – 28/9/1906

[S10650](#)

Register of Miners' Homestead Lease Applications

24/9/1888 – 27/10/1904

[S10649](#)

Cooktown

Register of Applications, Lease Crown Land *Gold Fields Homestead Leases Act 1886*

3/5/1888 – 21/11/1914

[S14362](#)

Croydon

Miners' Homestead Leases

21/12/1908 – 6/11/1913

[S14377](#)

Registers of Fees Received; Miscellaneous Applications re Leasing

25/02/1887 - 23/12/1892

[S14373](#)

Transfers of Miners' Homestead Leases

1/8/1888 – 1/2/1912

[S14378](#)

Eidsvold

Registers of Applications for Homestead Leases

31/5/1889 – 9/5/1938

[S7775](#)

Georgetown

Application Book - Gold Field Homestead Leases

17/11/1881 – 10/5/1888

[S14476](#)

Register of Applications for Miners Homestead Leases

24/3/1888 – 19/11/1907

[S14465](#)

Indexes to Registers of Applications to Lease Crown Lands, Etheridge

25/10/1880 – 9/1/1913

[S13570](#)

Register of Instruments of Goldfield Homestead Leases, Etheridge

23/7/1888 – 15/3/1907

[S14466](#)

Registers of Applications to Lease Crown Lands, Etheridge & Woolgar

25/10/1880 – 9/1/1913

[S13571](#)

Gladstone

Register of Applications to Lease Crown Land under the *Gold Fields Homestead Act Of 1870*

1/3/1871 – 20/2/1901

[S7997](#)

Gympie

Indexes to Registers of Applications for Homestead Leases

27/09/1882–4/11/1977

[S7869](#)

Registers of Applications for Homestead Leases

1/1/1872 – 21/8/1912

[S7870](#)

Register of Applications for Homestead Leases

19/4/1883 – 10/11/1906

[S7868](#)

Herberton

Registers of Miners' Homestead Leases

27/9/1880 – 24/10/1922

[S10110](#)

Register of Applications to Lease Crown Lands

13/05/1884 - 1/09/1894

[S14542](#)

Register of Applications for Miners' Homestead Leases

1/1/1892 – 31/12/1903

[S14546](#)

Mount Morgan

Registers of Miners' Homestead Leases Recorded under Part VIII of the *Mining Act 1898*

3/4/1877 – 8/8/1913

[S14641](#)

Nanango

Registers of Miners' Homestead Leases

24/2/1902 – 26/8/1971

[S8207](#)

Ravenswood

Register of Applications for Gold Field Homesteads

15/10/1874 – 3/3/1887

[S14681](#)

Townsville

Register of Miners' Homestead Leases

30/9/1919 – 8/3/1927

[S7405](#)

Warwick

Register of Applications for Gold Miners' Homestead Areas

8/9/1889 – 25/11/1924

[S6939](#)

Relevant Legislation

Note: this list of legislation is not an exhaustive list.

Gold Fields Town Lands Act 1869

Goldfields Homestead Act 1870

Goldfields Homestead Act Amendment Act 1880

Goldfields Homestead Leases Act 1886

Land Act 1994

Mineral Homestead Leases Act 1891 & 1913

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Act 1913

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Act 1947

Miners' Homestead Leases Acts Amendment Act 1951

Miners' Homestead Leases Acts Amendment Act 1957

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Act 1964 & 1965

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Act 1975 & 1976

Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Act 1978 & 1979

Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1986 & 1990

Miners' Homestead Perpetual Leases Act Amendment Act 1921

Mining Act 1898

Mining Acts Amendment Act 1920 & 1920 (No. 2)

Mining Acts Amendment Act 1929, 1930 & 1939

Mining Titles Freeholding Act Amendment Act 1986

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).

Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.