

History of your house



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

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

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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 is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (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

[S19591](#)

Drainage Construction Sketches

18/11/1941–6/2/1964

[S19574](#)

Plans for Workers' Dwellings (Selection Only)

01/11/1940–31/12/1977

[S17683](#)

Queensland Government Savings Bank

Workers' Dwelling Loan Registers

14/3/1910–19/2/1955

[S3962](#)

Housing for Servicemen Loan Register

17/7/1944–7/12/1945

[S3956](#)

State Advances Corporation

Building Revival Scheme Loan Applications Registers

1/8/1932–19/5/1958

[S3959](#)

Workers' Dwellings Board

Workers' Homes Plan Books

Circa 1/1/1911–Circa 31/12/1928

[S19561](#)

Architectural drawings of Workers' Dwellings

2/6/1914–6/12/1915

[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. The records held for various local government entities vary.

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.

Examples include:

- Cairns City Council, Miscellaneous Correspondence and Files, [S4020](#), 01/01/1899–30/06/1960
- Cloncurry Shire Council, Valuation and Rate Books, [S5022](#), 01/01/1908–31/12/1951
- Cloncurry Shire Council, Sanitary Rate Books, [S5024](#), 01/01/1920–31/12/1948
- Cloncurry Shire Council, Water Rate Books, [S5021](#), 01/01/1925–31/12/1951
- Jondaryan Divisional Board / Millmerran Shire Council, Rates & Valuations, [S21593](#), 07/06/1880–20/12/2018
- Longreach Shire Council, Valuation Registers and Rate Books, [S18914](#), 01/01/1938–31/12/1964
- Nebo Shire Council, Rate Book, [S17048](#), 01/01/1903–31/12/1921
- Nebo Shire Council, Valuation Register and Rate Books, [S17050](#), 01/01/1922–31/12/1965
- Purga Divisional Board / Purga Shire Council, Index to Ratepayers, [S17120](#), 01/01/1900–31/12/1903
- Rosalie Divisional Board / Rosalie Council, Valuation & Rates Books, [S21494](#), 10/08/1880–14/02/1998

Information contained in these different records varies but may include:

- 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.

Minute books - digital copies on the Reading Room PCs

In the decades past, many local government minutes were microfilmed. These 5 series of microfilmed records are digitised and available in the Reading Room:

- Gold Coast Council (Southport South Coast) Minute Books, [S4465](#), 30/01/1970–14/12/1990
- Ipswich Council Minute Books, [S3919](#), 12/04/1860–25/01/1979
- Logan Council Minute Books, [S611](#), 18/04/1979–12/12/2006
- Toowoomba Council Committee Report Books, [S17776](#), 04/02/1861–15/12/2000
- Townsville Council Rate Books and Cards, [S18587](#), 01/01/1879–31/12/1928

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

[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. Files in S14050 (LAN/DF1-5106) that are indexed in S14000 are name listed in [ArchivesSearch](#). Refer to the following Research Guides for more land record information: [Land Agents' records](#), [Land Codes](#), and [Land tenure records](#).

Sales of Crown Land and Special Leases

19/12/1859–Circa 31/12/1962

[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

[S10397](#)

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This index records town and country land purchases. Some references survey plan numbers are given.

Registers of Perpetual Leases

Circa 1/1/1915– 31/12/1981

[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

[S14020](#)

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

[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 [ArchivesSearch](#).

Survey Office

Town Maps

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

[S17610](#)

Estate Maps

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

[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

[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

[S16245](#)

Indexes of Journals of Encumbrances and of Conveyances

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

[S16276](#)

Journal of Conveyances and Encumbrances

Circa 27/02/1862 – 29/07/1865

[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

[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

[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

[S16253](#)

Transmission books

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

[S16258](#)

Register of the Intra-Office Transmission of Documents

14/3/1924 - 4/7/1946

[S16259](#)

Justice and Attorney General's Department

Register of Appeals Against Shire Valuations

11/8/1909

[S16305](#)

Land Court, Townsville

Urban Valuation Register

01/01/1940–31/12/1949

[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

01/01/1945–31/12/1990

[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.

For assistance with finding the relevant Valuation Roll, contact the [State Valuation Service](#):
valuation.enquiries@resources.qld.gov.au

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

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

[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 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. Further, many photographs are included in [Flickr](#) albums including Queensland Housing Commission homes in [Home Sweet Home](#). There is no single series of records of photographs of houses at Queensland State Archives.

For other collections of photographs of private houses in Queensland, refer to these headings below, *Brisbane City Council* and *Other sources of information*.

Brisbane City Archives

The [Brisbane City Council Archives](#)' (or City Archives) holds a unique collection of resources. The following holdings are available online:

- aerial photographs taken in 1946, 1952, 1961 and 1974 (available in [QImagery](#))
- original surveyor's field books from 1911 to 1973, with the plan to sewer Brisbane including details of existing buildings and other permanent fixtures (the field books are also available online at [Detail Plan areas](#)). Detail Plans may show the outline of various buildings including land boundaries, fencing, house names and outbuildings within an area. This dataset provides the boundary of the area for each Detail Plan and the relevant plan number for locating each plan on Brisbane images. Most Detail plan numbers are numerical. Detail Plan numbers starting with S are for the Sandgate area and starting with W are for Wynnum and Manly).

In addition the City Archives holds:

- 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.

Further, the Brisbane City Council Archives' booklet titled [Researching Your Family's Home](#) 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

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.