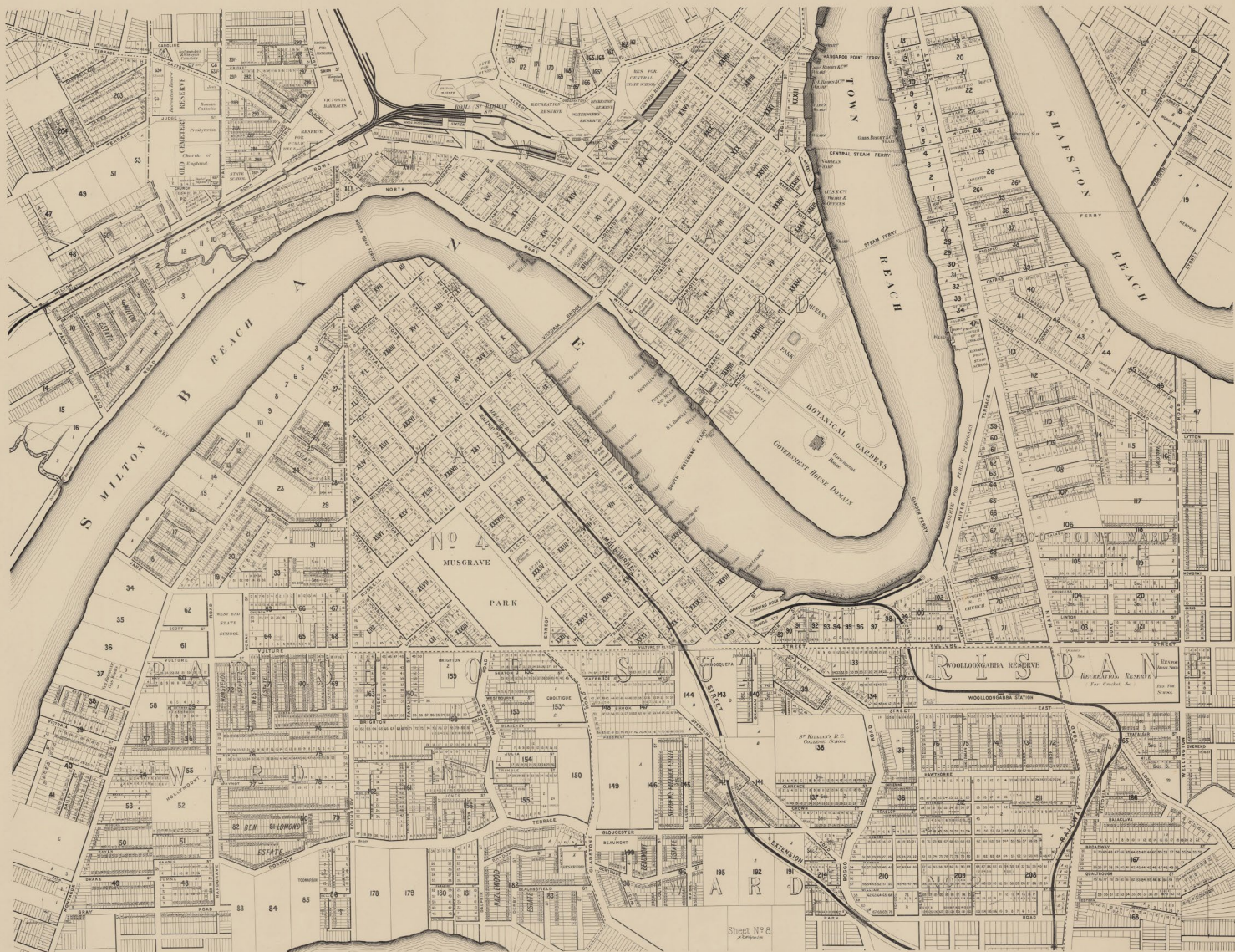# Maps

DR26675 - McKellar's Official Map of Brisbane and Suburbs - Parish of South Brisbane, West Ward, East Ward, Kangaroo Point Ward, 1895

Research Guide to maps
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.

QSA 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 The collection comprises published and unpublished maps and plans produced by the Department of Lands and its predecessor agencies, and by other government departments such as Mapping and Surveying, Mines,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 land files created by the Lands Department (and its successor agencies) held at QSA.

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.

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.

Cadastral maps

These maps show sizes and boundaries of properties, topographical features, roads and railways. In the main, cadastral maps at QSA 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
S4893

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

These maps with a scale of forty chains to an inch are arranged by name of parish and county. Details include names of land holders and selection numbers for agricultural farms, grazing homesteads, perpetual lease prickly-pear development leases, sugar workers' leases, perpetual lease selections, auction purchase freehold, miners' homestead leases, soldier settlements and pastoral holdings.

To find parish and county names you may search the *Queensland parish directory* available online

Queensland State Archives has arranged many parish maps into artificial series. The purpose of these artificial series was to bring together maps depicting the same geographic area, that is, counties and parishes within specific districts. The 40 chain parish maps within these series are useful for identifying the first early land holders (land selectors and freeholders).

Parish maps are item listed in ArchivesSearch. If you are interested in maps recording early land holders in the Cook District, specifically within the Parish of Bartle Frere, County of Nares, try searching using the names of the *parish* and the *county*. For example, search using the keywords – *Bartle Frere Nares*.

In some instance series of maps are controlled by key maps, and some of these keys are available online in ArchivesSearch.

Cook District

County of Nares - P9 Series
Circa 1/1/1877– 31/12/1987
S1856

County of Hodgkinson - O7 Series
Circa 1/1/1901– 31/12/1984
S1898

County of Lynd - P5 Series
Circa 1/1/1899– 31/12/1982
S1899

Darling Downs District

40 Chain Maps - BG4 Series
Circa 1/1/1882-31/12/1889
S1020

Key map for BG4 series, ITM614739, DR91899 in S1669

County of Aubigny - B1 Series
Circa 1/1/1849– 31/12/1986
S1754

County of Bentinck - B3 Series
Circa 1/1/1873– 31/12/1984
S1755

County of Merivale - C1 Series
Circa 1/1/1857– 31/12/1985
S1756

County of Auburn - B2 Series
Circa 1/1/1907– 31/12/1978
S1861

County of Bulwer - B4 Series
Circa 1/1/1878– 31/12/1985
S1869

County of Derby - B7 Series
Circa 1/1/1863– 31/12/1982
S1870

County of Marsh - B9 Series
Circa 1/2/1885– 31/12/1984
S1871

County of Lytton - B8 Series
Circa 15/9/1864– 31/1/1982
S2032

County of Clive - B6 Series
Circa 1/1/1877– 31/12/1982
S2033

South Kennedy District

County of Carlisle - J5 Series
Circa 1/1/1863– 31/12/1985
S1845

County of Drake - J8 Series
Circa 1/01/1931– 31/12/1977
S1887

County of Belyando - J4 Series
Circa 1/1/1883– 31/12/1974
S2169

North Kennedy District

County of Cardwell - L2 Series
Circa 1/1/1865– 31/12/1984
S1846

County of Elphinstone - L6 Series
Circa 1/1/1864– 31/12/1986
S1848

County of Herbert - M1 Series
Circa 1/1/1861– 31/12/1986
S1850

County of Davenport - L5 Series
Circa 1/1/1876 – 31/12/1982
S1890

County of Gladstone - L7 Series
Circa 1/1/1863–31/12/1984
S1891

County of Griffith - L8 Series
Circa 01/01/1864–31/12/1979
S2173

Leichhardt District

County of Wooroona - I5 Series
Circa 1/1/1862– 31/12/1974
S1844

County of Wodehouse - I4 Series
Circa 1/1/1887–31/12/1978
S1843

County of Westgrove - I3 Series
Circa 1/1/1918– 31/12/1978
S1868

County of Talbot - I1 Series
Circa 1/1/1881–31/12/1980
S2171

Maranoa District

County of Belmore - R1 Series
Circa 1/1/1863– 31/12/1984
S1859

County of Waldegrave - S4 Series
Circa 1/1/1865– 31/12/1984
S1860

County of Dublin - R5 Series
Circa 1/1/1865– 31/12/1985
S2018

Port Curtis District

2 Mile Maps - FG1 Series
Circa 1/1/1877–31/12/1908
S1010

Key map for FG1 series, ITM614742, DR91902 in S1671

County of Murchison - F6 Series
Circa 1/1/1861– 31/12/1982
S1759

County of Deas Thompson - F2 Series
Circa 1/1/1865– 31/12/1981
S1760

County of Livingstone - F5 Series
Circa 1/1/1860– 31/12/1988
S1761

County of Pakington - F7 Series
Circa 1/1/1863– 31/12/1987
S1762

County of Flinders - F3 Series
Circa 1/1/1869– 31/12/1987
S1763

County of Palmerston - F8 Series
Circa 1/1/1868– 30/9/1981
S1867

County of Clinton - F1 Series
Circa 1/1/1861– 31/12/1986
S1880

County of Liebig - F4 Series
Circa 01/01/1862– 31/12/1979
S1881

County of Raglan - F0 Series
Circa 1/1/1863– 31/12/1985
S2024

Wide Bay/Burnett Districts

County of Lennox - D6 Series
Circa 1/1/1862–30/9/1983
S1757

County of March - D8 Series
Circa 1/1/1861– 31/12/1986
S1758

County of Cook - D3 Series
Circa 1/1/1873– 31/12/1987
S1873

County of Fitzroy - D4 Series
Circa 1/1/1875– 30/9/1986
S1874

County of Mackenzie - D7 Series
Circa 1/1/1890– 30/9/1984
S1877

County of Bowen - D2 Series
Circa 1/1/1906– 31/12/1983
S2009

Other Queensland parish map series

Queensland 40 Chain
Circa 1/1/1928-31/12/1979
S1027

Key map for 40 and 20 chain series, ITM614745, DR91873 in S1672

Queensland Twenty Chain
Circa 1/1/1920- 31/12/1979
S1024

Key map for 40 and 20 chain series, ITM614745, DR91873 in S1672

Queensland 4 Mile - 4m1
Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1942
S1021

Key map for 4m1 series, ITM614729, DR91868 in S1661

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

This series comprises cadastral maps of Queensland parishes generally known as the P6 series. These large rolled maps are arranged alphabetical by name of parish.

Town maps

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

Most of the maps in this series are available online on our catalogue. The maps provide details of the surveyed layout and plans of buildings in the convict settlement at Moreton Bay (now Brisbane) from 1830 to 1848.

City of Brisbane Maps - A1AG Series
Circa 1/1/1923– 31/12/1958
S1689

Key map for City of Brisbane maps, ITM635290, DR91917 in S2073

Civic Survey of the City of Brisbane - AIAG2 Series
Circa 1/1/1927– 31/12/1929
S1690

To find maps in this series, use Brisbane and Suburbs - Key Map, S1964

Town Maps
Circa 1/1/1867–31/12/1990
S17610

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

Pastoral district maps

Pastoral district maps include county maps, with key maps. Some keys are available in ArchivesSearch.

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

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

Key map for DG1 series, ITM614740, DR91900 in S1670

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

Key map for NG1 series, ITM635500, DR91922 in S2101

Darling Downs District 1 Mile Maps - BG2 Series
Circa 1/1/1863- 31/12/1863
S1009

Key map for 1 mile series, ITM614738, DR91898 in S1668

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

Key map for BG1 series, ITM614737, DR91897 in S1667

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

Gregory South District Maps - W Series
Circa 1/1/1891–31/12/1905
S2184

South Kennedy District Maps - J Series
Circa 1/1/1868–31/12/1898
S1885

Key map for JG1 series, ITM635405, DR91918 in S2087

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

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

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

Key map for RG4 series, ITM635433, DR91921 in S2096; for RG3 series, ITM635432, DR91920 in S2095; for RG2 series, ITM635431, DR91919 in S2094; for RG3 series, ITM635430, DR91883 in S2092

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

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

Key maps for AG3 series, ITM614748, DR91904 & DR91905 and ITM614746, DR91903 in S1673

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

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

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

Key map for TG2 series, ITM640107, DR91924 in S3367

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

Key map for DG2 series, ITM614727, DR91894 in S1659

Queensland 4 and 2 mile maps

Queensland four and two mile series were drawn over blocks away from the coast.

Queensland 4 Mile Maps - 4m1 Series
Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1942
S1021

Key map for 4m1 series, ITM614729, DR91868 in S1661

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

To find maps in this series use the key map, ITM614728 in S1660 on map viewer in Reading Room.

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

Key map for 4m3 series, ITM661662, DR91925 in S3765

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

To find maps in this series use the key map, ITM614728 in S1660 on map viewer in Reading Room.

Moreton District 2 mile and 40 chain

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.

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

Key map for AG1 series, ITM614735, DR91895 in S1665

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

Key map for AG2 series, ITM614736, DR91896 in S1666

Thematic maps

Thematic maps are usually cadastral maps which refer to a particular subject or group of subjects. Thematic maps at QSA 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 Lands, Forestry and other government departments are found in ArchivesSearch. QSA 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
S1029

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

Survey plans and related records

Survey Plans
Circa 1/1/1853–13/2/1961
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.

Identification Survey Plans
13/9/1871–13/4/2018
S21139

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

Survey Field Books
2/1/1886–15/7/1998
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). A survey plan was drawn from the surveyor's measurements in the field.

Permanent Survey Mark Atlas Maps
Circa 1/1/1980–31/12/1997
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
23/9/2009–17/9/2014
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 refer to 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 - Key Map and Indexes
Circa 17/5/1910–30/5/1973
S4828

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

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

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

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
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

QSA 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
S3430

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

Coordinator General's Office

Maps and plans from the Coordinator General's Office relate to hydro-electric schemes on the North Johnstone River, Barron River, Tully Falls and Herbert River. Mainly these date from 1915 to 1965. Examples include:

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

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

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

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

Hydro-Electric Investigation Drawings
19/10/1950–2/1/1963
S18509

Mines Department

Mines Series Maps - 1:100, 000
Circa 1/1/1969–31/12/1986
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
14/8/1951–17/4/2005
S21154

This series comprises aerial survey photographic prints commissioned or undertaken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and its predecessors. Note: the Queensland Spatial Catalogue contains most of these aerial photographs. Individual film numbers may match aerial images found online in QImagery.

Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

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

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

Cadastral Atlases
Circa 1/12/1971–1/12/1987
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
S20488

This series is about land tenure in the Northern Queensland region, including in some cases the types of leases.

Aerial Photographic Prints
Circa 01/01/1944– 01/01/2012
S21124

This series consists of prints of aerial photographic images. All items in this series were digitised between 2005 and 2017 by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (now Department of Resources) and made available publicly on the QImagery website. QImagery geolocates and aligns these digitised historical aerial images with an online map of the state, allowing users to search for and view the images by location. Users can also download and save digital copies of the aerial images from the site.

Forestry Department

Forestry Camp Maps
Circa 1/1/1860–17/6/1999
[S19146](#)
Forestry camp maps analyse and represent spatial data on forest management operations and National Parks. Note: for forestry maps still housed with the [Department of Resources](#), contact the [Right To Information](#) team.

Other sources of information

Searching for maps at QSA

- Our *Search procedure to Maps*, available in the Reading Room, gives the step-by-step process for finding maps including those on our map viewer.

Digitised maps at QSA

- **Digitised maps in catalogue,** [ArchivesSearch](#), eg. McKellar's Map of Brisbane & Suburbs, [S1688](#)
- **Digitised maps on map viewer in the Reading Room**. Maps in ArchivesSearch are also on viewer.

Brisbane City Archives

- **Early drainage maps 1848–1925**
- **Brisbane City "Key" Map series 1925 to 1965**, later known as 4 chain maps
- **Aerial Images** - The Brisbane City Archives recommends [QImagery website](#) as it is the most extensive historical collection of aerial imagery for Queensland.

National Library of Australia

- Search [the NLA catalogue](#) , eg. "Parish maps of Queensland" + parish flinders county Churchill, Access attribute - National Library (digitised item).

Queensland Government open data resources

- [Historical cadastral maps](#) are available in the [open data portal](#)
- [Queensland Globe](#) provides an online interactive experience to view Queensland's location based information. Read the [Historical maps topic guide](#) for search tips
- [Queensland Spatial Catalogue](#) for Queensland Government spatial data and information
- [Queensland place names database](#) for place names in the Queensland.

Need more information?

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