

HOW TO RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE



Ever wanted to know the story behind a house or building but don't know where to start? City of Melbourne Libraries has some great resources and tips for your search.

Key questions to ask

- When was it built?
- Who designed/built it?
- Who has lived there?
- What changes have been made?
- What was there before it was a house?
- Has the street numbering changed?

Record keeping is important

- Take notes as you go
- Record references, copy links

Things can be harder to find the second time. Noting search terms and copying links may help reduce frustration (e.g. "how did I find that again?")

- Conflicting information is common

CITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARIES

Where to look for information

City of Melbourne Libraries <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/local-history>

- Sands & McDougall directories. A unique resource for searching Melbourne properties, residents, businesses and streets. Access via dedicated local history computers at East Melbourne and North Melbourne libraries. Speak to library staff about booking your session.
- Vertical files by appointment. Browse auction notices, news articles, letters and more.
- Online heritage collection via library catalogue. An online archive of over 10 000 images.

City of Melbourne

- Heritage data (i-Heritage) <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/heritage-data>
- Open access interactive maps <http://maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au>
- Planning permit register <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/planning-permit-register>

State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au

- MMBW maps (Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works)
- Images

Public Records Office Victoria www.prov.vic.gov.au

- Rates & valuations (including City of Melbourne rate books)
- Plans & permits
- Research guides (e.g. Historic Homes, download for free <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/historic-homes>)

State Government Victoria

- Melbourne Planning Schemes <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-schemes>
- Landata <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

Heritage Council of Victoria

- Victorian Heritage Database <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au>

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Trove (National Library Australia) <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

- Digitised newspapers
- Images

Local historical societies

- Societies in the City of Melbourne listed on library website
<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/local-history>

Still need help with your search?

Why not book a one-on-one session with a librarian?

Book a history detective is available through the library website or call 1800 695 427

https://melbournelibraryservice.formstack.com/forms/book_a_history_detective