Family History

House History check list

Focus on reason for search:
Is it for renovation, genealogy, biographical search, architectural history, land use history? Use one or all, of the strategies below as appropriate.

Land title search: Lot on Plan number from Rates Notice
Not at State Library of Queensland

Titles Queensland, sells and provides documents and services at:
- https://www.titlesqld.com.au/title-searches/
- the **Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying** can provide some assistance once a title search has been completed: https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/museum-of-lands/collections

See also Useful websites for family historians >Australia & NZ> Queensland>Department of Natural resources etc
Titles will name landowners, indicate mortgages over land, easements and further subdivisions. Examine the transfers closely: what story do they tell?
Titles do not provide details of the house, but mortgages often provided funding for building a house.

Maps: Find the exact block of land in context
An estate map outlines information on an estate at the time it was advertised for sale.
This could include a map of the estate with a local sketch which provides context for the area. Transport and facilities such as gas and electricity could be mentioned.

State Library of Queensland
- **Estate maps, McKellar maps and other cadastral maps** at State Library on level 4.
- **Estate maps:** red folders adjacent to delivery area on level 4 – organised by suburb
- **Estate maps online:** https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/ In search box use "suburb name" and select options "Maps" and "SLQ digitised collections". Exclude suburb name to find other maps.
- **Estate maps on Historypin** https://www.historypin.org/en/real-estate-maps-of-queensland/ - browse by suburb, area or street and select a map 'pin' to get more information about the estate.

Brisbane City Council Archives (BCC):
Note: Brisbane City Council holds important records.
Guide to researching your house history with hyperlinks or https://bit.ly/3hzyu9a

BCC records: 5/107-123 Muriel Ave, Skyline Business Centre, Moorooka archives@brisbane.qld.gov.au

- ***Brisbane City Council Water and Sewerage Maps 1917,*** bound volume, open access, level 4
- **Brisbane records include detail plans** which show footprint of the house at the time the plans were recorded; most likely source of house name.
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Detail Plans
  Use map indexes to find appropriate detail plan number and then check Brisbane City Archives Detail Plans online: sewerage/water maps Brisbane suburbs: 1911-1973
  Original Surveyor's field books 1911–1973 provide more information than the detail plans but require a visit to Brisbane City Archives.
  Mainly cover inner, older suburbs. Use detail plan number to locate. There is a cost.

- **Aerial Map/photograph of Brisbane**
  Qimagery https://qimagery.information.qld.gov.au/ contains the 1936, 1946 and 1951 aerial maps plus many others
- **Brisbane City Council. *Landowners 1900 for Brisbane City and Suburbs***
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ >Brisbane Historic Maps>Early Brisbane Maps>Brisbane Parish map showing landowners

Other sources: directories, electoral rolls and maps

- **Queensland Post Office Directories 1868-1949** Guide https://bit.ly/2CYDIMC
  Resident entries in Queensland Post Office Directories finish in 1939.
  Note: electoral rolls may be more useful in finding residents at a more exact address earlier.
  See electoral roll notes below.
- *Refidex/street directories of Brisbane*: S 919.431 021 See also UBDs. Available on level 4.
  Use One Search https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/ - search for 'street directories' & limit to 'State Library collections'.
- **Old directories digitised online**: In One Search; search for 'street directories' and limit to 'Digitised collections'. E.g. *Harris' street and road directory* 1916-1917.
- **Street maps on CD-ROMs** – available at level 3
  Greater Brisbane area: alphabetical index of changed street names: C1940s.
  QCFS 912.431 2009
  Greater Brisbane area: atlases and street directories: set of 4 1931-c1948. QCFS 912.431 2009
  Brisbane Directory 1919 (Yates & Jones) QCFS 919.43 2007
- **Useful websites for family historians:** E.g. *Renamed places in Queensland*
  https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/ > Collections > Family history > Useful websites for family historians > Australia & NZ > Queensland > *Renamed places in Queensland*
- **Electoral rolls** [**ancestryLibrary edition**, available at State Library]
  On right sidebar, click on 'Australian Voter Lists'. Then select 'Australia electoral rolls1903-1980'. Search broadly. Names appear at an address earlier and, in many cases, a more precise one, than in directories. All household members on the electoral roll are listed with their full names and occupations so there is more information to identify the right person or family. See also electoral rolls on fiche until January 2008, available on level 3.
- **Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying**
  https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/museum-of-lands/collections
  incurs a cost for research and documents.
- **Queensland Globe** https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/ provides access to digitised historical cadastral, topographical and McKellar maps through **'Topics'**.
- **Queensland State Archives** https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives
  cadastral maps, pastoral run maps, and others.

Plans and Architectural Drawings: designing and building the house
Architectural plans and architects

- **John Oxley Library:** Search One Search catalogue by name of architect e.g. *Dods 27671 Hall and Dods Architectural Drawings 1898-1984*. View on level 4.
- **Fryer Library (Uni. of Qld):** Queensland overlay maps for architectural plans http://bit.ly/2tkgJpG
- **Biographical details of architects:** *Queensland architects of the 19th century : a biographical dictionary* / Donald Watson; Judith McKay Queensland Museum, view on level 4 (Q 720 wat); *Index to this biographical dictionary*, view on level 4 (REFJ 720 WAT).

Commercial dwelling plans

- *Queensland Parliamentary Papers* for Annual Reports of Workers Dwelling Scheme or similar.
- Websites such as www.househistories.org include plans released by the State Advances Corporation, Redicut Homes, Campbell Brothers and other house pattern books. They are organised by time period and embedded in the site accordingly.

- See also items in **John Oxley Library**.
  Check catalogue: One Search https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/
  Subject: Architecture, Domestic – Designs and Plans
- **Brisbane City Archives:** Images – Queensland Homes (includes plans)
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Queensland homes

Builders

Brisbane City Council Archives Building Registers: alphabetical by street – gives name of owners, and whether Worker's Dwelling or State Advances Corporation was involved. Sometimes gives builder's name. Annotations show if it is a new building or an addition.

- **Brisbane City Archives Register of Building Application Records – online 1904-1925**
  inner city, north of the river only; original Brisbane Council area.
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Building application records > Building application records March 1904 - September 1925
- **Brisbane City Archives Building Application Registers without indexes 1925-1945**
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Building application records > Building Application Registers without indexes 1925-1945
  Registers are missing for the years: 1939 (index only) and there are no existing records for the period September 1934 - January 1936 and April - December 1937. Entries are handwritten, chronological by address with owner's name, cost, type of building and name of architect if any. The landowner's name is needed to confirm it's the right building. See BCC online guidance at site. The date in the register records is approval date so construction was soon after. Check for an index first.
- **Brisbane City Archives Building Register Indexes 1926-1943**
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Building records > Building Register Indexes 1926-1943
  Entries are generally arranged alphabetically by street name (except for 1942 which is by owner's name) and include: owners name, and reference number to the entry in the main building register which can then be tracked back to the main register.

Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers:
- Use for tenders, for house removals, for sale of land or house and land.
- Search in Trove using terms like tenders, house removals, by name of owner or by portion number e.g. "525 Red Hill"
- Refine by year and month to find tender advertisement.

House styles

- Use styles only as a guide to age. Houses may be built in a style out of the period.
- Weatherboard houses were moved; check for 'available for removal' notices in Trove newspapers
- Brisbane City Council has a booklet, *Your house has a history*. View on level 4 (P 728 BRI).
  It succinctly covers the main styles from the 19th Century to 20th Century.
- *Brisbane house styles 1880 to 1940 : a guide to the affordable house* / Judy Gale Rechner. Request then view on level 4 (P 728 rec).
- www.househistories.org is organised by time periods and has booklets embedded in the site according to period covered.

Many councils also have guides for their area online. These include:
- *Every house has a history : Ipswich City Council* https://bit.ly/31vqkJd
- *Researching the history of your Central Queensland home* https://bit.ly/2QsatoL
- Toowoomba Regional Council: Heritage advice – typical house styles
  https://www.tr.qld.gov.au/planning-building/land-zoning/heritage-character-considerations/16035-heritage-advice-typical-house-styles

Photographs of the house

- **Trove pictures:** https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/category/images? includes images of homes, streets etc. from all state libraries, the National Library, council libraries and more.
- **John Oxley Library photographs of suburbs, streets, residences:**
  check One Search catalogue https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/ e.g. search "Photographs – Red Hill" Location CPC (Copy Print Collections) can be ordered online.
- **Brisbane City Archives:**
  Aerial photographs 1946, online https://cityplan.brisbane.qld.gov.au/eplan/property/0/0/243
  Basemaps on right hand side, then 'Aerial 1946'.
  Queensland Homes Images and plans
  https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/ > Queensland homes
- **6169 Corley house photographs ca. 1970:** organised by suburb, photographs available online.
  Check catalogue (One Search) or look on Corley Explorer https://explorer.corley.slq.qld.gov.au/
  Includes most suburbs of Brisbane and in surrounding areas of Ipswich, Redcliffe, Toowoomba, Stanthorpe, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Kingaroy, Nambour, Caboolture, Landsborough and nearby environs. 1960s and 1970s.
- **Newspapers and magazines:** Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper
  Australian Women's Weekly, *Weekend Home Supplements*.
- **Card indexes:** Level 4
  Society and Home Magazine. Search by Brisbane-residences-house name.
  Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland. Search by Suburb–residences/building names. The journal itself is on fiche, located on level 3 - Fiche/s 690.
- **Old subject catalogue:** search by Brisbane-residence-house name e.g. Roslyn
- **Google street view**. Note a few views over time are available since 2007. Open the image and click on street view to get the options.

The social and cultural dimension of life in the home

- Check newspapers online via Trove. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper
- Check the One Search catalogue https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/ for books, documents, stories and photographs of the families associated with the home and life of the times.

History of suburb, town or region

- Local history publications in John Oxley Library, level 4: suburb, town, region and local government area e.g. Ithaca.
- Newspaper cuttings of towns, suburbs, cities in Queensland, John Oxley Library L4: order at desk manually
- Trove digitised newspaper search https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper for suburban history; search for name of suburb or estate e.g. Graham Estate, Ashgrove

Document sources and search results

- Prepare a checklist
- Note subdivision, portion and plan numbers
- Note where you have searched, list the source and the result

Further resources

For more information on what other resources are available at State Library visit:
- **Built heritage** to see some of our collections and digital stories
  https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/queensland/built-heritage
- **House History** – includes five video guides
  https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/queensland/built-heritage/house-histories