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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet replaces the original *History of Your House* published by Brisbane City Council in 1992.

While prepared as a team effort by the Heritage Unit, it has greatly benefited from using the case-study house of Jack and Brenda Ford and the input of historian Rod Fisher – also the family reminiscences and photographs of former occupant Jim Pritchard.

As well as providing information, images have been reproduced by kind permission of various repositories, which are named in captions, particularly: Brisbane City Archives, John Oxley Library, National Archives of Australia, Queensland Department of Housing, Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Queensland Rail (QR) and Queensland State Archives.

DISCLAIMER

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Getting started

Researching the history of your house is an enlightening experience, since every house whatever its age, origin and occupancy, has a history.

Here are 10 **keys** to unlock your house's history. Each **key** opens the door to a different research topic which includes steps and tips as well as insights into specific issues. This process is illustrated by pictures and documents of a case-study house at Northgate.

The first 5 **keys** provide the framework for your research. They should reveal when the house was built, in which style and for whom, as well as successive changes relating to the house, owners and occupants, within the context of time and place.

The next 4 **keys**, though trickier, can add detail and colour via images and words. **Key 10** is the END-PRODUCT – in this case the story of a Northgate house. Your house could be just as interesting, if not more revealing.

The 10 **keys** have been arranged sequentially to go from door to door, so to speak. Remember though that some **keys** need to be used together to be effective. Even then, the history of some places might not be easy to unlock.

There are also two other sections: STYLES and TERMS listed before the 10 **keys** to help identify your house and describe its features; and finally CONTACTS and REFERENCES to provide more information for ongoing research.

You now have the **keys** to make a start and observe what's around – indoors, outdoors, over the fence, along the street and about the suburb.

Your efforts will help document the history and heritage of our city and contribute to preserving one of Brisbane's most widely admired features – its evocative character housing.

This supports Council's *Living in Brisbane 2010* vision, which is about encouraging new subtropical design while preserving the traditional character of city and suburbs.

Styles

Many houses look similar to others in shape, scale, structure, material, detail and composition. When similarities are greater than differences, those houses may be given style names. As some styles were more popular at certain times than others, they may also be grouped by period.

Some of the most popular or fashionable styles for each period are sketched here, and elaborated in REFERENCES. These apply to single detached houses as well as semi-detached houses or duplexes, terrace or row houses, flats or apartments and dwellings attached to business premises.

However, some houses are such a mix of styles either by design or renovation that they can only be called hybrids. Moreover, most styles begin and continue for at least a decade before and after their era of popularity, and some are revived later.

That applies particularly to the tradition of timber-and-tin housing in Queensland in contrast with the more fashionable styles derived from architectural practice further afield. Though this vernacular stream began in the Colonial period, it diversified and thrived until the Postwar era, to be revived in the 1980s.

This means it might be easy to identify the style of your house, and approximately when it was constructed. However, it's more likely you will need to use the 10 keys to unlock its history.

Late Colonial period 1870s-1880s

- 1 Gable-roofed cottage
- 2 Pyramid-roofed house
- 3 Short-ridge roofed house with encircling verandahs

Federation period 1890s-1910s

- 4 Bungalow-roofed house
- 5 Asymmetrical bungalow-roofed house
- 6 Queen Anne style house

Interwar period 1920s-1930s

- 7 Porch-and-gable house
- 8 Multi-gable house
- 9 Californian Bungalow style house
- 10 Spanish Mission style house
- 11 Old English style house
- 12 Functionalist style house

Postwar period 1940s-1960s

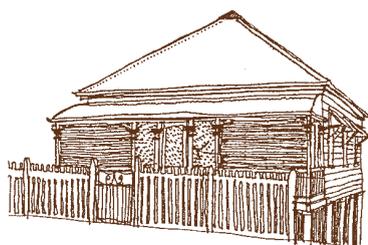
- 13 Conventional hip-roofed house
- 14 International style house

See whether you can find your house represented here, or in other manuals.

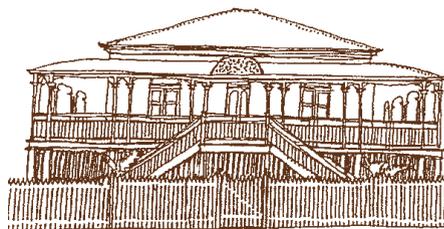
This will help date and describe the style of your house.



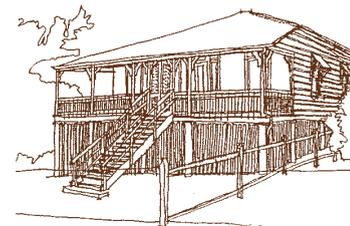
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

Terms

Asymmetrical house Lacking symmetry in the facade or plan, particularly in having a projecting front room, which was increasingly popular from the Federation period onwards.

Balustrading A series of balusters or panels below the handrail of a verandah or set of stairs, sometimes comprising decorative cast or wrought iron, but more often timber dowels (called broomsticks) and later slats or boards.



Bargeboards Sloping timber boards fixed to the edge or eaves of a roof, which might be plain or decorative and surmounted by a finial.

Battens Regularly spaced slats of wood used as infill, particularly of a subfloor area between the stumps or at the sides of window-shades.

Bay Projection from a wall, often forming a window.

Belt-rails One or more horizontal timbers of an exposed stud frame to which the wallboards are nailed.

Brace A structural member fixed at an angle to other members of the wall frame, usually a diagonal or cross-brace.

Bungalow roof Any roof which pitches from its apex to the edge on one or more sides without any step between the core and verandah roofing.

Burra Charter A document drawn up in 1979 at Burra, South Australia, and later revised to guide the conservation of places of cultural heritage significance.

Chamferboards Cladding of wide boards with a recess along each top and bottom edge, so that the wall profile is flat with deep horizontal grooves, otherwise known as chamfers.

Colonial period From first European settlement in Australia until the 1890s movement towards Federation, including the Victorian era named after the Queen from 1837 to 1901.

Conservation All the processes of looking after a place to retain its cultural significance, as defined in the Burra Charter.

Core The main area of a building enclosed by walls, excluding verandahs and extensions.

Corrugated iron Sheets of galvanised iron with continuous folds, popularly called tin.

Cover-strips Narrow strips, usually of timber or fibro, over joins between ceiling or wall panels.

Cultural significance The aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or other special value for past, present or future generations as defined in the Brisbane City Plan, Queensland Heritage Act and Burra Charter.



Cut-outs Small openings just below the hand rail of a board balustrade, generally infilled with battens and oblong in shape, but sometimes curved like an eyelet.

Derivative styles Architectural designs influenced by overseas and southern building styles, rather than vernacular in origin.

Detached Any house which is separate from others, rather than semi-detached (joined as two houses) or attached (as multiple terrace or town houses).

Eaves The protective lower edges of a roof which project some distance beyond the walls and often carry guttering.

Exposed stud frame The visible skeleton of timber members of a wall, lined on one side only, usually with chamferboards or weatherboards, otherwise known as singleskin.

Fanlights Glazed windows above a doorway rather than breezeways of fretwork or battens.

Federation period The era from the movement in the 1890s towards Australian Federation until the 1910s including the First World War.

Fibro Sheeting of fibro-asbestos cement for cladding the walls or roof of a house.

French doors A pair of narrow-hinged doors especially those leading onto the verandah.

Fretwork Decorative pattern cut into timber or perhaps metal.

Here are some common words used to identify and describe Brisbane houses.

More may be found in manuals on Australian and Queensland houses listed in REFERENCES.

Gable roof A pitched roof, sloping straight from its ridge to the eaves on two sides, with an upright triangle or gable forming the top part of the wall at either end.

Heritage Those items of cultural significance which should be transmitted from generation to generation.



Hip roof A roof which is pitched on at least three sides from ridge to eaves so that the triangle or hip at either end slopes downward towards the wall.

Interwar period The era of the 1920s to 1930s between the First and Second World Wars including the Great Depression.

Masonry Building materials other than timber including stone, brick and concrete-block.

Parapet A wall built higher than the eaves-line of a roof and often decorated.

Porch A covered, projecting and often screened entry, which might be large enough to take the place of a verandah.

Porch-and-gable The combination of a porch with one or more frontal gables (either separated by a small verandah or lobby, or nested together) which proliferated during the Interwar years.

Posts Upright supporting members, as on a verandah, with decorative capitals, strings and often brackets.

Postwar The era since the 1940s and Second World War, characterised initially by an austere type of housing but leading to a modernist style.

Pyramid roof A roof which pitches equally on all four sides from its pointed apex to the eaves, being most popular from the late Colonial to Interwar periods.

Queenslander Any vernacular timber-and-tin house, though often limited to late Colonial or Federation period houses with full verandahs or else Interwar porch-and-gable styles.

Render Smooth plaster, or stucco over an external wall, rather than roughcast or pebbledash with small stones.

Ridge The horizontal apex of a roof, varying from short (almost a pyramid) to long (with a hip or gable at either end).

Skillion roof A roof which slopes straight from high to low, usually low-pitched and often attached to the rear of a house.

Stumps Posts, usually rounded and capped, that support a building, which is often high-set above the ground.

Tenders Offers by builders or contractors for construction, usually after advertisement by the architect and followed by acceptance of one tender at the price stated.

Tongue-and-groove A neat joint between the edges of wall, ceiling or floorboards, whereby the projection on one edge fits into the rebate or slot along another, so that vertical wallboards are known as VJs.

Vernacular styles Popular timber-and-tin building styles which predominate in Queensland.

Verandah An open-sided structure supported by posts or columns and attached to the main building, often roofed with tin which may be straight, concave (curved under), convex (curved over) or bullnose (curved edge).

Weatherboards Cladding of wedge-shaped boards, each one overlapping the other, so that the wall profile is zig-zagged.

Windows Traditionally double-hung sashes, which slide up and down, rather than casements which open outwards; sometimes decoratively framed and glazed such as coathanger casements, sidelights/fanlights of main doorways, portholes to lobbies and leadlights in various openings.



Window-shades Protective and often decorative awnings over windows, usually of tin or timber-sided, otherwise known as sun-hoods.

Workers Dwelling Any small timber-and-tin house, but specifically one of the many houses designed and financed by the Queensland Workers Dwellings Scheme from 1910-40.



Key 1

DETAILS... building up a dossier

Start making files
of information
on your house
and its
surroundings,
both as it is now
and was in the
past. Continue
this throughout
the project.

STEPS

- Mark the location and address of your house on a map.
- Use the earliest-known name of the house or owner or other name for identification.
- Take photographs from all angles, including close-ups of the house and streetscapes.
- Become familiar with terms and techniques used in researching houses.
- Note all features, details, materials and surroundings including fencing and foliage.
- Sketch and label a plan of the house including rooms, openings and measurements.
- Identify which building style best fits your place.
- Learn about the history of the locality, including the street, estate and suburb.
- Consider the likely era or decade of construction.
- Look out for whether the house was financed, designed or built by a government or public organisation.
- Think about the kind of end-product you want to achieve.

TIPS

- The map of the locality may be copied from a modern street directory or other source.
- Photographs save running around whenever something needs checking, comparing or depicting.
- A data collection form listing every possible detail can aid recording.
- Some house features are defined in TERMS and more in REFERENCES.
- Description should proceed from the type of core roof down to the outside walls, inside the house, underneath and perhaps the roof space.
- The layout of a house reflects domestic life as well as building style.
- Various house types are outlined in STYLES and more in REFERENCES.
- Possible outcomes of a project like this are considered in END-PRODUCT.
- Locations and publications should be noted, especially person/author, title/description, place and date.
- A timeline of events with dates is a useful tool.

The case-study house at Northgate, 2004 (by owner)

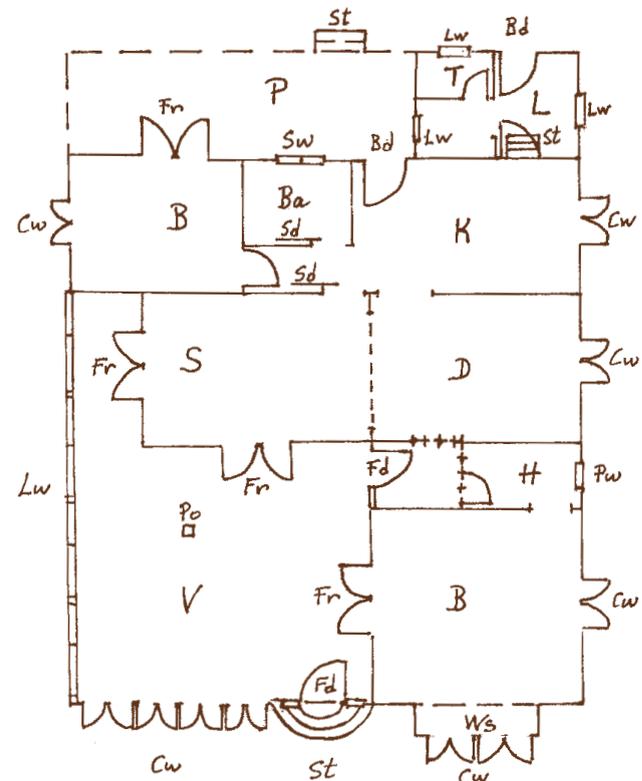


LOCAL CONTEXT

Reading about the local area might not reveal much about your specific house, unless it was prominent for some reason. This context, however, positions your house in time and place, and assists in dating as well as interpreting and presenting its history.

- Information on suburbs and sites will be found in the collections of local libraries and historical groups listed in CONTACTS. They include publications, papers and clippings, oral and family histories, and pictures of various kinds.
- Details on suburbs and sites can also be viewed on the Council website listed in REFERENCES.
- These sources may be supplemented by Queensland collections, including the John Oxley Library, Fryer Library, Royal Historical Society and National Trust.
- The John Oxley Library and Royal Historical Society have newspaper clippings, journal articles and historical photographs filed by suburb and other subjects. These include suburban histories, development proposals, local identities and real estate sales.
- The National Trust library holds files and reports on heritage houses. You can also access an historical collection on sites, suburbs and people via the Brisbane History Group.
- Secondary sources, which were published or written after the event, often need to be treated with caution until verified by primary or first-hand sources mentioned in each **Key**.
- Be aware that street names and numbers may have changed over time.

Sketch plan of the Northgate house, 2003



B	Bedroom	Po	Post
Ba	Bathroom	Pw	Port-hole window
Bd	Back doors	S	Sitting-room
Cw	Casement windows	Sd	Sliding door
D	Dining-room	St	Steps
Fd	Front doors (old and new)	Sw	Sliding windows
Fr	French doors	T	Toilet
H	Hallway (now wardrobe)	V	Verandah (now sun-room)
K	Kitchen	Ws	Window seat
L	Laundry	--	Wall removed
Lw	Louvre windows	++	Wall added
P	Patio		



Key 2

MAPS ... exploring the lie of the land

Hunt around for maps showing your property and the surrounding area at various times. These are printed representations of what's on the ground.

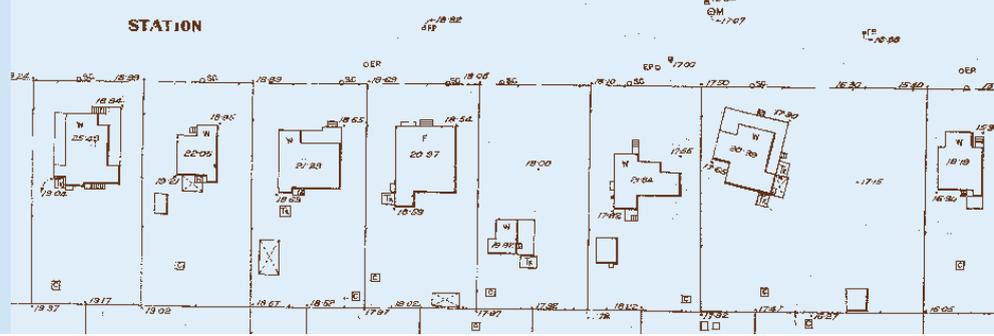
STEPS

- View the most complete series of Brisbane maps since the 1840s at Queensland State Archives.
- Also consult the range of maps at John Oxley Library.
- Identify and obtain a copy of the historical detail plan of the local area at Brisbane City Archives.
- Purchase, if necessary, a current bi-map showing the official address and Real Property Description from any Council Customer Service Centre or Regional Business Centre.
- Purchase any essential current map from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- Use street maps in directories to pinpoint locations, whether old or current editions.
- Keep an eye out for special one-off maps, though possibly available for significant properties only.

TIPS

- A sketch or tracing may be necessary if unable to obtain a copy (by permission).
- Owners named are usually initial purchasers from the Crown, called grantees, regardless of when a cadastral (property) map was printed.
- Many other maps were drawn for special purposes such as road or rail, resumptions and water reserves.
- Original plans of land subdivisions are considered in TITLES.
- Understanding of the different kinds of maps increases with use.
- Your observations need to be recorded and filed away with maps for continual reference.
- Street names may have changed over time in which case old maps might need comparing with the new.
- A golden rule of research is true for maps: the harder you look, the more likely you are to find what you are looking for.

Case study: Detail plan of Station Avenue showing the Northgate house fourth from left, with front steps, kitchen stove recess, tank stand, water closet and garage, also an F for fibro building material but mostly rendered over boards (Brisbane City Archives historical detail plan 1663, c1950)



Case study: Part of map of Northgate Junction with Station Avenue at top centre (Greater Brisbane Atlas Directory, Brisbane 1932)

LOCAL AREA

Apart from maps in general, there are a couple of relevant series at John Oxley Library for many local areas.

- McKellar's maps of Brisbane and inner suburbs in 1895 show land subdivisions, transport routes by road, train and tram, and local landmarks such as churches and schools, as well as the names of housing estates. These may be compared with later maps by the Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board in 1917 and for the municipal land use survey in 1948.
- Estate maps advertising the auction or sale of subdivided land show much the same information at specific times, with financial terms and additional comments such as 'trams pass by every 15 minutes'. Other features may include water and electricity, as well as prestigious properties.

DETAIL PLAN

During the 20th century, streets and buildings were surveyed before Council installed sewerage and drainage. This was completed progressively as subdivision spread and funding became available. Therefore the dates of historical detail plans vary from the earliest inner settlements to the later suburbs and were sometimes updated without noting the new date. These detail plans date from 1913 onwards and are great for showing:

- streets and transport facilities
- land boundaries and fencing
- building outlines including steps, verandahs and bay windows
- house names and building materials where noted
- outbuildings including garages, chook sheds and toilets
- also fences, tank stands, wells and tennis courts.



Case study: Part of Northgate map showing Station Avenue allotments (Brisbane City Council land use survey map, sheet no. 35, 1948, Brisbane City Archives)



Key 3

TITLES ... tracking down owners

Carry out a title

search for the

names of

landowners as

well as changes

in land size, dates

of transfer and

details of

mortgage or

lease.

STEPS

- Find out the current Real Property Description for your block of land from a rates notice or by visiting a Council Customer Service Centre or Regional Business Centre, ensuring you have the exact street address.
- Obtain copies of relevant Certificates of Title from the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- Note details in columns across a page, using one line for each transaction or dealing, adding notes on stray details such as location, occupation, marriage and death of owners.
- Always record the name, type, reference number and date of each item.

TIPS

- The computerised or automated titling system uses a unique Real Property Description (RPD) for each unit of land.
- This new RPD or Lot on Plan Number is different from the old RPD which had a string of subdivision and allotment numbers with parish and county names.
- Both the old and new RPDs are useful, as well as the exact Council residential address which might vary from the number on the letterbox or house.
- A full title search covers the current Certificate of Title back to the original Deed of Grant from the Crown, with any number of certificates bearing stamps in between.
- It may be sufficient to go no further back than the likely era of the house, using cross-references to the register volume and folio written at the top and bottom of certificates.
- While focusing on land ownership rather than improvements, titles may reflect when a building was erected or inhabited, particularly the mortgages or leases stamped on certificates.
- A building society mortgage somewhat later than the land transfer might indicate construction, but a private or bank mortgage could be for any financial purpose.
- A mortgage from the Queensland Government Savings Bank or later the State Advances Corporation indicates the house was financed and designed under the Workers Dwellings Scheme or another government program.
- Titles information needs to be matched with other records about occupancy, particularly street directories, to be more certain about the history of your house.

Case study: Part of subdivision or freehold survey plan, Northgate Junction, including Lots 11 & 12 on Registered Plan 34595 (Resubdivisions 11-12 of Subdivision A of Portion 166, County of Stanley, Parish of Toombul), by licensed surveyor TH Jensen for proprietor David Gibbins, 12 March 1918, redrawn 1988 (Old Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Resource Registry)



TITLE SEARCH

You can search titles like a professional historian or legal firm although the process can be tricky. This might still be costly as each record provided incurs a fee.

- Information about current services and fees may be obtained beforehand from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- As records are held electronically, staff at the title-searching counter need to be informed that this is a paper or historical search.
- Looking at the most recent title on computer screen, you will notice the previous title number at the top left corner.
- Ask to view that title and note its date and number.
- Work backwards to the likely era of construction, or further to the Deed of Grant from the Crown if required.
- The Deed of Grant (original land purchase) was often large but subdivided and built on at profitable times, thereby forming the current pattern of ownership and occupation.
- Order and collect a paper copy of any relevant title on the screen at the going rate.

OTHER SOURCES

- Also obtain copies of the initial survey plan and any ensuing subdivision or freehold plan if required.
- If necessary ask about Old System documents before your property was brought into the Torrens or New System of certification (from 1862 onwards).
- Consult the initial land sale records of auction and Deed of Grant by the Crown at Queensland State Archives if relevant.

Certificate of Title.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 256631

Reference to Previous Title No. 1446 Folio 171

ROBERT EDWARD WILLIAMS and EMILY MARGARET WILLIAMS

of his wife _____ pursuant to Memorandum of Conveyance No. 762244 produced the _____ day of February 1920 registered the _____ day of March 1920, in now seized or being seized of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject nevertheless to such encumbrances, leases, and interests as are by memorandum notified hereon, in all that piece of Land situated in the County of Stanley Parish of Toombul containing thirty two ares

more or less, as shown on the Plan hereon, and therein set out, being resubdivisions 11 and 12 of subdivision A of portion 166 on Plan Det. No. 712 - 530 deposited in the Office of the Registrar of Titles Brisbane

which said piece of Land is part of the portion marked 166 delineated in the Public Map of the said Parish deposited in the Office of the Survey-General, originally granted by Deed of Grant No. 7020 to THOMAS DELANCEY

Saying always to the Crown all the rights and interests reserved to it by the said Deed of Grant.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal, this _____ day of April One thousand nine hundred and twenty _____

April 6, 1920

Parish of Toombul

166

No. 220044 Bill of Mortgage produced 27 Oct 1920 of 3:0 p.m. registered 15 Nov 1920 from Howard Edward Williams and Emily Margaret Williams to The Commonwealth of Queensland Government Savings Bank in now seized of the monies and interest therein advanced by the said Bank

No. 220044 Bill of Mortgage produced 27 Oct 1920 of 3:0 p.m. registered 15 Nov 1920 from Howard Edward Williams and Emily Margaret Williams to The Commonwealth of Queensland Government Savings Bank in now seized of the monies and interest therein advanced by the said Bank

RELEASED BY THE REGISTER OF TITLES

endorsed by the Registrar of Titles

11

Case study: First page of Certificate of Title for the Northgate property showing conveyance to the Williams in February 1920 with subsequent dealings stamped: mortgage from the Williams to Qld Government Savings Bank in November 1920; transfer to the Leeces plus mortgage to State Advances Corporation in 1936; and release written across their mortgage in 1941 (Old Dept of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Resource Registry CT 256631, volume 1446, folio 171 [1144671])



Key 4

DIRECTORIES ... identifying occupants

Find out the names and other details of the people who occupied the premises according to directories published for Brisbane.

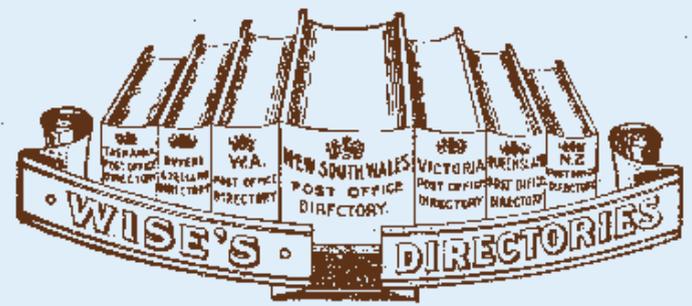
STEPS

- Visit a main library like the State Library of Queensland which has the microfiched series of street directories from 1868-1949.
- Familiarise yourself with their main features and changes in listings over the years.
- Find a directory whose street listing gives the correct number, location or name of your house and work backwards and forwards through as many volumes as practicable.
- Copy the relevant information exactly, either by machine or by hand.
- Refer to other sections of the directory, for more information, or if the place or persons cannot be found in the street listing.
- Check any related publications such as Atlas directories and Refidexes with maps for interwar years, Pugh's Almanacs particularly for business and institutional premises until the 1920s, and more recent telephone and street directories.

TIPS

- Whether a person, house number, street name, or even a suburb was included often depended on urban development, so that inner areas were listed sooner than other areas.
- For that reason, as well as mistakes, omissions, renamings and renumberings, it is necessary to move around the different years and sections of any directory, including the table of contents.
- Earlier editions may show where residents lived before moving to your place.
- Until exact and current house numbers are given, the whole sequence of premises between two adjacent streets may be needed to identify which one is yours and when it appeared to be occupied in relation to others in the street.
- Also handy are stray comments such as 'Vacant land' or 'House unoccupied', as well as any given house or business name.
- Having owner-information for adjacent properties may be necessary, as well as the detail plan and aerial photographs discussed in other **Keys**.
- Whether the resident might be an owner-occupier or tenant needs to be worked out by matching directory data with titles and other information.
- The same applies to establishing an approximate date of construction, which might relate to your particular house but possibly some preceding residence.

Part of advertisement for Wise's own directories (Wise's Queensland Post Office Directory, H. Wise & Co. Brisbane for 1924-25, John Oxley Library)



DIRECTORY FORMAT

Directories provide names and addresses of every known resident until telephone books take over. The main collection in Queensland is called post office directories, though published by different companies. They were often based on postmen's lists and approved by the Post Office.

- The most complete series is available on microfiche at major libraries, some of which have original volumes for academic research only, due to wear and tear.
- As the date on a directory covers the year/s for which it was published, it may be assumed that data was compiled a year or so before, unless stated otherwise in the preface.
- The format varies, especially until the late 1870s, but generally includes: alphabetical list of persons with addresses, a street listing of the same persons, an occupational list of trades and professions with pictorial advertisements, and institutional listings such as government agencies, churches and schools.
- Occupations are generally given for each resident during the 19th century but only their business names thereafter, and only businesses instead of individuals by the 1940s.
- In most cases, only the male head of household is named, otherwise a sole woman, often with lodgers, or other combinations sharing household and business premises.

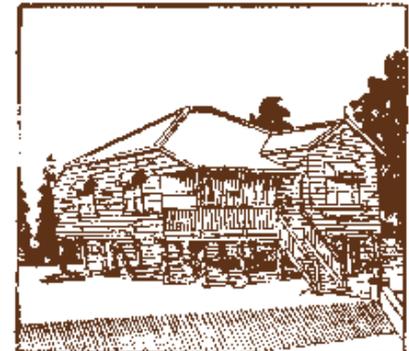
Station av, Northgate
 Right side from Station st
 Greenbury Dvd
 Williams Howard E
 Leary John D
 Kaupplia Adolph
 Left side
 Keeble Wm
 Spiden Geoffrey T

Station road, Indooroopilly
 Right side from Railway Stn
 Addison Walter F, stamstr
 Casey E, hrdrar & tobost
 Casey Mrs E, drsmkr
 Stamford Htl (D Lynch)
 Public Hall
 I O O F Lodge

Case study: Street listing of households in Station Avenue, Northgate, including Howard E. Williams, initial owner-occupant of the Northgate house (Wise's Queensland Post Office Directory, H. Wise & Co. Brisbane for 1926-27, John Oxley Library)

Williams Herbt, Home st, Yeronga
 Williams Herbt, Spear st, Uberg
 Williams Herbt F, Third av, Wilston
 Williams Herbt J, Northgate rd, Nthgte
 Williams Hermann, 224 Bowen ter, New Farm
 Williams Horace, Hill Crest rd, Crpoo
 Williams Horace, mgr stn, Stamford
 Williams Hor S, Ipswich st, Twmba
 Williams Horace S, Mary st, Wynnam st
 Williams Howard E, Station av, Nthgte
 Williams Hugh, Hale st, Tsvile
 Williams Humphrey, Blackstone rd, Silkstone
 Williams I, bt repr, Mary st, Gympie
 Williams I J, r-er, Redcliffe
 Williams Isaac, John st, Mbro
 Williams Ivor, Gordon rd, Cpr Idgen
 Williams J, Angethalle

Case study: Alphabetical listing for Williams (Wise's Queensland Post Office Directory, H. Wise & Co. Brisbane for 1926-27, John Oxley Library).



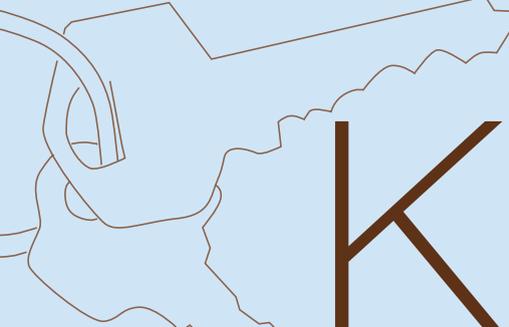
Don't let Your Home Get Like This!

USE
STREET'S
 White Ant and Borer Cure



STREET'S Non-Poisonous Powder
 will keep your Home free of
 Cockroaches and Silverfish.

Section of pictorial advertisement for curing white ants, in same directory as the first alphabetical listing of H.E. Williams, Northgate Junction (Wise's Queensland Post Office Directory, H. Wise & Co. Brisbane for 1924-25, John Oxley Library).



Key 5

RECORDS ... checking out documents

Check out more

government

sources and

services,

particularly those

generated by the

Brisbane City

Council and

Queensland

Department of

Housing.

STEPS

- Visit the Council website to select from the great array of historical sources and images for city and suburb.
- See what material your local library has on local history, buildings and sites.
- Make an appointment with Brisbane City Archives to research building application registers or cards, Council minutes, miscellaneous ratebooks and local heritage studies.
- Obtain a copy of the historical detail plan of local premises in your area from Brisbane City Archives.
- Purchase, if necessary, a copy of the building card by requesting a Building Records Search at any Council Customer Service Centre or Regional Business Centre.
- Purchase, if necessary, a copy of the drainage plan, which outlines the house and sewerage, from any Council Customer Service Centre or Regional Business Centre.
- If land titles or building registers show that your house was government-financed, particularly by Workers Dwelling, War Service or Housing Commission schemes, search Queensland State Archives for application registers.

TIPS

- It's best to have the names and dates of owners from TITLES before searching these records.
- Local libraries offer computing and photocopying facilities while providing access to publications throughout the whole municipal system.
- Information about services and fees may be obtained from the agencies listed in CONTACTS.
- Photographs and plans of government-financed houses are available in the design books and annual reports of the Queensland Department of Housing in REFERENCES.
- Features were often added to Council detail plans and particularly drainage plans after their initial date.
- There are a few surviving rate books for local areas before 1925 at Brisbane City or Queensland State Archives.
- The Council series of detail plans is outlined in MAPS and pictures in IMAGES.

June 28	Howard Edward Williams & Emily Dorcas Evelyn Williams his wife as joint tenants Station Estate Northgate	700	60	980	7/7/41	1650	17.10	18.70	Sept 27/10 June 15
9259	Howe Leice Charles Henry & Elizabeth Emma (his wife) as joint tenants								

Case study: Financial details for the Northgate house, 1920-41, including: application date, number, names and amount; valuation of land, dwelling and fencing; approved amount and date; and actual cost of dwelling (Qld Department of Housing Workers Dwelling loan register 6, no.9259, series SRS3962, Qld State Archives)

BUILDING APPLICATIONS

Though incomplete, building applications often reveal the history of construction. They may note the architect and builder as well as the name and current address of the applicant:

- 1904 to 1925, application registers for the central area administered by Brisbane City Council including the suburbs of Kangaroo Point, Fortitude Valley, Spring Hill, Petrie Terrace, New Farm, Newstead, Teneriffe and Bowen Hills
- 1925 to 1945 (except 1935 and 1939), building application registers for the whole of Greater Brisbane
- 1946 to 1984, applications on building cards
- 1984 to date, building applications on database.

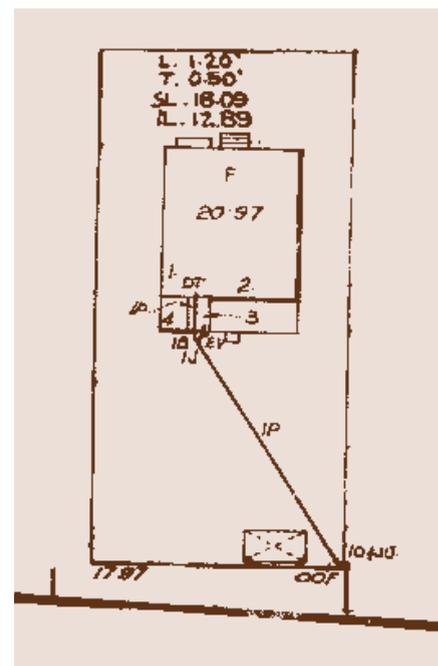
SURVEY AND RECORD OF BUILDINGS	
BUILDING APPLICATIONS	
NUMBER	M6660
DATE	
NATURE	Garage
OWNER	H & M. Pittland
BUILDER	
ISSUED	24. 7. 58
CANCELLED	
AMENDED	
AREA	20 x 12

Case study: Part of application for a new 20 x 12 feet garage at the Northgate house, 1958 (Building card, Brisbane City Council)

COUNCIL MINUTES

Municipal business has been recorded each year and collated in bound volumes. These minutes include street-naming, building applications, housing estates, road works, local infrastructure and correspondence with individual owners and groups such as Progress Associations:

- 1859 to 1925, for the city and suburbs of Kangaroo Point, Fortitude Valley, Spring Hill, Petrie Terrace, New Farm, Newstead, Teneriffe and Bowen Hills
- 1925 onwards, after the formation of Greater Brisbane. Some earlier minutes of local authorities that were amalgamated with Brisbane, such as South Brisbane, Toowong, Ithaca, Hamilton and Toombul, are available on microfilm or held at Queensland State Archives.



Case study: Parts of drainage plan for the Northgate house, 1967, with new sewer connections for kitchen sink, bath, basin, toilet and laundry tubs (Water Supply & Sewerage Dept plan 108549, Brisbane City Council)



Key 6

IMAGES ... seeing is believing

Search for
historical pictures
– not only
photographs
since the 1840s
and later
postcards, but
also drawings
and sketches.

STEPS

- Ask for pictures at John Oxley Library, the largest Queensland collection, by suburb, street, family name and house name if significant, and view the Picture Queensland website including homes.
- Check the images at Brisbane City Archives and on the Council website listed in REFERENCES.
- See Second World War service records at National Archives of Australia for portraits of enlisted personnel.
- View other collections if necessary, including the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, University of Queensland's Fryer Library and Queensland State Archives as well as the local history group.
- Track down families or others who might have photographs of the house, its occupants – and even their pets!
- Identify changes over time including extensions and renovations by comparing historical and current photographs.
- Purchase copies of relevant images, and obtain permission from copyright owners for any reproduction.

TIPS

- Each picture should be examined minutely, using a magnifying glass, and noting relevant details.
- Pictures taken for other purposes, including panoramas, streetscapes, river views, festivities and other events, might have your place in the background or provide local context.
- If your house is not in a photograph where it should be, it must have been built or moved there after the date of that image.
- It's worth checking for portraits when names of residents and owners are known.
- Though digital or paper prints might be nice, photocopies often suffice, though not for publication.
- If no image comes to light, just keep searching – something might still turn up.

Case study: 'Direct Returns' at Northgate house late 1950s – the greyhound who won his first race at Loganholme at 10 to 1 (family photograph)



BRISBANE IMAGES

Brisbane City Archives has thousands of images on various topics, including suburbs and houses. Many can be viewed on the Council website listed in REFERENCES. Though covering earlier eras, most photographs date from 1949 when Council employed its own photographer. These include:

- built environment, such as street scenes, construction projects and the inner city
- municipal activities like trams, buses, libraries, health clinics and rubbish collections
- series of aerial photographs
- photographs and plans published in Queensland Parliamentary Papers from 1910s to 1940s (also online).



Case study: Jim Pritchard's FJ Holden, outside the Northgate house which had battened gables and leadlight doors in the late 1950s (family photograph)

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

While many images of families, dwellings and streetscapes remain in private hands, some collections have passed to repositories such as:

- Museum of Brisbane for the Elliott family
- Fryer Library for the Hume family
- John Oxley Library for William Boag.

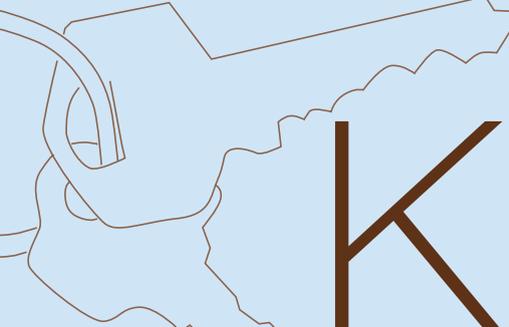
AERIAL VIEWS

Apart from the current satellite series, aerial photographs of Brisbane in 1946 can be viewed at any Council Customer Service Centre or Regional Business Centre where copies can be purchased. These show whether premises existed by then and in what form and context. Other aerials of parts of Brisbane are available for:

- late 1910s and 1930s, at John Oxley Library
- 1951 and 1960 (as well as 1946), at Brisbane City Archives.



Case study: Aerial view of the Northgate house, the fourth in Station Avenue, to the right of the railway workshops, 1946 (Brisbane City Archives aerial photograph no. 34856)



Key 7

PERSONS ... going down memory lane

Enliven the basic details about owners and occupants with more personal information, whether from their own records and family reminiscences or from publications.

STEPS

- Identify the names of owners and residents from sources in previous **Keys**.
- Search for their life events in nominal records such as birth, marriage, death, inquest, school, church, association, immigration, land tenure, naturalisation, voting, military, business and insolvency.
- Take a shortcut possibly to biographical or family indexes, dictionaries, collections, histories and articles in libraries and websites.
- Search libraries and contact local history groups for other possible material including letters, diaries, reminiscences, cuttings, obituaries and portraits.
- Use the current phone book to trace previous owners and residents or their descendants for information and records.
- Talk with neighbours and others who have resided in the area for some time.
- Interview the most informative subjects, possibly tape-recording their stories.

TIPS

- Information on each significant owner or resident needs to be consolidated or cross-referenced from the preceding sources, including titles, directories, registers and images.
- State electoral rolls since 1860 at Queensland State Archives and Commonwealth electoral rolls since 1901 at National Archives, are also worth searching for names with addresses and occupations (male voters earlier than female).
- Service records may be available, as for railway, teaching and defence personnel.
- Checking reminiscences against other evidence generally shows that even the wildest stories have a grain of truth as well as reflecting family lore.
- There are manuals, groups and professional historians to assist with oral history and other research procedures.
- More information on library and archival collections of manuscripts and publications is listed in **MANUSCRIPTS** and **PUBLICATIONS**.
- Copies of selected records may be purchased from repositories for research purposes but permission is needed to reproduce any of them.

Case study: Jim Pritchard at the front door of the Northgate house, late 1950s (family photograph)



VITAL RECORDS

The genealogical or family history industry has derived from birth, death and marriage certificates. For this reason the best facilities for researching people are provided by societies specialising in that area, and by public repositories which hold vast runs of archival and microfilmed records.

- Once the names of owners and occupants are known, the location, date and exact reference number of those vital records may be established from various indexes including the Queensland Pioneers Index 1829-1889 and subsequent lists.
- Most indexes are available at John Oxley Library and other repositories in CONTACTS.
- Copies of certificates until 1890 may be obtained from Queensland State Archives and afterwards from the Registrar-General's Office.
- Wills until 30 years ago may also be searched at Queensland State Archives and otherwise obtained from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

AME Leece Charles Henry

Book 70, Folio 417

DATE	APT. NO. REFERENCE PAPERS	DATE OF BIRTH YY-MM-DD	POSITION	STATION	REMUNERATION	REMARKS
11 May 19			Porter	RLB Bathurst	£ 5 0 0	
16 Oct 19					5 0 0	
17 July 17					9 6 0	
18 May 17			NO	Bathurst	100 0 0	
14 July 17					170 0 0	
14					185 0 0	
30 Sept 17					200 0 0	
14 Oct 17					210 0 0	
14 Nov 17					220 0 0	
14 Dec 17					230 0 0	
14 Jan 18					240 0 0	
14 Feb 18					250 0 0	
14 Mar 18					260 0 0	
14 Apr 18					270 0 0	
14 May 18					280 0 0	
14 Jun 18					290 0 0	
14 Jul 18					300 0 0	
14 Aug 18					310 0 0	
14 Sep 18					320 0 0	
14 Oct 18					330 0 0	
14 Nov 18					340 0 0	
14 Dec 18					350 0 0	
14 Jan 19					360 0 0	
14 Feb 19					370 0 0	
14 Mar 19					380 0 0	
14 Apr 19					390 0 0	
14 May 19					400 0 0	
14 Jun 19					410 0 0	
14 Jul 19					420 0 0	
14 Aug 19					430 0 0	
14 Sep 19					440 0 0	
14 Oct 19					450 0 0	
14 Nov 19					460 0 0	
14 Dec 19					470 0 0	
14 Jan 20					480 0 0	
14 Feb 20					490 0 0	
14 Mar 20					500 0 0	
14 Apr 20					510 0 0	
14 May 20					520 0 0	
14 Jun 20					530 0 0	
14 Jul 20					540 0 0	
14 Aug 20					550 0 0	
14 Sep 20					560 0 0	
14 Oct 20					570 0 0	
14 Nov 20					580 0 0	
14 Dec 20					590 0 0	
14 Jan 21					600 0 0	
14 Feb 21					610 0 0	
14 Mar 21					620 0 0	
14 Apr 21					630 0 0	
14 May 21					640 0 0	
14 Jun 21					650 0 0	
14 Jul 21					660 0 0	
14 Aug 21					670 0 0	
14 Sep 21					680 0 0	
14 Oct 21					690 0 0	
14 Nov 21					700 0 0	
14 Dec 21					710 0 0	
14 Jan 22					720 0 0	
14 Feb 22					730 0 0	
14 Mar 22					740 0 0	
14 Apr 22					750 0 0	
14 May 22					760 0 0	
14 Jun 22					770 0 0	
14 Jul 22					780 0 0	
14 Aug 22					790 0 0	
14 Sep 22					800 0 0	
14 Oct 22					810 0 0	
14 Nov 22					820 0 0	
14 Dec 22					830 0 0	
14 Jan 23					840 0 0	
14 Feb 23					850 0 0	
14 Mar 23					860 0 0	
14 Apr 23					870 0 0	
14 May 23					880 0 0	
14 Jun 23					890 0 0	
14 Jul 23					900 0 0	
14 Aug 23					910 0 0	
14 Sep 23					920 0 0	
14 Oct 23					930 0 0	
14 Nov 23					940 0 0	
14 Dec 23					950 0 0	
14 Jan 24					960 0 0	
14 Feb 24					970 0 0	
14 Mar 24					980 0 0	
14 Apr 24					990 0 0	
14 May 24					1000 0 0	

Case study: Some work details for Charles Henry Leece from 1919-46 (QR Records Management, Employee history card no. 7039, Queensland Rail)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES. A.A. Form 4208 (Revised April, 1941.)
ATTESTATION FORM.
 FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD.

Army No. AT 29491
 Surname PRITCHARD Other Names HENRY
 Unit _____
 Enlisted for service at City Recruiting Depot Brisbane (Place)
Qland (State) 11-11-42 (Date)

A. Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment.

1. Surname PRITCHARD
 2. Other names HENRY
 3. In or near the form of Brisbane
 in the State or territory of Queensland
 4. Age 24 yrs 8 m
 Date of Birth 23-5-1912
 5. Shop assistant
 6. Married
 7. A.M.F. No. _____
 OTHER MILITARY SERVICE Special Forces

Case study: Some war record details for Henry Pritchard in 1942 (Australian Military Services, Defence service record, Series B883, National Archives of Australia)

FAMILY REMINISCENCES

Jim Pritchard talks about living with greyhounds at the Northgate house in the 1950s:

“We had three or four dogs at any one time. When one of them started to howl at night the others all joined in like a song. The noise was something terrible and would wake up half the neighbourhood.

Those hounds were treated better than us humans – I turned the garage into their kennel and put in airconditioning.

They also had a good bit of exercise every morning to keep them in trim for the races. We'd cut along the creek behind the house, past the pineapple cannery and head right round through Banyo and Virginia before turning back home. I'd also gallop them along Nudgee Beach and get them to swim against the strong currents in the gutter at Cribb Island.”



Key 8

PUBLICATIONS ... obtaining printed material

Examine more specialised printed material to identify your house, add to its history or put it in context of building and other activity at the time.

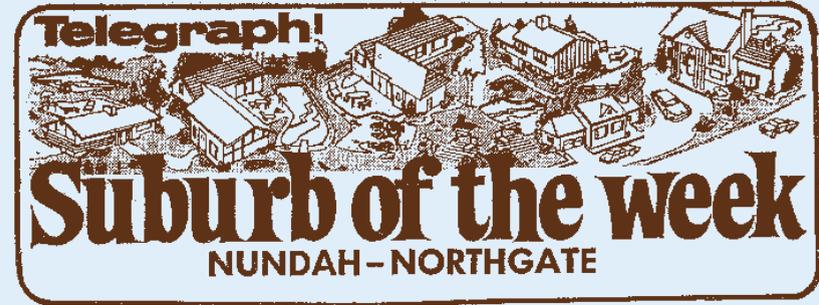
STEPS

- Search for information in the *Index, Dictionary* and *Directory* of Queensland architects in REFERENCES.
- Scan newspapers for information such as tenders, sales, rentals, building reports, catastrophes and family events.
- Look for periodic articles on Brisbane for overseas readers, on suburbs for locals and sometimes on specific houses.
- See the *Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland* from 1922-44 for information such as tenders, descriptions, photographs, articles and advertisements.
- For Workers Dwellings in 1910-40 or some other government scheme, go through the design books and annual reports of the Queensland Department of Housing in REFERENCES.
- If your house was used for other purposes or attached to a business, look at the listing of trades and advertisements in Pugh's Almanac from 1859-1927.
- Try university theses, especially on persons and businesses including architects and builders.
- Check out the more specialised sources, particularly at John Oxley Library, if only to augment the historical and physical context of your house.

TIPS

- It's best to know the initial name of the house, owner, occupant or architect, or failing that the locality, before undertaking this step.
- Scanning newspapers might take ages, unless you have the approximate date of design or construction, or other events in the lifecycle of the house and its residents.
- Some great details may be found in printed sources and manuscripts – it's the luck of the draw.

Case study: Heading for newspaper article on Northgate
(*Telegraph* 21 September 1978, John Oxley Library cuttings file)



DESIGN BOOKS

Publications with pictures and prices of popular and fashionable houses proliferated from the 1920s onwards:

- Brown & Broad, Newstead homes, catalogues
- Campbell Redicut homes, catalogues
- Workers Dwellings & Homes Schemes, instructions
- War Service Homes Commission, designs of homes
- James Hardie & Co. Fibrolite homes, catalogue
- Queensland Housing Commission, home designs and plans
- Mater Art Union Office, souvenirs of Mater homes.

Leadlight windows a feature

THIS solid low-set home in Northgate, offers double the usual size living areas.

The separate lounge and dining room leads on to a large open area which can be used for indoor entertainment.

The home offers potential for an imaginative buyer with its leadlight silky-oak windows and features from a by-gone era.

The terracotta roof with a large gable and bay window also give it a unique character.

Sitting on two 16 perch-blocks maximises future capital gain. For the handyman, there is a separate workshop and separate lock-up garage.

Priced at \$99,500, this home can be inspected through John Cicchiello at Ray White Nundah 266 2055 or 266 3594 a/h.

Case study: Newspaper cutting on Northgate house (*Northside Chronicle*, 14 August 1991, from owner)

Once swamp

Northgate, on the railway from Brisbane to Sandgate, was bush and swamp land when its first industry was established in 1888, at the request of the Queensland Government Railways.

The company that established the industry, alongside the railway station, was McKenzie and Holland (Australia) Ply. Ltd., based in Melbourne and manufactured signalling and permanent way equipment.

Northgate was chosen after World War II as the site for what has become one of Australia's largest fruit canneries.

Case study: Parts of the newspaper article on Northgate (*Telegraph* 21 September 1978, John Oxley Library cuttings file)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Some more esoteric or one-off sources may be rewarding.

- The Moreton Bay then Brisbane *Courier* had early progress reports including buildings in a monthly 'News to England'.
- There were later series in this newspaper on Brisbane suburbs, often with photographs in April-December 1906, August 1930-December 1931, January-April 1936, May-September 1950, November-December 1965 and January-June 1985; also the *Sunday Mail* October 1928-August 1929 and *Telegraph* 1978.
- The weekly *Queenslander* published articles by Miss FE Lord on larger homes from January 1930-33, which have been bound into an 'Historic houses cutting book'.
- The *Australian Insurance and Banking Record* reported fires which have been card-indexed at John Oxley Library.
- The *Steering Wheel (and Society and Home)* included information on domestic life in Queensland from 1914-42.



Key 9

MANUSCRIPTS ... finding first-hand sources

Delve into library and archival collections to build on the basic framework of your house and associated persons.

STEPS

- Check out sources in private hands and repositories such as John Oxley and Fryer Libraries, including papers, letters, diaries, records and cuttings.
- Contact family members about memorabilia as well as reminiscences in **Key 7**.
- For government sources, go to Queensland State Archives and the National Archives of Australia for any department dealing with housing.
- Research more specialised collections of groups, organisations and institutions.

TIPS

- Manuscripts, like publications in **Key 8**, are primary or first-hand sources if generated at the time but differ in being handwritten.
- Though sources mentioned in **Key 5** and **Key 7** may also be classed as manuscripts, others are written in continuous prose (or poetry).
- A checklist of owners and occupants should be drawn up before tackling manuscripts.
- Also, familiarise yourself with repositories from their research guides to records or websites, especially Queensland State Archives.
- That might include searching their online catalogues at home or the local library.
- Various institutions have generated records about housing for personnel including churches, schools, railways and banks.
- Prior arrangements are needed for most collections except the larger public repositories.
- Inquest and insolvency papers can provide fascinating details about domestic life.
- Don't be disappointed if nothing materialises as even mansions can still remain a mystery!

Case study: Extract from Ode to 'Prince John' to mark his untimely death after being run over by a car in Station Avenue, Northgate, late 1950s (family memorabilia)

YOU'VE HEARD THE SONG ABOUT OLD SHEP
AND HOW THIS DOG PASSED ON.
NOW A CHAMPION HAS GONE TO JOIN HIM
OUR DOG, OUR FRIEND, "PRINCE JOHN"
WE HAD HIM FROM A LITTLE PUP
HE WAS SO CUTE AND SMALL
BUT GREW TO BE A LOVELY DOG
CHAMPION BORDER OF THEM ALL.

ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES

Though most architects' files have vanished, the very thing might be found, particularly if your house was associated with a well-known owner, architect or builder. Apart from plans and drawings, tender-books might give the builder, cost and timing.

- There are plans, papers, diaries, letters and other records about houses and associated persons in those collections.
- Government archives include particular buildings such as schoolhouses and popular schemes listed in RECORDS.
- Some architects have kept their predecessors' works, such as Hall & Phillips plans in the Phillips Smith Connell archive.
- John Oxley Library has some plans by Stombuco & Son and tender-books of John Hall & Son.
- Fryer Library has catalogued its Queensland Architecture Archive which includes the plans of various architects.



Case study: Champion border collie 'Prince John' posing in the back garden of the Northgate house, 1950s (family photograph)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives of Australia holds records of Commonwealth departments that have maintained offices in Queensland since Federation in 1901.

- Major items include correspondence files, building plans and personal records or diaries.
- These involve government property such as homes built on former military establishments or postwar camps for immigrant and homeless families.
- Also accessible are records relating to the Anzac Cottages and later War Service Homes.

OTHER ARCHIVES

Among the many private institutions are churches and schools which generate records about property and personnel. Some have retained their collections or lodged them with larger repositories.

- The Anglican and Catholic churches have their own archives, as do the Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane Grammar School and Somerville House.
- Uniting Church records of former Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian bodies may be researched at John Oxley Library.
- The Brisbane Society of the New Church of Jerusalem has lodged its early records at Fryer Library.



Key 10

END-PRODUCT ... putting it all together

Identify and set
about producing
whatever
outcome or
output you want
from this project.

STEPS

- Consider the options, either for your own benefit or someone else's such as family or friends.
- Shape the product according to your purpose by starting with the Tips below.
- Obtain permission from owners of copyright or intellectual property if reproducing material.
- Lodge a copy of your work with the local history group, library or other repository.
- Nominate your house for heritage listing in the City Plan if you consider it to be of cultural heritage significance

TIPS

- One by-product should be a file of collected sources, maps, photographs and information.
- Perhaps this is a student project, work assignment or labour of love!
- Or maybe it is a pictorial essay with running commentary, possibly for display.
- A report with sections on description and history plus selected photographs might be the thing.
- Maybe you want to contribute to a collection or publication on your locality, like a heritage trail.
- Or this might be preliminary to conserving, renovating or simply understanding your house.

CASE-STUDY LEGEND

1	Articles	Key 8	13	Marriage index	Key 7
2	Birth index	Key 7	14	Photographs	Key 6
3	Building card	Key 5	15	Poem	Key 9
4	Defence service record	Key 7	16	Railway employee card	Key 7
5	Definitions	TERMS	17	Recent publications	REFERENCES
6	Detail plan	Key 2	18	Reminiscences	Key 7
7	Drainage plan	Key 5	19	Site inspection	Key 1
8	Electoral rolls	Key 7	20	Street directories	Key 4
9	Heritage information	CONTACTS	21	Subdivision plan	Key 3
10	House design	STYLES	22	Telephone directories	Key 4
11	Land titles	Key 3	23	Workers Dwelling records	Key 5
12	Maps	Key 2			

This write-up on the Northgate house shows how historical sources can unlock the history of a house. Here is the ideal evidence for dating its origin – owners who take out a mortgage shortly after buying the property and are listed as living there in the subsequent directory.

CASE STUDY

The low-lying land along Station Avenue, wedged between the railway and Cannery Creek, was once part of a Northgate grazing property.¹² It was subdivided as Station Estate in March 1918²¹ and sold by David Gibbins to Esther Margaret Noble, wife of Clarence Herbert, by June.¹¹ Two 16-perch lots were transferred to Howard Edward Williams and Emily Dorcas Evelyn nee Marbrough by March 1920.¹¹ Having married in August 1911,¹³ the Williams had a daughter, Beryl Marjorie, by March 1913.² Howard was a tailor while his wife Emily was occupied in 'home duties'.⁸

With peacetime life returning after the First World War, the semi-rural yet industrialising suburb of Northgate was ripe for development, being only six miles from the city.¹⁴ Though factories lined the railway and adjacent homes were 'relics of the past', it was reported in May 1924 that: 'The rapid growth of Northgate as a first-class residential suburb has been something extraordinary'.¹

Between June and September 1920 the Williams had plans drawn up and a mortgage of £650 approved by the Queensland Government Savings Bank.¹¹ The dwelling cost £770, and was valued at a princely £980 plus £60 for land and 7 guineas for fencing.²³ They applied under the Workers Dwellings Scheme⁵ which since 1910 had funded more than 7300 applicants who owned their land and could afford fees and repayments. After occupying the house by 1923,²⁰ they may have had difficulties during the Great Depression. The premises were evidently vacated by 1934⁸ and transferred in April 1936 'By Mortgagee' – the State Advances Corporation which operated the Scheme from 1920.¹¹

The new residents²⁰ were railway employee Charles Henry Leece,¹⁶ who married Elizabeth Emma ('home duties') in July 1931¹³ and two other Leeces: research worker Charles William and nurse Marjorie.⁸ Their property called 'Brook'⁸ had telephone M6643²² and was free from debt by December 1941.¹¹ However, the two likely offspring had vacated by 1943 during the Second World War.⁸

By July 1951 the property¹¹ was conveyed to waterside worker and ex-shop assistant Henry Pritchard and his wife Merle nee Morrissey ('home duties',⁸ part-time waitress and cannery worker¹⁸). They married in December 1935¹³ and had a son, Henry James (Jim) Pritchard,¹⁸ waterside worker⁸ – also 'Prince John' their prize dog.¹⁵ The mortgagee was the Director of War Service Homes, as Henry had enlisted.⁴ After he died, Merle was the sole proprietor in March 1985. Two more transfers ensued before the current professional couple in 1991.¹¹

When the low-set house with terracotta-tiled roof¹⁹ was designed in 1920²³ it evoked the latest Californian Bungalow style¹⁰ with a wide frontal gable over the core.⁵ This was reinforced by another gable over the bay window, which was simpler than any projecting room or porch. The left-hand room was then a large verandah, possibly with openings protected by blinds. The original front door opened sideways into a hallway and french doors outwards from the bedroom and sitting-room. The bathroom was internal, but the laundry was three steps lower in a skillion-roofed extension and the 'dunny' was in the backyard near the first garage.⁶ Rainwater ran from the roof into a water tank beside the kitchen which had a stove recess.⁶

Fashionable touches¹⁹ included leadlighting of the upper front-door panel and porthole window in the hallway. Casement windows sported brass closing-rods with spiral ends and rails were provided for pictures around the main rooms. Ceilings were panelled with timber cover-strips, as was the frontal gable of fibro to give a half-timbered English look.¹⁰ Both gables were originally panelled with battens.⁵ The board balustrading of the verandah had eyelet cut-outs at intervals below the handrail.¹⁹ Overall the design was more modern and complex than the traditional four-to-five room Queensland house.¹⁷

In other ways this dwelling was rather old-fashioned,¹⁹ being clad with chamferboards and lined with tongue-and-groove VJs, including the verandah area.⁵ Though rather narrow by that era, these boards were quite traditional, as were the singleskin internal walls held together by dual belt-rails, the french doors with glass fanlights above, and the original front doorway with a sidelight as well.⁵

This house might have remained a c1921 gabled hybrid of traditional and current style, but for renovation.¹⁹ The front and side walls were roughly rendered, the verandah was enclosed, a tiled window shade was added in front and the masonry fence was built with wrought-iron panels during the 1950s.¹⁴ The concrete patio at the back was most likely added then, and some changes made to internal walls and external gables. A new fibro garage was built down the right side in 1958,³ and even airconditioned for greyhounds raced by the Pritchards.¹⁸ Modern sewerage, including a toilet off the laundry, ultimately arrived in 1967, and further changes were made to the kitchen and bathroom.⁷

Like many timber and tin houses, this particular mix of old and new, practical and ornamental, vernacular and derivative⁵ evolved from the wishes and circumstances of family life – while shaped by the broader context of the time and place. Though possibly not intact or distinctive enough to be of cultural heritage significance,⁹ this house has a fascinating history all of its own.

Contacts

GENERAL CONTACTS

Australian War Memorial

Including database of details, photographs and awards of military personnel

GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 02 6243 4211
Visit: www.awm.gov.au

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Centres

For ancestor searching including International Genealogical Index

Phone: See listing in telephone book
Visit: www.familysearch.org

Education Queensland Library

For historical information on school histories; appointment necessary

347 Old Cleveland Road
PO Box 1238
Coorparoo DC Q 4151
Phone: 3421 6527
Visit:
http://education.qld.gov.au/corporate/professional_exchange

Environmental Protection Agency, Cultural Heritage Branch

For heritage information including Queensland registered places; appointment necessary

Level 9, 160 Ann Street
PO Box 155
Brisbane Albert Street Q 4002
Phone: 3227 6499
Visit: www.epa.qld.gov.au

Fryer Library, University of Queensland Library

For Queensland sources and publications

University of Queensland
St Lucia Q 4072
Phone: 3365 6276
Visit: www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer

Genealogical Society of Queensland

Including family history library for members (or fee)

1st floor, 5 Hubert Street
PO Box 8423
Woolloongabba Q 4102
Phone: 3891 5085
Visit: www.gsq.org.au

John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

For Queensland sources and publications

996 Wynnum Road
Cannon Hill (until returning to South Bank by 2006)
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane Q 4101
Phone 3840 7880
Visit: www.slq.qld.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

For Commonwealth history and records including Queensland

16 Corporate Drive
PO Box 552
Cannon Hill Q 4170
Phone: 3249 4246
Visit: www.naa.gov.au

National Trust of Queensland

Including library on buildings and sites for members (or fee); appointment necessary

95 William Street
GPO Box 538
Brisbane Q 4001
Phone: 3229 1788
Visit: www.nationaltrustqld.org

Professional Historians Association Queensland

For historical research (for a fee)

PO Box 4054
St Lucia South Q 4067
Visit: www.qld.historians.org.au

Queensland Association of Local and Family History Societies

For networking with member organisations

PO Box 399
Mt Gravatt Q 4122
Phone: 3344 2008
Visit: www.qalfhs.org.au

Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Place names

For the history of place names in Queensland; appointment necessary

Landcare
Cnr Vulture & Main Streets
Woolloongabba
Locked Bag 40
Coorparoo Delivery Centre Q 4151
Phone: 3896 3222
Visit: www.nrm.qld.gov.au/property/place_names.html

Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Resource Registry

For purchasing land records, survey plans and current maps

Level 8, AXA Centre
144 Edward Street
GPO Box 1401
Brisbane Q 4001
Phone: 3227 6626
Visit:
www.nrm.qld.gov.au/about/contactus/service_centres.html

Queensland Departments of Public Works and Housing Library & Information Centre

For housing scheme design books, photographs, etc.; appointment necessary

Level 2, Part B
80 George Street
GPO Box 2457
Brisbane Q 4001
Phone: 3224 5219
Email: library@publicworks.qld.gov.au

Here are the main public and private bodies to contact about sources on the history of houses.

It's best to check for current addresses, holdings, provisions and fees before visiting them.

Queensland Family History Society

Including family history library for members (or fee)

1st floor, 42 Bridge Street
Albion
PO Box 171
Indooroopilly Q 4068
Phone: 3857 5744
Visit: www.qfhs.org.au

Queensland Maritime Museum Association

For shipping information

Dry Dock, Stanley Street
PO Box 3098
South Brisbane Q 4101
Phone: 3844 5361
Visit: www.qmma.ecn.net.au

Queensland Museum

Including artefacts and publications on social history

South Bank
PO Box 3300
South Brisbane Q 4101
Phone: 3840 7555
Visit: www.qmuseum.qld.gov.au

Queensland Rail, QR Heritage

For general information on Queensland Rail history; appointment necessary

A Block Mayne
52 Horace Street
Bowen Hills Q 4006
GPO Box 1429
Brisbane Q 4001
Phone: 3606 5238
Visit: www.qr.com.au

Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

For recent certificates (for a fee)

501 Ann Street (cnr Boundary Street)
PO Box 188
Brisbane Albert Street Q 4002
Phone: 3247 9203
Visit: www.justice.qld.gov.au

Queensland State Archives

For Queensland government sources including buildings and people

435 Compton Road
Runcorn Q 4113
PO Box 1397
Sunnybank Hills Q 4109
Phone: 3875 8755
Visit: www.archives.qld.gov.au

Queensland Women's Historical Association

For Queensland sources and publications; appointment necessary

35 Jordan Terrace
Bowen Hills Q 4006
Phone: 3252 2979
Visit: www.connectqld.org.au/qwha

Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

Including library and maps

237 Milton Road
Milton Q 4064
Phone: 3368 2066
Visit: www.rgsq.org.au

Royal Historical Society of Queensland

For Queensland sources and publications for members (or fee); appointment necessary

115 William Street
PO Box 12057
Brisbane George St Q 4003
Phone: 3221 4198
Visit: www.queenslandhistory.org.au

State Library of Queensland

For data bases, internet access and reference services, etc.; see also John Oxley Library on Queensland.

South Bank
(and elsewhere until regrouping by 2006)
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane Q 4101
Phone 3840 7666
Visit: www.slq.qld.gov.au

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Brisbane City Archives

For Council history and records including buildings, people and suburbs; appointment necessary.

19 Wandoo Street
Fortitude Valley Q 4006
Phone: 3403 8888

Visit: www.ourbrisbane.com and click on the Brisbane City Council button to enter Council's internet site and check for "Archives" under A to Z site index or phone Council on 3403 8888

Brisbane City Council Customer Service Centres and Regional Business Centres

For purchasing copies of Council plans, maps, aerial photographs, etc.

Visit: www.ourbrisbane.com and click on the Brisbane City Council button to enter Council's internet site, or phone Council on 3403 8888 for individual addresses

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit

For heritage information including registered places

GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Q 4001
Phone: 3403 8888

Brisbane City Council Libraries

Including websites and resource collections

Phone: 3403 8888

Visit: www.ourbrisbane.com and click on the Brisbane City Council button to enter Council's internet site and select "Libraries" from the Council facility drop down menu

Museum of Brisbane

For items and publications on social history

City Hall
King George Square
Brisbane
Phone: 3403 8888

Visit: www.ourbrisbane.com and click on the Brisbane City Council button to enter Council's internet site

These are more local contacts for specific areas of Brisbane history. Check first for current information including addresses, phone numbers, websites, holdings and other provisions.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Brisbane History Group

Including Brisbane history collection

PO Box 12

Kelvin Grove DC Q 4059

Phone: 3351 6371

Visit: www.brisbanehistory.asn.au

Brisbane Tramway Museum

Including tramway and personnel information

50 Tramway Street

PO Box 94

Ferny Hills Q 4055

Phone: 3351 1776

Ashgrove Historical Society

PO Box 407

Ashgrove Q 4060

Belmont & District Historical Society

43 Mayrene Street

Carina Q 4152

Brookfield History Group

PO Box 1374

Kenmore Q 4069

Centenary Suburbs Historical Society

4 Patanaga Street

Jindalee Q 4074

Chermside & Districts Historical Society

PO Box 416

Chermside Q 4032

Coopers Plains Local History Group

28 Kidd Street

Robertson Q 4109

Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group

PO Box 263

Coorparoo Q 4151

Enoggera & Districts Historical Society

PO Box 200

Alderley Q 4051

Friends of Balmoral Cemetery

PO Box 330

Morningside Q 4170

Friends of Newstead House

PO Box 3121

Newstead Q 4006

Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group

102 Moreton Avenue

Wynnum Q 4178

Friends of Toowong Cemetery

C/- Toowong Ward Office

579a Coronation Drive

Toowong Q 4066

Indooroopilly History Group

C/- Walter Taylor Ward Office

Shop 4001a, Level 4

Westfield Shopping Town

Indooroopilly Q 4068

Kuraby Historical Society

PO Box 2151

Runcorn Q 4113

Moorooka Local History Group

C/- Moorooka Ward Office

207 Beadesert Road

Moorooka Q 4105

Mt Crosby Historical Society

37 Baaring Drive

Karana Downs Q 4306

Mt Gravatt District Historical Association

31 Hoff Street,

Mt Gravatt Q 4122

New Farm & Districts Historical Society

PO Box 1141

New Farm Q 4005

Nundah & Districts Historical Society

PO Box 451

Nundah Q 4012

Oxley-Chelmer History Group

59 Dudley Street

Sherwood Q 4075

Richlands Inala & Suburbs History Group

PO Box 2041

Inala Heights Q 4077

St Lucia History Society

C/- Toowong Ward Office

579a Coronation Drive

Toowong Q 4066

Sandgate & Districts Historical Society & Museum

150 Rainbow Street

PO Box 327

Sandgate Q 4017

Sherwood Cemetery Restoration Group

32 Balderstone Street

Corinda Q 4075

Shire of Toombul History Group

PO Box 85

Banyo Q 4014

South Moreton Bay Bicentennial Historical Collection

Wynnum Library

66 Bay Terrace

Wynnum Q 4178

Spring Hill & Districts Historical Society

C/- Central Ward Office

Shops 22/23 TC Beirne Centre

315 Brunswick Street Mall

Fortitude Valley Q 4006

The Gap Historical Society

PO Box 2115

Keperra Q 4054

The Gap Pioneer & History Group

59 Bennett Road

The Gap Q 4061

Toowong and Districts Historical Society

19 Emerson Street

Toowong Q 4066

Toowong History Group

PO Box 808

Toowong Q 4066

Windsor & Districts Historical Society

PO Box 539

Lutwyche Q 4030

Wynnum-Manly Historical Society

PO Box 318

Wynnum Q 4178

References

These recent publications offer more detailed advice on the history and conservation of houses.

Apperly, Richard & others, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Australian Heritage Council (formerly Commission): www.heritage.gov.au (directory to Commonwealth and State websites).

Brisbane City Council, "Brisbane Images", "Brisbane Stories" and "BRISbites: Suburban Sites", visit www.ourbrisbane.com and click on the Brisbane City Council button to enter Council's internet site and select "Library Collections and Services" from the A to Z index.

Brisbane City Council, *City Plan 2000* (including heritage provisions) 2000 to date.

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Heritage trails of suburbs, 1990 onwards.

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, *Looking after the Queensland house*, 1997.

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit and Queensland Department of Environment Cultural Heritage Branch, *Check It! How to prepare a logbook for the maintenance and housekeeping of old buildings*, 1997.

Brisbane History Group, Papers on sources, suburbs and houses, and heritage tour booklets, 1981 to date.

Brisbane History Group, *Brisbane Timeline: From CaptainCook to CityCat*, BHG Sources no. 8, 1999 (see also website: www.brisbanehistory.asn.au).

Brisbane Living Heritage: www.brisbanelivingheritage.com for information on heritage places.

Cole, John R. *Shaping a City: Greater Brisbane 1925-85*, Brisbane City Council, 1984.

Evans, Ian. Books on housing history and restoration, Flannel Flower Press, 1983 to date (also website: www.oldhouses.com.au).

Fisher, Rod & others, *The Queensland House: A Roof over our Heads*, Queensland Museum, Brisbane, 1994.

Greenwood, Gordon & John R. Laverty, *Brisbane 1859-1959: A History of Local Government*, Brisbane City Council, 1959.

Hogan, Janet, Books on historic houses, National Trust of Queensland, Brisbane, 1979-82.

Marquis-Kyle, Peter and Meredith Walker, *The Illustrated Burra Charter: Making good decisions about the care of important places*, Australia ICOMOS, Brisbane, 1992.

National Trust of Queensland, *Conserving the Queensland House*, Brisbane, 1994 (12 brochures).

National Trust of Queensland, *Queensland Interiors: A Guide to their Care*, comp. Nicola Stairmand & Joanne Edwards, Brisbane, 2000 (4 booklets).

Nissen, Judith, *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: Index to the Biographical Dictionary*, Brisbane History Group Sources No.7, 1999 (see dictionary below).

Queensland Department of Housing, Annual Reports in Queensland Parliamentary Papers, 1910 onwards. For details about online photographs and plans of houses contact Brisbane City Archives by phoning Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888.

Rechner, Judy G., *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: A Guide to the Affordable House*, Brisbane History Group Studies No.2, 1998.

Saini, Bal & Ray Joyce, *The Australian House: Homes of the Tropical North*, Lansdowne Press, Sydney, 1982.

State Library of Queensland website: www.slq.qld.gov.au (to online catalogues especially John Oxley Library).

Sumner, Ray *More Historic Homes of Brisbane*, National Trust of Queensland, Brisbane, 1982.

Watson, Don & Judith McKay, *A Directory of Queensland Architects to 1940*, University of Queensland Library, St Lucia, 1984.

Watson, Don & Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*, Queensland Museum, Brisbane, 1994 (see Index above).