

Who lived in my house?

General tips

- Start with what you know and work backwards
- Wherever you're searching, always remember to try alternate spellings and variations of search terms
- Keep an eye out for hints that house numbers may have changed
- Don't forget to ask your neighbours what they know!

Domain

Domain.com.au provides recent information on the sale and lease of houses

- Go to domain.com.au
- From the *Research* menu, choose *Property Price Estimates*
- Search for your address

City of Williamstown Conservation Study 1993

Several copies of this book are available to be read in Williamstown Library. It includes information on many houses in Williamstown, including approximately when they were built.

- Look up your house in section 4.0. If you are lucky you will find a short history
- Look up your street in section 5.0 for general information
- Look up your house in Appendix E for date of construction and other details

State Library of Victoria maps











The State Library of Victoria provides access to a variety of maps, including auction maps that may reveal when your house or plot was bought; and Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works maps, which can provide information about changes in street numbering, house names and construction materials of the house.

- On the State Library website (<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>)
- Type the name of your street and suburb, your street and a nearby or intersecting street. (eg. *Electra Williamstown* or *Electra Ferguson*)

- In the drop-down menu reading *Everything except articles* choose the option *Maps*
- To view maps, click *available online*
- A key to MMBW maps is available here:
<https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/MMBWplans/legend>

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS
160 FT. PLANS (OLD SERIES)

LEGEND

	Weatherboard building
	Public building or church (Weatherboard)
	Brick or stone building
	Public buildings or churches (Brick or stone)
	Weatherboard building
	Fenced
	Trellis
	Build over
+ 13.59	Reduced level
B.M. N°CLX	Benchmark
---	Municipal boundary
Manhole	Not kerbed (Pitched channel)
	Sewer
Vent	Sewer
Instrument station	Survey traverse lines
	House on fenced lot

Electoral records (via Ancestry)

Ancestry can be accessed through the library website. While it is set up for searching for individuals rather than places, it can also provide information on who lived in your home.

- Visit the library website (<https://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/>)
- Under the *Discover* menu, choose *Family History*
- Click on ancestry.com.au
- Click *Begin searching*
- Type the name of your suburb into *Location* and then using the *Show more options* button type your address into *Keyword*

Sands and McDougall

Sands and McDougall directories are another way of discovering who lived in your home and when the house may have been built. Sands and McDougall are like old telephone books – they list every property in Melbourne by street, and name the head of the household for that property, sometimes including other info such as occupation

- Visit the State Library of Victoria website (<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>)
- Search the catalogue for *Sands and McDougall*. Click on the first link and choose which year you would like to view
- Use the menus on the left-hand side to navigate to your suburb under a heading such as *Street Directory Suburbs* or similar, depending on the year. Suburbs are listed alphabetically, with streets listed alphabetically within the suburb.

Rate records (via Ancestry)

Once you know the name of an occupant you can return to Ancestry to search for other information such as rate books. This can tell you information about the structure of the house, the name of the owner, and the name and occupation of the occupant. Rate books cover the period from 1855-1963.

- Visit the library website (<https://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/>)
- Under the *Discover* menu, choose *Family History*
- Click on ancestry.com.au
- Click *Begin searching*

- Type the name of the occupant into the first fields, and type the suburb into *Location*

Trove Newspapers

Trove provides access to a wide variety of historic newspapers from around Australia.

- Google *Trove* or visit <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- In the search box, type your address and click *Search*. You can also try variations such as searching for your streetname along with the name of a known occupant of your house
- Under the heading *Digitised newspapers and more* click *View results*
- You can use the menus on the lefthand side to narrow your search by state, decade, and other parameters.

Where next?

Check out these links and resources to take your research further:

- **Council Heritage**
<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-Building/Planning-Policies/Heritage>
The Heritage section of the Council website provides information on architectural styles in the Hobsons Bay area, heritage studies and listings, and information on council building regulations.
- **Greenlight**
<http://hobsonsbay.greenlightopm.com/search-register>
A Council portal which enables you to search current and previous planning applications in Hobsons Bay by address, dating back to the 1960s.
- **Landata**
<https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/>
This government site provides information such as land titles. You will need to pay to access them.
- **Public Records Office of Victoria**
<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/researching-land-and-property>
Government archive which holds a variety of records about land ownership since Victorian settlement. Most can only be accessed by visiting the archives in Shiel St, North Melbourne.

- **Australian Architectural Index**
<https://aai.app.unimelb.edu.au/apex/f?p=199:10:::NO::>
Incomplete index of Victorian buildings searchable by address, which provides information on building date and architect.
- **Victorian Heritage Database**
<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/>
Searchable register of heritage buildings throughout Victorian, including some residential buildings.