



Town of Vincent

Researching the History of Your Home

A Brief Guide



This brochure has been produced by the Town of Vincent to assist people in researching the history of their property. In this booklet you will find a checklist of resources to search for in the Town's Local History Centre and suggestions of other places where you may find useful information.



Where do I start?

Researching the history of your house can be a long yet fruitful process if you know where to look and how to look for it. Questions you may want answered include:

- When was the house built?
- Who built the house?
- Who designed the house?
- Who were the earlier owners and occupiers?
- Has the house been altered over the years?

An important first step is to note what you already know about the place including details such as the street number, lot number and any unusual or dominant physical characteristics of the place.

Before searching...

- Bear in mind that records are not perfect and are subject to errors.
- Be aware that many street names and numbers in the documents have changed over the years.

What can I find in the Local History Centre?

Final Note: Once you have compiled all of your information to create a chronological picture of your house please donate it to the Local History Centre.

Town of Vincent

Administration and Civic Centre
244 Vincent Street (cnr Loftus Street), Leederville, Western Australia,
6007
Telephone: (08) 9273 6000
website: www.vincent.wa.gov.au

Town of Vincent Library

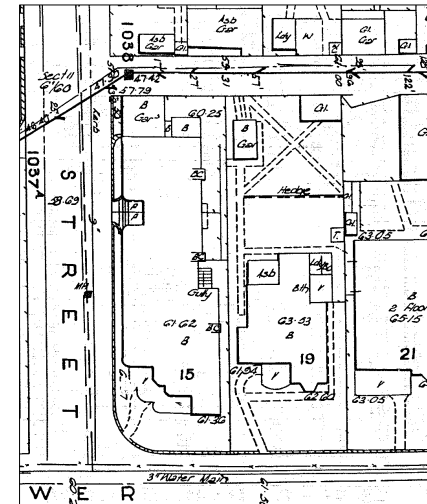
Loftus Centre Cnr., Loftus and Vincent Streets, Leederville, Western
Australia, 6007
Telephone: (08) 9273 6090

People with specific requirements can request to have this document in an alternative format.

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A Brief History of the Suburb

There may be a great deal more information available about your suburb than about your house. Therefore researching the history of your suburb is a useful and important first step, in providing a context for your property. A series of seven brochures produced by the Town provide a good historical overview of the development of each of the suburbs. These brochures can be viewed at the Town's dedicated heritage website.



A typical example of a MWSS&DD Sewerage Plan

Sewerage Plans

Sewerage Plans are historical records of street blocks, which show lot boundaries, the outline of buildings and outbuildings, the main construction material and usually include a street number.

There are two main sets of sewerage plans available. The first are the Public Works Department series that date from 1897 to 1903. These plans are available in hard copy in the Local History Centre map cabinet. The second are the series prepared by the Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage & Drainage Department (MWSS&DD) and date from 1915 to the 1950s. The plans are available on microfiche that can be viewed in the Town's Local History Centre.

Print-outs can be made from the microfiche reader.

Street Files

Organised alphabetically by street names, these files contain previous research on properties. Information includes: Certificates of Title, photographs, heritage reports and assessments, newspaper articles and real estate advertisements.

Photographs

The Local History Collection contains a collection of over 2,500 early photographs. These include houses, families, businesses, streets, parks and facilities. The photographic collection can be searched on the Library Catalogue and copies can be viewed at the Local History Centre. Further photographs may be located and viewed at the Batty Library.

Oral Histories

The Oral History Collection, which is constantly growing, has transcripts of approximately 200 oral history interviews with past and present residents. Topics include general life in the Town, businesses, parks and migrant stories and may also provide context for your research.

Local Newspapers

The Local History Collection contains copies of The Voice News and Guardian Express dating back to 2000 with irregular issues back to the 1980s and some earlier newspapers.

Architecture Books

The Local History Collection includes useful illustrated architecture books that can help identify the age and style of your property. These books are mainly shelved at call number 728 and are to be viewed in the Local History Centre.

Maps and Street Directories

The Local History Map Collection consists of early maps of the Perth and Highgate areas dating from 1838 and twentieth century maps of the other suburbs. The Town's Street Directory collection dates from the 1940s and if compared with today's they can be used to identify any changes to the layout of your street or those nearby.

Estate Agents' Subdivision Posters

The posters were produced by the estate agents when blocks of land went on sale for the purpose of residential development. These posters are helpful in creating a profile of the development of your neighbourhood.

Address List:

Landgate

1 Midland Square, Morrison St (cnr Great Northern Highway),
Midland, WA 6056
Telephone: (08) 9273 7373
website: www.landgate.com.au

State Records Office

Ground Floor (western end), Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth, WA, 6000
Telephone: (08) 9427 3360
website: www.lis.wa.gov.au

State Library of Western Australia/ Batty Library

Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth, WA, 6000
Telephone: (08) 9427 3111
website: www.slwa.wa.gov.au

National Archives (WA)

384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park, WA, 6101
Telephone: (08) 9470 7500
website: www.naa.gov.au

The Western Australian Genealogical Society

6/48 May Street, Bayswater, WA, 6053
Telephone: (08) 9271 4311
website: www.wags.org.au

Registry of Births, Deaths and

Marriages

Level 10, 141 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA, 6000
Telephone: 1300 305 021 or (08) 9264 1555
website: www.justice.wa.gov.au/Locations/births.aspx

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

website: www.mcb.wa.gov.au

Probate Registry

Probate Office, 14th Floor, National Mutual Building, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA, 6000
Telephone: (08) 9421 5152

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Stirling House, 49 Broadway, Nedlands, WA, 6009
Telephone: (08) 9386 3841
website: <http://histwest.org.au/>

Heritage Council of Western Australia

108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth, WA, 6006
Telephone: (08) 9221 4177
website: www.heritage.wa.gov.au

National Trust of Australia (WA)

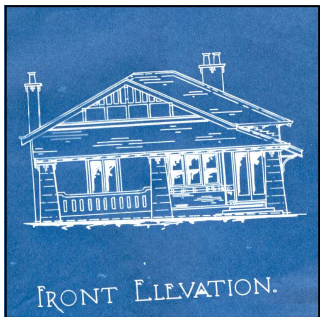
Address: Old Observatory, 4 Havelock Street, West Perth, WA, 6005
Telephone: (08) 9321 6088
website: www.ntwa.com.au

Telephone Directories

The directories may be useful as an extension to *Wise's Post Office Directories*. The directories can be used to provide details on the occupier of the house in which you are researching, presuming that the resident remained at the subject house. *Where to find:* Battye Library has telephone directories from 1919 to 1959 on microfiche and 1960 to date in hard copy.

Electoral Rolls

Electoral rolls could give you the names, addresses and occupations of the adults who were residents. *Where to find:* Battye Library has the Electoral Rolls for the Legislative Assembly on microfiche from 1904, National Archives (WA), Local History Centre holds Electoral Rolls from 1987 to 1993.



House Plans and Styles

Architectural plans and building application records give the name of the architect, the builder and the sometimes include the cost of construction and building specification. *Where to find:* you can lodge an Archive Search Request at the Town's Customer Service Centre. (There will be costs involved in this form of research).

An example of an elevation located through an Archive Search

Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates, Burial Records and Wills

These records will provide information on the people who lived in the house which you are researching. *Where to find:* Battye Library - Births 1841-1905, Deaths 1841-1980, and Marriage Certificates 1841-1965; the Western Australian Genealogical Society, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Probate Registry

Journals and Serials

The WA Mining, Building & Engineering Journal contains calls by architects for tenders and gives information on building works. The Battye Library has the serials from 1903 to 1927. *Where to find:* Battye Library

Certificate of Titles

Certificate of Titles provide detail on the ownership of the land, not the existence of structures on it. However, when used in conjunction with other sources the titles can help to narrow down a date range. Starting with your current Certificate of Title, you can trace back through the previous Titles for the property to find the names and sometimes the occupation of previous owners. *Where to find:* Landgate, State Records Office (There will be costs involved in this form of research).

Council Rate Books

Rate books record the property taxes levied by local councils. It is good source of information about the occupiers and valuation of a particular property. It documents information including the name of the owner, the occupier, occupation of the occupier and the type of building on the site. *Where to find:* State Records Office - Rate books available between 1880 and 1946 and Town of Vincent - you can make an ownership enquiry at the Town's Customer Service Centre, dating back to 2002.

Post Office Directories

Wise's Post Office Directories provide street listings of suburbs and districts covering the years 1893 to 1949. Streets within the Town of Vincent are listed alphabetically under **Perth**. You must work back from 1949 and use adjoining houses and street intersections to help track your house. Remember that the Directories record occupiers, not owners as the lands titles do, and they are not completely reliable as omissions occur and sometimes houses temporarily 'disappear' from the directories when they are unoccupied. *Where to find:* Battye Library has copies on microfiche, or online at :

Fitzgerald street, Nth. Perth.
Vincent st. to Little Walcott st.
Right hand side.
Buncle J. W
Claremont Mineral Springs Aerated
Water Co. C. McSwan, mgr
.....here is Chelmsford rd.....
Elder Thos. storekpr
..... Grosvenor rd. intersects
Emery J. C. builder
Benson Richd. cab propr
O'Dwyer Jno
..... Raglan rd. intersects
Tangney E. grocer
Bennett Mrs. J. dressmaker
Donaldson Geo
Lapsley John H. painter
Coombs I. S
..... Alma rd. intersects
McGrath Thos. Wm. newsagt
Thomas W. H
North Perth Fire Station
.....here is Forest st.....
..... here is Shenton st
Tatham Wm
..... here is Burt st
..... here is Marmion st
.....here is Venn st.....
North Perth Council Stables
..... here is York st
Macdonald Geo. T

An extract from the Post Office Directories