

Useful Information

The National Archives (TNA) Research Guides

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-place/houses.htm

Valuation Office Map finder

labs.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wordpress/index.php/2010/04/valuation-office-map-finder

GM Lives

www.gmlives.org.uk

Manchester City Council

Maps, directories, electoral registers and rate books

www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history/462/family_history/11

Books

Tracing your Home's History

by Anthony Adolph

Tracing the History of your House

by Nick Barratt

Tracing your House History a Guide for Family Historians

by Gill Blanchard

How to Research your House: Every Home tells a Story

by Pamela Brooks

Countryside Books

by Trevor Yorke



For more detailed information:

www.mlfhs.org.uk/guides

Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society
3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library,
St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD
Tele: 0161- 234 1060 Email: office@mlfhs.org.uk

Archives +



House History

To begin constructing the history of your house or property you will need to consult a variety of different source materials. This guide will provide you with some assistance to help with your research.

To begin:

- Set clear objectives on what you would like to achieve.
- Start with present day owners and work backwards.
- Find out which Parliamentary electoral district your house is in.
- Find out which Civil and Ecclesiastical parishes your house belongs to.
- Find out if your house belonged to an ancient Manor or Estate.
- Find out the local authority or urban/rural district council your house belonged to.

Being prepared with this information will assist you when you when looking for a range of documented evidence specific to your house in the Archives, your local records office, local studies library or The National Archives (TNA). Also, be aware that you may need to pre-order any archival material 24 hours prior to viewing.

DATA SETS

Title Deeds and your house

This is an all encompassing title for a number of different documents. This could be conveyancing documents, title searches, mortgage papers. If researching your own house you should check for these documents first. These will show ownership and rights to the property. Often they will include very detailed facts and hold a tremendous amount of information. Examine your deeds carefully to obtain names and dates of ownership.

Maps and your house

Which map(s) you choose to look at will depend on the build date of your property. However, even if your house is not particularly old it may be interesting to look for the plot of land in order to discover previous ownership and land usage prior to any buildings. The maps may provide clues to previous landowners which may include a large Manor or Estate. Look for:

- Ordnance Survey Maps
- Enclosure Maps
- Tithe Maps
- 1910 Valuation maps & field books
- Google Earth

The Local Council and your house

These records will be an asset to your research. You will be able to discover more about the original build and structure of your house and how it fits into your local community. Look for:

- Building plans
- Town Council Minutes of Meetings

These records will enable you to discover who designed your property and establish which features still exist, are original and which have been altered. The Town Council records will report on any applications that were submitted for approval and if those actions were carried out. It is also interesting to see what was happening in the local area regarding planning and permissions granted or not.

People and your house

The largest variety of documents you will come across will be to do with previous owners and occupiers of your house.

- Census
- Electoral Registers (Caution is advised as voting rights changed over the years)
- Rate Books

- Probate records
- Parish records
- Directories
- Trade directories (Many of which are online)
- Gazetteers
- Newspapers – Obituaries/Sale particulars

The Government and your house

Land Tax documents will provide a list of landowners and from 1772 the occupiers of a property. Not all records survive. Hearth Tax will provide the name of occupiers (but not owners) and number of hearths in a house. The Window tax documents also provide names of occupiers (but not owners) and number of windows. You may be able to get an idea of the status & wealth of the people and value of the property from these documents.

- Land Tax
- Hearth Tax
- Window Tax

The Lord of the Manor and your house

These documents will show ownership and occupancy information, contain a variety of administrative records and also show transfers of property between tenants.

- Manorial records
MDR (Manorial Document Register) found at TNA
- Estate records
- Estate/Family Records or Survey Maps

Images and your house

Viewing images of your property can help place it in an historical context (event) and be a reference to a point in time.

- Photographs
- Post cards
- Sale particulars