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## Finding the history of your house

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*Kent Grove, Gorman Rd., Goulburn 1880, Local Studies Photo Collection, PF-9 No. 1858*

Do you live in a house that's had previous owners? Have you ever wondered when your house was built? Are you interested in restoring your home to its former glory? Goulburn has such a rich and diverse architectural history, from workman's cottages and houses designed by well-known architects, to hotels, cathedrals and government buildings. There are bound to be just as many interesting stories behind the buildings in Goulburn, as there are different types of buildings. Your house is part of the history of Goulburn.

### *Where to start*

There are many resources in the Local Studies collection that will help you find information such as original owners, property values and historic photos. The best place to start is the online [House and Building Histories](#) page. Other places to look include the online [Maps](#), [Photographs](#), [Council Minutes](#), even [Cemeteries](#) pages. A general search on our [Library OPAC](#) under the street or house name, or an early owners' name, could also find you some information.

### *House Histories*

Using the links on the [House and Buildings Histories](#) page will get you started and give you a good basis for further research.

#### **Rate Books**

Rate books give unique information about home and business ownership, type of dwelling and property values. The books are organised by wards, then alphabetically by street name. If you don't know which ward your house is in, the colour coded town ward map helps identify which historic ward your house or property falls into.

#### **Building Permits 1910-1950**

List new buildings constructed during these years, the street addresses and the permit applicant.

### ***Betts and Son Solicitor's Papers***

Betts & Son Solicitors was a major law firm operating in the district for over 100 years. The Library has a fully indexed collection of original documents dating from the 1840s through to 1956. These papers are a valuable tool, especially for anyone researching land conveyances, grants and mortgages.

### ***Historical Conservation in Goulburn***

This Thesis explores the history of residential architecture in Goulburn through its Georgian, Victorian, and Federation phases, including case studies of many of our beloved historical buildings.

## ***Maps***

Owners' names and the extent of early allotments can be found on early pastoral and parish maps, and town surveys. The Library holds many maps that show property ownership and land use throughout the years. The collection also includes new subdivisions. Using the links on the [Maps](#) page will take you to a variety of digitised historical maps of the Goulburn township and district.

A new resource on this page is Map Warper. This is an image and map georeferencing service to 'warp' or stretch a map to fit on real world map coordinates. See how the Goulburn district has grown and changed over time, how parcels of land have been divided, and compare our streetscape from 1914 to today.

## ***Photographs***

We have a collection of over 16,000 photographs, many of which can be viewed online. There may be an early photo of your house, or family members who used to live in your house.

## ***Council Meeting Minutes***

Both Goulburn City and Mulwaree Shire Meeting Minutes have been recently digitised, the years ranging from the earliest meetings in 1859, right through until 1959. These minutes are a great original source for information around the growth of the district.

## ***Cemeteries***

Cemetery records provide a wealth of information for family history researchers, including dates of birth and death, occupation, and religion. The [Cemeteries](#) page links to indexes ranging from some of the earliest burials in Goulburn, right up to 1990.

## ***Other resources***

The Library holds items in the collection including Electoral Roll and Census information, unpublished material in our Archives, and books in our catalogue on different house styles, such as Federation, Colonial or Art Deco.

There are many websites accessible from within the Library that can help with your search. These include:

### **Trove**

[Trove](#) can provide lots of information about your house and the people who lived in it. Newspaper articles can provide historic prices and descriptions of homes. Also stories about whether anything significant has happened in your street. Once you have family names, you can search for these as well. Trove also has digitised maps and Real Estate or Sales Plans. Many of the maps held in the Local Studies Collection, you can find digitised in Trove. Real Estate and Sales Plans contain information such as new subdivisions, prices, boundaries, road changes and land use. For more information about using Trove to find Goulburn History, see our InfoGuide ['Finding Goulburn on Trove'](#).

### **MHNSW**

Among other things, the [NSW State Archives](#) hold Primary Application Packets. These include surveys, reports, Certificates of Title and Deeds. They may also hold Valuation Cards from the Department of Valuer General. These include information such as title details, descriptions of land, improvements to land and changes of ownership. Also, Valuation Rolls include owners name, address and occupation. The Records also hold Deceased Estate Files.

## **Land and Property Information, Historical Land Records Viewer**

The [HLRV](#) is a fully searchable database that includes historic land information such as Parish Maps, Crown Lands and Torrens Title Registers. Certificates of Title can sometimes be traced here.

## **NSW Heritage Databases**

Find information about heritage listed items and significant sites in NSW in the [Heritage Databases](#). If your house is heritage listed, there may be a conservation document, photos and other valuable information on your home, including historical significance statements and architectural features.

## **Building Register and Development Application Files**

Some early files have survived. To check if any Council Files for your property have survived, please contact the Customer Service Centre on phone 4823 4444.

## *Online Guides*

- National Library of Australia, [How do I Trace the History of my House?](#)
- Museums of History NSW, [House and Property Guide](#), [Researching your House and Property](#)
- State Library of NSW, [House History](#)

## *Need more help?*

Contact the Local Studies section of the Library.

Phone 4823 4435

email: [library@goulburn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@goulburn.nsw.gov.au)

Happy hunting!