

## House Histories Help Guide

Most people who start researching buildings and properties want to know about the history of a house, its occupants and the surrounding area. The easiest way to find out more about your house/property is through the people that lived there. Local maps, title deeds, plans, electoral registers and family and estate papers can all be useful when tracing the history of a house.

**Before you start...**It helps to know the approximate date of your house/property and which County it is located in.

You can use the **Census** to find out who was living there before, [Electoral Registers](#) provide confirmation of residence for property inhabitants registered to vote, and [Post Office and Street Directories](#) record information on where people lived and the location of domestic and commercial premises.

**Building plans** - Many local record offices and archives have collections of building plans and alterations, which provide evidence of how buildings might have looked when new, when alterations or changes were made, and if there were changes proposed which never happened. These can all give you a better idea of the history of the house/building/property.

### **Title Deeds**

You can [buy digital copies](#) of title documents from the land register, on the [Registers of Scotland](#). These include a property's title sheet and title plan. A title plan shows the extent and boundaries of a property on a map.

A title sheet provides details of:

- property price
- current owners
- mortgage details
- conditions affecting the property
- individual deeds registered against the title

These websites can help in your research and provide more information:

**Dictionary of Scottish Architects**

<http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/>

**Historic Scotland** (for information on listed buildings)

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/>

**National Library of Scotland Maps**

<http://maps.nls.uk/>

**Registers of Scotland (ROS)**

<http://www.ros.gov.uk/>

**Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland (RCAHMS)**

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/>

**ScotlandsPlaces**

<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

**Post Office and Street Directories**

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/about-directories/street.html>