

Researching Your House in Fitzroy

- using the library resources and the internet

- 1 Build up a database of early occupants, from the Sands & McDougall directories
 - of your house, and the immediate neighbours, and maybe your whole block of the street
 - noting any changes of house numbering that may have occurred in 1905, 1888 and 1865

- 2 Rate books give details on occupants and their occupations, owner, building description, valuation
 - but microfilm quality is variable, often difficult to read the handwriting, and to navigate
 - use Fitzroy CC rate books from 1859 onwards, (need the MCC rate books prior to 1858)

- 3 For the original building date, type, owner, builder, it is possible to search
 - Burchett Index (1850-1870)
 - Australian Architectural Index

- 4 Some one-time records and indexes across Fitzroy are
 - November 1854 list of properties, building descriptions, occupants, owners
 - index of petitioners for municipal separations from 1856 to 1863
 - MMBW detailed maps of the 1897-1900 period

- 5 Information on owners, occupants and their families is available in
 - index of births, marriages, deaths
 - index of inquests
 - shipping arrivals (now available on-line)
 - probate documents (now available on-line)

- 6 Newspaper search of The Argus using the Advanced Search function, especially for unusual names
 - e.g. results for "101 Gore" were 474 hits in 2009, now 791 hits in 2011;
 - e.g. results for "101 Greeves" were 1 hit in 2009, now 7 hits in 2011.

- 7 Google Advanced Search

	of web	of images	of news archive
- "101 Gore" hits in 2009 & 2011 were	1300 & 951	15 & 84	202 & 84
- "101 Greeves" in 2009 & 2011 were	7 & 10	20 & 1	1 & 0

Resources in the Fitzroy Library

- Postal Directories (Sands & McDougal, Sands & Kenny, Tanner, etc.) 1839 to 1974, (on microfiche)
1854, 1857-1861, 1860-1881, 1884, 1892, 1893, 1904, 1914-1919 (searchable on CDs)
- Fitzroy rate books, 1859 to 1949 (on microfilm) and 1958 to 1973 (on computer)
MCC records 1845-1860 rate books, and 1843-50 property valuation records (on microfiche)
MCC List of Properties, Fitzroy Ward, 1854 (only south of Gertrude St, and south-west of Labour in Vain hotel)
- MMBW maps of 1897-1903, showing all individual houses in Fitzroy (also on-line at slv.vic.gov.au)
- Municipal Petitions Index (1856-1863), including Fitzroy and North Fitzroy in 1857, 1858, 1859.
- Burchett Index of MCC's Fitzroy Ward "Notice to Build" records, 1850 to 1870
- Fitzroy local newspapers, various from 1862 and from 1920 to 1958 (on microfilm and CD)
- Index of Births (1836-1920), Marriages (1836-1942), Deaths (1836-1985)
- Victorian Government Gazette (all on-line at <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>)
and a fully-searchable version on the Fitzroy "local history" computer, for 1847 and all years from 1851 to 1897
- City of Yarra, Heritage Studies 1978 to 1998 (in bookshelves) & Heritage Database 2008 (on computer)

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## **Resources on the Internet**

- City of Yarra - Heritage Studies & Local History <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au>  
then select > Planning & Building > Heritage > Heritage Studies  
or select > Library > Local History collection > The history of your house
- University of Melbourne - Architecture - Professor Miles Lewis  
Australian Architectural Index (1840s to 1920s) <http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html>  
(with 999 records on "Fitzroy")  
Melbourne Mansions Database <http://www.mileslewis.net/melbourne-mansions.html>  
(with 143 records on "Fitzroy")
- Public Record Office Victoria [www.access.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au)  
then select PROV's digitised records and online indexes  
then select > Wills & Probate - often describes properties, etc.  
or > Passenger Lists - details of arrivals of early residents
- Land Title Boundaries <http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/interactive.jsp>
- Searchable Online Newspapers  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/search?adv=y> (for Argus and Fitzroy Mercury)  
<https://paperofrecord.hypernet.ca> (for 85,000 pages of Port Phillip Herald, but charges apply)
- Online Pictures  
[pictureaustralia.org](http://pictureaustralia.org) for O'Brien collection at Melb. University, and other Australia-wide sources  
[picturevictoria.vic.gov.au](http://picturevictoria.vic.gov.au) for Fitzroy Library collection, and other Victoria-wide sources