



Researching Your House in Fitzroy

using the resources of the Fitzroy Library and the Internet

Recommended sequence for researching

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

- 2** Rate books
 - details on occupants and their occupations, owner, building description, valuation
 - if you already know the resident's name, use [Ancestry.com.au](https://www.ancestry.com.au)
 - use Fitzroy rate books from 1859 onwards, and the Melbourne rate books prior to 1858

- 3** For the original building date, building material, owner, builder, it is possible to search
 - Burchett Index - (2423 early records of Fitzroy over the period 1850 to 1870)

- 4** Some one-time records and indexes across Fitzroy, and held at the Fitzroy Library, are
 - VPRS:3182 - MCC List of Improved & Unimproved Property, Fitzroy Ward, Nov 1854
 - Index of petitioners for municipal separations, from 1856 to 1863
 - MMBW detailed maps of Fitzroy, 1897 to 1900 (also available on-line at State Library of Victoria)

- 5** Information on owners, occupants and their families is available in
 - index of births, marriages, deaths, inquests
 - shipping arrivals <https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1635/>
 - wills and probates
<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/wills-and-probates>

- 6** Newspaper searching
 - <https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers>

Resources in the Fitzroy Library

A Sands & McDougall Melbourne & Suburban Directories

1839 to 1974 on microfiche

1854, 1859, 1860-81, 1884, 1892, 1893, 1904, fully searchable on CDs

B Rate Books

Fitzroy, 1859 to 1949 (on microfilm) and 1958 to 1973 card index (on computer)

Fitzroy 1858-1900 on-line at <https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/60706/>

MCC 1845-60 rate books and 1843-50 property valuations (on microfiche).

MCC List of Properties, Fitzroy Ward, 1854.

C MMBW (Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works) plans of 1897-1900 period,

showing outline of individual houses in Fitzroy

(also on-line at slv.vic.gov.au)

D Municipal Petitions Index (1856-63), on CD

includes 6,600 petitioners' names and addresses from Fitzroy

E Burchett Index of "Notice of intention to build",1850-70

on CD, and on-line at website of Fitzroy History Society

F Births (1836-1920), Marriages (1836-1942), Deaths (1836-1985)

at ancestry.com.au as detailed below or

Births, Deaths & Marriages Victoria <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/>

G Victorian Government Gazette

1836-1997 is at gazette.slv.vic.gov.au - but with a limited index

For 1847 and 1851-1897, a fully searchable version on the "local history" computer,

H City of Yarra Heritage Studies

1978 to 1998 loan copies and reference available

Also available online from the City of Yarra Heritage page

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/heritage>

or the direct link to the Heritage Studies

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/heritage/heritage-studies>

Resources on the Internet

A Newspapers

Trove archive at NLA <https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers>
Port Phillip Herald 85,000 pages, from 1840 to 1902 paperofrecord.com

B Ancestry.com.au (either by personal subscription, or free use via the Fitzroy Library)

City Directories, 1860-1942

<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=60845>

Fitzroy Rate Books, 1858-1900

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/60706/>

Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1207/>

Birth Index (Vic) 1837-1917

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/61648/>

Marriage Index (Vic) 1837-1950

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/61649/>

Death Index (Vic) 1836-1988

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/61650/>

Passenger Lists (Vic) 1839-1923

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1635/>

C Public Record Office Victoria at prov.vic.gov.au

For Wills and Probate - often describes properties and their contents

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/wills-and-probates>

For Passenger records and immigration - often includes early immigrants to Fitzroy
now only available via **ancestry.com.au** as detailed above

D State Library of Victoria

Melbourne Directories 1860-1974 - but only at 5 yearly intervals

<http://cedric.slv.vic.gov.au/R?RN=505624056>

E Pictures

National Library of Australia (Trove) picture archive at trove.nla.gov.au/picture

State Library of Victoria <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>

Fitzroy and other public libraries <http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/>

University of Melbourne Archives at <http://archives.unimelb.edu.au/>

- especially the 300+ Fitzroy photos in the John Lockyer O'Brien collection,
located at <http://gallery.its.unimelb.edu.au/umblumaic/jmu.php?request=search>
using the search term "lockyer"