



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

- 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](file:///C:\Users\mike\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Fitzroy%20History%20Society%202004+\Events%202016\Researching%20your%20house%202016\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](https://www.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](http://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](https://paperofrecord.hypernet.ca/default.asp)

**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](http://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](http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture?q&adv=y)

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/imu.php?request=search>

using the search term “ lockyer “