

House History in East Dunbartonshire



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Maps

Maps can show you what the area around your house was like. By comparing maps of different dates you may also be able to pinpoint a rough date of building. Before the Ordnance Survey began its detailed mapping of Scotland in the 1850s, maps tended to be created on an ad hoc basis so there is no guarantee that a map existed for a particular area at a particular date. The National Library of Scotland Map Library has many early maps available on its website, but no large scale ones (see <http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/map/early/index.html>)

Estate maps

These are usually the most useful pre-Ordnance Survey maps. If your house was once part of a large estate there may be other records in an estate collection, such as rent rolls and title deeds, which will provide further information. Local estate collections include:

- Gartshore Estate (East Dunbartonshire Archives)
- Woodhead, including Antermony Estate (Glasgow City Archives)
- Dougalston Estate, Milngavie (Glasgow City Archives)
- Garscube Estate, Bearsden (Glasgow University Archives and Glasgow City Archives)
- Killermont and Garscadden Estate Records (Glasgow University Archives and National Records of Scotland)

Ordnance Survey

The Ordnance Survey was the first concerted attempt to map the whole country in both small and large scale. The early editions were produced at 6" to the mile and 25" to the mile and the maps have been continually revised to the present day.

First Edition

6 " Published 1864-1865 (surveyed 1858-1861)

25" Published 1862 (surveyed 1859)

see also <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>)

Second Edition / First Revision

6" Published 1899 (revised 1896 from first edition)

25" Published 1898 (revised 1896 from first edition)

Second Revision

6" Published 1922 (Revised 1914 from first edition)

25" Published 1918 (Revised 1914 from first edition)

Town Plans

Kirkintilloch 1/500 (10.56 feet to 1 mile)

Related Records

There are records relating to the carrying out of the Ordnance Survey which can prove useful. Held at the William Patrick Library are the Minor Control Point Albums containing photographs of the control points from 1954. In the National Records of Scotland are the Ordnance Survey Name Books containing descriptions of properties named on the maps.

Other Sources for Maps

- Burgh / County Council records
- Railway companies / Turnpike trusts
- Farm boundary maps (1940s)

Plans and Photographs

If you want to know what your house looked like when it was first built, you need to find the original plans. Unfortunately these often do not survive, particularly for buildings which were built before the end of the 19th century. If there are no plans, photographs can be useful, particularly for the exterior of the building.

Architectural plans and drawings

Architectural plans can be found in a variety of places. If you know the architect of your house, their own collection of plans may be held in an Archive. This is fairly unusual, however, and plans are more commonly found in the following:

Dean of Guild

From the late 19th Century to 1975 all building works had to be approved by the Dean of Guild Court in the relevant Burgh. A petition had to be lodged with the Dean of Guild along with plans of the proposed building, and a register was kept. The records of the Dean of Guild are now held in the Archives and include:

- Burgh of Bearsden: Registers 1958-1975
- Burgh of Kirkintilloch: Registers and plans 1877-1975 (incomplete)
- Burgh of Milngavie: Registers and plans 1919-1975
- Dunbartonshire, Eastern Area: Registers 1923-1964 and applications 1937-1950
- County of Stirling plans (unlisted)

Planning and Building Standards

From 1975 onwards the functions of the Dean of Guild Court were taken over by the Planning and Building Standards Departments of the Council. These plans and registers are still held by these departments.

Housing Schemes

There are usually plans of council housing schemes in the records of the Burgh or District Council which built them. Plans will have been deposited with the Dean of Guild, and there will usually be additional maps and plans with the Surveyor/Engineer's papers. There will probably be other records as well, such as specifications, rent registers etc.

Other Sources

For manses and other church buildings, the records are kept at the National Records of Scotland, who keep the records of the Church of Scotland. If your house was built as part of a housing association or garden suburb, or was an estate building, plans may be found in the records of the estate records, or records of the organisations who built houses. The records and plans of the Glasgow Garden Suburb Company (Westerton Garden Suburb), for example, are held at Brookwood Library.

Photographs

Brookwood and the William Patrick Library hold extensive photographic collections and you may be lucky enough to find photographs of your house in these under the 'Houses' and 'Streets' sections. In addition, there will sometimes be photographs within the private collections in the Archives which have not been copied for the library collections.

The National Monuments Record holds photographs, maps, plans and other records on buildings of historic interest, which are held at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS), in Edinburgh. Their website at <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/> has a searchable database called CANMORE.

House Ownership and Occupancy

Records relating to the occupiers of the house give more background information on when the house was built, who lived there and how they lived.

Title Deeds

Title deeds are the key record of the transfer of ownership of your house; your mortgage holder should hold the deeds of your house. Registers of property transfer are also held at the National Records of Scotland, notably the Register of Sasines from 1617 onwards, and registers of deeds for Court of Session, Sheriff, Commissary and Local Courts.

Directories

Unlike modern telephone directories, the old Post Office, County and Trade directories are arranged by street, and thus are useful for checking up who lived at a specific address. Usually just the head of the household is given. Because people had to pay to be included in the directory, only the wealthier members of society, professionals and tradespersons tend to be included, so your house is not guaranteed to be mentioned.

Census

The census for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 are all available either on microfilm, CD-ROM or via the Internet. The census is the only source that lists every member of the household, including children and servants, and gives information such as where a person was born, age, occupation etc. As the census is only taken every 10 years, it can only provide a periodic snapshot.

Voters Rolls (Electoral Registers)

Voters rolls list those eligible to vote in each household, which means that inevitably many people are not shown. Women over 30 are not listed until 1920 and women over the age of 21 until 1929. The minimum age for voting was changed from 21 to 18 in 1969. Brookwood and the William Patrick Libraries keep older versions of the voters' rolls.

Taxation Records

Householders have been taxed for hundreds of years, and these taxation records will also list the owners and occupiers of houses within the district. For fairly substantial houses which were in existence between 1696 and 1851, the window tax records, which are held at the National Records of Scotland, may prove useful. The local Burghs and Parish Councils collected poor rates and other types of rates.

Wills and Testaments

Property could not be inherited through testaments until 1868, but as pre-1868 testaments listed all of the deceased possessions these testaments can provide evidence of the contents of the house. All Scottish wills from 1513 to 1925 have been digitised and are available on the ScotlandsPeople website at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Newspapers

Local newspapers often contain information about houses, particularly when they are sold. It is worthwhile checking the newspaper indexes for references to your house, or for anyone known to live there.

Sources Held Locally

Bishopbriggs and Milngavie Libraries have local history corners where some information, including maps, is available. East Dunbartonshire Archives & Local Studies holds maps, newspapers, photographs and archives. Bearsden and Milngavie archives are held at Brookwood Library. Archives for all other areas in East Dunbartonshire are held at the William Patrick Library. Some archives are only available in Glasgow City Archives in the Mitchell Library, North Lanarkshire Archives and Stirling Council Archives.

Bearsden Houses

Building Registers and Plans

- County of Dunbarton Planning Registers 1923-1964 (surviving plans at Glasgow City Archives)
- Burgh Dean of Guild Registers 1958-1975

Assessment / Valuation Rolls

- Pre-1961 at Glasgow City Archives / National Records of Scotland
- Burgh of Bearsden 1961-1975
- Bearsden and Milngavie District Council 1975-1989

Other Sources

- Glasgow Post Office Directories 1825-1978
- Westerton Garden Suburb Records
- Plan of villas with list of occupants
- Bearsden and Milngavie Farm Survey
- Milngavie and Bearsden Herald 1901-
- Dumbarton Herald and Lennox Herald

Bishopbriggs Houses

Building Registers and Plans

- Dean of Guild Registers and plans 1965-1975 (later plans at Building Standards)
- Lanarkshire County Plans (selected buildings only)

Assessment / Valuation Rolls

- Burgh of Bishopbriggs valuation roll 1974-1975 (a complete set of Lanarkshire County Valuation rolls 1855-1989 is only available at the National Records of Scotland)
- Strathkelvin District valuation rolls 1975-1989

Other Sources

- Bishopbriggs & District Herald 1961-1963; Bishopbriggs News 1968-1976; Bishopbriggs Times 1975-1981

Campsie Houses (Milton of Campsie, Lennoxton, Torrance, Baldernock)

Building Registers and Plans

- County of Stirling Plans 1900-1973

Assessment / Valuation Rolls

- Parish of Campsie Valuation / Assessment Rolls 1849-1927
- Strathkelvin District Valuation Rolls 1975-1989

Other Sources

- Kirkintilloch Herald 1886-1974

Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Houses

Building Registers and Plans

- Dean of Guild registers and plans 1877-1975 (later plans at Planning / Building Control)
- Kirkintilloch and Cumbernauld Planning Applications 1937-1950

Assessment / Valuation Rolls

- Heritors Valuation / Assessment Rolls 1820-1883
- Burgh Valuation / Assessment Rolls 1869-1975
- Strathkelvin District Valuation Rolls 1975-1989

Voters Rolls

- Voters Rolls 1839-1975

Other Sources

- Kirkintilloch Herald 1886-1974; Kirkintilloch Gazette 1898-1938
- Glasgow Post Office Directories 1825-1978 (Bearsden / Mitchell Library) **Lenzie only**

Milngavie Houses

Building Registers and Plans

- County of Dunbarton Planning Department (at Glasgow City Archives)
- Burgh Dean of Guild Registers 1919-1975
- Burgh Dean of Guild Plans 1895-1968 (later plans at Planning / Building Standards)

Assessment / Valuation Rolls

- Burgh Assessment/Valuation Rolls 1930-1975 (earlier rolls at NRS / Mitchell Library)
- Bearsden and Milngavie District Council 1975-1989

Other Sources

- Bearsden and Milngavie Farm Survey
- Milngavie and Bearsden Herald 1901-
- Dunbarton Herald and Lennox Herald

Helpful Books and Leaflets

EDLC Archives & Local Studies leaflet, *Valuation Rolls*

EDLC Archives & Local Studies leaflet, *Building Plans*

Rebecca M Bailey, *Scottish Architects' Papers a source book*, 1996 [REF 720.09411]

Nick Barratt, *Tracing the History of your House*, 2006 [REF 728.09]