

## Tracing Your House History in East Dunbartonshire



### 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 an excellent collection of digitised maps on their website <http://maps.nls.uk/>

### 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 - Kirkintilloch)
- 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)
- Cadder Estate / Stirlings of Keir and Cawder (Glasgow City Archives) (some colour photographs of plans held in Kirkintilloch Library photo collection)

## **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. see <http://maps.nls.uk/> and also <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

### ***First Edition***

6 "                      Published 1864-1865 (surveyed 1858-1861)  
25"                      Published 1862 (surveyed 1859)

### ***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. The Minor Control Point Albums contain photographs of the control points from 1954 and are held at the in the Archives at Kirkintilloch Library (GD181). In the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh are the Ordnance Survey Name Books containing descriptions of properties and place names from the maps, these are also available online via <http://www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/>

### **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 in the Archives at Bearsden Library.

### ***Photographs***

Bearsden and Kirkintilloch Libraries 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 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 by Historic Environment Scotland, in Edinburgh. They have a searchable online database of their collections called Canmore <https://canmore.org.uk/>

You can also search for aerial photographs of your area via the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) online <http://ncap.org.uk/>

### ***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 may 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. Also the Registers of Scotland will search their sasines records (for a fee) see <https://www.ros.gov.uk/services/ownership-search/searching-the-registers>

## **Directories**

Unlike modern telephone directories, the old Post Office, County and Trade directories are arranged by street, and so are useful for checking 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 are available on microfilm, or online in libraries via our subscription to Ancestry <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/> The 1911 census is only available for a fee via the Scotlands People website <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

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. Bearsden and Kirkintilloch Libraries keep older versions of the voters' rolls. You can also search our online archive catalogue <http://edlct.adlibhosting.com> to check what we hold.

## **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 <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> on the ScotlandsPeople website. For years 1925 onwards check the National Records of Scotland guide <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/wills-and-testaments>

## **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**

East Dunbartonshire Archives & Local Studies holds maps, newspapers, photographs and archives. Bearsden and Milngavie archives are held at Bearsden Library. Archives for all other areas in East Dunbartonshire are held at Kirkintilloch Library. Some archives are only available in Glasgow City Archives in the Mitchell Library, North Lanarkshire Archives and Stirling Council Archives.

## **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 1965-1975 (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
- Glasgow Post Office Directories (suburbs include Bishopbriggs)

## **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 (ref PD)
- Stirlingshire Western Number 3 District, Parishes of Baldernock and Campsie valuation roll, 1947-1948 (ref CO7/7/1)
- 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 EDC Building Standards)
- 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 (gap 1901-1975)

### ***Other Sources***

- Kirkintilloch Herald 1886-1974; Kirkintilloch Gazette 1898-1938
- Glasgow Post Office Directories 1825-1978 (suburbs include Lenzie)

## **Bearsden Houses**

### ***Building Registers and Plans***

- County of Dunbarton Planning Registers 1923-1964
- Burgh Dean of Guild Registers 1958-1975

### ***Assessment / Valuation Rolls***

- County of Dunbarton-New Kilpatrick Parish 1941-1961
- 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

## **Milngavie Houses**

### ***Building Registers and Plans***

- Burgh Dean of Guild Registers 1919-1975
- Burgh Dean of Guild Plans 1895-1975 (later plans at EDC 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-
- Dumbarton 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]



## Help and advice

Not sure where to start, or never used archives before? Contact us for free, friendly advice, email [archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk) or visit our website <https://www.edlc.co.uk/heritage-arts/archives>

Archives relating to Bearsden and Milngavie:

Bearsden Library  
69 Drymen Road  
Bearsden G61 3QT  
tel: 0141 777 3021

Archives relating to all other areas of East Dunbartonshire:

William Patrick Library  
2-4 West High Street  
Kirkintilloch G66 1AD  
tel: 0141 777 3142

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