



Property Assessment and Tax Collector Records

Research Guide: 205

Most Recent Update: February 2019

Getting started

The City of Ottawa Archives has a significant collection of local property tax assessment records and a smaller collection of tax collector records. These two collections contain records for the majority of the former municipalities in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

Researchers will note that the tax assessment records are considered the official property tax record for the City, and the Archives holdings do not contain copies of tax bills or payment records.

Resources

The assessment collection dates from 1860 to the last calendar year and the tax collector collection dates from 1855 to 2000. The latter collection only includes records for three former municipalities: Cumberland, Gloucester and Osgoode. However, they are not comprehensive, as there are gaps in the collections.

At the end of this guide, Table I lists the municipalities and the years that are in the Archives' collections.

Note: the City of Ottawa Archives cannot provide assistance with questions about how assessments are made or current year assessments. For this information, see the relevant page on Ottawa.ca and/or contact MPAC. For payment records, the City of Ottawa Revenue Branch keeps tax assessment payment information for seven years.

Contact:

City of Ottawa Revenue Branch
Tel: 613-580-2444 (TTY 613-580-2402)
Fax: 613-580-2457
Email: revenue@ottawa.ca

and

MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation)

Tel: 1-866-296-6722 (TTY 1-877-889-6722)

Fax: 1-866-297-6702

Email: enquiry@mpac.ca

Web site: mpac.ca

Research

When researching a property at the City of Ottawa Archives, researchers will need to provide the property's address,* assessment number and the name of the ward, which can be found on their tax bill or through the Land Registry Office:

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Tel: 613-239-1230

Fax: 613-239-1422

A property's assessment number is comprised of 20-digits (e.g. 0614060019526600 0000), the ward and the street address.

What the numbers mean:

06 County

140 Municipality

600 Map (what is sometimes entered as Block)

195 Subdivision

26600 Parcel

0000 Subordinate/ Main

**Please note that prior to 1882, street numbers were not yet in common use. In those cases, researchers will need to know the name(s) of the property owner or occupants. This information can be found through the Land Registry Office when requesting a copy of the abstract for the property.*

Definitions

The following is a list of descriptions that details the types of records that one may come across through doing this type of research.

Assessment Rolls

Assessment Rolls are used to record information about a resident's property in order to determine the amount of taxes payable on real property. The following information is recorded: land and building value, status as residence or business, religion (for school taxation purposes), age, and occupation of head of household and number of people

living on the property. Other information is collected from time to time reflecting local or provincial requirements.

Collectors Rolls

These volumes record much of the same information that is in assessment rolls, plus additional information on payments and tax arrears.

Combined Rolls

Combined Rolls were introduced in many municipalities around the 1920s to replace the separate assessment and collectors rolls.

List of Assessment Rolls at the City of Ottawa Archives

Table 1 - List of Assessment Records

| Municipality | Range of Years | Missing years |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Cumberland | 1911 - 2000 | 1919 - 1926, 1946, 1949, 1960 - 1961, 1967 |
| Fitzroy | 1914 - 1972 | 1915 - 1923, 1926 - 1948, 1951 - 1953, 1958 - 1959, 1961 - 1963, 1968, 1971 |
| Gloucester | 1860 - 2000 | 1861 - 1871, 1920 - 1922, 1925 |
| Goulbourn | 1974 - 1999 | 1990 |
| Huntley | 1918 - 1972 | 1919 - 1945, 1947, 1957, 1963 - 1966, 1968 |
| Kanata | 1988 | |
| Marlborough** | 1866 - 1964 | 1870, 1875, 1877 - 1878, 1884 - 1886, 1888, 1890, 1912, 1914 - 1918 |
| Nepean | 1860 - 1956 | |
| North Gower** | 1880 - 1966 | 1881 - 1883, 1901, 1903, 1956 - 1965 |

| Municipality | Range of Years | Missing years |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Osgoode | 1857 - 2000 | 1858 - 1867, 1869, 1875 - 1877, 1879, 1884, 1890, 1914, 1957, 1965 |
| Former Ottawa* | 1872 - 2000 | 1914 - 1915, 1918 - 1923, 1942 - 1943 |
| New Ottawa | 2001 - 2015 | |
| Rideau | 1974 - 2000 | 1979, 1991 - 1992 |
| Rockcliffe | 1926 - 1999 | 1932, 1974 |
| Torbolton | 1851, 1853, 1856-1857, 1869, 1872-1873, 1875, 1888, 1891-1892, 1894-1895, 1900-1922, 1924-1935, 1942-1946, 1948-1950, 1954-1958, 1960 - 1962, 1964-1965, 1968, 1970, 1854 (registration roll) non-resident assessment rolls: 1851, 1853-1857 | |
| West Carleton | 1961 - 1997 | 1962 - 1963, 1967 - 1971, 1973, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1989 |
| Vanier/Eastview | 1909 - 1966, 1970, 1974 - 1999 | |

Table 2 - List of Tax Collectors records

| Municipality | Range of Years | Missing years |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| Cumberland | 1896 - 1961, 1968 - 1970 are mixed in with assessments | 1898, 1899, 1930, 1935 |

| Municipality | Range of Years | Missing years |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Gloucester | 1855 - 1952, 1953 - 1962 and 1965 are mixed in with assessments | 1859 - 1863, 1866 - 1871, 1877-1878, 1882, 1884, 1921 - 1923, 1963 - 1964 |
| Nepean | 1935 - 1955 | 1937, 1950-1953 |
| Osgoode | 1857 - 1967 | 1858 - 1859, 1863 - 1864, 1867 - 1869, 1884 - 1885, 1888, 1893, 1912, 1943 - 1946, 1949 |
| Ottawa | 1853, 1885 - 1886, 1923, 1926, 1928, | |
| Rideau | 1980 | |
| Rockcliffe | 1961 - 1986 mixed in with assessment | 1974 |
| Torbolton | 1855-1882, 1889 | |
| Vanier/Eastview | 1909-1965 | |

**Please note that due to a significant fire at Ottawa's City Hall in 1931, many of the early assessment and collectors records were either badly damaged or destroyed. As a result, the collection is not comprehensive.*

***Marlborough and North Gower assessment rolls are held at the Rideau Branch.*

Additional services

We do not provide research services, however our reference staff are willing to assist. Researchers may telephone, write by mail or email, or visit the City of Ottawa Archives in-person. Please note there may be a delay in accessing certain materials; it is recommended that you contact Reference Services well before the date of your intended visit.

Central Branch

Tel: 613-580-2857

Fax: 613-580-2614

Email: archives@ottawa.ca

Address: City of Ottawa Archives, 100 Tallwood Drive, Ottawa, ON K2G 4R7

Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 9 am to 4 pm

Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

Website

For information about the Archives' holdings, as well as access to research guides and other customer service materials available through the City of Ottawa Archives, please access our website, ottawa.ca/archives.