



# **Tracing the History of your Ottawa Property**

Research Guide 1

## A Note from the City Archivist

The City of Ottawa Archives is pleased to present this document as a tool to assist in researching the history of a property in the City of Ottawa, be it a house, an apartment, a place of business, or even a vacant lot.

As homeowners of older properties who have renovated their homes can attest, there are many different tasks to accomplish: removing finishing coats, stripping wallpaper, sanding floorboards. The physical tasks in a renovation project, sometimes not quick to complete, are themselves much like taking a journey through time, peeling back the layers to uncover a property's original physical condition. So too there are various and sometimes painstaking tasks required for a research project to discover the broader history of the place, its inhabitants, and its role in surrounding communities.

It is our hope that this document provides you with some useful guidance, and I wish you good luck in your research.

Paul J. Henry. C.A. City Archivist

# Contents

Т	racing the History of your Ottawa Property	i
	Research Guide 1	i
	A Note from the City Archivist	ii
	Contents	iii
	Introduction	1
	Locations	1
	Key Dates	2
	Land Records	2
	Legal Description and Title Search	2
	Legal Instruments	3
	Histories and Social Media	3
	Laws, By-laws and Minutes	4
	City of Ottawa Street Name Change Index	5
	Directories	6
	City of Ottawa directories	6
	County and provincial directories	7
	Telephone directories	8
	Voters' Lists	8
	Assessment Rolls	8
	Assessing the value	9
	Collectors Rolls	. 10
	Maps and Plans	. 11
	Maps and atlases	. 11
	Bird's eye views	. 12
	Survey maps	. 13
	Fire insurance plans	. 13
	Architectural and Construction Records	14

List the features of your house	15
Newspapers	16
Building Ottawa Research Project	16
Photographs	18
Photograph Index Cards	18
Aerial photography	20
Manuscripts	21
Appendix 1: Resources and Links	22
Community Associations	22
Historical Societies	22
Other Repositories	23

#### Introduction

The City of Ottawa Archives is an important gateway to exploring the history of your home and other Ottawa properties. Whether you want to find out how a house once looked, who used to live there, when it was built, or other information about a property, our collections can provide reference and archival materials, including original documents pre-dating Confederation, useful in researching houses and properties within the City of Ottawa, its former municipalities, and the surrounding rural areas.

This document is organized largely by record type, including directories, assessment rolls, maps, and architectural records, newspapers, photographs, and manuscripts, as well as access to online tools. Helpful Resources and Links and Other Repositories of community heritage information, mentioned throughout this guide, are listed with their addresses and contact information in the appendices.

#### Locations

The resources of the City of Ottawa Archives are mainly located at the Central Archives facility; however, the Rideau Branch in North Gower also holds records about the former Rideau Township and thus covering rural areas at the south end of the City.

#### City of Ottawa Archives, Central Archives

100 Tallwood Drive, Ottawa, ON K2G 4R7

Mail: City of Ottawa Archives (443), 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1 613-580-2857 | 613-580-2614 (fax)

archives@ottawa.ca

#### City of Ottawa Archives, Rideau Branch

6581 Fourth Line Road, North Gower (Ottawa), ON K0B 2T0 Mail: Box 56, North Gower (Ottawa), ON K0B 2T0 613-489-2926

rideauarchives@ottawa.ca

The Archives' inter-branch transfers allow for materials to be viewed at either location, given prior notice.

## **Key Dates**

There are several important moments in Ottawa's built heritage that may affect your search for housing records; it is good to be aware of these events so that you will know where to look for information and what information you may not be able to locate.

- 1872 Street numbers first used for Ottawa properties
- 1892 City of Ottawa began issuing building permits
- **1925** The Province of Ontario implemented building code legislation to regulate construction standards across the province
- 1931 City Hall burned down, damaging or destroying all building records and many tax assessment records stored there
- 1944 Copies of architectural drawings must be submitted to the City of Ottawa with the building permit for all new constructions or major alterations
- **1964** City of Ottawa zoning by-laws were consolidated (similar consolidation occurred in Gloucester and Nepean in the 1960s)

#### **Land Records**

Land records are an important resource and often a good one to begin with when searching for information about a property.

## **Legal Description and Title Search**

To start your research, you might want to obtain a legal description of the property that you are exploring. A legal description is a set of property specifications that can be used to trace the location and sales history of a lot, as well as legal disputes relating to it; the description includes the lot number, concession number, the lot's dimensions, and the ward or subdivision in which it is situated, along with the current and previous street address. In essence, a legal description is more concerned with the land that a house was built on rather than the building itself or the people who lived in it.

Example of a legal description:

Address 145 Echo Drive

Postal Code K1S 1M9

Plan No. 27 PT Lots 24 & 25 RP; 4R16486 Parts 2 to 6

PIN No. 041250181

Frontage 152 ft

Depth 51.5 ft

Ward No. 17, Capital (formerly Riverdale)

Zone R5C H(18)

Although it is time consuming, you can discover a property's legal description through the following records in the City of Ottawa Archives' collections:

- Assessment rolls for various municipalities
- Land Registry Office copy books, which are copies made from records at the Land Registry Office
- Legal instruments, usually deeds and mortgages

You can obtain a current legal description from geoOttawa.

The <u>Land Registry Office</u> is able to provide both the original and current legal descriptions.

If you are the owner of the property, you can also obtain a copy of your title search back at least forty years from your lawyer, as it is part of the documentation included when closing the sale of a house.

## **Legal Instruments**

Legal instruments, most often deeds and mortgages, can provide important information about a property, including its legal description.

Carleton University has the Abstract Index to Deeds for Carleton County on microfilm.

The Ottawa Stake Family History Center offers access to local land records on microfilm.

The <u>Archives of Ontario</u> have microfilms of land records as well as a useful <u>Research</u> <u>Guide 205 Using the Ontario Land Records Index ca. 1780-1920</u>.

## **Histories and Social Media**

Sometimes it is a good idea to gather some general information about the area surrounding the property before starting to look for more specific records about it. The history of a community or neighbourhood can give some insight into the nature of the property and where historical resources might potentially be located. Recently, there has been a trend for social history to be written through social media, such as Facebook

and blogging tools like Wordpress and Blogspot, rather than through formal publication or informal distribution in print, as in the past.

The Central Archives and Rideau Branch both have a considerable number of reference works to provide historical information on communities and neighbourhoods throughout Ottawa.

There are several active bloggers who discuss the built heritage of various communities in Ottawa, including <u>Urbsite</u>.

# Laws, By-laws and Minutes

It is also helpful to know some general information about the municipalities in which the property was located over the years. Provincial laws established municipalities: counties, cities, towns, villages, police villages, and townships. Through annexation and amalgamation, these municipalities merged over time until, in 2001, the *City of Ottawa Act* established the new City. Since records are sometimes organized by municipality, it may be a good idea to get a sense of these changes in order to track down useful information about a property.

Similarly, changes to wards within the City of Ottawa might be good to research beforehand. Such information can be obtained from the by-laws and minutes of the municipality. Also, some information can be had about the building of subdivisions and other work related to properties.

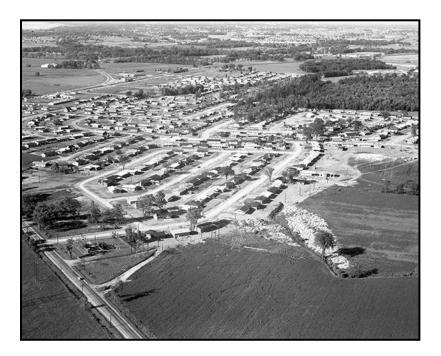


Figure 1: Aerial of Lynwood Village, 1961, City of Ottawa Archives | CA008476

#### **City of Ottawa Street Name Change Index**

As townships and municipalities were made a part of the City of Ottawa, it was common for street names to change because the original name was already in use. Located near the microfilm readers in the Central Archives Reference Room, the Street Name Change Index traces street name changes as they were recorded in the City of Ottawa By-Laws or Minutes.

Central Archives has printed copies of Ottawa City Council by-laws and minutes in the Reference Library. It also has select reference materials, including copies and indexes, for the by-laws of other municipalities.

Rideau Branch has some paper and electronic transcriptions and indexes for the bylaws of North Gower and Marlborough townships.

Central Archives holds the original by-laws and minutes for most of the former municipalities of the City of Ottawa.

Rideau Branch holds the minutes and by-laws for the former townships of North Gower and Marlborough.

#### **Directories**

A directory is an annual publication listing the contact information for individuals and businesses in a given place. Predating the more familiar telephone directories, municipal and provincial directories have been produced covering the Ottawa area since the mid-nineteenth century. These directories provided the address and the name of the proprietor or tenant of a property, and occasionally other details as well, such as occupation.

While directories can offer great insight into who was living where during a specific year, the information they contain is not necessarily accurate, due to the way in which directories were published. Delays between gathering information and publishing it could cause errors, as could reliance on information gathered from third parties, and sometimes old information was printed where no new information could be gathered.

Library and Archives Canada provides a good overview of directories in its <u>History of Directory Publishing</u>.

A useful <u>telephone exchange history</u> of the Ottawa (Ontario), Hull (Quebec) and area was compiled by Dave Leibold.

## City of Ottawa directories

City of Ottawa directories are most often broken up into three colour-coded sections: one printed on yellow paper containing businesses; one on white paper, providing alphabetical listings of residents; and a third on pink paper, providing the same information organized alphabetically by street name and number.

The Archives' collections contain City of Ottawa directories from their first publication in 1861 to the present. All city directories are available in the Central Archives Reference Library; early directories from 1861 to 1960 are on microfilm whereas directories from 1961 to 2000 and 2011 are on the shelves in book form. Between 2001 and 2010, the city directories included only the street listing section; however, by 2011, the city directories returned to their original three section format.

Rideau Branch has a few Ottawa City directories as well in its reference library.

Library and Archives Canada provides online access to a number of directories of the City of Ottawa on its <u>Canadian Directories Collection</u>.

Some City directories have been digitized and made available online by the <u>Internet Archive</u> or other organizations.

<u>Library and Archives Canada</u> maintains physical copies of Ottawa City directories which may be consulted.

## **County and provincial directories**

For researching properties outside of Ottawa's urban and suburban areas or for a time before the first City Directory in 1861, you will need to consult county or provincial directories. Often these provide less information but can nevertheless be quite useful.

Library and Archives Canada provides online access to a number of Ontario and Carleton County directories on its Canadian Directories Collection.

Some directories have also been digitized by the Internet Archive or other organizations.

#### Where to Start Searching

Start with information that you are certain of, either from the present day or from a historical record and search backwards and forwards. This will save you time as opposed to randomly searching.

#### Search in five-year spans

Searching one year at a time can be very time consuming, therefore it is recommended to search in five-year spans. This will enable you to find changes quickly and prevent you from missing them, as would happen when searching a decade at a time.

#### Use the sections to your advantage

Start with the street section. Note the date, & name of the people living at the address. The directories have a symbol or letter beside a name to denote ownership of the property. You can then look the residents up in the alphabetical section. Beside each name you will find their occupation & place of employment. You can also note some of the neighbours. This will give you a sense of the socio-economics of the street.

#### Consult each city directory's legend

Each city directory is organized slightly differently with section orders and descriptive symbols changing between editions; consult the legend at the beginning of each directory to understand how to read that particular volume.

## **Telephone directories**

Telephone directories are another possible resource for linking people with addresses, but they are of less use because they provide much less additional information. The City of Ottawa Archives has limited holdings of these directories.

The Central Archives holds one pertinent early telephone directory, MG001-16-053 Bell Telephone Eastern Ontario directory, 1914.

Bell Canada's Telephone Historical Collection is the premier place to find telephone directories. This collection is perhaps most easily accessed through microfilm held at the Toronto Reference Library.

#### **Voters' Lists**

These lists are similar to directories, in that individuals are listed along with their street addresses.

Central Archives maintains many voters' lists in its collection, most pertaining to the Township of Gloucester.

Rideau Branch maintains many voters' lists for North Gower, Marlborough, and Rideau Townships, as well a few covering Richmond, Carlsbad Springs, and the Township of Gloucester.

## **Assessment Rolls**

An assessment roll is an annual publication which states the value and ownership of a property based on its legal description rather than street address. The information contained in an assessment roll changes over time, with rolls from certain periods providing information similar to a city directory, such as the owner and occupants' profession, religious denomination, age, and number of people living in the household.

		ш.,,	ECI		OCCUPATION		NO. PERSONS ON PREMISES		DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND PLAN NO.			
NAME	OWNER OR TENANT	EGISLATIVI FRANCHISE TISH SUBJ	SH SUBJ	RELIGION	VACANT HOUSE	AGE		D - DOG BITCH	HOUSE NO. SIZE OF L			SIZE OF LAND
		T. F.	BRITISH OR A	· W	R OR LOT				LAND	BUILDING	TOTAL REALTY AND SCHOOL	BUSINESS AND SCHOOL
Zunder, Isaac Zunder, Bessie 54 By Ward	T		ВВ		Retail Fruit Store				(C ))1- 54 By Ward 15.50x49.25 N 15.50- S 92.84- E49.25 of Lot 7 G.F. & 1/3 of Bsmt. 4.425 P 1.106 P			
Cantor, Wolfe Centor, Mariam 52 By Ward		LF			Butchr. Shop					52 By Ward -S108.33-E4		7 G.F.&

Figure 2: Bytown and St. George's Ward assessment roll, 1950

## Assessing the value

Assessing the value of a property is the best way to use the assessment rolls. By determining increases in property value (land and buildings), you can learn when a house or outbuilding was constructed or a major renovation was undertaken. Assessment rolls can also be used to fill gaps in or cross-reference information found in the city directories.

A selection of assessment rolls is available on microfilm reels in the Central Archives Reference Library.

Most of the original assessment rolls for the City of Ottawa and its former municipalities are stored at the Central Archives.

Rideau Branch holds assessment rolls for the Townships of North Gower, Marlborough, and Rideau.

If you are looking for assessment rolls prior to 1850, you will need to contact the Archives of Ontario.

Learn the property's original municipality

Properties were entered into assessment rolls based on their municipality.

Use the assessment rolls finding aid

Located on the finding aid bookshelf, these binders list the contents of the microfilm assessment roll reels by year and will give you an idea of which reel contains the information for your property.

Know the property's legal description or assessment roll number

Searching by legal description or assessment roll number is the easiest way to navigate the assessment rolls; it is possible to search through the rolls based on the owner's name or street address, but this search method can be time consuming.

#### Be patient

Assessment rolls can be difficult to navigate because of the way that surveyors gathered the information; for example, each side of a street may have its own roll or streets may not be consistently listed in alphabetical order.

#### **Collectors Rolls**

Many of the former townships kept Collectors Rolls used to denote the amount of property taxes that had been paid. These records also read like census records, listing all who lived on the property, their religion, number of cattle, pigs, horses and dogs, and so on. This is especially helpful if you are researching a rural property.

The Central Archives holds the original collectors rolls for the Townships of Marlborough, Osgoode, Cumberland, Torbolton and Gloucester and for the City of Ottawa.

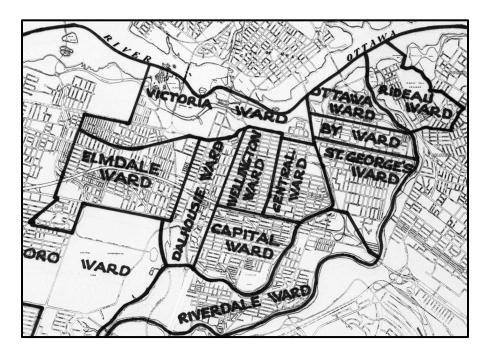


Figure 3: City of Ottawa, 1950, City of Ottawa Archives detail

## **Maps and Plans**

Maps and plans provide information on the geographic context of a property and can allow you to see how the property and its neighbourhood have changed over time.

## Maps and atlases

Maps can be helpful in determining when a village became part of the City of Ottawa or when new subdivisions were created. Sometimes, older maps are even decorated with sketches of prominent houses!

Both the Central Archives Reference Room and the Rideau Branch Reading Room offer atlases and maps including:

- Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Carleton including City of Ottawa (H. Belden & Co. 1879)
- Map of the County of Carleton, from surveys under the direction of H.F. Walling (D.P. Putnam, 1856)

The Central Archives Reference Room offers several books to start researching:

- Thomas Nagy, Ottawa in Maps: Brief Cartographical Story of Ottawa, 1825-1973 (Information Canada, 1974)
- Bruce Elliott, *The City Beyond: A History of Nepean, Birthplace of Canada's Capital, 1792-1990* (City of Nepean, 1991)

Belden's *Historical Atlas of the County of Carleton* has been digitized as part of McGill's Canadian County Atlas Digital Project.

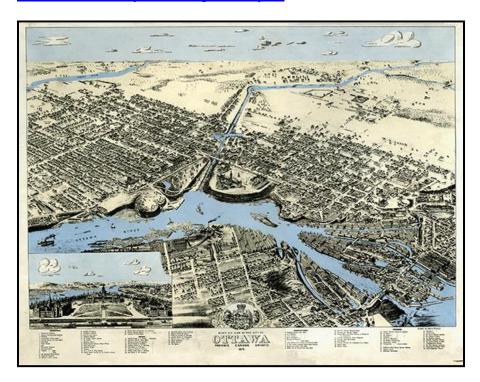


Figure 4: Bird's Eye View of the City of Ottawa, 1876, City of Ottawa Archives | MAP0875

# Bird's eye views

Some maps of early Ottawa took the form of a bird eye view. These maps are artistic representations of the Ottawa cityscape from above. They can be used to help locate and date buildings but must be used cautiously because the artist may have added or subtracted certain details for aesthetic purposes.

Central Archives holds numerous bird's eye views.

#### Survey maps

If you are looking for an overhead view of a building prior to 1850, you will need to consult survey maps, which often noted major structures and landmarks, and their related field notes and diaries.

To find survey maps from Upper Canada, you will need to consult the <u>Ministry of Natural</u> Resources and Forestry.

#### Fire insurance plans

Fire insurance plans are very detailed and offer important information when researching a house's history and development. A residential building's street address, purpose, storeys, outbuildings, and construction materials are all recorded on a fire insurance plan. Charles E. Goad produced the first insurance plans of the Ottawa area in 1878 and issued numerous subsequent plans, also known as Goad's atlases.

The 1878 Goad's plans for the City of Ottawa are available in the Central Archives Reference Room on microfiche and a CD. The Library also has three books that can assist with locating Goad's Plans for other years:

- Marcel Fortin, Canadian Fire Insurance Plans in Ontario Collections 1876-1973 (Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, 1995)
- Robert J. Hayward, Fire Insurance Plans in the National Map Collection (Public Archives of Canada, Map Collection, 1977)
- Lorraine Dubreuil, Catalogue of Canadian Fire Insurance Plans 1875-1975
  (Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, 2002)

The Rideau Branch Reading Room offers photocopies of Goad's 1897 atlas for North Gower and Manotick.

Physical copies of Goad's plans for the City of Ottawa for the years 1925, 1948, and 1956 are available through the Central Archives Reference Room.

Library and Archives Canada provides images online of the 1878-1915 Goad plans for Ottawa, as well as the 1897 North Gower and Manotick plans.

Original Goad's 1879 atlases for North Gower and Manotick are available at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

#### Check the map legend

Each colour on a fire insurance plan represents a different construction material; by examining the colours of your house, you can learn what materials were used to build it and which portions of the home are later additions. It will also show the number of stories and the civic addresses, both of which might have changed with time.



Figure 5: House moving, 1955, City of Ottawa Archives | CA035296

## **Architectural and Construction Records**

Many of Ottawa's early houses did not have an architect and were designed and constructed instead by local builders or the property owner, especially in the years prior to the First World War. During First and Second World Wars, it was common for older homes to be converted into apartments which provided a housewife with a supplementary income while her husband was fighting overseas. It was not until after the Second World War that subdivision style housing grew in popularity and architects were hired to design for large developers, such as Minto Construction and Robert Campeau. As a general rule, the older a building is, the harder it will be to find related architectural and construction records.

The Central Archives Reference Library also has several useful books to get you started exploring the construction of your house:

- C.J. Taylor, Manuscript Report #268 (National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, 1977)
- Nelson L. Burbank, House Construction Details (Simmons-Boardman Publishing, 1942)
- John Blumenson, Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms
  1784 to the Present (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1990)
- City of Ottawa, Ottawa: A Guide to Heritage Structures (LACAC, 2000)
- Leaning and Fortin, Our Architectural Ancestry (Haig & Haig, 1993)
- Heritage Ottawa, Survey of Architectural Records in Ottawa (Architecture Inventory Group, 1993)

Archival records held at the Central Archives in MG324 Peter Arends fonds contain information on Ottawa-based architects and their projects. Within this fond, there are biographical files, correspondences and photographs that can help you determine the zones, styles, and eras in which different architects were designing.

The Central Archives holds a number of the City's Heritage Conservation District reports in its <u>Corporate Resource Library</u>, which has a searchable online catalogue.

Both the Central Archives and Rideau Branch maintain records of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACACs) in the Ottawa area.

Visit a <u>Client Service Centre</u> for access to building permit records through the City of Ottawa Access to Building Permit Records program, previously known as View and Release. The necessary <u>Access to Building and Permit Records Application Form</u> can be found at the City's website, but the fee must be paid by mail or at a Client Service Centre. Please note that there are no guarantees as to records availability.

If the building was designed by a notable architect, there may be records at <u>Canadian</u> Centre for Architecture.

## List the features of your house

The building materials, architectural designs, and interior decor can help you date the construction and any major renovations of your home. Both exterior and interior photos can also help date the property.



Figure 6: Fire, apartment house at Hill and Wellington St., 1955, City of Ottawa Archives | CA031295

## **Newspapers**

Ottawa newspapers document social events, fires, estate sales and auctions, demolitions, obituaries, and advertisements which can offer detailed information that is unavailable in other records. Searching through newspapers can be a time consuming process, but you can potentially find information relating to a house's occupants, architects, and even images of its construction or early façade.

## **Building Ottawa Research Project**

The Central Archives provides access to the Building Ottawa Research Project, compiled by Heritage Ottawa. This resource assembles all mentions of early Ottawa homes and architects, indexing over 6,000 newspaper articles printed before 1895.

The Central Archives Reference Room makes the following reference materials available:

- Carp Review: microfilm copies are available of 1905-1930
- Le Droit: 1913-1948 on microfilm
- The Ottawa Journal: microfilm
- Ottawa Valley Journal/Ottawa Farm Journal: 1948-1955 on microfilm

The Bytown Gazette: 1836-1845 on microfilm

• The Clarion: 1959-1978 on microfilm

• The Ottawa Citizen: 1846-1885 on microfilm

The Rideau Branch Reading Room has copies of the Kemptville Advance on microfilm.

For a more powerful search of the Ottawa Journal, the Archives, in association with Anestry.ca, provides online access through <a href="Newspapers.com">Newspapers.com</a>, which is available free of charge in the Central Archives Reference Room. At Rideau Branch, please ask for assistance with this.

The Central Archives holds the following archival copies:

- Carp Review: Unbound originals of 1932-1957, 1960-1965, and 1972-1974 are keep in the vault and can be retrieved by request.
- Ottawa Public Library maintains reference copies of the Ottawa Citizen on microfilm.

#### View original or microfilm copies

Digitization software has facilitated researching properties. Most of the documents are also available on microfilm.

#### Search the social pages first

Rather than read a newspaper cover to cover, browse through the announcement pages (obituaries, weddings, address changes, etc.), gossip columns (local events, fires, crimes, etc.), and classifieds (advertisements, property listings, etc.) as the information that you are looking for is most likely located in these sections.

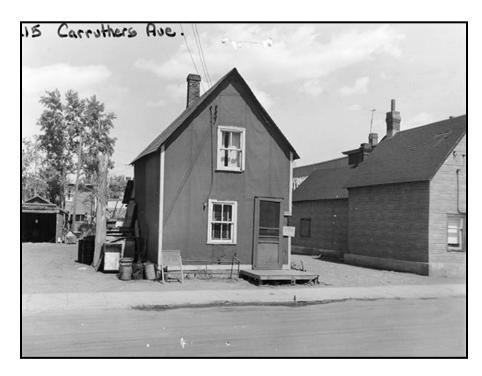


Figure 7: 215 Carruthers Ave., City of Ottawa Archives | CA024791

# **Photographs**

Photographs give the most accurate representation of a house's previous appearance. While other images may exist, such as paintings, engravings, or lithographs, photographs are less subject to artistic license and interpretation.

The Central Archives Reference Room offers resources that can get you started looking for images of your house, including:

• Lily Koltun, City Blocks, City Spaces: Historical Photographs of Canada's Urban Growth, c. 1850-1900 (Public Archives of Canada, 1980)

## **Photograph Index Cards**

This is an index to a portion of the Central Archives' photographic collections, on Ottawa buildings and streets.

The Ottawa Museums and Archives Catalogue includes quite a few images from the popular Andrews Newton collection.

The Central Archives contains several large collections of photographs that can help you trace the original look of your house:

- MG011 Ottawa Journal fonds
- MG393 Andrews-Newton Photographers Limited fonds
- MG397 Dave Sproul photo collection
- MG403 John Evans fonds
- P01-OTT1-HD Ottawa Planning: Heritage Districts

Rideau Branch also maintains a large collection of photographs of buildings and properties, most contained among family records and LACAC files.

#### Predict where a photo could be stored

Photographs are frequently not organized as a whole but rather as part of smaller fonds or collections; if you can determine who would have donated the photograph or who may have taken the photograph, you will have an easier time locating the images you desire.

#### Search postcards

Streetscapes were popular postcard images at the turn of the century, and you may be able to find visuals of historic homes on main streets. Postcards are to be found in many fonds or collections.

#### Contact previous residents

Don't get discouraged if you cannot find an image of your house. As all photographs come to the Archives as donations, it is possible that the photographs you are looking for are in a previous resident's photo album and not yet in the collections. Try contacting the previous resident to see if they have any photographs that they would like to share.

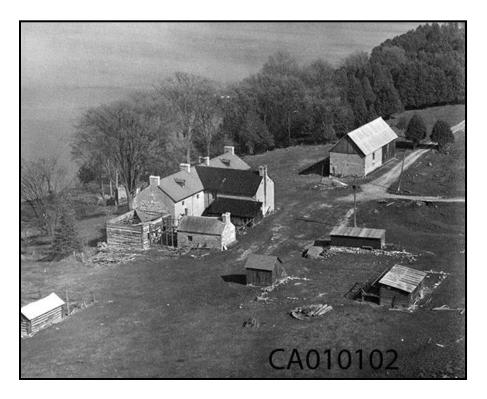


Figure 8: Aerial of Pinhey's Point in Horaceville, ca. 1970, City of Ottawa Archives | CA010102

## **Aerial photography**

Photographs taken from the air can be especially useful for obtaining certain kinds of information about a property.

The Central Archives has a large collection of aerial photographs, MG159 Alexander Onoshko fonds, taken by a local photographer

The City provides online access to aerial photographs of City properties through its geoOttawa website.

Archives of Ontario provides an online interface for selecting and ordering copies of Ministry of Natural Resources Aerial Photography.

# **Manuscripts**

Personal letters, diaries, account ledgers, family histories, and other types of compiled information offer another path to explore the history of your house. Manuscripts offer personal details relating to a house that is otherwise unavailable in official and architectural records. This information can overlap with other records, but it can also provide insights into why a house is located where it is, designed in a certain style, decorated a particular way, and other personal touches that define the house's history.

The Archives has hundreds of manuscript collections within its holdings relating to individuals, families, and businesses. The finding aids for these collections are located in the Reference Room Library and Archives staff members can guide you through the contents.

The Central Archives and Rideau Branch both offer access to related archival records. Please consult with staff in the pertinent reference room.

You can view information on a limited number of records in the Ottawa Museums and Archives Catalogue.

## **Appendix 1: Resources and Links**

This section provides links and more detailed information on various research resources mentioned in this guide.

#### **Community Associations**

Many community associations have shared research with the Archives and the public that may help you research your home. Many local community associations also have history pages or on-going projects that may provide you with a starting point for your research; the City of Ottawa maintains on online list of all <u>community associations</u> in Ottawa with their website and contact information.

Several community groups that share their information online and through the Archives are:

#### **Lowertown Community Association**

http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/

#### **Old Ottawa East Association**

http://history.ottawaeast.ca/

#### **Old Ottawa South Association**

http://www.oldottawasouth.ca/historyproject

#### **Historical Societies**

Many historical societies have shared research with the Archives and the public that may help you research your home. Many local historical societies also have history pages or on-going projects that may provide you with a starting point for your research.

Several historical societies that share their information online or through the Archives are:

#### **Cumberland Township Historical Society**

http://www.cths.ca/

#### **Gloucester Historical Society**

http://www.gloucesterhistory.com/

#### **Rideau Township Historical Society**

http://www.rideautownshiphistory.org/

#### **Goulbourn Township Historical Society**

http://goulbournhistoricalsociety.org/

#### **Heritage Grant Program for Building Restoration**

http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/planning-and-development/how-develop-property/heritage-grant-building-restoration

# **Other Repositories**

Information on repositories of historical land and built heritage information.

#### Morisset Library, University of Ottawa

biblio.uottawa.ca/en/find/geospatial-data-and-maps 65 University Private, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5 613-562-5213

#### **National Air Photo Library**

http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/satellite-imagery-air-photos/9265 Natural Resources Canada. 615 Booth Street, Room. 180, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E9 613-995-4560 | 1-800-230-6275 (Toll-free)