Discover your House History
Tips from Lambeth Archives

This leaflet contains a selection of tips and sources from Lambeth Archives to help you uncover the history of your house.

Archives enable all of us to discover the stories, facts, places and people that are at the heart of our communities. We hope this leaflet will encourage you to take time to explore Lambeth Archives.

Lambeth Archives
Minet library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY
Phone: 020 7926 6076
Email: archives@lambeth.gov.uk
Online: www.lambeth.gov.uk/archives

Why not follow us on Twitter? @LambethArchives

Opening Hours
Monday  1pm - 8pm
Tuesday  10am - 6pm
Thursday 10am - 6pm
Friday  10am - 3pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm
When was my house built?  
What was the area like?

**Lambeth Landmark**  
[http://landmark.lambeth.gov.uk](http://landmark.lambeth.gov.uk)
A good place to start when researching your house history is our image website, Lambeth landmark. Use the search boxes on the right of the screen to search for images of your street or area.

**Images Index**  
If you can’t find what you need on Landmark, try the images index in our search room.  
*Useful for: images, age of a building, understanding the local area*

**Local Studies Library**  
Arranged by local area and subject, our local studies library contains books and pamphlets about the history of Lambeth on the shelves and in the blue boxes around the walls.  
*Useful for: Background information on the history of your local area or more specific information on a particular topic e.g. architecture.*

**Maps**  
We hold large-scale maps back to the 1870s, and older maps too.  
*Useful for: understanding how you street developed over time, and discovering what was there before your street was built.*

**Drainage Records**  
We hold drainage records for every street in Lambeth.  
*Useful for: age of a building, can include floor plans*

**Archive indexes**  
You can use the archive street index to look for references to your street.  
*Useful for: old title deeds, street re-numbering files, or even council records about the area’s development.*

**World War Two bomb damage incident reports**  
We hold incident reports for every bomb that fell in Lambeth during World War Two. They are indexed by street name.  
*Useful for: finding out if your road was directly affected by air raids.*

Who lived in my house?

**Local Directories**  
These volumes list trades and occupants of houses and streets across London, if they chose to be listed. Best between the 1840s and 1920s.  
*Useful for: giving a feel for the area in general and the names of and types of people who lived and traded there.*

**Census Returns, 1841-1901 on microfilm**  
Indexed by street, and recorded once a decade. These are, of course, also searchable by name on Ancestry.com which can be accessed for free in most Lambeth Libraries.  
*Useful for: finding out about the people who lived in a residence at a certain time, their age and occupation.*

**Electoral Registers, 1832—present day**  
These are generally indexed by street, and include those who were registered to vote in Lambeth at that time.  
*Useful for: the people who lived in a residence, their status.*

**Rate Books and Valuation Lists**  
Also street indexed, these records show details of rate payers in Lambeth. Covers 1790s to 1960s with some gaps.  
*Useful for: the people who lived in a residence, their status, and finding out who owned the property.*  

Know a surname? You could try our name index, which sometimes can help you find old title deeds relating to land and property.