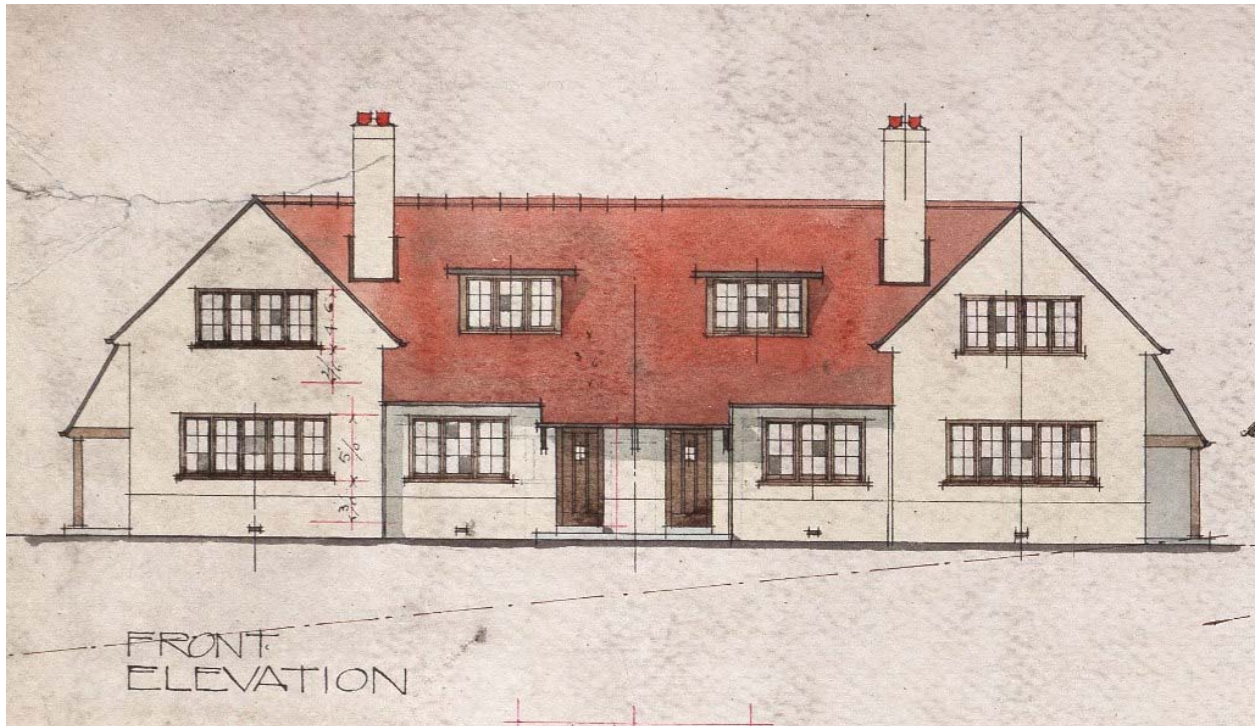


House History in East Dunbartonshire



Getting started

As a first step it can be useful to think about what you'd most like to find out about your house, for example:

- Who owned it or lived there in the past?
- How old is the property?
- Where are the building plans?
- Are there photos of the house or street?

Then check what information you may already have at home e.g. title deeds, sale particulars, rental agreements etc It can also be useful to speak to any neighbours who've either lived there a long time or may have already researched their house history. Then you can move on to some of the other sources detailed below.

1. Maps

Maps can reveal what the area around your house looked like in the past. You can also compare maps from different years to see how the local area developed over time. The Ordnance Survey began detailed mapping of Scotland in the 1850s. There are some earlier maps produced for specific purposes e.g. country estate maps, but these early maps aren't as detailed and don't cover all areas.

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. Here are some local estate collections and where to find them:

- Gartshore Estate (records held at East Dunbartonshire Archives - Kirkintilloch)
- Woodhead, including Antermony Estate (records held at Glasgow City Archives)
- Dougalston Estate, Milngavie (records held at Glasgow City Archives)
- Garscube Estate, Bearsden (records held at Glasgow University Archives and Glasgow City Archives)
- Killermont and Garscadden Estate Records (records held at Glasgow University Archives and National Records of Scotland)
- Cadder Estate / Stirlings of Keir and Cawder (records held at Glasgow City Archives)

Ordnance Survey

The Ordnance Survey was the first serious attempt to map the whole country in both small and large scale. The early editions were produced at a scale of 6 inch to the mile and 25 inch to the mile. The maps have been continually revised to the present day. You can view many of these maps on the [National Library of Scotland](#) maps website. Some useful dates:

First Edition OS Maps

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

25 inch Published 1862 (surveyed 1859)

Second Edition / First Revision OS Maps

6 inch Published 1899 (revised 1896 from first edition)

25 inch Published 1898 (revised 1896 from first edition)

Second Revision OS Maps

6 inch Published 1922 (Revised 1914 from first edition)

25 inch Published 1918 (Revised 1914 from first edition)

Town Plans (Kirkintilloch)

1/500 Surveyed 1859

(10.56 feet to 1 mile)

Related Records

There are records relating to the Ordnance Survey maps which can prove useful. The Minor Control Point Albums contain photographs of the control points from 1954. They are held by EDLC Archives (ref GD181). The Ordnance Survey Name Books contain descriptions of properties and place names. They are at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, and on the [Scotlands Places](#) website.

Other Sources for Maps

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

2. Plans and Photographs

Original building plans can show you the layout of your house when it was first built and any later alterations. Photographs can show you what the outside of the building or the street looked like.

Architectural plans and drawings

You may be lucky enough to find the original building plans for your house preserved by the local archive service. When contacting the archive service, it can be useful (but not essential) if you know the name of the architect, builder, or construction company involved. Plans can be found in the locations listed below.

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. 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 organisations who built the houses. For example, the plans of the Glasgow Garden Suburb Company (Westerton Garden Suburb) are held by EDLC Archives.

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](#)

Photographs

EDLC Local Studies holds extensive photographic collections and you may be lucky enough to find photographs of your house. In addition, there will sometimes be photographs within the collections held by EDLC Archives.

You can also search for aerial photographs of your area via the [National Collection of Aerial Photography \(NCAP\)](#) online.

3. 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 showing 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, such as the [Register of Sasines](#) from 1617 onwards, and registers of deeds for Court of Session, Sheriff, Commissary and Local Courts. The [Registers of Scotland](#) will also search their sasines records (for a fee).

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 returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 are available on microfilm, or online in libraries via our subscription to [Ancestry Library Edition](#). The 1911 and 1921 census is only available on a pay per view basis on the [Scotlands People](#) website. 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, their 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. 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. Older versions of the voters' rolls are in the archives.

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 large houses in existence between 1696 and 1851, the window tax records may prove useful. These records are held at the National Records of Scotland. 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 the deceased person's 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. For wills from 1925 onwards check the [National Records of Scotland](#) research guide.

Newspapers

Local newspapers often contain information about houses, particularly when they are sold. Check any newspaper indexes for your house or former residents. The [British Newspaper Archive](#) can be searched for free in any EDLC library.

4. Sources Held Locally

East Dunbartonshire Archives & Local Studies holds maps, newspapers, photographs and archive records. Get in touch with our Archives and Local Studies team to arrange to view these sources.

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-present day
- 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-present day
- Dumbarton Herald and Lennox Herald

5. Help and advice

Not sure where to start, or never used archives before? Contact us for free, friendly advice, email archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or visit us at:

EDLC Archives & Local Studies
William Patrick Library
2-4 West High Street
Kirkintilloch G66 1AD
tel: 0141 777 3142

<https://www.edlc.co.uk/heritage-arts/historical-records/archives/>

See also

EDLC Archives leaflet, *Valuation Rolls*

EDLC Archives leaflet, *Building Plans*

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

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