

House history

This paid search guide will help you to decide whether to use The National Archives' paid search service, to find details about the history of a house in existence between 1910 and 1915.

What information can you find out?

We will always carry out a search of our records to a high standard based on our expertise and professionalism. With any search, there is never a guarantee that you will find the information you are looking for. There are often a number of possible reasons for an unsuccessful search, including the possibility that records were destroyed or lost.

Search a: valuation office survey maps and field books (1910-1915)

This is a search in the in the Valuation Office field books for England and Wales (1910-1915) in IR 58 and in the relevant Valuation Office map. Valuation Office maps provide an index to the field books, and can be searched by county. A successful search will reveal all, or some, of the following:

- the names of owner and occupier
- the owner's interest (freehold, copyhold, etc.)
- details of tenancy (term and rent)
- the area covered by the property
- figures entered for the purpose of valuation (i.e. market value)
- the date of erection of buildings
- number of rooms
- state of repair
- liability for rates, insurance and repairs
- date(s) of previous sale(s)
- a sketch-plan of the property

Records for some areas do not survive, mainly due to enemy bombing of the Valuation Offices in which they were held during the Second World War. Where plans do not survive here, local record offices often hold plans.

Areas known to be affected include: Basildon; Chelmsford; Liverpool; Birkenhead and most of the Wirral; Coventry; Portsmouth; Southampton; Chichester; Winchester; some areas of London.

Search b: Census returns (1911)

This is an address search in the census return for England and Wales taken on 2nd April 1911 in RG 14, along with information provided from the 1911 Census Enumerator's Books in RG 78. A successful search will reveal all, or some, of the following about each member of the household:

- forename, middle names (often just initials) and surname
- relationship to the head of the household (usually the oldest male)
- marital status
- age (at last birthday)
- sex
- occupation (their source of income)

- county and parish of birth (if born in England or Wales)
- country of birth (if born outside England and Wales)
- whether they suffered from certain medical disabilities
- language spoken (in Wales or on the Isle of Man)
- a married woman's 'fertility in marriage' - length of present marriage and children born to that marriage, living or deceased
- full address
- particulars about the enumeration district

If the property you are looking for was built after 1915, we can if required undertake research to show information from the records for any previous property/properties located at this address.

What are the charges?

Searches a & b

Standard charge, including a and b: £84.06. If the search is successful, you should receive copies from the following:

- a Valuation Office Survey Map
- a Valuation Office Field Book
- the 1911 Census

What information do we need for a search?

Please send as much information as you can. The following details are either essential or desirable for a search at our standard charge:

Essential	Desirable
the full address, including postcode of the property	the names of any previous tenants or owners of the property during the period covered
an approximate date of when the property was built	
a map showing the location and extent of the house*	

*If you do not have a map pinpointing the location and extent of the property, you could obtain one from the Land Registry: <http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/>

If you would like to request any of the paid searches listed in this guide, please contact us either by completing our [online enquiries form](#) or by completing one of our paper response forms.

You may decide, instead, to do the research yourself. For advice on conducting your own research you should consult the relevant research guides, accessible through our online [guidance index](#).

Research guidance

[Looking For Records of a House](#)

[Valuation Office survey: land value and ownership 1910-1915](#)

[Census](#)

[Census: Further Research](#)