

How to trace your Ku-ring-gai house.

What do you already know about your property?

To start, write down what you already know about your house in the blank column:

SUBURB		Suburb names only solidified either after a post office or railway station was named. Gordon (1879), St Ives (1885), Wahroonga, Lindfield, Roseville, Pymble (1890), Turramurra (1891), Waitara (1895), Killara (1899), Warrawee (1900). Earlier names for the wider locality are Hunters Hill (from 1814) and Lane Cove (from 1829). Some areas were known by the local landmark or property, eg. Rosedale for St Ives.
STREET NAME		Be aware that some streets have changed their names, eg. the Pacific Highway was only named in 1931, previously sections were known as Gordon Road and Lane Cove Road. Consult the Ku-ring-gai Index at REF/994.4105/KURI at Gordon Library.
STREET NUMBER		On 22 November 1927 Ku-ring-gai Council decided to number the houses in the municipality, without using the Number 13. Keep in mind that some streets, especially in Wahroonga, have been renumbered.
HOUSE NAME		House names were used for identification before numbering began. Be aware that new owners sometimes changed a house's name.

There are other ways to describe a house's location:

DEPOSITED PLAN (DP)/ LOT NO		A plan deposited with Land & Property Information (N.S.W.) showing the property boundaries each time a piece of land is subdivided. Note a property may have more than one DP over time as it is subdivided and re-subdivided.
ESTATE NAME/ SECTION NUMBER/ LOT NUMBER		Some estates may be named after the original property, house, landmark or pioneer, eg. Pibrac Estate, Orange Grove Estate; others have 'grand' names chosen to attract the right buyers - Pride of Pymble or Highland Estate, Warrawee.
NAMES OF PREVIOUS OWNERS		

TO FIND THE ABOVE INFORMATION

- Ku-ring-gai Council rate notice for your property will give you the present Deposited plan number or DP Number.
- Sydney Water rate notice for your property will give you the present DP Number and may also provide house name.
- Ku-ring-gai Council maps contain current house numbers, lot numbers and Deposited plan numbers (DP). These should be used along with Parish maps, Water Board Plans, Sub division plans and Street directories.
 - *Municipality of Ku-ring-gai* (these are base maps of Ku-ring-gai showing streets and street lots, including the DP numbers of individual lots). Held at Gordon Library : REF 919.441 KURI

- *Parish of Gordon, County of Cumberland (map): metropolitan land district, Municipalities of Ku-ring-gai & Willoughby* / Department of Lands, 1966. Held at: Gordon MAP/994.41/KURI/1966 (8 maps)
Note: Shows Parish portions (i.e land holdings); names of grantees; property names ; size of grant ; Certificate of title information.
Shows Parish portion map nos.; road map nos.; DP nos.
- *Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board detail sheets. DS series detail sheets for the local government area of Ku-ring-gai.* Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (now Sydney Water).
Held at Gordon Library: REF 363.61 NEWS 2000?
Note: These sheets are from 1926 for Roseville through to 1930 for Wahroonga. House names are shown on the sheets and street numbers after 1927.
- Subdivision plans for estates and street directories for different years are held at Gordon Library.
- *Sands' Sydney & N.S.W. directory, 1858-1932/33.*Held at: Gordon REF/ 929.3944/SAND (1077 microfiche)
Sand's directories lists names and addresses.

- Land records - Part of the process of buying your house is a land title search to ensure that the title is clear. While this will not give any information about your house, it will give you the names of the owners of the land.

If you are buying or have recently bought, ask your lawyer for a copy of the search.

You can also search the land title yourself at Land and Property Information.

Check the ***Valuation records are held on microfiche at Gordon Library*** .
Gordon REF/352.09441/KURI

Alternatively Ku-ring-gai Council may provide you with historical title detail for your property for a fee. Contact Customer Relations on 02 9424 0888.

What can your house tell you?

Your house is built in a style popular at a certain time and using materials and technology available at the time. This is reflected in all aspects of the house - roof style, brickwork pattern, stone masonry, joinery (especially in windows, architraves, and skirting boards ceilings and hearths).

The style and materials may help you broadly date it, ie. 1940s or 1920s.

Suggested reading:

A pictorial guide to identifying Australian Architecture by Richard Apperly. Held at: St Ives REF/720.994/APPE (book)
St Ives Q/720.994/APPE (book)

Lindfield 720.994/APPE (book)
 Turramurra REF/720.994/APPE (book)

How to trace the history of your house by Des Regan. Held at:
 Gordon 994.0072/REGA (book)
 Gordon REF/994.0072/REGA (book)

House search by Michal Bosworth. Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. Held at:
 Gordon REF/728.0994072/HOU (book)

How old is my house by Robert Irving. Royal Australian Historical Society technical information service leaflet no. 17. Held at:
 Stack REF/994.007/IRVI (book)

Researching old buildings by Carol Liston. Royal Australian Historical Society technical information service leaflet no. 4. Held at:
 Stack REF/994.007/LIST (book)

Understanding the System

Today building is controlled by legislation designed to ensure that a building is fit for human habitation.

The authority which oversees this is Local Government. Prospective builders are asked to provide copies of their plans to the local Council as part of a Development Application, they must obtain Council approval before they build, and Council will inspect the building to make certain that it meets the regulations. However, this was not always the case!

Before 1909 there was no control over building in Ku-ring-gai. There was no Local Government authority until 1907. Even when Ku-ring-gai Council was established, as a Shire it was not automatically given the power to control building. It had to ask for it. In March 1909, the Council passed a motion "That for the good government of the Shire the Council acquire the power to regulate the erection of buildings etc in accordance with Section 108 Subsection 43 of the Local Government Act". The State Government agreed and council's power to control building was gazetted on 28 July 1909.

Still it was not until 11 November 1909 that Council's building regulations and the formalities of the approval process were in place. Unfortunately, incomplete records have survived before 1974.

What to look for at the Library

1. Check the Library's catalogue by typing your **street** in as a Subject. The catalogue lists photographs, maps and books.

Early subdivision maps often show any houses already built upon the land and the house's name or that of the owner. The date your land was subdivided may also provide a clue as to when your house was built.

Most houses are built after the land they occupy was subdivided, unless they are the original farmhouse. If you do not know your Estate / Section / Lot Number, a subdivision map may provide this.

If there is specific information on your house it will be entered in the catalogue by street, suburb and house number, for example - Maytone Avenue [Pymble, N.S.W.] - No. 11.

Take down the information from the catalogue including the title and call number of the map or photograph you wish to see. Ask the staff at the Enquiry Desk to get the material for you.

Remember

you will need your Ku-ring-gai Library Card to see it. If you have access to the library catalogue through the Internet, most photographs can be seen there, by viewing the full details of the record.

2. Check the Ku-ring-gai Index by asking Gordon library staff to look up your **street** as a Subject. The Index is held at Gordon Library on the computer at the Inquiries Desk and lists articles in newspapers and some of the Ku-ring-gai Council Business Papers. If there is information on your house it will be listed in the same way as for the catalogue.

3. Was your house there in 1927?

Look at the Valuation Lists on microfiche for 1930 and 1927

for your street. Ask Gordon library staff to look in the Ku-ring-gai Index to see what Ward your street was in.

Valuation records are held on microfiche at Gordon Library .

Gordon REF/352.09441/KURI ---

Gordon Ward 1930 - 19 microfiche

Gordon Ward (Misc.) 1931-1934 - 1 microfiche

Killara Ward 1930 - 11 microfiche

Roseville Ward 1930 - 16 microfiche

Wahroonga Ward 1930 - 18 microfiche

Killara Ward 1927 - 5 microfiche

Roseville Ward 1927 - 16 microfiche

Gordon Ward 1927 - 18 microfiche

Wahroonga (A Riding) - 1927 - 18 microfiche

(B Riding) 1927 - 2 microfiche

(B Riding covers the part of the Shire from Bobbin Head Road to GreengateRoad.)

Note also held are valuation lists for 1916-1927 for A,B and C Ridings and valuation lists for 1940 and 1955 covering the wards of Gordon, Killara, Roseville, Wahroonga.

The valuation lists were created by the Department of Valuer General, N.S.W., and used by Ku-ring-gai Council for rating purposes. They are organised by WARD, then the name of the STREET, and then as if one was walking up one side of the street and down the other. In other words all the even properties may come first (running from 2 to 20) and then all the odd properties (running from 19 to 1) or vice versa.

Unfortunately they may not use street numbers to identify the property, so it a good idea to know the nearest cross street, the side of the street you are on, the names of any prominent building

close to your property, your Estate Name / Section No / Lot No, and the names of previous owners. Remember street numbers were only introduced after a Council decision of 22 November 1927.

Information includes:

- Name of Valuation (Local Government) District
 - Name of Ward or Riding
- Valuation number
- Owner's name
- Owner's occupation
- Owner's address
- Certificate of Title information ie. Volume/Folio/Deposited Plan
- Nature of improvements eg. Cottage, garage, fencing, or vacant land
- Estate name
- Property street
- Side of street (east, west, north or south)
- House number and/or name
- Date of valuation
- Portion, section and lot numbers
- Dimensions and values

4. No, my house wasn't there in 1927.

If your property is described as vacant land or fencing in either 1930 or 1927, you will need to look through the Building Application Registers.

Register of building applications [January 1927-July 1992]

Held at: Gordon REF/352.09441/KURI (245 microfiche)

These are listed in date order starting from January 1927. Information may include:

- Application number
- Owner
- Owner.s address
- Applicant (often architect or builder)
- Builder.s name
- Builder.s address
- Location of property
- Nature of building
- Date application lodged
- Date application approved by Council
- Date inspected

This register thus provides information about the building, but no plans, and it does not include street numbers until the 1950s. To identify the property in which you are interested, you may need to know the names of the past owners. You can find this through a land title search at Land and Property Information. The Library is gradually indexing the Register by street, owner's name and applicant's name. To see if the street you are interested in has been indexed yet, ask the staff at the Enquiry Desk at Gordon Library to check the Building Applications 1922-1945 Database.

Council holds only the original Building Applications (with their attached plans) from 1974 onwards. You may access these for a fee from the Customer Relations Bureau at Ku-ring-gai Council.

5. Yes, my house was there in 1927.

If there was a building on your property in 1927, look up the Valuation Records for Ku-ring-gai Council for 1916-1927. Although these are described as dating from 1916 to 1927, check the back of the cards to see the *actual* valuation dates, usually 1921 and 1924. The Valuation Act which was passed in 1916 allowed the State government to take over valuation of property, previously done by local government.

Valuation records

Held at: Gordon REF/352.09441/KURI

A Riding 1916-1927 - 26 microfiche. Top third of the Shire from Pearce's Corner to Bobbin Head Road.

A Riding 1916-1927 - cancelled cards - 1 microfiche

B Riding 1916-1927 - 30 microfiche. Middle third of the Shire from Bobbin Head Road to Greengate Road.

B Riding 1916-1927 - cancelled cards - 1 microfiche.

C Riding 1916-1927 - 44 microfiche. Bottom third of the Shire from Greengate Road to Boundary Street, Roseville.

C Riding 1916-1927 - cancelled cards - 1 microfiche

These are organised in a similar way to the 1927 and 1930 records. Information includes:

- Name of Valuation (Local Government) District
- Name of Ward or Riding
- Valuation number
- Portion, Section, and Lot numbers
- Estate name
- Street
- Side of street (east, west, north or south)
- House number and/or name
- Certificate of Title information ie. Volume/Folio/Deposited Plan
- Description of land eg. GBL (good building land)
- Description of improvements
- Owner.s name
- Owner.s address
- Value

The Description of Improvements written in the 1919 record is very detailed and includes material constructed from, number of rooms, number of storeys etc, usually abbreviated as follows:

DF, Bk Cott, 6 rms, K&O, 2 attics, Tile rf (Double fronted, Brick cottage, Six rooms, Kitchen and Outhouse, 2 attics, Tile roof)

2 st, Shop & Dwg, B on B, 5 Rms, K&O, Iron Roof (2 Storey Shop and Dwelling Brick [walls] on Brick [foundations], Five Rooms, Kitchen and Outhouse, Iron Roof)

DF Cott Bk on St 5 r, K&O, Slate & Iron Rf (Double fronted, Brick [walls] on Stone [Foundations], Five Rooms, Kitchen and Outhouse, Slate and Iron Roof)

For houses in the Turramurra, Wahroonga and Warrawee areas there are additional records with limited information:

Valuation records. Held at:

Gordon REF/352.09441/KURI

A Riding 1914 - 2 microfiche. These will be found in the same folder as other Valuation records. This valuation book does not list the streets in alphabetical order, so use the street index at the beginning of the first microfiche to find the page your street is on.

Wahroonga Progress Association: subscription assessment book, 1904. Held at:

Gordon REF/352.09441/WAHR (4 microfiche.)

This includes Turramurra and Wahroonga land valuations at 27 September 1900 and 1904 subscription assessment book compiled by the Association to levy its members a subscription fee.

6. My house was there in 1921.

Check Sands. Sydney and N.S.W Directory to find who lived in your house. Start with 1932/33 and **work backwards** to 1903.

Although Sands. began in 1858, it is not until 1903 that it lists the suburbs of Ku-ring-gai in street order in much the same way that the Valuation records do. Even then it was not until 1907 that it listed each side of the street separately, in property order. To find your street's location in Sands, ask staff to look in the Kuring-gai Index. Alternatively the first fiche for each year includes a street index including page number.

Sands' Sydney & N.S.W. directory, 1858-1932/33. Held at:

Gordon REF/ 929.3944/SAND (1077 microfiche)

Sands' Sydney and suburban directory (excerpts : containing entries for suburbs in the Ku-ring-gai Municipality for the years 1903-1931/32.

Held at: Gordon REF/ 929.3944/SAND

(Includes Gordon, Killara, Lindfield, Pymble, Roseville, St Ives, Turramurra, Wahroonga)

Sands. is a directory of residents produced by a commercial firm, much like a modern phone book with resident's name and address (but without phone numbers). It is organised by years. Each year it includes:

- City Directory (a list of the heads of household of City of Sydney arranged by the name of their street and then in property order)
- Suburban Directory (a list of the heads of household of the suburbs divided into suburb or local government area, then by street and by property order)
- Alphabetical Directory (all heads of household in Sydney and suburbs arranged alphabetically)
- Trades Directory (like our modern Yellow Pages, alphabetically arranged by the name of the trade)
- Country Commercial Directory
- Pastoral Directory

Information on Ku-ring-gai in the Suburban Directory includes:

- Street
- Side of street eg. East, west, north or south
- Cross street
- Occupier.s name
- House name (after 1930, street number)

As Sand's does not include the extra detail such as Certificate of Title information, you are dependent on the street pattern to confirm the age of your house. It is best to look at your house and several houses either side of it. A good method is to draw up a table to record the information, starting with 1931/32 when there will be more houses and street numbers are usually included, then work backwards. An example to illustrate this is shown on following pages. If a house is in

the Directory in 1906 and not there 1905, then it is presumed to have been built in 1905. Remember though, Sands. was published in January of each year from information collected in the previous October; thus information may be up to 15 months out of date. For example, Billy Hughes moved into his residence at 14 Nelson Road, Lindfield, in November 1924, noting the move in his diary. However his name is not listed as the resident until the 1926 edition of Sands. Presumably he was too late for the 1925 edition which would have been in the process of being printed.

The following table lists the houses in Ku-ring-gai Chase Avenue North Side to Wonga Wonga Street, in 1930 and 1920 to 1903. As street numbers were not used for Turramurra in 1930, these are taken from later records.

Year	Ellerslie	No 8 - Mildura	No 12 - Shalimar was Ballydown	No 20 - Kanool, later Dembowalonka	No 28 - Boongala	No. 34 - Ypriana	Hillcrest	Fawke	Waiwera	No 44 - Woodstock
1930	Young, Mrs M. <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss L boarding house <i>Mildura</i>	Ash, P A dentist <i>Shalimar / McKimney, H G Shalimar</i>	Roche, Arthur J <i>Harmony</i>	Campbell, Eric <i>Boongala</i>	Lefebvre, G <i>Ypriana</i>	Couldery, Jos W <i>Hillcrest</i>	Stanton-Cook, A, architect <i>Fawke</i>		
1920	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss L boardinghouse	Ash, Percy / McKimney, H G	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Brodie, Mrs F A <i>Ypriana</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1919	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss L boardinghouse	Ash, Percy / McKimney, H G	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Brodie, Mrs F A <i>Ypriana</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1917	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss L boardinghouse	Mimell, Edgar R <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Perrett, Alexander, JP <i>Ypriana</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1915	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss Lilian boardinghouse <i>Mildura</i>	McIlrath, Martin <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Yprina</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1914	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss Lilian <i>Mildura</i>	McIlrath, Martin <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1913	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss Lilian <i>Mildura</i>	McIlrath, Martin <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady E	Penfold, William C
1912	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss Lilian <i>Mildura</i>	Stephen, Stephen M solicitor <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady	Penfold, William C
1911	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Alley, Miss Lilian <i>Mildura</i>	McIlrath, Martin <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady	Penfold, William C
1909	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>		McIlrath, Martin <i>Ballydown</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Lefevre, George <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady	Penfold, William C
1908	Adams, Mrs J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Mulvey, Mrs M <i>Mildura</i>	Legge, Major J G <i>Cranleigh</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>					Abbott, Lady	Penfold, William C
1907	Adams, J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Blackwood, F M MB, surgeon <i>Mildura</i>		Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Rand, W A <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady <i>Waiwera</i>	Penfold, William C <i>Woodstock</i>
1906	Adams, J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Blackwood, F M MB, surgeon <i>Mildura</i>	Legge, Major J G <i>Cranleigh</i>	Granowski, Oscar <i>Dembowalonka</i>		Rand, W A <i>Newstead</i>			Abbott, Lady <i>Waiwera</i>	Penfold, William C <i>Woodstock</i>
1905	Adams, J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Crosker, George, Solicitor <i>Mildura</i>	Legge, Major J G <i>Cranleigh</i>	Penfold, William C <i>Kanool</i>					Abbott, Lady <i>Waiwera</i>	
1904	Adams, J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Thomson, M N <i>Mildura</i>	Legge, Major J G <i>Cranleigh</i>	Penfold, William C <i>Kanool</i>		Lichtner, E F <i>Newstead</i>				
1903	Adams, J S <i>Ellerslie</i>	Thomson, M N <i>Mildura</i>	Legge, Captain J G <i>Cranleigh</i>	Penfold, William C <i>Kanool</i>		Lichtner, E F <i>Newstead</i>				

No. 44 - Woodstock - is presumed to have been built c. 1905, Waiwera c 1904 and the rest - Ellerslie, Mildura, Cranleigh/Shalimar/Ballydown, and Kanoola/Dembowalonka before 1903.

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7. Yes, my house was there in 1903.

Check the 1891 and 1901 census.

1891 and 1901 census: collector's books: containing entries for suburbs in what is now the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area.

Held at: Gordon REF/929.3944/ARCH (folder)

Ku-ring-gai is Census District No. 85, Subdistricts F-I, K in April 1891, and Census District No. 95, Subdistricts G to J in April 1901. This shows a list of the houses in the district where the Census Collector

left a form. It lists the street, the name of the head of household (usually the husband or father), the number of adults at each house, and any remarks. As it was compiled as the Collector walked up and down the street, it may not be in street order. Again, you also need to know who lived in the house at the time for correct identification.

8. If the house was built after November 1909 and before 1927.

Having narrowed the year when the house was built by using Sands. Directory, you can then check Kuring-gai Council Minutes to get a more specific time period when built. Once Ku-ring-gai Council began to approve building applications in late 1909, they listed them at the fortnightly council meetings and thus in the Council minutes. Unfortunately, before October 1922 they only list the number of applicants rather than their names. From October 1922 to September 1926, they list the owner.s name, street, suburb and the nature of the building, ie. cottage, garage, addition. However, there are some meetings in this period where they still only list how many houses were built.

Ku-ring-gai Shire Council Minute books: [1906-1978]. Held at: Stack REF/352.09441/KURI (682 microfiche)

9. Electoral Rolls

Use the electoral rolls to see when the person who owned your

house is first listed on the electoral roll and their occupation. Electoral rolls 1903-1989 are available at Gordon Library. Ask staff to check the Ku-ring-gai Index under the subject heading *Election districts* to see which Division and Electorate your suburb was listed under.

New South Wales electoral rolls, 1903-1928 (Commonwealth division).
Held at: Gordon REF/324.6409944/NEWS (2276 microfiche)

New South Wales electoral rolls, 1930-1989 (Commonwealth division): selected electorates pertainingto Ku-ring-gai.

Held at:Gordon REF/324.6409944/NEWS (725 microfiche)

Contains electorates of: Bennelong-Berowra, Berowra-Bradfield, Berowra, Blaxland,Bradfield, Martin, North Sydney, Parramatta, Robertson.

For earlier electoral rolls visit the State Library of NSW.

10. Search through building magazines:

*The Building & Engineering Journal of Australia & New Zealand 16 June 1888 to 19 Dec 1905.*Held at:

Gordon REF/690.5/BUIL (microfilm)

This includes tips for buildings, articles on well designed houses and what was happening in the building world. After April 1895 it also includes a weekly list of tender notices where architects advertised for builders, often naming the street and suburb of the proposed building.

The Australasian builder and contractor's news: for architects, surveyors, engineers etc : 25 Apr. 1887- 13 Apr. 1895. Held at:

Gordon REF/690.5/AUST (5 microfilm)

Building: the magazine for the architect, builder, property owner and merchant, 1907-1972. Held at:

Gordon REF/690.5/BUIL (29 microfilm)

The State Library of New South Wales has other building magazines that you can use. An index is held at Gordon Branch for one of these:

The Australian home beautiful in New South Wales, 1925-1950 : an index / compiled by Zeny Edwards. Held at:

Gordon REF/728.09944/AUST (book)

Many local homes appear in this index.

11. Death and Taxes

Houses and their contents are someone's property. If the owner of your house died while still living in the house or if they went insolvent or bankrupt while owning the house, there may be further records.

Check the Probate Index to see if they left a will.

Supreme Court of N.S.W. probate index, 1800-1982.

Held at: Gordon REF/929.3944/SUP (167 microfiche)

For further information on using these indexes, see:

Information leaflet no. 42: Supreme Court of New South Wales : probate index 1800-1984 / Archives Authority of New South Wales. Held at: Gordon REF/929.3944/ARCH (leaflet)

12. Deceased estate files

If your house's owner died between 1880 and 1981, there may be a Deceased Estate File at the State Records N.S.W. The Deceased Estate File was created by the Death Duties Branch of the Stamp Duties

Office in order to calculate the amount of death duty payable on the estate. It can include anything from a list of the property owned (including the contents of the house), to personal documents.

The files up to 1958 are available at the State Records N.S.W., Kingswood Branch. To find out more, contact State Records.

Ku-ring-gai Library holds the indexes to Deceased Estate Files from 1880 to 1923. Unfortunately, this is not an alphabetical index, but divided into years and then by the first letter of the family name.

Indexes to deceased estate files 1880-1923/ State Records New South Wales. Held at:

Gordon REF/929.3944/ARCH (7 reels)

13. Bankruptcy records

If the owner of your house went bankrupt, a similar list of his property may have been prepared and be held at the State Records N.S.W. in the Insolvency Files, 1842-1887 or Bankruptcy Records, 1888-1929. After 1929, these records are a Commonwealth matter, rather than a State one, and are held by the National Archives of Australia.

Insolvency index, 1842-1887. Held at:

Gordon REF/346.94078/NEWS (1 reel)

Bankruptcy index, 1888-1928. Held at:

Gordon REF/346.94078/NEWS (1 reel)

14. Architects

If your house was designed by a well known architect, consult books on that architect. If your house was designed by an well known architect, check with the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. The Mitchell Library holds some plans of houses but these are at present in poor condition and may not be available until conserved.

Why can't I find my house?

1. Your house can't be identified because you don't have enough information.

Look at the large Robinson's map affixed to the wall of Gordon Library to ascertain DP numbers, estate name and section / lot numbers. If this does not help, ask at the Enquiry Desk to see the 1966 Parish map of Gordon.

Parish of Gordon, County of Cumberland (map) : metropolitan land district, Municipalities of Ku-ringgai & Willoughby / Department of Lands, 1966. Held at: Gordon MAP/994.41/KURI/1966 (8 maps)

If this does not help, you may have to visit Land and Property Information. Some parish maps can be viewed on their website at www.lands.nsw.gov.au .

As well as providing the name of the holder of a land grant and the location of the grant, parish maps are also an index into the records of Land and Property Information. They give:

- the Register/Volume and Page number/Folio for the deeds at Land Property Information.
- the lot's individual map number to access the map at Land Property Information.

For more information on using parish maps see:

The Parish map in family history research by Crown Lands Office, Department of Lands. Held at: Gordon REF/929.1/PARI (book).

Researching New South Wales land records for family historians by Edward Grigg Armour. Held at: Gordon REF/929.3944/ARMO (book).

2. Your house has changed streets.

In earlier times the house's address related to the nearest street.

As new streets are formed, its address changed. Look in early subdivision maps of the area around your street. Check in the Library's Catalogue by typing in related street names as a Subject. Take down the information from the catalogue including the title and call number of the map you wish to see, then ask the staff at the Enquiry Desk to get the material for you. Remember you will need your Ku-ring-gai Library Card to see it. If you require further help contact the Local Studies Librarian on 9424 0909.

Useful addresses

Land and Property Information N.S.W.

1 Prince Albert Road, Queens Square, Sydney

Open: Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Telephone: 9228 6666

Web address: www.lands.nsw.gov.au

State Library of NSW. General Reference Library.

Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Open: Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Telephone: 9273 1414
Web address: www.sl.nsw.gov.au

State Records NSW

Sydney Records Centre (SRC), 2 Globe Street, Sydney NSW 2000.
Open: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Telephone: 9673 1788
Web address: www.records.nsw.gov.au

Western Sydney Research Centre (WSRC), 143 O.Connell Street Kingswood NSW 2747.

Open: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Telephone: 9673 1788
Web address: www.records.nsw.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

120 Miller Road, Chester Hill NSW 2162.
Telephone: 9645 0100
Web address: www.naa.gov.au

Historic Houses Trust of NSW

61 Darghan Street, Glebe
Open: Library: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Telephone: 9692 8366
Web address: www.hht.net.au