

Researching land and property records can be a complex task. There are many records, held in different locations which will help you in your research. This guide can be used as starting point.

Land settlement records in Victoria are divided in 37 Counties, which are made up of 2004 Parishes and 909 Townships. Parish and Township Plans show freehold land dealings or land occupancy up to the date of the original Crown Grant.

Resources at the Goldfields Research Centre

- Land Record Guides and publications
- Parish Plans
- Township Plans
- Maps of Bendigo covering a range of years
- Street and business directories
- Access to Australian Electoral Rolls
- Access to Bendigo and Eaglehawk Rates index – Bendigo Rates now available online

Parish and Township Plans

Parish plans record the first transfer of government (crown) portions of land to named individuals.

Using Parish Plans

- Locate the parish the property is situated in
You can use the guide “Lists of Counties, Parishes and Townships”
- Parish plans are available online (see the Parish Plans ‘How To’ Guide) or on microfiche
- To understand the details on the parish plan use the guide “Historical Inquiries on Land Occupation and Land Tenure in Victoria” or the “Lands Guide” in print or online at <http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/lands-guide>
- To find subsequent changes in ownership, the parish maps can provide information to help you find records kept at the Land’s Department or at the Public Records Office of Victoria
- **Council Rate Records**
The Goldfields Research Centre has the Bendigo and Eaglehawk Rates on a searchable database.
Bendigo Rates from 1856 – 1903
Eaglehawk Rates from 1855 – 1899

The Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

The Bendigo Regional Archives Centre has available the original Council Rates books from

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Eaglehawk
- Marong
- Strathfieldsaye Shire
- Boroughs of Raywood and Heathcote
- Some rates from the Mclvor Shire

BRAC also has available other Bendigo Council records which may be of interest.

Print Resources at the Goldfields Research Centre

Lands Guide / Public Records Office of Victoria
R-GEN 333.1 NEL (borrowing copy also available)

Lists of Counties, Parishes and Townships / Department of Property and Services
R-GEN 929.342 VIC

Historical Inquiries on Land Occupation and Land Tenure in Victoria / Survey and Mapping
R-GEN 912.945 VIC

Assorted business and street directories for the Bendigo area
R-GEN 919.45...

Searching for Parish Land Maps via the State Library of Victoria

Go to www.slv.vic.gov.au

Search for Parish Map and [the name of the parish]

Scroll through the results or refine using the options on the left of the screen

Searching Parish Land Maps via the Public Records Office of Victoria

(For a step by step visual guide see the Goldfields Library Parish Plan How To Guide)

- Go to www.prov.vic.gov.au (use Internet Explorer)
- Click on Online Indexes and Digitised Records
- Scroll down to Land and Property
- Select VPRS 16171
- Choose the parish plan you need
- Select PDF and wait for the map to download (this may take a while depending on your Internet connection)

Online Resources

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au – Goldfields Library

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/e-resources/familyhistory - Historic Rates Index

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/content/researchguides - Research Guides

www.brac.vic.gov.au – Bendigo Regional Archive Centre

www.slv.vic.gov.au – State Library of Victoria

www.prov.vic.gov.au – Public Records Office of Victoria

www.landata.vic.gov.au – Purchase property information

www.trove.nla.gov.au – Digitised newspapers, photos, maps, archives and more