



**MUSEUM OF  
CROYDON**

## **Discover the History of your Croydon Home**



A house is like a book, each chapter telling the story of the lives of the previous owners and occupiers. Each building hides the secrets and scars of its existence and the architecture represents the environment that surrounded the time it first came to be built.

If your house is located in Croydon then the Research Room is the best place to take your first steps in discovering the history of your Croydon home.

### ***Where do I start?***

Maps, Directories and Electoral registers are just some of the amazing resources available for you to access which can help you on your journey of local discovery.

### **Street Directories**

We recommend you begin your research using the Street directories. By working your way backwards through the years, they can help you work out when your house was first built and who the previous occupiers were. Many of the directories have accompanying maps.

Always bear in mind that street names may have been re-named and house names and numbers may have changed through the years as roads were extended and more homes were built.

## **Maps**

Although many of the street directories have accompanying maps, the Ordnance Survey series of maps are the most detailed and will show each individual houses or building. Our Ordnance Survey map collection dates back to the 1860's. Other maps in our collection include Tithe/Enclosure maps, Planning maps and Bomb maps, all of which can be viewed in the Research Room.



We also hold Borough Engineers reports which relates to bomb damage in Croydon during WW2. There are also many profound images which accompany the Borough Engineer reports which give a real sense of awareness of the lives of the past occupiers

## **Electoral registers**

These registers list people eligible to vote. They were compiled annually from 1832. The registers are arranged by polling district and road name. They do not contain an alphabetical list of voters. The historical registers are widely used by researchers for house history and local history purposes.

## **Census records**

Census records 1841-1911 were taken every 10 years and are an excellent source to aid the research of your house history. These records can be found online using [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) along with the 1939 register, a grateful addition to the census's as no census was taken in 1941 due to the war. You can access [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) library edition for free by logging on to the [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

## **Photographs**

We hold a significant number of photographs, including many street photographs, which can enable you to realise the history of your local area. You can access a list of the street images we have available for you to view, via our website, [www.museumofcroydon.com](http://www.museumofcroydon.com)



In 1965 the 'County Borough of Croydon' merged with the 'Urban District of Coulsdon and Purley' to form the current 'London Borough of Croydon'.

If you are researching a house located in the Coulsdon, Purley and Sanderstead area, resources prior to 1965 will be limited and therefore we advise you to contact the Surrey History Centre for further information. You can email the Surrey History Centre at [shs@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shs@surreycc.gov.uk)

### **Further sources**

Once you have established the main facts about your house's history, there are further resources to delve into which may help you to piece together the story of your home's past.

- " Sales particulars
- " Rate books
- " Deeds
- " Land tax
- " Wills and probate



***A house is made of brick and mortar, but home is made **by** the people who live there' — M.K. Soni***

### **Contact the Research Room**

Email: [museum@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:museum@croydon.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8 253 1022

Visit: [www.museumofcroydon.com](http://www.museumofcroydon.com)