House History

In the local studies collection in the library there are resources for looking at the history of a house. These include:

- Borough street directories (Kelly’s) you can check to see who lived in a house but only the main householder is listed. These date back to 1900 and there are several copies for Essex although this set is incomplete. Kelly’s have both street and name indexes and there is also a trade listing.

- Electoral Registers for the Borough from 1949 to date. Again these will only show voters over the age of 18 at that property. This is only arranged by address.

- Census on microfilm for the Rochford Hundred area from 1841 to 1901. The 1911 census is available on Ancestry Library edition for which the library has a subscription via the Public Access Computers.

- Ordnance survey maps various scales from the 1870s to date. We have a large collection of these including Goad maps. There is a fact sheet (fact sheet 4) to help with maps. Maps are covered by copyright law so please ask staff for clarification. No extractions or copies may be used in planning permission submissions.

- Aerial photographs of Southend from the 1950s. Although they don’t show individual houses you can get an idea of what streets looked like.

- Local history books. Our collection of local history books are a good place to look for the history of roads in the town. These can be found using the public catalogues and are filed under the Essex classification system. There are both lending and non lending copies available of most of our collection.

- Southend on Sea Borough Council minutes will list any planning applications that have been made for a building.

Please note that the Library does not hold building plans of houses. Essex Record Office may have plans of some older properties; these will be listed on their SEAX catalogue. See also the Essex Record Office leaflet on House History in Essex.

There are 2 microfilm/microfiche scanners which must be booked in advance. Both have a USB socket. Printing costs 30p per A4 sheet.