

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS

The Archives has publications and records commonly used for environmental site assessment of Vancouver properties.

DIRECTORIES

Reading Room (Books and Microfilm - M-56)

1882-1996

Used in determining land use over time. For example, an address might name a gas station. Issued annually, similar to telephone books, but provide access by address also. Our microfilm (M-56) is complete to 1996.

FIRE INSURANCE PLANS

Reading Room (map microfiche)

1885-1966

Used in determining building outlines and a variety of other building and site characteristics such as underground storage tanks, water hydrants, power sources, building materials, etc. Please note that fire insurance plans are available for reference purposes only.

- Finding aids to the fire insurance atlases are located in the light green binders, on the top left corner of the Microfilm cabinet in the Reading Room.
- Please refer to our detailed reference guide (Fire Insurance and Sectional Maps) located in the Reading Room to assist you with your research.

WATER SERVICE RECORDS

Reading Room & Storage

1886-1991

City records used to determine the date of initial and subsequent water applications. Records are arranged in application number order. Obtain application numbers from **MCR 21** which is arranged by address.

- Vancouver 1886-1991 Reading Room (**MCR 26**)
- Vancouver 1886-1911 (**COV-S367**) series 367 (Eng.)
- Point Grey 1908-1928 (**COV-S256**) series 256 (Point Grey)
- South Vancouver 1914-1928 (**COV-S230**) series 230 (South Van.)

GVRD MAP COLLECTION

Online & Reading Room (map microfiche)

ca. 1935-1970

Used to determine contour and under surface characteristics of large areas of land.

- Search for maps using search terms: "Contour", "Sewage Systems", and "Soil".

VANMAP (<http://vancouver.ca/your-government/vanmap.aspx>)

Online

VanMap is a Web-based application that lets you view data about Vancouver in map form. There are dozens of features you can turn on and off with the click of a button in VanMap. For example, you can view: *zoning information, property lines, sewer and water mains, contour lines, etc.*

PHOTOGRAPHS**Online & Reading Room (photo binders)****ca. 1860-2000s**

Used to determine land use. The Archives' photograph collections contain numerous aerial survey photographs (COV-S136), aerial photographs and images of buildings, streets and local areas. To find photographs search the database on our website (Hint: under "Media Type", filter search results to "Image") and the two photo indexes in the Reading Room.

Aerial survey photographsseries 136 (Planning) - **COV-S136**

- Dates are 1950-1989. Similar to maps with a scale of 1:6 000 to 1:24 000. Each photograph shows a perpendicular view of a small area of the city. To locate a photograph of a particular area consult the key maps filed in the inventory.

Aerial photographs

- Search for photographs using search terms: "Oblique view", "Aerial view"

Other photographs

- Search for photographs using search terms: "[building name]" (e.g. "Marine building"), "[street name]" (e.g. "Granville Street") or "[local area]" (e.g. "Kitsilano")

CITY RECORDS**Reading Room (microfilm) & Storage****ca. 1900-present**

Used to supplement the above sources for instances where further data is required. There are a variety of record series which may be useful in some cases (see the inventories for Engineering, Planning, Health, South Vancouver, Point Grey, and GVRD). The following examples are the series most used for site assessment research.

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| • Health Inspection Cards | MCR 25/series 71 (Health) - COV-S71 |
| • Electrical and gas line plans | series 354 (Engineering)- COV-S354 |
| • Maps, plans and drawings | series 445 (Planning) - COV-S445 |

OTHER REPOSITORIES AND OFFICES

The following are a few suggestions for additional sources.

- Development and Building Services Centre, Ground Floor, City Hall (604-873-7537) - Building permits, gas permits, etc., for most buildings presently standing.
- B.C. Assessment Authority (<http://www.bcassessment.ca/>) - current land ownership
- B.C. Land Titles Office (<http://www.ltsa.ca/cms/>) - previous land ownership
- Geographical Information Centre, UBC (604-822-3048) - aerial survey photographs
- Special Collections and University Archives Division, UBC (<http://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>) - fire insurance plans
- Special Collections Division, VPL Central (http://www.vpl.ca/find/details/local_history/) - directories, photographs