

Devonshire Collection Archives: property history guidance notes

We receive many enquiries relating to the history of houses that were built on the Cavendish estates, but regret that we can only offer a very limited response to such requests. For the majority of property enquiries it is likely the information we are able to supply will be limited to names of tenants, and approximate dates of occupation.

The archives of the estate offices that managed land and property are yet to be fully catalogued. As stated in our Access Policy, uncatalogued collections are not available for research.

However, we can perform some basic research for house history enquiries:

- Check our database of conveyances (c.1850-2000) for properties which were sold via the Dukes' solicitors in London.
- Check catalogued rental books and estate surveys.
- Check architectural drawings for Buxton for the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Check our limited number of building plans for other buildings on the estates.

Please note that even where estate records are fully catalogued:

- With very few exceptions the estate offices did not record dates of the construction of individual properties. As a result, in the vast majority of cases we cannot provide a date of construction for houses built on the Cavendish estates.
- There are no historic photographs of estate properties.

If you do wish to us check the archive for house histories we ask that you send the following information to archives@chatsworth.org:

- A current map or screenshot with your property marked (as postcodes and addresses are not always very useful, particularly for rural addresses, in identifying houses).
- A list of all known tenants – you can identify these using publicly available resources such as the census returns, which go back to 1841.
- The date, if known, of when the house was sold by the Chatsworth Estate.
- Any other relevant information that you may have.