

Introduction

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Resources for the Study of Urban History in the Public Archives of
Canada

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INTRODUCTION

Urban historians have not yet begun to explore in depth the Public Archives' rich documentation of Canadian urban development. Researchers of this development have regrettably been preoccupied with the written word, often to the exclusion of equally and sometimes more valuable materials such as maps, plans, paintings, photographs, films and sound recordings.

The following articles by four staff members of the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa were written in order to bring some of the sources to the attention of urban historians. The articles do not of course describe all sources of interest to urban historians, but rather, were written to give a glimpse of some of the more important materials and types of materials available.

Historians are encouraged to write to the Public Archives generally, or to specific divisions for further information. The Archives' staff can carry out only a limited amount of research in reply to written and telephone inquiries, but often useful information about the nature and extent of materials can be communicated to researchers who are unable to visit the Archives in person.

Reproductions of most of the Archives' holdings, except for those which are restricted, are available

at reasonable rates. A price list for reproduction services is available upon request. Black and white photographic prints, (8" x 10") are available at a charge of \$2.05, and larger reproductions are available at higher prices. Photostatic copies of maps cost one dollar per 18" x 24" photostat, and photographic copies, suitable for display or publication can also be provided. The Manuscript Division provides an interlibrary loan arrangement for those documents it has on microfilm and is willing to copy documents at reasonable rates.

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National Map Collection

The Public Archives is carrying out an active acquisition program of materials relating to Canada's urban development. Urban historians are probably aware of collections of documents which should be preserved in archives. The Public Archives would appreciate being informed of such collections and would welcome any suggestions from historians which would improve the existing collections.