Layers of London

Recording the layers of London's rich heritage

Search records on the map

Feminist History in the East End - a walk
The Layers of London project

What is it?

Large digital resource: London from the Romans to the present day

digitised historic maps and data from key heritage partners

content creation via crowd-sourcing, georeferencing, curated datasets, schools, local projects across London’s boroughs

online Hub for London history: toolkits, resources
The Layers of London project

What do we want to do?

Uncover, record, share multiple ‘histories’ of London

Encourage, enable local/community/school/academic projects

Preserve and share lost/disappearing heritage

Provide access to unique heritage resources, such as maps and datasets

Establish Layers as a platform for creating and sharing collections about London’s past, present (and future)
Types of content:

Records – individual ‘pins’ attached to places, with associated images, video/audio files, documents.

Collections – groups of Records created by users/groups and linked by theme, place etc. Can be owned/shared by multiple users or teams.

Layers – eg. historic maps, aerial photographs, curated datasets etc.
Georeferencing: John Rocque’s map of 1746
8 georeferenced historic maps added so far:

- London in c.1520
- Faithorne and Newcourt, 1658
- Ogilby and Morgan, 1676
- William Morgan, 1682
- John Rocque, 1746
- Richard Horwood, 1799
- C. and J. Greenwood, 1827
- Bomb Damage map, 1945

2 sets of O.S. maps:

- 1893-6
J. Ogilby and W. Morgan, *Large and accurate map of the City of London*, 1676
W. Morgan, *London Actually Survey’d, 1682*
Streets and places appearing on William Morgan’s 1682 map
Streets on the eastern fringe of the City in 1682
Streets on the eastern fringe of the City in 1682 and 1746
Locations of pickpocketing offences recorded in ‘Old Bailey Online’
Booth Poverty maps, 1889 (via LSE)
London Bomb Damage Maps, 1945
(LMA)
West along Summers Place 3st. cattle pens. there was very rough. Constable kicked & knocked about her last Saturday - a 'mixed lot' -

No. 3 map perhaps a line of black shed.

He added. Summers Ct on the right side. Smelly.

Stifling smell of wash. 9 adults 3 children sitting in the narrow end. tot. 1 room 3'9 x 3'3.

It is very still. hot quiet so had an Summers Pl.

But rough. No. 3 map. 3st. shops. on the east side are between Summers St. & Clerkenwell Rd.

Eyr Pl. 2st. alt. Man prints. not rough but very poor men. 

Benjamin
We've a lot of hard work to do to make our historic maps more accurate. You can help out by fixing some old maps and aerial photographs.
RAF Photos, 1945-48, georeferencing project
LMA’s LCC photo collection
Oliver Twist Court, 1921

The Dickens Estate was built on the site of Jacob’s Island, one of the worst slums in London. In addition to overcrowded and poor-quality housing, in the mid-nineteenth century the area was criss-crossed by stagnant, sewage-filled ditches, which earned it the nickname “Vence of drains”. It became especially notorious as the final resting place of Bill Sykes, the brutish villain of Charles Dickens’s Oliver Twist. After visiting the area with the river police, Dickens wrote that it contained “every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth, rot, and garbage”.

Weston Rise Estate, 1969

In 1959 the London County Council (LCC) secured part of the site of the Weston Rise Estate as part of a clearance scheme. The rest of the estate was secured through purchase of the land. In 1964 it was decided that Howell, Killick, Partridge & Amis (HKPA) would be the architects, alongside John Partridge.

The plans of the estate were displayed at the Royal Academy that same year. When construction started in 1965 the LCC had been dissolved and the Greater London Council took ownership of the site.

Image Copyright: London Metropolitan Archives (City of London Corporation)
Monday 13th January 1908
By Lacey Baker

23-27 Warwick Road

Plan for the construction of 3 houses and shops for Mr. F. J. Knight. This building proposal was approved by the Chislehurst Urban District Council. This plan also includes proposed shops and houses on Sussex Road.

Related Links

- 23-27 Warwick Road

https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/records/440/media/9126
A Political History of Lambeth

Right across the Thames from Westminster, Lambeth's geographical position has made it a symbolic arena for protest and political awakenings. This collection explores key historical events through Lambeth's public spaces and emblematic buildings.

Read more

A Selection of John Tallis's London Street Views Published in 88 parts, 1838-40.

This collection is dedicated to highlighting London based social histories, street-level illustrations and digitised excerpts of various locales which are all taken from John Tallis’s famous 'London Street Views 1838'. For the historically curious Londoner, you can have fun comparing these street views, and area descriptions to contemporary appearances and current neighborhood perceptions. Have Read more

Jewish London 1914-1918: Synagogues and Organisation

'We Were There Too: London Jews in the First World War' is a Heritage Lottery Project that is dedicated to recording the Jewish impact during the First World War. This collection contains important places, synagogues and organisations that were central to Jewish life, both in the East End and London as a whole.

Read more

Other collections added to the site
Layers of London

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