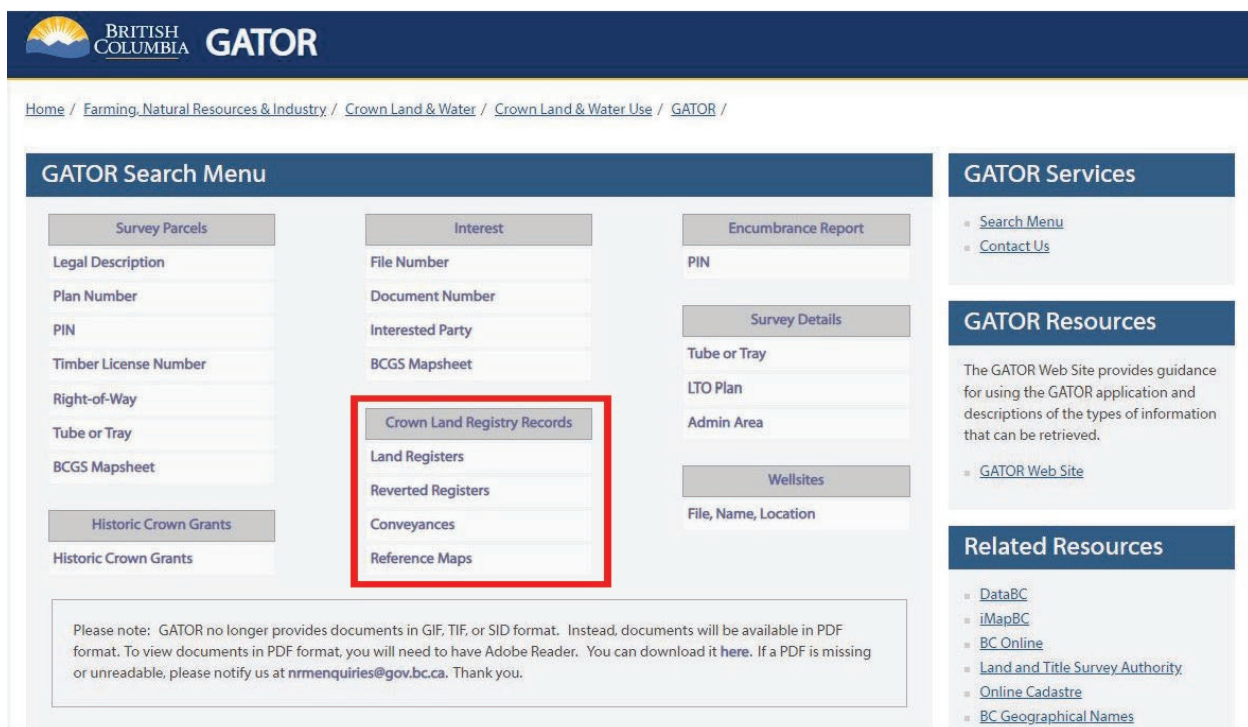


## Provincial Government Records Digitized and Made Available Electronically in GATOR

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to make you aware of several volumes of historical records in the custody of the Province that have recently been digitized and made available through the Province's GATOR website, which may be of significant help to you in conducting historical research into parcels and surveys across the province.

The Lands Branch, within the Ministry of Forests, has recently completed a significant digitization project to convert many old hard copy records into digital format, and they can be viewed using the GATOR selections shown below:



The screenshot shows the GATOR Search Menu with the following sections:

- Survey Parcels:** Legal Description, Plan Number, PIN, Timber License Number, Right-of-Way, Tube or Tray, BCGS Mapsheet, Historic Crown Grants.
- Interest:** File Number, Document Number, Interested Party, BCGS Mapsheet, **Crown Land Registry Records** (highlighted), Land Registers, Reverted Registers, Conveyances, Reference Maps.
- Encumbrance Report:** PIN.
- Survey Details:** Tube or Tray, LTO Plan, Admin Area.
- Wellsites:** File, Name, Location.

**GATOR Services:** Search Menu, Contact Us.

**GATOR Resources:** The GATOR Web Site provides guidance for using the GATOR application and descriptions of the types of information that can be retrieved. GATOR Web Site.

**Related Resources:** DataBC, iMapBC, BC Online, Land and Title Survey Authority, Online Cadastre, BC Geographical Names.

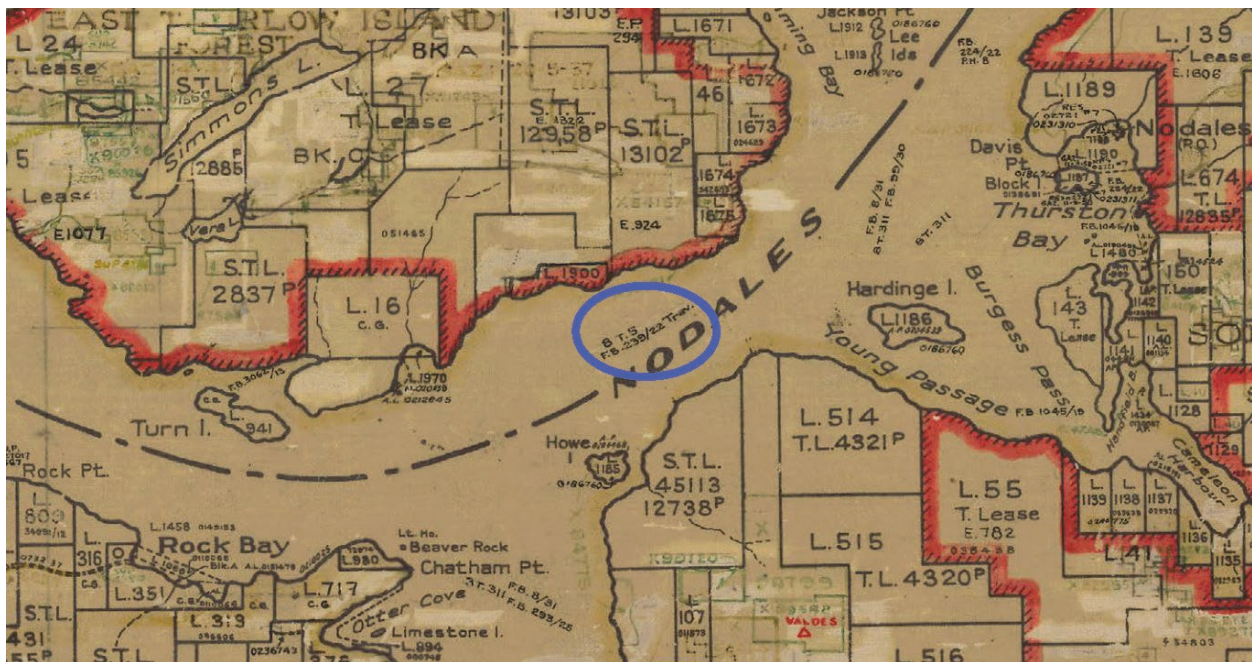
Please note: GATOR no longer provides documents in GIF, TIF, or SID format. Instead, documents will be available in PDF format. To view documents in PDF format, you will need to have Adobe Reader. You can download it [here](#). If a PDF is missing or unreadable, please notify us at [nrmenquiries@gov.bc.ca](mailto:nrmenquiries@gov.bc.ca). Thank you.

The following provides a brief summary of what the various collections contain. Additional information is noted on the webpages themselves.

- **Land Registers:** Land Registers were used to record transactions involving the conveying of Crown land for tenure or sale.
- **Reverted Registers:** The Reverted Registers were maintained to record previously alienated land that reverted back to the Crown for non-payment of taxes. Occasionally these registers will contain records that were not filed in the land title office.
- **Conveyances:** Conveyance numbers were assigned by BC Lands staff to track the return of parcels of land to the Crown by means other than a tax sale, such as a purchase or land exchange.

The collection I'm most excited about is the **Reference Maps**. These hard copy maps were traditionally used by staff within the Surveyor General and other Lands departments to record and track information relating to parcels, tenures and surveys throughout the province. The maps are organized by their National Topographic System (NTS) grid designations, and within a given map sheet, there are often several versions relating to various points in time. They contain a wealth of information on parcels, interests, Crown file numbers and, perhaps of most relevance to us land surveyors, plan and field book numbers for nearby surveys. These maps are certainly not an exhaustive source but they do represent one more tool for conducting your research.

As an example of some of the information available, the image below is a snip from Reference Map 92K\_SW\_DATE\_1963\_NUMBER\_2. You'll immediately notice the parcel structure and file numbers. However, the blue-circled entry references a field book (F.B. 239/22 Trav.) and related plan (8 T. 5) from a 1922 triangulation survey that set stations along the length of Nodales Channel; it made ties to a number of parcel corners along the way and noted the evidence that was found. The field books and plans noted on these Reference Maps are filed in the Surveyor General's vault and can be requested through myLTSA's Surveyor General Scan on Demand service in the usual manner.



If you have any questions about the survey records that are noted on the Reference Maps, please feel free to reach out to myself or my colleagues.

Any issues encountered with the functionality in GATOR can be directed to [CLRHelp@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CLRHelp@gov.bc.ca).

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