

Once and Future City Map Resource Guide

Introduction & Tips

This is the accompanying guide to the folder of maps. The maps in the folder are for you to quickly browse through maps to sift out useful ones of your site. For better details, make sure to navigate to the links and zoom in using the web app (e.g. Harvard Library).

Make sure to always cite the map properly.

Use Window's 'Snipping Tool' or Mac's equivalent screen capture software to quickly extract portions of maps to use in your paper. Often times, the maps will not be high enough in resolution from 'download' options. By zooming in and then screen capturing, you can actually read and see details. Or use a graphics software such as photoshop, paint, or gimp.

At Rotch, for physical maps, use the big 'Book eye' scanner which takes pictures from the top. Either save to USB or email to yourself.

Special Atlas Instructions

Downloading the whole atlas would be redundant. But these are probably the most detailed maps available. Some links are to atlases where you will navigate plates to find your site. If you have any questions about finding the correct plate, please ask!

Harvard Library Digital Maps

- Download folder has key: navigate to the correct plate. Plate numbers are not equivalent to 'sequence' number. Plate subdivision changes over time, so be sure to check!
- Then select "Zoom and Pan Page Image" to look closer at details.
- **Downloading directly from the website will give an insufficient resolution.**
- From the separate "zoom and pan page image" window, toggle the '-' & '+' slider to see details. Make sure to press GO.

Sanborn Digital Maps

- Browse Maps (you might need to have certificates/be on campus), Massachusetts, Boston/Cambridge, select date range and date
- Use 'Key' to find the number(s) corresponding to your site. These numbers change between years.
- Find the sheet corresponding to your number. **Download map will give a good resolution.**

Ward Maps

- Find the Index Plate. Then go to corresponding plate number.
- Use ‘Toggle Full Page View’ and pan/zoom to desired area.
- Screenshot!

General Map Links

Google Find more maps beyond this list

Mapping Boston Found in library, GA430.M36 1999

Sanborn Maps. We have discussed just how useful these fire insurance maps are because of how detailed they are. This is definitely a great start – but keep in mind there are more Sanborn’s than what this link suggests. Go to Rotch Library to find more Sanborn’s that go into the late twentieth century.

<http://sanborn.umi.com/>

MIT’s map link.

<http://libguides.mit.edu/content.php?pid=12502&sid=3616931>

<http://libguides.mit.edu/bostonbuildings> - guide by neighborhood. Lots of interesting sources that might not be maps, but if they are primary sources... perhaps you can work it in.

Norman B. Leventhal Map Center (BPL) This also has quite a few interesting maps in terms of the variety. Some might not be as detailed as Sanborn’s or Bromley’s, but they could still be useful.

<http://maps.bpl.org/> + <http://maps.bpl.org/explore/location/boston-mass-7>

Atlases of the City of Boston, G.W. Bromley & Co., 1883 & 1902 Bromley’s sometimes are as detailed or more detailed

<http://dome.mit.edu/handle/1721.3/47999>

David Rumsey Collection

http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/view/all/where/Boston%20%28Mass.%29?showAll=when&os=0&sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No

Antique Maps from Wardmaps

<http://www.wardmaps.com/viewasset.php?aid=1>

Maps of Cambridge:

1700 Map of Cambridge - compiled 1919

(<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/46931238?buttons=y>)

Shows highways and landforms. Lewis M. Hastings was a civil engineer working for Cambridge City. He authored numerous maps depicting the city of Cambridge.

1777 Map showing Cambridge in Revolutionary times – compiled 1925

(<http://www.cambridgehistory.org/sites/default/files/0013-009%20Map%20Parole%20Limits%20of%20Burgoyne's%20Officers-sm.jpg>)

Shows highways and landforms. Samuel F. Batchelder worked for the Cambridge Historical Society and was a well-known Cambridge historian. He compiled this map in order to show the parole limits of Burgoyne's officers in the Revolutionary War.

1830 Plan of Cambridge (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/46931239?buttons=y>)

Shows buildings, topographical features, surveyed by John Groves Hales.

1838 Map of Cambridge (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/12742>)

Broad map – shows streets, some buildings, topographical features, undeveloped areas, surveyed by James Hayward.

1857 Map of Cambridge (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/12714>)

Broad map – shows streets, some buildings, topographical features, undeveloped areas, surveyed by W. A. Mason reduced from Hayward's 1838 map.

1861 Map of Cambridge (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/12712>)

Broad map – shows streets, some buildings, topographical features, undeveloped areas, surveyed by W. A. Mason reduced from Hayward's 1838 map.

1865 Map of Cambridge (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/2568928?buttons=y>)

Shows streets and some buildings. Prepared by J. G. Chase, civil engineer and surveyor, entered by the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

1873 Hopkins Atlas (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6181461>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original in color.

1877 Bird's eye view of Cambridge

(http://maps.bpl.org/id/10184dl_pp=1&srch_query=1877%2Bcambridge&srch_fields=all&srch_style=fuzzy&srch_fa=save)

Shows pictorial buildings (although does not indicate landowners or purpose), streets, topographical features, surveyed and illustrated by Franklin View Co.

1886 Hopkins Atlas (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6740211>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original in color. Refer to Atlas Instructions.

1894 Bromley Atlas of Cambridge (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6153011>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original are in color. Refer to Atlas Instructions

1900 Sanborn Atlas of Cambridge – updated 1933 (<http://sanborn.umi.com/>)

Fire insurance maps – shows streets, property boundaries, building usage, company titles, topographical features, building materials.

The dates can be a bit confusing, since the atlases would be periodically updated by pasting new parts when there was change. Assume the date next to the volume is the date of the map.

"Why do I see date ranges and multiple dates?"

In the date list you will sometimes see a range of dates, such as 1894-1895. This range indicates the date the mapmakers began work on the map and the date of completion. In later years the Sanborn Company issued revisions that were intended to be literally pasted over the original map sheet. In these cases the last date refers to the date of the most recent pasted correction. **Digital Sanborn Maps** includes versions of maps with and without these pasted corrections. Our collection, originally microfilmed from the Library of Congress' collection, includes all maps submitted to the Library through copyright deposit in their original form and a set of maps including pasted corrections that was transferred to the Library from the Bureau of the Census. In some cases you may notice the same date listed twice for a city or listed once as a single year and a second time as the first date in a range. These two dates correspond to the two versions: one deposited to the Library by the Sanborn Company and one transferred from the Bureau of the Census, which may contain pasted corrections not on the other version. If a map is from the Bureau of the Census, an asterisk (*) will follow the date in the date selection box.

The date box may also contain an entry for "new and additional sheets." These are updated sheets created by the Sanborn Map company intended to replace sheets of previous maps. The image of the sheet will refer to what sheet it replaces.

1903 Bromley Atlas of Cambridge (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6153086>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original are in color.

1916 Bromley Atlas of Cambridge (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6592027>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original are in color.

1930 Bromley Atlas of Cambridge (<http://www.wardmaps.com/viewasset.php?aid=11>)

Shows buildings, building material, ownership, property lines. Original are in color.

1934 Sanborn Atlas of Cambridge – updated 1960 (<http://sanborn.umi.com/>)

Fire insurance maps – shows streets, property boundaries, building usage, company titles, topographical features, building materials.

Maps of Back Bay, Boston:

1723 Map of the Town of Boston in New England (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/11122>)

Shows property boundaries, streets, some topographical features, buildings and wharves – assembled from survey by Captain John Bonner.

1775 Plan of Boston (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/7602480?buttons=y>)

Shows streets and some topographical features – from survey by Robert Aitken.

1805 A plan of Boston (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/10934>)

Broad map of Boston - shows streets and bridges, assembled from survey by Osgood Carleton.

1813 Plan of Boston (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3764712?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, boundaries, and some buildings – assembled from survey by Edward Cotton.

1826 Plan of Boston comprising part of Charlestown and Cambridgeport

(<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3043940?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, boundaries, and some buildings – from actual survey by Stephen Fuller.

1835 Plan of Boston comprising part of Charlestown and Cambridgeport

(<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3043942?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, boundaries, and some buildings – from actual survey by George Girdler Smith. Original in color.

1846 Plan of Boston comprising part of Charlestown and Cambridgeport

(<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3043944?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, boundaries, and some buildings – from actual survey by George Girdler Smith. Original in color.

1852 Plan of Back Bay (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/12933>)

Shows streets, undeveloped areas, ownership lines, railroads, and filled areas – surveyed by Ezra Lincoln.

1861 Plan of lands on the Back Bay (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/5670512?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, property owners, and selected buildings of interest – by Back Bay Commissioners.

1870 Map of Boston (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3073678?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, railroads, boundaries – from survey by Sampson at Davenport & Co (filled-in Back Bay appears on this map). Original in color.

1875 Map of Boston (<http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/3043359?buttons=y>)

Shows streets, railroads, boundaries – from survey by Sampson at Davenport & Co. Original in color.

1887 Sanborn Insurance Atlas of Boston, Volume II

(<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/5959512>)

Shows property lines, building materials, streets, building type. Original in color.

1888 Bromley Atlas of the city of Boston, Volume II

(<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/14729963>)

Key on seq 44. Shows property lines, building materials, ownership, streets. Original in color.

1890 Bromley Atlas of the city of Boston (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/14421567>)

Key on seq 5. Shows property lines, building materials, ownership, streets. Original in color.

1897 Sanborn Insurance Atlas of Boston, Volume II

(<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/42569770>)

Key on seq 56 in v. 2. Shows property lines, building materials, streets, building type. Original in color.

1898 Bromley Atlas of the city of Boston (<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/14169242>)

Key on seq 4. Shows property lines, building materials, ownership, streets. Original in color.

1904, 1908, 1922, 1929, 1914, 1937 Sanborn Insurance Atlases, Volume II

(<http://sanborn.umi.com/>)

Shows property lines, building materials, streets, building type.

1902 Bromley Atlas of the city of Boston, Boston proper and Back Bay

(<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6482655>)

Shows property lines, building materials, ownership, streets. Original in color.

1912 Bromley Atlas of the city of Boston, Boston proper and Back Bay

(<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/45087163>)

Key on seq 7. Shows property lines, building materials, ownership, streets. Original in color.

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