Digital Sanborn® Maps, 1867–1970

Covering Cities and Towns Coast-To-Coast from 1867 to 1970

No maps are consulted more in academic and public libraries than Sanborn® fire insurance maps—the detailed property and land-use records that depict the grid of everyday life in more than 12,000 U.S. towns and cities. Today they are as close as your computer, with Digital Sanborn® Maps.

A Detailed History of Property and Land Use in America

Founded in 1867 by D.A. Sanborn, the Sanborn Map Company was the primary American publisher of fire maps for over 100 years, repeatedly mapping towns and cities as they changed. The Sanborn Maps were originally compiled to help insurers assess the value of property, identify risk factors, and underwrite losses. But this vital American resource is just as essential to researchers today, and available online from ProQuest with enhanced images.
A Living Snapshot of History

Recording a century of change, Digital Sanborn Maps are valuable historical tools for urban and social historians, architects, city planners, genealogists, local historians, and anyone else who needs to know more about the history, growth, and development of American cities, towns, and neighborhoods by pinpointing the streets, landmarks, and other places noted in the map's index.

Digital Sanborn Maps have many uses:

- Genealogists and local historians can pinpoint buildings and neighborhoods
- Architectural historians can study construction materials and methods
- Urban planners can draw on the past to design for the future
- Historians and geographers can trace the relative development of urban areas within or across regions
- Demographers can chart population shifts
- Transportation researchers can study road, rail, and water connections

Over 660,000 maps are included in the Digital Sanborn Maps collection, and they can be manipulated, expanded, printed, and downloaded.

The maps provide a wealth of information, such as building outline, size and shape, construction materials, height, building use, windows and doors, street and sidewalk widths, boundaries, house numbers, and more. Also depicted are pipelines, railroads, wells, water mains, dumps, and heavy machinery.

Combined with other reference sources, such as city directories, photographs, small-scale maps, census records, genealogies, and statistical data, Digital Sanborn Maps provide an unparalleled picture of life in American towns and cities—especially with:

- **HeritageQuest® Online** is a comprehensive, web-based treasury of American genealogical sources—rich in primary sources, local and family histories, and finding aids.
- **Newspapers.com Library Edition** offers a collection of over 18,000 newspapers dating from the early 1700s into the 21st century.
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers™** offers full-text and full-image articles for significant newspapers dating back to the 18th century.

Options for Every Library

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