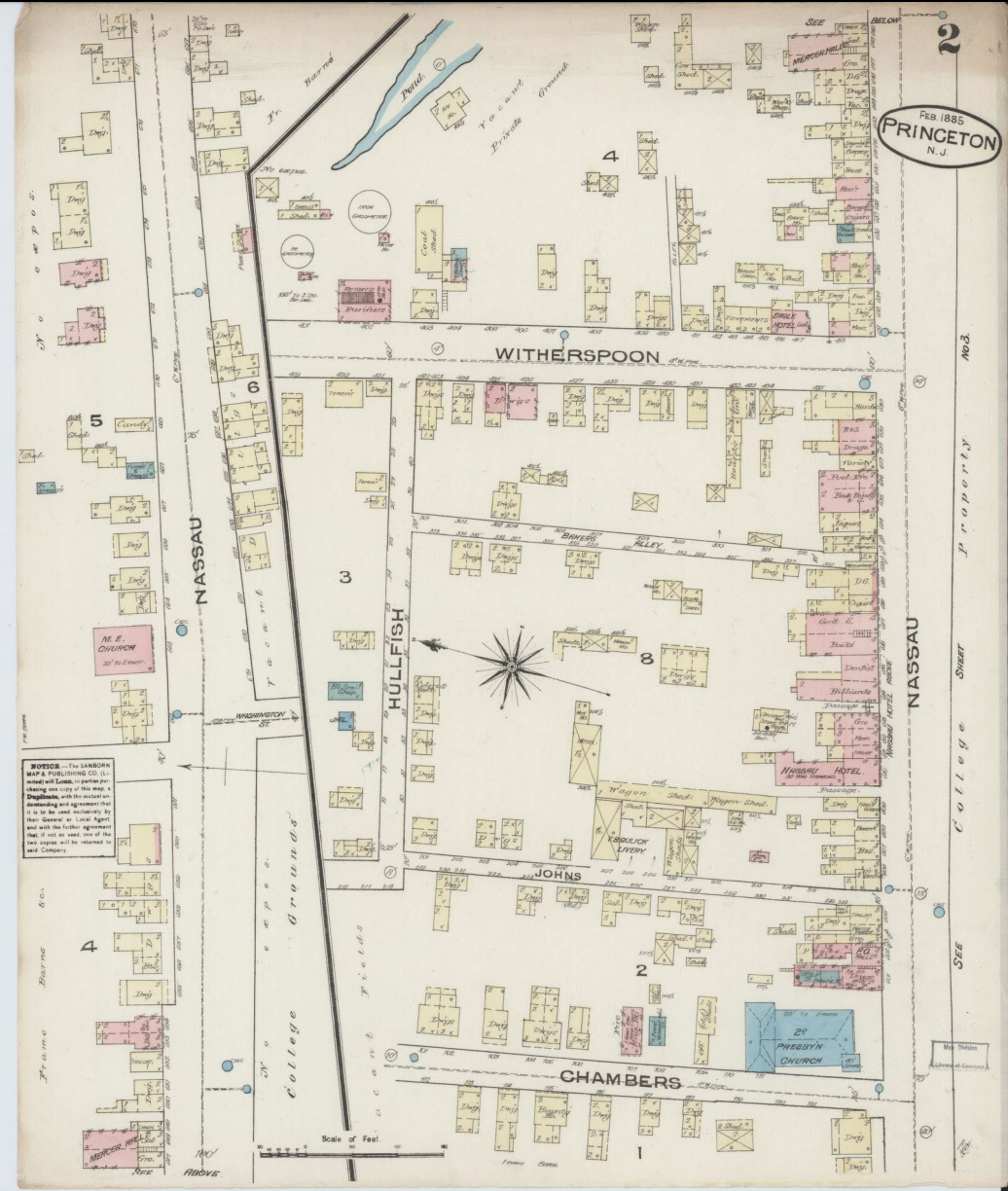

Innovations with Sanborn Maps



Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat. Tell us

- Your name
- Where you are from
- What you teach

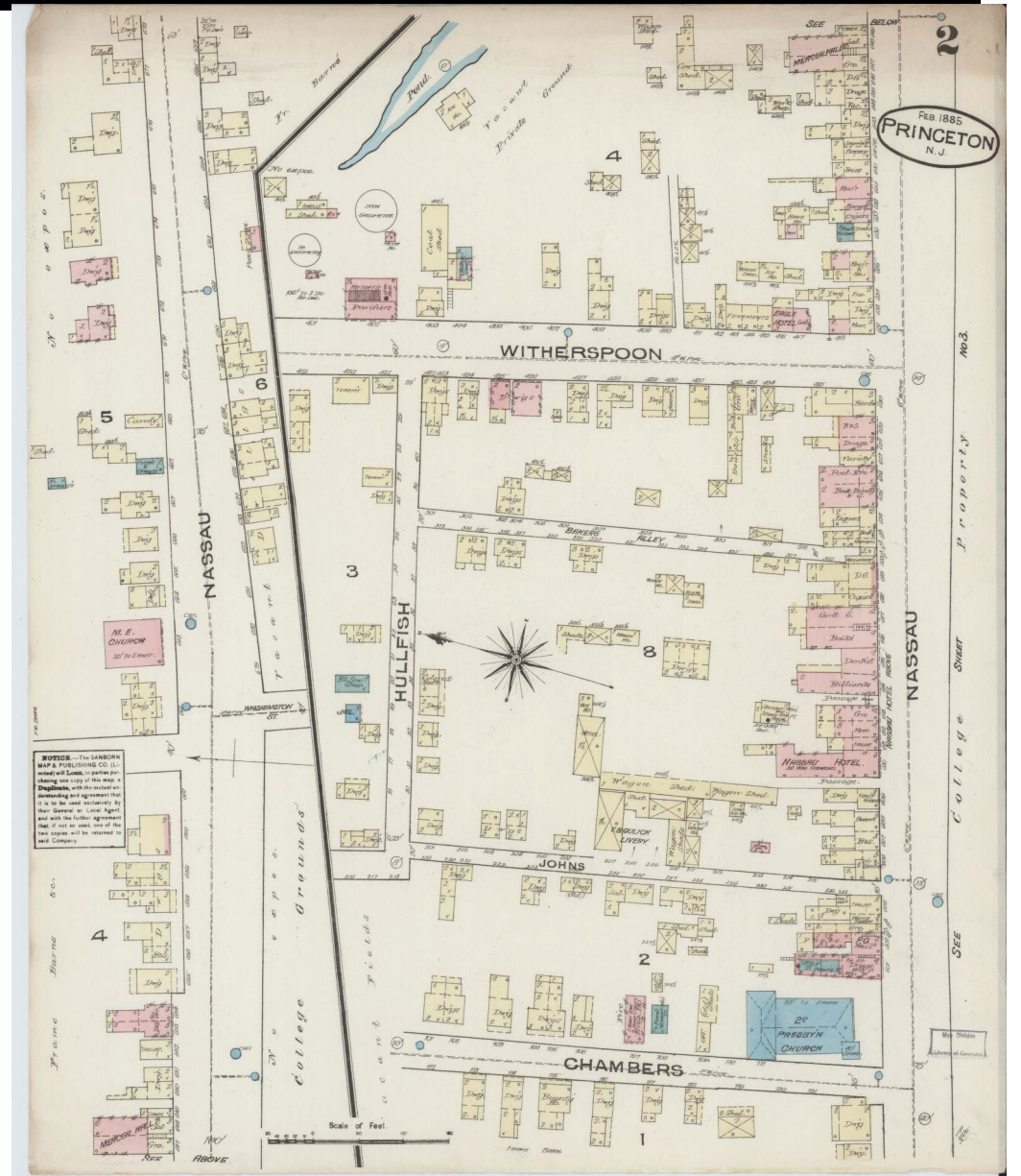


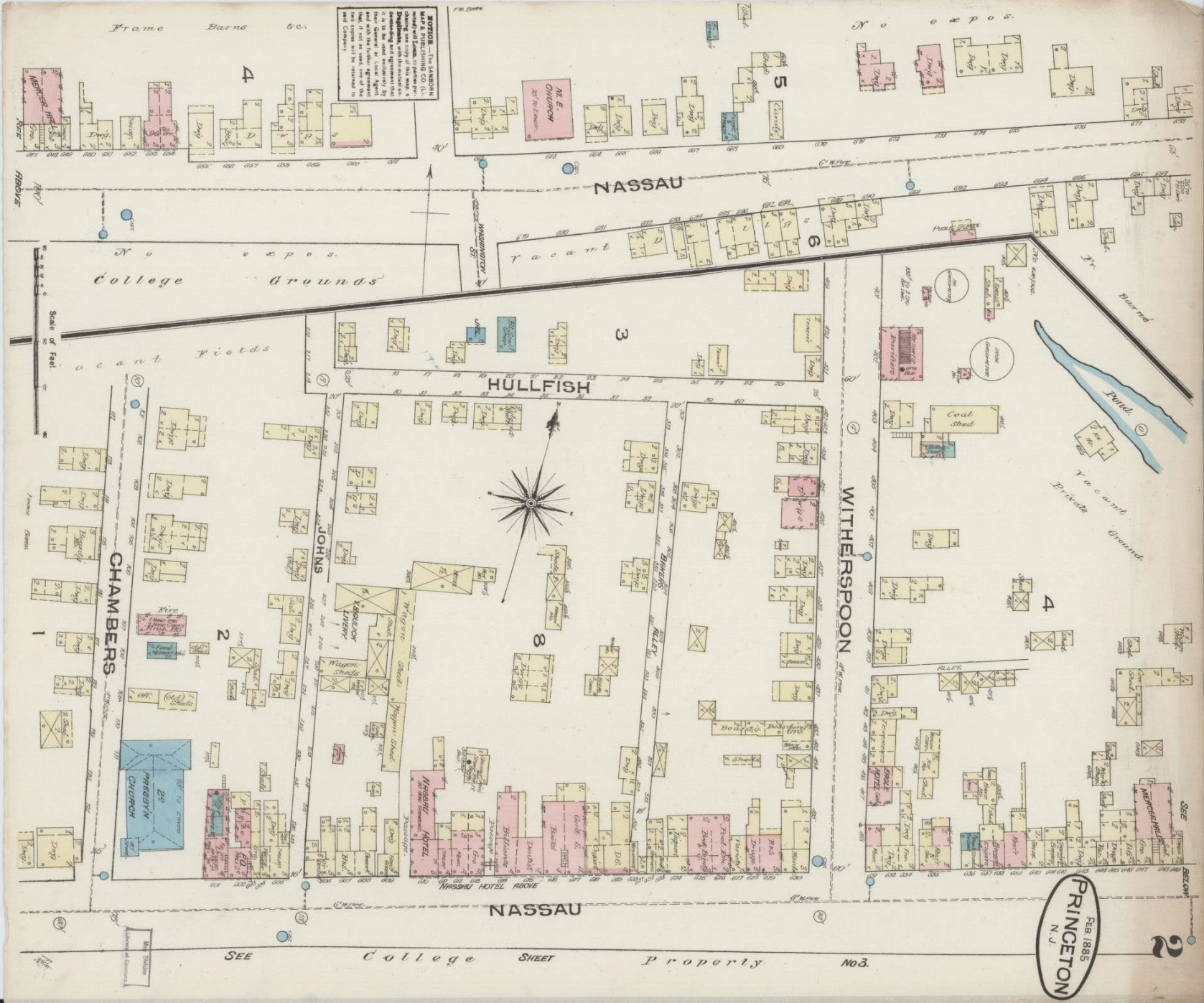
Overview:

1. What are Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps?
2. What innovative tools exist for searching this collection?
3. How can these tools be utilized in the classroom?

What do you wonder about this map?

Record your observations in the chat.





Frame Barns &c.

FOR SALE—The SHARON
M. P. PUBLISHING CO. (L.)
Duplicating with this matter
is to be used exclusively by
New Century of Local Agent
Map of not to meet one of the
two copies will be returned to
the Company

NOV
ABOVE

Scale of Feet

CHAMBERS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOHNSTON

NASSAU HOTEL ABOVE

NASSAU

HULLFISH

NASSAU

WITHERSPOON

No cejos.

vacant

vacant fields

vacant

vacant

vacant

vacant

vacant

PRINCETON
N. J.
FEB 1885

2

SEE College SHEET Property No.3

Where are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps?

- Geography & Map Division at the LOC
- Largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world
 - 5.2 million maps
- 700,000 large-scale Sanborn fire insurance maps



What are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps?

- Series of building level maps
- Dating from 1867*-present (only those that are non-copyright restricted available online)
- Depict 12,000 cities and towns in the US, Canada, and Mexico



Reading Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

KEY	
TILE 1ST BRICK 1ST PYROBAR 1ST	Fire proof construction. (OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONST'N)
ADOBE	Adobe building.
HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN FEET FROM GROUND TO ROOF LINE 57	Stone building.
(C. BR.)	Concrete, lime, cinder or cement brick
(C. B.)	Hollow concrete or cement block const'n
(CONC.)	Concrete or reinforced concrete const'n
(TILE)	Tile building.
NUMBER OF STORIES 4	Brick building with frame cornice.
TWO STORIES AND BSMT 2B COMPOSITION ROOF	" " " stone front.
SHINGLE ROOF X	" " " frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)
(VEND)	Brick veneered building.
BRICK 1ST	" and frame building.
FRAME, BRICK LINED	Frame building, brick lined.
F=FLAT S=STORE	" " metal clad.
D=DWELLING	Frame building.
A IN B AUTO IN B'SMT	Iron building.
LOFT	Tenant building occupied by various manufacturing or occupancies
(ASB. CL.)	Frame building covered with asbestos
NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL, SLATE, TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES	Brick building with brick or metal cornice.

About this Collection

About this Collection

[How to View Maps](#)

[Related Resources](#)

[Rights & Access](#)



Expert Resources

[Geography and Map Research Center](#)

[Geography and Map Reading Room,
Guide to the Collections](#)

[How to Order Reproductions](#)

[Geography and Map Ask a Librarian](#)

 Listen to this page 

About this Collection

The [Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist](#) provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress* and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions.

The Sanborn maps are arranged by state, then city and release data. The online checklist also contains links to existing digital images from our collection and will be updated as new images are added. If you have any questions, comments, or are interested in obtaining reproductions from the collection, please [Ask A Librarian](#).

Sanborn Keys & Colors

Fire insurance maps are distinctive because of the sophisticated set of symbols that allows complex information to be conveyed clearly. In working with insurance maps, it is important to remember that they were made for a very specific use, and that although they are now valuable for a variety of purposes, the insurance industry dictated the selection of information to be mapped and the way that information was portrayed. Knowledge of the keys and colors is essential to proper interpretation of the information found in fire insurance maps.

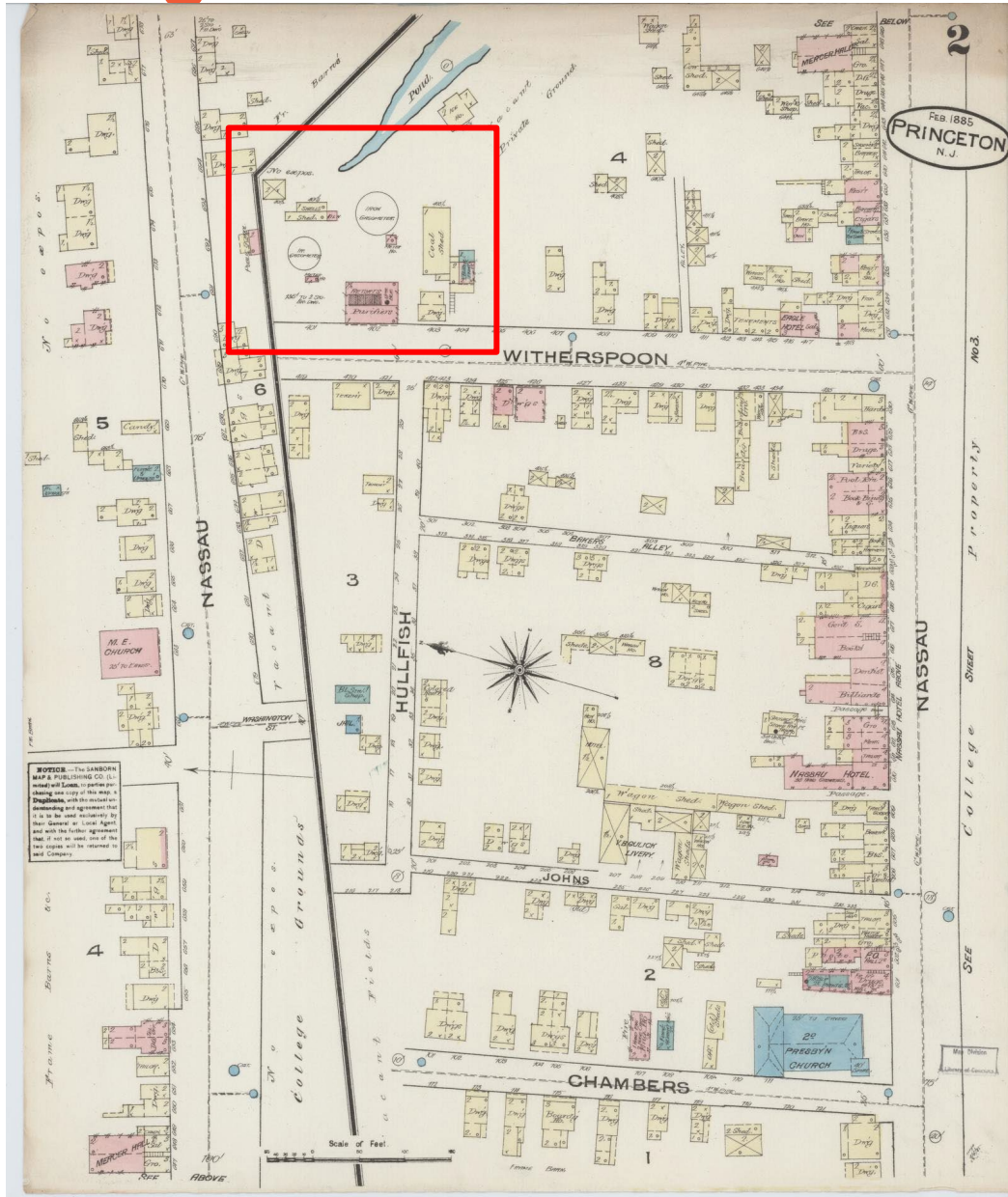
Color

(TILE)	Tile building.
NUMBER OF STORIES 4	Brick building with frame cornice.
TWO STORIES AND 85MT 28 COMPOSITION ROOF	" " " stone front.
SHINGLE ROOF	" " " frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)
(VEND)	Brick veneered building.
BRICK 1ST	" and frame building.
FRAME, BRICK LINED	Frame building, brick lined.
NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL, SLATE, TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES	Brick building with brick or metal cornice.

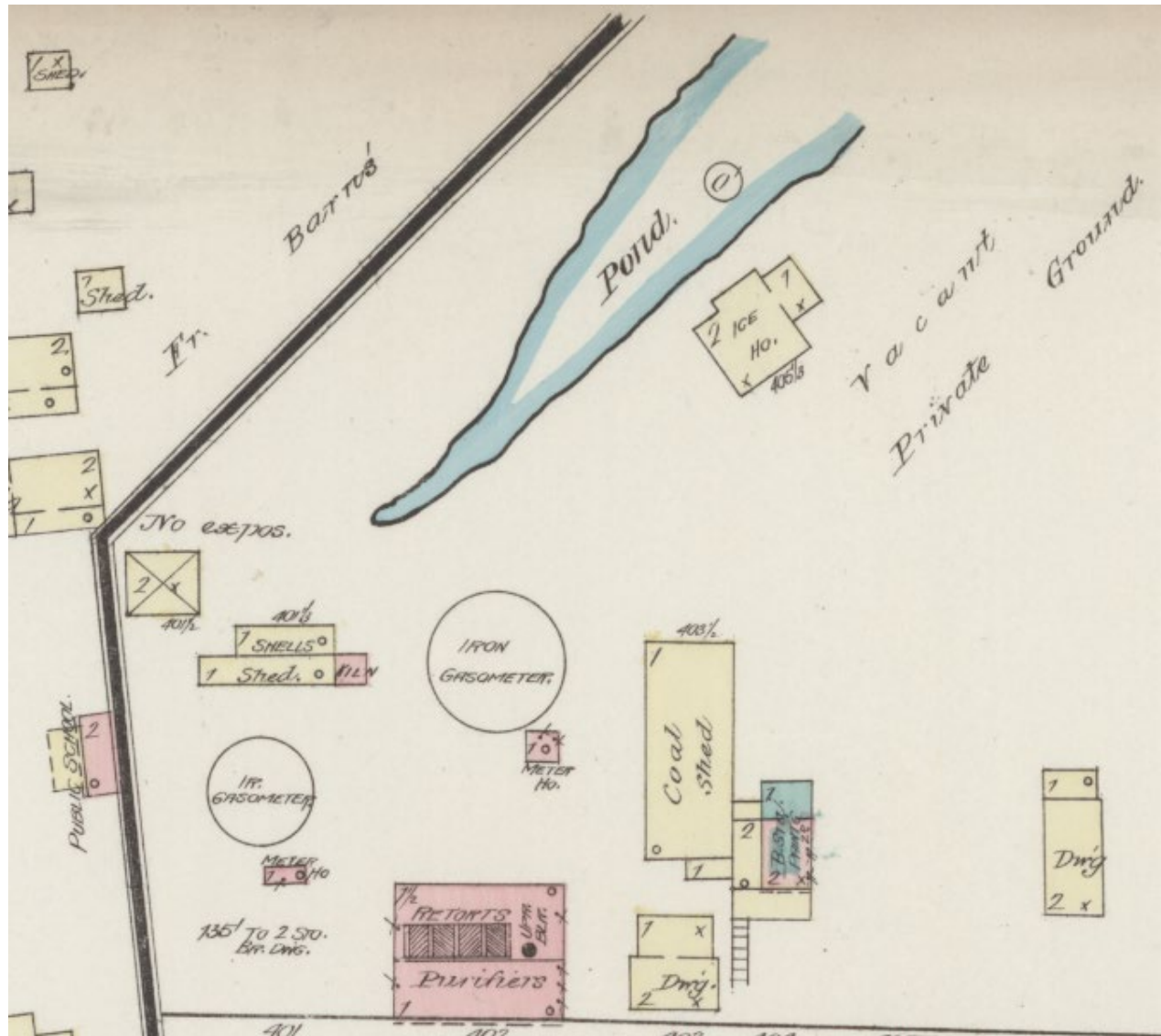


Fire Insurance Maps
in the Library of
Congress. 1981

Reading Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps



Reading Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps



KEY

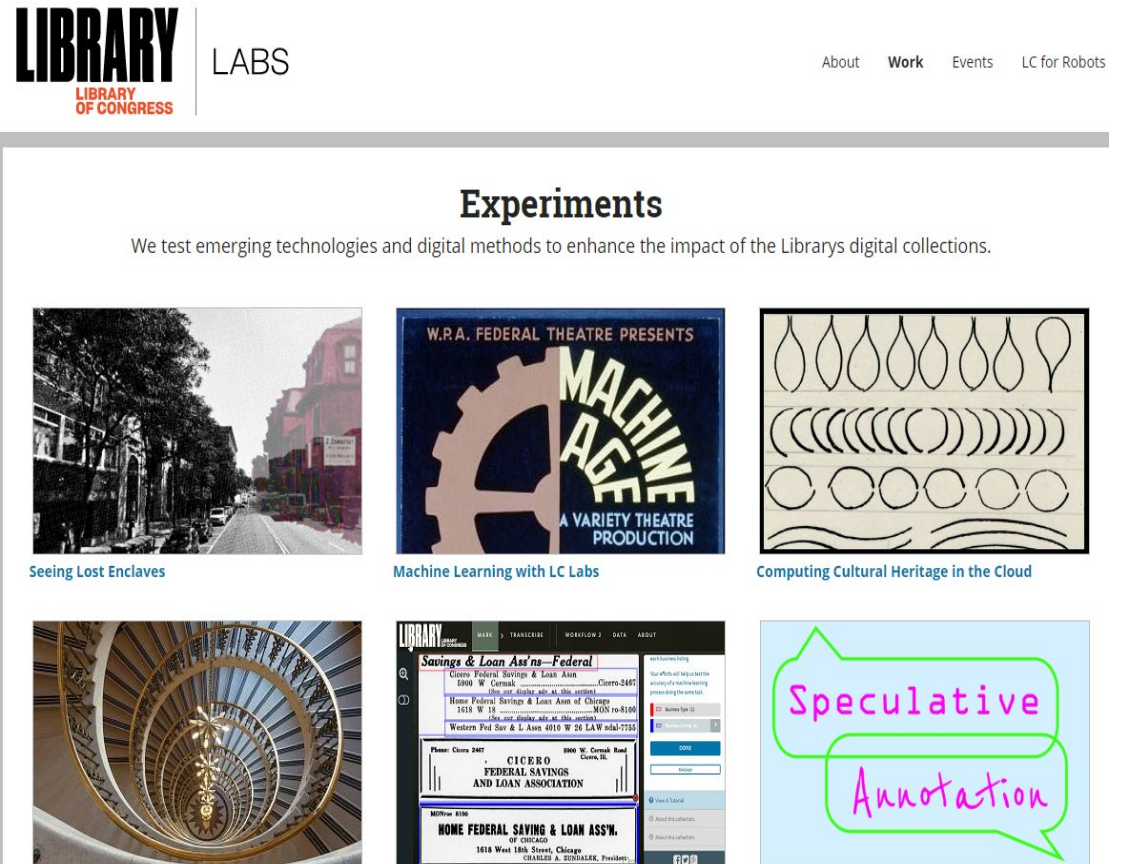
TILE 1ST BRICK 1ST PYROBAR 1ST	Fire proof construction. (OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONST'N)
ADOBE	Adobe building.
HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN FEET FROM GROUND TO ROOF LINE.	Stone building.
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Innovative ways to explore historic collections

- [LC Labs](http://labs.loc.gov) (labs.loc.gov)
 - Innovators in Residence
 - Digital Scholarship

Priorities:

- Reduce barriers to innovation
- Explore emerging approaches
- Gather wide ranging expertise



The screenshot shows the Library of Congress Labs website. At the top left is the logo for "LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LABS". To the right are navigation links: "About", "Work", "Events", and "LC for Robots". The main heading is "Experiments", followed by the text "We test emerging technologies and digital methods to enhance the impact of the Library's digital collections." Below this are six experiment thumbnails:

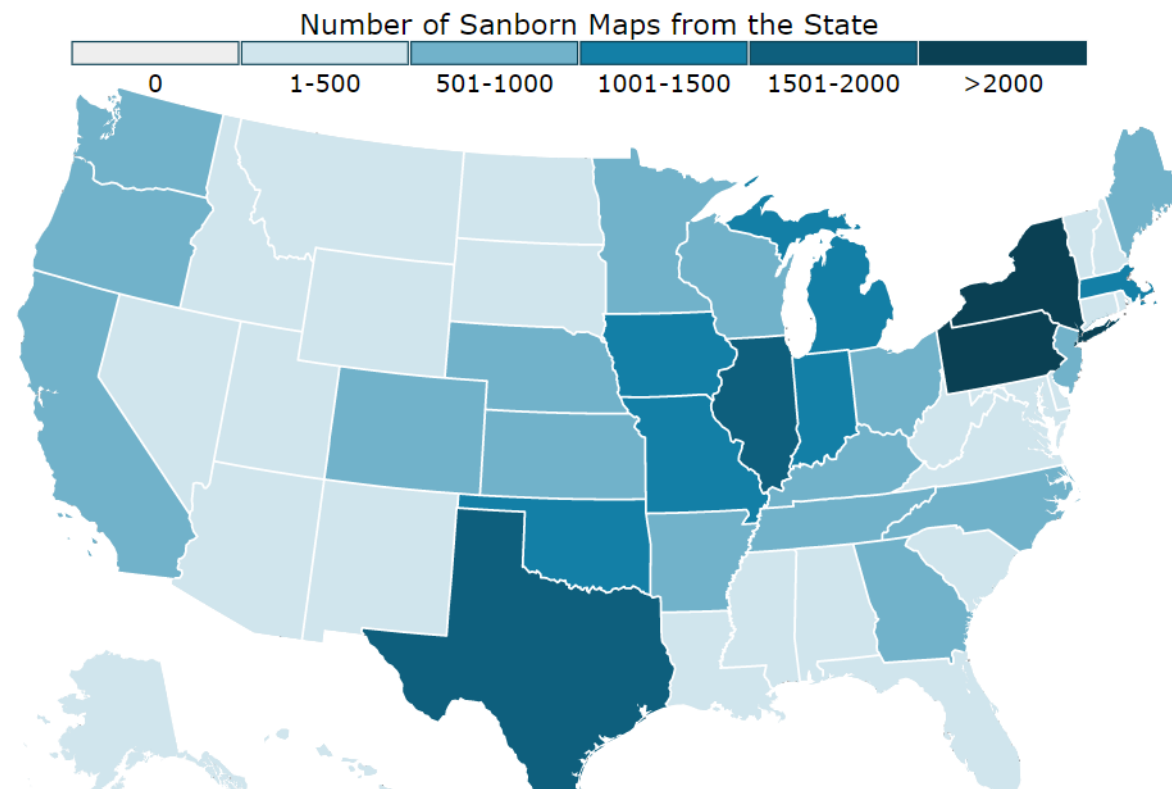
- Seeing Lost Enclaves**: A street view image with a semi-transparent red overlay on buildings.
- Machine Learning with LC Labs**: A graphic with a gear and the text "MACHINE AGENTS A VARIETY THEATRE PRODUCTION".
- Computing Cultural Heritage in the Cloud**: A grid of various geometric shapes like circles, ovals, and teardrops.
- Speculative Annotation**: A graphic with two overlapping speech bubbles, one containing the word "Speculative" and the other "Annotation".
- Home Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n - Federal**: A screenshot of a historical document or website interface.
- Home Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n**: A screenshot of a historical document or website interface.

Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Map Navigator

[Home](#) [About](#)

[Surprise Me!](#)

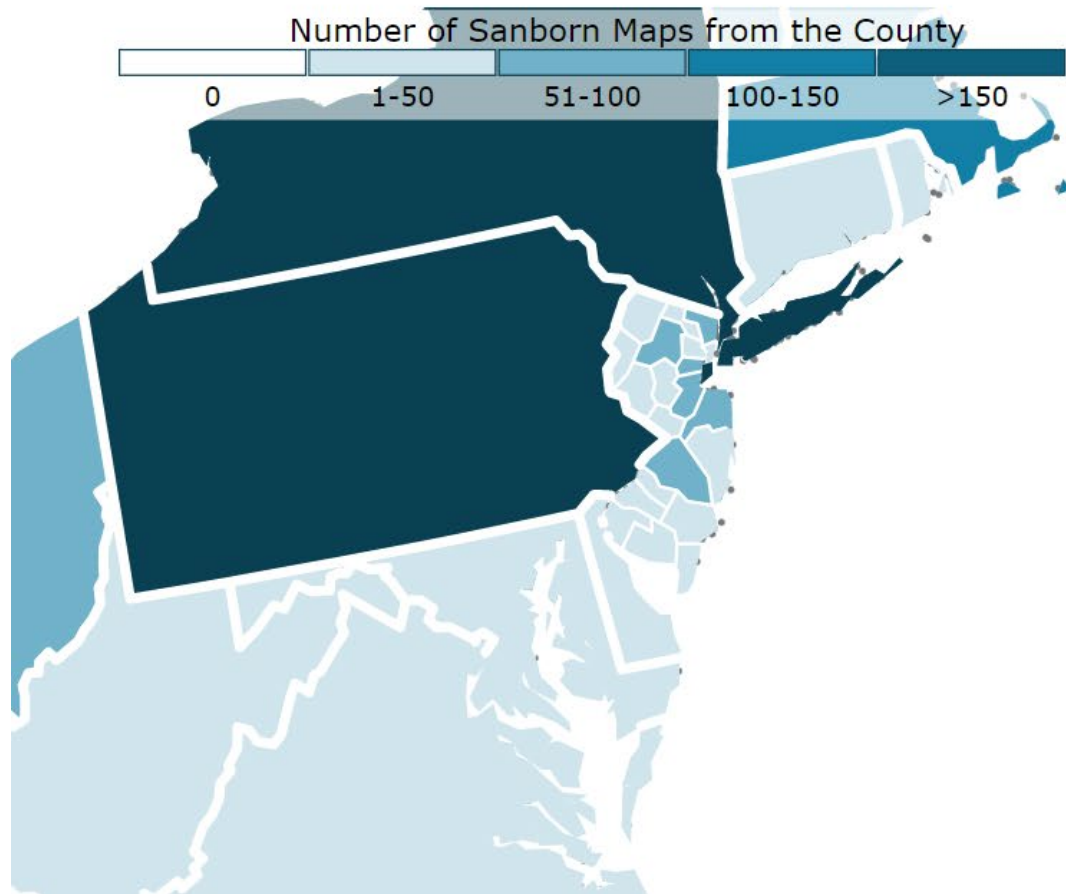
USA



LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS
LC LABS

Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Map Navigator

[USA](#) > [New Jersey](#)



Back

Randomly Selected Newspaper Image



Newspaper: [Bridgeton pioneer.](#)
Publication location: [Bridgeton, New Jersey.](#)
Date: [December 06, 1900](#)
Selected from New Jersey

Sanborn Maps from Counties in New Jersey

Atlantic County



Monmouth County



Warren County



How was the Sanborn Maps Navigator Made?

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'LibraryOfCongress / sanborn-navigator'. The repository is public and has 1 branch (master) and 0 tags. The commit history is displayed, showing a series of updates by user librlaurie. The most recent commit, 53a8cbe, is dated Sep 24, 2020, and has 160 total commits. The commit log includes files such as .ipynb_checkpoints, data, README.md, about-style.css, about.html, global-style.css, home-style.css, how-to-update.ipynb, and index.html, with descriptions of the changes made.

File	Commit Message	Time
.ipynb_checkpoints	wrote guide on how to update site	3 years ago
data	moved independent cities fix into the correct spot, added com...	3 years ago
README.md	added link to updating on README	3 years ago
about-style.css	wrote up about page and added styling	3 years ago
about.html	Change link to code to LC link	3 years ago
global-style.css	back button functions, did some more styling	3 years ago
home-style.css	back button functions, did some more styling	3 years ago
how-to-update.ipynb	wrote guide on how to update site	3 years ago
index.html	Shows LC github repo at the bottom of the page	3 years ago



Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder [LC Legal Es](#)

More Information

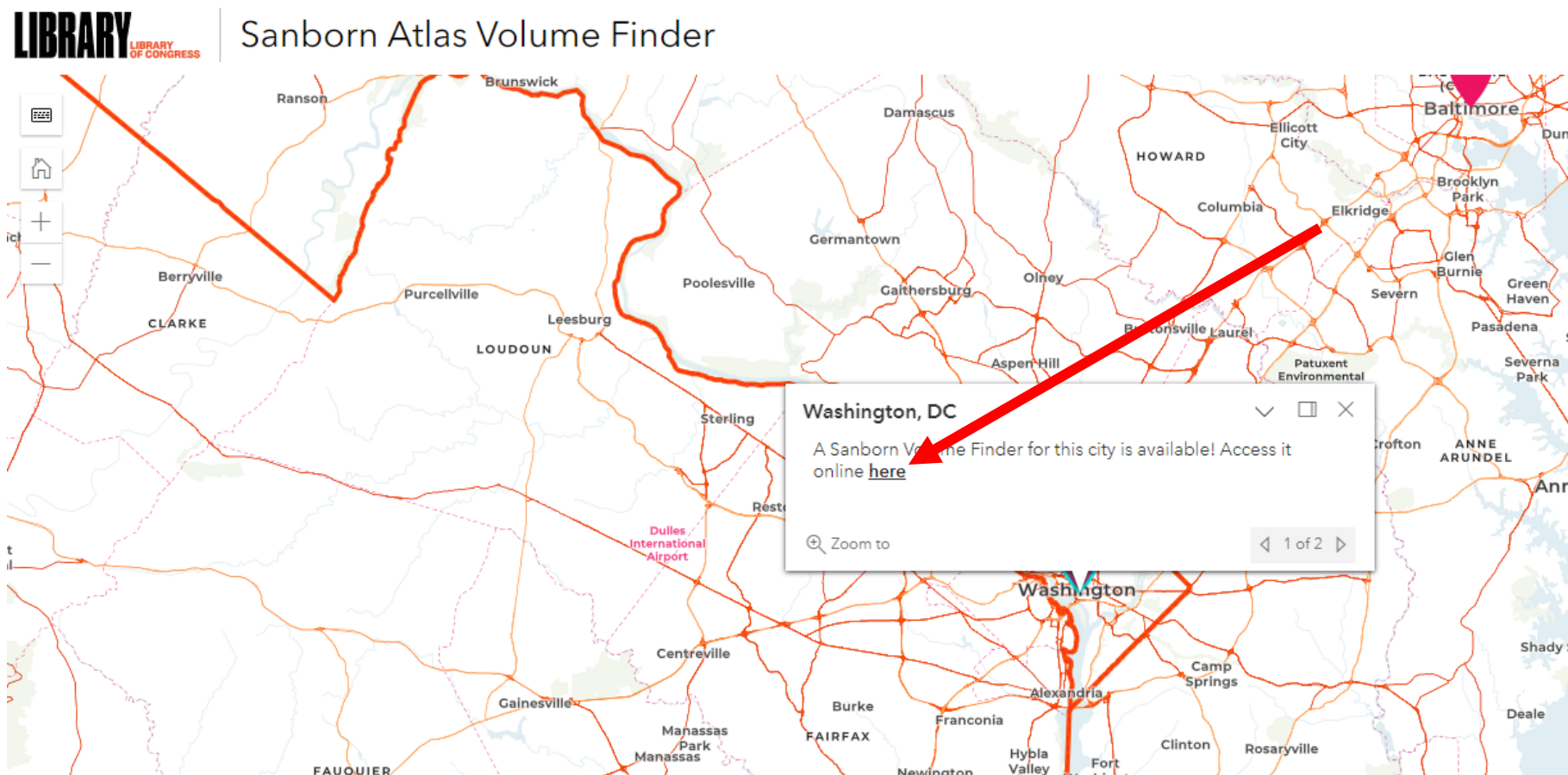
This map provides a comprehensive set of links for Sanborn Volume Finders created for select US cities by the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Volume Finders help users pinpoint which [Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas Volume\(s\)](#) provide coverage for specific geographic areas of interest. To access online Volume Finders, simply click the bright pink pin to access a direct link. City Finders currently in development are symbolized with light pink pins.

For more information about accessing Sanborn maps that are not available online, please [contact the Geography & Map Division](#).

Created by: Julie Stoner and Meagan Snow, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress

Download Map Data: [CSV File](#)

Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder



Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder

LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS | Sanborn Volume Finder: Washington, DC [LC Legal](#) [Esri Legal](#)

600 H St NE, Washington, DC

Search result

600 H St NE, Washington, District of Columbia, 20002

Zoom to

1888

1903-1916

1917-1939

1959-1981

Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder



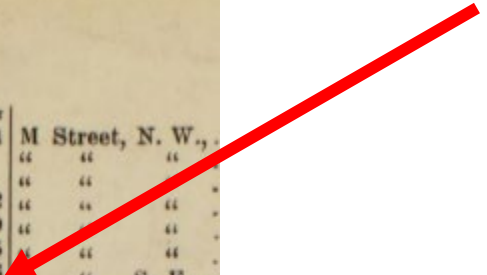
Sanborn Volume Finder: Washington, DC

The screenshot displays the Sanborn Volume Finder interface. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with a home icon, zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, and a date range selector. The date range selector is currently set to 1903-1916, with other options for 1888, 1917-1939, and 1917-1939. The main area shows a map of Washington, DC with a red arrow pointing to a popup window. The popup window is titled "Sanborn Maps, 1903-1916" and contains the following text: "For the area you selected, maps are available in Volume 2 from 1904. This resource is available online [here](#)". At the bottom of the popup, there is a "Zoom to" button and a page indicator "5 of 6".

Innovative Search Tools: Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder

INDEX.

Location	Range	Sheet	Location	Range	Sheet
Street, N. E.,	300-527	184	Fifth, N. E.,	300-539	184
" " "	600-731	185	" " "	600-845	176
" " "	800-1035	186	" " "	900-1175	170
" " "	1100-1255	187	" " "	1900-2125	244
" " "	1300-1399	188	" N. W.,	400-530	*135
" " "	1400-1605	189	" " "	401-631	*151
" N. W.,	1-60	163	" " "	600-746	*134
" " "	100-236	*165	" " "	701-939	*149
" " "	101-233	*152	" " "	800-936	*133
" " "	300-448	*154	" " "	1000-1138	*132
" " "	301-445	*151	" " "	1001-1145	*147
" " "	450-490	*153	" " "	1200-1346	*131
" " "	500-820	*136	" " "	1201-1431	*145
" " "	501-817	*135	" " "	1400-1546	*130
" S. E.,	1-60	218	" " "	1501-1713	*143
" " "	100-235	227	" " "	1600-1728	*129
" " "	300-525	228	" " "	1715-1851	*141
" " "	600-725	229	" " "	1800-1920	*128
" " "	800-1029	230	" " "	1901-2031	*137
" " "	1100-1305	292	" " "	1922-2124	*127
" S. W.,	1-98	217	" S. E.,	1-230	198
" " "	100-230	*216	" " "	300-435	228
" " "	101-235	*215	" " "	500-765	231
" " "	300-498	*209	" " "	900-1129	235
" " "	301-357	*208	" " "	1200-1331	226
" " "	451-535	*207	" S. W.,	1200-1265	212
" " "	600-820	*204	" " "	1300-1421	214
" " "	601-827	*203	Files Court,		126
Frank N. W.	1-59	159	Fillmore, at Anacostia,	1-235	*240
Groff Court,		184			
	H				
H Street, N. E.,	1-99	*162	M Street, N. W.,		
" " "	2-82	*160	" " "		
" " "	100-241	175	" " "		
" " "	300-527	176	" S. E.,		
" " "	600-733	177	" " "		
" " "	800-1027	178	" " "		
" " "	1100-1259	179	" " "		
" " "	1300-1393	180	" " "		
" " "	1400-1505	181	" " "		
" N. W.,	1-87	*159	" S. W.,		
" " "	2-78	*161	" " "		
" " "	100-243	150	" " "		
" " "	300-479	149	" " "		
" " "	500-818	*134	McCullough, N. W.		220
" " "	501-819	*133	" Alley		157
" S. E.,	101-161	*213	McDermott Alley,		204
" S. W.,	1-94	220	Hammersley Alley,		201
" " "	100-233	219	Hanover Place,		155
" " "	300-509	210	Harewood Road,		243
" " "	600-825	205	Harrison, at Anacostia,	1-58	240
" Alley,		220			
Half Street Court,		157	McGrann Alley,		
McCullough, N. W.		220	McLean,		
" Alley		157	Madison, N. W.,		
McDermott Alley,		204			
Hammersley Alley,		201			
Hanover Place,		155			
Harewood Road,		243			
Harrison, at Anacostia,	1-58	240			



Summary of Innovative Tools:

- [Sanborn Map Navigator](#)
 - Organizes the digital collections by location and year
 - Links the Sanborn Maps to Chronicling America
- [Sanborn Atlas Volume Finder](#)
 - Search collection by address
 - Includes both digitized and non-digitized maps

Brainstorm:

- **What innovative questions can the map(s) prompt?**
- **How might you support student interactions with the maps?**

Innovative questions teachers have considered with their students:

- How have things developed over time?
- What is valued?
- Who is counted?
- What environmental concerns exist? Who is most affected?
- Has the population increased or decreased? How do you know?
- Has the shoreline changed?
- How can the layout of a town/city help explain a historical event?
- What are the pros and cons of the city/town design?

Innovative questions students have asked:

- How were these maps made?
- Why did insurance companies need this information?
- Why are certain areas labeled by nationality?
- How did the Sanborn Company pick the areas to map?
- Do we still have _____ today?
- Is it safe for factories to be converted into dwellings?
- How have certain bodies of water appeared or disappeared?

Questions?

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How was the Sanborn Maps Navigator Made?

Analyzing and visualizing cartographic metadata from loc.gov

Table of Contents

- [This notebook](#)
- [1. Required Prep: Install and import all of the Python modules we'll need](#)
- [2. Query for list of records](#)
- [3. Harvest the metadata](#)
- [4. Basic metadata analysis](#)
- [5. Metadata charts](#)
- [6. Metadata maps and Wikidata](#)

More Resources

Other Jupyter notebooks and examples from the Library of Congress can be found at [LC for Robots](#).

This notebook

This notebook is part two of a series of Jupyter notebooks exploring how to computationally access, retrieve, and analyze cartographic collections on loc.gov.

How was the Sanborn Maps Navigator Made?

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[CATEGORIES](#)



[ARCHIVES](#)




Exploring the Past with Sanborn Maps and Newspaper Navigator

January 12, 2021

Posted by: [Leah Weinryb-Grohsgal](#)

Share this post:



Walk the streets of any U.S. city today, and you might come across historic markers or masonry etchings indicating what the buildings used to be. It is always fascinating to learn what our neighborhoods, cities, and towns used to be —factories turned residences, street names changed, the places and spaces our predecessors lived, ate, and worked? The [Sanborn Maps Navigator](#) , a new tool created by a Library of Congress Junior Fellow Selena Qian, allows you to travel to familiar and far-off neighborhoods to explore the past.