



Database Guide:

ProQuest Sanborn Maps Geo Edition 1867 – 1970

ProQuest® Sanborn Maps Geo Edition™ (1867-1970) provides digital access to thousands of large-scale maps of American towns and cities, searchable by address and GPS coordinates.

Sanborn® fire insurance maps are the most frequently consulted maps in libraries. The maps chart the growth and development of thousands of American towns and cities across a century. Because of this scope, urban specialists, social historians, architects, geographers, genealogists, local historians, and others will find the maps a valuable tool.

ProQuest® Sanborn Maps Geo Edition™ allows for increased discovery and greater ease of use by making maps searchable by address and location. Examining temporal (time) changes is made even easier with tools that layer maps from different years on top of each other and over modern street, satellite, and hybrid layers via a Google™ map interface.

Content

Sanborn Maps Geo Edition contains a *Cities Collection*, featuring more than 75,000 maps drawn from major historical cities across the U.S.:

- California (CA): Los Angeles & Santa Clara counties
- Florida (FL): Dade County (*Includes: Miami & Miami Beach*)
- Illinois (IL): Cook, Du Page, & Lake counties (*Includes: Chicago, North Chicago, West Chicago*)
- Maryland (MD): Baltimore
- Massachusetts (MA): Suffolk county (*Includes: the greater Boston area*)
- Michigan (MI): Macomb and Wayne counties (*Includes: Detroit and East Detroit*)
- New Jersey (NJ): Essex and Hudson counties (*Includes: East Newark, Harrison, Newark, & Kearny*)
- New York (NY): Boroughs of the Bronx, Queens, and Richmond, and Kings county (*Includes: the greater New York City area*)
- North Carolina (NC): Mecklenburg county (*Includes: Charlotte*)
- Pennsylvania (PA): Philadelphia
- Virginia (VA): Richmond
- Washington (WA): King county (*Includes: Seattle*)
- Washington, D.C.* (*Includes: Washington Suburban*)

**Washington, D.C. is also available separate from the Cities Collection (available as the first state package)*

Home Page: Search, Browse and View Maps

Through collaborative partnership, ProQuest has developed proprietary software that greatly increases the ability to quickly and accurately match historical map data to present-day geographic data. By applying this technology to Sanborn Maps, the Geo Edition allows for increased discovery and greater ease of use. Search using modern address or geographic coordinates; and view maps individually or built layers on top of each other from different years and over modern street, satellite, and hybrid views.

Maps can be downloaded as a large scale JPEG or as a GeoTIFF, which embeds the GIS information directly into the image file. When imported into GIS software, GeoTIFFs correctly overlay with other spatial data.



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Search by Address or Latitude/Longitude: Use this to search by address, landmark name, or set of latitude/longitude coordinates. Clicking on this link will redirect to the Search Tab.

A. Address Search

- a. **Enter a street address** located in one of the available cities: (e.g. 400 North Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles, CA)
- b. **Results** will appear allowing for selection of an individual map sheet or a set of map sheets. Using the checkboxes, mark the maps for viewing and click the “View Maps” button.”
- c. The **map viewer** will load a Google Street View map indicating the specified location in the center of the page as the base layer map and the maps selected in the previous screen as overlay maps. Here the user may zoom in/out or drag to reposition the Google map.
- d. To the right the **Map Overlay** options allow the user to:
 - i. Change the Base Layer View: Google Street View, Google Satellite, Google Hybrid
 - ii. Select Historical Map(s) to be overlaid
 1. The map(s) of choice will appear as white squares oriented to fit the current Google map view.
 2. Use map viewer Zoom for a closer view of historical map overlay in context.
 - iii. Map-specific tools for Overlay maps
 1. **Zoom Map:** Launches only the historical Sanborn map for expanded viewing, printing, zooming, cropping, and saving options.
 2. **Add to MyNotebook** (📌): Marks the map, adding it to a list of marked maps, search history, and notes for emailing or printing prior the end of the session.
 3. **View Atlas** (📖): Provides linked images to all of the Sanborn maps included in that series volume for the city and state.
 4. **View Sanborn Legend** (🔑): Launches a new window/tab to view the Sanborn Legend page to serve as a key to the historical maps marks, indicators, and notations.
 5. **Transparency Slider:** Decrease the transparency of the overlay maps to better see the maps in relation to one another. Increase the transparency to view the entire Sanborn map image placed in context over the Goggle map. The default is 100%.

B. Latitude and Longitude* coordinates (in degrees)

- a. **Lat.:** 38.90531943278526 **Long.:** 77.037699222565

**Note that because the cities included in the resource are in the U.S., the system assumes that any Longitudinal coordinate will be a negative coordinate (i.e., -77.037699222565), thus the negative symbol „-“ need not be entered into the search field.*

- b. **Results** will appear allowing for selection of an individual map sheet or a set of map sheets. Using the checkboxes, mark the maps for viewing and click the “View Maps” button.”
- c. Follow directions and instructions regarding viewing, tools, etc. from Section A above.

Browse to a location: Use this to browse by modern geographic locations using modern Google maps. Clicking on this link will redirect to the Browse Tab.

To access the **Browse** options, select either the “*Browse to a location*” link on the home page or select the *Browse tab* at the top of the page. Both items will redirect the page to display a list of available cities. Click the city name of interest to be taken to the current Google map view of the city. Click within the map to zoom, use the plus/minus buttons to zoom, or click on the map and hold to drag the map. Drag and drop the red marker on the Google map to shift the map and set a new location. This will initiate a new search for related Sanborn maps and thus refresh the list below the map viewer.

Example: You have family ties to the historic Park Central Hotel on Ocean Drive in Miami Beach, Florida and you would like to see the historic maps juxtaposed with the current:

- a. Select a city (e.g., Miami Beach, FL) from the list to the left.
- b. Move the map to the area of interest (*Click and Drag*), then Zoom (*e.g., drag the map to view Ocean Drive near southern tip of the island*).
- c. Click on an intersection, street, or neighborhood of interest (*e.g., Click on Ocean Drive between 6th Street and 7th Street*).
- d. Scroll down the page to view the list of related available Sanborn map(s) available for overlay or expanded view found beneath the map viewer.
- e. If a map or maps are found, checkmark the item(s) you wish to overlay.
- f. Click “*View Maps*” button. The page will refresh with the related map(s) in the toolbar to the right (*e.g., the third item in the list for the map “Miami Beach 1921-1947 Reprinted 1948”*).
- g. Zoom in to see the details of the overlay. Adjust the transparency to view the current map with the historic and locate the Park Central Hotel three buildings south of 7th Street.

View a list of available locations: Use this to view a list of atlases available by state, county, and city. This list is based on your institution's access agreements with ProQuest.

This page will display a drop-down menu box from which a state should be selected. Once the state selection has been made, a drop-down menu box with available counties will appear. Select the county of interest. Some counties also include specific cities; if available a third drop-down menu box will appear.

After the selection process is complete, a text list of all available maps will appear. These names are not clickable, merely informative.

About ProQuest® Sanborn Maps Geo Edition™: Use this to learn more about the scope of the collection. To view a Product Tour or FAQ's, visit the [Help](#) section.

The About page provides details regarding the Sanborn maps, the scope of this resource, and the terms and conditions of use.

Search Tab

The Search Tab offers two options for exploring the available maps:

1. Address Search
2. Latitude / Longitude

See the above Home Page section for sample searches.

Browse Tab

The **Browse** page offers a list of specific cities on the left side of the page. Select the city of interest by clicking the link (i.e., North Chicago, IL). This will launch the Google map viewer and provide a link below to view the available Sanborn atlases that correspond with the selected city.

The user may:

- A. Zoom in on a specific area within the map viewer. Below the viewer the available maps will display. If no maps are available, drag and drop the red marker to another area of the viewer. Marking the corresponding Sanborn map of interest will overlay the map into the map viewer. (See above Home Page section for more detail)
- B. Historic Map Viewer – If the user selects to view only a historic map, the viewer will present somewhat differently than the overlay options available when viewing Google maps with historic maps. For example, the user Browses for North Chicago, IL maps, selects the *North Chicago Oct. 1929, Illinois* map set, and chooses to view Map 00020:
 - a. Seven tabs appear at the top of the viewer
 - i. Map Key – Will launch a separate window with the Map Key for viewing.
 - ii. Add Notes – Will open a free-text box directly beneath the tab so that the user can add their own notes, which can be saved to MyNotebook.
 - iii. Add to MyNotebook – Click to add the map to MyNotebook. The tab title will grey itself out once the item has been added.
 - iv. Email – Will open a small box in which a single email address can be entered. Press „Send’ to distribute the email. The email will contain a link to the map, but the user must be able to authenticate (login or proxy) to the library’s site to access and view the map image.
 - v. Crop – Clicking this tab will refresh the page to the crop tool, allowing the user to select the particular portion of the map they wish to crop. Once selected, click the „Crop Image’ button. The cropped section will then be displayed and may then be printed or saved as a JPEG.
 - vi. Print – Clicking this tab will: 1) open a new window or tab in the browser, 2) display the map in the window with watermarks, and 3) instigate the Print functionality of the printer attached to the computer in use.
 - vii. Save JPEG – Will open a small window with details about the file and offer a „Download JPEG’ button (including file size) and a „Cancel’ button to close the window.
 - viii. Save GeoTIFF – Will open a small window with details about the file and offer a „Download GeoTIFF’ button (including file size) and a „Cancel’ button to close the window. [GeoTIFF’s are larger, more detailed files and may take a while to download. Also, viewing GeoTIFF’s requires access to third-party software that ProQuest does not provide access to or support.]

MyNotebook Tab

MyNotebook provides three sections of information for the user:

1. My Searches – Searches conducted during the current session
2. My Map Notes – Any notes made in the map or image viewer for specific maps
3. My Maps – Maps added to MyNotebook. Maps can be bookmarked and viewed here, as can a list of Viewed Maps (click the Viewed Maps link in the top right corner of this frame).



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Above the My Map Notes frame, the **Email** and **Print** options can be found. The user must email or print this information prior to exiting the session because this information will not be retrievable at the next log in.

Help Tab

The **Help** page will provide information about the ProQuest Sanborn Maps Geo Edition product, a step-by-step **Product Tour** (also linked here: <http://sanborn1.proquest.com/loginredir.php>), and the **Frequently Asked Questions** section (also linked here: <http://sanborn1.proquest.com/help.php#faq>).

Dates & Notes

As cities expanded, the Sanborn Company created new maps to document changes and update their records. The dates listed for each city tell you when new versions were created. The Sanborn Company reached a peak in production during the 1930s and reduced its efforts to isolated revisions in the 1960s.


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. Pasted corrections are not always visible in the images.

Map Legend

The original Sanborn maps were very highly detailed, color maps. The maps are presented here as black and white digital geo-referenced images (based on JPEGs from the traditional Sanborn Maps collection), thus the Sanborn Map Legend created specifically for the black and white maps is a vital resource to understanding and interpreting the maps symbols and notations:

<http://sanborn1.proquest.com/mapkey.php>.

In the Geo Edition the Sanborn Legend is accessible anytime via the Key symbol  or Map Key tab.

Where to find help

Search our Support Center:

<http://www.proquest.com/en-US/support/>

To access product help and training documentation:

<http://www.proquest.com/go/training>

<http://www.proquest.co.uk/go/training>

By phone

In North America: 800-889-3358

Outside North America: 0880 220 710 (UK only)
+44 1223 271 496 (Outside of UK)