

*"Facts discovered could not be conveyed to the public without maps . . ."*

John Wesley Powell  
USGS Director 1881 - 94

The National Geospatial Program is scanning all scales and all editions of approximately 200,000 topographic maps published by the USGS since the inception of the topographic mapping program in 1884. This scanning will provide a comprehensive digital archive of USGS topographic maps, available to the public at no cost. For more than 125 years, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps have accurately portrayed the complex geography of the Nation. The USGS is the nation's largest producer of printed topographic maps, and, prior to 2006, USGS topographic maps were created using traditional cartographic methods and printed using the lithographic printing process.

As physical and cultural features change over time, maps are updated, revised and new editions printed. While out of date, these historic maps are often useful to scientists, historians, environmentalists, genealogists and others researching a particular geographic location or area. A series of maps of the same area published over a period of time can show how an area looked as early as 1884 before current development and provide a detailed view of changes over time.

GeoPDF files will be accessible using all browsers for downloading at the USGS Store web site, <http://store.usgs.gov>.



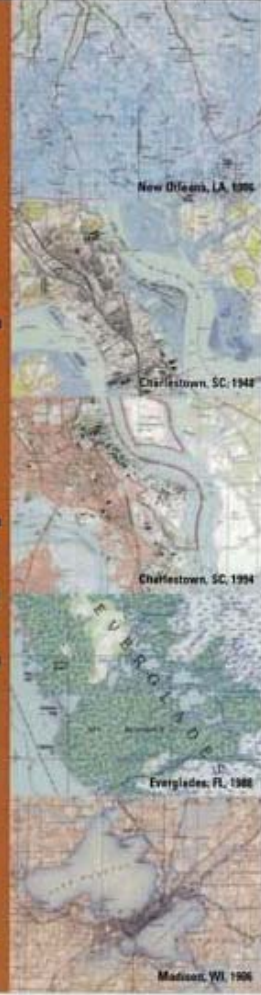
For information regarding the Historical Topographic Map Collection go to <http://nationalmap.gov/historical>



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