

Get Started with...

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps



The Sanborn Maps were originally created for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the United States. Our collection includes over 40,000 detailed maps of Ohio cities drawn between 1882 and 1962. Each map includes detailed information regarding town and building information. Although these maps were originally published in color, our collection is digitized from microfilm and is in black and white.

You can use this collection to:

- Locate the residences and workplaces of ancestors.
- Understand the significance and historical evolution of buildings.
- See what your town looked like in the past and how it has changed over time.



1. To begin, go to OhioWebLibrary.org.
2. Click on the arrow beside the word Genealogy:
3. Click on the words "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps."

> Genealogy

The screenshot shows the Ohio Web Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ohio Web Library logo and the text "OHIO WEB LIBRARY". Below this, the page title "Sanborn Insurance Maps" is displayed. A search box is present with the prompt "Enter a city name:". To the right of the search box, a red box contains the text: "Begin by typing a city or town's name into this box. Then, hit the Enter key." Below the search box, there is a paragraph of text: "Over 40,000 detailed maps of Ohio cities drawn between 1882 and 1962." Another paragraph follows: "General descriptions of the Sanborn Maps are available from [Wikipedia](#) and [Sanborn](#)." A third paragraph states: "More detail on using the maps is available from the [Library of Congress](#). Note, however, that the maps in our digital collection were produced from microfilm and are black and white only." A red box points to the "Library of Congress" link with the text: "For important details about the maps, including a key to various symbols, click on this link from the Library of Congress." On the right side of the page, there is a large, ornate graphic that reads "SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS OF OHIO 1882 - 1962". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: "Identified as Statewide Access for Ohioans - Retrieve Usage Stats © 2013-2016 Ohio Public Library Information Network. All rights reserved."

Here are sample search results. To view a map, click its title.



86 images found

[May 1885 - sheet #1](#)

No metadata available

[May 1885 - sheet #2](#)

No metadata available

[May 1885 - sheet #3](#)

Sanborn Insurance Maps

City: Athens ✕

Select your time period:

[ALL DATE RANGES:](#)

[May 1885 \(3 maps\)](#)

[Nov 1890 \(4 maps\)](#)

[Sept 1895 \(6 maps\)](#)

[June 1900 \(7 maps\)](#)

[Apr 1907 \(11 maps\)](#)

[Mar 1914 \(16 maps\)](#)

[Dec 1923 \(19 maps\)](#)

[Dec 1923-Apr 1948 \(20 maps\)](#)

Filter selection by:

- Special
- Street Address
- Street Intersection
- Additions, Allotments, Subdivisions

You can limit your search results using these links.

Some maps lack a detailed description. When there's no description, the page reads "No metadata available". Instead, just click on the map's name to view it.

Athens Tannery; Rohrkass, A., & Co., Tannery;

Specials: Catholic Church; City Hall; Coleman House; Conservatory of Music; Kyle, J., & Son, Carriage Factory; Methodist Episcopal Church; Presbyterian Church; Warren Hotel

[Nov. 1890 - sheet #3](#)

Specials: Brown Hotel; County Court House; Herald Printing; Ohio University; Palmer Hotel

[Nov. 1890 - sheet #4](#)

Specials: Athens Gas & Electric Light Co; Athens Water Wheel & Machine Co; B. & O. S. W. R. R. Depot; Crippen Bros. & Co., Wagon Factory; Falloon, G., Planing Mill; Gatteau & Connett, Planing Mill; Pelets. C. H., Poultry, Eggs, &c; Public School; Smith House

Here's a map of Athens, Ohio in May 1885.

Many maps have multiple pages. You can jump to the next sheet using the "Next" link.

You can download and print this map using these links.

County: Athens Co.
City: Athens
Date: May 1885
Currently viewing image: 1 of 3
[Next](#)

Current sheet label: 1
Jump to sheet label:

[Print map from PDF](#)
[Download full image](#)
[Download current view](#)

Did you know?

The most common abbreviations on the maps are: "D" or "Dwg" for a dwelling, "F" for a flat or apartment, "S" for a store, "Sal" for a saloon.

Use these tools to move the map view, to zoom in and out, and to enlarge or shrink the view.

