

Historical Maps Collection

Historical Maps Collection

1500-2023



Title Statement

Historical Maps CollectionHistorical Maps Collection, 1500-2023 Maps.001

Author: John M. Jackson

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2025 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-08-07 07:01:56 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Maps.001

Unit Date

1500-2023

Language

English .

Abstract

A collection of maps depicting geographic features, transportation routes, geological composition, historical settlements, themes, property divisions, and political boundaries, ranging in geographic scope from local (Virginia Tech campus maps) to global (world maps).

Extent

45 Cubic Feet 13 flat file drawers

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

The copyright status of this collection is unknown. Copyright restrictions may apply. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

Reproduction or digitization of materials for personal or research use can be requested using our reproduction/digitization form: <http://bit.ly/scuareproduction>.

Reproduction or digitization of materials for publication or exhibit use can be requested using our publication/exhibition form: <http://bit.ly/scuapublication>.

Please contact Special Collections and University Archives (specref@vt.edu or 540-231-6308) if you need assistance with forms or to submit a completed form.

Conditions Governing Use

Some individual maps may not be reproduced, due to copyright restrictions.

Source of Acquisition

Individual maps and sets of maps within the Historical Maps Collection have been obtained by Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives through various gifts, purchases, and transfers.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Historical Maps Collection was completed in July, 2025.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [map title], [(Map-####) map identification number], Historical Maps Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Scope and Content

This collection contains maps that range in geographic scope from local (Virginia Tech campus maps) to global (world maps). Included are road and transportation maps, topographic maps, geological maps, historical maps, thematic maps, property maps, pictorial maps, and political boundary maps, among others. While the collection includes images dating as early as the 16th century, the older maps are represented in the collection only by reproductions. The earliest original map in the collection dates to 1787.

Keywords

Maps (documents)

World maps -- Early works to 1800 -- Facsimiles

United States -- Maps

Virginia -- Maps

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Battlefields Maps

Railroad -- Maps

Virginia, Southwest

Montgomery County (Va.)

Blacksburg (Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Historical Maps Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

General

This guide describes the Historical Maps Collection's contents only at the subject and folder levels. Individual maps within the collection may be located by searching for specific titles (e.g., "Settlement Map of Pulaski County Virginia" (with quotes)) or by subject (e.g., "Pulaski County maps" (without quotes)).

Arrangement

The collection is organized primarily by geographic scope, ranging from Virginia Tech campus maps to world

maps. Exceptions to this arrangement include railroad and American Civil War maps, which are positioned at the front of the collection. Individual categories of maps are arranged either alphabetically or chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Railroads (company-specific)

map-case: drawer: folder A-1

Scope and Contents

Route maps of specific railways (e.g., Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio Railroad).

Railroads (location-specific)

map-case: drawer: folder A-2

Scope and Contents

Maps of multiple rail lines within a specific state or region (e.g., Railroad Map of Pennsylvania).

American Civil War (Virginia)

Scope and Contents

Maps of American Civil War battles and campaigns specific to Virginia, including both wartime maps and postbellum interpretive maps. Additional maps may be found with the American Civil War U. S. Coast Survey and Regional Maps and the American Civil War Atlas Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1861-1899

map-case: drawer: folder A-3

Unit Date 1900-1959

map-case: drawer: folder A-4

Unit Date 1960-present, n.d.

map-case: drawer: folder A-5

American Civil War (other states)

Scope and Contents

Maps of American Civil War battles and campaigns outside Virginia, including both wartime maps and postbellum interpretive maps.

Arrangement

Arranged by state name (e.g., Gettysburg battlefield maps are filed under P for Pennsylvania).

A-L

map-case: drawer: folder A-6

M-Z

map-case: drawer: folder A-7

American Civil War U. S. Coast Survey and regional maps

map-case: drawer: folder A-8

Scope and Contents

A set of 20 wartime survey maps (reproductions) produced by the U. S. Coast Survey (accompanied by an index map of the U. S., showing the general locations of the individual surveys), together with other wartime maps depicting multi-state regions.

American Civil War atlas maps

Scope and Contents

An incomplete set of maps extracted from a copy of the Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the

Union and Confederate Armies (sometimes referred to as the War of the Rebellion Atlas).

Arrangement

Arranged by plate number.

Plates 4-36

map-case: drawer: folder B-1

Plates 38-63

map-case: drawer: folder B-2

Plates 65-101

map-case: drawer: folder B-3

Plates 102-135A

map-case: drawer: folder B-4

Plates 135B-171

map-case: drawer: folder B-5

American Civil War Confederate engineers' maps

Scope and Contents

Maps (reproductions) of Virginia counties (and a few wider regions, such as the Lower Shenandoah Valley and South Side of James River), surveyed by Confederate engineers during the American Civil War. For a complete contents list, see the finding aid for [Map 0724](#).

Arrangement

Arranged by map number in a general alphabetical order.

Maps 1-14

map-case: drawer: folder C-1

Maps 15-30

map-case: drawer: folder C-2

Maps 31-46

map-case: drawer: folder C-3

Maps 47-62

map-case: drawer: folder C-4

Maps 63-78

map-case: drawer: folder C-5

Maps 79-94

map-case: drawer: folder C-6

Virginia Tech campus

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1881-1929

map-case: drawer: folder D-1

Unit Date 1930-1939
map-case: drawer: folder D-2
Unit Date 1940-1959
map-case: drawer: folder D-3
Unit Date 1960-1979
map-case: drawer: folder D-4
Unit Date 1980-present, n.d.
map-case: drawer: folder D-5

Blacksburg, Virginia

Scope and Contents

Maps of Blacksburg and portions thereof, including lands of individual property owners. Some maps include surrounding areas of Montgomery County; others include maps of Christiansburg and Radford. Additional Blacksburg maps may be found on maps depicting the Virginia Tech campus and Montgomery County. Blacksburg topographic quadrangle maps are filed with the Topographic Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1910-1929
map-case: drawer: folder D-6
Unit Date 1930-1959
map-case: drawer: folder D-7
Unit Date 1960-1969
map-case: drawer: folder D-8
Unit Date 1970-1979
map-case: drawer: folder D-9
Unit Date 1980-1986
map-case: drawer: folder D-10
Unit Date 1987-present, n.d.
map-case: drawer: folder D-11

Christiansburg, Virginia

map-case: drawer: folder E-1

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting streets and properties of Christiansburg, Virginia. Additional Christiansburg maps may be found on maps depicting Blacksburg and Montgomery County. Christiansburg topographic quadrangle maps are filed with the Topographic Maps.

Radford, Virginia

map-case: drawer: folder E-2

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting streets and properties of Radford, Virginia. Additional Radford maps may be found on maps depicting Blacksburg and Montgomery County. Christiansburg topographic quadrangle maps are filed with the Topographic Maps.

Montgomery County, Virginia

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting the county as a whole, as well as specific locations within the county. Additional maps depicting Montgomery County may be found with the Southwest Virginia maps; additional maps of areas within the county may be found among the Topographic Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically

Unit Date 1865-1937
map-case: drawer: folder E-3

Unit Date 1938
map-case: drawer: folder E-4
Unit Date 1939-1977
map-case: drawer: folder E-5
Unit Date 1978
map-case: drawer: folder E-6
Unit Date 1979-present, n.d.
map-case: drawer: folder E-7

Southwest Virginia

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting the region generally encompassed by Lee County in the west and Craig, Roanoke, Franklin, and Henry counties in the east. Also included are two Appalachian Trail maps that, while outside this area, belong to a related set. Maps of areas within this region may also be found among the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Topographic Maps, Virginia Cities and Towns, Virginia Counties, and Virginia State Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1807-1899
map-case: drawer: folder E-8
Unit Date 1900-present, n.d.
map-case: drawer: folder E-9

Topographic maps

Scope and Contents

Topographic quadrangle maps depicting locations within Virginia only.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by quadrangle title. Virginia state index maps are filed at the beginning of the series.

A quadrangles and Virginia state index maps

map-case: drawer: folder F-1

B quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-2

C-E quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-3

F-H quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-4

I-L quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-5

M-N quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-6

O-Q quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-7

R quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-8

S-T quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-9

U-Z quadrangles

map-case: drawer: folder F-10

Virginia cities and towns

Scope and Contents

Maps of Virginia independent cities, towns, and other localities, excluding Montgomery County and Radford. Includes a set of 41 maps relating to Mount Vernon.

Arrangement

Arranged by name of locality.

A-Mn

map-case: drawer: folder G-1

Mo

map-case: drawer: folder G-2-3

Mp-O

map-case: drawer: folder G-4

P-Q

map-case: drawer: folder G-5

R

map-case: drawer: folder G-6

S-Z

map-case: drawer: folder G-7

Virginia counties

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting individual counties or portions thereof, excluding Montgomery County.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by county name.

A-B

map-case: drawer: folder H-1

C-F

map-case: drawer: folder H-2

G-L

map-case: drawer: folder H-3

M-Q

map-case: drawer: folder H-4

Ra-Roa

map-case: drawer: folder H-5

Rob-Rz

map-case: drawer: folder H-6

S-Z

map-case: drawer: folder H-7

Virginia regional maps

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting two or more counties within Virginia, excluding areas within the Southwest Virginia region.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by map title.

A-M

map-case: drawer: folder H-8

N-Z

map-case: drawer: folder H-9

Virginia state maps

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole, sometimes including adjacent areas of neighboring states. Also included are three maps dated between 1874 and 1880 that depict Virginia and West Virginia together. Additional maps depicting the entire Commonwealth of Virginia may be found within the Mid-Atlantic Region maps and the Eastern United States maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1794-1859

map-case: drawer: folder I-1

Unit Date 1860-1930

map-case: drawer: folder I-2

Unit Date 1931-present, n.d.

map-case: drawer: folder I-3

Non-Virginia states/cities

Scope and Contents

Maps of U. S. cities and states outside Virginia. State maps may also be found among the Mid-Atlantic Region maps and the Eastern United States maps.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by name of state (e.g., Atlanta is filed under G, for Georgia). Washington, D.C. is filed under D, District of Columbia.

A-C

map-case: drawer: folder J-1

D

map-case: drawer: folder J-2-3

E-K

map-case: drawer: folder J-4

L-M

map-case: drawer: folder J-5

Na-New J

map-case: drawer: folder J-6

New K-Nz

map-case: drawer: folder J-7

O-V

map-case: drawer: folder J-8

W

map-case: drawer: folder J-9-10

Mid-Atlantic region

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting multiple states in the region generally encompassing Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, with adjacent areas of neighboring states. Related maps may be found with the Eastern United States maps. Three maps dated between 1874 and 1880 that depict Virginia and West Virginia together are filed with the Virginia State Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1590-1700

map-case: drawer: folder K-1

Unit Date 1701-1850

map-case: drawer: folder K-2

Unit Date 1851-present, n.d.

map-case: drawer: folder K-3

Eastern United States

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting multi-state U. S. regions east of the Mississippi River. Additional maps may be found with the Mid-Atlantic Region maps and non-Virginia States/Cities maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1607-1799

map-case: drawer: folder K-4

Unit Date 1800-1899

map-case: drawer: folder K-5

Unit Date 1900-present, n.d.

map-case: drawer: folder K-6

Other U. S. regions

map-case: drawer: folder K-7

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting U. S. multi-state regions that, in whole or largely, include areas west of the Mississippi River. Additional maps may be found with the Non-Virginia State/Cities maps.

National maps (U. S. and non-U.S.)

map-case: drawer: folder L-1

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting individual countries in their entirety. Additional maps may be found with maps of the Americas and maps of Africa-Eurasia-Oceania.

The Americas

map-case: drawer: folder L-2

Scope and Contents

Early maps (reproductions) depicting areas generally encompassed within the western hemisphere. Related maps may be found in the World Maps.

English counties

map-case: drawer: folder M-1

Scope and Contents

A set of maps (reproductions) published in 1648, depicting the historic counties of England, which sometimes differ in names and boundaries from the current administrative counties.

Africa-Eurasia-Oceania**Scope and Contents**

Maps depicting areas generally encompassed within the eastern hemisphere. Additional maps may be found with the World Maps.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Unit Date 1520-1699

map-case: drawer: folder M-2

Unit Date 1700-present, n.d.

map-case: drawer: folder M-3

World maps

map-case: drawer: folder M-4

Scope and Contents

Maps depicting the world's nations, regions, and continents as a whole.