

# LOCAL MAPS

FROM RECREATION TO REAL ESTATE,  
GENEALOGY TO GENERAL INTEREST

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County, city, district and real property maps  
for research and for exploration

Liz Paulus, Cedar Mill Community Libraries  
Oregon Reference Summit, Corvallis, 2018



# Do you ever get a question like...

- How old is my house?
- What was on that lot behind the school?
- I'm buying some property and want to know what road construction is planned in my area?

# County and City Map GIS: Key to Local Geography

Many counties and cities now have interactive map apps that incorporate more than just streets and tax lots

# County and City Map GIS: Key to Local Geography & Services

Many counties and cities now have interactive map apps that incorporate more than just streets and tax lots

Public libraries already use it to verify patron's service area for library cards

Check your address to find out what it says about you and your neighborhood....



# County and City Map GIS: Key to Local Geography & Services

Assessor's data is public data, and GIS makes it easy to see. PortlandMaps.com is one of the most robust in the state, and varied in its content. A random address has lots to use here... besides ownership, last purchase price, historical tax data, you can also find:

- Crime statistics
- Sewer maps
- Historical permits (scanned from originals)
- Survey plats, and more.

1637 SE ELLIOTT AVE  
PORTLAND, OR 97214



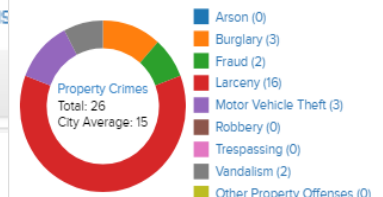
## PROPERTY

Year Built	1925
Description	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
Bathrooms	TWO FULL BATHS
Building Area	1,530 sq ft
Neighborhood	<a href="#">HOSFORD-ABERNETHY NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION</a>
Jurisdiction	<a href="#">Portland / Multnomah</a>
Zoning	<a href="#">R5 - Residential 5,000</a>
Elevation	80 ft (approximate)
Owner	FRE Public Safety
Owner Address	13 L HAN

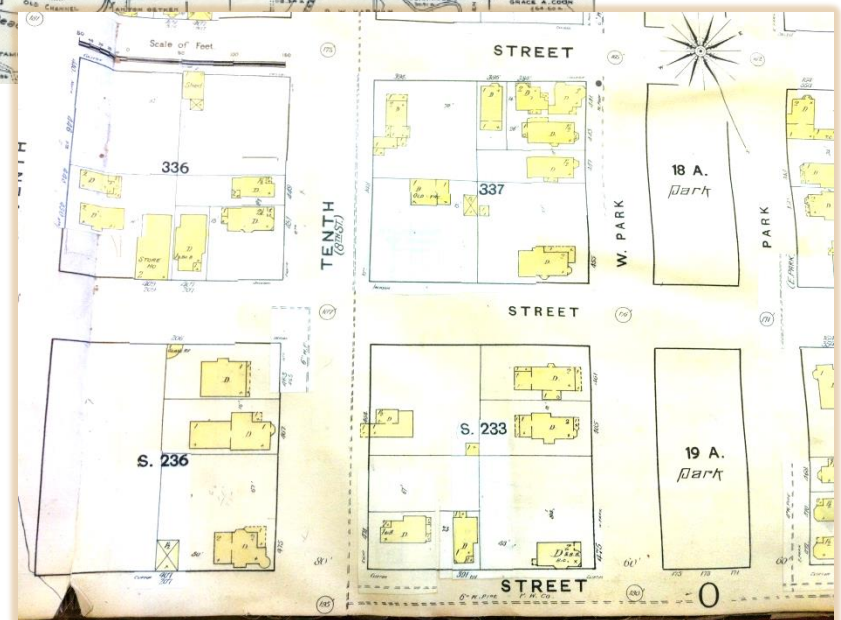
For more information about data contact Multnomah County Assessor at 503-988-3326 or [dartcs@multco.us](mailto:dartcs@multco.us)

Assessor

**Crime Statistics**  
To display crime data on the map click the crime category (person, property, or society) within the circle below



# Property Atlases: Sanborn, Metsker, and Others





# What are they?

Usually created by commercial entities for insurance or real estate purposes. They can show a number of features, including but not limited to

- For the state of Oregon two primary publishers of note are **Sanborn** Fire Insurance Atlases and **Metsker** Maps and Atlases

## FIND:

Building outlines

Ownership

Survey lines

Physical geography

Railways

building composition

Type of businesses

And much more...

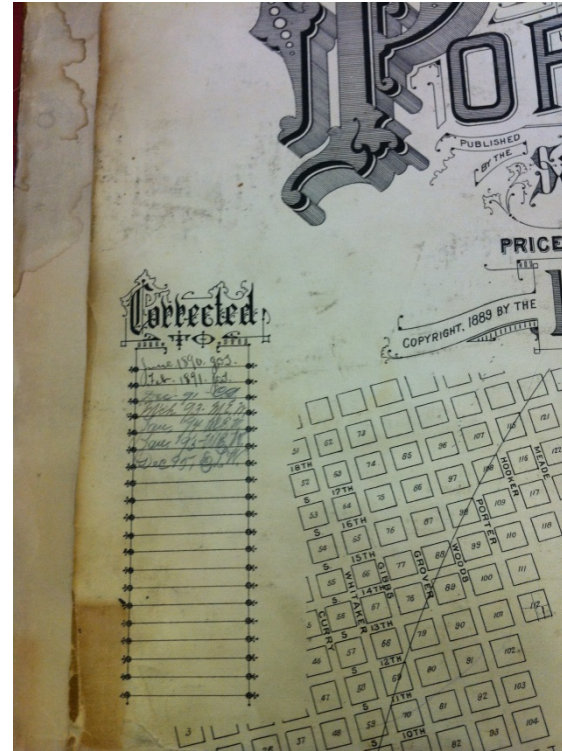
-- description courtesy of Oregon State  
University Special Collections &  
Archives





# Where to find them?

Many states (not Oregon) have some Sanborn atlases at the Library of Congress. Research libraries in Oregon have physical atlases, and some have access to the Digital Sanborn database by ProQuest. The latter is based on the black and white microfilm, even though the originals are rich in color elements. Historic Map Works has some sheets digitized as well.

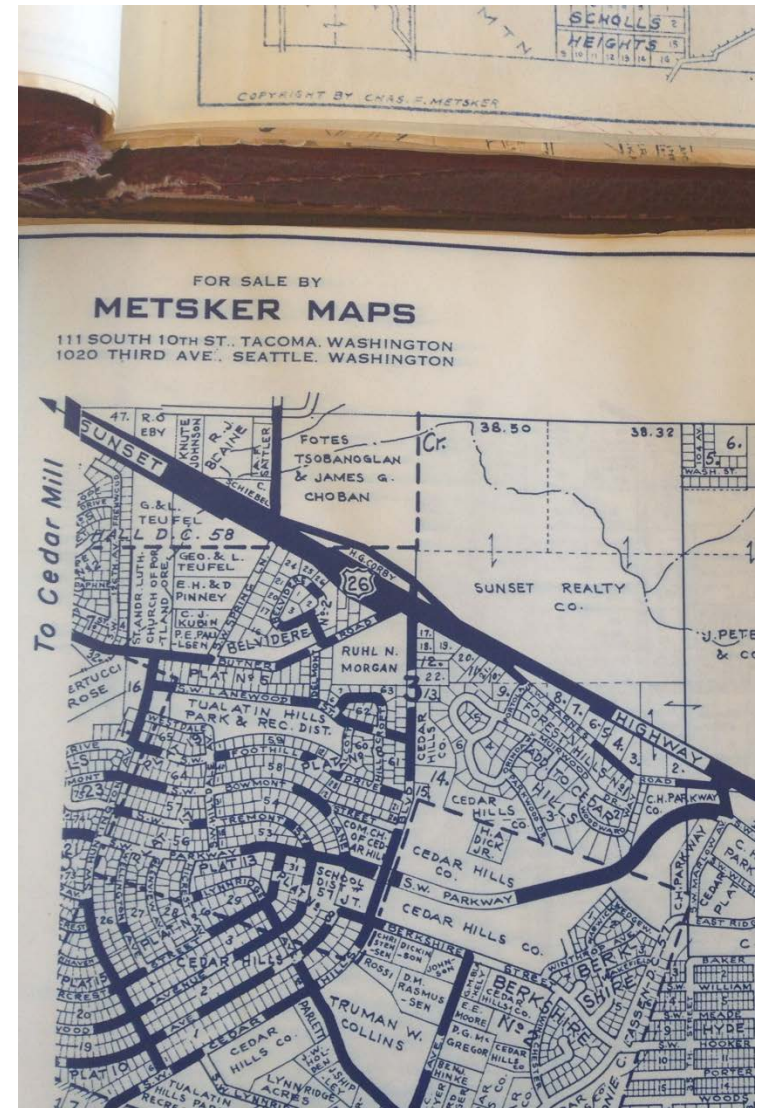


To learn more about Sanborn maps, see <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/> - including maps keys and legend descriptions

[http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/sanborn\\_union\\_list](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/sanborn_union_list)  
Portland area inventory by City of Portland Archives:  
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/146947>

# Metsker Atlases

For over a century, the Metsker family produced approximately 300 county atlases and 400 county wall maps of Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, and Northern California until they closed the business in the early 2000s. They provide a singular window into the 20<sup>th</sup> century built environment in the Pacific Northwest.

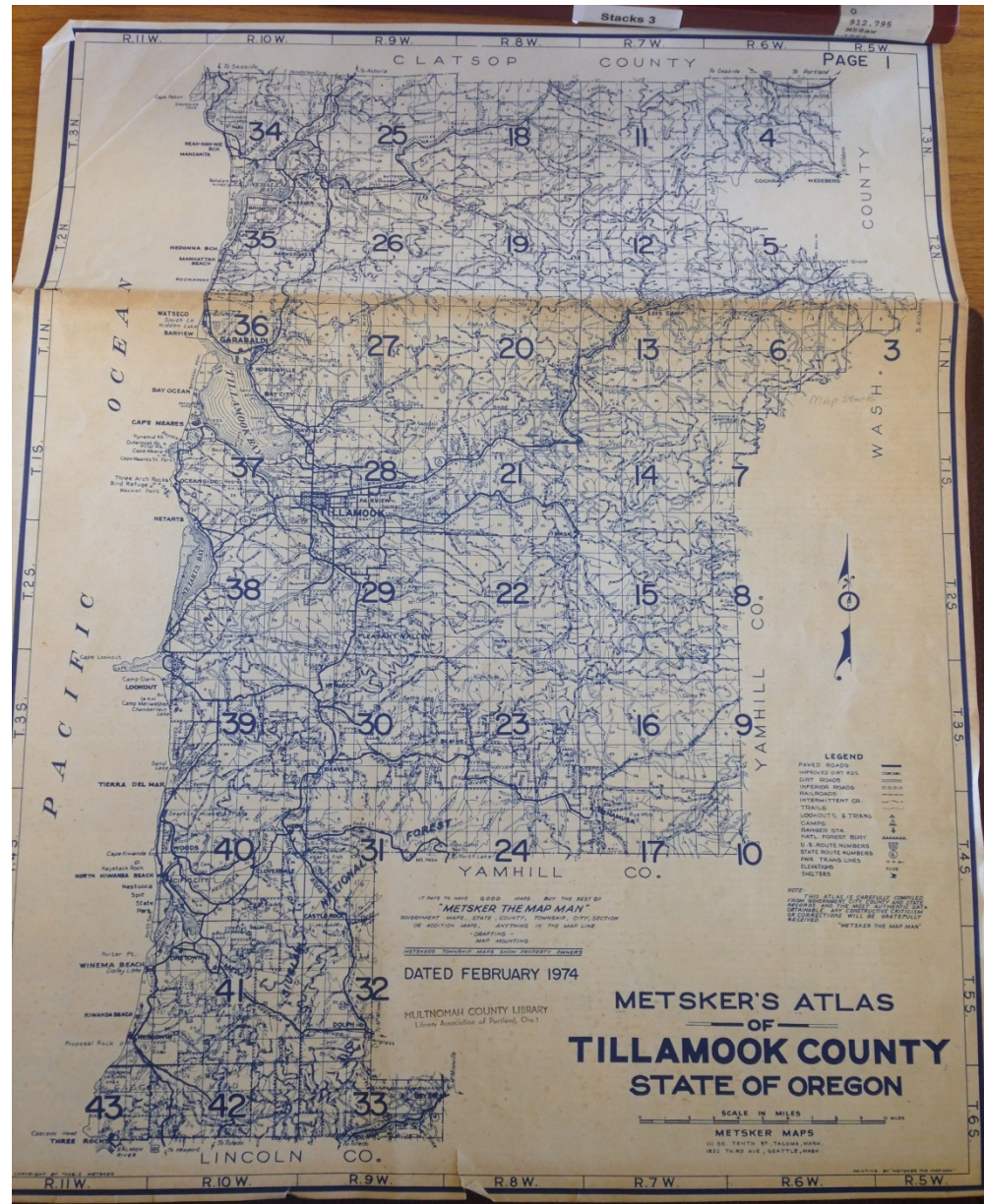




# How to use them?

Each atlas has an index page showing areas in a grid keyed to page numbers in the atlas. Other information that is helpful to have is the Township and Range of the location or street name you are interested in.

Atlases were produced in series (every few years) so that you can compare locations over time.





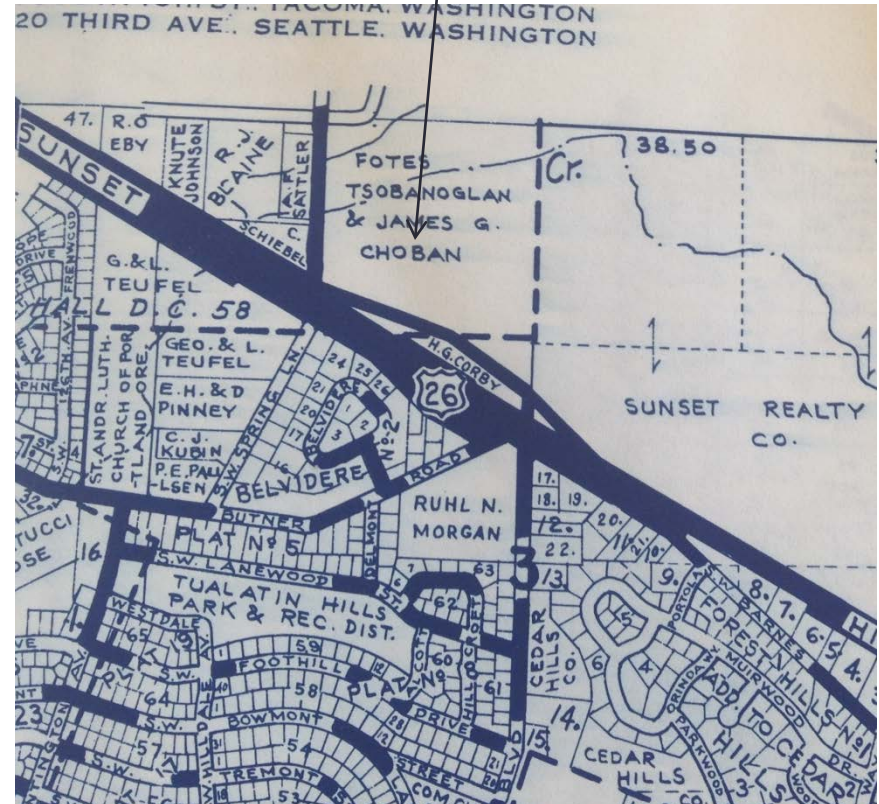
# Compare these two images

Very few names stay the same; but some things do – road alignments are surprisingly resilient in the face of change as seen in this section of Washington County.

1937



1964





# Where to find them?

In print:

U of O and Oregon State have significant collections, as well as Multnomah County, Oregon Historical Society, and historical societies and public libraries around the state may have locally-relevant volumes in their collections.

Online: Historic Map Works purchased the assets of Metsker Maps in 2010, and has digitized many relevant volumes. Research-grade copies of maps can be viewed and ordered in print from their site at <http://www.historicamapworks.com> (this site may not be visible to those in a .edu domain).

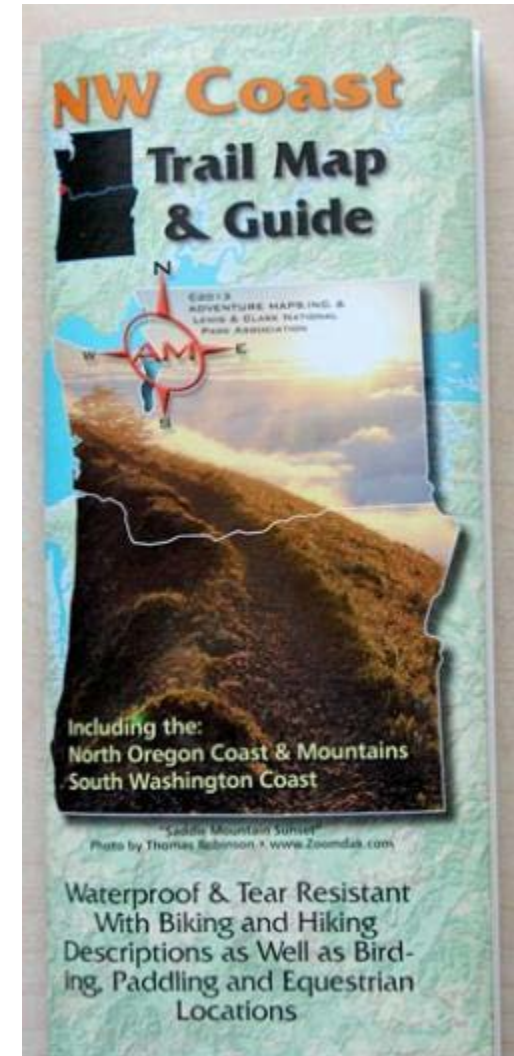
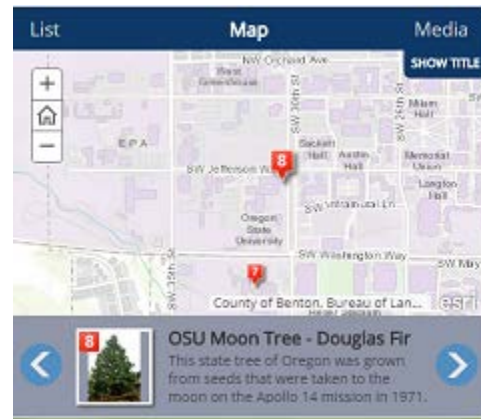


# Recreation and Culture

# Explore your City and County GIS and Maps Links

Who knew you could find...

Heritage  
Trees, “lost  
streams”  
maps, and  
beach trail  
guides?



<https://corvallisoregon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html>

<https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/parks/page/nw-coast-trail-map-guide>

## Other sources

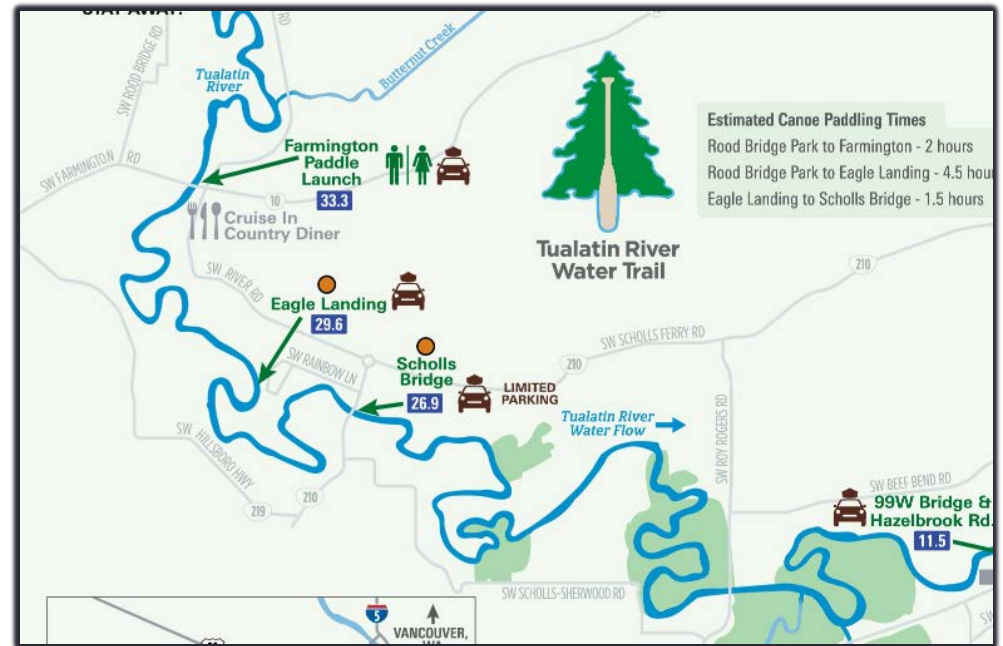
Sometimes the most useful local maps are made by businesses or nonprofits: Look around and see what your community has to offer!

- Chamber of Commerce
- Business and Tourist Associations
- Parks & Recreation Districts



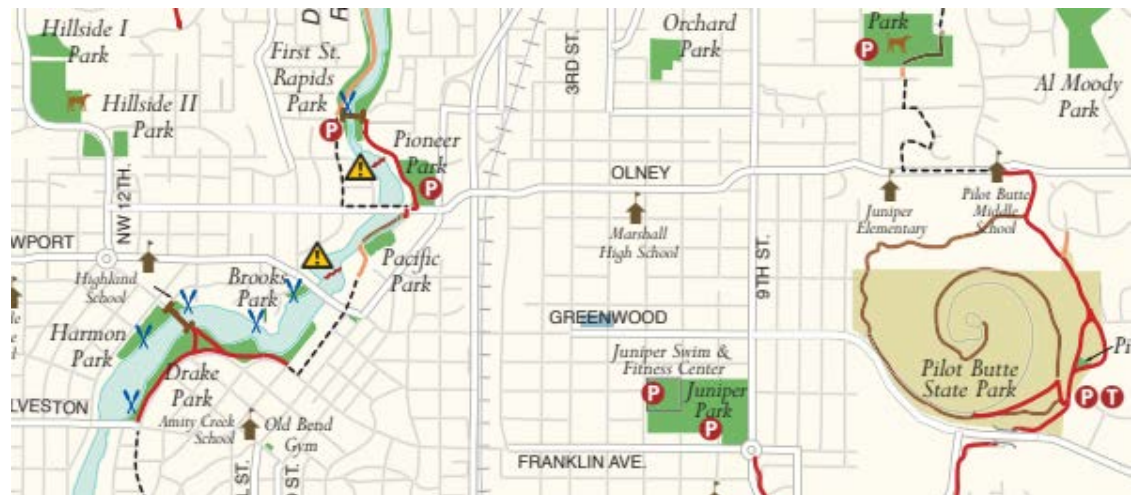
# Tualatin River Water Trail Map

(collaboration between nonprofit riverkeeper organization and Visitors Association)



# Bend Urban Trail System map

(Bend Parks and Recreation Dept.)



# Thanks!

- Maps are as local or as global as you want to be, whether in print or online.
- Enjoy exploring, and sharing with your patrons what you learned today, and we'll take your questions!
- Thanks for your time today and enjoy the conference!

Kathy Stroud, University Of Oregon

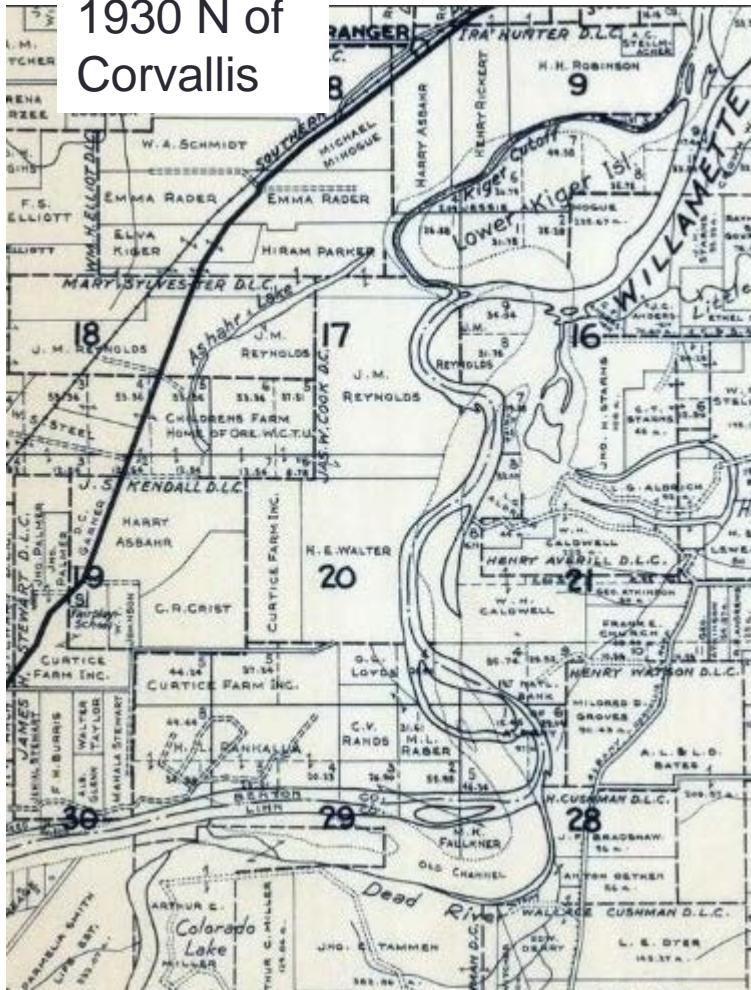
Jey Wann, State of Oregon Library

Liz Paulus Cedar Mill Community Libraries

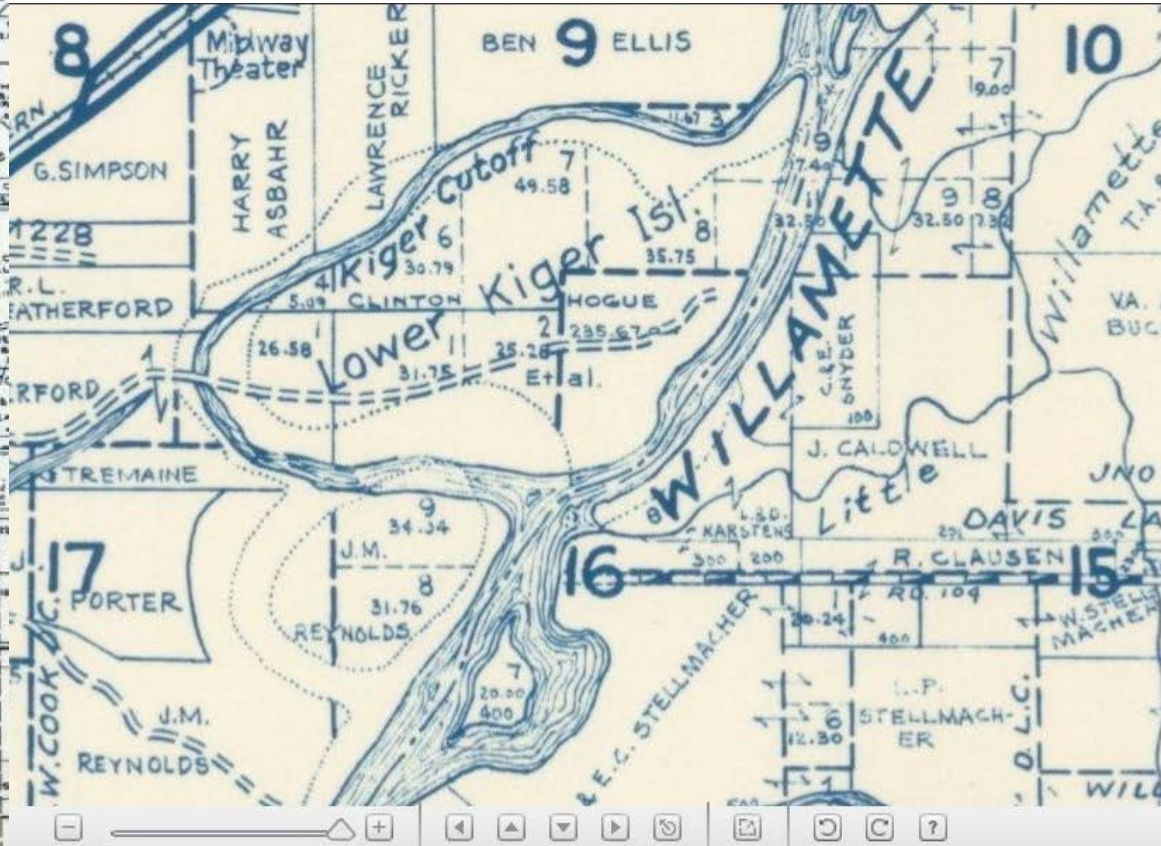
# Sample Reference Question

Show me an example of how boundary lines change over time.

1930 N of  
Corvallis



By 1967 county line has  
moved east of Kiger Island and  
the oxbow is just a ghost



# EXAMPLE OF SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE ATLAS

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Portland, Oregon 1889  
corrected to 1897

Held by the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon  
Photography by Liz Paulus



Insurance  
Map of  
**PORTLAND**  
OREGON

Sanborn & Sons Publishing Co.

117 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

PRICE 75 DOLLARS

1889

Corrected  
to 1889







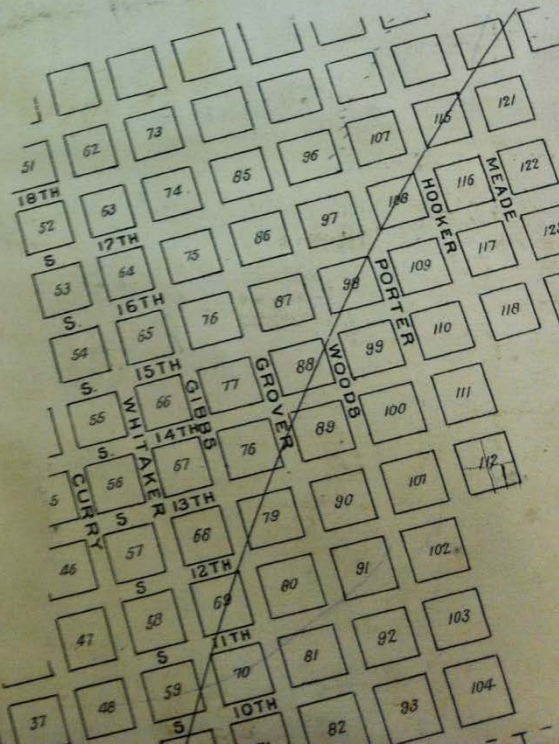
PUBLISHED  
BY THE

PRICE

COPYRIGHT, 1889 BY THE

**Corrected**

June 1890. 903.  
Feb. 1891. 903.  
Dec. 91. 903.  
Mar. 92. 915. 11.  
Apr. 1894. 116. 11.  
June 1895. 116. 11.  
Dec. 95. 116. 11.



# KEY

NUMBER OF STORIES 4	IRON BUILDING
SLATE OR TIN ROOF	BRICK BUILDING WITH METAL CORNICE
FRAME PARTITION COMPOSITION RT.	" " " WOODEN "
SHINGLE ROOF X	" " " STONE FRONT
	" " " FRAME SIDE
	BRICK SPECIAL
	" " WITH FRAME SIDE
HEIGHT OF BUILDING 42	FRAME BUILDING, NOT A SPECIAL
	FRAME SPECIAL.
BRICK WALL 1ST	WALL 1ST NO OPENINGS THROUGH IT.
BR. WALL 1ST	" " WITH OPENINGS
S = STORE	FIRE WALL 6 INCHES ABOVE ROOF
SKYLIGHT LIGHTING TOP STORY	" " 12 " " "
2 SKYLIGHT LIGHTING 2 STORIES	" " 18 " " "
3 SKYLIGHT LIGHTING 3 STORIES	" " 24 " " "
	OPENING IN DIVISION WALL
	" WITH IRON DOOR
	WINDOWS WITH IRON SHUTTERS
	WINDOW OPENING IN 1ST STORY
	" " " 2' " "
	" " " 2 & 3' " "
	" " " 2' & 4' " "
	STABLE
	HORIZONTAL STEAM BOILERS
UPR. 25 FT. VERTICAL	CHIMNEYS
BRICK IRON	HYDRANTS

COUNTING FROM LEFT  
TOWARD BUILDING  
DO NOT REPRESENT  
OPENING



UPR. 25 FT. VERTICAL

BRICK IRON

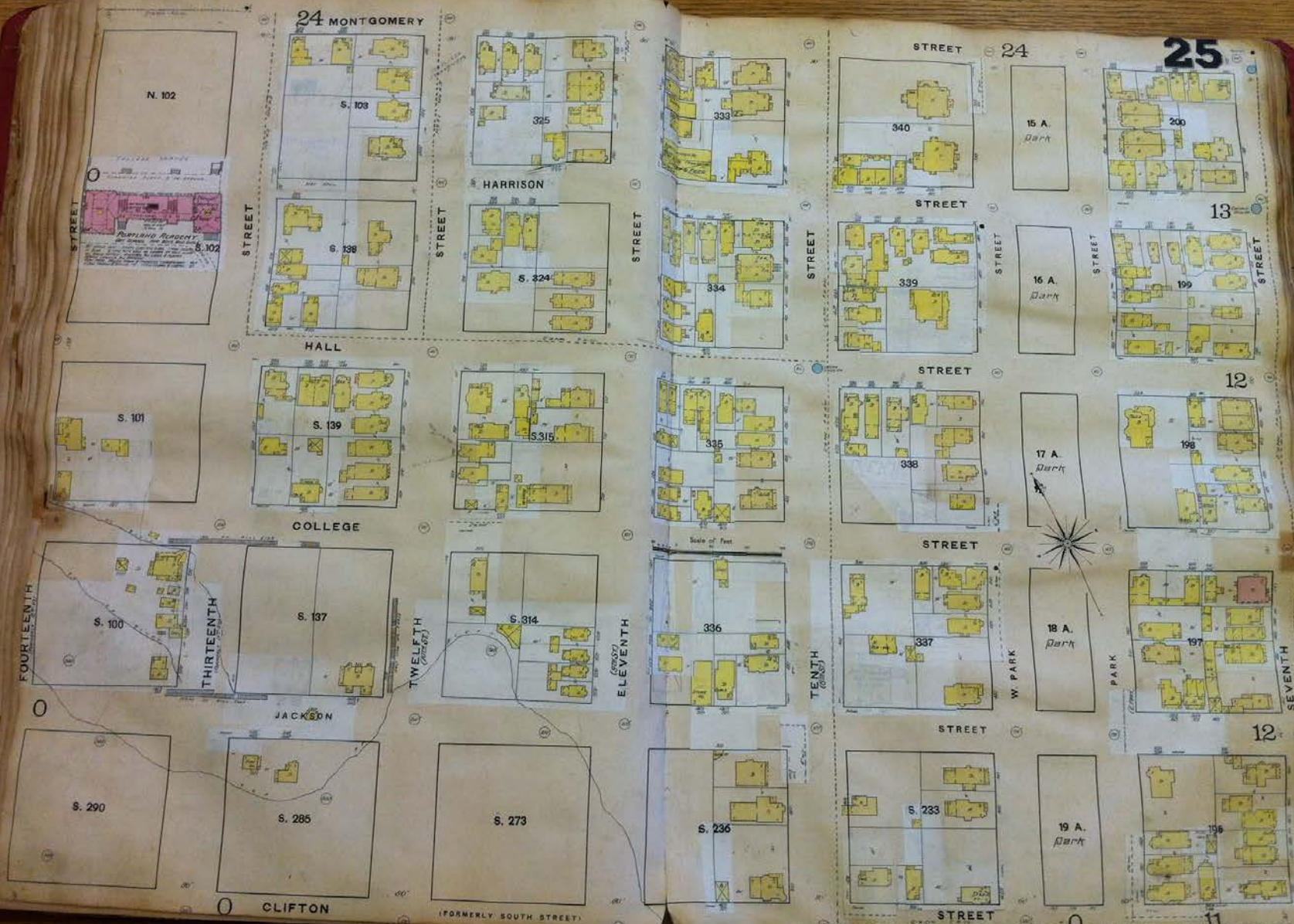
CHIMNEYS

HYDRANTS

26

REFERENCE TO ADJOINING SHEET.





FORMERLY SOUTH STREET







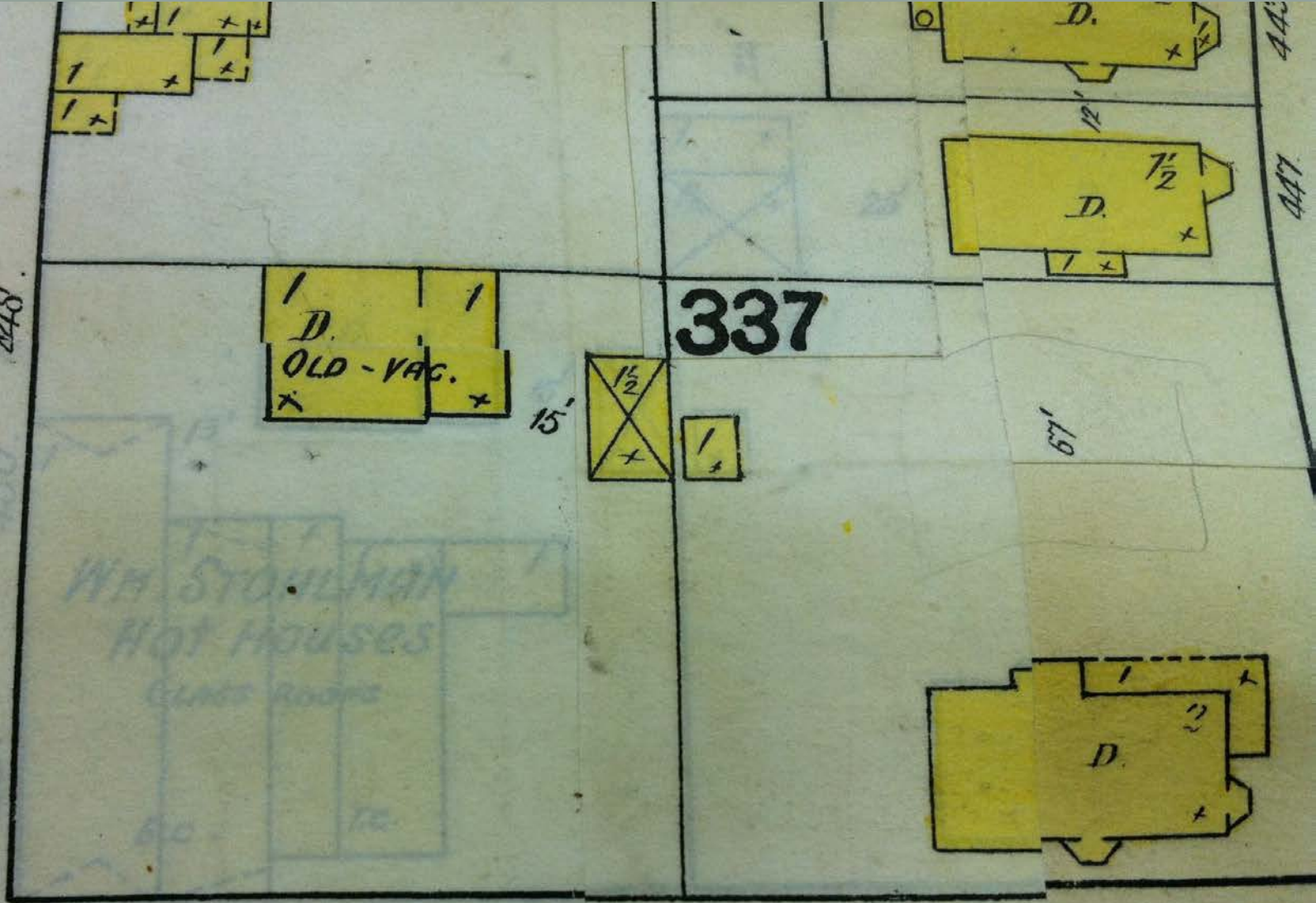
87

1874

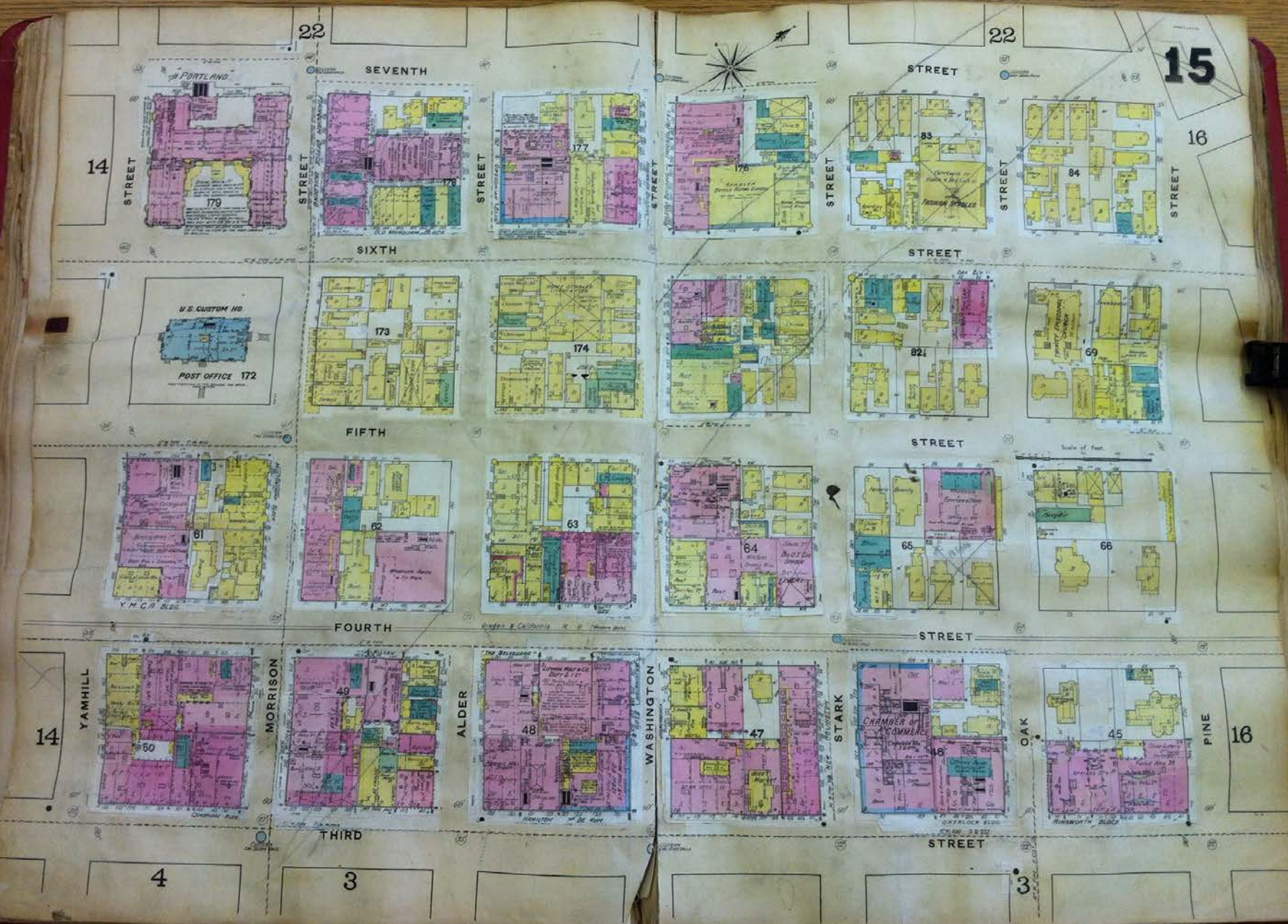
JACKSON.

337

STREET







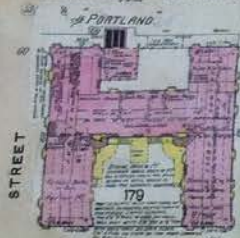
14

22

22

15

16



U.S. CUSTOM HS.

POST OFFICE 172

SEVENTH

SIXTH

FIFTH

FOURTH

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

YAMHILL

MORRISON

ALDER

WASHINGTON

STARK

OAK

PINE

14

4

3

3

16



WASHINGTON









