



SURVEYOR RESOURCES AT THE GLO

Resources Available on the GLO Website

Land Grant Search: The majority of our land grant records are scanned and available to download at no cost. Search by county and abstract number, or by grantee name. <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/index.cfm>

Map Store and Database: Our new Map Store gives you access to over 45,000 maps and sketches. See below for details about selecting map collections useful for surveyors. <https://historictexasmaps.com/>

GIS Land & Lease Mapping Viewer: An interactive mapping application that provides access to land and energy-related data at the GLO. Displays upland and submerged Original Texas Land Survey boundaries and provides quick access to files from the GLO Archives. <https://gisweb.glo.texas.gov/glomaps/index.html>

Survey Copy Order Form: Use this form to request copies of field notes, patents, and other documents. To access the form on our website, Click Heritage > Forms and Handouts > Archives and Records Survey order form. Save the form to your computer for easy access. <https://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/forms/files/AR-Survey-Order-Form.pdf>

Sketch Search Service: Indexes to sketch files, rolled sketches, and working sketches are online for you to search. If you want a GLO Staff member to perform a Sketch Search, please email archives@glo.texas.gov (research fees may apply)

Selected Map and Sketch Collections in the GLO Archives

Current County Maps: The current official county maps (Approximately 1917-present)

These are the maps to which updates are now added. Most of these compiled after the mid-1940s have abstract numbers on the surveys. Most are at a scale of 1" = 2000 varas.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:ocm>

Historical County Maps: Earliest GLO maps of the individual counties (Approximately 1839 to 1917)

Some of the earliest maps are by District or County Surveyors. Most are by GLO draftsmen. A few are privately issued lithographs by railroad companies and title companies. Some show small towns and railroad stops.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:county>

Sketch Files: Early sketches by surveyors; early office sketches; early and current surveyor's reports to accompany Rolled Sketches; letters; court decrees; etc. (1840s to present)

These sometimes show locations of early roads and towns and contain references to other cultural features.

Index URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/object/97348>

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:surveying-sketch-file>

Rolled Sketches: Sketches by surveyors including original surveys of areas, but mostly re-surveys incorporating original monuments as background to current monuments and surveying data (Mostly 1870s to present)

These sometimes contain references to cultural features such as fences, windmills, roads, and structures constructed after date of original survey. They are named "Rolled Sketches" because they were first stored rolled due to their size.

Index URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/object/97349>

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:surveying-rolled-sketch>

Working Sketches: A draftsman's interpretation of surveys compiled from field notes in the GLO files and other information (Mostly 1900s to present – earlier versions filed as Sketch Files)

Information for each survey is from the time it was surveyed or re-surveyed, plus other information as deemed pertinent by draftsman.

Index URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/keyword:index--ac-subject:surveying-working-sketch>

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:surveying-working-sketch>



SURVEYOR RESOURCES AT THE GLO

Selected Map and Sketch Collections (continued)

County Boundary Files: Descriptions and plats of county lines (1840s to present) Some contain cultural information such as roads, towns, notable landmarks, residences, and ranches. When searching this collection, also check adjacent counties. Also see volumes containing County and District descriptions.

Index URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/object/97544>

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:county-boundaries>

Atlas Sketches: Sketches of surveys by early surveyors, frequently along creeks and rivers (Mexican and Republic eras) These sometimes show roads and other cultural notations. Some surveys depicted that are no longer valid. Some surveys have assignee names rather than grantee names.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:atlas>

Railroad Alignment Maps: Railroad rights-of-way and alignment maps (Approximately 1880s to 1930s)

Most of these maps are long, ranging from 6 to 30 feet. Some show towns, railroad stops, depots, or profiles.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:railroads>

Town and City Maps: Maps of towns and cities from various sources (1839 to 1990s)

Relatively small collection of miscellaneous Texas town and city plats from various external resources from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as well as iconic early town plats for Austin and Galveston.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:city>

Colony Maps: Lithographs and manuscripts of early colonies (1820s to 1850s)

Includes Austin, Robertson, Milam, Mercer, Power & Hewetson, McMullen & McGloin, Fisher-Miller, and Peters Colony.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:colony>

District Maps: District maps showing the precursors to modern counties (1833 to 1880)

Includes Bexar, Bastrop, Fannin, Gonzales, Jack, Milam, Nacogdoches, Refugio, San Patricio, Travis, Victoria, and Young districts.

Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:district>

Public School Land and University Land Field Note Volumes: Many Public School Land (PSL) and University Land (UL) field notes at the GLO are bound together in large volumes

Field note volumes are organized by county and block. Volume Indexes are available online.

PSL Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:public-school-land>

UL Collection URL: <https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/search/ac-subject:university-land>

Get Connected

Tours of the GLO Archival Vault: A premiere site for historical exploration and research, the Land Office Archives welcomes survey professionals interested learning more about Texas land history. Available by appointment only. Due to space constraints, tours are limited to groups of 15 or fewer people.

Social Media: Save Texas History is active across several social media platforms, and we would love to connect with you! Follow us to stay up-to-date on what is going on with the Save Texas History Program.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTXHistory>

Check out our Blog on Medium: <https://medium.com/save-texas-history>

Watch us on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuVAJbsJWvGmjDlrACqaTNg>

For more information about surveyor resources at the GLO, to sign up for upcoming events, or to schedule a tour of the Archives, please email or call us: archives@glo.texas.gov (512) 463-5277