

Researching your building or town's history

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

by Elizabeth A. Moore

Maps photographed courtesy LSU Cartographic Information Center

In 1905, the Sanborn Map Company published a surveyors' field manual which read, "Our maps are made for the purpose of showing at a glance the character of the fire insurance risks of all buildings." Surveyors were urged to "master the technicalities" of their jobs, while also exercising the virtues of "the greatest accuracy and completeness." Indeed, the level of detail required to produce accurate insurance maps provides historical data which often cannot be collected from any other source.

The need for insurance cartography stemmed from an inability to inspect individual buildings, while the fact that most buildings were not constructed of fire-resistant materials demanded such information. Sanborn maps focus not only on main buildings, but also on dependencies, so that the complete evolution of a property can be traced. Many rural areas were never surveyed, however, leaving a gap in terms of the available information on many important properties, such as plantations.

History suggests that in 1785, Thomas Leventon produced the first fire insurance map to provide detailed information to the Phoenix Assurance Company about London's insured buildings. The first U.S. map of this kind was completed in 1790, when Edmund Petrie mapped Charleston for the Phoenix company.

The earliest American fire insurance company was located in Philadelphia in 1752, but until after the War of 1812, most insurance policies in the U.S. were underwritten by London companies. Later, small local companies captured most insurance policies, allowing on-site inspection of properties and limiting the need for insurance maps. After an 1835 New York City fire destroyed the solvency of most small U.S. insurance companies, the industry was reorganized to form larger com-

panies. The demand for insurance cartography increased as personal inspections became less feasible.

In 1850, George T. Hope of the Jefferson Insurance Company mapped New York City with the aid of British cartographer William Perris. The symbolism, format, and scale which Hope's supervising committee developed for use on this project remained largely unchanged for the next century.

Few cartographers worked in this field through the 1850s. Civil War restrictions also limited the number of cartographers, but later industrial and urban growth increased the need for such maps, and many small map companies were founded. Although early maps, like other printed materials, were engraved, an increased use of lithography allowed a greater volume of maps to be produced more quickly and less expensively.

In 1866, D.A. Sanborn of Massachusetts began working for the Aetna Insurance Company. Apparently, Sanborn soon recognized the favorable climate of the fledgling fire insurance map industry, which was growing as a result of western expansion and the increasing settlement of immigrants. The following year, he established his own company, the D.A. Sanborn National Insurance Diagram Bureau.

Although most other map companies failed, Sanborn's small company grew and continued to produce maps for over 100 years. After several name changes, the company became known as the Sanborn Map Company in 1902.

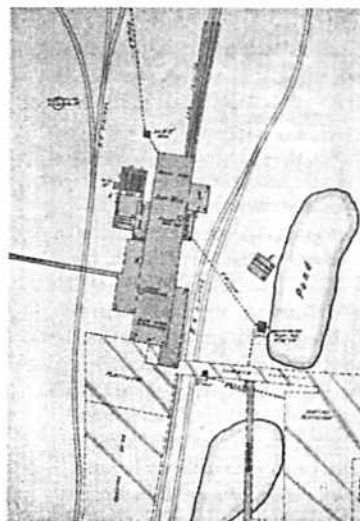
Despite D.A. Sanborn's death in 1883, his company achieved a near monopoly of its field by 1920, having acquired several other small map companies along the way. As the result of the construction boom of the mid-to-late 1920s, peak production for the Sanborn

Map Company occurred in the early 1930s, when the company employed over 700 field surveyors and office employees.

The use of Sanborn maps is regarded as a major element of the archival research necessary to complete the architectural history of any structure. These maps prove virtually invaluable to architectural and urban historians, who rely upon the detail required by this now antiquated discipline. Not only do the maps reveal buildings' construction methods and materials, but the review of a series of these maps can also identify the patterns of economic development in a city or town.

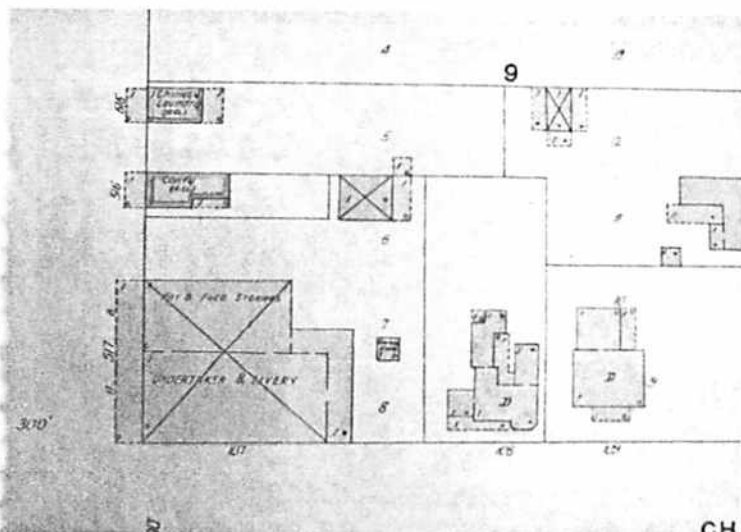
Fortunately, historians in Louisiana are endowed with over 8200 map sheets depicting 180 cities, towns, and parishes, dating as early as May 1885 (Baton Rouge and the Felicianas) and as late as January 1963 (Shreveport). This includes 3173 sheets of the city of New Orleans (including parts of Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes), dating from 1885 to 1951.

The most complete set of original Sanborn maps for Louisiana can be found at The Cartographic Information Center, LSU-Baton Rouge (504-388-6247). Of course, these rare maps are non-circulating, but researchers are welcome to use them on-site. If you live in a larger city or town, try your public or university library. For example, Sanborn maps for New Orleans are available at the New Orleans Public Library. The Louisiana State Library's microfilmed Sanborn maps can be retrieved by asking your local library to borrow them

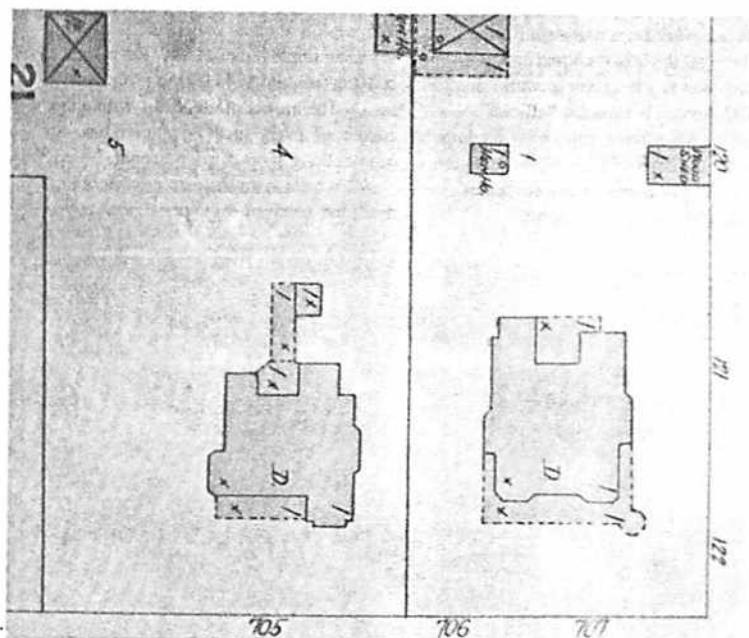


The Division of Historic Preservation constantly uses Sanborn maps to document historic buildings and towns. They are usually our single most important source for a town's economic history. Industries are shown and downtown commercial buildings are labeled as to use. The above is only a very small section of a much larger map depicting the complete layout of a sawmill complex.

through inter-library loan. Be sure to mention the town in question so that the proper reel can be requested.



Sanborn maps were done at yearly intervals for a particular city or town. The above excerpt from a 1921 map shows the interesting diversity in downtown Amite. The corner building is marked "undertaker & livery" on one side and "hay & feed storage" on the other. To the north is a confectionary shop and beyond that a Chinese laundry.



The majority of Sanborn maps are drawn on 21- by 25-inch sheets at a 1:50 scale (1:100 for smaller towns). Each map indicates building placement within city blocks and utilizes a system of colors and symbols to reveal the details of each building's construction. As shown above, most maps show the precise shape of buildings. One can tell that these two houses were in the Queen Anne Revival style because of the projecting bays and the turret-like projection on one's gallery. Note also the dependencies in the rear yards.

SANBORN MAP COMPANY
Fire Insurance Maps
Shreveport

1885

May, 1896

August, 1899

1909 updated to 1916

1924 updated to 1930

1935 updated to 1949 Vols. I, II, III (2 copies of Vol. II)

1940 updated to 1946

Sanborn Maps

<u>ROLL</u>	<u>CITY, PARISH</u>	<u>DATE</u>
19	Arcadia, Bienville Parish 2 lvs.	1925
17	Athens, Claiborne Parish	u.d.
17	Baucum Spur, Claiborne Parish	u.d.
15	Belmont, Sabine Parish	u.d.
18	Benson, DeSoto Parish	1925
2,16	Benton, Bossier Parish 3 lvs.	u.d.
19	Bienville, Bienville Parish	1925
1	Blanchard, Caddo Parish	u.d.
3	Bossier City, Bossier Parish 3 lvs.	u.d.
19	Bryceland, Bienville Parish	1925
17	Camp, Claiborne Parish	u.d.
1	Caspiana, Caddo Parish	u.d.
19	Castor, Bienville Parish	1925
1	Cecile, Caddo Parish	u.d.
4,13	Cotton Valley, Webster Parish 5 lvs.	1926,1946
15	Converse, Sabine Parish	1955
5	Cullen, Webster Parish 9 lvs.	1949
16	Curtis, Bossier Parish	u.d.
1	Dixie, Caddo Parish	u.d.
11	Dixie Inn, Webster Parish	u.d.
6,13	Doyline, Webster Parish 2 lvs.	1926

11,13	Dubberly, Webster Parish	1926
12	East Point, Red River Parish	u.d.
16	Elm Grove, Bossier Parish	u.d.
15	Fisher, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Florian, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Fort Jessup, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Gandy, Sabine Parish	1955
18	Grand Cane, DeSoto Parish	1925
1	Greenwood, Caddo Parish	u.d.
12	Hall Summit, Red River Parish	u.d.
12	Hanna, Red River Parish	u.d.
12	Harmon, Red River Parish	u.d.
16	Haughton, Bossier Parish	u.d.
13	Heflin, Webster Parish	1926
1	Hosston, Caddo Parish	u.d.
1	Ida, Caddo Parish	u.d.
18	Keatchie, DeSoto Parish	1925
11	Leton, Websater Parish	u.d.
1	Lewis, Caddo Parish	u.d.
17	Lisbon, Claiborne Parish	u.d.
7,18	Logansport, DeSoto Parish 6 lvs.	u.d.
18	Longstreet, DeSoto Parish	1925
14	Many, Sabine Parish 4 lvs.	u.d.
16	McDade, Bossier Parish	u.d.
11	Minden, Webster Parish	u.d.
1	Mira, Caddo Parish	u.d.

15	Mount Carmel, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Mitchell, Sabine parish	1955
18	Naborton, DeSoto Parish	1925
15	Negreet, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Noble, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Oak Grove, Sabine Parish	1955
8	Oil City, Caddo Parish 6 lvs.	1949
18	Oxford, DeSoto Parish	1925
15	Peason, Sabine Parish	1955
18	Pelican, DeSoto Parish	1925
15	Pleasant Hill, Sabine Parish 2 lvs.	1955
16	Red Point, Bossier Parish	u.d.
19	Ringgold, Caddo Parish 2 lvs.	1925
1	Robson, Caddo Parish	u.d.
1	Rodessa, Caddo Parish	u.d.
15	Sabine Parish road map 2 lvs.	1955
19	Saline, Bienville Parish	1925
11	Sarepta, Webster Parish	u.d.
11,13	Shongaloo, Webster Parish	u.d.
9	Shreveport, Caddo Parish 9 lvs.	1885
11,13	Sibley, Webster Parish	u.d.
10,13	Springhill, Webster Parish 15 lvs.	u.d.
1	Springridge, Caddo Parish	u.d.
18	Stonewall, DeSoto Parish	1925

17	Summerfield, Claiborne Parish	u.d.
15	Toro, Sabine Parish	1955
15	Zwolle, Sabine Parish	1955

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187
K. 1/10/82 57

From Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress. 1981.

Checklist.

Louisiana.

	<u>City, County, Date</u>	<u>No. Sheets</u>	<u>Comments</u>
3270	Arcadia, Bienville Parish		
	Jan. 1898	2	
	July 1903	2	
	April 1909	3	
	March 1914	3	
	October, 1924	7	
	Oct., 1924-March 1941	7	501
3271	Athens, Claiborne Parish		
	March 1922	1	
	March 1922	1	501
3278	Belcher, Caddo Parish		
	August 1921	1	
	August 1921	1	501
3287	Cedar Grove, Caddo Parish		
	February 1924	12	
3296	Coushatta, Red River Parish		
	July 1922	3	
	May 1928	4	
	May 1928-Jan. 1939	4	502
3300	Dubach, Lincoln Parish		
	Sept., 1922	1	502
3310	Gibbsland, Bienville Parish		
	June, 1928	3	503
3317	Gilliam, Caddo Parish		
	March, 1930	1	503
3320	Grand Cané, DeSoto Parish		
	July, 1921	1	503
3325	Haynesville, Claiborne Parish		
	July, 1927 - Feb., 1944	8	503
3326	Homer, Claiborne Parish		
	June, 1928 - Feb., 1938	11	503
3328	Hosston, Caddo Parish		
	Aug., 1921	1	
	Aug., 1921	1	503
3331	Ida, Caddo Parish		
	November, 1921	1	
	November, 1921	1	504

3341	Keatchie, Caddo Parish		
	Aug., 1921	1	
	Aug., 1921	1	504
3356	Mansfield, DeSoto Parish		
	July, 1885	1	
	July, 1892	1	
	Aug., 1899	2	
	Oct., 1904	3	
	May, 1909	4	
	Feb., 1914	10	
	May, 1921	12	
	May, 1928 May, 1928	15	
	May, 1928 - Mar., 1941	15	505
3366	Minden, Webster Parish		
	Aug., 1885	1	
	July, 1892	1	
	Jan., 1898	2	
	July, 1903	4	
	Mar., 1909	6	
	Feb., 1914	7	
	Nov., 1923	6	
	July, 1927	12	
	July, 1927 - June, 1950	13	506
3367	Mira, Caddo Parish		
	Nov., 1921	1	
	Nov., 1921	1	506
3370	Mooringsport, Caddo Parish		
	Feb., 1917	2	
	May, 1929	2	
	May, 1929	2	506
3385	Plain Dealing, Bossier Parish		
	Aug., 1921	1	
	June, 1929	3	
	June, 1929	3	507
3394	Ruston, Lincoln Parish		
	August, 1885	1	
	July, 1892	1	
	Jan., 1898	2	
	June, 1902	5	
	June, 1908	8	
	Jan., 1914	14	
	June, 1922	14	
	March, 1930	17	
	Mar., 1930 - Sept., 1947	17	507
3399	Saline, Bienville Parish		
	Mar., 1922	1	
	Mar., 1922	1	508
3401	Shreveport, Caddo Parish		
	February, 1890	15	
	Sept., 1903	36	
	October, 1904	37	
	1909	73	
			Includes map of congested district-bound.

Shreveport, Caddo Parish (con't)

1935, Vol. 1 and 2,
-Vol. 1

90 81

Includes key map to
edition and 4 skeleton
maps. Includes maps
of principal mercantile
district. Bound.

- Vol. 2

98

Includes Bossier City.
Bound.

1935-Jan., 1963
Vol. 1

90

016. Includes maps of
principal mercantile
district, key map to
edition and 4 skeleton
maps.

Vol. 2

66

017. Includes key map to
edition.

Vol. 3

52

019. Includes Bossier City.
Includes key-map to
edition.

2-1/2 4 Springhill, Webster Parish
Nov., 1938
Nov., 1938 - Jan., 1941
July, 1951

3

3

508

6

3 4/12 Vivian, Caddo Parish
July, 1923
Jan., 1938
Jan., 1938

4

4

4

508

SANBORN MAPS COMPANY
Fire Insurance Maps

<u>Target No.</u>	<u>City, Parish, Date</u>	<u>No. Sheets</u>
3270	Arcadia, Bienville Parish	
	January, 1898	2
	July, 1903	2
	April, 1909	3
	March, 1914	3
	October, 1924	7
	October, 1924 - March, 1941	7
3271	Athens, Caliborne Parish	
	March, 1922	1
	March, 1922	1
3278	Belcher, Caddo Parish	
	August, 1921	1
	August, 1921	1
3287	Cedar Grove, Caddo Parish	
	February, 1924	12
3296	Coushatta, Red River Parish	
	July, 1922	3
	May, 1928	4
	May, 1928 - January, 1939	4
3302	Dubach, Lincoln Parish	
	Sept., 1922	1
3315	Gibbsland, Bienville Parish	
	June, 1928	3
3317	Gilliam, Caddo Parish	
	March, 1930	1
3320	Grand Cane, DeSoto Parish	
	July, 1921	1
3325	Haynesville, Claiborne Parish	
	July, 1927 - Feb., 1944	8
3326	Homer, Claiborne Parish	
	June, 1928 - Feb., 1938	11
3328	Hosston, Caddo Parish	
	August, 1921	1
	August, 1921	1
3331	Ida, Caddo Parish	
	November, 1921	1
	November, 1921	1

3341	Keatchie, Caddo Parish	
	August, 1921	1
	August, 1921	1
3356	Mansfield, DeSoto Parish	
	July, 1885	1
	July, 1892	1
	August, 1899	2
	October, 1904	3
	May, 1909	4
	Feb., 1914	10
	May, 1921	12
	May, 1928	15
	May, 1928 - March, 1941	15
3366	Minden, Webster Parish	
	August, 1885	1
	July, 1892	1
	January, 1898	2
	July, 1903	4
	March, 1909	6
	Feb., 1914	7
	Nov., 1923	6
	July, 1927	12
	July, 1927 - June, 1950	13
3367	Mira, Caddo Parish	
	Nov., 1921	1
	Nov., 1921	1
3370	Mooringsport, Caddo Parish	
	Feb., 1917	2
	May, 1929	2
	May, 1929	2
3385	Plain Dealing, Bossier Parish	
	Aug., 1921	1
	June, 1929	3
	June, 1929	3
3394	Ruston, Lincoln Parish	
	August, 1885	1
	July, 1892	1
	Jan., 1898	2
	June, 1902	5
	June, 1908	8
	Jan., 1914	14
	June, 1922	14
	March, 1930	17
	March, 1930 - Sept., 1947	17
3399	Saline, Bienville Parish	
	March, 1922	1
	March, 1922	1

57

3401	Shreveport, Caddo Parish	
	February, 1890	15
	Sept., 1903	36
	October, 1904	37
	1909 (Includes map of congested district - Bound).	73
	1935, Vol. 1	81
	1935, Vol. 2 (Includes Bossier City)	98
3404	Springhill, Webster Parish	
	Nov., 1938	3
	Nov., 1938 - Jan., 1941	3
	July, 1951	6
3412	Vivian, Caddo Parish	
	July, 1923	4
	Jan., 1938	4
	Jan., 1938	4

SANBORN INSURANCE MAPS OF LOUISIANA CITIES AND TOWNS

Pub. N.Y. City 1885-1925 Scale 1"-50' except as noted

TOWN	YEAR	COMMENTS	TOWN	YEAR	COMMENTS
Abbeville	1895 1899 1907		Bayou Goula	1922	
Abita Springs	1922		Bayou Sara (St. Francisville)	1885 1891 1898 1904 1909 1922	(Bayou Sara only)
Alexandria	1885 1892 1896 1900 1904 1909 1921		Belcher	1921	
Alto	1919		Berwick	1899 1906 1912 1924	
Amite (city)	1886 1892 1898 1904 1908 1916		Bogalusa	1908 1910 1915 1919	
Arcadia	1898 1903 1909 1914 1924		Bonita	1922	
Athens	1922		Bourg	1922	
Avery Island	1925	(see New Iberia) 1925	Boyce	1907 1912	
Baker	1922		Breaux Bridge	1899 1907 1912 1923	
Bastrop	1886 1892 1899 1907 1912		Bunkie	1909 1923	
Baton Rouge	1885 1891 1898 1903 1908 1911 1916 1923		Campti	1921	
			Cedar Grove	1924	
			Chataignier	1922	
			Cheneyville	1909	
			Clinton	1885 1891 1898 1903 1908	
			Colfax	1924	

Collinston	1921	Franklinton	1922
Columbia	1919	Gibbsland	1921
Cottonport	1921	Gilbert	1922
Coushatta	1922	Gilliam	1919
Covington	1904 1909 1915 1921	Glenmora	1922
Crowley	1895 1898 1902 1909 1915 1925	Golden Meadow	1922
De Quincey	1921	Grand Cane	1921
DeRidder	1912 1921	Grayson	1919
Donaldsonville	1885 1891 1896 1900 1906 1912 1923	Gretna	1884 1887 1893
Dubach	1922	Gueydan	1904 1909 1916
Duson	1922	Hammond	1896 1904 1908 1914
Elton	1920	Harrisonburg	1919
Epps	1921	Haynesville	1919 1922
Erath	1921	Homer	1892 1898 1903 1909 1914 1921
Eunice	1915	Hosston	1921
Evergreen	1919	Hot Well	1919
Farmerville	1922	Houma	1885 1892 1898 1907 1912 1924
Ferriday	1923	Ida	1921
Fordoche	1919	Indian Village	1925 (See Plaquemine) 1925
Forrest	1921	Iowa	1920
Franklin	1885 1892 1895 1899 1906 1912	Jackson	1896 1900 1908

Jeanerette	1885	Leesville	1904
	1892		1909
	1895		1915
	1898		1922
	1906		
	1912	Lockport	1922
Jena	1919	Loranger	1919
Jennings	1895	Lutcher	1909
	1900		
	1903	Mamou	1909
	1909		
	1915	Mandeville	1904
Jonesboro			1909
			1915
Kaplan	1921	Mangham	1919
Keatchie	1921	Mansfield	1885
Kentwood		(& S. Mans-	1892
	1904	field)	1899
	1909		1904
	1915		1909
Kinder			1914
			1921
Lafayette	1892	Mansura	1919
	1898		
	1903	Maringouin	1919
	1906		
	1912	Marksville	1920
	1921		
Lake Arthur	1907	Marthaville	1921
	1912		
	1923	Maurice	1921
Lake Charles (Lockport & Westlake)	1885	Melville	1921
	1889	Mer Rouge	1919
	1894		
	1898	Midway	1919
	1903		
	1909	Minden	1885
	1914		1892
	1919		1898
	1925		1903
Lake Providence			1909
	1892		1914
	1899		1923
	1903		
	1909	Monroe (& W. Monroe)	1886
			1890
			1893
			1898
			1903
			1909
			1913

Montgomery	1921		Opelousas	1885	
				1892	
Morgan City	1885			1896	
	1895			1899	
	1899			1907	
	1906			1912	
	1912			1921	
	1919				
Morganza	1921		Patterson	1891	
				1895	
				1896	
Napoleonville	1885			1899	
	1896			1900	
	1899			1906	
	1907			1912	
				1916	
Natchitoches	1892		Pineville	1885	(See Alexandria)
	1899				1885
	1904		Plain Dealing	1921	
	1909				
	1914		Plaquemine	1885	
	1923			1891	
New Iberia	1885			1896	
	1892			1900	
	1895			1906	
	1899			1916	(& Turnerville)
	1903			1925	(& Turnerville &
	1904				Indian Village)
	1909		Ponchatoula	1908	
	1925			1923	
New Orleans			Port Allen	1919	
Vol.1	1885				
Vol.2	1885	FIRST SET	Port Barrow	1922	
Vol.3	1887				
Vol.4	1893		Provencal	1922	
Vol.1	1896				
Vol.2	1895	SECOND SET	Rayne	1898	
Vol.3	1896			1903	
Vol.4	1896			1909	
	1904	(Incomplete)			
Vol.1	1908	THIRD SET	Rayville	1919	
Vol.7	1909	(Incomplete)			
Vols. 1,2,4, & 7	(Supplimentary)		Robeline	1892	
	1917-			1899	
	-1922			1904	
				1909	
New Roads	1909			1914	
	1923				
Oakdale	1921		Ruston	1885	
				1892	
				1898	
Oak Grove	1921			1902	
				1908	
Oberlin	1920			1914	
				1922	
Olla	1919				

St. Francisville	1922	(See Bayou Sara for earlier)	Washington	1885	
St. Martin	1892			1892	
	1898			1898	
	1903			1907	
	1909			1912	
St. Rose	1921		Waterproof	1921	
St. Tammany Ph.	1924		Welsh	1903	
Saline	1922			1909	
				1915	
				1923	
Scotlandville	1920		Westlake	1914	
Shreveport	x 1885		West Monroe	1920	(earlier see Monroe)
	1890				
	1896		Whitecastle	1906	
	1899			1912	
	1903			1921	
	1904				
	x 1909		Winnfield	1907	
	1921			1911	
	x 1925			1924	
Sikes	1921		Winnsboro	1924	
Slidell	1906		Youngsville	1921	
	1911				
Sulphur	1919				
Sulphur Mine	1920				
Tallulah	1921				
Thibodeaux	1885				
	1892				
	1898				
	1907				
	1912				
	1916				
Turnerville	1916	See Plaquemine)			
	1925	1916 & 1925			
Vidalia	1886				
	1892				
	1899				
	1907				
	1912				
Ville Platte	1925				
Vinton	1920				
Vivian	1923				

SANBORN MAPS CHART DEVELOPMENT HISTORY



ERIC J. BROCK

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST

95-09-09:7B

or composition roof. Codes show the nature of the building's use: "D" indicates a dwelling, for example; "DG" is a dry goods store, "Vac" indicates a vacant building, "Gro" a grocery. Some early Shreveport Sanborn maps designate numerous houses in the old Red Light District with a cryptic "FB," for "female boarding," a euphemism for brothel.

Large and important structures, such as a court house, post office or church, will often have the floor plan drawn out within the diagram of the building; sometimes the construction date will be mentioned as well.

Another feature of the Sanborn maps: They detail streets and utilities. Widths of streets are given, as are locations of streetcar tracks, water and sewerage lines, and other features of significance.

The Sanborn maps are the creation of a New Yorker named D. A. Sanborn, who in 1876 founded his mapping company which, over the next three-quarters of a century, would map more than 12,000 municipalities throughout the nation, periodically revisiting and updating the maps. These maps were used initially by the insurance industry to keep abreast of insurable properties

throughout the country. In time, however, they came to be valued by government, business, and others. Today they are of immense value to researchers and historians for they present accurate images of American cities at various periods in the past.

Some Sanborn maps, such as the 1935 edition for Vivian, cover only one page. Others, such as that for New York City in 1924, fill 48 bound volumes containing more than 100 plates each. Shreveport's earliest edition, that of 1885, fills nine plates bound in a single volume. The last edition, updated in 1963 and including Bossier City, fills three bound volumes containing a total of 208 plates.

Between 1885 and 1963, Sanborn maps depicting Shreveport were issued in the following years: 1890 (15 plates), 1896 (19), 1899 (31), 1903 (36), 1904 (37), 1909 (73), 1935 (188 in 2 volumes). In the 1940s and '50s, the 1935 edition was updated several times using paste-over changes. In other words, where a structure was demolished and replaced, a depiction of the new structure was pasted over the old one. Where property changes were made, the same was done with property lines. If a building

was razed but not replaced, it was simply covered over with a blank paste-over. Usually the maps so amended are doubly useful, since the old structure can typically still be seen through the paste-over. When cross-referenced with city directories and property records, it becomes evident exactly when certain major changes, such as demolitions and new construction, occurred.

Some editions may contain different numbers of plates than those listed above. This is because supplements were sometimes issued. These could be easily inserted into the bound editions, since the looseleaf nature of the binding (at least with those bound after about 1915) allowed for removal of the plates. Unfortunately, this also allowed for the occasional loss of plates. Other editions, such as that of 1916, are really supplements added to previous editions (maps dated 1916 are supplements to the 1909 edition; those dated 1954 are supplements to the 1935 edition, and so forth).

Locally, Shreve Memorial Library's downtown branch has several Sanborn editions, including originals of the 1896, 1899 and 1935 editions, and re-

productions of the 1885 edition as well as leaves from some later ones. The LSUS Archives, located on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library, houses either reproductions or originals of most of the major editions and supplements.

A complete collection of Shreveport Sanborn maps is housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., which published a history of the Sanborn Maps in 1981. Duplicate Shreveport Sanborns held by the Library of Congress have been placed in the Louisiana State Library in Baton Rouge, along with editions for other Louisiana towns and cities.

The Sanborn Map Company itself still exists (though it no longer produces these fine block-by-block city maps), located in Pelham, N.Y. For a fee, they can reproduce (in black and white) any of their old maps, as can the Library of Congress.

However, it is the original color maps, still bound together in individual volumes, which are of the greatest value today, both to historians and to collectors.

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