



Selected Maps and Sketches in the Archives of the Texas General Land Office (GLO)

Online images and search tools: <<http://www.glo.texas.gov>>

Name of Collection	General Description	General Period	Format	Comments and Notes
Atlas Sketches	Sketches of surveys by early surveyors, frequently along creeks and rivers.	Mexican and Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Linen tracings in large green binders. These were prepared and used to prevent excessive wear to the originals. ◆ Originals conserved and stored separately. 	Also shows roads and other cultural notations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some surveys depicted that are no longer valid. ◆ Some surveys have assignee names rather than grantee names.
Sketch Files	Early sketches by surveyors; early office sketches; early and current surveyor's reports to accompany Rolled Sketches; letters; court decrees; etc.	1840's to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Manuscripts, blueprints, blue lines, lithographs, and typed and hand-written letters. ◆ Legal in boxes; flattened and oversize in drawers. 	These sometimes show locations of early roads and towns and references to other cultural features.
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 1870's to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blueprints, blue lines, manuscripts, and a few lithographs. ◆ Flattened and oversize in drawer; flat folder in file cabinet; rolled in drawers. 	These sometimes contain references to cultural features such as fences, windmills, roads, and structures constructed subsequent to date of original survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Named "Rolled Sketches" because they were first stored rolled due to larger size.
Working Sketches	A draftsman's interpretation of surveys compiled from field notes filed in the GLO files and other information.	Mostly 1900 to present (earlier versions filed as Sketch Files)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blueprints, blue lines, manuscripts, and computer plots. ◆ In vertical cabinets; oversize in drawers; extra oversize rolled in drawers. 	Information for each survey is from the time it was surveyed or re-surveyed, plus other information as deemed pertinent by draftsman.
County Boundary Files	Descriptions and plats of county lines. <u>Also check adjacent counties.</u>	1840's to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blueprints, blue lines, manuscripts, surveyors' reports, and typed and hand-written field notes. ◆ In boxes; flattened and oversize in drawers 	Some contain much cultural information such as roads, towns, notable landmarks, residences, and ranches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Also, see Volumes containing County and District descriptions.
Maddox Collection	Lithograph county maps by railroad companies and by GLO; surveying and ranch sketches by Maddox brothers and the GLO; a few state maps, city maps, and other items.	1870's thru early 1900's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lithographs, blueprints, and some manuscripts. ◆ Regular and oversize in drawers. 	County maps include GLO lithographs from the 1870's and 1880's and lithographs issued by railroad companies and title companies. The sketches sometimes contain references to cultural features of the time.
Railroad Alignment	Railroad right-of-ways and alignment maps, some with detail in towns or farms.	Approximately 1880 to 1930.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blue prints and a few manuscripts. ◆ Flattened and rolled in drawers. 	Some show towns, railroad stops, depots, or profiles. A few show farms and residences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Most of these maps are long, from 6 feet to 30 feet.

** For GLO indexing purposes, counties have traditionally been divided into quadrants using county seats as center of the quadrants.



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State Maps	Maps of Texas by explorers, colonizers, military and private mapmakers, and later by the Highway Department (now TxDOT), Railroad Commission, and others.	1767 to 1980's	Mostly lithographs, photostats, a few blue prints, and very few manuscripts.	Much cultural information especially on early maps. Evolution of county boundaries. Locations of early roads, ferries, forts, and towns.
Town and City Maps	Maps of towns and cities from various sources.	1839 to 1990's	Lithographs, blueprints, blue lines, and some manuscripts.	Some official maps by GLO such as Austin and Calhoun; blue prints, blue lines, some decorative lithographs, and a few manuscripts.
Colony and District Maps	<u>Colony</u> : lithographs and manuscripts of early colonization. <u>Districts</u> : manuscript maps of the precursors of modern counties.	1833 to 1880	Manuscripts, lithographs, and blue prints.	Much cultural information. Early roads, towns, and notable landmarks. Some of the District maps are named "County Maps".

County Maps: Draftsman's interpretation of the location of and relationships between original land grants. Used principally as an index to the General Land Office records.				
Historical County Maps	Earliest GLO maps of the individual counties (mostly at a scale of 1" = 4000 varas).	Approximately 1839 to 1895.	Mostly official manuscripts, some early photos (1860 and 1871-1874 as well as tracings to produce these photos), and lithographs 1879-1881.	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.
Retired County Maps	Official manuscript maps of the individual counties (mostly at a scale of 1" = 2000 varas).	Approximately 1880 to 1930.	Mostly official manuscripts with some sepias, lithographs, and other prints.	Many small towns and railroad stops located. Many are in very fragile condition. These also show index numbers to "Letters of Inquiry", an early procedure to apply for vacancies.
Retired County Map Tracings	Tracings of official county maps, most made for production of blueprints (mixed scales of 1" = 4000, 3000, and 2000 varas).	Approximately 1880 to 1960.	Tracings that were made to produce copies (usually blueprint or blue line) of the county maps.	These tracings are especially useful for copies because some of the originals are too worn to read well. Many show areas that have broken off the originals.
Current County Maps	The current official county maps (mostly at a scale of 1" = 2000 varas).	Approximately 1917 – 1998	Official manuscripts, mostly on map paper, some on Mylar.	These are the maps to which updates are now added. Most of these compiled after the mid-1940's have abstract numbers on the surveys.

Bound Volumes: • Abandoned, Cancelled, & Rejected Surveys • District and County Boundaries and the Acts to Create Them • Miscellaneous Indices • University Field Notes • Public School Land Field Notes • Public School Land Register • Boundaries of the State and of the Republic

Other Miscellaneous: Letters of Inquiry (for early vacancies) • Military maps • Various surveyors' records and sketches