

Archives Alive! Mapping Savannah

An Introduction to Archives and the World of Maps

In today's program we will...

Learn about what maps can teach us about our community

Use primary source archival materials to learn how to read maps

Handle original archival materials safely

Complete a Scavenger Hunt!

What does the word Archive mean?



Archive ar·chive | \ 'är-,kīv \ *noun*

Definition

- 1:** The records created by people and organizations as they lived and worked. An archival collection is a unique body of information, created at a particular time by a particular organization or individual as the result of a particular activity
- 2:** a place in which public records or historical materials (such as documents) are preserved
- 3:** The organization responsible for preserving or making available archival materials

Types of Archives



Historical Societies



Government Archives



Community Archives



Corporate Archives



Religious Archives

Digital Collections



COLLECTION
10th-16th Century
Liturgical Chants

The acquisition of medieval liturgical chant manuscripts that trace the history of music notation as it evolved over



COLLECTION
Aaron Copland
Collection

The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images

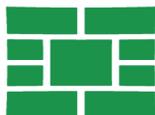
Digital Archives

...and so many more!

Introduction to the Archives

The City of Savannah Municipal Archives:

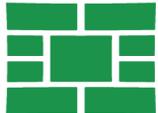
- Collects, manages, preserves, and makes accessible records documenting the City of Savannah's history
- Administers the records management program and the City Records Center to increase the efficiency of City agencies
- Shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities

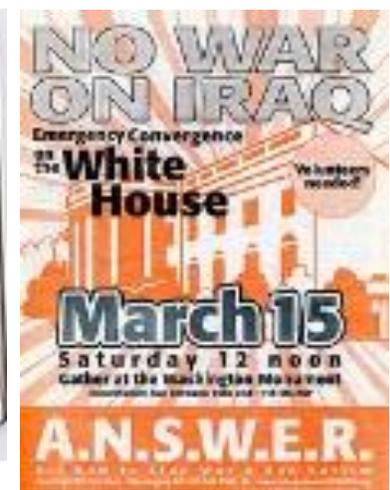
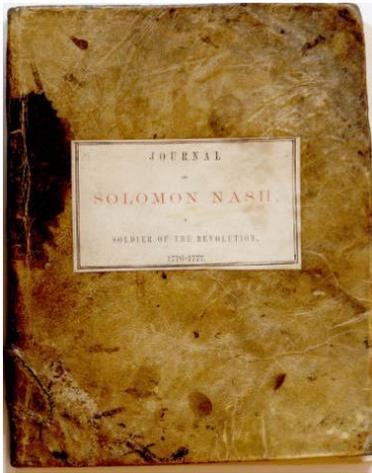


Introduction to the City of Savannah Collections

Overall collections reflect:

- City of Savannah incorporation date of 1789
 - Colonial-era records are not held here.
- City of Savannah corporate limits
 - Think corporate limits for the time period being researched, not modern limits.
- City of Savannah government functions
 - Very few personal papers are held here, with the largest exception being the W. W. Law Collection.

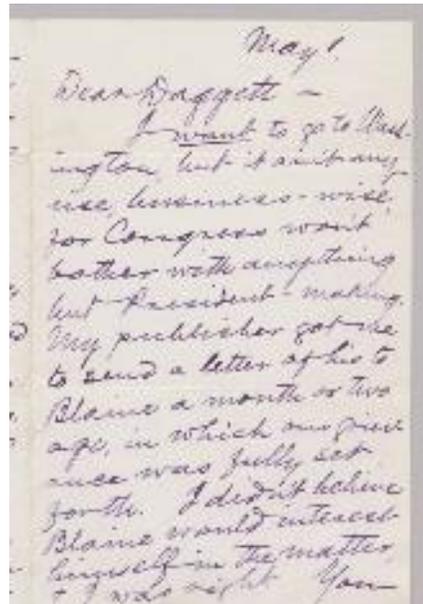




Archival collections can contain just about anything that was created or saved by a person or organization



WayBack Machine





Primary Sources

Materials that provide **direct** evidence, **first-hand** testimony, or an **eyewitness** account of a topic or event.

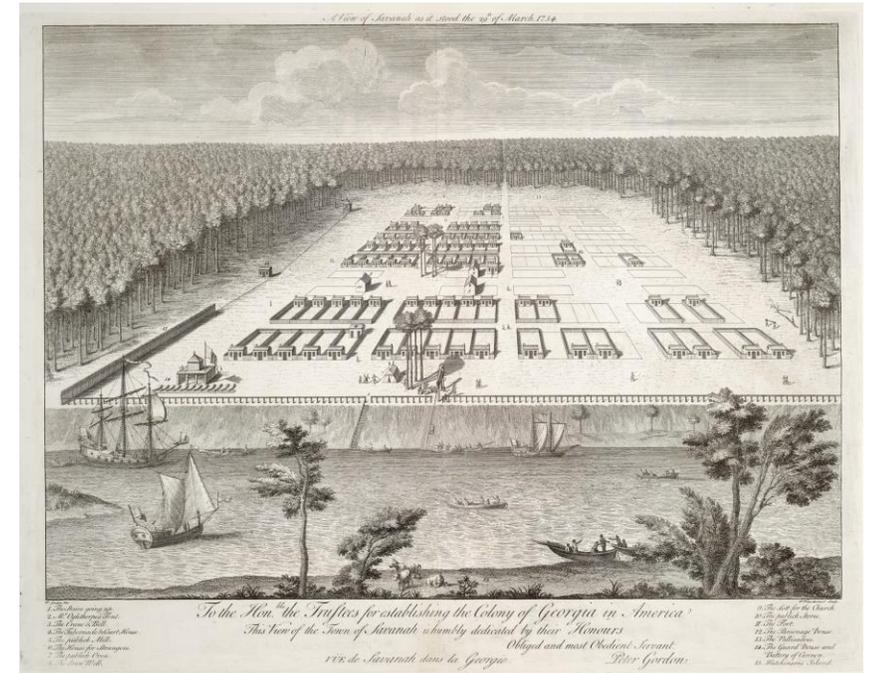
They can be published or unpublished items in any format, including handwritten letters, images, sound, or objects.

Why are Maps Important?

- **Maps represent the real world on a much smaller scale:**
 - They help you travel from one place to another.
 - They help you figure out where you are.
 - They show you where things are now and where they used to be.
- There are many types of maps. Some of the most common are:
 - **Political** – shows boundaries between cities, states, or countries
 - **Topographical** – shows geographic features like mountains and rivers
 - **Thematic** – show details such as population, climate, or where languages are spoken
- Important parts of a map include:
 - **Compass** – shows which way is north, south, east, and west
 - **Key** – helps decode symbols on a map
 - **Scale** – shows the relationship between size on the map and in the real world
 - **Title** – tells you what you are looking at.

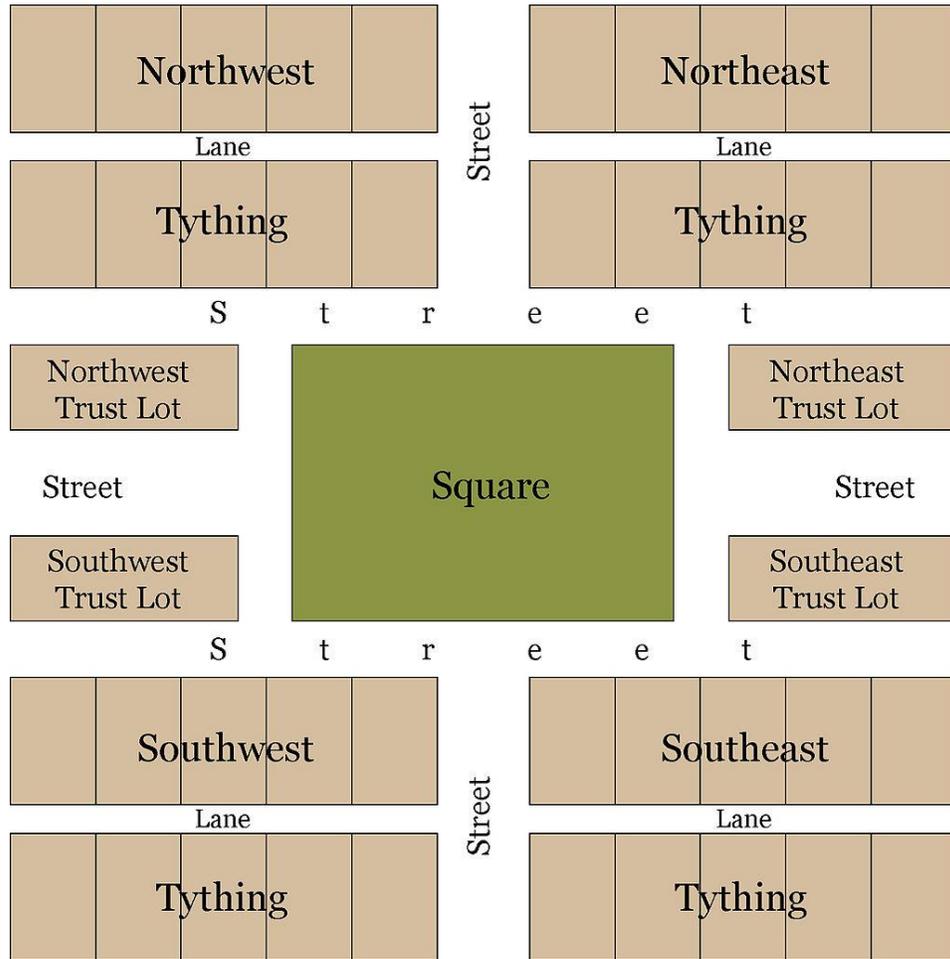
The Oglethorpe Plan

- General James E. Oglethorpe led the establishment of Savannah in 1733 with a very specific town plan in mind.
- He planned for the Colonists to have lots to build homes, space for gardens to grow their food, and farm land to cultivate their crops.
- The town was built using building block-like land patterns, called Wards, that could be repeated as the town grew.



A View of Savannah as it Stood the 29th of March, 1734,
by Peter Gordon; printed by Paul Fourdrinier

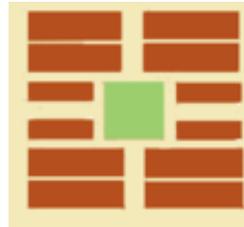
The Oglethorpe Plan: Parts of the Ward



Parts & Purpose:

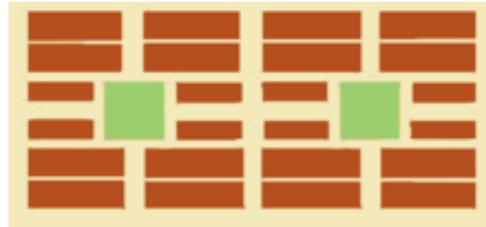
- Square: public gathering space
- Trust Lots: for civic and government buildings
- Tythings/Building Lots: for colonists residences
- Streets: public right-of-way
- Lanes: informal service alleys

The Oglethorpe Plan: The Ward



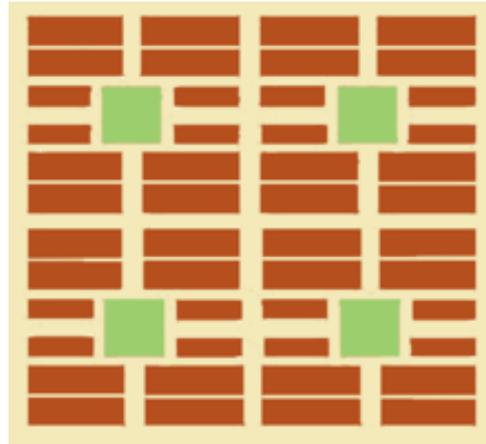
- The Ward building block allowed the town to grow as the population grew.
- Each ward was a neighborhood within itself.

The Oglethorpe Plan: The Ward



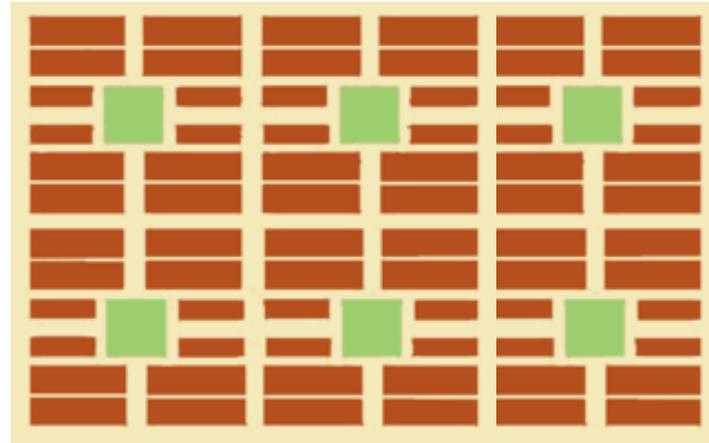
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The Oglethorpe Plan: The Ward



- These diagrams show how the Ward system grew from 4 wards in 1733 to 24 wards in the 1850s.

Handling Records



Handling Records:

- Pencils only
- Be very careful when turning pages
- Do not pick up original archival materials
- Do not lean or write on archival materials
- Keep papers and pencils far away from original documents

Mistreatment of original documents will result in being removed from the exercise

