SAVANNAH
Municipal Archives

ARCHIVES ALIVE!

An Introduction to Primary Sources:
The Oglethorpe Plan and Mapping Savannah

TARGET GRADE RANGE: 6-8

OVERVIEW
During this program, students will engage in activities to strengthen their understanding of Savannah area history. Students will participate in a learning session about the Oglethorpe town plan and its development throughout Savannah's history, followed by a hands on session where they will be able to view related maps from the City of Savannah Municipal Archives' collections. Students will evaluate the different types of historical and geographical information that one can gather through close study of maps.

What is a Primary Source?
A primary source is a first-hand, original account or record about a person, place, object, or an event. Oral histories, objects, photographs, artworks and documents such as newspapers, census records, diaries, and journals are primary sources. Secondary sources are accounts, records, or evidence derived from original or primary sources. Textbooks are secondary sources.

Objectives:
After completing this learning activity, students will be able to:
- Describe the Oglethorpe Plan and its importance to Savannah's development
- Analyze the details of a map to understand the map's intended audience and use

Time Required: 1 hour

Topic/s: Social Studies, Geography, Local History

Standards:
- SS8H2 Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.
- SS8G1 Describe Georgia's geography and climate
- SS8CG6 Analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia

Materials:
Archival materials may be original or reproduction, at the discretion of the Archivist and Municipal Archives Director.
- "What Makes Savannah Unique: The Oglethorpe Plan," City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)
- Map Analysis Worksheets (1 per student per map reviewed):
  - "Analyze a Map" handout, developed by the National Archives and Records Administration (available online at: https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/map_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

- Three to five (3-5) maps from the Municipal Archives' collections. The following are recommendations (and work with the Scavenger Hunt handout), but additional maps from the City's collections are available online at https://dlg.usg.edu/institutions/gsg.
    - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-29, *The Plan of the City of Savannah*, McKinnon and Wright, 1820 (available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-029)
    - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-5, *City of Savannah base map with tythings superimposed,* 1940 (available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-005)
    - Record Series 3121-019, Engineering Department – Savannah Cadastral Survey Ward Maps, Item #59 *Elbert Ward*, 1939 (available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_scswsm_scswsm-3121-019-sheet-059)
    - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-7, *City of Savannah souvenir skeleton map showing public highways of Chatham County*, 1940 (available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-007-01)
    - Record Series 3121-020, Engineering Department – Major Subdivision Maps, Item #196-A, *Eastwood Park, a subdivision of Bonaventure Tract Lots 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 14 and Lot 4 of the Plumb Tract, Murphy Ward, City of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia for Chatham Investment Co. Inc.*, 1947 (available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edmsm_edmsm-196-a)
- Scavenger Hunt handout
- Pencils and erasers

PROGRAM:

Introduction: (20-30 minutes total)
- Introduction to concepts of archives and archival work, and the City of Savannah Municipal Archives
- Thinking about maps discussion (why are maps important and what to look for)
  - In lieu of an in person program with City of Savannah Archivists, the following PowerPoint Presentation can be used as an introduction to the concepts of archives and maps: "Archives Alive: Mapping Savannah; *An Introduction to Archives and the World of Maps*," City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)
- "What Makes Savannah Unique: The Oglethorpe Plan," City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)

Rotating Stations: (30 minutes)
- Break students into 5-10 groups (depending on the number of students – groups should be between 3-5 students) and assign them a station to start. Each station will take 10 minutes, then rotate to the next station.
- Have the Analyze a Map worksheets available at each station. Each student will get one Scavenger Hunt handout to use at all of the stations.
- Have students closely examine each map for 3 minutes and write down what they notice about the map. After the period of reflection, students will answer the questions on the Analyze a Map worksheet. The students can discuss their answers with their group and any discrepancies they uncover.
- Students will also complete the Scavenger Hunt handout at each map station, either as a solo or group activity as determined at the beginning of the session by the teacher. The Scavenger Hunt handout is designed to be used with the five maps identified by the Municipal Archives under "Materials."
- After the allotted time, groups will rotate to the next station and repeat the activity.

Closing (5 minutes)
- Review the answers to the Scavenger Hunt and award a prize to the student or team who scored the highest.

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 | \ ˈär-ˌkīv \ *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
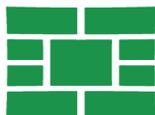The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images

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

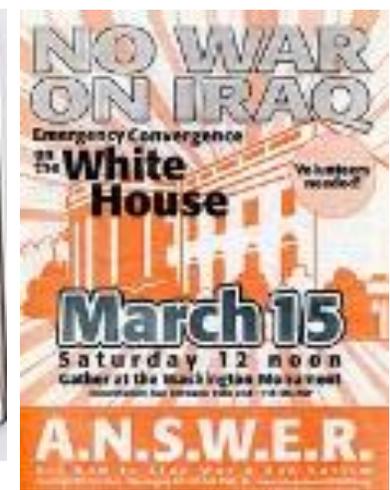- Shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities
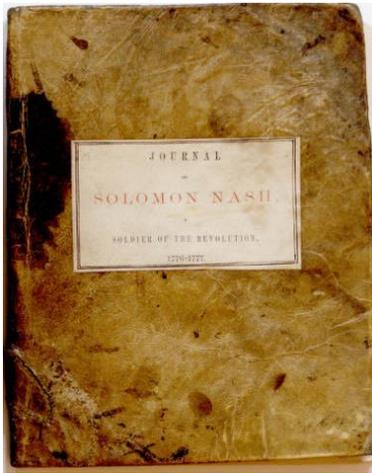
Introduction to the City of Savannah Collections

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

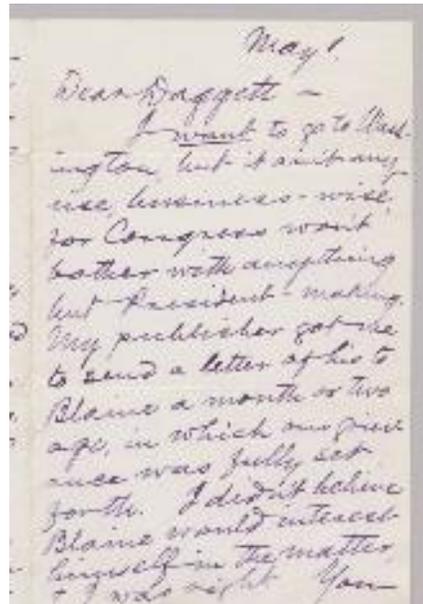 – Very few personal papers are held here, with the largest exception being the W. W. Law Collection.

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

Primary Sources

Materials that provide direct evidence, first-hand testimony, or an eyewitness account of a topic or event.
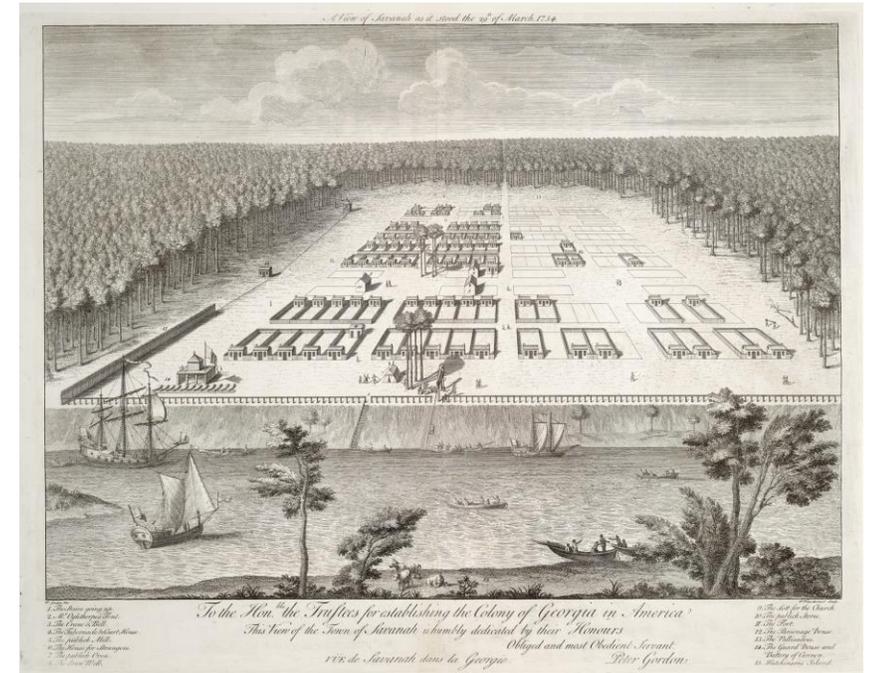
They can be published or unpublished items in any format, including handwritten letters, images, sound, or objects.

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
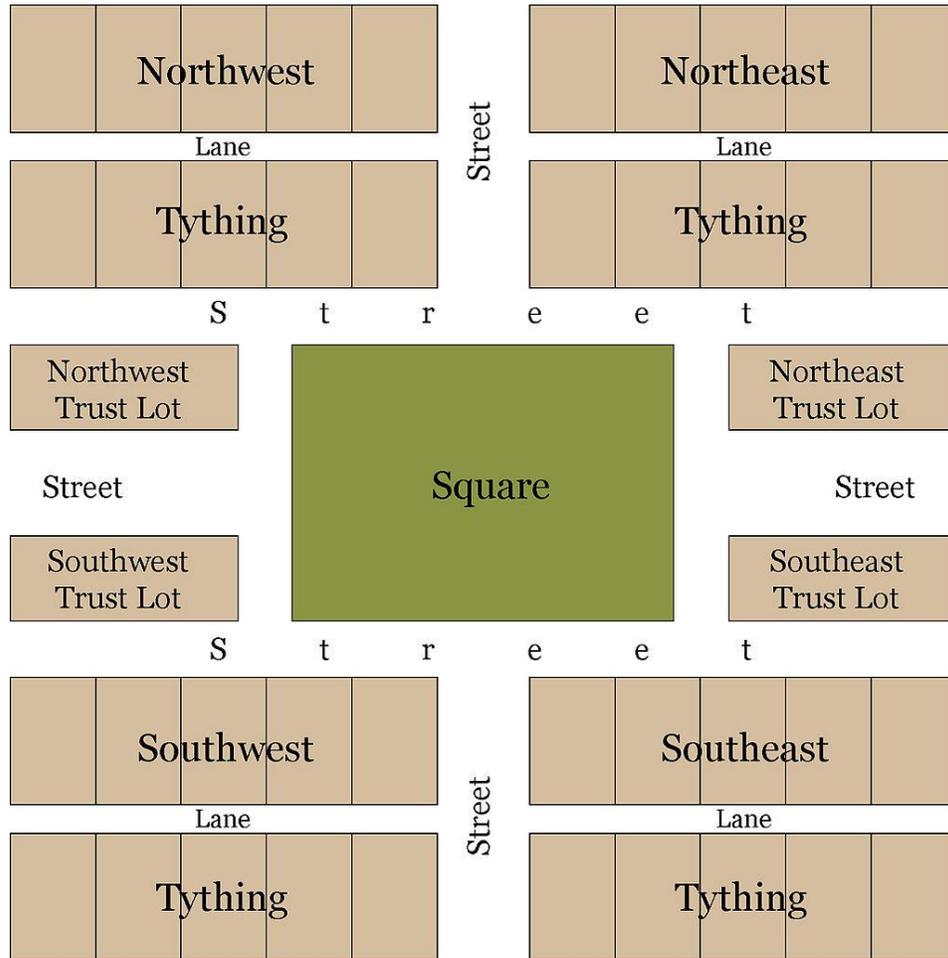 - **Title** – tells you what you are looking at.

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,
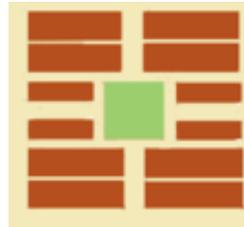by Peter Gordon; printed by Paul Fourdrinier

The Oglethorpe Plan: Parts of the Ward

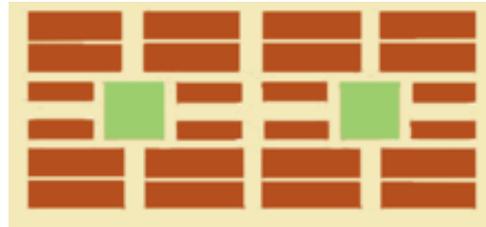|		
Northwest	Street	**Northeast**
Lane		Lane
Tything		**Tything**
S t r e e t		
Northwest Trust Lot		Northeast Trust Lot
Street	**Square**	Street
Southwest Trust Lot		Southeast Trust Lot
S t r e e t		
Southwest	Street	**Southeast**
Lane		Lane
Tything		**Tything**

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
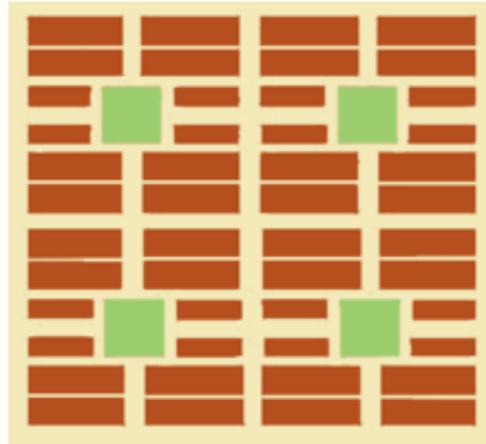
The Oglethorpe Plan: The Ward

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

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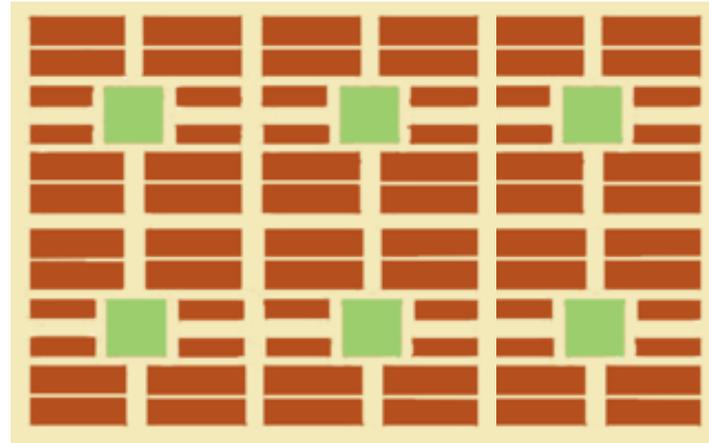# The Oglethorpe Plan: The Ward

- 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

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

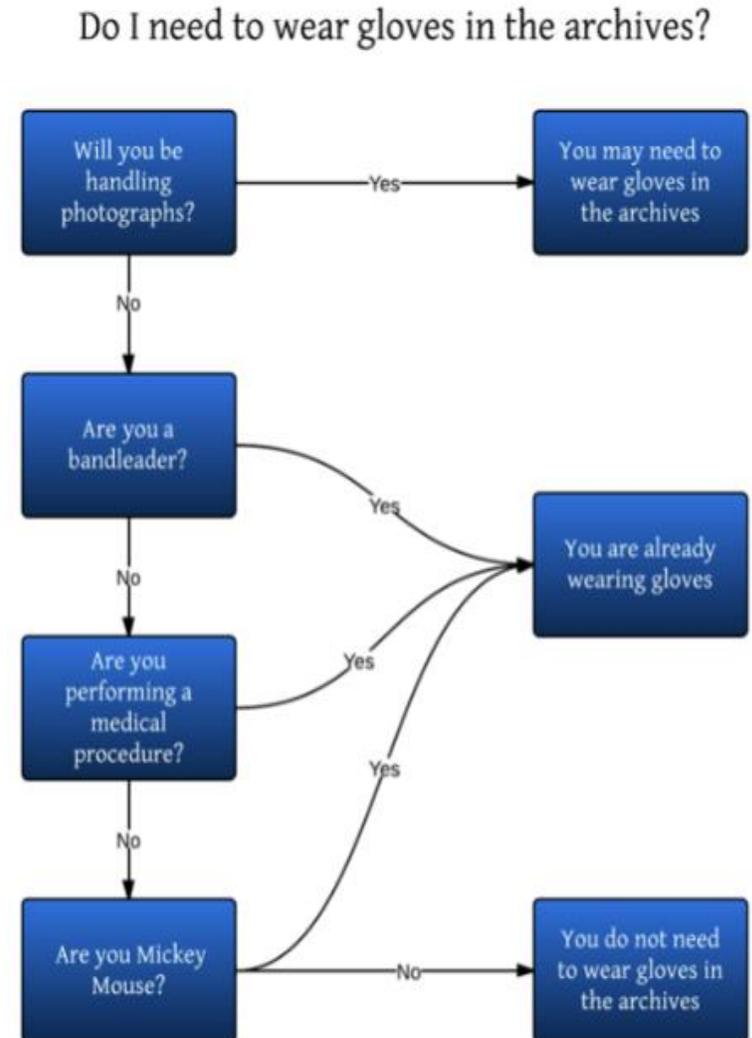Edmund N. Bacon, *Design of Cities* (New York: Viking Press, 1967)

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

Do I need to wear gloves in the archives?

| Will you be handling photographs? | —Yes→ | You may need to wear gloves in the archives |

Are you a bandleader?

Are you performing a medical procedure?

Are you Mickey Mouse?

You are already wearing gloves

You do not need to wear gloves in the archives

Analyze a Map

Meet the map.

What is the title?   Is there a scale and compass?

What is in the legend?

Type (check all that apply):
❑ Political   ❑ Topographic/Physical   ❑ Aerial/Satellite   ❑ Relief (Shaded or Raised)
❑ Exploration   ❑ Survey   ❑ Natural Resource   ❑ Planning
❑ Land Use   ❑ Transportation   ❑ Military   ❑ Population/Settlement
❑ Census   ❑ Other

Observe its parts.

What place or places are shown?

What is labeled?

If there are symbols or colors, what do they stand for?

Who made it?

When is it from?

Try to make sense of it.

What was happening at the time in history this map was made?

Why was it created? List evidence from the map or your knowledge about the mapmaker that led you to your conclusion.

Write one sentence summarizing this map.

How does it compare to a current map of the same place?

Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this map that you might not learn anywhere else?

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES ALIVE!

SAVANNAH Municipal Archives

An Introduction to Primary Sources: Mapping Savannah
Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find the answers to these questions in the maps that you use during this exercise

1. What type of fields are to the east of Savannah? _____

2. Draw the symbol that represents the Corporate Limits of Savannah.

3. What do the wavy lines on the Eastwood Park map represent? _____

_____

4. What is the paving material of West Broad Street? _____

_____

5. Which maps show a cemetery? _____

_____

       5 a. What plant marks the cemetery in one of these maps? _____

6. What direction is Chatham Field from Savannah? _____

7. How many E&W Laundry facilities are shown on one of the maps? _____

8. Find a stadium on a map. What park is it near? _____

     8a. Bonus points! What is the name of the baseball team that plays in this stadium
     today? _____

9. What is the largest building on the Elbert Square map? _____

_____

10. Finish this name of a place near the Ports: _____ Steamship Company

11. Who was the Civil Engineer identified on the Eastwood Park map? _____

_____

An Introduction to Primary Sources: Mapping Savannah
Scavenger Hunt

Leader Answer Key

1. What type of fields are to the east of Savannah? **Rice fields**

2. Draw the symbol that represents the Corporate Limits of Savannah. **--- . --- . --- .**

3. What do the wavy lines on the Eastwood Park map represent? **Elevation or topography**

4. What is the paving material of West Broad Street? **Concrete or asphalt**

5. Which maps show a cemetery? **3 maps: 1820 Plan of Savannah; 1940 City of Savannah Base Map with Tythings; and 1940 City of Savannah Souvenir Map**

   5 a. What plant marks the cemetery in one of these maps? **A tree or a Weeping Willow**

6. What direction is Chatham Field from Savannah? **West**

7. How many E&W Laundry facilities are shown on one of the maps? **Four (4)**

8. Find a stadium on a map. What park is it near? **Daffin Park**

   8a. Bonus points! What is the name of the baseball team that plays in this stadium today? **The Savannah Bananas**

9. What is the largest building on the Elbert Square map? **Savannah Female Asylum**

10. Finish this name of a place near the Ports: **Ocean** Steamship Company

11. Who was the Civil Engineer identified on the Eastwood Park map? **S. P. Kehoe, Jr.**

Scoring: Award one point for each right answer. The student/s with the most right answers are the Scavenger Hunt winners!