**Color Fire Insurance Maps - Now Available in Digital Format**

*Press Release, May 2014:* Historical Information Gatherers (HIG) was awarded an exclusive contract to scan and digitize, in full color, original fire insurance maps and other similar maps owned by the United States Library of Congress, effective April 2014. The Library of Congress collection of fire insurance maps (FIMs) is by far the largest collection of original, color FIMs for the United States. This ambitious project will enable researchers, libraries, historical societies and the public to purchase copies of these historical maps from the 1800s through the 1970s that are free of copyright restrictions.

“We are thrilled to be selected for this project and to work with the staff at the Library of Congress, bringing this unique collection of historical maps into the digital era,” states HIG President David Hodnefield. “Digitized maps that are properly scanned and processed provide far superior resolution and detail than the black and white microfilm scans that researchers were often limited to in the past. In addition, the color-coded information integral to the original FIMs will be preserved and ensure important details related to the historic character of buildings will be available for future researchers. ”

The maps will be offered by HIG in a variety of digital formats. According to Hodnefield, “HIG’s goal is to provide the maps in an easy to access, easy to use format. Land use planners, environmental professionals, researchers and engineers throughout the United States will now have the ability to view these historically important maps without leaving their desks.”

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