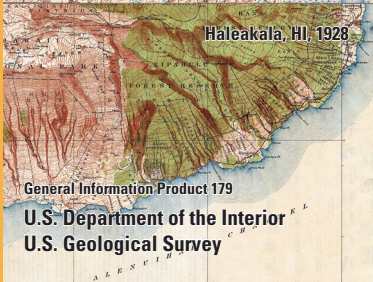
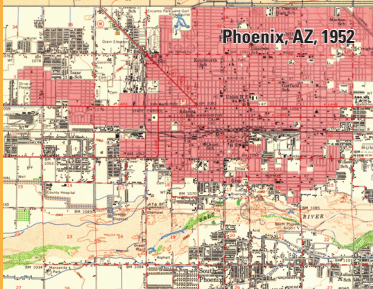




science for a changing world



Historical Topographic Map Collection



General Information Product 179

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

***“Facts discovered could not
be conveyed to the public
without maps . . .”***

**John Wesley Powell
USGS Director 1881–94**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Geospatial Program is scanning published USGS 1:250,000-scale and larger topographic maps printed between 1884, the inception of the topographic mapping program, and 2006. The goal of this project, which began publishing the historical scanned maps in 2011, is to provide a digital repository of USGS topographic maps, available to the public at no cost. For more than 125 years, USGS topographic maps have accurately portrayed the complex geography of the Nation. The USGS is the Nation’s largest producer of printed topographic maps, and prior to 2006, USGS topographic maps were created using traditional cartographic methods and printed using a lithographic printing process. As the USGS continues the release of a new generation of topographic maps (US Topo) in electronic form, the topographic map remains an indispensable tool for government, science, industry, land management planning, and leisure.

Although the historical maps are technically out of date, they are often useful to scientists, historians, environmentalists, genealogists, and others researching a particular geographic location or area. A series of maps of the same area published over a period of time can show how some areas looked as early as 1884, before current development, and provide a detailed view of changes over time.

Historical topographic maps are accessible for downloading at the following websites:

<https://store.usgs.gov>,

<https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/>, and

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/topoview/>.



For information regarding the Historical Topographic Map Collection, go to <https://nationalmap.gov/historical/index.html>.

