

Research Guide: Plat Maps of Cass County

In the Collections of the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library

One of the essential tools to anyone doing family research are plat maps. Plat maps are maps labeling property ownership and acreage in addition to locations of churches, homes, schoolhouses, mills, roads, waterbodies and other features.

The following list of plat maps of Cass County, Michigan are arranged chronologically with the intention of assisting genealogists in their quest for knowledge of the past.

Large size plat maps: Cass County plat maps dating from 1860-1914, both original and reprints, were published in a large-size format, using 11x17 inch paper or larger.

1860. Map of the Counties Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, Michigan. Published by Geil, Harley, and Siverd. Philadelphia.

The oldest known plat map of Cass County was published 31 years after the county was established. Originally a wall map made of canvass and leather. This wall map-atlas was published the same year as the Eighth United States Census (1860), and the two documents complement each other well.

In 1983 the Cass County Historical Commission published the wall map in atlas form (black and white), complete with an index. Copies of this atlas are still available for purchase at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

The US Library of Congress has scanned and posted an original hand colored copy of the wall map. A link to this map can be found under the Local History Resources section of the Cass District Library website at www.cassdistrictlibrary.org

1872. Atlas of Cass County, Michigan. From the actual Surveys by and under the directions of D.J. Lake, C.E. published by C.O. Titus. Philadelphia.

The second plat atlas of Cass County came twelve years after the first. The 1872 atlas was printed in a larger scale than its predecessor and is easier to read.

This was also reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission in 1977 and again in 1996 (black and white both times), with an index. Copies are still available for sale at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch.

1896. Standard Atlas of Cass County, Michigan, Including a Plat Book of the Villages, Cities and Townships of the County. Compiled by George A. Ogle & Co. Chicago.

Reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission in black and white, but without an index.

1914. Standard Atlas of Cass County, Michigan, Including a Plat Book of the Villages, Cities and Townships of the County. Compiled by George A. Ogle & Co. Chicago.

Reprinted by the Cass County Historical Commission in color, but without an index. Scale is larger, and thus more readable than the 1896. Note that this is the last of the “large” atlases.

Small, or regular sized plat maps: Cass County plat map published from the 1920s onwards appeared on standard 8 & ½ x 11 inch paper.

The following Cass County plat books located at the Cass District Library’s Local History Branch are summarized by decade.

1920s: Two copies with handwritten date of 1920 published by W.W. Hixson & Co. Rockford, IL.; One copy with handwritten date of 1924, pub. by Hixson & Co., and six undated copies believed to have been published circa 1920s by Hixson & Co.

1930s: One undated plat map is believed to have been published circa 1930 by Hixson & Co.

There are no plat maps of Cass County in the collections of the Cass District Library published during the 1930s other than the one listed above.

1940s: None published during this decade are among the library’s collections.

1950s: One undated plat book believed to have been published circa 1958 (published by County Plat and Directory Co., Inc) is among the library’s collections.

1960s: Undated, handwritten date 1960 (published locally?); Undated, handwritten date circa 1963 (published locally?); Undated, handwritten date c1963-1964 (published locally?); Undated on the book, but confirmed published in July 1960 from a newspaper report (Rockford Map Publishers); Undated, believed published circa early 1960s. Color maps. (County Plat and Directory Co., Inc); 1963 (Published by County Plat and Directory Co, Inc); 1967 (Rockford Map Publishers);

1970s: 1971 (Town & Country Publications); 1973 (Town & Country Publications); 1975 (Town & Country Publications); 1978 (Town & Country Publications); 1979 (Town & Country Publications).

1980s: 1980-1981 (Rockford Map Publishers); 1981 (Town & Country Publications); 1983-84 (Town & Country Publications); 1986 (Town & Country Publications); 1988-1990 (Rockford Map Publishers).

1990s: 1990-91 (Town & Country Publications); 1993 (Miller Manager Management Services, Inc.); 1996-1997 (Athenitic, Inc); 1997 (Rockford Map Publishers); 1999 (Athentic, Inc).

2000s: 2000 (Farm & Home Publishers, Ltd); 2005 (Athentic, Inc); 2007 (Athentic, Inc); 2008 (Athentic, Inc.).

2010s: 2012 (Athentic, Inc); 2014 (Athentic, Inc); 2016 (Mapping Solutions).

2020s: 2020 (Farm & Home Publishers).