



Visit the Exhibit's Website

To find out more information about Saratoga Springs' maps and history, or to take a closer look at the maps and objects in the exhibit, please visit us at:

<http://ssmp.skidmore.edu/exhibits/show/mappingsaratoga>

Many Thanks

The curatorial team worked with the Spring Team: *Deirdre Schiff '15, Eiko Franklin '16, Erik Morrison '15, Giulia Morrone '15, Elana Scaglia '15, Emily Sloan '15, and Allie Smith '15* to convert ideas to exhibition.

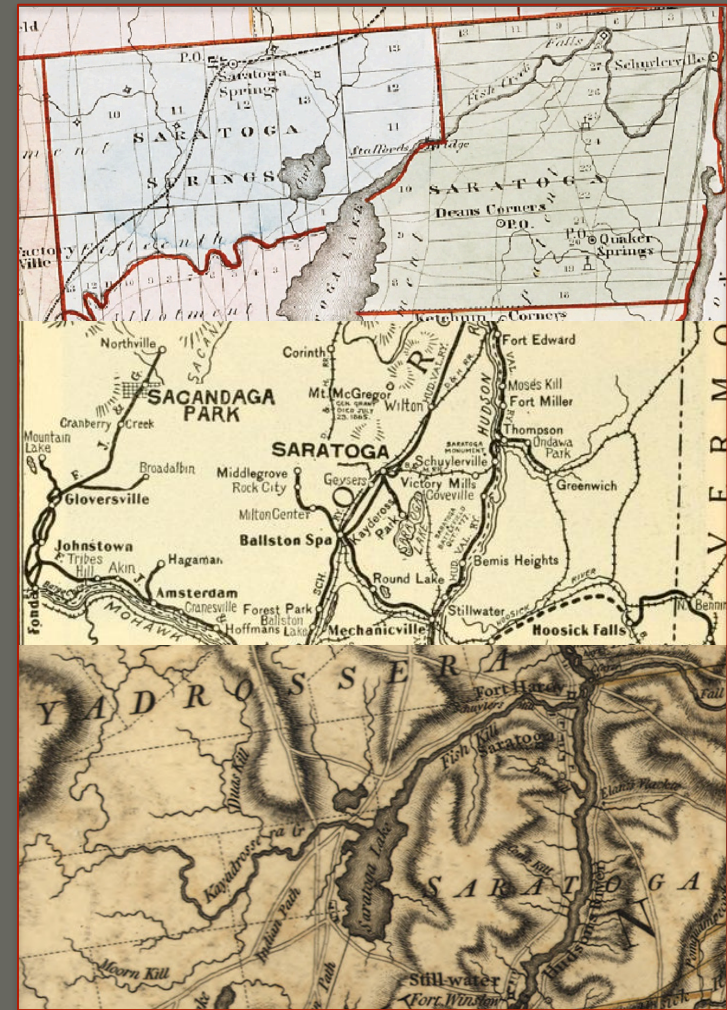
Contributors and Brain Trust: It takes a village to mount this kind of show. We relied on many area experts, including *Lauren Roberts, Alex Chaucer, Bob Jones, Beth Dupont, Lauren Shapiro '15, Mark Olson, Martin Brückner, Field Horne, Matt Veitch, Harvey and Cassie Fox, Donald Carpenter, the Corporation of Yaddo, Michael McCabe, the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust, JIMAPCO, and many more.*

Saratoga Springs History Museum
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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

saratogahistory.org



Surveyors' Tools



Mapping A City

Saratoga Springs Seen Through
250 Years of Maps April-December 2015

THE SARATOGA SPRINGS
HISTORY MUSEUM
THE CANFIELD CASINO IN CONGRESS PARK

A Brief Saratoga Springs Timeline

The Foundation: From Town To Village

- **1777** Battle of Saratoga
- **1789** Gideon Putnam arrives in Saratoga Springs
- **1791** Saratoga County established
- **1803** Putnam's Boarding House built
- **1819** Saratoga Springs becomes a district in the town of Saratoga
- **1824** United States Hotel opens
- **1826** Saratoga Springs Village Charter
- **1833** First steam locomotive to Saratoga Springs
- **1863** Racetrack opens
- **1893** Convention Hall opens
- **1911** Racetrack closes for two seasons
- **1913** Village Park – later Congress Park – opens

A City Rises

- **1915** City Charter adopted by NY State Legislature
Trolley station (now Visitors Center) open
- **1918** Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce forms
- **1923** First zoning map adopted by the City Council
- **1941** Trolley station becomes state park drink hall
- **1951** Saratoga Springs casinos close
- **1963** Northway (I-87) opens
- **1966** Saratoga Performing Arts Center opens
- **1984** City Center opens
- **2004** Saratoga Gaming & Raceway begins
- **2015** Centennial of City Charter

About the Project

To celebrate Saratoga Springs' centennial as a city, the Saratoga Springs History Museum presents this exhibit that tells the story of the city through historical maps. This exhibition is the fruit of two years of collaboration between Skidmore and the Saratoga Springs History Museum, Saratoga Springs Public Library (Saratoga Room), City Historian, and County Historian. Thanks to the many Saratogians and Skidmore community members who helped bring it together, transforming an idea to class project to exhibition.

First Steps

A committee led by Teri Blasko (Saratoga Springs Public Library), Jordana Dym (Skidmore), Mary-Ann Fitzgerald (City Historian), Jamie Parillo (SS History Museum), and Rachel Seligman (Skidmore) identified materials at their institutions, the Saratoga County archives, Duke University's Rubenstein Library and Library of Congress, and brainstormed exhibit goals. In summer 2014, Deirdre Schiff, '15, and Allie Smith, '15, joined the team with a summer collaborative research grant. Duke University's Mark Olson led a workshop on Omeka, the platform used for Skidmore-Saratoga Memory Project exhibits, including this one.

It Takes a Class

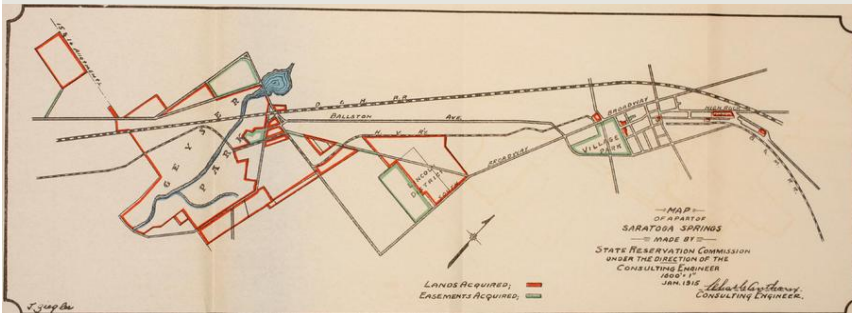
In Fall 2014, Dym's Mapping the Americas class (pictured below), worked with selected materials, researched, learned Saratoga Springs history, and prepared the story. In Spring 2015, more than half the class continued with the project, developing exhibit materials, conducting research, and contributing to labels and activity planning.



Back row: John Kolios, Maggie Clark, David Florence, Brandyn Solano, Giulia Morrone, Dierdre Schiff, Hannah Smith, Sam Kogan, Erik Morrison. Front row: Elana Scaglia, Emily Sloan, Allie Smith, Eiko Franklin.

A City and its Mapmakers

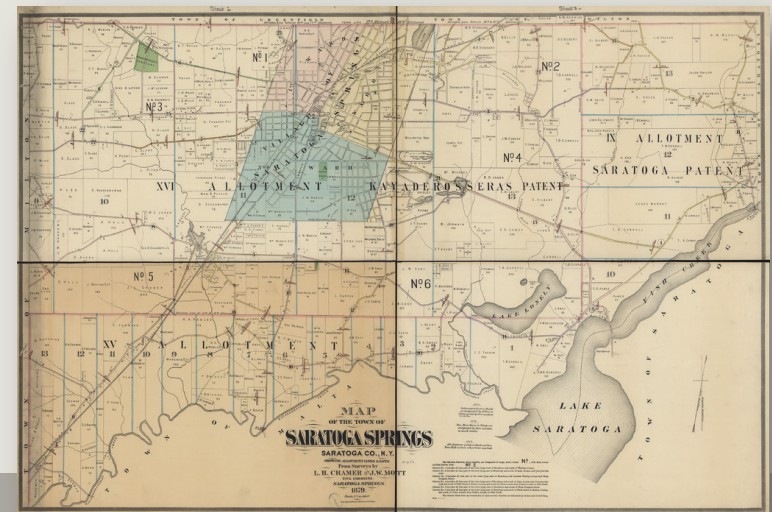
Saratoga Springs became a city at a time when reinvention and renewal were on state and local leaders' minds. The 1915 State Reservation Commission report mapped out plans to preserve and revive use of the town's mineral springs, in a new, modern resort in what is now the Saratoga Spa State Park. The City Charter reconfirmed the territory of Saratoga Springs and its "corporation line." The Spirit of Life celebrated the contributions of Spencer Trask and marked the newly public space of Congress Park.



Over its history, Saratoga Springs has produced many maps that tell the community's story. Two generations of Motts, father **Jesse S.** and son **Samuel J.**, served as village and city engineers (1894 – 1942), mapping infrastructure, plans for the future and property maps. The plans and maps of the **Lester Brothers** real estate firm (1860s-1930s) plot development. **Charles F. Dowd** (whose daughter married into the Lester family) was an owner and professor at the Temple Grove Seminary; he is perhaps best known for proposing standardized time zones, creating maps from the 1860s. More recently, civic organizations like the **Lions Club** and **Chamber of Commerce** produce city maps.

A Word About the Space of Saratoga Springs

Saratoga Springs began as a settlement in the town of Saratoga in land originally part of the Kayaderosseras Patent. In 1819, an act of the New York State Legislature officially divided the town of Saratoga, adding the town of Saratoga Springs within it. The new township received about half the land of the original municipality, located on the west side of the Kayaderosseras and Fish Creeks. Within Saratoga Springs there are two distinct "districts" created by an 1826 act that incorporated the village.



Saratoga Springs' territory today remains largely the same as that described in the 1819 act. The 1915 city incorporation act confirmed that the city retained the town's "present boundaries," making government and administration "coextensive with the territory above described"—in other words, the same.

Maps and Civic Life

Streets, buildings, and land divisions may be the most obvious features on a map, but each of these physical elements reflects how a community creates and uses its public and private spaces. Maps help us understand what matters to the people who live, work, and play in a town or city. The maps displayed in the exhibit and online give a taste of some of the most enduring features of civic life – including schools and voting districts, parades, and parks.



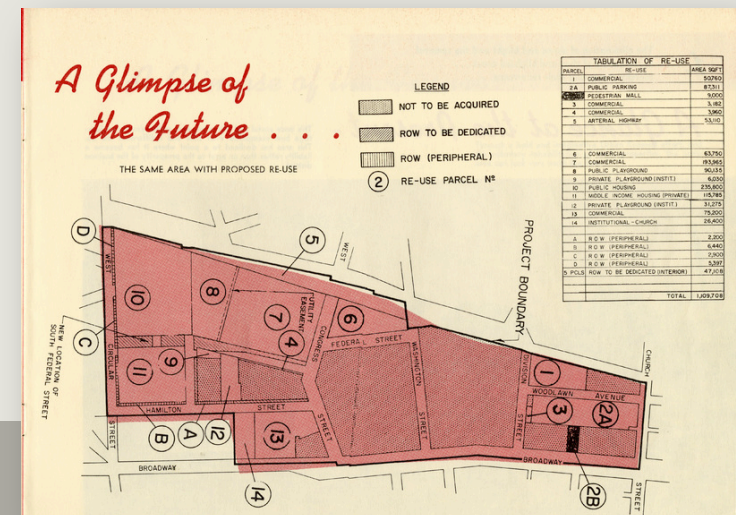
Maps, Tourism and Travel

Since the 1830s, when trains began to deliver summer visitors, Saratoga Springs' growth and development moved in lock step with ground transportation. Maps reveal how Broadway retains its role as the city's spine, despite efforts by developers to entice visitors away. They also track today's familiar routes – 9, 29 and 50—from a network of trails, roads and rail tracks. Dreamers from real estate developers and civic-minded residents to city planners and college professors map transportation and tourism to imagine the city of the future.



Maps and Urban Development

A walk through Saratoga Springs today reveals glamorous buildings of distinct styles that range from simple red brick facades to decadent Victorian mansions and even southern antebellum porches that make you question how a hint of southern hospitality made it so far north. Fine dining is everywhere you turn, and a horse will always be displayed to remind you of the track. Behind the city's current lively atmosphere of health, history, and horses lies a complex history of urban development. Changes in planning maps dating from the city's earliest years to today reveal how maps since the 1800s have shaped the city into what it is today.



Tourist, urban development, and transportation maps provide complementary sides of a story about the city's plans for growth and adaptation to changing times.