

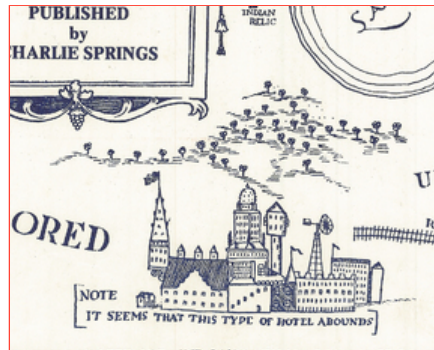


# 1915:

## Transformation from Village to City

Early 20th century Saratoga Springs faced a decline in its popularity as a resort and conference destination. Seeking to reinvent its image and assert its place as an upstate New York hub for industry, town leaders worked with state officials to start several projects to conserve the mineral springs and bring the visitors back.

The defining moment for the town's revitalization came with its incorporation as a city in 1915, which capped a period of municipal conservation efforts and a new era of mapping and zoning.



## Map Stories of Saratoga Springs

Maps chart the tale of Saratoga Springs' establishment as a separate district within the town of Saratoga in 1819, its erection as an independent village in 1826 and receipt of a city charter from New York State in 1915.

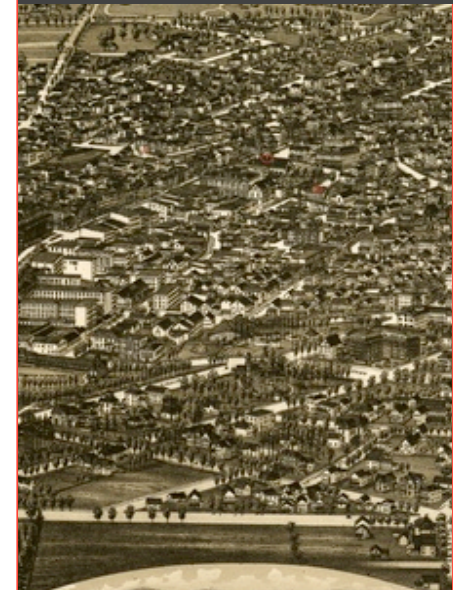
Maps also reveal what mattered to visitors and residents. Did they capture collaborations or disputes among residents and officials over everything from roads to taxes?

### Saratoga Springs History Museum

1 E Congress St  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866  
[www.saratogahistory.org](http://www.saratogahistory.org)

Exhibit Website:  
<http://ssmp.skidmore.edu/>

# Mapping a City



## 250 Years of Saratoga Springs History



Centennial Anniversary  
of the City of Saratoga  
Springs



## The Past Through Maps

The citizens of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., might think of making a map in order to influence policy (Figure 1) or of consulting one to plan a trip or to showcase in homes, schools and libraries (Figure 2). But maps also reveal a lot about the communities that made them--their ideas and values, their way of seeing the world, their hopes and dreams. In other words, maps tell stories.

Accessible by Native American trails as early as the 17th century, the springs of Saratoga and the settlement that grew around them began to find their way onto many kinds of maps--official surveys, city

plans, tourist guides, and real estate brochures with late-18<sup>th</sup> c. European settlement.

Small-scale and large scale, businesslike or humorous, black & white or color, these historical maps provide details or data about the city's past.

Maps takes us through Saratoga Springs' history from its origins as a crossroads between Canada, New York and New England and a draw for the healing power of its mineral waters to its present day as a lively spot for meetings, nightlife, and recreation.

## Timeline

- 1777 Battle of Saratoga
- 1789 Gideon Putnam arrived in Saratoga Springs**
- 1791 Saratoga County established
- 1803 Putnam's Boarding House built**
- 1819 Saratoga Springs becomes a district, 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**
- 1915 City Charter adopted by NY State Legislature
- 1918 Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce forms**
- 1923 First zoning map**
- 1951 Saratoga Springs casinos closed
- 1963 Northway (I-87) opens**
- 1966 Saratoga Performing Arts Center opens
- 1984 City Center opens**
- 2004 Saratoga Gaming & Raceway opens
- 2015 Centennial of City Charter**