

Cincinnati Ward History

Introduction

This resource documents the creation of the Historical Urban Ecological (HUE) data set Cincinnati ward boundary shapefiles and feature classes. All sources pertaining to the delineation and numbering of each ward system (the unique configuration of ward boundaries over a defined period), encompassing cartographic materials, city ordinances, newspaper reports, and ward boundaries described in the historical literature, have been included. Exclusions are noted where applicable. This document also describes ambiguities found between sources and a discussion of how these ambiguities were resolved in our published data. Table 1 provides a general ward history, 1851-1903.

Date Range	# of Wards	Type of Change
1851-1860	16	Redivision/Annexation
1861-1864	17	Redivision/Annexation
1865-1867	18	Redivision
1868-1869	20	Redivision
1870-1872	24	Redivision
1873-1887	25	Redivision/Annexation
1888-1889	30	Redivision/Annexation
1890-1895	30	Annexation
1896-1901	31	Annexation
1902-1903	31	Redivision

Table 1: General ward history of Cincinnati, 1851-1903

Sources

No single source provides a satisfactory overview of Cincinnati's ward boundary changes. A broad collection of historical maps and city directories were employed in the creation of the Cincinnati Wards GIS data.

This ward boundary history combines Cincinnati's ward redivisions with all of its annexations from 1851 up to 1903. Ward boundary data was unreliable or non-existent from the incorporation of the city in 1831 through 1850. The same was true for years following 1903. The inauguration of a new ward system in the HUE Cincinnati ward boundary data accounts for either a change in the ward boundary system, a large city expansion, or the incorporation of a small annex into the city. Among the numerous resources used while constructing the data set, A.W. Gilbert's *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*, Stedman, Brown & Lyon's *City of Cincinnati Map*, and a complete collection of the *Williams' Cincinnati Directory* were all of particular importance in constructing an accurate ward history.

For much of this time period, map resources were unavailable or unreliable for determining ward history. Instead, numerous editions of the *Williams Cincinnati Directory* were used throughout the project, and these were treated as the final primary source when addressing discrepancies between data sources. As an overall data source, these written descriptions provided accurate descriptions on the evolution of Cincinnati's Ward history.

Beginning in 1873, the city expanded dramatically outward. These areas contained minimal infrastructure and development. The *Williams Cincinnati Directory* often used domestic property lines to delineate the new ward boundaries in these areas, which presented a new challenge in accurately mapping the boundaries. A.W. Gilbert's *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio* proved invaluable in accurately identifying these property lines.

This composite history has been supplemented by and checked against ward maps that were periodically released during the study period. These include maps located at the University of Chicago Map Collection, University of Cincinnati Librart, and the Library of Congress as well as maps available online through the David Rumsey Map Collection.

Street centerlines delimited many ward boundaries. We have checked the HUE ward boundaries for topological consistency against the CPE's HUE Street Centerlines for Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Streets shapefile is an amalgamation of many historical and modern maps. The central area was digitized from the City of Cincinnati Topographical Survey of 1912, which had in turn been georeferenced onto modern orthographical images. The periphery was created using 2007 Tiger Census line files and edited to resemble Mendenhall's New Standard of Map Cincinnati, published by C.S. Mendenhall in 1920 and available at the University of Chicago Map Collection. Spatial attributes were further checked against orthoimagery downloaded September 26th and November 17th 2008 from seamless.usgs.gov

There were certain instances where discretion was necessary to move forward with the project. These cases are listed below for the particular years in which they occurred. In general these cases were limited to the far outer boundaries of the city where data were vague or limited.

The monthly and annual tabular data reported by various municipal departments that accompany and complement the HUE GIS resources reveal the effective (rather than legislated) timing of changes to ward and city boundaries. These reports are often quite clear, with references to "old" and "new" wards, or the expansion of tables to include new ward numbers. The HUE ward system dates pertain to the official implementation of the wards as reporting units, making many of them unsuitable for use in determining the passage of the ordinances and acts from which they were created due to administrative lags.

Ward Systems

1851-1860

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 16

Primary Source: "Map of Cincinnati" [map]. Williams' Cincinnati Directory, 1855. *University of Cincinnati Library*.

<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/archives/collections/cincinnati-1855.jpg> (Accessed May 28, 2013).

1861-1864

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 17

Primary Sources: C. S. Williams. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): Wrightson and Co., 1861. http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013);

The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1864.

http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

1865-1867

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 18

Primary Source: The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1865 - 1867.

http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

1868-1869

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 20

Primary Sources: "Cincinnati" [map]. R.C. Phillips, 1869. *Geo. S. Blanchard and Co.*

<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/archives/collections/cincinnati-1869.jpg> (Accessed May 28, 2013);

The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1868 - 1869.

http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Ward 17 outer boundaries are approximated based on later delineations of Fulton Township

1870-1872

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 24

Primary Sources: The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1870 - 1872.

http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013);

"City of Cincinnati" [map]. Stedman, Brown & Lyon, 1872. *David Rumsey Map Collection*.

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~23314~810003:City-of-Cincinnati,-Ohio--1872--->

[Pu?sort=Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=w4s:/where/Ohio/Cincinnati%20%28Ohio%29;q:Cincinnati;sort:Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=33&trs=48](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~23314~810003:City-of-Cincinnati,-Ohio--1872---Pu?sort=Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=w4s:/where/Ohio/Cincinnati%20%28Ohio%29;q:Cincinnati;sort:Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=33&trs=48) (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Actual number of wards for this period was 24 (based on Williams' City Directories). Full, readily mappable descriptions of the extent of peripheral annexation and interior divisions were not included for wards 21-24. They are excluded from the shapefile
- Stedman Brown and Lyon provided accurate data of only inner 20 wards
- Due to lack of information on outer boundaries, they were omitted

1873-1887

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 25

Primary Sources: "Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
"Map of Cincinnati and Vicinity" [map]. E.F. Layman, 1882. *National Library of France* <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53021074v> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress* <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
"Plan of Cincinnati and Vicinity" [map]. Wm. M. Bradley & Bro, 1887. *David Rumsey Map Collection* <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~30581~1140108:Plan-of-Cincinnati-and-vicinity---C> (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Northern Boundaries were mapped from *Williams City Directory* in conjunction with boundary lines presented in *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*.

1888 -1889

Change: Annexation and Redivision

Number of Wards: 30

Primary Sources: "Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress*. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1888 - 1889. http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Northern Boundaries were mapped from *Williams City Directory* in conjunction with boundary lines presented in *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*.
- Ward 24 eastern boundary is based on the location of the canal and the western boundary of Ward 12

1890-1895

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 30

Primary Sources: "Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress*. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);
The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City*

Directory (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1890 - 1895.
http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Only significant change is to Ward 28
- Northern Boundaries were mapped from *Williams City Directory* in conjunction with boundary lines presented in *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*.

1896-1901

Change: Annexation

Number of Wards: 31

Primary Sources: "Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);

"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);

The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. "Boundaries of Wards" in *Williams' City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1896 - 1901.

http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Northern Boundaries were mapped from *Williams City Directory* in conjunction with boundary lines presented in *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*.
- North boundary line of Ward 12 was moved from N Corporation line of city to Howell Ave. per *Williams City Directory* and changing street systems.
- Ward 31 based upon best estimates of Avondale and Clifton Township boundaries.

1902-1903

Change: Redivision

Number of Wards: 31

Primary Sources: "Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013);

"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013).

Notes

- Northern Boundaries were mapped from *Williams City Directory* in conjunction with boundary lines presented in *Map of Hamilton County, Ohio*.

Citations

"Map of Cincinnati" [map]. Williams' Cincinnati Directory, 1855. *University of Cincinnati Library*.

<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/archives/collections/cincinnati-1855.jpg> (Accessed May 28, 2013).

"Map of Hamilton County, Ohio" [map]. A.W. Gilbert, 1856. *Library of Congress*.

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000633/> (Accessed May 28, 2013).

"Plan of Cincinnati and Vicinity" [map]. S. Augustus Mitchell, 1860. *David Rumsey Map Collection*

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~2061~120059:Plan-Of->

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- “Cincinnati” [map]. R.C. Phillips, 1869. *Geo. S. Blanchard and Co.*
<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/archives/collections/cincinnati-1869.jpg> (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- “City of Cincinnati” [map]. Stedman, Brown & Lyon, 1872. *David Rumsey Map Collection*
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~23314~810003:City-of-Cincinnati,-Ohio--1872---Pu?sort=Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=w4s:/where/Ohio/Cincinnati%20%28Ohio%29;q:Cincinnati;sort:Pub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=33&trs=48 (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- “Map of Cincinnati and Vicinity” [map]. E.F. Layman, 1882. *National Library of France*
<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53021074v> (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- “Map of Hamilton County, Ohio” [map]. Moessinger & Fred Bertsh, 1886. *Library of Congress*
<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083h.la000635/> (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- “Plan of Cincinnati and Vicinity” [map]. Wm. M. Bradley & Bro, 1887. *David Rumsey Map Collection*
<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~30581~1140108:Plan-of-Cincinnati-and-vicinity---C> (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- C. S. Williams. “Boundaries of Wards” in *Williams’ City Directory* (electronic edition): Wrightson and Co., 1851 – 1861. http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).
- The Williams Directory Company Proprietors. “Boundaries of Wards” in *Williams’ City Directory* (electronic edition): The Williams Directory Co., 1864 - 1903.
http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/vl_citydir.aspx (Accessed May 28, 2013).