



Cape Girardeau Maps (CG0090)

Collection Number: CG0090

Collection Title: Cape Girardeau Maps

Dates: 1841-1861, 1908-2000, n.d.

Creator: City of Cape Girardeau (Mo.)

Abstract: This collection consists of 24 maps, mostly from the mid to late 20th century, showing the roads and lands of Cape Girardeau city and county.

Collection Size: 1.4 cubic feet
(24 maps)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; item number; folder number] *Cape Girardeau Maps* (CG0090); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: The materials were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Tom Neumeyer on March 27, 2026 (Accession No. CGA0094).

Processed by: Processed by Ann Lowe, July 28th, 2026.

Historical Note:

The city of Cape Girardeau was founded as a trading post in the 1790s by Louis Lorimier, who named it for French soldier and fur trader Jean Pierre Girardeau. Girardeau (also spelled

“Girardot”) had established a temporary trading post in the area several decades prior. Early American settlers came west from places such as North Carolina and Kentucky. The town was platted in 1806 and incorporated in 1808, becoming a city in 1843. The town grew as steamboats increased river trade, and as of the 2020 census had nearly 40,000 residents, making it the 17th largest town in Missouri at the time.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into six series, with each series organized chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:**Plat maps**

This series contains four maps showing select parts of Cape Girardeau County. The maps date from 1841-1861. Of interest to researchers are the amount of land described as “swamp” or “cypress swamp”, showing Cape Girardeau’s history as a swampy sort of place.

Road maps

This series consists of seven maps that focus on the roads of Cape Girardeau, both city and county. Of interest to researchers are the six pages related to the planning project for an I-55 expansion, which is undated. The dated maps range from 1994-2000.

Historic sites maps

This series contains three maps, all from approximately 1978. They show an inventory of historical sites in Cape Girardeau County. Of interest to researchers is the large county map which includes history sites around the county and detailed insets for the cities of both Cape Girardeau and Jackson.

Property/utility maps

This series consists of three maps, some of which show property owners of lots from approximately the 1970s. Of interest to researchers is a map showing the sewer layout in the area of Sprigg and Main Street in the city of Cape Girardeau, dated 1971.

Topographical maps

This series contains two maps, which are large reproductions of topographical maps of Cape Girardeau County, dated 1924 and 1978.

Oversized (rolled) maps

This series consists of those maps which were too large to fit into the oversized map cabinet; dates range from 1908 to 1970. These maps are kept in a standing box. Of interest to researchers is “Chart No. 13”, which is number 13 out of 17 total charts that were made charting the course of the Mississippi River. This section shows the river between St. Louis (Missouri) to Cairo (Illinois), including Cape Girardeau.

Container List:**f. 1 Maps 1-4**

maps 1-4 Plat maps

- map 1 Township 28 North, Range 12 East of the 5th principal meridian, 1841
- map 2 Township 29 North, Range 12 East of the 5th principal meridian, 1842
- map 3 Township 21 North, Range 12 East of the 5th principal meridian, 1859
- map 4 Township 21 North, Range 12 East of the 5th principal meridian, 1861

f. 2 Maps 5-19

maps 5-11 Road maps

- map 5 “Plan for proposed state highway (Federal aid project)” project FI-55-1(66), created by the Missouri State Highway Commission ca. 1960s, n.d. (some pages missing sections)
- map 6 Cape Girardeau County general highway map, 1994
- map 7 Cape Girardeau County general highway map, 1996
- map 8 City of Cape Girardeau with street index on front, created by City of Cape Girardeau Division Planning Services (S. W. Balsman), 1996
- map 9 City of Cape Girardeau with no street names or index, funded by the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission, 1997
- map 10 City of Cape Girardeau with street index on back, created by City of Cape Girardeau Division of Planning Services (S. W. Balsman), 1998
- map 11 City of Cape Girardeau with street index on back, created by City of Cape Girardeau Division of Planning Services (S. W. Balsman), 2000

maps 12-14 Historic sites maps

- map 12 Cape Girardeau County preliminary historical inventory ca. 1977, n.d.
- map 13 Cape Girardeau sectional map showing road names and a list of historic sites, 1978
- map 14 Cape Girardeau County historic sites map, showing county highways; includes two insets, one with Cape Girardeau historic sites, and one with Jackson historic sites, 1978

maps 15-17 Property/utility maps

- map 15 Hand-drawn map with numbered lots and some property owner names along Sprigg Street ca. 1970s, n.d.
- map 16 Hand-drawn map with numbered lots but few property owner names and no streets labeled ca. 1970s, n.d.
- map 17 Sewer layout in the vicinity of Sprigg and Main Sts. and William to Themis Sts. in Cape Girardeau, 1971

maps 18-19 Topographical maps

- map 18 Reproduction of a topographical map of Cape Girardeau County, 1924

map 19 Reproduction of a topographical map of Cape Girardeau County, 1978

Standing box Maps 20-24

maps 20-24 Oversized (rolled) maps

map 20 “Chart No. 13: Mississippi River from St. Louis, Mo. to Cairo, Ill. in 17 charts. Made under the direction of the Board on Examination and Survey of Mississippi River; Created by River and Harbor Act of Mar. 2 1907”, 1908

map 21 Enlargement of “City of Cape Girardeau, Mo., & Vicinity” by J. R. Walthers, City Engineer, 1947

map 22 “Cape Girardeau Missouri” by J. R. Walthers, City Engineer, 1957

map 23 Cape Girardeau County property map showing landowners by the Turner Map Company, 1970

map 24 Cape Girardeau, Mo. East-Central Area map, showing property lines but not names, created by the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission circa late 20th century, n.d. **(Significant water damage along right side)**

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