Historic Fire Insurance Maps Project

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SE MN GIS User Group Meeting

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Presentation

- EPA Brownfields Grant
- History of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Project Scope & Data Methodology
- Data Processing
- Map Sheet Availability by Year & Type
- Change Over Time
- Future Applications

EPA Brownfields Grant

- The City of Red Wing received two $200,000 EPA Community Brownfield Assessment Grants in 2010. The grants are intended to assist the City to encourage the assessment and redevelopment of petroleum and hazardous substance brownfield sites located along Red Wing's riverfront, downtown core, and former industrial and business development areas of the City.

EPA Brownfields Project Steps

- Identify suspected or confirmed Brownfield properties with the assistance of government agencies, community agencies, and private citizens
- Develop a Brownfield inventory of existing and potential Brownfield properties located throughout the City
- Acquire geographic information (such as Sanborn fire insurance maps) as necessary to integrate Brownfield data into the City GIS.
- Red Wing's overall goal is to use the EPA grant funding to clean up environmentally sensitive areas and encourage significant redevelopment and investment in the community.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company

- Creating maps since 1881
- Typical Sanborn maps include:
  - * Building addresses
  - * Building height
  - * Building footprints
  - * Street names
  - * Building materials
  - * Building use
  - * Right of way
  - * Number of stories per building

Project Scope & Methodology

- Desire to map historic industries to identify possible contaminant sites prior to the 1960's
- Meetings with Bonestroo & Associates to determine availability of fire insurance maps for scanning
- Meetings with staff at Goodhue County History Center to inventory existing fire insurance map collection
- Bonestroo & Associates subcontracted with Historic Information Gatherers (HIG) to bring large portable color scanner to GCHC

Map Sheets by Year & Type

1884 – Rascher's Map Co. (book)

1891 – Sanborn (laminated copy)

1895 – Sanborn (laminated copy)

1902 – Sanborn (book & laminated copy)

1910 – Sanborn (laminated copy)

1917 – Sanborn (laminated copy)

Data Processing

- Scans georeferenced and converted into geotiff format by HIG staff
- File size was prohibitive (90 MB in some cases)
- Georeferencing not always accurate
- Processed geotiffs using IrfanView to PNG files and re-georeferenced map scans to the parcel dataset

Change Over Time

Minnesota Stone Ware Company 1883

- First local use of down-draft kilns
- Old plant consisted of 60 x 120 foot shop, coal shed, two kilns, 40 x 100 warehouse, straw barn and horse barn at a cost of $22,000

Minnesota Stone Ware 1884

Minnesota Stoneware/Red Wing Potteries Photos 1900-1960's

Minnesota Stone Ware 1910

Pottery Place Mall

County Courthouse

County Courthouse 1891

County Courthouse

Goodhue County Government Center

Ladies Lutheran Seminary

Ladies Lutheran Seminary

Ladies Lutheran Seminary 1920

Red Wing Golf Course

Applications

- Brownfield identification and mitigation
- Redevelopment and marketing of downtown and riverfront vacant lots
- Future plans to create a FlexViewer web mapping application to share data with staff and the public
- Link photos and narratives – a journey into the past!!

Questions?

- Contact Leanne Knott at 385-3619 or email at Leanne.Knott@ci.red-wing.mn.us