

## Land Records at the New Jersey State Archives

Land records come in all types. Below is an overview of the collections held by the New Jersey State Archives.

### **Colonial Records:**

#### **Land Records Database:**

- Compilation of the records below in a searchable database on our website:  
[www.archives.nj.gov](http://www.archives.nj.gov)
- Names of abutting property owners are included in the database
- The eventual plan is to post images of the deeds, surveys, etc on-line

#### **West Jersey Proprietors (1685 – present)**

- State Archives has surveys, minutes, and other records on microfilm (1685-1951)
- Original records at the Archives.
- Loose records have been indexed
- Still active

#### **East Jersey Proprietors (1685-1998)**

- Sold property rights to the State of New Jersey in 1998
- Most of the records are on microfilm
- Records at the State Archives

#### **Secretary of State Deed Collection (c.1650-1856)**

- Grantors and grantees are indexed in *Colonial Conveyances* and database on our web site
- Deeds and other records from 1664-1703 abstracted in William Nelson's *Patents and Deeds and Other Early Records of New Jersey 1664-1703* published as a part of the New Jersey Archives series
- Includes original East and West Jersey deed volumes transferred to the Provincial Secretary's Office in the 1740s

#### **Other Colonial Records:**

- Elizabethtown Records including land transaction and the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery that lists land owners in the 1740s-1750s. Land records included in the database on our web site
- County Loan Offices – Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties ca 1724-1799 are also included in the database

## **County Records:**

### **Deeds (1660s-1900)**

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county deeds up to 1900 (original records still owned by each county)
- Most deeds date from about 1785, a few counties have deeds recorded before that date
- All deeds have indexes on microfilm, many indexes continue past 1900
- All the records filmed by the Latter Day Saints are available digitally on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Other states too

### **Mortgages (1766-1850)**

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county mortgages up to 1850
- Original records still owned by each county

## **Estate Records:**

### **Original Wills and Inventories (1670-1952)**

- State Archives holds all original wills and inventories for the state of New Jersey from 1670-1952 (1901-1952 are only available on microfilm)

### **County Surrogate Offices (c.1785-1900)**

- State Archives has microfilm copies of most County Surrogate Office's records up to 1900
- Available on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

## **Court Records:**

### **County Court of Common Pleas Partitions (1780s-1900s)**

- State Archives has original county partitions and copies still held by County Clerks on microfilm

### **County Orphan's Court Partitions (1780s-1900)**

- State Archives has microfilm copies of many County Orphan's Court partitions

### **Prerogative Court (1830s-1900)**

- State Archives holds original Prerogative Court cases to 1900
- Prerogative Court had jurisdiction over cases from county orphan's courts and estates where the property was in two counties

### **Supreme Court (1714-1900s)**

- Divisions of estates from 1714-1900
- Lost Deeds (1782-1838 with a few deeds before 1782)

### **Chancery Court (1740s-1947)**

- State Archives owns the original Chancery Court cases to about 1896
- Chancery Court was charged with hearing cases of equity (concern for fairness and judgement)
- Indexed by complainant (index by complainant and defendant is being created)

## **Road Records:**

### **County Road Returns (1710s-1980s)**

- Books kept by County Clerk's describing roads in each county
- State Archives has most road records on microfilm

### **Department of Transportation Maps (1920s-1930s)**

- State Archives has copies of maps marked with roads from County Road Returns

### **Supreme County Road Book (1830-1889)**

- Records roads that pass through more than one county

## **Maps:**

### **Secretary of State Map Collection (1780-1910)**

- Collection of maps and surveys filed with the Secretary of State for routes of Turnpikes, Canals, Railroads and Riparian lands

### **General Map Collection (1666-1990)**

- Original and reproduction flat maps of New Jersey
- Includes reconstructed local maps, such as Lawrence Township

### **Atlas Collection (1870-1910)**

- Original and reproduction bound county and city atlases

## **Tax Ratables:**

### **Duplicate Tax Ratables (1768-1822)**

- Duplicate tax records filed with the New Jersey Legislature
- Not complete
- Most Ratables are indexed in *New Jersey Tax Lists, 1772-1822*. Bergen and Hunterdon Ratables have been indexed separately