



New York State Archives

**New York State Department of Audit and Control Maps of
Undivided Tracts and of Tracts Sold by the Comptroller for
Unpaid Taxes B1610**

New York State Archives
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12230
archref@nysed.gov
URL: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	These maps were collected and/or created by the Office of the State Comptroller for the purpose of identifying land to be sold for unpaid taxes. The maps depict land in every area of the state, and especially in the Adirondack, Catskill, and western regions. Many maps are extremely detailed and frequently show names of owners of individual lots and parcels.
Creator:	New York (State). Department of Audit and Control
Title:	Maps of undivided tracts and of tracts sold by the comptroller for unpaid taxes
Quantity:	124 cubic feet
Quantity:	1875 maps
Inclusive Date:	1700-1935
Series:	B1610

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Arrangement

This bulk of accretion B1610-99 is arranged by category of map (old or new) and then numerically by map number.

NOTE: In accretion B1610-99, certain maps in both categories are stored separately. See Box 202 and Folders 203-211 for listings of specific maps.

In accretion B1610-99A, bound "Case O" maps are arranged alphabetically by county and then numerically by map number. Unbound maps in folders are numbered and often grouped by tract, township, or municipality, but lack any discernible arrangement as a set.

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Administrative History

These maps were collected and/or created by the Office of the State Comptroller for the purpose of identifying land to be sold for unpaid taxes. Beginning in 1809 the comptroller began to require (from county boards of supervisors) maps of lands that were to be sold for unpaid taxes, so that those lands could be more accurately located and described. The result was this collection of manuscript maps.

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Scope and Content Note

The maps depict land in every area of the state, and especially in the Adirondack, Catskill, and western regions. Many maps are extremely detailed and frequently show names of owners of individual lots and parcels. Most of the maps are manuscript originals or hand copies on tracing cloth. Some are blueprint copies or printed maps with annotations.

B1610-99A: This accretion primarily consists of one volume of hand-drawn or hand copied maps on graph paper. Each of the maps is designated "Case O" and numbered consecutively. The accretion also includes approximately 75 unbound maps stored in folders. The maps depict a variety of tracts and patents, mainly located in the Adirondack region. Some are hand-drawn or copied on paper or tracing cloth; some are blueprint or blueline print copies.

B1610-15: This accretion consists of a statewide set of maps referred to by the State Comptroller's Office as "Case O" maps. As with the consecutively numbered rolled and foldered maps that comprise the rest of this series, the "Case O" maps were compiled by the comptroller's office for the purpose of identifying land to be sold for unpaid taxes. The agency's reason for compiling and maintaining this separate set of maps, arranged by county, is not known. While the bulk of the maps are done in ink on linen, some maps are hand-drawn in pencil on paper. A few scattered blueprint maps are also included. In a small minority of cases, only narrative survey descriptions of land tracts are included.

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Related Information

Related Material

B1606 Indexes to Maps of Lands Sold by the Comptroller, indexes this series (including "Case 'O'" maps and numbered maps in folders).

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Maps predating 1859 are indexed by David E. E. Mix, "Catalogue of Maps and Surveys, in the Offices of the Secretary of State, State Engineer and Surveyor and Comptroller..." (Albany, 1859) pp. 309-321.

B1610-99: An alphabetical index by county, and then by town or tract, is also available.

B1610-99: Container list; Item list for oversized maps.

B1610-99A: Volume list and item list.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

Restricted: May not be photocopied due to fragility. Use with assistance of archivist.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Scanned images of a small sample of maps are available at the New York State Archives.

Alternate Formats Available

Items Online

High resolution images of selected original documents in this series are available in State Archives Digital Collections.

[New York State Department of Audit and Control maps of undivided tracts and of tracts sold by the comptroller for unpaid taxes, \[circa 1700-1935\] in Digital Collections](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

B1610-99A: Why the maps in folders were not incorporated into the bulk of the series is unknown; they may have been removed from the series and not refiled. Some maps are unnumbered and may be estrayed from other series.

Processing Information

B1610-15: This accretion was transferred to the State Archives by the Department of Taxation and Finance in 1989 and originally accessioned as Series B1259. Further investigation in 2015 revealed the relationship of these maps to the much larger set of maps in Series B1610. The records were therefore reaccessioned as an accretion to Series B1610 at that time.

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Access Terms

- Real property tax--New York (State)
- Collecting maps
- Government purchasing of real property--New York (State)
- Plats
- Maps (documents)
- New York (State)
- Blueline prints
- Blueprints
- Cadastral maps
- Documenting plats
- Taxing
- Tracing cloth
- Tax-sales--New York (State)

- **New York (State). Comptroller's Office**