Maryland Historic Aerial Photos

National Archives

1938 & 1952

The National Archives at College Park, Maryland is the repository for earliest aerial photos of the United States. The only photos available online are the index maps for each county. You will have to go to the National Archives or hire someone to obtain copies of the photos for the needed area.

The National Archives Catalog Search (Maryland Aerial Photo Section)

Cartographic and Architectural Records at the National Archives in College Park, MD

Research Online

You can search the National Archives Catalog to find descriptions and digitized images of historical maps and cartographic data files as well as documents and photographs related to geography.

View all:

- Catalog's Cartographic Holdings

Online Highlights

- New Fortification Index Available Online
- RG 407: WWII Records Now Fully Digitized and Available Online
- RG 241: Restored Patents Now Fully Digitized and Available Online
- Record Group 26: Records of the U.S. Coast Guard, Series: Lighthouse Plans and Maps, 1793 - 1939
- Record Group 145: Records of the Farm Service Agency, Indexes to Aerial Photographs of the United States, 1953 - 1957
- General MacArthur Report Maps, 1940-1947

Aerial Photographs

We have light tables available in our research room to view rolled aerial negative film. Reproductions of rolled aerial film can be made by taking photographs of the rolled film using privately owned cameras and tripods that can be brought to our facility. Researchers may also bring their own laptop to connect to our flatbed scanners (Epson Expression 11000XL Photo Scanner and Microtek Scanner) with the capability to make digital scans of rolled aerial film. Please note that use of these scanners may have to be limited and shared among researchers during your visit.

We do not have the ability to make any type of printed reproductions of rolled aerial negative film within our facility.

Researchers may choose to bring their own aerial scanner for use in the Cartographic research room. Equipment must be approved by Conservation and Cartographic supervisors prior to use. Researchers must adhere to guidelines, all research room policies, procedures and staff directions. Please see our General Guidelines: Handling Aerial Film and Aerial Film Scanner Box.