

## LOCATING HISTORIC PHOTOS AND MAPS

In reviewing drainage issues and discussing concerns with property owners, using historic records such as aerial photography can be valuable. The information can also prove helpful during the design process for roadway improvements. Several excellent sources of information are available for Iowa.

### Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT)

The Iowa DOT has maintained an extensive library of aerial photography for many years, with some records dating to the 1930s. Many counties in Iowa have been totally covered. Currently all records are available in hard copy photography at a scale of 13 = 6602. (Digital imagery will be initiated in the near future.) Copies of photos may be requested, but originals cannot be taken from the Iowa DOT office. Local agencies can contact the Iowa DOT Office of Design and request a schedule for viewing. The Iowa DOT also maintains GIS-based maps in GEOMEDIA format. See [www.iowadotmaps.com](http://www.iowadotmaps.com).

A statewide drainage map is available from the Iowa DOT at this website:  
[www.msp.dot.state.ia.us/trans\\_data/drainage.html](http://www.msp.dot.state.ia.us/trans_data/drainage.html).

For more information, contact

Mark Hansen  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
Transportation Data  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-239-1990  
[www.state.dot.ia.us](http://www.state.dot.ia.us)

### Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS), U.S. Geological Survey

The EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota maintains an extensive variety of photography, some dating to the 1940s. EROS is part of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Mapping Division. Many choices of mapping are available for ordering including satellite images and aerial photographs. Query and order online:

<http://edcsns17.cr.usgs.gov/EarthExplorer/>.

For more information, contact

Customer Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
EROS Data Center  
47914 252<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57198-0001  
800-252-4547  
<http://edc.usgs.gov>

### Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO)

The Aerial Photography Field Office in Salt Lake City, Utah is the primary source of aerial imagery for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). More than 10 million images are contained in the APFO library dating to 1955. Aerial photography acquired prior to 1955 by the USDA is maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. Many choices are available at APFO, including hardcopy and some digital imagery of agricultural lands. The files include complete coverage of the nation's cropland. For more information, contact

USDA-FSA-APFO  
2222 West 2300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119-2020  
801-975-3503  
[www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov)

**Resources**

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**Iowa State University (ISU)**

The Iowa Geographic Image Map Server provides digital orthophoto quarter quads, topographic, relief, and land cover maps via an ISU website:

**<http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/>**.

Color infrared orthophoto images are available. As of this writing, only the year 2002 is available, but good general information is provided with complete coverage of the state. The website was developed by the ISU Geographic Information Systems Support and Research Facility in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.