

## **JONESBOROUGH SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE DIGITALLY**

Maps are wonderful things. And the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are one of the great resources for historical research. The archives are fortunate to now have digital images available of the Sanborn maps done of Jonesborough in 1888, 1892, 1907, 1913, 1924, and 1939 for research use.

These scanned images of the original maps owned by the Heritage Alliance in Jonesborough were compiled and given to the department by Gordon Edwards, president of the Alliance. The map images are made available to archives researchers with the kind permission of that organization, for which we in the archives are greatly appreciative.

While the maps were originally produced to aid insurance companies in underwriting building and property insurance, the maps provide a wealth of information for anyone doing historical and genealogical research. The maps include outlines of each building and outbuilding, the location of doors and windows, building use, property boundaries, fire walls, street names, names of businesses, churches, and public buildings, and natural features such as streams. Color coding allows one to identify the type of material with which the structure was built (wood, brick, etc.). Moving from the earliest maps to the latest, a researcher can define changes in the town's built environment and see how the town grew and developed over time.