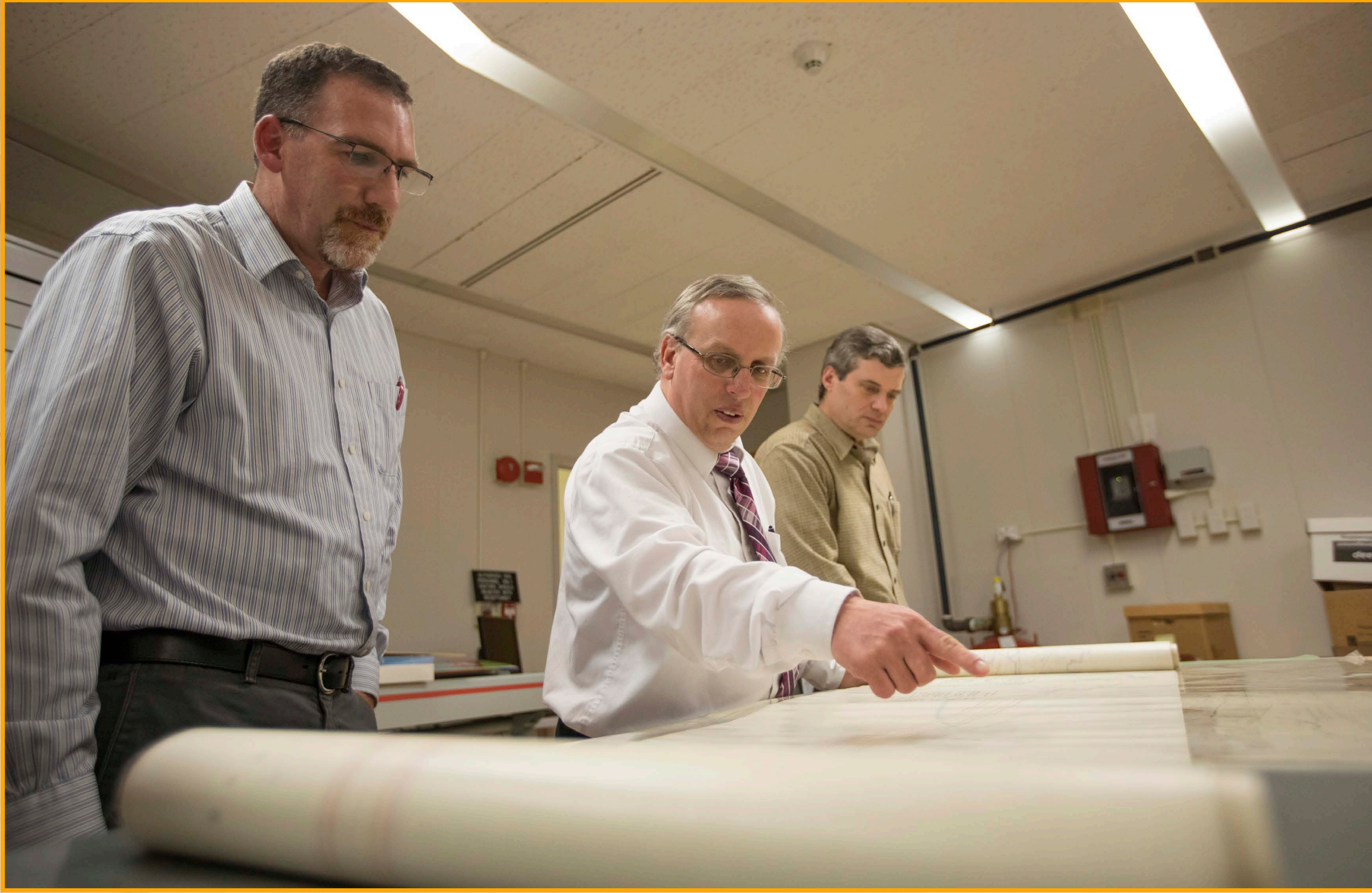


The OGS Bureau of Land Management



Stewardship of the vast collection of maps that are represented in this exhibition is the responsibility of The Office of General Services Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM's authority predates New York's statehood (1788), as it inherited much of the authority granted to the Board of Commissioners of the Land Office established under Chapter 60 of the Laws of 1784 and Chapter 66 of the Laws of 1785. Those chapters directed the Board of Commissioners to lay out, dispose of, and grant "waste and unappropriated" state lands. In 1960, the Board of the Commissioners of the Land Office and the Department of State's Division of the Land Office were abolished. Their functions and duties were transferred to the newly established Office of General Services (OGS).

What is this exhibit?

This exhibit features highlights of the historic map collection maintained by the New York State Office of General Services Bureau of Land Management. The collection includes approximately 800 maps that date from the 1600s to the late 1800s and tell the story of how New York State-owned lands were developed over the course of those three centuries.



One of the bureau's primary responsibilities is to grant ownership and convey rights to use state real property through grants, leases, licenses, easements, or permits, including:

- Lands under water or formerly under water.
- Abandoned or surplus state property.
- Minerals and fossil deposits on state and private lands.
- Air space and subsurface rights for municipalities.



The BLM now uses a combination of historic and contemporary maps, such as the one above.