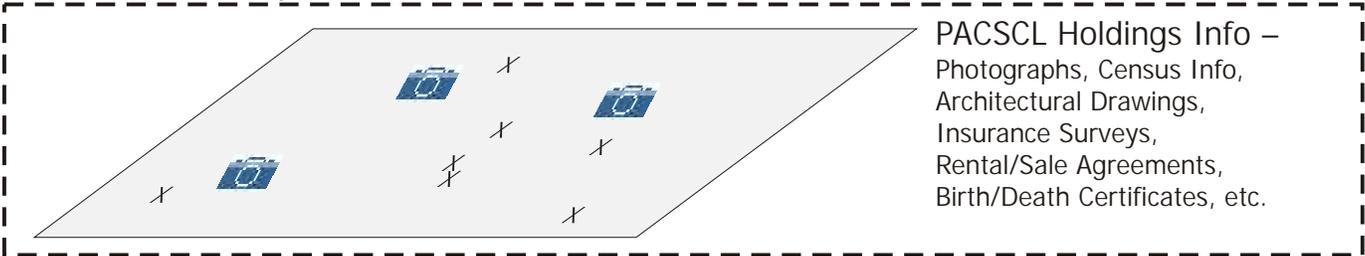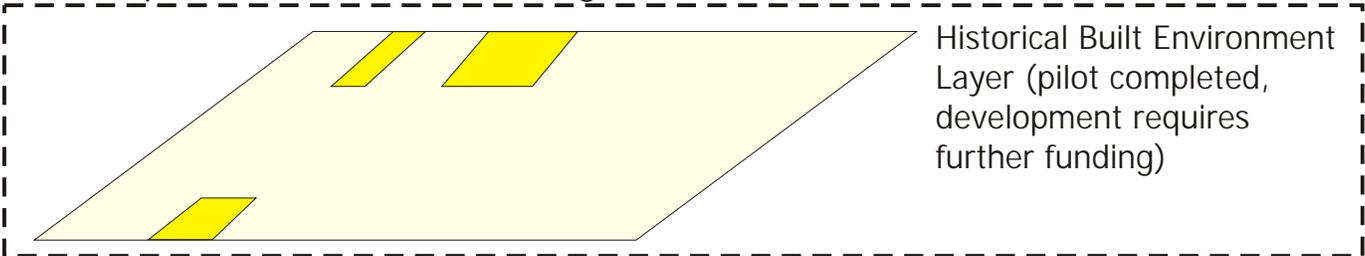# Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

Geographical Information Systems provide information in "layers." The goal of the Philadelphia GeoHistory Network is to integrate the important layers from the City of Philadelphia together with historical coverages of buildings and holdings from PACSCL collections. If built, this would be the first project taking a user directly from straightforward map information deep into the ephemeral world of photographs and manuscripts and advertisements, providing a context and an ability to understand and research the sense of place as it relates to the city.
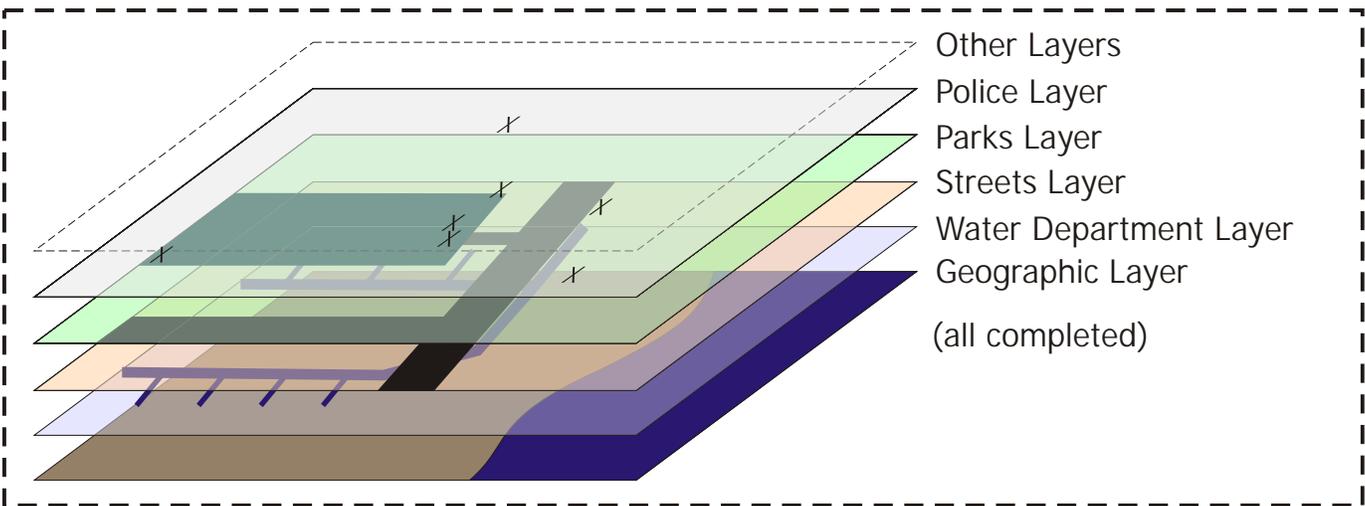
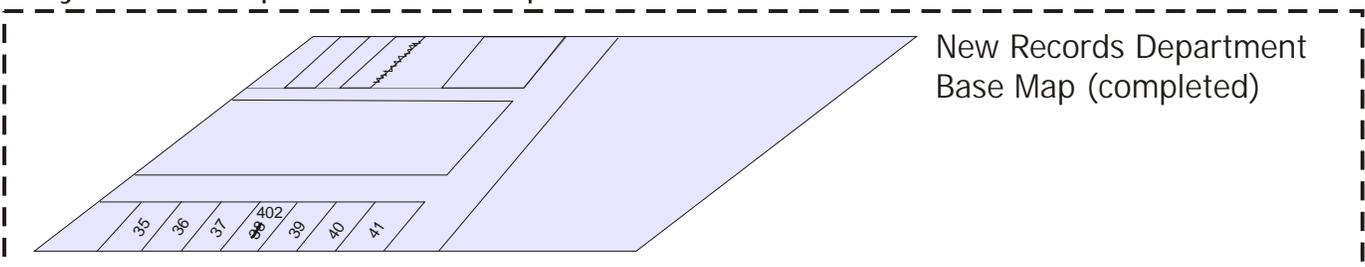## Greater Philadelphia Research Collections Network

PACSCL Holdings Info – Photographs, Census Info, Architectural Drawings, Insurance Surveys, Rental/Sale Agreements, Birth/Death Certificates, etc.

Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Database

Historical Built Environment Layer (pilot completed, development requires further funding)

City of Philadelphia Geographic Information System

Other Layers
Police Layer
Parks Layer
Streets Layer
Water Department Layer
Geographic Layer

(all completed)

City of Philadelphia Records Department

New Records Department Base Map (completed)

35 36 37 402 38 39 40 41

Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

The images below trace the corner of 15th and Chestnut from the end of the 19th century to the present. They are just a sample of the many resources available in PACSCL collections. While this demonstration focuses on the buildings primarily, the Philadelphia GeoHistory GIS would expand to include people and events that are strongly tied to place.

2004

City of Philadelphia Geographic Information System, 2004

Left: The Pennsylvania and Graham Buildings as they appeared in 2002. PAB Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

1910

G. W. Bromley & Co., *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, 1910

Right: Advertisement from the 1904 yearbook of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the T-Square Club

1888

Baist, G. William, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, 1888

Above: Church of Epiphany. King, Moses. *Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians.* (New York: Blanchard Press, Isaac H. Blanchard Co., 1901), p. 25.

Right: Church of the Epiphany, 15th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa., Plan of Principal Floor. Thomas U. Walter, architect, 1833. Thomas Ustick Walter Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia.