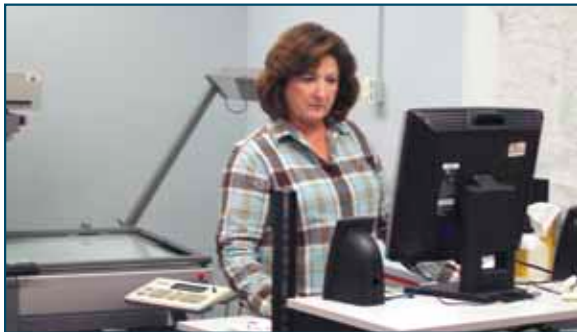


## Land Survey Repository, Document Preservation and Distribution

The Land Survey Program has the statutory responsibility to establish and maintain a statewide land records repository. The Land Survey Repository consists of the Document Preservation and Document Distribution Sections. The Repository now contains approximately 1.8 million land survey records and geodetic survey data. More than 20,000 records are added annually. The important aspect of the Repository operation is preservation and protection against loss of these important documents, which date back to the early 1800s and even prior to statehood. The land records continue to be the basis for all land titles in our state. Storage for the original plats and field notes is maintained in an archival vault located in the basement of the Land Survey Program building. A constant temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and relative humidity of 50 percent is maintained in an electronically controlled environment to protect these records.



The Land Survey Program provides survey records to the public, surveying profession, mappers, engineers and state, county and local government on a daily basis. To keep the repository records current, all surveys recorded or filed in the state are collected, microfilmed, scanned and indexed. Digital database indexes are maintained to provide for current information and rapid retrieval. Each year, thousands of paper copies, microfiche and CD-ROMs are made available for minimum cost. County governments are given microfiche copies of the survey records and an index for local use.

## Land Survey Information

Available on paper, microfiche and CD-ROM

- GLO Plats
  - GLO Field Notes
  - Subdivision Plats
  - County Survey Records
  - Corner Documents
  - Missouri Geodetic Reference System Stations
  - National Geodetic Survey Horizontal and Vertical Control Data
  - Tax Reassessment Maps
- Land Survey Index  
Research and order any of the 1.3 million survey documents available from the Land Records Repository. Search online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Searches include legal descriptions, subdivision plats, U.S. survey number, General Land Office plats and field notes by township, surveyor name or number and St. Louis city blocks and roads.



**MISSOURI**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Geology and Land Survey

### Land Survey Program

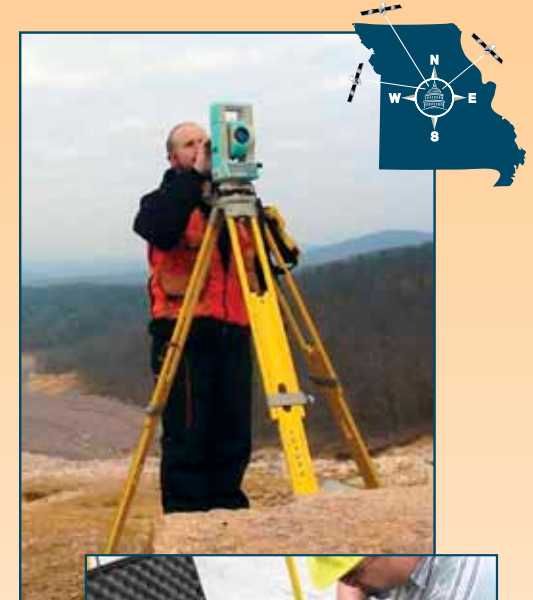
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# LAND SURVEY

## PROGRAM SERVICES PROTECTING AND PRESERVING

- LAND CORNERS
- GEODETIC CONTROL MONUMENTS
- SURVEY RECORDS



**MISSOURI**  
Department of Natural Resources  
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# LAND SURVEY PROGRAM

## History of the Program and the U.S. Public Land Survey System in Missouri



On April 30, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed and all land not previously granted to private owners was vested in the U.S. government. Inventory and transfer of the lands to private ownership was to be accomplished by a rectangular system of surveys using section, township and range designations. Accordingly, in the fall of 1815, contracts were let with Joseph C. Brown

to establish an east-west baseline near the 35th parallel of latitude across what is now the state of Arkansas, and with P.K. Robbins to establish the Fifth Principal Meridian north from the junction of the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. These two lines are the basis for the public land surveys in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

The General Land Office (GLO) surveyors of Missouri divided land into townships measuring six miles on a side; each township was subdivided into 36 one-mile square sections. Much of Missouri had been surveyed by 1830 and by 1855 the township surveys were essentially complete. The corners set during this monumental surveying task became, and remain, the basis of all real property in Missouri.

At the time of these original surveys and for many years that followed, agriculture was the main occupation and land was abundant and sparsely settled. Because of our land's rural character, many of the exact locations of the original corners were neglected.



Many of these corners and their supportive evidence were removed in clearing for pasture, timber, crops or other land use. Some were destroyed through necessity and some through ignorance of their importance.



In the mid-1960s, the Missouri Association of Registered Land Surveyors began efforts to have legislation enacted to prevent destruction of the U.S. Public Land Survey System (USPLSS) corners and begin the reestablishment and restoration of lost or obliterated corners. On July 1, 1970, the State Land Survey Authority became a reality. Four years later, it joined the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to become the Land Survey Program.

## U.S. Public Land Survey System Corner Restoration in Missouri

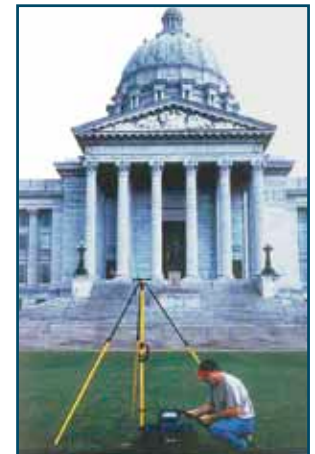
The primary mission of the Land Survey Program is to develop and provide information required for the economical location of property boundaries in Missouri. The restoration and reestablishment of the 230,000 corners of the USPLSS is a part of that mission. Since 1971 the Land Survey Program has continuously provided for the restoration and preservation of these important corners. This is achieved through contracts funded by the Land Survey Program working with county surveyors, private surveyors, county commissions and in-house staff. Technical assistance in the form of survey investigations provided to private citizens and professional surveyors has helped resolve many survey disputes.

## Geodetic Surveys in Missouri

The Land Survey Program is responsible for the preservation and extension of the geodetic control network in the state. This network of highly accurate surveying monuments is commonly referred to as horizontal, vertical control monuments (benchmarks), or Missouri Geographic Reference System Stations (GRS). Geodetic surveys determine the precise location of the monuments on the earth's surface, taking into account the shape, size and curvature of the earth. Geodetic surveys can be used to cover very large areas when the resulting accuracy and precision can not be obtained by ordinary surveying methods. Today, geodetic surveying is being done with the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS). A network of NAVSTAR satellites orbiting 12,500 miles above the surface of the earth provides signals allowing surveyors to obtain very accurate latitude, longitude, elevations and state plane coordinates.

The geodetic survey monuments provide a permanent reference for surveys, corners of the USPLSS, control for aerial photography and mapping, engineering surveys, and the framework for county-level Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or Land Information Systems (LIS).

The Missouri Geographic Reference System is an extension of the National Geodetic Survey Network. The monumented points are generally aluminum or brass tablets three to four inches in diameter set in concrete posts flush with the ground. The disks are stamped with the information that includes their name, year and agency that set the mark. More than 13,000 of these monuments exist in Missouri. The technical data for these markers are available through the Land Survey Program.



Collecting data with a GPS receiver at the Geodetic Control monument named "capitol." This survey marker is utilized for land surveys, mapping, engineering surveys and Geographic Reference Systems.