The Sanborn Perris Company made maps starting in 1867 of twelve thousand cities and towns across North America. They were made to provide insurance companies with detailed information about structures they were insuring. Providing construction information for each building assisted agents in evaluating the risk of insuring individual properties.

The Richmond Historical Society's map collection includes black and white Richmond village Sanborn Fire Maps from 1884, 1889, 1904, 1914, and 1926 that can be viewed by appointment.