

What about Your Neighborhood?

Did people migrate to your town in the 1930s and 1940s or did they leave it? Why?

What were the first highways in your community? What towns did each connect? Were they part of a regional or national route? What happened to other forms of transportation, such as trains and boats, as new highways were built?

Was your town affected by New Deal programs like the Works Progress Administration or Civilian Conservation Corps? Were buildings, roads, or bridges built under these federal programs? Why? Where?

Resources

U.S. Historical Census Data Browser (<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>)

Using the census, find out how the population of your community changed throughout time. Compare different time periods by selecting different years in the left margin. Select "Total Population," then your state, to find your county's population.

American Memory Map Collections: 1500–2003, U.S. Library of Congress
(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>)

Research the development of your town or city. Select "Cities and Towns" and then "Geographic Location Index" to find a map of your area. Compare the streets in the map to the streets in your town today. Are there new highways? Have some roads been removed?

New Deal Network (<http://newdeal.feri.org/>)

Find documents, photos, and information about New Deal programs in your area. Select either "New Deal Document Library" or "New Deal Photo Gallery," then search by subject for documents and photos from your state. Search for your community in other areas of the site, as well as through the links.

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1940
(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>)

Life histories of people all over the United States, recorded during the Great Depression. Click on "Select a State" to find stories of people from your community.

Roadside America (<http://www.roadsideamerica.com>)

Find out about roads and roadside attractions throughout the United States, including Route 66. See if Route 66 ran near where you live, or if a famous road like it is near you.