# Click from city's past to present

## New application shows aerial views over time

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Can you imagine Haywood Mall as farmland or Furman University as a small site on University Ridge?

You can check out these and other images from Greenville's past via a new, interactive Web application recently launched by the city of Greenville's Geographic Information Systems Division.

The Historical Aerial Photography Viewer was developed to illustrate land development in the city over time and made available on the city's website last week, said Mark DePenning, GIS Administrator for the city of Greenville.

"It's helpful for city environmental assessments and historical research on what used to be located on a property," he said. Although it was developed to assist city staff, its availability to the public came at no additional development costs.

Visit http://gis.greenvillesc.gov/historicalimagery/ to view aerial photos and maps of Greenville dating back to 1955. There are also 1920 fire insurance map images of a limited area of downtown.

Users can find an area of interest by street name or by the complete address and then use a slider bar to change the imagery over time. There's even a Google link to see a current street view image of the selected street for further comparison.

"It pulls a variety of imagery data sources together into one application," DePenning said.

Photos were retrieved from recent city projects and a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that helped measure and calculate farmland acreage, DePenning said.

The website is an interesting tool for the public to learn how land in the city was developed and used over time, DePenning said. "Although it is a useful tool, many people also just think it's really neat to see the change."

DePenning, who has lived in Greenville since 1980, said he was impressed with the changes that have taken place over just three decades.

"I remember when the only places to eat were restaurants like Pete's and Po' Folks, where you drank tea out of a mason jar," he said. "Commercial development has given us a lot more choices — and more challenges."