

(Bureau of Land Management 1973)

GEOG 482 / 582 : GIS Data Management

# Lesson 5: Land Records, Census and Addresses

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# Overview

## Learning Objective Questions:

1. Why are land records important?
2. What are the US Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and Metes and Bounds cadastral control survey systems?
3. What are the elements of a land parcel data model?
4. How do tax parcels differ from development parcels?
5. What are the main differences between a multipurpose land cadastre and a multipurpose marine cadastre?
6. What are the elements of the census feature dataset?
7. Why are Census topological rules so important?
8. How are street address reference systems and coordinate reference systems similar and different?

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## Lesson Preview

Learning objective questions act as the lesson outline.

Questions beg answers.

# Cadastrals and Parcels

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## 1. Why are cadastre records important?

Cadastral – a record of interest in earth coverage. Most interest deals with land coverage. However, some interest increasingly deals with water coverage. Thus, land cadastre versus marine cadastre.

Parcel land record is most used GIS data in the Puget Sound region based on a survey of GIS managers in 1988.

More applications use land data records data than any other single data category.

Most frequently used data in regional and urban GIS. Why?

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**Key terms**  
Land records

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# Parcel Thematic Layers

see graphic A&Z p. 175 – Oakland County CA GIS Installation

The following categories are for working with maps – not necessarily, a geodatabase structure

- Administrative areas – boundaries for spatial orientation
- Site Addresses, regulated use and restrictions – activities on the land
- Separated rights and encumbrances – rights, interests, limitations
- Ownership and tax parcels – (record of interest in ownership and taxation)
- Parcel framework – boundary control and framework
- Corners and boundaries – extent of land subdivisions
- Survey network – foundation of positional accuracy for coordinates
- Digital orthophotography and hydrography – map background and reference

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## **Key terms**

Parcel framework  
Corners  
orthophotography

# Public Land Survey System – Survey of Public Lands

2. What are the US Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and Metes and Bounds cadastral control survey systems?



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## Key terms

PLSS

Metes and Bounds

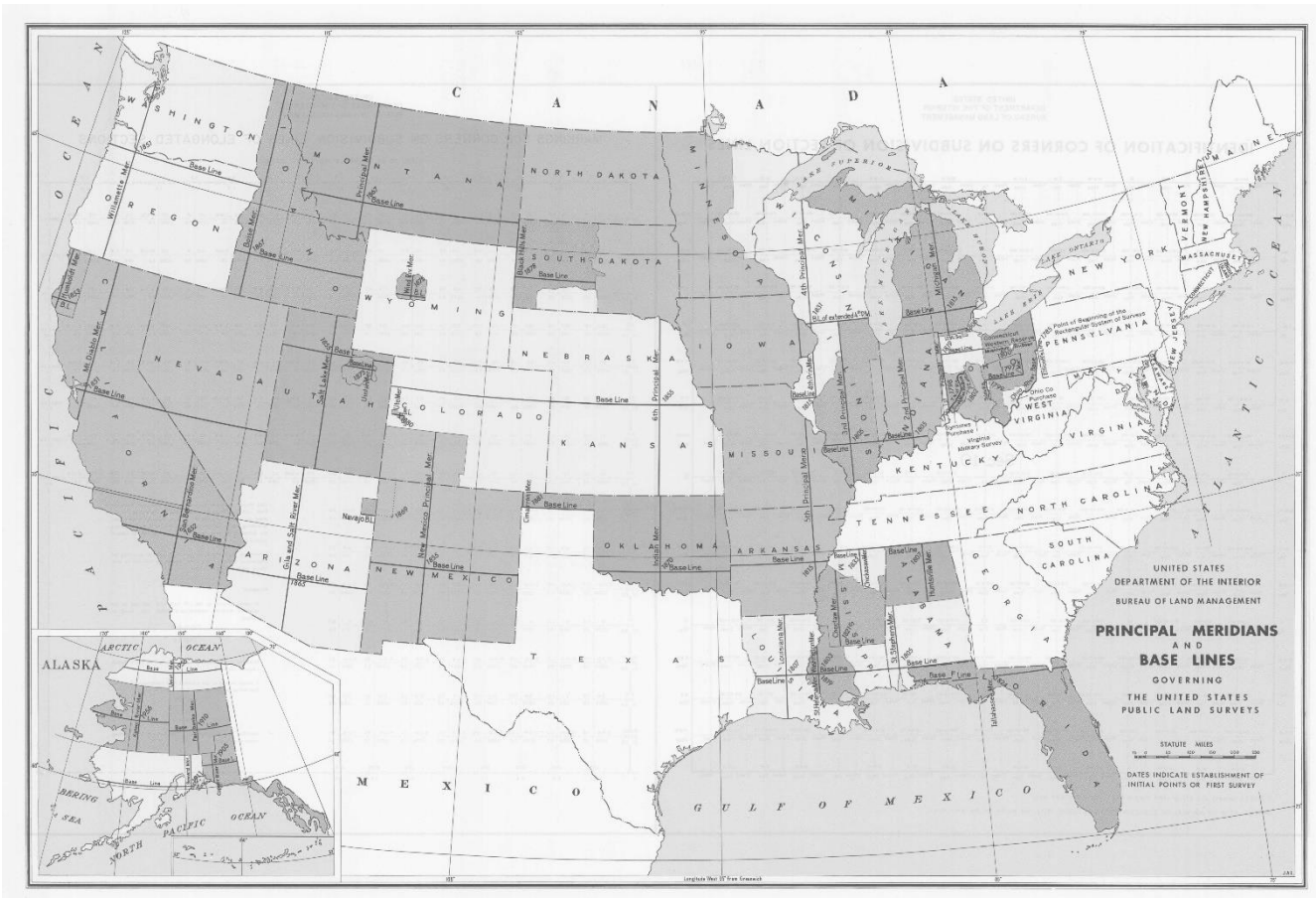
PLSS states in white.

Metes and Bounds in shaded.

(Bureau of Land Management 1973)

# PLSS framework

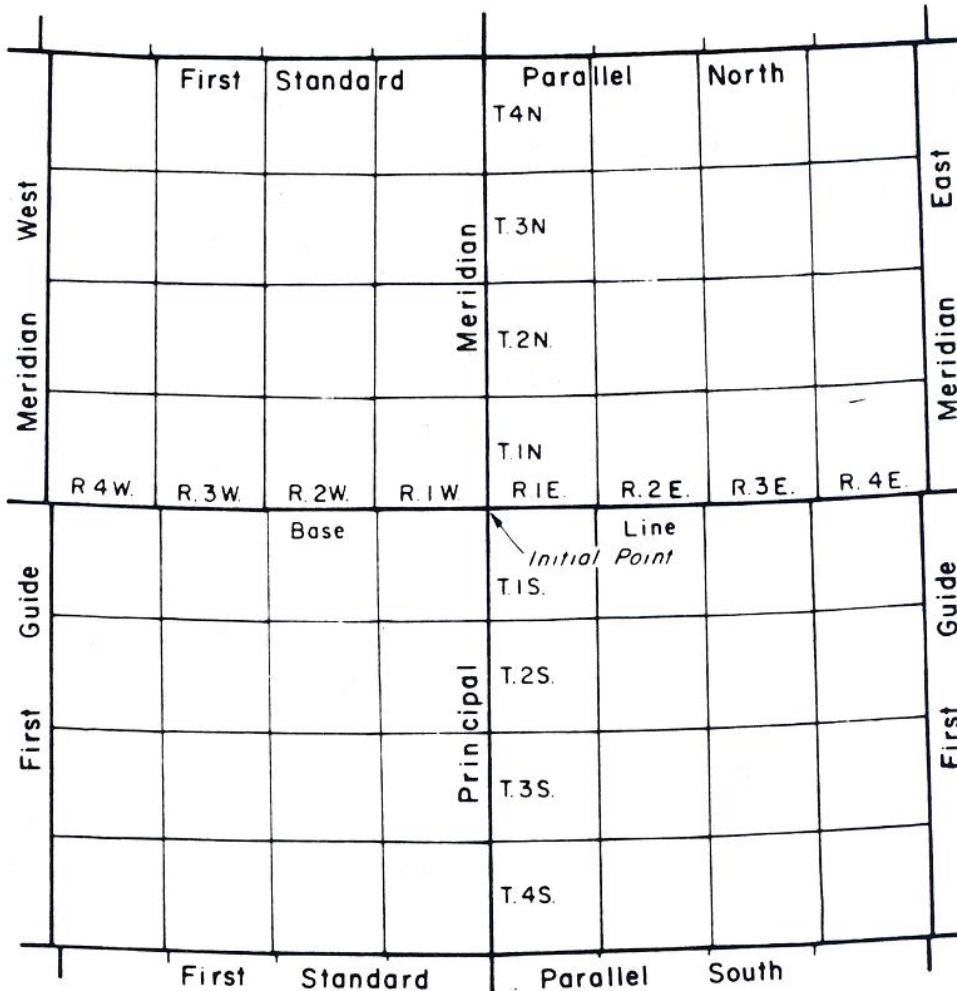
Roots in America revolutionary war; land sold to replenish USA treasury  
First surveys are in Ohio; took five tries to get it right



# Principal Meridian intersects Base Line to form Initial Point

Township (N-S) and Range (E-W) referencing for Townships

Township stacking has offset every fourth row N & S to address longitudinal convergence



## Key terms

Township

Range

Principal Meridian

Baseline

Initial Point

(Bureau of Land Management 1973)

# Townships are subdivided into sections

36 sections in each township

Each section 1 mile on side (640 acres in one section)

One section in 36 sold to fund public education (land grant colleges)

*TOWNSHIP LINE*

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

*RANGE LINE*

## Key terms

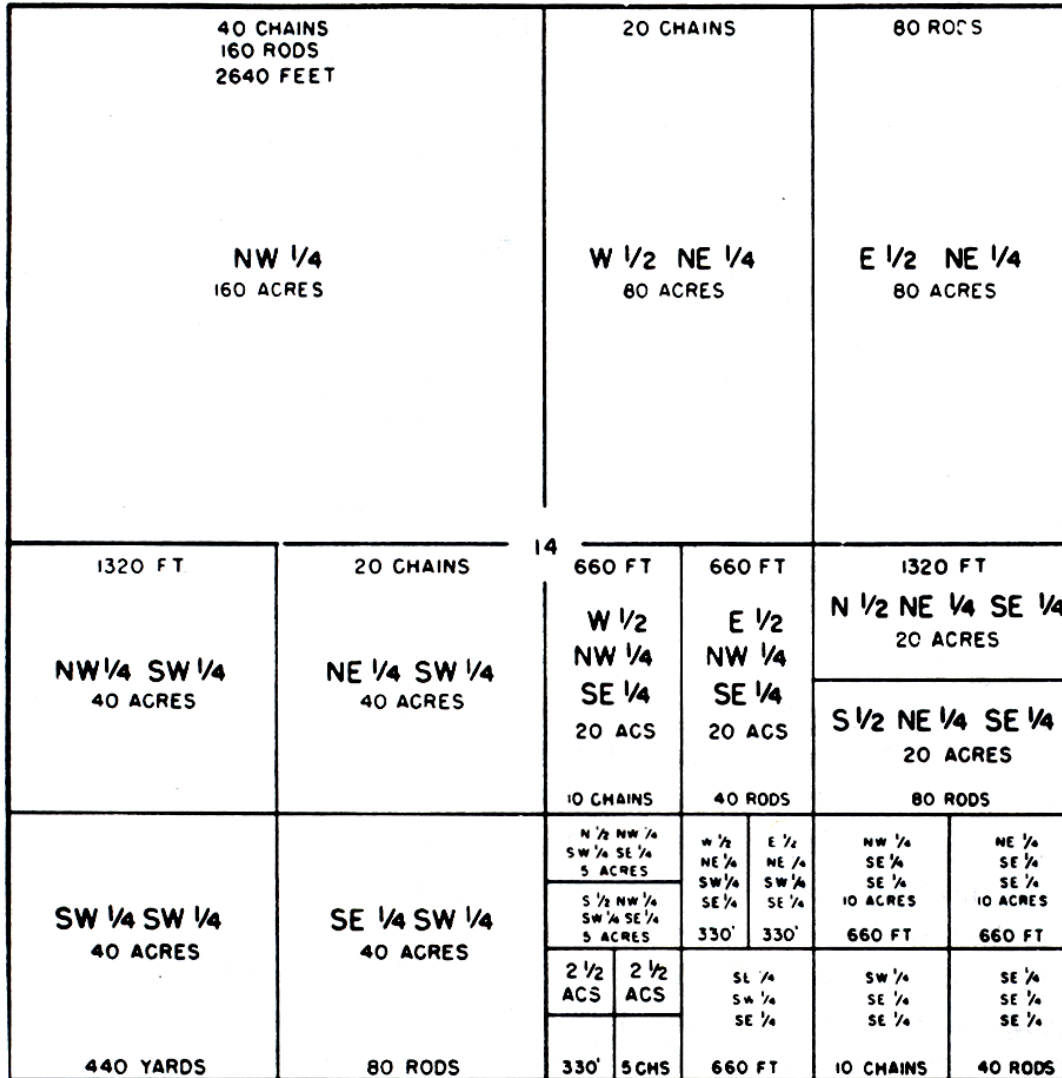
Section

(Bureau of Land Management 1973)



# Sections (640 acres) subdivided into 1/4 sections (160 acres)

1/4 1/4 section equivalent to “back 40 acres” on a farm



## Key terms

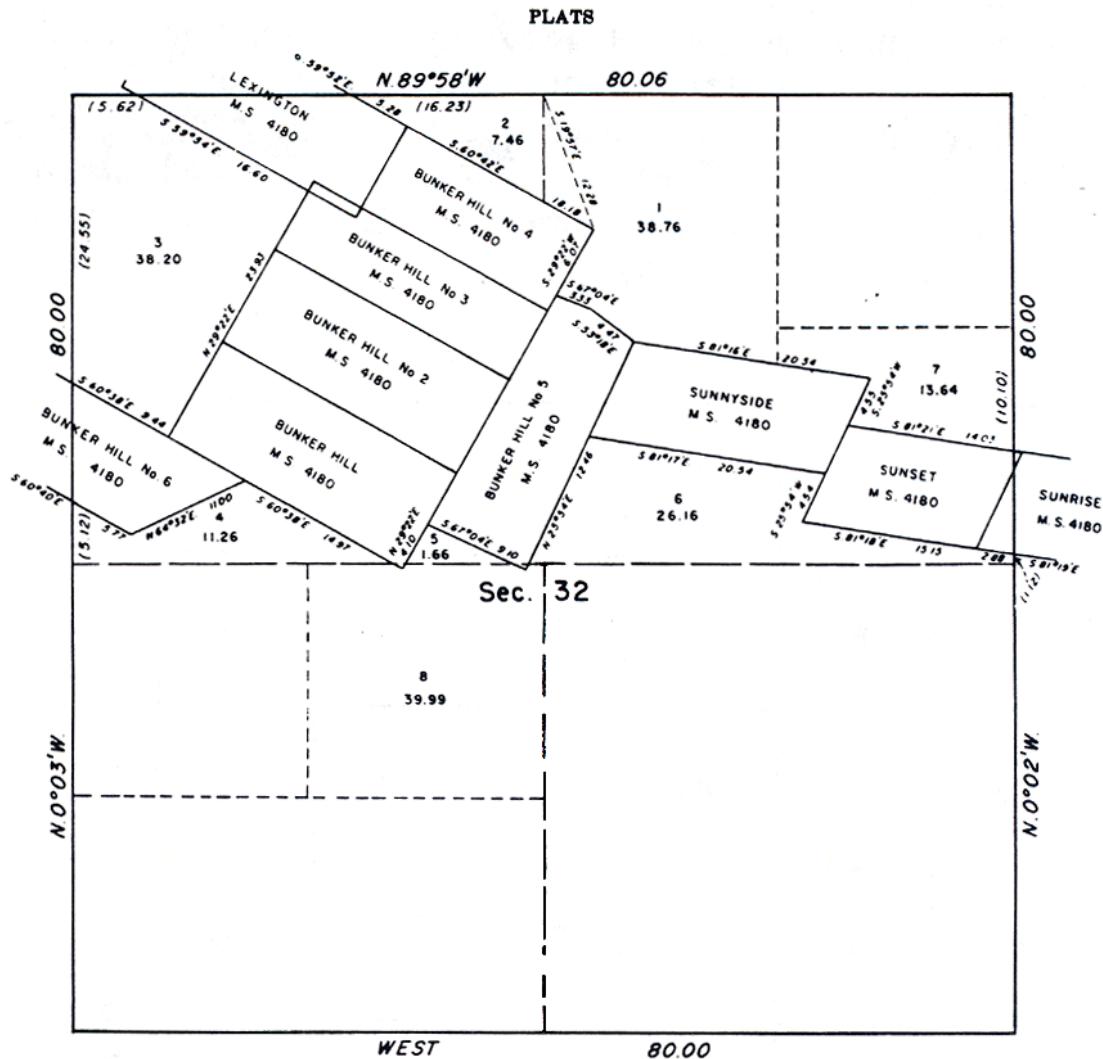
1/4 section

1/4 1/4 section

Bureau of Land Management 1973)

# Sections subdivided with local properties

Local property survey (plats) within a section (Bureau of Land Management 1973)



**Key terms**  
plat

Bureau of Land Management (1973)

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# Local Land Surveying

## 3. What are the elements of a land parcel data model?

See A&Z GDD graphic p. 177

Feature datasets - maroon

Feature classes – purple

Topology Rules – orange

Relationship classes – green

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# Feature Datasets

Administrative – feature dataset

TaxDistrict – polygon feature class

MapIndex - polygon feature class

RegulatedUse - polygon feature class

Restriction - polygon feature class

SiteAddress - point feature class

ParcelFeatures - feature dataset

PLSSTownship - polygon feature class

PLSSFirst Division - polygon feature class

PLSSsecondDivision - polygon feature class

Encumbrance - polygon feature class

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## **Key terms**

Encumbrance

# Parcel feature record – City of Seattle

<b>FEATURE: PARCEL</b>		
<b>FEATURE DEFINITION:</b> An area of land, usually contiguous which is under the same ownership. A parcel is delineated based on the segregation/merger process of the King County Department of Assessments.		
<b>COMMENTS:</b> Parcels are created for taxation purposes and uniquely identified by a single Parcel Identification Number assigned by the King County Department of Assessments. Parcels are created and altered as a result of platting activities, Lot Boundary Adjustments, and the segregation/merger process of the King County Department of Assessments. New parcels are also created when property is acquired through the City's Open Space Program. A parcel may be coincident with all or part of one or more platted lots. A parcel will be coincident with tax lots in unplatted areas.		
<b>GRAPHIC ELEMENT TYPE:</b> Polygon <b>GRAPHIC ELEMENT DEFINITION:</b> The polygon is defined by the parcel boundaries as delineated for taxation purposes.		
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>		
<b>ATTRIBUTES:</b> (examples)		
Parcel ID	Excise Tax Number	Taxpayer Address
Situs Address Area		Tax Status
Jurisdiction	Owner Name	Property Unit Type
Zvalue	Taxpayer Name	Land Use Code
Legal Description	Recording Number	Sale Price/Type

**Key terms**  
Feature record

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# ParcelFeatures\_Topology

TaxParcel - polygon feature class

SimultaneousConveyance - polygon feature class

SurveyFirstDivision - polygon feature class

SurveySecondDivision - polygon feature class

Boundary - line feature class

Corner - point feature class

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# Corners, Monuments and Corner Coordinates

Monument - point feature class

CornerHasMonuments – relationship between Corner and Monument

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See small inset A&Z p. 178 – logical depiction of relationship  
between feature classes

**Key terms**  
monument

See GDD graphic A&Z p. 178-179

Attributes for each

Relationship classes between feature classes

Note pointer IDs

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# Boundary – simple feature class (polyline)

See GDD graphic A&Z p. 181

Subtypes of Boundary - purple

Coded value domains - red



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# Properties of Parcel Frameworks

Commonly measured by survey, are tied to corners and monuments

A hierarchical framework

Describe boundaries, ownership, taxing, and other interests, often in separate cadastres

Cadastre is a record of “interest” in earth coverage: land, water, air, subsurface (See A&Z p. 192)

Boundaries must close, no leaks of interest.

Oakland data model: simultaneous conveyance and PLSS

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## **Key terms**

Cadastre

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# Simultaneous Conveyance

- Several parcels are created at the same moment
- Non-parcels (aliquot part) have priority of senior conveyance to other parcels
- External boundary is senior to interior boundaries as in subdivision
- External boundary is often rendered as heavier line
- SurveyFirstDivision – subdivision boundary
- SurveySecondDivision - lot lines internal to the subdivision

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## **Key terms**

Simultaneous conveyance

See GDD graphic A&Z p. 184-185

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## 4. How do Tax Parcels differ from Development Parcels?

TaxParcel – area to be assessed (valued) for levying “property taxes”

Tax Rolls – cadastre maintained as list  
of ownership  
of assessed value and tax

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### **Key terms**

Tax parcel

Development parcel

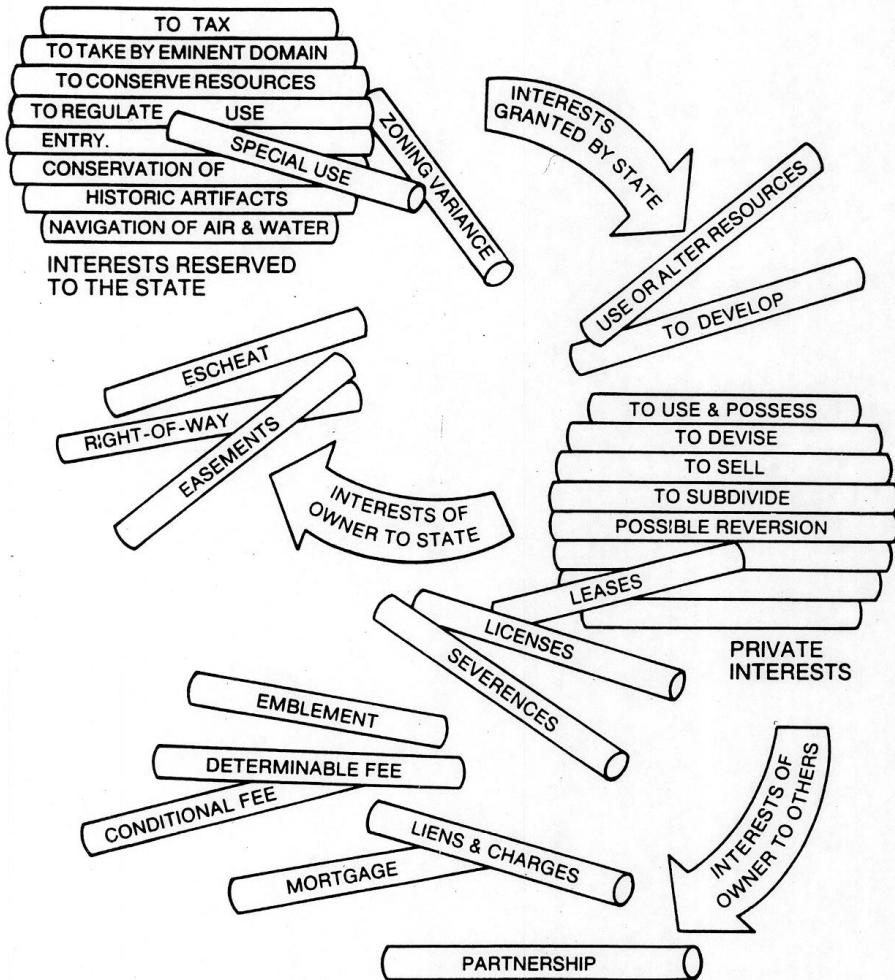
See GDD graphic A&Z p. 188-189

Development Parcel – ‘improvements’ that can be built on a land  
parcel.

Lot – boundary of a land parcel; one or more lots forms a land parcel;  
parcel has ownership

Property parcel – owned property, often referring to land, but more  
general

# Ownership and Rights to Property Parcels



**Key terms**  
Title  
Deed

Title is the bundle of rights to interests in property

Documented in a deed to property

See GDD graphics A&Z p. 195

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# ParcelFeatures\_Topology

Parcel...

Must not have dangling lines

Boundary must be covered by

Boundary must not overlap

GDD graphics A&Z p. 206-207

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## 5. What are the main differences between a multipurpose land cadastre and a multipurpose marine cadastre?

<http://marinecadastre.gov/>

Marine waters application versus land applications

Application to coastal waters within US jurisdiction...

Territorial waters - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_waters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_waters)

- jurisdictional boundaries
- restricted areas
- laws
- critical habitat locations
- other important features.

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### **Key terms**

Multipurpose cadastre

# Census and Addresses

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## Census Thematic Layer Framework

Census Administrative units – delineate census units such as blocks and block groups

Census boundaries - Linework from which other census features are generated

Points of Interest – Background map with point and polygon landmarks

Other Administrative units – Depict districts to local, regional, state, and federal level

Streets and addresses – Street network analysis and address locations

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## 6. What are the elements of the census feature dataset?

Census\_Topology

Census Administrative Units - hierarchy

United States

Region

Division

State or equivalent – polygon feature class

County or equivalent

CensusTract / AmericanIndianCensusTract

BlockGroup / AmericanIndianBlockGroup

CensusBlock

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### **Key terms**

Administrative unit

Tract

Block Group

Block



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# Census\_Topology - continued

## Census boundaries

Rail - Line feature

Road

Hydrography

MiscTransport

Physical

Water

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# Census\_Topology - continued

## Points of Interest

KeyGeographicalLocation

Landmark

Other Area Landmark

OtherPointLandmark

CountySubdivision

MetropolitanArea

TrafficAnalysisZone

VotingDistrict

ZipCodeTabulationArea

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# Census\_Topology - continued

## Administrative Boundaries

Administrative boundaries, federal level

Several feature classes

Administrative boundaries, state level

Several feature classes

Administrative boundaries, county level

Several feature classes

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## 7. Why are Census topological rules so important?

Census blocks cannot overlap and must nest within block groups

Block groups cannot overlap and must nest within census tracts

Traffic analysis zones must be covered by counties

Voting district layer must be covered by the county layer

Administrative\_Topology

TIGER

Topologically Integrated Geographically Encoded Referencing

GDD graphics A&Z p. 97

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### **Key terms**

Traffic analysis zone

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# Principal Attributes

FENAME – feature name

FEDIRP – cardinal direction of the feature, e.g., N, SE, W

FETYPE – feature type, e.g. street, avenue

CFCC – Census feature class code

SOURCE – Origin of physical feature

TLID – TIGER line ID

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## **Key terms**

CFCC

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# Attributes for addressing

FRADDL – from address, left side

TOADDL – to address, left side

FRADDR – from address, right side

TOADDR – to address, right side

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## **Key terms**

From

To

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# Census unit ID

060710036021003

06	071	003602	1	003
State	County	Tract	Block group	Block

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**Key terms**  
Census Unit ID

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## 8. How are street address reference systems and coordinate reference systems similar and different?

Coordinates and addresses are both geocodes; hence arise from geocoding (reference) systems. The dimensionality of the reference systems are different, thus the geocodes will be different.

Elements of coordinates are drawn from continuous dimensional domains.

Elements of addresses are drawn from continuous and discrete dimensional domains:

- House, building number, or numeric range
- Street name, e.g. Main, or Main Street
- Street Type, e.g. street, road or avenue
- Directional component, e.g., N, NW, W, SW
- Zones, such as city, state, or postal code

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### **Key terms**

Spatial reference  
Coordinate  
Geocode  
Address



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# Two examples of addresses

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816	High	Street		Redlands	CA	92391
<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Street Type</b>		<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>

1052	N	300	W	Salt Lake City	UT	84119
<b>House</b>	<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Suffix</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>

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# Thematic Layers of Address Data Model

Buildings – building footprints

Points of Interest – define addresses for points of interest

Parcels – Define land ownership and use for taxation

Streets – Street centerline network

Addresses and subaddresses – Address numbers for points of interest

Names – Define names for features and addresses

Zones – Define valid zone combinations for addresses

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# Geodatabase structure for addresses

See GDD A&Z p. 142-143

Streets with address ranges

Buildings with addresses

Parcels with addresses

Points of Interest with Addresses

Addresses and subaddresses

Names

Postal and Administrative Zones

Range Zones

Address ranges, zones, and names

Address locators

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# Summary

In this lesson, you learned about...

1. Importance of cadastre records
2. US Public Land Survey System (PLSS) cadastral control survey approach
3. Elements of a land parcel data model
4. Tax parcels and development parcels
5. Main differences between a multipurpose land cadastre and a multipurpose marine cadastre
6. Elements of the census feature dataset
7. Importance of Census TIGER system topological rules
8. Similarity and differences between street address reference systems and coordinate reference systems

Contact me at  
[nyerges@uw.edu](mailto:nyerges@uw.edu) if you  
have questions or  
comments about this  
lesson.

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**END Lesson 5: Land Records, Census  
and Addresses**