

Office of Urban Research  
and Statistics  
for Nuremberg and Fürth

# Historic Nuremberg



English Version

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## Historic Nuremberg

### 1. Development of Urban Areas

#### Free Imperial City of Nuremberg

Nuremberg was first mentioned in documents in 1050. The city below the Imperial Castle grew rapidly and prospered. In the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the penultimate city wall with Tiergärtnertorturm, Laufer Schlagturm, Schuldturm, Weißer Turm und Wasserturm was built. The city continued to grow, so a new city wall was necessary, which was finally completed in mid- 15<sup>th</sup> century. For further protection, the fortifications of the castle bastion were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the four gate towers were reinforced with massive wall coats.

#### The Thirty Years War

The Thirty Years War came to Franconia in 1631. Position warfare operations at the Alte Veste from July to September 1632 devastated the region around the imperial city. At that time, about 40 000 inhabitants lived in the town.

Thousands of people from the surrounding rural areas ran in and around the safe walls of Nuremberg. The consequences of the overpopulation were famine and diseases such as plague or typhus. Two-thirds of the city's population died within three years. After the war in 1648 the economy of Nuremberg was severely damaged and debt has quadrupled. A lasting recovery of the imperial city did not occur until its end in 1806.

#### Nuremberg, the Industrial City

In 1806, Nuremberg became part of the Kingdom of Bavaria and lost its status as a free imperial city. 60 years later, Nuremberg's fortification status was lifted and large parts of the city wall were demolished. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the industrial city of Nuremberg continued to grow outside its old town walls. With this growth many borders of former suburbs disappeared.

The Statistical Office, founded in 1900, defined 31 statistical boroughs in 1903. The borders of those districts were guided by streets or other topographic lines. The principle of district division is therefore structural, not historical.

#### Nuremberg after the Second World War

During World War II, the city wall was heavily damaged, but reconstructed after 1945. In 1968, the Statistical Office established a new system of Statistical Boroughs and Statistical Districts. This classification is also structurally oriented. The most important divisions of Nuremberg's city area today are the Statistical Boroughs. In order to learn about their origin and meaning, historical sources must be consulted.

## 2. Historical Maps

The political and economic situation of the city and its architectural structure characterize its spatial classification system in the form of street names, house numbers and area classifications. The larger a city becomes, the greater the need for a classification system.

Hartmann Schedel's world chronicle of 1493 marks the beginning of cartographic representations from Nuremberg. The first Nuremberg city plan dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was created by Georg Nöttelein. Another outstanding work is Paul Pfinzing's Atlas of 1594. It contains 29 hand-drawn and four printed maps of the city and its surroundings.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Jerome Braun charted administrative offices of Nuremberg's land area. His city prospect from 1609 shows the imperial city and its surroundings in a steep angle top view from the north and includes all the buildings, streets and place names. Besides Jerome Braun, Hans Bien is another great Nuremberg cartographer of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The Author and Cartographer Hans Bien**

Hans Bien (1591-1632) was trained as a stonemason and draftsman by town foreman Jakob Woff d. Jüngeren. After the master examination Bien worked as a draftsman, surveyor, architect and fortress builder, especially on behalf of the city of Nuremberg. Bien became famous for topographical representations in parallel perspective, including representations of the city of Nuremberg. His graphic works include Landwehr maps around Nuremberg in 1620 and Nuremberg city plans from 1621 to 1631. Hans Bien died in 1632. His grave at the Rochusfriedhof has not been preserved. The Bienweg in Nuremberg is named for him.

### **Historical Maps**

In order to compare former place names with today, the historical maps have been scanned and calculated with Gauß-Krüger coordinates, which are being commonly used as of today. The map of 1750 was not converted, as it depicts Nuremberg from the north.

The map of 1630 shows Nuremberg's old town during the Thirty Years' War. Although the historic center now only accounts for about one percent of the total area of Nuremberg, it still has a great significance for the city as administrative, commercial and tourist center.

## 2.1 The Map of 1630

The map by Hans Bien is a coloured representation of the city in steep-angle top view from the south.

Since the fencing house (Fechthausen) (built in 1628) and the covered footbridge between Jakob Church (Jakobkirche) and German Order Commend (Deutschordenskommende), which was demolished in 1632, are both depicted, the map can be dated to the year 1630.

Information on the Map:

Original paper on canvas, 48 x 66.6 cm, pen and ink drawing, coloured, scale about 1: 2 900, undated and unsigned. Nuremberg City Archives, A4, plan collection 517/4.

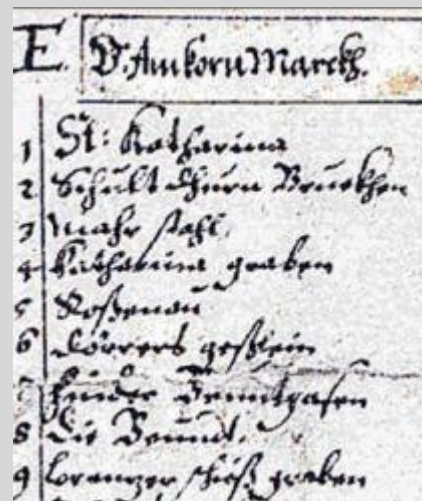
- [Link to picture of the map](#)

The map contains:

- the layout of the city with developed areas depicted as blocks
- detailed representations of important buildings, gardens, waterways and figurative details such as trees
- the eight districts of the city with their assigned letters, highlighted in eight colours
- numbers, which are assigned to place names, especially street names
- map symbology at the map's margin



Detail of Bien's map from 1630: Kaiserburg



Detail of Bien's map from 1630:  
Street Register of the district  
'E - Am Kornmarkt'

The letters and numbers in the map are described in the map symbology in the form of tables: one at the top of the 'Sebalder' page, one at the bottom of the 'Lorenzer' page. For either part of the city, four quarters are listed with their assigned letters, as well as street names accompanied by their assigned numbers. For the two parts of the city, the map mentions 97 and 96 place names,

respectively. Only seven districts are listed under the Salzmarktviertel, even though the Salzmarktviertel area is much larger than that.

The eight Nuremberg districts in 1630 were: Weinmarkt, Milchmarkt, St. Egidien, Salzmarkt, Kornmarkt, St. Elisabeth, Kartäuser and Barfüßer.

### **The map's relevance today:**

The map of Hans Bien still has great importance today. It shows the free city as it was originally created. All major construction projects that coined the layout of the city, took place after 1630. The continuity between the imperial city and today's old town is recognizable, partly in its layout, partly in the street names: More than half of the former names are still in use, partly in altered notations or compositions.

The precisely specified quarters show the significance of exact area zoning and street registers for the city administration. Drawings of district borders highlighted by colours serve as a model for today's digitally generated maps. Furthermore, an overseable and self-explanatory map was created by combining block depictions and selected graphic details.

#### **[2.1.1 Access to the map with the tool \*Stadtplandienst\*](#)**

##### **The historical map becomes interactive**

Through the relatively accurate geographical representation, the accordingly coordinates by today's Gauss Krueger system could be calculated for the map. Placing the map of 1630 in the present city center, one can compare the historical and actual street names and monuments.

The numbers of the place names on the map were digitized with the current coordinates. The 'dairy market', which is missing in the original map, was added. Information on the streets is accessible via mouse click on the map: The original street name, a brief explanation, the terms used in the maps of 1750 and 1811 and the street name at the present time.

The district borders were digitised using the map. The generated shapes as well as the symbols for place names can be projected onto the map via a Geographical Information System (GIS). Information on the districts are available via mouse click.

## 2.1.2 Street Names of 1630

To a large extent, street names could be found in the 193 place names in the map, for example, the street name '2 findel blazlein'. It refers to the Findelplätzlein, which is formerly Mädchenfindelhaus (burned down in 1557).



Detail of Bien's map from 1630: Street name '2 findel blazlein'

Today's designation is Maxplatz. The place name was deciphered using the topographical description of the city of Nuremberg by Christian Conrad Nopitsch from 1801 and also entries in 'Stadtlexikon Nuremberg'.

### Street names of 1630 and today

Hans Bien lists 193 place names. Today there are about 234 street names in Nuremberg's old town, about 122 on the Sebalder part and about 112 on the Lorenzer part of town.

Around 41 percent of the place names of 1630 are no longer in use. Reasons are alterations such as the demolition of parts of the town walls and monasteries in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, war damage from the Second World War and modernisations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, sometimes there was more than one name for some streets, so many place names have ceased to exist.

Approximately 35 percent of place names are still in use today as they were in 1630. 11 percent of the names have been changed, for example, 'Füll' instead of 'Vordere Füll', or refer to a place that is very close. An example of this is today's Augustinerstraße. It runs in the vicinity of the former Augustinian monastery and used to be called 'The Augustinians' ('Bei den Augustinern'). The remaining 13 percent could still be used for orientation today. For example, the house 'Golden Shield' ('Zum Goldenen Schild') was destroyed in 1945. It served as a place name and was located on a street that is today called 'Schildgasse'.

To document new place or street names, the names of 1630 were compared with the names in 1750 and 1811 and finally with the present situation.

Approximately 35 percent of designations are 'streets' or 'courts' and 12 percent are 'markets'. Many names refer to buildings, especially churches, (former) monasteries and to military or administrative buildings. In addition, 9 gates, 7 inns, 5 bathhouses and 3 wells are also mentioned.

Professions/trades (about 40) and topography (about 27) have great importance for place names. The names describe the respective areas.

- [Show street names of 1630, using the tool 'Stadtplandienst'](#)

### 2.1.3 Districts 1630

Following the code of the district masters, the imperial city of Nuremberg was divided into eight districts within the city walls since the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century,

On the northern St. Sebald side:

- Wine Market Quarter (Weinmarktviertel)
- Milk Market Quarter (Milchmarktviertel)
- Egidien Quarter
- Salzmarkt Quarter

On the southern St. Lorenz side:

- Barfüßer Quarter
- Kornmarkt Quarter
- Elisabeth Quarter

Each district consisted of ten to twenty 'Gassenhauptmannschaften' and was assigned a city wall section which was to be defended in the event of an outside attack. Two district masters presided over each neighborhood. They were, in addition to defense, in charge of internal safety, fire code enforcement and direct taxes. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the districts received numbers from one to eight. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the new city districts were formed by merging 'Gassenhauptmannschaften' without further consideration of the old districts.

#### **District borders in Hans Bien's map**

Uncertainties concerning the district borders in the map of 1630 exist in the areas 'Hintere Insel Schütt' and also areas around the 'Schottengasse'.

The map of the city of Nuremberg in Pfinzing's atlas of 1594 also contains a coloration of the districts. This map shows 'Hintere Insel Schütt' as a part of the 'Barfüßer' Quarter on the St. Lorenz side of town. Allocating the 'Hintere Insel Schütt' to the Lorenzer side corresponds with the burial place of Hans Bien: He lived in the 'Dannergärtlein' and was buried at the cemetery of St. Lorenz, 'Rochusfriedhof', not at the 'Johannisfriedhof' of St. Sebald. Therefore, the historic district border between St. Sebald and St. Lorenz is in accordance with today's Statistical Boroughs 1 (Old Town, St. Lorenz) and 6 (Old Town, St. Sebald) to a large extent.

Bien's map shows the area around the Schottengasse (including Maiengasse and Pfeifergasse, south of Jakobstraße and between Zirkelschmiedsgasse and Färberstraße) as a part of Elisabeth Quarter. In contrast, Pfinzing's atlas assigns the area to the 'Kartäuserviertel'. In this case, the digitized map follows Bien's assignment.

- [Show district borders of 1630, using the tool 'Stadtplandienst'](#)



## 2.2 Map of 1750

The 'Topographical Description of the Imperial City Nuremberg' by Christian Conrad Nopitsch from 1801 was issued by the publisher of art reproductions Christoph Schmidt as a reprint in 1992. It contains a small map, whose production year is estimated to be 1750. The map has the following title:

*'Geometric layout of H[oly]. Roman Empire's Free City NURNBERG'.*

The map shows the city of Nuremberg in steep-angle top view from the north. Blocks are indicated using shading and important buildings are depicted as drawings for orientation. 191 names are listed in a detailed legend:

- 136 numbered topographical names, mostly street names
- 23 clerical buildings from A to Z (without J, U, W)
- 32 secular buildings from A to Z and a to h in italics

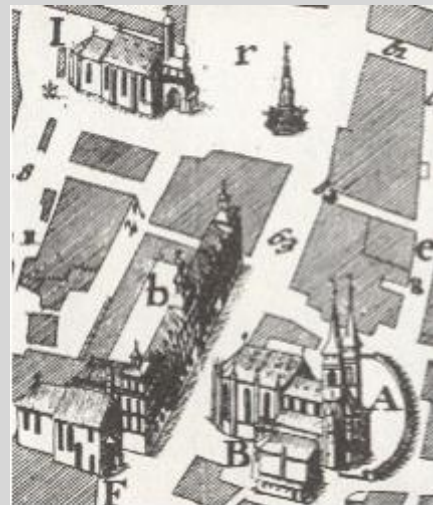
A pen and ink drawing of Hans Bien from ca. 1621 to 1627 is assumed to be the template, as the depiction of the fencing house corresponds with the predecessor of the building constructed in 1627/28.

### Information on the map:

Staatsarchiv Nürnberg, Imperial City  
Nuremberg,  
maps and plans, no. 26,

copper engraving, original is 35,5 cm in height  
and 41,5 cm in width,

not dated, not signed, estimated year  
of production: 1750.



Section of the map of 1750, showing town hall, St. Sebald church, Frauenkirche (engl. Church of Our Lady), Schöner Brunnen and Hauptmarkt (original is kept at Nuremberg Municipal Archive)

### 2.2.1 Street names 1750

Hans Bien lists 193 place names on his map. Those names were compared with those of 1750 and also with those of the present day. Today there are about 234 street names in the old town. The map of 1750 contains a number of errors in names and the related numbers or letters. Some numbers and letters cannot be found on the map.

In the contrast, there is only one apparent misplacement of a name in Hans Bien's map: the jewish cemetery ('Judenfriedhof') was outside the Jewish quarter ('Judenviertel'), today's Martin-Treu-Straße, according to Stadtlexikon.

Comparison of the maps of 1630 and of 1750:

Place name in the map of 1750 is...	Percentages
...also present in the map of 1630	69
...slightly different in the map of 1630	7
...completely different in the map of 1630	2
...not present in the map of 1630	22

#### Notes on the table:

- Changes in writing were not considered as a change in name.  
Example: 'Tieling Hof' equals 'Dielling hoff,' and 'Hinterm Tetzal' equals 'Hinder dem Tetzal'.
- Examples for other definitions for the same type: 'Judengäblein' and 'Juden höflein', 'das Ober Zollhaus' and 'Neue waag'
- Examples of completely different place names: 'a.b.c. Brucken' and 'Langen bruckhen', 'Meilers Hoff' and 'Straßen hoff'

The identical place names from 1630 to 1750 in both maps have hardly changed in 120 years. However, there are 32 names Hans Bien does not list. He mentioned that no individual buildings were within the castle complex except for the tower Luginsland. On the other hand, some names that Bien regards important no longer appear in 1750, for example, two wells and two of the five bathhouses. Some hostelries mentioned in 1630 did not appear in the map of 1750: 'Zum Wilden Mann', 'Sieben Türme', and 'Bärleinhuter'. The 'Sieben Türme' and 'Bärleinhuter' were still existent in 1800. This shows that the street names were not fixed and that selections among the existing place names had to be made when producing the map.

Overall, it can be noted that while there have been no dramatic, but noticeable changes between 1630 and 1750.

Comparison of place names in the maps of 1630 and 1750 with today's place names:

Name in the map (1630 resp. 1750) is today...	Map of 1630	Map of 1750
... still existent	35 %	38 %
... slightly different	11 %	15 %
... only useful for orientation	13 %	8 %
... not existent	41 %	39 %

The result of the comparison is not surprising: the map of 1750 is closer to the current situation than the map of 1630. 38 percent of the 1750 place names (1630: 35 percent) are still in use today.

A total of 53 resp. 46 percent of the old place names are still the same or only slightly different today. 61 or 59 percent of the names are still in use, even though partly in a somewhat different form.

### [2.2.2 House numbers from 1796](#)

In the War of the First Coalition against France, French troops occupied the city in August 1796. Under pressure from the occupier, the council established separate house number for both sides of town in 1796 in order to enable a clear identification of the houses for the quartering of soldiers. Before that the houses could be found only by house name, house signs, and names of the owner or occupier or by a location description. The house numbers on the St. Sebald side started with an S (S1 to S1706), and on the St. Lorenz side with an L (L1 to L1578).

#### [Later House Numbering](#)

Unique official street names were introduced in 1809/10. From 1865 to 1867, the houses were numbered by street: the right side received straight numbers, the left side odd numbers. The starting point for numbering was and still is the meat bridge ('Fleischbrücke'): house numbering of each street starts at the end of the street that is closer to the meat bridge.

### [2.3 Topographical description of 1801](#)

The 'Topographical Description of the Imperial City of Nuremberg' by Christian Conrad Nopitsch offers accurate and detailed geospatial information about Nuremberg. This detailed description of street names and other topographical conditions of the city with a 'directory of inns, taverns, wine and beer taverns in Nuremberg' was published in 1801. Nopitsch sees his work as an aid to travelers

who want to 'orientate themselves in an easy and swift way, for those that have a true necessity for a brief topographical description of the city with squares, markets, streets, alleys, etc'.

### Reprint of 1992

The publisher of art reproductions Christoph Schmidt, Neustadt an der Aisch issued a reprint in 1992. It includes an extensive epilogue by Peter Fleischmann, in which he compares the present day street names with the old names. He also lists hostelrys listed in 1800 with their S- and L- house numbers and the corresponding present day addresses.

## 2.4 Street Names of 1809

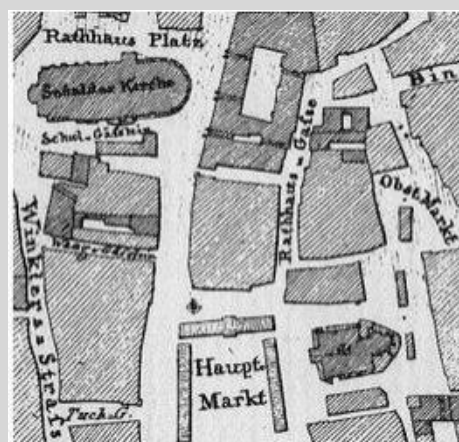
In the Imperial City of Nuremberg street names were not consistent and not defined by the City Council. Hans Bien's map of 1630 contains place names as well as a list of town quarters 'including their alleys'. The map of 1750 makes a distinction between clerical and secular buildings on one hand and numbered place names, mostly street names, on the other. Contrasting, Conrad Nopitsch's 'Topographical Description of the Imperial City of Nuremberg' contains an extremely vast collection of street names of 1880, including descriptions.

It is noteworthy, that the word 'street' is missing in place names before 1809. After Nuremberg had been incorporated into the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1806, Nuremberg's streets were renamed on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1809. Some renamings were in consideration of members of the Bavarian royal family, e.g. 'Karolinenstraße' instead of 'Fischbach' or 'Ludwigsstraße' instead of 'Schmidtgasse'.

## 2.5 Maps of 1811

After the city was surveyed by Bavarian authorities for the first time, black and white field maps on scales 1:5000 and 1:2500 were published in 1811. These maps were the first modern maps of the city of Nuremberg.

The 1:2500 scale maps are named: Johannis, Sebald, Gostenhof, Tafelhof. The map 'Tafelhof' contains the text 'Nuremberg 1811' in the bottom right corner. The map 'Gostenhof' contains the explanation: 'Public, Inhabited, Uninhabited Buildings' with the corresponding shadowings, as well as a scale bar and a scale text '2F = 2500'.

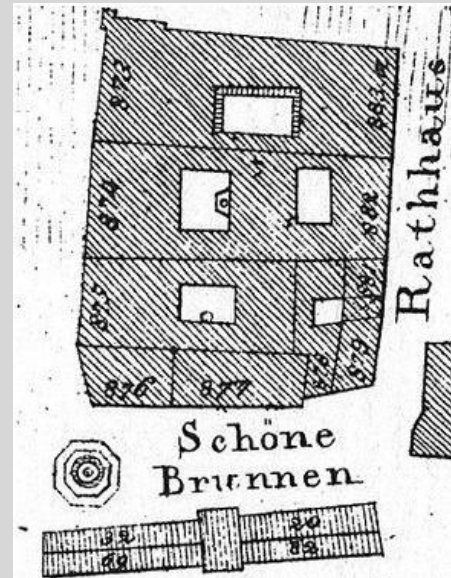


Section of the 1:5000 scale map of 1811 showing town hall, 'Hauptmarkt', St. Sebald church and 'Frauenkirche' (Church of Our Lady)  
(photo: Bavarian land surveying authority)

The 1:5000 scale map contains neither title nor information on scale or year of production. In the left side the text 'NUERNBERG' can be found. In 1981 the maps were reprinted by the Bavarian land surveying authority.

The 1:2500 scale maps were used to identify the location of taverns of 1800, whose addresses were no longer existent.

- [Show the 1811 maps, using 'Stadtplandienst'](#)



Section of the 1:2500 scale map of 1811 showing town hall and 'Schöner Brunnen' (photo: Bavarian land surveying authority)

## [2.6 Map of 1860](#)

In Nuremberg, industrialisation began already in the 19th century, around 1825, and continued until the First World War. The first railway in Germany lead from Nuremberg to Fürth. Mechanical Engineering company Klett & Co. (later MAN) employed over 2600 worker in 1857. Developopments in chemical, textile, tobacco, and pencil industries were also of importance. Those new factories needed space outside the city walls. The city grew larger due to mergers with towns close-by.

The city's growth until 1865:

Year	Name of area	Present day area	Area increase	New area in hectares
1806	City within city wall	Sebald, Lorenz	0	160.84
1825	Municipalities Gostenhof, Wöhrd, Wöhrder Gärten, Gärten hinter der Veste, St. Johannis with Großweidenmühle, Galgenhof, Bleiweißgarten, Judenbühl (Maxfeld) and parts oft he municipalities Sündersbühl, Steinbühl and Gleißhammer	Gärten hinter der Veste, Gärten bei Wöhrd, Wöhrd, St. Peter, Tafelhof, Galgenhof, Gostenhof, Kleinweidenmühl e, St. Johannis	827.71	988.55
1865	Municipality Steinbühl, village Rennweg	Steinbühl (today slightly larger), Rennweg	139.97	1128.52

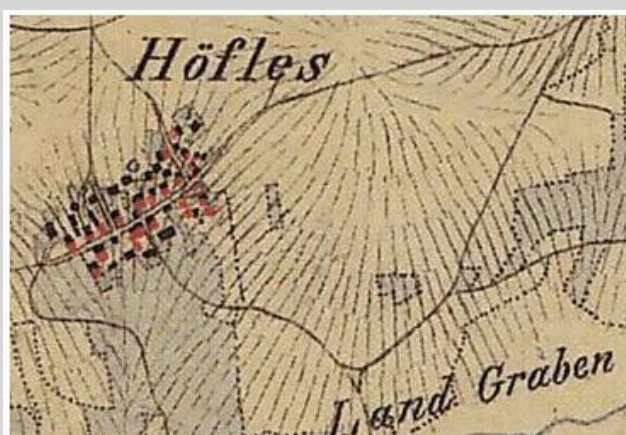
- [Show mergers until 1865, using tool 'Stadtplandienst'](#)

## Coloured maps from the years around 1860

From 1860 to 1862, various coloured maps of Nuremberg and neighbouring municipalities were created on a 1:25000 scale. Five maps were reprinted by the Bavarian land surveying authority in 1986. Except for the outermost south, those maps cover the whole city area. The reprints do not completely match the originals.

Each map has a title and a number. The margins show coordinates information and the number of the subsequent map pages. The page numbers at the top left were corrected using stamp markings, as well as the numbers of the subsequent map pages. Below the maps, detailed information on the primary creation, including the name of the executive and the year of 'Terrain Recording', 'Terrain Drawing', as well as 'Details Revision' and 'Revision of the Terrain Drawing'.

Map name	No.	Year	Contents	Year of reprint
Erlangen	251	1860 - 1861	In the north: Erlangen, Uttenreuth, Dormitz	1992
			In the south: Klein- und Großgründlach, Reutles	
Nürnberg	273	1860 - 1862	In the north: Steinach, Boxdorf, Neuhof, Kraftshof	1986
			In the south: Höfles, Kleinreuth, St. Leonhard, Steinbühl, Nürnberg, Gleißhammer	
Behringersdorf	274	1860 - 1861	In the north: Road to Bayreuth, Rückersdorf	1995
			In the south: Zerzabelshof, Schmausenbuck, Mögeldorf	
Kornburg	293	1860	In the north: Großreuth, Gebersdorf, Schweinau, Lichtenhof, Dutzendteich	1994
			In the south: Wolkersdorf, Gaulnhofen, Kornburg, Worzeldorf	
Feucht	294	1860	In the north: Falzner-Weiher, Brunn (partly)	1995
			In the south: Wendelstein, Röthenbach, Schwarzach	



The village Höfles in the vicinity of Nuremberg. Section of the map ‚NÜRNBERG‘ from 1860 (photo: Bavarian land surveying authority)

**Impressum:**

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