Maine co. is like MapQuest on a time machine

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For now, though, typing in a specific address at www.historicmapworks.com will only bring up maps of a specific neighborhood, town, county or state. At the Web site, a user can manually zoom in to focus on a specific street or property.

If there are enough "layers" (industry jargon for how many maps there are for an area and how far back they go), then one could conceivably trace, say, a piece of property when it was farm land and later a home building and then later a dense neighborhood.

"It allows viewers to go back in time," said Carpenter, who has trademarked the phrase "residential genealogy" to describe how his technology can help people find ancestors or predecessors of current owners of homes and neighborhoods.

Historic Map Works' employees are now developing software that eventually will allow users to instantly focus on individual properties after entering an address-specific search, Carpenter said.

"The true value of this (compa- ny) is the huge database we're compiling," said Carpenter, noting that the genealogy and map businesses are quite lucrative.
FENWAY BY-WAYS: Typing the rough address around Fenway Park at Historic Map Works' new Web site provides a street-by-street history of how the area has developed.