For modern practitioners, the ability to view the code that was in place when a building was originally constructed can be a starting point for a contemporary code analysis. Older versions (pre-1964) of many model codes are often available online and are generally in the public domain as their copyrights were not renewed. The APT Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL) has a goal of collecting and adding legacy codes to its growing library of historic technical literature. In some cases, legacy codes are already available through the Internet Archive, Google books, or various institutional collections. The BTHL can collect and add other public domain documents to make legacy code searches easier. The APT Codes and Standards Committee welcomes your research findings on legacy codes and standards.

1899 Building Code City of New York
https://archive.org/details/cu31924090411772

1905 Chicago Building Code
https://archive.org/details/chicagobuilding00illgoog

1905 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters 1st Ed
https://archive.org/details/nationalbuildin02undegoog

1907 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters 2nd Ed
https://archive.org/details/nationalbuildin00undegoog

1909 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters, 3rd Ed
https://archive.org/details/nationalbuildin01undegoog

1914 Building Code – Industrial commission of Wisconsin
https://archive.org/details/buildingcode01wiscqoog

1915 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters
https://archive.org/details/buildingcoderec00undegoog
1915 Building Code – Industrial commission of Wisconsin
https://archive.org/details/buildingcode00wiscgoog

1922 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters, NY
https://archive.org/details/nationalbuilding00amer

1922 Building Code – City of New York
https://archive.org/details/cu31924004209601

1924 Index summary of the new Chicago Building Code
https://archive.org/details/indexsummaryofne00redd

1929 Building Code of the City of New York
https://archive.org/details/buildingcodeofci00newy

1934 Building Code – National Board of Fire Underwriters

1937 Chapters … of the building code of Chicago
https://archive.org/details/chaptersofbuildi00chic

1939 Index Summary of the Chicago Building Code
https://archive.org/details/indexsummaryofne00redd

1952 National Plumbing Code Illustrated
https://archive.org/details/VincentTManasTheNationalPlumbingCodellustrated0001

1991 Uniform Building Code

Uniform Building Code

The University of California Library has digitized the Uniform Building Code (UBC) for the following years

http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/ubc/ubc_earlyyears.html


Note: All of the Uniform Building Codes from 1927 – 1964 were added to the Building Technology Heritage Library.
Chicago Building Ordinance 1898 - 1938

The Chicago Building Ordinance from 1898 through 1938 was included in the annual editions of the Handbook for Architects and Builders published by the Illinois Society of Architects:

1898 Volume 1: Handbook for Architects and Builders
https://archive.org/details/handbookforarchi01illi/page/68

The complete run of this series is available from Archive.org so all versions of the Chicago Building Ordinance are available through 1938