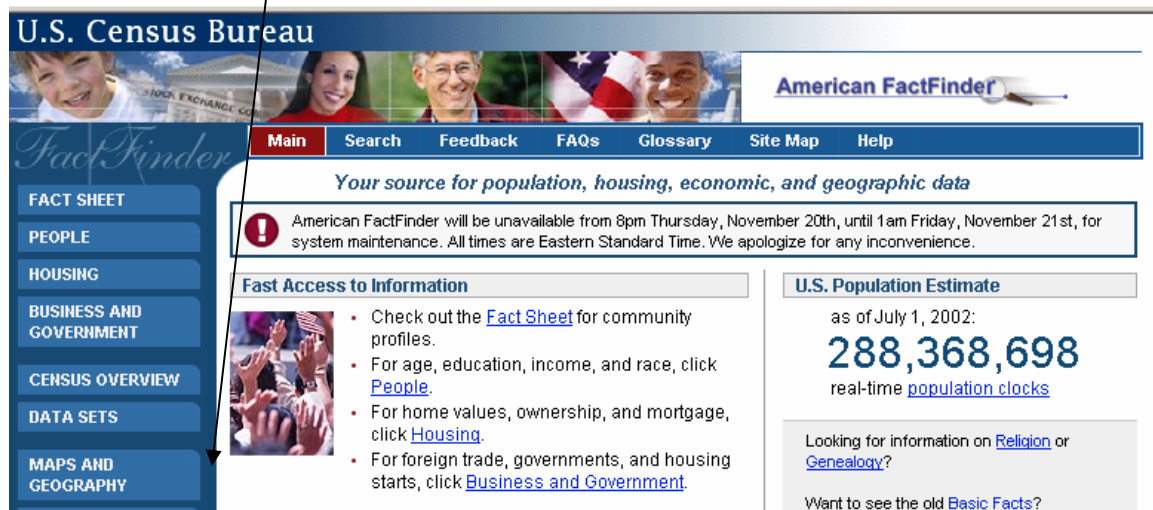


American FactFinder
<http://factfinder.census.gov>
Reference Maps

American FactFinder has two types of maps. Reference maps display boundaries of states, counties, cities, and towns. Thematic maps display statistics in graphical format. Examples include population density, income, and race. This tutorial is a guide to creating reference maps using the location of the State University at Buffalo's North Campus in Amherst, NY as an example. [Click here](#) for a guide to thematic maps.

1. Select "Maps and Geography" on the FactFinder home page. (figure 1)

Figure 1
American FactFinder Home Page



2. Select "Reference Maps." (figure 2)

Figure 2
Select "Reference Maps"

[Main](#) ▶ [Maps and Geography](#)

MAPS IN AMERICAN FACTFINDER

American FactFinder (AFF) has two tools for creating, viewing, printing, and downloading maps:

- [Reference Maps](#) - A tool to view the boundaries of census geographies, such as counties, cities and towns, urban areas, congressional districts, census tracts, census blocks, and more.
- [Thematic Maps](#) - A tool to view census data in graphical format for all geographies - national to individual census blocks. Data are available for Census 2000, the 1990 Census, the 1997 Economic Census, and 2002 Population Estimates.

For guidance in using these mapping tools, see the [Creating and Using Maps](#) tutorial.

3. Select "Geography." (figure 3)



Figure 3
Select "Geography"

Reference Maps

You are here: [Main](#) ▶ [All Data Sets](#) ▶ [Geography](#) ▶ Results

Use the links above to change your results

[Options](#)

[Print / Download](#)

Select an option, then click on the map

[Quick tips](#)

zoom in to state

recenter and zoom in

[Go to selection](#)

Legend

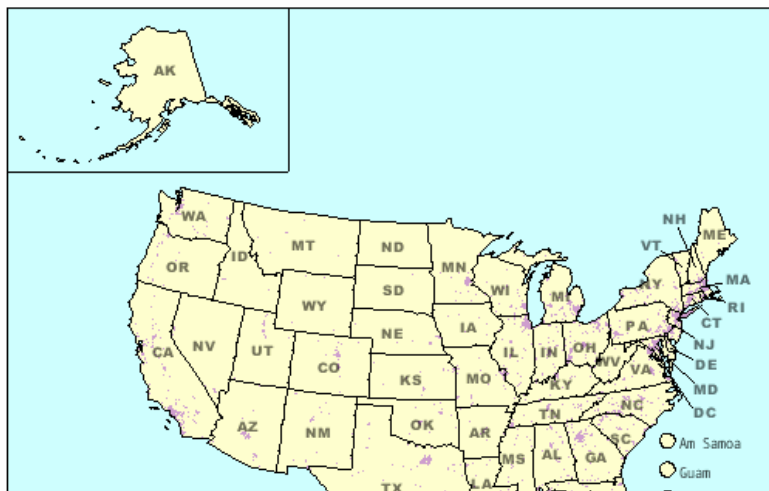
Boundaries

- State
- '00 County
- '00 Census Tract
- '00 Block Group
- '00 Block
- '00 Place
- '00 Urban Area

Features

- Major Road
- Street
- Stream/Waterbody

Items in gray text are not visible at this zoom level



Zoom

-
- 10** U.S.
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1** Street
-

[more zoom](#)

4. Follow steps 4A-4E to select Amherst, NY, a subdivision of Erie County. (figure 4)

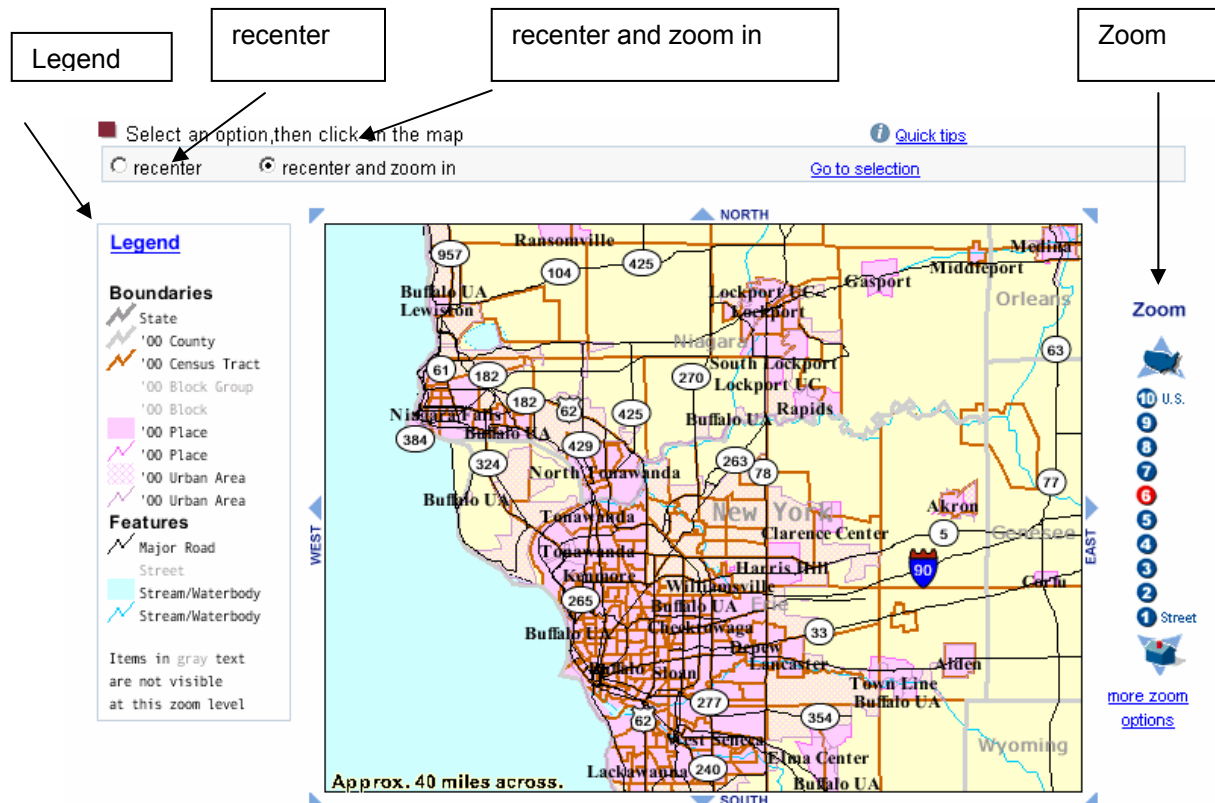
Figure 4
Select Relevant Geographies

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Select Geography" with a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: Main > All Data Sets > Geography > Results". Below the title, there are three tabs: "list" (selected), "name search", and "address search". An information icon and link "Explain Census Geography" are present. The interface contains several dropdown menus and a list box, each with a corresponding callout box:

- 4A:** "Select Census 2000 year and program." points to a dropdown menu showing "Census 2000".
- 4B:** "Select County Subdivision as the geographic type." points to a dropdown menu showing "..... County Subdivision".
- 4C:** "Select New York State" points to a dropdown menu showing "New York".
- 4D:** "Select Erie County." points to a dropdown menu showing "Erie County".
- 4E:** "Select Amherst Town, a subdivision of Erie County, NY and click 'Show Result.'" points to a list box containing "Alden town", "Amherst town" (highlighted), "Aurora town", "Boston town", "Brant town", "Buffalo city", "Cattaraugus Reservation", and "Cheektowaga town". A "Show Result" button is also indicated.

5. The initial map is complicated and busy because too many features are displayed. American FactFinder provides four tools to make maps more presentable. (figure 5) Each is described below.

Figure 5
First Map of Amherst, NY



Legend: Click “Legend” to illustrate its three different sections.

- **Boundaries** (figure 6) The map displays too many boundaries. Deselect all options, except “2000 County Subdivision.”
- **Features** (figure 7) Deselect all features, except “Major Road.”
- **Title** (figure 8) Give the map a title., “State University at Buffalo, Amherst, NY.” Click “Update” to display the revised map.

Zoom: Zoom enables users to view smaller areas through 10 increments. Ten, the largest feature, displays the entire nation, and 1, the smallest feature, displays individual blocks.

Recenter and zoom: Left click the mouse to redraw the map. The point of the cursor represents the new center of the map. The revised map also zooms in 1 degree from the previous one. That is, a map displayed at the 5th level is then shown at the 4th level.

Recenter: Left click to recenter the map without zooming in.

Figure 6 Legends-Boundaries

Boundaries
Features
Title

Choose a survey instance and select a group of boundaries

Census 2000 ▼

- Census Block Hierarchy
- Sub-State Areas
- American Indian Areas
- Metropolitan Areas
- New England County Metropolitan Areas
- Urban Areas
- 106th Congress
- 108th Congress
- State Legislative Districts
- ZIP Code Tabulation Areas
- School Districts
- Traffic Analysis Zones
- 1% Public Use Microdata Areas
- 5% Public Use Microdata Areas

... or select boundaries from the table

Boundary	Label			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Region		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 County		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 County Subdivision		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Subbarrio		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 Census Tract		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 Block Group		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 Block		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 Place		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1997 Economic Place*		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Consolidated City		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 American Indian Off-Reservation Trust Lands/Hawaiian Home Land		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Tribal Subdivision		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Tribal Census Tract		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Tribal Block Group		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Alaska Native Regional Corporation		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Metropolitan Statistical Area/Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Central City of MSA/CMSA		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 New England County Metropolitan Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Central City of NECMA		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2000 Urban Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Central Place of Urban Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	108th Congressional District		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 State Legislative District, Upper Chamber		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 State Legislative District, Lower Chamber		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Voting Districts		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 3-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 5-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 School District, Elementary*		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 School District, Secondary*		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 School District, Unified*		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 Traffic Analysis Zone*		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 1% Public Use Microdata Area		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2000 5% Public Use Microdata Area		

* Census 2000 data not available for this geographic type. Boundary provided for reference only.

Display different types of geographies. This example uses "Census Block Hierarchy."

Figure 7
Legends-Features

Update Cancel Help

Boundaries Features Title

Select the features and labels you want to display on the map.

Feature	Label	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Major Road
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Street
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeep Trail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alley, Walkway
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stream, Waterbody
<input type="checkbox"/>		Railroad
<input type="checkbox"/>		Pipeline, Powerline
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military Installation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Park
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Airport
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lookout Tower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospital
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Church
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jail

Figure 8
Legends-Title

Click Update to redraw the map.

Update Cancel Help

Boundaries Features Title

New Map Title:

6. The revised map (figure 9) is less cluttered than the one in figure 5. It displays only 2 items, county subdivisions and major highways. “Recenter and zoom in” a short distance north of the intersection of highways 263 and 324 to display the University. (figure 10)

Figure 9
Revised Map-County Subdivisions and Major Roads

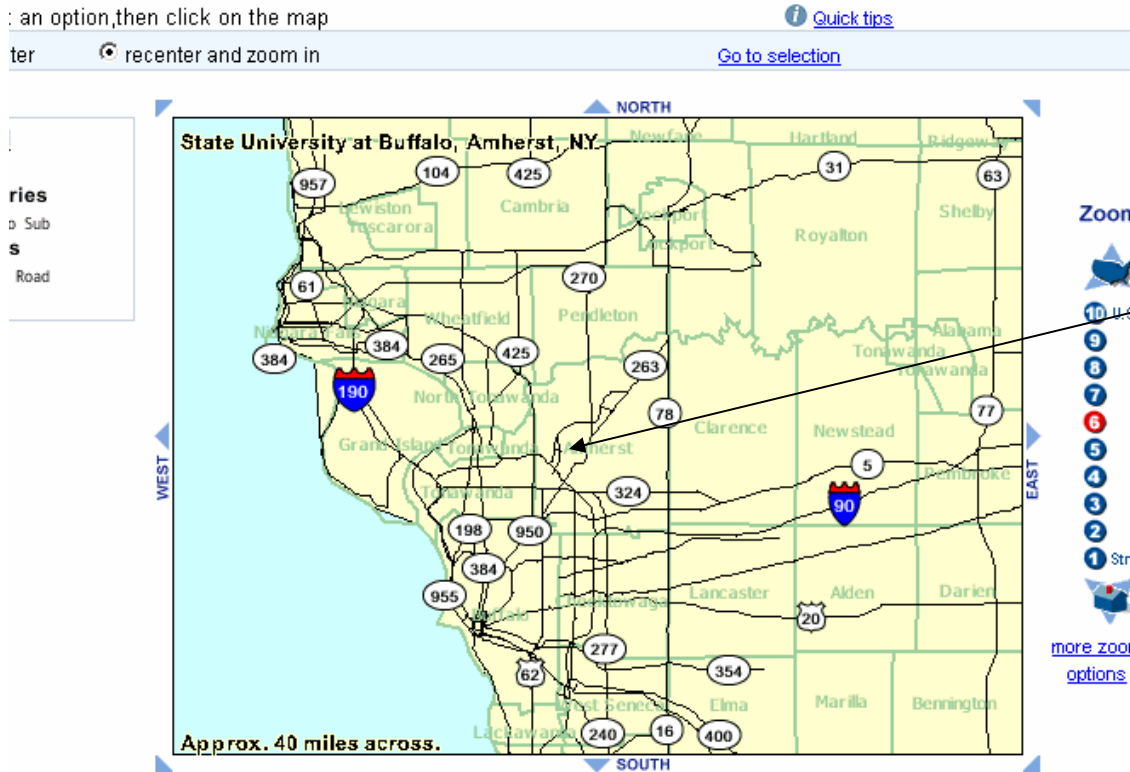
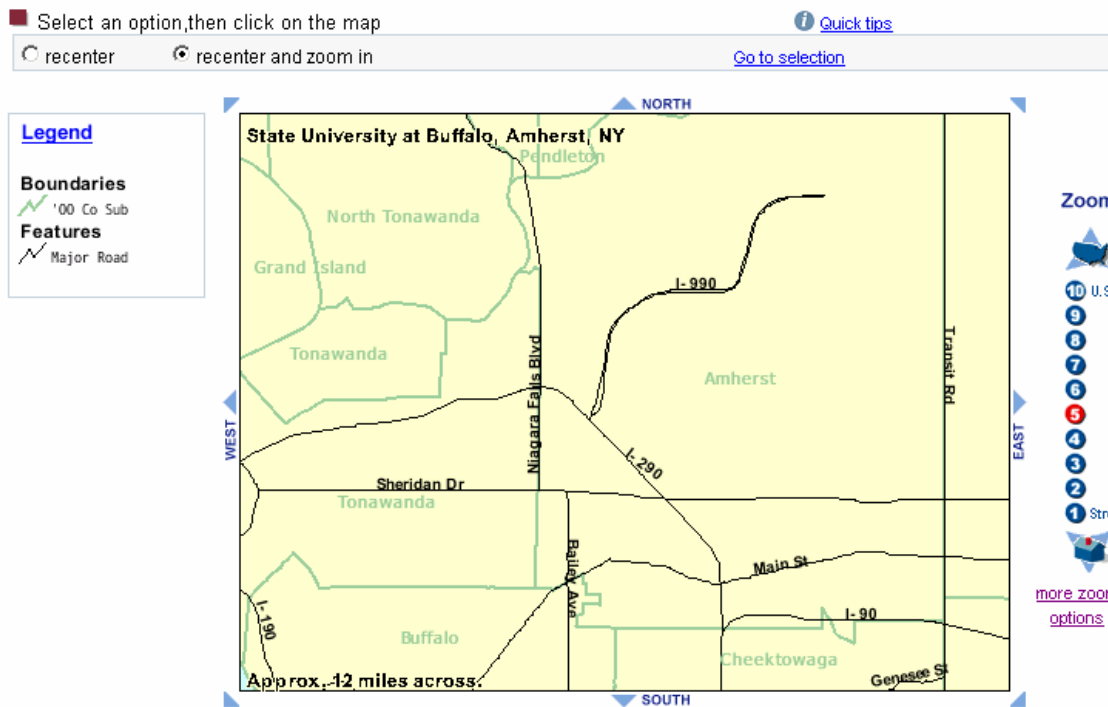
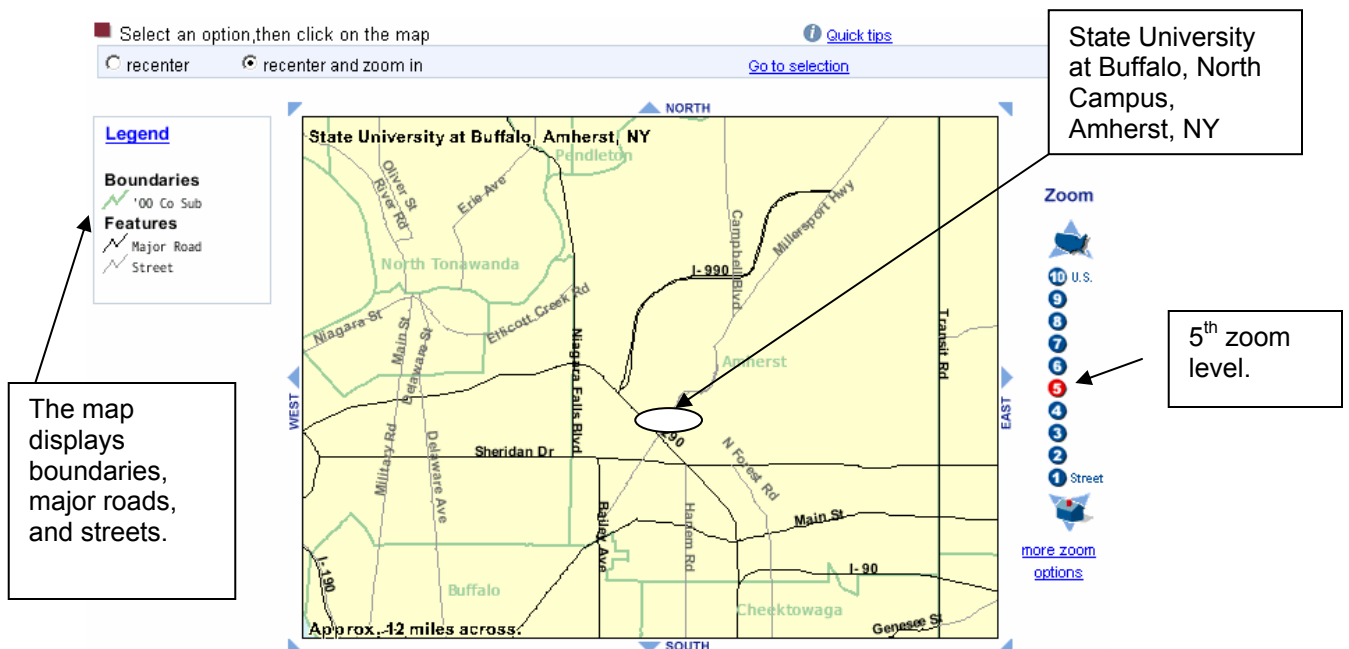


Figure 10 Amherst, NY Approximate Location of the University



7. Use the Legend feature to display streets in a better map. (figure 11)

Figure 11 Amherst, NY Approximate Location of the University Indicating Streets



8. Figure 11 displays the University at the fifth zoom level. Click the 4th level to zoom in one more time. Note, more detailed streets display as you zoom in. (figure 12)

Figure 12
Amherst, NY
State University at Buffalo, North Campus
More Detailed Streets

Select an option, then click on the map [Quick tips](#)

recenter recenter and zoom in [Go to selection](#)

4th zoom level

Legend

Boundaries

- '00 Co Sub

Features

- Major Road
- Street

State University at Buffalo, Amherst, NY

Approx. 4 miles across.

Zoom

10 U.S.
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1 Street

[more zoom options](#)

9. Select Print/Download to perform either function. (figure 13)

Figure 13
Print/Download

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American FactFinder website. The header includes the U.S. Census Bureau logo and the text "American FactFinder". Below this is a menu with links for "Main", "Search", "Feedback", "FAQs", "Glossary", "Site Map", and "Help". A "Reference Maps" section is visible, with a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: Main > All Data Sets > Geography > Results". A dark blue bar contains the text "Use the links above to change your results" and a "Print / Download" button. A white box with a black border and the text "Print/Download" has an arrow pointing to the button in the dark blue bar. Below the navigation bar, there are instructions: "Select an option, then click on the map" and "recenter and zoom in". A "Legend" box on the left lists "Boundaries" (with a green line icon) and "Features" (with icons for Major Road and Street). The main map area shows a street grid with labels like "Frontier Rd", "White Rd", and "Chestnut Ridge Rd". A "Zoom" control on the right shows a map of the U.S. and zoom levels 10, 9, and 8. A "Quick tips" link is also present.

Edward Herman
Business and Government Documents Center
Lockwood Library
University at Buffalo
January 2004
http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/govdocsubj/census2000/RefMap_Tut.pdf