Grid systems can describe areas as well as points

- Zip codes
- Police Districts
- Census enumeration districts and tracts
- Land ownership parcels (Cadastre)
- Cities, Counties, Minor Civil Divisions, etc.
- Neighborhood and districts
- National grids, variable resolution

For example.....

The Po Valley: Centuriation
Early US land partitioning: metes and bounds

Written example

- Mercer County, Kentucky Deed Book 7, p.417
- 13 February 1810. Rice BEADLES of Lincoln Co., Ky sells 140 acres and 36 poles of land in Mercer County on Doctors Fork to John CRAIN for 200 pounds.
- Land bounded as follows:
  - Beginning at the mouth of a branch at an ash stump
  - thence up the creek S 20 poles to 2 beach
  - thence east 41 poles to a small walnut in Arnett's line
  - thence north 50 east 80 poles to a linn hickory dogwood in said line
  - thence north 38 poles to an ash
  - thence west 296 poles with Potts's line till it intersects with Tolly's line
  - thence south 30 west 80 poles to a whiteoak and sugar thence east 223 poles to beginning....

More recent example: Route 66 in Virginia

The United States Public Land Survey System (USPLSS)
Remnants

Laying out the grid

Boustrophedonic Section Numbers

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Section Sub-division
A parcel reference

Section corner corrections
(Frankenmuth, MI)

California and the USPLS

T-R and Sections, but...
French tradition: Rivers and long lots

More locally

Colorado

Santa Barbara Co. Assessors Office Land Parcels
Other region-based land partitions
LAFCO

Census Tracts
Population density in Goleta and Isla Vista

Back to names...

School districts
Summary

- Land partitioning systems describe areas on the earth’s surface
- Early systems were metes and bounds, centuriation, long lots
- The US standardized on the USPLSS
- System users principal meridians, base lines, townships, ranges, sections
- A grid imposes itself on the human landscape