Two maps of an area can provide very different information if they were made for different purposes. The area around St Paul's Cathedral, London, is shown here in two such maps. The largest-scale plan produced by the Ordnance Survey provides, for example, precise measurements, some internal architectural details and boundary information — and does so in black and white. By contrast, fire insurance plans like this one issued by Charles Goad, use an even more detailed scale, concentrate on information required to assess insurance risk and use colour coding to show more information than just outlines. The insurance plan is about twice the scale of the Ordnance Survey map and identifies the use and ownership of property, internal and external building materials, street widths and property numbers — information used by the insurance assessor to determine the likelihood of a fire and the potential for damage. The explanation of the colours is as follows: red — brick buildings, yellow — wooden buildings, dark blue — stone buildings, light blue — low level skylights, purple — high level skylights.
