



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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PLAN of the City of Washington in the Territory of Columbia. ceded by the States of VIRGINIA and MARYLAND to the United States of America, and by them established as the Seat of Bovernement after the Year MDCCC . . . 1792

Stock#: 31888
Map Maker: Vallance & Thackara
Date: 1792 (1880 ca)
Place: Washington
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 29 x 21 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Andrew Ellicott's plan of Washington, reproduced by the United States Coast Survey circa 1880 from the original 1792 edition of the map.

Ellicott's plan is the earliest official map of the City of Washington. Two official editions were issued virtually simultaneously by Thackara & Vallance in Philadelphia and Samuel Hill in Boston and pre-dated only by the pirated miniature magazine edition of the Hill and the pirated miniature magazine edition of the Thackara.

On January 24, 1791, President George Washington announced the permanent location of the national capital, a diamond-shaped ten-mile tract at the confluence of the Potomac and Eastern Branch Rivers. The original survey was performed by Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Bannaker (a freed slave). In March of 1791, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant was appointed by Washington to prepare the plan for the city with Ellicott as his assistant. L'Enfant turned out to be difficult to work with, and Thomas Jefferson and Washington ultimately suspended L'Enfant in 1792.

Andrew Ellicott took over the project using L'Enfants plan as a base. Philadelphia engravers James Thackara & John Vallance and Samuel Blodget Jr. were hired to produce engraved versions of Ellicott's manuscript plan. Blodget arranged for Samuel Hill of Boston to engrave the map for him. Both Hill and Thackara & Vallance produced a large official map of the new Federal City (along with minature editions, which appeared in magazines). In addition, an edition of the map was printed in red on linen, as a



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keepsake.

Hill's official version was issued in September 1792, pre-dating the Thackara edition by several months.

This reproduction can be identified by the note "Plate No. 2340" at the top center of the map. The reproduction is quite rare on the market,. With only one listing in AMPR in the past 30 years, it appears less frequently on the market than the original.

Detailed Condition:

Laid on board. Minor dampstaining along the bottom of the image.