



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

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(Used During The California Gold Rush) A Chart Shewing Part of the Coast of N.W. America, with the Tracks of His Majesty's Sloop Discovery and Armed Tender Chatham Companded by George Vancouver Esqr . . . [San Francisco to Ensenada, ec.] (extensive annotat

Stock#: 51402
Map Maker: Vancouver
Date: 1798
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Fair
Size: 31 x 24.5 inches
Price: \$1,800.00



Description:

Used During the California Gold Rush!

Heavily annotated example of Vancouver's chart of the California Coastline, including inset maps of San Francisco and San Diego.

This detailed chart of the coast of California was originally prepared by George Robinson in London to illustrate the first edition of Vancouver's Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean...published in London. The map is the first large format map to focus on the Coastline of California drawn from scientific Surveys.



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Vancouver's voyage to the Northwest Coast of America is best described as the last major exploration of the North Pacific. Thereafter, subsequent discoveries were primarily incidental to voyages in pursuit of commerce and fur trade. Vancouver began his career as a midshipman on James Cook's second expedition.

The present chart is linen backed and separately issued, and includes extensive navigation and other annotations by one or more early owners, likely about the time of the California Gold Rush.

Among the annotations are what appears to be sailing tracks between the San Diego and Santa Barbara areas, along with three compass drawings and an extensive grid.

These annotations also include the addition of several missions (San Luis Obispo and San Miguel), the addition of a building at the Mission Santa Cruz, the addition of the island of San Nicholas in the Channel Islands. In each of the two insets of San Diego and San Francisco, a note referencing "High waters full and change at ...", with a note that the San Francisco observation was taken at Fort Point.

Fort Point

In 1769 Spain occupied the San Francisco area and by 1776 had established the area's first European settlement, with a mission and a presidio. To protect against encroachment by the British and Russians, Spain fortified the high white cliff at the narrowest part of the bay's entrance, where Fort Point now stands. The Castillo de San Joaquin, built in 1794, was an adobe structure housing nine to thirteen cannons.

Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, gaining control of the region and the fort, but in 1835 the Mexican army moved to Sonoma. On July 1, 1846, after the Mexican-American War broke out between Mexico and the United States, U.S. forces, including Captain John Charles Fremont, Kit Carson and a band of 10 followers, captured and occupied the empty castillo and spiked (disabled) the cannons.

Following the United States' victory in 1848, California was annexed by the U.S. and became a state in 1850. Military officials soon recommended a series of fortifications to secure San Francisco Bay. Coastal defenses were built at Alcatraz Island, Fort Mason, and Fort Point.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work on Fort Point in 1853.



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Detailed Condition:

Laid on linen. Soiled, chipped and other condition issues, as illustrated.