



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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Map of Mountain Park Observatory Grounds in the Township of West Hoboken, N.J. The Property of John Winkler.

Stock#: 56073
Map Maker: Heissinger
Date: 1880 circa
Place: New York
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 22.5 x 28 inches
Price: \$ 2,200.00



Description:

A Gilded Age Design for an Observatory Overlooking Manhattan.

Unrecorded color-lithographed architectural plan for the grounds surrounding the Hoboken observatory overlooking Manhattan.

The observatory in Hoboken echoed the Latting Observatory on a smaller scale. The Latting Observatory was built in 1853 and dominated the Midtown landscape until it burned down in 1856.

This plan reflects Heissinger's work on theme-park type developments around New York. He also designed Starin's Glen Island, as well as hotels and hotel grounds. His work can be described as part of the first wave of development of the American theme park.

The lower lefthand corner includes the following explanation:



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View of Present Observatory.

Opposite 26th St. New York.

The top of the Observatory which is about 335 feet above the level of the Hudson River is situated on the highest peak of the rocky range of land most projecting out on the Western Shore of the Hudson River within 3 1/4 miles from the City Hall, New York. The view is the most extensive that can be had anywhere near New York. Steamers, Ferryboats and Vessels as well as Locomotives, Warehouses and Shipping docks are full of life every day immediately below.

The upper right corner features a pasted-on view of Manhattan with Weehawken and Hoboken in the foreground. Below, it is titled "View of New York Harbor, North & East River." The observatory is drawn onto the view. The whole format of that section of the plan gives this example an in-process or proof-print quality.

The design of the park is characteristic of Heissinger's work; it features winding paths, extensive gardens, pavilions, grottos, and fountains.

Detailed Condition:

Some light toning and soiling.