



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## **Mitchell's New National Map, Exhibiting The United States with the North American British Provinces, Sandwich Islands, Mexico and Central America, Together with Cuba and the other West India Islands . . . 1858**

**Stock#:** 69364  
**Map Maker:** Mitchell  
**Date:** 1858  
**Place:** Philadelphia  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 69 x 68 inches Including Rods  
**Price:** SOLD



### **Description:**

#### ***Fine Example of Mitchell's National Map of the United States***

Fine wall map of the United States, illustrating the transitional western Territorial and State borders, published by S A Mitchell in 1858.

First published in 1856, Mitchell's remarkable wall map is perhaps the single most recognizable wall map of the United States of the period.

Embellished with inset maps of the Sandwich Islands and 2 maps of the World, and including decorative vignettes and extensive tables, the map was one of the most commercially successful maps of its time, regularly amended to update the changing territorial and state borders of the West.

The map is noteworthy for a number of reasons, including:

- Proposed Arizona Territory shown below New Mexico Territory, a precursor to the Baylor Line, which would make a similar division of the two Territories following the Confederate Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor's capture of the region in 1861, which led to a short-lived attempt to establish



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the Confederate State of Arizona.

- Oregon Territory and Washington Territory extending to the Rock Mountains
- Massive Nebraska Territory, extending the the Rocky Mountains and Canada
- Kansas Territory extending to the Rocky Mountains, on the eve of the 1859 Kansas / Colorado Gold Rush

#### **Arizona Territory Below New Mexico Territory**

Following the expansion of the New Mexico Territory in 1853, as a result of the Gadsden Purchase, several proposals for a division of the territory and the organization of a separate Territory of Arizona in the southern half of the territory were advanced as early as 1856.

The first proposal dates from a conference held in Tucson that convened on August 29, 1856. The conference issued a petition to the U.S. Congress, signed by 256 people, requesting organization of the territory and elected Nathan P. Cook as the territorial delegate to Congress. In January 1857, the bill for the organization of the territory was introduced into the House of Representatives, but the proposal was defeated.

In February 1858, the New Mexico territorial legislature adopted a resolution in favor of the creation of the Arizona territory, but with a north-south border along the 109th meridian. In April 1860, impatient for Congress to act, a convention of 31 delegates met in Tucson and adopted a constitution for a provisional territorial government of the area south of 34 degrees north. The delegates elected Dr. Lewis S. Owings as provisional governor.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, sentiment in the territory was in favor of the Confederacy. Territorial secession conventions were called at Mesilla and Tucson in March 1861 that adopted an ordinance of secession, established a provisional Arizona Territory with Owings as its governor, and petitioned the Confederate Congress for admission.

The Confederacy regarded the territory as a valuable route for possible access to the Pacific Ocean, with the specific intention of capturing California. In July 1861, a small Confederate force of Texans under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John R. Baylor assaulted Fort Fillmore at Mesilla in the eastern part of the territory. After the fort was abandoned by the Union garrison, Baylor's force cut off the fleeing Union troops and forced them to surrender. On August 1, Baylor issued a "Proclamation to the People of the Territory of Arizona", taking possession of the territory for the Confederacy, with Mesilla as the capital and himself as the governor. Baylor's subsequent dismantling of the existing Union forts in the territory



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left the white settlers at the mercy of the Apache, who quickly gained control of the area and forced many of the white settlers to seek refuge in Tucson.

On August 28, a convention met again in Tucson and declared that the territory formed the previous year was part of the Confederacy. Granville H. Oury was elected as delegate to the Confederate Congress. Oury drafted legislation authorizing the organization of the Confederate Territory of Arizona. The legislation passed on January 13, 1862, and the territory was officially created by proclamation of President Jefferson Davis on February 14.

The following month, in March 1862, the U.S. House of Representatives, now devoid of the southern delegates and controlled by Republicans, passed a bill to create the United States Arizona Territory using the north-south border of the 107th meridian. The use of a north-south border rather than an east-west one had the effect of denying a de facto ratification of the Confederate Arizona Territory. The house bill stipulated that Tucson was to be the capital. The final bill passed the Senate in February 1863 without the Tucson-as-capital stipulation, and was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on February 24, the date of the official organization of the US Arizona Territory.

**Rarity**

While Mitchell's Wall Map is not particularly rare, the map rarely appears in such fine original condition.

**Detailed Condition:**

Laid on linen, with blue silk edges and original rollers, as issued.