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Bird's Eye View of the City of McGregor and North McGregor 1869

Stock#: 73658
Map Maker: Ruger & Stoner
Date: 1869
Place: Madison, WI
Color: Color
Condition: Good
Size: 22 x 20.5 inches (Including title)
Price: \$ 2,900.00



Description:

Fine early birdseye view of McGregor and North McGregor, Iowa, lithographed in Chicago by the Chicago Lithog. Co. for Ruger & Stoner of Madison, Wisconsin.

The view shows the town on the west bank of the Mississippi River, just north of its confluence with the Wisconsin River,

Perhaps the most fascinating element of the view is its depiction of the neighboring town of Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, just across the river. By contrast, the following year, and using a nearly identical decorative motif, the Ruger & Stoner view of Prairie du Chien shows an entirely different image of the town, which was likely drawn from a hillside above McGregor.

<https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/26899>

McGregor, Iowa

McGregor was founded as MacGregor's Landing in 1847 by Alexander MacGregor

Since 1837, MacGregor had been operating a ferry across the Mississippi River between Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and the present site of McGregor, Iowa. MacGregor planned the new city as a six block development, and it was quickly populated, being incorporated as McGregor in 1857. In that same year, the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad finished building a railroad track from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to



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Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, thus connecting Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River by rail.

McGregor quickly became a major commercial center, and served as a hub where grain from Iowa and Minnesota could be transported across the Mississippi and sent on to Milwaukee via railroad. For example, around 1860, Joseph "Diamond Jo" Reynolds moved to McGregor in order to establish a grain trading business, and later ran his own steam packets.

More railroads were built to connect McGregor with cities further west, and the city of North McGregor (now Marquette, Iowa) was established just north of the city to serve as the city's railroad terminus. After reaching McGregor from the west, trains were disassembled and railroad cars were ferried across the Mississippi to continue on towards Lake Michigan.

In 1874, the system of ferrying railroad cars across the river between North McGregor and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, was brought to an end when Prairie du Chien businessman John Lawler commissioned the construction of a permanent pontoon bridge to connect the two cities' rail lines. As the need for men to disassemble and ship trains across the river disappeared, the city's population began to decline.

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning and discoloration from an early framing.