Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

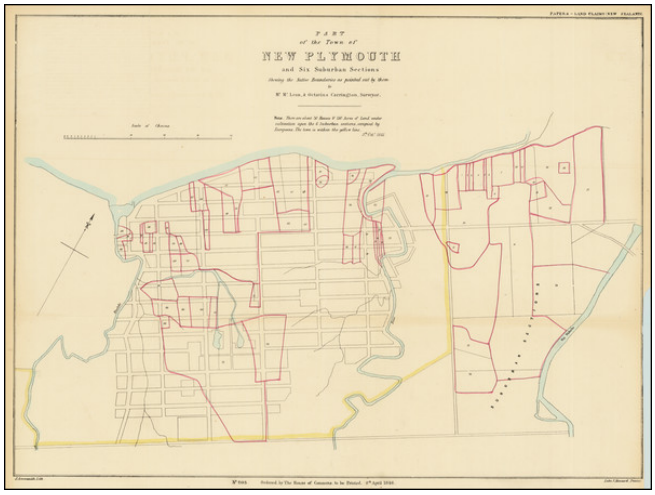
(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Part of the Town of New Plymouth and Six Suburban Sections Shewing the Native Boundaries as pointed out by them to Mr. Mc. Lean, & Octavius Carrington, Surveyor.

Stock#: 73918
Map Maker: Arrowsmith

Date: 1846 (April 8)
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 23.5 x 17.5 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Scarce plan of New Plymouth, New Zealand, perhaps the first printed plan of the city, produced by John Arrowsmith for the British Parliament during a turbulent time in the history of the Colony.

The map is oriented with northwest at the top. New Plymouth is a town on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island. Interestingly, this map shows "the Native boundaries as pointed out by them", thereby relating some of the Maori history in the area.

Land Disputes

The 1840s were a troubled time in New Zealand, as friction between white settlers and the Maori reached a boiling point. Wikipedia provides a detailed summary of the situation in New Plymouth in the early 1840s:

> *As settlers arrived, they occupied allotments throughout the coast to beyond Waitara. Many had bought land from the New Zealand Company before the company had purchased the land itself. Tensions between Maori and settlers soon became evident: a party of settlers were driven from land north of the Waitara River in July 1842 and surveyors were obstructed by a group of 100 Maori in 1843. Yet the town continued to thrive: by 1844 it had two flour mills on the Huatoki River and by 1847 it was recorded there were 841 hectares of land in cultivation.*
>
> *In May 1844 William Spain, who had been appointed Land Claims Commissioner to examine New*

Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Part of the Town of New Plymouth and Six Suburban Sections Shewing the Native Boundaries as pointed out by them to Mr. Mc. Lean, & Octavius Carrington, Surveyor.

Zealand Company land claims, began inquiries in Taranaki. The company withdrew its two large land claims of 1840, restricting its claim of "legitimately purchased" land to Nga Motu. Spain ruled in its favour, endorsing its claim to 24,000 ha extending north from the Sugar Loaf Islands, except for pas, burial places and land in cultivation (48ha), native reserves of 10 per cent of the land (2400ha), land for the Wesleyan Mission Station (40ha), and land for Barrett and his family (72ha).

On 2 July Spain wrote to Governor Robert FitzRoy advocating the imposition of a military force to persuade the Maori that everything was in their best interests, or as he put it, to demonstrate "our power to enforce obedience to the laws, and of the utter hopelessness of any attempt on their part at resistance ..." As Spain saw it, New Zealand had been colonised for philanthropic reasons, "to benefit the Natives by teaching them the usefulness of habits of industry, and the advantages attendant upon civilisation."

The award, wrote J.S. Tullett in his history of the city, "was received with great hostility by the Maoris". They wrote letters of strong protest to FitzRoy, who responded with sympathy. After visiting New Plymouth in late 1844, FitzRoy formally set aside Spain's award, acknowledging that the land had been sold without the approval of the absentees. He substituted it for a 1400ha block that became known as the "Fitzroy block", which included the town site and only the immediate surrounding area. Many settlers who had taken up land outside the Fitzroy block were thus forced to move back within its boundaries, fostering widespread hostility towards FitzRoy.

According to the Waitangi Tribunal, the Fitzroy block deal was less a purchase than a "political settlement based on the reality that there were already settlers on the land, who had to be either accepted or driven out ... (the sale was) more akin to a treaty, because Maori also imposed two significant conditions. The first was that settlers still outside the Fitzroy block would be brought back into it and the second was that the settlers would expand no further." A 12-metre high boundary mark, known as the FitzRoy Pole, was later erected on the banks of the Waiwakaiho River to indicate the limit of Pākehā settlement.

Detailed Condition:
Folding map. Original hand-color in outline.