



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[Ottawa] City of Ottawa Canada West

Stock#: 74782
Map Maker: Laver / Stent
Date: 1859 circa
Place: Ottawa
Color: Color
Condition: Good
Size: 37 x 25.5 inches
Price: \$ 4,200.00



Description:

One of the Earliest Printed Views of Ottawa

Rare early view of Ottawa published only 4 years after the town name was changed from Bytown.

An important early view of Ottawa, some of Hull and of the Ottawa River circa 1859, including views of the Chaudière Falls and of Parliament Hill (formerly Barrack Hill) prior to the construction of the Parliament Buildings.

Queen Victoria herself chose this logging town as the future capital, based primarily along strategic lines, being far enough away from the American boarder to offer a level of security along with the recently finished Rideau Canal, providing a transportation route to Kingston and the Great Lakes.

The view was designed and drawn by the architectural firm of Augustus Laver and Thomas Stent, both of whom were relatively recent arrivals in Ottawa. The pair would shortly thereafter go one to win a design contest for a portion of the new Canadian Parliament buildings in the following years. Stent would go on to a career in New York which would including the design of the Astor Public Library, while Laver would move on to design a number of important buildings in San Francisco, including its City Hall.

The dedication of the view at the bottom reads:

*To his Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Edmund Walker Head Baronet &c. &c. Governor
General of British North America. This view of the City of Ottawa, the Capital of Canada, is*



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most respectfully dedicated by His Excellency's obliged and very obedient servants, Stent and Laver.

Ottawa

The Ottawa area was first settled in 1800 by Philemon Wright of Massachusetts who brought 6 families and 25 laborers to start an agricultural community on the north bank of the Ottawa River at the portage to the Chaudière Falls. Wright discovered that transporting timber by river from the Ottawa Valley to Montreal was possible, and the area was soon booming based almost exclusively upon the timber trade.

After the War of 1812, the government began sponsored immigration schemes which brought over Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants to settle the Ottawa area. Along with French Canadians who crossed over from Quebec, these two groups provided the bulk of workers involved in the Rideau Canal project and the booming timber trade, both instrumental in putting Ottawa on the map.

The area grew significantly when the canal was completed by Colonel John By in 1832. It was intended to provide a secure route between Montreal and Kingston on Lake Ontario, by-passing the stretch of the St. Lawrence River bordering New York State. Construction of the canal began at the northern end, where Colonel By set up a military barracks on what later became Parliament Hill and laid out a townsite that soon became known as Bytown. The west side of the canal became known as "Uppertown" where the Parliament buildings are located, while the east side of the canal (wedged between the canal and Rideau River) was known as the "Lowertown". Ottawa became a center for lumber milling and square-cut timber industry in Canada.

Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855, when it was incorporated as a city. On December 31, 1857, Queen Victoria selected Ottawa as the Capital of Canada, largely motivated by its central location between Canada East and Canada West, although it was then just a small logging town.

Following the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1865, Queen Victoria chose Ottawa as the capital of Canada in 1867 and the parliament buildings on Parliament Hill were soon completed. Also at this time, increased export sales led it to connect by rail to facilitate shipment to markets especially in the United States.

Rarity

The view is extremely rare. OCLC locates only 2 1983 reduced size facsimiles of the view. An on-line image of the map lists the source as the Library and Archives of Canada, lacking the title below the



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image. A similar incomplete copy was sold at Bonhams in November 2003.

Detailed Condition:

The whole is laid on flexible card. Let margin trimmed to the image or just to the image. Bottom margin trimmed with loss of the second line of the dedication. Small loss from lower-left corner. Faint mat stain. Crease at the top of the image.