



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

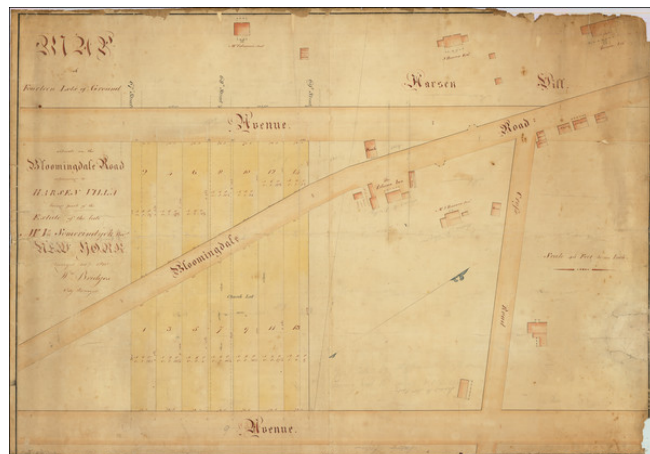
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(Upper West Side) Map of Fourteen Lots of Ground situate on the Bloomingdale Road adjoining to Harsen Vill'a being part of the Estate of the late Mr. Jon Somerindyck Decd New York Surveyed Febry 1810

Stock#: 80782
Map Maker: Bridges
Date: 1810
Place: New York
Color: Pen & Ink with Wash Color
Condition: See Description
Size: 40.5 x 28.75 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

An Incomparable Record of One of the Upper West Side's First Hamlets.

Fantastic original manuscript survey map by William Bridges, perhaps the most important mapmaker in the history of Manhattan.

The map is oriented with northwest at the top. It covers an area roughly bounded by 67th Street in the south and 72nd Street in the north. In the east, the map shows [9th] Avenue (now Columbus Avenue), and in the west, it extends beyond [10th] Avenue (now Amsterdam Avenue).

This was conceived as a real estate map, showing the subdivision of lands in the estate of John Someringdyck (elsewhere spelled "Somerindyke") after his death, but these lots are not what gives the map its immediacy; it is most interesting as a document of an extremely early community ("Harsenville") on the Upper West Side, with a church, an inn, and stores. Some of the houses, such as "Mr. Talman's Seat", have a sprawling-estate quality, with verandas and auxiliary buildings ("Chaise house & Stable"), while others ("Mr. Holmes", "Mr. Tyson", "Mr. Gatfield", and "Mr. Harsen") show the first hints of denser organization and urbanization - if it can be so-called.

This map brings to mind two pre-1820 mappings of Manhattan: the various Commissioners' Plans, for which Bridges was the initial publisher (though John Randel the primary surveyor), and the [Randel Farm Surveys](#). While it is interesting to compare the present map with what is shown of the area on the aforementioned surveys, this map necessarily provides much more detail. John Bute Holmes reproduced



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some early (but still later) surveys of the area in his [1879 Map of Parts of Somerindyke, Harsen, Talman, Hardenbrook and Other Estates, and The Adjoining Water Grants.](#)

Harsen Village got its name from Jacob Harsen (or an earlier member of his family) who owned much of the land shown here. The road here called "Cross Road" would be renamed "Harsen's Road" on the Randel Farm Surveys. The Harsen's lost some of their lands to eminent domain in 1849, as the city sought to expand Bloomingdale Road (present-day Broadway). Apparently, Harsenville was all but gone by the 1870s - New York Public Library has a drawing of some dilapidated homes titled "The last of Harsenville" from 1873. [One source claims](#) that at its largest, Harsenville had 500 residents and over 60 buildings, but that must have been later in the 19th century.

[The Pelican Inn](#), which is clearly a focal point of the community, was previously called the Shakespeare Inn in 1803 and is also apparently referred to as the Oakley Tavern.

The "church lot" plot would come to house a Reformed Dutch Church shortly after the completion of the present map. This might have been the relocation from the smaller church shown here. This matches with what we know about the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, about which more can be read [here](#).

The map was clearly used as a working real estate document for some time after its original production; there are numerous pencil notes relating to the leasing and sale of plots covered by the map ("Leased to Laver", "Leased to Dally", "Leased to Mrs. Pook", "for sale by Hoffman...").

The Bridges Family Survey Collection

Two of William Bridges's sons went on to be New York City surveyors as well. After the death of his son Joseph F. Bridges in 1883, the family survey collection was split up, but the core of the material was purchased by rare map dealer Richard D. Cooke in 1885. The City of New York tried to acquire the entire archive for the massive sum of \$30,000, but negotiations ultimately failed and the maps were dispersed individually. At the time of the city's offer, the *New York Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* (9 December 1899, pages 877-8), wrote:

[T]he Bridges collection . . . apart from books and manuscripts, is the most important source in existence for the history of New York City during three-quarters of a century. Besides, it has an extremely practical bearing on practical interests, for should the information it contains regarding old boundaries and surveys be lost, a cloud would be thrown upon many titles to real estate



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It is unknown if this manuscript was in the Cooke collection, though that is a good bet.

Rarity

A group of much smaller survey field books from the Bridges family (most of them post-dating the elder Bridges's death), were sold by Swann Auctions in 2014 for \$18,750.

To our knowledge, no large-format original surveys by Bridges have traded in recent memory (no examples located in RBH). The only appearance of the Commissioner's Plan (1821) in recent decades was also at Swann, in 2013, where it made \$102,000.

Detailed Condition:

Pen and watercolor on two sheets of wove paper (joined as one), one of which watermarked "JWhatman | 1807", backed on 19th-century linen (likely contemporaneously). Some losses at the edges, as well as a few repaired tears. Later pencil annotations. The map is in good condition for its age and format but is fragile.