



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## **Preliminary Chart of the Potomac River (in four sheets) Sheet No. 1 From Entrance to Piney Point [with] Sheet No. 2 From Piney Point to Lower Cedar Point [with] Sheet No. 3 From Lower Cedar Point to Indian Head [with] Sheet No. 4 From Indian Head to Little Falls Bridge**

**Stock#:** 88214  
**Map Maker:** United States Coast Survey  
**Date:** 1863  
**Place:** Washington D.C.  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 39 x 23.5 inches (each sheet)  
**Price:** \$ 3,500.00



### **Description:**

#### ***An American Rarity -- The First Large Scale Charting The Potomac From Washington DC to Chesapeake Bay***

Monumental set of four separately published hydrographical charts of the Potomac River constituting one large mapping of the length of the river from its opening to Washington, D.C.

While the surveying project predated the Civil War (triangulation and hydrography started in 1860, while topography was started in 1858), the Potomac played an important enough strategic role during the Civil War that the completion of the mapping surely gained initial impetus from that event. Completed in the early part of the Civil War, the chart is a remarkably detailed and comprehensive treatment of the River, including ferry points, lighthouses, buoys, soundings, fortifications, waterfront railroad depots and rail lines. In aggregate, the map stretches to about 10 feet wide by 5 feet tall, providing a meticulous image of the river and its environs.

The chart even includes the dock, roads and buildings at **Mount Vernon**, George Washington's long time home.

Later examples were issued in 1864 and 1868 in reduced sizes.

### **Rarity**



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The original complete 1862 set of four charts is very rare. OCLC locates 3 copies (Library of Congress, Pennsylvania State Library and University of Virginia).

AMPR locates 1 example in a dealer catalog (High Ridge Books, 1997).

**Detailed Condition:**

Four sheets, unjoined. Sheet No. 4 more toned than the others.