



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

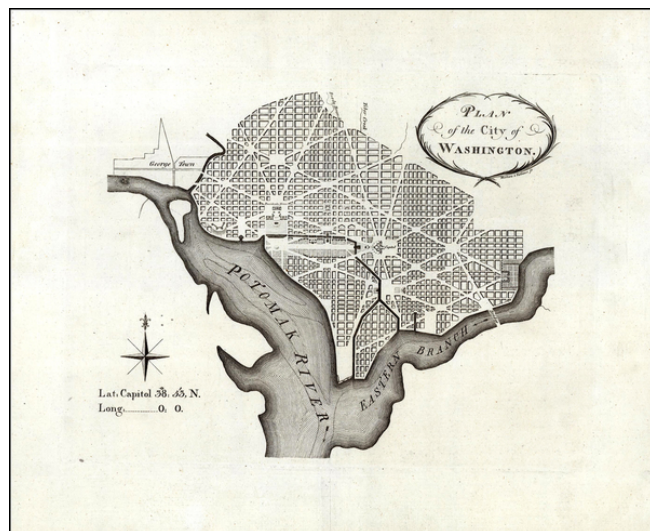
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Plan of the City of Washington [First Plan of Washington DC]

Stock#: 28093
Map Maker: Vallance & Thackara
Date: 1792
Place: Boston
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 10 x 8.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Extremely rare separately issued example of the first printed plan of Washington DC, based upon Andrew Ellicott's manuscript plan.

Fine example of the extremely rare separately issued example of the "Columbian Magazine" edition of Thackara & Vallance's printing of Ellicott's plan of Washington, the first printed plan of Washington, D.C.

On January 24, 1791, President George Washington announced the permanent location of the national capital, a diamond-shaped ten-mile tract at the confluence of the Potomac and Eastern Branch Rivers. The original survey was performed by Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Bannaker (a freed slave). In March of 1791, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant was appointed by Washington to prepare a plan for the new city, with Andrew Ellicott serving as L'Enfant's assistant. L'Enfant turned out to be difficult to work with, and Thomas Jefferson and Washington ultimately suspended L'Enfant's participation in the project in 1792.

Andrew Ellicott took over the project using, L'Enfant's model as his base for completing the plan of the City. Philadelphia engravers James Thackara and John Vallance and Boston's Samuel Blodget Jr. were hired to produce engraved versions of Ellicott's manuscript plan. However, prior to the release of the large official plans, both engravers also engraved and printed a smaller version of the map. An edition of the map was also printed from Hill's map in red on linen, as a keepsake.

As noted above, before the completion of the official editions of the map, smaller magazine versions of both maps, engraved by Hill and Thackara & Vallance, appeared in the *The Universal Asylum And*



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Columbian Magazine (Thackara & Vallance, published March 1792) and the *Massachusetts Magazine* (Hill, published in about April 1792), thereby becoming the first and second printed maps of the City of Washington. The proof states of the larger official maps were not available until June and July of 1792.

While the Thackara & Vallance edition of the map which appeared in the *Columbian Magazine* has appeared occasionally on the market over the past 20 years, there exists also a separately issued version of this map, which is of the utmost rarity. The Library of Congress holds such an unfolded example and the firm of Martayan Lan offered an example in the past 10 years.

The present example is unfolded, as issued, and an exceptional example of this remarkable rarity.

Detailed Condition: