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Map of San Diego & Old Town, and Pacific Beach Railroad . . . 1888

Stock#: 101377

Map Maker:

Date: 1914

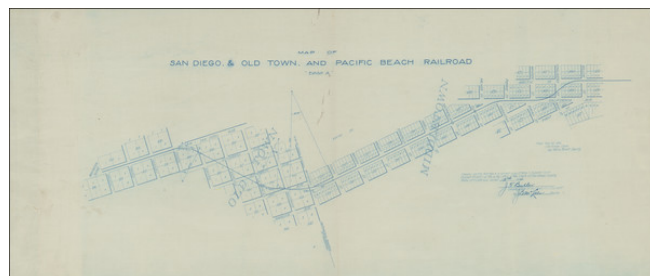
Place: San Diego

Color: Uncolored

Condition: VG

Size: 47 x 20.4 inches

Price: \$ 675.00



Description:

A Short Lived Early San Diego Railroad Line

Detailed map of a portion of the route of the San Diego, Old Town & Pacific Beach Railroad, extending from Old Town to Middletown, first drawn in 1888 and here copied in 1914.

Running from the center of today's history Old Town toward Little Italy, this short lived commuter line shows a bygone era of San Diego history, with a fair amount of the area shown now part of the Highway 5 and the current Santa Fe Railroad route.

This map was likely used for litigation, circa 1914.

San Diego, Old Town & Pacific Beach Railroad

The story of the San Diego, Old Town & Pacific Beach Railroad begins with the San Diego & Old Town Railway, organized by George Neal and James McCoy, which was first granted a franchise in August 1886, one of the country's early experiments with electric traction. By November 1887, the railway, initially using steam "dummies", commenced operations. However, the venture into electric motors, despite being pioneering, was short-lived due to technical challenges, leading to a reversion to steam power.

The following year, the San Diego and Pacific Beach Railway Company was created to serve the newly created community of Pacific Beach. This venture received a franchise from the San Diego city council for a right of way around Mission Bay, connecting Old Town with Pacific Beach. The route followed Grand Avenue, deliberately wider than other streets to accommodate the railroad. Construction began at Morena in December 1887, with a temporary interchange connecting to the California Southern Railroad, a crucial link to downtown San Diego.



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In April 1888, the San Diego, Old Town & Pacific Beach Railway emerged from the consolidation of the San Diego & Pacific Beach Railway and the San Diego & Old Town Railway. This new entity faced immediate challenges, including floods in 1889 and 1893 that damaged the railway and tragically claimed the life of Master Mechanic W. O. Wilson. In 1894, the railway was extended to La Jolla, under the leadership of J. Malcolm Forbes in 1894.

The railway, supporting local industries, switched from coal to oil burning in 1901. However, the rise of automobile traffic and improved road systems gradually diminished the railway's relevance. By 1906, the Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway was formed, absorbing the existing lines. Despite this consolidation, the railway could not withstand the changing transportation landscape and was eventually abandoned in 1919.

Rarity

The map is unrecorded.

This is the first time we have seen this map.

Detailed Condition: