



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Bird's Eye View of the City of Augusta Maine

**Stock#:** 101500  
**Map Maker:** Ruger / Stoner / Beck & Pauli  
**Date:** 1878  
**Place:** Milwaukee  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** Good  
**Size:** 26 x 17.5 inches  
**Price:** \$ 4,500.00



### Description:

#### *An Early Birdseye View of Augusta -- Capital of the State of Maine*

Striking 19th Century birdseye view of Augusta, Maine, drawn by Albert Ruger, published in Madison by J.J. Stoner, with lithography by Beck & Pauli.

The key at the bottom locates roughly 4 points of interest, which are keyed with numbers and letters.

The non-native American history of Augusta, Maine begins in September 1607, when English explorers from the Popham Colony first arrived, marking the region's initial European exploration. This was followed by the establishment of a trading post by the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims in 1628, which was subsequently sold to four Boston merchants in 1661. The area experienced growth but was abandoned around 1676 due to the escalating conflict known as King Philip's War.

Re-settlement efforts were delayed until the mid-18th century when descendants of the original Boston merchants, known as the Kennebec Proprietors, reclaimed the land. They established Fort Western in 1754, which remained garrisoned until 1767. The fort's commander, James Howard, later purchased the property. Early settlers of this period included families such as Cony, North, and Sewall.

Augusta's official establishment as a distinct community occurred when it was incorporated as part of Hallowell in 1771, before breaking off to become Harrington in February 1797, only to be renamed Augusta later that year in honor of Pamela Augusta Dearborn. In 1799, it was designated as the county seat for the newly created Kennebec County. Augusta's status was elevated further when it was chosen over Portland, Brunswick, and Hallowell to become the state capital of Maine in 1827, a decision solidified



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### **Bird's Eye View of the City of Augusta Maine**

with the completion of the Maine State House, designed by Charles Bulfinch, in 1832.

The city saw significant development in the late 18th and throughout the 19th century, marked by the construction of key infrastructure such as the first bridge over the Kennebec River in 1797, and cultural advancements with the establishment of its first newspaper, *The Intelligence*, in 1795. The industrial era saw the erection of the Kennebec Arsenal between 1827-1835 and the expansion of various industries, notably lumber and textiles. The city was incorporated in 1849, with Alfred Redington serving as its first mayor in 1850.

Augusta's growth continued with the construction of infrastructure like the Kennebec Dam, introduction of the steamboat line in 1823, and the arrival of railroad service in 1852. The latter half of the 19th century saw the city recovering from the 1865 fire with new brick and granite structures and benefiting from an influx of Irish and French-Canadian immigrants contributing to the local workforce.

Following the Civil War, Augusta boomed as a community. The industrial sector in Augusta expanded significantly during this time. The establishment and growth of mills, particularly those related to lumber, grist, textiles, and paper, marked the city's landscape and economy. These industries not only provided employment but also contributed to Augusta's economic prosperity and attracted a workforce, including Irish and French-Canadian immigrants, adding to the city's cultural diversity.

#### **Rarity**

The view is rare on the market.

OCLC locates 2 copies: Library of Congress and University of Southern Maine.

#### **Detailed Condition:**

Colored lithograph on 19th century wove paper. Long tear at right, expertly repaired on the verso, with color and image retouched.