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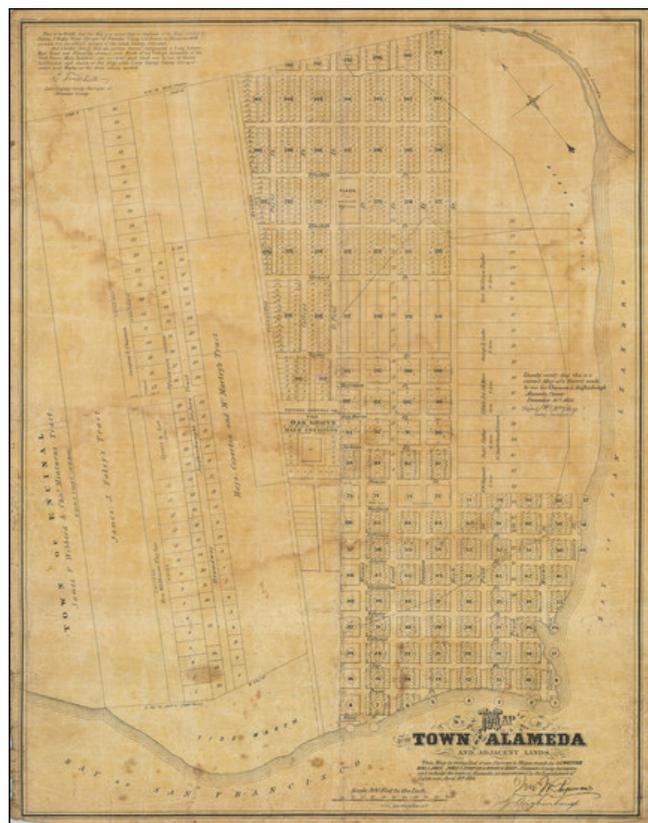
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Map of the Town of Alameda and Adjacent Lands . . . as incorporated by the Legislature of California. April 19th 1854

Stock#: 101796
Map Maker: Higley
Date: 1854
Place: San Francisco
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 20.25 x 25.5 inches
Price: \$ 3,400.00



Description:

First Printed Map of Alameda, California -- "The Garden of California" (Mark Twain)

Rare early map of the City of Alameda, published less than a year after the incorporation of Alameda on April 19, 1854, based upon a manuscript survey map drawn by Horace Higley for Chipman & Aughinbaugh.

Finely executed cadastral map oriented with north toward the upper left, detailing blocks, lots, and identifying owners of large parcels. The map includes a certification of accuracy and mentions that a portion of the survey was conducted by E. Twitchell. The map compiles work from surveys and maps created by J.E. Witcher, Benj. L. Jones, James T. Stratton, and Horace A. Higley. Additionally, it incorporates the town of Alameda as it was officially incorporated by the California Legislature on April 19th, 1854.

Drawer Ref: Northern
California 1

Stock#: 101796



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Legislature of California. April 19th 1854**

The map also shows at the right a portion of the town of Encinal.

The map was drawn by Horace Higley, who had been appointed Alameda County's first County Surveyor in 1854. Higley would later go on to become the Surveyor General of California in 1859, before enlisting to fight with the Confederate Army in Mississippi during the Civil War.

This is the second map of Alameda, pre-dated only by a manuscript survey map by James T. Stratton, which survives only in the form of a photocopy in the collections of the Oakland Public Library and UC Berkeley.

Alameda & Encinal

The map includes the adjoining town of Encinal. Before the consolidation into the city of Alameda in 1872, the Alameda peninsula was home to three distinct towns: Alameda, Encinal, and Woodstock.

On October 22, 1851, William Worthington Chipman and Gideon Aughinbaugh bought the peninsula from Don Antonio Peralta. To fund their project, they sold parts of the land but kept the East End. Chipman and Aughinbaugh started out living near Alameda Point. By December, they had assembled a two-story, seven-room house near Peach and Washington Streets. This house was their home for almost three years until Aughinbaugh built his own.

Early settlers in the east end included two French and two Chilean families, alongside many from New England. The area soon had a grocery store, nursery, livery stable, and hotel. Most early residents farmed for a living, but some also worked as doctors, lawyers, or ministers. Within two years, Chipman attracted five clergy members.

Aiming for a city rather than a rural area, Chipman thought of a charter in early 1853. He considered names like "Peralta," "Leandro City," and "Elizabethtown" before settling on "Alameda" (Chipman Diary, June 11, 1853). At this time, Alameda's population was similar to Oakland's and San Leandro's.

In May 1853, Chipman hired J.F. Stratton to Survey the town of Alameda, defining it with specific boundaries and laying out blocks and streets, though not all streets were 60 feet wide, most being about 40 feet. He sold lots, measuring 33 feet by 100 feet, at auction in 1854 for about \$75 each. Some lots faced north-south streets, with key lots facing cross streets. Chipman was not fully satisfied with Stratton's survey work due to inaccuracies. The survey began at the peninsula's east end, leading to awkward angles east of Versailles Avenue.



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North-south streets were named after legislators and presidents, with other streets named for landmarks or hopes for the future, like Mound Street, Court Street, and Fountain Street. The names reflected local features, aspirations, and possibly the Fountain family.

From its inception, Alameda was meant to be a residential city. Chipman sought to attract groups like athletic clubs and educators by offering free lots. He also donated land for public buildings like the Masonic Temple and churches.

Chipman's charter for Alameda, drafted in 1853, allowed for street openings, sharing costs between the taxpayer and the landowner. However, it required renewal within ten years to accommodate population growth, which did not happen, so the town was governed by the township and county after 1864.

In November 1854, a County Commission inspected the new town, noting the artesian well, plank road, and the only plastered house, owned by C. Holloway. Despite these developments, Alameda's growth was slow, partly due to irregular ferry service to San Francisco, as many residents worked in the city.

The town of Alameda was founded on June 6, 1853. At the time, "Alameda" referred to the village at Encinal and High streets, Hibbardsville was located at the North Shore ferry and shipping terminal, and Woodstock was on the west near the ferry piers of the South Pacific Coast Railroad and the Central Pacific. Eventually, the Central Pacific's ferry pier became the Alameda Mole.

Encinal, established by J. F. Hibbard in the same year, was centered around today's Union Street and Pacific Avenue. Hibbard's investment in 656.6 acres aimed to develop the town along the peninsula's northern shore, introducing a mix of industrial and residential areas.

The unification of these towns into the city of Alameda was spearheaded by Frederick Keller Krauth, a former 49er and newspaper publisher who saw the potential for a single, cohesive community. Krauth's efforts culminated in 1872, transforming the independent towns into one city.

Rarity

OCLC locate 3 examples: UC Berkeley, Oakland Public Library and the Huntington Library.

Provenance: Swann Galleries, December 2023

Detailed Condition:

Laid on linen, as issued. Intermittent damp stains and soiling.

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