



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[18th Century Drawing of a Parish Church, Hospital and Survey Markers, etc.]

Stock#: 49304ba
Map Maker: Anonymous
Date: 1750 circa
Place: Mexico
Color: Pen & Ink
Condition: VG
Size: 12.5 x 8.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fascinating drawing of a surveyed town with parish church and hospital

This is an astonishing illustration of a survey of a town made as part of a lawsuit between residents and a group of *mulatos*, mixed-race peoples, living across a river. It is wonderfully detailed and also reveals the method by which surveys were taken in colonial New Spain.

The town has both a parish church and a hospital, indicating it was of some importance in the area. It also has many trees and fields under cultivation-it is a thriving religious community dependent on agriculture. Between the church and the hills is a river labeled both with the word *río* and a row of waves. A larger river flows from the hills and out the right side of the drawing. A road runs in front of the *pueblo*, as well as one leading to the hospital and to a cross that acts as a monument.

The cross is of particular importance, as a note near it explains that it served as the "*centro de las medidas del Pueblo*". This means that this was the spot from where the survey radiated. The measurements were taken from the center to landmarks, marked here as *moxoneras*.

On the hills to the north of the property, at the top of the drawing, a note describes these as the *laderas del Litizio*, or the slopes under litigation. As the note explains, the land dispute is between the town and the *mulatos*, or people of mixed Spanish and indigenous descent. It seems the quarrel required a survey be taken to show rival claims. Such suits were the main reason for surveys to be made in colonial New Spain.

Unfortunately, the detail of the drawing as to surveying and the economic and religious life of the *pueblo* is not matched by the details of the town's name and location. However, it is still quite a comprehensive document and pleasantly drawn.



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Detailed Condition: