



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

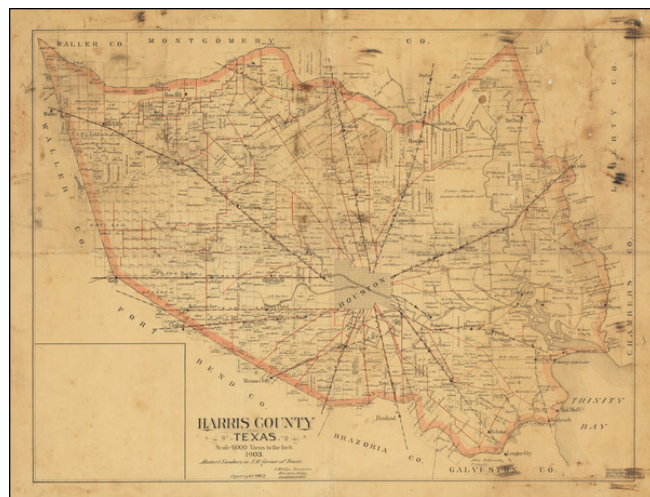
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Harris County Texas Scale 6000 Varas to the Inch 1903

Stock#: 70841
Map Maker: Whitty
Date: 1903
Place: Houston
Color: Color
Condition: Fair
Size: 23 x 17 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare Houston-published antique map of Harris County, Texas, covering the Houston metropolitan area, published by Patrick Whitty, Houston's main surveyor at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th.

The map extends from Katy in the west to Cedar Bayou in the east and from Clear Lake in the south to Spring, Texas in the north.

The map was published in the immediate aftermath of two epochal events in the history of southeast Texas: the catastrophic Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and the discovery of oil at Spindletop in 1901, which launched the Texas oil industry generally and that of Trinity-Galveston Bay specifically. Those events helped propel Houston far ahead of Galveston as the most important *entrepot* in the region, a role on which it would build continually thereafter.

Though at the time of publication Houston was a relatively small city on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, in encompassing all of Harris County the map depicts what would grow into the present-day metropolis. The scale is at 6000 *varas* to the inch, a *vara* being 33 1/3 inches. The map is particularly useful for depicting property boundaries and landowners throughout the county, as well as the many rail lines that converged on the city and facilitated its rapid growth.

Whitty's first "Harris County... Scale 6000 Varas to the Inch" map was apparently originally issued in 1899. It was again issued in 1902, [an example of which we handled in 2019](#). Whitty issued another map of Harris County in 1908, at the somewhat larger scale of 4500 varas to the inch.



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Detailed Condition:

Some edge wear, short repaired tears, and wear and splitting of a central vertical and horizontal fold.
Surface soiling.