



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

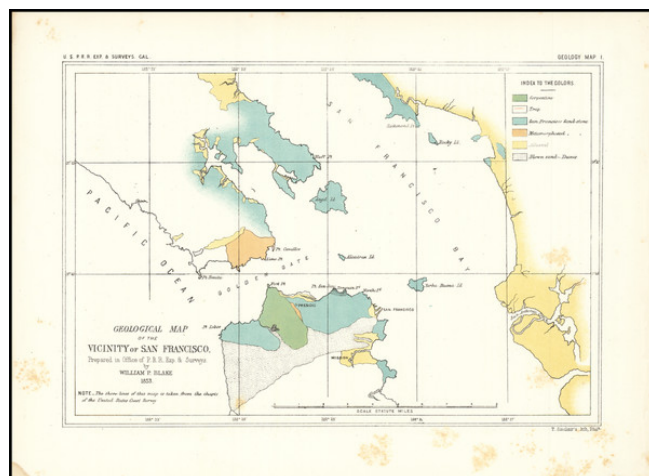
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### (The First Map of the Geology of San Francisco) Geological Map of the Vicinity of San Francisco, Prepared in Office of P.R.R. Exp. & Surveys . . . 1853

**Stock#:** 90284  
**Map Maker:** U.S. Pacific RR Survey  
**Date:** 1855  
**Place:** Washington  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 9.5 x 6.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### Description:

Interesting early map of San Francisco, being the first to show the geology of the Bay Area.

This map was prepared during the US Pacific Railroad Survey's exploration of the most practical route for the transcontinental railroad. It shows six different types of geological strata and quaternary sediments. The geology is a complicated mix of sandstones, ultramafic rocks, and coastal deposits.

#### The Pacific Railroad Surveys

This work was produced by William Phipps Blake, a "Yankee Gentleman and Pioneer Geologist of the Far West" during the Pacific Railroad Surveys of 1853. These were a series of five surveys that took place along several routes during the years 1853 to 1855 and were conducted in order to gather valuable information regarding possible routes of a transcontinental railroad. Four surveys followed east-west routes, comprised of a Northern Pacific, Central Pacific, and two Southern Pacific surveys. The fifth survey followed a north-south route instead, going from San Diego to Seattle. This is the survey that Blake was attached to, and was led by Lt. Robert S. Williamson.

Blake, a Yale graduate and relative of Eli Whitney, was attached to the Williamson survey. He was a proficient mineralogist whose first job was to collect minerals for the New York City world fair prototype. He left this role less than a year after his graduation to join the 1853 Pacific Railroad Survey at the age of 26. At first, he was assigned to a party that surveyed half a dozen unsuitable passes throughout the Sierras, and he was sent on an unhopeful quest to survey a legendary pass in southern California. Blake would cement his importance in the survey when he discovered the excellent San Geronio Pass, which



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had, as of then, not appeared on any maps. After this thrilling discovery, Blake would explore the rest of the Colorado Desert before being sent northwards to explore the Coast Ranges. Blake would return to the East but soon realize that he was happier in California, where he would decamp and spend most of his life exploring, usually in a steep professional rivalry with his longtime colleague Josiah Whitney.

**Detailed Condition:**

Foxing.