



EDUCATION KIT

Mapping Manifest Destiny: Chicago and the American West
A Newberry Library Exhibition Nov. 3, 2007—Feb. 16, 2008

MAPPING MANIFEST DESTINY TRANSPARENCY #2

Chicago Real Estate Map with Kinzie Addition

Hathaway, Joshua Jr. *Chicago with the School Section, Wabansia, and Kinzie's Addition.*

New York: Peter A. Mesiner, 1834.

Newberry Library (Gift of Edward D. Graff): vault Graff 1817

EXHIBIT TEXT:

The feverish land speculation ignited by plans to construct the Illinois and Michigan Canal prompted Chicago's first real estate maps. To facilitate the sale of his parcels, John H. Kinzie commissioned Joshua Hathaway to produce a revised plat, incorporating the blocks James Thompson had surveyed in 1830 within a broader area.

When New York lithographer Peter A. Meisner printed 600 copies of Hathaway's map in 1834, it became the first published map of the city. As property values skyrocketed, the population swelled from a few hundred in 1830 to over 4,000 by 1837. After the economic panic of 1837 ended the real estate frenzy, more than a decade would elapse before another map of the entire city appeared.

TEACHER NOTES:

- In 1830, the first legal boundaries of the city of Chicago were made, which divided the city into 58 different real estate blocks. These blocks were then subdivided into 126 parcels of land, along the fork of the Chicago River, as dictated in the Land Ordinance of 1785.
- Almost immediately afterwards, Chicago experienced a real estate boom, due in large part to the anticipated construction of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. As a result, the population grew from a few hundred in 1830 to over 4,000 in 1837.
- The cost of land and the size of plots varied greatly depending on location; \$35 (the equivalent of nearly \$800 today) would purchase a plot just over half an acre in size near Lake Michigan along the Chicago River; \$2.50 (the equivalent of just over \$56 today) would get a person two full acres just west of the Chicago River.
- The increase in real estate purchases forced the creation of updated maps. John H. Kinzie hired Joshua Hathaway, Jr. to create a map emphasizing the land parcels Kinzie had for sale within the broader city area.
- New York lithographer Peter A. Meisner printed 600 copies of Hathaway's map of Chicago making it the first published map of the city.
- The economic panic of 1837 ended the real estate boom making this map the only published version of Chicago available for over a decade.
- The original real estate blocks of 1830 are still used today; historic block 37 (located between Randolph and Washington Streets to the north and south and State and Dearborn Streets to the east and west) is still referred to as Block 37. This has been the home of many Chicago landmarks, including Skate on State, an outdoor ice-skating rink, and Gallery 37, an arts education program for high school students.



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DISCUSSION PROMPTS/SUGGESTED CLASS ACTIVITIES:

- Identify ways in which urban planning reflects the ideology that people must “tame” the land.
- Why do you think the cost of land was so heavily determined by location?
- Identify as many Chicago landmarks as possible, through absolute location, relative location shape, symbol, or written identification.
- Consider the advantages and disadvantages of organizing the city into square blocks this way.