

Learning Places Fall 2016 New York Public Library.



Author/Creator: Bernard Ratzer (Originally)

Title: Plan of the city of New York, in North America

Publication: Published by Jefferys & Faden in 1776 in London.

I was attracted to this map because of the level of detail. It shows the streets, elevation, topography, water ways, parks or squares and land plots. I did a little research on this map and found that at the Brooklyn Historical society that they found the original in 2010. According to BHS, there is only four in existence and they own one. I choose this map because of its detail and per BHS, it is one of the most detailed map of NYC before the American Revolution when the British still ruled. It makes sense that Bernard Ratzer would make such a detailed map because it seems that it was done for Sir Henry Moore captain general and governor in chief of NYC at the time as stated at the top of the map. At the bottom of this map, Ratzer shows a south view Of Manhattan from Governours Island and even this was very detailed with what seems to be labeling of Long Island and Jersey. It is interesting to see that the street grid system was already being used.

Map Citation: The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Print Collection, The New York Public Library. (1776). *Plan of the city of New York, in North America* Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-7ad5-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

BHS Article Citation: Brooklyn Historical Society (2012). Exploring Pre-Revolutionary New York, The Ratzer Map. Retrieved from http://brooklynhistory.org/docs/Ratzer_map.pdf



Author/Creator: Goerck, Casimir
(Surveyor)

Title: Plan of the city of New-York

Publication: 1803-11. [s.n.] in New
York

The above map is a plan of NYC in 1803-11. I was interested in getting an idea of how Manhattan was in its early days but I wanted to see how fast it developed after the American Revolution. The previous map was published in 1776 about one year before the American Revolution and this map was published only 27 years later in 1803. It didn't take long for development to take-off. The blocks on there are not developed but as far as the street grid system, it seems very defined. I always thought the grid system was done after the British but it seems that the grid system is based on the grid system from the earlier times when British still ruled. It is also clear that land was reclaimed in this time on both sides of the island.

Map Citation: Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. (1803-11). *Plan of the city of New-York* Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-efa8-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Questions:

1. What was the earliest street grid system based on, did the plantations/farms have anything to do with the grid?
2. Did these early plans have zoning or designated any sections for farming, housing, industry and business?