No 30356 PRICE 75 CENTS

PLAN

of the CITY, intended for the Permanent SEAT of the Government of the UNITED STATES, Projected agreeable to the direction of the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, in pursuance of an ACT of CONGRESS passed the sixteenth day of July, MDCCXC, establishing the Permanent Seat on the bank of the Potowmac

By Peter Charles L'Enfant.

OBSERVATIONS explanatory of the PLAN.

I. The positions for the different Grand Edifices, and for the several Grand Squares or Areas of different shapes, as they are laid down, were first determined on the most advantageous ground, commanding the most extensive prospects, and the better susceptible of such improvements as the various intents of the several objects may require.

II. Lines or Avenues, of direct communication, have been devised, to connect the separate and most distant objects with the principal, and to preserve through the whole a reciprocity of sight at the same time. Attention has been paid to the passing of these leading Avenues over the most favorable ground, for prospect and convenience.

III. North and South lines, intersected by others running due East and West, make the distribution of the City into Streets Squares &c. and these lines have been so combined, as to meet at certain, given points with three divergent Avenues, so as to form on the spaces first determined, the different Squares or Areas, which are all proportionate in Magnitude to the number of Avenues leading to them.

Breadth of the Streets.

Every grand, transverse Avenue, and every principal Divergent one, such as the communication from the Presidents house, to the Congress house, &c. are 160 feet in breadth, and thus divided.

10 feet of pavement on each side		20′
30 feet of ground, walk, planted with trees on each side		60′
80 feet in the middle for Carriage way		80′
		160 Feet.

The other Streets are of the following dimensions, viz.

	Feet.
Those leading to public buildings or Markets,	130′
Others,	110′ to 90′

In order to execute the above plan, Mr. Ellicott drew a true Meridional line, by celestial observation, which passes through the Area intended for the Congress house, this line he crossed by another due East and West, which passes through the same Area. These lines were accurately measured, and made the bases on which the whole plan was executed. He ran all the lines, by a Transit Instrument; and determined the acute Angles by actual measurement, and left nothing to the uncertainty of the Compass.

REFERENCES.

A. THE equestrian figure of GEORGE WASHINGTON, a Monument voted in 1783. by the late Continental Congress.

B. An historic Column — Also intended for a Mile or itinerary Column, from whose station, (a mile from the Federal house) all distances of places through the Continent, are to be calculated.

C. A Naval itinerary Column, proposed to be erected to celebrate the first run of a Navy, and to stand a ready monument, to consecrate its progress and Achievments.

D. This Church is intended for National purposes. such as public prayer, thanksgivings, funeral orations &c. and appropriated to the specific use of no particular Sect or denomination, but equally open to all. It will be likewise a proper shelter for such Monuments as were voted by the late Continental Congress, for those Heroes who fell in the cause of liberty, and for such others as may hereafter be decreed by the voice of a grateful Nation.

E. Five grand fountains, intended with a constant spout of water. N.B. There are within the limits of the City, above 25 good springs of excellent water, abundantly supplied in the driest season of the year.

The Squares coloured yellow, being fifteen in number, are proposed to be divided among the several States in the Union, for each of them to improve, or subscribe a sum additional to the value of the lands, for that purpose, on the improvements round the Squares to be completed in a limited time.

The center of each Square will admit of Statues, Columns, Obelisks, or any other ornaments, such as the different States may choose to erect, to perpetuate not only the memory of such individuals, whose Country, or military Achievments, were conspicuous in giving liberty and independance to this Country; but also those whose unfeigned faith rendered them worthy of general imitation: to invite the youth of succeeding generations to tread in the paths of those Sages or Heroes, whom their Country has thought proper to celebrate.

The situation of these Squares is such, that they are the most advantageously and reciprocally seen, from each other, and as equally distributed over the whole City district, and connected by spacious Avenues round the grand Federal Improvements, and as contiguous to them, and at the same time as equally distant from each other, as circumstances would admit. The settlements round these Squares must soon become connected.

This mode of taking possession of, and improving the whole district at first, must leave to posterity a grand, ideal, patriotic interest which promotes it.

These figures coloured red, are intended for the use of all religious denominations, on which they are to erect places of worship, and are proposed to be allotted to them in the manner as those coloured yellow to the different States in the Union, but no burying grounds will be admitted within the limits of the City, an appropriation being intended, for that purpose, without.

N.B. Then a number of Squares or Areas unappropriated, and in situations proper for Colleges and Academies, and of which every Society whose object is national, may be accommodated.

Every Street within the City, will stand square on the Streets, and very lot, even those on the diverging Avenues will run, pip ave with their Fronts; which on the most acute Angle will not measure less than 56 feet, and many not be above 140 feet.

SCALE of POLES.

22½ 40 80 160 240 320 400 480 560 Poles.

1 1. 2. 3 4 5 6. 7 8 Inches.

References.

F. Grand Cascade, formed of the Water from the sources of the Tiber

G. Public walk being a square of 1200 feet, through which carriages may ascend to the upper Square of the Federal house.

H. Grand Avenue, 400 feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered with gardens, ending in a Square, from the houses on each side. This Avenue leads to the Monument A, and connects the Congress Garden with the

I. Presidents park, and the

K. Well improved field, being a part of the walk from the Presidents house, of about 1800 feet in breadth, and ½ of a mile in length. Every lot, deep coloured red, will in 1800 feet,