



Rare Plan of Key West

This engraving was sent by Captain Arthur W. Thornton while on duty with the Navy at Key West to his family to show them where he lived. It may have been prepared for the government, but there are no markings to indicate it. The family later moved to Pensacola and a descendant presented the engraving to Mr. Julien Yonge. The date is in the 1830's, possibly earlier.

Apparently there was no copy of the plat in Key West. At least, it is not referred to by any of the historians of the island city. In fact, it seems to differ from one statement in Judge Jefferson Browne's *Key West*. In his chapter on "Burial Grounds" (pp 48-49) Browne says a certain plot was selected in 1831 and used until 1847, which doubtless is correct. Later he says, "The disinterment of human bones on the southeast side of the island gave rise to the impression that a burying ground had once been located in that vicinity. These remains, however, were those of the Africans who were brought to Key West in two captured slavers in 1860 . . ." But this map shows the location as "old burying ground." This was before 1831, and hence was apparently the first Key West cemetery.

The two small rectangles in the upper left were added by the officer who sent the map to his family. He noted with pencil that the upper one was the men's quarters, and the lower one was the hospital. The arrow on the right side (outside the island) was added to indicate the direction of the trade winds. The irregular blot in lot 2 shows an inlet.

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