

Article # 10 CPC Etchings Restoration:

The town has 6 Currier and Ives lithographs that originally hung in Niagara until a fire in 1939.

They have been hanging in the fire Dept. since that time. During the fire they were damaged by water and smoke and are considered to be in poor to good condition.

The artwork is in need of restoration and preservation due to the damage and deterioration.

The artwork was part of a series created between 1854 and 1866. And is a first edition.

The Fire Dept. along with the Historical Commission has presented this article to CPC Committee.

The Committee had an appraisal completed on the artwork by a qualified appraiser.

Artwork in current condition is valued at \$6,800. After restoration replacement value would be \$23,250.00

The plan is to restore the artwork and put the originals back into original frames. And store them in the library archival room.

We are planning to have high resolution copies made and framed and return a set to the Fire Dept. and hang a set in Niagara.

We may also make extra copies and hang them in town hall or other suitable places.

Project amount requested is \$11,000 with restoration, framing and copies.

I'm not sure if we discuss the value of the artwork to the public. I guess there could be a potential of theft of the originals?

They will be stored in the library, I talked to Alex already.

Any questions let me know,

Nathan

PROPERTY OF THE TOWN OF MILLIS

CURRIER AND IVES "The Life of a Fireman" SERIES OF HAND COLORED LITHOGRAPHS

Note: The "C" number is a reference number from Frederic Conningham's illustrated checklist of Currier & Ives prints. The "Conningham" number is used by collectors and dealers to identify prints and is given as, e.g., "C:1458". The "G" number is a reference number from Gale Research Company's Catalogue Raisonne.



- 1) After Louis Maurer, published by Nathaniel Currier
"The Night Alarm: Start her Lively Boys"
Conceived in 1854; (C:3518, G:3786)
Hand colored two stone lithograph, from the 1880 edition at 115 Nassau Street; A firefighting crew pull a pumper wagon from the firehouse, as one fireman runs toward the crew from the left. A nighttime scene with a gaslight illuminating the scene.
Large folio: 17 1/8 x 26 inches, sheet: 21 7/8 x 29 inches
Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches
Condition: Poor. Overall discoloration and water stains in margins, small tear top margin

Replacement Value – After Restoration	\$3,250
Replacement Value - "As Is"	800



- 2) After Louis Maurer, published by Nathaniel Currier
"The Fire: Now Then with a Will – Shaker Her Up Boys!"
Conceived in 1854; (C:3515; G:3783)
Hand colored two stone lithograph, from the 1880 edition at 115 Nassau Street; depicting teams of firemen fighting a blaze at the J.S. Smith & Co. building. Volunteer firefighters man the pumps and hoses, while others scale ladders to rescue the tenants of a burning building.
Large folio: 17 1/4 x 26 inches, sheet: 21 7/8 x 29 inches
Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches
Condition: Poor. Overall discoloration and water stains in margins, small 1/4" tear in left margin

Replacement Value – After Restoration	\$ 3,500
Replacement Value - "As Is"	1,000



- 3) After Louis Maurer, published by Nathaniel Currier
"The Ruins: Take up, Man Your Rope"
Conceived in 1854; (C:3520, G:3789)
Hand colored two stone lithograph, from the 1880 edition at 115 Nassau Street; Firefighters battle a blaze in a building to the right. Fire wagons are spread throughout an intersection, with one horse drawn wagon departing. Four men can be seen standing on the roof of a nearby building.
Large folio: 17 1/4 x 26 inches, sheet: 21 7/8 x 29 inches
Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches
Condition: Poor. Overall discoloration and water stains in margins, vertical band of discoloration.

Replacement Value –After Restoration	\$3,250
Replacement Value "As Is"	800

MARKET INTRODUCTION & EXTRAORDINARY ASSUMPTION

The type of property included in this report is most often bought and sold through antiquarian print dealers or through the auction process. The six hand colored lithographs contained in this report are from Currier & Ives very popular series *The Life of a Fireman*. Currier originally published the first four prints in the series in 1854, then added another in 1861 and the last in 1866, making the series a set of six. Of the six prints in the towns collection, five of the set of six were from the 1880 edition when the firm was located at 115 Nassau Street. Only item number 4, *The Race*, conceived in 1854, is from the original printing at 152 Nassau Street.

In "Currier & Ives, An Illustrated Price Guide", author Craig McClain identifies folio size, condition, popularity, scarcity and quality of impression as factors in determining value. Prints are graded for condition as follows: Poor, Good, Very Good, Fine and Mint.² A print with a mint condition rating would be in perfect condition with no fading, staining, discoloration, tears or creases. While, a print with a poor condition rating would have significant staining, tears, and possibly losses.

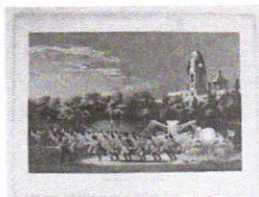
Works sold in the retail market have usually been restored and are in very good, fine or mint condition. Prints sold in the auction market are often unrestored in poor, good or very good condition. The prints that are the subject of this report are currently in a state of poor to good condition. The collection suffered water damage many years ago, which left the prints discolored, water stained, with mold residue. As with most Currier & Ives, the original wood backing caused significant discoloration to the back of each print. A conservator who examined the works reported the prints could likely be restored to very good to fine condition. The frames are original to the prints and also sustained minor water damage that can be easily restored with cleaning. It has been recommended that the Town have the works restored by a conservator, and place them in acid free mats, with new backings and museum glass. Quotes to restore, conserve and reframe the works as recommended was provided by paper conservator Brigitte Boyadjian, Bill Craig of Guido Frames, Oliver Brothers, and Northeast Document Conservation Center. The total cost of restoring and reframing, using Boyadjian and Guido would be \$6,130.00 for all six prints.

The size of the prints included in this report are large folio, which is most desirable to collector's. The original editions of the prints (152 Nassau Street) would be more valuable than the 1880 republished editions (115 Nassau Street). Certain prints in the collection are also considered rare. In the event of a loss, the town would be best served to engage a dealer of Currier & Ives prints to find suitable replacements in a timely manner. It would take years to replace these works through the auction market.

The intended use of this appraisal is for obtaining insurance coverage, therefore, the appraiser has used replacement value, using comparable sales from the retail market. Since the town intends to have the works restored, the appraiser has provided two replacement values. The first indicates the replacement value of the prints after the restoration is completed. While the second indicates the replacement value "AS IS", without restoration. In the first value, the appraiser has made an extraordinary assumption that the prints will be in very good to fine condition after restoration. It is recommended that the appraiser inspect the works once the restoration is complete and provide an addendum to the appraisal with an updated effective date.

The town has requested the appraiser include individual values for each print, however, it should be noted that the certified value is for the collection as a whole.

² McClain, Craig. "Currier & Ives, An illustrated Price Guide". Illinois, Wallace -Homestead Book Company, 1987.



- 4) After Louis Maurer, published by Nathaniel Currier

"The Race: Jump Her Boys, Jump Her!"

Conceived in 1854; (C:3519, G:3787)

Hand colored two stone lithograph on heavy wove paper, from the original 1854 edition at 152 Nassau Street; A firefighting scene with teams of firemen running in the direction of a fire glow. They pull a water tank and pumper on high wheeled carriages, with the clock tower of City Hall visible to the right.

Large folio: 16 7/8 x 25 5/8 inches, sheet: 21 7/8 x 29 inches

Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches

Note: One of the most popular prints in the series because it includes a view of the cupola and bell tower on City Hall, which, ironically, later burned down.

Condition: Good. Overall discoloration and water stains in margins, appears that this may have had attempted cleaning at one time- margins are whiter than others, however, staining remains at edges

Replacement Value –After Restoration	\$4,250
Replacement Value "As Is"	1,700



- 5) After C. Parsons, published by Currier & Ives

"The New Era: Steam and Muscle"

Conceived in 1861; (C:3517, G:3785)

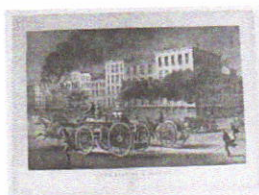
Hand colored two stone lithograph, from the 1880 edition at 115 Nassau Street; A moonlit firefighting scene with steam powered wagons in the foreground pumping water for firemen aiming their hoses at a five-story building in flames.

Large folio: 17 1/4 x 25 3/4 inches, sheet: 21 7/8 x 29 inches

Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches

Condition: Poor. Overall discoloration and water staining in margins.

Replacement Value –After Restoration	\$4,500
Replacement Value "As Is"	1,300



- 6) After J. Cameron, published by Currier & Ives

"The Metropolitan System"

Conceived in 1866; (C:3516, G:3784)

Hand colored two stone lithograph, from the 1880 edition at 115 Nassau Street; A firefighting scene with a horse-drawn steam powered pumper and a horse drawn hose wagon, racing down a city street at night with a burning building in the background.

Large folio: 17 x 26 inches; sheet 21 7/8 x 29 inches

Original period frame with gilt liner: 25 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches

Condition: Poor too good. Overall discoloration and water staining in margins.

Replacement Value – After Restoration	\$4,500
Replacement Value "As Is"	1,200