

The period of significance for the Alexandria Historic District ends in 1932, as determined by National Register staff.

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Alexandria (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON
Alexandria

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Alexandria

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
As described in attached Ordinance No. 1338

CITY OR TOWN:
Alexandria

STATE
Virginia

CODE
510

COUNTY:
(in cit.)

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Public buildings <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Multiple public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:
City of Alexandria

CITY OR TOWN:
Alexandria

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
510

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Alexandria Clerk of Courts

STREET AND NUMBER:
130 N. Fairfax

CITY OR TOWN:
Alexandria

STATE:
Virginia

CODE
510

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: see Ordinance No. 1338

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Alexandria (in cit.)
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Virginia	
COUNTY	
Alexandria (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #100
1968
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~760~~ 45

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The general layout of the historic district of Alexandria consists of uniform rectangular blocks in a grid pattern. The streets are lined with townhouses, the more important of which are generally free-standing while the majority are either semi-detached or non-detached. Most of the structures are brick or frame. The architecture found in the district includes the full-range of the late-eighteenth and nineteenth century styles, but the district is more noted for its outstanding buildings of the Federal period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Alexandria was a thriving port until 1861, dealing primarily in the export of tobacco and grain. Tobacco was the currency with which John Alexander in 1669 purchased the site of the future town. It was also tobacco that brought Scotch merchants to the site in 1732, where they soon erected riverfront warehouses. The rapid growth of the area spurred Virginia's General Assembly to authorize the laying out of a town in 1748. Its original trustees named the town "Alexandria" in honor of John Alexander. The survey of the town was made by the Fairfax County Surveyor and his 17-year old assistant, George Washington. The formal incorporation of the town, plus its designation as a Port of Entry, occurred in 1779. Soon, grain from western counties became a more valuable export than tobacco. Only the Civil War ended its usefulness as a port.

Surviving structures that reflect Alexandria's early life number about 200 and lie largely within an area of about 25 squares of the modern city, bounded roughly by the Potomac River, Franklin Street, North Washington Street and Queen Street. These structures include both warehouses and handsome dwellings. Of the latter, the Ramsay House is the city's oldest. Gadsby's Tavern (actually two buildings dating, respectively, from 1752 and 1792) was a famed center of hospitality, food and political activity. Chequire House and Gilpin House exemplify rich 18th-century dwellings atop the owner's mercantile establishments. Along a cobblestone and tree shaded block of Prince Street are the colorful homes of early ship masters. Of the five surviving early warehouses, those of John Fitzgerald are still in use. Title to Alexandria's historic buildings rests in various private owners and public bodies.

b. BOUNDARIES: Please see attached Ordinance No. 1338

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Alexandria was formally authorized as a town by an act of the Virginia Assembly in 1748. The town was laid off into uniform rectangular blocks with George Washington acting as one of the original surveyors. From the mid-eighteenth century until the Civil War, the town grew considerably as it served as the principal seaport and commercial center of northern Virginia.

The "Old and Historic District of Alexandria" as defined in Ordinance 1338 of the City Council of Alexandria, is an area embracing nearly 100 blocks in the heart of the original town. Within this district is to be found probably the largest concentration of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century urban architecture in the state. While a large number of the buildings are significant examples of Colonial and Federal architecture, many have important historical associations as well. Some of the more notable architecturally and historically important buildings in the area include: The Ramsey House, the city's earliest structure; Christ Church (erected 1773), a well preserved Colonial church where the Washingtons and Lees often worshipped; the Carlyle House (built 1752), a notable mid-Georgian mansion where General Braddock was entertained; the Lloyd House (erected 1798), a fine Federal structure; Gadsby's Tavern (1792), City Tavern (1798), two architecturally notable buildings which were the scene of much early political activity; the Robert E. Lee House (1795), a large Federal house where Lee spent much of his boyhood; the Lord Fairfax House (1816), one of the nation's outstanding Federal mansions; and the Alexandria Lyceum (1834), the city's finest Greek Revival building.

Although Alexandria is famous primarily for its Federal architecture, it should be noted that the city contains a number of fine Victorian structures as well. There are also many nineteenth century townhouses which are not significant as individual examples of architecture but are important in that they serve to maintain the scale of the city and visually link the more important buildings.

While the historic district of Alexandria does contain many individual buildings of national significance, the district as a whole is extremely important as it is one of the very few urban areas in the state where enough of the old buildings have survived so that one can grasp a sense of an early town environment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Deering, Stephen P. Dorsey, and Ralph Cole Hall, Alexandria Houses, New York: Bonanza Books, 1946.

Moore, Gay Montague, Seaport in Virginia, Richmond, Virginia: Garret and Massie, Inc., 1949.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton, Northern Virginia Heritage, published by authors, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	49'	03"	77°	03'	15"						
NE	38°	49'	03"	77°	02'	20"						
SE	38°	47'	26"	77°	02'	20"						
SW	38°	47'	26"	77°	03'	15"						

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Edward P. Alexander CHAIRMAN

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 28, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 760

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Dr. Edward P. Alexander

Title Chairman, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date March 28, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Allen Cunnally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date April 2, 1969

ATTEST:
William J. Mulock
Keeper of The National Register

Date April 2, 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

Virginia	
COUNTY	
Alexandria (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Alexandria			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexandria			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
As described in attached Ordinance No. 1338			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Alexandria			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	510	(in cit.)	510
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2', quadrangle Alexandria, Va. - D. C. - Md.			
SCALE: 1:27,000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

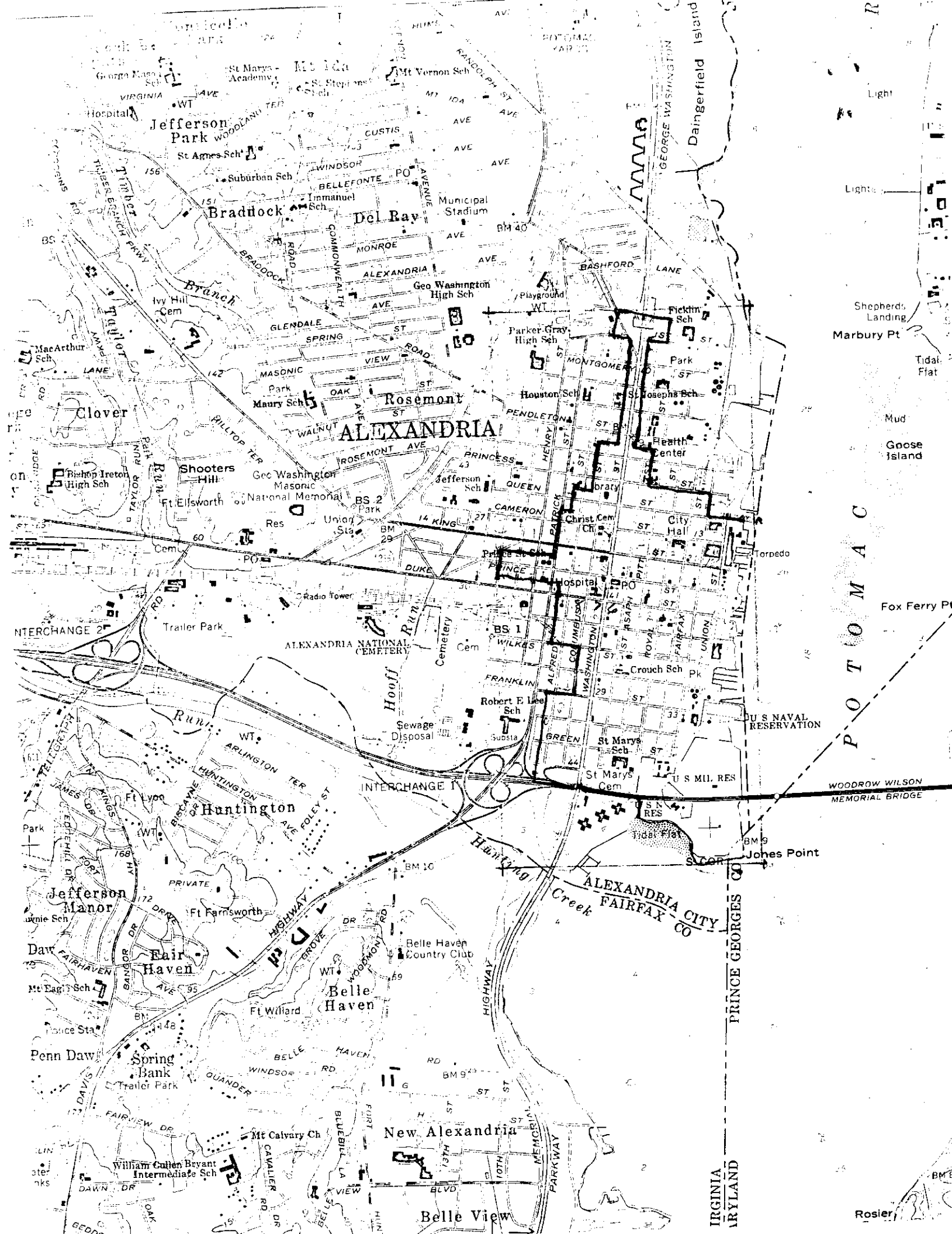
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Alexandria (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Alexandria			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexandria			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
As described in attached Ordinance No. 1338			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Alexandria			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	510	(in cit.)	510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Alexandria. Prince Street (200 block) looking west.			



Jefferson Park
St Agnes Sch

Braddock
Suburban Sch

Del Ray
Municipal Stadium

Rosemont
ALEXANDRIA

Shooters Hill
Ft Ellsworth

National Memorial
Union Sta

Jefferson Sch
Cameron

Trailer Park

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY

BS 1
WILKES

Huntington
Ft Farnsworth

INTERCHANGE I

ALEXANDRIA CITY
FAIRFAX CO

Fair Haven
Ft Willard

Belle Haven

New Alexandria

Belle View

POTOMAC

IRGINIA
ARYLAND

Rosier

Ordinance No. 1333

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 42-85, Article XIV, Chapter 42 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended; which Chapter 42 relates to ZONING, which Article XIV relates to OLD AND HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT, and which Section 42-85 relates to CREATION; BOUNDARIES OF DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, pursuant to due and timely notice of the time and place of hearing published in a daily paper of general circulation published in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, a public hearing was held in relation to the matters hereinafter set forth, at which public hearing parties in interest and citizens had an opportunity to be heard.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 42-85; Article XIV, Chapter 42 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 42-85. Creation; boundaries.

There is hereby created in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, a district to be known as the "Old and Historic Alexandria District", beginning at a point, said point being the intersection of the centerline of Queen Street with the west bank of the Potomac River; thence westward along the centerline of Queen Street to the centerline of Lee Street; thence northward along the centerline of Lee Street to the center line of Princess Street; thence westward with the centerline of Princess Street to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Pitt Street; thence northward and parallel to the west line of Pitt Street to a point 176.58 feet north of the north line of Oronoco Street; thence westward from such point and paralleling the north line of Oronoco Street to a point 173.42 feet east of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence north paralleling North Washington Street to the centerline of First Street; thence east with the centerline of First Street to a point 500 feet east of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence north along a line 500 feet east of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway to the north city limits; thence west with the north city line to a point 500 feet west of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway; thence south along a line 500 feet west of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway to the centerline of First Street; thence east with the centerline of First Street to a point 173.42 feet west of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence south paralleling North Washington Street to a point 176.58 feet north of the north line of Oronoco Street; thence west to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Columbus Street; thence southward and parallel to the west side of Columbus Street to a point 176.58 feet north of the north line of Queen Street; thence westward paralleling Queen Street to a point 123.42 feet

west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel to the west line of Alfred Street to a point 176.53 feet south of the south line of Queen Street; thence westward paralleling the south line of Queen Street to a point on the centerline of Patrick Street; thence southward along the centerline of Patrick Street to a point 142.53 feet north of the north line of Prince Street; thence westward and parallel to the north line of Prince Street to the centerline of South Henry Street; thence south along said centerline 42.58 feet to a point; thence westward parallel to the north line of Prince Street being also the south line of two 10 foot wide alleys to a point 83.42 feet west of the west line of South Fayette Street; thence northerly parallel to the west line of Fayette Street 22 feet to a lot corner; thence westward 49 feet parallel to the north line of Prince Street; thence south 17.42 feet parallel to the west line of Fayette Street to the south line of a 12 foot wide alley; thence with said line westwardly parallel to Prince Street to the centerline of Payne Street; thence southward along the centerline of Payne Street to a point 100 feet south of the south line of Prince Street; thence eastwards paralleling Prince Street and 100 feet south of the south line of Prince Street to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel to the west line of Alfred Street, to the centerline of Wilkes Street; thence eastward along the centerline of Wilkes Street to the centerline of Columbus Street; thence southward with the centerline of Columbus Street to the centerline of Franklin Street; thence westward along the centerline of Franklin Street to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel with the west line of Alfred Street to the centerline of the Capital Beltway; thence eastward along the centerline of the Capital Beltway to a point on the extension of the centerline of Royal Street; thence southward along the extended centerline of Royal Street to the south city line in Hunting Creek; thence east with the south city line to the shore line of the Potomac River; thence north with the shore line of the Potomac River to the point of beginning.

Section 2. That in the opinion of the City Council an emergency exists and this is declared an EMERGENCY ORDINANCE as a companion ordinance to the height restriction amendment ordinance under consideration.

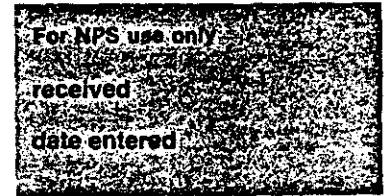
Section 3. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

FRANK E. MANN
Mayor

Final Passage: June 22, 1965

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA
Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

In addition to Victorian residences, the Alexandria district contains an ample stock of small scale early 20th-century town houses. These were designed in a variety of modes including American Four Square, Bungalow, Neo-Colonial and Second Empire during an era of aggressive eclecticism. The residential units appear as infill development throughout the district. Typical areas include the 500 block of N. Washington Street and the 700 block of Oronoco Street.

The commercial area of the district centers around the corner of S. Washington Street and King Street. Consequently both King and Washington are bordered with commercial buildings and storefronts of varying ages, most of which date from the first third of the 20th century. Of particular note are the Art Deco Virginia Public Service building at 117 S. Washington Street, the Neo-Colonial Post Office and Court House at 200 S. Washington Street and the Burke and Herbert Bank at 625 King Street.

The district also encompasses several factory buildings along Alexandria's formerly active waterfront. The most notable of these structures is the former Ford Plant, designed by Albert Kahn. The major part of this structure is a yellow glazed brick, saw-tooth roofed shed designed in an Art Deco style. Appended to this structure are three concrete additions designed in a rigid, yet sympathetic style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet # 2

Item number 7

Page 2

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received

date entered

7. DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

FRANKLIN STREET & UNION STREET

(Old Ford Plant): concrete; 2 stories; flat roof; 8 bays on main building, 20 bays on annex. Modern. 1920s. Architect: Albert Kahn. The Old Ford Plant is a unique structure in Virginia for it is the only structure in the state designed by the famous factory architect Albert Kahn. The main 8-bay, concrete structure has a 3-story tower at its center. It is adjoined by a 20-plus-bay, concrete structure. All windows are of industrial sash.

KING STREET

625 (Burke and Herbert Bank): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 3 bays. Bank. Vernacular Classical. 1906. This small bank, with bracketed cornice and curved pediment with inscribed date, is a fine example of an early twentieth-century commercial structure.

627: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 2 bays. Commercial (store). Classical Eclectic. 1910. This is an excellent example of an early twentieth-century brick commercial building designed in rather eclectic classical vocabulary.

ORONOCO STREET

711-709: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays each; 1-story, 1-side-bay, arch entrance. Row house. 20th-century Vernacular. 1915-20. This structure contributes to the small scale streetscape of this part of the district.

NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

520: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 1-bay porch. Detached house. American Four Square. 1920. This residence maintains the low scale of its nineteenth- and twentieth-century neighbors.

524: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Detached town house. Second Empire. 1910. This building clearly contributes to the fabric of the neighborhood in scale, style, and materials.

528: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays. Detached town house. Twentieth-century Vernacular. 1910. This modified American Four Square building maintains the low density of this area of the district.

(see continuation sheet #3)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet # 3

Item number 7

Page 3

For NPS use only
received
date entered

7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (appendix)

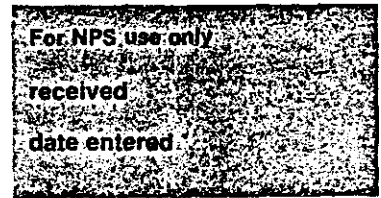
SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

117: stone (limestone); 3 stories; flat roof; 5 bays. Commercial (office). Art Deco. Ca. 1930s. Now a Marine recruiting office, this 3-story, limestone-faced structure is a fine example of the reserved form of Art Deco-style that was frequently used in commercial buildings.

200 (U.S. Post Office and Courthouse): brick (5-course American bond); 3 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 5 bays. Post Office. Colonial Revival. 1930. This 3-story, brick-and-limestone building with its large cupola is an excellent example of the late Colonial Revival architecture so popular for public buildings in the south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA
Continuation sheet 4

Item number 8

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In addition to the previously discussed 19th-century structures, significant 20-century buildings still stand in the historic district. These residential, commercial, and industrial buildings contribute to the area's historic fabric and survive as a three-dimensional palimpsest of Alexandria's development.

In part due to its excellent rail connections to both north and south, Alexandria became an important industrial and commercial center in Northern Virginia. In fact, the Potomac yards were the largest classification railway yards in the country at the turn of the century. As a result of this transportation system, Alexandria developed a large industrial center along its waterfront adjacent to the railway. The list of industrial enterprises in Alexandria during the early 20th century is rather lengthy, including large lumber yards, leather and shoe factories, coal wharves, ice factories, a brewery, glass works, a tile manufactory, and a gas works. This combination of industrial vitality and excellent transportation facilities led Henry Ford to build a plant along the Alexandria waterfront. Designed by Albert Kahn and completed in 1932, the structure incorporates a saw-tooth roof, and Art Deco facade with a remarkable degree of structural clarity, making it stand today as the most important example of early modern architecture in Alexandria.

As the industrial area developed, so too did the commercial base rise to support the needs of the residents who were drawn to Alexandria by the availability of jobs and adequate housing. During the first two decades of this century, a central business district developed along King and Washington streets. The Post Office and Courthouse designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect is an excellent example of a late Colonial Revival structure; the Marine recruiting center, with its stripped Classical details and Art Deco-style ironwork, is the finest example of that style in the district.

The aforementioned combination of industrial development along with Alexandria's proximity to Washington D. C. caused an explosion of residential development in the first third of the 20th century. With its reasonable rents, relatively pure drinking water, fine educational system, and availability of loans through various cash-rich building associations, small scale residential developments, designed in several styles, sprang up throughout the city. While the units are architecturally significant and cohesive by themselves, these residences are also stylistically sympathetic to the fabric of the 19th-century city. The early 20th-century Empire and Four Square structures at 520-528 North Washington Street, for example, share a commonality of scale and material with the cotton mill across the street. 709-711 Oronoco Street performs the same function in relation to the neighboring 19th-century buildings.