Urban Archaeology on the 500 Block of King Street
Images from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum

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The Block before demolition

King Street:

Figure 1: 500-512 King Street, 1967
Figure 2: Herbert Lyles’ shoe repair store, 502 King Street, 1967

Figure 3: Tommy Summers’ Record Shop, 504-506 King Street, 1967

Figure 4: Bradshaw’s shoe store, 508-512 King Street, 1967

Figure 5: Rear of 508-512 King Street, 1967
Figure 6: 518-524 King Street, 1967

Figure 7: The house of Adam Lynn Jr., 518-520 King Street, 1967

Figure 8: 522-524 King Street, 1967
Figure 9: Haymans’ Store, 526-530 King Street, 1967

Figure 10: Rear of 526-530 King Street facing north, 1967

Figure 11: Rear of 526-530 King Street: public parking lot, private alley to the right, 1967
South St. Asaph Street

Figure 12: Rembrandt’s Shoes at the corner of King and S. St. Asaph Streets, 1967

Figure 13: 532 King (Rembrandt’s Shoes) on S. St. Asaph Street side
Figure 14: Haymans JR Shop, 102 S. St. Asaph Street, 1967

Figure 15: Rear of 102 S. St. Asaph Street, facing west, 1967
Figure 16: 104 S. St. Asaph Street, 1967

Figure 17: 104 S. St. Asaph Street, south side, 1967

Figure 18: 104 S. St. Asaph Street, facing west, 1967
Figure 19: 106-114 S. St. Asaph Street, 1967

Figure 20: 116 S. St. Asaph Street

Figure 21: 116 S. St. Asaph Street, facing southwest, 1967
Demolition

Figure 22: 526-530 King Street being demolished

Figure 23: Close-up of 526-530 King Street demolition
Figure 24: 532 King Street being demolished

Figure 25: 530-532 King Street being demolished
Post-Demolition

Figure 26: Corner of King and S. St. Asaph Streets in 1977; the car in the foreground is on S. St. Asaph

Figure 27: Corner of South Pitt and King Streets in 1977; the car in the foreground is on King Street
Figure 28: South Pitt Street in 1977, facing west
Excavating the Block and Processing Finds

Figure 29: Eager field school students, Summer of 1977

Figure 30: Preparing for Phase I excavations in the parking lot
Figure 31: Taking ground elevations with a transit

Figure 32: Marking possible archaeological features indicated by depressions in the ground
Figure 33: Excavating features in the parking lot

Figure 34: A brick lined well found beneath the asphalt
Figure 35: In the fall of 1977, the block becomes a construction site. Archaeologists keep shoveling!

Figure 36: The pit deepens
Figure 37: Archaeologists at work

Figure 38: Excavating one of many brick lined wells
Figure 39: A volunteer shovels the loose dirt from inside the well

Figure 40: A volunteer is lowered into a brick-lined privy
Figure 41: Looking up from inside the privy

Figure 42: Exposed vertical section of a brick line dwell
Figure 43: Inside what remained of a 19th century barrel, used as a trash pit

Figure 44: Taking depth measurements inside the cistern
Figure 45: Remains of the brick wall and basement of a house on 518-520 King Street

Figure 46: Excavating the wooden flooring of a basement
Figure 47: Pamela Cressey and young boy screening for artifacts

Figure 48: Screening for artifacts
Figure 49: Barbara Magid (in red) explaining lab procedures to volunteers

Figure 50: Volunteers processing ceramic artifacts in the lab (COLLECTION)

Figure 51: Richard Wheeler cataloguing faunal remains in the lab
The Block Today

King Street

Figure 52: 500-510 King Street

Figure 53: 500-510 King Street
Figure 54: The Alexandria Courthouse, 520 King Street

Figure 55: 528-532 King Street
S. St. Asaph Street

Figure 56: Corner of King and S. St. Asaph Streets

Figure 57: View of S. St. Asaph Street from the corner of Prince St., facing North toward King St.
Prince Street

Figure 58: 517 Prince Street, the oldest frame house in Alexandria

Figure 59: View of Prince Street
Pitt Street

Figure 60: Beginning of Pitt S., facing north toward King St.

Figure 61: Corner of Pitt and King Streets