In the early 20th century, Alexandria’s residential growth expanded to new suburbs in communities like Rosemont, Cottage Park and George Washington Park. The subdivision of George Washington Park, established in 1908, was located just outside the city limits on Shuter’s Hill. The property bordered the southern edge of King Street and extended as far south as Duke Street.

The Washington Monument Association established George Washington Park and envisioned not only a residential community, but, according to an early advertisement, a public park of 40 to 50 acres for “the beautification and extension of Alexandria and as a fitting memorial to Alexandria’s greatest citizen, George Washington.” The Association’s idea was that the sale of buildable lots could fund a park and a monument to Washington.

Within the first month, more than a hundred lots had been sold and soon a plat of the property and park was prepared. Association officials hosted a large dedication celebration in the spring of 1909, and in the coming years, the park was the site of Easter and Fourth of July celebrations.

The City of Alexandria recognized the value of this and other nearby communities, as well as the newly constructed Union Station, and began to consider annexation. After several legal battles, Alexandria’s annexation of Braddock Heights, Rosemont and George Washington Park became effective in 1915. The city purchased the park property and then sold it in 1921 to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, which had plans to build a grand monument.

The southern part of the residential community was never built and today is part of the Masonic Memorial grounds. But dozens of homes were built in George Washington Park, like these near Park Road overlooking King Street, around 1917.
These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.