



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### George Washington Park

*Alexandria Times, July 29, 2010*

*Image: George Washington Park, around 1917. Photo, Library of Congress.*

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

*"Out of the Attic" is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as "Marking Time" and explored Alexandria's history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into "Out of the Attic" and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.*



**Office of Historic Alexandria  
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

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*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.*