

01. MUSEUM ENHANCEMENT EXAMPLE TEXT

These text blocks will provide an example of a few main and sub text panels to be included in the updated overview exhibit. Text will eventually include several sub-panels, image captions, and captions for any artifacts the museum staff chooses to display. The text will be broken down and organized as follows:

Text Hierarchy and Target Word Counts:

- **Area Text (100–125 words):** Offers a brief overview explanation of the exhibit space. Panel should offer an introduction to the story of Fort Ward, from the Civil War era to the modern Park and Historic Site.
- **Sub Text (50–75 words):** Offers a short explanation of a secondary topic, relevant to what was covered in the main text.
- **Image Captions (~25 words):** A brief explanation of the corresponding photograph.
- **Artifact Caption (~25 words):** A brief explanation of the corresponding artifact.

Item Number	Text
GL-01.01 (Overview Exhibit)	Bastion of Freedom
01-01-1 (Area Panel)	<p>During the Civil War, thousands of formerly enslaved people migrated to safety behind the Union lines of the Defenses of Washington. In Alexandria, many of these freedmen and free blacks worked to support the Northern war effort. When the war ended in 1865, the land near a number of these Union forts continued to represent freedom for African Americans, who began settling near the abandoned fortifications. On the grounds surrounding the earthen remains of Fort Ward, an African American community developed that became known as “The Fort.” This community endured for nearly a century until the City of Alexandria began to purchase land from The Fort residents in the 1950s to restore the historic fort and establish Fort Ward Park. As you explore the Museum and Park grounds, consider the freedom this land represented for those who lived here.</p> <p>[139 words]</p>
01-02-2	<p>The Beginning of “The Fort”</p> <p>Following the Civil War, African American families began to purchase land at the abandoned Fort Ward. The first residents of “The Fort” and nearby “Seminary” community (located around the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School) were probably a mixture of individuals already living in the area and migrants from other parts of Virginia, notably Fauquier County. The 1870 U.S. Census records four family names at Fort Ward: the Pages, the Shorts, the Perkins, and the McKnights. A decade later, the number of</p>

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	names grew to twenty. These families, many of which were connected by marriage and kinship, created a thriving neighborhood in the early 20th century by building permanent homes, establishing churches and schools, and acquiring and dividing land plots to expand the community. [125 words]
01-02-3	Beginning in the 1990s, archaeological excavations and research led by the City of Alexandria coupled with the efforts of local citizens, especially descendants of the Fort and Seminary communities, have played a crucial role in revealing the history of the Fort neighborhood. While the visible legacy of this post-Civil War African American community was erased from view during the establishment of Fort Ward Park in the early 1960s, the foundations of homesteads, grave sites and thousands of artifacts remained buried in the ground. Recent archaeological excavations and historical research have helped shed light on the lives of the people who once called The Fort their home. [106 words]

02. ORIENTATION STATIONS 1 & 2 DRAFT TEXT

The Orientation Stations will function as an overview introduction to the site. The Stations will contain information about the site, the story, and the interpretive elements visitors can engage with during their visit. The second Orientation Station will be an exact duplicate of the first; the only difference being the reorientation of the “You Are Here” marker on the site map.

Item Number	Text
02-01-1	Welcome to Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
02-01-1 (Main Intro Text)	FORT WARD, one of the largest Union forts in the Defenses of Washington, stood as a “Bastion of Freedom,” guarding the nation’s capital from Confederate attack during the Civil War. Following the war, this land continued to represent freedom for the African American residents of “The Fort,” a community of formerly enslaved people who settled near the abandoned fort. As you explore Fort Ward, consider what this land has meant to those who lived and worked here throughout each stage of its history.
02-01-2	The Story of Fort Ward
02-01-2.1 (Sub Text)	<p>Fort Ward</p> <p>In May of 1861, Union troops crossed the Potomac River into Virginia and began building fortifications along Arlington Heights and overlooking the town of Alexandria. Fort Ward was one of the 164 forts and batteries that eventually ringed the Federal capital and became known as the Defenses of Washington. Today, Fort Ward is the best preserved of the remaining forts in this formidable defense system. Pass through the fort’s reconstructed Ceremonial Entrance Gate to tour the fort and learn more.</p>

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Item Number	Text
02.01-2.2 (Sub Text)	<p>“The Fort”</p> <p>After the Civil War, the Union fort was dismantled and its earthwork walls abandoned. Several African American families began to purchase land, build homes, and settle in the area. “The Fort” continued to grow into a thriving, self-sufficient community until the 1950s, when the City of Alexandria began buying back the land – sometimes after condemning the homes of long-time residents – in order to restore the Civil War fort and establish Fort Ward Park. Enter through the Community Gateway and learn about the people and places that made up “The Fort” neighborhood.</p>
02-01-3	Explore Fort Ward
02-01-3.1	<p>The Museum</p> <p>Begin your visit by exploring Fort Ward Museum. Patterned after a Union Army headquarters building in the Defenses of Washington, the Museum offers an overview of Fort Ward’s history, and special programs throughout the year. Exhibits, an orientation film, and docents tell the stories of the Civil War soldiers and African American community that occupied this place.</p>
02-01-3.2	<p>The Union Fort & Northwest Bastion</p> <p>Explore the fort’s preserved earthen walls and fully reconstructed Northwest bastion, and learn how a Civil War fort was constructed. As you view the Officers’ Hut, powder magazine, filling room and gun emplacements, imagine soldiers on duty here, guarding against possible attack from Confederate forces. Waysides provide more information on the fortification and the people who served here between 1861 and 1865.</p>
02-01-3.3	<p>“The Fort” Community Sites</p> <p>As you visit the Park grounds, wayside signs introduce you to the people and places that formed the post-Civil War Fort community. Learn about the homesteads, cemeteries, school and church that were built on the grounds of the present-day Park.</p>

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Item Number	Text
02-01-3.4	<p>The Site Brochure and Web Companion</p> <p>To help guide your visit, pick up a site brochure in the Museum for more information on where to go and what is available at Fort Ward Park. While you tour the Park, watch for historic site markers that have instructions on how to access additional historical content online.</p>
02-01-4	Map of Fort Ward
02-01-4.1 (Site Map Label)	<p>Please touch this map of Fort Ward Park. The landscape of the Park shaped how people experienced this place. For example, why was the Civil War fort built on high ground? Can you find your current location on this map?</p>

.04 DRAFT SITE MARKER CONTENT

Each site marker will contain one overview block of text, an image, a large identifying number, and instructions on how to access the connected web feature for additional information regarding that site. The text will be broken down and organized as follows:

Text Hierarchy and Target Word Counts:

- **Title (1-5 words):** Introduces the site in a short, concise statement.
- **Main Text (75-100 words):** Offers a short overview history of the location or building noted by the site marker. The description should offer enough information that visitors can leave with a general knowledge of why that marked site is significant to the Fort Ward story.
- **Web Instructions (25 words):** Reminds visitors where to access the Web Companion, and offers a brief description of the additional historic content they will find there.
- **Image Caption (25 words):** A brief explanation of the photograph included on each Historic Site Marker.

Site Marker Number	Text
04-01 (Title)	1. Changes in the Land [4 words]
04-01-1 (Main Text)	The boundary lines around Fort Ward Park enclose a piece of land with a long and varied history. Archaeological excavations have uncovered Native American artifacts, providing a glimpse into the early years of the land’s occupation. Before the Civil War, the land was divided into two plantations, and farmed by enslaved people. During the Civil War, the U.S. Army built Fort Ward to defend Washington, D.C. By the time the fort was constructed, the land itself had been reduced to rocky soil, unable to support farming. After the war, formerly enslaved African Americans established “The Fort,” a thriving community, on this land. As you explore the Park today, can you discover the remaining evidence of these earlier eras? ¹ [131 words]
04-01-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the excavations that occurred at Fort Ward Park. [17 words]

¹ Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria, Status of Fort Ward Archaeology, March 2014.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-01-3 (Image Caption)	The excavation of Fort Ward’s Northwest Bastion, which was conducted by the City of Alexandria in 1961. [17 words]
04-02 (Title)	2. Craven Home [2 words]
04-02-1 (Main Text)	The Craven family arrived at “The Fort” around 1910 to pursue employment opportunities during WWI. They owned one of the largest plots of land within the community. Of the homes that have since been excavated, the Craven/Hogan family home is one of only 5 surviving foundations to be uncovered. At this home site, archaeologists found pieces of pottery, fragments of Glefand’s Mayonnaise jars, and toothbrushes. What does this tell you about the daily lives of those who lived in “The Fort” community? ² [82 words]
04-02-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the Craven family, their home, and “The Fort” community. [18 words]
04-02-03 (Image Caption)	<i>Image To Be Determined</i>

² Mary F. Minkoff, Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, 2015, 69, 182, 244.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-03 (Title)	3. Fort’s Well [2 words]
04-03-1 (Main Text)	During the Civil War, soldiers stationed at Fort Ward relied on this well, as during a siege it would be their only source of fresh water. Residents of the post-Civil War “Fort” community used this well, and others, for their water, too. ³ Before indoor plumbing and modern refrigerators became standardized, “The Fort” community relied on wells for water and to keep food cool. ⁴ For the soldiers, access to this well was essential to survival. For the community, the wells also reflected their ingenuity and self-sufficiency. For both the soldiers and the community, the wells were symbols of endurance against outside opposition. ⁵ [101 words]
04-03-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com to learn more about the Fort’s Well and it’s significance to Civil War Soldiers and the community. [20 words]
04-03-3 (Image Caption)	<i>Image To Be Determined</i>
04-04 (Title)	4. Schoolhouse Lane [2 words]
04-04-1 (Main Text)	Schoolhouse Lane functioned as a main entry point into the community. The small lane extended directly off West Braddock Road, and connected the community and the original Seminary School building. This site is an example of how the community changed the landscape of this area from a defensive fortification to a place where people lived, worked, played, and attended school. Today, although the road itself is now gone, large trees still loosely mark the outline of the original path to the school house. [83 words]

³ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Maydell Casey Belk.

⁴ Mary F. Minkoff, Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, 2015, 201.

⁵ Mary F. Minkoff, Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, 2015, 201.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-04-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com in order to learn more about Schoolhouse Lane and the landscape of the community. [24 words]
04-04-3 (Image Caption)	<i>Image To Be Determined</i>
04-05 (Title)	5. Clara Adams' Burial Site [4 words]
04-05-1 (Main Text)	Clara Adams was an integral figure in the founding of “The Fort” community and Oakland Baptist Church. In 1898 she sold a piece of her land to the Falls Church School Board to establish the first school within “The Fort” community. ⁶ In 1943, Adams also donated land to the Oakland Baptist Church, to expand the local cemetery. Her home, located just south of her gravesite, remained in her family from the community’s founding until 1964, when the City of Alexandria purchased the property. ⁷ [83 words]
04-05-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com in order to learn more about Clara Adams, her burial site, and other cemeteries used by “The Fort.” [21 words]
04-05-3 (Image Caption)	Clara Adams' Burial Site can be visited for those who wish to pay their respects. [15 words]
04.-06 (Title)	6. Peters Home [2 words]

⁶ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 62.

⁷ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Edmonia McKnight.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-06-1 (Main Text)	From its founding, members of “The Fort” community engaged with and worked in the broader Alexandria community. Male members of the Peters family – who lived near this site – worked as a janitor, a chauffer, a general handyman, and at Fairfax Seminary. Women typically worked as laundresses or domestic servants. During both World Wars, members of the Peters family, and many others, joined the military or took jobs supporting the war efforts. ⁸ This was especially true during World War II, when large numbers of African Americans took wartime jobs in an attempt to gain social, political, and economic standing during the era of segregation. ⁹ [103 words]
04-06-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the Peters family, their home, and “The Fort” community. [18 words]
04-06-3 (Image Caption)	Arthur Peters, grandson of James M. Peters, taken during his service in World War II. [15 words]

⁸ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 97-98, 104.

⁹ The Double V Victory, The National WWII Museum, www.nationalww2museum.org

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-07 (Title)	7. Javins Home [2 words]
04-07-1 (Main Text)	After the initial residents settled at “The Fort,” a second wave of families bought property in the late nineteenth century. One of these families was the Javins, who arrived in the 1880s. By the 1920s, community members were using Samuel Javins’ property as a local burial site for their loved ones. In 1929, Javins deeded a portion of his land to the Oakland Baptist Church, establishing the Oakland Baptist Cemetery. The Javins, along with the Cravens and Garnett Ashby, sold their property in 1934 to George Garrett and Robert Dye, white men interested in developing a residential community on Fort land. ¹⁰ [101 words]
04-07-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com to learn more about the Javins’ family, their home, and “The Fort” community. [16 words]
04-07-3 (Image Caption)	<i>Image To Be Determined</i>
04-08 (Title)	8. School/Church/Residence Site [4 words]
04-08-1 (Main Text)	The site’s name honors the longevity and adaptability of the members of “The Fort” community. The community built a schoolhouse here around 1898. In 1932, the structure was converted into St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Chapel. Once the church was no longer in use, the building was sold to the Claiborne family, who then converted it into a home and sold the building to Lee Thomas Young. Sgt. Young lived in this home with his family until the City of Alexandria purchased it in 1964. ¹¹ [83 words]

¹⁰ Krystyn R. Moon, Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s, Sept. 2014, 50, 62-63.

¹¹ Krystyn R. Moon, Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s, Sept. 2014, 119; Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-08-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com to learn more about the School/Church/Residence and the longevity of “The Fort” community. [16 words]
04-08-3 (Image Caption)	This aerial photograph of the School/Church/Residence was taken in 1962, after the building had been renovated into a home and sold to Sgt. Young. [24 words]
04-09 (Title)	9. Shorts Home [2 words]
04-09-1 (Main Text)	Burr Shorts and his family were one of the first to purchase land at Fort Ward ca. 1870. Like the other families who joined them, they were searching for employment opportunities and a permanent place to build a home. The community continued to grow through the 1870s as more families began purchasing land in the area surrounding Fairfax Seminary and the abandoned Fort Ward. As the decades wore on, the land continued to be passed down, change hands, and be divided to accommodate more families. The families’ original ownership of the land allowed the community to continue through several generations. ¹² [100 words]
04-09-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com to learn more about the Shorts’ family, their home, and “The Fort” community. [16 words]
04-09-3 (Image Caption)	<i>Image To Be Determined</i>

¹² Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 14, 38.

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Site Marker Number	Text
04-10 (Title)	10. The Homes at West Braddock Road [5 words]
04-10-1 (Main Text)	“The Fort” community contained a small cluster of homes near West Braddock Road. These homes, which included the Ashby family house and the School/Church/Residence building, served as a central point within the community, as members gathered at the nearby church, school building, and cemetery. The Craven/Hogan family home was the first to be built close enough to the road that it could be seen by a person traveling down West Braddock. These homes provided a glimpse into the lives of those who lived in “The Fort,” as they housed a variety of families and significant community gathering points. ¹³ [97 words]
04-10-2 (Web Instructions)	Please visit www.explorefortward.com to learn more about the group of homes that stood along West Braddock Road and the broader community. [21 words]
04-10-3 (Image Caption)	A historic aerial view of Fort Ward, focusing on West Braddock Road (right) and the homes within “The Fort,” that stood nearby. [22 words]

¹³ Mary F. Minkoff, *Making Sense of the Fort: Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington*, 2015, 182, 244.

07. DRAFT WAYSIDE CONTENT

Each wayside will contain one overview text block, one sub-text block covering a secondary topic, two images, a relevant quote, and a tactile map of the site that highlights locations relevant to the historic content discussed. The text will be broken down and organized as follows:

Text Hierarchy and Target Word Counts:

- **Title (1-5 words):** Introduces the topic in a short, concise statement.
- **Main Text (75-100 words):** Offers a brief overview explanation of the topic included on the Wayside. The Main Text paragraph should offer enough information that visitors can walk away with a basic knowledge of that subject.
- **Sub Text (~50 words):** Offers a short explanation of a secondary topic, relevant to what was covered in the main text.
- **Image Captions (~25 words):** A brief explanation of the corresponding photograph.
- **Quote (20-30 words):** A brief quote taken from an Oral History Interview that supports the overall wayside topic.

Wayside Number	Text
07-16 (Wayside Title)	We Are Still Here [4]
07-16-1 (Main Text)	Although the physical presence of “The Fort” ceased to exist after the City of Alexandria reclaimed the land in the 1960s, those who lived in the community and their descendants have not forgotten. The Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society has a long history of fighting to “preserve and promote the history and cultural heritage of communities in the geographic proximity of Fort Ward.” Beginning in 2008, the group made their voices heard by advocating for the importance of including the community’s story within the Fort Ward Park and Historic Site experience. ¹⁴ [94 words]

¹⁴ Krystyn R. Moon, Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s, Sept. 2014, pg.250-253.

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Wayside Number	Text
07-16-2 (Sub Text)	<p>In the 1990s, archaeologists began conducting a series of interviews with former members of “The Fort” community in order to draw attention to their story as well. Since, historians and the Descendants Society have worked to continuously remind the Fort they are still here—and their story deserves to be heard equally. As you explore the site, think about how your Fort Ward experience might have differed without mention of “The Fort” community.</p> <p>[73 words]</p>
07-16-3.1 (Image Caption)	<p>2015 Reunion Meeting of the Fort Ward and Seminary Descendants Groups.</p> <p>[11 words]</p> <p><i>Placeholder image courtesy of the Fort Ward Descendants Society Facebook Page. Fort to provide additional caption information.</i></p>
07-16-3.2 (Image Caption)	<p>2015 Reunion Meeting of the Fort Ward and Seminary Descendants Groups.</p> <p>[11 words]</p> <p><i>Placeholder image courtesy of the Fort Ward Descendants Society Facebook Page. Fort to provide additional caption information.</i></p>
07-16-4 (Quote)	<p>“Alexandria should have preserved some of that area as a salute, if nothing else, to the former slaves who once lived there... and we [residents of “The Fort”] all came from slavery.”</p> <p>- Barbara Ashby Gordon¹⁵</p> <p>[32 words]</p>
07-16-5 (Tactile Map)	<p>Community Map</p> <p>[Key] “The Fort” Community Known Structures and Road Locations</p> <p>[Highlighted Location] <i>No highlighted location on this map, will show all community structures</i></p>
07-17 (Title)	<p>Faith and the Community</p> <p>[4]</p>

¹⁵ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Barbara Ashby Gordon.

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Wayside Number	Text
07-17-1 (Wayside Overview Text)	Organized religion was an important aspect of daily life for community residents, and had been an integral part of African American culture even before the Civil War. There were many churches in Alexandria for residents to attend, and by 1882, they had established their own church: St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Chapel. Residents gathered at St. Cyprian’s for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and Sunday School. As Baptist Christianity grew in popularity, members of the community established a second place of worship, the Oakland Baptist Church, in the 1890s. ¹⁶ [86 words]
07-17-2 (Wayside Secondary Text)	Several prominent community members, including Clara Adams, John Casey, John Terrell, and Harriet Shorts, were considered to be founding members of the Oakland Baptist Church and Cemetery. In 1929, the Javins family deeded more land to the church to expand the original cemetery, known as the “Old Grave Yard.” Members of the Javins and McKnight families are buried at Oakland Baptist. ¹⁷ [61 words]
07-17-3.1 (Wayside Image Caption)	The Oakland Baptist church, pictured here after its 1999 restoration, continues to serve the African American community of Alexandria today. The church is another reminder of the lasting impact of “The Fort” community. [33 words]
07-17-3.2 (Wayside Image Caption)	An Oakland Baptist Church Sunday School class, photographed mid-1960s. Children from across “The Fort,” and other communities attended Sunday School at Oakland and St. Cyprian’s through the early twentieth century. [30 words] <i>Image Courtesy of Oakland Baptist Church</i>
07-17-4 (Wayside Quote)	“Going to Oakland Baptist cemetery. Amen. It was all woods then, you know, but you could stumble all over the graves. Amen.... Only way they could get to the cemetery was through a lane here, and that looked like the same old lane.” – Sgt. Lee Thomas Young ¹⁸ [43 words]

¹⁶ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 120.

¹⁷ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 127, 138.

¹⁸ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Lee Thomas Young, 11.

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Wayside Number	Text
07-17-5 (Wayside Tactile Map)	Community Map [Key] “The Fort” Community Known Structures and Road Locations [Highlighted Location] Oakland Baptist Cemetery
07-18 (Wayside Title)	Education at “The Fort” [4 words]
07-18-1 (Wayside Overview Text)	In 1898, Clara Shorts Adams and Robert Adams donated a quarter-acre of land to the Falls Church School District to build a school for African American children. At the time, schools in Virginia were segregated by race. Until this donation, “The Fort” and “Seminary” communities did not have equal access to educational resources. After the community took education into their own hands, the one-room “Colored School Building at Seminary” opened as the first public schoolhouse for African American children in the area and remained until 1925. [86 words]
07-18-2 (Wayside Secondary Text)	After the close of “The Fort’s first school in 1925, The Seminary School opened in 1927 as a result of community efforts and support. Douglas Wood donated the land, and the community raised \$1,000. “The Fort” also received \$900 from the Rosenwald Fund and \$4,000 of public funding to build the Seminary School’s new, three-room building. [56 words]
07-18-3.1 (Wayside Image Caption)	This photograph shows the original Seminary School building, which offered first through seventh grade classes for the community’s children. The land is now occupied by T.C. Williams High School. [28 words]
07-18-3.2 (Wayside Image Caption)	These five students and their teachers make up the Seminary School’s graduating class of 1932. [15 words]
07-18-4 (Wayside Quote)	They (residents of “The Fort”) were mostly educated people, and they all went to school, though most of them went to school together in the little one-room schoolhouse... - Barbara Ashby Gordon/1994 [24 words]

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Wayside Number	Text
07-18-5 (Wayside Tactile Map)	Community Map [Key] “The Fort” Community Known Structures and Road Locations [Highlighted Location] Seminary School
07-19 (Wayside Title)	A Community at Fort Ward [5]
07-19-1 (Wayside Overview Text)	Throughout the community’s existence, residents of “The Fort” were subject to discrimination and segregation within the broader Northern Virginia area. Residents were forced to build their own churches, and the original Seminary School was constructed after no local schools would accept African American children who lived at “The Fort.” Despite the discrimination, community leaders, including the Adams, McKnights, Caseys, and Belks, were able to facilitate a strong neighborhood bond amongst families within “The Fort.” The result was a strong, thriving, predominately African American community within the midst of a segregated Alexandria. ¹⁹ [91 words]
07-19-2 (Wayside Secondary Text)	Samuel Ashby, his wife, and their seven children moved to “The Fort” in 1898. Their home, a well-built, two-story structure, faced West Braddock Road and caught the eye of anyone who passed. Much like other families, the Ashby family stayed at “The Fort” long term, passing down their home through generations until 1961, when it was sold to the City of Alexandria. ²⁰ [62 words]
07-19-3.1 (Wayside Image Caption)	The Ashby family home was known for its wide front porch, two-story structure, and well-maintained appearance. This photograph was taken during the 1950s. [23 words]
07-19-3.2 (Wayside Image Caption)	Clara Adams and unknown child (possibly Charles McKnight) and her husband, Robert, were integral figures in establishing and maintaining "The Fort." [21 words]

¹⁹ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 152.
²⁰ Mary F. Minkoff, *Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington*, 2015, 185.

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Wayside Number	Text
07-19-4 (Wayside Quote)	<p>“I felt secure because of being loved. The neighbors loved me and the people took care of the children. When somebody worked at home, they watched out for the children... we were poor and we didn’t have much, but I felt secure and loved.” - Shirley Steele, 2008²¹ [44 words]</p>
07-19-5 (Wayside Tactile Map)	<p>Community Map</p> <p>[Key] “The Fort” Community Known Structures and Road Locations</p> <p>[Highlighted Location] Braddock Road Homes</p>
07-20 (Wayside Title)	<p>From Fort to Community [4 words]</p>
07-20-1 (Wayside Overview Text)	<p>The layered historical landscape of Fort Ward Park is reflected by this location in the center of the Union fort where a post-Civil War structure once stood that was part of the African American community called "The Fort." Although many of the former homes within "The Fort" community were located on the east side of the Park, others were situated on top of the Civil War features and to the west of the historic fort. Cassius and Rachel McKnight purchased land at "The Fort" in 1890. They built their home within the earthwork remains of Fort Ward, on the site of one of the fort's bombproof shelters, and continued to live here until Cassius's death in 1924.²² [117 words]</p>
07-20-2 (Wayside Secondary Text)	<p>In addition to the McKnights, other families settled on the western side of the present-day Park. James Jackson purchased two large lots on what is now much of the western sector of Fort Ward Park, where his home and a community cemetery were located. His property occupied areas that today include part of the fort's restored Northwest bastion and glacis, the man-made earthen slope surrounding the fort, adding to the layered history of Fort Ward.²³ [75 words]</p>

²¹ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Shirley Steele, pg. 8.

²² Mary F. Minkoff, Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, 2015, 185.

²³ Mary F. Minkoff, Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, 2015, 190 – 191.

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Wayside Number	Text
07-20-3.1 (Wayside Image Caption)	James Jackson (left), his wife Kittie, and friends photographed on their property at “The Fort,” ca. 1941. [17 words]
07-20-3.2 (Wayside Image Caption)	Jim Jackson (right), Fred Rust (center), and Simon Reed (left), dug graves at the Jackson Cemetery, occasionally referred to as the “Fort Ward Cemetery.” [24 words] <i>Image Courtesy of Dorothy Hall Smith</i>
07-20-4 (Wayside Quote)	I’ll tell you about Fort Ward. They call it Fort Ward now, but it was “[The] Fort,” [to us]. – Elizabeth Douglas/1992 ²⁴ [18 words]
07-20-5 (Wayside Tactile Map)	Community Map [Key] “The Fort” Community Known Structures and Road Locations [Highlighted Location] McKnight Property, near the Northwest Bastion.

²⁴ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Elizabeth Douglas.

07. DRAFT BROCHURE CONTENT

The Site Brochure is meant to provide visitors with both an introductory overview to Fort Ward and serve as a guide for a self-guided tour of the Fort Ward site. The brochure will contain a site map and a brief description of key locations throughout the Park.

Item Number	Text						
GL-09.01 Cover							
09.01-1 Front Cover	Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site Bastions of Freedom Alexandria, Virginia						
09.01-2 Back Cover	<p>Visiting the Park</p> <p>Fort Ward Park includes an expansive 45-acres, located just minutes from downtown Alexandria. The Park is accessible daily, 9:00 a.m. to sunset. Museum open hours are:</p> <p>HOURS</p> <table data-bbox="596 992 1178 1084"> <tr> <td>Tuesday – Saturday</td> <td>10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>Noon – 5:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>Closed</td> </tr> </table> <p>Museum Phone Number: 703.746.4848 <i>alexandria.gov/FortWard</i></p> <p>Closed: New Year’s Day, Christmas Day, and Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>For picnic area reservations, call the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at 703.746.5414.²⁵</p>	Tuesday – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Sunday	Noon – 5:00 p.m.	Monday	Closed
Tuesday – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.						
Sunday	Noon – 5:00 p.m.						
Monday	Closed						

²⁵ Information Taken Form: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard#MuseumParkandOfficeHours>.

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Item Number	Text
GL-09.02 Introductory Spread	
09.02-1	<p>Bastions of Freedom</p> <p>As part of the Defenses of Washington, Fort Ward protected the nation’s capital during the Civil War (1861–1865). After the war, a group of formerly enslaved African Americans bought land here and created lives—building homes, schools, and churches. Despite facing social and legal inequalities, the residents of “The Fort” community thrived for nearly a century. Their legacy reflects enduring ideas of freedom.</p> <p>As you explore the area, consider the complex history of Fort Ward. What does this place mean to you?</p>
09.02-2	<p>Experience Fort Ward</p> <p>This brochure provides information on significant sites throughout Fort Ward Park and will help acquaint you with features, people, and events that make this a special place. Please use the map to guide your exploration of the Museum and Park.</p> <p><i>Please help preserve Fort Ward Historic Site by observing all park rules.</i></p>
GL-09.03 Secondary Spread	The History of Fort Ward
09.03-1	<p>The Defenses of Washington</p> <p>In May of 1861, Federal troops crossed the Potomac River and began building fortifications on the heights overlooking the Union capital. The construction rapidly increased after early Confederate victories at Manassas (Bull Run). By the end of the Civil War, 164 earthwork forts and batteries surrounded Washington, D.C. As the fifth largest fort in the formidable defense system, Fort Ward was considered to be a model of military design and engineering for the time period.</p>

Item Number	Text
09.03-2	<p>Commander James Harmon Ward</p> <p>Fort Ward’s namesake, Commander James H. Ward, became the first Union naval officer killed after the outbreak of the Civil War. An authority on tactics and gunnery, Ward helped establish the U.S. Naval Academy. Due to his extensive qualifications, the newly constructed Fort Ward was named to recognize his contributions to the Union war effort.²⁶</p>
09.03-3	<p>The Beginning of “The Fort”</p> <p>Following the Civil War, African American families began to purchase land at the abandoned Fort Ward. The first residents of “The Fort” and nearby “Seminary” community (located around the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School) were probably a mixture of individuals already living in the area and migrants from other parts of Virginia, notably Fauquier County. The 1870 U.S. Census records four family names at Fort Ward: the Pages, the Shorts, the Perkins, and the McKnights. A decade later, the number of names grew to twenty. These families, many of which were connected by marriage and kinship, created a thriving neighborhood in the early 20th century by building permanent homes, establishing churches and schools, and acquiring and dividing land plots to expand the community.²⁷</p>
09.03-4	<p>Daily Life at “The Fort”</p> <p>The families who lived at “The Fort” created a vibrant community. They forged close kinship ties and friendships with their neighbors, and established schools, churches, and stores within the community. “The Fort” was a proud, self-reliant community.²⁸</p>

²⁶ “History of Fort Ward,” www.alexandria.gov.

²⁷ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 38-40.

²⁸ Krystyn R. Moon, *Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s*, Sept. 2014, 107; Mary F. Minkoff, *Making Sense of the Fort; Civically Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington*, 2015, 201.

Item Number	Text
09.03-5	<p>The “End” of “The Fort”</p> <p>As early as the 1950s, the City of Alexandria sought to purchase land from the owners and residents of "The Fort" in order to restore the Civil War fort and establish Fort Ward Park. Some residents sold their properties and relocated. For those who refused to sell, the City condemned the properties claiming they were unsanitary, unsafe, or "substandard," reasons which the owners strongly opposed. The City eventually prevailed. Some of the former residents and descendants of “The Fort” still remain bitter about being forced off the land, but they also hold dear the memory of the community as a symbol of endurance and freedom.²⁹</p>
09.03-6	<p>Restoring Fort Ward</p> <p>In 1961, the City of Alexandria began archaeological fieldwork on Fort Ward which uncovered valuable information on the construction of the fort, and led to authentic reconstruction of the fort's Northwest bastion as a Civil War Centennial project. The fort, Museum and historic Park opened to the public on May 30, 1964. Since then, continued archaeological investigations and research have revealed more information on the site's Civil War past, as well as the discovery of homestead foundations, grave sites and artifacts that have helped shed light on the lives of the residents of The Fort community.³⁰</p>
GL-09.04 Interior Map Spread	Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
09.04-0 (Intro)	<p>Fort Ward offers a historical experience unique to the City of Alexandria. The Museum and the grounds provide a window to engage with the history of a Civil War fort turned into a thriving African American community.</p> <p>In order to complete a full tour of the Museum and the grounds, plan at least an hour and a half for your visit. To further your Fort Ward experience, visit <i>www.placeholder.com</i> and access additional historical information as you visit the historic site markers throughout the Park.</p>

²⁹ Making Sense of the Fort: Civically-Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington, Mary Furlong Minkoff; Finding The Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s-1960s, Krystyn Moon

³⁰ “History of Fort Ward, www.alexandria.gov

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Item Number	Text
<i>(Note)</i>	<i>For elements that are noted as *Coming Soon* all locations are approximate at this time. OHA may wish for the initial printing to only highlight existing features or, for example, only the waysides and existing features, etc. The location of the numbers can move with each printing. We look forward to discussing this with the client team.</i>
09.04-1	<p>1 & 2. Orientation Stations <i>*Coming Soon*</i></p> <p>Begin your visit by stopping at one of the two site Orientation Stations. Learn more about Fort Ward’s story and familiarize yourself with the layout of the site. Restrooms are located near both Orientation Stations.</p>
09.04-2	<p>3. Museum Exhibits</p> <p>Discover the story of Fort Ward's significance to the Defenses of Washington, and experience exhibits, an orientation film and historical objects that interpret the Civil War soldiers and African American Fort Community residents who occupied this place.</p>
09.04-3	<p>4. Community Gateway <i>*Coming Soon*</i></p> <p>As you pass through the gateway, prepare to learn about “The Fort;” a community of African American families who lived on this land for decades after the end of the Civil War.</p>
09.04-5	<p>6. Commemoration Space <i>*Coming Soon*</i></p> <p>Reflect for a moment on the sacrifice of the soldiers who served at the fort and the African American community members who built, and later lost, their homes here.</p>

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09.04-6	7. Officers' Hut Take a peek into the lives and home of Civil War-era officers. Explore this reproduction quarters, in which military officers would have lived and overseen their troops.
09.04-7	8. Northwest Bastion Visit the reconstructed Northwest bastion, authentically reconstructed to its 1864 condition, and view the fort's original preserved earthwork walls. Can you imagine what the entire fort would have looked like during the Civil War?
09.04-8	9. Picnic Space Enjoy a break during your visit, or reserve an area for you next family or social gathering.
09.04-9	11. Historic Waysides As you explore the Park, learn about the people, structures, and events of Fort Ward through interpretive panels. Take a moment to stop, read, and discover!
09.04-10	12. Historic Site Markers <i>*Coming Soon*</i> Can you find all of the historic site markers? As you find them, visit www.explorefortward.com for extra information!

10. FACILITATED DIALOGUES

Facilitated Dialogue exercises, including the following examples, are a helpful educational tool that allow visitors to engage with the material directly. Each short script contains a brief explanation of the context and reverse copies of the dialogue for the visitor.

Item Number	Text
10-01-1 (Facilitated Dialogue 1)	The Chapel at Christmas
10-01-2 (Introduction)	Religion was an important aspect of daily life for members of “The Fort” community, and St. Cyprian’s Chapel and the Oakland Baptist Cemetery served as central locations for community gatherings throughout the year. Elizabeth Douglas, who lived in the community as a child, recalls attending Christmas events at St. Cyprian’s each year. Place yourself in Elizabeth’s shoes, and recreate the scene before Christmas—one of you will play Elizabeth and the other her mother. Can you recall a similar exchange with your own family? ³¹
10-01-3 (Dialogue)	<i>You Begin:</i> Elizabeth: “Mama, are we having Christmas at the chapel this year?”
	Mrs. Douglas: “Have you finished your homework and all of your chores?”
	Elizabeth: “Yes, I have! Please, can we go? They’re having a little Christmas tree and presents and everything.”
	Mrs. Douglas: “Well, as long as you take your brothers and sister with you. Now, you all can go to the Chapel.”
	Elizabeth: “Thanks, Mama! Merry Christmas!”
10-01-4 (Reverse Dialogue)	<i>Elizabeth Begins:</i> Elizabeth: “Mama, are we having Christmas at the chapel this year?”

³¹ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Elizabeth Douglas, pg. 14.

Item Number	Text
	Mrs. Douglas: “Have you finished your homework and all of your chores?”
	Elizabeth: “Yes, I have! Please, can we go? They’re having a little Christmas tree and presents and everything.”
	Mrs. Douglas: “Well, as long as you take your brothers and sister with you. Now, you all can go to the Chapel.”
	Elizabeth: “Thanks, Mama! Merry Christmas!”
10-02-1 (Facilitated Dialogue 2)	Mrs. Adams Burial
10-01-2 (Introduction)	As the community increased in numbers, land was traded and divided in order to accommodate more families. At the time of Clara Adams’ death, Sergeant. Lee Thomas Young and his family owned the property on which her husband, Robert Adams, was buried. A relative of Mrs. Adams called Sgt. Young to ask his permission to bury Clara on his property, with her husband. Although they were not related, Clara Adams was so well known within the community, Lee Young and many other residents affectionately referred to her as “Aunt Clara.” Place yourself in the shoes of Sgt. Young, and reenact the phone call—one of you will play Sgt. Young, while the other will play Mrs. Adams relative. What would you have done? ³²
10-01-3 (Dialogue)	<i>You Begin:</i> Sgt. Young: “Hello?”
	Relative: “Hello, Sergeant. Young? I have some terrible news for you, Clara Adams has passed away.”
	Sgt. Young: “Oh my, Aunt Clara? That’s horrible.”
	Relative: “I’m sorry to tell you the news over the phone, but we have an important question for you. Her husband is buried on your property. Are you willing to let us bury her there, so they can be together?”

³² Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, 2009, pg. 10

Item Number	Text
	Sgt. Young: “Of course, Aunt Clara was a good lady, she taught me a lot. I’ll do anything I can to help.”
	Relative: “Thank you, sir, we appreciate your kindness.”
10-01-4 (Reverse Dialogue)	<i>Sgt. Young Begins:</i> Sgt. Young: “Hello?”
	Relative: “Hello, Sgt. Young? I have some terrible news for you, Clara Adams has passed away.”
	Sgt. Young: “Oh my, Aunt Clara? That’s horrible.”
	Relative: “I’m sorry to tell you the news over the phone, but we had an important question for you. Her husband is buried on your property. Are you willing to let us bury her there, so they can be together?”
	Sgt. Young: “Of course, Aunt Clara was a good lady, she taught me a lot. I’ll do anything I can to help.”
	Relative: “Thank you, sir, we appreciate your kindness.”
10-03-1 (Facilitated Dialogue 3)	The McKnight’s Family Traits
10-03-2 (Introduction)	The Adams-McKnight family was one of the most prominent throughout “The Fort’s” history. One of the first families to build a home on the land, they contributed to the founding of the Oakland Baptist Church, donated land to build schools, and helped establish local cemeteries. Despite their historical significance, they were also a family with similar physical characteristics, such as the McKnight family’s skinny legs. Take a moment to step into the shoes of Charles McKnight as a boy and his great-aunt Clara Adams as they discuss their family’s traits What are some things you have in common with your family members? ³³

³³ Alexandria Legacies, Oral History Program, Fort Ward Oral History Project, Charles McKnight, pg. 18.

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Item Number	Text
10-03-3 (Dialogue)	<p><i>You Begin:</i></p> <p>Clara Adams: “Charles, dear, what’s wrong?”</p>
	Charles: “I wish my legs weren’t so skinny!”
	Clara: Laughing, “Oh Charles, they always teased me for having skinny legs, too!”
	Charles: “You have them too, Aunt Clara?”
	Clara: “Of course I do! That’s just the McKnight structure! Your father has them too.”
	Charles: Seeming happier, “Well, I guess I’m glad I’m not a girl so I can hide them with my pants!”
	Clara and Charles laugh together
10-03-4 (Reverse Dialogue)	<p><i>Clara Begins:</i></p> <p>Clara Adams: “Charles, dear, what’s wrong?”</p>
	Charles: “I wish my legs weren’t so skinny!”
	Clara: Laughing, “Oh Charles, they always teased me for having skinny legs, too!”
	Charles: “You have them too, Aunt Clara?”
	Clara: “Of course I do! That’s just the McKnight structure! Your father has them too.”
	Charles: Seeming happier, “Well, I guess I’m glad I’m not a girl so I can hide them with my pants!”
	Clara and Charles laugh together