

ALL ABOARD AT ALEXANDRIA UNION STATION



Postcard of Union Station, looking east, 1920s

Whether going to their workplace, a vacation getaway or war, generations of passengers have embarked on journeys and were welcomed home at the Alexandria Union Station. It exemplifies the time when railroads were the dominant means of transportation. Built during the "Golden Age" of passenger travel, the station opened on September 15, 1905, and included a freight depot on the east side of the tracks adjacent to the passenger terminal.



Union Station, looking north, circa 1905



Union Station, looking north, circa 1905



Alexandria World War II draftees ready to leave from Union Station November 22, 1943. During the first half of the 20th century many local service men and women left for war from the Alexandria Union Station.

IN THE NEWS

LEAVE FOR CAMP.

Fifty-two colored men of this city, who had been called for military service in the recent selective draft, left at noon yesterday for Camp Lee. Their departure focused a gala day for the colored residents of Alexandria who turned out en masse. The young and old of both sexes, headed by a local band, marched down King street to the City Hall building and escorted the men to the Union Station where they bid them God speed as the train left.

Alexandria Gazette,
Monday, October 29, 1917

THOUSANDS SEE 'EM OFF

City Officials and Citizens Join in Honoring Drafted Men Who Left For Camp Lee Today.

Upwards of twenty-five hundred people were in the parade which escorted the drafted men to the Union Station when they left the city for Camp Lee at Petersburg today noon.

Alexandria Gazette,
Thursday, November 1, 1917

MANY SOLDIERS EXPECTED TONIGHT

Party Old A. L. I., Boys Scheduled For Home

BIG OVATION PLANNED

Drafts and Soldiers Will Get Warm Welcome as Home Return Train Arrives in This City.

Alexandria Gazette,
Monday, May 26, 1919

The Alexandria Union Station is an example of a national trend to build architecturally significant railroad facilities intended as community gateways. It is Colonial-Revival style with Federal details, and has a Flemish-bond brick pattern not found anywhere else in the city. The station looks much like it did when it was first built. Interior space is the same, however room uses have changed. For example, the original floorplan had racially segregated women's waiting rooms and toilet facilities. Radiators are original, and probably the oak settees. The black and white floor tile and square bay window date from 1929 modifications. The freight depot was torn down in the early 1980s to accommodate construction for the Metro subway station.

In 1997, the City of Alexandria led a restoration funded through the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act of 1991. The restoration addressed accessibility requirements and enclosed the breezeway, but for the most part returned the station to its 1905 appearance.