Old Town North:
Historical and Archaeological Interpretation

Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Archaeology
Open House, November 19, 2015
Native Settlement
John Smith’s map of 1608, the first survey of the colony of Virginia.

*Library of Congress*
Alexandria Origins
Old Town North was part of the 6,000-acre tract purchased by John Alexander in 1669.
• 1730s--Tobacco trading port at West’s Point, the foot of Oronoco Street, just south of Old Town North
• 1749--Alexandria formed along a cove stretching from West’s Point south to Point Lumley at the foot of Duke Street.
Agrarian Economy
Landscape, Street Grid, and Political Boundaries
Transportation Improvements Support Industrial Development
Alexandria Canal opens 1843; Railroads arrive 1850s
Oronoco Bay
ca. 1860s

Quartermaster Wharves
ca. 1860s

Alexandria Tide Lock Canal
ca. 1860s

Quartermaster Wharf
ca. 1860s
Railroads
Portner’s Brewery

Porter’s Brewery

1868 - 1932

A portrait of president and chairman Robert Portner, early 1890s, as published in One Hundred Years of Brewing, 1903
Night shift workers, Old Dominion Glass Factory, 1911

Old Dominion Glass Factory
c. 1910