

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

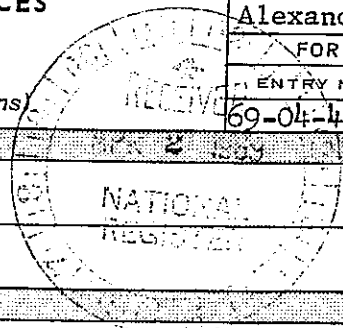
Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Alexandria (in cit.)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-04-45-0001
DATE: 4/2/69



1. NAME
COMMON: Alexandria Hist Dist.
AND/OR HISTORIC: Alexandria

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: As described in attached Ordinance No. 1338
CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51045 COUNTY: ALEXANDRIA (IND CITY) CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One): District [X] Building [] Site [] Object []
OWNERSHIP: Public [] Private [] Both [X]
STATUS: Occupied [X] Unoccupied [] Preservation work in progress []
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: Restricted [] Unrestricted [X] No: []
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
Agricultural [] Commercial [] Educational [] Entertainment []
Government [] Industrial [] Military [] Museum []
Park [] Private Residence [X] Religious [] Scientific []
Transportation [] Other (Specify) [X] Public buildings

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNERS NAME: Multiple public and private
STREET AND NUMBER: City of Alexandria
CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 510

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Alexandria Clerk of Courts
STREET AND NUMBER: 130 N. Fairfax
CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: 1st St. BETWEEN E CAPITAL AND INDEPENDENCE AVE, S.E.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia
CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Alexandria (in cit.)
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-04-45-0001
DATE: 4/2/69

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Additional Information

WASO Form
("R" June)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Alexandria Historic District
Alexandria Ind. City
Virginia

Working No. 11-7-84

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 12/22/84

Action: ACCEPT 12/12/84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *Documentation explains how Alexandria's importance as an industrial and commercial center extended into the 20th century and encompasses sign. 20th structures such as Ford plant (WPA, Kahn), an early 20th commercial block, a Georgian Personal Post office, and several early 20th century dwellings & commercial buildings of period styles and scale.*

Recom./Criteria Accept/ATC
 Reviewer J.M. O'Connell
 Discipline A. Hist
 Date 12/12/84

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

- Condition
- excellent
 - good
 - fair
 - deteriorated
 - ruins
 - unexposed
- Check one
- unaltered
 - altered
- Check one
- original site
 - moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

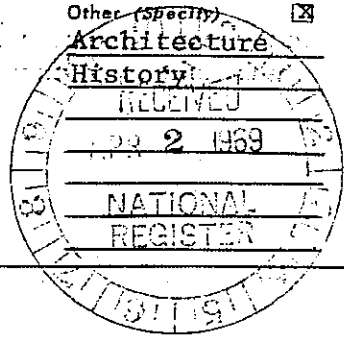
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi- <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human- <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Alexandria was formally authorized as a town by an act of the Virginia Assembly in 1748. The town was laid off into uniform rectangular blocks with George Washington acting as one of the original surveyors. From the mid-eighteenth century until the Civil War, the town grew considerably as it served as the principal seaport and commercial center of northern Virginia.

The "Old and Historic District of Alexandria" as defined in Ordinance 1338 of the City Council of Alexandria, is an area embracing nearly 100 blocks in the heart of the original town. Within this district is to be found probably the largest concentration of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century urban architecture in the state. While a large number of the buildings are significant examples of Colonial and Federal architecture, many have important historical associations as well. Some of the more notable architecturally and historically important buildings in the area include: The Ramsey House, the city's earliest structure; Christ Church (erected 1773), a well preserved Colonial church where the Washingtons and Lees often worshipped; the Carlyle House (built 1752), a notable mid-Georgian mansion where General Braddock was entertained; the Lloyd House (erected 1798), a fine Federal structure; Gadsby's Tavern (1792), City Tavern (1798), two architecturally notable buildings which were the scene of much early political activity; the Robert E. Lee House (1795), a large Federal house where Lee spent much of his boyhood; the Lord Fairfax House (1816), one of the nation's outstanding Federal mansions; and the Alexandria Lyceum (1834), the city's finest Greek Revival building.

Although Alexandria is famous primarily for its Federal architecture, it should be noted that the city contains a number of fine Victorian structures as well. There are also many nineteenth century townhouses which are not significant as individual examples of architecture but are important in that they serve to maintain the scale of the city and visually link the more important buildings.

While the historic district of Alexandria does contain many individual buildings of national significance, the district as a whole is extremely important as it is one of the very few urban areas in the state where enough of the old buildings have survived so that one can grasp a sense of an early town environment.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)							
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>		
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)				
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>				
			Moved <input type="checkbox"/>			Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

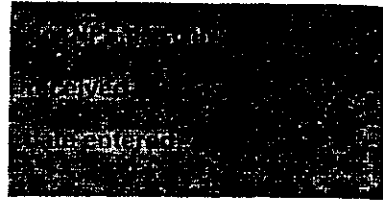
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The general layout of the historic district of Alexandria consists of uniform rectangular blocks in a grid pattern. The streets are lined with townhouses, the more important of which are generally free-standing while the majority are either semi-detached or non-detached. Most of the structures are brick or frame. The architecture found in the district includes the full-range of the late-eighteenth and nineteenth century styles, but the district is more noted for its outstanding buildings of the Federal period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

In addition to Victorian residences, the Alexandria district contains an ample stock of small scale early 20th-century town houses. These were designed in a variety of modes including American Four Square, Bungalow, Neo-Colonial and Second Empire during an era of aggressive eclecticism. The residential units appear as infill development throughout the district. Typical areas include the 500 block of N. Washington Street and the 700 block of Oronoco Street.

The commercial area of the district centers around the corner of S. Washington Street and King Street. Consequently both King and Washington are bordered with commercial buildings and storefronts of varying ages, most of which date from the first third of the 20th century. Of particular note are the Art Deco Virginia Public Service building at 117 S. Washington Street, the Neo-Colonial Post Office and Court House at 200 S. Washington Street and the Burke and Herbert Bank at 625 King Street.

The district also encompasses several factory buildings along Alexandria's formerly active waterfront. The most notable of these structures is the former Ford Plant, designed by Albert Kahn. The major part of this structure is a yellow glazed brick, saw-tooth roofed shed designed in an Art Deco style. Appended to this structure are three concrete additions designed in a rigid, yet sympathetic style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet # 2

Item number 7

Page 2

For NPS use only
received <i>6/7/87</i>
date entered

7. DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

FRANKLIN STREET & UNION STREET

(Old Ford Plant): concrete; 2 stories; flat roof; 8 bays on main building, 20 bays on annex. Modern. 1920s. Architect: Albert Kahn. The Old Ford Plant is a unique structure in Virginia for it is the only structure in the state designed by the famous factory architect Albert Kahn. The main 8-bay, concrete structure has a 3-story tower at its center. It is adjoined by a 20-plus-bay, concrete structure. All windows are of industrial sash.

KING STREET

625 (Burke and Herbert Bank): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 3 bays. Bank. Vernacular Classical. 1906. This small bank, with bracketed cornice and curved pediment with inscribed date, is a fine example of an early twentieth-century commercial structure.

627: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 2 bays. Commercial (store). Classical Eclectic. 1910. This is an excellent example of an early twentieth-century brick commercial building designed in rather eclectic classical vocabulary.

ORONOCO STREET

711-709: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays each; 1-story, 1-side-bay, arch entrance. Row house. 20th-century Vernacular. 1915-20. This structure contributes to the small scale streetscape of this part of the district.

NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

520: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 1-bay porch. Detached house. American Four Square. 1920. This residence maintains the low scale of its nineteenth- and twentieth-century neighbors.

524: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Detached town house. Second Empire. 1910. This building clearly contributes to the fabric of the neighborhood in scale, style, and materials.

528: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays. Detached town house. Twentieth-century Vernacular. 1910. This modified American Four Square building maintains the low density of this area of the district.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

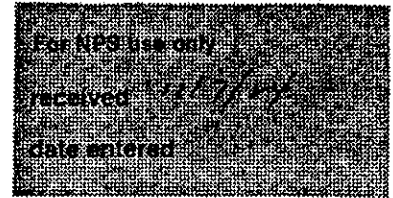
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet # 3

Item number 7

Page 3



7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (appendix)

SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

117: stone (limestone); 3 stories; flat roof; 5 bays. Commercial (office). Art Deco. Ca. 1930s. Now a Marine recruiting office, this 3-story, limestone-faced structure is a fine example of the reserved form of Art Deco-style that was frequently used in commercial buildings.

200 (U.S. Post Office and Courthouse): brick (5-course American bond); 3 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 5 bays. Post Office. Colonial Revival. 1930. This 3-story, brick-and-limestone building with its large cupola is an excellent example of the late Colonial Revival architecture so popular for public buildings in the south.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

Continuation sheet 4

Item number 8

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In addition to the previously discussed 19th-century structures, significant 20-century buildings still stand in the historic district. These residential, commercial, and industrial buildings contribute to the area's historic fabric and survive as a three-dimensional palimpsest of Alexandria's development.

In part due to its excellent rail connections to both north and south, Alexandria became an important industrial and commercial center in Northern Virginia. In fact, the Potomac yards were the largest classification railway yards in the country at the turn of the century. As a result of this transportation system, Alexandria developed a large industrial center along its waterfront adjacent to the railway. The list of industrial enterprises in Alexandria during the early 20th century is rather lengthy, including large lumber yards, leather and shoe factories, coal wharves, ice factories, a brewery, glass works, a tile manufactory, and a gas works. This combination of industrial vitality and excellent transportation facilities led Henry Ford to build a plant along the Alexandria waterfront. Designed by Albert Kahn and completed in 1932, the structure incorporates a saw-tooth roof, and Art Deco facade with a remarkable degree of structural clarity, making it stand today as the most important example of early modern architecture in Alexandria.

As the industrial area developed, so too did the commercial base rise to support the needs of the residents who were drawn to Alexandria by the availability of jobs and adequate housing. During the first two decades of this century, a central business district developed along King and Washington streets. The Post Office and Courthouse designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect is an excellent example of a late Colonial Revival structure; the Marine recruiting center, with its stripped Classical details and Art Deco-style ironwork, is the finest example of that style in the district.

The aforementioned combination of industrial development along with Alexandria's proximity to Washington D. C. caused an explosion of residential development in the first third of the 20th century. With its reasonable rents, relatively pure drinking water, fine educational system, and availability of loans through various cash-rich building associations, small scale residential developments, designed in several styles, sprang up throughout the city. While the units are architecturally significant and cohesive by themselves, these residences are also stylistically sympathetic to the fabric of the 19th-century city. The early 20th-century Empire and Four Square structures at 520-528 North Washington Street, for example, share a commonality of scale and material with the cotton mill across the street. 709-711 Oronoco Street performs the same function in relation to the neighboring 19th-century buildings.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Alexandria Historic District, Virginia

Alexandria was a thriving port until 1861, dealing primarily in the export of tobacco and grain. Tobacco was the currency with which John Alexander in 1669 purchased the site of the future town. It was also tobacco that brought Scotch merchants to the site in 1732, where they soon erected riverfront warehouses. The rapid growth of the area spurred Virginia's General Assembly to authorize the laying out of a town in 1748. Its original trustees named the town "Alexandria" in honor of John Alexander. The survey of the town was made by the Fairfax County Surveyor and his 17-year old assistant, George Washington. The formal incorporation of the town, plus its designation as a Port of Entry, occurred in 1779. Soon, grain from western counties became a more valuable export than tobacco. Only the Civil War ended its usefulness as a port.

Surviving structures that reflect Alexandria's early life number about 200 and lie largely within an area of about 25 squares of the modern city, bounded roughly by the Potomac River, Franklin Street, North Washington Street and Queen Street. These structures include both warehouses and handsome dwellings. Of the latter, the Ramsay House is the city's oldest. Gadsby's Tavern (actually two buildings dating, respectively, from 1752 and 1792) was a famed center of hospitality, food and political activity. Chequire House and Gilpin House exemplify rich 18th-century dwellings atop the owner's mercantile establishments. Along a cobblestone and tree shaded block of Prince Street are the colorful homes of early ship masters. Of the five surviving early warehouses, those of John Fitzgerald are still in use. Title to Alexandria's historic buildings rests in various private owners and public bodies.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE
Virginia

NAME(S) OF SITE
Alexandria Historic District

7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

groupings of many-hued old homes. Most of the houses are brick, but there are two quite distinctive clapboard houses. Many of these old row houses were homes of sea captains when Alexandria was a thriving port; thus, it is often called Captain's Row. The street has much of the appearance of English and Scottish seaport towns. Cobblestone paving, which tradition says was laid by Hessian prisoners of war, has been left in this final block of Prince Street.

The old port section on the eastern end of King Street down to the Potomac River strongly suggests Alexandria's past mercantile interests. Chequire House at 202 King Street and Gilpin House, 208 King Street, are typical 18th century merchant's houses where shops were located on the ground floor and living quarters were above. Bernard Chequire came from France and built his place in 1797. The lower floor was an office and warehouse while the upper floors were beautifully paneled and furnished family quarters. Colonel George Gilpin came to Alexandria from Maryland before the Revolution to handle the shipping business of the family. The Gilpin House was built in 1798.

John Fitzgerald's warehouses on the southeast corner of King and Union Streets are still in use. There are three early warehouses on the north side of the 100 block of King Street which have been little altered.

The Ramsay House at 221 King Street is the oldest house in Alexandria. It was built by William Ramsay, an influential Scotch merchant, who took a prominent part in the early period of the town. He was a founder, one of the first Trustees, and the first Mayor of Alexandria in 1749.

The Carlyle Mansion at 121 North Fairfax Street was built in the mid-eighteenth century by John Carlyle of Dumfries, Scotland. Carlyle was one of Alexandria's first Trustees and was in charge of the Commissary and Supplies for General Braddock's expedition in the French and Indian War. John Carlyle was a Scotch merchant and ship owner; the original house and its furnishings are today an unusual example of the home life of a well-to-do merchant of the 18th century.

Gadsby's Tavern at 128 North Royal Street was built at a time when Alexandria was a busy port and a center of social and political prominence. Gadsby's Tavern