

*City of
Alexandria
Virginia*

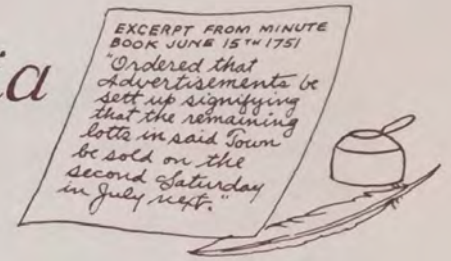
*Home town of
George Washington
and
Robert E. Lee*



VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY
RICHMOND

*The Old Port City
1863*

HISTORY of Alexandria



Location

The City of Alexandria is located on the west bank of the Potomac River, five miles south of the National's Capital. The original town was 60 acres in size but now the estimated 94,000 inhabitants live within a 15 square mile area.

Government

During its history Alexandria has experienced many forms of government from colonial rule under the Crown to control by the Congress of the United States. The town was authorized by the General Assembly in 1748. The Board of Trustees in 1749, a self-perpetuating governing body, and acting under the Virginia General Assembly as a part of the British Colonies, administered local government. Alexandria became the seat of Fairfax County in 1754. Although incorporated as a Town in 1779, ten years later a portion of Alexandria was ceded to the Federal Government to make the 10 mile square of the District of Columbia. It was during 1801-1843 that Acts of Congress provided amendments to the Town Charter. These amendments prescribed the wards, established the Common Council and laws governing community action. In 1847 Alexandria was receded to Virginia with the General Assembly constituting the area as Alexandria County, with the town as the seat. Five years later Alexandria acquired the status of a City. Twice in its history Alexandria has been under military control. The British occupied Alexandria in the War of 1812 and Federal troops were stationed here in 1861-1865. In the latter part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century, Alexandria was governed by a bicameral legislature with 16 members in the Common Council and 8 members in the Board of Aldermen. A referendum on the question of instituting the Council-Manager form of government was defeated in 1919 by sixteen votes. In 1921 by referendum, an overwhelming majority of the voters approved the plan. It was

2 June 1968 City of Alexandria

commenced in September 1922. In 1948 a referendum changed the Nine-Man Council, with six elected from wards and three-at-large, to a Seven-Man Council with all members elected at large. Alexandria's present Charter was granted in an act by the General Assembly in 1950.

History

Captain John Smith's explorations in 1608 brought him to this area where he found the Chichawane Indians occupying the territory. The site of Alexandria was included in a 6000 acre patent issued by Governor William Berkeley in 1669 to Robert Howsing. This patent was purchased a short time later by John Alexander, the pioneer for whom the town was later named. Many illustrious Americans have referred to Alexandria as their hometown. George Mason was appointed a member to the Board of Trustees on June 18, 1754, while George Washington was appointed on December 16, 1766. Washington was a familiar figure to the townspeople. As a youth of 17, he assisted John West, Jr., County Surveyor, in laying out the boundaries of the town. It was in Alexandria that he recruited his first military command and drilled these troops in Market Square. General Edward Braddock landed with his troops and equipment in Alexandria. From this point he began the ill-fated expedition to the west in the French and Indian War. Washington accompanied General Braddock on this expedition. Washington was entertained in Alexandria in many of the fine homes of that period as well as in the taverns. It was in Gadsby's Tavern in 1775 that Washington presided at the public meeting which adopted

the famous "Fairfax County Resolves". These resolutions were drawn up by George Mason and constituted one of the first assertions of colonial rights. On his way to New York to be inaugurated as the First President of the United States, Washington stopped at Wise's Tavern, known as the "Bunch of Grapes", to receive an ovation from the citizens of Alexandria. The last public celebration of Washington's birthday during his lifetime was held in Gadsby's Tavern on February 22, 1799 on which occasion the General and Mrs. Washington were present. Washington contributed much to the community life. He left an endowment for the establishment of the first free school. In 1775 he gave a hand-pump fire engine to the Friendship Engine Company of which he was a member.

General Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, moved to Alexandria in 1811. Robert E. Lee was raised and educated in Alexandria. In 1859 Robert E. Lee, at that time a Colonel in the U. S. Army, was in Stabler-Leadbeater's Apothecary Shop on South Fairfax Street when Lt. J. E. B. Stuart brought an order from the Secretary-of-War directing Colonel Lee to "proceed without delay" to Harper's Ferry.

Commerce and Industry

Alexandria was designed to be a commercial town and appropriately, a ship was selected as the emblem on its seal. The need of a site for

the storing and shipping of tobacco and other agrarian produce had great bearing in Alexandria's development. Situated on the King's Highway from Williamsburg to New England, and possessing a very fine natural port, Alexandria became one of the most important and thriving towns in the colonies.

The first weights and measures were sent from England in 1744 and were inscribed "County of Fairfax". Alexandria was established as a Port of Entry in October 1779 by an Act of the Commonwealth. In 1782, the town of Alexandria was authorized to impose a tax upon all vessels using the municipal wharf.

From the back country, great caravans lumbered in, laden with wheat and other cereals and returned with merchandise from abroad. In the 1830's and 1840's Alexandria was the scene of much railroad construction and the manufacture of locomotives and engines. It has become a major rail center with one of the largest classification yards in the world. In the middle of the 19th Century the Alexandria Government purchased many shares of railroad and canal stock to boost its commercial and trading position, though these ventures failed because of the war and competition from other communities. Alexandria still serves as a regional shopping center. In recent years research firms, attracted by location, transportation and cultural advantages, have located here.

References

1. "Minute Book" . . . Board of Trustees, 1749-67
2. "Jottings from the Annals of Alexandria" . . . James R. Caton
3. "Historic Homes and Landmarks" . . . Mary Lindsey
4. "Memorial to Washington" . . . Charles H. Callahan
5. "Virginia State Ports Authority Report of 1957"
6. "A Look at Our City" . . . City Planning Department
7. "City of Alexandria 1956-57" . . . Pamphlet

LANDMARKS OF THE PAST

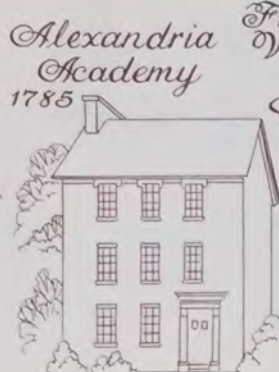
ALEXANDRIA *Mecca for tourists*

HISTORIC SHRINES



Christ Church
1774

CAMERON AND COLUMBUS STREETS



Alexandria Academy
1785

405 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST.



Friendship Volunteer Fire Company
ORGANIZED 1774

107 SOUTH ALFRED ST.



Leadbeater's Apothecary Shop
Established 1790
1 SOUTH FAIRFAX ST.

Famous Homes near Alexandria

- Mount Vernon* 1740
- Woodlawn Mansion* 1805
- Gunston Hall* 1758
- Arlington Mansion* 1804
- Wellington* prior to 1760
- Old Pohick Church*
- Rippon Lodge* 1725
- Washington's Grist Mill*



The Alexandria Lyceum 1837
201 SO. WASHINGTON STREET



Gadsby's Tavern
1752
128 NORTH ROYAL ST.



The Carlyle House 1752
121 NORTH FAIRFAX ST.



Old Presbyterian Meeting House 1774
321 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET



The Ramsay House
1748
KING AND FAIRFAX STREETS



The Robert E. Lee House
1799
607 ORONOCO STREET

ALEXANDRIA

OLD PORT CITY

Past Glories Revived



EXCERPT FROM MINUTE BOOK JUNE 18TH 1755
 "Ordered that John Carlyle, gent. do erect and build at Point Stumley in this town a warehouse of the following dimensions ... and that he lay his accounts of expenses for the building thereof before the Trustees of the Town when the same is completed, that the same may be examined by them and that he receive the money now due to the Trustees to enable him to carry on the work and that the residue of the money by him to be advanced be repaid him out of the rents arising from the said warehouse together with interest thereon!"



Picture of Waterfront

YEAR	NUMBER OF FOREIGN SHIPS	ALEXANDRIA CUSTOMS RECEIPTS (All Sources)
1951	39	\$ 2,472
1955	57	\$144,477
1956	55	\$459,195
1957	47	\$750,923
1958	51	\$790,738
1959	49	\$1,055,148

FROM COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Council of the City of Alexandria is interested in assisting in promoting an orderly development of the Port of Alexandria.

Whereas, the Virginia State' Ports Authority is authorized to conduct such studies. . . .

Resolved (that the Authority) conduct such studies and develop such information as might be required to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

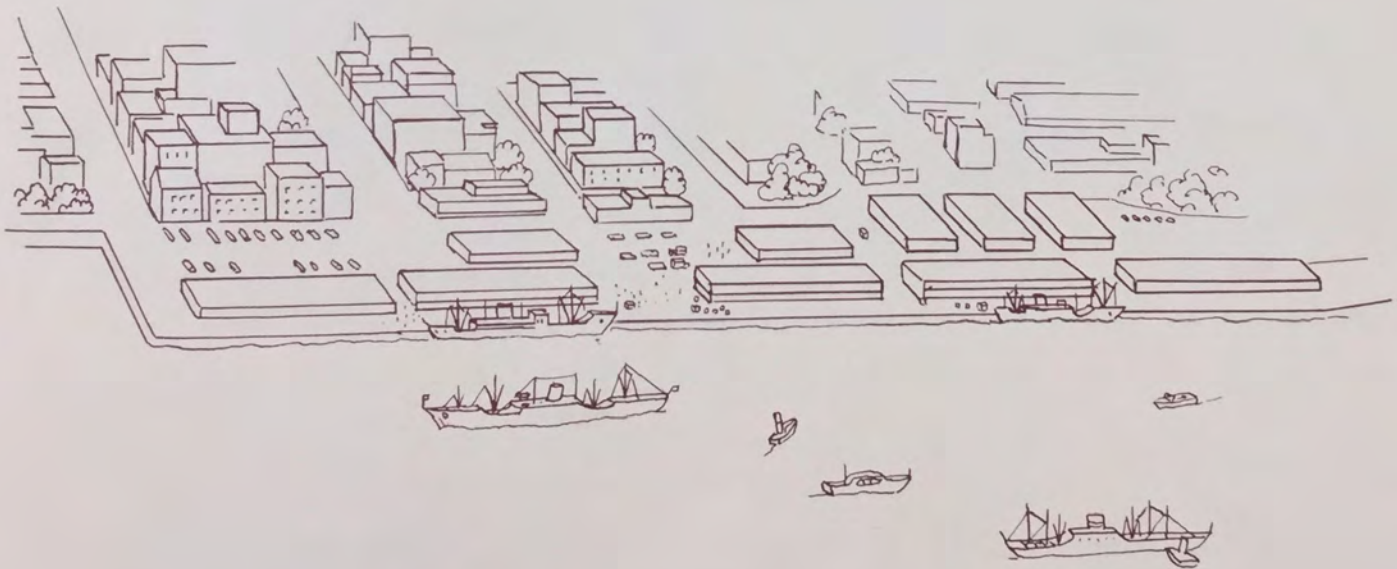
VIRGINIA STATE PORTS AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The channel of the Potomac River should be deepened to 36 feet and widened to 300 feet . . . from Washington to the mouth of the river.
2. A turning basin 36 feet deep, of sufficient area to enable large ocean going vessels to turn around . . . should be provided at Alexandria.
3. Adequate wharves, docks, piers, and terminal facilities to take care of foreign and inter-coastal freight commerce should be provided at Alexandria.
4. Sustained efforts should be made . . . to build up Alexandria as a world port.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers is developing data and statistics on scope of project and its cost. It is expected that their report will support the economic feasibility of widening and deepening the Potomac River channel.

City Council has held public meetings attended by citizens, owners of waterfront property, members of Chamber of Commerce and Potomac River Port Association. All support the belief that some type of port development is desirable.

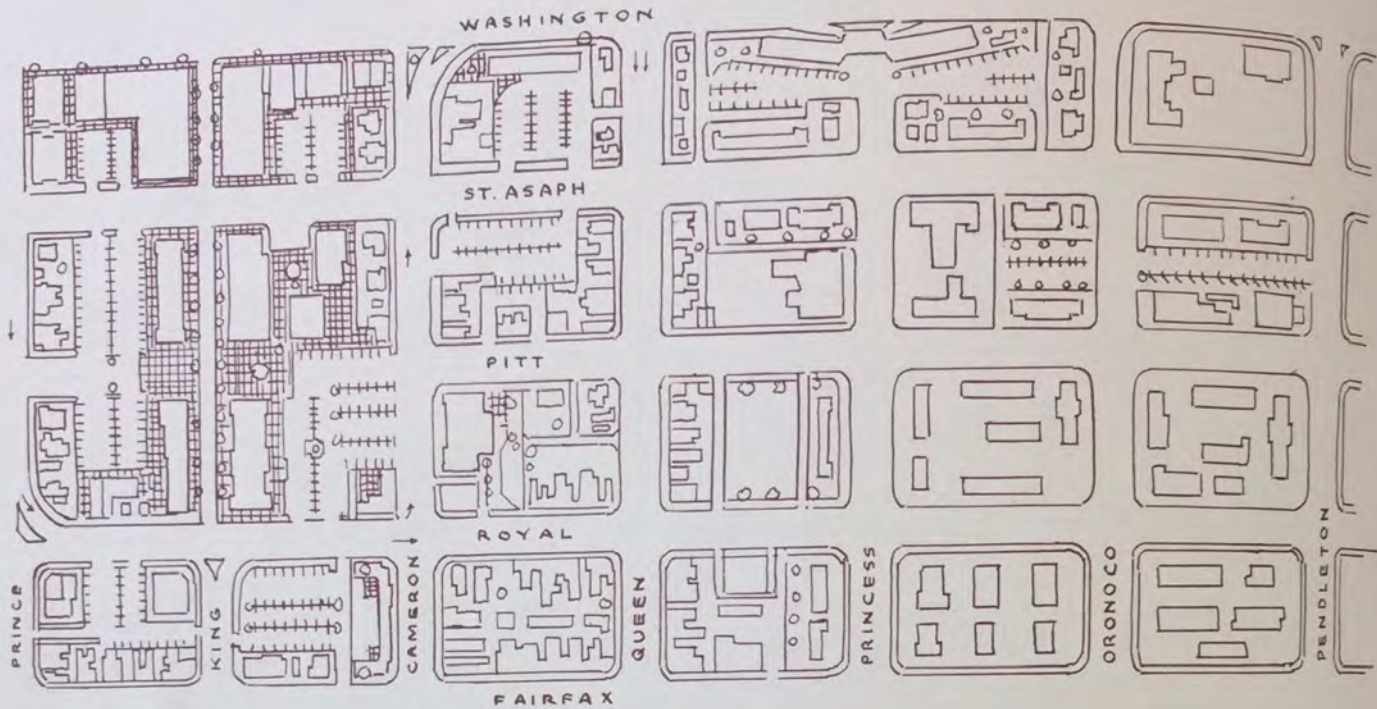
City Council has directed the Administrative Branch to develop studies and information on this project. Staff plans and data will be submitted for Council consideration in the Spring of 1960. The City must demonstrate its interest by setting forth the obligations it will assume so that the Congress of the United States will give favorable consideration to the Potomac River project.



One suggested treatment

URBAN RENEWAL

MAKING THE OLD ALIVE THE NEW CONFORM



On April 14, 1959, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority to proceed with an application for a \$60,000 planning grant from Housing & Home Finance Agency. These funds will be used to make a definite study of the area to determine project size, buildings to be demolished, conserved or rehabilitated. The character and style of replacements and land use will be prescribed. The project size is limited to the amount of available Federal participation funds.

On December 17, 1959, The Housing and Home Finance Agency advised City officials that the Gadsby Urban Renewal Project had been approved. The estimated City contribution required is \$470,000.

The Old Port Section has been the scene of private redevelopment. Since 1950 more than \$15,000,000 has been spent in renovating old and historic homes and buildings.

City Council has encouraged greater renewal efforts through private capital by:

- Participation in conferences with local organizations.*
- Adoption of Minimum Housing Hygiene Code.*
- Provision of personnel for more effective enforcement of all Codes.*
- Revision and upgrading Electrical Code.*
- Consolidation of Electrical & Plumbing Departments.*
- Publication of Citizens Committee Report.*

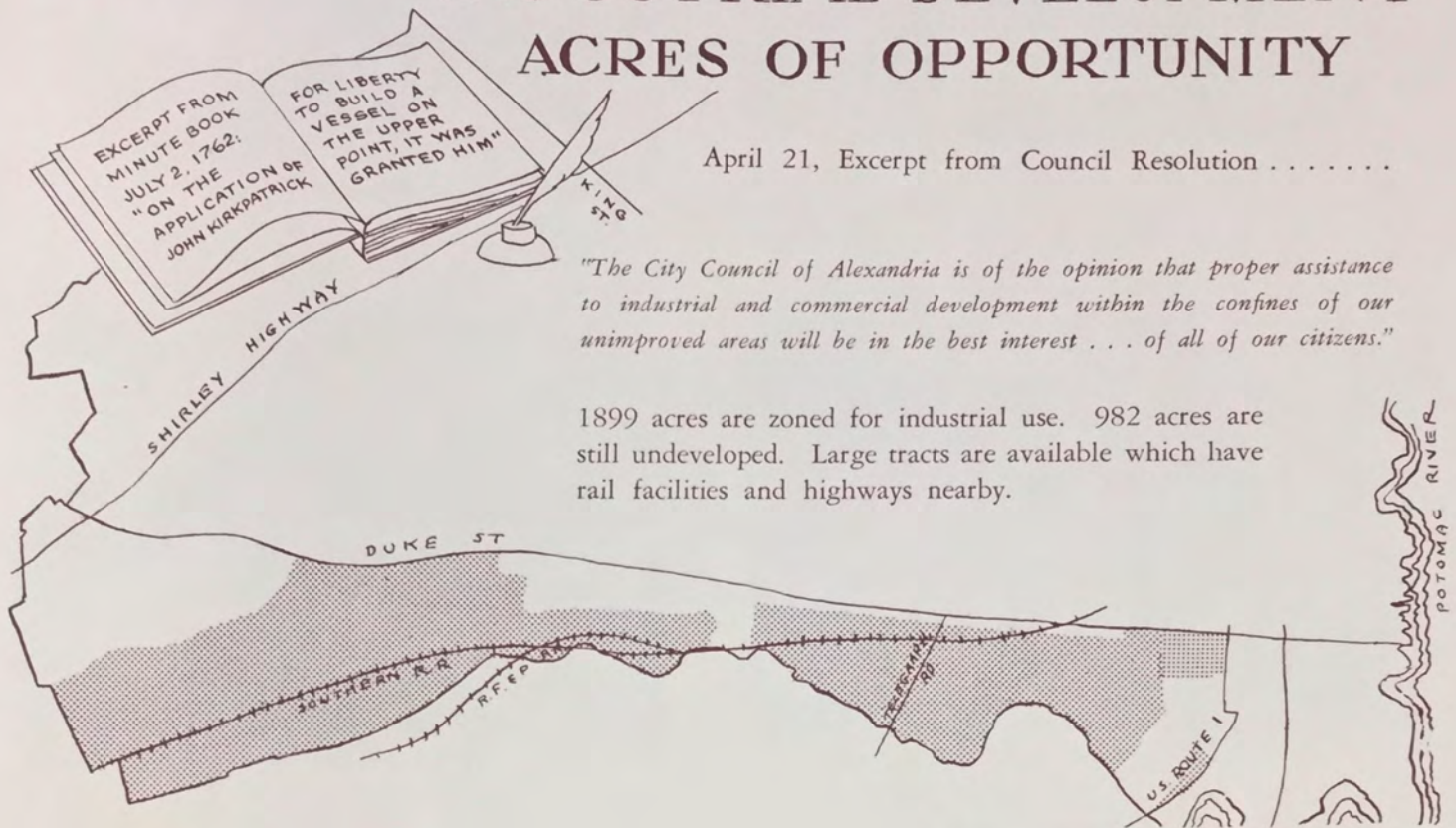


ZONED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACRES OF OPPORTUNITY

April 21, Excerpt from Council Resolution

"The City Council of Alexandria is of the opinion that proper assistance to industrial and commercial development within the confines of our unimproved areas will be in the best interest . . . of all of our citizens."

1899 acres are zoned for industrial use. 982 acres are still undeveloped. Large tracts are available which have rail facilities and highways nearby.



Scene U.S. Highway #1 from Washington & Old Dominion Railroad



Remington Rand



Industrial Site

Alexandria's location, transportation facilities and labor market afford excellent conditions for industrial development, particularly for scientific research and technical organizations.

ALEXANDRIA REGIONAL SHOPPING CENTER

EXCERPT FROM MINUTE BOOK MAY 30TH 1751 ..
 "It is thought necessary by the trustees present that there be a meeting held in said town on the second Saturday of every month in order to propose and put in execution such schemes as may be proposed for the benefit and advancement of the said town."

Central Business District



100 Block S. Washington St. looking north



600 Block King St. looking west

3,396 Business and Occupation Licenses were issued in 1958.

\$719,396.22 realized from total license taxes paid.

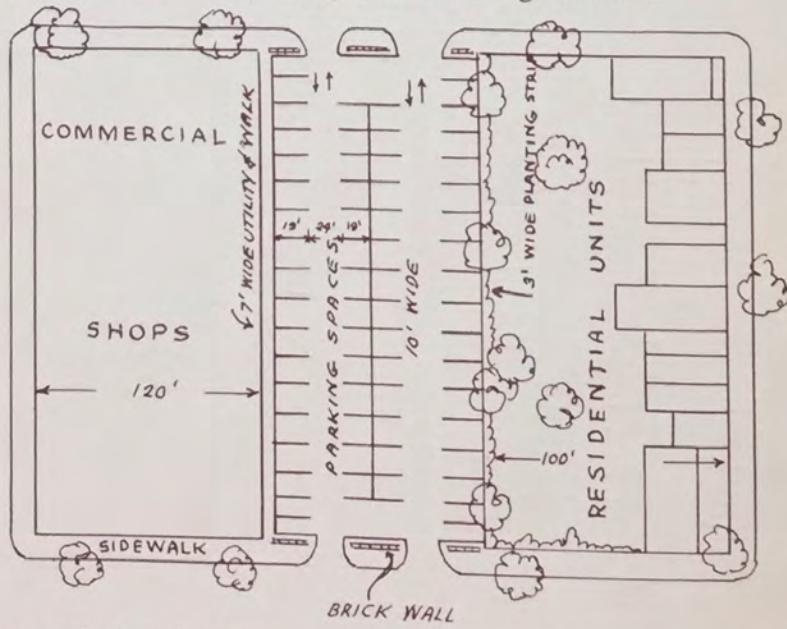
Retail sales for 1958 were \$130,000,000.00.

A shopping survey at five locations revealed 50.43% of shoppers came from outside the City.

The Administrative Branch has proposed a plan relating to the Central Business District for purposes of strengthening business in this section.

The plan proposes:

1. A one-way traffic perimeter around the Central Business District.
2. Washington Street as a monumental approach through the center of the district.
3. 5,000 convenient parking and servicing facilities.



Suggested plan of typical commercial block in the business district.

NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING CENTERS



Arlandria



Bradlee

PARKING LOTS



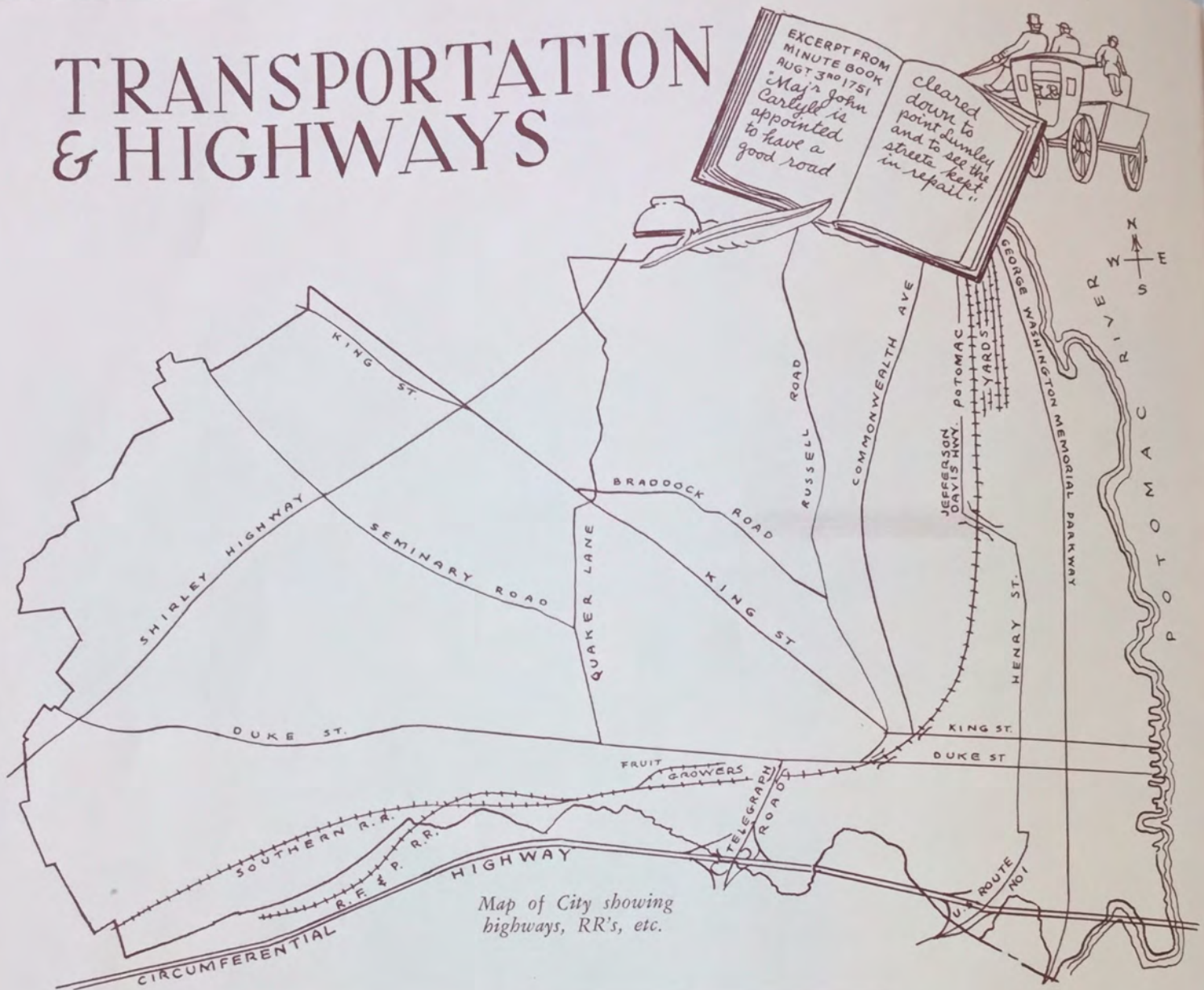
St. Asaph Street



Alfred St. under construction

These lots were leased by public bid to Park & Shop, Inc., to operate. The City has spent \$201,000 in the last two years for acquisition and development of off-street parking areas in the downtown business district.

TRANSPORTATION & HIGHWAYS



Map of City showing highways, RR's, etc.



Shirley Highway

Parallels U. S. Highway #1. Both major arteries serve Alexandria, providing expeditious movement of cars and trucks.

National Airport, ranking third in the United States for number of flights and passengers, is situated immediately north, only three miles from the heart of the City.



Potomac Yards

Five railroads serve Alexandria using the terminal facilities of Potomac Yards, one of the largest classification yards in the world.

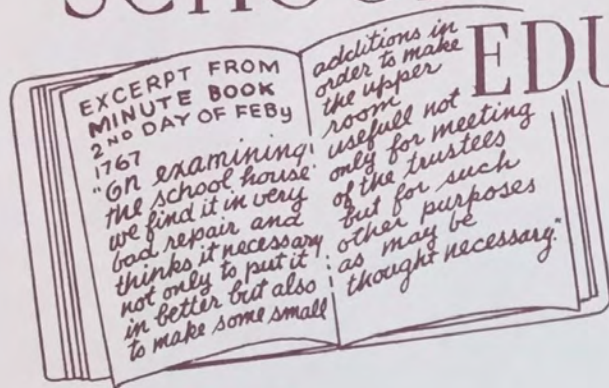


Woodrow Wilson Bridge

CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMPLETED LATE 1961

The Circumferential Highway, which will ring Washington, D.C., will connect Maryland with Virginia over Woodrow Wilson Bridge. This expressway will also connect with U.S. Highway #1 and Shirley Highway which will make Alexandria an excellent location for truck terminal facilities.

SCHOOLS



EDUCATION



Alexandria's Public School System offers many excellent advantages.

There are no half-day sessions, though some pupils are transported from one school area to another school for classroom activity. Present plans for construction should reduce this need.

There are more than 1000 employees in the school system. 672 are on the professional staff while 350 employees are used to provide the cafeteria, maintenance and custodial services.

There are 13,877 pupils attending the Public Schools. The pupil-teacher ratio is one teacher to 28 pupils. There are 544 classrooms in

3 High Schools

1 School for the 8th grade of George Washington High School

16 Elementary Schools

1 Administration Building

1 Warehouse Maintenance Building

(under construction)

98% of the teaching staff have at least a B.S. degree. The other 2% are teachers who have been a part of the system for many years. They have two years Normal School education.

Introduced this year was a new procedure, "The Readiness Class." This is a program for the 6 year old child whose mental age is less than 4.6 years. The child is required to go into the Readiness Class to prepare for the standards of 1st grade participation.

One high school is used for the Night School program for Adult Education. Credit Courses are given for the high school diploma. Hobby courses are offered also.

72.5% of the 1959 graduates from one High School are in college now.

\$7,532,123 has been spent for school capital improvements since 1953.

Some of the buildings constructed in recent years are shown on the opposite page.



Patrick Henry



Minnie Howard



Francis Hammond



Lyles Crouch



William Ramsay



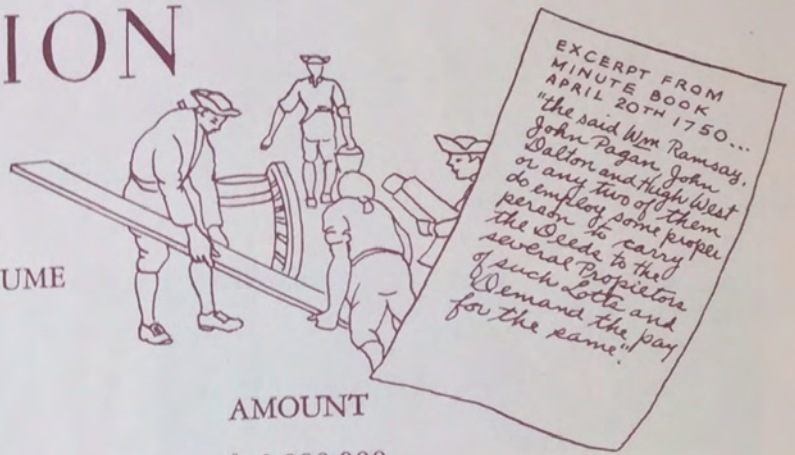
Cora Kelly



Robert E. Lee

CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DOLLAR VOLUME (Rounded off to nearest \$100,000)



YEAR	AMOUNT
1938	\$ 3,000,000
1942	\$11,900,000
1946	\$ 4,200,000
1950	\$ 6,800,000
1954	\$14,200,000
1958	\$10,400,000

The total dollar volume of building construction since 1937 is \$200,745,089.

WAREHOUSING UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Pickett Street



Cameron Street

The value of permits issued in the first half of 1959 is \$5,872,590. Since July 1959, permit values have been more than 100% over totals of the same period in 1958. The dollar volume of plans on file and drawings to be filed is \$7,552,000.

ASSESSED VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

Assessments against real and personal property including public service corporations.

1955	\$173,640,025
1956	\$183,160,118
1957	\$191,477,886
1958	\$215,155,213
1959	\$223,057,254

Living ALEXANDRIA Style

EXCERPT FROM
MINUTE BOOK
JULY 18, 1752...
"ordered that
on Col. George
Fairfax's
motion that
all dwelling
houses from
this day not
begin or to be
built here after
shall be built
on the front
and be in a
line with the
street as chief
of the houses
now are and
that no gable
or end of such
house be on or
next to the street
except on angle
or where two
streets cross
otherwise to be
pulled down"



CAPTAINS ROW

The colonial atmosphere has been maintained through adoption and enforcement of a "Charleston Ordinance". Extensive renovation of old buildings by private citizens has restored high value properties and preserved historic dwellings.

NEW RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Many apartment projects are located in the City offering excellent and varied rental accommodations.



Hunting Towers



Clover



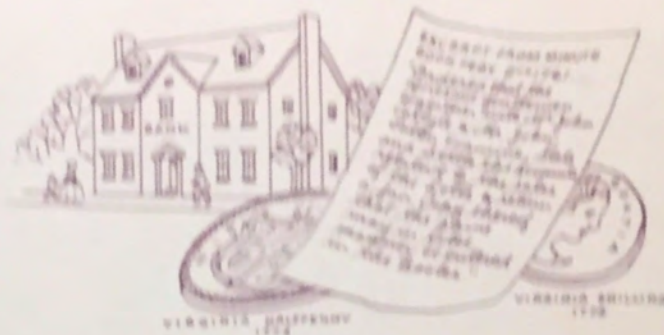
Lincolnia



Monticello

Through a subdivision control ordinance, the developer is responsible for constructing curb, gutter, sidewalk, sanitary and storm sewers, and street paving. This work is done under strict supervision and inspection by Public Works Department personnel.

FINANCIAL STABILITY



Keeping up with Needs

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council has authorized from bond funds since 1953, the following sums according to categories:

Schools	\$7,532,123.22	No. Va. Regional Juvenile Detention Home	\$ 34,748.00
Streets & Bridges	\$2,070,595.42	City Yard & Shop	\$167,399.97
Sanitary & Storm Water Sewer	\$1,853,060.02	Traffic Control Building	\$ 56,000.00
Fire Department	\$ 281,914.82	Ramsay House	\$ 23,524.67
Parking Lots	\$ 201,253.63	Incinerator Plant	\$878,638.13
Recreation & Parks	\$ 207,003.35	New Library & Equipment	\$155,000.00
Police Station & Equipment	\$ 330,496.74	City Jail	\$448,769.93
		Thru 1959 Grand Total . . .	\$14,190,328.10

Some of the facilities constructed in recent years are shown on the following page.

FINANCE

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, following a rating review by Moody's Investors Service in 1957, was awarded an "A" Credit Rating. This improved rating aids the City when general obligation bonds are issued and sold. The City's past years of expenditures, revenues, and collections, and the ratio of bonded debt to assessed valuation of real estate are listed to demonstrate the favorable fiscal position.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

FISCAL YEAR	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
1954-1955	\$8,573,086.19	\$8,231,681.99
1955-1956	\$9,052,881.58	\$8,241,669.02
1956-1957	\$9,613,014.24	\$9,506,218.40
*1957-1958	*\$10,887,037.17	*\$11,303,005.25
1958-1959	\$11,650,515.63	\$11,304,133.34
1959-1960 (Estimated)	\$12,949,495.00	\$12,949,495.00

* The difference between revenues and expenditures was made up from available surplus.

TAXES ASSESSED AND COLLECTED

FISCAL PERIOD	TOTAL TAX LEVY	TOTAL COLLECTION OF CURRENT & BACK TAXES	% OF CURRENT & BACK TAXES COLLECTED TO LEVY
1954-55	\$4,946,487.45	\$4,809,518.07	97.23
1955-56	5,205,442.28	5,070,461.89	97.41
1956-57	5,453,782.00	5,346,348.19	98.03
1957-58	6,569,076.21	6,136,596.37	96.35
1958-59	6,888,062.79	6,696,332.62	97.22

RATIO OF BONDED DEBT TO ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE

Fiscal Period	Assessed Valuation of Real Estate	Maximum Debt Limit	Bonded Debt	Ratio of Net Bonded Debt to Assessed Valuation
1954-55	\$132,941,707.00	\$23,929,507.00	\$14,225,721.00	10.72
1955-56	\$137,121,930.00	\$24,681,287.00	\$15,099,489.00	11.07
1956-57	\$142,302,548.00	\$25,614,459.00	\$16,906,692.00	11.88
1957-58	\$156,461,724.00	\$28,159,970.00	\$19,111,608.00	12.31
1958-59	\$163,317,747.00	\$29,397,194.00	\$18,243,938.00	11.17



Police Headquarters



Incinerator



#6 Fire House



Street Construction Valley Drive



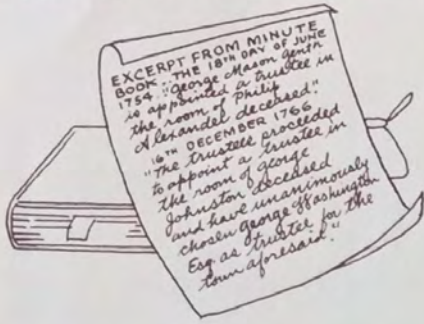
Bridge at Glebe Road



City Shop

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL - MANAGER PLAN



The chart presented shows the branches of the Municipal Government, Judiciary, Elective, and Administrative. This parallels the traditional separation of governmental authority and jurisdiction in the U. S. Due to space limitations no attempt has been made to set forth specific appointive powers and duties, or the relationship which exists between the divisions.

The local government concept of the Council-Manager was developed and used first in Staunton, Va., in 1908. The City of Alexandria instituted this form of government in Sept. 1922. The basic principles of the plan are unification of authority and political responsibility in the elected Council and the centralization of administrative responsibility in a Manager appointed by the Council.



JUDICIARY

Appointed by the General Assembly

Judges of the
Circuit Court
Corporation Court

Appointed by the Corp. Court

Judges

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court
Municipal Court
Electoral Board which appoints
General Registrar
Justices of the Peace

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Elected by the Voters of Alexandria, Va.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

City Sergeant
City Treasurer
Commissioner of Revenue
Commonwealth Attorney
Clerk of Courts

CITY COUNCIL

7 Members at large.
Mayor is elected by separate ballot.
Vice-Mayor is selected by majority vote of the Councilmen.

LOCAL OFFICERS

City Attorney
City Collector

REPRESENTATIVES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator
Delegate

APPOINTED BY CITY COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER
CITY CLERK

MEMBERS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Appointed by City Manager
Municipal Personnel

in

Civil Defense	Finance	General Administration	Personnel	Planning
Real Estate Assessor	Public Works	Fire	Traffic	Health
Electrical & Plumbing		Recreation	Building	Welfare

PUBLIC WORKS



EXCERPT FROM MINUTE BOOK THE 21ST DAY OF FEBY 1753.... "Ordered be the whole Town good white oak posts be provided for the corners of each lot and Mr John Dalton and Mr Josias Clapham are hereby appointed to agree with some person to provide the said posts and to fix the same in the ground"



Overhead Crane at the Incinerator



Stoking Furnace at the Incinerator



Weed Cutting



Leaf Collector



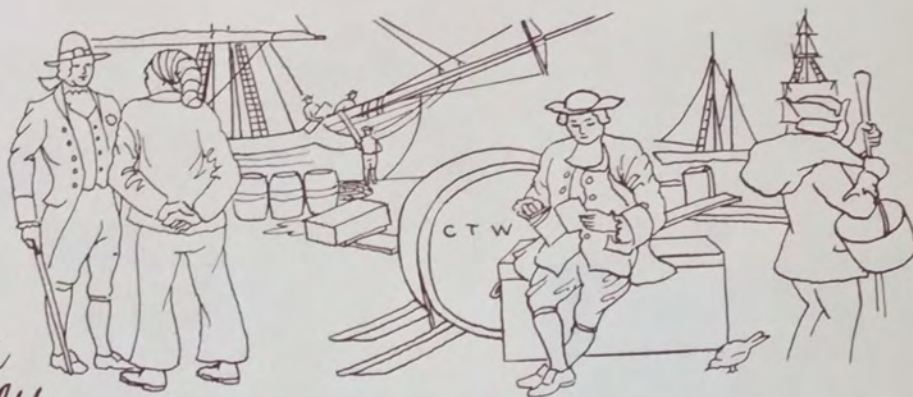
Street Sweeper



Sewer Maintenance Equipment

PUBLIC SAFETY

Services and Facilities for the Preservation of Safety, Health, Peace, Good Order and Welfare of the City and its Inhabitants



THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH CONDUCTS MORE THAN 325 ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE DIRECT SERVICE BENEFITS TO LOCAL CITIZENS. A FEW OF THESE OPERATIONS ARE SHOWN IN PICTURES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.



Motormen in Traffic Division



School Patrol Guard



Police Cadets



Police Department

EXCERPT FROM
MINUTE BOOK SEPT. 30th
1755. "That Brick or
Stone Chimneys be
built to such houses
as Smiths Shop as
at present made by
Wooden Pipes by
the first day of
December next
or Notice be given
to the Sheriff to
pull them down."
LZ



PUBLIC SAFETY



Fire Alarm Headquarters



Fire Department and Fire Alarm Headquarters



Rescue Squad in Action



Inspection of Automatic Sprinkler System



Rescue Squad Wagon and Auxiliary Equipment

PUBLIC WELFARE



Aid to Dependent Children



Care to Aged



Recreation Center 1005 Pendleton Street



Recreation Center 1605 Cameron Street

PLANNING



EXCERPT FROM MINUTE BOOK JULY 18TH 1752..
"Ordered that on Col. George Fairfax's motion that all dwelling Houses from this day not begun or to be built here after shall be built on the front and be in a line with the street as chief of the Houses now are, and that no Gable or end of such House be on or next to the street except on Angle or where two Streets Cross, otherwise to be pulled down."



Building Inspection



Electrical Inspection



Oil Burner Installation Inspection



Plumbing Installation Inspection



Boiler Inspection

STAFF & MANAGEMENT



Public Health Center



Dental Clinic

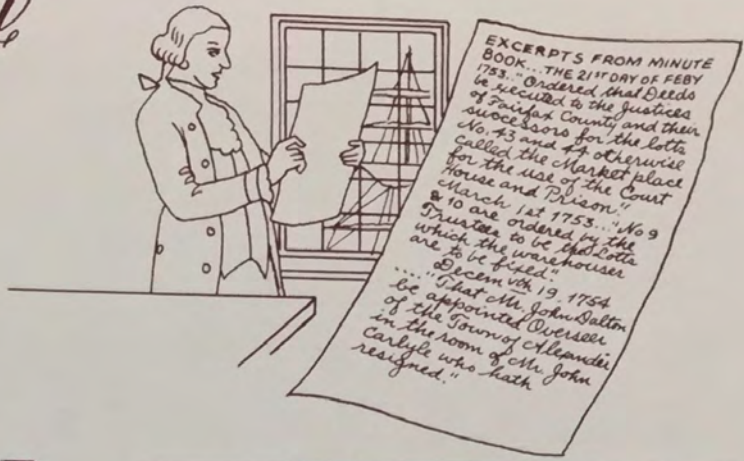


Immunization Clinic



Nursing and Sanitarian Inspection — School Cafeteria

MEASURE of PROGRESS



Traffic Department Headquarters



Making Traffic Signs



Alexandria Days Mall Pattern



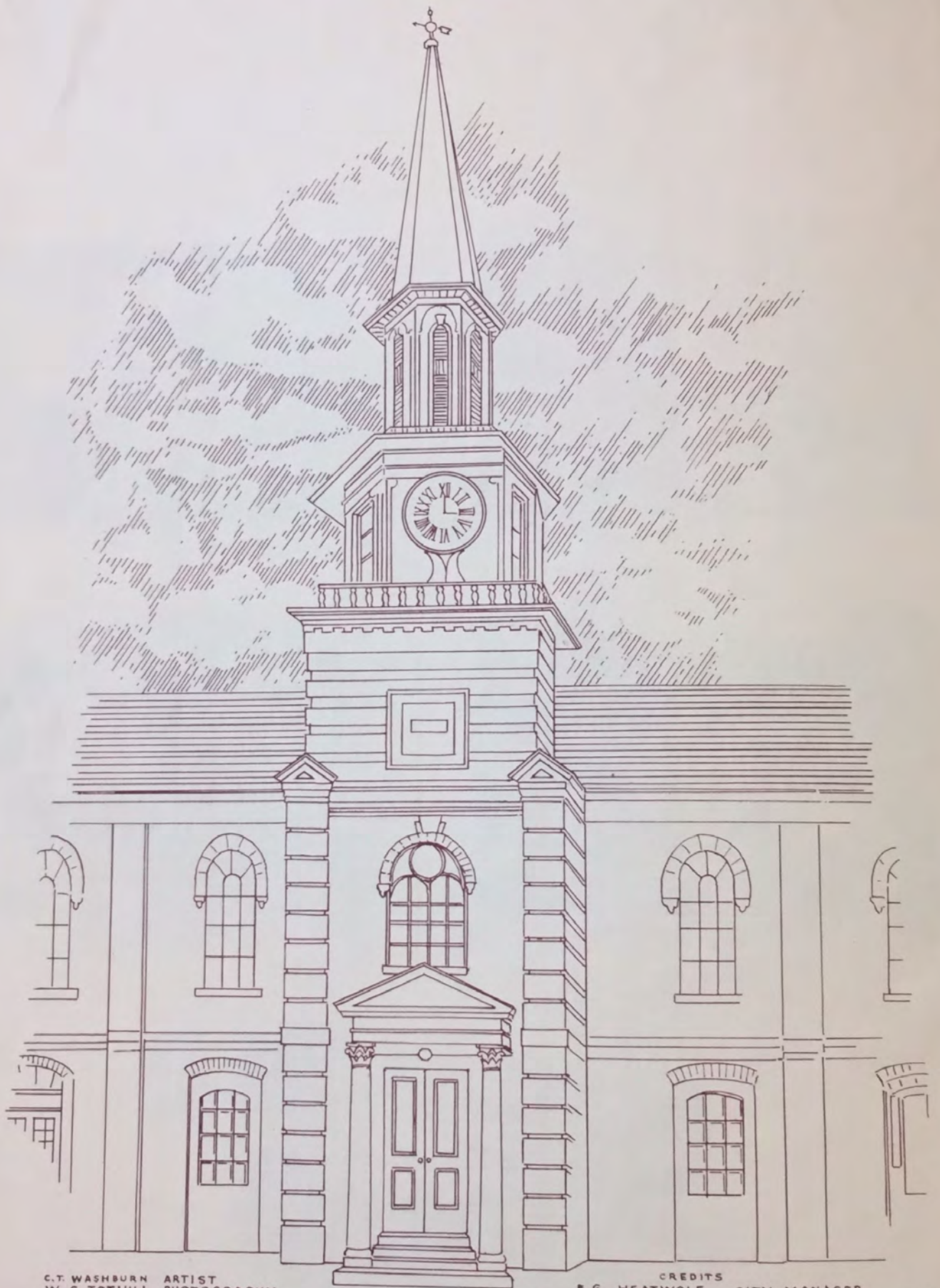
Refuse Collection



Catch Basin Cleaner



1000042823



C.T. WASHBURN ARTIST
W. G. TOTHILL PHOTOGRAPHY
DONALD MOONEY PHOTOGRAPHY

CREDITS
E. G. HEATWOLE CITY MANAGER
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