

Walking with Washington

*A self-guided walking tour of Alexandria sites
associated with George Washington*

by
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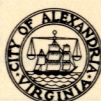


This mourning pitcher commemorating George Washington's death is from a well excavated behind 416 - 418 King Street. The print reproduced on the creamware vessel was published in 1800, shortly after George Washington's death.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON enjoyed a long and close relationship with Alexandria, from the town's founding in 1749 until his death in 1799. This self-guided walking tour explores a few of the many Alexandria sites associated with George Washington.

1. Lawrence Washington Property
South Side of King Street between Fairfax and Lee Streets

At the original auction of town lots on July 13-14, 1749, Lawrence Washington, George Washington's older half-brother and a founding trustee of Alexandria, purchased the two quarter block lots (Lots 51 and 52) on the south side of King Street between Fairfax Street and Lee (then named Water) Street.

2. Ramsay House (Alexandria Visitors Center)
221 King Street

Mrs. Ramsay was a cousin of George Washington; and her husband William Ramsay, one of the founders of Alexandria, knew Washington well enough to borrow 150 pounds from him in 1757.

3. Market Square
North Side of King Street between Fairfax and Royal Streets

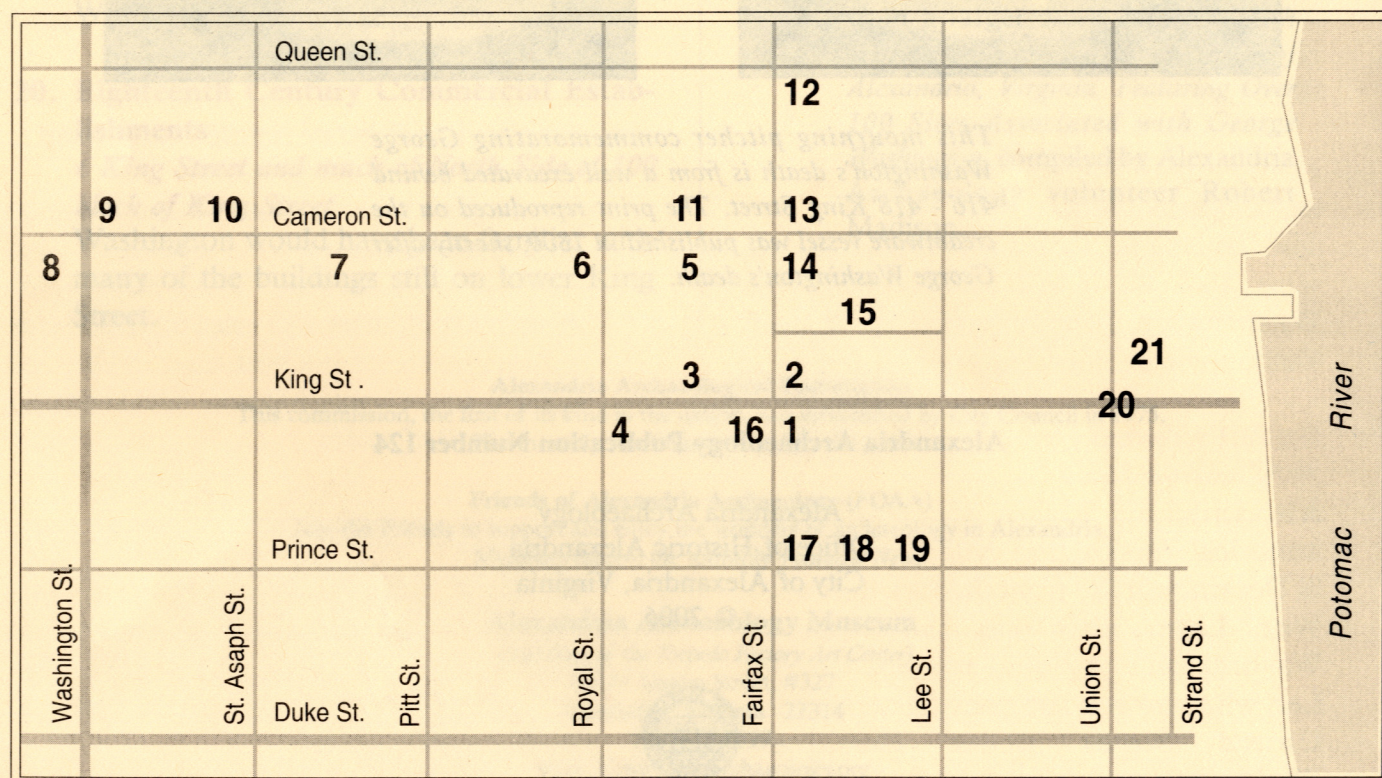
Washington drilled troops here for both the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars. At Arell's Tavern, once located on this site, Washington chaired a committee in 1774 that adopted the Fairfax Resolves.

4. Joseph Ingle Cabinet Shop
112 South Royal Street

Joseph Ingle made the coffin for Washington's 1799 funeral. It was mahogany and cost \$99.25.

5. Fairfax County Courthouse Site
South Side of Cameron Street between Fairfax and Royal Streets

Washington resolved an impasse at the Maryland-Virginia conference held on this site in 1785. This led to the Mount Vernon Conference and then the Annapolis convention of 1786, which resulted in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Washington was president of the Constitutional Convention. The current City Hall was constructed in 1873.



6. Gadsby's Tavern

134 North Royal Street

Washington dined here often. While President in 1793, he made an important foreign policy pronouncement defining neutrality for the new nation at a July Fourth banquet here.

7. George Washington's Town House

508 Cameron Street

This 1960 reconstruction is on the site of Washington's town house, which was built ca. 1769 and demolished in 1855.

8. Christ Church

118 North Washington Street

Washington worshiped here, and you can still see his pew (Number 5), which he purchased for thirty-six pounds, ten shillings.

9. Light Horse Harry Lee Home

611 Cameron Street

While Congressman from Northern Virginia in 1799 (Washington voted for him), Light Horse Harry Lee wrote the most famous eulogy in American history when he called Washington "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Lee resided here from 1810 to 1811.

10. Lord Fairfax House

607 Cameron Street

This house was built by William Yeaton, who also designed and erected the Washington family tomb at Mount Vernon where Washington rests today.

11. DuVall's Tavern

305 Cameron Street

Alexandrians had a reception here honoring Washington when he returned in December 1783 from the Revolutionary War. Later, this was the home of Washington's personal lawyer, Charles Lee, who also was Attorney General of the United States under Presidents Washington and John Adams.

12. John Dalton House

207 North Fairfax Street

This is the oldest house in Alexandria (c. 1751) still on its original lot, and Washington slept here. John Dalton was a partner of John Carlyle, and they acted as Washington's agents in selling his tobacco and wheat.

13. Wise's Tavern

201 North Fairfax Street

Washington dined here frequently, and Alexandrians had a reception for him here when he left in 1789 to become first President of the United States.

14. Carlyle House

121 North Fairfax Street

This was General Braddock's headquarters for the French and Indian War in 1755, and Washington was an aide to Braddock.

15. Charles Simms Warehouse

207 Ramsay Alley

This flounder building once belonged to Charles Simms, one of the pallbearers at Washington's funeral. While mayor of Alexandria during the War of 1812, Simms surrendered the city to the British in 1814.

16. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop

105 - 107 South Fairfax Street

Washington's doctors and Mount Vernon's managers purchased their medicines here. An 1802 note stating, "Mrs. Washington desires Mr. Stabler will send by the bearer, a quart bottle of his best Castor Oil, and the bill for it" was Martha Washington's last recorded order.

17. Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick

209 and 211 Prince Street

Dr. Dick was one of the three doctors present at Washington's death and, as Master of the Alexandria Masonic Lodge, he conducted full Masonic rites at Washington's funeral.

18. Dr. James Craik Home

209 Prince Street

Perhaps Washington's oldest and closest friend, Dr. Craik accompanied Washington on his mission to the French in 1754, served with Washington under Braddock in the French and Indian War in 1755, went with Washington in 1770 to survey lands along the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, served as chief physician and surgeon of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War, was with Washington in every battle from Great Meadows to Yorktown, and was one of the three physicians attending Washington at his death.

19. Home of William Fairfax, George William Fairfax, and Sally Fairfax

207 Prince Street

This was the property of Colonel William Fairfax of Belvoir Plantation, who was a mentor of young George Washington. Fairfax's son, George William Fairfax, one of Washington's closest friends, went on a surveying expedition to the Blue Ridge Mountains with 16-year-old Washington. Some think that George William Fairfax's wife, Sally Fairfax, was the great love of Washington's youth.

20. Eighteenth Century Commercial Establishments

6 King Street and much of North Side of 100 block of King Street

Washington would have been familiar with many of the buildings still on lower King Street.

21. Alexandria Archaeology Museum

**Third Floor (Room 327) of Torpedo Factory
105 North Union Street**

Artifacts from Washington's time are on display here.



Large slipware charger, or platter, 1792-1796. Made in the Philadelphia style at the Piercy Pottery, and excavated from Piercy's retail shop on the 400 block of King Street. Henry Piercy, a disabled Revolutionary War veteran, who served at Valley Forge with Washington, made this charger by rolling the clay and decorating it with white pipe clay poured from a multi-spouted slip cup. He then molded the clay over a dome-shaped form and applied a lead glaze, which made the white slip decoration appear yellow.

This short walking tour is extracted from a larger work, *Walking with Washington: Walking Tours of Alexandria, Virginia, Featuring Over 100 Sites Associated with George Washington*, compiled by Alexandria Archaeology volunteer Robert Madison.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission

This commission, the first of its kind in the nation, was established by City Council in 1975.

The monthly meetings are open to the public.

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Alexandria Archaeology Museum

(third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center)

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