

JOSEPH MCCOY LYNCHED IN ALEXANDRIA, APRIL 23, 1897

Soil was collected from Joseph McCoy's boyhood home on S. Alfred Street, the place of his arrest at 4 Muire's Alley, from outside the Police Station House on the East side of City Hall where he was taken by a lynch mob, and from his home church. This soil was combined with samples from sites of significance to local African American history and placed in a vessel engraved with McCoy's name. Students at Jefferson-Houston IB K-8 School led by their technical education instructor Nicole Reidinger designed and built the vessel.

1. SHUTER'S HILL



As early as 3000 BCE, Native Americans camped on this site during hunting and fishing expeditions. A wealthy white merchant and slave owner named John Mills was the first person to establish a plantation house on the property in the early 1780s. Enslaved men and women lived and worked on the property for Mills,

and for later owners of the land in the 19th century. Archeologists have identified the foundations of six buildings on the property, many of which were occupied by the enslaved workforce, making this one of the few places in Alexandria where so many artifacts related directly to households of enslaved Americans have been discovered. One of the buildings uncovered at Shuter's Hill served as a laundry, a place where enslaved washer women cleaned, mended, and sewed clothing. The finding is an additional link to McCoy's story, since his grandmother who raised him spent her life working as a laundress in Alexandria.

2. 400 BLOCK OF SOUTH ALFRED STREET

Joseph McCoy was raised in The Bottoms neighborhood of Alexandria by his grandmother Cecelia McCoy. The 1880 Census showed that Cecelia and one-year old Joseph, lived at 491 S. Alfred Street. Today, the Heritage at Old Town apartments span the length of the block across from where the McCoy home once stood.

3. NO. 4 MUIRE'S ALLEY

In February 1897, Rachel Chase, who was related to Joseph McCoy, married Samuel Gairy



(sometimes spelled Gary or Geary) and lived at Number 4 Muire's Alley, located just behind 714 Franklin Street. It is likely that McCoy was at Rachel and Samuel's house when he was arrested.

4. THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE "STATION HOUSE"



The Station House was located at 126 N. Fairfax Street on the east side of City Hall. Today, you can still see the words etched above what was an entrance

with double doors. Joseph McCoy spent his last hours alive in a cell in this building. This is where he reportedly confessed to criminal assault against Lacy's daughter and where a white mob twice attacked the building before apprehending McCoy and dragging him to the corner of Cameron and Lee streets where they tortured and hanged him

From the Alexandria Gazette, April 23, 1897.

5. NOW KNOWN AS ROBERTS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The McCoy family belonged to Roberts Memorial Chapel at 606 S. Washington Street. Rev. William Gaines, who was the pastor, performed the funeral service for McCoy.

As a home to one of the oldest African American congregations in Alexandria, this

site is significant to Alexandria's African American heritage.