



# ALEXANDRIA

## Historical Scavenger Hunt

Welcome to the scavenger hunt of Old Town Alexandria! This two-to-three hour, twenty-block walk, meanders through Old Town with stops at some of the city's oldest and most historic addresses. Some stops require entrance to museums, so try to begin your scavenger hunt after 10:00, when they open. None of the clues require entering a museum that charges an admission fee. A numbers of stops are private residences; clues to these sites are found on exterior plaques and please be careful not to disturb the residents.

\* indicates public restrooms available at the site

Before you leave home make sure you have: a map of Old Town (included with the file), a pen or pencil, water, comfortable walking shoes, anything you will need to accommodate the weather (hat, sunscreen, etc), camera, optional \$6 TimeTravelers Passport Guide to Virginia Museums Historic Sites, and enthusiasm.

*Let's get started!*





# 1 ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY\*

## Passport Stop #1

LOCATION: 105 North Union Street, Suite #327

WHAT IS IT? It's the home of the city's Archaeological Museum, laboratory, and offices. Staff and volunteers study, preserve, and interpret the city's 13,000-year-old history.

DID YOU KNOW? It houses a red spiral staircase, which is original to when the building operated as a torpedo factory in World War I.

Question: What is the oldest artifact here and how old is it?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



Need a hint? Ask someone working in the Museum to help you out!

TO THE NEXT STOP: Walk down the main stairwell, back to the first floor of the building.



# 2 TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER\*

LOCATION: 105 North Union Street, first floor

WHAT IS IT? The building was first opened in 1919, at the end of World War I, as the Torpedo Plant. The plant was reactivated in 1937 as the Naval Torpedo Station and officially converted into a gallery space in 1974.

DID YOU KNOW? When it reopened, the Torpedo Plant produced 9,920 torpedoes before the final days of World War II.

Question: What is the large, long, green object you see?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



Need a hint? It's next to Studio #22.

TO THE NEXT STOP: Exit the building through the main entrance (sliding doors), turn left onto Union Street, turn right at King Street, and stay on King until the next stop.



# 3 RAMSAY HOUSE

LOCATION: 221 King Street

WHAT IS IT? It's Alexandria's official visitors center.

DID YOU KNOW? The Ramsay House is named for one of Alexandria's most distinguished founders, William Ramsay, a Scottish merchant and esteemed friend of George Washington. He is reported to have transferred the small clapboard house from an early Northern Virginia settlement to its present site between 1749 and 1751.

Question: In what year was the Ramsay House built?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



Need a hint? Walk up the King Street stairs to the front porch.

TO THE NEXT STOP: After coming down the stairs, turn right and continue until you reach North Fairfax Street. Turn right at the corner.



# 4 CARLYLE HOUSE

## Passport Stop #2

LOCATION: 121 North Fairfax Street

WHAT IS IT? Mr. Carlyle built this house in 1751 and used it as his business headquarters.

DID YOU KNOW? John Carlyle was a wealthy merchant from Scotland. Along with George Washington and other leading men in the area, Mr. Carlyle founded the town of Alexandria.

Question: What letters and date are chiseled into the building's keystone?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



Need a hint? The keystone is above the front door of the house.

TO THE NEXT STOP: Coming back from the house, turn right onto North Fairfax Street and walk to the corner of North Fairfax and Cameron. Turn left onto Cameron, and cross King Street.



## 5 ALEXANDRIA CITY HALL\*

**LOCATION:** 301 King Street

**WHAT IS IT?** Originally built in 1749, at the time of Alexandria's founding, this building houses city offices as well as the City Council Chambers.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The original city hall was home to market stalls, a Masonic lodge, courts, and police and fire stations.

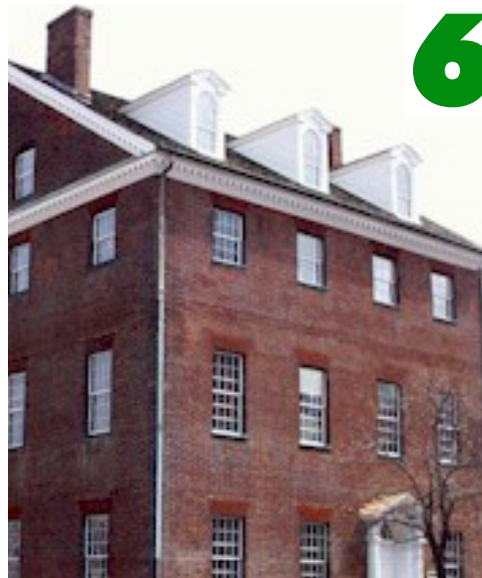
**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue on Cameron Street and cross North Royal. Turn left on North Royal.

**Question:** In what year did General Braddock's troops drill in Market Square?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Walk along the exterior wall on Cameron Street, and look for the old stone marker shaped like a window.



## 6 GADSBY'S TAVERN Passport Stop #3

**LOCATION:** 134 North Royal Street

**WHAT IS IT?** Many leading citizens came here to eat and discuss business and politics.

**DID YOU KNOW?** George Washington often came here, and birthnight balls (big parties celebrating his birthday) were held for him here in 1798 and 1799

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue on Cameron and cross Pitt street. Walk a block and a half to your next stop.

**Question:** What do you see when you look through the lower glass windows?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Walk along Cameron Street and walk down the stairs, or check out the plaque.



## 7 GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TOWNHOUSE PRIVATE!

**LOCATION:** 508 Cameron Street

**WHAT IS IT?** This is the re-creation of Washington's Old Town home. It is the exact site where he lived hundreds of years ago.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Even though his grand Mt. Vernon home was only eight miles away, Washington would stay here if it was too late to travel or the weather made travel too dangerous.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue on Cameron street to the corner meeting North St. Asaph street. Turn right on N. St. Asaph street and cross Queen Street, turn right on Queen.

**Question:** In what year was the townhouse originally built?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Check the plaque!



## 8 THE SPITE HOUSE PRIVATE!

**LOCATION:** 523 Queen Street

**WHAT IS IT?** At seven feet wide, this is the narrowest house in Alexandria and the entire United States.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The house used to be an alley, and was built in 1830 by an owner of one of the adjacent houses. Its purpose was to keep wagons and loiterers out - which is why it's called the "Spite" house.

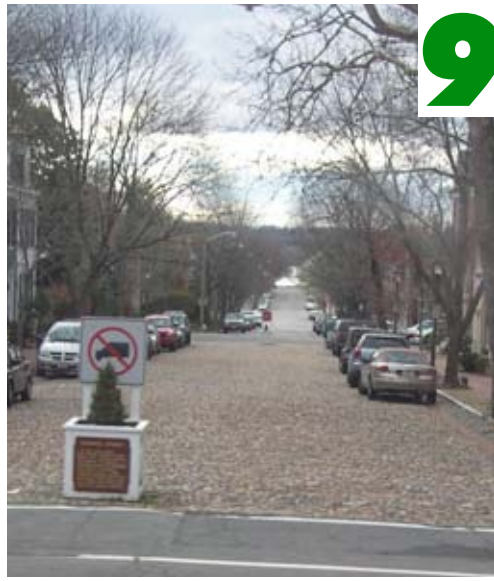
**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Walk back to the corner of North St. Asaph and Queen streets. Cross St. Asaph and turn right. Walk for one block.

**Question:** What color is the house and its trimmings?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* It's not red or white.



## 9 COBBLESTONE STREET

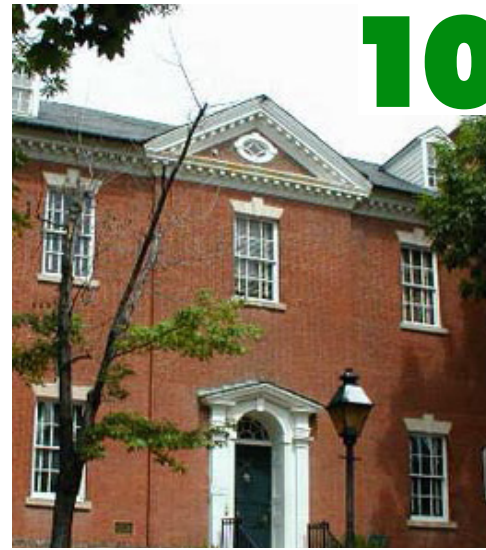
**LOCATION:** Princess Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** A close replica of how streets were in 1790.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** The street's stones remained untouched for nearly two centuries until the 1979 restoration.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Go back to the corner of Princess and St. Asaph. Turn left and continue on St. Asaph. Turn left after you cross Oronoco Street.

**Question:** According to legend, who provided the labor to cobble the street?  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Read the information posted in the planter in the road.



## 10 LEE BOYHOOD HOME PRIVATE!

**LOCATION:** 607 Oronoco Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** Famous Confederate Civil War General Robert E. Lee, although not born here, spent most of his childhood growing up in this grand townhouse.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** Built in 1795 by John Potts, Jr., it passed through the hands of several families until it became the home of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the famed Revolutionary War general, and Ann Hill Carter Lee -- Robert E. Lee's parents.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue on Oronoco to N. Washington Street. Turn left at the corner to cross Oronoco.

**Question:** What did Lee say when he returned to his childhood home after the Civil War?  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Find the marker!



## 11 LEE - FENDALL HOUSE

**LOCATION:** 614 Oronoco Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** The land was owned by Revolutionary War general "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, until he sold the land to his cousin Phillip Fendall in 1784.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** The building was vacated in 1969 upon the death of its final resident. It was opened as a museum in 1974.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Turn left onto N. Washington Street. Walk until you cross Queen Street, turn right on Queen; the house is on the corner.

**Question:** Who was the last owner of the house?  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Find the sign!



## 12 LLOYD HOUSE

**LOCATION:** 220 North Washington Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** The house was built by John Wise, a tavern keeper, but was later bought by John Lloyd and remained in his family until 1918.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** It was saved from demolition in 1956 by Robert V. New. It was bought and restored in 1968 as an example of late Georgian architecture.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Leaving the Lloyd house, turn right onto North Washington Street. Walk for one block until you cross Cameron Street. Enter the church grounds through the large brick gate.

**Question:** When was the Lloyd House built?  
**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* There is a plaque on the front of the house.

# 13 CHRIST CHURCH



**LOCATION:** Corner of Cameron and Washington streets.

**WHAT IS IT?** Built in 1773, it was originally part of the Church of England, and is now a welcoming Episcopal church.

**DID YOU KNOW?** George Washington worshipped here, and you can see the pew he sat in. Robert E. Lee also worshipped here. There are more than seventy tombstones in the Christ Church cemetery.

**Question:** A plaque on the church is dedicated to the men who served as honorary pallbearers for whom?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Find the front door of the church.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Walk straight through the church grounds and exit back onto North Washington Street. Turn right and continue up the street. Turn left on North Alfred.

# 14 FRIENDSHIP FIREHOUSE \*



**LOCATION:** 107 South Alfred Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** The Friendship Firehouse is a museum divided into two public floors.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The first floor is filled with firefighting memorabilia, such as old axes, hoses, and antique fire engines. The second floor showcases the actual firehouse meeting room and other artifacts such as ceremonial objects.

**Question:** In what year was the Friendship Fire Company founded?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Look up!

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Walk to the corner of Prince and Alfred streets and turn left. Continue for two blocks.

# 15 CONFEDERATE SOLDIER STATUE



**LOCATION:** Intersection of South Washington and Prince. *(NOTE: Please do not attempt to cross the intersection to the statue)*

**WHAT IS IT?** The statue marks the location where units from Alexandria left to join the Confederate Army. The soldier faces south toward battlefields.

**DID YOU KNOW?** At the base of the statue are the names of the Alexandrians who died in service of the Confederacy.

**Question:** When did units from Alexandria leave the city to join the Confederate army?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Check the plaque on the corner of South Washington and Prince streets.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** The Lyceum is on the same corner as the Confederate Soldier Statue's plaque.

# 16 THE LYCEUM \*



**LOCATION:** 201 South Washington Street

**WHAT IS IT?** The Lyceum is the history museum of Alexandria. It includes a lecture hall and two rooms dedicated to the city's history. It is home to many interesting facts about Alexandria.

**DID YOU KNOW?** This city was named Alexandria after the Alexander family, who were Virginia planters and early landholders.

**Question:** What other name for Alexandria appeared on early maps?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Need a hint?* Enter the museum and go into the room on your right.

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Exit the Lyceum and walk back to the intersection of Washington and Prince. Turn right onto Prince, and walk until you cross St. Asaph Street. Your next stop is across Prince Street.

# 17 DOUGLASS BROWN HOUSE PRIVATE!



**LOCATION:** 517 Prince Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** Land held by prominent feminist Margaret Brent and a house that was purchased in 1816 by import-export merchant John Douglass Brown. The home was owned by his descendents until 2000, making it the longest family occupation in the history of Old Town.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** In 1648, Margaret Brent was the first woman in North America to request the right to vote. She requested two votes: one for herself as a landowner and one as the attorney of Lord Baltimore.

**Question:** How much land was granted to Margaret Brent in 1654?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue on Prince Street and turn left on Fairfax Street. The next stop is on this block.



*Need a hint?* Check the plaque next to the staircase.

# 18 STABLER-LEADBEATER APOTHECARY\*



## Passport Stop #4

**LOCATION:** 105 South Fairfax Street.  
**WHAT IS IT?** The shop was once a real pharmacy and drugstore, opened by Edward Stabler in 1796.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** The shop operated throughout history, including during conflicts like the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World War I. Famous regular customers included George Washington and Robert E. Lee.

**Question:** How many continuous years was the apothecary in business?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Exit the shop, turn right onto South Fairfax and walk back to the corner of Fairfax and Prince. Turn left onto Prince.



*Need a hint?* Check the plaque outside the door.

# 19 THE ATHENAEUM



**LOCATION:** 201 Prince Street  
**WHAT IS IT?** Constructed in 1851, the Athenaeum has had many functions. It was once the Bank of the Old Dominion, and later became a Commissary for the Union Army.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** On May 24, 1861, Federal troops captured Alexandria, and the Bank shut its doors. That evening, the bank's cashier removed important documents from the vault and took them to an undisclosed location for burial. After the war, the documents were retrieved and former customers were properly reimbursed.

**Question:** What color is the exterior of the Athenaeum?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE NEXT STOP:** Continue down the cobblestoned Prince Street.



*Need a hint?* It's on the corner of Prince and South Lee streets.

# 20 115 PRINCE STREET PRIVATE!



**WHAT IS IT?** A restored town home circa 1749.  
**DID YOU KNOW?** One morning, in a local cabinetmaker's shop near the corner of King and Royal, a fire broke out. It went on for over five hours and is estimated to have ruined more than 50 buildings in Old Town.  
**BACK TO THE TORPEDO FACTORY:** Continue down the cobblestone street and turn left after you cross South Union Street. Continue on South Union Street for another block and a half.

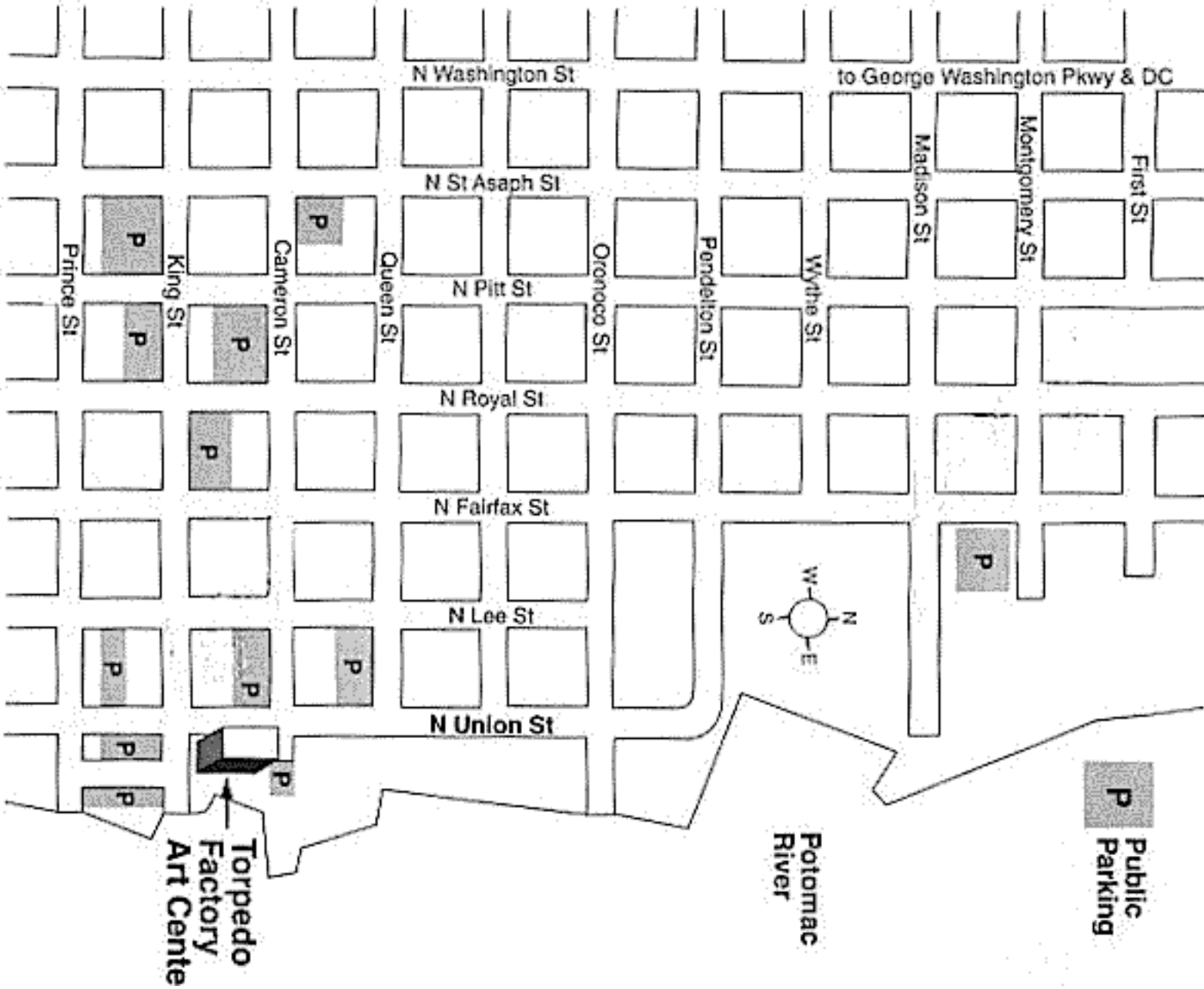
**Question:** When was the "Great Fire"?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have finished the Old Town scavenger hunt!



*Need a hint?* There is a plaque underneath the front windows.



This tour is an Eagle Scout project developed by Russ Leggett, Boy Scout Troop 131, through the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. All rights reserved. A special thanks to: Ruth Reeder, designer Erin Spangler, Phuongnhi Tran, Lauren McCracken, Larry and Jeanne Leggett, Don and Lacy Kula, Mark, Rebecca, and Andrew Canoyer, Joan Amico, Woody Davis, Dori Bolden, Troop Leaders and Scouts of Troop 131, and the staffs at the participating sites.