

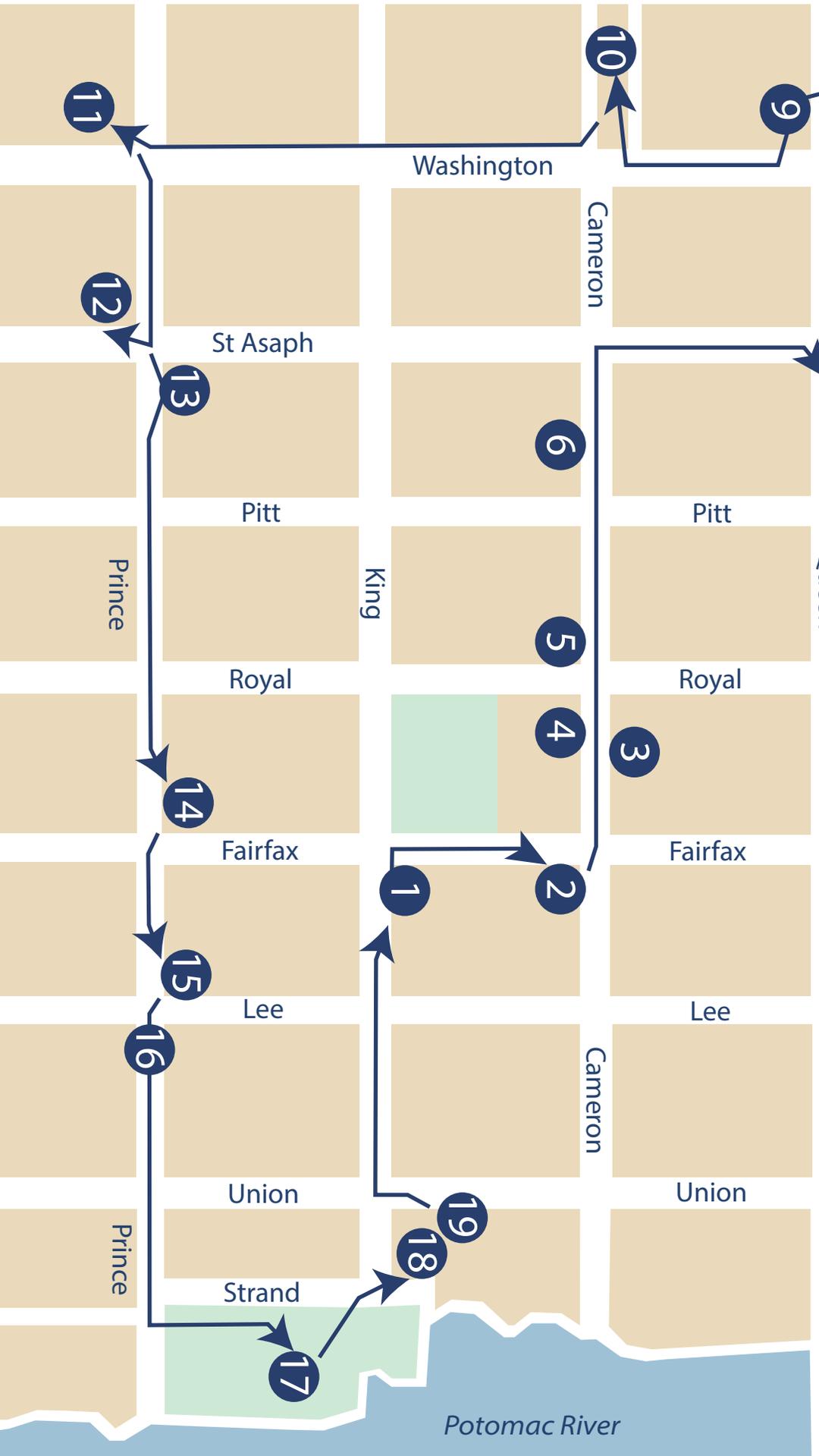
Historic Alexandria Scavenger Hunt

Beginning at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street



This 1-2 hour walk starts at some of the city's most historic addresses. Shorten the route by visiting stops 1-7, and then continuing on to stops 13-17.

1 Stop
Route





Ramsay House, 221 King Street

What is it? Alexandria's official Visitor Center

The Ramsay House is named after one of Alexandria's founders, William Ramsay, a Scottish merchant and first Postmaster and Lord Mayor.

Fun Fact: This house was built in 1724 and is the oldest building still standing in Alexandria.

Question: William Ramsay became mayor the year Alexandria was founded. What year was that? *Hint: Walk up the King Street stairs to the front porch.*

Answer:

Next step: Turn right on North Fairfax and head north toward Cameron Street.



Carlyle House, 121 North Fairfax Street

What is it? John Carlyle's house

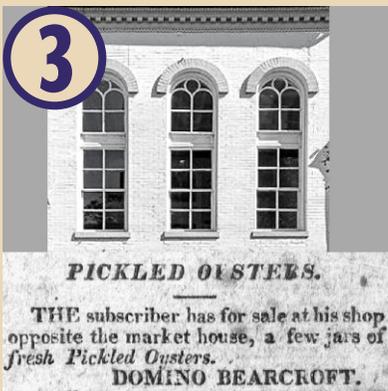
John Carlyle was a wealthy Scottish merchant and one of the town's founders. The house was later used as a hotel and as a Civil War hospital.

Fun Fact: The body of a cat is believed to be sealed within the foundation for good luck. This was a custom in some European cultures.

Question: The keystone above the front door has the initials "JSC" for John and his first wife Sarah Carlyle. What year was the house built?

Answer:

Next step: Turn right on North Fairfax. Cross Cameron Street and turn left.



Dominic Bearcroft, 315 Cameron Street

What is it? This is the site of Dominic (Domino, Dominy) Bearcroft's tavern.

Bearcroft was born enslaved, but was freed in 1800. He bought this property in 1818 and ran a popular tavern.

Fun Fact: The newspaper advertisement on the left shows that oysters were often served pickled in vinegar and spices at Bearcroft's tavern.

Question: The tavern is now home to a different business. What color is it?

Answer:

Next step: City Hall is across the street. Cross Cameron safely and find the white stone tablet on the City Hall building near the corner of Cameron and Royal Streets.



City Hall, 300 block of Cameron Street

What is it? This building houses City offices and City Council Chambers.

The first city hall was built in 1752 and rebuilt after an 1871 fire. It was home to market stalls, police and fire stations, and the Alexandria Museum.

Fun Fact: The Museum's collection included 19th century curiosities like "an unusually large radish," a War of 1812 signal rocket, and a four-legged chicken.

Question: What did Alexandria protest in 1774? *Hint: Acid rain has made the white stone hard to read. The bronze plaque on the right will give you the answer.*

Answer:

Next step: Continue west on Cameron and cross Royal Street. Find the well at the corner.

5



Gadsby's Tavern Ice Well, 138 N Royal Street

What is it? An ice well built in 1793 to store ice during the summer months. People in the 1700s and 1800s did not have freezers. The well connects to Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N Royal, via a tunnel.

Fun Fact: This ice well could store as much as 68 tons of ice. That's the same weight as eleven African elephants or about 40 cars!

Question: Where did they harvest ice from?

Hint: Look in the sidewalk at the corner of Cameron and Royal.

Answer:

Next stop: Continue west on Cameron and cross Pitt Street.

6



Washington's Townhouse, 508 Cameron St

Private Residence - Please Respect Their Privacy

What is it? George Washington used this home when he was in Alexandria. Washington made a living as a surveyor, creating maps like the 1748 map of Alexandria.

Fun Fact: Washington owned a quarter of this block, starting at N Pitt Street.

Question: Is this the original building or a copy?

Answer:

Next stop: Continue west on Cameron and then turn right on St. Asaph. Cross Queen and turn right.

7



Spite House, 523 Queen Street

Private Residence - Please Respect Their Privacy

What is it? The narrowest house in the entire United States. This house was built in 1830 in order to keep wagons and noisy loiterers out of the alley - which is why it's called a "Spite" house.

Fun Fact: The house is seven feet wide, which is the length of 85 Goldfish crackers or one full size bed.

Question: Measure from the sidewalk. How many of your own feet is it across?

Answer:

Next stop: Cross St. Asaph and continue on Queen Street. Cross Washington Street and walk a half block along Queen.

8



Library, 717 Queen Street

What is it? Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library

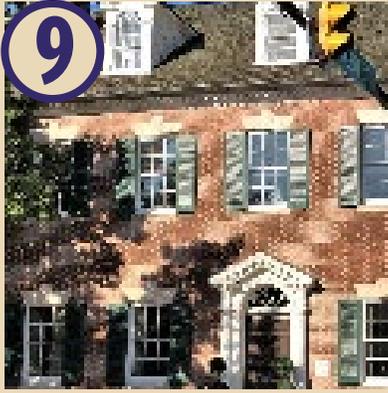
When the library was built in 1937, it was segregated. African Americans were not allowed to use the library even though they paid taxes.

Did you know? Samuel Tucker was a leader in the war against segregation and intolerance. He served as a lead lawyer for the Virginia NAACP.

Question: What happened here in 1939? **Hint:** Find the sign near the brick ramp outside of the library's front doors.

Answer:

Next stop: Walk back to Washington Street and turn right to cross Queen Street.



Lloyd House, 220 N Washington

What is it? This house was built in 1796 by John Wise, a tavern keeper. The house was saved in 1956, hours before it was scheduled to be demolished.

Fun Fact: During World War II, the house was the barracks for the WAVES - Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, a division of the Navy.

Question: This building had many different uses over the last 200 years. What are two uses? *Hint: Find the bronze plaque on the front of the building.*

Answer:

Next stop: Walk south on Washington and cross over Cameron. Enter the brick gate and follow the path through the cemetery towards Christ Church.



Christ Church, 118 N Washington Street

What is it? Built in 1773, it was originally part of the Church of England. At the time Alexandria was being developed, the Church of England was the established church of Virginia, and the parish vestry acted as local government.

Fun Fact: After Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill held the World Day of Prayer for Peace here in 1942.

Question: The brick church is dedicated to the men who served as honorary pallbearers for whom? *Hint: Find the plaque on the front door of the church.*

Answer:

Next stop: Continue south on Washington. Cross King Street and Prince Street.



The Lyceum, 201 S Washington Street

What is it? This is the site of the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum. The museum includes a lecture hall and exhibits dedicated to the city's history.

Fun Fact: The American lyceum (ly-SEE-um) movement began in the 1820s for public education. Buildings like this were seen as intellectual and cultural centers used for lectures and debates.

Question: What was this building used for during the Civil War?

Answer:

Next stop: Cross Washington Street and head east on Prince Street. Turn right on St Asaph. Find the sign along the sidewalk.



Suffragist Marker, 201 S St. Asaph Street

What is it? This was the site of the Alexandria Customs House, c. 1858-1930. In 1917, a pivotal hearing for women's rights was held in the building.

Did you know? Lloyd House (Stop 9) was once home to 19th century suffragist leader Carolyn Hallowell Miller. The next stop (13) is on land held by prominent feminist Margaret Brent, who in 1648, was the first woman in North America to request the right to vote.

Question: What were the suffragists picketing for?

Answer:

Next stop: Cross Prince Street and then turn right to cross St Asaph. Stop at the first house on the left.



Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, 517 Prince Street

Private Residence - Please Respect Their Privacy

What is it? The house is one of the oldest homes (circa 1770s) in Alexandria. The preserved 18th century house includes privies (outdoor toilets), a smoke-house, and a wood-burning kitchen fireplace used for cooking in the 1790s.

Fun Fact: The smokehouse walls are still black from smoking meat.

Question: The city has grown since 1770. When it was first built, it was a _____ house in Fairfax, Virginia. *Hint: Find the bronze plaque on the Prince Street side.*

Answer:

Next stop: Continue walking east on Prince Street, crossing Pitt and Royal Streets. Stop at 305 Prince.



Cast-Iron Downspout, 305 Prince Street

Private Residence - Please Respect Their Privacy

What is it? These pipes carry water from the roof to the ground.

T.W. & R.C. Smith Foundry made this downspout four blocks away from here.

Fun Fact: Alexandria was part of the new District of Columbia (D.C.) from 1801-1847. After 1847, Alexandria became part of Virginia again.

Question: After the foundry's name, the downspout reads: "Alexandria, _____."
Hint: Look to the right of the front door for a vertical copper pipe.

Answer:

Next stop: Continue on Prince and cross Fairfax. Walk along the brick street to the last building on the left.



Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street

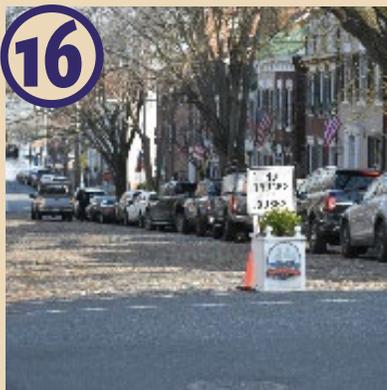
What is it? Constructed in 1851, the Athenaeum is now an art venue and gallery. The Athenaeum has had many uses. It has been used as a bank and as a Union Army commissary, supplying food for soldiers during the Civil War.

Fun Fact: At the start of the Civil War, the Bank of the Old Dominion shut its doors. Bank records were hidden and then retrieved after the war.

Question: This building is an example of Greek Revival architecture, which was popular in the 1800s. How many columns does it have?

Answer:

Next stop: Continue east on Prince Street. Cross Lee Street.



Cobblestone Street, 100 block of Prince

What is it? These stone cobbles were likely brought here on ships as ballast. Ships travelling with uneven cargo would use heavy objects like stones to keep the ship stable. This ballast was removed at the next port and reused for roads.

Fun Fact: You are standing on manmade land! In the 1700s, Lee Street ran along the shoreline. Soil and stone were added to make new land that stretched out into the Potomac. This new land allowed tall ships to reach the wharves.

Question: What is this "row," or block, named after? *Hint: Find the white wooden box at the top of the street, shown in the image to the left.*

Answer:

Next stop: Walk down Prince Street, cross Union, and then take a left at the next street. Follow the path along Waterfront Park. Turn right and follow the path into the park until you find the "Domestic Slave Trade" marker.

17



Waterfront Park, 1 King Street

What is it? The building at King and Union Streets used to be a warehouse where enslaved people, including Clem, his wife and four children, likely worked for John Fitzgerald, a merchant and enslaver of at least 46 people.

Did you know? In the 1700s and 1800s, Alexandria exported lumber, grain, flour, and other raw goods on ships. George Henry was an enslaved captain of the tall ship, *Llewelyn*. He traveled to ports like Alexandria, and witnessed ships carrying enslaved people. In the 1840s, Henry escaped slavery and lived the rest of his life as a free man.

Question: What year did it become illegal to import enslaved Africans?

Answer:

Hint: Find the sign in the park located between Wales Alley and the water.

Next stop: Return to Strand Street. Turn right and go north to King Street. Follow the brick sidewalk to the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Go inside to find the green torpedo in the main hallway of the first floor.

18



Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union Street, 1st floor

What is it? This building is now a public center for art and archaeology. It was first built in 1918 to manufacture torpedos. After World War II, the building was used as a munitions storage and as a U.S. Federal Records Center.

Fun Fact: The green torpedo was produced in 1945. It was painted green so that it could be recovered during testing.

Question: What were torpedoes used for in the North Atlantic after the war?

Hint: Read the sign above the torpedo, next to the woman with a sword.

Answer:

Next stop: Go up the central staircase to the third floor. Turn left and walk to the end of the hallway.

19



Alexandria Archaeology, 105 N Union, 3rd floor

What is it? This is the home of the City's archaeology museum and public lab. The City's archaeology program was created to preserve archaeology that would otherwise be lost to new buildings and other development.

Fun Fact: There are over 250 registered archaeology sites in Alexandria and over three million artifacts in the collection!

Question: Wet soil can preserve evidence of what people ate, like bones and small seeds. What is one food that was found in the privy?

Hint: The answer is outside of the museum, to the left of the front doors.

Answer:

Congratulations! Return to the Visitor Center for a free gift!



- (1) 1749, (2) 1752, (3) White, (4) British tyranny, (5) Potomac River, (6) Copy/Replica, (7) Varies, (8) A sit-in,
- (9) Sugar refinery, House/Residence, School, Office for Historic Alexandria, (10) George Washington,
- (11) Military hospital, (12) Right to vote for women, (13) Farm, (14) D.C., (15) Four, (16) Ship captains, (17) 1808,
- (18) Break up icebergs/Clear shipping channel, (19) Watermelon seeds, cherry pits, peanuts, coconut shells, pig bones

Answer Key