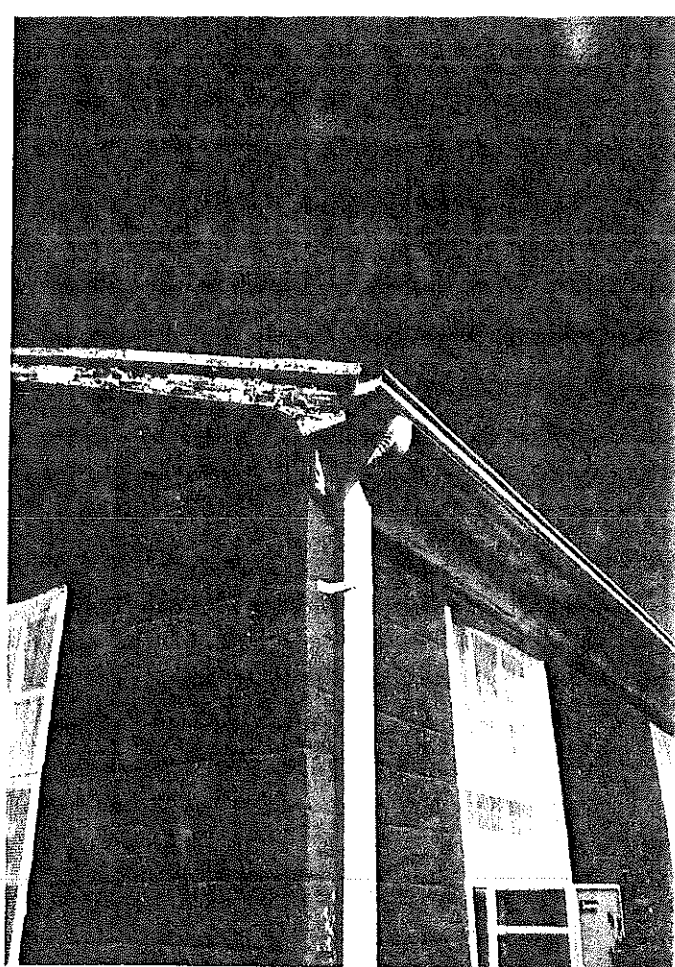
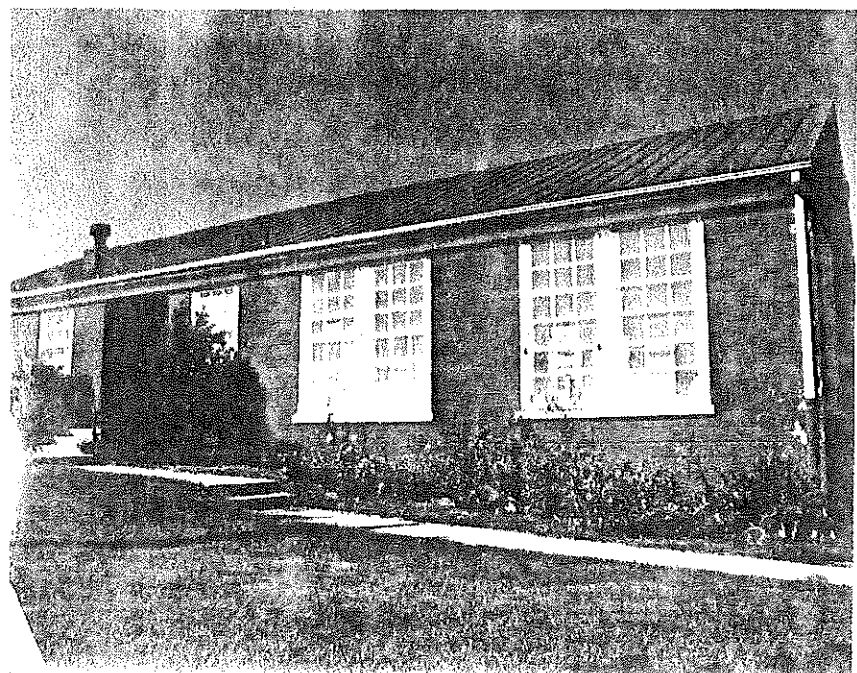
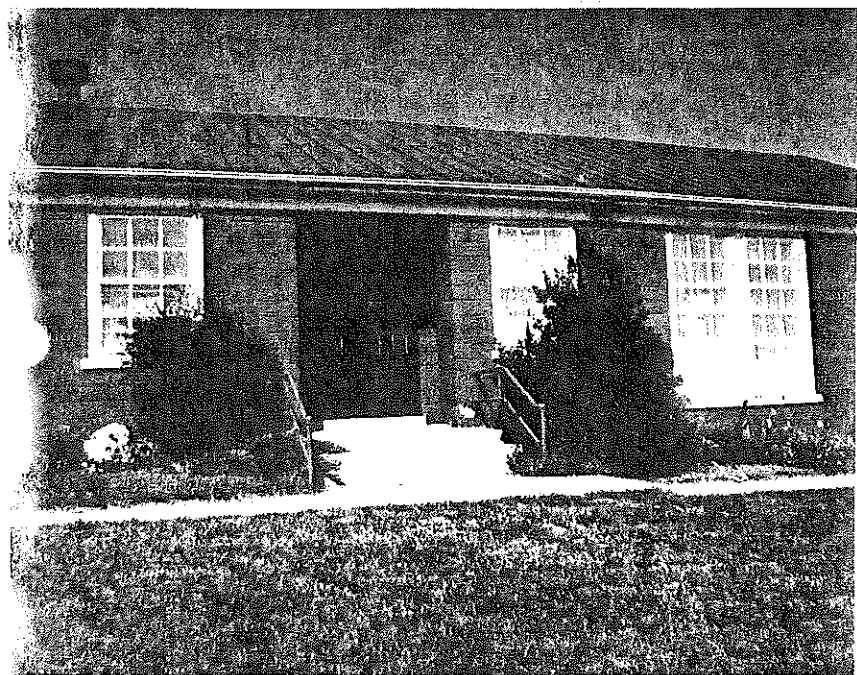
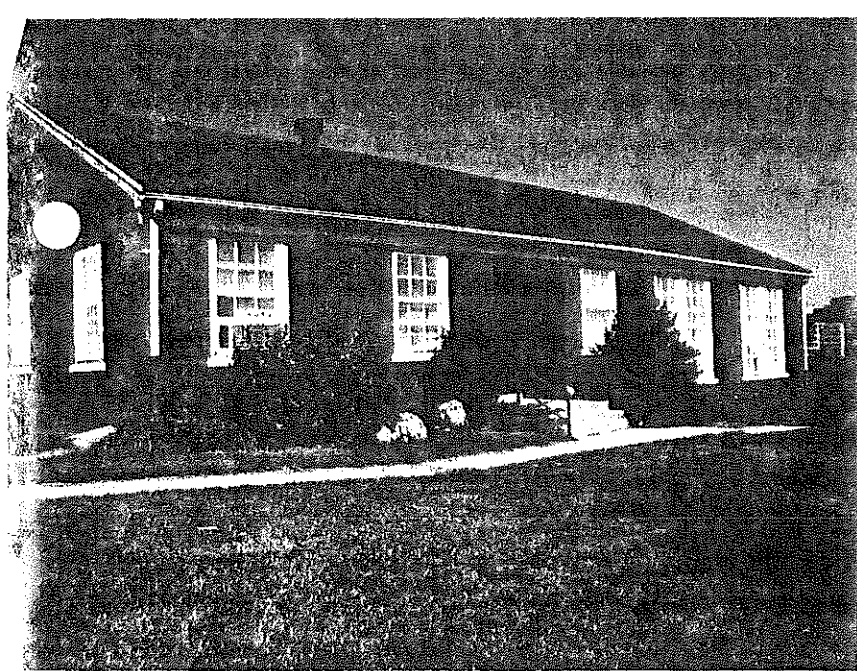


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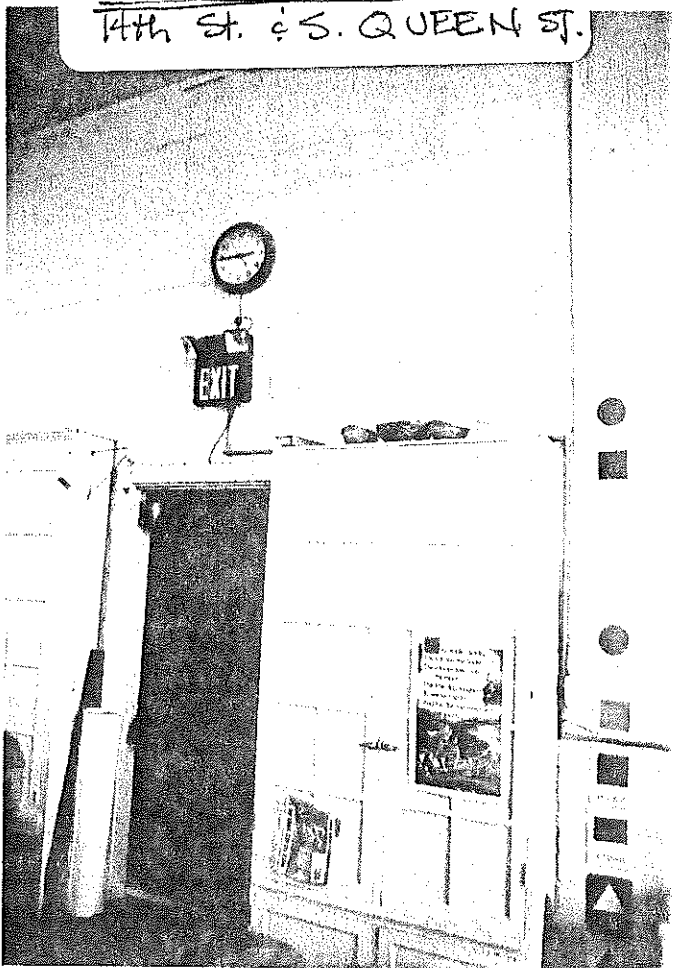
**THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE IN ARLINGTON VIEW:**

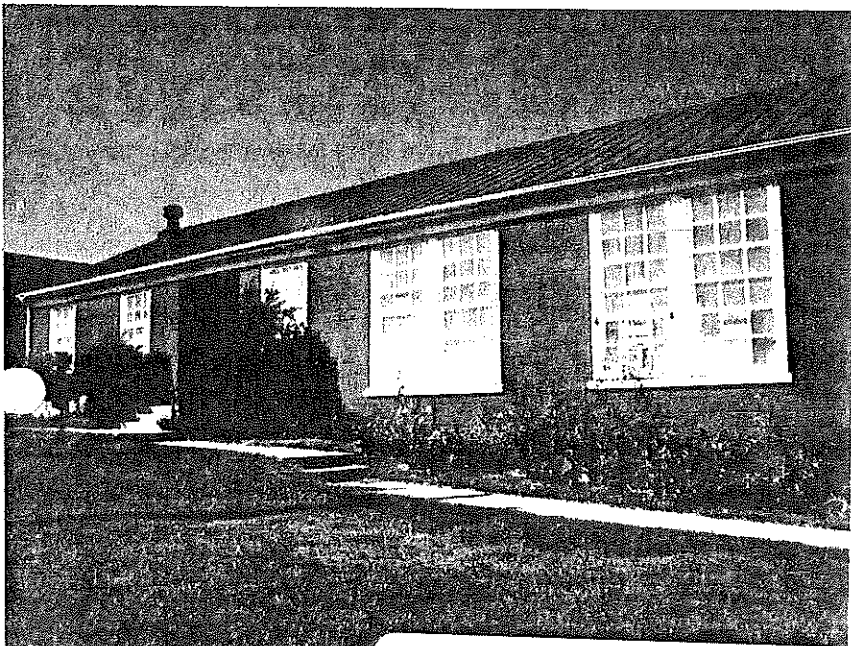
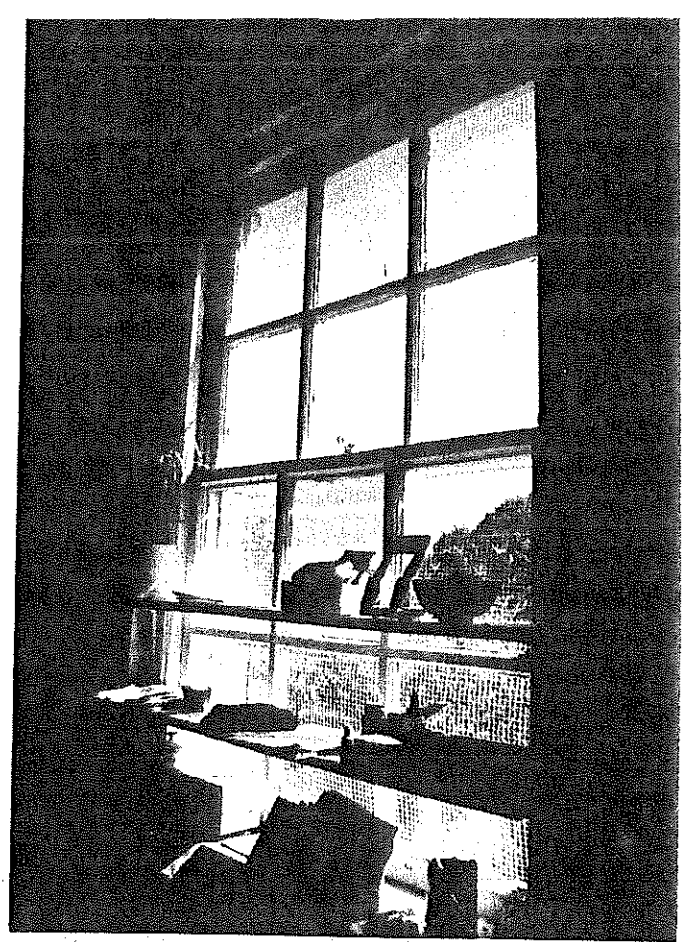
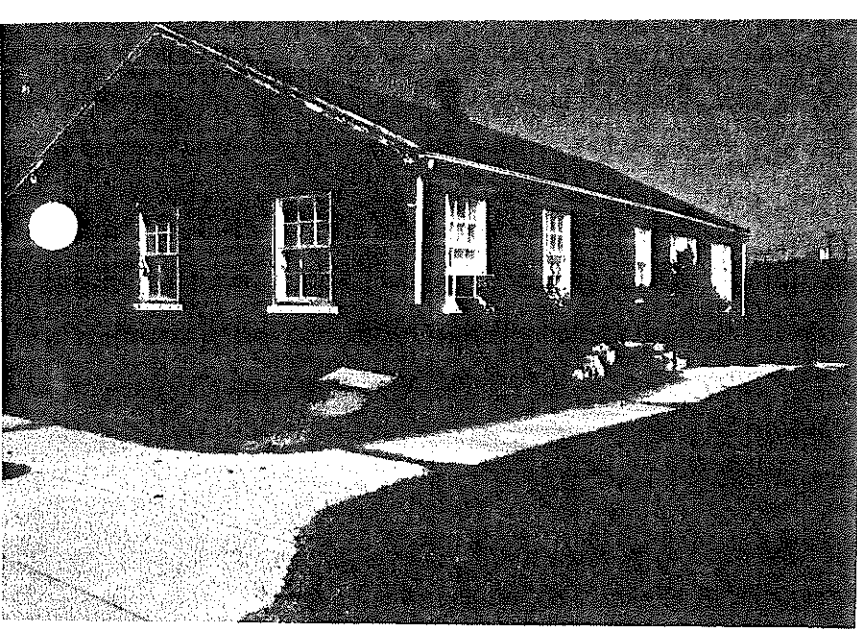
A VERNACULAR SYMBOL IN AN AFRICAN - AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD  
AND A STORY OF PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE OF RACISM IN TURN OF THE  
CENTURY VIRGINIA, AND IN THE FACE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PENTAGON AREA IN THE 1940'S.

Sally Smith  
George Washington University  
October, 1994

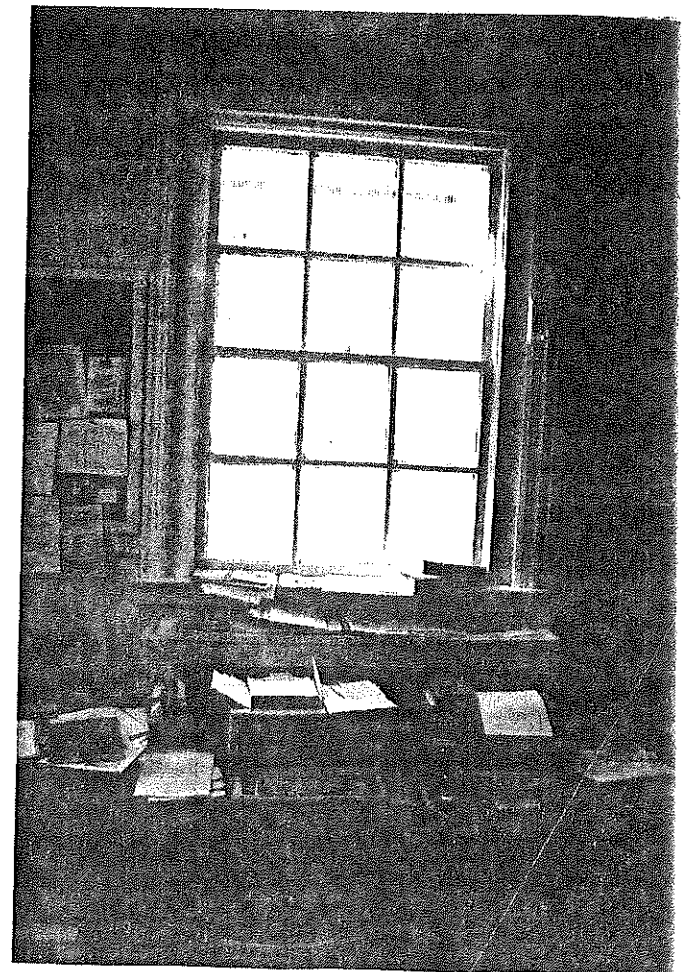
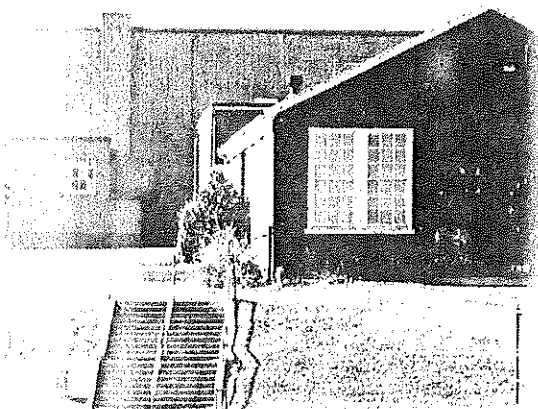


the LITTLE RED  
SCHOOL HOUSE  
14th St. & S. QUEEN ST.





The LITTLE RED  
SCHOOLHOUSE  
14th & S. QUEEN ST.





## The Little Red Schoolhouse in Arlington View:

A Vernacular Survivor in an African-American Neighborhood & a Story of Persistence in the Face of Racism in Turn of the Century Virginia, and in the Face of the Federal Government's Development of the Pentagon Area in the 1940's.

-Sally Smith, October, 1994-

### Introduction:

In 1900, two maps document the existence of a thriving black community in an area of Arlington, Virginia, known as Johnston's Hill. On a map made on 1907, no access roads to the area are even described much less the school that is so clearly marked on the prior map. Again in 1915, the Jefferson School - in the middle of a thriving neighborhood - is proudly marked on two maps, one made by the USDA, and one surveyed by the USCGS. What happened in the intervening years? The following paper will document the story of a community and its schools, and describe what I believe to be a significant African-American development pattern, symbolized by the persistence of its community support institutions in the face of particular and repetitive development threats. As an example, I will use the Little Red Schoolhouse and the Hoffman-Boston School complex in the area of Arlington now called Arlington View, formerly called Johnston's Hill.

Schools can tell an observer a great deal about a community. If a school is located in a central place, or if it is built way out in a cornfield, tells you how important education is to that community's people. If a school is well-kept or if it is run-down describes the relative affluence of the town, or again how much it cares about education. If the children are timid and the teachers intimidated, that

can say something about how free and how confident that community is. Or, as in this case, if a school is a modest structure carefully protected behind the larger buildings of the Hoffman-Boston School, a school can symbolize how deeply important education is to the leaders of the neighborhood of Arlington View, and how much they have needed to protect it and to persevere in that protection against great odds.

As many people know who have driven into Arlington searching for a specific location, it is very easy to get lost in Arlington. In much the same way, it is also easy to get lost in Arlington's history, partly because it has had so many name changes. Let me set the stage for this paper, by describing some basic Arlington history.

### The History:

Much of the land now in Arlington originally belonged to George Washington. When Washington was given the task of finding a site for the new Capital, the proposal he arrived at, and which was finally agreed to by the Congress, was that two pieces of land, one from Maryland and one from Virginia, would be described as a great square rising in Alexandria in the south, extending out into the country and meeting again to the north of Georgetown. Apparently, in perhaps the first decision of the new government of the US to be affected by a conflict of interest, Washington had to agree that there would be no federal development on the Virginia side of the Potomac. From 1791, until 1863, there wasn't.

Back then, the land we call Arlington was a part of Alexandria, and was known as Alexandria County. Over the next 50 years, Alexandria tried numerous times to get itself ceded out of the District of Columbia, as the great square of land was called. Finally, in 1846, Congress agreed to give Alexandria County back to Virginia, including

the land which had been George Washington's and now belonged to George Washington Parke Custis and his daughter Mary.<sup>②</sup> They had built a home called Arlington, and Mary had married a young U.S. Army Colonel named Robert E. Lee. By 1860, Robert E. Lee's home was Arlington House in Alexandria County, Virginia, and his fateful decision to leave the Union Army and return to the defense of the South had ramifications all through the land, and especially for Arlington.

Prior to the Civil War, sometime in the 1840's, land in the northern part of Alexandria County came to the attention of some land developers from New York. Over the next several years, the land north of Four-Mile Run began to be settled by Yankee farmers, and the land at the Virginia end of the Long Bridge (today's 14th St. Bridge) began to be developed as a trading center. Brickyards which took advantage of the clay outcroppings at the southern base of the Arlington Heights, sprang up and fed brick to the burgeoning metropolis across the River.<sup>③</sup> But aside from these brickyards, Alexandria County was an essentially rural area, and it was administered as such by the County of Alexandria. It was called the Jefferson District.

The early Civil War maps confirm this rural pattern, see map # 1 in the Index. On the map called the "Environs of Washington" from 1862, we see Columbia Pike extending west from near the end of the Long Bridge and intersected by the Georgetown-Alexandria Road near Fort Albany. Fort Albany was one of the string of forts built to defend Washington from the predations of the Army of Northern Virginia, and it was built to the west and south of Lee's home called Arlington. Sprinkled all around the landscape are singular farmsteads owned by people named Perkins, Hunter, Lacey and Johnston. Behind Mr. Johnston's land is something called a "Negro hut," believed to be on the land which GWP Custis gave to Maria Syphax when he died.<sup>④</sup> Next to that land, are the beginnings of the Freedmans Village. Below Mr. Johnston's farmstead is more cleared land, bounded by a forested hill on the east, and with a small stream called the Long Branch forming a semi-circle around a hill. This is the land where the Little Red

Schoolhouse stands today.

### African-American Development:

Without trivializing it by describing it, the Civil War had a profound effect on Alexandria County and its people. Dominated at the beginning of the War by a largish southern plantation called Arlington, a group of Yankee farmers trying to feed Washington, and assorted freedmen and slaves, the War created three very unique and different development opportunities for each of those parts of Alexandria County. Arlington House was taken over by the federal government when it needed more land to bury its Union dead. The Yankee farmers continued to farm until they were overwhelmed by the trolleys and the concomitant suburbanization of the 1890's and early 1900's. And the freedmen who came both from the Freedmans Village and from the manumission of all the Custis' slaves, 5 years after the death of GWP Custis,<sup>5</sup> created what I believe to be a unique and persistent African-American community development pattern.

It is significant, also, that the first two patterns of development - that of the federal government breaking the ban on its growth in Virginia, and that of the farmers of North Arlington succumbing to the land speculators brought in by the trolley developments - should provide the most serious threats to the survival in Arlington of the third pattern of community development - that of the African-Americans who found themselves in Alexandria County in the middle of the Civil War. But let's look at how their unique communities developed, and what has become of them.

In a wonderfully articulate paper from 1984 by Susan Gilpin, to be found in the Queen City File in the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Library, Ms. Gilpin describes the existence and the history of

Queen City in 1910. Queen City was one of several "black" communities which existed in Arlington then. Among the others were Johnston's Hill, the Orfutt Subdivision, Butler-Holmes, and Green Valley - today called Nauck. Today only Nauck and Johnston's Hill remain.

Queen City began as an off-shoot of the Freedmans Village. Freedmans Village was a "contraband" camp built to relieve pressure on the over-crowded camps in Washington. They were run by the Freedmens Bureau, whose records are in the National Archives today. The concept behind the establishment of the camps was to provide housing for all the former slaves flocking to Washington, to educate and train them and send them back out into the land. In Arlington's Freedmans Village there was a school, hospital, church, and much housing, as you can see in map #2 in the Index. The first, non-tuition public school in Arlington, established in 1863, was the one to be found in the Freedmans Village. As Gilpin says,

"Thousands of people passed through the Village. Old people went to the 'home,' children went to school, and adults went to work at Fort Whipple(now Ft. Myer) and on vegetable plots. Trade schools and night school also prepared men and women for skilled labor." ⑥

As many were "passed through", many turned to the lands immediately surrounding the camp to settle.

The map of 1878, # 3 in the index, indicates that the land surrounding the Freedmans' Village began to develop slowly over the intervening years. It was still an essentially rural area of farmsteads and settlements scattered over an irregular landscape. There were more Johnstons now on the corner of Columbia Pike and the Georgetown-Alexandria Road, and they appeared to run a store. But by the time the two maps from 1900 are made, this area included for the first time orthogonal grid developments of regular, rectangular street patterns, - clear signs of intensifying development.



In 1872, the Freedmans' Bureau was abolished and the Freedmans Village continued to be administered by the War Department until 1890 or so. But the War Department put increasing pressure on the families still residing in the Village to move out, and people were finally evicted. At some point during this period, Harry Gray Gillem describes what happened on Johnston's Hill:

"Arlington View(Johnson's Hill) was settled for farming by families of freed slaves who bought acreage from a sharecropping farmer named Johnson who allowed freed slaves to live on his land and farm it for a share of the crops. There were about four main families that settled what is now Arlington View. On the Northwest was Harry Gray, on the northeast was Emmanuel Jackson, on the southwest was Harrison Green and on the southeast was the Johnson family. These families farmed this land for their sustenance and sold portions to other families who settled in the area " ①

Later, Harry Gray's heirs in the 1930's will have subdivided and developed their land, Harrison Green's heirs will have sold their land to the County to build a school, later called Hoffman-Boston. In 1900, Richard Johnston still lived on his land, but Emmanuel Jackson became the Rev. Jackson who ran against Francis Smith , a Confederate Colonel, to be the Alexandrian representative to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1900. And the Rev. Emmanuel Jackson will have taken his land and subdivided it to provide housing for the evicted families of the Freedmans Village, thereby creating the first development on Johnston's Hill.

Another freedmens' development, Queen City was established in 1892, when the "Trustees of Mt. Olive Baptist Church subdivided Queen City into 41 lots, one-quarter acre lot for the church and 40 lots 20 feet by 92 feet for houses." ② The lots were set in long, narrow rectangular rows with the church at the head of them. A part of Queen

City can still be seen, albeit unclearly, on both of the 1900 maps, Maps #4 and #5 in the Index. This pattern of church sponsored housing among African American communities can still be seen today.

In an article from the Washington Post of October 25, 1994, by Jon Jeter, we find that:

"A fire badly damaged a row of Prince George's County town-houses ... that a minister had hoped to rent to moderate-income parishioners, and arson investigators said yesterday that they believe that the fire was set...The Rev. Leon Harper's proposal to reopen the 12 abandoned town houses in Croom, a rural community in southern Prince George's, has been vehemently opposed by some."<sup>④</sup>

Further investigation of this pattern may have already been done, but I was unable to find it, or it may be waiting to be done. Nevertheless the documented pattern made by the church leaders of Queen City was closely echoed in Johnston's Hill and down through time in Croom, Prince George's County, Maryland., with one significant difference. Initially, on Johnston's Hill, instead of a church occupying a central place on the map, we find a school.

In 1869, for the first time in its history, despite Thomas Jefferson's earlier advocacy of free, and universal, public education, Virginia passed a law establishing public education in the Counties of Virginia. A new Constitution was passed which also separated any city of more than 5000 people from the County governmental structure. In Alexandria, this had the effect of creating two entities, Alexandria City and Alexandria County.<sup>⑤</sup> The County, which included all of today's Arlington plus some of what is now Alexandria City, was divided into three Districts. Each had its own elected school board of three members, which together formed the County School Board. They were the Jefferson District, south of Columbia Pike, the Arlington District roughly between Columbia Pike and Wilson Boulevard, and the

Washington District, north of Wilson Boulevard.<sup>①</sup> (This is a rough description. I have found no maps with the lines depicted on them.)

There are no written records of the School Boards of either the Jefferson or Washington Districts until 1909, but, the School Board of the Arlington District opened three schools in 1871. One of them was called the Arlington School in Freedmans Village. It was operated in what was called the Union League Hall, which the County bought for \$75. By 1881, says Cornelia Rose in her history of Arlington County,

"... there were nine schools in the County, all of frame and with outhouses. Six of them were in rented structures...By this time, there were at least two schools for Blacks in Jefferson District (Jefferson and Scott), and one in Washington (Sumner). Arlington District had two: Arlington in Freedmen's Village and Kemper in Nauck." <sup>②</sup>

The map of 1878 does not confirm the existence of all nine schools unless two separate designations for the two types of schools are accepted. In the approximate location of the Hume School, there is the designation "Sch. Ho.". In several other locations, in smaller letters, but in approximately the right locations for the "colored" schools are the letters, "B.S.Sh.". One of them is in the southeastern corner of the intersection of Columbia Pike and the Georgetown Road.

Perhaps because of the fragility of its construction, there is no longer a school down in the valley that is shown on both the maps of 1900. But a school is found up on the south-eastern end of Johnston's Hill, at one side of a subdivision on Emmanuel Jackson's land. In twenty years, Johnston's Hill has gone from being a rural farming hilltop, to a neighborhood with a school. Queen City has appeared as a neighborhood on what was the back side of the old Lee plantation. Similarly, Nauck has a school, Kemper, in the Arlington District, and Hall's Hill, a neighborhood in the Washington District has Sumner School. These schools persist today, though all of them have what are now known as

"non-traditional" programs in them.

### Trolleys:

But by 1900, other developments had occurred in Alexandria County and in Virginia which put at risk the positive community development patterns we have just seen. Trolleys came to Alexandria County in the 1890's, and with them, came the white collar workers of Washington. On the maps of 1900, the Johnston and Queen City subdivisions are not the only ones visible. Further south, closer to Alexandria City is the Addison Heights Subdivision. And there are others. Montague, in his book Historic Arlington, describes how agricultural Alexandria County was, until 1900, "when the construction of trolley lines made possible the development of such commuter villages as Clarendon, Ballston, Cherrydale, Bon Air, Glencarlyn, and Barcroft." Like cars were to do after World War II, the changes that took place when the trolleys came to Alexandria County spread out over all of the political, educational, social and architectural landscape.

In 1900, the County was still fairly quiet. Although segregation existed in both the school system and across some, though not all of the real estate, in the political arena, the situation appears to have been more egalitarian. John Syphax, the son of Maria Syphax, was the delegate from the County to the Virginia House of Delegates for a time in the 1870's. Blacks were somewhat routinely elected as sheriff, although because of bonding restrictions, they could not always serve. Black people and white people shared, at least to some extent, the job of governing themselves during this time in Alexandria County.

The perception in Alexandria, and across Virginia, however, was quite different. For the residents of Alexandria City, the County was controlled by the "Negro vote," and a good deal of fraud was claimed

to be involved. Rose describes the situation this way:

"The advocates of revision (of the Constitution) ... were motivated primarily from disgust with the widespread fraud in elections. Although the fact that this was not confined to manipulation of the Negro vote but occurred also in precincts where whites constituted the vast majority, the emotional climate of the times encouraged a belief that the cure lay in the wholesale disenfranchisement of Blacks... Opposition to any change came from those who saw disenfranchisement of illiterate whites an inevitable concomitant of a reduction in the Negro vote." (15)

Nevertheless, a statewide vote commanded the revision of the Constitution although the vote in Alexandria County was 79 for revision and 432 against. Rose goes on to describe the election for delegate from all of Alexandria to the Constitutional Convention. Francis Smith, a former colonel in the Confederate Army and Democrat, "handily defeated "the Rev. Jackson, a Black and a Republican." Race was an issue, and was used to overcome the perceived "black majority" in the County. (16)

The effect of the revision of the Constitution in 1902, was to cut the total vote in Virginia in half, and to eliminate the Republican Party as an active part of Virginia politics. (17) In Alexandria County it changed the balance of power forever, and reinforced very directly the rapid development of the County.

I mentioned at the beginning of this brief, how the map of 1907 indicated no access roads to the Johnston Subdivision, much less the existence of Queen City or the remnants of the Freedmans Village. See map # 6 . There seemed to be no reason for this until I examined the original map in the Library of Congress. There in the large folder with the original map, was a vinyl pocket holding a brochure entitled "A Brief History of Alexandria County," published by the County Board of



Supervisors and written by one Crandal Mackey. Mackey, at this time, was the Commonwealth's Attorney in the County, having defeated Richard Johnston of Johnston's Hill in the bitter election of 1903. He had won by a vote of 323 to 321. When Johnston asked for a recount, Mackey had challenged - under the new Constitution - the votes of a number of people, among them Harry Gray ("Negro") and Thornton Grey of Johnston's Hill. Mackey claimed that they had been paid \$15 each to vote for Johnston. Johnston, in his turn claimed that Mackey in his position on the Board of Election, had lost a number of his votes. The Court held for Mackey,<sup>(18)</sup> and the balance of power shifted forever in Arlington.

Mackey's election theme had been to "clean-up" the County. In Rosslyn, at the end of the Aqueduct Bridge from Georgetown, and in Jackson City, at the end of the Long Bridge into Washington, areas of saloons, betting parlours and even a race track at Jackson City had grown up, perhaps because of the concentration of troops there during the Civil War, perhaps just because of the nature of the two places. The outline of the Race track can be seen still on the 1907 map. But the developers of the neighborhoods of Arlington and the farmers who had to travel back and forth across the bridges under armed guards were not happy

"A posse headed by Crandal Mackey armed itself with axes, sledge hammers, and at least one sawed-off shotgun,...boarded a train in Washington after arranging with the engineer to slow down long enough to let them off after it had crossed the Railroad Bridge. Here they entered the establishments where illegal activities were conducted, broke up the furniture, and generally wreaked havoc."<sup>(19)</sup>

"Thereafter", Rose notes, Arlington was able to develop rapidly, free from the stigma of being a refuge for lawless elements.

This story is described in Mackey's brochure quite proudly, the

brochure which so clearly is meant as an accompaniment to the pro-white development map now in the Library of Congress.

Population figures for the County reinforce the notion that whites at this time overtook the black population dramatically, and relegated them to an increasingly secondary role in the life of the County. In Fletcher Kemp's history of the public schools from 1871 to 1937, he creates a population chart which proves the point:

<u>Year</u> Ending	<u>Population</u>			<u>School Enrollment</u>		
	white	negro	total	white	negro	total
1871	368	554	922	126	207	333
1886	502	746	1248	222	417	639
1900	758	892	1650	495	401	896
1905	1184	678	1862	660	289	949
1910	2090	814	2904	1048	394	1442
1915	3510	1249	4759	1955	594	2459

The egalitarian nature of the County changed radically from 1900 - 1905, and the impact on the schools in the black neighborhood of Johnston's Hill was acutely felt.

As the population of the County increased, new schools began to appear. Concomitantly, older schools were ignored. When the Record Books of the Jefferson School District began again in 1909, a pattern of dismissal, and of secondary level wages, emerges in the Minutes. In September, 1909, Henry Petty at the Hume School for white children was paid \$27. For the same time period at the Jefferson School, Edward Hoffman was paid \$20.25. At Hume, Gertrude Allan was paid \$22.50; Georgianna Jones at Jefferson was paid \$13.50.

On June 29, 1912,

"A delegation of colored patrons from Jefferson School consisting of

Messrs. Noble W. Thomas, Alexander Scott, and J.W. Brooks were present with a petition praying for a new schoolhouse to be created in their section."

A petition was also brought from the Scott School, the other "colored" school in the Jefferson District. The petitions were ordered, "filed." (23)

On Nov. 1, 1913,

"a communication from E.C. Hoffman Principal of Jefferson School in reference to the dangerous condition of the (word is illegible) was read and after some discussion was referred to a later date. The superintendent was requested to see the County Engineer and get him to examine Jefferson School building and report to the Board as to whether in his opinion it was safe to be used for school purposes." (24)

On December 13, 1913, the Board received a report from the County Engineer, Mr. Henry Crocker, and ordered the letter inserted into the Minutes where it can be found today. It recommends that "the building be Abandoned at once!" He describes a frame structure which had started out as a single-story frame building 20' x 44"3", with an added second story of "several years ago." By then, however, the second story was a full 2' out of plumb, and in clear danger of collapsing. The Board decided to remove the furniture and "secure other quarters." A Mr. George Rucker was to be seen for a new piece of property. (25)

In January, Superintendent Hodges reported that the school "subsequent to its injury by the storm of July 31, 1913," was indeed unfit, and the school was moved to the Stephens Lodge, the Odd Fellows Hall, across Columbia Pike. In February, the Board received a letter from George Rucker "and others" (they are later referred to as the heirs of Harrison Green) offering to sell them 2 or 3 acres of land. By July, after an offer from Mrs. Antonia Sickles, the Board settled on the Green land, and hired Frank Upman as the architect for the new school. One year later, two additional teachers are hired, Emma Holmes and

Mary Chaney, and the brand-new, architect designed Jefferson School opened in September, 1915. (26)

Katharine Moseby Ross, born in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1905, and raised on Johnston's Hill, spoke about moving into the school:

"the new four-room Jefferson School was built and completed when I reached the thrid grade, or when I finished the the third grade. Because when I finished the third grade, then I knew St. John's was closed.(St. John's Church, in addition to the Odd Fellows Hall , had taken some of the children when the old school was closed. Ross had attended St. John's since the first grade.) That's when I heard the word consolidated, and knew what it meant because they said we're going to consolidate with Jefferson. So then we went to Jefferson. A beautiful, I thought, four room building."

There were "Four teachers. Really five were in the building because we had a library Great big auditorium. " (27)

Persistence, petitions, and apparently a storm led to the building of the new school, and the pride in it must have been catching because by 1923, according to superintendent Fletcher Kemp, a school bond vote passed which included money to build on to Jefferson School and to buy an "additional site", (28) presumably the Antonia Sickles land. The school's growth does not end there, however. In 1930, another bond vote passes which included \$20,000 for four new rooms at Jefferson. (29) And in October, 1941, at an adjourned meeting of the Board of Trustees, bids were opened "for the construction of a vocational department addition to the Hoffman-Boston School." (Jefferson School's name was changed in 1932 to honor E.C.Hoffman and Emma Boston, who had taught in the "colored" schools of Arlington for a long time.) E. E. Lyons' bid of \$14 575. was accepted. (30)

### The Little Red Schodhouse:

The building called today "the Little Red Schoolhouse", sits on the southeast side of the large, sprawling complex of buildings known as the Hoffman-Boston School. The schoolhouse is the home to a Montessori Program for pre-school and kindergarteners taught by Judy Andrews who has been there for 21 years. Hoffman-Boston School was closed in 1971, when Arlington's schools were desegregated by closing the "colored" schools and bussing the children to the previously all-white schools. Eugene Hubbard, who was President of the Arlington View Civic Association, says that they miss the school, but that the kids wouldn't have the same resources to learn from if they were still going to school at Hoffman-Boston. The return to the use of the school, for him, equals the return of segregation. Nevertheless, the school is being used as an alternative high school program for passing the GED exam, for the Montessori program in the schoolhouse, and for numerous other community programs.

The little red schoolhouse itself is a cinder-block structure, painted a rusty red, with a standing seam metal roof also painted red, and large 6 over 6, and 9 over 9 double-hung windows. It is built into the side of a bank so that the west side of the building appears as a single story structure while the eastern end of the building is dug into the bank and appears as a story and a half structure. As you enter the building through the entrance on the south side, in the middle of the south facade, you enter a hall. To the left is a single classroom extending along the width of the building. To the immediate right is a room used as a bathroom. In the middle of the hall, on the right, is a doorway and half-flight of stairs leading down into a large, open space of about 1500 square feet. Directly in front of the entrance is a small office, or storage closet, and in the middle of the hall, on the left wall, is a small arched nook where a sculpture or bust of someone must have stood at one time.

The smaller classroom on the western end of the building has finished walls of plaster with fine, heavy chair rails, mouldings and trim.



The larger classroom to the east has unfinished, painted cinder block walls, and the original outline of a very large, garage-type door can be seen on the eastern end of the building. It has since been filled in with block of a more modern type. The building functions with steam heat from the Hoffman-Boston boiler. There is no air-conditioning. Mrs. Andrews, however, says that she would prefer not to have any, that when she opens the tops of the large 9 over 9 windows, enough air circulates in the large room to make the building quite comfortable.

There was some visual organization to the placement of the windows and doors, but no symmetry. And there was no sense of when this building had been built. The reference in the Helbing-Lipp study done in 1992 suggests that it was built in 1932, but gives no concrete evidence for that assumption.<sup>32</sup> However, in the front of the "Aurora" of 1955, the yearbook of Hoffman-Boston High School, was a history of the Hoffman-Boston School. It outlined the prior history of the larger building from 1914 until the present, and included the following:

"The year 1941 saw the construction of the Vocation Building, which housed the Home Economics and the Industrial Arts Departments.... In 1952...The building formerly used for vocations was renovated for use by the Art Department and the Band."<sup>33</sup>

The use of the building for a vocational program fits perfectly with the configuration, and its use for the band fits with the occasional verbal references to it being used "for some kind of music." The 1930 addition must have been subsumed in the construction of the other, later additions to the main building. Based on this evidence, I believe the little red schoolhouse is the former Vocational Building, built in 1941.

### Conclusions:

The arrival of the new Jefferson School on Johnston's Hill had a

tremendously positive effect on the neighborhood. It immediately became a center for the activities of the community. Night school was held there, and growth occurred. Harry Gray's family subdivided their land, and more houses were built. And in the late 1930's, the federal government began to build the Pentagon. The total effect of the Pentagon's construction on Arlington I will leave for someone else to write. But its effects on the small black neighborhoods around Johnston's Hill was devastating. Queen City is gone now, underneath the extended grounds of Fort Myer. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is under the Sheraton standing in the corner of Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard. The Offutt Settlement has become town-houses, and Butler-Holmes is beneath the Pentagon itself somewhere, I believe. Nauck has become larger and more diverse as a neighborhood, although it still exists. Only Johnston's Hill - Arlington View remains.

Today the neighborhood is served by the Mt. Olive Church, which moved there when Queen City was demolished, I believe, and by the Hoffman-Boston complex, and the Little Red Schoolhouse. Although they are not "high-style" buildings, the buildings of the neighborhood of Arlington View embody the perseverance and extraordinary tenacity African-Americans have needed in order to succeed and survive in this country.

In 1908, the Washington Star published a long article about these old black neighborhoods in Arlington:

"Within sight of the Washington Monument, ... near the Virginia shore of the Potomac, lie what are said to be the only exclusive negro settlements in the United States. A spirit closely akin to communism reigns in the regulations governing these unincorporated towns... No municipal ordinances exist in Queen City, Johnson Hill and Offutt Settlement,...The residents of these settlements...are known as peaceful, law-abiding people,...and these settlements are(known)...by the few who know of their existence as the one accurate local exponent

of what the negro will do if left to himself.

No improved sewerage system, no electric lights, in fact, none of the earmarks of progress ... have come to these places, but neatness, domesticity, and co-operation among themselves, can be seen, and the towns are well-regulated, clean, and wholesome." (34)

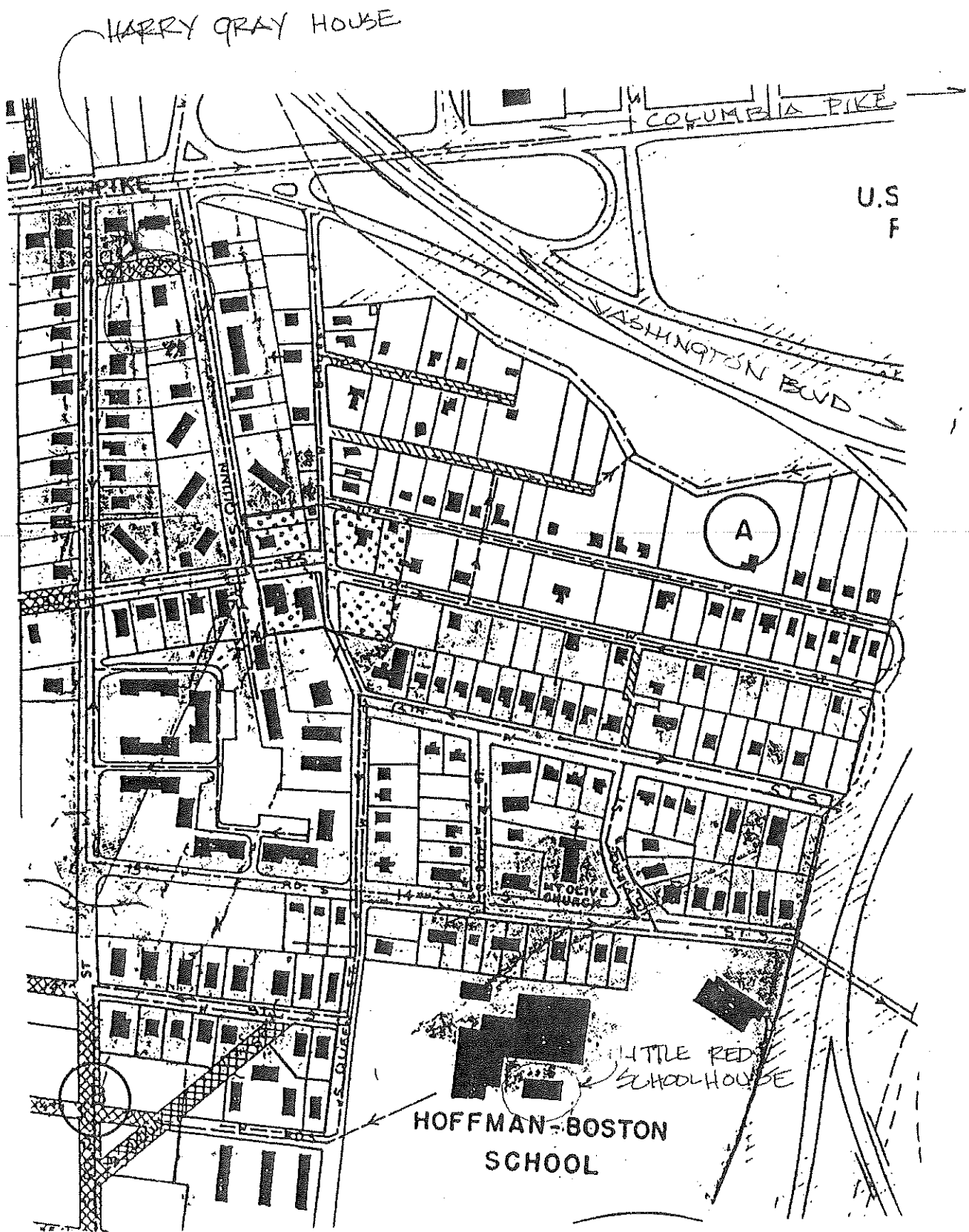
These latter three words might well describe any one of a number of the neighborhoods in Arlington today, but none have the history of Arlington View. It is an important place for all of us, an important place to save.

## Footnotes:

1. Office of the City Manager, "A History of the Boundaries of Arlington County," p.12.
2. Rose, C.B., Jr., Arlington County, Virginia: A History, pp.67-68.
3. Montague, Ludwell Lee, Historic Arlington 1608-1932, p.3.
4. Rose, op.cit., p.122.
5. Ibid..
6. Gilpin, Susan, "Queen City," p.3.
7. Gillern, Harry Gray, Sr., "Arlington View."
8. Gilpin, op. cit., p.4.
9. Jeter, Jon, "Town House Fire Was Arson, Officials Say."
10. Rose, op. cit., p.126.
11. Rose, C.B., Jr., "Map of Arlington in 1878...", p. 19.
12. Rose, C.B., Jr., Arlington County: A History, p. 136.
13. Montague, op. cit., p.3.
14. Rose, op. cit., pp. 128-132.
15. Ibid., p.147.
16. Ibid., p.148.
17. Ibid..
18. Ibid., pp. 150-154.
19. Ibid., pp.154-156.
20. Kemp, Fletcher, "The History of Public Education in Arlington County...", p.31.
21. Stiss, Seymour, "School Buildings in Arlington...", pp. 3-9.
22. Minute Book: 1909-1916, September 18, 1909.
23. Minute Book: 1909-1916, p.70.
24. Ibid..
25. Ibid., pp.106-107.
26. Ibid., pp. 106-141.
27. Ross, Katharine Moseby, "Interview," pp.9-10.
28. Kemp, op.cit., p.59.
29. Ibid., p.61.
30. Minute Books, Arlington County School Board, October 16, 1941.
31. Hsu, Evelyn, "Arlington View..." March 13, 1987.
32. Helbing Lipp Ltd., "Facility Survey...", p. 8.
33. The 1955 "Aurora," p. 9.
34. Anonymous, "Washington Star" article in Queen City file, marked January 26, 1908.

**INDEX OF MAPS AND PLANS**



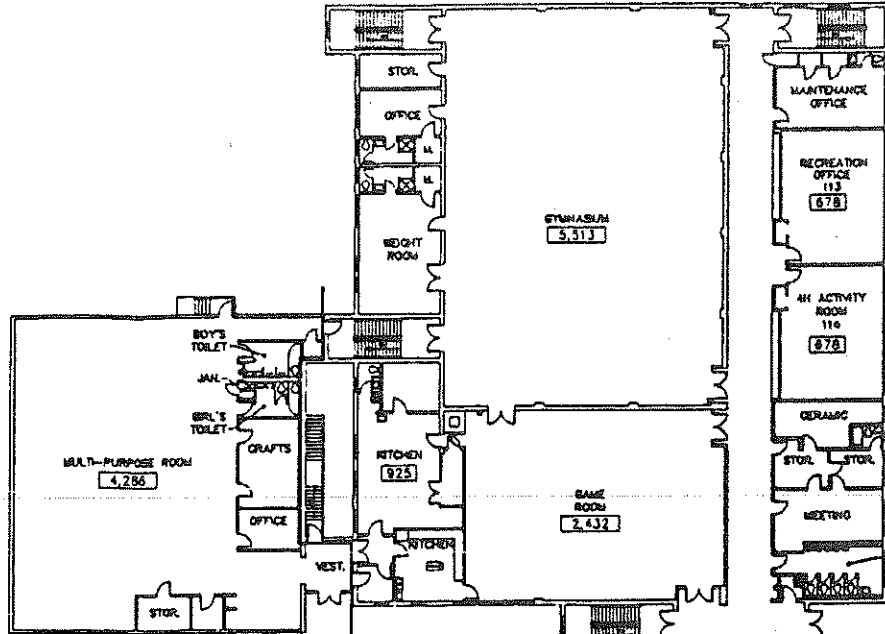
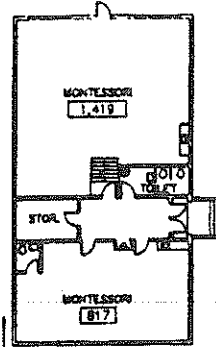


W  
FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN OF ARLINGTON VIEW /

ADDED 1941

EXISTING ANNEX FLOOR PLAN (1932)

TOTAL GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE = 2,960 SQ. FT.



1975 1952

WILMINGTON CO. DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
ACAP HEAD START

1930

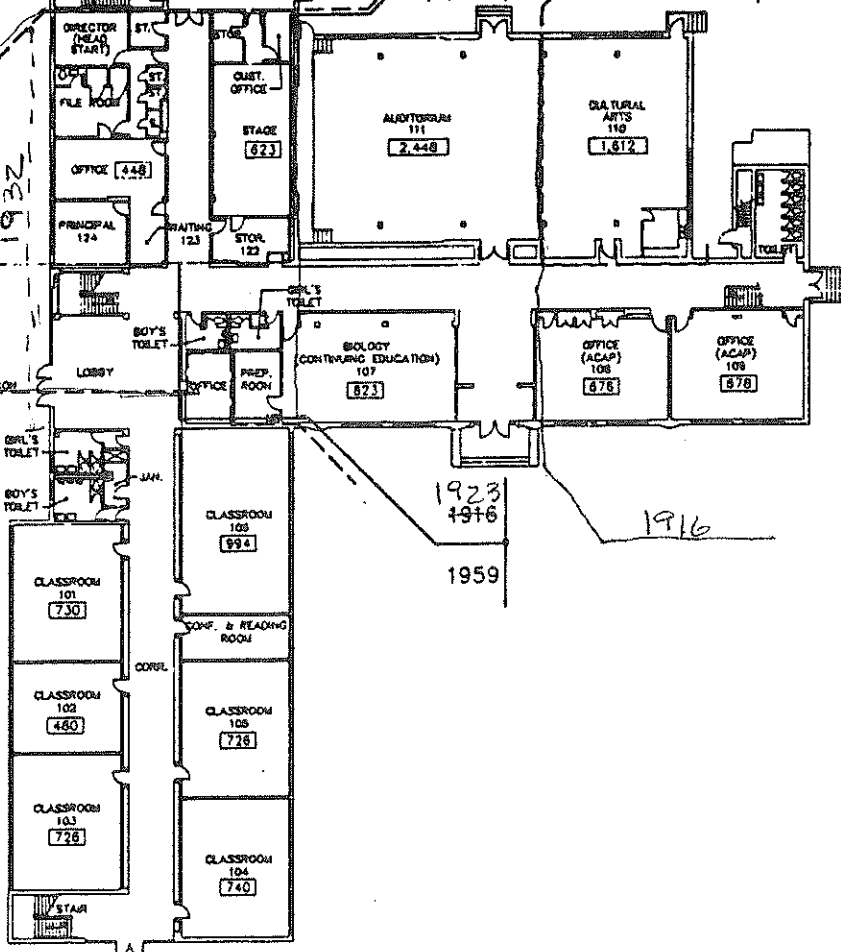
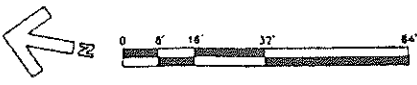
1952

1959

CONTINUING EDUCATION  
HEAD START

EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

TOTAL GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE = 43,249 SQ. FT.



1952

1916 1923

1916

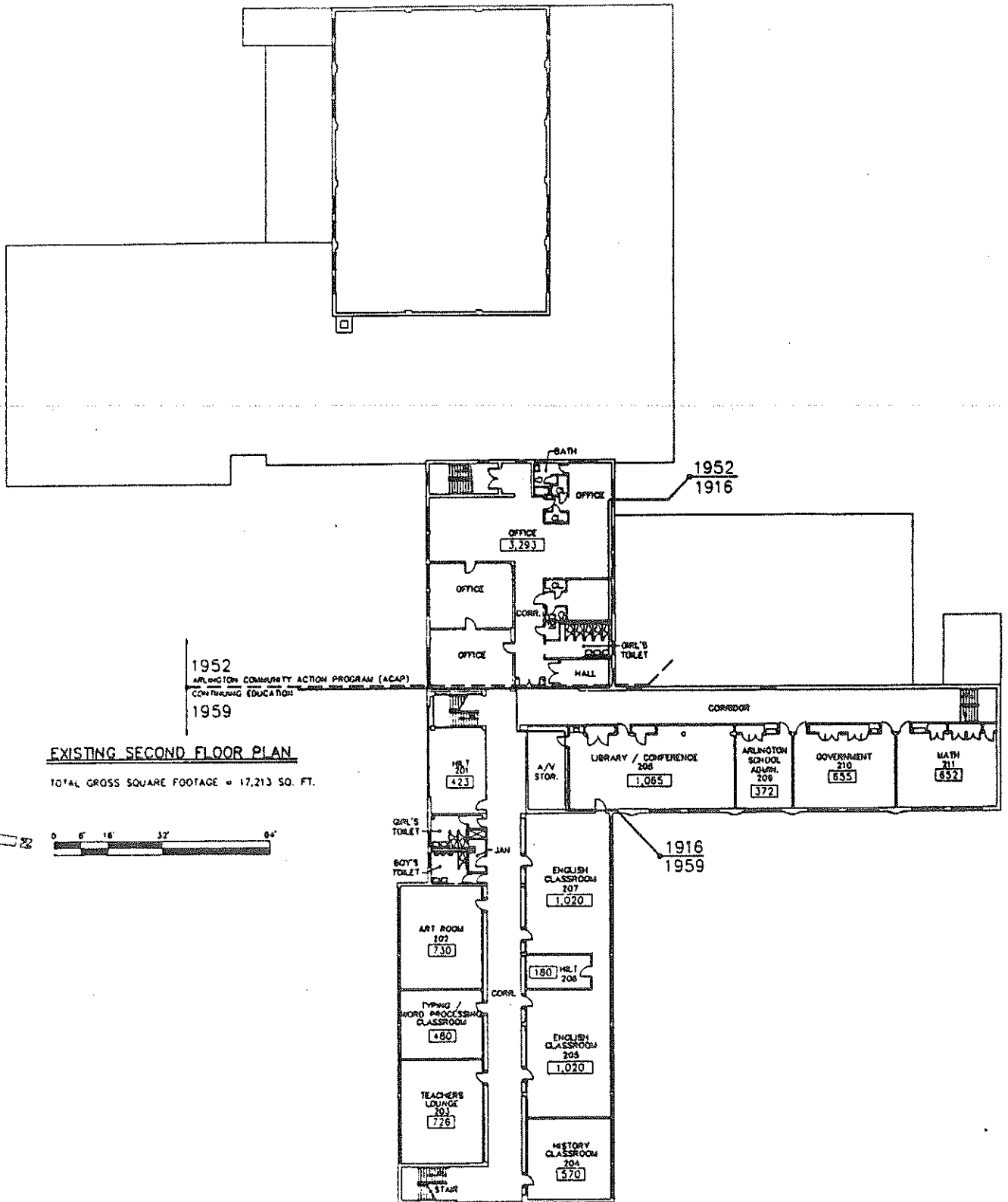
1923 1916

1959

LEGEND

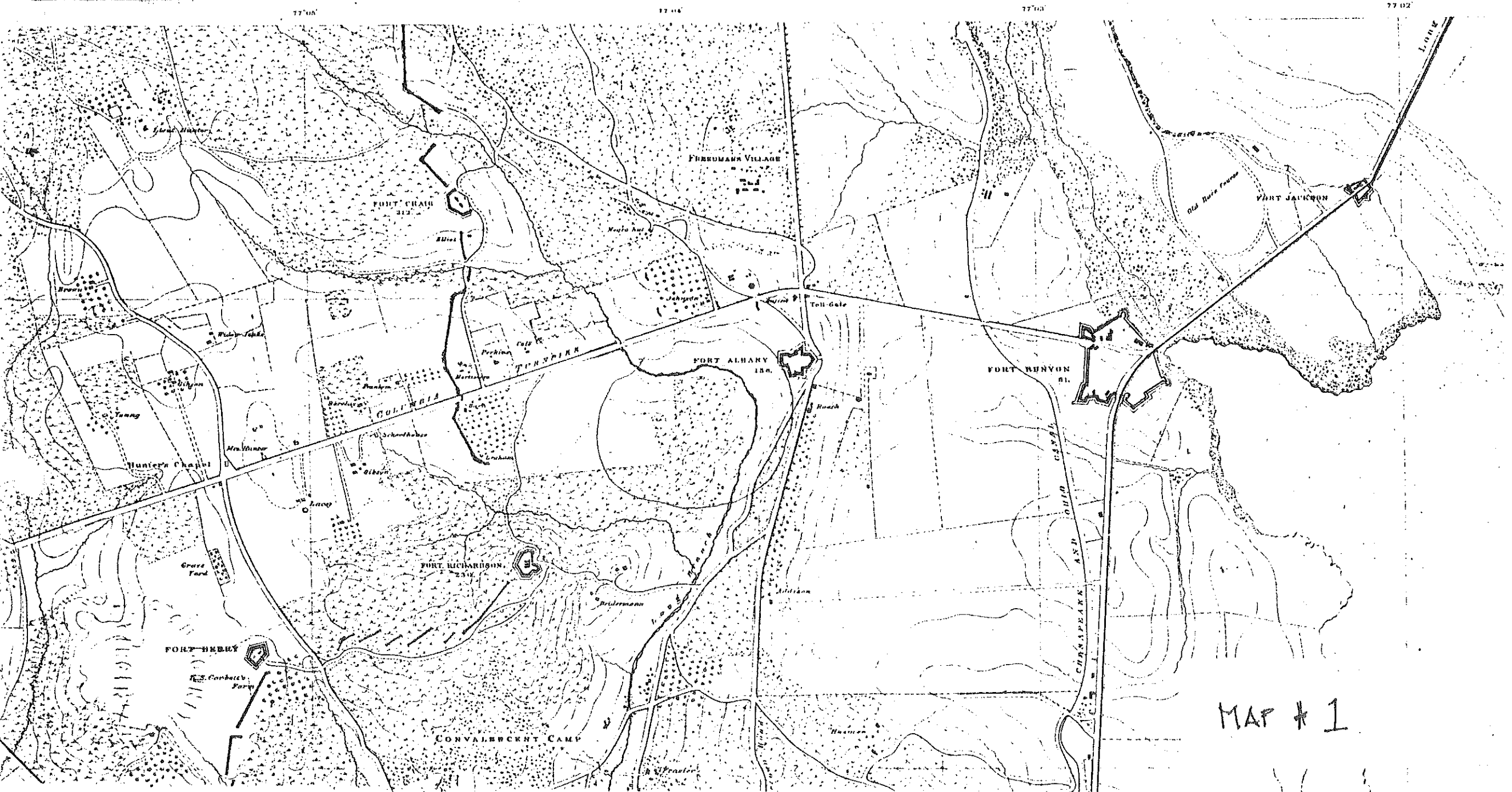
- FUNCTIONAL DIVISION
- CHRONOLOGICAL DIVISION

3,300



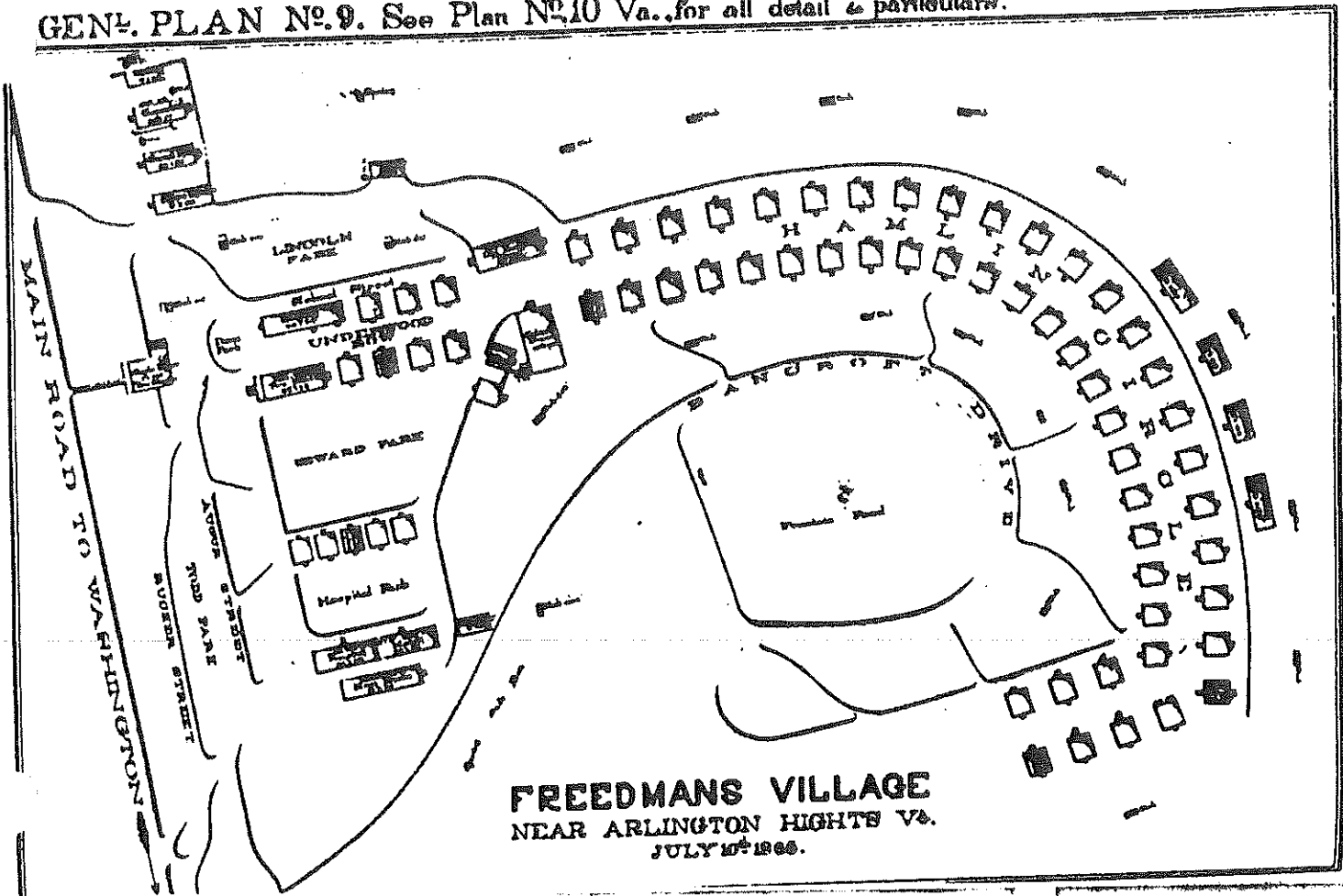
FROM HELBING-LIPP FACILITY SURVEY OF HOFFMAN BOSTON SCHOOL / 4.20.92

ENVIRONS OF WASHINGTON 1862  
FROM 'MALDOVELL' MAPS

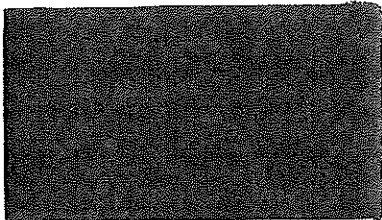


MAP # 1

GENL. PLAN No. 9. See Plan No. 10 Va. for all detail & particulars.



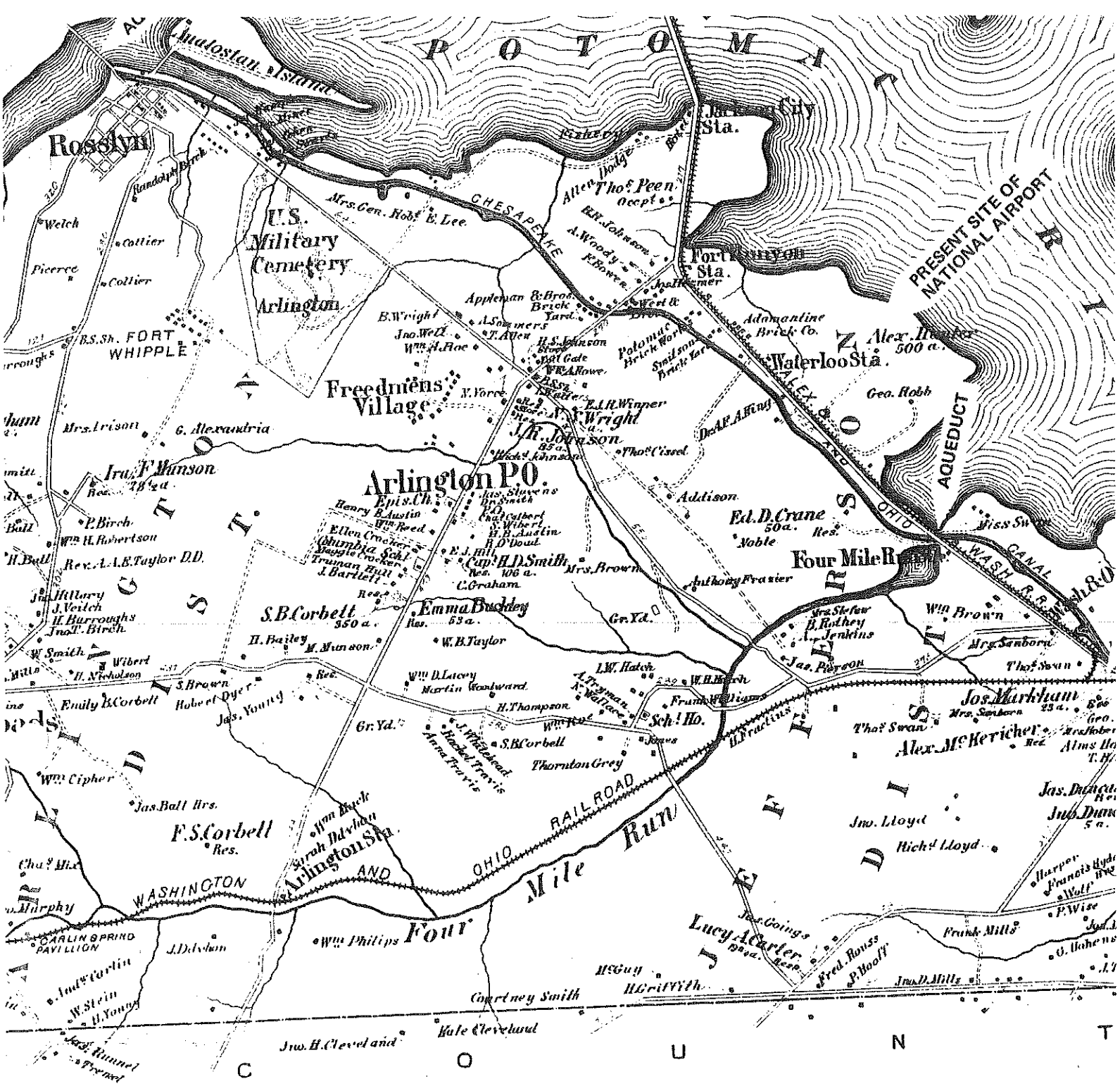
**FREEDMANS VILLAGE**  
NEAR ARLINGTON HEIGHTS Va.  
JULY 17 1866.



MAP OF FREEDMENS' VILLAGE FROM  
SUSAN GILPIN'S REPORT / VA. ROOM  
ARLINGTON CTY. CENTRAL LIBRARY

MAP # 2





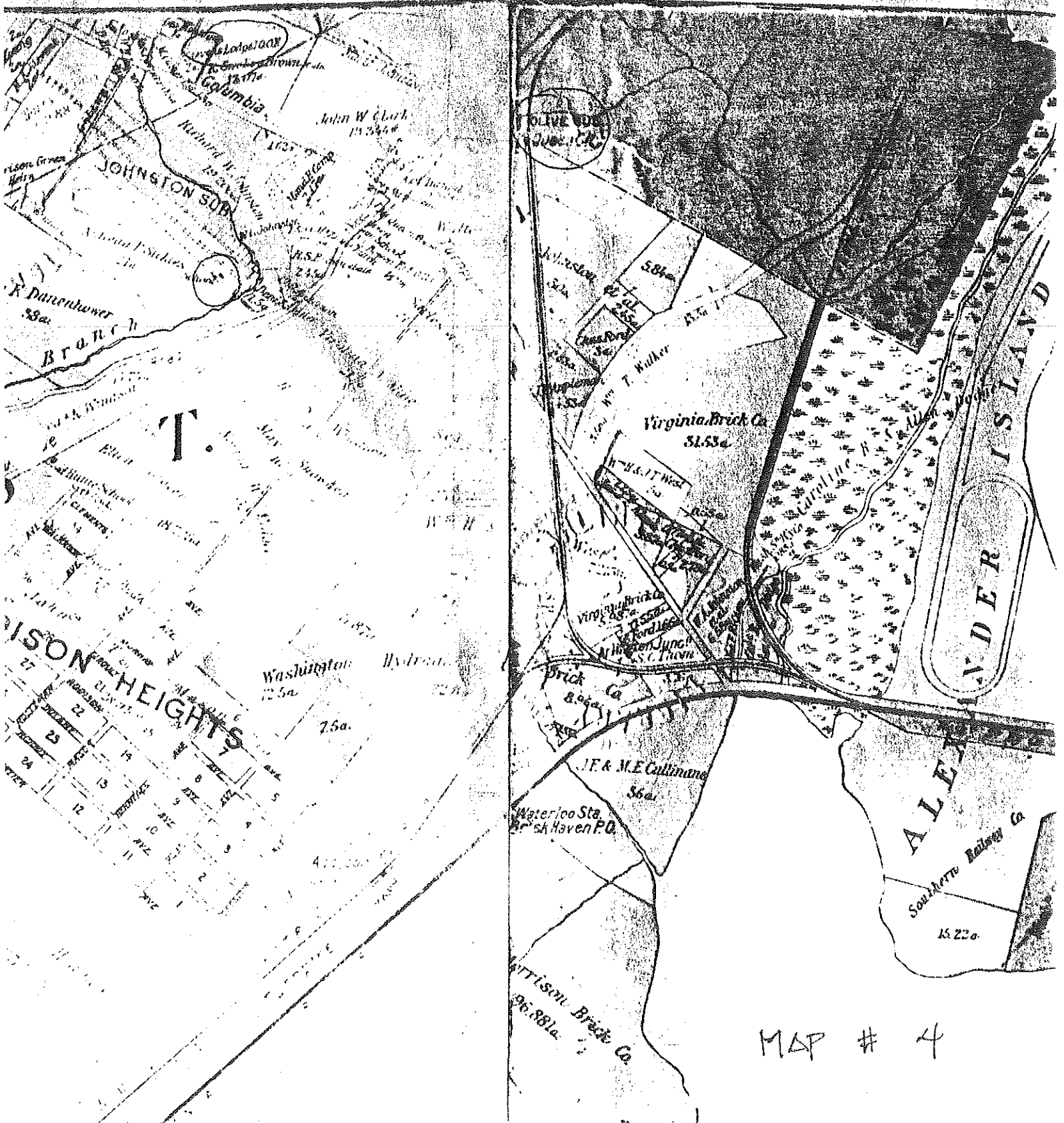
Note: Figures on Roads, represents distances in Rods.

This map is reproduced from Fifteen Miles Around Washin, Wm. Edmund Barrett and the Inc., by the Friends of the Fair 1876.

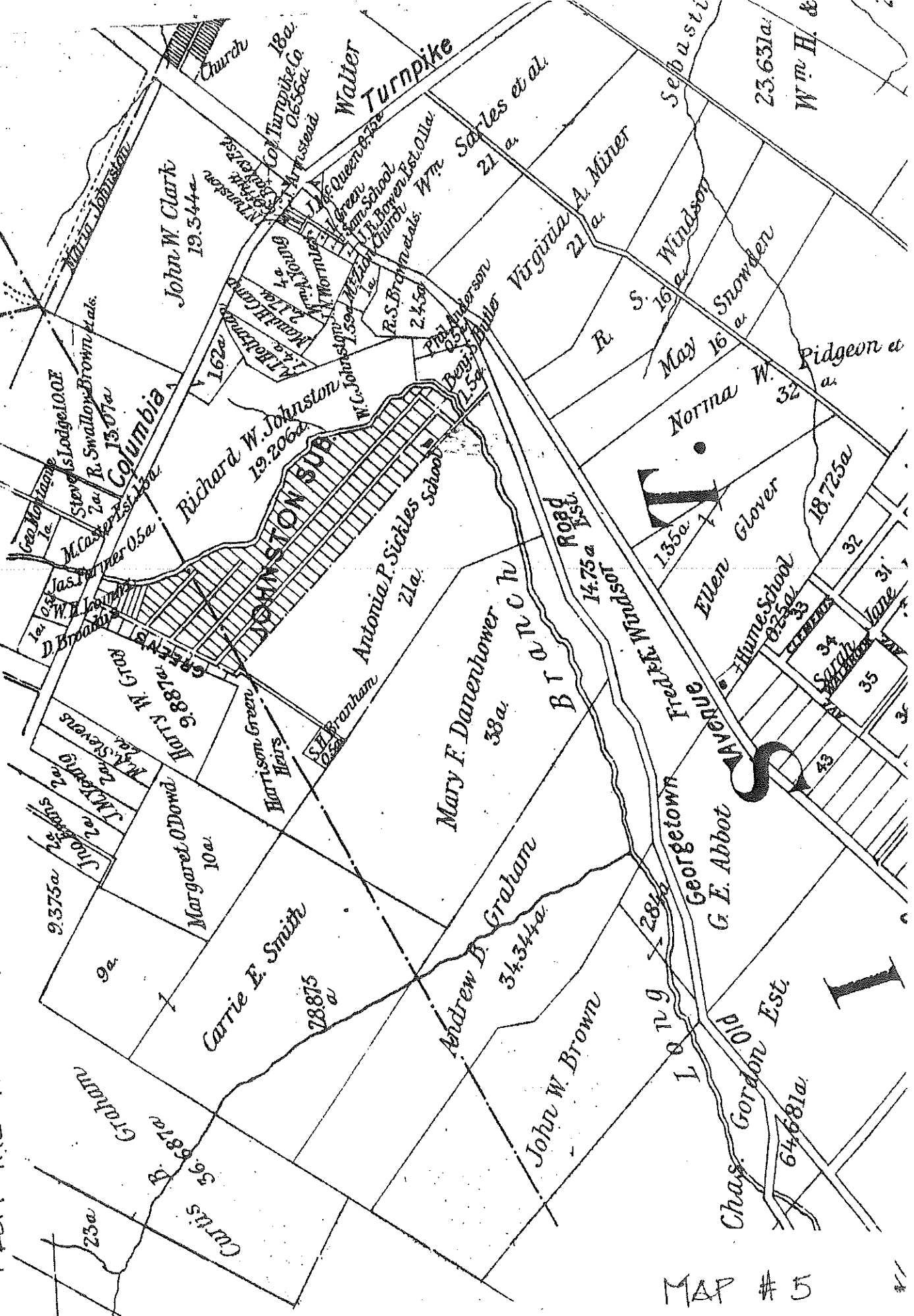
MAP # 3

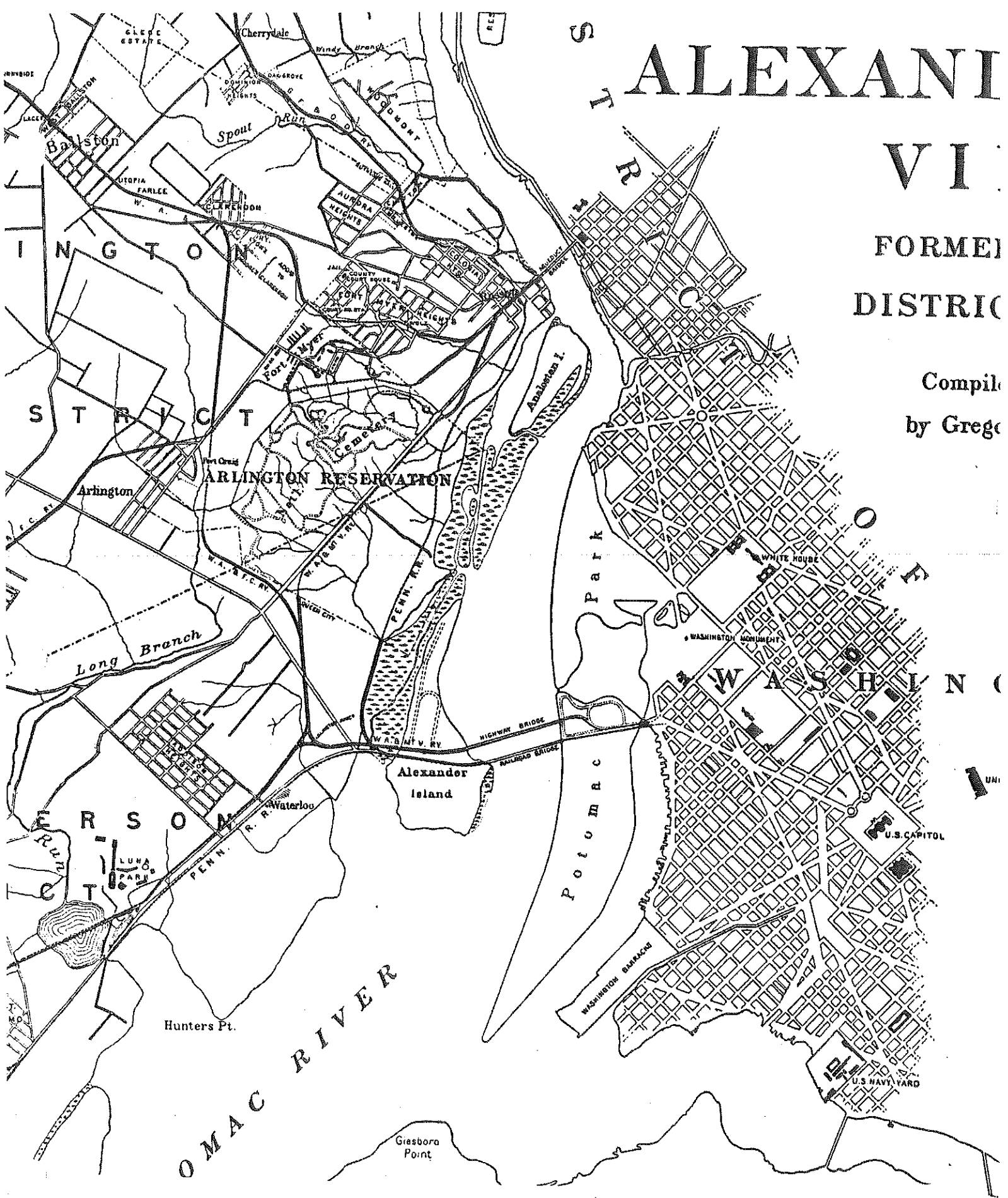
FROM HOPKINS' ATLAS OF 15 MILES AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C., 1878

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA - 1900



FROM THE HOWELL & TAYLOR MAP OF 1900 / ARLINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY





# ALEXANDRIA

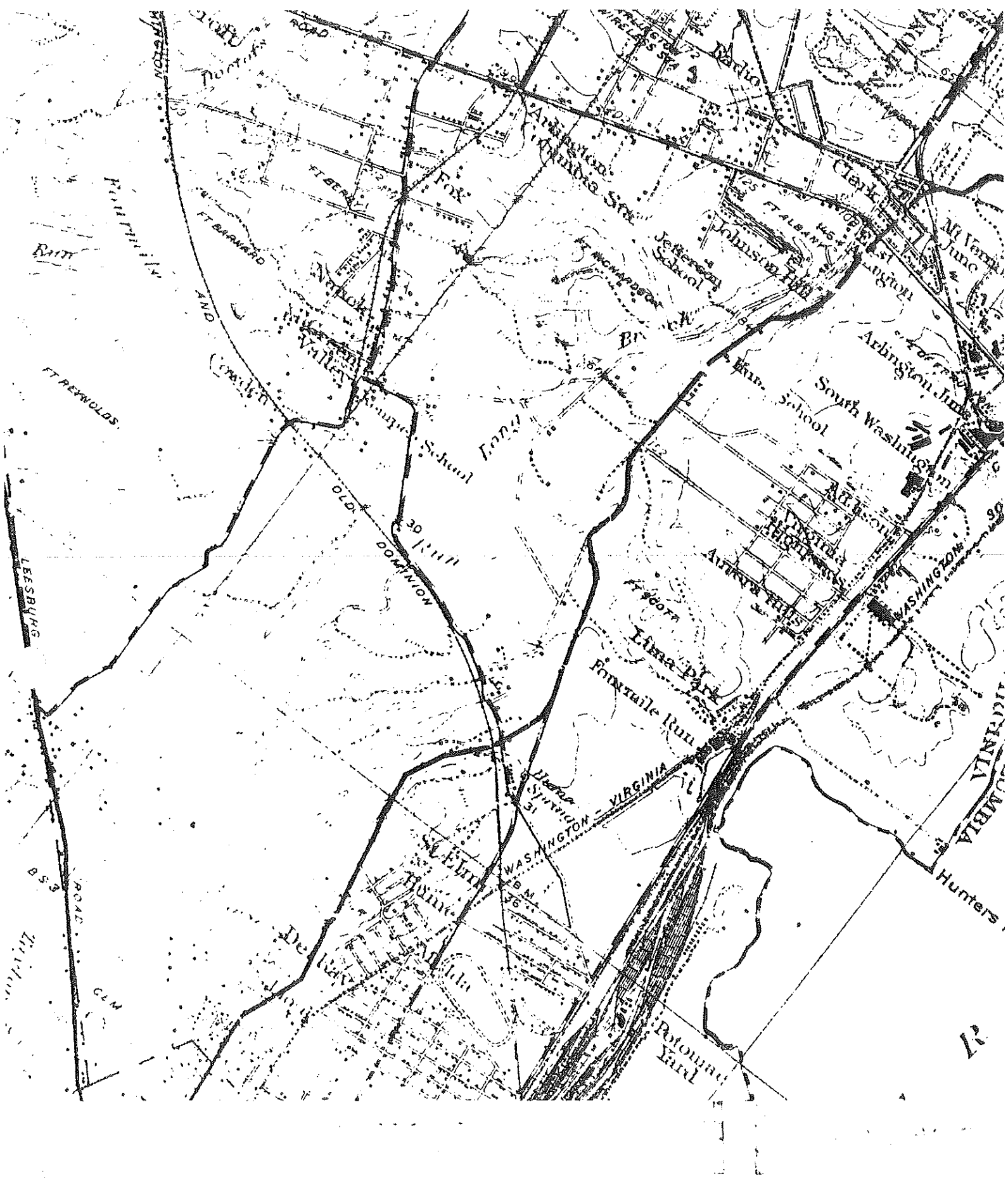
## VI

### FORMER DISTRICT

Compiled by Gregor

MAP # 6

FROM GREGOR NOETZEL'S MAP OF 1907



UCQS SURVEY MAP: 1913-1915

MAP # 7

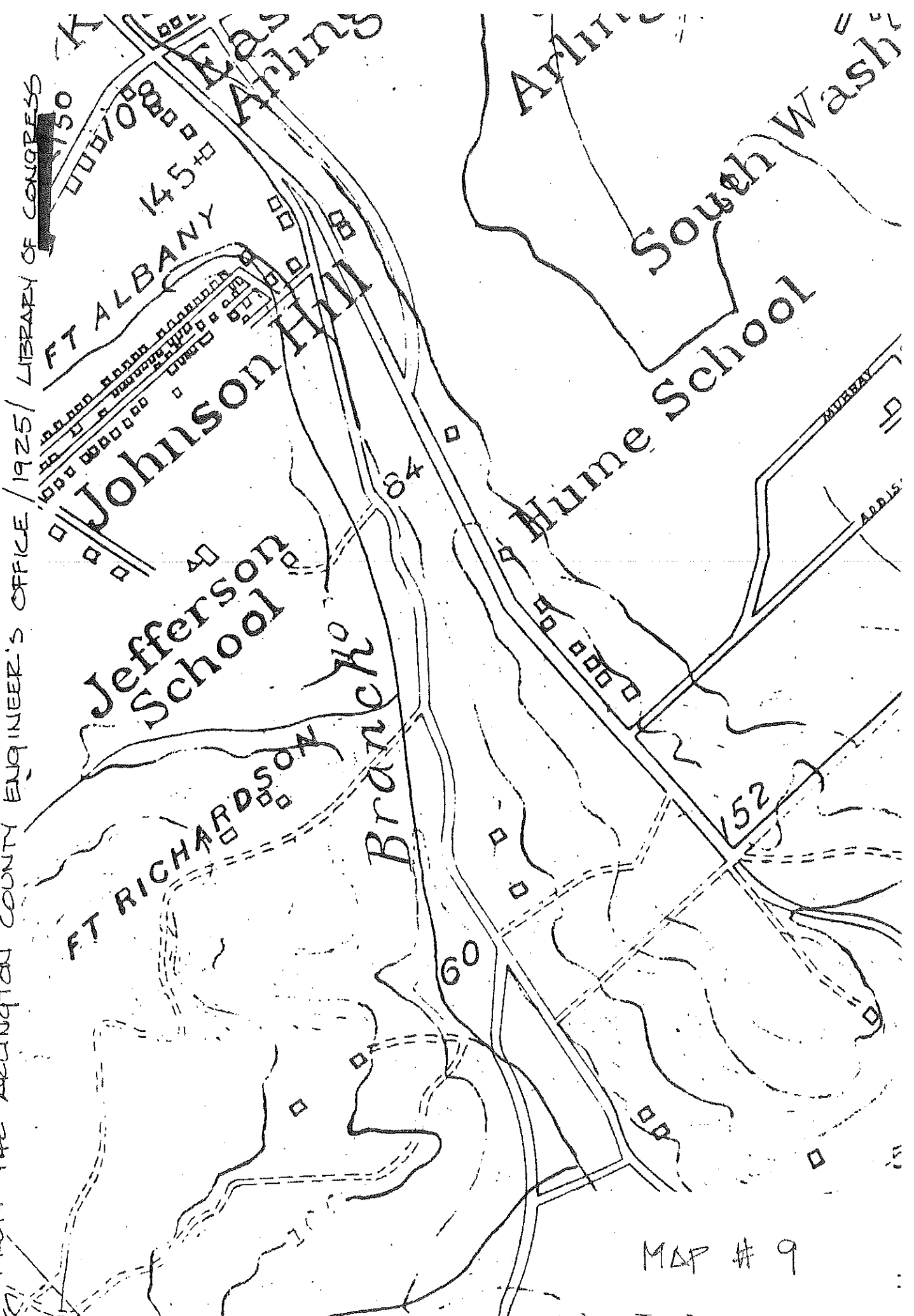


MAP # 8

FROM USDA MAP OF 1915 / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



FROM THE ARLINGTON COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE / 1925 / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



MAP # 9

## Bibliography

### Primary sources:

#### Maps:

- 1862: the Civil War "McDowell" maps; the Library of Congress.
- 1865: John G. Barnard's Map of the Environs of Washington; Library of Congress.
- 1878: G.M. Hopkins' Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Alexandria County; Library of Congress.
- 1900: Howell & Taylor, Map of Alexandria County for the Virginia Title Co., Hume School, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington, Va..
- 1900: G.P. Strum's Map of Alexandria County; Library of Congress.
- 1907: Gregor Noetzel's Map of Alexandria County; Library of Congress.
- 1913-1915: U.S.C.G.S. Map; Library of Congress.
- 1915: U.S.D.A. Map of Alexandria County; Library of Congress.
- 1925: Arlington County Engineer's Office Map of Arlington County; Library of Congress.

(Note: until 1920, Arlington County was known as Alexandria County, and was under Alexandria's legal jurisdiction. Maps of Alexandria, and often Fairfax County, included the area we are discussing here.)

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