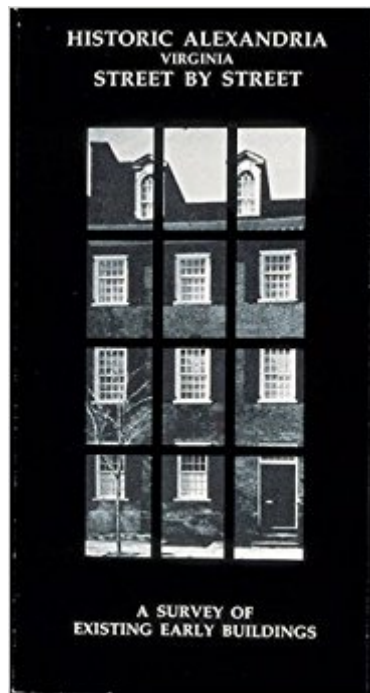


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# Historic Alexandria, Virginia, Street By Street: A Survey Of Existing Early Buildings



## Synopsis

This record of a famous port's architectural life includes 375 photographs of over 500 buildings dating from 1749 to the mid-19th century. Many of these structures are linked to such legendary residents as George Washington, Robert E. Lee, and Chief Justice John Marshall.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an old survey, completed in 1976 before Alexandria became the hip DC satellite it is today. Since we're dealing with historic structures, it's not so much of a problem, but keep in mind that both the photography and the text reveal their age. It's a remarkably complete survey, offering a street-by-street catalog of structures in Old Town (as they existed in 1976). All of the historic landmarks you know are here, but what makes the book really special is its coverage of nearly the entire residential, commercial and public building stock. This book reminds me very much of Dulaney's exceptional "Architecture of Historic Richmond." If you know that book, this one is a lot like it. It's organized by street, written in standard AIA format (though it's not an AIA publication). Each entry includes a small black & white photograph and a descriptive essay. The essays are short, and mostly concerned with historic provenance rather than architectural detail. Since there are over 500 entries, the text is brief. The emphasis is on breadth rather than depth. Potential readers should know that the author, Ethelyn Cox, assumes a cynical and somewhat revisionist tone throughout the text, as if she has an axe to grind with the city. It doesn't ruin the book, but she definitely comes across as a bit pedantic. Alexandria isn't as quaint as its sister city across the Potomac - Georgetown. While Georgetown, originally in Maryland, found itself folded into DC and

subsequently (and relatively) "protected" from war, fire and economic stagnation, Alexandria retroceded to Virginia in 1846 and was always something of Georgetown's prodigal twin. Fire, war, depression and "development" have all left significant scars in Alexandria, reflected in its architecture. So while Georgetown is perfectly preserved - frozen in time - Alexandria has rough patches. Most of the colonial fabric in Alexandria has been lost, and it is largely the Federal town that is preserved today. There ARE colonial structures, but they are scattered. This book demonstrates the history of Alexandria well. Virginia is vigilant about protecting its existing historic structures, so most of the buildings in this book are still with us today. Most, in fact, are in a much better state of preservation than they were when this book was written since DC "rediscovered" Alexandria in the 1980s. I highly recommend this book to historians, architectural historians, serious cultural tourists, and potential property owners. It is, easily, the best architecture survey of this important historic city, despite its age and academic tone.

Needs to have more info included that I have found out from my neighbors. Needs to be updated. Too expensive for what it is. Felt ripped off after looking through it--desperately needs to be updated and expanded in terms of info, esp for the \$\$\$

Good job of the history of many houses in this historic neighborhood. It is considered the "bible" for some in the area for its contents. It is larger than pocket size but handy if in the area and needing this type of history on houses. Could be used by tourist on walking tours as well I imagine.

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