

If All Else Fails – Take Along a Copy of a Free Map of Arlington Streets

If you do get lost, gas stations are closed, and the guy standing on the corner never heard of Venable Street—try consulting a map. The Department of Environmental Services, Division of Transportation, makes black and white copies of the official county street map (measuring 36 x 45 inches) available in the Permitting and Inspections office of Division of Transportation, Suite 813, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. The first copy is free—additional copies are \$5 each. A full size color version of this same map can be purchased for \$10. The map is also available online through the County's website at www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/cpe/maps/MapsByTopic.aspx, and selecting "Maps by Category," then selecting "transportation," then selecting "Street Map 2nd Edition." Free street maps produced by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce are distributed at most banks, public libraries, recreation facilities, and in Information Center of the lobby in the Arlington County Government Office Building at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce street maps are also available free by calling 703-525-2400.

About the Cover: *The reproduction of the original 1793 topographical map of the Territory of Columbia shows Arlington County when it was a part of the Federal District established by Congress in 1790. The name was changed to the City of Washington in 1791 and to the District of Columbia in 1801. President George Washington appointed American surveyor Andrew Ellicott (1754-1820) to survey the boundary of the 10-mile square territory. Arlington streets still conform to the topography shown on Ellicott's map.*



ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

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Arlington County Street Naming System Guide



*Five miles meandering with
a mazy motion.*

— SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE, "KUBLA KAHN," 1816

Welcome to Arlington—



This brochure is dedicated, first, to tourists and newcomers to Arlington—especially those hailing from cities with streets mapped out on a grid system where if you travel far enough on Second Avenue you are bound to intersect with Main Street. And secondly, it is dedicated to the many longtime Arlington residents who ruefully admit they *still* can get lost on the county's streets.

You Can Get There from Here...

when you understand the official Arlington County street naming system. Yes, there is such a system, and this brochure explains it. The system was adopted in 1934 as a priority project of Arlington's new county manager form of government. A citizens committee studied the hodgepodge of streets created in the Arlington area by the topsy-turvy development of many unincorporated communities. The Arlington County Board implemented a system that eliminated the many duplicated street names (There were 10 Arlington Streets and 11 Washington Streets for example.), retained historic names, and set the pattern for naming streets that remains in effect today.

Where Getting There is Half the Fun

Getting around Arlington still can be...*intriguing*. Originally laid out over old trade routes and trails, the early roads wound around hills and along ridges, skirted streams and pastures, dodged estates and stores, veered toward springs and easy stream crossings, and often followed earlier trails. Subsequent paved streets generally had to be laid over these early routes that eventually resulted in unique quirks that continue to create confusion when one tries to navigate the County. Some streets skip along with seven or eight separate block interruptions. At North Taylor Street, 26th Street North becomes 31st Street North. At 17th Street North, North Sycamore Street becomes North Roosevelt Street, while at North Glebe Road, North Quincy Street becomes North Henderson Road, both caused by the connection of these streets for better mobility.

But such anomalies are no cause for *agyiophobia*, the fear of streets. In reality, Arlington's rambling streets can be considered as having a built-in automatic safety factor. Nationwide, urban traffic statistics indicate that curved, randomly-patterned street systems like Arlington's result in fewer residential traffic accidents than the squared-off grid systems. And streets that curve in harmony with the landscape help preserve natural beauty.

History: What's in an Arlington Street Name?



In history-gilded Arlington County, Virginia, reading a street map is like a historical tour, or a history class when you start looking up half-remembered and unfamiliar names (try Lorcom, Dumbarton, Smythe or Eads for starters). Arlington's streets literally present a pageant of history:

MUSIC – Key Boulevard and Key Bridge were named for Frances Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner." **SCENE** – Charming landmarks recall the land's natural beauty: Rock Spring, Carlin Springs, Little Falls, Four Mile Run, Valley, and Forest. **PEOPLE** – Indian-origin street names include Potomac, Powhatan, Pocomoke, Tuckahoe, Tacoma, Kennebec, Kennesaw, and Ottawa. Pioneer family names adorn many street-name signs: Roberts, Dittmar, Marcey, Ball, Veitch, and Lorcom (for Dr. Joseph Taber Johnson's two sons, LOren and BasCOM). Famous names abound: Barton, Custis, Marshall, Harvard, and Longfellow.

COLONIAL MEMORIES – Williamsburg Boulevard memorializes the colonial capital, Yorktown Boulevard - the surrender of the British at the end of the Revolutionary War. **SOUTHERN ELEGANCE** – Gracious plantation and estate names: Arlington, Wakefield, Abingdon, Kenmore. Vacation Lane was a popular street for summer-retreat homes for Washington families. **NOBILITY** – Fairfax Drive is named for Lord Fairfax, who inherited the large area known as Fairfax County from his mother, Catherine Culpeper. There is a Culpeper Street, too.

ROMANCE – Romance and commerce blend in Rolfe and Powhatan streets. John Rolfe started the tobacco industry in Virginia, and he also married Pocahontas, daughter of the famous Indian chief, Powhatan. **ADVENTURE** – Columbus and Peary streets. **FAITH** – Old-time religion gave Glebe Road its name. A glebe was a rectory on farmland for a Church of England minister. **PROGRESS** – Edison Street honors the

great American inventor, and Walter Reed Drive honors the Army surgeon whose research conquered yellow fever. Shirley Highway—Virginia's first limited access highway—was named in 1942 for Virginia Highway Commissioner Henry G. Shirley, internationally recognized master road-builder. **WAR & PEACE** – Many street name signs commemorate war stories: Liberty, Fort Myer, Fort Scott, Lee, Pershing, Rixey, Yorktown, and Richmond. **DRAMA** – Patrick Henry Drive: "Give me liberty or give me death."

POLITICS – Statesmen are remembered on many corners: Bryan, Randolph, George Mason, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Hamilton, and Hancock. Jefferson Davis Highway commemorates the Confederate President. And the names of 23 U.S. presidents—from George Washington through Woodrow Wilson—dignify numerous street-name signs. That is, all but Chester Alan Arthur, James K. Polk, and John Tyler. An oversight? Insufficient alphabetizing space? Or just politics?

You Can Get There From Here—

An understanding of the system help tourists and newcomers find their way around. Although there are some exceptions to each guideline, these are the pointers most helpful to remember.

Arlington Boulevard, also known as Route 50, divides the County into North & South Arlington.

The streets on corresponding sides of Arlington Boulevard are designated as North or South. The only exception is the few streets in Radnor Heights between the U. S. Government reservation at Fort Myer and Arlington Boulevard which are designated “North” even though they are on the south side of Arlington Boulevard. The prefix North or South precedes name streets. . . **EXAMPLES:** North Lincoln Street or South Wakefield Street; and as a suffix follows numbered streets . . .

EXAMPLES: 15th Street North or 31st Street South.

Named streets generally run North and South and are alphabetized starting at the East end of the County.

Progressing westerly, this is the “alphabetizing sequence: (1) one-syllable names, Ball Street to Wise Street; (2) two-syllable names, Adams to

Woodrow; (3) three-syllable names, Abingdon to Yucatan; and (4) four-syllable names, with Arizona being the only street in this sequence.

Numbered Streets generally run East and West, parallel to Arlington Boulevard.

When numbers are repeated, it's sequence: Street, Road and Place. On the south side of Arlington Boulevard, numbered streets range from 1st Street South to 36th Street South. On the north side, numbered streets range from 1st Street North to 44th Street North.

Avenues, Circles, Highways, Lanes, Parkway, Pikes and Terraces.

Arlington has only one pike—Columbia Pike, which originally was a toll road. There are two avenues—Campbell Avenue in Shirlington, and 21st Avenue North in Cherrylee, two circles—Beechwood Circle off of Military Road, and South Kenmore Circle off of 13th Street South, one terrace—Colonial Terrace west of Rosslyn, and four lanes—Cathedral Lane, Lorcom Lane, Roberts Lane and Vacation Lane, all in North Arlington. There are three parkways: Spout Run Parkway, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the portion of Interstate 1-66 within the County which is named Custis Memorial Parkway. There are two highways—Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway, also known as Interstate 395; and

Jefferson Davis Highway, which is Virginia Route 110 and a segment of U.S. 1—both in South Arlington.

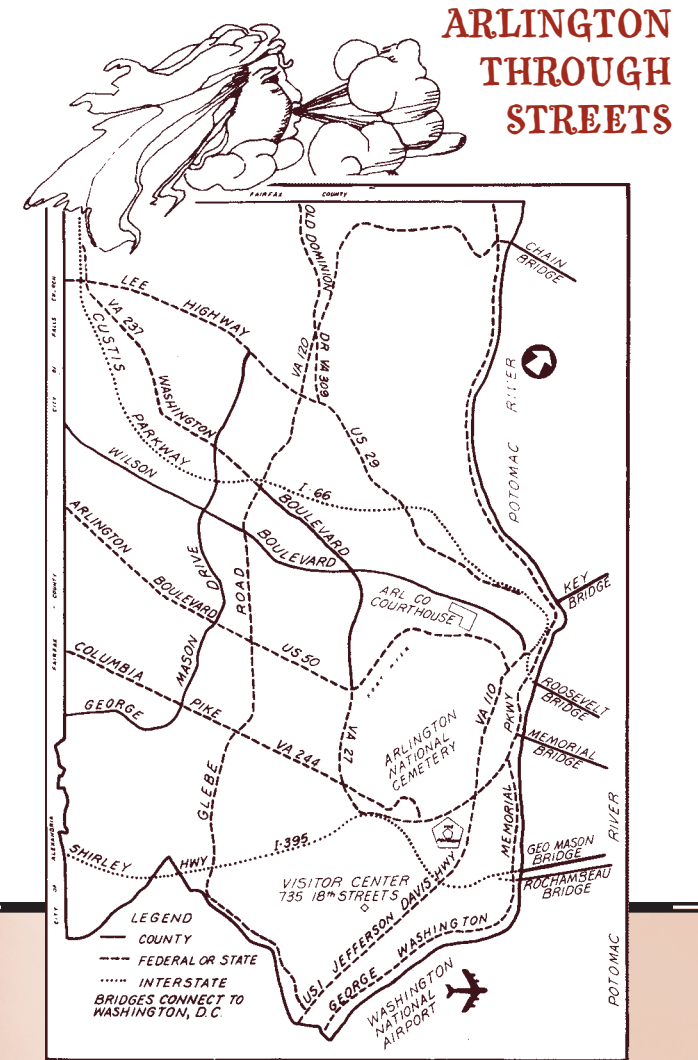
Boulevards, Drives and Roads generally are major thoroughfares with historic names.

These thoroughfares are designated North and South when they appear on both sides of Arlington Boulevard—for example, North and South Washington Boulevard, North and South George Mason Drive, North and South Glebe Roads. Boulevards, drives or roads that exist exclusively on either the north side or the south side of the County do not have a “North” or “South” prefix.

EXAMPLE: Clarendon, Key, Wilson, Williamsburg and Yorktown Boulevards; Dittmar, Franklin, Henderson, Kirkwood, Little Falls, Marcey, McKinley, Military, Ridgeview, Rock Spring, and Round Hill Roads; Bluemont, Brookside, Fairfax, John Marshall, Lynnbrook, Old Dominion, Nelly Custis, Park, and Patrick Henry Drives exist only on the north side. Likewise, Army-Navy, Boundary Channel, Crystal, Forest, Fort Scott, and Walter Reed Drives; Chesterfield, Kemper, Oakcrest, Southgate, and Shirlington Roads, exist only on the south side.

Named roads typically follow early winding routes and are excluded from the alphabetized pattern.

Examples are Military Road (Built through dense forests in only three days by Civil War Federal troops.), which wound toward the northern part of Arlington's ring of Civil War forts; and Old Dominion Drive, which follows an early electric railroad route. Drive along its curving path and you can almost feel the trolley car swaying.



Remember...

Numbered and named streets are not necessarily through routes.

Only a few segments of named and numbered streets in the northwestern part of the county are unbroken in continuity. The majority of numbered and named streets will stop and continue a block or more away, in some instances more than once. However, the North or South prefix designations for named streets, and suffix designations for numbered streets—with Arlington Boulevard as the dividing line—will not change. Generally, Boulevards, Drives, Highways and Named Roads cross the county in unbroken continuity.

The County's address numbering system parallels the street naming system.

One of the benefits of the county's street naming system is that it can help one find an address on either a name or a numbered street. The block numbers on named streets are established by an intersecting numbered street. For example,

Fillmore Street between 1st and 2nd streets (North or South) would be the 100 Block, and between 16th and 17th streets would be the 1600 Block.

The block numbers on numbered streets, however, can be determined only if one has a copy of the block number chart below. The chart reflects the alphabetical progression of name streets starting at the east end of the County and moving westward. An address on a numbered street can be determined by the intersection of the block number of nearest name street shown on the chart below. For example, the 1800 block of 14th Street (North or South) would start at Rolfe Street; likewise, the 5700 block of 5th Street would start at Kensington Street. This pattern will be the same for streets north or south of Arlington Boulevard, i.e., North or South.

BLOCK NUMBERS ON NUMBERED STREETS

200	BALL	2000	TAFT	3700	NELSON	5400	HARRISON
300	CLARK	2100	UHLE	3800	OAKLAND	5500	ILLINOIS
400	DALE	2200	VEITCH	3900	POLLARD	5600	JEFFERSON
500	EADS	2300	WAYNE	4000	QUINCY	5700	KENSINGTON
600	FERN	2400	ADAMS	4100	RANDOLPH	5800	LEXINGTON
700	GRANT	2500	BARTON	4200	STAFFORD	5900	MADISON
800	HAYES	2600	CLEVELAND	4300	TAYLOR	6000	NOTTINGHAM
900	IVES	2700	DANVILLE	4400	UTAH	6100	OHIO
1000	JOYCE	2800	EDGEWOOD	4500	VERMONT	6200	POWHATAN
1100	KENT	2900	FILLMORE	4600	WAKEFIELD	6300	QUANTICO
1200	LYNN	3000	GARFIELD	4700	ABINGDON	6400	ROOSEVELT
1300	MEADE	3100	HIGHLAND	4800	BUCHANAN	6500	SYCAMORE
1400	NASH	3200	IRVING	4900	COLUMBUS	6600	TUCKAHOE
1500	OAK	3300	JACKSON	5000	DINWIDDIE	6700	UNDERWOOD
1600	PIERCE	3400	KENMORE	5100	EDISON	6800	VAN BUREN
1700	QUEEN	3500	LINCOLN	5200	FREDERICK	6900	WESTMORELAND
1800	ROLFE	3600	MONROE	5300	GREENBRIER	7000	YUCATAN
1900	SCOTT						

Addresses on the South and West sides of streets are even-numbered, odd-numbered on the North and East sides.