
THE ALEXANDRIA CHRONICLE



Alexandria Virginia's Market Square

by Penny C. Morrill

1750-1784

From Alexandria's very earliest days to the present, the Market Square has been the established center of the town. It was founded in 1749 by an act of the House of Burgesses. That year, half-acre lots were sold at auction and the streets were laid out in a grid plan. Two half-acre lots were set aside for the Market Square.

To understand the changes which took place on the Square over the years, it is helpful to study the three maps which have been drawn up and included in this essay. The first date of each map marks the construction of a new Market House. The earliest buildings on the Square were constructed before 1784 and can be documented because of the existence of two primary sources; the "Proceedings of the Alexandria Board of Trustees" and the "Fairfax County Court Order Books."

Before the Revolutionary War, it was the gentlemanly responsibility of the Trustees who governed the town to design and oversee construction of public buildings. These men were distinguished members of the landed gentry or were well-to-do merchants. The Trustees in 1750 announced a lottery in the Maryland Gazette, "the money arising therefrom to be applied toward building a Church and Market House..." The Market House was built and was mentioned in 1784 when a new Market House was being contemplated. The building was on Cameron Street in the middle of the block between Royal and Fairfax Streets.

By law, after 1752, fairs were held on the Square twice each year. An act in 1779 established a clerk for the Market whose responsibility it was to check weights and measures once a year against standard measures which had been sent from

England in 1744. The clerk was also required to keep the Square clean and to enforce market regulations. Produce could only be sold at the Market during specified hours to protect citizens from the practice of "forestalling." To forestall was to buy up produce outside the market to create higher prices. The practice of "regrating," buying for resale in the Market, which would cause an artificial price increase, was also against the law. Families in Alexandria were only allowed to buy for daily needs to prevent regrating. "Engrossing," holding back produce to increase prices, was made illegal by not allowing produce to be bought for resale. To encourage greater use of the market place, farmers were exempted from arrest for six days: two days in travel from the farms, two days at the fair, and the two days for the return home.

The great variety and type of activity which took place on Market Square had its precedents in England. Around this center square in Alexandria were fire companies, police headquarters, the watch, a school, the town and county governments, a jail, and the pillory and stocks. The Market was open every day but Sunday and there were cattle and horse sales at specified times. The militia marched on the green and elections took place at the Town Hall.

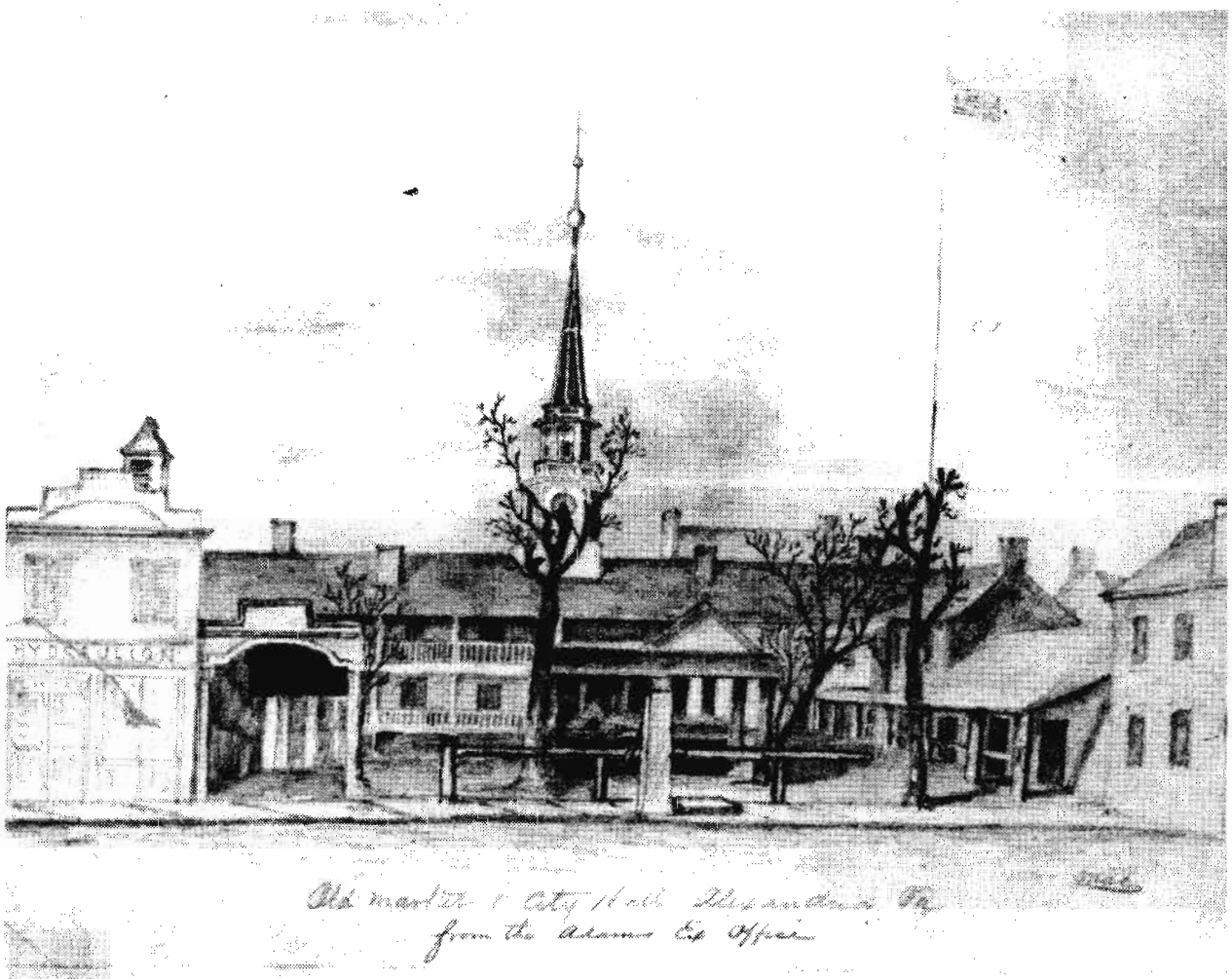
George Washington's hometown was Alexandria and his involvement there was great. A story which appeared in the Alexandria Gazette for September 16, 1876, and later in Scribner's Monthly, reveals how fundamental and important Washington's assistance was. However, it is important to consider the source, for Parson Mason Locke Weems is the same man who gave us the story of the cherry tree:

Parson Weems relates that the planters.... In this neighborhood having an abundance for hospitality were yet too proud to send garden stuff to market, and left that for the Negroes to turn a penny... the supply could never be depended upon, and sometimes failed altogether, so that the rich merchants of Alexandria were "often in danger of starvation." They were afraid to invite company, for often when the company came the Negroes failed to bring anything to market. When Washington moved to Mt. Vernon, says the Parson, he established a market cart -- the first known in the neighborhood; his neighbors followed his example and Alexandria lived on the fat of the land.

In 1752, two years after the Market House was built on Cameron Street, construction began on the Fairfax County Court House, for this was the year Alexandria became the county seat. The first mention of this structure was on December 19, 1752, in the Trustees' Minute Book. Four town trustees, John Carlyle, John Dalton, George Johnston, and William Ramsay, were instructed to see to the finishing of the Court House. After three years, the building was deemed insufficient; in 1765, it required extensive repairs. Peter Wagener, Court Clerk, was given the bricks as indemnity for tearing down the old building. The Court House could have been of brick, or of wood with a brick foundation. Again, this structure's location is not specified in early writings. According to Fairfax Harrison in Landmarks of Old Prince William, the Court House was on Fairfax Street, nearly opposite to Carlyle House.

The Market Square was fenced in 1752, and a jail, pillory, stocks, and a necessary house were subsequently put up on the Square. The 1752 county jail may well have been the "old goal" spoken of in the Fairfax Court records for September 21, 1784. This jail was possibly on Cameron Street. The one

early building which was documented several times during its long life was the Schoolhouse and Town Hall, built on the Southwest corner of Cameron and Fairfax Streets in 1759. The Town Hall appears in a drawing of the Market Square. This drawing, signed "MAC," must have been



Drawing of Old Market House and City Hall looking west from Adams Express office on the east side of the 100 block of N. Fairfax Street. ca. 1827-1852. Courtesy Alexandria Library

executed between 1827 and 1852. The 1827 Hydraulion Fire Company appears in the foreground and the 1852 market stalls had not been constructed. The Schoolhouse-Town Hall, as it appears in the drawing, was a two-story brick structure with a gabled roof. The windows were crowned by flat brick arches. Three years later, in 1762, a small house was built next to the Schoolhouse to hold firewood.

In 1763, a new brick prison was constructed under the supervision of William Ramsay. This prison was put up on Fairfax Street, just north of Shinbone Alley. John Carlyle was given the responsibility by the Court, nine years later, in 1772, for the replacement of the necessary house, stocks and whipping post. One other early building on the Market Square was the original Watch House, torn down in 1818 when the jail on Fairfax was converted to a fish market-watch house.

There were two fire companies on Market Square in the early years. The Friendship Volunteer Fire Company was established in 1774; and in the 1790's, the company's engine house was on Royal Street near the alley. According to the Alexandria Gazette for June 22, 1871, the Sun Fire Company was building a new engine house. Later, the City's Common Council, on November 20, 1819, ordered that the Sun Fire Company Engine House be placed near the line of the Friendship Fire Company House to provide for more convenient passage through the alley. It is probable, then, that the "new" Sun Engine House was built in 1785 on the alley and was used by the Sun Fire Company until 1839, when the company moved into the fish market. An appropriation of \$200.00 was made to fit up this building. Three years later, in 1842,

the Sun Fire Company was moved again, this time to the old 1759 Schoolhouse-Town Hall at the southwest corner of Cameron and Fairfax Streets.

1785-1817

In 1784, Alexandrians petitioned for a new Market House. The two-story brick building, 78 by 24 feet, on Cameron Street near Royal, was finished in 1785. The first floor was the market place. The second floor was used by the Hustings Court from 1785 to 1802 and by the Fairfax County Court from 1790 to 1800, which is the year the County Court was moved to the town of Providence, now Fairfax City.

In 1802, the Washington Masonic Lodge, which had been meeting in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, fitted up a hall with anterooms, 50 by 22 feet, at a cost of \$1,988.33 over the Market in the Court House. Access to the Hall was by means of a covered porch on the south side of the building, supported by brick pilasters. The 1809 Scale House, on Cameron Street just east of the Market House, was also built on brick pillars to correspond with the Market House. Both the Market House and the Scale House appear in the 1827-1852 drawing.

1817-1871

The new 1817 Market House which fronted on Royal Street was a significant and expensive project for the town of Alexandria. The building was connected to the 1785 Market House supported by brick pillars and was 154 feet long and 24 feet wide. It was a three-story brick structure. The cupola containing the bell and town

clock was designed by Benjamin Latrobe.

On the eastern side of the building was a two-story porch supported by brick pillars. The first floor was a market, providing a total of twenty-three butcher stalls on the square. There were also benches under the portico between the pillars for the country people. The second floor contained the Alexandria Library in the north, the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, the Exchange Coffee House and Reading room, and after 1827, the Town Hall for Council meetings. The third floor was rented from the city by the Alexandria Museum.

On the other side of Market Square, at Fairfax Street and the alley, work was progressing in 1817 on the old jail. This 1763 building was converted to a Watch House on the second floor and fish market on the first. An archway was also put in on the first floor to allow for free passage into the alley. The original Watch House was torn down in 1818. That year the public whipping post was also demolished.

The Hydraulion Fire Company's Engine House was built in 1827 on Fairfax Street, to the north of the Watch House-Fish Market. This company was founded in that year as a response to the disastrous fire of 1827. The structure, costing \$200.00, was two stories in height. The gable end facing Fairfax was stepped; and from the opposite end of the gabled roof, rose a cupola containing the fire bell. To the north of the Engine House was an open-sided shed, illustrated in the 1827-1852 drawing. The most significant difference between this photograph and the earlier drawing is the presence of large market sheds running parallel to Cameron in the Market Square.

These sheds were built by Bernard C. Crook in 1852.

The Friendship Fire Company moved off the Market Square in 1839, a year after the Crescent and Friendship were consolidated. The new engine house was on King Street between Columbus and Alfred Streets. In 1851, this company moved an engine house to Alfred Street between King and Prince Streets. The house burned in March 1855, and the cornerstone for a new brick engine house was laid on July 23, 1855. The Hydraulion Fire Company moved soon after, in 1856, to its new location at 209 North Royal Street. Both buildings still stand, although they were renovated several times in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The April 30, 1869 Alexandria Gazette reported repairs being made to the roof of the Market House. A marvelous editorial appeared the next day, which bears quoting:

The Market House - It was stated in yesterday's Gazette that repairs to a portion of the roof of the Market House were in progress. Repairs to a portion of the roof! From the time of the Bible, when the folly of putting new wine into old bottles was discussed upon, to that of General Milroy, who essayed to squelch the Confederacy by keeping Mrs. Arnold's old cow, or more recently to the attempt made to prevent stealing in the Treasury Department by turning out some of the pretty female clerks employed there, there has never been recorded such an effort. The whole framework about the building is decayed and dilapidated, and can only be repaired by being

torn down and renewed....In the meantime visitors to the Alexandria Museum have admired the pride of Major Mountford's declining years, from points in the room not selected for their perspective advantages, but solely with reference to the degree of dryness, and such guests of the Mansion House as have looked upon wine when it was red the night before, have waked up in the morning, to behold from the western windows of that hotel a scene of such dilapidation and unsightliness as to induce them to order "something" to revive their spirits.

The City responded immediately to public opinion and on June 29, 1869, plans were being drawn up for the renovation of the Market House. Benjamin F. Price, a local architect, suggested the demolition of the Cameron Street Market House and the construction of a new building. This plan was accepted as well as Price's bid of \$3,300.00 for construction.

The Market House was to be 73 feet long and 24 feet wide. Facing Cameron Street, it was to be built between the western wing on Royal Street and the Washington Lodge Hall in the east, and to be the height of the western section. Price's plan called for a second floor, twelve feet in height, containing five offices of two rooms each, a committee room, and necessary closets. The porch on the Market was to be twelve feet wide. The portion of the building occupied by the Lodge was to comply in size and style with the city's renovated structure.

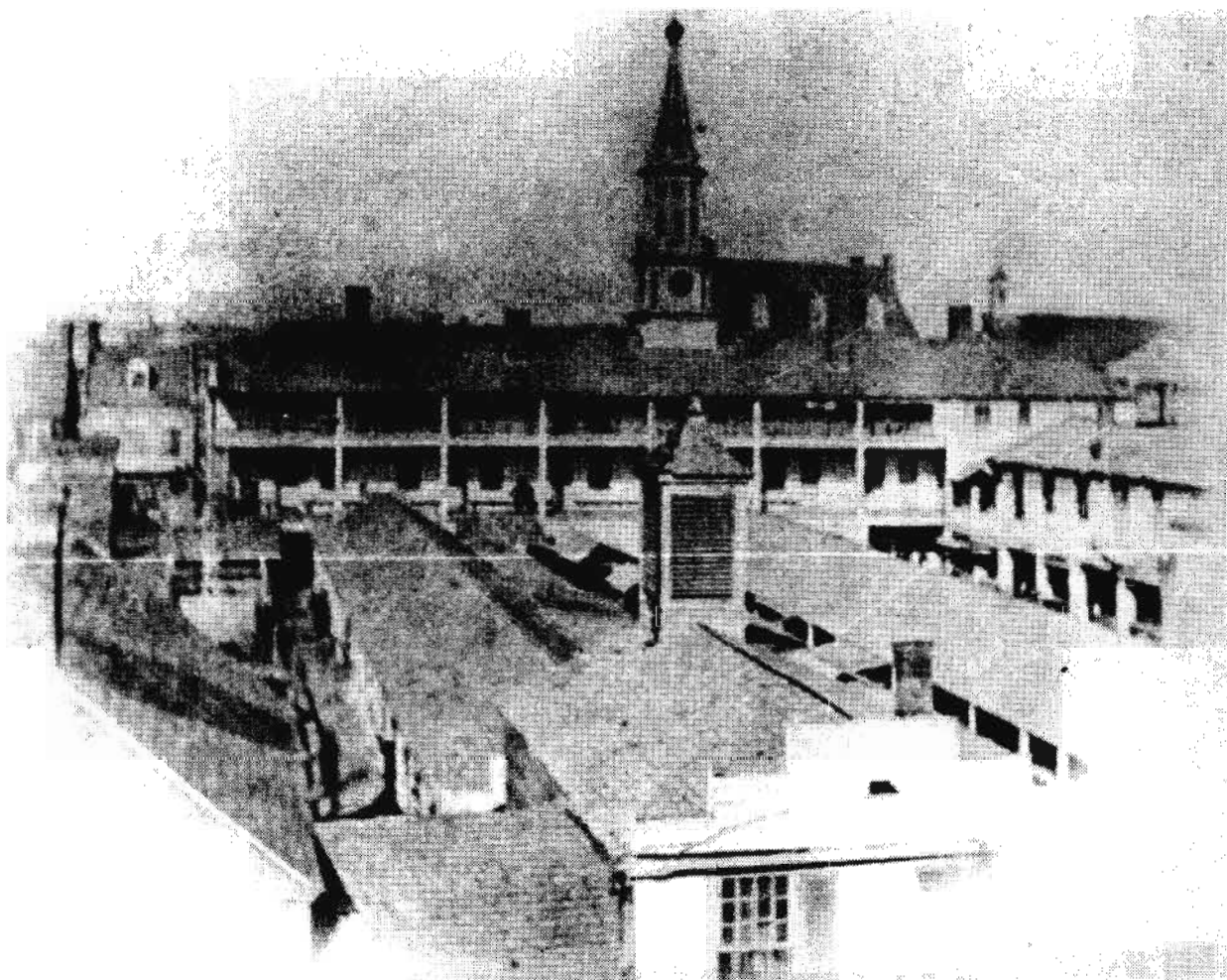
The demolition began a month later. At the same time, in September of 1869, the clock on Royal Street was repaired. By December

the butchers had moved into their new stalls and the repairs were completed on the north wing of the Market House. The Masonic Lodge had been fitted up at a cost of \$1,500.00, which provided a new banqueting hall on the market side adjoining the north wing.

A year after the Market House renovation, in November, 1870, a proposal was made in City Council to build a new Corporation Court House along Cameron Street between the Lodge Hall in the west and Fairfax Street on the east. The Sun Fire House, which was the 1759 Schoolhouse, would be demolished and the company would be moved to the Star Engine House.

In March, 1871, several plans were presented for a new court house. The most popular plan was for an elaborate L-shaped building on Cameron Street and along Fairfax Street to the alley. It would contain the court room, two clerks' offices, a fireproof records room, a police headquarters, ten stores, and a public hall, to be 90 feet by 45 feet, with two antechambers. The cost was estimated at \$20,000.00. There was no name given for the architect who had presented this plan to the Common Council. It should be noted that the Building Committee was made up of the following members: James S. French, B.F. Price, George Shinn, and Alden C. Harmon. In 1870, Price had been elected to the City Council, and for this reason was serving on the Building Committee. It is possible that it was Price's plan which was being given serious attention by the city.

This particular Court House was destined never to be built. On May 18, 1871, a disastrous fire destroyed the 1817 Market



Old City Hall and Market House, Aerial view. Before May 19, 1871. ca. 1852-1871. Courtesy of William F. Smith and the Alexandria Library, Lloyd House

House on Royal Street, as well as the section on Cameron Street. A month later, the old Watch House, the Hydraulion Engine House, and the Sun Fire Engine House were torn down to make way for the new City Hall. The design was that of the renowned Washington, D.C. architect, Adolph Cluss. A local builder-contractor, Edward H. Dulahay, presented a bid for \$45,000.00 which was received and accepted on October 8, 1871. The Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge signed a separate contract with Dulahay. A local architect, B.F. Price, provided a plan for the steeple which would cost \$8,000.00 to build. Alexandria citizens had asked that this steeple be a replica of Benjamin Latrobe's original 1817 design. The structure was paid for by private donation.

Adolph Cluss, the architect, had come to the United States from Germany in 1848. His father and grandfather had been architects and he had studied engineering and architecture. Cluss, in partnership with Joseph Wilrich von Kammerhueber, designed and built the Masonic Temple in Washington (1867-69), the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1869, and in 1870, the Center Market, which was located where the National Archives now stands. Cluss' part in designing these three buildings was of importance in 1871 when he was chosen to design Alexandria's City Hall

Cluss' use of the Second Empire style gave grandeur and importance to the Alexandria City Hall. The building was U-shaped around a central courtyard which contained the market sheds. The structure was essentially two-storied, with three-story pavilions at the four corners of the U, and a four-story pavilion in the center of the Cameron Street facade. The City Hall was

of brick, with masonry bearing walls and paired cast iron columns which supported the wooden ceilings and floor joists.

Cluss insisted on the most advanced machine-made products available. The materials used in building the City Hall: brick with concrete footings, cast iron columns, and exteriors of pressed brick with cast iron trim reflect his interest in fire-proofing and safety in construction.

The earliest plan known of the City Hall is the first floor drawing used here to establish the original arrangement of the interior on all three floors. I have arrived at a date for this first floor drawing: 1898-1902, by comparing it to Sanborn Insurance maps for those years. The Alexandria Gazette's silence indicates that few changes had been made to the City Hall in the time between 1871 and 1898; and for this reason, the plan is of importance for the study of the interior spaces.

As can be seen from the plan description, the arrangement and use of the interior relates closely to the plan which had been under consideration right before the fire. The police and fire companies were placed in the eastern wing, the courts in the northeast, and the city offices in the north and west. Cluss' interest in fire proofing was evident in the Court Records vault on the second floor in the northeast corner. The walls were of brick with no intruding wood studding. The iron floor and ceiling were laid in cement and the documents were further protected by an iron door and iron shutters. The floor and ceiling were still intact until the 1982 demolition of the City Hall's interior.

The market stalls which occupied most of

the first floor of the City Hall were described in the Alexandria Gazette for January 4, 1873:

Each stall is provided with a locked closet beneath to be secured by a latch and padlock, but most of our leading dealers will, as soon as they get possession, adorn the stalls after the fashion of other cities, and marble tables, gilt ornaments, and elegant carvings will be the order of the day.

That this sort of ornament was not out of the ordinary is indicated in an account of a butcher stall in the old Market House:

Mr. J. Whitely, an employee at Green's Cabinet Factory, has carved from drawings by Mr. B.F. Price, builder, out of a block of wood, a steer's head for a butcher's stall in the market, which is pronounced to be one of the most perfect and excellent pieces of work ever executed by a mechanic. (Alexandria Gazette: February 25, 1870)

Over the years, changes have been made to the 1871 building. The most extensive addition was made by architects, Robert A. Willgoos and Dwight G. Chase in the early 1960's. It consisted of a Colonial Revival style section, filling the U-shaped courtyard. Beyond the building, to the south, a plaza was created, which is today the site for Market Days and community events, such as the Gathering of the Scottish Clans during Alexandria's annual Christmas Walk.

In 1982-1984, a major renovation of the City Hall was supervised by Neer and

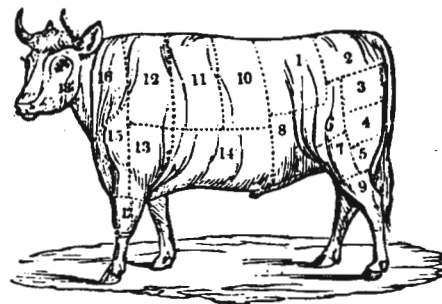
Graef, Architects' Group Practice, Associated Architects. The exterior was little changed, but the interior circulation pattern between the 1871 and 1961 sections was altered and improved with new elevators and corridors. A floor and mezzanine were added on the northern side freed of partitions. To make way for these changes, most of the 1871 interior was gutted. What will remain of the past are the drawings, photographs, and descriptions included in this essay.

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A Chronology of Market Square Events

- 5-11-1749.....*Establishment of Alexandria as a town at Hunting Creek warehouse.*
- 1-31-1750.....*Announcement of lottery for a church and Market House in "Belhaven."*
MG
- 5-3-1752.....*First Fairfax County Court held in Alexandria.*
FH
- 11-22-1752.....*John Carlyle paid 1500 lbs. tobacco for pillory and stocks.*
FCC
- 12-19-1752.....*Court House lot to be fenced; John Carlyle, John Dalton
Pr George Johnston, and William Ramsay to supervise finishing of Court
House said to face Fairfax Street., (Harrison, p. 323).*
- 5-24-1753.....*Fairfax County public prison built by subscription in Alexandria.*
FCC
- 8-23-1753.....*Jail repaired - supervised by William Ramsay, John Carlyle and George
FCC Johnston.*
- 12-19-1754.....*William Gladin, janitor, paid 800 lbs. tobacco for cleaning Court House every
FCC Court day.*
- 1-11-1755.....*Insufficiency of Court House noted.*
Pr
- 11-20-1755.....*William Ramsay had table made for the Court House. William Waite provided
FCC furnishings.*
- 11-17-1756.....*Court House lot fenced in -- supervised by John West, John Carlyle, and
FCC William Ramsay. William Gladin, janitor, paid 800 lbs. tobacco for
cleaning Court House every Court day.*
- 11-18-1756.....*Fencing completed. Necessary house built.*
FCC
- 5-17-1759.....*Schoolhouse to be built--supervised by Thomas Colvill, John West, Jr., and
FCC John West, Gent. (S.W. corner of Fairfax and Cameron Streets)*
- 2-19-1762.....*House next to schoolhouse built for holding firewood.*
FCC
- 11-17-1762.....*Sheriff paid 1 lb. 2 shillings to Carlyle and Dalton for work on Court House
FCC and prison.*
- 12-21-1763.....*A new prison built with bricks made in Alexandria under the supervision of
FCC William Ramsay. John Carlyle, George Johnston, John West, and Robert
Adam supervise work on the Court House.*
- 1-16-1765.....*George William Fairfax and Daniel McCarty oversee repairs to Court House.*
FCC
- 3-20-1765.....*Major repairs to the Court House - new bricks for foundation, new windows,
FCC flooring. Plastering mended and whitewashed. Window shutters and new door
and table for Jury Room. Work executed under the supervision of George
William Fairfax and Daniel McCarty.*

- 2-2-1767.....*Schoolhouse in need of repairs; to be supervised by Thomas Fleming and
Pr Robert Adam.*
- 9-23-1772.....*Carlyle oversees construction of necessary house, stocks, and whipping post.
FCC*
- 11-19-1772.....*James Connell, carpenter, repairs Court House and paid for cleaning and
FCC for providing fire and water for one year.*
- 1774.....*Founding of Friendship Fire Company (located on Royal Street at Sharpshin
Sa Alley).*
- 1775.....*Founding of the Sun Fire Company.
Sa*
- 8-23-1783.....*Stocks and pillory built by William Ramsay.
FCC*
- 9-21-1784.....*Citizens petition for erection of new Market House; to begin at the old goal and
FCC the present Market House and to extend along Royal and Cameron Streets
opposite John Wise's.*
- 6-16-1785.....*Request for construction bids on the Market House. To be 78 ft. in length and
AG 24 ft. in width; 2-story (S.E. corner of Royal and Cameron Streets)*
- 12-19-1785.....*Sun Fire Company to erect an engine house on Fairfax Street.
FCC & SA*
- 11-22-1786.....*Repairs to jail supervised by Richard Conway.
FCC*
- 10-16-1787.....*Repairs to jail supervised by Richard Conway.
FCC*
- 11-23-1787.....*Repairs to Court House.
FCC*
- 3-18-1788.....*Conway oversees enlarging of Court House bar.
FCC*
- 12-16-1788.....*Sheriff applies to Court to levy tobacco for new Court House or for repairs to
FCC present one.*
- 1-20-1789.....*A number of citizens sign remonstrance against levying tobacco for Court
FCC House.*
- 11-15-1790.....*County Court to meet in new Hustings Court House above the Market.
FCC*
- 2-22-1791.....*Peter Wagener, County clerk, to occupy Schoolhouse as an office.
FCC*
- 6-17-1793.....*Conway supervises repairs to jail. According to Mary Powell: "In 1791, during
FCC & Po the Mayoralty of Philip Marsteller, 'the Mayor and Common Council resolved
that Peter Wagener, the Clerk, should have leave to use the rooms lately
occupied by the Alexandria School as an office...and that he be given title
to the bricks of the County Court House as indemnify for pulling it down.'" (pp. 37-38)*
- 4-16-1798.....*County Court held in Alexandria Court House until new public buildings
erected.*

- 4-1800.....*Fairfax County Court moved to the town of Providence, now Fairfax City.*
 FH
- 5-19-1800.....*Clerk of Court to keep office in Alexandria until Court directs otherwise.*
 FCC
- 1780-1801.....*Hustings Court met in Alexandria from 1780-1801.*
 EC
- 1802.....*According to Brockett, the Washington Masonic Lodge met in 1790 "...in the Chamber of the Common Council. This was a two-story brick building, on the Market Square, at the southwest corner of Fairfax and Cameron Streets." Building later used by Sun Fire Company. In 1802, the Lodge, over the Market on Cameron Street, had created a Hall with anterooms - 50 x 22 ft. Cost was \$1,988.33. Entrances on Royal and Cameron Streets "by means of a covered porch, extending along the south side of that part of the Cameron Street wing of the old market building (erected in 1752), which was formerly, and for many years, used as Court House." (pp. 34-35). This was the Hustings Court House, built in 1785.*
 Br
- 8-19-1809.....*Construction of Scale House, to extend from the east end of Market House to the Clerk's office to front on Cameron Street. To be of brick, with double doors and a window on each side. To be built on pillars to correspond with present Market House.*
 AG
- 12-3-1811.....*Letter from "Crispin" to the Alexandria Gazette. He opposed placing the town clock on the Court House.*
 AG
- 2-8-1816.....*Committee for enlarging Market House makes report to Common Council.*
 AG
- 3-4-1816.....*Council stipulates that Market House must be around square, ornamented with trees. To front on Royal Street, and to be connected with present Market House. On Royal Street, to be 150 ft. in length to Cameron Street. To have portico supported on brick pillars.*
 M5
- 6-18-1816.....*Proposals for Market House brick work. Building to be 154 ft. in length and 24 ft. in width.*
 AG
- 10-2-1816.....*Original design of Market House varied to admit attic story and cupola for bell and town clock. City appropriates \$1,500.00.*
 A2
- 12-11-1816.....*\$1,500.00 appropriated for Market House.*
 A2
- 1-4-1817.....*\$1,500.00 appropriated for Market House.*
 A2
- 2-17-1817.....*\$1,500.00 appropriated for bell and town clock.*
 A2
- 2-27-1817.....*Proposals for town clock received until March 20.*
 AG
- 3-15-1817.....*Committee appointed to superintend finishing of Market House. Committee authorized to rent to Marine and Fire Insurance Companies two rooms not exceeding 24 ft.; adjoining rooms rented by the Exchange Coffee House.*
 M5
- 3-16-1817.....*\$4,000.00 appropriated for the Market House. [A2]*

- 4-16-1817.....Scale House rented as market to country people only.
M5
- 6-28-1817.....Bell now being used by theater to be removed and placed in cupola of new
M5 Market House.
- 11-1-1817.....Old jail on Fairfax and Shinbone Alley - lower floor to be gutted. Arch to be
M5 built for free passage. Second story rooms to be fitted up for Watch House.
First floor to be fish market. Lamps for Market House erected.
- 1-14-1818.....Building Committee to employ carpenters.
M5
- 3-1-1818.....From General Fund: \$9,911.00 for finishing Market House, including cupola,
M5 \$207.48 for bell; \$1,142.28 for town clock, etc.
- 3-18-1818.....Common Council orders Superintendent of Police to have fitted up in old jail
M5 an upper room to keep people taken up by the Watch. Present Watch House
to be torn down.
- 3-21-1818.....Public whipping post taken down.
M5
- 3-26-1818.....Benches put up in new Market House under portico between pillars. Stalls to
M5 be rented.
- 4-4-1818.....Alexandria Library Company to rent north room over new Market for one year
M5 at \$100.00.
- 9-14-1818.....Levy Court to rent large rooms adjoining Library as office for Clerk of Circuit
M5 Court of D.C.
- 9-15-1818.....Repair of enclosure around Market Square.
M5
- 9-30-1818.....Superintendent of Police erected four lamps on Market House.
M5
- 10-31-1818.....Stairs built leading to Watch House.
M5
- 11-18-1818.....T. Mountford, manager of Alexandria Museum (Masonic), applies for part of
M5 the upper story in north of new Market House for museum.
- 2-27-1819.....Exchange Coffee House and Reading Rooms - rent reduced by \$100.00. Large
M5 room now to be called the Town Hall. The Coffee House to furnish its own
fuel and light and can no longer sell spirits or fermented liquors.
- 9-25-1819.....Benches to be erected in center of new Market House for country people. Clerk
M5 of Market to provide a set of small scales and weights for accommodation
of country people.
- 11-20-1819.....Joseph Rinker paid \$19.80 for work on Market House. Matthias Snyder paid
M5 \$6.28 and Thomas Bird paid \$9.49. Sun Fire Company Engine House to be
placed near line of Friendship Fire Company Engine House to provide for
more convenient passage through alley.
- 3-1-1820.....Corporation Accounts ending March 1, 1820: \$479.59 for repairs to Market
M5 Square and expense of public property.
- 3-1-1821.....\$226.88 for repairs to Market House and for sweeping Market Square.
M5

- 3-11-1823.....Clerk of the Market to charge butchers and others who make use of Scale House
M5 for hanging meats from one market day to another.
- 10-1824.....Marquis de Lafayette honored in Lodge Hall over the Market.
Br
- 6-12-1826.....Repairs made to Market Steeple.
M5
- 3-3-1827.....\$650.00 appropriated for Hydraulion Fire Co. In addition, \$200.00 appropriated
A2 from General Fund for new engine house on Market Square (to north of Watch House on Fairfax Street).
- 3-13-1827.....Messrs. Gardner, Janney, Mandeville, Thompson, and President of Council to
M5 be a committee to prepare a room to be called Town Hall for Council meetings.
- 3-31-1827.....\$100.00 appropriated for fitting up Town Hall.
M5
- 5-12-1827.....Alterations made in plan for new jail. Charles Bulfinch paid by act of Congress
M5 for "...planning and superintending the building of...the jail in Alexandria" (Cox, 158). 403 N. St. Asaph St.
- 12-1-1828.....Repairs made to rooms occupied by Circuit and District Courts. Repairs paid
M5 for by the U.S. Government.
- 1838-1839.....Court House designed by Robert Mills was built on the west side of the 300
Co block of N. Columbus Street. (Cox, p. 12).
- 3-25-1839.....Friendship Fire Company builds new engine house on King St., between
H3 Columbus and Alfred Streets.
- 11-12-1839.....Sun Fire Company given permission to occupy as engine house what was fish
H4 market. \$200.00 to fit up building.
- 1-18-1841.....Superintendent of Police to place fence between the Watch House and
AG Hydraulion Fire Company.
- 6-6-1842.....Sun Fire Company granted use of second story of old Town Hall-Schoolhouse
H4 on the S.W. corner of Fairfax and Cameron Streets for meetings.
- 3-1-1848.....Corporation Accounts for year ending March 1, 1848; \$71.87 for Market
M5 House.
- 3-1-1849.....Corporation Accounts for year ending March 1, 1849: \$741.07 for market
M5 sheds.
- 1851.....Friendship Fire Company Engine House moved to Alfred Street between King and
H3 Prince Streets.
- 3-12-1851.....Council receives petition from the Sun Fire Company for new engine house.
AG
- 3-24-1851.....\$150.00 appropriated for fitting up a house at the southwest corner of Cameron
and Fairfax Streets as an engine house for the Sun Fire Company.
- 10-30-1851....."New" building for Sun Fire Company almost completed.
AG
- 6-29-1852.....Bernard C. Crook hired to put up vegetable stall in Market Square.
AG
- 8-3-1852.....Recently erected Market shed to be extended towards Fairfax Street 90 ft.--to be
built by B.C. Crook.

- 3-1-1853.....Corporation Accounts for year ending March 1, 1853: \$943.69 for Market
M5 Square including new sheds.
- 6-24-1855.....Cornerstone for new engine house for Friendship Fire Company laid on North
Sa Alfred Street between King and Prince Streets.
- 10-29-1856.....Hydraulion Fire Company moves to new engine house at 209 N. Royal Street
AG next to Captain Duffey's residence.
- 2-7-1857.....Story in Alexandria Gazette of George Washington fighting fire in 1787. Fire
AG in William McKnight's Tavern, N.W. corner of King and Royal Streets.
Charles McKnight who was an eyewitness to the event recalls the blaze
for the Gazette. Mention of the Friendship Fire House at the mouth of
Sharpshin Alley on Royal Street.
- 3-1-1865.....Sun Fire Engine house in bad condition and in need of repairs. During the Civil
AG, Sa War, City's fire equipment was used by Federal troops and suffered from
misuse. First steam engines used in Alexandria during the Civil War.
- 1866.....First steam engine purchased, the "Potomac," for \$4,500.00 - for Hydraulion
Sa Fire Company.
- 7-31-1868.....Carpenters repair Sun Fire Company Engine House.
AG
- 5-1-1869.....Editorial decrying dilapidation of Market House on Cameron Street.
AG
- 6-29-1869.....Plans are drawn up for the renovation of the Market House.
AG
- 8-11-1869.....Committee on Public Property recommends construction of a new Market
AG Building to cost \$3,300.00. Benjamin F. Price's design -- his bid being
lowest, is accepted. The Alexandria Gazette mentions that butchers had
suffered more from the building's condition than had the Masons.
- 8-12-1869.....Market House to be 73 ft. 3 inches by 24 ft. 2 inches. The building to be built
AG between the western wing on Royal Street and Washington Lodge Room on the
east and to be height of western wing. Second story to be 12 ft. high, divided
into five offices of two rooms each, one committee room, and necessary
closets. Porch - 12 ft. 4 inches wide. That part of building occupied by Lodge
to comply with rest of structure in size and style. Town clock repaired.
- 9-1-1869.....Demolition of old Market House on Cameron Street begun by B.F. Price.
AG
- 9-3-1869.....Repair of clock. Clock purchased in 1816 for \$1,500.00. The bell cost \$450.00.
AG
- 12-2-1869.....Butchers occupied their new stalls at the new Market House.
AG
- 12-4-1869.....Repairs to the north wing of the Market House completed. New banqueting hall
AG, Br of the Washington Lodge on the south front adjoins the north wing. Cost of Hall
-- \$1,500.00.
- 1-15-1870.....William Cogan furnished Market House with gas fixtures.
AG
- 1-21-1870.....Office of City Gas Works located in one of the new offices. [AG]

- 2-25-1870.....*Mr. J. Whitely, employed at Green's Cabinet Factory, carved a steer's head from drawings by B.F. Price to be used for one of the butcher's stalls.*
AG
- 11-25-1870.....*New Corporation Court Room contemplated. It will be built on Cameron Street between the Lodge Hall and Fairfax Street. It will include the building now occupied by the Sun Fire Company. The Sun Fire Company will be removed to the Star Engine House. Improvements to cost \$2,000.00.*
AG
- 3-18-1871.....*Common Council enacts bill to raise money for Corporation Court House.*
AG *Bonds are issued. The Court House will be on arches and will contain court room, jury room and clerks' offices. Spaces beneath arches to be rental stalls or stands.*
- 3-29-1871.....*Several plans presented to Common Council for a new Court House. The plan most likely to be adopted was an L-shaped building on the S.W. corner Cameron and Fairfax Streets, site of present Sun Fire Engine House. Building to extend on Cameron Street to east end of Lodge and on Fairfax Street to extend to Market Alley including old Watch House north of alley.*
AG
- 3-31-1871.....*Building Committee included James S. French, B.F. Price, George R. Shinn, Alden C. Harmon. The Court House to be an L-shaped building on Cameron and Fairfax Streets and to contain Court House, two clerks' offices, fireproof records room, police headquarters, a public hall 90 ft. by 45 ft. 6 inches, with two antechambers, and ten stores. Cost -- \$20,000.00. Discussion of Alexandria's financial problems.*
AG
- 5-19-1871.....*FIRE! The Market House had been recently repaired. It contained offices of the City Sergeant, Clerk of Corporation Court, Superintendent of Gas works and law offices of A. and C.E. Stuart. The Alexandria Museum was located on the third story of the Royal Street wing. Situated on the second floor was the Mayor's office, Auditor's office, office of tax collector, and Chambers of Aldermen and Common Council. The Rainbow Tavern was situated on Market Alley.*
AG
- 5-22-1871.....*Description of the early Market Square: Sun Fire Company organized 1775. First engine house was on Market Alley. Later, engine house was a frame building next to the present station house (S.W. corner of Fairfax and Cameron Streets).*
AG
- 6-13-1871.....*Old Watch House, originally the county jail, oldest building in town was demolished for the new City Hall.*
AG
- 6-28-1871.....*The old Market House had twenty-three butcher stalls.*
AG
- 11-6-1871.....*The Washington Lodge was located in the old Market House. It would be rebuilt on its old site, center of the Cameron Street block.*
AG
- 2-12-1872.....*The Station House and Sun Engine House and buildings between were removed so the east wing construction could begin.*
AG
- 12-28-1872.....*The Alexandria Gazette newspaper reported that the Sun Fire House had been located on the S.W. corner of Cameron and Fairfax Streets.*
AG

9-16-1876.....Description of the eighteenth century Market Square: jail on the S.E. corner;
 AG clerk's office and school on the N.E. corner; Court House on the north.
 The Cannon House was built between the Market House and the Hydraulion
 Fire Company.

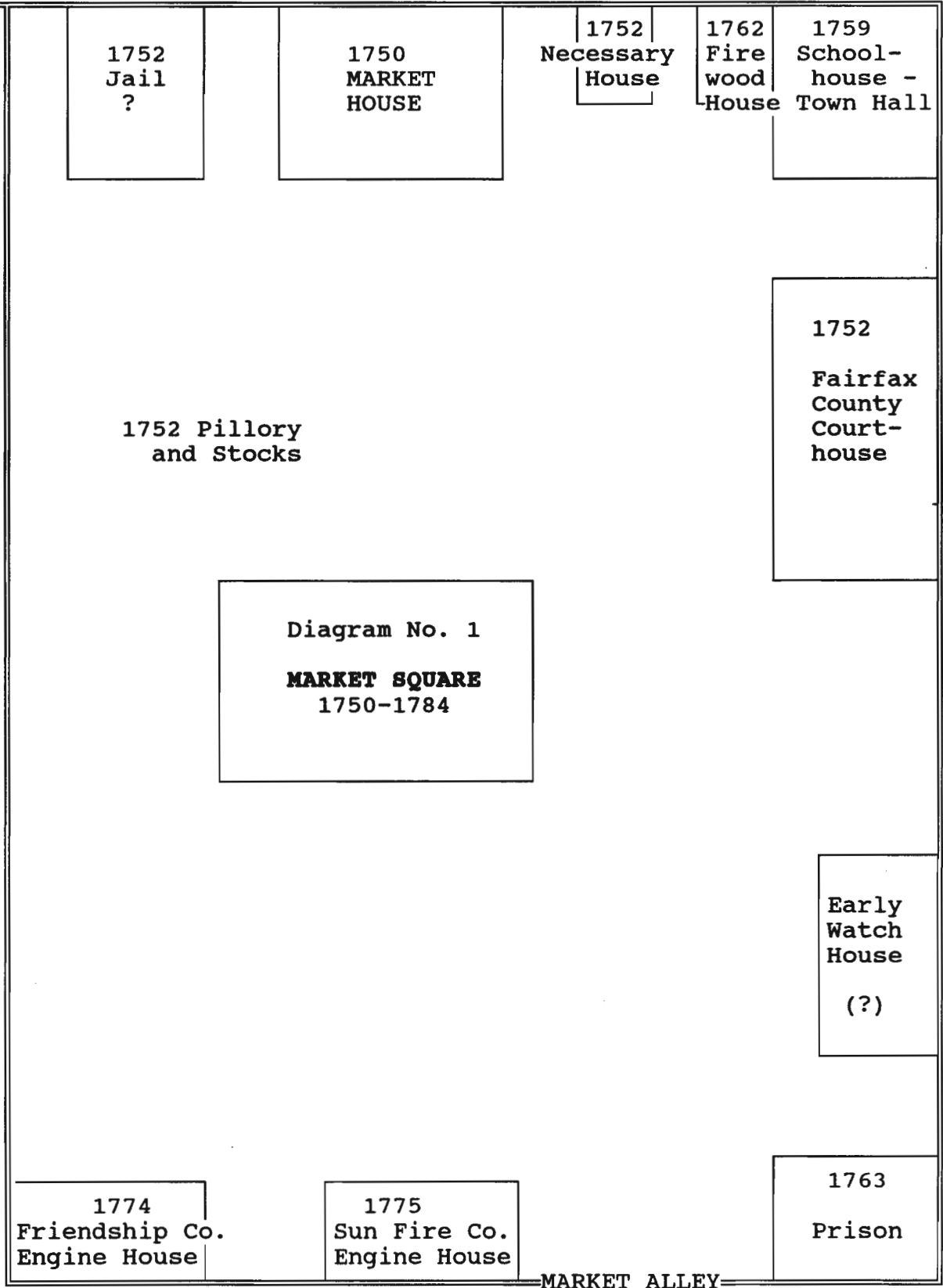
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| <p>AG <u>Alexandria Gazette, 1784-1876. On microfilm, Lloyd House.</u></p> <p>Br <u>Brockett, Franklin L. The Lodge of Washington. Alexandria, Va.: George E. French, Publisher, 1876.</u></p> <p>A2 <u>City of Alexandria, Va., Acts of the Common Council. Book Number 2. 1813-1853. Office of the City Clerk, Alexandria.</u></p> <p>M5 <u>City of Alexandria, Va., Minute Book of the Common Council. Book Number 5. 1817-1830. Office of the City Clerk, Alexandria.</u></p> <p>EC <u>Cox, Ethelyn. Historic Alexandria, Virginia Street by Street. Historic Alexandria Foundation, 1976.</u></p> <p>FCC <u>Fairfax County Court Orderbooks. 1754-1801. Office of the Fairfax County clerk, Fairfax, Va.</u></p> <p>FH <u>Harrison, Fairfax. Landmarks of Old Prince William: A Study of Origins in Northern Virginia. Berryville, Va.: Chesapeake Book Co., 1944.</u></p> <p>H1 <u>Hellmuth, William F. General Information: Fire Department and Other Interesting Facts. unpublished manuscript.</u></p> <p>H2 <u>Hellmuth, William F., and Sampson, Charles L. History of Hydraulion Steam Fire Co. Unpublished manuscript, Lloyd House.</u></p> <p>H3 <u>Hellmuth, William F. Information</u></p> | <p><u>Compiled from Research. Unpublished manuscript, Lloyd House.</u></p> <p>H4 <u>Hellmuth, William F., and Sampson, Charles L. Sun Fire Company: Alexandria Fire Department. Unpublished manuscript, Lloyd House.</u></p> <p>MG <u>Maryland Gazette. January 31, 1750.</u>
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CAMERON STREET

ROYAL STREET

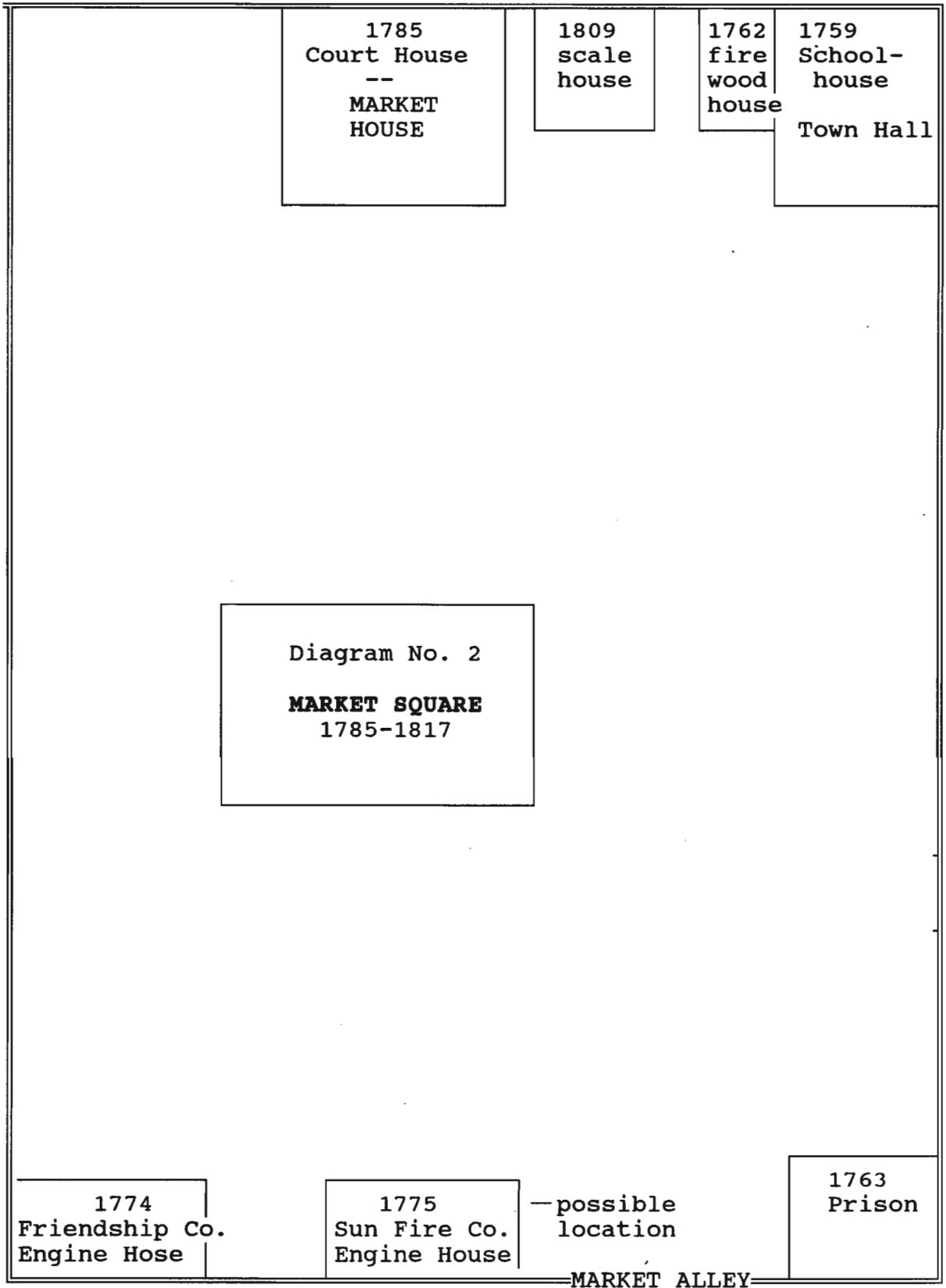
NORTH FAIRFAX STREET



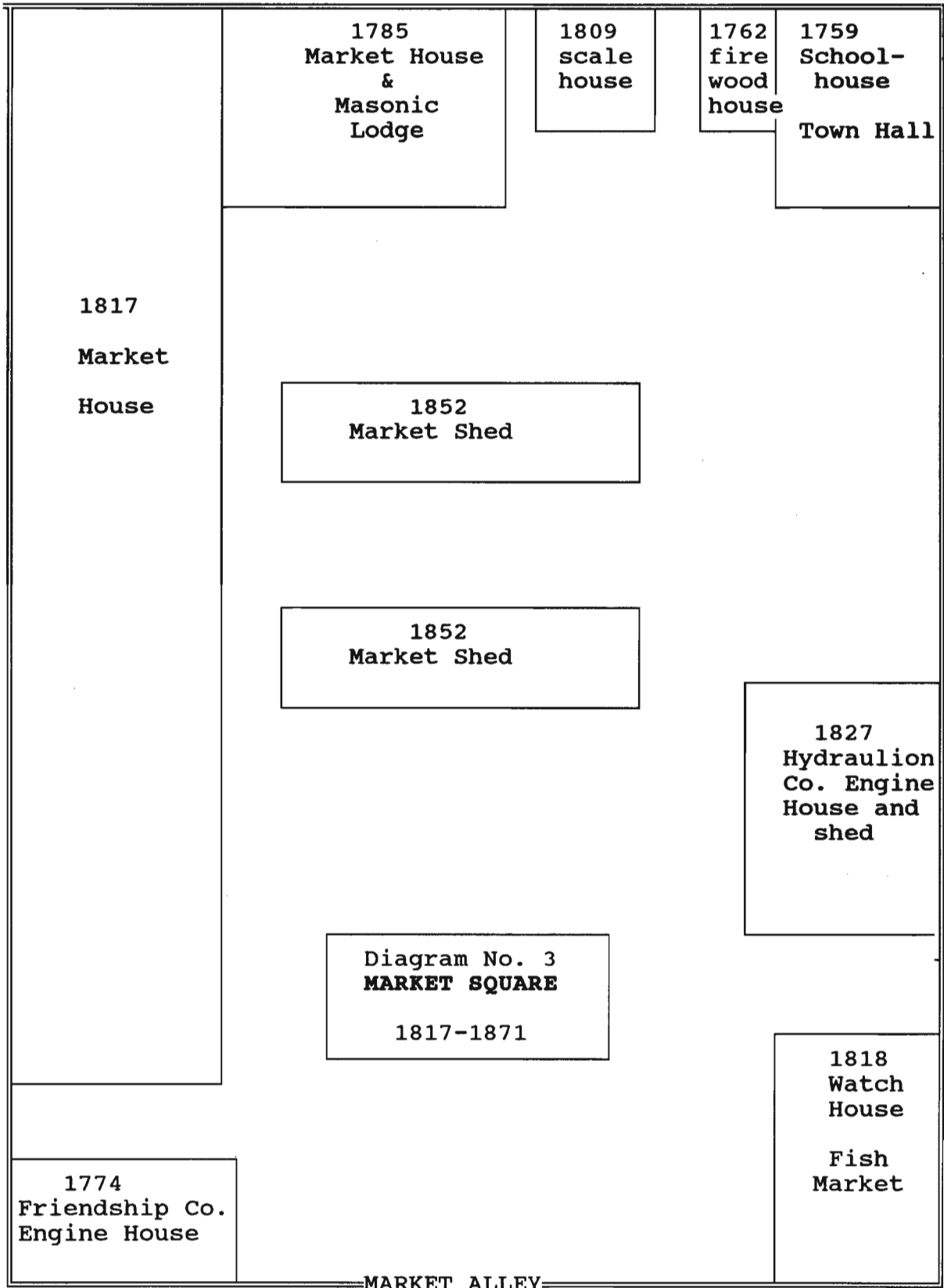
CAMERON STREET

ROYAL STREET

NORTH FAIRFAX STREET



CAMERON STREET



NORTH FAIRFAX STREET

ROYAL STREET