



# Old Town Alexandria

## House and Garden Walking Tour

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

*Historic  
Garden Week*

*Tours benefit restoration of historic gardens  
and landmarks in Virginia*

Tickets online [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)



# Old Town Alexandria

House and Garden Walking Tour  
Saturday, April 26, 2025  
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Hosted By

The Garden Club of Alexandria    The Hunting Creek Garden Club

Co-chairs

Barbara Warder    Paige Nicholson

## Tickets:

**Online:** [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org) \$55 pp.  
(at first house you visit with proof of purchase,  
you will be given a wristband which will  
provide access to other houses on the Tour)

**Local (day of tour only):** \$60 pp.  
Alexandria Visitors Center,  
221 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia

**Refreshments:** Complimentary light  
refreshments available at **St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church 228 S. Pitt Street** from 11:30 a.m. to  
3 p.m. (the church will also be open for touring)

**Facilities:** Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King  
Street, The Lyceum – Alexandria's History  
Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, and The  
Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street.

**Directions:** Take exit 177 A-B from the Capital  
Beltway. Follow signs for Alexandria/Old  
Town and Rt. 1 North. Look for signs for the  
**Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King Street.**

**Metro:** The nearest Metro Station is King St.  
(Blue/Yellow line). A free trolley will bring guests  
from the station to the Visitors Center.

**Paid parking recommended:** Street parking  
in residential areas is not recommended. Paid  
parking is available at: Cameron St. and North  
St. Asaph St.; Cameron St. and North Pitt St.;  
South Pitt St. between Prince and King Sts.;  
North Fairfax St. at King St.; and, North Union  
St. between King and Cameron Sts.

**Photography Policy:** Photography of any kind,  
including via mobile phones, is prohibited at  
tour properties.

## SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 26, 9 am – 3 pm

Shop for heirloom vegetables, herbs, and  
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## Special Activities

Marketplace at the Athenaeum,  
201 Prince Street  
*Open from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.*

Specialty boutique vendors on two  
floors of an 1851 Greek Revival  
building, including an art gallery.

## Refreshments

**R** 228 S. Pitt Street

## Places of Interest

### In Old Town Alexandria

- A** Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.
- B** Farmers' Market, 300 King St.
- C** Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St.
- D** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.
- E** The Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St.
- F** The Lee-Fendall House  
614 Oronoco St.

### South of Old Town Alexandria

American Horticultural Society  
at River Farm, 7931 E Boulevard Dr.  
George Washington's Mount Vernon,  
3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy.  
Gunston Hall,  
10709 Gunston Rd, Lorton

### West of Old Town Alexandria

Green Spring Gardens,  
4603 Green Spring Rd.

## Supporters

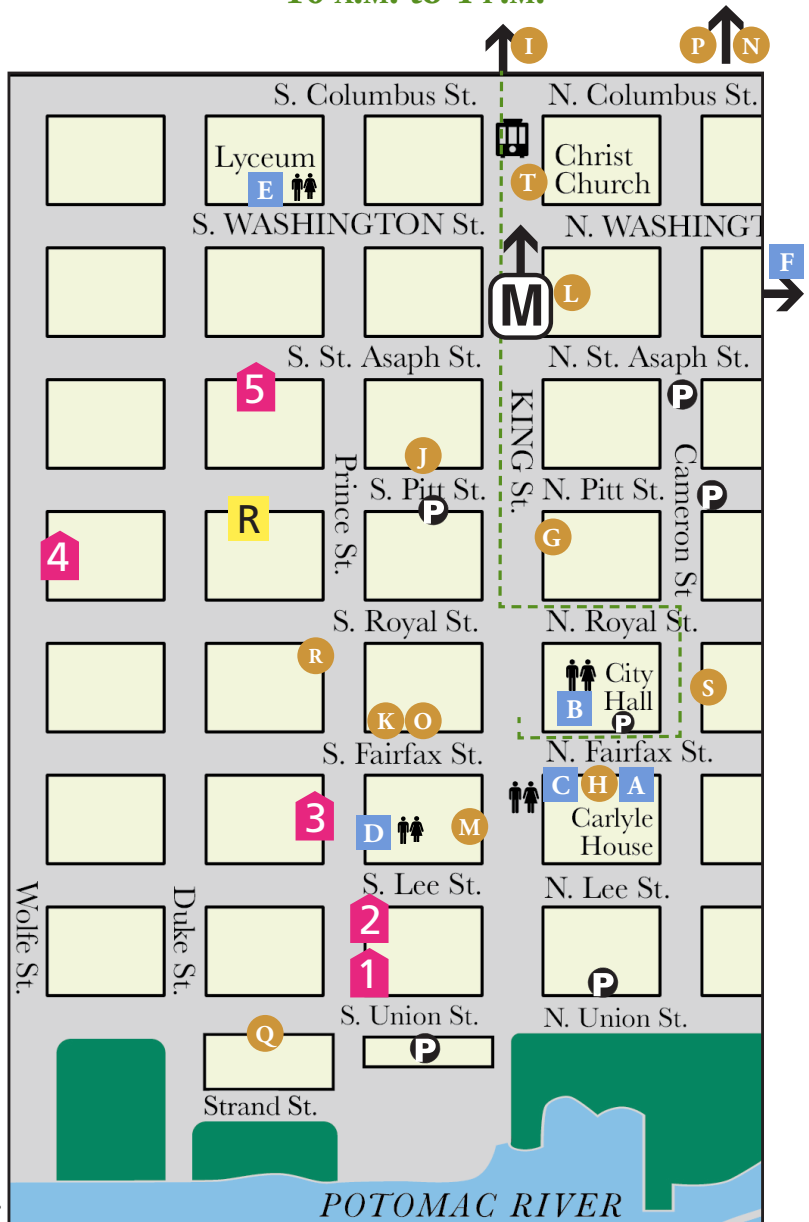
- G** Alexandria Fine Rug, 423 King St.
- H** The Antique Guild, 113 N Fairfax St.
- I** Boxwood, 1205 King St.
- J** Corcoran McEneaney, 109 S. Pitt St.
- K** Enchanted Florist, 139 S Fairfax St.
- L** King's Jewelry, 609 King St.
- M** Market Square, 202 King St.
- N** Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway
- O** Mystique Jewelers, 123 S Fairfax St
- P** Pohanka Automotice Group, Chantilly
- Q** Salon Monte, 210 S Union St.
- R** Sara Campbell, 320 Prince St.
- S** Shoe Hive, 315 Cameron St.
- T** Simon Pearce, 721 King St.

## Old Town Alexandria

## House and Garden Walking Tour

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



## Tour Properties

- 1** 111 Prince Street
- 2** 127 Prince St
- 3** 210 Prince St
- 4** 415 Wolfe St
- 5** 212 S. St. Asaph St

**Important Information:**  
All properties  
on this tour  
are in zip  
code 22314.  
Tour tickets  
are NOT  
sold at these  
locations.

# Tickets include admission to the follow

Overlooking the Potomac River with views of our nation's capital, Old Town Alexandria radiates charm while safeguarding its rich historic roots. Founded in 1749, Alexandria was a significant seaport before the Revolutionary War, was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War, and was a torpedo production site during World War II. In 1946, Alexandria was the third city in the country to establish a historic district to preserve its architectural heritage. This leisurely walking tour of Old Town Alexandria includes private townhomes and secluded gardens along the historic district's tree-lined streets. In addition, the tour ticket includes admission to two Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects within a short driving distance of the tour area — George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Green Spring Gardens.



## *The Mission Statement of the Garden Club of Virginia*

To conserve the gifts of  
nature, to restore and  
preserve historic landscapes  
of the commonwealth, to  
cultivate the knowledge and  
love of gardening and to lead  
future generations to build  
on this heritage.

## **Private Homes, Gardens and Property**

### **1. 111 Prince Street**

In 1790, Thomas Vowell, Sr. built a home on the site of 109 and 111 Prince St. and 22 years later sold it to Thomas Vowell Jr. and John Vowell for \$2,000. Soon after the 1827 Great Fire of Alexandria, 111 Prince St. was sold for \$450. Both lots went through renovations in 1831 and the properties were split and transferred ownership between 1831-1974. The home at 111 Prince St. was completely renovated in 2020 which included a 2-story addition on the back side of the house. The addition includes a sitting room on the first floor and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. Although the home went through a complete renovation, the original floors, staircase, and front windows were restored to keep the historical Old Town charm.

*Heather and Chris Cox, owners*



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2. 127 Prince Street

The house was said to have been built between 1796 and 1799 and was willed to Captain John Harper's daughter in 1804. The Fitzhugh family, daughter and son-in-law of Mary Harper Vowell, came into ownership of the home prior to the 1827 Great Fire of Alexandria. Between 1867 and 1870, the lot was split into two properties and the ownership is unknown. The Hecht family purchased the home in 2022 and undertook a major renovation in 2023, with the goal of keeping the historical integrity of the 1790s Old Town home. While uncovering the walls and ceilings, the decision to expose all of the original brick and beams throughout the house was made and many original floors and windows were restored. The basement floor was dug out to give the original kitchen 9-foot ceilings and space to entertain into the back patio. It was said that the fireplace pot holder on the main floor of the home was made at George Washington's Mount Vernon, which was given as a gift to Captain John Harper and was then gifted to his daughter for her first home.

*Lea and Robbie Hecht, owners*

3. 210 Prince Street

The Michael Swope House, named after its first owner, a Revolutionary War hero, stands with distinction on Gentry Row. Built between 1784-86, this Georgian brick (Flemish bond) townhouse displays a gable roof with dormers, a modillion and fret cornice and a hand-carved pediment Doric doorway. Inside, the house retains an antique patina with random-width pine floors, some original paneled wainscoting, dentil crown moldings, chair rails, cupboards and 12-foot ceilings.

The lot at 210 Prince Street, originally purchased by George Washington's half-brother, Augustine Washington in 1749, was bought by William Ramsey in 1751. In the next three years, the house more than doubled in value, leaving many to speculate that a brick "flounder" was built on it in 1754. Much of the interior woodwork is original to the house. To the left of the entrance hallway is a handsome library containing the owner's icon collection. In the large drawing room, numerous John Stobart prints are displayed, and the fireplace is lined with Delft ship's tiles. The present owners have added a small powder room off the dining room and have restored the dining room fireplace to its original arched brick design.

Double doors lead to the small side garden from both the dining room and kitchen. Completely renovated by the current owners, the garden has two fountains, a small outdoor kitchen and a variety of plantings including ferns, a trellised magnolia, boxwood and clematis.

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# Paul’s Episcopal Church at 228 S. Pitt Street

## 4. Holland House, 415 Wolfe Street

This home sits on land that is thought to have been surveyed by a young George Washington. It was built as a two-story clapboard farmhouse in the mid-1700’s. In the 1780s the property was acquired by a prominent Quaker merchant and was transformed into a large brick townhouse. In the mid-1930s, Mrs. Berenice Holland, who gave her name to the house, added another wing to create a dining room. This resulted in the current L-shaped configuration. This part is now known as the “Music Room.” The property is surrounded by a brick wall that ensures privacy. Pass through the iron gates to the courtyard garden where a statue of Thomas Jefferson, by Colorado artist George Lundeen, takes center stage. There are original double parlors, a new spacious kitchen and a sitting room which opens onto a patio. The owners lived in London for over twenty years and

assembled an extensive collection of British paintings, watercolors and drawings. The collection includes work by well-known English portrait artists from the 16th through the 19th centuries, as well as Chinese porcelain from the late Ming and early Qing dynasties.

## 5. 212 South Saint Asaph Street

Many of the original characteristics of this home have been preserved, perhaps because it has had so few owners. The oldest part of the home, the two-story rear “flounder” section, is said to have been built in 1810 and the smokehouse in back (now a storage shed) was built in 1800. The three-story front section was added in 1856, with much of the house remaining unaltered from that time, including the mantels, the large lead glass mirror, decorative plaster moulding, gasoliers, and flooring in the double front parlor, and all of the wood floors except for the kitchen. The original parquet design floors in the entrance hall and front room are a mixture of walnut, oak and mahogany. The sterling water goblets in the front room china cabinet are a family heirloom. Outdoor additions include a built-in grill, an outdoor fireplace, expanded patio spaces, and a privacy wall built from antique brick sourced out of Richmond. The mahogany tree in the side yard is 235 years old. It is said that Buffalo Bill Cody stayed at the house when he had business in Washington, DC.

*Leah and Ben Williams, owners*



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## Places of Interest

### **GCV Carlyle House Historic Park**

*121 North Fairfax St.*

Carlyle House will be conducting garden tours on April 26th from 11am-3pm. Garden tours are free, donations appreciated. The house will be open from 10am-4pm and tours run on the half hour. A discounted ticket is available for purchase for \$5 for anyone with a valid Historic Garden Week ticket or wristband on April 26th. The garden was completely restored from funds raised by Historic Garden Week. [carlylehouse.org](http://carlylehouse.org)

### **The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden**

*614 Oronoco St. at North Washington St.*

Built in 1785 by Philip Fendall on land purchased from Revolutionary War hero "Light Horse Harry" Lee, this historic house museum presents an intimate study of 19th century family life. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visiting the garden and grounds is free of charge. A discounted ticket to tour the home is available for purchase for \$6 for anyone with a valid Historic Garden Week ticket or wristband on April 26th. [leefendallhouse.org](http://leefendallhouse.org)

### **River Farm**

*7931 East Boulevard Dr.*

River Farm, headquarters to the American Horticultural Society, aims to be a national showcase for environmentally responsible gardening and horticultural practices. One of George Washington's original five farms, the 25-acre site overlooking the Potomac River features a blend of formal and naturalistic gardens including a four-acre meadow, an orchard, a children's garden, and a teaching garden. HGW visitors will receive free admission, parking and a tour of the manor house between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. More details at [AHSgardening.org](http://AHSgardening.org)

### **GCV George Washington's Mount Vernon**

Eight miles south of Alexandria on the GW Pkwy and situated on the Potomac River lies the home of George and Martha Washington. From the end of the American Revolution in 1783 to his election to the presidency in 1789, Washington replaced outbuildings, reshaped gardens, created new lawns, planted trees and even realigned roads and lanes. With funding from Historic Garden Week, the Garden Club of Virginia has helped to restore Mount Vernon's bowling green, one of the major landscape features on this vast plantation. Free admission to the grounds only with a valid HGW ticket/wristband. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, owners. [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org)

### **GCV Green Spring Gardens**

*4603 Green Spring Rd.*

This public garden and historic site include Virginia's only Beatrix Farrand garden, which was recently restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. In 1784, gentleman freeholder John Moss built a brick house on several hundred acres of farmland. In 1942, young power couple Michael and Belinda Straight bought the house and 33 acres and engaged Farrand to design a simple garden room behind the house: a spacious lawn enclosed by a boxwood crescent with a stone retaining wall. The GCV restored the stone wall, rejuvenated the boxwoods, and redesigned a more recently-installed perennial bed to reflect Farrand's signature plant choices. In 1970, the Straights deeded their house and 18 acres to the Fairfax County Park Authority. [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring)

### **Gunston Hall**

*15 mi. south of Alexandria off U.S. Rt. 1 on Rt. 242*

This 550-acre National Historic Landmark was the home of George Mason (1725-1792), author of The Virginia Declaration of Rights. The estate consists of a Georgian mansion, c.1755, and reconstructed kitchen, dairy, laundry and schoolhouse. The Potomac River is viewed from the historic boxwood garden. While not a current restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia, the GCV assisted Gunston Hall with landscaping work from 1949-53. [gunstonhall.org](http://gunstonhall.org)

### **St Paul's Episcopal Church**

*228 S. Pitt St*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church began in 1809 in a small building on South Fairfax Street between Prince and Duke Streets. In 1817, one of the Country's most famous architects, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, was chosen to design the present church. Appointed by President Jefferson in 1803 as surveyor of public buildings in Washington, D.C., Latrobe completed the U.S. Capitol begun by William Thornton, and designed Statuary Hall and the former Supreme Court room. In 1807, he completed the White House, designed both porticos and later restored the building after the War of 1812. An outstanding example of American architecture, inspired by the gothic churches in Europe, the interior of St. Paul's is said to have been modeled after St. James Church, Piccadilly, London. The exterior is said to be modeled after Peterborough Cathedral. [stpaulsalexandria.com](http://stpaulsalexandria.com)



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