

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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100-2

RECEIVED

VLR - 11/20/79

DATE ENTERED

NRHP - 3/20/1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Old Dominion Bank Building (Preferred); Bank of the Old Dominion in Alexandria  
AND/OR COMMON The Athenaeum  
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 201 Prince Street  
CITY, TOWN Alexandria  
STATE Virginia  
VICINITY OF  
CODE 51  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th (Herbert E. Harris, II)  
COUNTY (in city)  
CODE 510

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Athenaeum, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association  
STREET & NUMBER 201 Prince Street  
CITY, TOWN Alexandria  
STATE Virginia  
VICINITY OF  
CODE 22314

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City of Alexandria Circuit Court  
STREET & NUMBER 130 N. Fairfax Street  
CITY, TOWN Alexandria  
STATE Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey VA 428 with 1936 photo  
DATE ca 1936  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS The Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington  
STATE D.C.

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Athenaeum is "the temple-form example of the Greek Revival style in Alexandria ... the order is the simplest of classical orders, the Doric, the tetrastyle portico of unfluted columns is so severe that it reminds one more of the late archaic temples at Paestum near Naples, than of Athens. The stucco, like that of the Lyceum (Alexandria Bicentennial Center) is scored to resemble ashlar. At the Athenaeum, however, the many coats of paint have obscured the masonry effect. The interior consists of one large well-proportioned room with a coved ceiling as well as two small offices at the rear." <sup>1</sup> There are seven large double-hung, twelve-paned sashes, and the large double entrance door appears to have been grained dark oak or mahogany. This building remains unaltered, preserved in its main architectural features. The exterior of the building has been painted and restored to its original color in accordance with the advice of the preservation expert Henry A. Judd of the National Park Service. Arrangements were made through an official of the National Varnish and Lacquer Association to have the paint made up to the specifications of Mr. Judd.

There are three rooms on the main floor, the largest room is 41 x 29 feet, the other rooms are 18 x 13 feet and 10 x 13 feet. A stairway to the basement is in the smaller room. There is an iron circular stairway at the front and to one side of the entrance. There are five rooms in the basement and an old walled-in bank vault and two toilets. There is an outside entrance at the rear of the basement with 4-5 steps up to an enclosed courtyard. There is a paved side yard about 8 feet wide between the building and the adjacent property.

A clue to the fine workmanship in construction of the building appeared in the Alexandria Gazette, April 3, 1852: "The interior of the Bank of the Old Dominion, which is now nearly finished, will present a very handsome appearance, corresponding to its exterior architecture. The carpenter's work by B. H. Jenkins - E. Francis, bricklayer."

The site is part of Lot 57 in the original plan of the town as drawn by George Washington "A Plan of Alexandria now Belhaven". William Fairfax was the first owner of lot 57, the quarter block that includes the northwest corner of Prince and Water (now Lee) Streets. Next owner was Robert Adam, to whom George William Fairfax, heir of William Fairfax, conveyed it on November 5, 1771.

On August 12, 1786, John Harper "recites" that on September 16, 1782, he granted to William Lyles, Jr., a lot fronting 40 feet on the north side of Prince Street and 88 feet on the west side of Water (Lee) Street. Harper releases Lyles from a stipulation in the 1782 deed that Lyles build a two-story brick house to extend at least 20 feet on Prince Street, and gives permission for Lyles to erect "a frame house of larger dimensions than the brick house, with a brick or stone chimney thereto." Alexandria Deed Book B (Hustings Court) p. 364.

On November 5, 1785, William Lyles conveyed the property to John Murray & Obediah Bowen of Fairfax County and John Munford of the City of New York. Alexandria Deed Book B (Hustings Court) p. 366.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1851/1852 BUILDER/ARCHITECT E. Francis - bricklayer  
B.H. Jenkins - carpenter

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Athenaeum is primarily that it is a fine example of Classic Revival architecture, one of only two in the City of Alexandria. The building stands today unaltered and in a good state of preservation due in part to the fact that it has had continuous ownership and uses, except for a few periods. It has played a significant role in the history of Alexandria, especially as a port city.

The bank of the Old Dominion was incorporated in 1851 and immediately started construction of the building and began transacting business May 8, 1852. The Bank was the source of capital and financing of various businesses being strategically situated at the head of "Captain's Row", a block of 18th-century houses beginning at the waterfront.

After the occupation of Alexandria by the Union forces, the Bank closed on May 10, 1862. "The shrewdness of its cashier, William Henry Lambert, kept the bank solvent during the war. When the Northern troops began to invade the city, Lambert buried the assets of the bank in a hidden grave until peace was declared. Thus the bank was able not only to redeem all of its circulation after the war, but to pay a dividend to its stockholders." (Robert G. Whitton, "Banking in Alexandria".)

A rapid expansion of the port facilities followed the entry of the Federal troops, May 27, 1861. The records of the Treasury Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show a massive building program and frenzied activity along the dock area and Prince St. as a base of supplies and material for the Army of the Potomac. The Athenaeum was made a part of the war activity after the closing of the Bank.

From 1907-25 Leadbeaters & Sons, one of the oldest of Alexandria firms, utilized the building in addition to other nearby warehouses for their wholesale drug business as shown in Alex J. Wedderburn, Sesquicentennial Souvenir of Alexandria, Va., 1909. They handled half of the drugs sold in Washington and northern counties of Maryland and nearly all of the Virginia trade with a radius of 100 miles.

In 1925 the Free Methodist Church of North America used the building as their house of worship. They were the first society of that faith to be formed in the region of Maryland-Virginia.

Architecturally, the temple-form structure serves as an important focal point for Alexandria's prestigious lower Prince Street. The handsome but compact structure survives as a rare example of architecturally distinguished commercial building of the antebellum period.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexandria Deed Books

Alexandria Gazette: Dec. 4, 1851; April 3, 1852; May 3, 1852; Jan. 10, 1860.

U.S. Treasury Index of Warrants 1862-67. N. Archives 37-9E4 row 8.

Whitton, Robert G. "Banking in Alexandria." Yearbook of the Alexandria Association, Alexandria, Va., 1957, pp. 66-67, 72.

Leech, Margaret. Reville in Washington, 1860-65. Harper & Bros., N.Y., 1941, p. 64.

Caton, James R. Joffings from the Annals of Alex. Newell-Co., Alexandria 1933.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3,520 sq. ft.

QUADRANGLE NAME Alexandria, Va.- D.C.- Md.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 8 3, 2, 2, 6, 5, 0 4, 2, 9, 6, 7, 2, 0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot fronting 40 feet on the north side of Prince Street and 88 feet on the west side of Lee (formerly Water) Street.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

and (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor St., Richmond, Va. 23219 (804)786-3144

NAME / TITLE

(1) Herbert J. Sanborn, Trustee

ORGANIZATION

Athenaeum

DATE

August 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

201 Prince Street

TELEPHONE

(703)548-0035 (Home: (703) 671-9469)

CITY OR TOWN

Alexandria

STATE

VA. 22314

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

NOV 20 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

OLD DOMINION BANK BUILDING, Alexandria, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

OLD DOMINION BANK BUILDING, Alexandria, Virginia  
(The Adenaen)  
(Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association)  
(401 Prince St. Alexandria 22314)

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

Item 7

Page 1

7. Description (con't)

On August 17, 1786, John Murray, Obediah Bowen and John Munford conveyed a part of the lot to Louis Deblois and Edward K. Thompson. Alexandria Deed Book B. (Hustings Court) The deed provides that Deblois and Thompson can "join any buildings which they may erect upon the premises to the house erected by Murray, Munford and Bowen, also agrees to lay out an alley 4 feet wide beginning on Water 60 feet north of Prince extending west parallel with Price Street 40 feet, for free and common use."

On October 25, 1830, John D. Reese conveyed the property to Josiah H. Davis. Alexandria Deed Book O No. 2 folio 13.

On July 24, 1851, Josiah H. Davis and his wife, Sarah W. Davis, conveyed to the Bank of the Old Dominion the corner lot of ground fronting on the north side of Prince Street and on the west side of Water (now Lee) Street. Alexandria Deed Book M3 page 619.

On September 16, 1870, the lot and properties were conveyed by the Bank of the Old Dominion to The Citizens National Bank of Alexandria. Alexandria Deed Book 1 page 238.

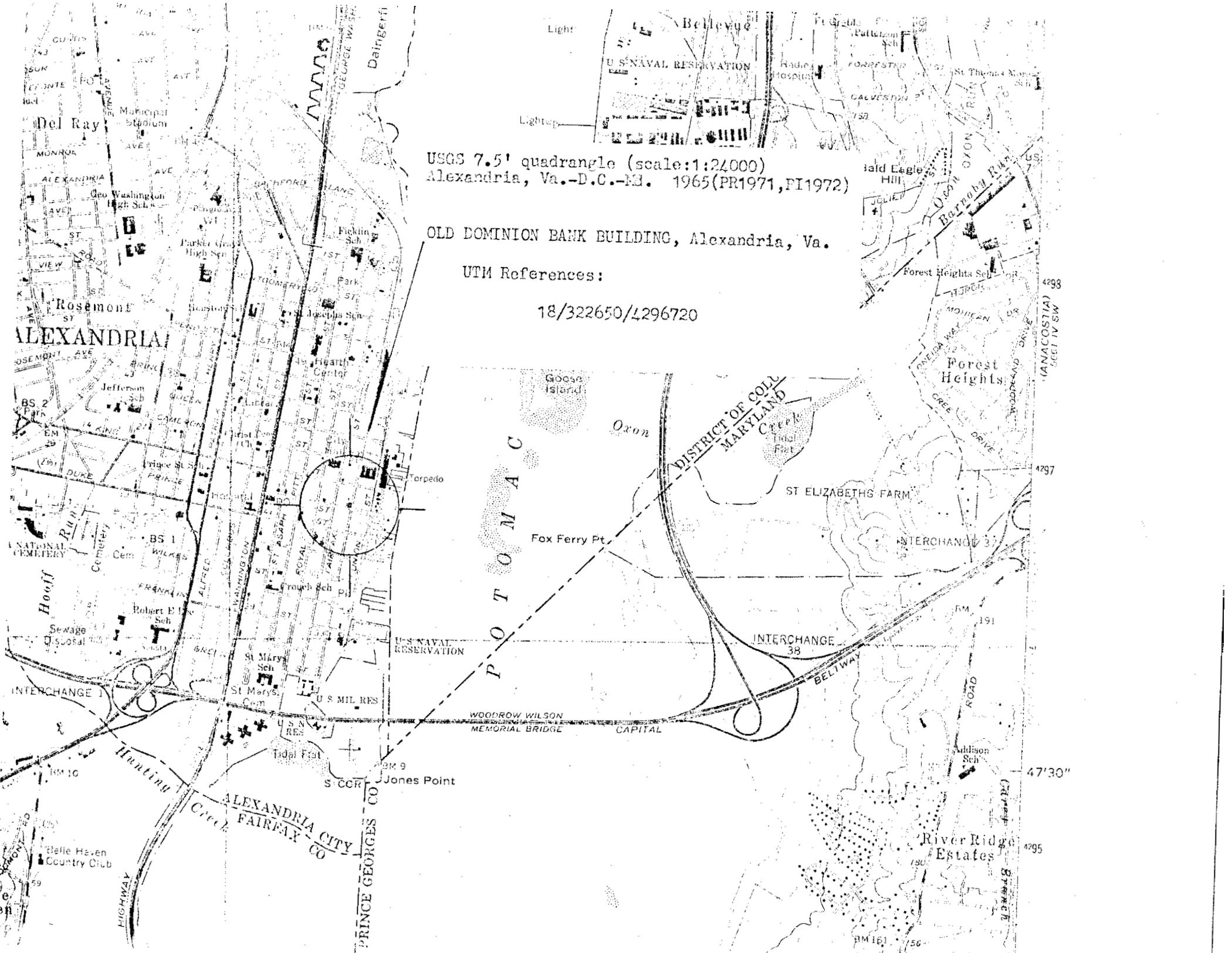
On May 9, 1907, the Citizens National Bank of Alexandria sold the property to Clarence I. Leadbeater, Edward S. Leadbeater. Alexandria Deed Book 56 page 32.

On April 25, 1925, Clarence C. Leadbeater, Lillian M. Leadbeater (widow of John and sole devisee of John Leadbeater) sold the property to the Free Methodist Church of North America. Alexandria Deed Book 82 page 567.

On April 15, 1964, the Free Methodist Church of North America sold the property to the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, an affiliate of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Alexandria Deed Book 599 page 51.

Footnote:

- 1 Denys Peter Meyers, "A Town in Transition Alexandria 1977", Alexandria Bicentennial Commission, Alexandria Historical Assoc. p. 156-159.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Alexandria, Va.-D.C.-MD. 1965(PR1971,PI1972)

OLD DOMINION BANK BUILDING, Alexandria, Va.

UTM References:

18/322650/4296720



Del Ray

Rosemont  
**ALEXANDRIA**

Bellevue  
U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION

Old Eagle Hill

Forest Heights

ST ELIZABETHS FARM

POTOMAC

DISTRICT OF COLLEGE MARYLAND

Fox Ferry Pt.

INTERCHANGE 38

INTERCHANGE 1

WOODROW WILSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

ALEXANDRIA CITY  
FAIRFAX CO

PRINCE GEORGES CO

River Ridge Estates

4298  
(ANACOSTIA)  
0661 IV SW

4297

FM 191

47'30"

4295

BM 161 156