

THEN AND NOW
James Turman Barron

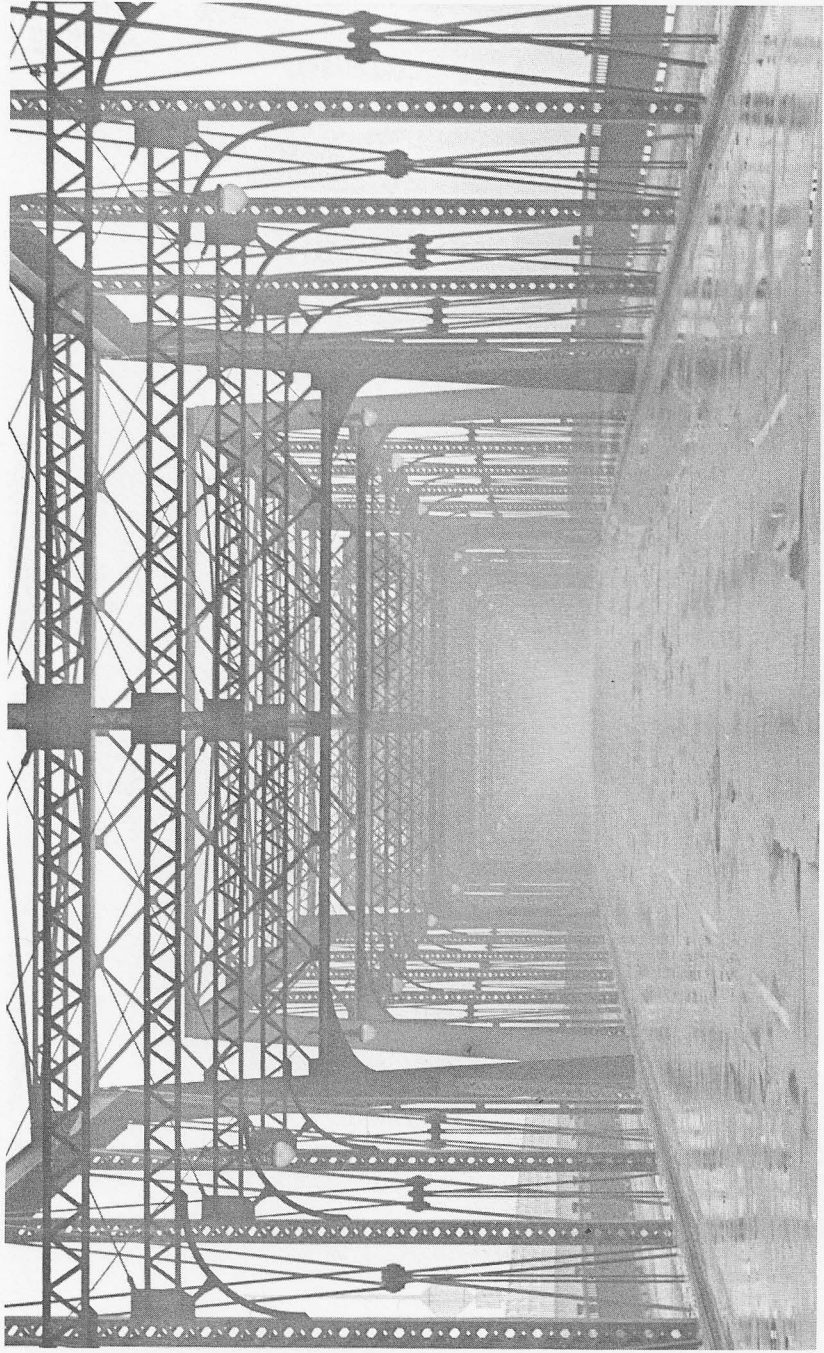


Long Bridge during the Civil War. From the National Archives.

LONG BRIDGE OVER THE POTOMAC

Originally built by a private company, the Long Bridge crossed the Potomac near the present railroad bridge. The bridge often was closed in its early years, and after it washed away in 1831 the Federal Government bought its franchise and built a new structure. In the Civil War, Long Bridge was crossed by the first Federal troops heading southward from Washington. In that period, a railroad track was built nearby.

The bridge is now commonly called the 14th Street Bridge. The intermediate span ("Highway Bridge") served for many years until it was replaced in 1962 by the current bridge, dedicated to the memory of George Mason.



The "14th Street Bridge," 1960. From the files of the *Northern Virginia Sun*.



The current span. Photo by James Barron.

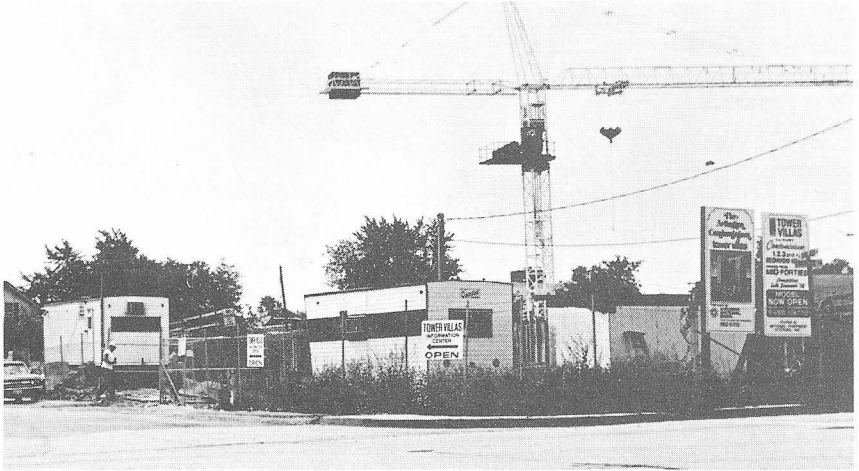


Fairfax Drive at North Oakland St., c. 1935. Photo from Arlington Historical Society archives.

FAIRFAX DRIVE AT NORTH OAKLAND STREET

In the mid-1930's when the old photograph was taken, Fairfax Drive was as rural as the rest of Arlington County. At North Oakland Street—then called Frankfort Avenue or Wallis Street—the railroad tracks had just been cleared and the roadway was slated to be widened.

Today Arlington's tallest residence is being built on this frontage. A condominium, the building joins several other high-rises in the Ballston corridor.



The same corner, 1973. Photo by James Barron.



Lee Highway east of Washington Boulevard, c. 1905. Photo from Arlington Historical Society archives.

LEE HIGHWAY—THE ARLINGTON LINE

At the turn of the century, Lee Highway was little more than a dirt road. Although in some neighborhoods surfaces such as shells and gravel were employed, conditions were usually bad and mud was to be expected.

The old photograph above shows Lee Highway in East Falls Church. To the right of the fence, the Fenwick home still stands as it did then. The East Falls Church station, since dismantled and moved to Aldie, Virginia, is visible in the distance.



The same site, including the fence, 1973. Photo by James Barron.