

Internet, see footnote 1

Figure 1) Topographic Map, Arlington Ridge Area

On the Street Where You Live: Arlington Ridge, Virginia

BY MARTY SUYDAM

What's in a name of a place? How did that name get decided? Whose life is now memorialized?

The story of the names of places can represent a fascinating tale about the place where we live, yet often, know little about.

We live in an area named Arlington Ridge, a topographic "finger" that points to Arlington House, the Lee mansion in Arlington Cemetery, through the area of the Pentagon. In the 1800's Anthony Fraser and James Roach owned the properties. Today, the following streets, clockwise from the north, bound the area: S. Joyce St, S. Glebe Road, and Army Navy Drive. Parts of the area have been known as: Green Valley, Club Manor Estates, Aurora Hills, Virginia Highlands, and Aurora Highlands.

Most of the paved roadways in the immediate surroundings of South Nash Street are less than 100 years old. Though some roads date back to the Revolution, most have new names.¹

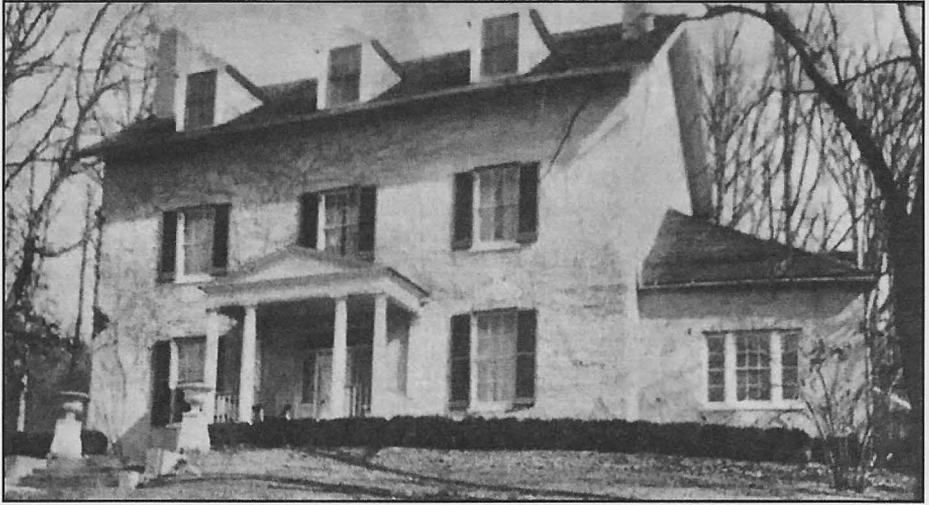
So, what is the name evolution on Arlington Ridge?

The area was once part of the 1,000-acre estate of Anthony Fraser. The area was known as Green Valley, likely named for James Green, who lived on the land near the present location of the clubhouse at Army Navy Country Club. Fraser acquired the land from a family by the name of Alexander. It straddled lower Long Branch stream, a tributary of Four Mile Run. The Fraser estate included what is now the Oakridge Elementary School, Gunston Middle School, Shirley Park and Arna Valley as well as land from Pentagon City and the River Houses to the banks of Four Mile Run.

In 1821 Anthony Fraser (sometimes spelled Frazier) built a home and named it Green Valley Manor. It was sited in the floor of a valley about a hundred yards from Long Branch, near the intersection of the current South Queen Street (in the Forest Hills townhouse development) and South 23th Street (formerly Fraser Road). The structure was destroyed by fire in 1924 and never rebuilt. Anthony Fraser's daughter married J.E. Sickles and inherited the property.²

By 1840, the nearest neighbors to the Frasers were James Roach and his family. Their home was on Hoe Hill, which they renamed Prospect Hill, at the northern end of the current Arlington Ridge Road, overlooking the Pentagon.

From 1840 to 1966 Arlington Ridge Road was a single street across Arlington. The northern road began at North 19th Street and proceeded south



AHS Newsletter, Fall 2013

Figure 2) Green Valley Manor

along what is now Wilson Boulevard to Lee Boulevard (now known as Arlington Boulevard). As it proceeded south it incorporated a portion of what was informally known as Oil Plant Road (also known as “Oil Road”). In the 1960s, after the closure of the central portion when interchanges and connections for the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge were constructed, North Arlington Ridge Road was eliminated leaving the remaining South Arlington Ridge Road. By this time it was a four-lane road with a trolley line. Residents petitioned the County in the 1960s to reduce it from four to two lanes, and, after a trial period, it was agreed to do so.³

In 1890’s, subdivisions with streets for the area were laid out. The first subdivision, Addison Heights, had its origin in the Addison house that appeared on maps dated 1864 and 1878, on Arlington Ridge. The house was located on the southeast corner of Arlington Ridge Road and what is today’s South 20th Street. This area included 16th Street South (originally Clements Avenue) at the north end, South Fern Street (originally Cheston Avenue) at the east end, 23rd Street South (originally Fraser Avenue) at the south end, and South Arlington Ridge Road (originally Mount Vernon Avenue) at the west end.⁴

The area was primarily agricultural until the 1920s. A 1926 map of the area shows six houses between the Hume School and 20th Street. One more house existed between the school and Prospect Hill, one on the west side of the road, and a few more at the base of the Ridge on what was then Old Georgetown Road (now is part of Army-Navy Drive).

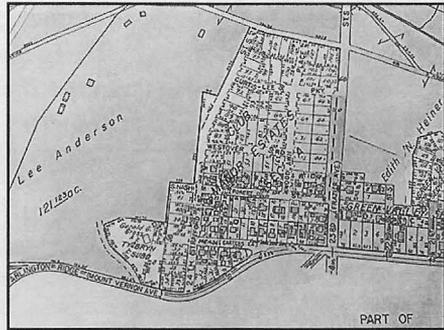
Aurora Highlands was formed by the integration of three subdivisions platted between 1896 and 1930 and included construction of single-family residences. The name Aurora Highlands comes from an amalgamation of the original three subdivisions: Addison Heights, Aurora Hills, and Virginia Highlands.

While all this development was occurring, the county changed names. In 1920, Alexandria County was re-named Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

The US Postal Service, refused to establish a Post Office in Arlington until it developed an acceptable street naming and numbering scheme. In 1932 the old magisterial districts, established in 1870, were abolished, and an integrated County government was created – and names changed, including, historically significant names! The Arlington County Virginia Diectroy of Street Names, revised June 1, 1935 catalogs the name changes, although there are numerous errors in it, particularly for “old names.”

Arlington has many places named after world-famous people, Presidents, Generals, and others of note. It also has numbered streets that replaced names of significance and thereby a loss of historical reference.

In 1932, the county changed the current street naming scheme dividing it into two sections, North and South Arlington, generally separated by Arlington Boulevard. Numbered streets generally run east west, parallel to Arlington Boulevard, and named streets generally run north south, with North and South designations preceding named street names and after numbered street names. Street names, increase in syllables as a function of distance from the Potomac River, called “iterations.” The first tier names, all within Arlington Ridge area, are one syllable. These streets are generally in alphabetical order from east to west, skipping the letters X, Y, and Z. When the end of the alphabet was reached, it is repeated with additional syllables—thus Eads, Fern, Grant, Hayes, Inge, Ives, Joyce, June, Kent, Knoll, Lynn, Nash, Ode, Pierce, Rolfe, and Queen are east of each other. Most of the boulevards, drives, and roads with historically recognized names, were not renamed (e.g., Oakcrest Road, Fort Scott Drive, Arlington Ridge Road). Generally, these are the only through streets. Numbered and named streets tend to be broken up at times and are intended for local neighborhood traffic.⁵⁶ The figure (area west of Arlington Ridge Road and south



Arlington Public Library

Figure 3) 1935 Map, Club Manor Estates

of 23rd Street) at the left was extracted from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1935. The shaded portion had been had been built by 1935 and the non-shaded portions were planned at that time. The map also shows Fraser Road (now 23rd Street) leading to the Fraser cemetery on Army Navy Country Club property.⁸

End Notes

¹ Arlington Ridge Civic Association, <http://www.arcaonline.org/22.html>

² “Nauck: A Community Rich in History,” *Arlington Historical Society Newsletter*, Fall 2013, <http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/AHS-newsletter-9.13-PDF.pdf>

³ Arlington Ridge Road, Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlington_Ridge_Road

⁴ Wikipedia, Aurora Highlands Historic District, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurora_Highlands_Historic_District

⁵ “Arlington County, Virginia, Street Naming System,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlington_County,_Virginia,_street-naming_system

⁶ “Arlington’s Systemic Streets,” <http://tracktwentynine.blogspot.com/2009/12/arlington-systemic-streets.html>, December 10, 2009

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1935; Arlington Public Library, Arlington, Virginia

⁸ Library of Congress, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; <http://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/>. Also available in hardcopy at the Arlington County Library, Historical Section.

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Photo Citations

Figure 1 – Topographic Map, Arlington Ridge area

Figure 2 – Green Valley Manor

Figure 3 – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1935, Club Manor Estates

They are shown in End Notes. Topo map is URL, Green Acres is Arlington Historical Society, and Club Manor Estates is Sanborn maps in possession of Arlington Public Library Historical Collection.

The table below summarizes Arlington Ridge area names and name changes:⁸
The Landmarks, Streets, and Parks of Arlington Ridge (From North to South).

Current Name	Name(s) before 1935	Comment/Note
Army-Navy Drive	Old Georgetown Road	Takes its present name as an access road to Army Navy Country Club, established in 1924.
S. Arlington Ridge Road	Mount Vernon Road	
Prospect Park, S. Nash St		Named for Prospect Hill, the 1800's home of James Roach at the site.
Hume School, S. Arlington Ridge Road		Named for Frank Hume, a confederate veteran
S. Glebe Road	Glebe Road and Brookdale Avenue	A glebe was a rectory on farmland for a Church of England minister.
S. Grant	Hume Avenue, Monroe Avenue	Named for President Grant
S. Grove Street		No former name
S. Hayes	Hennigan Avenue, Tyler Avenue	Named for President Hayes
S. Ives Street	Mason Avenue	
S. Joyce Street	Willow Street and Washington Street	
S. Kent Street	Norman Street	
S. Knoll Street		No former name
S. Lynn Street	Arlington Avenue, Oakcrest	
S. 19 th Road		
S. 19 th Street	Girault Avenue, Prospect Street	
S. 20 th Street	Addison Avenue	
S. 21 st Street	Graham Street	
S. 22 ^d Street	Gordon Street	
S. 23 rd Road	Woodlawn Place	Woodlawn Place was never developed, just drawn on plans.
S. 23 rd Road	Fraser Avenue	Named for 1800's property owner, Anthony Fraser
S. 24 th Street	South Stratford Drive, Warren Avenue	
Nina Park, 24 th Street		
S. 25 th Street	Green Avenue	
S. 26 th Street	Washington Avenue	
S. 27 th Street	Crest Avenue	
S. 28 th Street	Valley Avenue, Hillside Road, Fort Scott Drive	
Fraser Park, S. 28 th Street		Named for 1800's property owner, Anthony Fraser, (Cemetery near Hole 8, Blue, ANCC)
Haley Park, S. Meade Street		Named for property owner James W. Haley
S. Meade Street	Carter's Lane	Named for Union General Meade
S. Pierce Street	Valle Road	Named for President Pierce
S. Fort Scott		Named for General Winfield Scott, then General-in-Chief of the Army
S. Ode Court	Westover Road	Westover Road was never developed, just drawn on plans. Ode name inherited the name from N. Ode Street
S. Nash Street	Forest Street	Inherited the name from N. Nash Street
S. Rolfe Street		Inherited the name from N. Rolfe Street
S. Queen Street	Curtis-Lee Parkway	Curtis-Lee Parkway was never developed, just drawn on plans. S. Queen Street was created as part of Forest Hills townhouse development in the 1970's
Fort Scott Park, Fort Scott Drive		Named for the Civil War fort that honored General Scott.