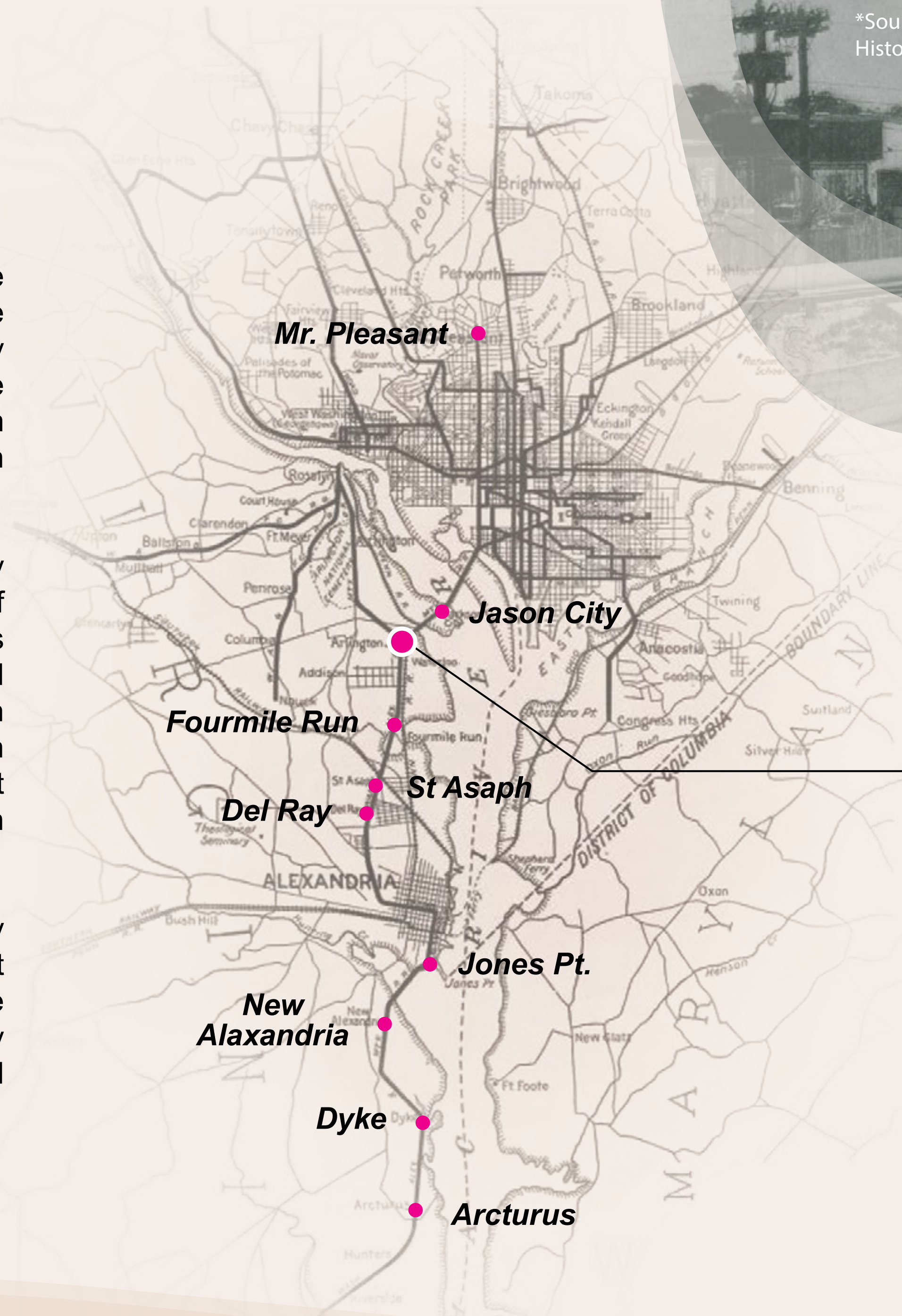


# ARLINGTON JUNCTION & ALEXANDRIA CANAL

The park you are in today reflects the evolution of how people have moved and used this space in Arlington County. Before it was a park, The Alexandria Canal and an electric trolley station called “Arlington Junction Station” marked a change in how people got around what is now Arlington County from travel on our waterways to rail lines, before shifting again to roads and now, a public park

The Alexandria Canal had been completed in 1843, largely through the forced labor of black slaves, as an extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, allowing merchants on the south side of the Potomac River to be connected to markets in Georgetown, D.C., and Maryland. When completed, the Alexandria Canal connected the Rosslyn neighborhood to Georgetown via a 1,000-foot-long aqueduct that crossed the Potomac River and then ran south, through the site, and into the City of Alexandria.

Arlington Junction Station was one stop on the new trolley line that was constructed in 1896 along the towpath of what was the Alexandria Canal. The new trolley line allowed the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Electric Railway to offer continuous service between Washington, D.C. and Mount Vernon.



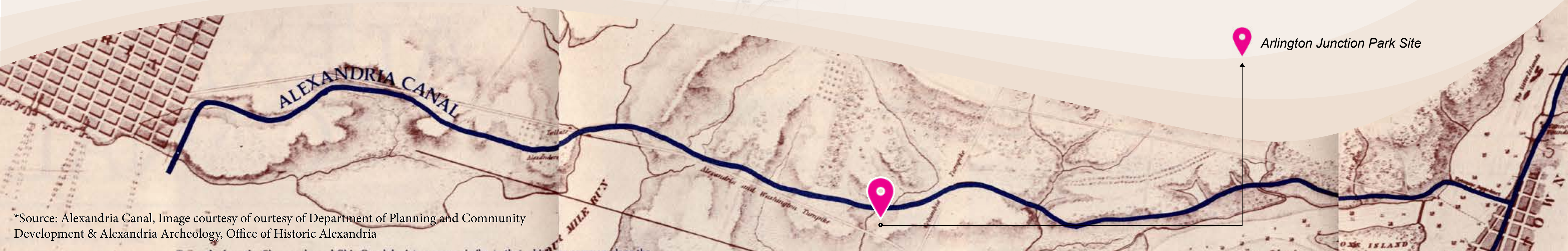
\*Source: Arlington Junction, Image courtesy of Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library, Data Unknown



## Arlington Junction

\*Source: Rand, McBally & Co's Pictorial Guide to Washington and Environments, Rand McNally and Company

Electric trolleys served Arlington Junction Station until 1932. The last trolleys of the Washington-Mount Vernon line ran on January 18, 1932. Later that year, the tracks were removed, and portions of the right-of-way were used to build the George Washington Memorial Parkway. A line between Clarendon and Arlington Junction Station was abandoned on July 1, 1932, marking the end of Arlington Junction as a trolley station .



Arlington Junction Park Site

\*Source: Alexandria Canal, Image courtesy of ourtesy of Department of Planning and Community Development & Alexandria Archeology, Office of Historic Alexandria