

THE BLACK HERITAGE MUSEUM of Arlington Virginia

Black Heritage Museum of Arlington

Celebrating the African American Journey to Freedom in
Arlington

Freedman's Village Rendering

Mission

The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, to acquire, preserve, catalogue and display historic items relevant to the black history of Arlington County and Northern Virginia; to develop and establish in Arlington County an institution dedicated to the exposition of African American experiences, leading to, and proceeding from the abolition of slavery in the United States.

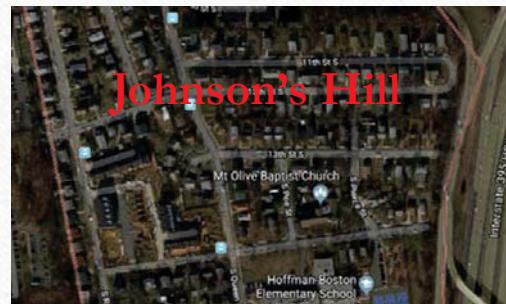
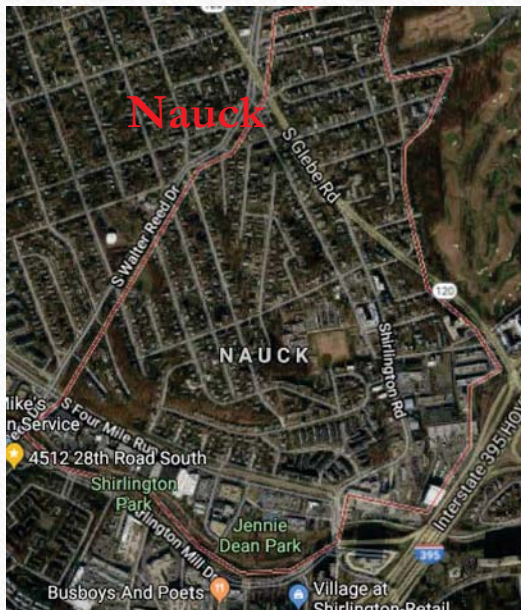
Vision

The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington celebrates the African American Journey to Freedom, providing a focal point exhibit on Arlington's Freedman's Village and contributions made by its residents and their descendants to local and national history.

Objectives

- Provide educational programs regarding the African American Journey to Freedom and the history of Freedman's Village and its impact on the local community and the nation.
- Hold exhibitions, speaker series and develop Educational Television & Radio programming.
- Secure funding from public and private sources for the establishment and maintenance of a permanent museum.

Traditional African American Neighborhoods Around the Career Center



- Nauck (Green Valley)
- Penrose
- Johnson's Hill (Arlington View)

Maps Courtesy of Google Earth

Freedman's Village



FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA.—(See Page 104.)

Camp Casey



A lithograph of the Civil War's Camp Casey in what is now Arlington County, though it was then part of Alexandria County.

What is Camp Casey?

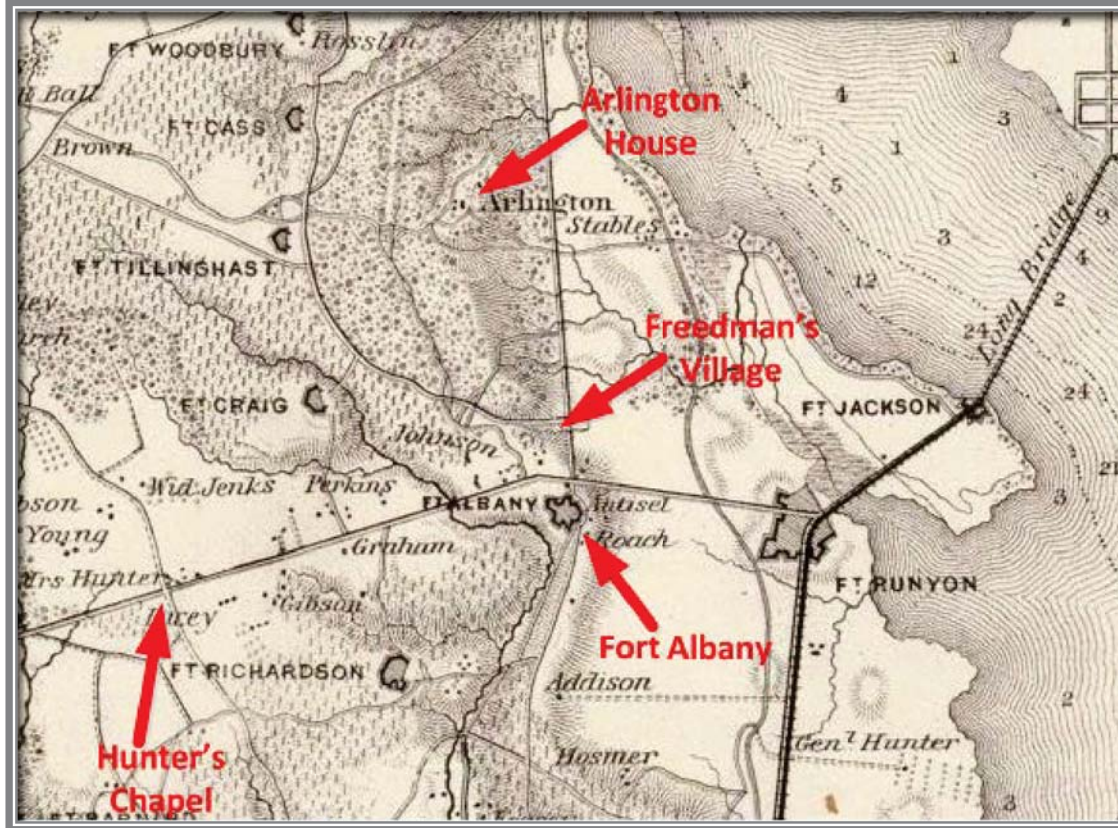
- Named after Major General Silas Casey, who oversaw the training of new recruits near Washington.
- In operation from 1862-1865 and served as an important rendezvous point for Union troops, accommodating some 1,800 soldiers.
- Recruiting and training camp for the 23rd Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry.
- At least 16 of the U.S. Colored Troop regiments spent time at Camp Casey from 1864-1865, including the 6th, the 29th, and the 31st.
- 138 African-American units served in the Union Army (about one-tenth of the federal forces) by the war's end in April 1865.

Where is Camp Casey?

The research so far shows three options:

1. On the Career Center Lot and on Columbia Pike
2. One of the Pentagon Parking lots
3. A combo of these depending on how big it was.

There is evidence from soldiers stationed near the camp that it was on Arlington Heights, near Arlington House, and near Fort Albany. It covered Columbia Pike as it passed towards the Long Bridge. According to one account, it was near Hunter's Chapel. Its entrance may have been on the Career Center site.



McDowell Map of 1862, Courtesy of <https://markerhunter.wordpress.com/2012/09/08/where-was-camp-casey-virginia/>

Intersections: The Significance of Camp Casey and the BHMA

- Camp Casey is significant:
 - Arlington History
 - Civil War History
 - African American History
 - War History
 - U.S. History
 - Arlington House
 - Freedman's Village
 - Family History (for example, the Syphax family)
- Black Heritage Museum of Arlington:
 - Honor the history
 - Document the history
 - Share the history

BHMA: Some Ideas

- Learning: the student
 - The museum becomes part of the curriculum.
 - Have students serve as historians, documentarians, docents, learn Museum Studies/Management.
 - Multi-discipline and multimedia approaches: interviews, research, documentation, learn best practices.
 - Partnership with GMU, VMFA, Smithsonian, and other museums.
- Sharing: the community
 - A place where the community can learn and explore Arlington's heritage and history.
 - A community room to hold events, feature artists, musicians, storytellers, and speakers.
 - Highlighting and commemorating the history of and cultural diversity on the site through outdoor art installation/s, building murals, garden design.

Thank You!