





## **Second Half of the 18th Century**

A map dated to 1763 depicts the Founders Park area as largely underwater to Water [Lee] Street. By the 1780s, the shoreline had been extended to the east significantly. Union Street had been built, and a 1787 plat shows a series of five wharves projecting into the Potomac River, three between Oronoco and Princess Streets, and two between Princess and Queen Streets. Interestingly, the mapmaker depicted the five wharves as the same exact size, which suggests that the wharves could have been built at the same time by the same builder.

The merchant landowners who built out the landform in the latter half of the eighteenth century included some of the same men involved in building out the waterfront between Cameron and Duke Streets, but this section also involved a different cast of characters. For example, Richard Conway, who served as mayor for several years in the 1780s, lived just to the west of Union Street on Oronoco Street, and operated a wharf near the foot of Queen Street. Immediately to the north of Conway's wharf, Robert Adam established his wharf at the foot of Princess Street. Adam, long an associate and friend of George Washington, shipped an enormous amount of goods from his wharf over the years. To the north of Adam, business partners William Hepburn and John Dundas also shipped a variety of materials to and from their wharf including dry goods, fish, wheat, and salt. Between Princess and Oronoco Streets, Robert Allison and Jesse Taylor also operated wharves with Taylor favoring dry goods and specialty items from across Europe, and Allison trading almost exclusively with England for dry goods as well. No doubt a full background study will be able to fully flesh out the comings and goings of this vibrant section of Alexandria's waterfront.

## **First Half of the 19th Century**

The two-block section of waterfront between Oronoco and Queen Streets continued to thrive throughout the nineteenth century, with the face of the waterfront changing frequently as individuals extended wharves and piers further out into the river. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, fishing and oystering industries flourished in the north half of the park. A wharf devoted to fishing was built along Oronoco Street and the area here became known as Fishtown. The wharves brought with them warehouses and workers, many of whom were free Black laborers, shipwrights, and other tradesmen. As illustrated by land tax lists, by the 1830s, numerous free Black Alexandrians lived and worked on the docks and wharves along North Union Street, and free Black shop owners offered their wares to waterfront customers.

By the mid-nineteenth century the area was beginning to develop a more industrial character. For example, A.W. Eastlock built a shipyard between Queen and Princess Streets that employed a marine railway to lift boats out of the water for repair. By the Civil War a plaster mill had been built at the foot of what is now Quay Street. The Harbor Master office stood on the property, as well as the Harbor Master's Wharf. A lumberyard was established on the north end of the park property along Oronoco Street by the Union Army, and a fishing pier continued in use as well.

## **Second Half of the 19th Century**

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In the post-Civil War years the waterfront between Queen and Oronoco Streets continued to evolve. By the 1870s the plaster mill had been transformed into a flour mill, predating the Pioneer Mill complex by several decades. Lumberyards and coal yards continued to operate in the area. A railroad spur was built from North Union Street on to one of the wharves to provide direct access to ships. By the end of the nineteenth century the property housed fertilizer warehouses, a coal yard, and the flour mill had transformed yet again into a stone and grinding mill.

### **First Half of the Century**

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the park property continued to serve as a storage yard, the location of warehouses, and cargo transport from the several wharves that continued to operate. Perhaps most importantly from a preservation standpoint, no major industries were built that would potentially have severely impacted the earlier archaeological deposits.

### **Archaeological Potential of Founders Park**

Based on historic map analysis, Founders Park retains excellent archaeological integrity. This section of Alexandria's waterfront has not drawn as much attention as the portions of it to the south between Cameron Street and Wolfe Street. However, our preliminary overview suggests that the potential for preserved significant archaeological resources is very high. Any potential undertakings proposed for the park should be preceded by a thorough and extensive historic background study.

- 1. No archaeological action required
- 2. Call Alexandria Archaeology if artifacts or old structural remains are uncovered
- 3. Call Alexandria Archaeology to set up a monitoring schedule
- 4. Archaeological evaluation required with preliminary site plan

### **Contact Archaeologist**

Signature

Date: 11/05/2021

### **City Archaeologist**

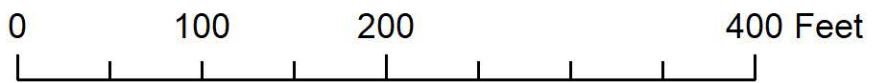
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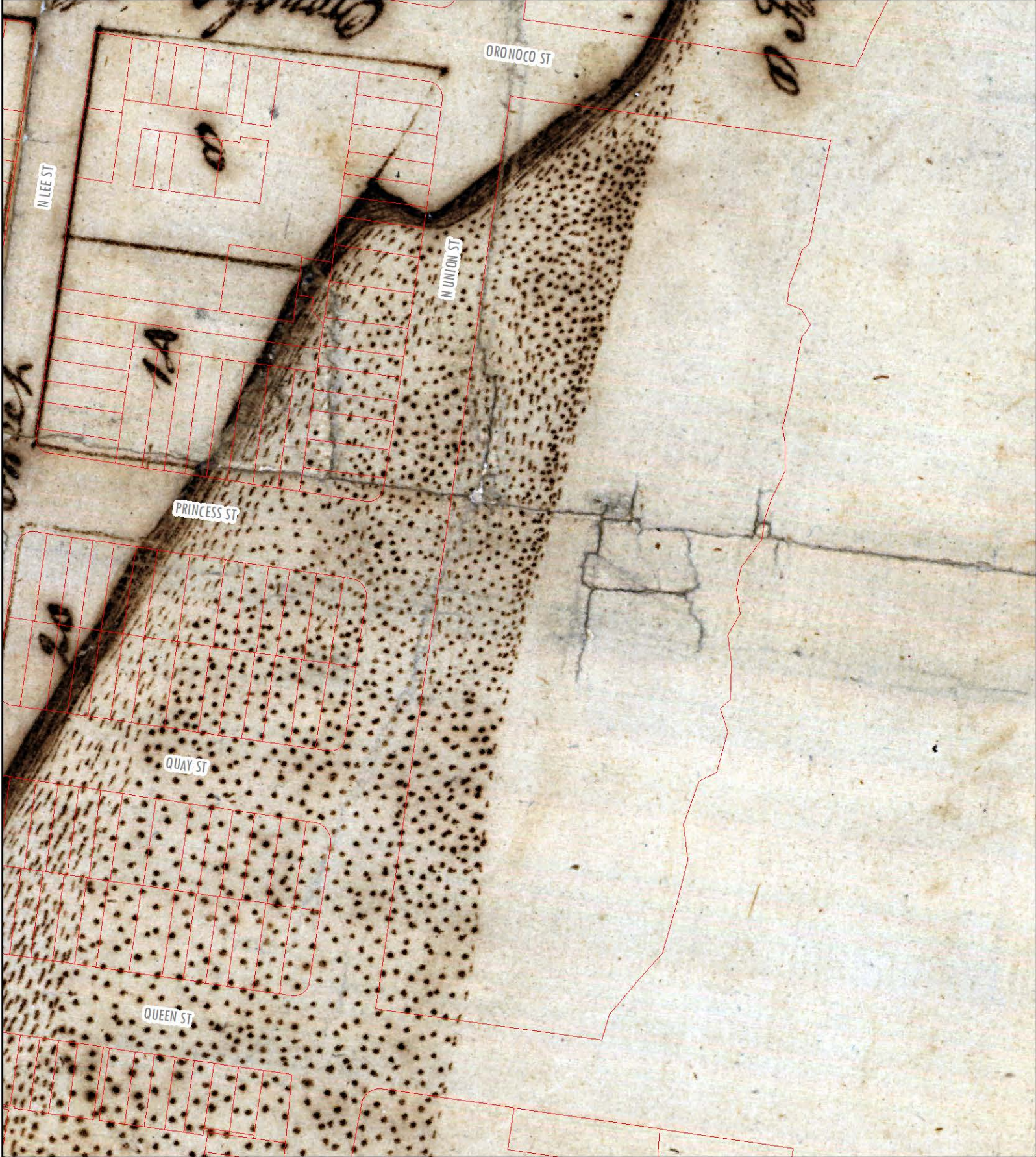
Date:



# 1748 Waterfront

Washington plat





# 1749 Waterfront

## Washington





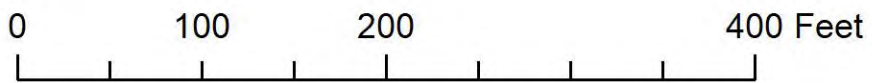
# 1749 Waterfront

## Record of Survey






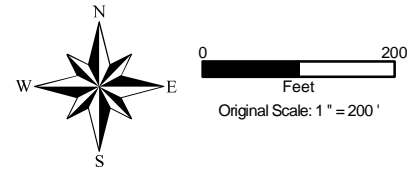
# 1763 Waterfront West





 Approximate Location of Project Area

Map Source: Pippenger, Wesley E., "Legislative petitions of the town and county of Alexandria, Virginia, 1778-1861." 1995. Family Line Publications. Fairfax County Library. pp. 124-125.



**Figure 7**  
**1787 Plat Showing Location of Warehouses and Wharves**

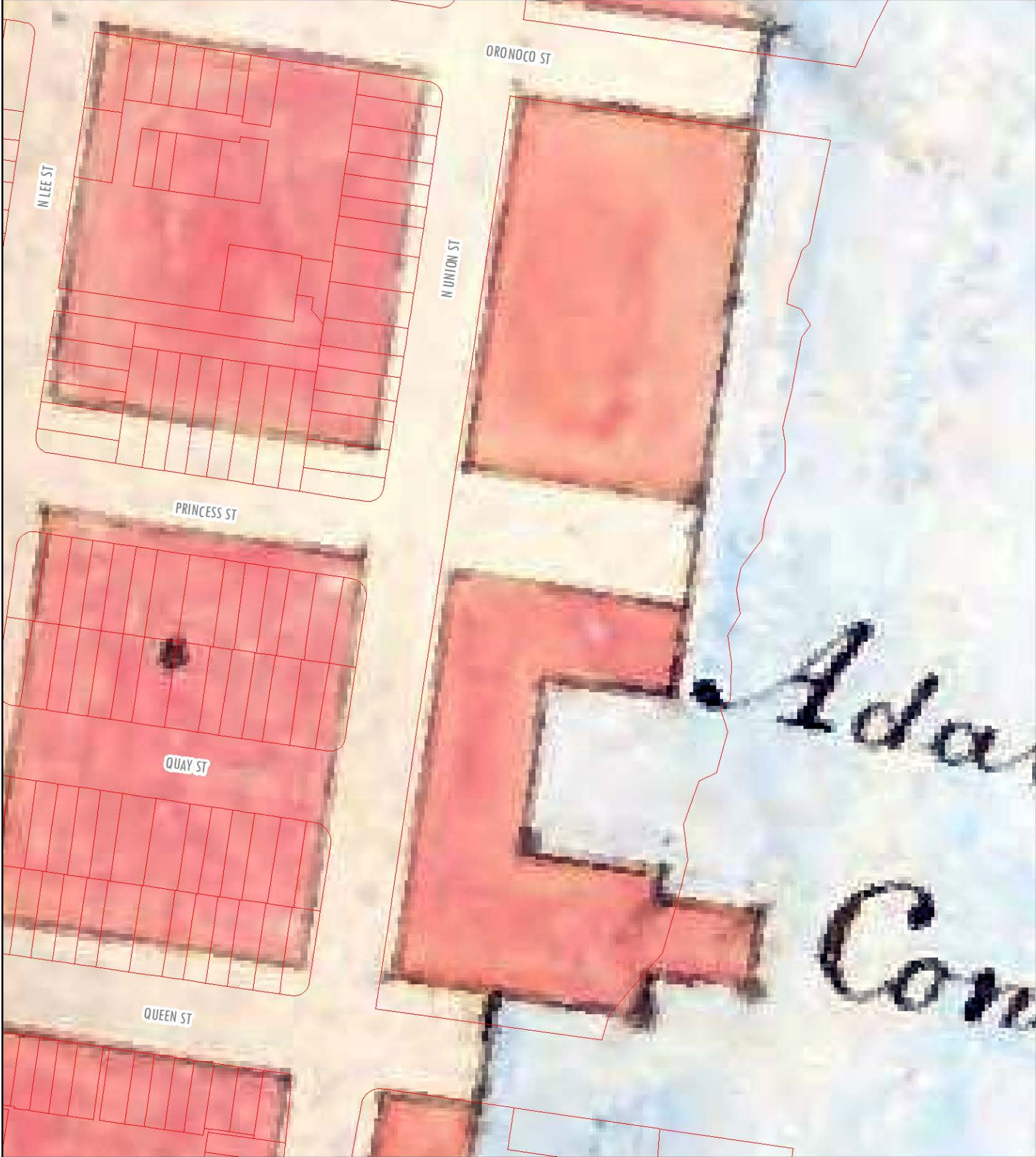




# 1798 Waterfront

## Gilpin

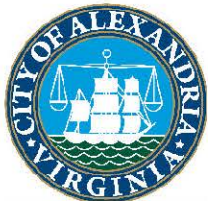




# 1802 Waterfront

Fairfax Deed Book E2:269

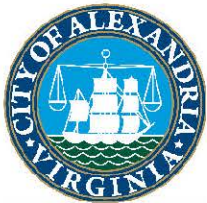
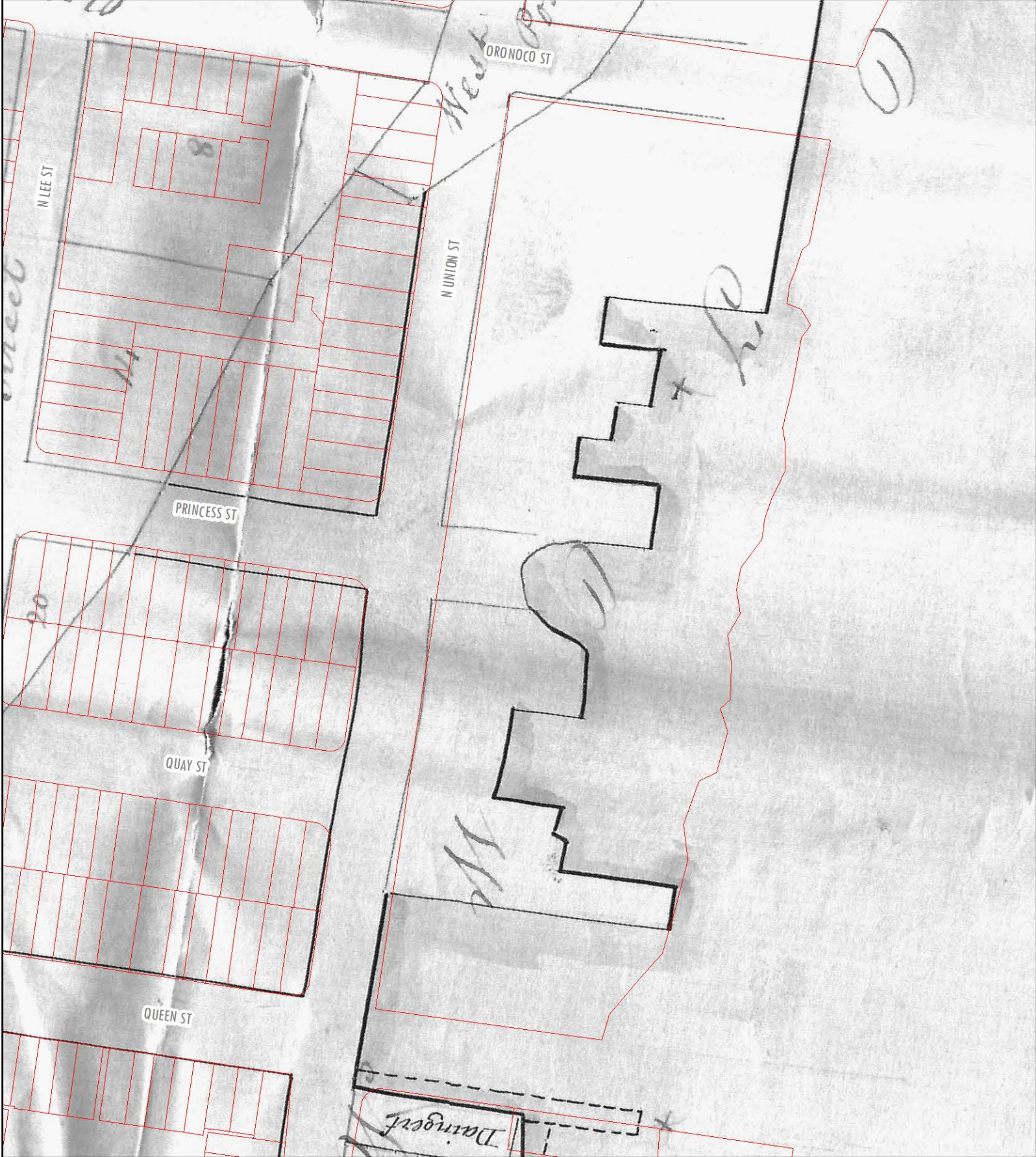




# 1845 Waterfront

## Ewing

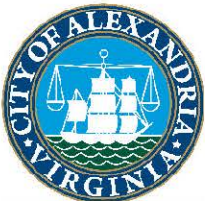




# 1845 Waterfront

## Gilpin





# 1861 Waterfront

Boschke

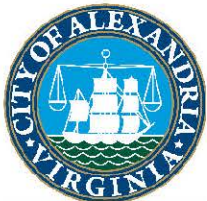
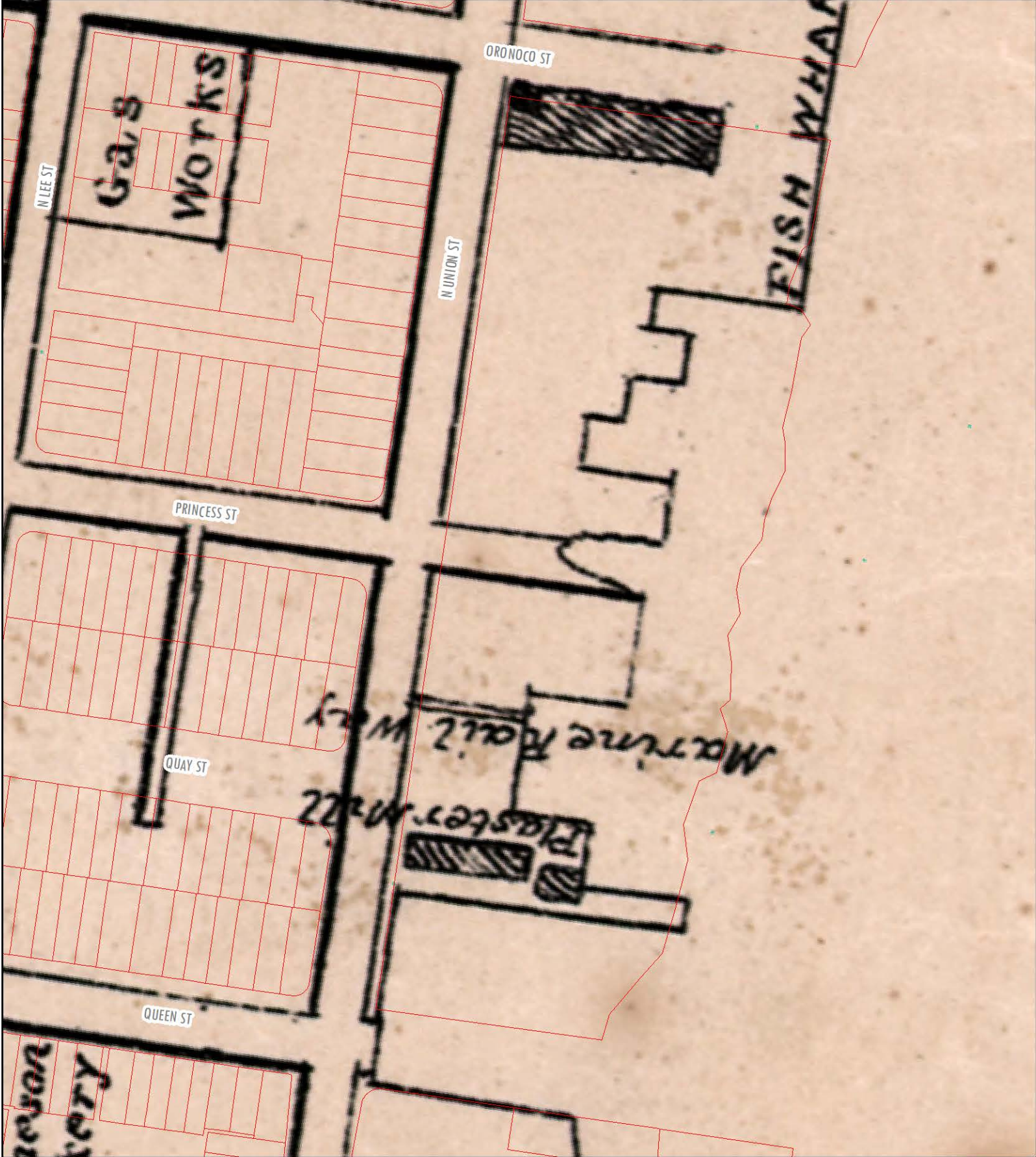




# 1861 Waterfront

## Right Bank





# 1862 Waterfront

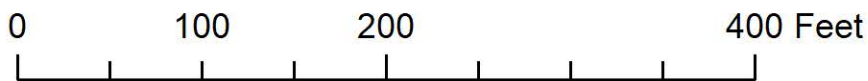
Plan of AX





# 1863-5 Waterfront

## Coastal Survey



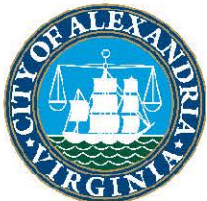




# 1864 Waterfront

Plan of AX





# 1864 Waterfront

Scholl

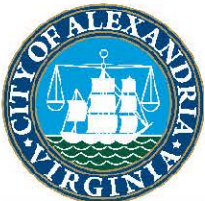




# 1864-6 Waterfront

## Environs

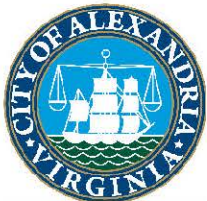
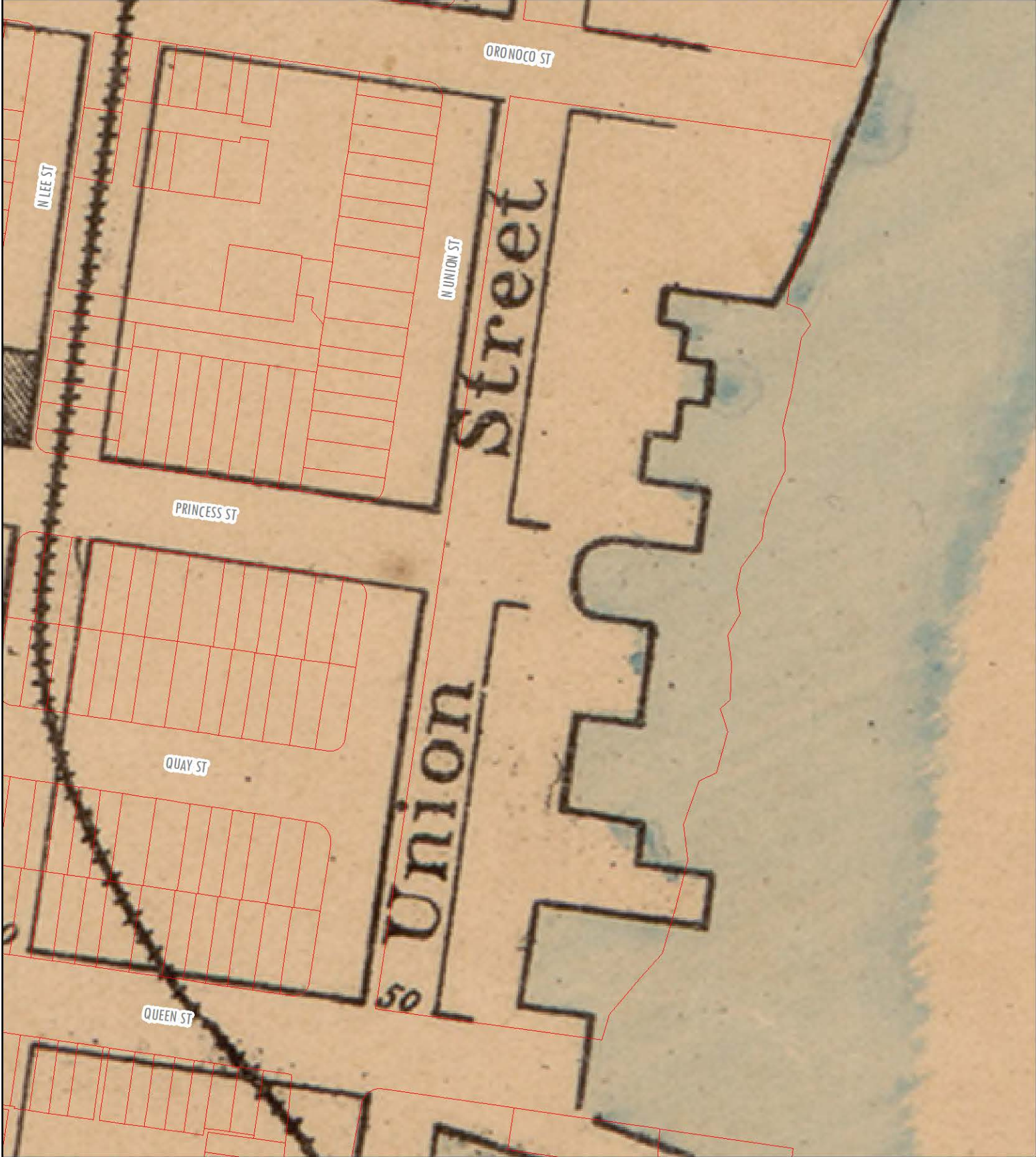




# 1865 Waterfront

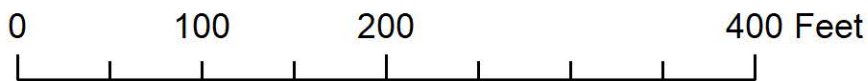
## Quartermaster maps

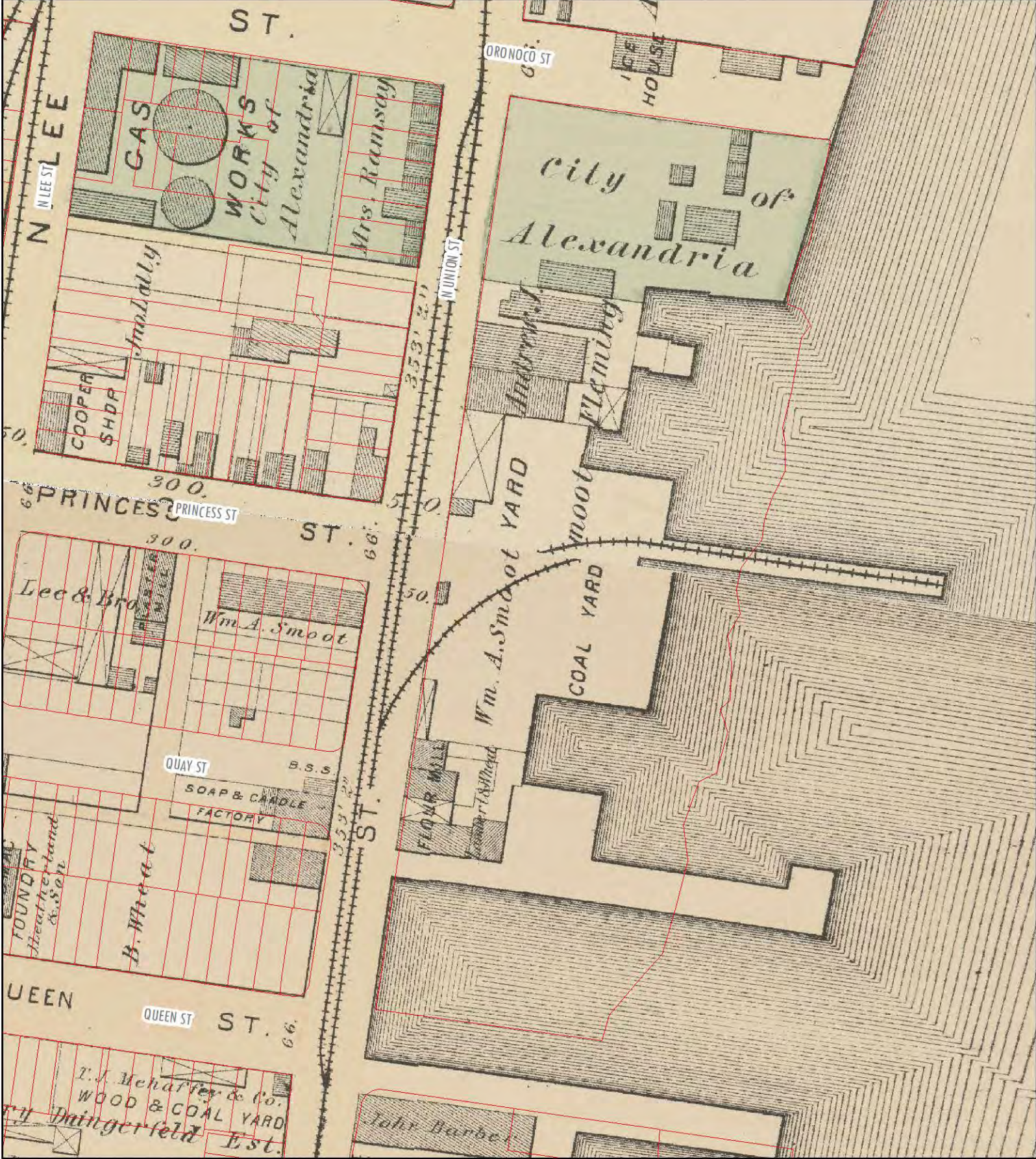




# 1870 Waterfront

Forsyth

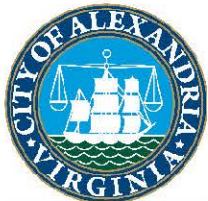
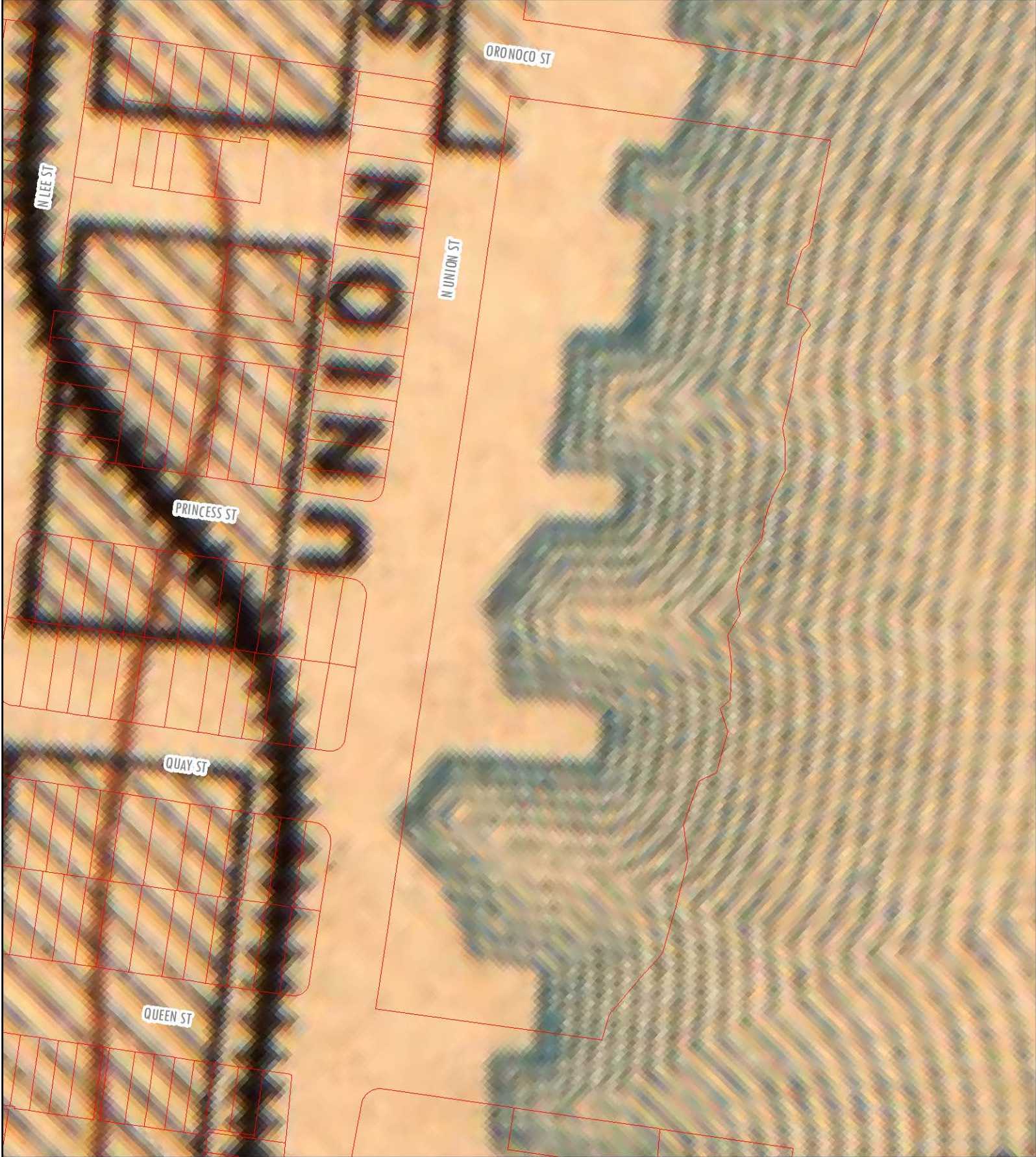




# 1877 Waterfront

Hopkins

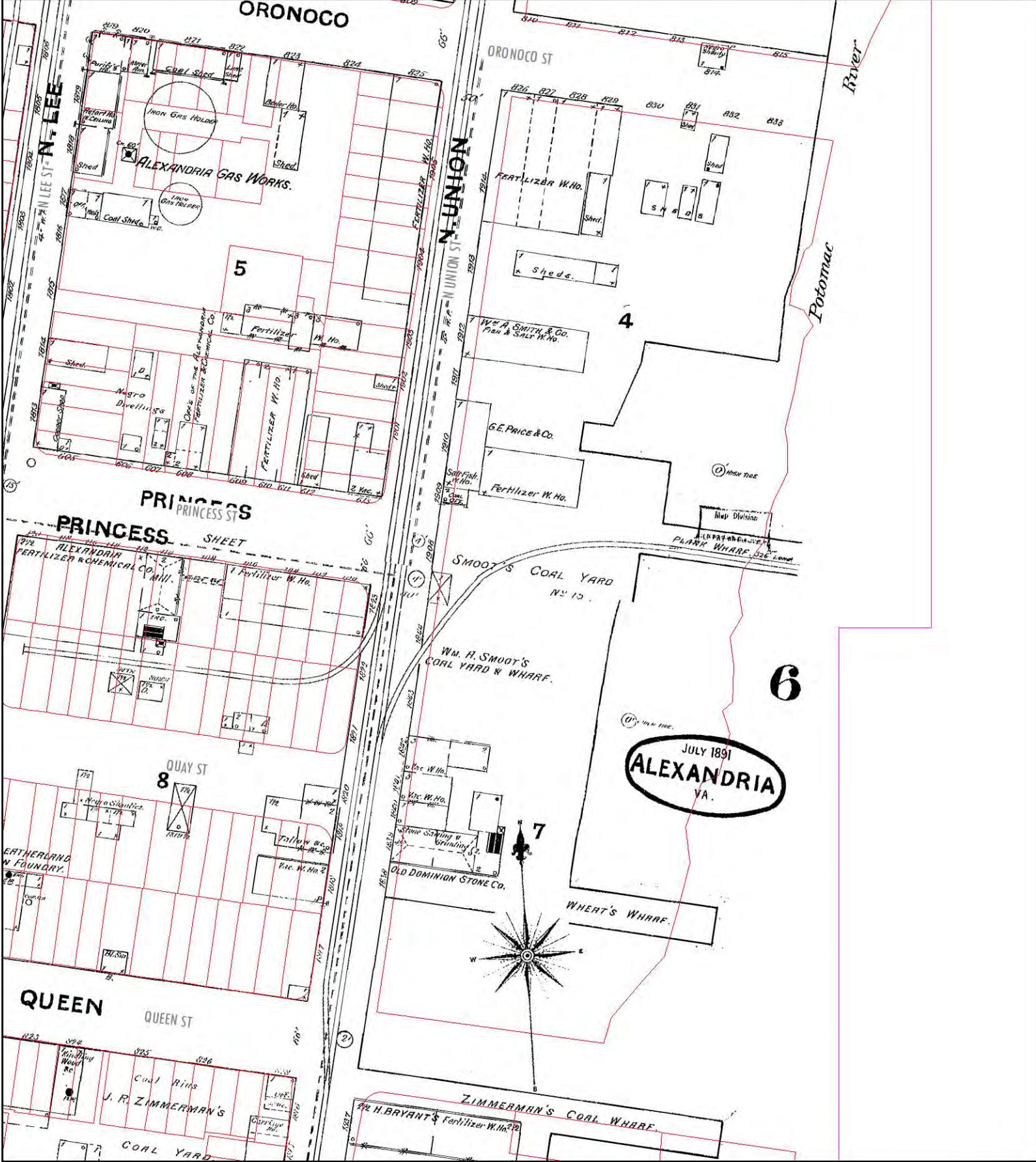




# 1884 Waterfront

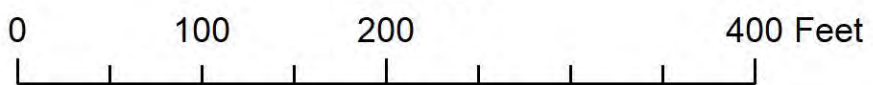
Greene



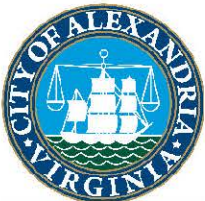


# 1891 Waterfront

## Sanborn







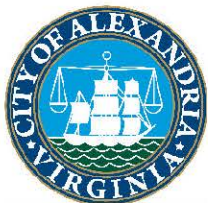
# 1900 Waterfront Strum





# 1927 Waterfront

Aerial Photo

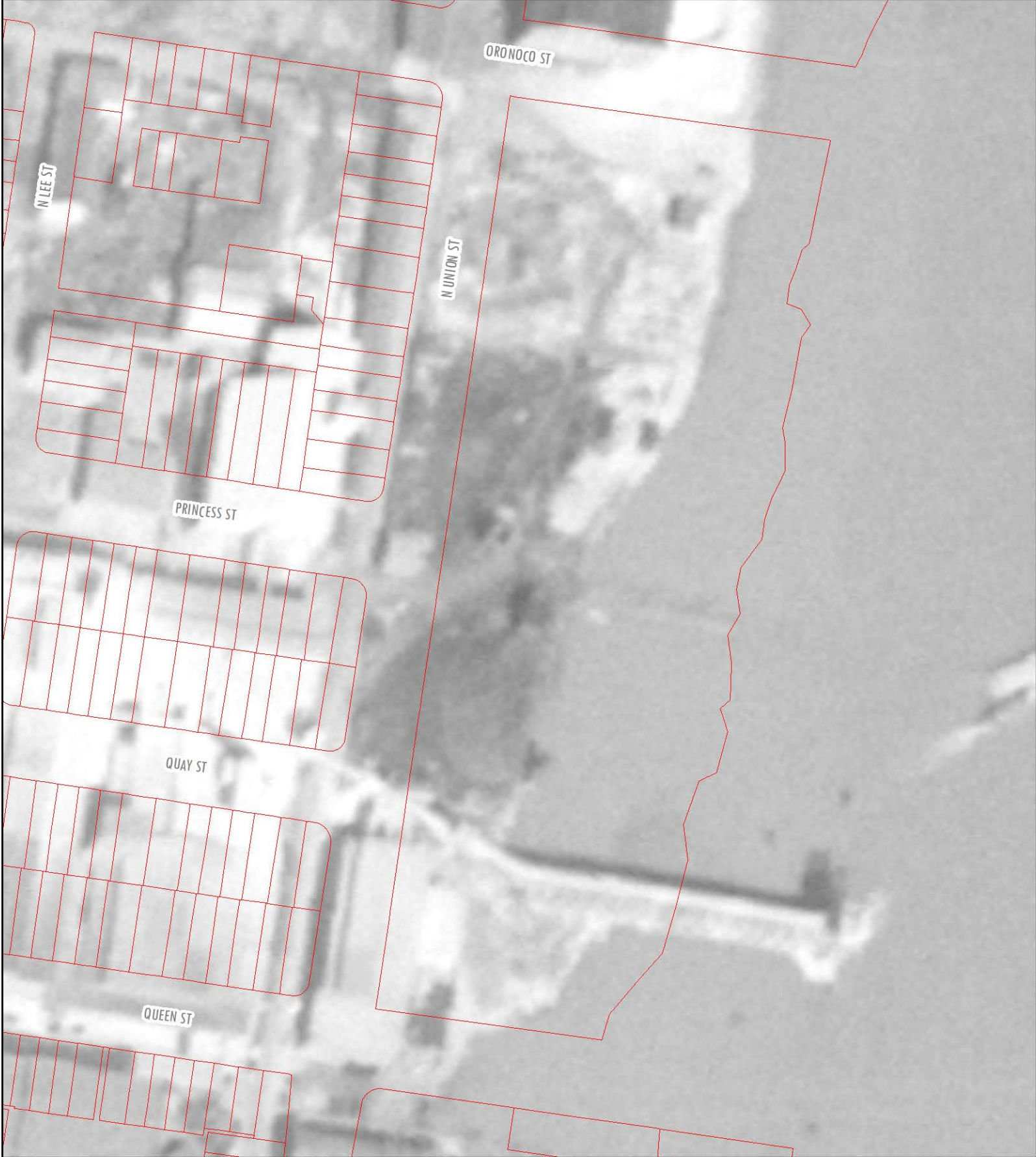




# 1937 Waterfront

Aerial Photo





# 1949 Waterfront

Aerial Photo





ORONOCO ST

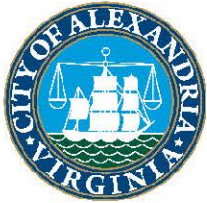
N LEE ST

N UNION ST

PRINCESS ST

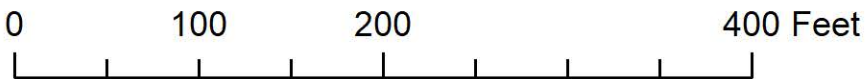
QUAY ST

QUEEN ST



# 1959 Waterfront

Aerial Photo





# 1964 Waterfront

Aerial Photo

