

RoadTrip

At Boundary Stones, Today's Virginia Meets Yesterday's D.C.



At **Upton Hill Regional Park**, east of the SW 8 stone in **Patrick Henry Apartments'** parking lot, athletic types can hike, swim, play miniature golf or batter up in the batting cage.



The SW 7 stone, in the parking lot of Carlin Springs Elementary School, is near the **Ball-Sellers House**, one of Arlington's oldest houses.



The west cornerstone sits in **Andrew Ellicott Park** between houses on a quiet street. Several blocks away, **Lazy Sundae** serves up ice cream treats.



Walk east from the SW 9 stone in **Benjamin Banneker Park** along the Washington & Old Dominion Trail and look for the historical marker for **Brandymore Castle**, a clump of rocks atop a hill.

After viewing the SW 6 stone in the median of South Jefferson Street, sit down for some barbecue, fried chicken, greens and mashed potatoes at **Flavors Soul Food** a few blocks away.

The **Fairlington** neighborhood, north of the SW 4 stone remnant (look for the fencing after South Wakefield Street), was built to house the workers who flocked to the capital during World War II.

The SW 2 stone on Russell Road is a replacement of the original. Walk uphill to the **George Washington Masonic Memorial**, whose 333-foot tower offers remarkable views of Alexandria and Washington.



The eroded stub of the south cornerstone sits inside the seawall under **Jones Point Lighthouse**, which once guided ships along the Potomac.



Detour a few blocks south of the SW 5 stone on South Walter Reed Drive to the **Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center**, which features orchestral music, dance and other performing arts.

Take the last entrance into First Baptist Church's parking lot to view the SW 3 stone.

The SW 1 stone lies inside the front yard of a rowhouse on Wilkes Street. Detour two blocks south to the **Alexandria National Cemetery**, which contains the graves of Union soldiers killed in the Civil War.

WHERE: Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church.

WHY: The *other* Washington monument, a classic stage and cold licks.

HOW FAR: About 12 miles, or about an hour by car (many parts also are accessible by bike).

About every mile along the outskirts of Arlington and Alexandria, a small chunk of stone pokes out of the ground, usually surrounded by iron fencing. Some are little more than stumps, and even on the best-preserved examples, it can be hard to decipher the inscription, "Jurisdiction of the United States."

The sandstone markers have been around awhile. They were placed in 1791 to mark the original boundaries of the District, which at the time included a portion donated by Virginia called Alexandria County, D.C. (Another set of stones was planted a year later along the District's Maryland border.) In 1846, after years of dissent from erstwhile Virginians, the land was ceded back to them. Their lack of congressional representation — sound familiar? — was one factor; so was a fear of federal interference with the port of Alexandria's slave trade.

More than a century and a half after the split, some residents on both sides of the Potomac River act as if Virginia and the District have little to do with each other. But the boundary stones remain a visible reminder of the old map. (Although some have been moved a bit to accommodate roads or development.)

Three of the Virginia stones sit in private back yards and are off-limits, but the other 11 are accessible to the public. The markers also point to some noteworthy attractions in Northern Virginia — or, if you prefer, Old Southwest D.C.

— Rob Pegoraro

For more information, including a list of all 40 boundary stones, visit www.boundarystones.org.

Road Trip maps are available at www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip, as are addresses and hours of operation (be sure to check before you go). Have an idea for a trip? E-mail roadtrip@washpost.com.

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