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Know?



## Fairfax: County, Town & City

The land upon which Army Navy Country Club's Fairfax campus resides has been the part of five counties and is currently not the part of any county. It used to reside in a town (which has had two names) but now resides in a city.

## Fairfax: County, Town & City

The land upon which Army Navy Country Club's Fairfax campus resides was part of Northumberland County\* which was chartered by the Virginia General Assembly in 1648. In 1653 the General Assembly created Westmoreland County from Northumberland, then, in 1664 created Stafford County from Westmoreland County. In 1731 Prince William County was created from the western section of Stafford County and a section of King George County. Finally, in 1742 Fairfax County was divided from Prince William County. The ANCC Fairfax tract followed each of these changes.

The original Fairfax County courthouse was built near Tyson's Corner† in 1742 and remained there until 1752 when it moved to Alexandria (then part of Fairfax County) due to "Indian hostilities". Alexandria was part of the land ceded to the new "federal district" (District of Columbia) in 1790 resulting in the transfer of the Fairfax County courthouse to the "center of the county" on land donated by Richard Ratcliff at the intersection of Ox Road and the Little River Turnpike. The new courthouse opened in 1800. Because the name Fairfax had already been taken by the community that surrounded the Culpeper County courthouse‡, the community surrounding the Fairfax County courthouse was chartered as the Town of Providence in 1805. In 1859 Culpeper Court House's town changed its name from Fairfax to Culpeper. Shortly thereafter the town surrounding the Fairfax County Courthouse assumed the name Fairfax and was incorporated as the Town of Fairfax in 1874.



1800 Fairfax County Courthouse

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\* Northumberland County is the ancestor of 116 of the 172 counties that ever existed in Virginia.

† The original courthouse is the namesake for Old Courthouse Road. It intersects with Gallows Road, which at the time was the road along which condemned prisoners were led to the gallows.

‡ The mother of Thomas, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County was named, was a Culpeper

In 1961 the Town of Fairfax became the independent City of Fairfax yet remained the Fairfax County seat (legitimate under the Virginia constitution). At the result, when you are in the courthouse you are in the County, not the City. This has led some to describe the City as a “donut” (see map of the City of Fairfax).

