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Know?



Dolley Madison's Tunnel

A large number of the students who attended Dolley Madison Junior High School (on the site of today's Dolley Madison Towers, see picture below) resided on the opposite side of the Shirley Highway. The lack of fencing along the Shirley Highway (see picture below), the length of alternative routes, and a teenager's inherent sense of invincibility, made providing a safe crossing of the Highway imperative. To this end the U.S. Public Roads Administration (PRA) constructed a pedestrian tunnel that ran from Army Navy Drive to the Dolley Madison school grounds. This tunnel was probably constructed in conjunction with the construction of the Shirley Highway (1945-1948), dates which closely correlate to the construction of the school which opened in 1945.

Today the eastern entrance to the tunnel is sealed with a steel grill which was probably put in place concurrent with the closure of the school (1953) or its demolition (1965/66). Currently the tunnel serves as a utility conduit whose entrance can be found on Army Navy Drive across from Anderson Orthopedic Institute's parking garage entrance. The location of the western entrance is less clear. It is somewhere on the northern portion of the Dolley Madison Towers' property but given the jumble of sound barriers and fences in that area, its exact location has eluded the author.



**Eastern entrance to the tunnel with Dolley Madison JHS in the background.
Note the lack of fencing along Shirley Highway.**



Dolley Madison Towers
Overlooking the White #6 Green at Arlington
The site of the Dolley Madison Junior High School



Eastern Entrance Today.