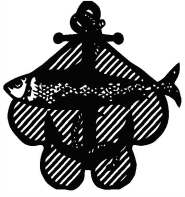


## About the Icons



### FISHING

Alexandria was among the 10 busiest ports in America by the end of the 1700s. Starting in the 1850s, Fishtown sprang up every year by the wharves. Seasonal buildings were erected and dismantled to support the industry. African Americans worked as hands on the dock or cleaned the shad and herring.



### FLOUR

Alexandria was a major export center for flour, wheat, and hemp. In the early 1800s, Alexandria shipped 600,000 barrels of flour and 200,000 bushels of wheat. The major markets were the West Indies, Portugal, and Spain.



### TOBACCO

A large percentage of Alexandria's commerce revolved around trade with New England, including preserved meats, grains, forest products, and tobacco. African Americans worked the docks to load and unload hogshead barrels of tobacco.



### RAILWAY

Alexandria was a major logistical center for the Union during the Civil War. The U.S. Military Railroad employed thousands of former slaves who fled Virginia's Tidewater and Piedmont regions for freedom behind Union lines.



### BRICK & TROWEL

Labor-intensive brick making was important to Alexandria, a city that still makes wide use of bricks for building. The material has become intrinsic to Alexandria. Bricks also reflect labors, home, building, and community.



### CHURCH WINDOW

This church window is modeled from those in the historic Shiloh Baptist Church on Duke Street. It reflects the importance and role of the church in the Black community as a source of refuge and resistance during various movements in history.



### COMPASS

An essential tool for ship navigation and surveying, the Compass Rose connects to the North Star and points beyond. It relates to ideas of freedom, destiny, and movement.



### ICE TONGS

Enslaved and freed Blacks used this essential tool to carry ice. Tongs were used in various sectors, from shipping and markets, to local produce and Fishtown. Ice also reflects ideas of preservation.