



Historic Arlington Town Center Ferry Landing

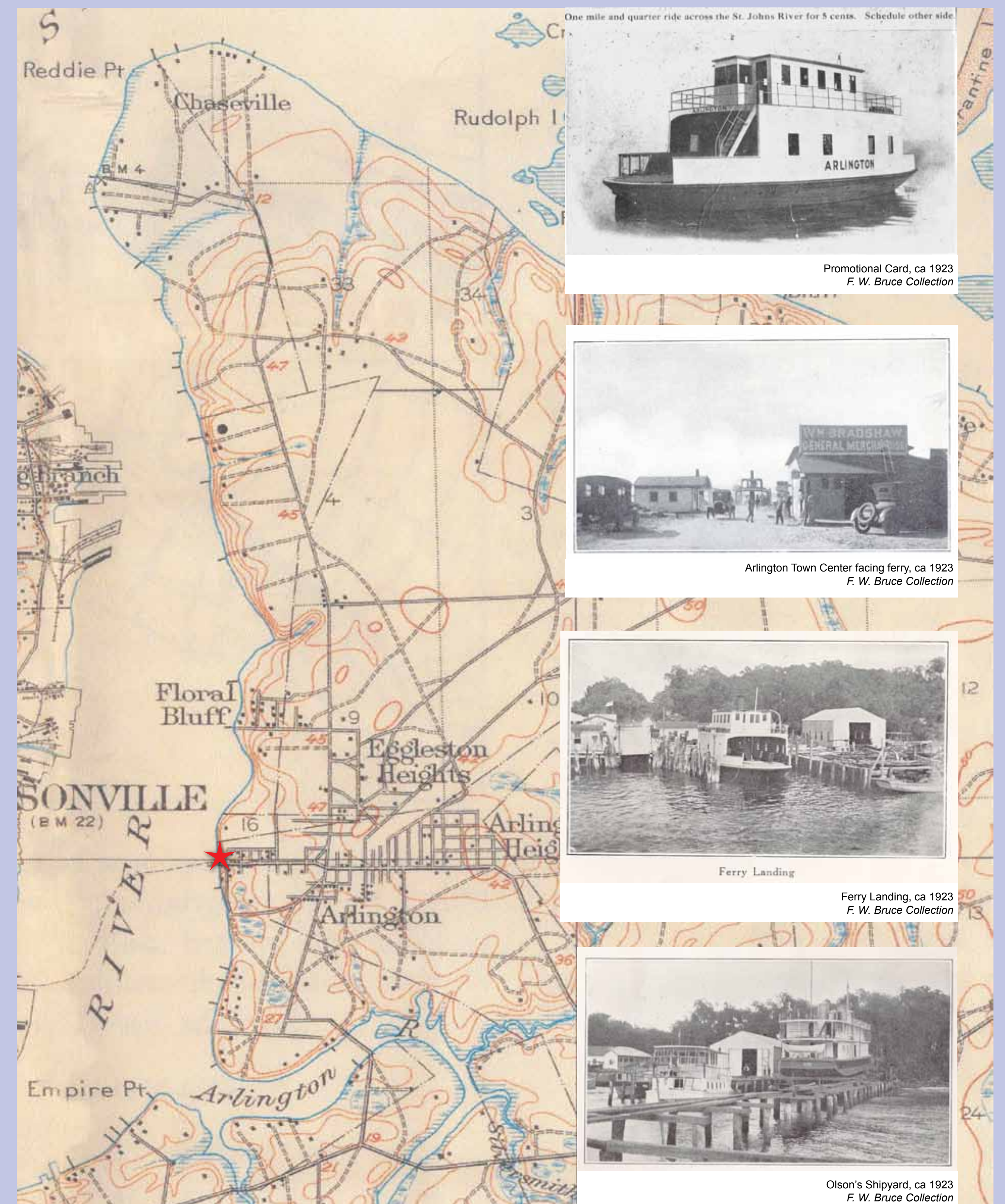
Ferry service between Jacksonville and Arlington began in 1914 and was sponsored by the Alderman Realty Company. The service gave access to 1,100 acres of old plantation land bought and subdivided by the company in 1913 and provided the impetus for growth and home building. Prior to the start of ferry service, this site served as a public boat landing much as it does today.

Service originally consisted of two ferries, the Arlington and the Fairfield, capable of loading eight automobiles at a time. The landings and ticket offices were located at the foot of Beaver Street in Jacksonville in an area known as Fairfield and St. Johns Street - now Arlington Road - in Arlington. The river crossing was one and one fourth miles with a fifteen minute operating schedule. The ferry office had a telephone and was the message center for regular commuters.

By 1924 the ferry slip area had become the town center of Arlington. There were two general stores, Bradshaw's and Frieseke's, and a garage and a gas station. Arlington's first post office, which began in Bradshaw's store, had its own building and had a bakery located in the rear. Ice cream treats could be purchased at Hayes Ice Cream Shop. The waterfront provided river access for the Seaboard Dredging Company on the north side of the landing and J. Olson and Son Boat Building and Marine Railway on the south. Philips Turpentine processing plant, located just south of Olson's Shipyard, sent barrels of turpentine to the city municipal docks by way of the ferry.

The ferry service was sold to Capt. Anson C. Macy and remained in operation until 1933. Service resumed briefly in 1940 but was short-lived and, with the exception of the industrial activity, the community center gradually gravitated to the Crossroads. The opening of the Mathews Bridge in 1953 provided the link to downtown Jacksonville, a need that was once filled by the Arlington Ferry and Land Company.

1918 Arlington Map



For more historic marker locations, visit www.OldArlington.org

This marker erected in 2009 with a grant from **Comcast** through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.