

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial



Forts & Defenses of Washington



Forts & Defenses of Washington

Fact: When the Civil War began, the nearest fort to defend Washington was 12 miles from the capital city.

Surrounded by a hostile population and bordering enemy territory, Washington D.C. was vulnerable to Confederate attack. A circle of 68 forts and enclosed batteries were built around the city, including Fort Whipple on the Arlington Estate, the former home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.