

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial



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.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/arho

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