

# W3R<sup>®</sup>-US Auto Tour through the District of Columbia

*Print It -- Read It -- Drive It*

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2018-09-12 moved to a consistent format

## **Brief Overview of the French Military Presence**

In 1781 Washington D.C. was part of Maryland. The District of Columbia (DC) was not established as a separate political unit until July 16, 1790.

On Sept 9, 1781, General Washington and his staff and guard rode without stopping through the Washington area, on their way to Mount Vernon, Washington's plantation home. The next day General Rochambeau and his staff and guard did the same thing. Several days later the baggage train came through at its pace of 14 miles per day.

For more details on the 1781 history and march route click the History link in w3r-archive.org and choose the link to this state. The link to Historical Maps leads to ten NPS maps with a shaded path where the roads taken in 1781 are overlaid on a modern roadmap.

## **Auto Tour of the W3R<sup>®</sup>**

Washington is divided into quadrants with similarly numbered and lettered streets in each quadrant. The quadrants are distinguished by geographic abbreviations, NE, SE, SW, NW. Thus 14th St NE is not the same as 14th St SW. The streets for the auto tour are major roads, so you should have no problem following the suggested route.

1. Start at Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen, 3200 Bladensburg Rd (Alt US 1), which is close to the MD/DC line. This is not an endorsement, simply a convenient location that can be located with a GPS mapping device.
2. Go south 1.2 miles and bear right onto New York Ave. (Rt 50). Continue for 3.6 miles (around several squares) until it ends at the Bank of America.
3. If you want to visit Lafayette Square\* turn right on 15th St NW and find a place to park. Otherwise turn right (north) on 15th St NW and go 0.3 miles.
4. Turn left (west) on K St NW and go 0.9 miles to Washington Circle.
5. Take the third right onto Pennsylvania Avenue and go 0.4 miles.
6. Bear left (west) onto M St. NW and go 0.6 miles.

4. If you want to leave DC and continue into Virginia then take a left to go across Francis Scott Key Bridge. Otherwise continue ahead, and drive back to visit other W3R sites in DC.

For the 1781 march route click the history ink in [w3r-archive.org](http://w3r-archive.org). The historic network of roads taken is overlaid on ten modern roadmaps.

### **Pearls along the Necklace -- Nearby Revolutionary-Era Sites**

LAFAYETTE SQUARE: (across from the White House) In the four corners are statues of Revolutionary War heroes: Major General Marquis Gilbert de Lafayette, Major General Comte Jean de Rochambeau, Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Major General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben -- all of whom came to the United States to fight for U.S. independence as a result of France's decision to aid the newly-formed nation.

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