



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

Alexandria Home Bakery

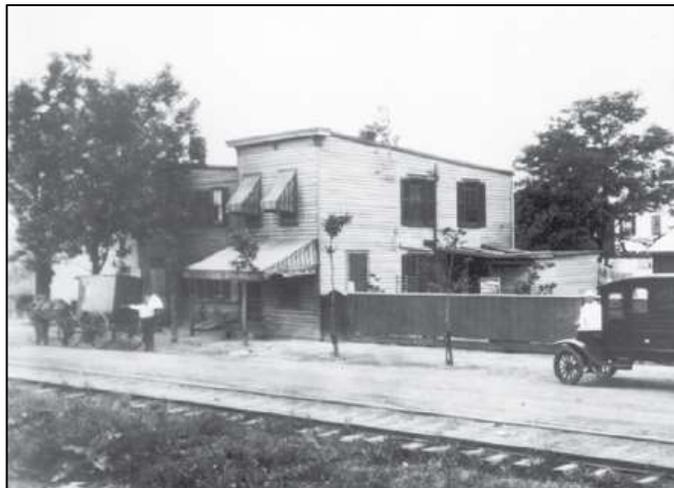
Alexandria Times, February 26, 2009

Image: Alexandria Home Bakery, 500 block North Henry Street. Photo, Alexandria Black History Museum.

Established by John Wesley Jackson around 1920, the Alexandria Home Bakery was a successful and popular business, one of several African-American owned businesses in the Uptown community. “Baker” Jackson, as he was called, had previously worked for Karl Fuchs, a German immigrant who operated a bakery in the 1910s near Prince and West streets. Fuchs died of influenza during the great epidemic of 1918, and Baker Jackson soon opened his own establishment.

Located in the 500 block of North Henry Street, the Alexandria Home Bakery was one of five bakeries in Alexandria in 1929, and the only one owned by an African American. It had a large, built-in oven, and retail customers could purchase doughnuts, cookies, pies and wedding cakes, but Jackson also had a strong wholesale operation, selling apple, peach, lemon and sweet potato pies.

Jackson also owned a house at 1022 Pendleton Street, which backed to the North Henry property and as the business grew, the two buildings became connected. The Jackson family lived there, and during the years of Jim Crow, the bakery also served an important role by providing accommodation to African-American visitors, including chauffeurs and laborers who were not welcome at local hotels. In later years, the property has been home to a barbershop, restaurant, and rooming house, and it remains in the family today.



“Out of the Attic” is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as “Marking Time” and explored Alexandria’s history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into “Out of the Attic” and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.

These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.