



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

Old Alexandria Hospital

Alexandria Times, March 12, 2009

Image: Old Alexandria Hospital. Photo, Library of COngress.

Alexandria Hospital was first organized in 1872 and occupied several structures in its early history, including the southeast corner of Wolfe and Pitt streets from 1886 through 1916. In the 1910s, Alexandria's growth prompted the board of trustees to seek a new site and larger building.

Edward L. Daingerfield, a prominent resident and president of the Citizens National Bank, had offered to sell his own property at Duke and Washington streets at less than the market rate. But in early 1915, the board purchased a block on the north side of the city, a site bounded on the east and west by North Columbus and North Alfred streets and on the north and south by Wythe and Pendleton streets.

Almost immediately, the hospital's board of lady managers and a group of physicians spoke out against the selection. When plans to open a manufacturing facility near the new site were announced, the board of trustees abandoned plans to build there. Daingerfield agreed to donate his property, and the hospital's board accepted.

The plans, first estimated at \$50,000, were for a building that would face Duke Street, and the former Daingerfield home, which faced Washington Street, would be partially razed and used as housing for nurses. The four-story brick structure cost approximately \$75,000 when it was opened in September of 1917. Alexandria Hospital appeared largely as it did in this photograph until the 1940s when it was expanded with additions to the east and west that stretched from Washington to Columbus Street.

A new hospital on Seminary Road opened in 1962, but the Duke Street facility remained open and in use until 1974. The property was eventually sold and the building torn down to make room for a modern office building.



"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.