



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Taylor-Fraser House

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Image: The Taylor-Fraser House. Photo, Library of Congress, HABS/HAER.

Some research indicates that Jesse Taylor, an early mayor of Alexandria, built a home on the lot at 109 South Pitt Street as early as the 1780s. Others believe that it was William Fraser who first constructed a house on that property in the early 1800s. As a result, the two-and-a-half-story brick home was recorded as the Taylor-Fraser House in the Historic American Buildings Survey, which noted the structure's Flemish bond street façade, dormer windows and sawtooth brick cornice.

At the time this photograph was taken in 1968, the home was threatened by Alexandria's extensive urban renewal project that razed dozens of buildings in the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of King Street. In 1969, the Alexandria City Council voted to require that Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) save the Taylor-Fraser House by relocating it away from the targeted area.

ARHA was responsible for paying for the move, and it took two bid processes and a federal grant to hire a contractor. Harry Harris, who already owned a historic property at 414 Franklin Street, purchased the Taylor-Fraser House for \$7,500 and contributed an additional \$2,500 toward the cost of the move.

On October 7, 1975, the brick structure was loaded atop a set of airplane tires and moved, with the help of three modified military tanks, to the southeast corner of Franklin and South Pitt. To minimize impact to power lines and trees, a route down Washington Street was selected, and the 10-block trip cost slightly more than \$100,000.



"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



**Office of Historic Alexandria
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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.