



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

414 North Washington Street

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Image: Grosvenor House at 414 North Washington Street, 1959. Photo, Library of Congress, HABS/HAER.

Sometimes known as Grosvenor House, this 2 ½-story home at 414 North Washington Street was built around 1830, most likely for Anthony Cazenove.

The Greek Revival-style residence of pressed red brick had a hipped roof, Ionic portico, doorway with sidelights, and, on the south side, a conservatory. The home was visible on an 1853 print, "View of Alexandria Va." published by J.T. Palmatary, that looks south down North Washington Street.

During the Civil War, the Union army used the private home as a hospital where more than 100 patients could be cared for. At that time, Grosvenor House Hospital was photographed from the south and a two-story wing is visible to the west. Following the war, Montgomery Dent Corse, a brigadier general with the Confederacy and native Alexandrian, lived at 414 North Washington until both he and his wife died in early 1895.

Around 1906, local merchant and druggist Clarence C. Leadbeater and his wife Lillian moved into the home, and in the 1930s and early 1940s, Mrs. Leadbeater opened her home for historic house tours that benefited St. Paul's Church and the Alexandria Hospital Auxiliary.

In 1959, when this photo was taken, the house was noted in the Historic American Buildings Survey as "undoubtedly the best preserved example of the Greek Revival in town." A year later, Mrs. Leadbeater, by then a widow, decided to move into an apartment.

The property was sold and the house razed so an office building could be built. Before complete demolition, the home's building materials, including early American random width flooring, English bubbled glass windows, original built-in cook stoves, marble mantels and imported English red brick were advertised for sale in a newspaper notice for "Dismantling Historic Grosvenor House."



"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.