



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

508 Wolfe Street

Alexandria Times, November 5, 2009

Image: 508 Wolfe Street during the Civil War, by Matthew Brady's studio. Photo, National Archives.

Built around 1850, this large Italianate home occupied the southwest corner of Wolfe and South Pitt streets. The two and a half story manor at 508 Wolfe featured two porches and a four-story turret and a carriage house with a cupola.

During the Civil War, it was used as a Union hospital. From January 1862 to February 1865, this house and another large one to the west were known as the Wolfe Street Hospital. It was during this time that this photograph was taken by Mathew Brady's studio.

In the 1870s, former Louisiana planter Theodore J. Packwood and his wife lived there, but it soon became the home of John A. Marshall, a successful businessman and bank officer. Marshall lived there until his death in 1913, and in the 1920s, the John Marshall House -- as it was known -- passed through a series of owners and occupants before a Jewish congregation acquired it in 1927.

The site became the synagogue for the Agudas Achim Congregation and was used for Jewish community functions and meetings, as well as for religious services. In 1946, Agudas Achim sold the home to a local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and in the 1950s, it became a Moose Lodge. By the early 1960s, it was vacant and acquired for development.

The John Marshall House was demolished in 1961 to make way for the Federal Hill homes, built by Royce Ward and John Philipp along South Pitt Street that year.



“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.



**Office of Historic Alexandria
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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.