



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Fort Ward Home for Convalescents

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Image: Lynn House, 4400 W. Braddock Road. Photo, Historic Postcards Collection (then), David Sachs (now) .

In the mid-1950s, Llewellyn P. Sutton, a private ambulance service operator and the patent holder for an enhanced traction frame, began plans to open a nursing home in the West End. “Lou” Sutton had acquired property at the southwest corner of West Braddock Road and North Howard Lane, and in the fall of 1954, construction started on the Fort Ward Home for Convalescents.

When it opened the following year, the Fort Ward Home advertised that its air-conditioned facility was especially built for convalescents. Seen in this postcard image from the late 1950s, the infirmary was set back from West Braddock Road with a small pond visible from the main road. Its private and semi-private rooms were on a single floor, and registered nurses provided care around the clock. Though smoking by patients was prohibited after a certain time in the evening, two residents died in separate fires started by their smoking accidents.

In 1968 the Ford Ward Home was sold to the nonprofit organization, Lynn House of Potomac Valley, Inc., which renovated the facility, creating 25 private rooms for patients requiring skilled, non-medical nursing in accordance with the teachings and practice of Christian Science. The location of Lynn House also met the standards set by the church, which required in part that it “be located in pleasant surroundings” and “free from disturbing noises.”

Lynn House, state-licensed as a hospital, replaced the original structure in 1992 with a purpose-built healthcare facility on the same property, south of the original building, which was demolished.





**Office of Historic Alexandria
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

“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.