



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

Stone's Motel

Alexandria Times, April 15, 2010

Image: Stone's Motel. Photo, Prince Lithography Co., Inc..

In the fall of 1953, F.D. Patton obtained a permit to build a new motel on King Street just west of Shirley Highway, then known as Route 350. The next year, the newly opened Patton's Town House Motel promoted

its "modern" and "spacious" accommodations in a newspaper ad. Patton's announced that its location, just "8.5 minutes from downtown Washington," and its "big" and "smartly decorated" rooms made it the "perfect place to send your out-of-town friends."

Like the Key and Lincolia motels located along the Shirley Highway corridor a couple exits to the south on Duke Street, Patton's was conveniently located to accommodate Washington tourists and travelers with business to conduct at the Pentagon. It was located on the south side of King Street and for at least the next 10 years was surrounded by undeveloped wooded lots to the south and east.

In the late 1950s, the motel's ownership changed, with Paul T. Stone taking over and changing the name to Stone's Motel. Seen in this postcard image from the 1960s, Stone's Motel had a pool and guest rooms with televisions and radiant heat and air conditioning. A portrait of George Washington behind the front desk reminded visitors of Alexandria's historic connection to the first president.

The motel, both as Patton's and Stone's, was a member of Quality Courts United, a membership organization of motel operators developed to improve the public's perception of motels by setting standards and issuing a travelers' directory of member motels.

In the mid-1970s, construction began on the large Park Center development, and the motel was demolished around 1976. Today the intersection of Park Center Drive with King Street is located left of the motel sign in this image.



"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
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

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.