



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

711 Prince Street

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Image: 711 Prince Street. Photo, Library of Congress.

Known as both the Patton-Fowle House and the Fowle-Pickens House, the large home at 711 Prince St., seen in this mid-20th century photo, dates back to the early 1800s. Around 1807, James Patton built a flounder house on a lot on the north side of Prince Street just east of Columbus Street. The structure was set back from the street and could be expanded, which it was under its next owner, William Fowle.

Fowle, a Massachusetts native, acquired the house and half-acre lot in 1811 after Patton experienced financial problems. In Alexandria, Fowle was a partner in a shipping firm and later served in the leadership of the Alexandria Canal Company and the Bank of the Old Dominion. At least two of his children followed him into civic involvement.

Fowle expanded his home considerably, adding a wing to the west that was at least two and possibly three stories high. In the 1850s, the home was connected to the new Alexandria water service, which supplied paying customers with fresh water from a reservoir at Shuter's Hill.

After the senior Fowle died in 1860, his married daughter Harriet Taylor remained at the home, which was enlarged again with an addition to the northwest side of the building. More renovations were made in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including a porch, sleeping porch and on the south façade, a portico.

The home remained in the same family into the 1960s before George H. and Jo Walker purchased it. Jo Walker had the home restored and also installed modern plumbing and heating. She obtained a preservation easement, ensuring that 711 Prince St. would be maintained and preserved in its restored state.



“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.