



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Warwick, a destination for Independence Day

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Image: Aerial view of Warwick, 1937, built as the summer home of Frank Hume. Photo, National Archives and Records Administration.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Warwick served as the summer home of Frank Hume and his family. Warwick was positioned on a hill west of where Commonwealth and Mount Vernon avenues intersect today. Hume, a Confederate veteran and successful businessman who owned a wholesale grocery in Washington, D.C., acquired the two-story home in 1879 and hosted a large Thanksgiving dinner there later that year.

Over the next 25 years, Warwick was the site of many holiday and family celebrations where guests enjoyed Hume's hospitality, as well as views of the Potomac and Washington, D.C. As many as 150 guests at a time attended Fourth of July celebrations where large U.S. flags adorned trees and guests enjoyed picnic feasts, lemonade and champagne. These events were especially memorable for the twilight fireworks display and the firing of a cannon.

After Hume died in 1906, Warwick remained in the family and some descendants held weddings there. In 1920, a fire nearly destroyed Warwick but it was rebuilt. Seen to the left in this 1937 image, Warwick was positioned along a winding road that reached from Mount Vernon Avenue on the east to Mosby Street on the south.

In the early 1950s, Warwick and the surrounding Hume property were sold for development and the old home was demolished in 1953. Warwick Village, originally a development of rental homes, was laid out across 55 acres on the old Hume estate. About half of the planned street names were replaced, with Landover instead of Marlboro, Guthrie in place of London, and Ancell over Warwick. The former Hume home stood approximately where the 2900 block of Landover Street is today.



“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.