Office of Historic Alexandria
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as The Alexandria Times and Advertiser

Out of the Attic

Citizens National Bank Building

Alexandria Times, August 19, 2010

Image: Citizens National Bank, King and St. Asaph streets, around 1920. Photo, Library of Congress.

The Citizens National Bank was established in Alexandria in 1870 with the deposits rescued from the Bank of the Old Dominion, which closed during the Civil War. After occupying the Old Dominion bank building at Prince and Lee streets for more than three decades, Citizens National Bank announced in 1904 that it would build a new bank at the northeast corner of King and St. Asaph streets, designed by the architectural firm of York, Sawyer and Sperry.

Construction began in the spring of 1905, and in October of that year, the new building opened for business. It featured two Ionic pillars, tooled stone quoins, an arched transom and a Spanish tiled roof. Four stone medallions highlighted the south and west façades. The two on the St. Asaph Street side noted the year the bank was incorporated and the year the building was erected, and the Virginia state seal and the seal of the United States adorned the King Street side.

A few years after this structure was built, the Alexandria Water Company built a new office located just north of the bank on St. Asaph Street. That one-story building is partially visible in this photograph taken around 1920.

In 1954, Citizens National Bank merged with another local institution, First National Bank, becoming First and Citizens National Bank. In 1958, the Alexandria Water office was demolished and the bank expanded with new drive-through lanes and a walk-up window.

In the mid-1960s, with urban renewal changing the face of several blocks of downtown Alexandria, First and Citizens made the decision to demolish the old bank building and construct a modern facility, which opened in the fall of 1967.

"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.