



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### An obstruction for some, a gem for others

*Alexandria Times, November 23, 2010*

*Image: Braddock House Hotel. Photo, Library of Congress.*

Dating to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, this large structure on North Fairfax Street has been known as Green's Mansion House, Mansion House Hospital and Braddock House. By 1848, furniture manufacturer James Green acquired the former Bank of Alexandria building on the corner of Cameron Street and converted it to a hotel. A four-story addition to the east built around 1855 not only made Green's Mansion House the largest hotel in Alexandria, but it completely blocked the historic Carlyle House from view on North Fairfax Street.



During the Civil War, the Union army converted the hotel into a hospital. Able to hold up to 700 sick and wounded soldiers, the Mansion House Hospital was the largest military hospital in Alexandria.

After the war, the hotel reopened as the Mansion House Hotel. In the early 1880s, with new proprietors, the hotel acquired a new name – Braddock House. In 1886, it was advertised as the “only first-class hotel” in Alexandria and boasted “modern improvements,” including a telephone, billiard room, bowling alleys, “hot and cold baths” and “a first-class bar.”

The property changed hands several times, and part of it was turned into apartments in the early 1900s. Still, the Braddock House building, seen in this photo taken around 1919, had signs posted that read, “This house surrounds the old Carlyle House. Entrance through this building.”

The Braddock House building deteriorated and in the early 1970s, after the Northern Virginia Park Authority acquired the entire property, the Alexandria City Council approved plans to demolish the old hotel while leaving the former bank building and original mansion in place. Despite protests from some preservationists who considered the hotel building to be historically significant, it was demolished in early 1973, opening up an unobstructed view of Carlyle House.

*“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**

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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.*