



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### Pave Harlow House, put up a parking lot

*Alexandria Times, October 6, 2011*

*Image: Harlow House, 100 block North Alfred Street, around 1899. Photo, Souvenir Virginia Tercentennial of Historic Alexandria, Virginia, 1907.*

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the northeast side of the 100 block of North Alfred St. was the site of a sugar refinery, and in the mid 1800s, the northern part of the property became the home of Mary Marshall Foote.

Foote's residence, constructed of stone or brick, was set back from the southeast corner of Alfred and Cameron streets. A boarder in Foote's home inherited it after her death in 1880, and he sold the property in 1885 to Michael B. Harlow, a very successful businessman and real estate developer who also served several years as the City Treasurer.

Within a few years, the older structure was torn down and replaced by a three-story brick mansion designed by Glenn Brown and positioned close to the corner of Alfred and Cameron streets. The Harlow House, seen in this photograph taken around 1899, incorporated Italianate, Queen Anne and Gothic Revival elements.

Harlow and other local businessmen established the Alexandria Apartment House Company to erect a five-story apartment building on the site, but the plans fell through. Ervin G. Schwarzmann, another Alexandria businessman, later acquired the Harlow House and used it as a residence for his family. The Harlow House was sold again in 1920 when it became the Scottish Rite clubhouse with apartments for its members. In the early 1940s, the Scottish Rite moved out and the Harlow House operated as an apartment building until the early 1950s, when it was demolished.

A parking lot remained on the site until the mid-1990s when a new building for the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross was constructed there.



*"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.*