



# Alexandria Times

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## Out of the Attic

### A home's history at 213 S. Pitt St.

*Alexandria Times, July 5, 2012*

*Image: 213 S. Pitt Street, 1960s. Photo, Alexandria Library, Special Collections.*

The history of a three-story home built nearly 200 years ago is now told on a bronze plaque, which was displayed for the first time this month. According to the Historic American Building Survey, the house at 213 S. Pitt St. is an excellent example of residential architecture of that time. The design suggests the development of similar structures on both sides was expected but never occurred, with the north and south lots remaining undeveloped.

Josiah Hewes Davis built the house sometime around 1818. Davis (1783-1862) was a rope maker and ship chandler who operated a rope walk at Jones Point. In 1847, William Stabler (1795-1852) purchased the property as a home for John Leadbeater (1807-1860), his brother-in-law and business partner at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary on South Fairfax Street. It remained the home of three generations of the Leadbeater family, including Edward S. (1836-1899) and Edward S. Jr. (1869-1933), who died at the home after suffering a stroke. He and his father were named for their ancestor, Edward Stabler, a Quaker and noted abolitionist who founded the family apothecary in 1792.

The residence was later a popular stop on annual historic home tours organized to benefit St. Paul's Church, which sits across the street. This early 1960s photograph was taken for a historic structure survey for the Historic Alexandria Foundation. Today, passers-by can see the new plaque, positioned on the east-facing corner, thanks to interest and support from a neighbor and the homeowner.



*“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.*