



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Home to one of Edward R. Murrow's 'boys'

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Image: Eric Severeid House, 1226 N. Pegram Street. Photo, Office of Historic Alexandria.

Alexandria's resident Charles M. Goodman was one of the most influential modern architects working in Northern Virginia during the mid-20th century. A graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Goodman came to Washington, D.C., in 1934 to work at the Public Buildings Administration but later served as a designer with the U.S. Treasury and the Air Transport Command. In that role, he designed the original National Airport.

After World War II, Goodman served as the main architect for the Hollin Hills residential area, south of the City of Alexandria, in Fairfax County. There he designed more than a dozen models for a contemporary-style residential development. Working closely with planner Robert C. Davenport, Goodman innovatively integrated the design and site arrangement of each house to take advantage of the topography and environmental conditions of the heavily forested, hilly location. After occupancy of Hollin Hills began, demand for drapery supplies skyrocketed locally, supposedly because of the large expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass used in the house design.

Goodman also built several homes in Alexandria proper, including one for himself on Quaker Lane and one for the family of the noted national news broadcaster Eric Severeid. He had come to fame as one of "Murrow's Boys," a team of CBS newsmen hired by Edward R. Murrow, to travel the globe reporting world events.

Severeid was the first to report the fall of Paris to the German Army during World War II. Severeid's postwar home, seen in this photograph and located at 1226 N. Pegram St., still stands and is exceptional as an early example of an open floor plan, contemporary home that seamlessly connects the exterior and interior spaces of the house.





Office of Historic Alexandria City of Alexandria, Virginia

“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.