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Out of the Attic

Edmund Jennings Lee House

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Image: The Edmund Jennings Lee House, 428 N. Washington Street. Photo, Library of Congress.

The Edmund Jennings Lee house at 428 North Washington Street is among the few Georgian-style residences that survive in Alexandria. The half-acre property at what would become the famous "Lee Corner" at Oronoco Street was acquired about 1796 by Charles Lee, who sold it to his younger brother, Edmund Jennings Lee several years later. The brothers were among the four notable sons of Henry Lee of "Leesylvania."

The Lee House is remarkably similar in architectural design and detailing to the Lloyd House, located two blocks south at 220 North Washington. Both homes are two-and-a-half stories with a detailed cornice at the gable end, and feature stone lintels with keystones over the windows and beautiful arched pediments over the front door. However, there are also a number of distinct differences that separate the two.

The Lee home, with its three bay fenestration along the North Washington Street façade, is an example of a "half-house" whereas the Lloyd residence, with five bays, embodied the fuller version of the same design. The Lee home also featured an interior central chimney, as compared with Lloyd's interior end chimneys. The Lee home also was built in a square plan, with an ell addition to the rear, whereas the Lloyd House was built in a rectangular plan with an independent accessory structure at the rear for the kitchen and other functions.



"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.