



# Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

## Out of the Attic

### Storied home lost in 1960s urban renewal

*Alexandria Times, January 3, 2013*

Image: 109 S. Royal Street prior to urban renewal. Photo, Library of Congress.

**O**n January 13, 1787, John Longden purchased several lots from William Young at King and South Royal streets. Just three months later he conveyed the southernmost section of one lot – which became 109 S. Royal St. – to Samuel Simmons.

Soon after Simmons built a Federal style townhouse on the site, which he bequeathed to his daughter, Mary Ingle, and her daughter, Eliza, in 1809. At the time, Mary Ingle and her husband, Joseph, lived just across the street at 112 S. Royal St.

Joseph Ingle was a chair and cabinetmaker, though he also specialized in upholstery. Among his many accounts was a bill dated January 16, 1800, to the estate of Gen. George Washington, associated with the former president's funeral expenses. Specifically, the bill referenced a "coffin and engraved silver plate furnished with lace, handles as covered case with lifters.

Likely by 1815, the Ingles had moved across South Royal Street to Simmons' former home, leaving the cabinetry and upholstery shop on the east side of the street. During the next two years the Ingles repeatedly advertised the home at 112 S. Royal St. for sale or rent. They finally sold it in 1817.

Not long after the sale, Joseph Ingle died, and his wife continued to live in her father's former home until 1839. Mary and Eliza then sold it to Cornelius Jacobs of Washington, D.C., for the sum of \$900. Jacobs sold the dwelling four years later to Edward Burchell for the same amount. In 1846, Burchell also acquired the property next door at 111 S. Royal St. from the heirs of John Longden.

After being remodeled repeatedly for commercial use in the 20th century, the Samuel Simmons house was finally demolished in 1968 as part of the Alexandria [urban renewal](#) project. It is now the site of the Hotel Monaco.



*"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.*