



Alexandria Times

Established in 1797 as *The Alexandria Times and Advertiser*

Out of the Attic

The long history of Lloyd House

Alexandria Times, December 4, 2014

Image: Lloyd House, from 1919 aerial photograph. Photo, Office of Historic Alexandria.

This is another detailed view of a portion of an aerial photograph taken over downtown Alexandria in 1919. The thoroughfare to the left of the center is Queen Street between North Columbus and North Washington streets, still paved with its original cobblestones and depicting the “ghosts” left after over two centuries of wear by carriage and motor traffic.

On the north side of Queen Street, to the left, is the open field of old Quaker Burial Ground, leased to the city nearly two decades later for the construction of the Alexandria Library.

On the south side of Queen, at North Washington Street, is the venerable [Lloyd House](#), built by John Wise in 1795 and now the administrative headquarters of the Office of Historic Alexandria.

This image depicts the rear façade of the house when it was owned by William Albert Smoot, an executive of the Smoot family lumber and coal yards on North Union Street. Smoot later became mayor of Alexandria.

Interesting details document the two-story sun porch addition with its large awnings and what appears to be a laundry yard, sheets blowing in the wind, enclosed between a tall fence and a brick wall along Queen Street. The large L-shaped lawn that surrounds the house to the west and south later was proposed for the site of a high-rise office building, described at the time by the Board of Architectural Review as “monstrous,” after it was acquired by Robert New, a California oilman who saved the house from demolition in 1955.

Further south, a brick wall separates Lloyd House from another lot that was once the site of the Hoffman Sugar House, where West Indian sugar cane was processed a century earlier. The wall itself was built in 1811 by Alexandria brick-maker John Hollinsbury using bricks that were removed concurrently from the sidewalks around Lloyd House. Even the tree at the Lloyd House corner appears to be one of the original dozen Linden trees planted at that time on the North Washington Street frontage.

For decades after it was built, Lloyd House had a direct view southward across open fields to the spire of Christ Church, but after the Civil War the area gradually filled in with townhouses. The four homes in the foreground, at the corner of Queen and North Columbus streets still survive, but the others adjacent to their east and south sides later were demolished when the Lloyd House yard was used as parking for the library in the 1970s. Those areas now form the Lloyd House Garden areas and are protected by the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, which owns the site.





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.