



THE PLAQUE

A Publication of the Historic Alexandria Foundation

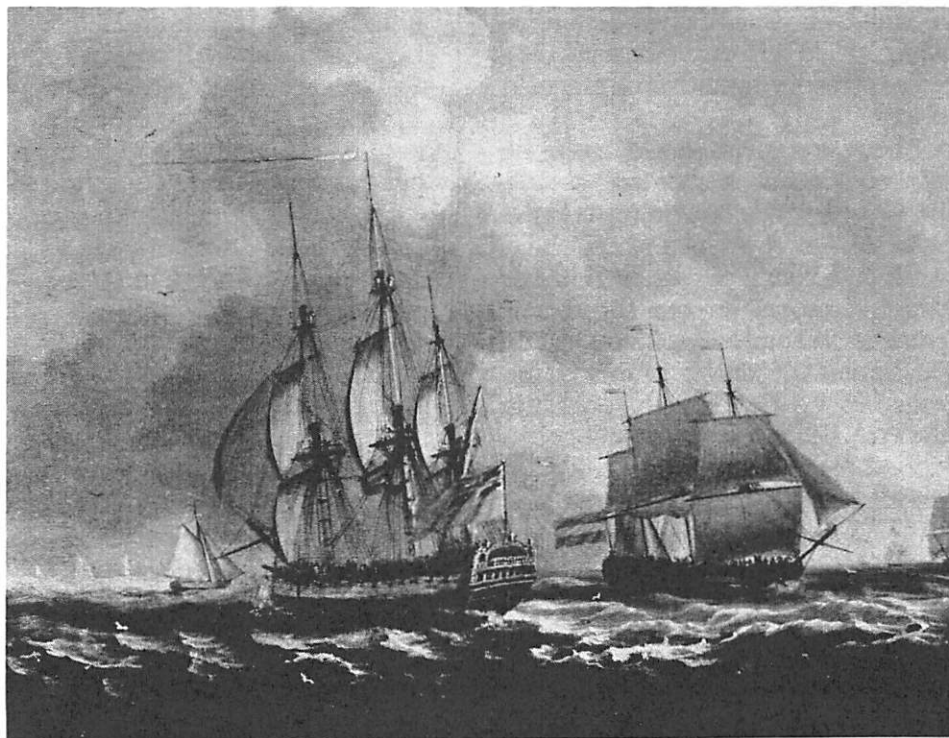
Editor: Penny C. Morrill

HAF to Cosponsor Historic Alexandria Antiques Show

The Historic Alexandria Foundation has a proud heritage. We have been in the forefront in the fight to save the Lyceum and the Lloyd House. When you go to a lecture or to hear a concert at the Lyceum, or research the history of your house with the help of those very knowledgeable Lloyd House librarians, try to imagine that once, not so long ago, those two buildings were seriously threatened with demolition.

Perhaps you have a plaque on your house or would like to have one. Our wonderful plaque program has been the impetus for saving large numbers of homes and commercial structures in Old Town. The plaques are outward signs of a growing awareness of our valuable architectural heritage.

This year we are embarking on a new and exciting project—the Historic Alexandria Antiques Show. This venture is part of a greater challenge—to save the Alexandria Academy. The cost of restoration of this incredibly historic structure will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$500,000. The City of Alexandria has provided us with a real challenge in a matching grant of
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This seascape by John Thomas Serres (1759-1825) will be exhibited at the Historic Alexandria Antiques Show, at the exhibit booth of Carl Bach & Associates of High Point, NC.

Photo courtesy of Robert Armacost

Please Write Those Letters to City Council

We must restore the old soldier to his home at the corner of Prince and Washington Streets!

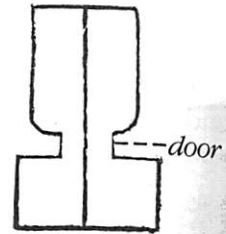
McVeigh Houses Have Unique Features

An unusual architectural feature has been observed recently in a number of brick houses in Old Town: a curved wall where the back ell joins the front part of the house. The curve is composed of brick headers going the height of the ell and is usually convex, with one notable exception. The hyphen which results from the foreshortened wall frequently contains a

side door entrance.

The houses uniformly are circa mid-19th century.

Two houses with this feature may be easily observed from the side, 414 Prince Street and 209 South Saint Asaph. The one at 414 Prince was built in 1852 by William McVeigh, with a mirror image house to the East at 412 Prince (now much altered from the original). These walls are convex.



412 414

PRINCE STREET

At another McVeigh house (209 South Saint Asaph, behind the old Court House), the wall is concave and perhaps unique in Alexandria.

It may be that the curve is a McVeigh trademark, for a third McVeigh house at the northeast corner of Cameron and North Saint Asaph, built for J.H. McVeigh and no longer standing, had a curve identical to the Prince Street house. This phenomenon can be verified by studying the G.M. Hopkins City Atlas of 1877.

The double house at 207-209 South Fairfax also apparently had these curved walls, now altered. The original house was built in the 18th century, but was divided and much changed about 1866 by a son of James Green. The curve at 207 may be seen from the driveway, and evidence of the brick hyphen is almost hidden by a fairly recent brick addition.

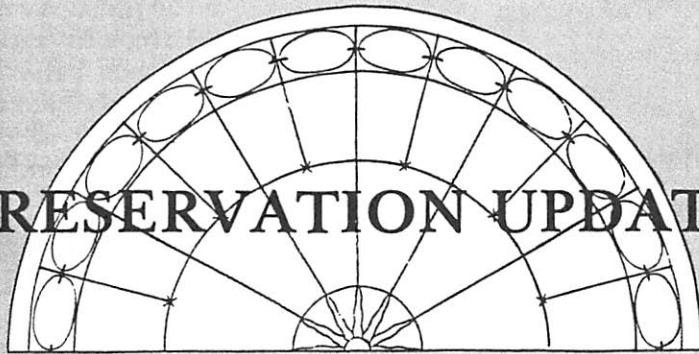
At 414 Duke Street, built in 1854 for Benoni Wheat, several curved rows of brick headers may yet be seen above a brick wall which changed the configuration about 1911 when the home was converted to Rosemont Apartments. This house is now undergoing restoration as a single family home.

A careful study of Hopkins' Atlas reveals that the building at 719 King, constructed about 1877, might have this feature, but because of subsequent building at 721 King the curve is not identifiable from the outside.

If anyone has knowledge of other houses in Old Town with this unusual feature, kindly advise the writer through HAF, especially if the name of the builder is known.

—Ruth Lincoln Kaye

PRESERVATION UPDATE



HAF member Lois Kelso Kent, in a note to the editor, suggested it might be helpful to other Foundation members to have simple guidelines for historically accurate plantings in gardens of historic houses. A book she recommends is Dr. Donald Wyman's *Trees for American Gardens*. She also mentions that George Washington kept detailed records of the trees he planted at Mount Vernon.

We would be delighted to have more information on this subject for our next newsletter. Please send recommended books or other sources and we will share the information with all our members.



The National Association of Realtors and the Center for Historic Houses of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are cosponsoring "Rehab for Profit", a seminar in Fairfax, VA October 6, 1988. It will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Board of Realtors, 8411 Arlington Blvd.

The seminar is for real estate

professionals, investors, and historic preservationists. It is a step-by-step guide to proper and profitable rehabilitation. Included will be information on feasibility studies, project planning and financing.

Sign up for the seminar at least 30 days in advance. The cost is \$95 if paid by then; \$120 if paid after the deadline. Write: National Association of Realtors, 777 14th Street NW, Washington DC 20005.



Ramon J. Kazanjian, who has chosen as the subject for his Master's thesis "The History of American House Portraits", seeks HAF's help:

I am attempting to identify and research artists of the 18th and 19th centuries who might have produced drawings or paintings of houses on a commission basis... knowledge of the existence of any public or private collections of original art or reproductions would be especially valuable... I want very much to include Alexandria in this effort.

Mr. Kazanjian's address is 1505 Oakcrest Drive, Alexandria VA 22302.