

Alexandria Times

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Play a role in preserving Alexandria's history

What started as National Preservation Week in 1973 was expanded in 2005. That year, the National Trust expanded the celebration from a week to the entire month of May to allow for a fuller exploration of buildings and spaces of historical significance to a larger American history. But you don't need to wait until May to learn how individual homeowners can preserve their part of Alexandria's history.

On April 19, an expert panel will discuss interior, exterior and open space easements for historic homes, the assessments, tax benefits and impacts on real estate sales. Several current easement holders, both original and subsequent, will also be available to share their experiences.

A question and answer session will follow the panel discussion. The seminar is sponsored by the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission and co-sponsored by the Old Town Civic Association and the Historic Alexandria Foundation.

The panel includes: An-nwyn Milnes, appraiser su-

pervisor, Office of Real Estate Assessment, City of Alexandria; Mark Allen, real estate attorney; Mickey Campagna, real estate appraiser; Danny Smith, interior/exterior easement holder; Frederick Lowther, exterior garden easement holder and Moderator: Susan Horne, chairperson of AHRPC

Long before the designation of National Preservation Week, historic preservation has been a priority in Alexandria. Alexandria has the third-oldest designated district in the nation, behind only Charleston and New Orleans. The city designated its Old and Historic District in 1946.

In 1984, Historically African American Uptown was designated as the Parker-Gray Historic District. The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, one of the seminar's sponsors, was founded in 1962 as a state commission by the Virginia Assembly to preserve and acquire historic buildings and easements in the City of Alexandria.

While the facades of homes in designated historic districts



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

The interior of the Lord Fairfax House, which has an historic easement.

are protected by the Building and Architectural Review Board, there are also ways to preserve interior aspects of home and outdoor spaces. Interior easements are available for particular elements of a home such as an original fireplace mantel, detailed archways, period moldings and other architectural details. Taking on such easements doesn't preclude the instal-

lation of contemporary features, such as a new kitchen or bath. Open space easements that preserve gardens, historic walls or outside structures are also available.

Readers can register for this free event at alexandriava.gov/shop.

Out of the Attic is provided by The Office of Historic Alexandria.