

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4/17/90 1/17/91
V LA NRHP

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fairfax-Moore House
other names/site number Fairfax House

2. Location

street & number 207 Prince Street N/A not for publication
city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Alexandria city code 510 zip code 22314

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 11-28-90
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

9. Major Bibliographical References

Auditor of Public Accounts. Land Tax Books. Alexandria City. 1787-1790. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).

Auditor of Public Accounts. Land Tax Books. Fairfax County. 1782. VSL&A.

Cox, Ethelyn. Historic Alexandria Virginia, Street by Street. Alexandria, 1976.

Moore, Gay Montague. Seaport in Virginia: George Washington's Alexandria. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1949.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1, 8 3, 2, 2, 6, 2, 0 4, 2, 9, 6, 7, 2, 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Fairfax-Moore House is recorded on Alexandria city tax map number 7501, block number 07, lot number 15.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the Fairfax-Moore House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Calder C. Loth, architectural historian/ John S. Salmon, historian
 organization Va. Department of Historic Resources date 30 March 1990
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143
 city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic : Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Sandstone porch, wood porch,
sandstone doorframe

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Fairfax-Moore House is located at 207 Prince Street in the heart of the Alexandria Historic District. It is a classic example of an eighteenth-century Georgian, side-passage-plan dwelling. With its three and a half stories and long service wing, it exemplifies the type of home enjoyed by the city's most affluent citizens. The house is attached on its west wall to a row of town houses of similar configuration. On the east is a geometric boxwood garden beyond which is the Athenaeum, an individually registered Greek Revival bank building. In excellent condition, the house retains much of its early woodwork except for the front parlor, which has Georgian Revival trim to replace the original lost through early alterations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Forming the end dwelling of a stately row of eighteenth-century town houses erected at various times, the Fairfax-Moore House is a three-bay, three-and-a-half-story dwelling of white-painted brick. The house underwent various minor nineteenth-century modifications and was returned to its eighteenth-century character following its purchase by Gay Montague Moore in 1929. It is currently being excellently maintained, precisely as Mrs. Moore had it until her death in 1988. As such the house is also a document of American taste in restoration and furnishing typical of the middle part of the twentieth century.

On the exterior, the facade is laid in Flemish bond with string courses of two bands of stretchers between the floors. The basement is marked by a water table with half-round water table bricks. The entrance has an Aquia stone frontispiece of fluted pilasters and fluted frame around the lunette transom. Such stone doorways are characteristic of the finest Alexandria houses. The entrance is approached by a set of stone steps with rusticated spandrel and decorative wrought-iron railing. The windows are surrounded by architrave trim with molded sills. The original sash was lost in early renovations; the present small-pane sash was installed by Mrs. Moore. Marking the eaves is the original modillion

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cornice with wall-of-Troy bed molding. The dormers, with their open-tympanum pediments, are exact reproductions of the originals, as shown in old photographs, which were destroyed by a windstorm about 1913.

The east side of the house is marked by a pair of semi-exterior-end chimneys between which is a single opening on each level except for the attic level, which has a pair of small windows. The first-floor opening is a restoration, the original having been removed when a conservatory was put on the side sometime in the nineteenth century. The east side of the rear service wing had undergone numerous modifications prior to Mrs. Moore's purchase of the property. She first added a one-story veranda across the east wall, and in the 1950s put a second level on the veranda and modified the roofline of the ell. In 1934 Mrs. Moore erected a colonial-style guest cottage attached to the rear wall of the service ell. The handsome boxwood garden extending to Lee Street, behind the Athenaeum, was added then. The walled garden to the east of the house, accented by a reproduction privy with a bell-cast roof, was installed by Mrs. Moore in the 1950s.

On entering the house, the stair, located toward the end of the passage, is framed by a handsome elliptical arch. The arch, of a type characteristic of finer Alexandria houses, is supported by reeded pilasters supporting the arch. An inner arch is set against the soffit of the main arch, and is supported on half-round reeded pilasters set against the jambs of the pilasters. The stair has rounded railing, square balusters, and boldly scrolled end brackets. Both arch and stair apparently were installed in the late eighteenth century, probably after the property was purchased either by John Harper or William Hodgson.

The front parlor, having been modified during the course of various changes in its use, received its present Georgian-style woodwork in 1952. It was designed by Milton Grigg, a noted restoration architect, and was executed by Smoots, a local woodworking company. The second parlor, now the library, retains its early trim and features a chimneypiece flanked by fluted Doric pilasters and a crosseted overmantel. The wall between the rooms had nineteenth-century pocket doors that were removed by Mrs. Moore. The dining room, located in the ell, has simple paneled woodwork and relatively low ceilings. The original kitchen fireplace opening in the room beyond the dining room is preserved but currently holds built-in cabinets.

Much of the early woodwork survives in the front rooms of the second and third floors, including mantels, door and window frames, doors, and cornices. Some modification of the plans of both floors has occurred to accommodate closets and bathrooms, but the later work is harmonious with the character of the early trim. An impressive library room has been installed in the center of the upper level of the ell. A fireplace towards the south end has an original mantel that may or may not always

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have been in this location. An enclosed original stair leads to the attic, which has finished rooms used for storage.

The modern guest cottage (1934) attached to the rear of the service ell is a two-and-a-half-story structure with a garage on the lower level. The east side is fronted by a two-level gallery that overlooks a handsome boxwood garden leading to Lee Street. The garden contains one noncontributing structure, a small brick garden house built in the early 1950s.

Calder C. Loth

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Conservation: Historic preservation

Period of Significance

ca. 1785-1940

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large Alexandria town house known as the Fairfax-Moore House is significant under criteria C (architecture) and A (conservation, in particular the American historic preservation movement).

Located at 207 Prince Street, in the heart of the Alexandria Historic District, the Fairfax-Moore House has long been a focal point of one of America's most historic cities. With its refined proportions, three-and-a-half-story elevation, side-hall plan, and service ell, it symbolizes the sophistication of Alexandria's late-eighteenth-century urban domestic idiom. Constructed on a lot originally owned by George William Fairfax, friend of George Washington and son of William Fairfax of Belvoir, 207 Prince Street is part of the finest block of dwellings in the city. From 1929 until her death in 1988, Gay Montague Moore, Alexandria historian and preservationist, made the Fairfax-Moore House her home. Mrs. Moore's purchase and restoration of the house signaled the beginning of the preservation movement in Alexandria and a focus on Virginia's historic urban neighborhoods. Her attention to this and many of the other historic and architectural resources of Alexandria contributed to its historic district being named a National Historic Landmark in 1966. The Fairfax-Moore House can thus be regarded as a landmark of the American preservation movement.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Local tradition associates the Fairfax-Moore House with George William Fairfax, who between 1749 and 1771 owned the lot on which it stands. It is probable that a dwelling was constructed there during the period of his ownership because lot owners in Alexandria were required to build structures on their property. The architectural evidence, however, suggests a later construction date for this particular building--most likely the mid-1780s, when the lot was owned and developed by John

See continuation sheet

