



The Arlington Historical Society: Celebrating Arlington's History

Optimist Club

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AHS President

The Early Years of AHS

- Hume School, opens in 1891 and is named for Frank Hume, a successful Arlington businessman who served in the Virginia House of Delegates.
- The Arlington Historical Society is founded in September 1956. AHS meetings are held throughout the county.
- The heirs of Frank Hume offer to donate the land surrounding Hume School to AHS if the county will deed them the schoolhouse.
- County campaign leads to the County Board buying the school from APS and deeding it to AHS.
- AHS starts a massive financial campaign to raise \$45,000 to renovate the property to open as a museum.
- Arlington Historical Museum opens in Sept. 1963.





The Arlington historical Museum
at the historic Hume School:
AHS's flagship museum and the
home of the Arlington Historical
Society.



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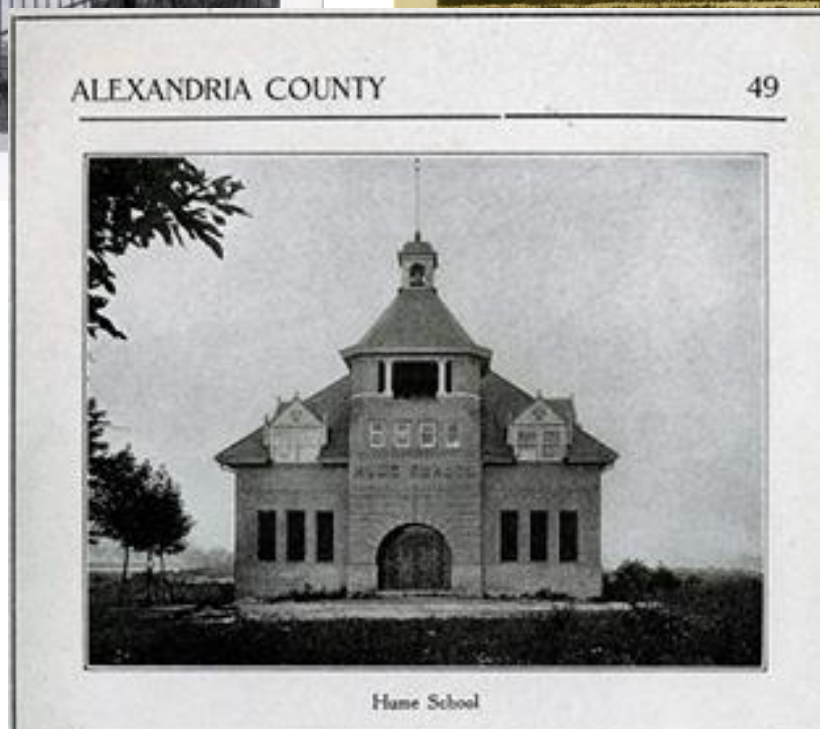
- The oldest schoolhouse in Arlington
- Built in 1890s, in use as a school until 1956
- 2 floors and unfinished basement, plus belfry/attic
 - Main floor has exhibits of all eras of Arlington history plus a small exhibit case for seasonal exhibits
 - 2nd floor: artifact storage and work room, also small room representing period school room with access to belfry and bell pull
 - Basement: artifact storage, furnace.



Hume as a schoolhouse



Hume School 1930s



Hume in early 1900s



Students Outside Hume 1919



1924



Students upstairs Hume 1955



1929



School is closed. White paint gone and windows shuttered.

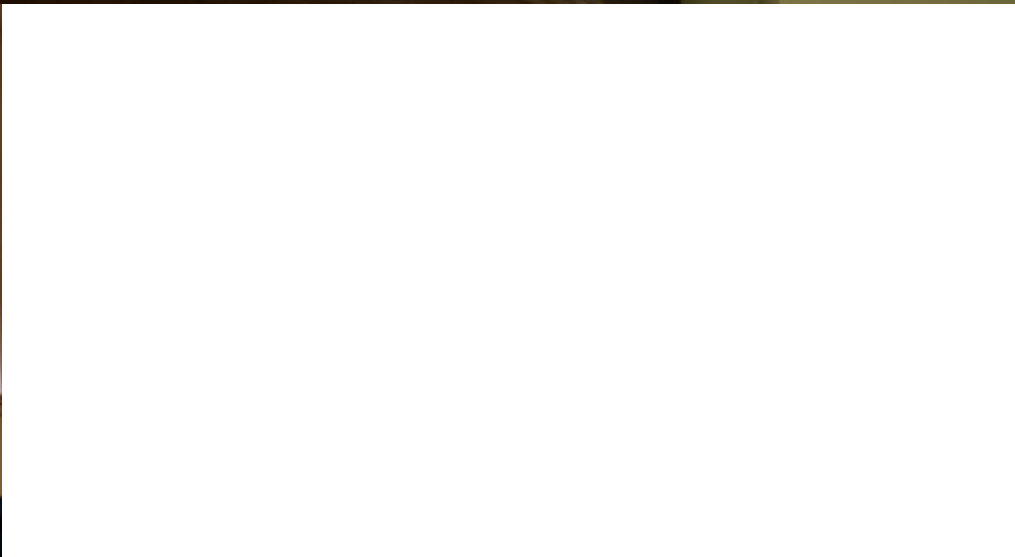


Inspection tour of the school in the 1950s.



The museum is packed with exhibits from all eras of Arlington history. Exhibits are constantly changing with new artifacts and updated information.

New UV protective shades: 2014,
upstairs and down





Community support:

In 2014: the rope to the school bell was frayed and knotted and our bell could not be rung. The fire department used it as a ladder exercise to rescue our bell.





Community support: Twice a year, our neighbors organize a volunteer day to clean up the AHS grounds, plant trees and shrubs to prevent erosion, and have some fun.

Aurora Hills Women's Club conduct a wreath sale to raise money for the museum.

Another neighbor faithfully mows our lawn: free!



Community support:

Marymount University history club has cleaned and painted exhibit cases and helped sort archived materials. Marymount also partners with us to host monthly history presentations.





New roof in 2016





Historic road sign erected decades ago by Arlington County.

Now an additional attractive street sign (2019)



Challenges of an old building:
Ceiling damage in stairwell from 1st to 2nd floor. The roof is fixed now but inside, damage remains.



To Do List:

- New drop-down ceiling: all floors OR restore original ceiling.
- New windows: all floors
- Paint: lead abatement
- Climate controlled storage for artifacts- we are outgrowing the museum!
- ADA access to 2nd floor
- Display area on 2nd floor
- Refit basement for improved storage and usage
- Fix/replace exhibit cases
- Upgrade security





Another AHS
museum
property!
The Ball-Sellers
House: Arlington's
oldest structure



The land was acquired by John **Ball** in 1742.
Architectural historians date the house to, at least, the 1750s.
Donated to AHS in 1975 by the last owner: Marian **Sellers**

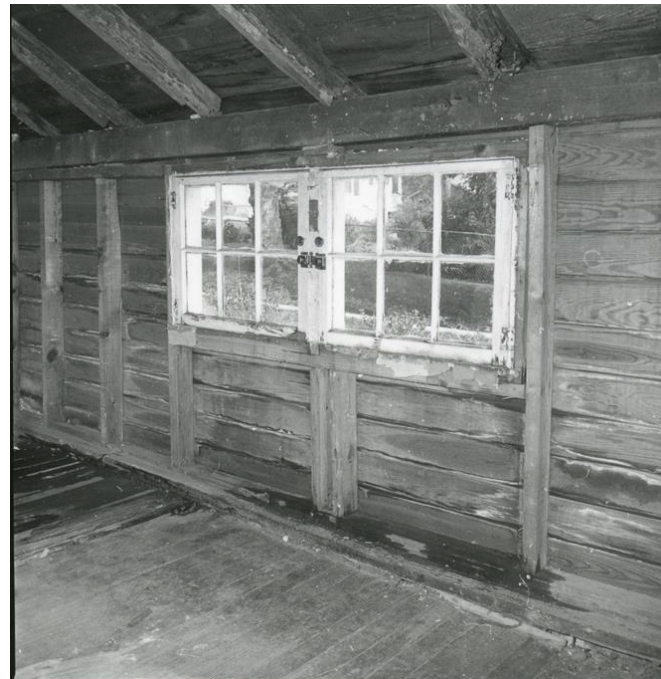
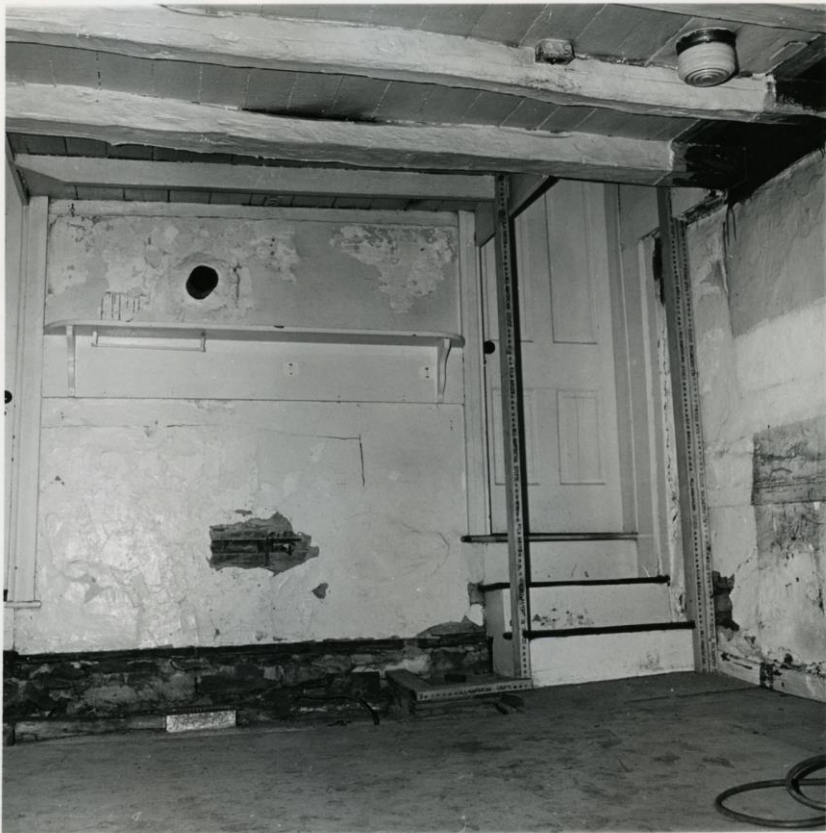
The small, one-story section is the original house and is the museum. The two-story section was built in the 1880s and is rented by a caretaker.

The garden is worked by AFAC and vegetables and herbs are donated to Arlington's neediest.

The house has been lived in constantly since it was built.



AHS strived to refurbish it to look like it would have when John Ball and his family lived there in the colonial period.





The original roof is preserved under a second roof added later.

Only a small handful of such modest colonial homes exist today in the US and AHS has one!





Community Partnerships

(clockwise)

- Glencarlyn Community Garden: events
- Glencarlyn Civic Association: events
- Archaeological Society of Virginia (2016)
- Arlington Food Assistance Center: garden





To Do List:

- Develop and implement preservation plan
- Install new exhibit cases
- Purchase and install external interpretive signs
- Document archaeological findings with dedicated workers
- Long term vision: Restore the Carlin side of the house

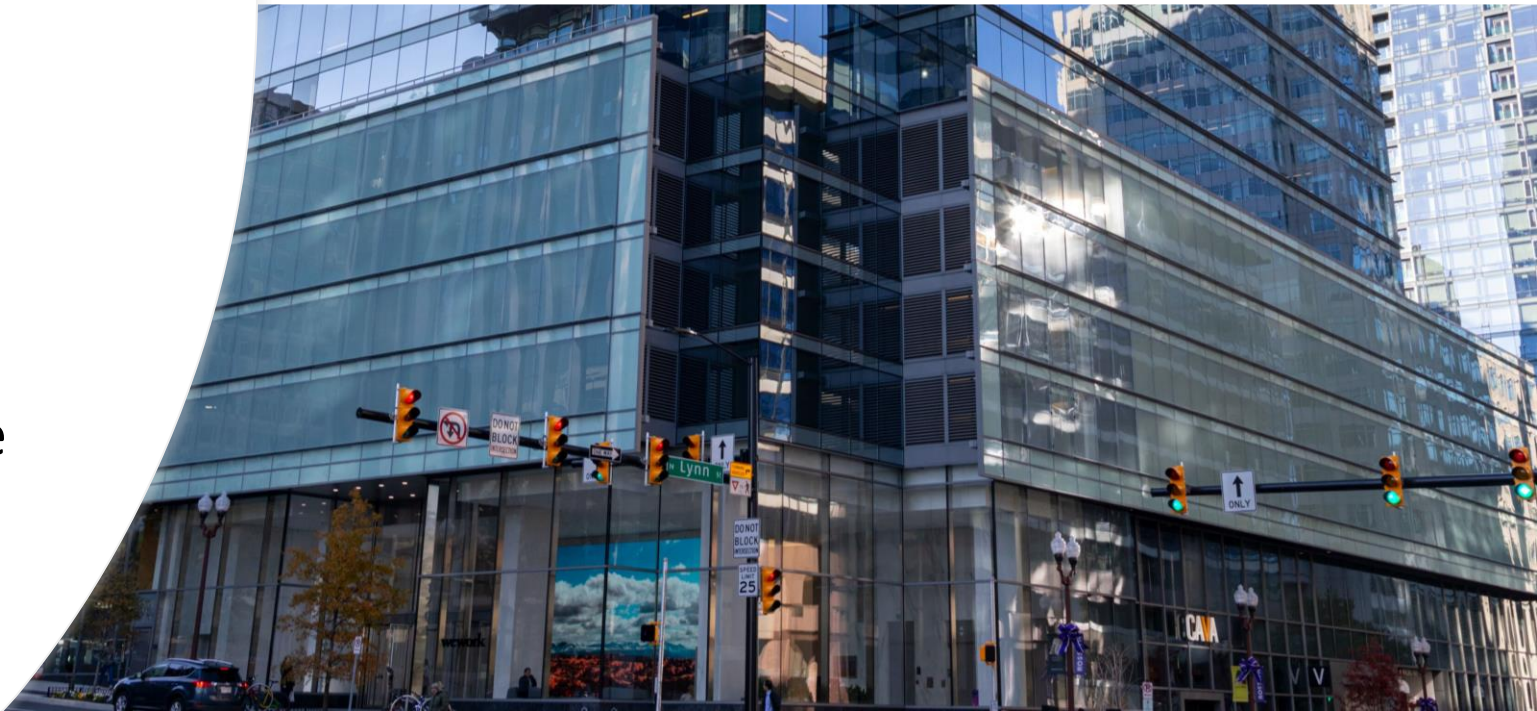
How AHS supports the community

- Free monthly events for the public on Arlington history
- Free access to the two museum properties
- Free educational resources and activities for Arlington residents and teachers
- Free guest lectures/museum tours for community groups and schools upon request
- Leadership in Arlington preservation efforts
- Funding of projects that support Arlington history



AHS and Visioning for the Future

- **Ensure the history of all of Arlington is preserved and shared through educational outreach and events**
- Continue to expand membership
- Continue to expand volunteers
- Seek grants and donors to fund museum operations and maintenance
- Seek assistance for funding at the local, state and national level for museum upkeep and a paid executive director.



Interested in helping the Arlington Historical Society?



Become a member. An individual membership costs \$35.00. You receive monthly email blasts, quarterly newsletters and the annual Arlington Magazine.



Donate artifacts of Arlington history.



Donate to provide financial support for the work of AHS and maintenance of our museum properties. **We do not receive ongoing operational or maintenance funding from the county.**



Consider making a donation in honor of or in memory of a **great** Arlingtonian. A great Arlingtonian is anyone who loves Arlington and works to make it a better place.



Thank you!

**For more information
ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org
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