

John T. Evans Building  
320 King Street  
Alexandria  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-666

HABS  
VA  
7-ALEX,  
137-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## JOHN T. EVANS BUILDING

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VA  
7-ALEX,  
137-

Location: 320 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Present Owner: Demolished in 1968 by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority as part of an urban renewal project in the old commercial center of Alexandria.

Statement of Significance: This modest two-storied building, exhibiting ornate architectural details, was one of the line-up of commercial buildings that defined the main thoroughfare of King Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Stylistically c. 1870.

On September 12, 1822, Robert J. Taylor, Trustee, conveyed the property later known as 320 King Street to Bealle Howard for \$1,325:

Begin on the south side of King Street 61 feet 8 inches east of Royal Street;  
East on King Street 15 feet 5 inches;  
South parallel to Royal Street 100 feet to a 20 foot alley;  
West on the alley 15 feet 5 inches;  
North parallel to Royal Street 100 feet to the beginning.

An insurance policy issued in 1823 describes the building on this lot as "Beall Howard's two-story wooden house."

On June 27, 1829, Bealle Howard and his wife conveyed the property to Robert L. White for \$1,200. Presumably Howard had not improved the property, because he sells it for \$125 less than he paid for it.

On January 19, 1835, White and his wife deeded the property to John T. Evans for the same price they paid for it.

2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: John T. Evans was the original owner; subsequent owners unknown.

Evans evidently left no will, and no information is now available as to when he died. The next entry relating to this property is dated September 6, 1886, recording that it had been sold that day, by order of the City Council, for delinquent taxes. It is described: "House and lot, King Street between Fairfax and Royal Streets, belonging, or assessed to, John T. Evans estate."

B. Bibliography:

Alexandria Deed Books M-2, p. 131; R-2, p. 408; 20, p. 545.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Likely of pressed metal, elaborate window hoods and building cornice decorate an otherwise modest structure.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Two stories, two bays.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick, common bond.
3. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The shop front with show windows flanking a recessed central entrance is likely a mid-twentieth century alteration.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Two elongated windows marking the two bays at the second floor are topped with ornamented and scrolled metal heads.
4. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Shed with parapet.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Likely of pressed metal, the elaborate cornice is made up of three elongated brackets extending beyond the entablature and marking the two bays of the building.

C. Site:

The building faces northward along King Street.

Prepared by Mrs. Hugh B. Cox of  
The Historic Alexandria  
Foundation  
July 1968  
Edited by  
Antoinette J. Lee  
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken in 1968 to document the commercial and residential buildings of downtown Alexandria which were to be demolished in an urban renewal project. The project was cosponsored by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Hugh B. Cox was the historian and George Eisenman supplied the photographs. The material was edited and updated in 1975 by Antoinette J. Lee, working on contract for HABS.