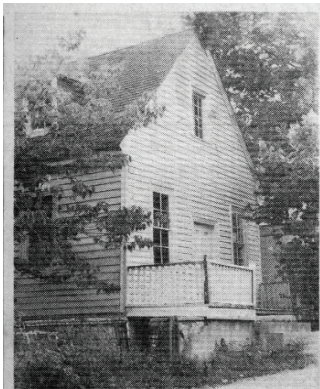


# The Beginning: Gallery of Modern Art



Dwelling Believed Built in 18th Century  
Lower Floors Will Be Used by Art Gallery

## In Fredericksburg

### 18th Century Building Saved From Razing

By Special Correspondent

FREDERICKSBURG, Aug. 4.—An 18th century Fredericksburg dwelling that was ordered razed 15 months ago by the city has been saved by a local historical group and will be used as an art gallery.

Mrs. R. T. Reed, president of Historic Fredericksburg, Inc., a nonprofit organization that waged a successful two-year fight to save the building, said arrangements have been made to lease the ground and first floors to the newly formed Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art.

The structure, a block from downtown Fredericksburg, on Sophia St., was purchased by the city in 1961 as part of a tract for a parking lot. Merchants put up \$4,000 of the \$16,000 purchase price.

#### Past Disclosed

Historic Fredericksburg, Inc., recognizing the clapboard house's architecture as typical of the more modest 18th century home, began delving into its past. Records were found indicating the house was standing as early as 1796, and that it was once the home of James Brown, who may have been the city's first silversmith.

The HFI then began its campaign to preserve the house. For a long time, the fight appeared futile.

The city council said it felt obligated to use the site for parking, since merchants had put up a share of the purchase cost with that intent in mind. In February, 1962, after months of controversy, Council formally ordered the building's destruction.

#### Trade Arranged

Mrs. Reed and the HFI didn't give up. The HFI raised \$4,000, bought an old house a block up the street and worked out a trade. Council accepted the offer.

After restoring the old dwelling, the HFI leased the building's two lower floors for a nominal annual rent to the new art gallery, which hopes to open in mid-October.

A spokesman for the gallery said contemporary artists of established reputation, as well

as others, will be invited to submit paintings and sculpture. President of the new organization is Miss Pauline King, art teacher at Mary Washington College. The idea was proposed by Mrs. Orin M. Bullock, formerly of Williamsburg, where a similar gallery has been established.

A major part of the gallery's program will consist of exhibitions and the rental and sale of contemporary paintings, sculpture and related art work.

FREDERICKSBURG  
GALLERY OF MODERN ART  
SILVERSMITH'S HOUSE  
813 SOPHIA STREET, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA  
P. O. BOX 1585 — 22402

New Oct. 17, 1963

The Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art takes pleasure in announcing the opening of a gallery in the old Silversmith's House (recently known as the Cole House) on Sophia Street. Its purpose is to promote the understanding, enjoyment and support of distinguished contemporary art. Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia as a non-profit organization, it will be supported largely through memberships and commissions on the sale of works of art.

Memberships will offer the following advantages: attendance at all previews of exhibitions, discussion teas, lectures, and films; enrollment priority in instructional classes for children and adults; membership reduction on purchases; rental of works of art with the privilege of applying fees toward purchase; and participation in any other Gallery functions. In addition members will have the keen satisfaction of bringing these many advantages to Fredericksburg and surrounding counties.

The Board of Directors invites you to become a Member of the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art. Annual dues are:

\$ 5 . . . . .	Family Membership
\$10 . . . . .	Sustaining Membership
\$25, or more . . . . .	Patron

\$25 . . . . . Corporation or Business Membership

The return of your check with the enclosed card will enroll you as a Charter Member. We hope you will also urge others interested in contemporary art to join, since we cannot reach everyone by letter.

The first exhibition is scheduled for October 1963. We are looking forward to a stimulating year and we hope you will join us in this exciting venture.

Sincerely yours,  
Pauline G. King  
Pauline G. King, President



Arrival of Painting Marks Final Preparation for Opening  
Mrs. William Gibson and Mrs. Charlotte White Ponder Arrangement

### Gallery Readies Opening

Final preparations were in progress today at the Silversmith's House for the debut of the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art, which opens a month long public exhibit on Tuesday, October 29.

The paintings, sculpture and drawings of some 35 artists from the Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia areas which are featured in the showing will be previewed Sunday by members of the gallery before opening the exhibit to the public.

Beginning Tuesday, the gallery will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

The names of several notable artists appear on the list whose works are to be displayed. Among these are William Walton, personal friend and art consultant to President and Mrs. Kennedy and Herman Maril, internationally known artist.

Also included in the exhibit are paintings by Mitchell Jamison, one of five artists invited to submit a mural design for the United Nations Building, and Mrs. Dean Acheson, wife of the former secretary of state.

Furnishing the sculptures will be Robert Kuhn, well known sculptor and patron of the gallery. Other noted artists contributing are: James Twitty, Richard Dempsey, Mimi Dubois Bolton, Stella Eaton Isamu, and Leonard Maurer.

The upcoming exhibit of abstract, figurative and representational works is the first of several planned by the local art group which was conceived this past summer and now has a membership of 255. Officials indicated that this membership is still open to interested persons.

Tentative plans for future exhibits include an international show in December and a display of oriental art in January. The new organization is incorporated as a non-profit organization, and it will be supported largely through memberships of individuals and business concerns and commissions on the sale of works of art.

Also supporting the enterprise are art classes offered for both children and adults. Current instructors dominating their time in this venture are Gaetano Cecere, well known sculptor and associate professor at Mary Washington College; Mrs. Cartha Bragg, art instructor at MWC; Mrs. John V. Embrey, and Mrs. Leslie Gibbons, local artists; and Mrs. Betty Finley, a local teacher.

The Silversmith's House, also known as the Cole House, is located at 813 Sophia St. It was acquired by Historic Fredericksburg Inc. after long efforts to prevent its demolition.

Staff Photo by Thomas Mann

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Display Sign for Gallery Takes Shape  
Keith Pitzer Applies Finishing Touches

## 12 The Free Lance-Star, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Friday, July 26, 1963

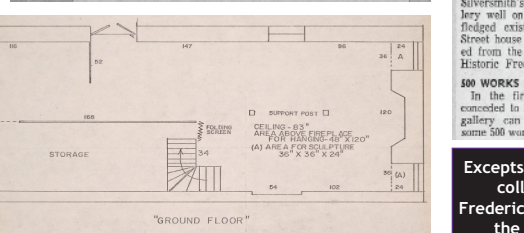
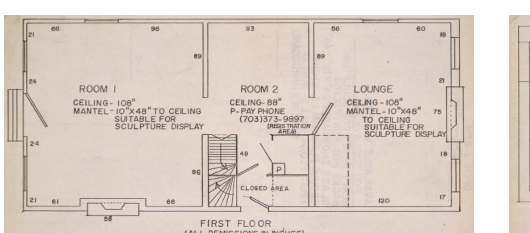


Art Gallery Officials  
Four officials of a group which has leased the Silversmith House (Cole House) on Sophia Street from Historic Fredericksburg Inc. are shown during a tour of the old house. The group plans to use the building as a gallery for the display of modern art. The officials pictured are Miss Pauline King, (foreground), president, Dr. Gordon W. Jones (left), a director, and Mrs. William J. Gibson, vice president and Dr. R. W. Whidden, treasurer.

The Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art request the honour of your presence at the First Preview of Paintings, Sculpture and Sketches Sunday afternoon, October the Twenty-second nineteen hundred and sixty three four to six in the afternoon Silversmith House Sophia Street Fredericksburg, Virginia Refreshments

## BUSY YEAR AHEAD: Gallery Is Year Old

By MARIANNE PHILLIPS  
A woman's idea, 15 months of telephone calls, a lucky effort of a building and an in-calculable amount of work all add up to an art gallery for Fredericksburg.  
Since Mrs. Orin M. Bullock's suggestion in August 1963, the Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art has become a showcase of seven exhibitions seen by more than 2,500 persons.  
Her suggestion to a friend had prompted a telephone call to a third person and the three became a committee. Their 14 calls found 14 more persons willing to become directors and donate \$25 each to the embryo organization. The first show opened on Oct. 27.  
Leasing of the 18th century Silversmith's House put the gallery well on its way to a full-fledged existence. This Sophia Street house had just been saved from the wrecking crew by Historic Fredericksburg Inc.  
100 of these through the gallery and of finishing the year in the black.  
Miss Pauline King, president during the initial year, reports that "the general feeling is that it was a successful year." The membership, it has no paid first membership drive, also considered successful, brought more than 300 members, a few from as distant as New York and Minnesota.  
The non-profit group brought to Fredericksburg seven exhibitions showing oriental art, color photography, contemporary American and European works, local works and a collection exemplifying a neophyte's approach to art collecting. Beyond that, it started a program to lend paintings to businesses (it has a rotating collection at the Fredericksburg Country Club and at the Spotsylvania Bank).  
The organization obtains its funds from its percentage on paintings sold, the \$25 business memberships and the family memberships. It has no paid employees, so 30 gallery aides helped by manning the exhibits 639 hours.  
In a continuing effort to bring from points as distant as New York and Minnesota, contemporary art to the area the gallery has planned seven exhibits for this year, now has four adult art classes being taught, and hopes to offer art history classes, children's classes, and more lecture in the immediate future. As Miss King said, gallery members need an even wider base of support from persons willing to work for the gallery.



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