

# Historic Vienna, Inc.



*Freeman Store and Museum, built in 1859*

131 Church Street, NE ♦ Post Office Box 53 ♦ Vienna, VA 22183

March 2, 2023

Mercury Payton  
Town Manager  
Town of Vienna  
Vienna Town Hall  
127 Center Street South  
Vienna, Virginia 22180

## **Re: 307 Windover Avenue, NW**

Dear Mr. Payton,

At its January 11, 2023 board meeting, Historic Vienna, Incorporated voted to recommend that the application of the house at 307 Windover Avenue, NW be approved for inclusion on the town's Historic Properties Register.

It's not certain when the house was built, but it was before 1910. Did Col. Salsbury build it before selling the lot to the Cornings in 1907? Did the Cornings build it in 1907? In any case, we recommend that the location be approved for the Historic Register as a presumptive candidate under the register requirements: Section 25-8, a) Buildings and other structures erected at their present location that are at least 100 years and which retain all or a substantial portion of their original dimension and appearance.

The chain of title for this property is like a Vienna "Who's Who" of ownership. This list, starting with early landowners, includes:

1856-1869: Moses Commins  
1869-1872: Harmon and brother George Salsbury  
1872-1907: Harmon Salsbury  
1907-1908: A.E. Corning and his wife Annie Laurie  
1908-1912: Emil Herman and Louise A. Boelter  
1912-1920: David C. and Iva J. Shifflet  
1920-1923: Wilbur E. and Theresa Pettit  
1923-1935: Charles A. and Margaret B. Ashton  
1935-1985: Paul K. and Madge Stenger (subdivide #303 in '62)  
1985-1999: Maron Beverly Ashley  
1999-2002: Thomas R. and Betty A. Holmes  
2002-2021: Louise Davidson;  
2021 -present: Kristin and Fredric and Annalise Stapleton

Some Notable Owners of 307 Windover and its property:

Moses Commins: (1818-1896) Moses Commins Plow Factory is said to have made the first steel beam plow in the U.S. Commins owned this land 1856 until 1869 when he sold it to the Salsbury brothers.

Harmon Salsbury: (1838-1913) Captain of 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Colored Infantry, U.S. Army. His 250-acre property was a dairy farm and orchard. Salsbury owned the land until 1907.

Charles Augustus Ashton: (1865-1936) Veteran of U.S. Navy in Spanish American War. Mayor of Vienna 1932-1934. In 1900, married Margaret Bryant, aka Maggie May (1875-1952).

Paul K. (Kiracofe) Stenger (1902-1971) and Madge Cox Stenger (1901-1984) were both leaders in the Vienna community:

Paul:

Times Herald printer 1933-1944  
Printer, Vienna 1944-1966  
Newspaper Publisher Vienna 1950- 1966  
Mason, Lion, Scoutmaster, PTA  
Zoning Appeals, Civil War Centennial  
Vienna Library Friends president

Madge:

Den leader, DAR, PTA,  
Ayr Hill Garden Club, Census  
Enumerator, Fairfax Womens  
Club, WCTU, Christmas Seals,  
TB Seals, Red Cross aides,  
Vienna Playground Committee

We are glad that this house continues to survive to this day as a reminder of Vienna's past. We will be thrilled for it to be added to the town's Register.

Sincerely,



Anne G. Stuntz  
Historic Vienna, Inc.  
President