



A GIFT TO THE CITY. The City of Fairfax has become the recipient of the 14-room home and surrounding grounds owned by Mrs. Mary L. McCandlish, life-long resident of the city. The property will one day become a park honoring R. Walton Moore, Mrs. McCandlish's uncle.

McCandlish Estate Donated To City For Use As Park

The City of Fairfax this week became the recipient of the home and property of one of Fairfax's oldest families.

Once visited by Presidents, justices and generals, the 14-room home and surrounding grounds, presently owned by Mrs. Mary L. McCandlish, were donated to the city "with the understanding that it will one day become a small park."

The site, containing 54,000 square feet, will be named the R. Walton Moore Park, in honor of Mrs. McCandlish's uncle who was born in Fairfax in 1858 and resided in the house until his death in 1941.

Moore represented the Eighth Congressional District of Virginia as its congressman from 1919 to 1931. His public service career also included election to the Virginia General Assembly where he served as a senator.

He later served in the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of State and as Counselor of the Department of State.

Built in 1830

According to records of the McCandlish family, the house was built around 1830. Moore took up residence in the home, then known as the Nelson-Conrad house, shortly after the end of the Civil War.

It is said that Confederate Col. John S. Mosby, during his March 1863 midnight raid on Fairfax, searched the house unsuccessfully looking for Percy Wyndom, a British mercenary serving with the Union Army. From there, Mosby proceeded to Truro Church where he captured Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton.

During World War I, Congressman Moore frequently entertained wounded soldiers who were brought to his home from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

Later, during Moore's service in the Roosevelt administration, the family was visited frequently by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Family members recall other visits by such dignitaries as

Gen. George Marshall, Vice President John Nance Garner, and William Howard Taft, then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Under the terms of the deed transfer, Mrs. McCandlish, now 84, who first resided in the house when she was three days old, will retain life tenancy. The agreement further ensures that the property "will be a park and not be commercialized, or become a parking lot...."

Members of the McCandlish family have long been active in the public affairs of the city. Mrs. McCandlish's father, S. Roszel Donohoe, founded the Fairfax Herald, one of the area's oldest newspapers, in 1882.

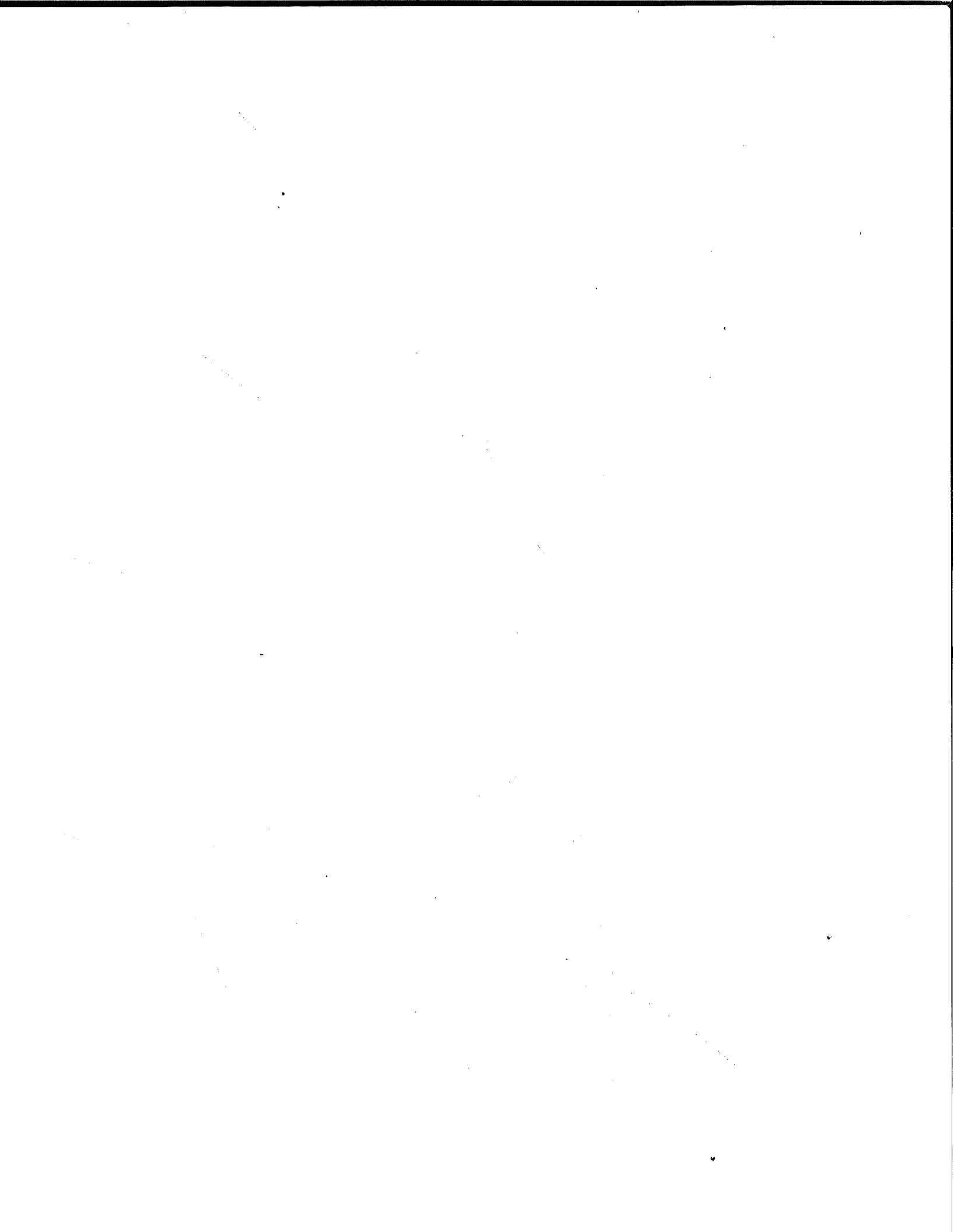
A daughter, Mrs. Nancy Prichard, is married to attorney and former mayor, E. A. Prichard.

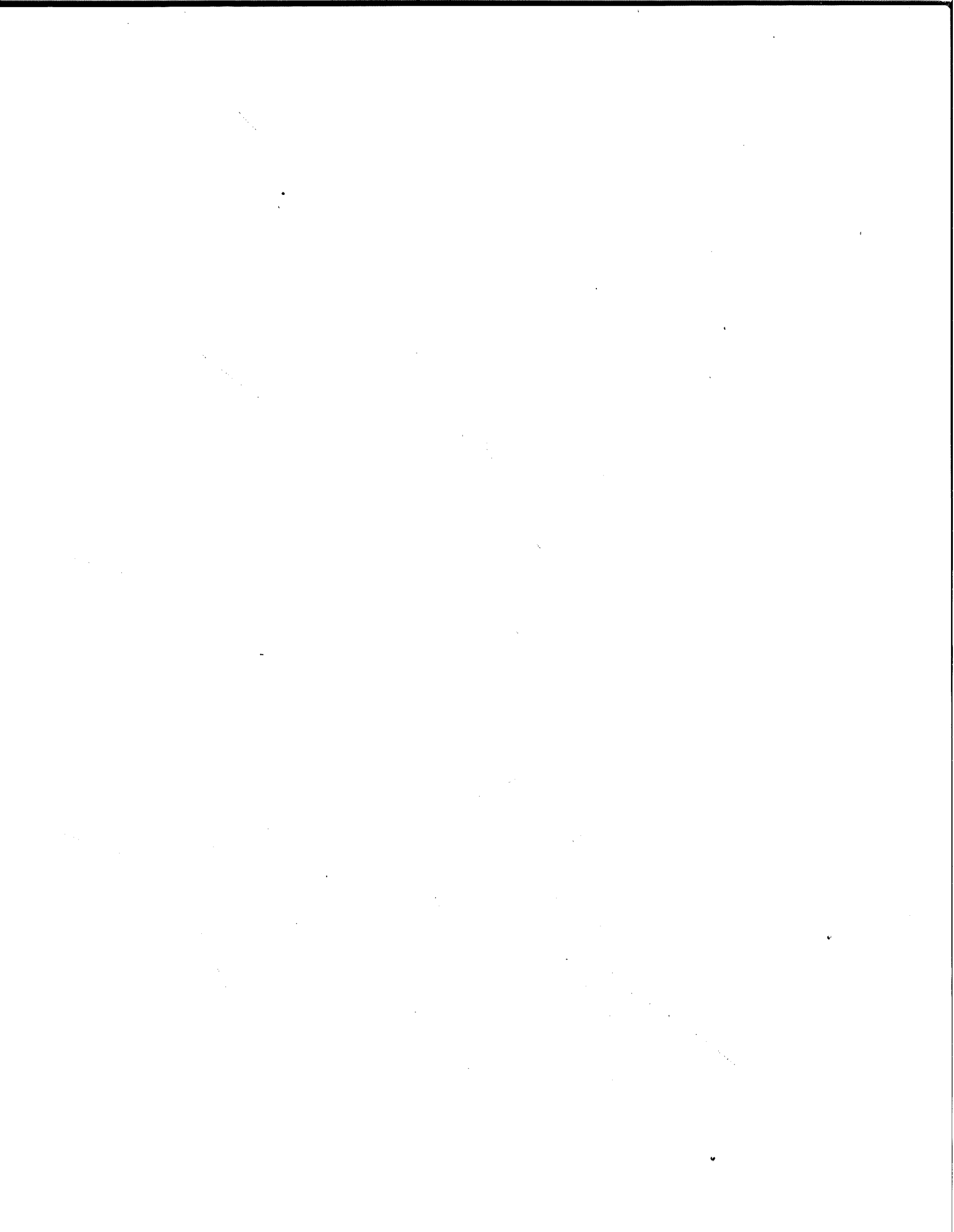
F. Sheild McCandlish, a son, is an attorney in Fairfax with the firm of Boothe, Prichard & Dudley.

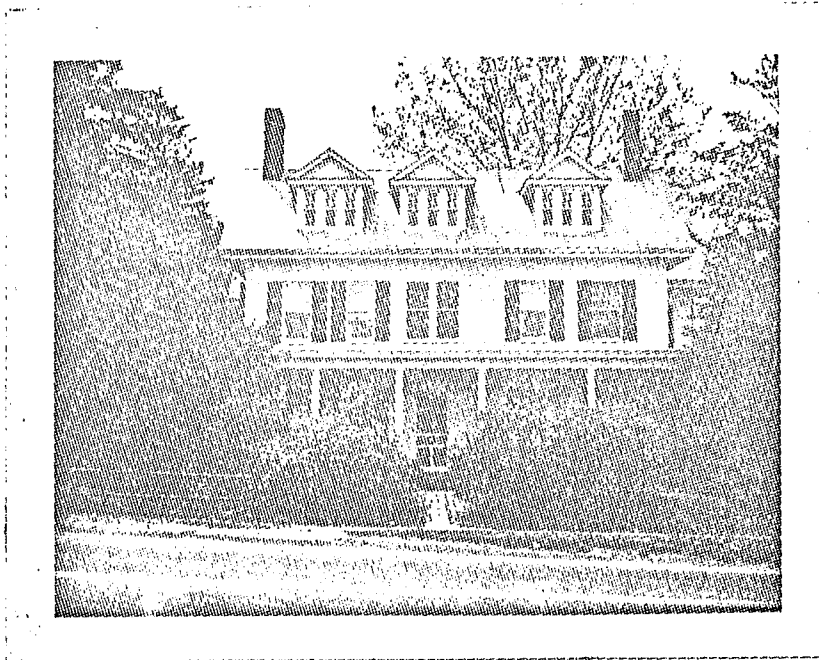
The granddaughter of Mrs. McCandlish, Mrs. Mary Petersen, is the wife of present City Councilman John E. Petersen.

SKI SURVEY USA

WAVA 780 AM | 1901 FORT MYER DRIVE
105.1 FM | ARLINGTON, VA. 22209







NELSON CONRAD (MOORE) HOUSE
3950 Chain Bridge Road

The Nelson Conrad (Moore) House was bought by Nelson Conrad in 1839 -- previous deeds are missing. Mr. Conrad must have rented the house earlier as all of his children were born there, the fourth child being born in 1840. A son, Thomas Nelson Conrad, was a Captain in the Confederate Army, at one time a Rebel Scout. The house in the Conrad's time was called "Rose Bower". Mr. Conrad sold it in 1859 to Thomas Murray who, after the war, rented it to Thomas Moore, a lawyer. (Mr. Moore carried the court records to Warrenton when war clouds gathered around Fairfax). Mr. Moore bought it in 1882 and in 1899 willed it to his wife Hannah Morris Moore of Otsego County, New York who had come as a school girl to "Coomb Cottage", a girls boarding school run by Mrs. Hannah Baker. Mrs. Moore died in 1912 leaving the property to her son R. Walton Moore.

Mary F. McCandlish
3950 Chain Bridge Rd.
Box 23
Fairfax, Va.