The Athenaeum, as it is known today, is a unique civic structure situated in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, both in location and historic presence. It was always intended to be of civic significance as indicated in the Alexandria Gazette at the time of its inception and in 1925 as a place of worship for the Free Methodist Church of Northern Virginia. For the past 51 years, it has been the home of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association. The building is that of a Tetrastyle Greek temple in form. It is largely intact and has had restorations that have regained the original fluting of the columns and the "salmon" color of the stucco exterior walls.

Perhaps due to its continual use in this Alexandria Community, it remains cared for and available as a valuable participant of architectural heritage. As a result, it is significant in demonstrating both the historic presence and the potential for civic engagement in the local community.