



STABLER-LEADBEATER APOTHECARY MUSEUM

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TEL 703-838-3852 FAX 703-838-3837

June 29, 2007

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Program
1849 C Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am writing to inquire about listing the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, proudly owned and operated by the City of Alexandria, as a National Historic Landmark. The Apothecary Museum was established in Alexandria in 1796 by Edward Stabler and was operated by his family and their descendants until the business closed its doors in 1933. The Landmarks Society of Alexandria was founded in 1934 to support the purchase, restoration, and management of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. The museum officially opened to the public in 1939.

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum was added to the National Register in 1982 and is a Virginia Historic Landmark. Since Register listing, the building has undergone a two and half year restoration, preserving the historic fabric and integrity of the building while protecting it for the future by installing a fire suppression system, upgrading the HVAC system, and stabilizing the building's structural supports. As the building's restoration was completed, it was formally donated by the Landmarks Society of Alexandria to the City of Alexandria.

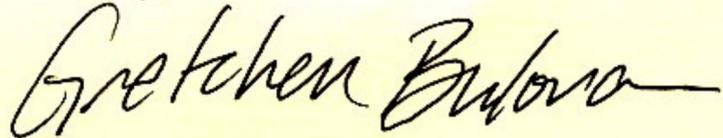
The City of Alexandria is pleased to own and operate this important historic site that tells the compelling story of American commerce in a microcosm. The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum tells the story of the longest run family business in Alexandria – over 141 years! The story begins with its founder, Edward Stabler, an apprenticed trained pharmacist and Quaker Minister. The history of the site also includes the family abolitionist efforts and the expansion of the family business to include an extensive wholesale operation in the Mid-Atlantic region operating out of 11 buildings in Alexandria. The story concludes with the evolution of the drug manufacturing business, moving from natural to synthetic drugs, with the large pharmaceutical companies finally winning the battle for customers.



In 1933, the family decided to simply close the business and lock the doors. As a result, the building and its contents, the drug and herb collection, and 141 years of archival materials that document this family-run business were left intact. Over 8,000 objects, spanning the evolution of the pharmaceutical movement through three centuries, can be found in this one museum. The power of seeing early bleeding instruments to a 20th century shipping label of prickly ash berries purchased from Smith Kline is stunning. Other apothecary museums can tell the easy story of making medicine and healing the sick, but none can come close to telling the broader American story with original medicines and associated artifacts. The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum is truly a National Landmark.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 703.838.4242 with additional questions and information about the application process. I look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Bulova". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Gretchen M. Bulova, Managing Director