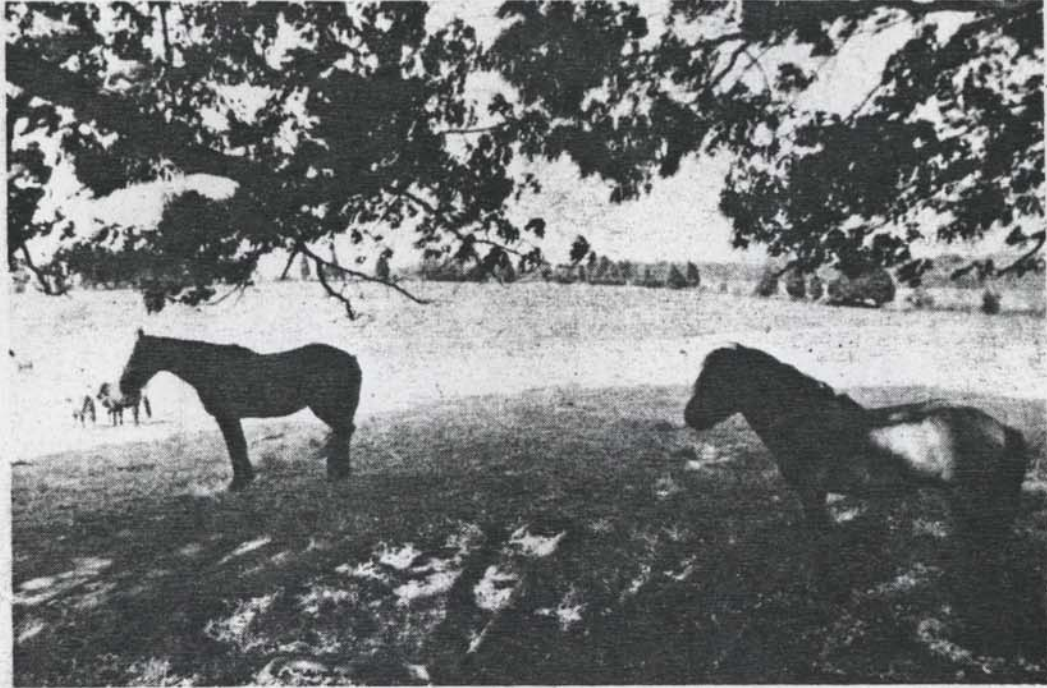


Historic Sites  
(Moor Green)

Weems - Booth  
Museum Collection

# Potomac People



Horses still roam on plantation's fields

**Just musing** with Marilyn M

## Moor Green Ma an emerald from

It was winter and the leaves were off the trees when we set out to find Moor Green, a little known mansion in Prince William County.

We had first read about Moor Green in "Prince William, The

Story of Its Places and Its People." It is one of the county's oldest homes, built in the late 1700s, but unfortunately little of its history passed down through the years.

Going on the lead that the house was near Brentsville and that it was on Route 640, we were confident that we would find it. Unfortunately, since the history book was written, the road's route numbers had been changed.

It was dusk and we were ready to return home when we spotted Moor Green's huge chimneys looming beyond a woods into a distant sky as we drove down Lucasville Road. The narrow, deep-rutted road, off to the right, was unmarked.

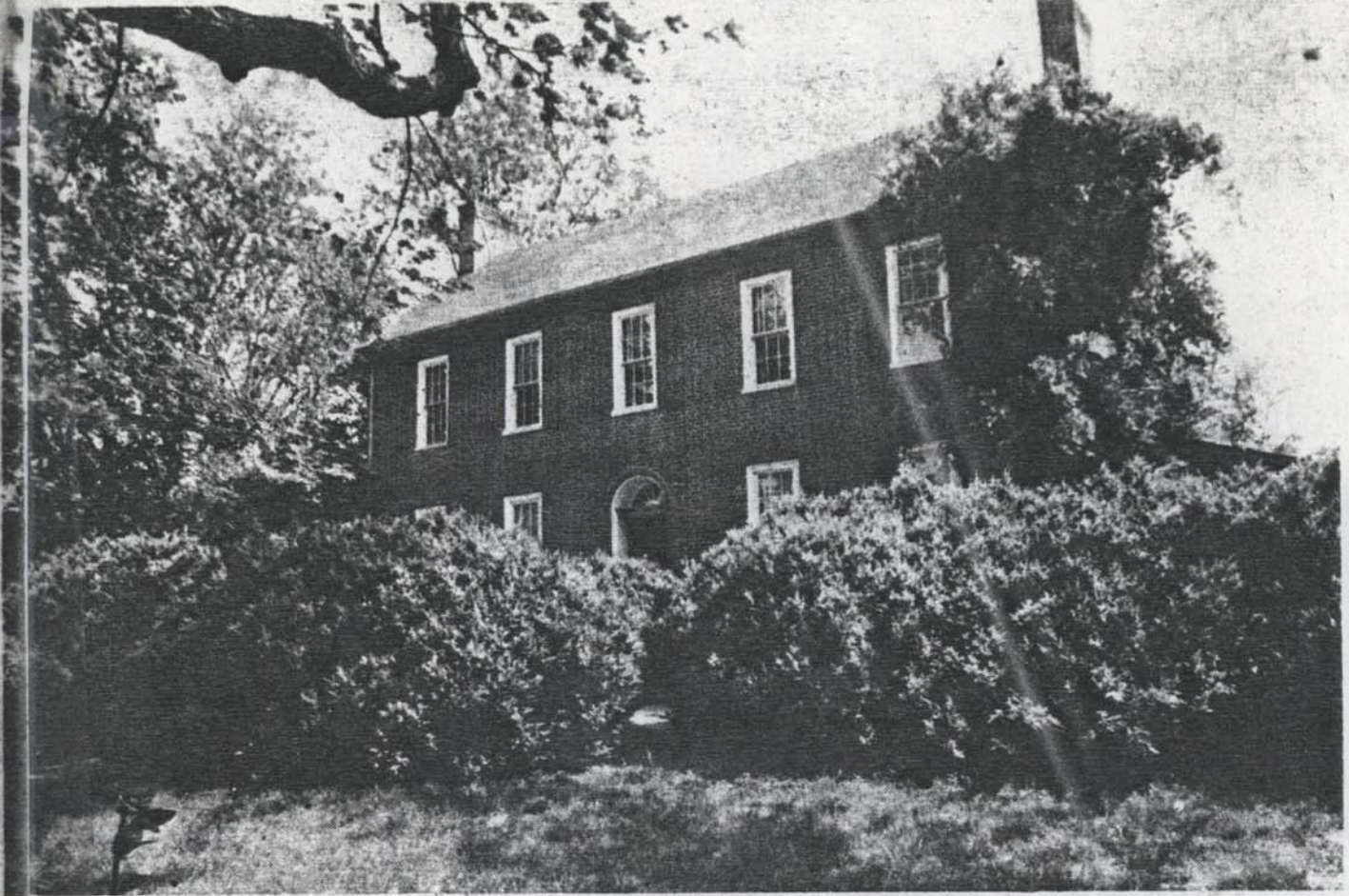
The more well-known home in Liberia, in Manassas, is believed to have been built after Moor Green.

Moor Green, too, has been said to be a miniature of the famous Kenmore Mansion in Fredericksburg, once the home of Fielding Lewis and Betsy Washington Lewis, sister of George Washington.

Moor Green isn't a large mansion by Colonial standards. It was built one room deep.

But, Moor Green also





Moor Green stands much like it did in late 1700's

# ansion- n past

Superb construction tells of what must have been an impressive past. Most of the trim, locks and wide heart-pine floors and thick brick walls are all original. The original pine sills in the windows are showing signs of wear.

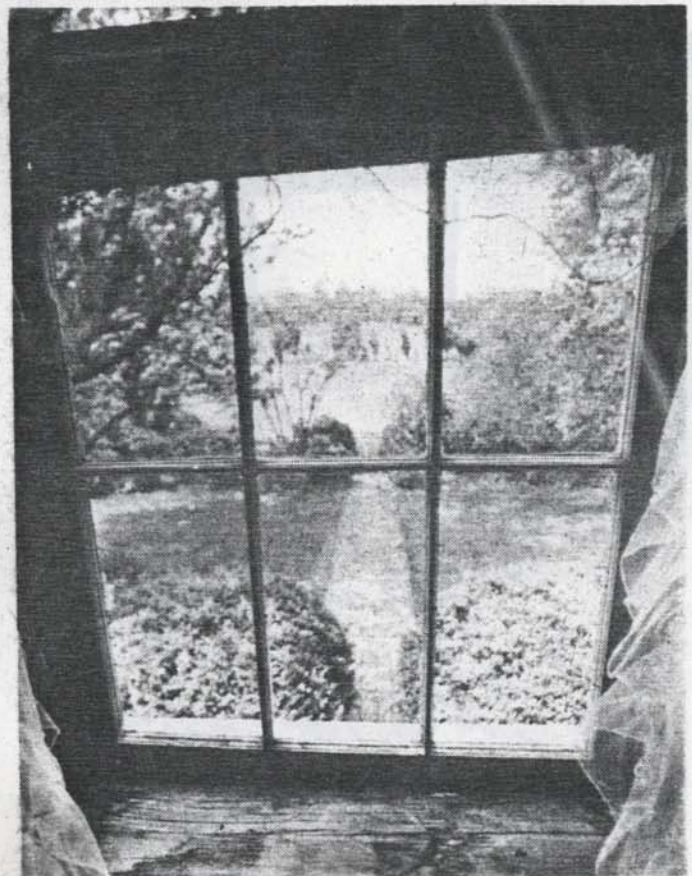
In the drawing room is an unusual hand craved mantel believed to have been of Indian origin.

The central hall has a banister said to have been carved from one piece of walnut at the newel post.

bedrooms. The master bedroom, with its large brick fireplace, is flanked by built-in cupboards, added because the colonial home, like others in its day, didn't have closets.

The house is said to have been used as a hospital during the Civil War and upstairs in the attic bedroom there are still bloodstains visible in the floor.

Outside are two graveyards, its tombstones long since gone. Moor Green's slaves are said to be buried in one and next



View from upstairs window takes in Nokesville farms



Hand pump has been replaced by indoor plumbing

After passing over a small bridge, with a few boards missing, we came to the end of the road and to Moor Green. Six or seven dogs ran to meet the car, wildly barking, and the home's caretaker walked out of the darken house to ask us what our business was.

This was Moor Green, beautiful in the setting sun, with its view of the fields and Nokesville's farms in the distance.

Surprisingly Moor Green has changed little over the years. Time hasn't leaned too heavy on the mansion.

In recent years, we learned, much of the restoration had been done by the late Mr. and Mrs. John Watson Cox. The couple's only heir was Richard Wheelock of Vermont, who now owns the home and its grounds, containing close to 325 acres.

Earliest county records in 1838 reveal that the mansion was willed by James Hooe, son of Howson Hooe III, to his sister, Jane, who passed it on to her husband, Redmon Foster.

One of Brentsville's first trustees, James L. Foster, owned the plantation in 1860. At that time it contained 568 acres. Moor Green stands on part of a tract of almost 1,000 acres granted in 1711 to Clement Chevalle and Lewis Renon.

sees it. Moor Green is still the world of yesterday, though the hustle and bustle of highways and people are far from her door. Honeysuckle sweetens the air and the rolling fields roll toward Bull Run along which two famous Civil War battles raged. Cattle and horses still graze and hay is still cut in the fields, although Moor Green, is no longer a working plantation.

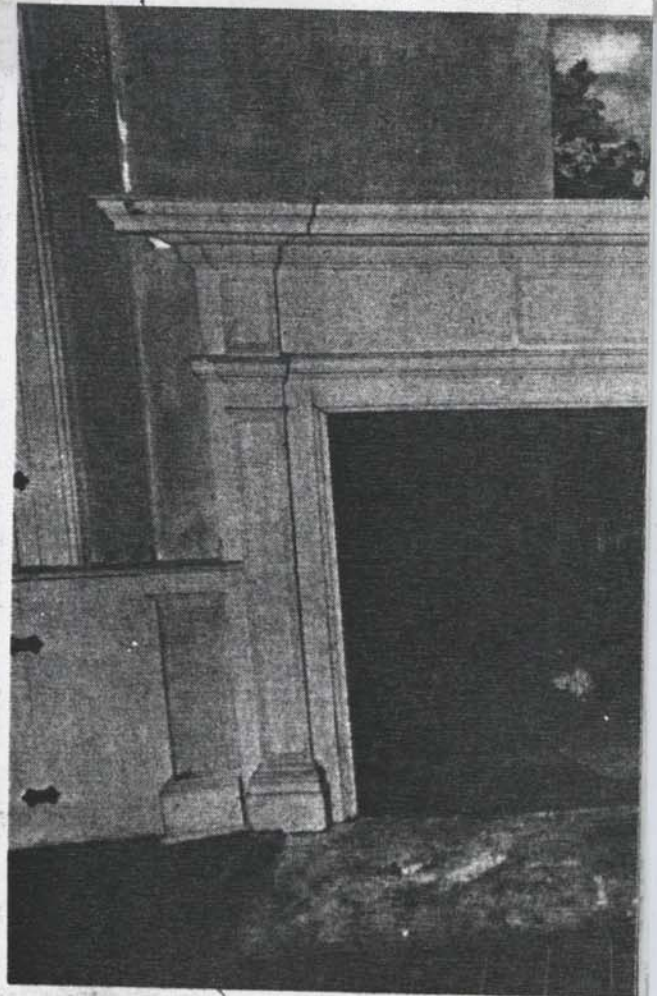
A necklace of boxwood circles the front lawn of the rectangular Georgian-style house. The house has shutterless windows and lovely light-catching shaped recessed front door and brick terrace. A wide brick walk leads up to the front door amid old ivy-covered terraces. The bricks for the mansion were said to have come from England by boat as ballast. The two end chimneys of Moor Green are not separate integral parts of the brick wall.

Bricks for Moor Green were laid in both the English and Flemish bond.

Fireplaces are in each room of the two and a half story house, but now the house has central heat. A hand pump stands in the side yard in an over-grown garden. The mansion must have had many dependencies but only one left, the smoke house.



POTOMAC NEWS, Friday, June 22, 1973, Page B-1



Master bedroom has

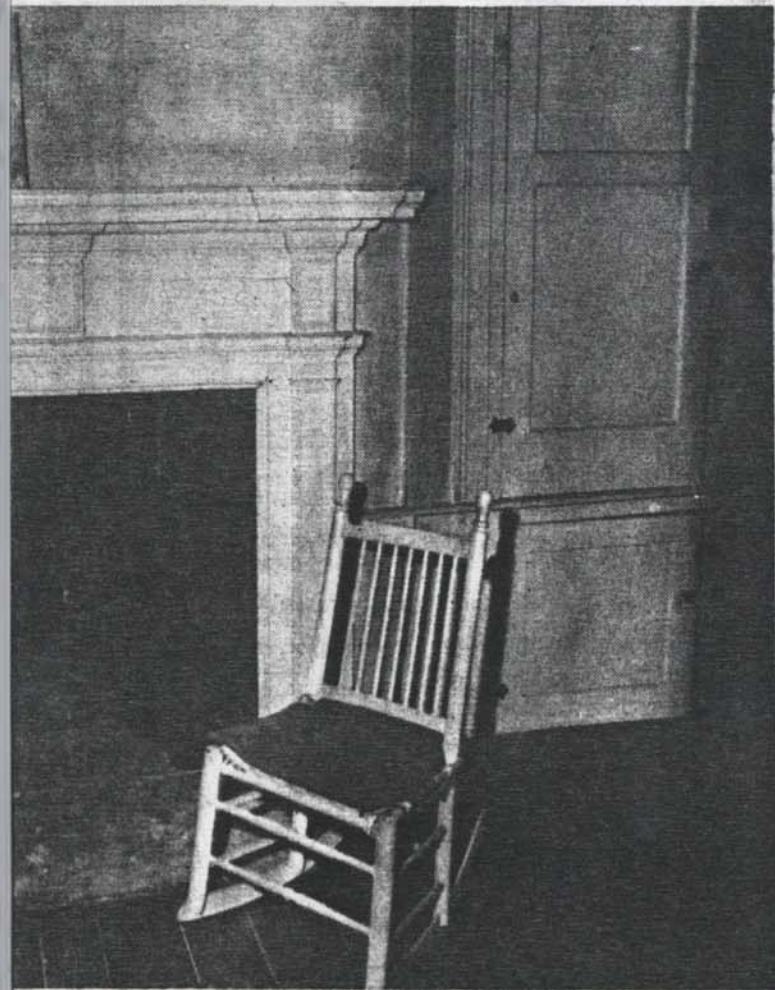
the floundering end of the house where a stairway goes off the kitchen and up to another small room.

Upstairs are two huge

owners in the other one. Here, too, are believed to be buried soldiers who lost their lives in the Bull Run battles. But, unmarked graves no longer can say it's so.



Smoke house reminder of days gone by



Large fireplace, recently added closets



Photograph

(Moon Green)  
Historic S.F.S.

VIRGINIANA FILE