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HISTORIC SITE FILE
MOSS HOUSE

BULL RUN REG LIB

Owners of Moss House hid George Washington's will

185-year-old home in old Buckland is put up for sale by realty company

The Moss House, a historic home built more than 185 years ago, has recently been placed on the market in a "historic hollow" in Buckland,

just outside of Gainesville.

Neighboring historic properties include a stone inn, where the Marquis de Lafayette reportedly stayed

during the Revolutionary era and "Dr. Brown's house," reportedly the first hospital in Fairfax County to care for soldiers during the Civil War.



Moss House, located in "historic hollow" in Buckland, may have served as a hiding place for George Washington's will.



As part of the renovation at the Moss House, the living room was extended.

As the story goes, the house was named after its owner, Alfred Moss, who served as clerk of the circuit court in Fairfax in the mid-1800s. During that time, George Washington's will was stored in the Fairfax County Courthouse Archives.

But as northern troops advanced through Fairfax City during the Civil War, Moss feared the will might be destroyed. Rather than risk it, his wife reportedly tucked it in her clothing and took it back to their home, where they hid it in the walls until the troops had safely moved on.

Located on a 1-1/2 acre lot across from the Broad Run stream, the four-bedroom house features exposed hand-sewn beams, oak wood floors, 8-foot, 4-inch ceilings on the first floor, fireplaces, original windows, large bedrooms and cherry kitchen cabinets. The house has undergone two renovations. The front porch was turned into a spacious welcoming foyer, the living room was extended and the kitchen was completely modernized. On the second level, a sunroom was built above the extended living room, closets were added and all the bathrooms were updated.

Outside, the property includes a stone back patio, a herb garden and mature boxwoods that are tended twice a year for free.

"This is a wonderful house that offers all the modern conveniences but still retains all of its original charm," added Faith Lamphier, the listing agent.