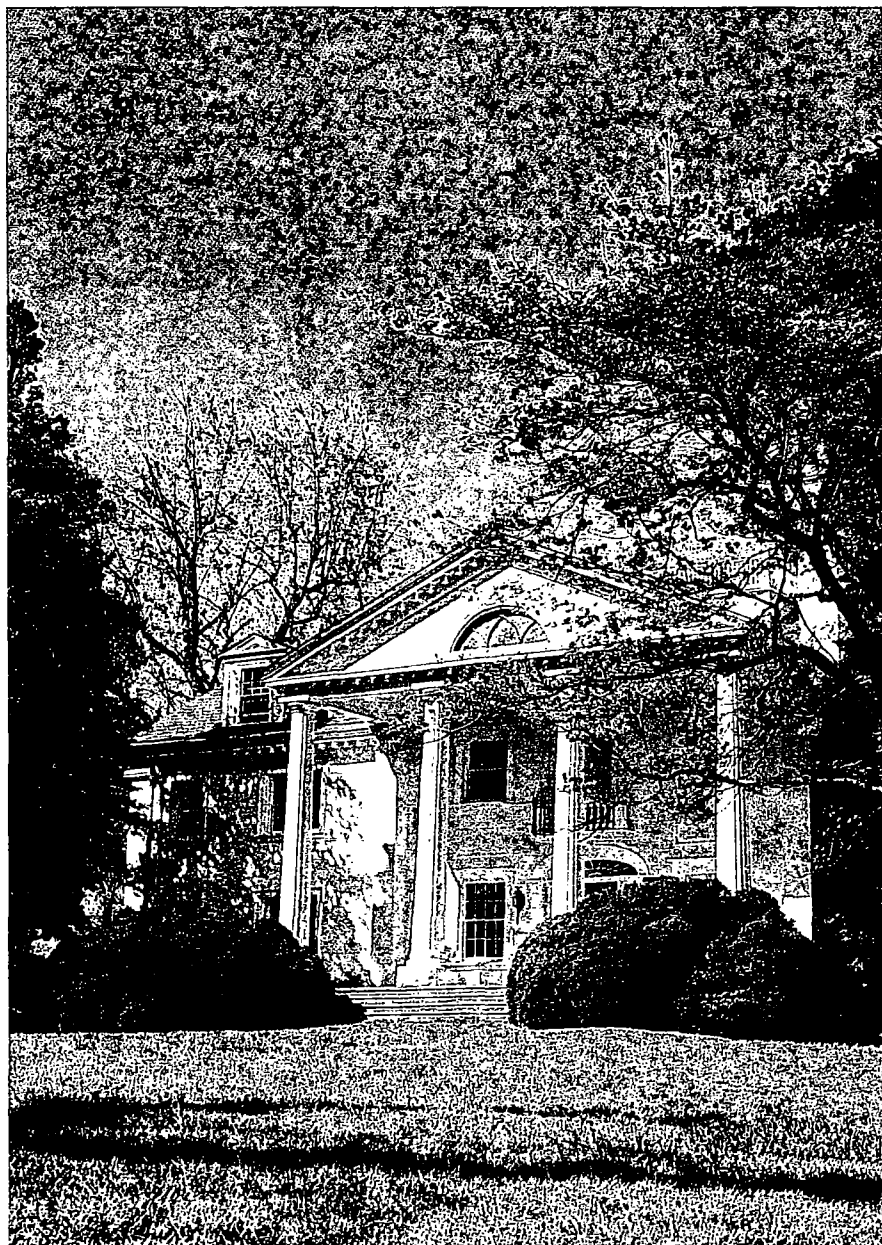


File:

Prayer Group

—





History

The Cedars, located on the highest point of the Potomac River, beholds a magnificent and historic view of Washington, D.C. Overlooking the Georgetown area across the Potomac, the Cedars is located just west of the Key Bridge, a few minutes from downtown Washington.

The Potomac Point area was a Native American crossroads, with a major river crossing nearby. Many Indian legends involve the surrounding region, relating especially to the Powhatan and Anacostan tribes. In the colonial period, both sides of the river were centers of industry, including milling, iron works and agriculture. A colonial era mill race can still be seen on the palisades below the property.

The Cedars on Potomac Point was purchased by George Mason III from its original owner in 1777. George Mason IV inherited this estate a short time later. George Mason IV is best remembered for writing the Virginia Declaration of Rights. He also drafted the first ten amendments of the United States Constitution, commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights. It is not widely known that George Mason IV was one of three men who refused to sign the United States Constitution. He vehemently opposed slave trading, which would become legal when the northern and southern states joined together, because he believed such trade was "diabolical in itself and disgraceful to mankind."

John Mason inherited the land at Potomac Point in 1792. He became the first president of the Bank of Columbia, a chief financier of the Capital City. It was said of Mason that "his love for his fellow man was just as important in the history of the world as his father's knowledge of history and constitutional government... Watch any person who has been blessed with and accepted by the creed of John Mason. He will soon be noticed, soon succeed, and leave a blessing to his kin."

During the Civil War, 22 forts were built encircling Washington. One of these, Fort C.F. Smith, is located on property adjoining The Cedars. Fort Smith encamped 2,000 soldiers and is the best remaining example of these Civil War defense sites.

The oldest section of the present-day Cedars dates from 1796. The two wings were added sometime between 1877 and 1898.

The Cedars Vision

1942 was the year that members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives began the Congressional Prayer Breakfast groups. Their example resulted in the formation of similar leadership groups made up of people from all levels of society, which have begun in over 180 nations on every continent.

As a result of these little groups close personal friendships have developed among people throughout the world who carry heavy responsibilities. These friends and their associates visit Washington, D.C. frequently. Therefore, in 1945, it was decided that a home was needed in Washington, D.C. where they could meet to think together, plan together and pray together about personal and public problems and opportunities. "The Cedars" at Potomac Point is one answer to that need and provides a wonderful family atmosphere, surrounded by lush woodlands – a haven of security and privacy, a place of discovery – while inspiring peace and contemplation.

The Cedars is maintained voluntarily inside and out, by young men and women from throughout the United States and the world who live and work together pondering and applying the principles and precepts of Jesus of Nazareth.

Down through the years all those involved at the Cedars agree that their vision for this home is expressed best by the following:

"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you made me welcome. I was naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you came and looked after me. I was in prison and you came to see me there ... I assure you that whatever you did for the humblest of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."