

Justice Black Home for Sale

Alexandria Historical Home B

By BARRY SCHWEID

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The three-story Georgian row house in Alexandria where Justice Hugo L. Black lived for more than 30 years is up for sale.

The 73 shelves in his corner chambers on the first floor of the Supreme Court are mostly bare.

And his "bench-notes," enough to fill more than 600 green-covered looseleaf binders, have been burned.

His secretary and his widow are busily sorting and cataloguing his books, deciding where they would do the most good.

This is the aftermath of the death of Justice Black on Sept. 25, eight days after dramatically failing health forced his retirement after 34 years on the Court.

Mrs. Frances Lamb, Black's secretary since 1957, isn't certain exactly how many books he accumulated over the years, though they run to several thousand volumes.

'Special Place'

Those he was especially fond of — the Harvard Classics, the writings of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin — will be put in a yet to be selected "special place."

Others in which he inscribed his name or made notes are likely to wind up at a university, possibly the University of Alabama in his native state, or remain in the capital at the Archives or the Library of Congress.

Of the remainder, librarians are choosing selections for the Court's own collection.

Mrs. Lamb's task is not without heartbreak. So far, she can't quite force herself to remove a parchment copy of the Bill of Rights from the top of a desk where he could easily read them.

If Black's decisions, particularly those on the Bill of

Rights, will live after him as part of the public record, his notes from the Court's private conferences will not.

These are the summaries of the thousands of cases that passed through the Court while he was on the bench; the notes he made during the discussions with the other jus-

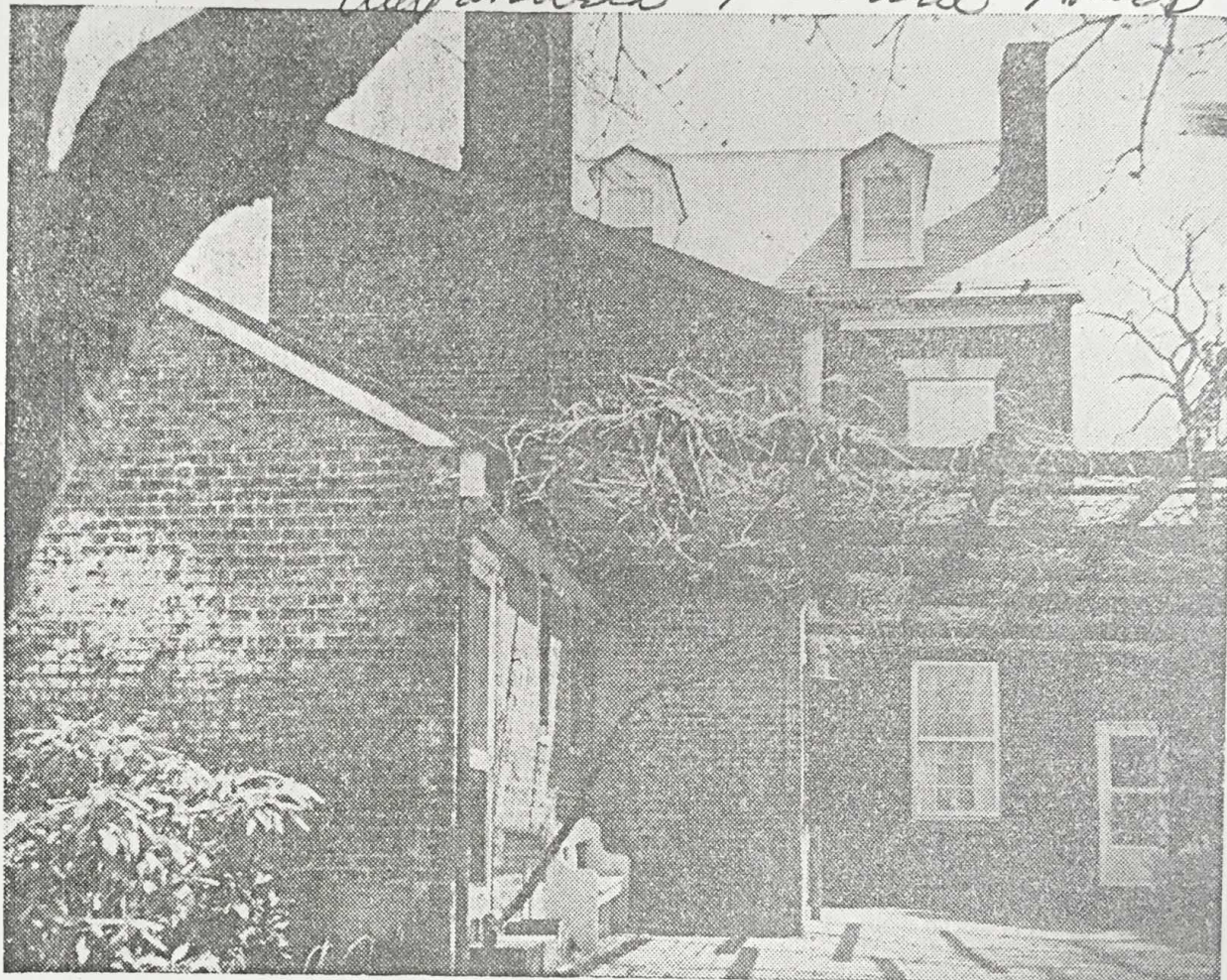
tices and the votes as he recorded them.

Black considered them private and directed that they be destroyed after his death.

The house in Alexandria where Black and his wife, Elizabeth, lived dates back to the 18th century. In the backyard are tennis courts, where

he played until shortly before retirement. There are peach and fig trees and blueberry bushes in the garden.

Some time ago, the Virginia legislature passed a bill prohibiting any splitting up of the property, which may also influence the next resident to keep change to a minimum.



The Alexandria home of Justice Hugo Black which is up for sale.

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