The Ball-Sellers House
5620 Third Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204

Directions

The Ball-Sellers House in the Glencarlyn neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia, is just a short distance from Washington, D.C.

From Washington, D.C., take Route 50 West to Carlin Springs Road exit. Go south on Carlin Springs Road for three blocks. Turn left on Third Street South to 5620.

From I-66 take Glebe Road South to Route 50 West to Carlin Springs Road exit. Go south on Carlin Springs Road for three blocks. Turn left on Third Street South to 5620.

From I-395 take Washington Boulevard to Route 50 West to Carlin Springs Road exit. Go south on Carlin Springs Road for three blocks. Turn left on Third Street South to 5620.

From the Capitol Beltway (I-495) take Route 50 East to Carlin Springs Road exit. Go south on Carlin Springs Road for three blocks. Turn left on Third Street South to 5620.
Three generations of the Carlin family owned the property for more than 100 years. William Carlin had several children and he is likely the owner who built the one-story addition on that once existed on the east side of the house.

In the 1880s, the third generation, brother and sister Andrew and Anne, built another two-story addition that adjoins the original house on the west. They also owned Carlin Springs, a getaway for DC residents who wanted a rural respite and who visited using the new railroad line. Their successful business included picnic areas, a dance pavilion, a swimming hole, and even an ice cream parlor.

The Carlins sold the property in 1887 to entrepreneurs Samuel Burdett, a Union officer in the Civil War, and his business partner William Curtis. Burdett and Curtis subdivided the land for sale to small landowners, just as William Carlin had originally instructed in his will and the community was named for the family. Many new residents rented the house while their new houses were built.

The house was also a summer cottage and Irene Young, a math teacher at DC’s Western High School bought it in 1911. She removed the now century-old dilapidated one-story addition and probably planted the wisteria that still blooms over the doorway of the original house.

The next owners, Will and Julia Powell, were both World War I veterans. Julia was among the first women allowed to enlist in the military. She was in the US Navy and Will was in the US Army. They bought the house in 1920 and lived there for the rest of their lives. In the 1930s, Julia’s orphaned niece, Marion came to live with them. Marion Rhinehart Sellers was the last private owner. She donated the house to the Arlington Historical Society in 1975 to preserve it and share it with the public.

The Arlington Historical Society refurbished the house to look as it did during John Ball’s lifetime. The Ball-Sellers House is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

We welcome you to step back in time and into a rare simple farmhouse from Virginia’s colonial era.

- We are open free on Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 pm, April through October.
- We host several public events throughout the season.
- We offer, by appointment, free tours for private or student groups.

For more information: Phone: 703-892-4204
Email: info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org
Visit: https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

The oldest house in Arlington offers a glimpse into the lives of early Virginians.