

# Weston



As we enter the oak lined lane to Weston intent upon pursuing the resident fox, it is easy to overlook one of Fauquier County's oldest colonial homes. It stands on ten of its original 440 acres where it is surrounded by giant oaks and lawns. Originally a two story log cabin, Weston was built on property granted to Giles Fitzhugh in 1753. Charles Joseph Nourse, Jr., of Georgetown purchased the property in 1859 and made several changes and additions. Nourse and his family found refuge there during the Civil War. Many exciting stories of life in those times live on at Weston which now functions as a private residence and museum.

Charles Nourse's two daughters, Charlotte and Constance, lived at Weston all their lives until they died in 1959. They were both accomplished artists and left many charming examples of their work in the house. Charlotte was also an avid horsewoman, serving as Master of the Casanova Hunt during the 1920's. The sisters were active members of the Casanova Community and well liked by everyone. Charlotte and Constance were well known for their hospitality which during WWII saw them serve over 11,000 meals at Weston to more than 1,000 soldiers on leave from nearby Vint Hill Farms Station.

Visitors to Weston today find a timeless quality in the old house with few modern renovations. Most of the furnishings in the house are original and date to the federal and Victorian periods.

Weston is accessorized with original eclectic collections of furniture, artworks and memorabilia. The house itself continues to reveal its history. In 1983 a ledger documenting the U.S.S. Merrimac's construction was found in the attic.

The Casanova Hunt leases a part of the land for its kennels, where annual trail rides, terrier trials, and small local horse shows continue the traditional country life activities much the same as in the late 1800's.

Members of Casanova Hunt have historically taken great pride in Weston. Working collectively with the Warrenton Antiquarian Society the hunt raised the funds necessary to renovate the stable to celebrate the 1976 Bicentennial.

Screening of the hunt kennel had long been overdue when a generous hunt member and Weston supporter, Fletch Flemmer came to the rescue.

With the high cost of landscaping and the desperate need to develop a design plan to enhance the house setting and lawn area, Fletch provided not only the materials, but his expertise. (Fletch and his family are the owners of Ingleside Plantation and Nursery.) Together with the Warrenton Antiquarian Society, plans and plantings were approved. With Fletch as the Chairman, Tommy Green, Mac Hayes, Eddie Shelton, Robert Johnson, Bill Fendley, Tommy Jones and Bobby Green completed the project.

Good fortune has truly been bestowed on Weston as now it is the home of the Richard Anderson family. Betsy, Rick and their two children have brought life to Weston and in so doing have done wonderful things with the house and grounds. Fireplaces all working, fresh paint, repairs here and there not to mention the lovely lawns with a view of the woods and paths through the glade of trees enhance the setting.

Opening meet breakfast at Weston is always a special day where everyone assembles on the porch and in the yard while visiting with friends and neighbors who come together each year to celebrate the beginning of the hunting season.

Several years ago our hunt members, Miss E. Sue Smith and Mr. Charles Bopp, were married at Weston. A full hunt honor guard of gentlemen dressed in evening scarlet to wish the couple well, and a hot air balloon to whisk them away.

The artwork contained in this issue of The Horn was done by Charlotte Nourse. It is used with the kind permission of the Warrenton Antiquarian Society, Weston Committee.

In 1963 The Antiquarian's published the Hunt Country Cook Book which contains drawings by Charlotte Nourse as well as interesting recipes and menus collected by many of Hunt Country's finest cooks. This unusual collection is now in its 5th printing.

The Warrenton Antiquarian Society has owned Weston since 1959, and are restoring it with the assistance of the **Friends of Weston**. Weston is currently in the process of being placed on the Virginia and national lists of historic properties.

Note paper depicting a variety of hunt scenes and the Hunt Country Cookbook are available for purchase at the What Not Shop in Old Town Warrenton or by writing the **Friends of Weston** at the address below. We also invite you to become a **Friend of Weston** by writing the same address. Membership is \$10.00 and your contribution is tax deductible.

**Weston**  
**P.O. Box 227**  
**Casanova, VA 22017**

You may also call Mrs. Betsy Anderson (703)788-9220.

Weston is available for private tours by appointment and is also available for weddings, parties, and picnics by special arrangement.



Weston — drawing courtesy of Earth Design