



VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Story of Virginia

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“Clear View,” former home of Lora and Claiborne Robins, Available for Sale Proceeds to benefit the Virginia Historical Society

Richmond, VA – One of the area’s most prestigious properties has come on the market for the first time.

The 13,028-square-foot home on River Road, named Clear View for its scenic setting, was built in 1981 by Lora and Claiborne Robins. The Robinses, both long-time supporters, bequeathed Clear View to the Virginia Historical Society (VHS).

The two-story, colonial-style brick home sits on nearly five-and-one-half acres. It has six bedrooms, seven full bathrooms, four fireplaces, a three-car garage, and a walk-out, finished basement. There is also an elevator and a whole-house generator.

“It’s a magnificent home,” said Paul Levensgood, the President and CEO of the VHS. “Lora and Claiborne Robins made the Clear View bequest to the VHS in the 1990s. At the time, we simply did not have enough space at our headquarters to host public events or to house our educational programs. They offered Clear View as an off-site home for lectures, a classroom, and for special events.”

But since the initial bequest, the VHS has undergone a series of expansions that now allow it to host public and educational activities under one roof. “Lora and Claiborne had great foresight. They gave us the option of selling Clear View if the space it offered was no longer needed. In both cases, their aim remained the same: ensuring that the VHS had the resources it needed to fulfill its mission.”

The VHS has retained The Steele Group/Sotheby’s International Realty as the listing agent for Clear View.

“This is one of the Richmond area’s top private homes, in one of its most sought-after neighborhoods,” said Bo Steele of The Steele Group. “It’s rare for such an established property to come on the market, and we expect it will generate considerable interest.”

Levensgood said that Clear View’s sale is bittersweet. “This was such a personal gift, and as a museum that collects and preserves Virginia history, we don’t take the sale of Clear View lightly. But we are doing so with Lora and Claiborne’s blessing.”

“As the VHS is in the midst of a campaign to expand its educational programming and public outreach, we decided it would be best to sell the property,” said Levensgood. “Both Lora and Claiborne were deeply committed to helping the VHS become a world-class history museum. They knew Clear View would help us continue toward that goal.”

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The **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS)—a privately funded nonprofit organization—collects, preserves, and interprets the Commonwealth’s history, linking past with present to inspire future generations. Visitors may connect with the 8.5 million objects in the VHS collection through the research library, a variety of programs, and a recently redesigned website to learn more about the unparalleled story of Virginia. Exciting plans are underway to expand and improve VHS exhibitions in 2014 to offer visitors a better experience. The transformation of gallery spaces will create even more vibrant, accessible, and engaging gateways to America’s past. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Admission is free. Hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. for the library, museum shop and a variety of programs. The VHS is closed on Sunday. For more information, call (804) 358-4901, visit www.vahistorical.org, or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.