

CAPSULE  
NEWTON ALLEN HOUSE

Although some have spoken disparagingly of the eclecticism of the Late Victorian period there are in fact many instances where the unique juxtaposition of various shapes and textures results in visually interesting buildings of great grace and beauty. The Queen Anne style makes great use of such combinations as shingles, clapboards, towers, gables, etc. and the Newton Allen House is an excellent example.

The vertical massing of this house is counterbalanced nicely by an asymmetrical plan, first and second story porches as well as horizontally oriented clapboards and shingles. There is a Gothic interest in light with an abundance of devices including single and double story polygonal projections and quite a few stained-and-leaded glass windows. The result is light quality on the interior with an ever changing mood.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Newton Allen House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

517 W. Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John E. Mudd

Telephone #: 825-4082

STREET & NUMBER

517 W. Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: Plat Book 24  
Folio #: 65

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1762

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>July, 1979</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Part of our knowledge of Towson during the late Victorian period is due to surviving plats that show where certain buildings existed, who their owners were and sometimes where no longer extant streets ran. Many of these plats were drawn by Newton Allen, County Surveyor. The large Queen Anne residence which Allen had built in the 500 block of West Joppa Road is a strong visual statement of that period and we are fortunate for its survival.

As is typical of its style the house has a complex asymmetrical plan and in the massing one sees a juxtaposition of different shapes and textures. It is a balloon frame structure covered with German siding. The gabled roof is covered with slate incorporating a fish scale pattern and the entire block rests on a high fieldstone foundation. Being built on the very beginning of the south slope of the Joppa ridge the building appears to be three and one half stories in the rear (it faces Joppa Road) and two and one half stories in the front(North).

The north facade is the main or entrance side of the building. It is characterized primarily by a large 8 foot wide wrap around porch and prominent broken pediment-gable. The fenestration of course is varied and includes the doorway which enters a living hall on the east side, large 1/1 sash lighting the parlors and bedrooms and a triplet of 16/1 sash venting the large gable. The gable is decorated with different types of shingles including fishscales. The "wrap around" porch wraps around the northwest corner and is curvilinear rather than angular. This rounded appearance is reinforced by the large doric columns which support it. The large upper pediment is repeated on a smaller scale by a portico pediment incorporated into the porch roof that is made decorative by a raised sunburst pattern. The visual interest of this facade is furthered by a small second story balcony with its own slate covered hood supported by smaller columns of the same proportions. This small porch was originally reached by the second story hall.

The west facade shows a real interest in light as evidenced by the wide 1/1 sash in the north bays of the first and second level, the leaded stained glass window of the northwest parlor, and the swell-front. The polygonal projection is topped by a large pediment vented by a casement window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The highest point of the foundation on this side measures 46 inches and exhibits cut and coursed stone.

The south facade is partially covered by an enclosed two story sleeping porch on the west side.

Like its counterpart on the west side the east facade shows a similar interest in light. This interest is seen principally in the large bay window, plentiful sash windows on all levels and several stained glass windows. These included casement stairwell windows that have been replaced with clear glass. Morning light no doubt once created colorful interior spaces on this side of the building.

Also on the east side are two decorative cast iron doors on the coal shutters. One can also see a centrally located shed roofed dormer.

This single family residence was subdivided into three apartments in this century and then reconverted into a single family residence again. Consequently the interior is not as close to its original state as the exterior, however, it has not lost its feeling of great size and organically defined space.

A typical living hall provides an entrance space. A dog-leg stairs occupies the outer wall and originally stained glass windows lighted the landing. It is a closed string stairs with fluted panel, square newel and turned balusters. A non-functional "book case" partition (high pedestals which probably had columns to match the fireplaces) separates the hall from the double parlors of the west side.

The entire first floor has 10 foot ceilings and is finished with a relatively plain rectangular trim. There are 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch baseboards.

The northwest parlor is characterized by its polygonal projection in the north wall. The three tall 1/1 sash windows along with an additional west window measuring 47 inches wide and 49 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the opening make this a well lighted space. The west window has a leaded glass transom which contains purplish and amber glass with a green fleur-de-lis in the center.

Disappearing double sliding doors separate the northwest and southwest parlors. The opening is 6 feet wide. The southwest parlor is used as a dining area. This room has a polygonal projection too in its west wall plus a door in the northwest corner of the room which gives access to the wrap around porch. A dominant feature of this room is the fireplace located in the south wall. Its size and the cast iron inset suggest that its chief fuel may have been coal. The opening is 2 feet wide, 1 foot 6 inches high and only 1 foot deep. The mantelpiece is wood with an elliptical entablature supported by doric columnettes which as a unit repeat the design of the front porch. The shelf is 50 inches above the floor and projects off the wall 12 inches. The surround itself is made of light green ceramic tiles and the iron box itself is also decorated with an embossed

floral design.

Another double doorway leads from the dining room into a southeast parlor (The side hall only penetrates one half of the depth of the house) and this room is perceived to be the most formal of the three main rooms by virtue of its decoration. In addition to a stain glass window this room has an elaborate fireplace in its north wall. The mantelpiece is gray marble with a round arch opening. The opening is  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the base, 32 inches high at the arch and 2 feet deep. There is a curvilinear shelf 45 inches above the floor with chamfered edge. The surround has raised carved spandrels and a heavy cartouche on the apex of the arch.

The kitchen area is quite altered and yet it is perceived that the back or south bay was a kitchen area consisting of two rooms. This area is unlike the other first floor rooms with its bulls eye corner blocks.

Five bedrooms are provided by the second floor plan. It is not totally unlike the first floor except that a bathroom occupies the south end of the hall. The hall used to open out into the balcony.

Like the kitchen below there are bulls eye corner blocks and mouldings which are probably the result of the first renovation. Also seen are three-quarter round corner guards.

It is the southwest bedroom on this level that has a sleeping porch entered via a door in the south wall.

The gables result in an unusual space on the third level, which, inspite of the height of its ceilings is technically a half story. Its mouldings suggest that it was originally a finished living area. A bathroom on this level with a clawfoot tub and a toilet and sink with porcelain fixtures along with the "back" stairs raises the possibility of a servants quarters at this level. At any rate it is a visually interesting space with its trapezoidal and gabled ceilings added to by the 12 light flip-up casement windows.

As stated, the basement constitutes a full level of its own. It does not appear to have been finished as a living area and the presence of a functional fireplace in the south wall is surprising. It is made of brick with a segmental arch. It is extremely late for a "basement kitchen" unit and relatively ineffective as a heat source. The burning of refuse is a possibility but it is an oddity for sure.

Two coal shutes on the east wall empty into a room or bin that is segregated from the rest of the cellar by a partition made of plain 1 foot wide vertical boards fixed to the frame with cut nails.

On the interior one sees the basement has coursed rubble walls and its outline reflects the asymmetry of the plan ie. polygonal projections, etc. Centrally placed interior stone walls subdivide the area into rooms and they are loadbearing to the frame and chimneys above.

Outbuildings:

This house did not stand alone but had other structures which were its dependencies. The present owners recalls a barn (stable?) located approximately 25 yards directly South of the house. A slide of a 1950's snapshot showing a portion of the barn is included in this report.

There is another building a short distance off of the south-east corner of the house which the present owner says was converted into an artist's studio from a chicken house by Mr. Allen for his daughter. The present occupant and owner of the "studio" is nearly vehement in saying that it was originally designed for that purpose.

At any rate in its present state it is a two story frame building with a gable end roof and a south addition. It is covered with German siding on the first level and wood shingles on the second. Both the interior and exterior have been altered with the most visable exterior alteration being reduced fenestration. At one point this building had very tall 2/2 sash windows. All but one on the east side first floor have been reduced in size to half (or less) of their original height. The infill consists of German siding removed from the south side.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1902 - 1915	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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BA-1762

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II

ORGANIZATION

HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

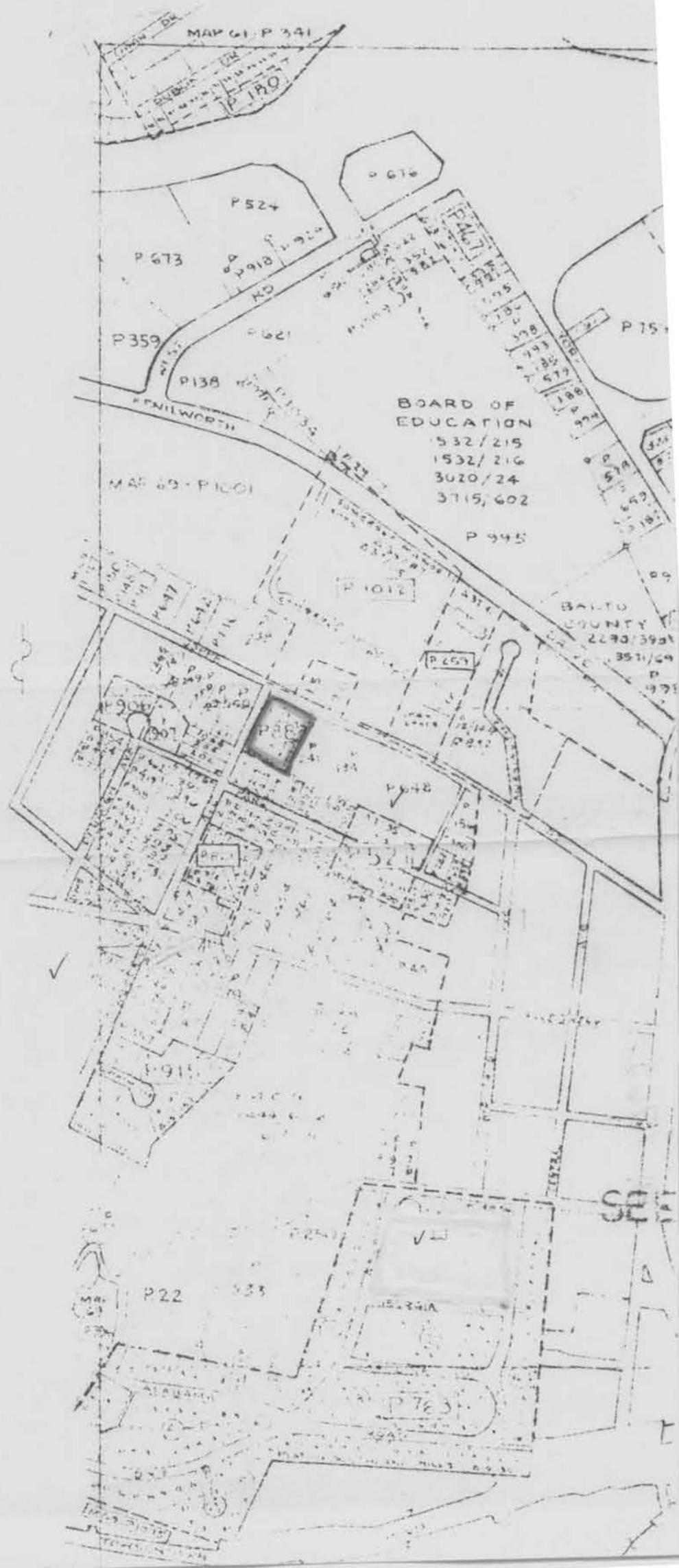
TITLE FOR NEWTON ALLEN HOUSE  
Parcel 88, Map 70

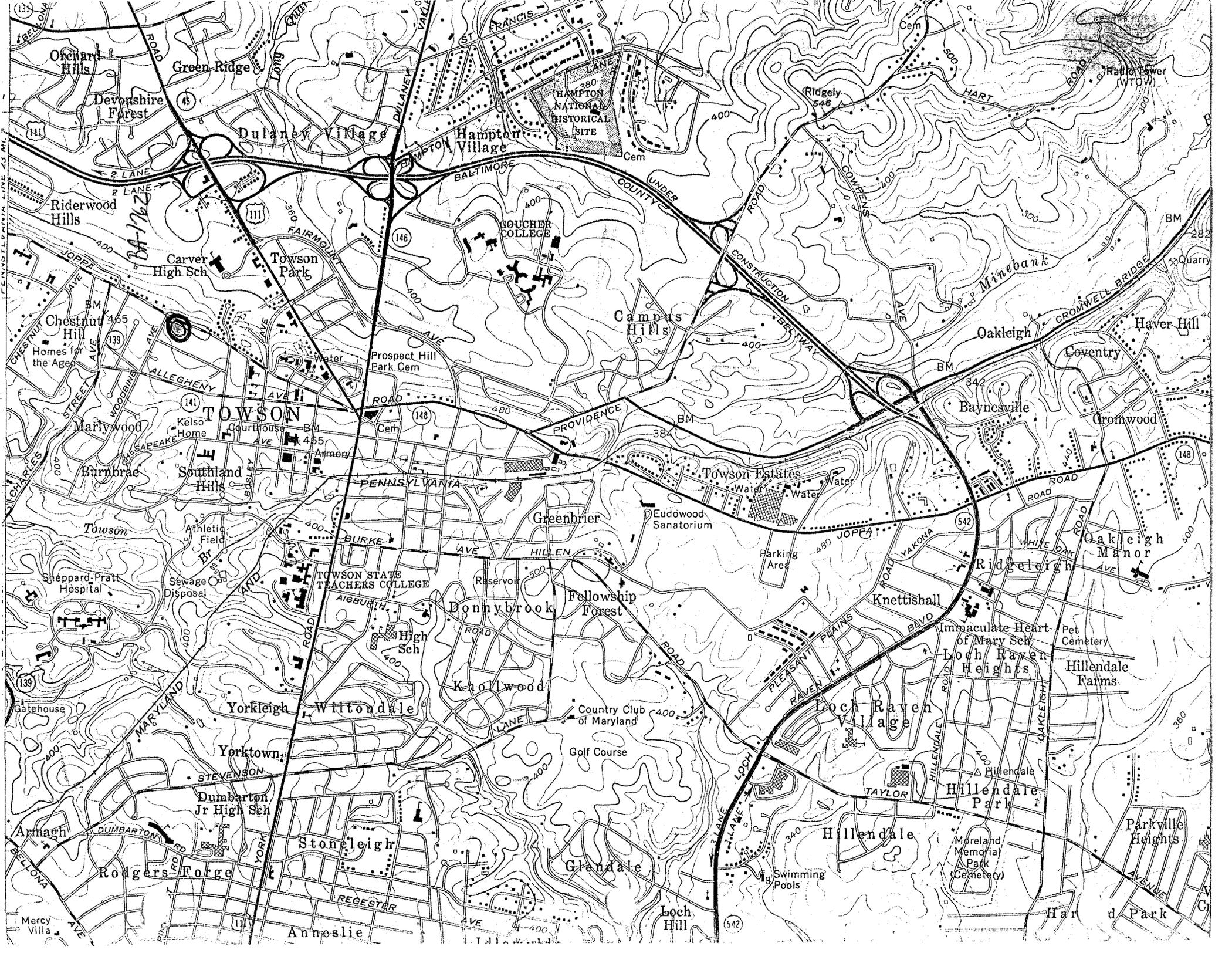
Present Owner: John E. Mudd

The following is a description of the deed received by Newton D. R. Allen:

LIBER : 264  
FOLIO : 83  
DATE : July 9, 1902  
GRANTOR: Richard H. Pleasants  
GRANTEE: Newton D. R. Allen

Beginning at the end of the Northwest line of lot #25 described in a deed dated July 1, 1895 conveyed by Anne M. Donnell et al to Skipworth Wilmer et al recorded in Land Record 213/89, being the corner of land belonging to the late Dr. Bosley, Northeast 640 feet to a stone near the south side of Joppa Road, Northeast 231 feet, Northwest 200 feet, Southwest 231 feet to a stone near the south side of Joppa Road and on the east outline of Woodbine Avenue, Southwest 650 feet, Southeast 200 feet to the beginning. Containing 4.22 acres.







BA-1762

NEWTON ALLEN HSE.  
W. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-1762

NEWTON ALLEN HSE.  
N. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



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NEWTON ALLEN HSE.  
N.E. CORNER

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-1762-A

DEPENDENCY -  
NEWTON ALLEN HSE.  
N. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79