

ABSTRACT
(R. Andrews, 5-77)

245 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

circa 1899

This painted brick Romanesque influenced house with Queen Anne elements is one of the most fanciful facaded structures along South Potomac Street. It is particularly interesting for the facade sculpture flanking the doorway, the conical roof tower rising out of the second story of the northeast corner, and the band of swags stretching across the facade and around the tower below a Classical influenced modillioned cornice. The building with its jagged roofline is a prominent element of the streetscape, contrasting sharply with the small stone structure to the north and the row and semi-detached houses to the south and east.

The building is believed to have been erected about 1899 for Ezra Newcomer, who is listed in the city directories as a teller at the First National Bank in Hagerstown. Newcomer purchased the property in June, 1899. The Newcomer family still retains the title.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

245 South Potomac Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

245 South Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Frances B. Newcomer

Telephone #: 739-5419

STREET & NUMBER

245 South Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

Liber #: 578

Folio #: 381

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NOTE: One (1) Continuation Sheet attached.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Known as 245 South Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, the building stands on the west side of the street near the center of the block formed by Baltimore and Lee Streets, the third block south of Public Square.

Two and a half stories high, the building is a circa 1899 painted brick Romanesque influenced house with Queen Anne elements. It sits on a low stone foundation abutting the street and is capped with a steep hip roof pierced with large dormers. Typical of many urban buildings, the exterior decoration is limited primarily to the facade, in this case the east elevation. Continuously owned by the same family since construction, the building is in fairly original condition (particularly the facade) and appears to be structurally sound.

The facade or east elevation consists of a smooth plane with stone decorative detailing and an asymmetrical arrangement of three bays. A high round tower rises out of the northeast corner of the second story and is capped with a tall conical roof. The facade and tower are terminated below the roof by a Classical influenced modillioned cornice above a broad band of swags. The facade bricks are laid in Stretcher bond.

One of the most interesting features of the front is the round arch doorway which is located in the middle bay. Reached by a low masonry stoop, the entranceway consists of a pair of raised panel wooden doors below a one pane round arch transom. The upper portion of the doorway has a broad, plain surround of round molding and terminated at each end by foliated rectangular sculptures with human like faces, the one on the north side smiling and the one on the south frowning in a seemingly theatrical influenced manner.

The facade windows, including the three in the tower and the two in the dormer, have rock-faced rectangular lintels and masonry sills. The tower windows and two on the second story have double-hung, wooden sashes with one-over-one lights. The window to the south of the door and the south of the tower is two part rectangular with large single sashes. A large segmental arch tripartite window is positioned to the north of the door. The tower has a plain, masonry base and blank rectangular panels above the windows. The front dormer is capped with masonry blocks and curled returns.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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				

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This painted brick Romanesque influenced house with Queen Anne elements is one of the most fanciful facaded structures along South Potomac Street. It is particularly interesting for the facade sculpture flanking the doorway, the conical roof tower rising out of the second story of the northeast corner, and the band of swags stretching across the facade and around the tower below a Classical influenced modillioned cornice. The building with its jagged roof-line is a prominent element of the streetscape, contrasting sharply with the small stone structure to the north and the row and semi-detached houses to the south and east.

The building is believed to have been erected about 1899 for Ezra Newcomer, who is listed in the city directories as a teller at the First National Bank in Hagerstown. Newcomer purchased the property in June, 1899 (Deed Book 110, p. 631). The Newcomer family still retains the title.

Harry Newcomer, son of Ezra and whose widow still resides in the house, was Register of Wills for Washington County from 1930 to 1962.

The property is described as the northern half of Lot No. 405 of an unidentified plat.

SEE CHAIN OF TITLE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Hagerstown City Directories (various years).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

The property measures approximately 34' x 130'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

May 23, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 731-3200

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1 of 1 page

CONTINUATION SHEET

R. Andrews, 5-77

245 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

HISTORICAL CHAIN OF TITLE (Washington County Land Records)

Book 578, p. 381

22 May 1974

grantor: Frances B. Newcomer and Omer T. Kaylor, Jr., Personal
Representatives of Estate of Harry Newcomer (died
12 February 1974, Will Book 32, p. 639).

grantee: Frances B. Newcomer

Lot #405 on Plat of Town of Hagerstown, Book 73, p. 477

Book 339, p. 260

10 September 1958

grantor: Roy Sprecher, widow

grantee: Harry Newcomer

conveys part interest

Book 110, p. 631

10 June 1899

grantor: Newton S. Cook, Scott M. Wolfinger, and Robert T.
Edmonds, Trustees in Equity Cases No. 5238 and 5331

grantee: Ann Clara Newcomer, wife of Ezra Newcomer

sum \$1,500

northern part of Lot #405

Book I.N. No. 15, p. 151

1 August 1860

grantor: David Technay

grantee Catharine Julius

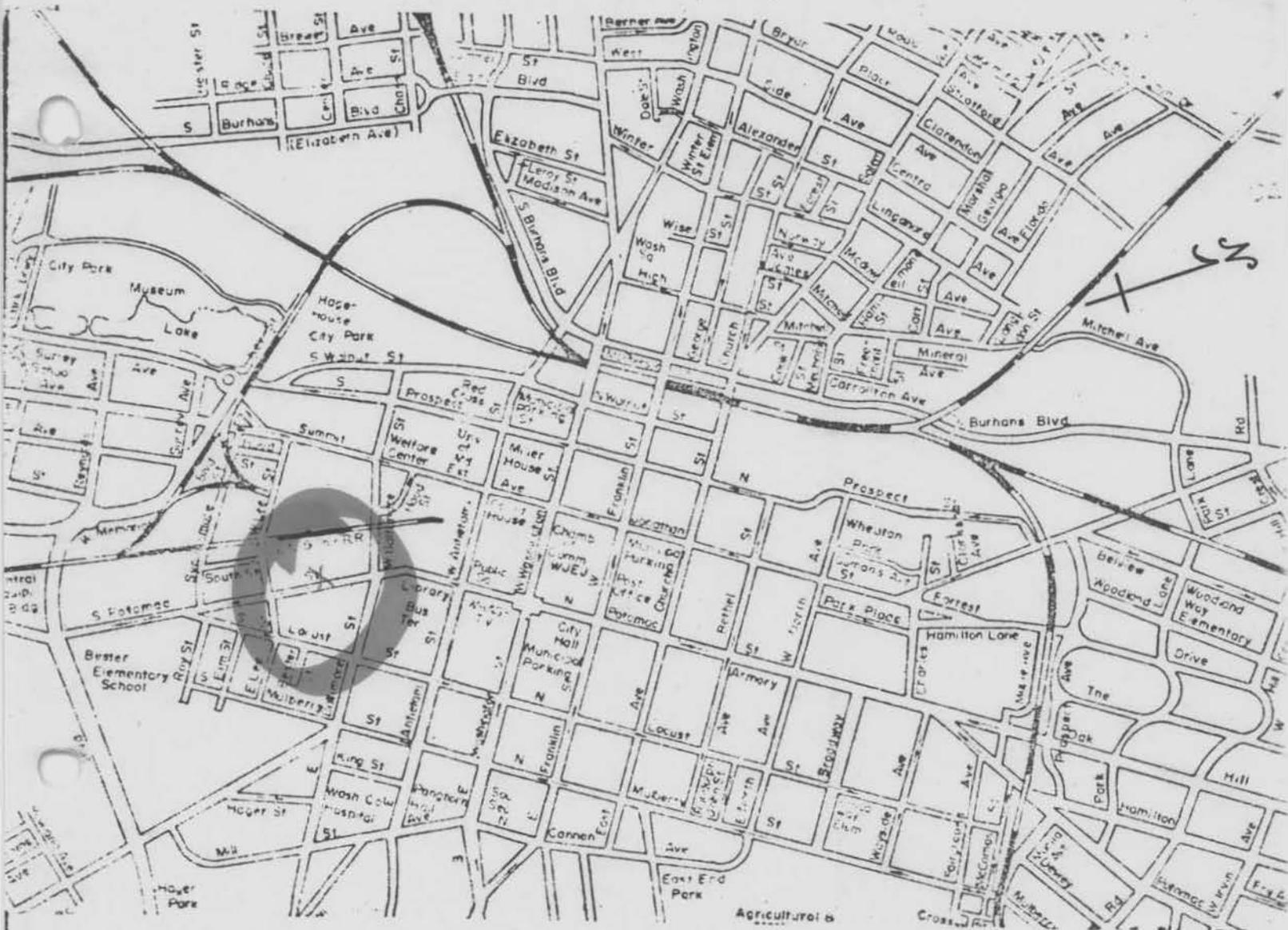
1895-96 CD:

Ezra Newcomer, teller, First National Bank, residence
214 South Potomac Street

Frank H. Newcomer, bookkeeper, 214 South Potomac Street

1903-04 CD:

Ezra Newcomer, teller, First National Bank, residence
245 South Potomac StreetFrank Newcomer, bookkeeper, Jones and South, residence
245 South Potomac Street



WA-HAG-85

SITE: 245 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
City Engineering Dept.
July, 1970
scale 1"=1200'



245 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co, Md.

NE view

November, 1976



245 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co, Md.

East elevation, facade detail
November, 1976

RONALD L. ANDREWS



245 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

East elevation, roof detail

November, 1976

RONALD L. ANDREWS



245 South Potomac St.
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

East elevation, door detail
November, 1976



245 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

NE view

November, 1976

RONALD L. ANDREWS