Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property	Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #:
Property Name(s):	Bowman's Drugstore	
Property Date(s):		en to Public?
Property Address:	2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue City: Ale	exandria Zip: 22301
County or Ind. City:	Ind. City of Alexandria USGS Quad(s): Ale	exandria, VA-DC-MD
Physical Character of General Surroundings		
Acreage: 0.1304 Setting (choose one): Urban Town Village Suburban Rural Transportation Corridor		
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The building is situated on level ground within a rectangular lot encompassing 5,679 square feet, on the southeast corner of Mount Vernon and E. Del Ray avenues. The adjacent lot to the south is vacant. It contributes to the commercial character of Mt. Vernon Avenue, the main thoroughfare of an 1894 subdivision which was incorporated as the Town of Potomac in 1908 and annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1929. Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:		
Ownership Category:	Private Public-Local Public-State	Public-Federal
Individual Resource Information		
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc		
Mixed-use: commercial and residential		
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Commercial/office		
Architectural style or elements of styles: Streamline Moderne		
Architect, builder, or original owner: Clayton L. Bowman, original owner; Huel L. Crockett, architect; Paul P. Baker, builder		
# of stories 2 Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt Renovated		
Are there any known threats to this property? None known		

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Cinder block (continuous brick visible)

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. **Brick, cinder block**

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.

Brick (6:1 common bond), aluminum trim

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? First floor: 3 fixed-pane, wooden-frame shop windows with transoms; 2 hoppers. Second floor: 6 single and 1 double metal double-hung with 1/1 lights; central ribbon with 3 double-hung and 2 sidelights. Yes, the windows have been replaced.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. N/A

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

Flat

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

Possible chimney stack on the rear elevation, southern end.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: (Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)

The Streamline Moderne building at **2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue** was erected in 1940-1941 to serve as pharmacist Clayton L. Bowman's drugstore and home. On 8 July 1940, Bowman filed for a new construction permit to build two stores and one apartment on part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. Huel L. Crockett, "designer," was listed as the architect and Paul P. Baker as the builder; the projected cost of construction was \$15,800. The two-story building would measure 30-feet in the front and rear, with a depth of 46.5 feet. The cellar would be excavated six-and-a-half feet below the outside grade, while the first floor would rise one foot above the curb grade. The foundation would comprise cinder block, while the exterior walls would comprise brick with a thickness of one foot at the basement and first-floor levels and eight inches on the second floor. The flat roof would be clad in slag, and the building would be heated with hot water. At the end of the same month, Bowman filed another new construction permit to erect a garage "to be attached to present store" on the corner of Peyton and Mt. Vernon avenues. Built by Baker but designed by Harry Miller, the one-story addition would measure 20-feet square, would comprise eight-inch-thick cinder block walls faced in brick, and would terminate in a flat, canvas roof. The total cost of construction for the garage was estimated at \$500.ⁱⁱ

Enveloping 3,160 square feet, the two-part commercial edifice has retail space on the first floor and residential space above, which has been converted into offices.ⁱⁱⁱ Situated on a corner lot, the building is rectangular in plan with one rounded corner, the shorter side facing Mt. Vernon Avenue. The building

reads as eight bays^{iv} as it wraps around the corner, but the rectangular footprint is three bays wide and five bays deep. The main entrance is positioned in the curvature, so that the north and west elevations address both E. Del Ray (formerly Peyton) and Mt. Vernon Avenues respectively.^v To suggest their equal importance through the hierarchy of building materials, both elevations are clad in yellow brick laid in a six-to-one common bond, while the southern (side) elevation comprises common red brick. A square, one-story garage addition abuts the rear facade, facing E. Del Ray Avenue, and is set back several feet from the main block's face. Both the garage and the rear elevation are executed in yellow brick.

The continuous brick foundation rises to a parapet coped in aluminum which hides the flat roof. Three rows of soldier bricks encircle the facade as belt courses, while a fourth row serves as a cornice below the coping. The main entrance is marked by a curved, banded aluminum canopy supported by fluted, Doric pilasters made of aluminum. Aluminum surrounds hold metal double doors with full-height single lights flanked by single-light sidelights as well as a multi-light transom flanked by multi-light sidelights. Flanking the entrance are two large, fixed-pane shop windows in wood frames with single-light transoms. Above the canopy, on the second floor, is a curved ribbon window with a brick sill which holds three double-hung, one-over-one windows flanked by two single-light sidelights. ¹

The north elevation holds two paneled doors with lights in the rearmost bay, sheltered by an aluminum hood, and two hoppers in the middle bays. The second story is fenestrated with four windows alternating between square and rectangular: the two square windows are single, one-over-one double-hung windows, while the two rectangular apertures include a double, one-over-one double-hung and a single one-over-one double-hung. The single-story garage addition bears two wooden, paneled garage doors. The west elevation (the principle facade, facing Mt. Vernon Avenue) has three single, one-over-one double-hung windows on the second floor, and a single-light door with a single-light transom in a wooden frame centered and flanked by two fixed-pane shop windows with transoms (one of which abuts the main entrance). The south elevation is the only on executed in red brick, and is fenestrated with five windows on the upper floor and three (including two hoppers) on the lower level. The rear elevation has one window on the garage and a possible door and a hopper window on the second story of the main block. A chimney stack rises along the southeast corner of the building, against the rear wall.

The present building closely adheres to the drawings created by Crocket in May 1940, yet there are significant differences. The ideal north elevation has more fenestration, suggesting more bays along E. Del Ray Avenue were imagined than were realized, while the windows drafted are multi-light casements with glass-block transoms rather than double-hung windows. [Figure 1] The greatest discrepancy is on the drawing entitled "straight elevation of corner entrance," in which the grand entrance was imagined as even grander: although the entrance retains the treatment imagined on the ground floor, a reeded aluminum-trimmed tower was meant to rise from the aluminum canopy above the door (encircling the ribbon windows), which would rise above the flat roofline and bear large "metal neon letters" announcing Bowman Drugs. [Figure 2] The west elevation was faithfully reproduced, while the south elevation suggests that the building was meant to have been twice as deep as it is. [Figures 3 and 4] The east (rear) elevation depicts no garage, reasserting that the addition was an after-thought. [Figure 5]

Prior to its development in 1940-1941, vii the lot at the southeast corner of E. Del Ray Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue was vacant. The building first appears in the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia as a two-story, brick-faced cinder-block construction in which an internal partition created two stores, addressed 2213 and 2211 Mt. Vernon Avenue. [Figure 6] The 1958 Sanborn map

¹ Susan Escherich's notes on this building, compiled for the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks in 1992, states that the facade contained metal casements that were two-leafed except for the ribbon window, which had eight leaves. This suggests that the windows have been replaced since 1992.

showed no major changes to the footprint or internal organization, although a city tax assessment of the building from 1950 valued the structure at \$7,910, which was a slight depreciation from the 1945 assessment of \$8,000 (the land appreciated in value from \$1,700 to \$2,090 during the same period). Despite this, the earliest found repair permit was issued in 1974, suggesting that the building maintained its original design integrity for the first 33 years (or more) of its occupancy. In repair permit #30988, dated 16 August 1974, Mrs. Clayton L. Bowman (whose address was given as 201 E. Del Ray Avenue, the upstairs apartment accessed by the rearmost side door) records a \$1,000 repair to the marquee at the beauty shop (at the time, the first floor was occupied by Gigi Hairstylists). Exactly two months later, she wrote an official complaint to Carl J. Mullins and Thomas T. Stroops, who had contracted the labor, stating that "the roof of the marquee repaired by you now leaks where the roof meets the wall, allowing the water to run into the entrance doors and drip down the inside... causing continued damage" and demanding they rectify the problem by providing "proper flashings" and caulking. The present-day exterior, which adheres so closely to the original renderings, suggests that window replacement has been the most significant change to the building's appearance.

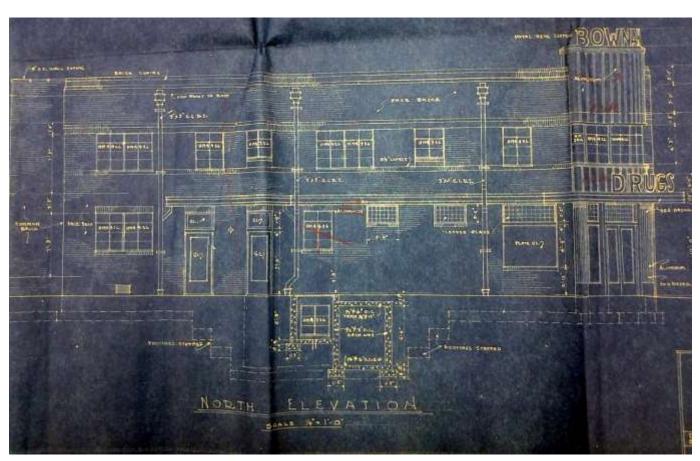


Figure 1: North elevation of "Store & Apartment Bldg. for Mr. Clayton L. Bowman, Mt. Vernon & Peyton Avenues, Alexandria, Virginia, Huel L. Crockett, Designer," 24 May 1940. From New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

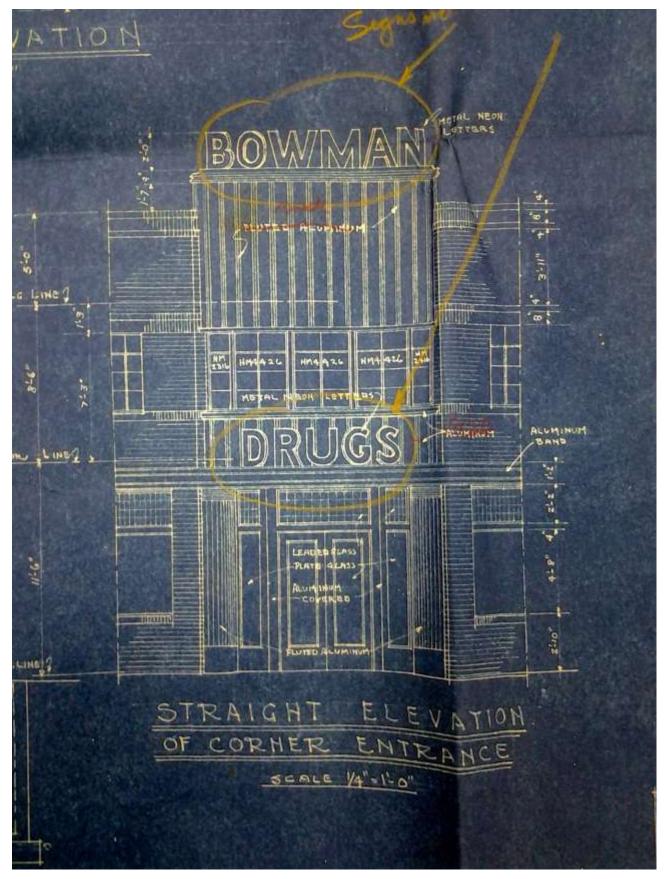


Figure 2: Straight elevation of corner entrance, "Store & Apartment Bldg. for Mr. Clayton L. Bowman, Mt. Vernon & Peyton Avenues, Alexandria, Virginia, Huel L. Crockett, Designer," 24 May 1940. From New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.



Figure 3: West elevation of "Store & Apartment Bldg. for Mr. Clayton L. Bowman, Mt. Vernon & Peyton Avenues, Alexandria, Virginia, Huel L. Crockett, Designer," 24 May 1940. From New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

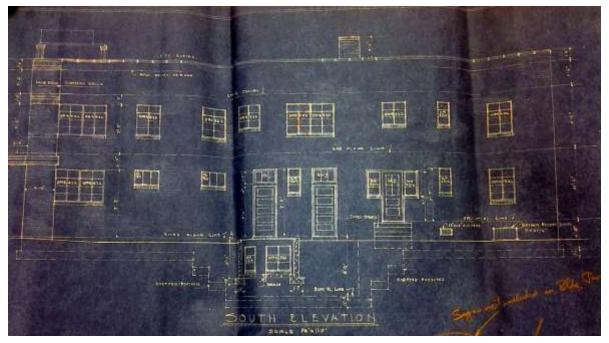


Figure 4: South elevation of "Store & Apartment Bldg. for Mr. Clayton L. Bowman, Mt. Vernon & Peyton Avenues, Alexandria, Virginia, Huel L. Crockett, Designer," 24 May 1940. From New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

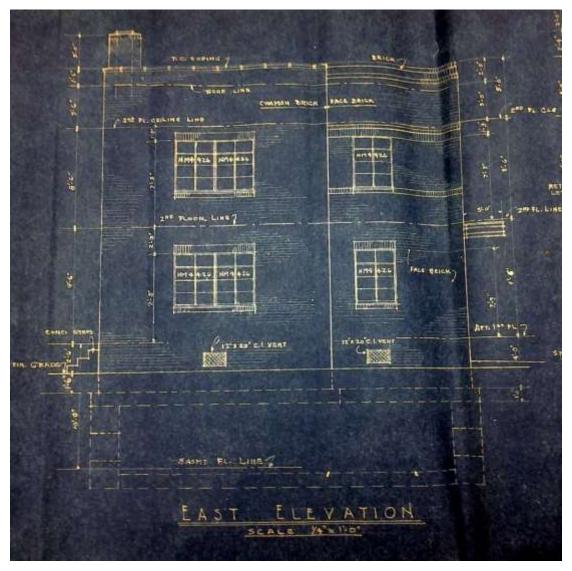


Figure 5: East elevation of "Store & Apartment Bldg. for Mr. Clayton L. Bowman, Mt. Vernon & Peyton Avenues, Alexandria, Virginia, Huel L. Crockett, Designer," 24 May 1940. From New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

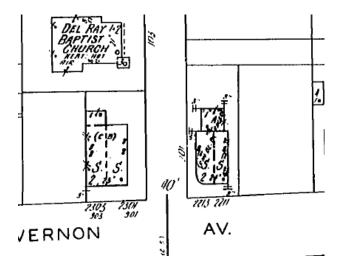


Figure 6: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 45

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The site of Bowman's Drugstore is a rectangular parcel originally platted as lots 818-822 of the first Del Ray subdivision, a streetcar suburb created in 1894 by Charles E. Wood and William Harmon, developers from Ohio. In 1908, this community was incorporated as the Town of Potomac within the Jefferson Magisterial District in Alexandria County (renamed Arlington County in 1920), until it was annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1929. The historic building lies within the boundaries of and is considered a contributing resource to the Town of Potomac Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

Jacob Coil owned the majority of the property between 1915 and 1926, but Martin J. Manning owned lots 818-821 from 1929; the rear swathe (lot 822) facing E. Del Ray (formerly Peyton) Avenue was owned by Mallie B. and Ernest D. File from 1926. In the spring of 1940, Clayton L. Bowman acquired the northern 45-feet of lots 818-822 from Manning and File and re-subdivided that land into Lot 901, on which he sited his modern commercial building. Figure 7] Bowman (1896-1973) was born in Amherst, Virginia and attended George Washington University, where he graduated as a doctor of pharmacy in 1918. Settling in Potomac, Bowman was a member of a the Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 20 and ran a drugstore in Del Ray from 1931, which was listed at the address 901 Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria City Directories from 1932 to 1938. Between 1941 and 1952, Bowman and his wife, June Mulberry (d. 1986), operated their family business at 2213 and dwelled in the upstairs apartment with their son, Clayton L. Bowman, Jr. (1924-2007). Following Bowman, Sr.'s death in 1973, June continued to live upstairs, renting the commercial space below to various businesses; June divested the property to her son in 1985.

Long-time Del Ray resident Robert Fischman recalled Bowman's Drugstore "on the corner of Del Ray Avenue and Mount Vernon" as "a new building, they'd just built" in the 1940s. Stating that the building is beautiful, Fishman marveled that Clayton Jr., "this boy that we used to pal around, had his own bath. I mean, of all things, you know. Clayton, Clayton had his own bathroom. We'd just go up there and look at it..."xv Another Del Ray resident, Mary Sullivan, referred to Bowman's Drugstore as "a landmark."xvi The "landmark" was designed by architect Huel L. Crockett (1902-1983), who lived in Alexandria at the time and worked as a Chief Engineer in the Materials Requirement Division of the United States Navy in Washington, D.C. and New York City during World War II. Born in Girard, Alabama, Crockett attended the Alabama Polytechnic Institute from 1919-1922, after which he worked as a chief draftsman for the firm of Wyeth & Sullivan from 1931-1933. Following his war service, he worked as a specifications writer for York & Sawyer between 1944 and 1945 and as an office manager for T. Firth Lockwood between 1949-1951. In 1951, he moved to Columbus, Georgia and established his own architectural practice there; most of his principle works were located in that city, including the Muscogee County Health Center (1954); two Muscogee County elementary schools (1955); and the Wellington Plaza Shopping Center (1955). xvii Bowman's Drugstore was built by Paul P. Baker (1892-1957), a contractor who built a number of houses in Del Ray in the 1930s and 1940s. xviii

The edifice at 2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue is still a landmark, as the exceptionally high quality of the Streamline Moderne style it exhibits stands out from the surrounding urban fabric. Popular in the 1940s, the Streamline Moderne style was used primarily for commercial architecture in Virginia. Stemming from industrial design, and made popular by such mid-century designers as Raymond Loewy and Norman

² The southern 70-feet of lots 818-822 became Lot 902, which Manning retained until divesting it to Bowman in 1944. See City of Alexandria Deed Book 207, page 85, dated 11 April 1944. This is the vacant lot adjacent to and south of the building at 2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue.

Bel Geddes, the Streamline Moderne was both a reaction against and a complement to the Art Deco style. While its application pared down the superfluous decorative elements that gave Art Deco its name, the style appropriated modern materials and geometric forms similar to its predecessor style. "Originally developed for vehicles and aircraft," stylistic traits include an "emphasis on smooth rounded forms and surfaces" as well as corner windows, rounded corners, ribbon windows, and steel and chrome details on a white or pastel exterior finish. xix

In 1955, Lusk's Northern Virginia Real Estate Directory listed 2211-13 Mt. Vernon Avenue as owned and occupied by Clayton L. and June Bowman. Lot 901, on which the building sits (measuring 45 feet by 126 feet), was assessed at \$3,141 while the total value with improvements was assessed at \$9,907. Bowman was also listed as the owner of 2007 Mt. Vernon Avenue, the vacant lot to the south of his drugstore. Measuring 70 feet by 123 feet, the lot was assessed at \$4,854 in 1955. After Bowman's Drugstore closed, the building at 2213 continued to host neighborhood businesses, including Artcraft Florist, Orbit Real Estate, Gigi's Hairstylists, Jan's Hair Fashion, and Golubin and Warwick Realtors. In 1986, Clayton L. Bowman, Jr. sold the property to Airpac Systems of Virginia, Inc., which had its offices there until divesting the property in 1994. Since 1997, the ground floor has been occupied by Photo Solutions Inc., while the upper story has been occupied by Bean Creative since 2000.

The building is significant on the local and state levels as characteristic of the Streamline Moderne style (criterion C); its association with local personages of significance (criterion B); and its role in the development of Del Ray as an urban enclave (criterion A) concurrent with Northern Virginia's growing regional importance in the interwar years and the country's transformation from a predominantly rural to an urban character. It retains integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, and feeling.

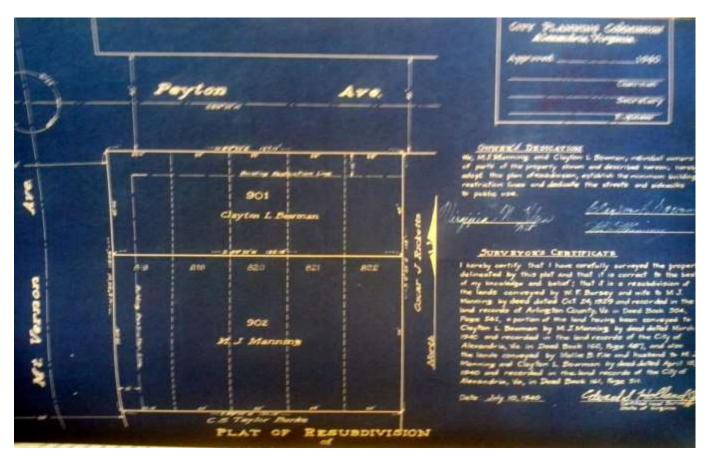


Figure 7: Plat of Resubdivision of Lots 818-822, Del Ray. From City of Alexandria Deed Book 160, page 487, 28 March 1940: Martin J. Manning, Grantor, to Clayton L. Bowman, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.



 $1.2213~\mathrm{Mt.}$ Vernon Avenue. Facade (west) elevation and north elevation, oblique angle, facing SE. Photograph by Gwen White, 4/6/14.



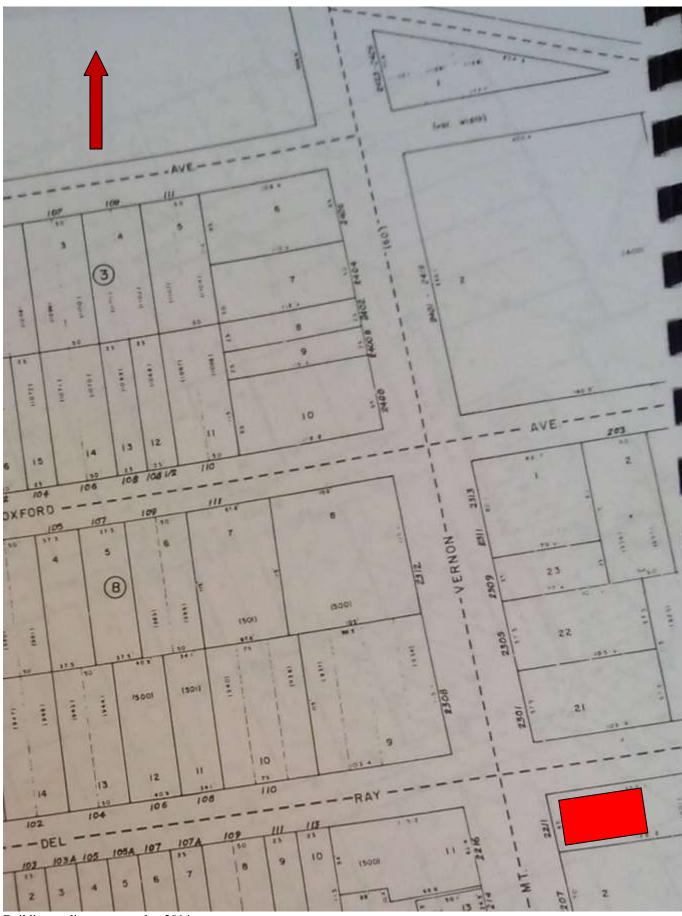
2.2213~Mt.~Vernon~Avenue.~Facade~(west)~elevation,~detail~entrance,~oblique~angle,~facing~SE.~Photograph~by~Gwen~White,~4/6/14.



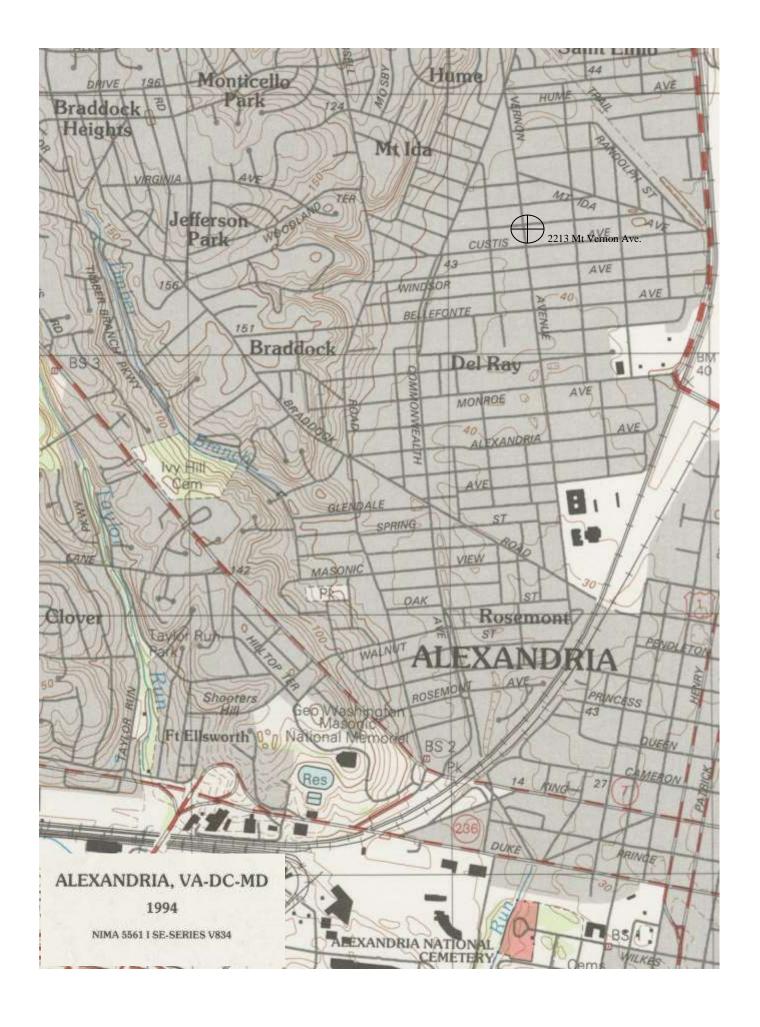
 $3.\ 2213\ Mt.\ Vernon\ Avenue.\ North\ elevation,\ oblique\ angle,\ facing\ SE.\ \ Photograph\ by\ Gwen\ White,\ 4/6/14.$



 $4.\ 2213\ Mt.\ Vernon\ Avenue.\ Facade\ and\ south\ elevation,\ oblique\ angle,\ facing\ 64^0\ NE.\ \ Photograph\ by\ Gwen\ White,\ 4/6/14.$



Building outline not to scale. 2014.



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http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1956%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker 1956 C.pdf

ⁱ New construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

ii New construction permit #2606 from 29 July 1940 for Peyton and Mt. Vernon avenues. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

iii Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records: record for 2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Account #13601500; Parcel Map 034.02.12-01.

iv See Susan Escherich, notes for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Town of Potomac Historic District, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks File No. 100-0136-0629, Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

^v Some of the architectural description was written with the aid of Paul Falkenbury, Richard Layman, Mike McGlynn, Bill Prestwood, and Laura Vining "Documentation of Mount Vernon Avenue, The Del Ray Community" Washington/ Alexandria Center, November 1990, page 21.

vi See new construction permit #2605 from 8 July 1940 for Part of lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Peyton Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

vii This date was derived from Escherich's notes compiled for the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, who noted that the "building permit issued in 1941." Unfortunately, this author has not been able yet to locate that permit to verify the date of construction or the architect/builder. See Susan Escherich, notes for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Town of Potomac Historic District, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks File No. 100-0136-0629, Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

viii Alteration/repair permit #30988, dated 16 August 1974. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

ix Susan Escherich, "Town of Potomac Historic District," National Register of Historic Places, 1992, page 2.

^x Susan Escherich, notes for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Town of Potomac Historic District, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks File No. 100-0136-0629, Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA. Escherich states that "Martha Manning" owned a portion of the lot in 1932, but chain of title search shows that Martin J. Manning bought that lot in 1929. See Arlington County Deed Book 304, page 561, 14 October 1929.

xi Arlington County Deed Book 129, page 514, 20 October 1926.

xii City of Alexandria Deed Book 160, page 487, 28 March 1940: Martin J. Manning, Grantor, to Clayton L. Bowman, Grantee. City of Alexandria Deed Book 161, page 513, 15 April 1940: Mallie B. and Ernest D. File, Grantor, to Clayton L. Bowman, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xiii Biographical information attained from U.S. censuses and records accessed from Ancestry.com

xiv City of Alexandria Deed Book 1165, page 1712, 6 December 1985: June M. Bowman, widow of C.L. Bowman, Sr., Grantor, to Clayton L. Bowman, Jr., Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.

xv Robert Fischman, "Interview with Robert and Antoinette Fischman," 1 November 2005. Conducted and transcribed by Barbara Murray in the Fischman's home in Alexandria, Virginia, for *Alexandria Legacies*, the City of Alexandria's Office of Historic Alexandria's Oral History Program, page 55. Accessed 3 May 2014 at

https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/history/OHAOralHistoryFischman.pdf

xvi Mary Sullivan, "Interview with John and Mary Sullivan," 6 September 2003. Conducted by Mary Baumann in Alexandria, Virginia, for *Alexandria Legacies*, the City of Alexandria's Office of Historic Alexandria's Oral History Program, page 18. Accessed 3 May 2014 at https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/history/OHAOralHistorySullivan.pdf xvii AIA, *1956 American Architects Directory*, First ed., R.R. Bowker LLC (publishers), December 1955, page 116. Accessed 24 June 2014 at:

xviii Escherich, "Town of Potomac Historic District," National Register of Historic Places, 1992, section 7: page 31.

xix Melina Bezirdjian and Lena Sweeten McDonald, *New Dominion Virginia Architecture Style* Guide, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (February 2014) p. 24. Accessed 5 May 2014 at

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/NewDominion/NewDominionVAStyleGuide MBversion.pdf

xx Lusk's Northern Virginia Real Estate Directory, 1955. Repository: Local History/ Special Collections Division, Barrett Branch, Alexandria Public Library.

xxi City of Alexandria Deed Book 1195, page 1289, 12 December 1986: Clayton L. and Leota F. Bowman, Grantors, to Airpac Systems of Virginia, Inc., Grantee. City of Alexandria Deed Book 1492, page860, 1 June 1994: Airpac Systems of Virginia Inc., Grantor, to Gary and Sarah P. Christian, Grantees. Alexandria Clerk of the Court - Court of Records.