

VLR-6/17/86 NRHP-11/6/86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic BAYNE-FOWLE HOUSE (DHL File No. 100-6)

and or common BAYNE-MOORE MOUROT HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 811 Prince Street N/A not for publication

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 510

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 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bernard J. Fensterwald and Patricia L. Fensterwald

street & number 811 Prince Street

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alexandria City Hall

street & number N/A

city, town Alexandria state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1. DHL File No. 100-6
 title 2. HABSI has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 1968
 date 2. 1959 federal state county local

depository for survey records 1. 221 Governor Street
 2. Library of Congress

city, town 1. Richmond
 2. Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bayne-Fowle House at 811 Prince Street, Alexandria, is a three-story Italianate town house built ca. 1854 for William Bayne. The house is characterized by its ashlar stone facade, side-hall plan, tall windows, and ornamental cornice. A notable feature of the dwelling is the first-floor suite of rooms richly ornamented with plaster cornices, ceiling medallions, and bold woodwork. Separating the double parlors is a remarkable pendant arcade decorated with cast-iron bosses. The building has been in use as a private residence since its construction. Minor alterations have not compromised its integrity as an antebellum town house. On the east side is a small formal garden which is overlooked by the conservatory and polygonal library, original wooden extensions on the house's east wall. The house is located on one of the best preserved blocks of 19th-century town houses in Old Town Alexandria.

Architectural Analysis

Exterior

The Bayne-Fowle House is a three-story masonry town house with a raised basement, a low-pitched gable roof, and a side-hall plan. The foundation and exterior walls are of brick; the facade (south elevation) has a coursed ashlar veneer of dark brown sandstone, currently painted. The facade is composed in three regular bays, with a primary entrance in the western (left) bay. The basement has a rusticated sandstone facing and two nine-light wooden sash windows. A stairway with seven sandstone steps rises from the street to the entrance. This stair has matching cast-iron balustrades and newels, with electric lampposts added to each newel. The entrance portal has a segmental arched head and elaborate sandstone side moldings, with an engaged colonette motif that is repeated elsewhere in the building. The doorway, recessed within the portal and transom.

To the right of the entrance on the first floor are two floor-length windows with stone balconies. The balconies are supported by console brackets, and feature iron railings. Exterior wooden shutters on these windows appear to be later additions; their operation is prevented by the iron balcony railings. The current shutters were rebuilt ca. 1975, although the shutter hardware appears to have been in place for many years. The windows each have heavy central mullions and paired one-over-four sash. Interior folding shutters on these windows appear to be original.

The second and third floors of the facade each have three symmetrical windows with segmental arched lintels. The windows have paired one-over-three wooden sash. Exterior shutters and shutter hardware have been added to all of these windows; interior folding shutters are in place and appear to be original. The sandstone facing, which has been painted, is not broken by quoins, belt courses, or other relief from the first to the third floor.

A projecting cornice crowns the facade. Four console brackets, connected by low-relief segmental arches, carry the cornice, which is composed of a soffit and corona, a fillet, and a cyma recta. A brick parapet with metal flashing is visible above and behind the cornice.

The left side (west) elevation is obscured by an adjacent building. It appears never to have been pierced with doors or windows. The upper reaches of this elevation, visible above the roof of the adjacent house, are unpainted brick in seven-course American bond.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1854 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bayne-Fowle House is a substantial masonry town house built in 1854 for William Bayne, an Alexandria commission merchant. The house is architecturally significant as a little altered example of a wealthy merchant's residence of the mid-19th century. It is one of the few buildings in Old Town Alexandria to employ a stone facade. Of particular interest is the richly appointed suite of reception rooms on the first floor, comprising one of the finest mid-Victorian interiors in the state, complete with elaborate plasterwork and an unusual pendant arcade. Although an architect for the building has not been identified, it is likely that the house was architect-designed. The house was occupied by Northern troops during the Civil War; after the war it was confiscated by the Federal government and converted to a military hospital.

Background Information

William Bayne, a commission merchant and grocer active in Alexandria from ca. 1840, bought the lot at 811 Prince Street in 1849. Tax records indicate that he had the house built in 1854. The property was sold to William H. Fowle, another commission merchant, in 1855, and Fowle lived in the house until the outbreak of the Civil War. Fowle was the son of a Massachusetts businessman, and he may have been associated with the abolitionist movement prior to the war, but his son, William H. Fowle, III, enlisted in the Confederate Army and served with some measure of distinction. The elder Fowle took refuge in Richmond. The Federal government occupied the Bayne-Fowle House in Alexandria during the war, and in 1864 confiscated the building for use as a military hospital.

Fowle sued for recovery of his property after the war, but died in 1869 prior to the successful conclusion of the suit. Fowle's estate sold the building to John Jordan Wheat in 1871. From that time to the present, the house has been in use as a private residence. Several owners were physicians, who maintained offices in the eastern extension of the house. Dr. Samuel B. Moore, who bought the house in 1906, maintained his office in the building until the 1940s.

Architecture

The Bayne-Fowle House is an excellent example of the exuberant urban residences built by the monied merchant classes in the mid-19th century. The fashionable Italianate design is striking in contrast with the refined Federal-era town houses that characterize much of Alexandria. The high quality of the design suggests the work of a professional architect, but no architect has yet been identified. It would seem likely that the house was designed by one of the many Washington, D. C. or Baltimore architects who employed the Italianate style in numerous instances in the capital city.

The facade follows the basic tenets of Italianate composition. The rusticated basement and tall proportions are integral to the style. The facade is presented as a homogenous surface, relieved by the boldly projecting staircase and balconies, and by the pronounced door and window openings. These openings have segmental arches and deep reveals. A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kaye, Ruth Lincoln. "The History of 811 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia. January, 1986. (Typewritten.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Alexandria, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 18 322040 4296840
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification VDB: Beginning at a point on the N side of Prince St., approx. 75' E of intersection with Alfred St.; thence extending approx. 100' E along N side of Prince St.; thence approx. 85' N; thence approx. 100' W; thence approx. 85' S to point of origin. JUSTIFICATION: The bounds have been drawn to include the house and lot upon which it stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A

code

county N/A

code

state N/A

code

county N/A

code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks

date 1986

street & number 221 Governor Street

telephone 804/786-3144

city or town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national

state

local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date September 30, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The right side (east elevation overlooks a small enclosed garden, the central element of which is a reproduction cast-iron fountain. A one-story frame extension with a brick pier foundation is located on this elevation. This extension includes the polygonal library and smaller rooms to the north and south. The polygonal bay has three exposed facets, and four round-headed windows with paneled bulkheads beneath. A bracketed wooden cornice circumscribes this polygonal extension. The smaller frame extension to the south, described as the conservatory, has a simpler cornice beneath that of the library. An arched doorway in this room opens to a brick porch with an iron railing. Windows in this room have six-light lower sash and eight-light, arched upper sash. The north room of the extension was reportedly built as a porch and enclosed by a later owner. It has composition and fenestration comparable to that of the south room, but with only one window in its three bays. The lateral bays are infilled with flushboard siding. Above the frame extension, the masonry wall of the east elevation rises to a parapet. Fenestration is irregular. There are two paired one-over-two sash windows and two single two-over-two sash windows on the second floor, all with exterior shutter hardware (but no shutters). The third floor has two paired one-over-two and one two-over-two windows, and the attic is lit by two paired one-over-one windows. The painted brick is laid in seven-course American bond. Three integral chimney stacks rise above the parapet; the central stack has been rebuilt in smaller scale. The roof is not visible.

The rear (north) elevation of the house is three bays wide, and features a small two-story masonry and frame addition on its right (west) side. Windows have paired one-over-four sash on the first floor, one-over-three on the second, and one-over-two on the third. A simple brick dentil course crowns this elevation. The addition, which dates from ca. 1900, has a painted brick lower level and an upper floor sheathed in weatherboard. A basement entrance is located in this wing. Also on the rear of the house is a frame hyphen providing sheltered connection to the 1922 brick garage building.

A brick wall, built ca. 1965, surrounds the garden to the east of the house. The garden itself was redesigned at that time.

The Bayne-Fowle House is located on a residential street in the Old Town section of Alexandria. Its immediate neighbors are three-story brick town houses dating from the late 18th century and from all periods of the 19th century.

Interior

The Bayne-Fowle House has a side-hall plan with the main hall on the west side. The primary entrance leads to a small vestibule with a second set of paired doors, opening into the first-floor stair hall. The hall has plaster walls and ceiling and wooden baseboards. The floor is covered with modern linoleum tiles. A simple plaster cornice ornaments the hall; an (electrified) crystal gasolier original to the house, is suspended from an elaborate plaster ceiling medallion at the front of the hall. The straight-run, open-stringer staircase rises from the hall to the second floor. The stair has a turned newel post, turned balusters, an elliptical-section handrail, and no respond. Jigsaw brackets ornament the spandrels. A door leading to the basement stair is at the rear of the main staircase. At the rear of the stair hall is a small bathroom and an elevator, which was installed ca. 1965. A doorway at the rear of the hall leads to the northern

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addition. In the rear of the hall is a tall pier mirror which originally was one of a pair that stood on either side of the double doorway in the northern parlor.

Three sets of paired doors lead from the hall into the twin parlors and the formal dining room. The parlors are roughly square, and are separated by a suspended overhead pendant arcade. An elegant plaster cornice with two tiers of running foliage patterns, deeply cast, ornaments each of the parlors. Eastlake-type iron gasoliers with two tiers of globes, dating from ca. 1867, are suspended from central ceiling medallions in each of the parlors. These fixtures have been electrified. Each of the parlors has a white, round-arch, carved marble mantelpiece opposite the hall doors. Woodwork in these rooms is composed of multiple milled elements; the engaged-colonette motif of the entrance portal is repeated in the door and window casings of the parlors. The floors are narrow oak, installed ca. 1925 over the original flooring; the walls are plastered and papered. The pendant arcade is composed of two semi-circular arches and a central semi-elliptical arch, with cast-iron console brackets and pendant bosses. The spandrels of the arches are outlined with recessed panels. The original silver-plate doorknobs of the parlors were replaced ca. 1960 with brass hardware.

The south windows of the front parlor retain their original folding interior shutters. The lower sash of these windows slide into pockets in the upper walls to allow access to the balconies of the facade. A pier mirror, said to be original, is located in between the southern windows. Window valences with mascaroon "keystones" are integrated with the pier mirror. A cast-iron radiator is adjacent to the mantelpiece in the front (southern) parlor.

Pocket doors lead from the northern parlor to the dining room at the north end of the building. This room has a third Eastlake-type gasolier. Its cornice, comparably elaborate, has a guilloche pattern in its upper tier. The mantelpiece in the dining room is of marbelized slate. A pier mirror, said to be original to the house, is located between the two windows on the dining room's north wall.

Paired doors with glass panels (currently painted) on either side of the northern parlor's fireplace lead to the polygonal room of the eastern frame extension of the building. This room, thought to have been used as a library originally, has an extension of a masonry wall that may have been a chimney breast. Wood-cased archways lead from the library to the front room, called the conservatory, and to the rear room, which has been fitted as a kitchen. The conservatory features scalloped wooden shelves, thought to be original, and interior louvered shutters shaped to fit the arched windows. The kitchen (which is said to have been a porch, originally) has modern fittings and appliances.

The second floor has a plan similar to the first floor. Three bedrooms correspond to the parlors and dining room. A small room at the south end of the hall has been fitted as a bathroom. The southernmost bedchamber has random width wood flooring, a simple plaster cornice, and plaster walls and ceiling. Interior folding shutters are intact on the south (facade) windows. A small marble mantelpiece is centered on the east wall. Frame closets have been added to the room. The doors and windows have crossetted casings. Ornate iron "Richmond" brand radiators are in this room and the other bedrooms.

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The second bedchamber on the second floor is comparable to the others except for the addition of mid-20th century wooden paneling, shelving, and cornices. Its marble mantelpiece is intact. The third bedroom has no cornice. Its mantelpiece is of slate. The second-floor windows on the north and east sides have no interior or exterior shutters, although exterior shutter hardware is in place.

The stair hall has a large bathroom added at its north end, adjacent to the elevator, and access to the two-story northern addition beyond. The stair to the third floor is staggered to the south.

The third floor contains three bedrooms, matching the plan of the second floor. The end three fireplaces have small marble mantelpieces. There are on cornices in the rooms. The small room at the south end of the hall has been adapted for a kitchenette, and a pantry has been built adjacent to it, encroaching on the stairwell balustrade. The stairwell is lit by an original oval skylight whose glass panels are painted yellow, red and gray with foliated ornaments. A narrow stairway at the north end of the hall rises to the attic; this stair climbs towards the south. It too is lit by a skylight, whose glass panes are painted with bird images.

The attic is largely unfinished. A portion of the roof over the rear skylight has been raised to allow for an attic fan. Penciled graffiti on the plastered wall in the attic may date from the Civil War period. The ceiling in the attic follows the slope of the low-pitched gable roof, whose ridge is parallel to the south facade.

The basement has exposed brick walls and ceiling joists, and a concrete floor. The floor joists throughout the house are packed with clay for insulation. The northern addition, which is fitted as a large kitchen, a dressing room, closets, and a laundry, includes some old materials, including mixed six-over-six and two-over-two sash which may be original to the wing; but the finishes all date from the middle 20th century. A stairway in this wing was built around 1965.

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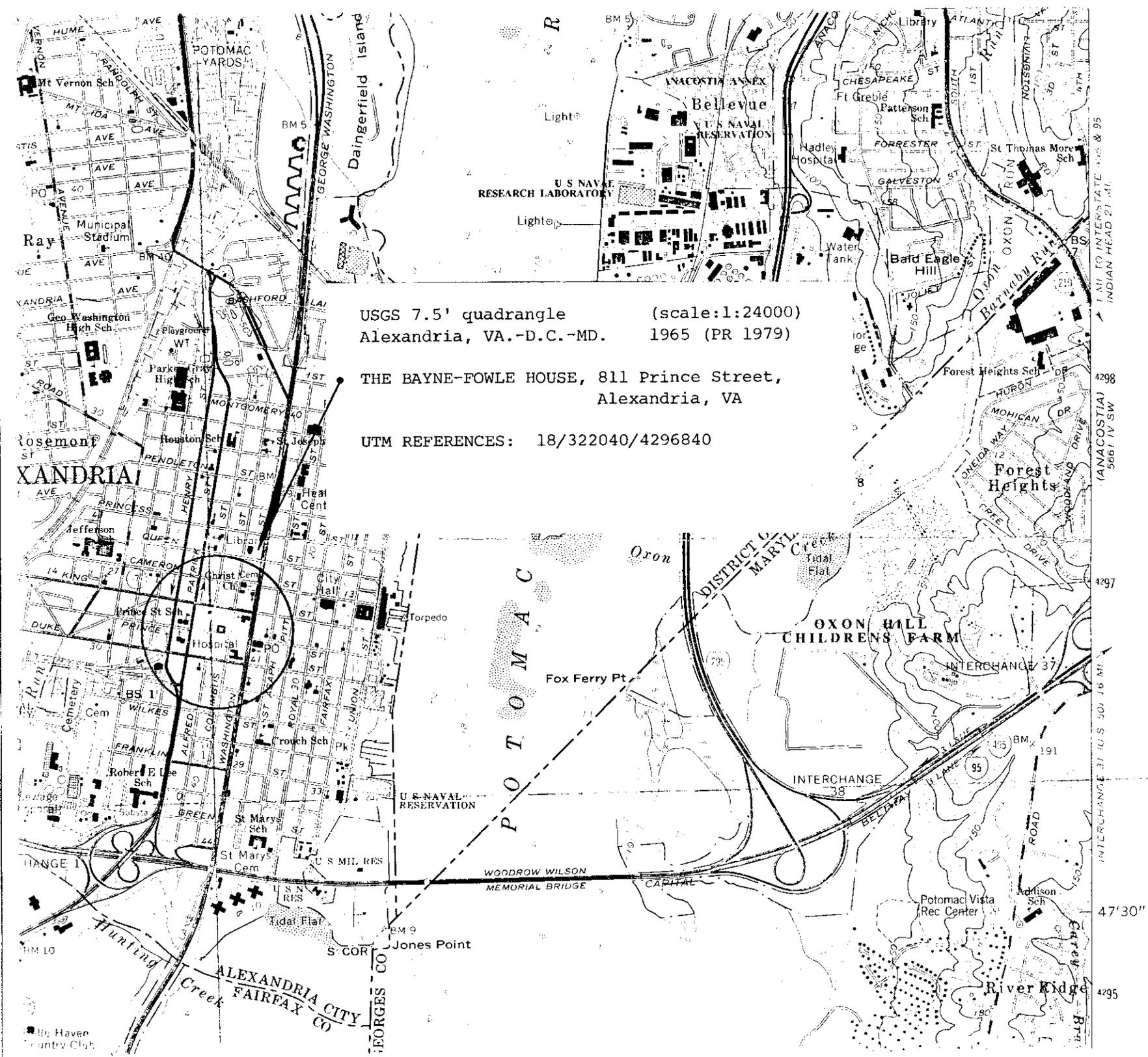
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projecting cornice, scaled to the full height of the building, is carried on heavy console brackets. The painted masonry surface and the added exterior shutters obscure something of the original intention, but the composition is otherwise intact.

The interior is comparably exuberant and aggressive. The plan is comparable to many earlier town houses, but its scale is greater. All elements of the interior are massive and richly detailed, in a mode far removed from the disciplined detailing of the city's Federal-period interiors. (Similar bold detailing was typical of most Victorian styles.) The twin parlors of the first floor are marvelous period documents, expansive spaces with features, finishes, and fixtures representative of the period. The parlors are composed of luxurious materials, including marble, gilded mirrors, and (originally), silver-plated hardware. The ornamentation, especially in the door and window casings, the baseboards, the cornices, and the ceiling medallions, is composed in multiple complex and ornate elements. The pendant arcade which separates the two parlors, a grand and rather useless feature, includes remarkable cast-iron console brackets and pendants. These parlors and the adjacent dining room, which has comparable detailing, are among the most notable interior domestic spaces of the era in Virginia.

The remainder of the interior is generally intact in plan and features. The several elements, including the staircases, the twin skylights, and the mantels, are intact, and are valuable as period documents, although their character is not so pronounced as in the first-floor parlors and dining room.

The Bayne-Fowle House is also important as a social statement; an expression by the rising merchant class of fashion-consciousness, of money, and of status. It is very much an act of conspicuous consumption.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Alexandria, VA.-D.C.-MD. 1965 (PR 1979)

THE BAYNE-FOWLE HOUSE, 811 Prince Street,
 Alexandria, VA

UTM REFERENCES: 18/322040/4296840

INTERCHANGE 31 U.S. 501 TO MI.
 INTERSTATE 495 & 95
 INDIAN HEAD ST. (ANACOSTIA)
 5661 IV SW
 4298
 4297
 47'30"
 4295