

## Tyson Manor House historically significant

To The Editor:

We read in last week's Bulletin that Cheltenham is preserving the Rowland House as a home of historical significance. This home was supposedly built in 1774. It has additions dating from 1810 and 1820. The Rowland House is associated with a shovel and spade manufacturing works.

We, in Abington, are trying to save the Tyson Manor House and the grounds surrounding it. We believe this home is as significant as the Rowland House. We feel that it is worthy of placement on the National Register of Historic Houses. However, very few people are aware of its history.

Reyner Tyson was one of the 13 original immigrants who settled Germantown in 1682. He moved to Abington Township in the early 1700's. One of his sons, Abraham, born in 1694, purchased the ground on which the Tyson House now sits. Abraham's tombstone is the oldest marked grave in Abington Friends Cemetery.

**ABRAHAM SENIOR** married Mary Hallowell in 1721 and a dwelling was constructed on this homestead which bordered on York Road stretching to Easton Road and south to Susquehanna Road.

Abraham was one of nine children. As they grew older, his brothers and sisters bought adjacent farm lands. Roslyn is built largely on Tyson land, as is much of Glenside.

The Tysons were involved in farming and the mining of limestone which they burned in kilns to produce lime. The lime burned on Tyson lands was used in the construction of Independence Hall. Robert Camburn, in "The Story of Roslyn" states that the operation of the Tyson kilns was the earliest industry in Abington Township.

**REYNER TYSON'S** homestead in Roslyn became a convalescent home

from 1947 to 1962. In 1964 the building was razed. Reyner Tyson and his descendants constitute a pioneer family of Abington, whose members live here today.

A ninth generation Tyson is interested in preserving the Abraham Tyson Manor House which borders on Highland Ave., Keith Road, and Wheat-sheaf Lane. This Tyson lady has made an offer toward the preservation of this home with its 250 year history. Matching funds would be needed to save this home. There are several sources available at the state and national level. Our Abington Township needs to explore these methods of funding.

**IF CHELTENHAM** has the foresight to preserve the Wall House and the Rowland House — why not Abington?

Contact your local commissioner. Preserve our past for future generations.

Carole McGlumphy  
Shirley Neff  
Abington

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