

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.

B3667

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Urath P. Johnson House (Hoe's Heights)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 4302 Dewey Avenue  not for publicationcity, town Baltimore  vicinity of                      congressional district                     state Maryland county Baltimore City

## 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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Urathe P. Johnsonstreet & number 4302 Dewey telephone no.:                     city, town Baltimore, Maryland 21211 state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records Room liber                     street & number District Courthouse folio                     city, town Baltimore, Maryland state                     

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title                     date                       federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records                     city, town                      state

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

B3667 4302 Dewey Ave. Hoe's Heights Urath Johnson 1910

*covered on*  
 The Johnson House is a moderate sized dwelling that is two stories high and finished with wood shingles. It has a gable roof and small porch ~~gracing~~ the front entrance. The house is located in the historically black community of Hoe's Heights. Grandison Hoes was a black man who received title to the area from his parents who were slaves. The land was originally owned by David Carroll of the Mt. Vernon Cotton Mills that were located in the valley.

Hoes Heights is a small community in the northwest section of Greater Homewood located on a high point of ground adjacent to the historic city water tower. It is bounded by Cold Spring Lane, Evans Chapel Road, 41st Street, and Hickory Avenue. The space between the houses and their alignment to the street is not systematically ordered although the lots are organized in a somewhat formal grid system. Hoes Heights is what used to be the highest point of land in the estate of David Carroll. The ground rises 360 feet above sea level, affording a good view down into the Jones Fall Valley and south along the Falls Turnpike. This house is bounded by Dewey Ave to the east, Providence Rd. on the south, Ralls Rd to the west and Roland Heights Ave on the north.

The first storey front elevation ~~exhibits~~ <sup>has</sup> fenestration which is not symmetrically located on the facade. A modernized, small rectangular light has been placed on the north west corner of the facade and another window is located on the opposite side of the door. A hipped roof is supported by Doric columns <sup>ed porch</sup> over the porch which is three bays wide. The windows on the second storey are placed close together, making the house appear disproportionately wide given the pitch of the gable and length of the eaves. A small three light vent has been located ~~in the~~ <sup>below</sup> ~~span~~ of the gable. The house is finished with wood shingles and white trim. <sup>roof</sup>

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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		

Specific dates 1910 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.



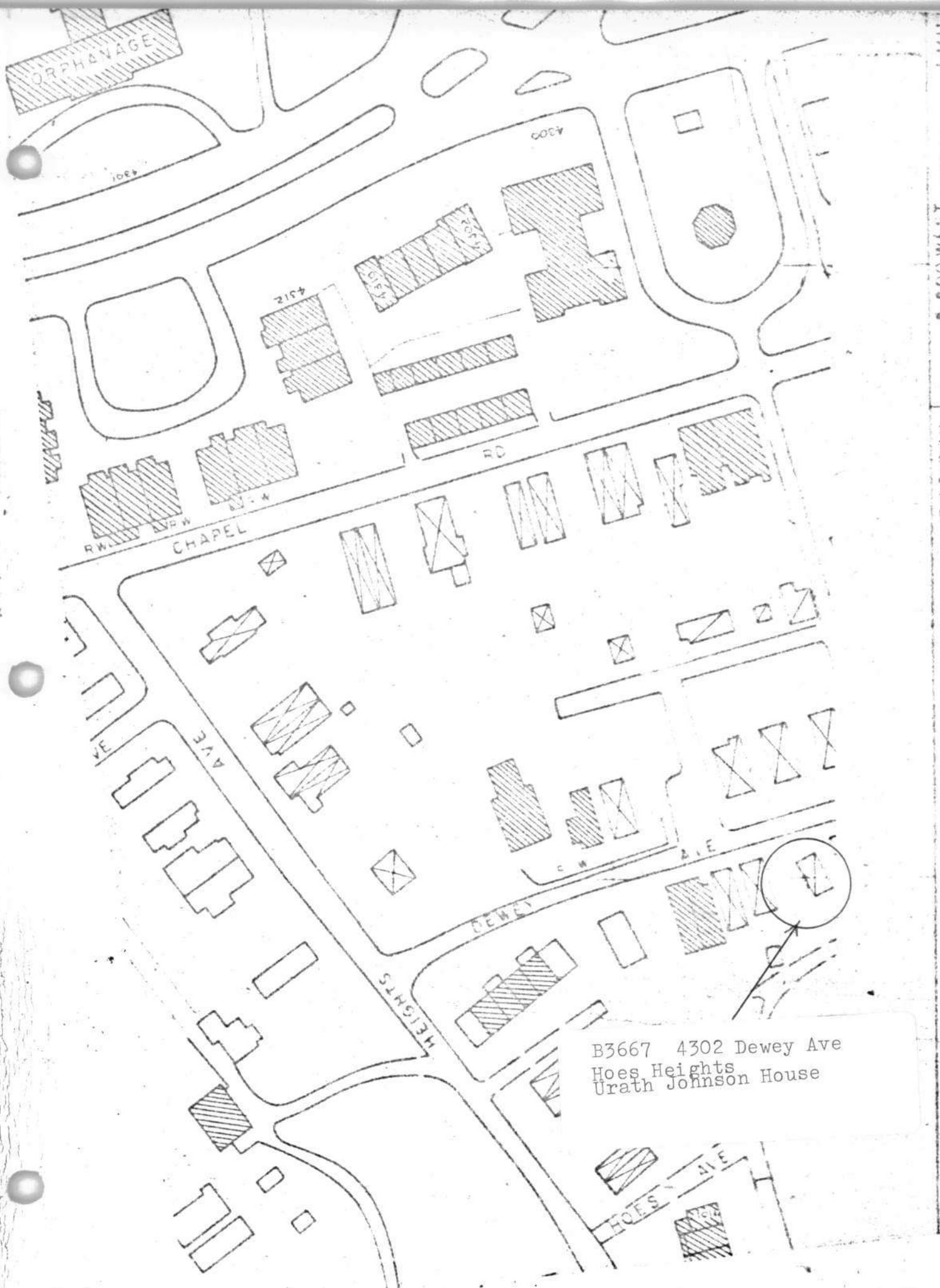
## 8. Statement of Significance

It is not uncommon for groups of people who share ethnic identities to form urban or rural settlements where the architecture, folklore, and other aspects of material culture were actively pursued and transmitted within the community. In spite of the peculiar aspects of the black American's trek from slavery to freedom, black people also responded to the struggle for existence by forming communities and settlements consciously. What is needed is an evaluation of what is known about sites that are significantly related to black history. This evaluation requires expanding upon the historic sites inventory which is currently available and providing documentation of spatial relationships, functional characteristics, structural requirements, and modifications. Ideally, the findings here would be most significant where we identify spaces that were occupied by slaves, free blacks, influential black leaders, professionals, working class, and poor blacks within a relevant comparative framework.

The black town was formally conceived as a community following Emancipation and dotted the American landscape from 1870 through the 1930's. These were usually formal communities located along an urban access route. The urban enclave, on the other hand, is a black settlement which typically categorizes the early communities that are historically black in urbanized areas. It is probably the most pervasive form of community in cities and its remnants are extant throughout the United States. Usually, a patriarchal community was formed around a colored school or church, and houses were built by the families who purchased lots from the patriarch. As cities grew, these communities became annexed by the city and formed the basic black district in the older areas. The grid plan is the form determinant although a spatial analysis of the relationship between spaces and nodal axis points which qualify spatial hierarchies is desperately needed.

Hoes Heights was formerly a part of the estate of David Carroll. Mr. Carroll founded the Mt. Vernon Cotton Mills in the valley and amassed a substantial fortune as the original mill building, built in 1847, was expanded to an operation of five buildings. What is now Hoes Heights was named after the black man who once owned the land on Providence Street and the surrounding area. It is uncertain how Grandison Hoes acquired the land. There is a suspicion that his foreparents, being slaves, were given it upon their freedom and that Grandison Hoes came to possess the land later during the late 1800's. Hoes' children were all given a piece of land on which they built some of the houses that still stand on Providence Street and Dewey Avenue.

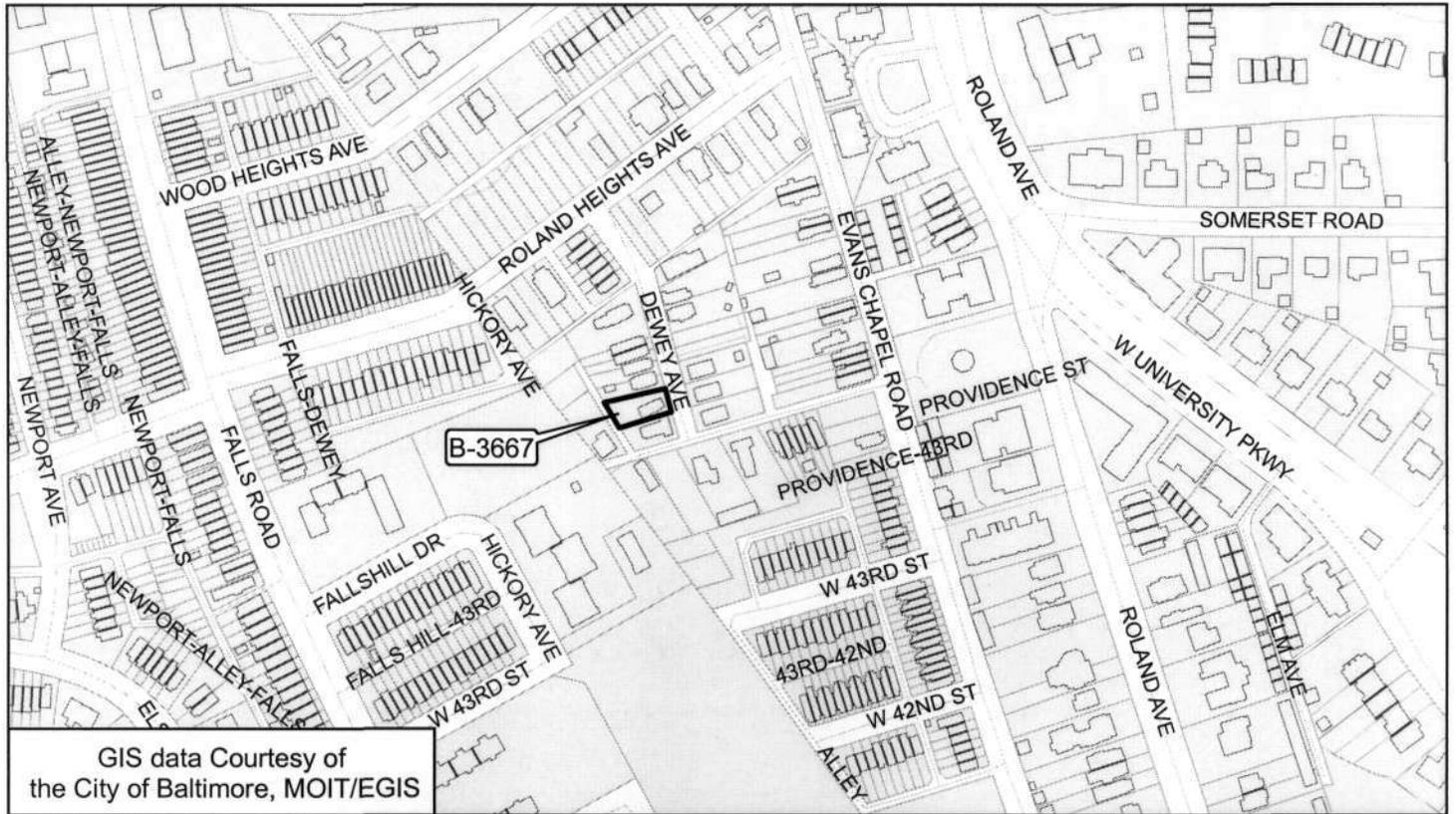
Hoes Heights has a predominantly black residential population but the surrounding areas of Roland Park to the east, Medfield to the west and Hampden to the south, have mainly white populations. A modified grid plan was developed by the community although this system may have been a response to a conception of formality rather than a consciously designed program. Our problem is to determine what relationship the various patterns of settlement formation in black communities had to conceptions of space, time, and good design when these elements were in control of the builder. We need to support the preservation of these districts in order to contribute to urban design theory a knowledge of the ways in which race, class, and space are integrally related.



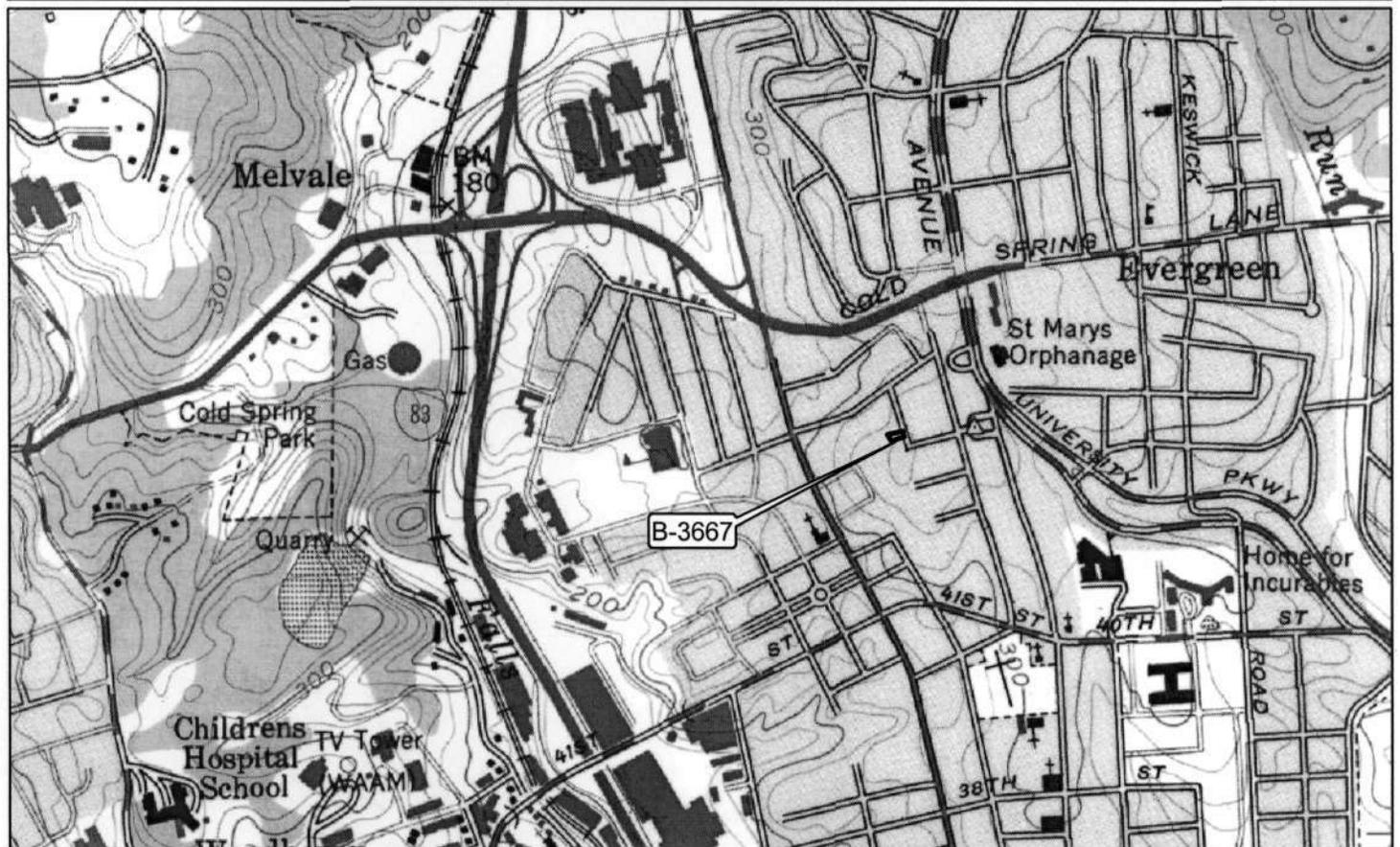
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B3667 4302 Dewey Ave  
Hoes Heights  
Urath Johnson House

B-3667  
Urath P. Johnson House  
4302 Dewey Avenue  
Block 4917 Lot 045  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore County  
Baltimore West Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B 3667

B3667 4302 Dewey Ave.  
Hoes Heights  
General View  
Fern Eisner, photo 6/82