

CLVT- 1 1/2 10
GROSS-JOHNSON HOUSE
Port Republic
Private

2nd quarter 19th century

This house began its history as a 1 1/2-story log slave house. Similar in plan to many Calvert County folk houses, it has the front entrance in the center bay of the gable end, oriented toward the road. The interior originally consisted of two rooms, "one up and one down." Over the years succeeding generations of the Johnson family have modified the house in a medley of styles, and it and the surrounding acreage remain in their possession.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE GROSS JOHNSON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Hance Rd., 0.5 mile west of Jct. of Hance Rd. and Broome's Island Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Mutual

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

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	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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Albert Johnson

Telephone #: 301-586-0123

STREET & NUMBER

Box 42 Hance Road

CITY, TOWN

Port Republic

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

Liber #: AWR 1

Folio #: 369

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Additions to the original log block of this house have been built, destroyed, and replaced, and today they almost encase the old section, but it remains the core.

The house stands at the end of a long dirt drive that passes ^{through} abandoned fields that the present owner and occupant, Albert Johnson, once farmed as did his ancestors. The gable end faces the dirt drive and constitutes the front of the house, an orientation frequently found in small farm houses in Calvert County. Today this facade is sheltered by a screen porch built by Johnson, but an earlier photograph of the 1930's in his possession shows his parents (Edward Gross and Eliza Johnson) seated in front of the house which at that time had no porch, ^{N/Y} one bay (the door), and exposed log walls. Copies of that photograph were taken as a part of this survey.

The original log block stood one and a half stories and consisted of one room downstairs and another upstairs. In the S.W. corner of the downstairs a narrow dog-leg boxed stairway enclosed by a door ascended the southern wall. A small closet was built under the stairs, a feature commonly found in houses cramped for storage space. A door now leads through the western wall to the storage rooms added by Mr. Johnson; this may have been a small window originally. In the eastern wall a doorway leads into the rooms of the frame additions. In the center of the northern gable end is a large, stone fireplace that was once used for cooking. It is now boarded over and a wood stove installed. Since county housing codes have prohibited, according to the Johnsons, the installation of electricity in this sagging old house, the wood stove continues to be used for cooking and to heat the house.

The upstairs room was unheated and had one 2 x 2 light, double hung sash window in the southern gable end that probably replaced a wooden shutter. The roofing rafters and doorway made by the additions of Johnson's father remain. The original upstairs had no ceiling, and the rafters were sawn, half-lapped and pegged at the peak.

According to Johnson, his father, Edward Gro^s moved into this house about 55 years ago, when it was a part of the Dorsey Plantation where he worked as a sharecropper. Soon afterwards, Gro^s doubled the size of the 2 room house by building a log 1 and a half story addition whose axis was perpendicular to the eastern side of the original block. It consisted of one room downstairs and another ^{up} upstairs, both connected to the adjacent rooms of the original block by doorways. When Hurricane Hazel of recent fame cut her swath through Maryland, she demolished this log addition. Johnson then replaced it with 1 story frame wing which consisted of a "sitting room" adjacent to the main block, a large bedroom, and at the ^a farthest end, a smaller bedroom. The upstairs was not used. At the same time Johnson built more additions to the west side of the house, thus closing from view the original house except at its back length.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

Black, Social Histories

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log house is the only one that remains of the three that once stood in this vicinity on the Dorsey plantation. According to Albert Johnson, these houses were all considered to be quite old by everyone on the plantation in the early 1900's when he was young, and they were probably slave hosues.

According to Johnson, his father had been raised on the Dorsey Plantation and soon after World War I moved into this house. In the 1930's his father, mother and their children moved out of this house and into the Dorsey's large, antebellum home on the south side of Hance Rd., a short distance away. Here they lived along with their son Albert Johnson, his wife and children. In 1944 Marion Dorsey Ross deeded to Edward Gross the 36 acres on which this house stood, and the Grosses returned to their log house, and the plantation house was once more occupied by the Dorseys. In 1956 Albert Johnson inherited this house from his father, Edwin Gross, and has lived here since, having raised six children in this house.

The design, construction, and traditions conveyed by persons whose ancestry is rooted in this plantation indicate as conclusively as possible in the absence of written or structural evidence that this log house began its history as a slave house. Two succeeding generations in the 20th century have modified and enlarged it in response to family needs for space and desires for style within the limits of their financial capability. Throughout they have used familiar designs and construction materials which were familiar, inexpensive, and readily available. The result is a house that began simply, that has never been built "to square", and that from its builders has acquired the distinctive characteristics of an individual.

According to the Johnns, the costs of repairing this house to satisfy the county codes for the installation of electricity would be almost as much as the down payment on another home. Thus, this house may be replaced by a "Jim Walters home", as the Mr. and Mrs. Johnson both desire to live in a house with electricity before they die.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

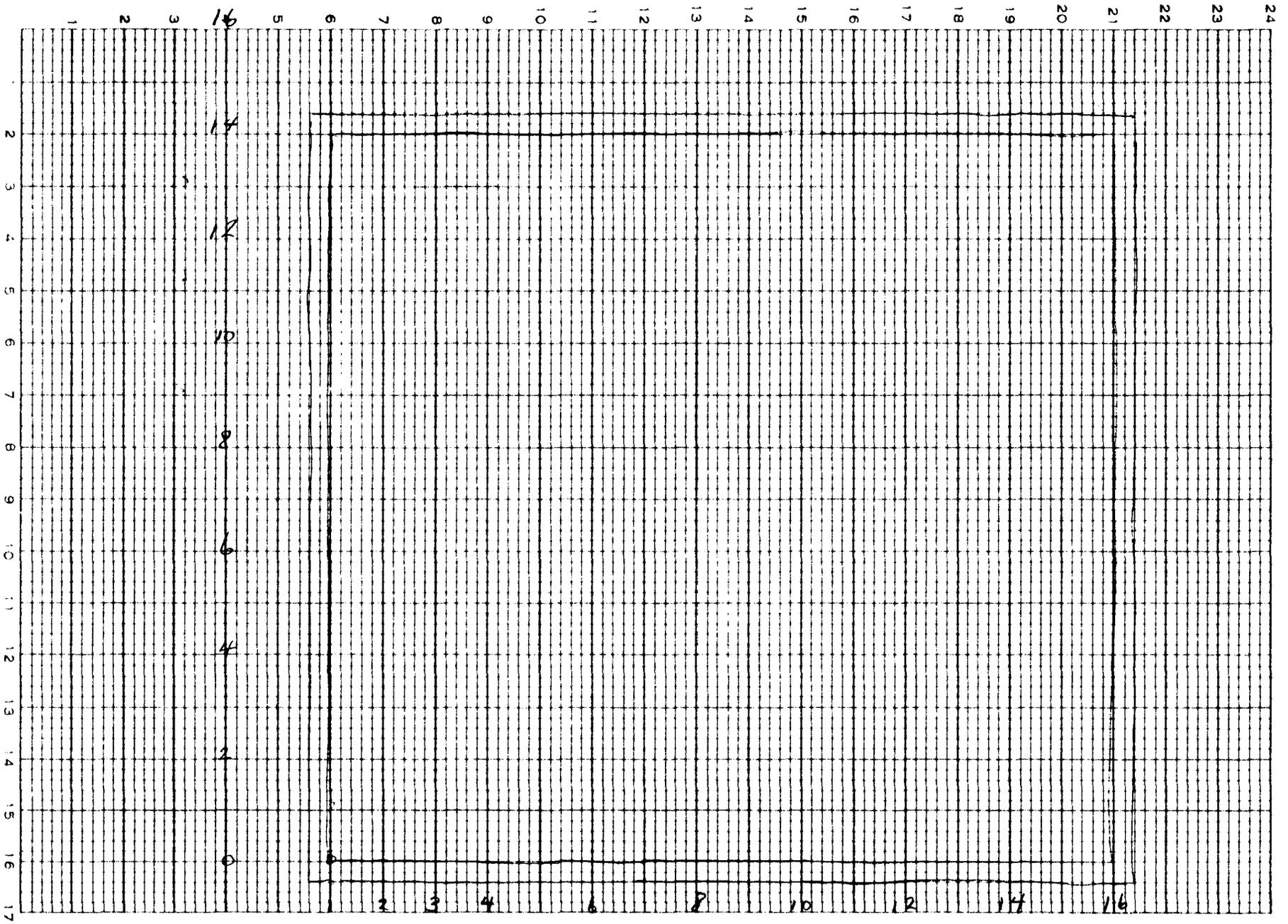
STATE

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

ALBERT JOHNSON



27-110



Johnston House
CLY 7-110

Facade

S. E. 1/4

Port Republic, Md.

CREDIT TO
GEORGE W. MCDANIEL



CREDIT TO
GEORGE W. M. DANIEL





11/11/11

From before a long time
~~the~~
 in front of the house
 as a of the house
 Top of the house

From the house
 a house

11-11-11
 11-11-11