

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FILE # 835

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON Johnson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Box 182A 1/2 mile north of Pilottown crossroads-right side of the road
CITY, TOWN Conowingo VICINITY OF
STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
-DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK
-STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
-SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
-OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
NO MILITARY OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Roscoe Johnson Telephone #: 378-3825
STREET & NUMBER Box 182 A
CITY, TOWN Conowingo VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21918

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court Liber #: WAS 166 Folio #: 223
STREET & NUMBER Cecil County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnson House is located just north of the Pilot^{town} crossroads. The houses faces west with the main gable running north/south.

The turn-of-the-century 2¹/₂ story L shaped structure is 4 bays in length and one room deep. It rests on an uncoursed fieldstone foundation. The frame structure has a fairly steep roof with brick interior end chimneys. The roof is covered with a composition tile. As the L addition is on the southeastern side of the building and is two bays in length, a much later single story shed roof structure was added to the inside section of the L plan. The house has been sheathed with aluminum siding, however, the original trim was retained. The sashes are 1/1 and the surrounds are very plain with the lintel having a very shallow pediment. One of the main doors has its c. 1880-1900 heavily molded panel door with the arched top panels. A single story front porch is found around the west and north sides of the main part of the house. It retains its chamfered supports and corner brackets. Another exterior ornamentation is a rectangular bay window on the south end. It is 2 storys high with a flat roof and small cornice supported by brackets.

The interior was not seen but assumed typical of late 19th century detailing. A central stair does rise between the two rooms on either side of the stair.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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/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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although this house does not appear on the 1877 Atlas it does reflect the late 19th Century and the era of development of Pilot Town. Relatively few houses were built in the area after 1900 and it wasn't until the 1960's that people built new homes. There has been a much longer tradition of buying existing property and remodeling the standing structures.

This house retains much of its late 19th Century decoration and offers more 19th Century flavor than most of the town's buildings since it has not been altered that much.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

7/25/78

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

308-7568

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

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

Pilot Town

CE- 840, 842, 843, 844, 845 (log house), 846, 847 (school no. 3), 848, 849 (store),
850, 851, 852, 853 (Johnson Victorian), 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860,
861, 862, 863.

Pilot Town owes its existence to two primary reasons. The first is the 19th Century mining activity in the area and the second is the shift of the Susquehanna crossing from the Bald Friar ferry to the town of Conowingo. The road from Pennsylvania to the Bald Friar ferry passed west of the present Pilot Town crossroads. It is obvious that this route predated any other southerly route in the vicinity especially since the earlier farms and houses are oriented to it. St. Patrick's Church (CE-834), Pembroke Farm (CE-836), Moore-Love log house (CE-845), and the Fulton-Alexander House (CE-841) all date from before the mid 19th Century and stand near or next to the earlier route. Due to the treacherous descent to the ferry and easier access at Conowingo a covered bridge was built across the Susquehanna at Conowingo, which eclipsed activity at Bald Friar. With the construction of a bridge at Conowingo a more direct southerly route from Pennsylvania was needed, which necessitated an easterly shift in travel. It amounted to a difference of a few hundred yards but was enough to form an intersection with the east/west Mount Pleasant road. Continued interest in the mining of feldspar, soapstone, and gravel in the mid 19th Century brought more development and change. Pilot Town was a definite result of these two factors and the mid to late 19th Century housing that exists today is ample evidence for this occurrence. Pilot Town supported a local market till the early 20th Century (CE-849) and its own school (CE-847) till about the same time.

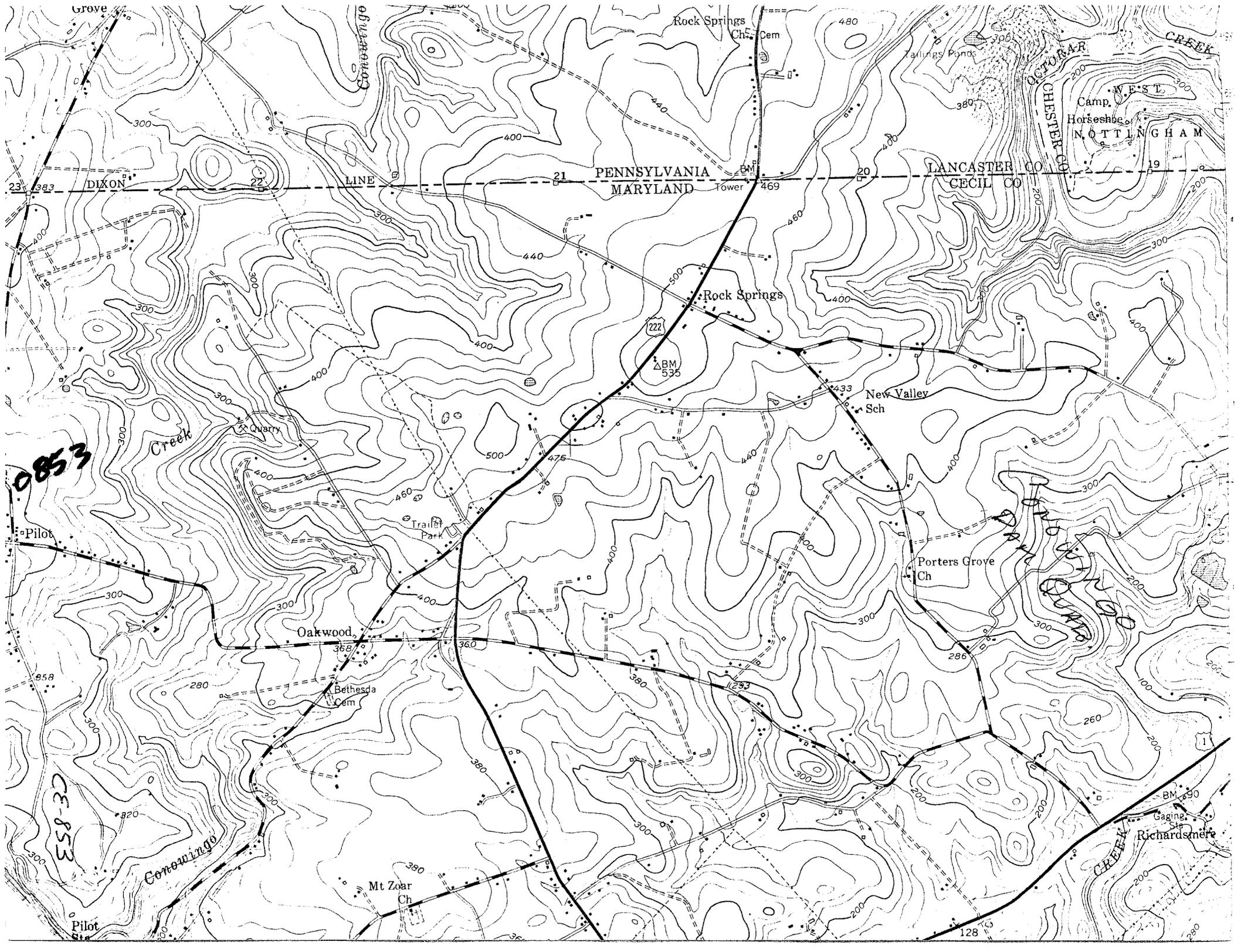
The houses that make up Pilot Town are traditional two^{story} frame structures that one sees throughout Cecil County. (see CE-840, CE-842, CE-844, CE-846,

Pilot Town

2

CE-848, CE-851, CE-852, CE-853, CE-854, CE-855, CE-856, CE-857, CE-858,
CE-859, CE-860, CE-861, CE-862, CE-863) The structures are basically

plain straightforward buildings that are typical houses for workers in
a mining area. This is not to say that the previous agricultural life of
area was replaced by the mines. The farming community continued as it had
since the late 18th Century but now alongside mining operations that brought
Irish immigrants in the early 19th Century.



Rock Springs Ch

Cem

480

Tailings Ponds

CHESTER CO

W.E.S.L.
Camp
Horseshoe
N. OTTLINGHAM

CREEK

DIXON

LINE

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

LANCASTER CO
CECIL CO

19

Rock Springs

BM
535

New Valley
Sch

0853

Creek

Pilot

Trailer
Park

Porters Grove
Ch

Oakwood

Bethesda
Cem

ES8-30

Chesapeake

Mt Zoar
Ch

CHESTER CO

Richardson

Pilot

BM
590

Gaging
Sta

128



CE-853

JOHNSON HOUSE
WEST ELEVATION
NR

PILOT TOWN, MD.

PBT 6/78

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



JOHNSON HOUSE

CE-853

EAST ELEVATION

NR

PILOTTOWN, MD.

PBT 6/78

NE G. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE-853

JOHNSON HOUSE

WEST PORCH DETAIL

NR

PILOT TOWN, MD.

PBT 6/18

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST