

M: 26/16/15

Clarence W. Johnson House

403 North Van Buren Street, Rockville

Private

Built: 1937

The Johnson House was built by William H. Procton, Sr., a neighboring property owner, who rented it to Clarence Johnson. The Johnsons have been the only residents of this small dwelling, adding a room and other improvements as well as developing fine flower and vegetable gardens. The property retains its meat house and water pump.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

 NR eligible:  yes  no  
 Contrib. element in H.D. 

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Clarence W. Johnson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

 street & number 403 North Van Buren Street  not for publication

 city, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 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	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Clarence and Grace Johnson

street &amp; number 403 North Van Buren Street telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 967

street &amp; number folio 334

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

 date Historic Sites Inventory 1976  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Derwood state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. M;26/16/15

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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.

This 1937 house is typical of small one-story two or three room houses built as summer cottages and small dwelling houses in the early to mid-20th century in a semi-rural setting on a large lot. It has been modified by a one-room addition on the east facade, the addition of indoor water and sanitary facilities, front and rear porch improvements and asbestos brick patterned shingle cladding. It has a garage, a small frame meat house, vegetable garden and well-developed landscaping.

The subject house faces west on a lot fronting unpaved North Van Buren Street which provides access to North Street to the south. An alley right of way from Martin's Lane to the north provides automobile access to the garage at the northeast corner of the lot. The lot is surrounded by chain link fence with a gate at the front walk. The grounds are lawn with perimeter plantings of peonies, shrubs, and perennials.

This 1-1/2 story rectangular three-bay by two-bay house has central doors front and rear covered by wide porches. There is a central plain brick chimney on the composition-shingled side-gabled roof. The exterior is clad with buff asphalt brick shingles. The windows are 6/6 with plain surrounds and aluminum storm windows. The foundation is beveled block.

The three-bay west (front) facade has one window in the north bay, one in the south bay, and a central wood exterior door, paneled with a large (2/3 height) single glass light. The wide front-gabled portico is supported by square corner posts and rests on a concrete stoop accessed by one concrete step.

The two-bay north facade has a small four-light window in the attic gable and a window in the east and west bays. There are two basement windows in the foundation.

The four-bay east (rear) facade has a window in each of the two south bays and in the north bay. There is an exterior door in the north central bay sheltered by a wide shed-roofed portico supported by wooden corner posts. The porch deck and two steps are wood.

Continued on Attachment 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/16/15

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

Specific dates	1937	Builder/Architect	NA
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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.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson house is a vernacular dwelling constructed in 1937 in the black community known as "Haiti". It is located on land once part of the vast estate of Upton Beall and his daughter Margaret.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2  
 ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2

### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Margaret J. Beall, daughter of the second Clerk of the Circuit Court, sold parcels from the northern portion of her land holdings in Rockville to former slaves and black servants between the years 1871 and 1901. William H. Procton, Sr., a teacher at the Rockville and later Scotland Colored Elementary Schools, purchased a quarter-acre lot fronting on Martin's Lane from Margaret Beall, on which he constructed a family home before 1899. 1/

To the south and west of this house the Proctons owned other land, which changed hands from William H. Procton, Sr., to William H., Jr., and his wife Dorothy A. Procton in 1925, the year before William Sr. died. 2/

William H. Procton, Jr., had a local seasonal business, selling ice in the summer and coal in the winter. Later he went to work at the National Institutes of Health. In 1937, he had the subject house

Continued on Attachment 8.1



Architectural Description (continued):  
403 North Van Buren - Johnson House

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The three-bay south facade has a four-light sash in the attic gable and one window in the west bay. The two east bays are occupied by a two-bay shed-roofed addition on a plain cinder block foundation. The addition has two evenly spaced windows on the south facade and one window on the east (rear) facade. There are two basement windows in the foundation.

Outbuildings:

Meat House: East of the house is a small shed-roofed outbuilding with flush mounted vertical siding and a battened door on the north side. The structure is about eight feet tall and five feet wide, tall enough for a person to enter and turn around. Adjacent to the outbuilding is a cast iron water pump.

Garage: A one-bay garage of recent construction is in the southeast corner of the property opening north to an alley graveled with crushed rock to Martin's Lane. It is built of cinder block with a composition-shingled front-gabled roof. The gable is clad with asphalt brick shingle siding to match the house.

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued):  
403 North Van Buren Street

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built as an investment, and rented it to Clarence W. Johnson. Mr. Johnson, a friend of Mr. Procton who originally came from Sugarland in upper Montgomery County, lived in Rockville. 3/

Clarence and Grace Johnson have been the only occupants of this house; they purchased the property in 1945. Since then the house was clad in asbestos brick-patterned shingles and a one-room addition was built on the east facade. The front and rear porches have been enlarged and rebuilt and a cinderblock garage with asbestos brick shingles has been constructed east of the house. There is a small meat house in the rear yard now used by Mr. Johnson for yard equipment. The well-tended landscaping features a central lawn, a perimeter border of spring flowering bulbs, perennials, and shrubs.

Footnotes:

1. MHT Inventory Form # M: 26/16/6, 10 Martin's Lane
2. Montgomery County Land Records 378/56, April 29, 1925.
3. Interviews with Annie Procton Rhodes and Clarence W. Johnson, 1988.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):  
403 North Van Buren Street  
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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

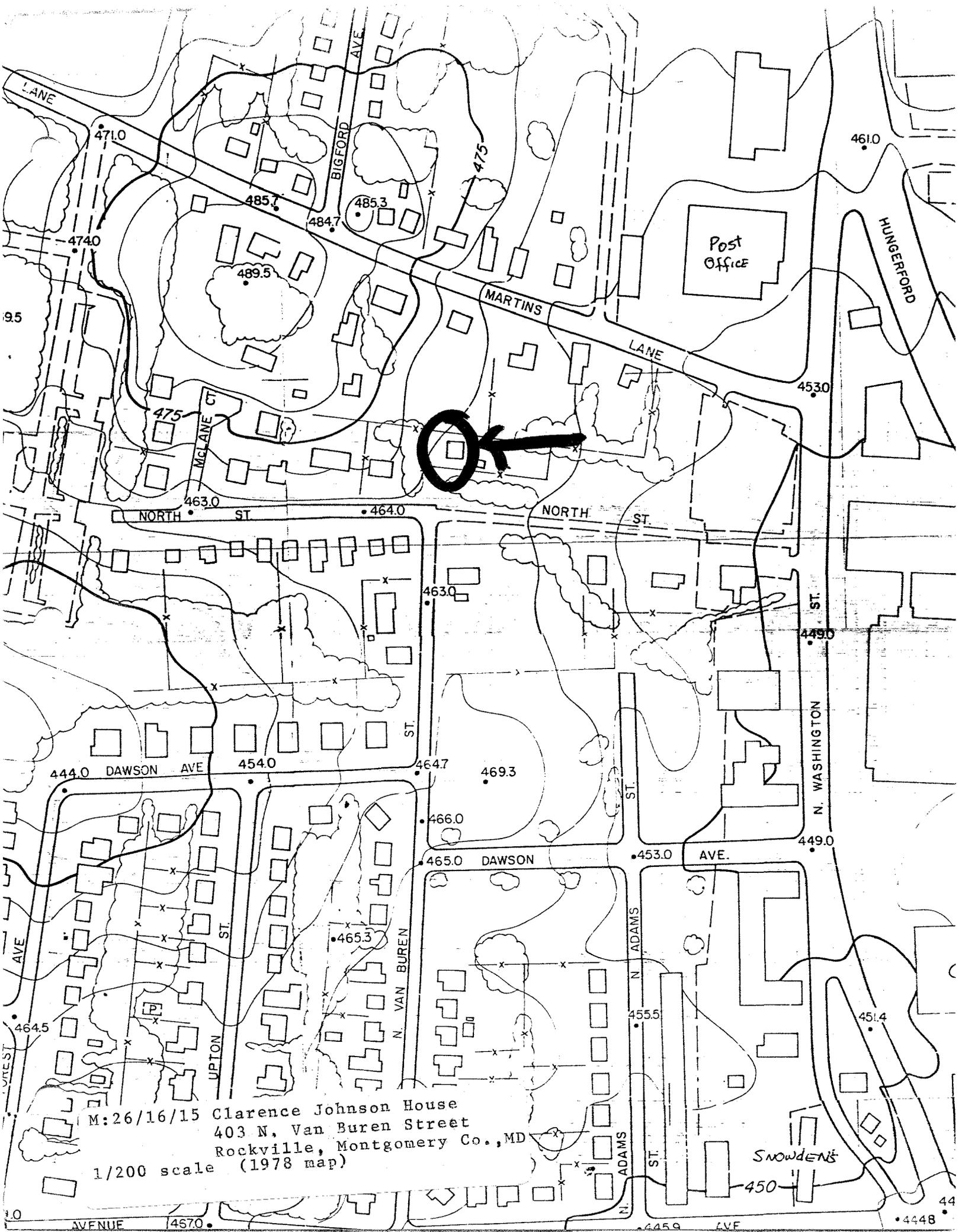
Pre-Historical :Settlement/Political  
Historical: Architecture/ Landscape Architecture/ Community  
Planning; Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building  
Setting: Urban  
Historic Function(s) or Use(s): Domestic/Single Family/Residence  
Known Design Source: None

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, Rockville
2. Chronological Period(s):  
Maturation and Expansion of the County Seat A.D.1873-1931  
County Seat to Satellite City: A.D. 1931-present
3. Historic Context Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
Community Planning (Black History); Social/Educational/Cultural
4. Resource Type:  
Category : Building  
Setting: Urban  
Historic Function(s) or Use: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence  
Known Design Source: None



M:26/16/15 Clarence Johnson House  
 403 N. Van Buren Street  
 Rockville, Montgomery Co., MD  
 1/200 scale (1978 map)

Post Office

SNOWDEN'S



Clarence Johnson House

M: 26/16/15

403 N VAN BUREN

Rockville, Md 20850

J Christensen

5/88