

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-32 Building Date: 1911

Building Name: John S. Johnson House

Location: 612 60th Place, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The John S. Johnson House is a two-and-one-half-story crossgable frame dwelling distinguished by its decorative Victorian wraparound porch, and its setting on a partially wooded corner lot. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay principal (south)east gable front; the entrance is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch which wraps around to shelter part of the south elevation. The porch has turned posts with decorative jigsaw brackets, and rests on concrete piers with lattice infill. A crossgable wing extends to the north, inset from the main gable front. The house has German siding painted white; all trim, including the porch details, window surrounds and returned cornices, is painted gray. The house rests on a brick foundation painted gray.

Significance:

The John S. Johnson House is a good example of the crossgable house form popular in the early years of this century. It was built in 1911 for John S. Johnson, who had settled before 1910 in Fairmount Heights, and rented a house three blocks to the north of the subject house. In 1908, Johnson, who worked as a Pullman porter, purchased from developer Allen C. Clark two unimproved lots on Addison Avenue, and in 1911 had this handsome house constructed. Johnson later became the first president of the united citizens' associations of Fairmount Heights. His house is typical of the late Victorian dwellings of crossgable plan which were popular during this period, and it remains a handsome and noticeable landmark in the Fairmount Heights community today.

Acreage: 5,750 square feet

Survey No. PG#72-9-32

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John S. Johnson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 612 60th Place  not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights  vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Gregory Robinson

street & number 612 60th Place telephone no.:

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 7459

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 663

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<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.

The John S. Johnson House stands at 612 60th Place (originally Addison Avenue). It was built in 1911 on lots 14/15, Block M of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a two-and-one-half-story crossgable frame dwelling distinguished by its decorative Victorian wraparound porch, and its setting on a partially wooded corner lot. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay principal (south)east gable front; the entrance is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch which wraps around to shelter part of the south elevation. The porch has turned posts with decorative jigsawn brackets, and rests on concrete piers with lattice infill. A crossgable wing extends to the north, inset from the main gable front. The house has German siding painted white; all trim, including the porch details, window surrounds and returned cornices, is painted gray. The house rests on a brick foundation painted gray.

# 8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect

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.

The John S. Johnson House is a good example of the crossgable house form popular in the early years of this century. It was built in 1911 on a lot in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The Town of Fairmount Heights is located just outside the easternmost point of the District of Columbia in Prince George's County, Maryland; it is composed of a group of early twentieth-century subdivisions that form one of the earliest planned communities for blacks in the Washington, D. C., area. The community began with the Fairmount Heights subdivision in 1900, followed by five adjoining subdivisions, the last being Sylvan Vista platted in 1923. The Town was incorporated in 1935, and grew steadily through the years before World War II.

The land which was to become Fairmount Heights consisted, during the late nineteenth century, principally of parts of the small farms of John H. Wilson, John and Caroline Silence, Samuel Hoover, Mosby Brown and John Wiessner, all clustered around the east corner of the District of Columbia. In the early years of the twentieth century, these farms were bought up and subdivided by land speculators, who then began to sell individual lots to black families, most of whom worked in the District of Columbia.

The first section of Fairmount Heights was subdivided in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark (both white men) out of parts of several small farms which they had purchased from the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. Robinson White was a lawyer and developer who resided in the District of Columbia; Allen C. Clark was a lawyer and manager of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C. White and Clark had approximately fifty acres surveyed by

County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer, and laid out in lots and streets radiating from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia. The deep, narrow lots were generally 25 by 125 feet; two of the streets were named for these first two developers. Sale of lots began almost immediately, and within a few years, dwellings were constructed and a community began to form.

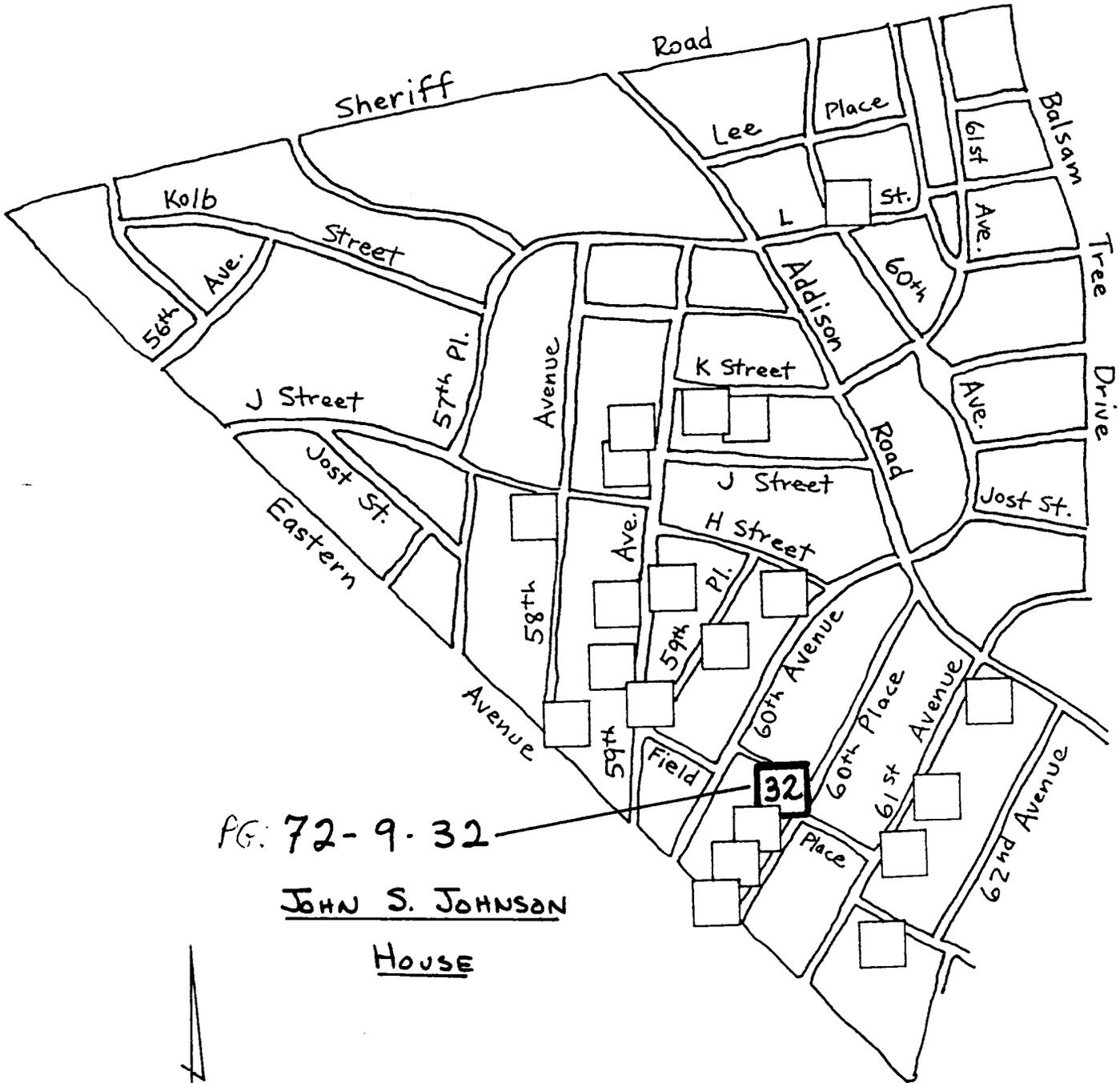
From the beginning, blacks were encouraged to buy lots and settle in the new community. White and Clark sold the lots at relatively low prices, making home ownership finally attainable for black families. Most of the earliest purchasers of lots worked for government agencies; many built their own houses, or relied on friends and family to help with construction. Many families were quick to seize the opportunity to move out of the city, determined to progress, by hard work and amid healthful surroundings, toward a better life.

The earliest dwellings were of frame construction, modest in size and form, and many of these have not survived. Within a few years, however, several interesting and substantial houses were constructed for individuals who would make significant contributions to the development of Fairmount Heights.

The Johnson house was built in 1911 for John S. Johnson, who had settled before 1910 in Fairmount Heights, and rented a house three blocks to the north of the subject house. In 1908, Johnson, who worked as a Pullman porter, purchased from developer Allen C. Clark two unimproved lots on Addison Avenue, and in 1911 had this handsome house constructed. Johnson later became the first president of the united citizens' associations of Fairmount Heights. His house is typical of the late Victorian dwellings of crossgable plan which were popular during this period, and it remains a handsome and noticeable landmark in the Fairmount Heights community today.



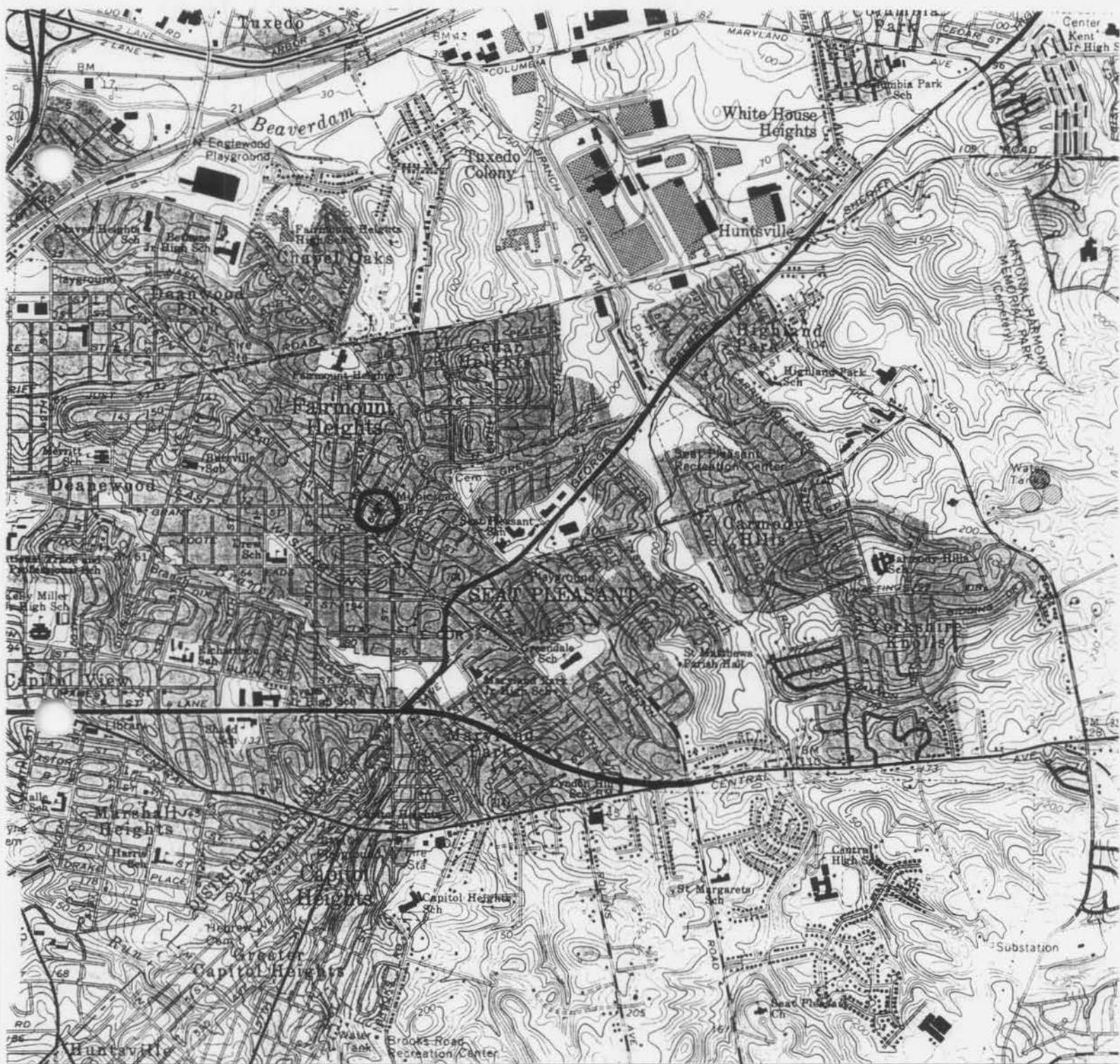
# Town of Fairmount Heights



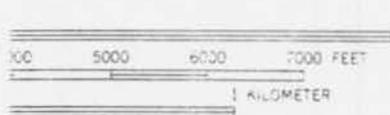
PG: 72-9-32

JOHN S. JOHNSON  
HOUSE





DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI 55' 334 335000m E INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C. - 1971 76°



PG: 72-9-32  
**72-9-32**

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

○ Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Road

1 FEET  
ELEVATION IS MEAN LOW WATER  
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
ATEL 10 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WASHINGTON EAST, MD. - D. C.  
N3852.5 - W7652.5/7.5

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
VBOLETS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5661 IV NW-SERIES V833



John L. Johnson House

612 60<sup>th</sup> Place, Fairmont  
Heights  
(FH 7:14/15)

Prince George's Co. MD.

Jessie St. Poel

February 1991

Southeast facade

79:1117