

S-477
John H. Tull House
Freemantown
Private

c. 1913

Named for the earliest known owner of this two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling, the John H. Tull house stands in the center of the historic black community known as Freemantown. Located east of the City of Crisfield, the village evidently developed during the years preceding the Civil War. Although no extant structures are known to predate the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, there is a distinct grouping of houses built between 1880 and 1930, years that are coincidental with the height of the oyster industry in the region.

The John H. Tull house was apparently assembled around 1913 following the subdivision of a small plot of ground bordering what is now called "Freedomtown" Road. On July 28, 1913, Frederick E. Gardener and his wife, Phoebe, sold "Lot No. 4" to John H. Tull for \$200. The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house, with its two-over-two sash windows and corbelled cap brick stove chimney, is reasonably dated to the years following this transfer. John H. Tull retained ownership of the house and lot until June 1940 when he transferred the title to children. Elsie Tull Turner resided in the house until the early 1990s.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-477

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Survey No. S-477

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3530 Freedomtown Road not for publication

city, town Crisfield vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

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

name Sohronia Collins, Iva Sterling, Jacob Tull, Gladys Tull

street & number 1532 Lester Court telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 132

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 513

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-477

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 of move _____
<input checked="" 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 H. Tull house is located at 3530 Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1913, the two-story, two-bay single-pile house is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with a layer of asbestos shingles that cover plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story service wing.

The east (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance flanked by a two-over-two sash window. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash windows that are in alignment with the first floor openings. The base of the roof is finished with boxed cornice. Rising through the roof is an off-center single-flue brick stove chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The south gable end is marked by a single two-over-two sash window on each floor and the eave of the roof is extended slightly beyond the plane of the wall.

The north gable end is similarly treated, although the first floor wall surface is uninterrupted since the stair is located against it. The second floor is marked by a single two-over-two sash window.

The west (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by a single-story, two-room plan kitchen wing served by a central stuccoed brick chimney.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-477

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 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

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.

Named for the earliest known owner of this two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling, the John H. Tull house stands in the center of the historic black community known as Freemantown. Located east of the City of Crisfield, the village evidently developed during the years preceding the Civil War. Although no extant structures are known to predate the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, there is a distinct grouping of houses built between 1880 and 1930, years that are coincidental with the height of the oyster industry in the region.

The John H. Tull house was apparently assembled around 1913 following the subdivision of a small plot of ground bordering what is now called "Freedomtown" Road. On July 28, 1913, Frederick E. Gardener and his wife, Phoebe, sold "Lot No. 4" to John H. Tull for \$200. (Somerset County Land Record, SFD 63/345) The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house, with its two-over-two sash windows and corbelled cap brick stove chimney, is reasonably dated to the years following this transfer. John H. Tull retained ownership of the house and lot until June 1940 when he transferred the title to children. (Somerset County Land Record, 132/513) Elsie Tull Turner resided in the house until the early 1990s.

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JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

3530 Freedomtown Road

Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland

Chain of title

132/513

John H. Tull

to

6/28/1940

Elsie L. Tull
Sophronia Collins
Iva Sterling
Jacob Tull

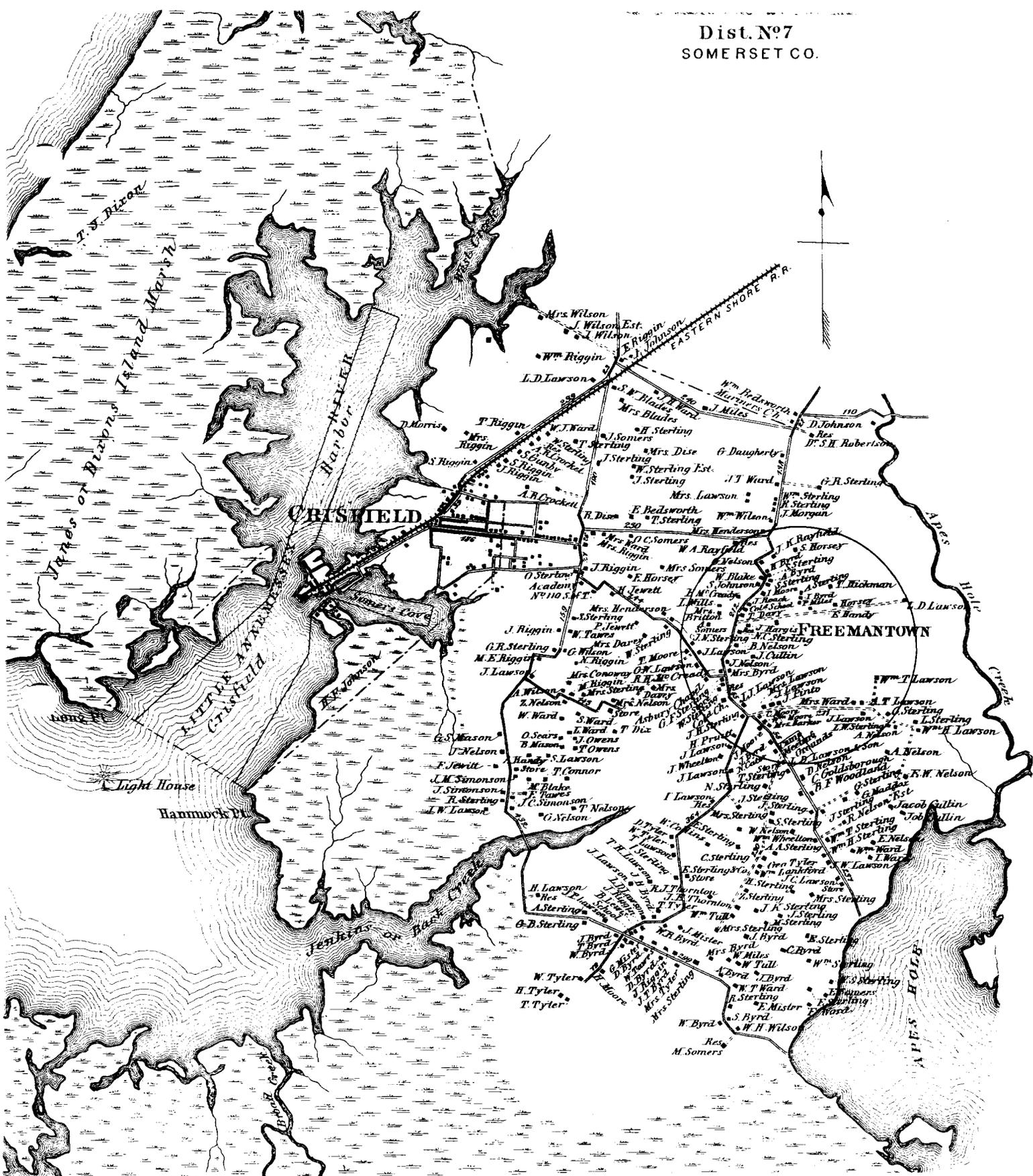
SFD 63/345

Frederick E. Gardener
Phoebe P. Gardener

to

7/28/1913

John H. Tull
\$200.00 Lot No. 4



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JOHN H. TULL HOUSE.
Freemantown, Crisfield vicinity
Somerset County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



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John H. Tull House

CRICKFIELD VICINITY, SUMMERS CO., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWART, PITUTOKUWA ROAD

NEQ / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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