



William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers  
Secretary, DHCD

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Walter Johnson House Survey Number: BA-1017

Property Address: 406 Fairmount Avenue, Towson, MD

Project: CDBG Rehabilitation Agency: Baltimore County

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

District Name: East Towson Historic District Survey Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Listed  Eligible  Nomination prepared + approved by GCC 10/21/71 Comment  
but never submitted to NR?

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

The resource  contributes/ \_\_\_\_\_ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

Location  Design  Setting \_\_\_\_\_ Materials

Workmanship  Feeling  Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The East Towson Historic District was developed from the mid 19th century through the early 20th century by blacks around property acquired by free blacks manumitted by Captain Ridgely. It embodies the architectural and society of a community developed for and by blacks. Many of the houses were built by builders from the community. They are vernacular interpretations of popular styles and are sited on large lots.

The two-story frame house at 406 Fairmount Avenue was constructed c. 1915 in the last burst of growth in the community. The house was built by Willie Johnson for Walter Johnson. Willie + Ben Johnson built many houses in the community around the turn of the century. The Johnson family was significant in the early settlement and development of the community, though altered, 406 Fairmount still conveys the local builder's interpretation of the stylistic eccentricities of the Queen Anne style.

Documentation on the property is presented in: M.I. Form # BA 1017 and vertical file on E. Towson

Prepared by: Marcus Pollock / Merry Stinson

Elizabeth Hannold Date: 4/24/91  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Reviewer, NR program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**I. Geographic Region:**

- Eastern Shore
  - Western Shore
  - Piedmont
  - Western Maryland
- (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
 (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
 (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
 (Alleghany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic )

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic - Single dwelling

Known Design Source: NA/NA Willie Johnson

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

THE WALTER JOHNSON HOUSE

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

406 Fairmount Ave.

second

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

**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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Walter A. Johnson

Telephone #: 296-2607

STREET & NUMBER

406 Fairmount Ave

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 5145:581

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1017 - 406 Fairmount

c. 1905 - 1915

D.

The basic structure of this two-story frame house, a two bay deep by three bay wide frame building, is crossed on the street facade by a gable extending from the main roof to the eaves of a one story-porch. This cross-gable extends slightly from the house to enclose a small balcony.

D

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# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## 406 Fairmount

This house shows a local builder's interpretation of some of the stylish eccentricities of the Queen Anne style. The main house is actually a 2-story rectangle with a gable roof running north-south. A perpendicular gable protrudes from this block, running from the peak to the floor level of the second story. In the center, a small porch is partly inset under a pointed arch, and partly protrudes over the hipped first floor roof. Its forward edge is balustraded while its sides are boxed. French doors set with diamond shaped panes of glass lead onto the porch from the second floor. The first-story porch is semi-enclosed below turned posts.

The north and south sides of the house are each lit by one 2/2 window on the first floor, and two on the second floor. A two-story shed-roofed addition covers the east side of the house. The two rooms in this section are followed by a porch on the southeast.

A central door on the main facade has one window to either side. It enters the main room, which has a stair turning in the southeast corner. This stair has a large turned newel post and turned balusters. The northeast corner of this room features a fireplace whose mantel is supported by finely styled brackets. A smaller room is to the north. Circles corner blocks embellish the flat board architraves.

This house rests on a stone foundation and is covered with brown asphalt imitating brick.

# 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 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 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

The Walter Johnson house, built around 1915, is one of many houses built by the Johnson's (Willie & Ben Johnson) around the turn of the century. The Johnson's, who were among the original settlers of E. Towson, played a significant role in the development of some of the social institutions in E. Towson - particularly the Relief Association, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Columbus.

The Walter Johnson house, built around 1915, is another example of the influence of the Johnson family in E. Towson. This house, built by Willie Johnson, is one of many located in the E. Towson community.

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  
Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION  
Committee to Save E. Towson. Towson Ymca DATE 623-8870

STREET & NUMBER  
600 W. Chesapeake Ave. TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN  
Towson Md. 21204 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



BA-1017

Johnson House

406 Fairmount Ave.

Towson, Md.

west

Merry Stinson

1977