

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FILE # 855

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
STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
District PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
Building(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, LIBER #: WAS 166
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court FOLIO #: 223
STREET & NUMBER Cecil County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
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~~own~~ crossroads. The houses faces west with the main gable running north/south.

The turn-of-the-century 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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



## 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.

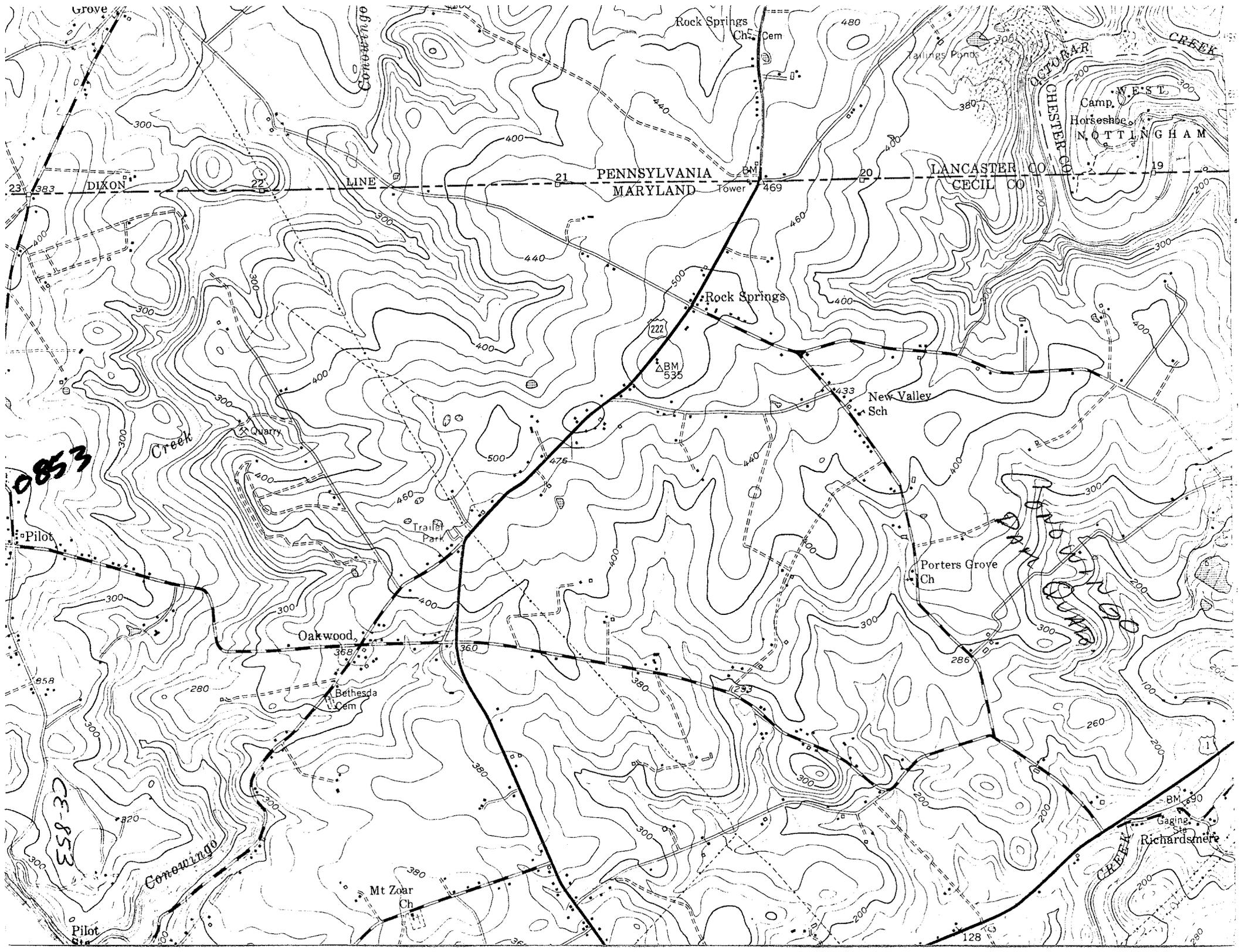
The houses that make up Pilot Town are traditional two<sup>story</sup> frame structures that one sees throughout Cecil County. (see CE-840, CE-842, CE-844, CE-846,

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.



0853

CE 858-3

DUNN

DIXON

Pilot

Conowingo

Creek

Oakwood

Bethesda  
Cem

Mt Zoar  
Ch

Trail  
Park

Quarry

Rock Springs  
Ch

Rock Springs

New Valley  
Sch

Porters Grove  
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Camp  
Horseshoe  
NOTTINGHAM

Richardson's  
Gaging  
Sta

CREEK

CREEK

PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

LANCASTER CO  
CECIL CO

CHESTER CO

LINE

21

20

19

Power

222

BM  
535

433

476

293

288

128

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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 6/98

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST