Survey No. G-I-B-002

Magi No. 1200025504

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 40, .2 mile west of Pocahontas Road ___ not for publication

city, town Frostburg X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Garrett

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X 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
	___ not applicable	X no	___ military	X other: Tenand House

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

name Ralph Race

street & number P.O. Box 6 telephone no.:

city, town Frostburg Maryland state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse liber #: 207

street & number folio #: 149

city, town Oakland state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.G-I-B-002

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Johnson Farm is located in the north side of Old Route 40 ¼ mile west of Pocahontas Road and approximately three miles west of Frostburg in Garrett County.

The house on the Johnson Farm, dating to circa 1872-76, is sited approximately 100 yards to the north of the road and is built into a moderate slope. The house is of frame construction on a full stone cellar. The original section consists of a 1½ story L plan house that is five bays wide and two rooms deep with board-and-batten siding and a mansard roof. An original rear wing projects from the west end of the rear facade. An enclosed porch and addition to the rear of the house forms an L to the east of the rear wing. Other significant buildings associated with the house include a two story frame tenant house, a one story frame building probably used as a tenant house, a large turn-of-the-century bank barn and a small 20th century barn.

The front facade of the house faces south to the road. It is five bays wide, with the entrance door in the center bay of the first floor flanked by two large 2/2 windows on each side that extend down almost to floor level. There are five 2/2 pitched roof dormer windows ranged across the mansard roof. A pair of four-light cellar windows with vertical iron bars pierce the coursed limestone foundation. The first story is sheathed with vertical board siding and wide, molded battens secured with machine nails. The windows are set in simple molded frames. The front entrance is fitted with a pair of doors with etched glass panels above the lock rail and mo panels below. A crude exterior vestibule has been added to reduce heat loss in winter.

The second story dormer windows are trimmed with complex crown mold and scrolled brackets. A box cornice with crown mold and bed mold is carried across the curb eave of the mansard roof, which is covered with wood shingles.

A one story porch stretches across the first story of this facade, partially concealing the bracketed cornice of the main house. It rests on brick piers, with the hipped roof supported by chamfered square posts. The porch is elaborately embellished with a sawn splat baluster railing, bracketed posts and cornice, and sawn trim applied to the fascia and the soffit of the cornice.

The east gable facade is four bays long, with four 2/2 windows in simple molded frames on the first story and four 2/2 pitched roof dormer windows ranged across the mansard roof. There is a large cellar entrance at the south end of the limestone foundation wall and two blocked cellar windows to the north. The coursed stone foundation, vertical board-and-batten siding, bracketed cornice, shingle roof and decorative dormers all match the front facade.

The rear facade of the main house is almost entirely concealed by the original rear wing and the later addition.

The west wall of the house and the west wall of the rear wing are continuous. There are four 2/2 windows on the first story of the main house on this facade,

8. Significance

Survey No. G-I-B-002

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c.1860-c.1875 **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 Johnson Farm is significant because of its historical association with the Johnson family and due to the architectural integrity of the main house on the property. This house is believed to date to circa 1872-76 and is one of the finest rural Victorian houses in Garrett County. The mansard roof, elaborate Victorian trim and vertical board-and-batten siding are all relatively common features of post-Civil War architecture, but are rarely found in this particular combination of plan, form and scale. The story-and-a-half house is laid out in a full Georgian plan with an original rear kitchen wing forming an L to the rear. The richly detailed exterior woodwork and more restrained interior trim all survives intact. Particular details of interest include the handsome Victorian stair, painted and grained interior shutters, and the unusual carbide gas lamp fixtures that are presumed to be unique in Maryland to the Coal Region.

The land on which the house stands is known historically as the Johnson Farm. Through the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, the land was owned by the Johnson family. The early land tax records of Allegany County (Garrett County was formed from Allegany County in 1872) indicate that Thomas Johnson and his heirs had large land holdings in the northeastern region of present-day Garrett County. The land was purchased by the Race family in the mid-twentieth century. Today the Race farm consists of about 300 acres of land.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. G-I-B-002

Allegany County Land and Tax Records, Cumberland, Md.
Garrett County Land Records, Oakland, Md.
Interview with Richard Johnson, Frostburg, Md., 7 March, 1974.
Genealogical research by Mrs. Lewis R. Jones, Oakland, Md.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architecutral Description: Orlando Ridout V, 1982.
Historical Research: Ronald L. Andrews, 1974.

organization MHT/Maryland Bureau of Mines **date**

street & number 21 State Circle **telephone**

city or town Annapolis **state** Maryland

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

four 2/2 pitched roof dormer windows on the second story and two cellar windows in the foundation. There is no seam between the main house and the wing in the siding, cornice or foundation, but the fenestration pattern reflects the separation of these two sections. There are only two 2/2 windows on the first story and two 2/2 dormers on the second story of the wing and these are offset to the north or rear, leaving a blank section of wall surface at the south end of the wing, adjacent to the main house. The foundation, siding, cornice, roof and details all match the front facade.

There are no openings on either story on the north or rear gable wall of the wing. All of the details match the front facade of the house.

The east facade of the wing is now concealed by the enclosed porch. There is a door in the center bay with a single 2/2 window on either side. One 2/2 pitched roof dormer remains on the second story. One detail of particular interest is the carbide gas lamp still in place to the right of the first story door. This lamp is virtually identical to the typical gas fixture of the period and was operated by carbide stored in a tank, presumably in the cellar. Some of the piping and two other fixtures survive inside.

The interior is laid out in a typical Georgian plan with a center stair passage flanked by two rooms on each side. The door at the rear or north end of the passage opens onto the enclosed rear porch, while a door in the rear wall of the northwest room opens into the rear kitchen wing.

The stair rises against the west wall of the passage to an intermediate landing at the rear, then turns 180 degrees and rises to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with a massive turned walnut newel post, molded walnut rail and turned walnut balusters. The stair treads and risers are accented with a band of plain trim and the lower edge of the carriage piece is molded. Victorian four-panel doors with transoms above open into the four rooms flanking the passage. Each first floor room is heated by a stove chimney projecting from the hall partition wall; there is no evidence of larger chimneys. The trim throughout the first floor includes large molded baseboards and architrave trim with a bold Victorian ogee backband. The windows are fitted with paneled interior shutters. The door and shutter hinges and the shutter catches are Eastlake, the door locks are internal with white porcelin knobs. An original door with transom joins the two west rooms; a later door opening has been cut in between the two east rooms.

The rear wing consists of a large kitchen on the first floor with an enclosed winder stair in the southwest corner; a small pantry is built in to the southeast corner. The room is finished with plaster above a high chair rail and vertical beaded wainscoting below. An original four-door cupboard

is built in to the northwest corner of the room to the left of the stove flue. A door in the north end of the east wall opens into a larger pantry at the north end of the enclosed porch.

The second floor is similar to the first floor in plan except that there are three rooms to the west of the passage instead of two. The smallest of these three rooms, in the center, is unheated. The other four rooms are heated by stove chimneys. The doors, hardware, shutters and trim all match the first story in detail.

The second floor of the rear wing includes two small chambers, a secondary passage and the kitchen stairway.

A full cellar extends under the main house. The most interesting feature in the basement is a series of stone piers that support massive beams below the first floor hall partitions. These supports are 12 to 14 inches square. The circular sawn ceiling joists rest on these beams and run parallel to the front facade. They average about 3 by 12 inches and are braced with diagonal bridging.

Tenant House:

Immediately to the rear of the main house is a two story frame building that, according to Mr. Race, was used as a tenant house. It is oriented on an east-west axis, parallel to the road, and is four bays wide and one room deep. The second story is overshot approximately five feet on the front or south facade. It is divided into two rooms on the first floor and four on the second. All of the rooms are sheathed with horizontal or vertical boards and are plainly finished.

Farm Buildings:

Other buildings associated with the house include a one story frame house set into the hillside several hundred yards to the west, a large frame bank barn dating to the turn of the century, and a smaller frame barn dating to the 20th century. The barns are located directly across Route 40 to the southwest and south of the house, respectively.

Early House Site:

According to Mr. Race, an earlier house once stood several hundred yards to the rear or north of the present house. The house site is marked by a small grove of trees in an open meadow.

G-I-B-002 12000255 06

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Tenant house "B" and out-building, Race Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC: Johnson House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 40, .2 mile west of Pocahontas Road

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Garrett

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Tenand house	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ralph Race

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 6

CITY OR TOWN: Frostburg

STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Garrett County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Oakland

STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 207 - 149

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

G-I-B-002

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

PRESENT:

The building is located on the north side of the National Road (U.S. Route 40) .2 mile west of Pocahontas Road in the northeastern section of Garrett County. It sets back a few feet from the road and on the side of a gently slopping hill which rises to the northwest.

The building, erected in the 1860-1880 period, is a one and a half story, frame structure with a cut stone foundation and a mansard roof. The main portion of the structure is rectangular in shape with five bays across the facade (south side) and four bays along the sides. A one and a half story, frame wing projects from the back (north side) of the building along the western side. The exterior walls are covered with verticle wood siding. The roof and dormers are covered with wood shingles. The dormers have gable roofs and flate decorative trim with scroll designs at the top and bottom of the windows. The cornice around the entire building has decorative brackets in a scroll design.

The facade (south side) of the building has a symmetrical arrangement of openings. The first floor has a center doorway flanked by two floor-to-ceiling windows on each side. The second floor of the facade has five dormer windows. The entrance is presently enclosed by a frame addition with windows and a door. Most of the windows in the structure are presently covered with plastic sheets. The dormer windows and those of the east and west sides of the main structure and the west side of the wing have four-over-four sash. The opening in the foundation are covered with wood panels.

A one story, frame porch stretches across the length of the facade. The roof of the porch slopes in three directions and the under area is enclosed with lattice panels. The porch has six, free-standing columns or posts and two attached, half columns. The free standing columns are symmetrically arranged and divide the porch into five sections corresponding with the openings of the facade. The upper sections of the posts are chamfered. The capitals are composed of bracket-like ornaments. The balustrade is composed of scroll-work balusters. The entablature of the porch is ornamented with cut-out decorations. The porch is reached by a set of six, frame steps rising in the center section.

It appears that a one-story, frame porch with a shed roof along the north wall of the main structure and the east wall of the wing was enclosed with verticle siding similar to that on the original portion. A large dormer-like addition with a window and covered with wood shingles and having a shed roof

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

G-I-B-002

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* c.1860-c.1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house under discussion here has architectural significance. The building is an example of rural, domestic architecture in the Mansardic style of the Victorian period. The design is unusual for the National Road (U.S. Route 40) region of northern Garrett County. The building is characterized by a mansard roof and verticle siding. The most commonly found example of mid-nineteenth century houses in this section of the county are of the Italinate style, two and a half stories high, of frame construction with clapboards, and have a cross-gable in the center of the main facade. Now used as a tenant house, the building appears to be in good structural condition and retains many of its original features.

Although there is no substantiated date of construction, the house appears to have been built between the years of circa 1860 and circa 1875. This approximate date is suggested by the most dominant and latest stylistic feature of the building, the mansard roof. A descendant of the original owners says that the house was built about 1864. According to family history, the house was built as a mutual effort by the children of one of the early owners of the land.

The land on which the house stands is known historically as the Johnson Farm. Through the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, the land was owned by the Johnson family. The early land and tax records of Allegany County (Garrett County was formed from Allegany County in 1872) indicate that Thomas Johnson and his heirs had large land holdings in the northeastern region of present-day Garrett County. In the mid-twentieth century. The land was purchased by the Race family. Today the Race farm consists of about 300 acres of land.

NOTE: Governor Thomas Johnson (1732-1819) and his brothers' James, Baker, and possibly Roger owned land in present-day Garrett County. To add to the confusion, James

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

G-I-B-002

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land and Tax Records, Cumberland, Md.
Garrett County Land Records, Oakland, Md.
Interview with Richard Johnson, Frostburg, Md., 7 March, 1974.
Genealogical research by Mrs. Lewis R. Jones, Oakland, Md.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ronald L. Andrews, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc.

DATE
4/19/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 510, Algonquin Motor Inn

CITY OR TOWN:
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

Tenant house, Race Farm

#7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

rises above the enclosed porch in the northeast corner where the wing abuts the main section of the structure.

The present occupant says that the rooms on the first floor are arranged around a center hall.

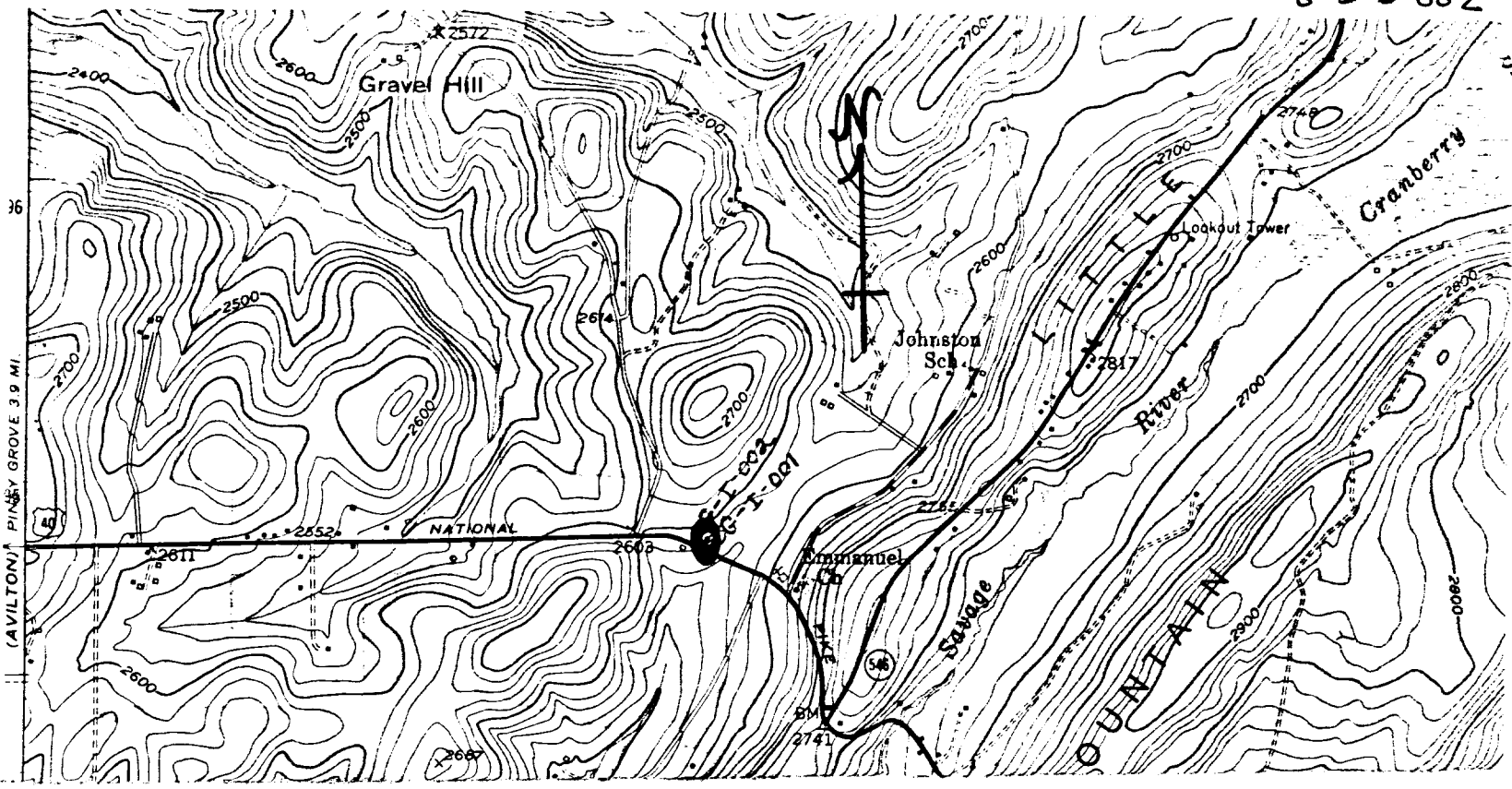
A two and a half story, frame out building with a stone foundation sets a few feet to the northeast of the house. The second story of the out building forms a jetty on the south side. The windows in the structure have mainly four-over-four sash. The roof line runs east/west.

Both the house and the outbuilding appear to be structurally sound although the buildings are in need of general repair. It appears that most of the original decorative details remain intact.

#8 SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

had a son named Thomas who also owned land here. Tradition says that this particular property was owned by the Governor, however, I cannot substantiate that the Thomas Johnson referred to in the deeds and tax records is the Governor.

G-I-B-002



Tenant House "B" and Outbuilding, Race Farm
"Johnson House"
Route 40, .2 mile West of Pocahontas Road
Garrett County, Maryland

Frostburg, Md.-Pa. (USGS)
7.5 minute series
scale 1:24000
1949

G-I-002

"B"

Tenant house, Race farm

Route 40, 12 mile west of Poushontas Rd

Garrett Co. Maryland

SE view

February 1978

Ronald L. Andrews

tenant house "B", Race Farm

Johnson House

U.S. Rt 40

2 mile W of Pocahontas Rd

Garrett Co, Md

NE view

February, 1974

outbuilding at tenant house "B", Rice Farm

Johnson House

Route 40

2 mi W of Pocahontas Rd

Garrett Co. Md

SE view

Feb, 1974

G-I-002

Johnson House
Rt 40
[illegible], Pa, Md
19[illegible] or Dec
S[illegible]

R. Andrews

G-I-002
Johnson House
Rt. 40
Garrett Co., Md
1974

R. L. ANDREWS
649 PHILADELPHIA AVE.
CHAMBERSBURG, PA. 17201