

CAPSULE SUMMARY
J.F. Johnson Lumber Company (AA-2212)
1901 West Street, Annapolis

The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company moved to its second Annapolis location at 1901 West Street in 1941. The ten-acre lot was improved by the construction of a paint store, lumber storage sheds, planing mill, and brick incinerator by 1945. Founded in 1921 in Glen Burnie, the Johnson Lumber Company succeeded the Annapolis-based Farinholt Meredith Lumber Company, which had taken over the Henry B. Myers Lumber Yard at the foot of King George Street in 1905. The lumber company continued to operate the King George Street location until 1941, when the expanding United States Naval Academy took the land. Johnson Lumber Company has maintained its West Street location for nearly sixty years, in addition to its Millersville and Edgewater stores and lumber yards.

The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company is a lumber yard consisting of five vernacular structures. The property is located on the south side of West Street, west of Chinquapin Round Road, and occupies a wedge-shaped parcel of land that extends from West Street south to the edge of the Parole Elementary School property line. It is arranged with two principal buildings and a large brick incinerator facing West Street, and a lumber yard and associated sheds at the rear.

7. Description

Inventory No. AA-2212

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company is a lumber yard consisting of five vernacular structures, all dating from the mid-20th century. The property is located on the south side of West Street, west of Chinquapin Round Road, and occupies a wedge-shaped parcel of land that extends from West Street south to the edge of the Parole Elementary School property line.

The property is arranged with two principal buildings and a large brick incinerator facing West Street, and a lumber yard and associated sheds at the rear. Each of the five structures is described below:

Sales Office:

The sales office is the largest and most publicly visible and prominent of the grouping. Rectangular in plan, it is a two-story wood frame structure covered with a low gable roof, hidden behind a parapet wall on three of its four sides. Though vernacular and industrial, the building clearly reflects Colonial Revival-style detailing, especially in its use of symmetrically arranged, 6/6 sash, porticoed entry doors, and dentils in the cornice. The building is set upon a low concrete foundation and is covered with vinyl siding.

The north elevation facing West Street is divided into five equal bays, each bay being defined by large plate glass show windows on the first story and pairs of 6/1 windows on the second story, each one being surmounted by a cornice head with dentils. In the second bay from the northwest corner, the present glass entry vestibule has replaced an earlier, round-arched and engaged door surround, still partially intact. The name of the building is written in large letters across a wide frieze above the second story windows, and readily visible from West Street. Above the signage rises a boxed wood cornice with dentils.

The east elevation is five narrow bays deep, consisting almost exclusively of single 6/1 windows on the first and second stories. A single door opening in the northern end bay of the first story is clearly identified by a pedimented entry hood, supported by wood consoles. This elevation also features a wide signboard above the second-story windows and a cornice with dentils above that.

The opposing west elevation has a single doublewide garage door located on the second story and no other openings. The building's wide signboard is located on this elevation as well.

The south (rear) elevation is the only elevation not featuring the parapet wall, and thus revealing the gable roof behind. The elevation is divided into six bays of single 6/1 windows on the second story. The first story has a one-story, shed roof addition appended to it and projecting from it. This shed roof wing is set upon a concrete slab foundation and has a partial brick and frame wall with 1/1-vinyl windows. The brick section, on center of the wall surface, has a chimney protruding from above the roof, indicating that this area serves as a furnace or other industrial purpose.

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The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company, 1901 West Street, Annapolis
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Lumber Shed #1:

The building designated as Lumber Shed #1 is a large, double-height, barn-like wood frame structure covered with a front gable roof and featuring a shed addition on one side. The main facade located in the gable end features double, hanging trolley doors on the first story and smaller, double hanging trolley doors on the second story. The attic level of the gable end is lit by a grouping of three windows, with a pair of 6/1 sash on center, and single 6/1 sash to either side. The gable roof has overhanging eaves supported by wood brackets located in this gable end.

The east elevation is ten bays deep with square, six-light casement windows located at the second story level, just below the roof eaves. There are no other openings on this elevation. The west elevation consists of a series of trolley hanging doors, opening directly into the shed addition to the building.

The south elevation similarly features a three-part arrangement of openings on center of the gable end. Hanging trolley doors are located on the first and second stories, while a set of three windows occupies the attic level. Here, a pair of 6/6 sash on center is flanked by single 6/6 sash.

Planing Mill:

The planing mill is a large, two-a-half-story wood frame structure covered with a front gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles and featuring skylights. Rectangular in plan, the building is three bays wide on the facade and extends eight bays deep on the sides. It is located directly behind the sales office, and though not visible from West Street is clearly visible from Chinquapin Round Road. The front end gable, facing north, consists of a central double, hanging trolley door on center of the first story, and random single and double 6/6 windows on the second story and in the attic level. Another, smaller hanging trolley door is located at one end bay of the second story. The south end elevation has an open shed roof wing spanning the full width and a set of six windows above. These windows, grouped singly, in pairs and in threes, have 1/1 replacement sash. The attic level has two pairs of 1/1-replacement windows.

The east side elevation is eight bays deep with six, doublewide, hanging trolley doors on the first story, and, on the second story, a central, Colonial Revival-style entry flanked by 6/6 windows, generally in pairs, as well as a hanging trolley door in one bay. The central entry, clearly a later addition has a double-flight wooden stair leading to it.

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Lumber Shed #2:

The Lumber Shed #2 is located towards the rear of the lot. It is a long, rectangular-shaped building constructed of frame and concrete block. It is covered with a front gable roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, and has long, open shed storage wings extending off of the north end elevation of the building, and enclosed, shed-roof side wings. The shed-roof side wings are lit with upper level, clerestory-like windows, many of which are missing their sash and glazing. The doorways are large, doublewide openings, some of which have no doors.

Incinerator:

The incinerator is the lumber yard's most noteworthy structure. Circular in plan, the incinerator is a brick structure, laid in six-course American bond. Its cylindrical brick body is capped by a conical-shaped brick chimney that narrows as it rises. A circular, central flue caps the chimney with a metal cage atop it. At its base, the incinerator has holes equally spaced around its circumference, and possibly serving as some kind of damper or flue system. Next to the incinerator is a metal shaving bin, which has attached to it, metal pipes that carry the wood shavings from the planing mill.

8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-2212

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------|
| Significance dates | 1942-1945 | Architect | Unknown |
| Specific dates | ca. 1942 | Builder | Unknown |

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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History of the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company

The history of the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company begins in 1921 in Glen Burnie. Founded by J.F. Johnson, the company provided planed and milled lumber and joinery work. The history of the lumber company in Annapolis, however, dates back to the latter part of the 19th century. A precursor to the Johnson Lumber Company, the Henry B. Myers Company was founded in 1880 as a grocery. Myers' six sons carried on the business, expanding to include hardware, garden supplied, and fuel oil. The lumber company was located on the south side of King George Street, across from the United States Naval Academy, while the mercantile was located at 49 West Street. Three oyster packing companies were located along the Severn River to the south. The growing mercantile, as seen on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*, maintained a storage facility that included an enclosed lumber storage building (A), an open structure housing wood shingles (B), a one-story dwelling (C), and four sets of lumber stacked ten feet in height.

By 1908, the hardware and lumber yard of the Myers Company was sold to the Farinholt Meredith Company. Everett R. Meredith and John Atwood Meredith operated the lumber and building material company at the rail yard of the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis Railroad on West Street. This location provided storage space for the commercial location, which had expanded its holdings at the foot of King George Street. The property contained several lumber warehouses, offices, planing mill, steam drying houses, and storage facilities

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both indoors and out.

The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company had taken over the King George Street lumber yard, as well as the rail yard property, by 1928. The company advertised limber and millwork, red cedar shingles, wood and metal lath, in addition to doors, frames, sash, mouldings, roofing, sheet rock, hardware, mails, cement, lime, paints and brushes. J.F. Johnson was the president of the company, with J.P. Johnson as first vice-president and Melvin H. Bull as secretary-treasurer. James Garland Healy was the second vice-president and manager of Johnson Lumber Company. Healy's association with the lumber company dated back to the preceding Farinholt Meredith Lumber Company, of which his brother-in-law Robert H. Farinholt had been part owner. The family connection continued as Farinholt's son, Boyd H., became president and manager of the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company by the late 1940s.

In 1941, the expanding United States Naval Academy had taken the King George Street property as the future site of Halsey Field House, completed in 1956. Accordingly, the lumber company moved to an unimproved ten acre lot at the corner of West Street and Chinquapin Round Road, two miles from the capital city. Modest single-family dwellings that primarily dated from the early part of the 20th century surrounded the property. The square site was improved by 1945 by a two story paint store (now the primary sales office), a two story planing mill, brick incinerator with shavings collection, and two wood frame lumber sheds. The company was largely self-sufficient, cutting and planing the lumber and then disposing of the shavings in the incinerator. With the buildings primarily located in the eastern half, piles of wood were placed in the western half and along the perimeter of site. The appliance store, now located at the West Street property, was originally located at 280 West Street.

By the middle part of the 1950s, the site a metal shed for storing lumber had been added to the rear of an existing wood frame shed. Simultaneously, the Parole Elementary School was constructed to the rear of the property in 1952, reducing the lumber storage space slightly. The site was again modified in the latter part of the 20th century, when the western half was sold.

The city directory for the Johnson Lumber Company advertised the widening variety of available building supplies, including treated lumber, engineered wood products and roof trusses. The company symbol was originally a metal figure known as "Bill Ding" holding a tape measure. Bill has since been replaced by elements of the Maryland state flag and a delivery truck. In operation since 1921, the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company presently maintains three lumber yards, including 1901 West Street in Annapolis, Millersville, and Edgewater. The corporate offices are also located in Edgewater, on Veterans Highway. The original Glen Burnie location was moved in the late 1970s to Millersville.

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Site History

The property at 1901 West Street, where the J.F. Johnson Lumber Company now stands, was historically part of the McGuckian Farm. Consisting of 188 acres, the property was owned in the latter part of the 19th century by Daniel Hart, born November 1813. Hart defaulted in October 1870 on a mortgage held by the Farmers National Bank. Consequently, Alexander Randall and Frank H. Stockett were appointed to sell the property. Mathias Linthicum of Baltimore County purchased the two lots denoted 7 and 8 in December 1871 for \$7,153.50. The property remained in the Linthicum family until May 1889, when Thomas Linthicum defaulted on a mortgage held by Thomas O. Walton. The two lots, containing the same 188 acres and buildings, were sold for \$6,600 to Michael Carling.

Despite the death of Carling in 1890, just one year after the purchase, the property remained under the direction of the Carling family until December 1919. Thomas and Maggie McGuckian purchased the land. Born in Scotland in 1865, McGuckian was a general contractor. After her husband's death in 1921, Margaret G. McGuckian, also born in Scotland, continued to reside on the property until 1933. Charles F. Lee, a real estate agent, was appointed trustee and charged with subdividing and selling the property. Lee conveyed 10.77 acres, denoted as lots 1-36 on the new subdivision, on November 14, 1941 for \$7,500 to J.F. Johnson Lumber Company. The lumber yard has remained at this site for nearly sixty years.

Chain of Title

- December 8, 1871: Alexander Randall and Frank H. Stockett, Trustee to Mathias Linthicum
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber SH 6 Folio 253
- October 6, 1881: Franklin Linthicum to Thomas Linthicum
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber SH 18 Folio 298
- May 25, 1889: John Ireland, attorney under mortgage default for Thomas Linthicum from Thomas O.
Walton, to Michael Carling
Equity Case 1266
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber SH 34 Folio 673

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- December 3, 1919: Ida F. Carling, Emma V. Carling, Kate I. Toner, all heirs of Michael Carling to Thomas and Maggie McGuckian
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber WNW 18 Folio 421
- March 29, 1933: Maggie McGuckian, widow, and Charles F. Lee, executor for will of Thomas McGuckian (replaced the deceased Winson G. Gott) to Charles F. Lee, Trustee
Anne Arundel Will Records
Liber WNW 59 Folio 474 (dated March 5, 1923)
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber FSR 107 Folio 507
- November 14, 1941: Charles F. Lee, Trustee for the estate of Thomas McGuckian, to J.F. Johnson Lumber Company
Equity Case 6400 (March 29, 1933)
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber JHH 248 Folio 312
- July 3, 1985: J.F. Johnson Lumber Company to Farmers National Bank of Maryland and the City of Annapolis
Utility Rights and Easement
Anne Arundel County Land Records
Liber 3962 Folio 754

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Commerce

Resource Type:

 Category: District

 Historic Environment: Suburban

 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

 Known Design Source: Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-2212

McIntire, Robert Harry. *Annapolis Maryland Families*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980.
Warren, Mame. *Then Again...Annapolis, 1900-1965*. Annapolis, MD: Time Exposures Limited, 1990.

10. Geographical Data

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Acreage of project area | <u>6.53 acres</u> | |
| Acreage surveyed | <u>6.53 acres</u> | |
| Quadrangle name | <u>Annapolis, MD</u> | Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Johnson Lumber Company at 1901 West Street has been associated with Parcel 421, Grid 17 on Map 5Z since its construction in circa 1942.

11. Form Prepared by

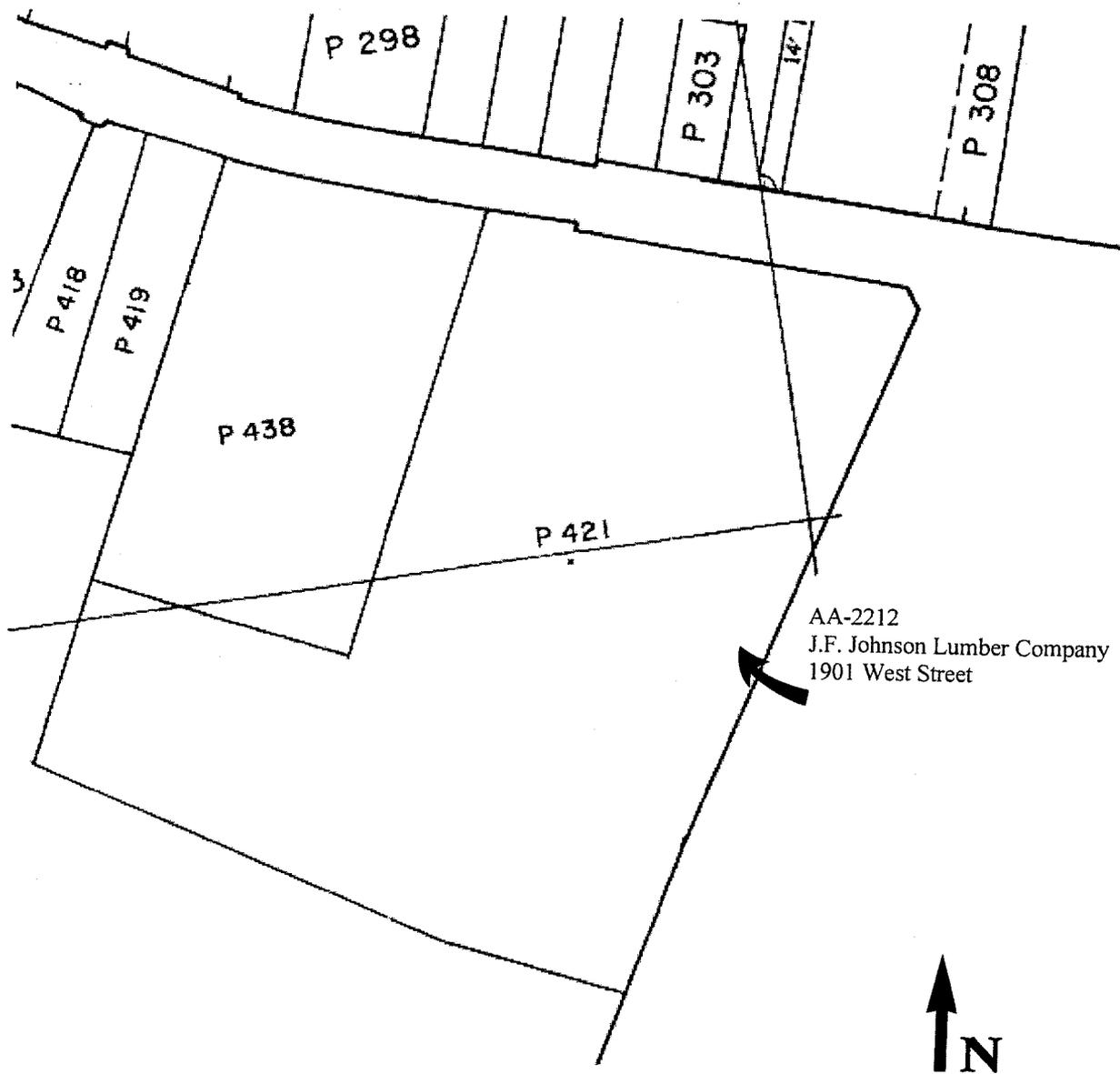
| | |
|-----------------|--|
| name/title | L. Trieschmann and K. Williams, Architectural Historians |
| organization | EHT Traceries, Inc. |
| street & number | 5420 Western Avenue |
| city or town | Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Pllace
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

MAP OF ANNAPOLIS, No.4-6
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
1967; Revised 1991
Scale 1' = 200'





AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO,
1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS
TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

LOOKING SOUTHWEST

1 OF 18



AX-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO,
1901 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

STORE, LOOKING SOUTH

2 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

STORE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

3 OF 16



SEE US AT THE...
F. JOHNSON LUMBER

F. JOHNSON

LUMBER

Aristokraft

SEARCH-TO-FIND
ORANGE
CANTON

SEARCH-TO-FIND
ORANGE
CANTON

AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

STORE, NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4 OF 18



R
COMPANY

THE J.F. JOHNSON LUMBER CO.

ROOF TRUSSES

AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO.

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

STORE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

5 OF 18

F. JOHNSON LUMBER CO.

TRUSSES

NO PARKING
EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS
VIOLATORS WILL BE TOWED

NO PARKING

OFFICE



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO.
1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD STP@

LUMBER YARD, LOOKING SOUTH

6 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

PLANING MILL, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

9 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

PLANING MILL, LOOKING NORTHWEST

8 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

INCINERATOR LOOKING WEST

9 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

INCINERATOR, LOOKING NORTH

10 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

11 OF 16



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

SHED, LOOKING NORTHWEST

12 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER YARD, LOOKING NORTH

13 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER YARD, LOOKING NORTH

14 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER YARD, LOOKING NORTHWEST

15 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO.
1901 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS
TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

16 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER CO.

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SAPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

17 OF 18



AA-2212

JOHNSON LUMBER

1901 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING WEST

18 OF 18