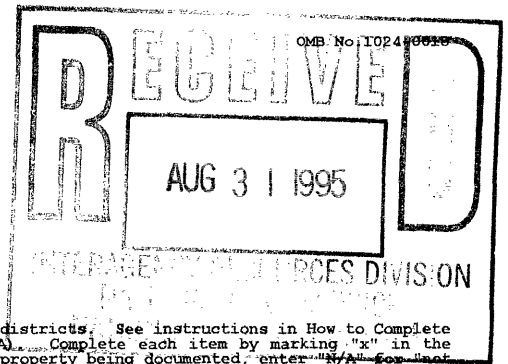


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



### 1. Name of Property

historic name : Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House

other names/site number : N-13,116

### 2. Location

street & number : 3701 Kiamensi Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town : Marshallton ☐ vicinity hundred : Christiana

state : Delaware code : DE county : New Castle code : 003 zip code : 19808

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

August 24, 1995  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

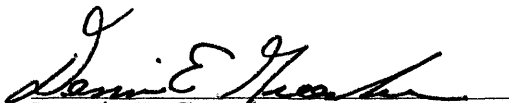
Section 03 Page 01

Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House  
New Castle County, DE

=====

***Agency Certification***

In my opinion, the William Julius "Judy" Johnson House ☒ meets ☐ does not  
meet the National Register criteria.

  
Dennis E. Greenhouse  
County Executive  
New Castle County, Delaware

7/14-SS-  
Date

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

- ☒ entered in the National Register  
    ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the  
    National Register  
    ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
    National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick W. Andrews      10/10/95

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Secondary Structure

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Secondary Structure

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Late-19th- and Early-20th-Century American Movements  
Other: Vernacular Craftsman

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls asbestos  
roof asphalt  
other wood

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance:**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

**Period of Significance:**

1934 - 1945

**Significant Dates:**

1934

**Significant Person:**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Johnson, William J. "Judy"

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 07 Page 01

Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House  
New Castle County, DE

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### *Description*

The William Julius "Judy" Johnson House is located on an approximately half-acre parcel at the corner of Kiamensi Avenue and Newport Road in Marshallton, Christiana Hundred. Two buildings from circa 1925 occupy the lot, facing Kiamensi Avenue: a two-story, frame house and a two-car, frame garage. A macadam driveway extends from Kiamensi Avenue along the south side of the house to the garage. The garage is located about twenty-two feet behind and five-feet south of the rear corner of the house. Trees, shrubs, and vines planted by Judy Johnson still grow in the yard: a grape vine and rose bushes are planted on either side of the garage; a large magnolia tree is centered behind the house; apple trees are located at the rear of the yard; the rear and north side yards are lined with forsythia and rose of Sharon; a large holly and dogwood are located near the Newport Road boundary of the property; and maples line Kiamensi Avenue. Planted near the front and north sides of the house are azaleas, a snowball bush; and rhododendrons. Near the Kiamensi Avenue and Newport Road boundaries of the property, a chain-link fence is located, beyond which, but just within the boundary line, there are several yew shrubs.

### *House*

The details as well as the overall form of the house are typical of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century American movements. In general, the decorative details of the house recall the Craftsman style of architecture popular in the early part of this century. The classification of the house with the Craftsman tradition is supported by the presence of such details as exposed rafter ends, the front door type, and the stair balustrade. Overall, its symmetry, proportions, hipped roof, and dormer window resemble the type known as the American Four Square, except that its roof is hipped only in the front; the rear of the roof is gabled.

The house is predominantly a rectangular-plan, two-story mass, with a one-story, front porch. A one-story, shed-roof, rear wing covers two of the three bays of the rear elevation. One gable-roof dormer projects from the hipped roof of the front elevation. Woodwork details, popular in this period, enliven the two-story mass. These include the exposed rafter ends of the main roof, the dormer, and the rear wing; the sawtooth-pattern, bargeboard trim on the dormer; the wood brackets, with decorative stickwork, supporting the shed roof over a side entry; and the chamfered edges of the wood posts supporting the front porch. All the trim is painted black.

The house rests on a panel-face, concrete block foundation. The house is covered with white, wavy-edged asbestos siding. It is likely that the original siding was weatherboard. The asbestos siding was added by Johnson in 1939, early in the period of his ownership. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle, and the soffits are sheathed with beaded board. One-over-one sash windows are framed with a plain board surround, capped with a moulded drip hood. Louvered black aluminum shutters were added by the present owners in 1988. There is no evidence that the house originally had shutters. A central chimney stack, parged above the roofline, vents the furnace.

The three-bay front elevation is approximately twenty-five feet wide. The front door is a well-preserved example of a type commonly seen on Craftsman and Prairie houses of this period. The door is composed of a wood frame containing a full-length panel of glass, which is decorated with a border formed by crisscrossing mullions. The centered front door is flanked by two windows. The two windows of the second story front elevation are placed directly above the first floor windows. The facade appears more vertical than the rest of the building because of the dormer window on the third, or attic, level. The dormer is set back a few feet from the edge of the roof, and its gable roof is framed into the gable of the main roof.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 07 Page 02

Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House  
New Castle County, DE

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The shed-roof front porch extends from within about three feet of the ends of the house. The porch framework is composed of four wood posts, located approximately eight feet from the front wall of the house, and two posts positioned against the house, at each end of the porch span. The posts rest on panel-face, concrete block piers. The spaces between the piers have been infilled with modern concrete block. The lower portion, or dado, of the porch is covered on the exterior with asbestos siding, which matches the house, and on the interior with beaded board. In the upper portion, one-over-one, aluminum-frame, sash windows are set between the posts. In the front, a large picture window is framed between the center two posts. The porch entrance is located on the side near the driveway. The porch door is varnished wood, with three horizontal panels in its lower half, and three horizontal window lights in its upper half. The porch ceiling is beaded board. It is not known exactly when the porch was enclosed. The materials used to enclose the walls, the asbestos siding and beaded board, indicate an early date for the enclosure. It was probably enclosed when the house was purchased by the Johnsons. Originally the porch steps were wood and were only about as wide as the door opening. Johnson replaced these with brick steps of the same width in 1952. The brick steps were rebuilt and enlarged by the present owners in 1992. The present owners also installed the white metal awning and the wrought-iron trellis post and railing.

Like the front elevation, the openings on the side elevation, on the south, are symmetrically spaced, with a door flanked by two windows. On the first floor, the two kitchen windows (on the western end of the south elevation) were changed in January 1989 to a window box, which projects from the face of the wall. The eastern (living room) window is original. The door between these windows leads to the basement and up to the main floor. This door was replaced about 1987 with a paneled, steel door with two small lights in the top. An original, shed-roof hood, supported on wood brackets, protects this entrance. Directly above this door, between the first and second floors, a small, square window lights the stairs within. On the second story, above the window openings on the first floor, are a pair of windows on the western end and a single window on the eastern end. The wall of the one-story rear wing is flush with the wall of this elevation. This wall contains no openings, because the door that originally led into this kitchen wing was infilled in January 1989. This change is indicated by the asbestos shingles, which have a straight lower edge in this area, whereas the shingles on the rest of the house have a wavy edge. This wing is contemporary to the house.

The side elevation, on the north, is pierced by three, symmetrically-spaced windows on each of the two stories. The windows on the rear elevation are also evenly spaced. There is a window near each end of the second story, below which are a corresponding window on the first floor north end and two windows, symmetrically spaced, in the one-story wing. There is also a window in the gable.

The interior of the house retains its floor plan and its original trim, consisting of the wide baseboard of the period, as well as wide window and door casings with moulding caps, and five-panel interior doors. The Craftsman door entrance leads directly into the living room, which spans the width the house. The kitchen and dining room are accessed from two separate doorways at the rear of the living room: the kitchen is located in the left, or southern, rear quadrant of the house, and the dining room is located in the right, or northern, quadrant of the house and is separated from the living room by a wide doorway. There is also a doorway between the dining room and the kitchen. There is a corner cupboard in the dining room that is not a built-in feature but was added by the Johnsons because Anita had always wanted one. A bathroom was added in the northern side of the rear (western) wing in 1989.

The stair to the second level is located against the left or southern wall of the living room, halfway from the front to the back of the house. The stair balustrade is composed of a massive square post and square balusters characteristic of Craftsmen-influenced homes. A flight of stairs leads to a landing halfway from the first to the second floors, which is lighted by the square window observed from the exterior. The stairs continue to the second floor at a ninety-degree angle to the first flight.

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Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House  
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The upstairs hallway runs east to west about ten feet. The master bedroom is located above the living room space. The hallway leads from the master bedroom to a bathroom on the left, a bedroom on the right, and a walk-in closet at the end of the hall. Originally this closet was a small bedroom. The present owners enlarged the bathroom into a portion of this space and created the hall closet.

There is a full basement below the house. Its concrete floor was poured by Johnson in 1972. The attic is accessed from a door in the master bedroom, which leads to a staircase located directly above the space occupied by the main stairs and the basement stairs below.

***Garage***

The gable-end entrance of the two-car, frame garage is oriented toward Kiamensi Avenue. The garage appears to have been built at the same time as the house and with similar materials. The foundation is concrete block, but, unlike the house, plain concrete blocks were used and these have been parged. (It is curious to note that the foundation of the west corner appears to be stone.) The garage is clad in white weatherboard siding, possibly like the original siding of the house. The front corners and simple verge board are painted black. The windows are framed with a narrow, plain board surround. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and, like the house, the rafter ends were left exposed.

Two, beaded-board sliding garage doors fill the gable end. Two windows are symmetrically-spaced on both sides of the garage. Those closest to the front of the building are hinged, single panes. These are replacements dating to about 1990. The other side window on the south contains nine panes. The other side window on the north is a six-over-six casement window.

The only major change to the garage was made by Judy Johnson in the 1940s. The garage was extended about three feet on the right or northern bay at the rear of the building. This change was made so that Johnson could pull his car completely into the shelter of the garage.

**SUMMARY OF RESOURCES:**

2 contributing buildings (house and garage)



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Johnson, William Julius "Judy" House  
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### *Statement of Significance*

The William Julius "Judy" Johnson House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for the property's association with the Hall of Fame baseball player Judy Johnson (ca. 1900-1989), who played in the Negro Leagues between 1921 and 1937. In 1975, Johnson's career was recognized as one of the outstanding careers in American baseball history when he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Johnson's Hall of Fame plaque honors him as having been considered the best third baseman of his day in the Negro Leagues, for batting over .300 for most of his career, and for his contributions to several pennant victories. In 1934, Johnson purchased the house at 3701 Kiamensi Avenue. He lived in this house during the last years of his career and continued to reside in the house until shortly before he passed away in 1989. Johnson was able to purchase this house, the only house he ever owned, because of the money he earned playing winter baseball. The house, built circa 1925, is a vernacular version of the Craftsman style and is similar in form to the American Four Square. There is also a circa 1925 two-car garage on the property. The property retains much of its authentic character in its floor plan, elevations, mouldings, and trim. As the first of the two Delaware baseball players to be included in the Baseball Hall of Fame, and until this year the only player thus honored in Delaware, the significance of the Johnson House extends beyond the local community and impacts the entire State.

### **IMPORTANCE OF JUDY JOHNSON IN THE CONTEXT OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL**

Judy Johnson came of age as a ball player in the first half of the twentieth century. Although the sport of baseball was organized into leagues of professional players and was widely followed by the twentieth century, the game had been played in various forms in England and in this country for many years before 1839, when, according to folklore, baseball was invented by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, New York. By the mid-nineteenth century, the major rules of the game as we know them today had been codified. This was the period when the game was dubbed the national pastime, in an age when sporting spectacles in general were popular events, and when activities encouraging national unity were promoted. It was not until after the Civil War that commercial baseball teams and leagues formed. The period after the Civil War also witnessed increasing discrimination toward black players. Although some teams remained integrated, particularly from the mid-1880s until the late nineteenth century, it was in this period after the Civil War that black baseball clubs organized in most of the major American cities. By the turn of the century an unofficial, league-wide practice of exclusion had resulted in complete segregation in baseball.

By the twentieth century, baseball had become highly professional, being organized into major- and minor-league professional teams. Consequently, the baseball player could pursue the game not as a leisurely, extra-curricular, pastime activity but as a professional occupation. Because African Americans were excluded from playing on these teams, several professional black teams formed. However, until the 1920s, no black professional league had survived a full season. The Negro National League (NNL), primarily composed of western teams, formed in 1920. It was to be one of the most successful professional black leagues. In 1923, the Eastern Colored League (ECL) formed. These were the two main organized leagues of black baseball when Judy Johnson began playing professional ball, at a time when baseball, more than any other organized sporting event, played a central role in American life.

Johnson's baseball talents were formed during his youth in Wilmington. His family moved to Wilmington about 1905 from Snow Hill, Maryland, where Johnson had been born. As a youth he played ball at the park at Second and Du Pont Streets, now called William Judy Johnson Park. The park was a short walk from the home of his parents, William and Annie Johnson, who lived at 217 Delamore Place

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(N-6439) until the 1930s, when they moved to 108 Delamore Place (N-6430).<sup>1</sup> His father had been the Athletic Director of the Negro Settlement House in his neighborhood, so Johnson had ready access to bats and balls.<sup>2</sup> He joined the other Wilmington boys who walked to play ball games in the greater Wilmington area, including Buttonwood, New Castle, Eden Park at Second and Adams Streets, Fourth and Church Streets, Rockford Park, and Marshallton. In his later teens, he played with a Wilmington team, called Rosedale, and then with a team in Chester, Pennsylvania, the Madison Stars, where he commuted by trolley. The newly-built trolley lines have been cited as contributing to the formation of leagues in cities and suburbs.<sup>3</sup>

In 1921, Johnson earned a spot on Philadelphia's professional Negro League team, the Hilldale Club, with whom he stayed until 1929. The team had been formed in 1910 by young men from the African-American community of Darby, southwest of Philadelphia. In the early 1920s, the Hilldales were considered one of the best teams in the Negro Leagues. Their success has been attributed in part to the addition of Johnson to the roster.<sup>4</sup> Baseball teams from New York to Baltimore, both black and white, were eager to play the Hilldales. In 1921, 93 of their 149 games were played against white semi-pro teams.<sup>5</sup> During Johnson's 1923, 1924, and 1925 seasons with the Hilldale team, they finished in first place in the ECL. In 1924, the Hilldales, as the pennant winners in the ECL, played the first-place team of the NNL, the Kansas City Monarchs, in the Negro League World Series. Although his team did not win, Johnson had the highest batting average for the series, batting .364. The Hilldales won when the same teams met again in the 1925 Negro League World Series. When Johnson began playing with the Hilldale team, like many of the players at that time, he was given a nickname. He was dubbed "Judy" by his teammates for his resemblance to a veteran player Robert "Judy" Gans. Johnson would use the name Judy for the rest of his life.

In 1930, Judy signed as a playing manager with the Homestead Grays, based near Pittsburgh. That year, his team won the ECL Pennant. He played for the Homestead team during the 1930 and 1931 seasons. This was a period of intense playing and traveling, sometimes playing three double-headers a day, driving between destinations. Not only was there regular season ball, but there was winter ball in Cuba and barnstorming games. Beginning in the winter season of 1923 and continuing for the rest of his playing career, Johnson went to Cuba to play winter ball. In addition to the exhausting year-round schedule, African-American players met with discriminatory behavior while on the road. They were frequently barred from hotels, restaurants, and rest room facilities.

In 1932, Johnson joined the third and last professional club for which he would play, the Pittsburgh Crawford Colored Giants. The 1935 and 1936 Crawford teams are considered to have been the best teams in the history of the Negro Leagues. Five men who would later be Hall of Famers played for the Crawfords: Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston, Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, and Judy Johnson.

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<sup>1</sup>Wilmington City Directories. Both are brick town houses and are still standing.

<sup>2</sup>Ellen Rendle, Judy Johnson: Delaware's Invisible Hero (Wilmington, Delaware: Cedar Tree Press, 1994), 16. Johnson's life and career have been thoroughly recounted in this recent biography.

<sup>3</sup>Neil Lanctot, Fair Dealing and Clean Playing: The Hilldale Club and the Development of Black Professional Baseball, 1910-1932 (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co., 1994), 5-6.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 52.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., 62.

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Johnson was captain of the team in 1935 and shared in managerial duties with Oscar Charleston. In 1936, the Crawfords won the NNL pennant. While playing for the Crawfords, Johnson was voted onto the first All Star Team for the Negro Leagues in 1933. Again in 1936, Johnson was in the All Star Game.

Johnson's last season was spent playing ball with the Crawfords in Mexico during the 1936-1937 winter season. When his career ended in 1937, ten years would still have to pass before Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers to play in the Major Leagues, marking the beginning of the end of the Negro Leagues. The Negro National League disbanded after 1948. The Negro Leagues finally expired about 1960 when the last such league, the Negro American League, was dissolved.

After playing ball, Johnson worked at a variety of other jobs, returning to baseball in 1952 with his first job in the majors as a scout for the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1954, he was the first African American hired to coach in the majors, coaching spring training for the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1956, he became the Delaware-area scout for the Milwaukee Braves. In 1959 he signed as a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies. For many years thereafter, he worked as a scout and a coach for the Phillies organization.

In 1971, Satchel Paige was the first of the Negro Leaguers to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Judy Johnson received this honor in 1975. Only four per cent of the Hall of Famers achieved their fame in the Negro Leagues. Judy Johnson is one of only nine Negro League Baseball players in the Baseball Hall of Fame, which includes 224 total members. These nine players spent most if not all of their careers in the Negro Leagues, and it was in the Negro Leagues where they primarily achieved their fame.<sup>6</sup>

**NEGRO LEAGUE HALL OF FAMERS**

James T. "Cool Papa" Bell  
Oscar M. Charleston  
Martin Dihigo  
Joshua Gibson  
Monford "Monte" Irvin  
William J. "Judy" Johnson  
Walter F. "Buck" Leonard  
John H. "Pop" Lloyd  
Leroy R. "Satchel" Paige

**JUDY JOHNSON AND THE HOUSE AT 3701 KIAMENSI AVENUE, MARSHALLTON**

The house at 3701 Kiamensi Avenue is the resource that best represents Johnson's productive life as a baseball player. Johnson resided at this house from 1934 until shortly before he passed away in 1989. The house is significant as the only house Johnson ever owned. Furthermore, the house represents Johnson's professional career as a ball player, for he purchased the home while he was still playing ball with money earned from baseball. The house also represents the culmination of his playing career. Johnson owned this home during his last two regular seasons, the 1935 and 1936 seasons, when his team, the Pittsburgh Crawford Colored Giants, is considered to have been the best team in the history of the Negro Leagues. In 1935, Johnson was captain of the team and shared in managerial duties with Oscar

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<sup>6</sup>These statistics were furnished by the staff of the Library and Archive of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York, on April 4, 1995.

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Charleston. In 1936, Johnson was voted onto the All Star Team and the Crawfords won the NNL pennant. On one occasion, after the Crawfords played a game at Harlan Field in Wilmington, they drove the team bus to Johnson's house in Marshallton, parked the bus out front, and stayed for a home-cooked meal.<sup>7</sup>

Because of the transient nature of the profession of the ball player, the house at 3701 Kiamensi Avenue best represents Johnson's success as a ball player. The next most important resource to represent Johnson's significance would be the Johnson family's home at 217 Delamore Place (N-6439). William and Annie Johnson were listed in the Wilmington City Directories as residing at this address from 1914 until the 1934-35 directory, when they appear at 108 Delamore Place (N-6430). In the 1921-22 Wilmington City Directory, a "Judus Johnson" is listed as a chauffeur living at 217 Delamore Place. It was in 1921 when Johnson was acquired by the Hilldale team and given the nickname "Judy." During his baseball career, Johnson was often on the road. His family remembers that he had an apartment in Philadelphia where he would stay while playing ball. After marrying in 1923, his wife, Anita T. (Irons) Johnson, continued to live with her parents for a time because Judy was so much on the road. She was also busy as a school teacher.<sup>8</sup> Johnson and his wife are listed in the Wilmington City Directories as renting at 1725 West 5th Street in Wilmington from 1932 until 1934.<sup>9</sup>

As stated in the recent biography of Johnson, "Judy credited his ability to buy his house in Marshallton to the money he earned playing winter ball."<sup>10</sup> On December 21, 1934, while playing for the Crawfords, Johnson and his wife purchased the house at 3701 Kiamensi Avenue in Marshallton (Deed K39/119). Johnson is supposed to have learned that this house was for sale from a friend from church, John Jackson, who lived across from this house on Newport Road. (The two attended the Haven United Methodist Church in Wilmington.) The house was conveniently-located for Anita, within walking distance of the Absalom Jones School. The Johnsons quickly moved into their home, where they raised their daughter, Loretta. The yard provided ample space for Judy's garden, where he grew Silver Queen Corn, and planted the grape vines, rose bushes, and apple trees that still remain. After playing with the Crawfords in Mexico during the 1936-1937 winter season, Johnson retired from baseball and settled into family life at this house in Marshallton.

Within the context of its community, the Johnson house is located in a suburban section of an older area of New Castle County known as Marshallton. Marshallton developed in the 1830s as a community of mill workers, associated with the iron-rolling mill established by the Marshall brothers on the Red Clay Creek. In the early part of the twentieth century, satellite areas of the older community, areas that formerly had been primarily farmland, were laid out into narrow, suburban lots. As a result of this development, the pre-1945 buildings in Marshallton outnumber its nineteenth-century buildings by about two to one. The house Johnson purchased was in one of the early subdivisions of Marshallton, laid out in 1907 as Washington Heights. The Johnson house is a well-preserved example in the Marshallton area of a nationally, as well as locally, popular type, the American Four Square.

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<sup>7</sup>Rendle, 50-51.

<sup>8</sup>For many years after graduating from college, Anita Johnson taught at the Absalom Jones School. After schools were integrated, she taught at the nearby Marshallton Consolidated School. Her teaching career spanned forty-nine years. Rendle, 29-30.

<sup>9</sup>William and Anita Johnson appear at this address in the 1932-33 and 1934-35 Wilmington City Directories. Johnson's occupation was listed as a baseball player.

<sup>10</sup>Rendle, 29.

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The house was purchased from Harvey Warner Hollingsworth and his wife, Louise. The Hollingsworths had purchased an empty parcel of land in Marshallton on October 7, 1922 (Deed N31/200). Until 1922, the parcel had been part of a fourteen-acre tract of land for some years. A survey of this tract was made in November of 1907 by Francis A. Price, Civil Engineer and Surveyor, for the property owner Samuel J. Truitt (Plan Y-9). Truitt had purchased the tract with his wife, Harriett R., in 1904 (Deed A20/219). The plan referred to this tract as Washington Heights. The plan shows no buildings located on the present parcel. The survey plan shows that several 27- and 28-foot wide parcels had been laid out along Kiamensi Avenue and Newport Road. Five of these parcels (numbers five through nine on the plan) were purchased by Hollingsworth. The deed of 1922 described the parcel as being bound on one side by a new street in Marshallton called Kiamensi Avenue. Although a few parcels were sold and houses were built upon them about the time of the construction of the Johnson House, most of the development in this area occurred after World War II.

Many Marshallton residents worked within the community. Though its owner and product were different, the mill was still operating and was a major employer. (It continues to function today as the Ametek Corporation.) Other residents were part of the relatively new commuting community, who worked in Wilmington. The Johnson family generally fit both of these classifications: Judy Johnson earned his living outside of Marshallton, while Anita Johnson was a teacher at a nearby school.

**PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF THE JOHNSON HOUSE**

Because the property retains a high level of integrity from its historic period, it conveys its significance as the former home of Judy Johnson. When Johnson purchased the house, its location was rural and development in the area was scattered. Because the house is located on a large corner lot (created from five of the lots laid out in 1907), the rural quality of the property is still present. The lot slopes downhill along Newport Road. This slight elevation of the parcel creates a separation between the house and the neighboring road. The spacious yard was supposed to have appealed to Johnson. The landscape features, many of which were planted by Johnson, enhance the rural character of the setting: a grape vine and rose bushes are planted on either side of the garage; a large magnolia tree is centered behind the house; apple trees are located at the rear of the yard; the rear and north side yards are lined with forsythia and rose of Sharon; a large holly and dogwood are located near the Newport Road boundary of the property; and maples line Kiamensi Avenue. Planted near the front and north sides of the house are azaleas, a snowball bush, and rhododendrons.

The overall design of the Johnson House is intact from the historic period. The changes to the wall openings occur near the rear of the house. These include the infill of the door in the wing and the replacement of the two kitchen windows with a projecting window box. Neither of these changes significantly impacts the overall design. Most changes to the fabric of the building were made during the historic period. The asbestos siding is historic because it was added by Johnson in 1939 during the historic period for which the house is being nominated. The front porch enclosure, although probably not original, is also historic as it was accomplished in the historic period. Original wood trim elements, evocative of the Craftsman period, are intact. These include the exposed rafter ends of the main roof, wing, and dormer; the sawtooth-pattern, bargeboard trim on the dormer; the wood brackets, with decorative stickwork, supporting the shed roof over a side entry; and the chamfered edges of the wood posts supporting the front porch. The main features of the interior plan, as well as the mouldings around the doors and windows, the wide baseboard, and the balustrade leading to the second floor, are all intact and well-preserved.

The other contributing resource on this parcel, the garage, also retains its original character, with its sliding, beaded-board doors and original weatherboard siding. Although two of the four window openings have been made slightly smaller to accommodate replacement windows, the placement of the

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window openings has not been altered and still conveys the original intent of symmetry in design. The approximately three-foot extension to the garage was made by Johnson during the historic period.

Overall, enough of the original location and setting, as well as the overall design, materials, and workmanship of this property are retained, so that the feeling and association are of Johnson's early residence here.

Today, the house is lived in and cared for by Johnson's daughter, Loretta, and her husband, William Bruton. William Bruton played in the major leagues. He played center field for the Milwaukee Braves from 1953 to 1960, then for the Detroit Tigers from 1961 to 1964. The Braves were National League Champions in 1957 and 1958 and World Series Champions in 1957. After retiring from baseball, William Bruton worked for Chrysler Corporation from 1964 until 1988. He is a member of the Delaware Baseball Hall of Fame. Loretta Bruton worked for the State of Michigan for twenty years, from 1965 to 1985. She was Supervisor for Adoption and Delinquency within the Department of Social Services. While in Wisconsin and Michigan, the couple raised four children. In retirement they have returned to Delaware, where baseball is still a major theme in their lives.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository : New Castle County Department of Planning

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 0.49 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	445730	4397780	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Susan Brizzolara/Assistant Historic Preservation Plannerorganization New Castle County Department of Planning date June 8, 1995street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780city or town Newark state DE zip code 19711

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name William H. and Loretta K. Brutonstreet & number 3701 Kiamensi Avenue telephone (302) 998-9778city or town Marshallton state DE zip code 19808

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Banks, James. The Pittsburgh Crawfords: The Lives and Times of Black Baseball's Most Exciting Team. Dubuque, Iowa: William C. Brown, 1991.
- Dale, Richard P. "He Had to Take the Long Way: Judy Johnson's Rough Road from Wilmington to Cooperstown." Thomas J. Craven Prize, University of Delaware, Department of History, Student Paper, 1987.
- Holway, John. Voices from the Great Black Baseball Leagues. Rev. ed. New York: Da Capo Press, 1992.
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- Rader, Benjamin G. Baseball: A History of America's Game. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1992.
- Rendle, Ellen. Judy Johnson: Delaware's Invisible Hero. Wilmington, Delaware: Cedar Tree Press, 1994.

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National Park Service

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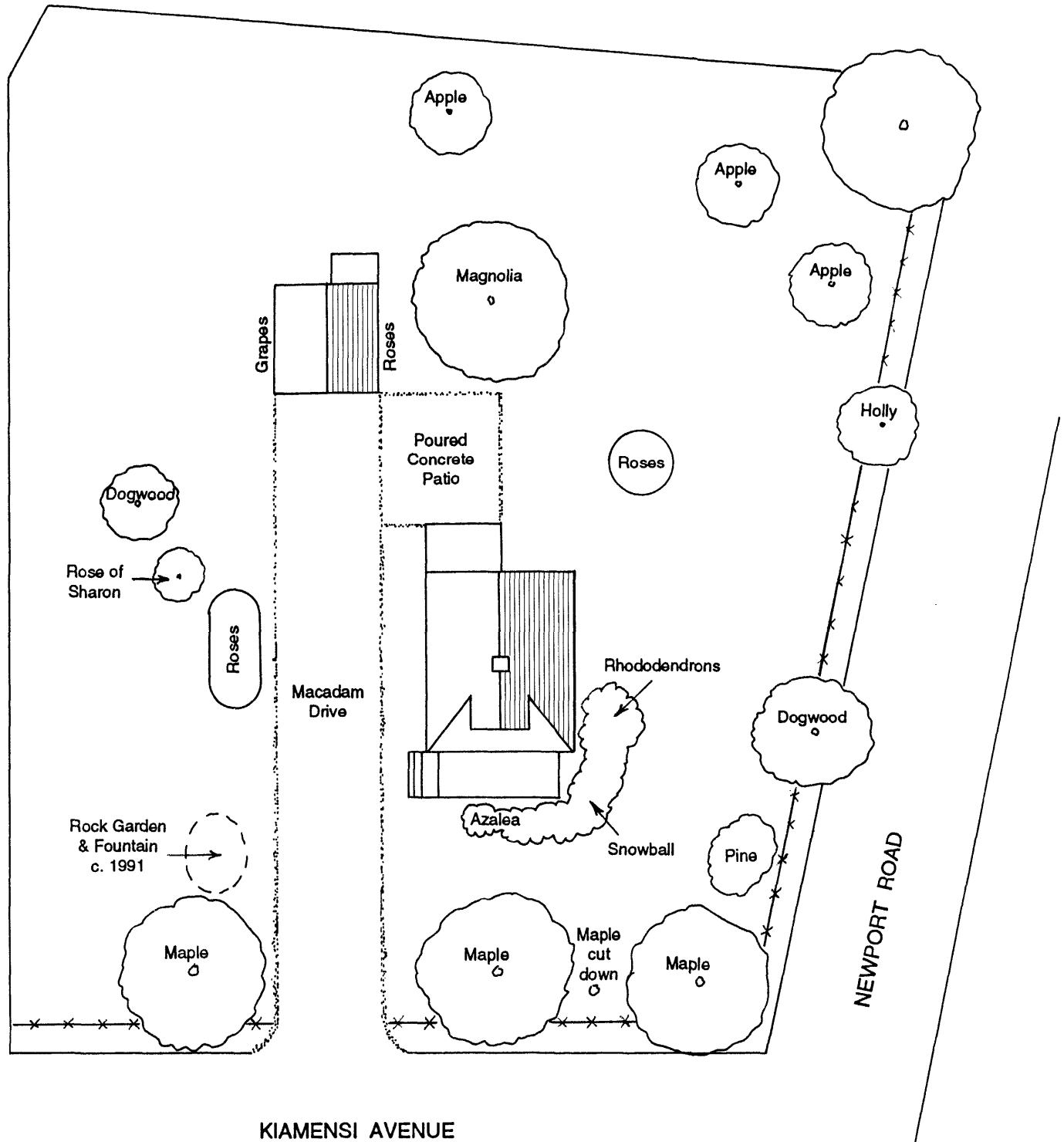
***Geographical Data***

***VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION***

The nominated boundary for the William Julius "Judy" Johnson House is the boundary line around the legal parcel on which the house and garage are located. The nominated boundary is outlined in a bold, black line on the accompanying map, "New Castle County Property Tax Map, Revised 5/20/1987." The outlined area, parcel 07-041.10-088, contains .49 acres.

***BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION***

The boundaries of the legal parcel were chosen as the nominated boundary because these lines contain both of the contributing resources, the house and the garage, and because the land included in these boundaries is the same land that was conveyed to William Julius Johnson and his wife, Anita T. Johnson, on 12/21/1934 (Deed K39/119). An important attribute of the house for Johnson was the rural character of the setting, which is conveyed today by the large lot and mature landscape elements contained within these boundaries. Outside of the boundary line on Kiamensi Avenue and Newport Road, there is a swath of land owned by the Delaware Department of Transportation as a right-of-way. In the event of the widening of these roads to include the full width of the right-of-way, there will be no direct taking of the historic landscape elements, and therefore none of the right-of-way has been included in the boundaries. However, if the roads are widened the full width of the right-of-way, the roadway would come within two to three feet of the trunks of several trees. The disturbance of the root systems of these historic landscape elements during the excavation for the roadbeds would probably result in their destruction. These landscape elements contribute to the historic setting of the Johnson House and every reasonable effort should be made to allow for their preservation. Currently, the right-of-way from the edge of the macadam surface of Newport Road is approximately nine feet, and the right-of-way from the edge of the macadam surface of Kiamensi Avenue is approximately seven feet, except at the corner, where, measuring diagonally from a boundary marker to the road, the remaining right-of-way is four-feet, four-inches wide.

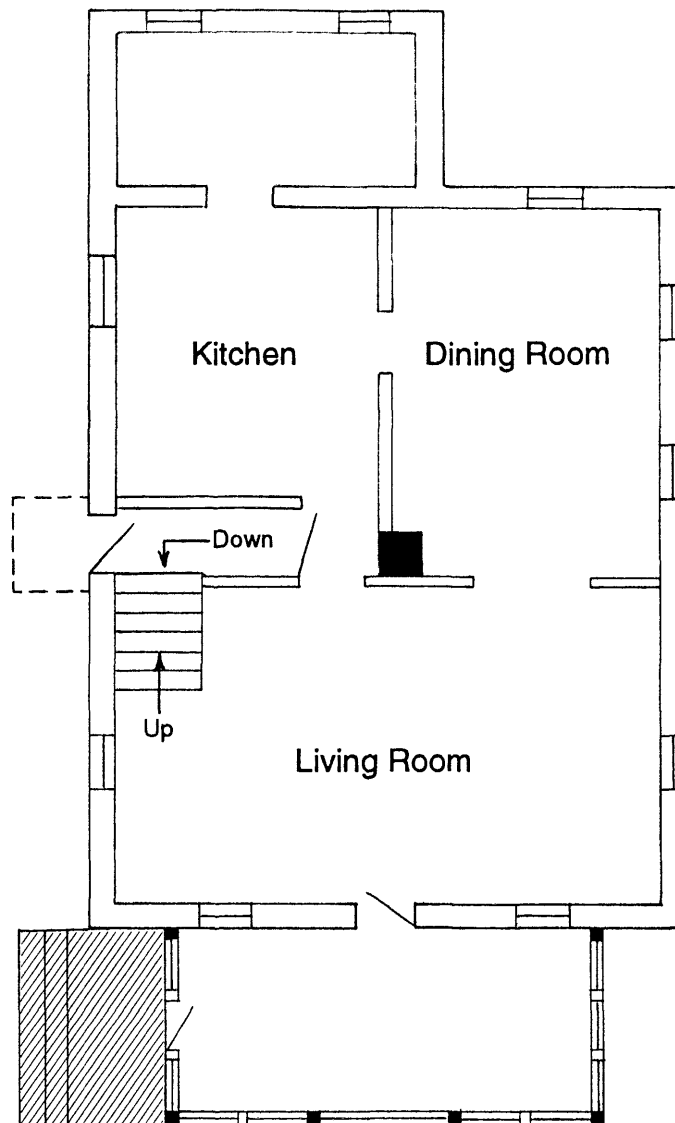


**WILLIAM J. "JUDY" JOHNSON HOUSE  
N-13116**

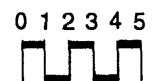
**Site Plan Showing Dominant Landscape Features  
3701 Kiamensi Avenue  
Marshallton  
Christiana Hundred  
New Castle County, DE**



Not to Scale



WILLIAM J. "JUDY" JOHNSON HOUSE  
 N-13116  
 3701 Kiamensi Avenue  
 Marshallton  
 Christiana Hundred  
 New Castle County, DE



Scale 1/8" = 1'0"

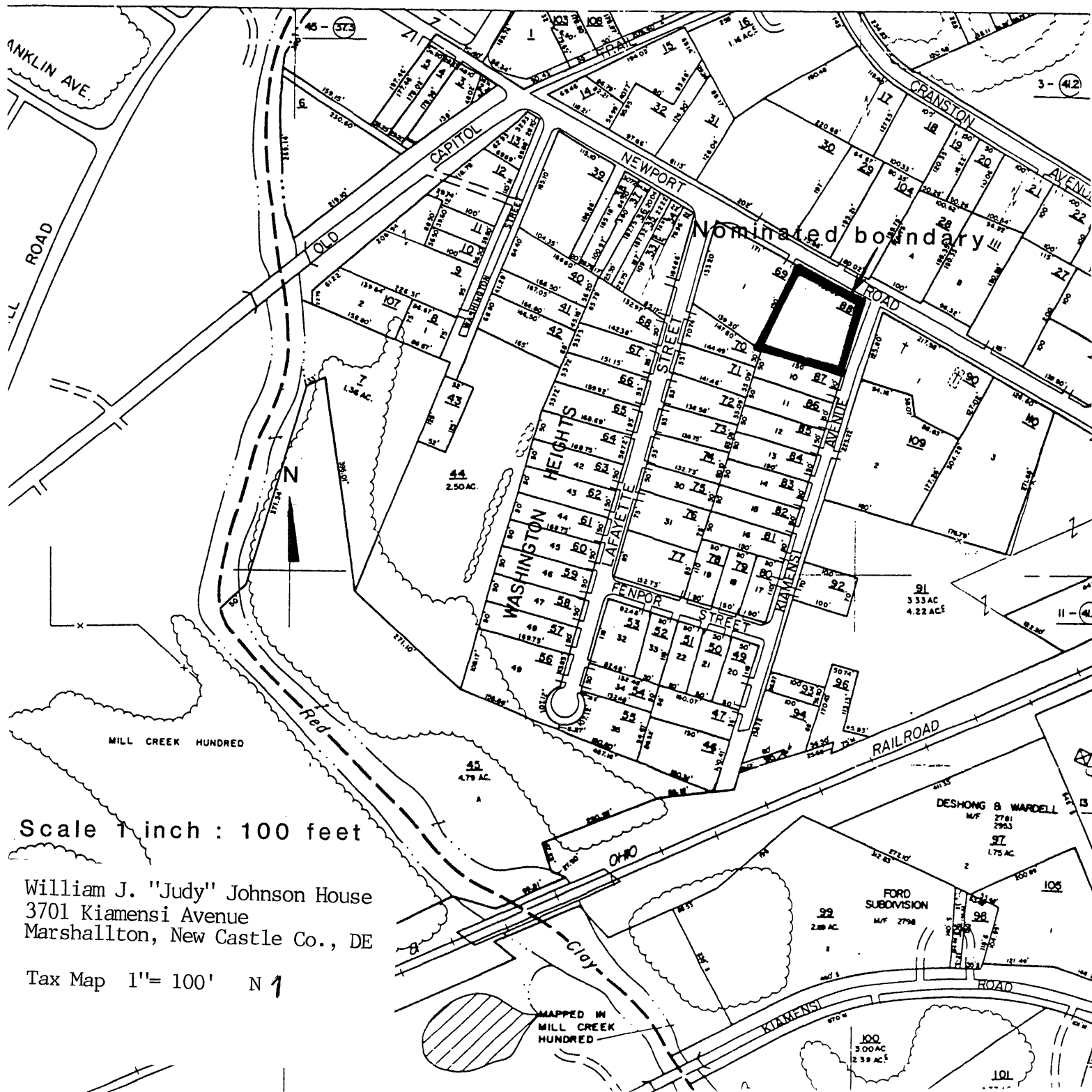
# William J. "Judy" Johnson House

N-13116

## New Castle County Property Tax Map

Revised 5/20/87

Parcel 07-041.10-088



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95001145 Date Listed: 10/10/95

William Julius "Judy" Johnson House New Castle DE  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

10/10/95

Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, "Ethnic Heritage - Black" is added as an Area of Significance. The nomination is formally amended to add this additional Area of Significance.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)