

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

(Staff Use Only)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT of CULTURE & HISTORY
SCIENCE & CULTURE CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

FILE NO: 88
TITLE(S):
REG NO(S):
USGS QUAD: Charleston West, W/46
UTM REF: 17/483800/4243150

DISTRICT . SITE . BUILDING . STRUCTURE . OBJECT

1. NAME(S), historic/common:
"Bird Haven"; Johnston, I.N./Marshall, F. home

2. LOCATION, street/road: 733 Myrtle Road Myrtle Rd.

city/town: Charleston, WV
(Incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: residence

(public/private, restricted)

original: residence

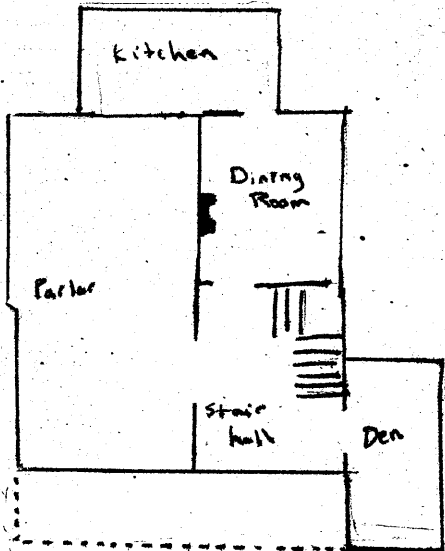
4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Mrs. Fan Marshall
address above

(public/private)

original: Israel N. Johnston

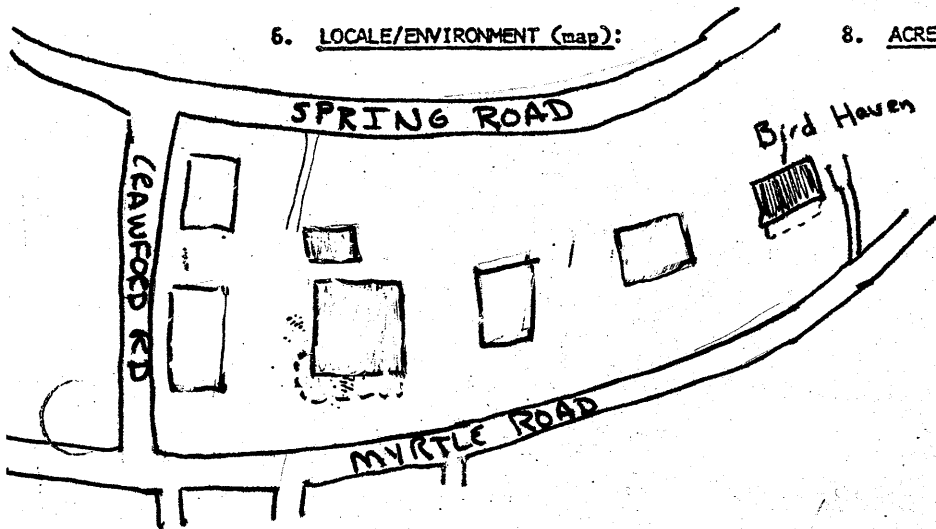
5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):



6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):



less than one
acre
1/4 ACRE

COUNTY: Kanawha
Survey Region: _____
Planning District: _____

9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

a. Exterior Fabric

stone _____
 brick _____
 concrete _____
 stucco _____
 weatherboard _____
 clapboard X _____
 board & batten _____
 shingle _____
 other _____

b. Structural System

masonry _____
 frame X _____
 log _____
 metal _____
 other _____
 foundation _____
 stone _____

c. Roofing Material

wood _____
 metal _____
 slate _____
 tile _____
 asphalt X _____
 composition _____
 other _____

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings N/A _____
 dependencies N/A _____
 other N/A _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
 alterations side porch enclosed _____
 additions NONE _____

f. Condition:

excellent _____
 good X _____
 fair _____
 deteriorated _____
 abandoned _____

g. Threats: NONE

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:
Unknown
 b. Style/Period: early
bungalow
 c. Date(s): c. 1895

"Bird Haven" was built and named by Israel N. Johnston around 1895. Johnston owned a tailor business at 308 Virginia Street and was the state ornithologist for West Virginia.

This late nineteenth century two-story cottage is of painted clapboard with imbricated shingles under the front gable. Other Victorian features evident in this bungalow-style house are the front and back parlors (now one room) and the three-sided front bay window.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Charleston City Directories
 Interview with Mrs. Fan Marshall

12. FORM PREPARED BY Alice Carter ; DATE Sept. 30, 1983

a. Address 4011 Kanawha Ave., Charleston, WV 25304
 b. Organization _____

"Bird Haven"; Johnston, I.N./Marshall, F., Home

CONTINUED

13. Verbal Boundary Description

"Bird Haven" is situated on a lot 75' by 75' bounded on the west by a private road and on the north by Myrtle Road; on Lot No. 1, Kanawha County Tax Map No. 5, 15th Ward-16 (4-15-1965).

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

1. Name(s) Historic/Common: "Bird Haven"
(South Hills Multiple Resource Area)
Kanawha County
West Virginia

#7. "Bird Haven" is one of the oldest frame houses in the South Hills Multiple Resource Area. It is a multi-gabled, one and one-story cottage with clapboard siding, corner boards, partial return cornices, and gables sheathed in patterned wooden shingles. The multiple gables and brick chimney with corbeled cap are late 19th-century design features. The front porch is of early (1920's) 20th-century origin and features rectangular wooden shingle sheathing upon its solid rails and posts. Open rafter ends, typical of Bungaloid construction of the period, are prominently displayed in the eaves of the porch.

#8. "Bird Haven" is a significant late 19th-century rural dwelling combining features of Victorian design, e.g., gable sheathing of geometric patterned shingles, and a Bungalow-style porch reflecting the evolutionary character of the house from its construction date, when it was a rural (or suburban) residence, to the early 20th century when then fashionable architectural details were applied to the porch.

"Bird Haven" achieves significance as the long-time residence of Israel N. Johnston, "the Luther Burbank" of Charleston who gained widespread fame as an ornithologist and grower of prized dahlias. Johnston was for many years state ornithologist. Two of Mr. Johnston's books were published in the early 20th-century; they are: Birds of West Virginia, Their Economic Value and Aesthetic Beauty, State Department of Agriculture, Charleston, 1923; and Crooked-Bill: The Life of a Quail., Philadelphia, Dorrance & Co., c.1937. Johnston was often referred to as the "Bird Man" because of "the well populated bird haven he established at his home."

- #9. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. (V. 12), Jim Comstock, Richwood, West Virginia, 1976, p. 2551.