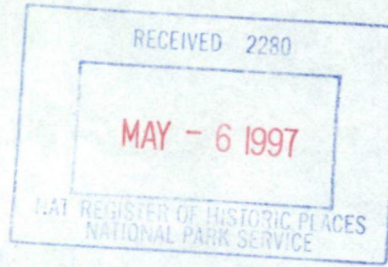


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



550

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Johnson, Charles, House  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 301 E. 35th  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Houston  
**STATE:** Texas      **CODE:** TX      **COUNTY:** Harris  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**VICINITY:** N/A  
**CODE:** 201      **ZIP CODE:** 77022

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

*Laurel J. Russell*  
Signature of certifying official

4-29-97  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

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

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
6-4-97



**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> <b>BUILDINGS</b>
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> <b>SITES</b>
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> <b>STRUCTURES</b>
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> <b>OBJECTS</b>
	<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> <b>TOTAL</b>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** Historic and Architectural Resources of Independence Heights, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER:** Vernacular L-plan

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
                  WALLS      WOOD: Weatherboard  
                  ROOF       ASPHALT  
                  OTHER      CONCRETE

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Johnson, Charles, House  
Houston, Harris County, Texas

## Description

The Charles Johnson House (c. 1915) faces south on the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Courtlandt in a largely residential section of Independence Heights. The 1-story wood frame L-plan house is set on concrete piers and covered in a hipped roof. An inset porch with hipped roof and concrete foundation covers two single doors and a window. All windows are 2/2 wooden frames, most with wooden screens. The house is set back approximately 15-20 feet from the street with a wire and wooden post fence denoting the rear yard. Although there is minimal landscaping, a large deciduous tree covers the southeast corner of the front yard and house.

The Charles Johnson House dates from about 1915 and reflects vernacular domestic forms of the turn of the century. The 1-story house follows an L-plan form with the inside of the "L" facing south toward the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Courtlandt. A large hipped roof of asphalt shingles covers the house. Concrete piers provide foundation support for the main block of the house. A 1-story shed roof addition extends across the rear of the house and probably dates to the late 1920s or 1930s. There are no secondary buildings on the lot.

The principal (south) 3-bay facade follows an A-B-A pattern with a second single-door entrance to the east from the front porch. A 1-story porch with hipped roof covers the single window and two doors and is set on a concrete slab supported by two square wooden posts. Flanking iron handrails lead up the concrete steps to the front porch.

All windows are 2/2 wooden frame with most covered in wood frame screens. The principal doors are also wooden, one is covered by a wooden screen door.

The house is set back from 35<sup>th</sup> Street approximately 15-20 feet as is typical of the street and community. A graveled area is provided along the street for off-street parking. Although there is little landscaping, the front and rear yards reflect traditional landscaping plants and uses.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- 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 VALUE, 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:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Ethnic Heritage: Black; Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** c. 1915-1947

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** c. 1915

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Unknown

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-6).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see context statement).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- 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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Johnson, Charles, House  
Houston, Harris County, Texas

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### Statement of Significance

The Charles Johnson House (c. 1915) is a representative example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century vernacular L-plan form similar to many houses in Independence Heights. Charles Johnson, also known as "Charlie," was one of three ice men who provided an important service to residents of Independence Heights as early as 1915 through the 1920s. Typical of many Independence Heights businesses, Johnson operated the delivery service out of his home. The property is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a largely intact example of this form, and Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage (black) at the local level of significance.

The Charles Johnson House (c.1915) is among the earliest houses in Independence Heights and one of the most intact examples of the L-plan vernacular form. As lots were sold in Independence Heights, some new homeowners selected traditional forms for construction. Johnson probably used one of the local builders from Independence Heights who was familiar with this form. The Johnson family and subsequent owners have maintained the property making it one of the most intact examples in the community.

Charles Johnson, known locally as "Charlie," operated one of three ice delivery businesses in Independence Heights. During the early part of the century, ice was an important commodity that facilitated refrigeration of food items. As is typical of many small black businesses, ice delivery required small investments and little overhead expenses making it an ideal small business to operate out of the home. Likewise, the nature of ice required frequent and repeated service to clients thereby insuring a regular business income. Johnson is remembered as the most successful and probably earliest of the ice men in Independence Heights.

The Charles Johnson House retains sufficient integrity to represent the vernacular L-plan form and demonstrate Ethnic Heritage of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
	1	15	268480	3300860		

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Independence Heights, Block 18, Lots 31 & 32

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** Boundary encompasses all resources historically associated with the nominated property.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** Vivian Seals with assistance from Dwayne Jones, Texas Historical Commission

**ORGANIZATION** Independence Heights Neighborhood Council      **DATE:** 1/97

**STREET & NUMBER:** 3714 Yosemite      **TELEPHONE:** (713) 747-9989

**CITY OR TOWN:** Houston      **STATE:** TX      **ZIP CODE:** 77021

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS (see USGS map #6)**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** Jerry West c/o Ethel E. West

**STREET & NUMBER:** 4027 Delhi Street      **TELEPHONE:** N/A

**CITY OR TOWN:** Houston      **STATE:** TX      **ZIP CODE:** 77022



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Johnson, Charles, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Independence Heights MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harris

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/97      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/97  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/97      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/20/97  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000550

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6.4.97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Entered in the  
National Register*

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N







JOHNSON, CHARLES, HOUSE  
301 E. 35<sup>TH</sup>  
HOUSTON, HARRIS CO., TEXAS  
VIVIAN SEALS, PHOTOGRAPHER  
FALL 1996, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH  
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NEG.  
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST  
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500641