

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common Captain's Houses

**2. Location**

street & number Corsica Street (west side, S. of Corsica Neck Rd) not for publication

city, town Centreville vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Queen Anne's code 035

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. William F. Grovermann

street & number 9 Cathedral Street

city, town Annapolia vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Centreville state Maryland 21617

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

QA-198

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain's Houses are a closely set row of four small unattached houses built along Corsica Creek in the mid-19th century. The four houses are almost identical, with only minor differences in the fenestration of the south gable of each building resting on a one story brick foundation, the upper story-and-a-half of each house is of frame construction, with steeply pitched roof and two-story engaged porch on the water facade. A detailed description of the southernmost house is given below.

The two-bay river facade on the ground floor consists of a door in the right or west bay and a six-over-six window to the left. This pattern is repeated on the main floor, with the door giving access to the upper level of the two-story porch. On the land facade, the ground level reaches up to the main floor, allowing direct access from outside through a door in the east bay. A six-over-six window in the west bay balances the door. One gabled-roof, six-over-six dormer window is centered on each side of the roof.

The brick foundation wall is laid in six-course bond and is whitewashed. The frame portion of the building is covered with unbeaded weatherboard siding secured with machine nails. The porch columns are square and constructed of 1 x 6 boards. The second floor porch is enclosed by a railing with square balusters.

The roof is relatively steep, constructed of circular sawn common rafters set at a pitch of 51 degrees. The original wood shingles are covered with a later standing-seam metal roof.

Exterior decoration is restricted to beaded door and window frames and a modest box cornice that returns at the rear of the gable.

The interior is very simple with a single room on each floor. The ground floor room is reached by the door on the river facade. A small brick fireplace projects into the room on the center of the east gable. To the right of the fireplace is a winder stair leading to the main floor. The window on the river facade and one centered on the west gable provide light to the room.

The main floor is identical in size to the ground floor. Entrance is made through the door in the east bay of the land facade, with a second door in the west bay of the river facade leading onto the porch. The chimney rises on the east gable wall, but is only fitted for a stove, with no fireplaces. A winder stair to the right of the chimney leads down to the ground floor and up to the second floor.

The second floor is larger than the lower floors, as the porch is engaged under the roof, giving more floor space on this story. The chimney is fitted for a stove pipe and rises along the east gable wall; it is corbeled towards the front to allow the stack to rise through the ridge of the roof. The winder stair descends to the right of the chimney. Light is provided by one dormer on each facade and a single six-over-six centered on the west gable.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Captains Houses  
Queen Anne's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Interior detail on all three floors is uniformly plain. Beaded batten doors to the winder stair and beaded door frames are the only evidence of decorative finish.

These four buildings have remained essentially unchanged except for the tin roofs and a frame and glass addition made in the 1960s. This structure stretches across the rear facade and joins all four buildings, but is not directly tied into the walls of the houses. The present owner plans to rebuild this addition with more durable materials, making it suitable for year-round occupancy.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates      1880                      Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Captain's Houses are significant in three principal areas: architecture, economic history, and maritime transportation. Architecturally, they are significant because they comprise a house form unknown elsewhere in the Tidewater. This house form is characterized by a story-and-a-half frame dwelling on a full, one story brick foundation, with one room on each floor. A two story porch across the front facade is incorporated under the pitched gable roof of the main house. Taken collectively, these four dwellings form an assemblage that is unique in this region. The Captain's Houses are significant in the economic and maritime history of Queen Anne's County due to their association with Captain John H. Ozmon and with Centreville Wharf. Constructed circa 1880 by Ozmon, a prominent local schooner captain, these houses were evidently used to quarter the workmen employed by Ozmon on his sailing schooners and in his warehouses, granaries, and store. They are among the earliest surviving buildings along the Centreville waterfront and provide a key visual link to the important role of Centreville Wharf when water transportation was the principal form of travel in the Chesapeake region.

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT**

Constructed circa 1880, these four houses are among the earliest buildings surviving on the Centreville waterfront. This area has served as a center for trade since at least the early 18th century, long before the establishment of Centreville. Early commercial activity on this branch of Corsica Creek centered on a grist mill in operation by 1719 and a tobacco inspection warehouse located somewhere very close to the Captain's Houses. Following the founding of Centreville in 1792, the wharf area served as a loading point for agricultural produce bound for Baltimore and Norfolk, and as a market for manufactured goods. This trade flourished throughout the 19th century and the Captain's Houses can be viewed as a significant survival of the post-Civil War trade conducted by numerous schooner captains, including C.H. Clark, Augustus McCabe, and John H. Ozmon. Certainly the most ambitious of these was Ozmon.

Ozmon purchased much of the waterfront in the latter part of the 19th century and constructed as many as two dozen buildings, including his own residence, a store, several granaries and warehouses, and more than a dozen dwelling houses. The Captain's Houses are traditionally believed to have served as dwellings for the schooner captain's employed by Ozmon. While no documentary evidence can be found to identify any occupants of the houses, it seems evident that the numerous houses built by Ozmon

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Captain's Houses  
Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE      2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

were intended for the men who worked on the docks, in the various warehouses, and on the boats, while simultaneously serving to promote Ozmon's apparent ambition to develop the wharf area as a self-sufficient community, as intimated by occasional early deed references to the area as Ozmon Town.

Born in Denton in 1828, Ozmon followed his father to a maritime career, and was made master of the schooner "Kent" at the age of twenty. He settled permanently in Centreville in 1858, and beginning in the 1860s began to purchase land in the Centreville Wharf area. He continued to buy and sell property over the ensuing thirty years, and by the time of his death, in 1902, owned much of Centreville Wharf.

After his death, a survey plat of his Wharf property was prepared, and the numbered parcels were divided between the two children, Joseph W. Ozmon and Florence V. Larrimore. The survey plat is on file in the Courthouse, and the parcel of land on which the Captain's Houses stand was designated "Lot 7". This lot was described as being improved by six frame tenant houses and a stable building and contained slightly less than five acres, not including marsh land. Unfortunately, the 1903 deed does not specify how Ozmon acquired Lot 7.

By 1895, Ozmon had amassed buildings and real estate valued in a tax assessment of that year at sixteen thousand dollars. The valuation enumerated twenty-five separate parcels of land, with twenty-three houses, four granaries, a warehouse, and a store house and dwelling. Included among this list is the following entry:

Six tenant houses situate on the left side of the public road leading from Centreville to Corsica Neck at or near Centreville Landing	
Lots @ \$50 each	\$300
Dwellings and outbuildings thereon @ \$300 each	\$1800

In addition to real estate, Ozmon owned a half-interest in the schooner "Corsica", valued at four hundred dollars.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Captain's Houses  
Queen Anne's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Although this 1895 assessment includes the earliest reference to the Captain's Houses, it seems quite probable that Ozmon rarely left property vacant for long, and architectural evidence argues for a construction date no later than 1880. The houses do not appear in the Queen Anne's County Atlas of 1877. A date of circa 1878-1880 is proposed.

After his death in 1902, Ozmon's property was divided between his two children, and Lot 7 passed to his son, Joseph W. Ozmon. In 1909, Joseph Ozmon and his sister, Florence V. Larrimore, redivided the properties, and Lot 7 transferred to Florence Larrimore. The property was resurveyed and subdivided into separate lots, with the houses located on lots 6 through 9, lot 6 being the southernmost of the four. These four lots were eventually sold off individually and were not reassembled into a single property until 1969, when William and Kathleen Rodgers purchased the majority of the original Lot 7 in two transactions.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

QA-198

Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore. New York: Chapman, 1898, pp. 226-227.

Queen Anne's Land Records, Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nomlnated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Centreville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 8	4 0 6 9 3 1 0	4 1 3 2 1 2 8 1 8 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are illustrated on the attached map (No. 1), includes lots 6, 7, 8, and 9, and are delineated more precisely on maps 2 through 5.

### 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 Orlando Ridout, V, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Queen Anne's County Historical Society ~~date~~ revised August 1980

street & number 124 South Commerce Street telephone (301) 758-0580

city or town Centreville state Maryland 21617

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

8-25-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

QA-198  
Revision RLA 11/3/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Captain's Houses  
Queen Anne's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the property included in this nomination are delineated on the attached map labeled "National Register boundaries," dated October 1980, and drawn to a scale of 1"-30'.

QA-198  
 Captain's Houses  
 Queen Anne's County  
 Maryland

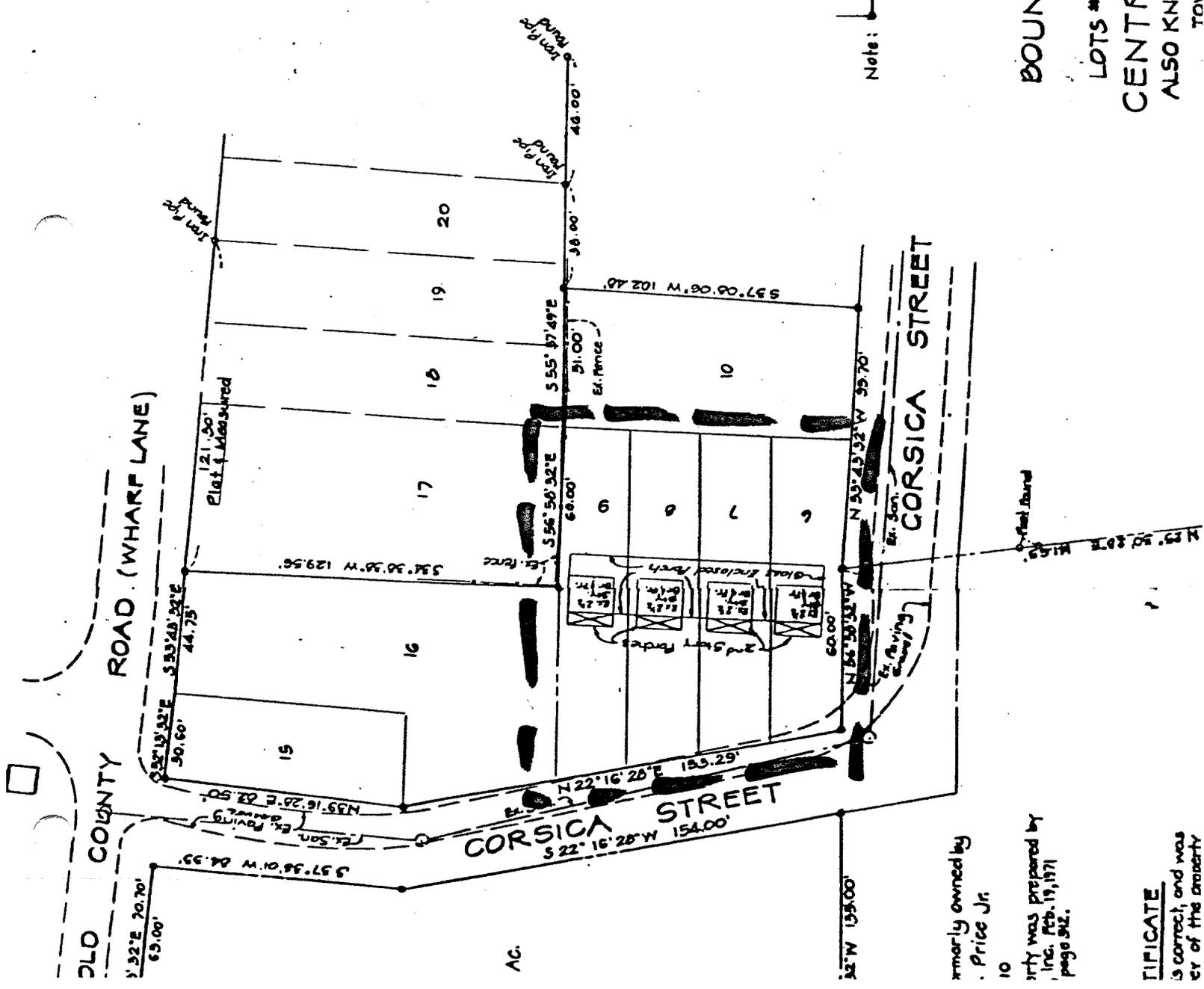
boundary map 105

property nominated  
 consists of lots  
 no. 6, 7, 8, & 9

1. William H. J. Kathleen Rogers deed dated Mar. 9, 1969 recorded Mar. 9, 1969 in C.W.C. 40 page 94.  
 2. Robert H. Thompson et al. to William H. J. Kathleen Rogers deed dated Mar. 9, 1969 recorded Mar. 4, 1969 in C.W.C. 40 page 50.

Plats: Plat of Joseph W. Osman property dated October 21, 1914, recorded in W.H.C. 1-A page 243 special file # 17003

Total Area : 1.271 Acres



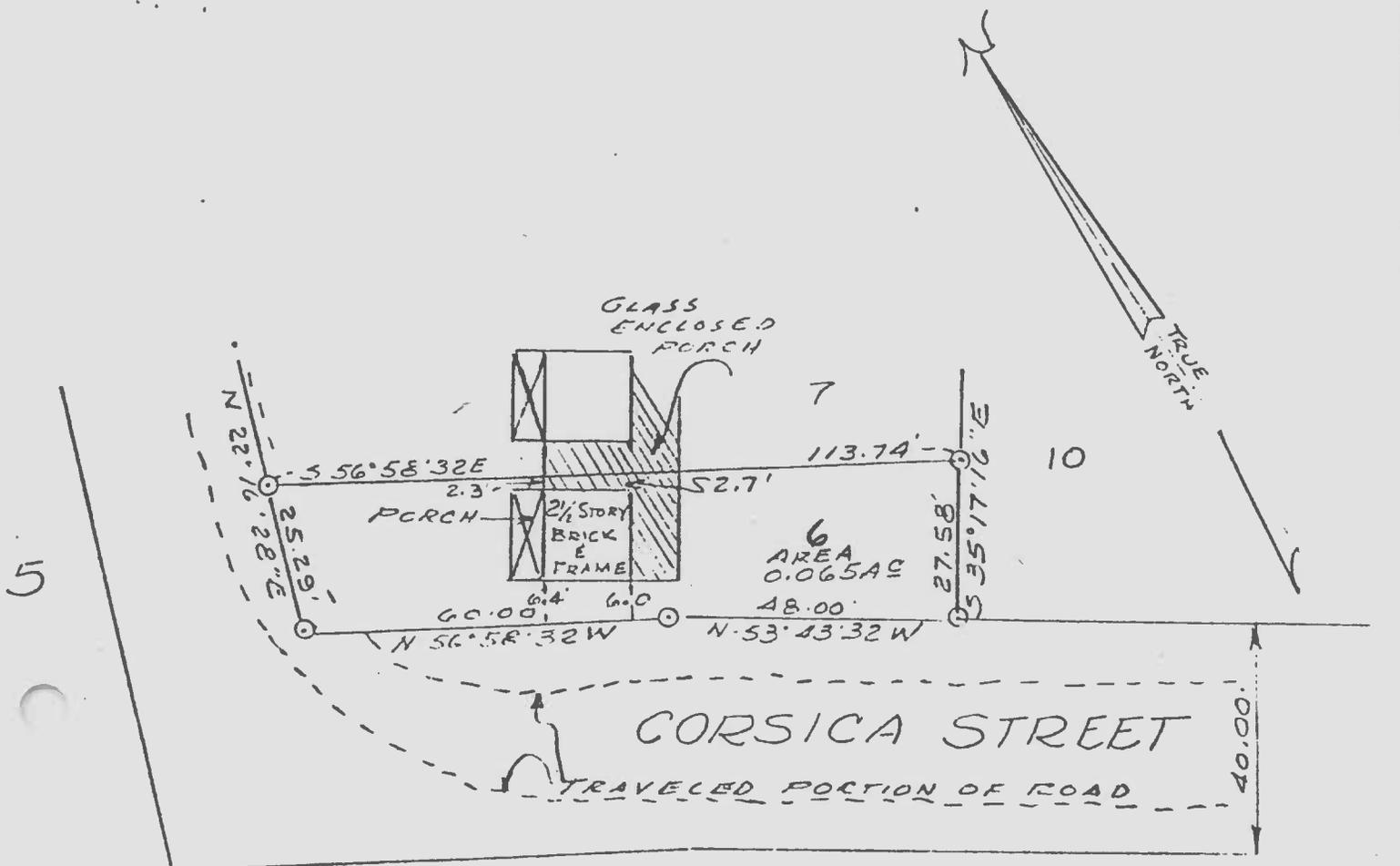
Note: — Denotes 5/8" Iron Pin Set

BOUNDARY SURVEY PLAT  
 OF  
 LOTS # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15 & 16  
 CENTREVILLE LANDING  
 ALSO KNOWN AS WHARF LANDING  
 TOWN OF CENTREVILLE

Primarily owned by  
 Price Jr.  
 10  
 City was prepared by  
 Inc. Feb. 19, 1971  
 page 542.

CERTIFICATE  
 is correct, and was  
 of the accuracy

boundary map 2 of 5  
scale 1"=30'

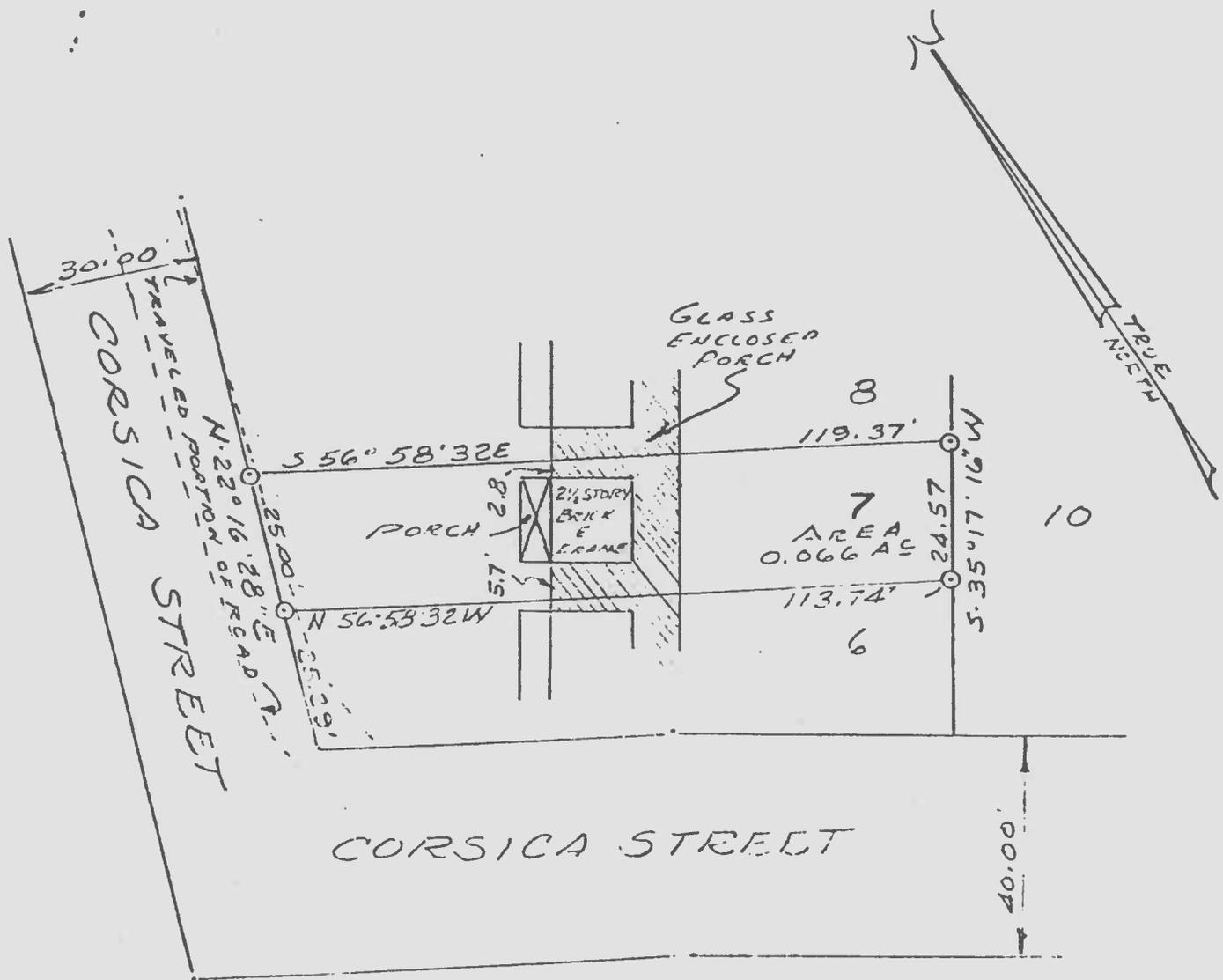


LEGEND  
O DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE  
PLAT OF JOSEPH W. OZMAN  
PROPERTY DATED OCT. 21, 1914  
RECORDED IN I.V.H.C. LIBER 1-A  
FOLIO 245 SPECIAL FILE NO 17083



boundary map 3 of 5  
scale 1"=30'



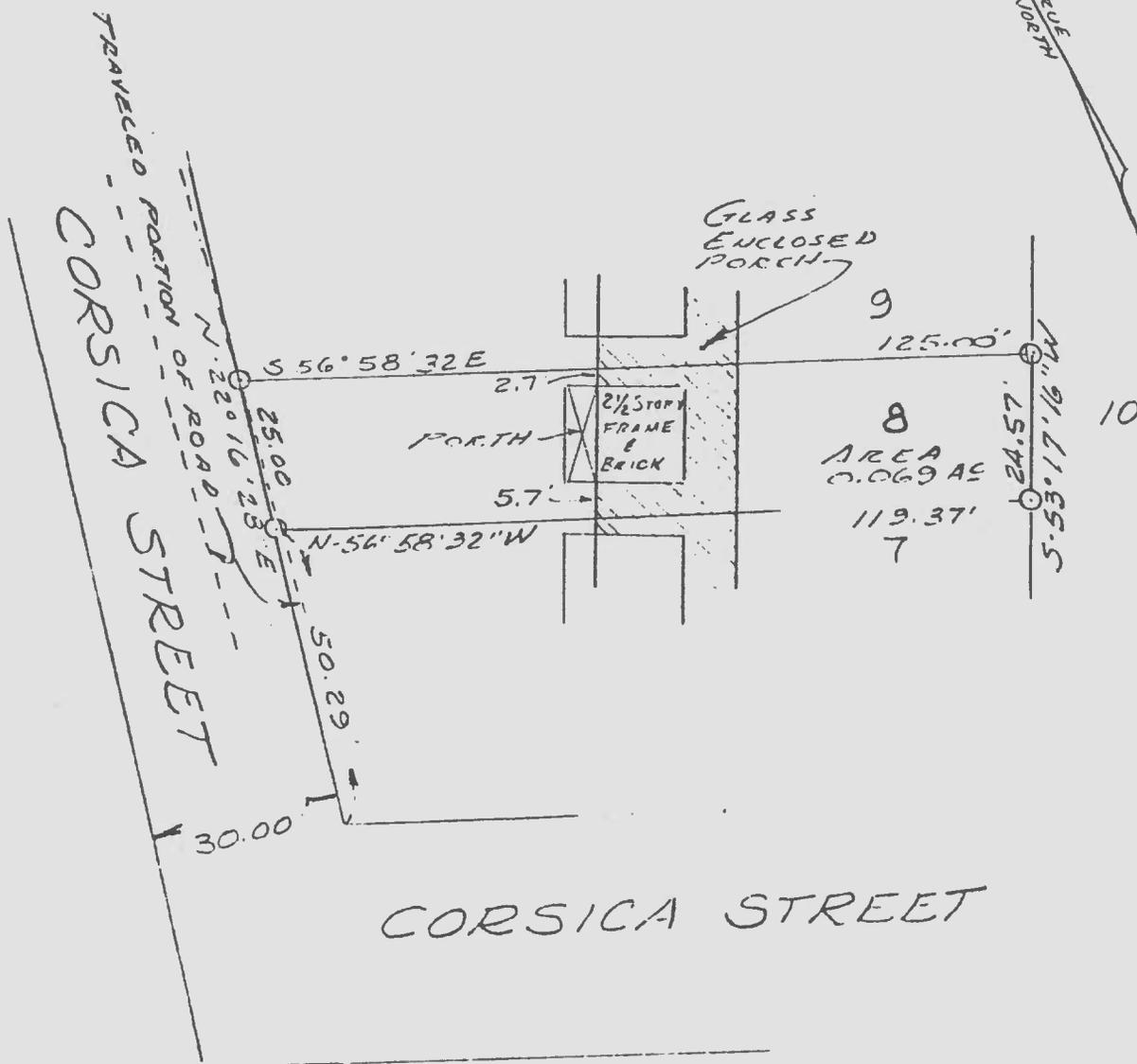
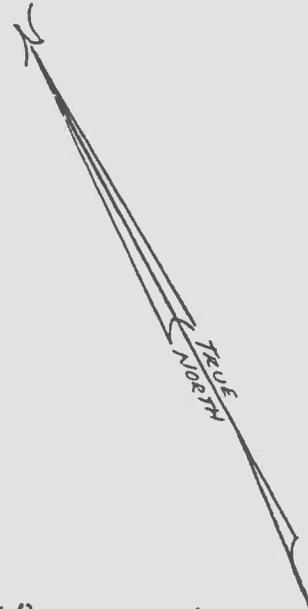
LEGEND  
○ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE  
PLAT OF JOSEPH W. OZMAN  
PROPERTY DATED OCT. 21, 1914  
RECORDED IN WHC. LIBER 1-A  
FOLIO 245 SPECIAL FILE NO 17083



boundary map 4 of 5

scale 1"=30'



LEGEND

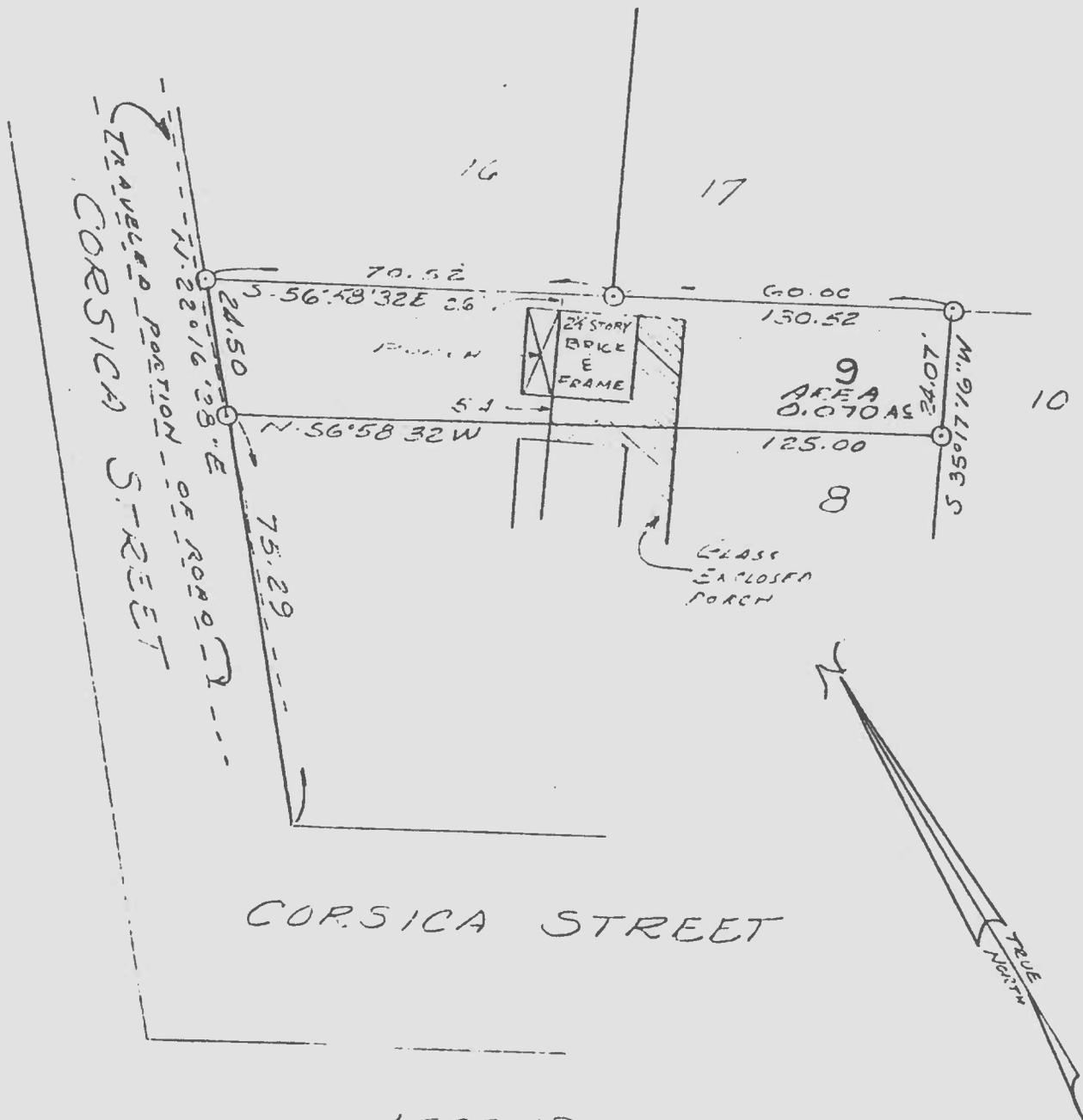
⊙ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE

PART OF J. SEYMOUR OZMAN PROPERTY  
DATED OCT. 21, 1914, RECORDED IN KING.  
LIBER 1-A FOLIO 245  
SPECIAL FILE NO 17063



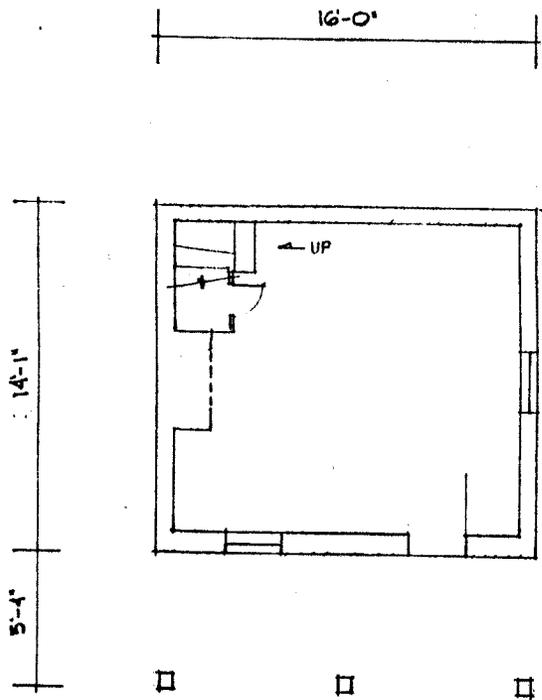
boundary map 5 of 5  
scale 1"=30'



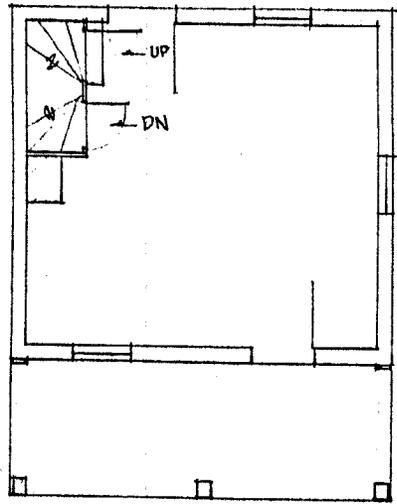
LEGEND  
⊙ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE  
PLAT OF JOSEPH W. OZMAN PROPERTY  
DATED OCT. 21, 1914 RECORDED IN W.H.C.  
LIBER 1-A FOLIO 245  
SPECIAL FILE NO 17083

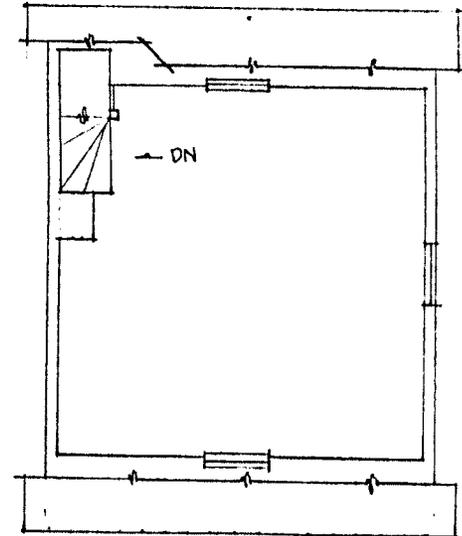




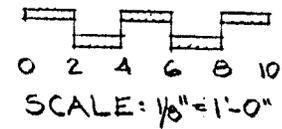
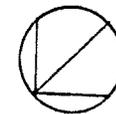
CELLAR



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



NOV 8 1976

QA-198

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSES  
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND  
*Queen Anne's County*

MARCH 21, 1978.

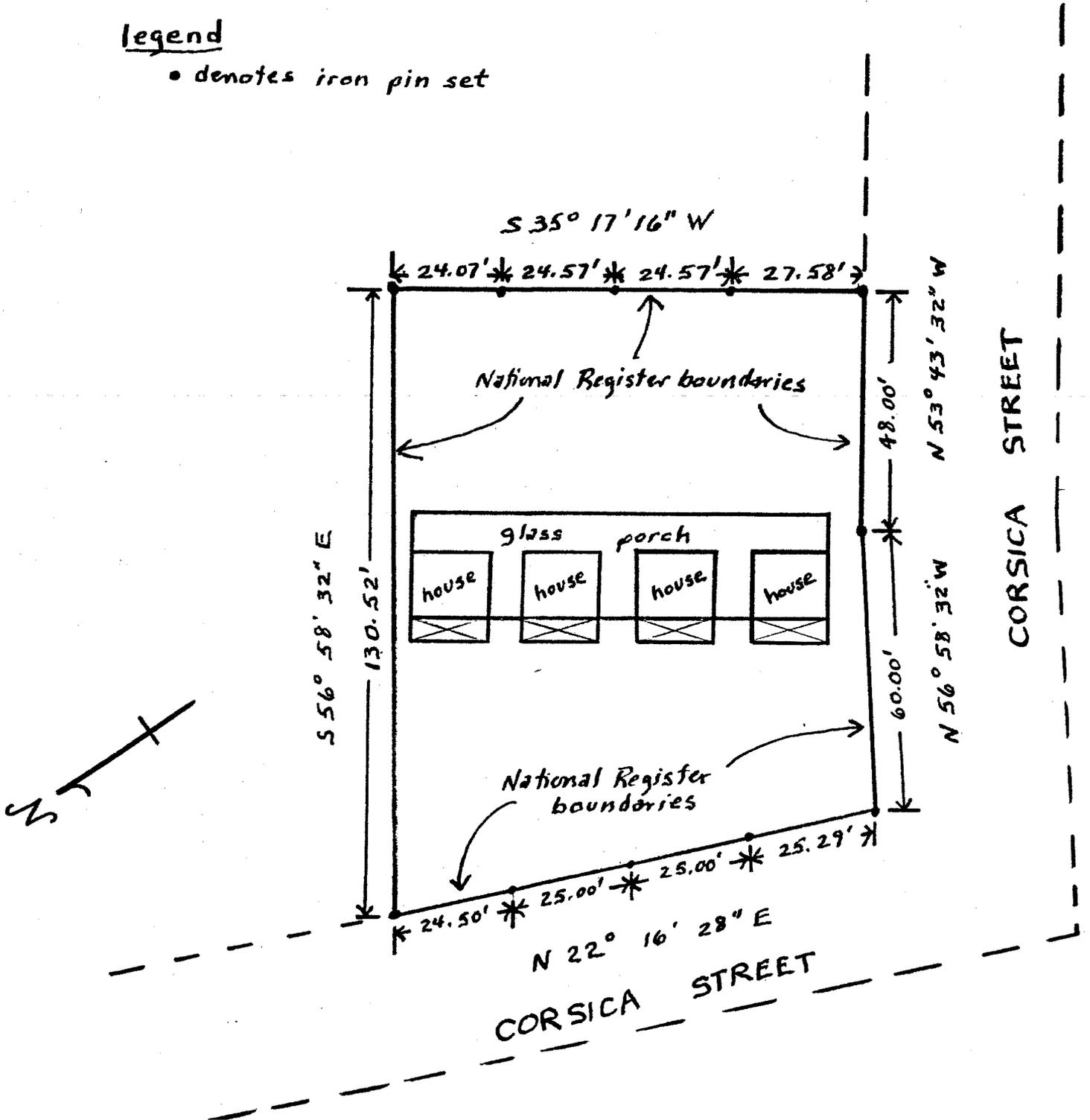
QA-198

Captain's Houses  
Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

National Register boundaries  
October 1980  
scale 1"=30'

legend

• denotes iron pin set



# Easement

QA-198

The Captain's Houses  
Centreville Landing  
Private

circa 1880

These four houses and two identical houses on Front Street were constructed circa 1880 by Captain John H. Ozmon, a prominent local schooner captain who developed much of the Centreville waterfront in the latter part of the 19th century. These dwellings are traditionally said to have been used by the captains and crew members of Ozmon's schooners. While this cannot be confirmed, it can be established that Ozmon owned and built as many as 20 houses in the wharf area, and these were undoubtedly occupied by the men who worked in the boats, warehouses, and stores operated not only by Ozmon but other local schooner owners.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Captain's Houses

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Corsica Street just south of Corsica Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Rodgers

Telephone #: 758-1350

STREET & NUMBER

Corsica Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 40

Folio #: 94

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-198

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addition			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain's Houses are a closely set row of four small houses built along Corsica Creek in the mid-19th century. The four houses are almost identical, with only minor differences in fenestration. Resting on a one-story brick foundation, the upper story-and-a-half of each house is of frame construction, with steeply pitched roof and two-story engaged porch on the water facade. A detailed description of the southernmost house is given below.

The two-bay river facade on the ground floor consists of a door in the right or west bay and a six-over-six window to the left. This pattern is repeated on the main floor, with the door giving access to the upper level of the two-story porch. On the land facade, the ground level reaches up to the main floor, allowing direct access from outside through a door in the east bay. A six-over-six window in the west bay balances the door. One gabled-roof, six-over-six dormer window is centered on each side of the roof.

The brick foundation wall has been white-washed. The frame portion of the building is

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

covered with unbeaded weatherboard siding secured with machine nails. The porch columns are square and constructed of 1 x 6 boards. The second floor porch is enclosed by a railing with square balusters.

The tin roof is not original, but has been applied over cedar shingles.

Exterior decoration is restricted to beaded door and window frames and a modest box cornice that returns at the rear of the gable.

The interior is very simple with a single room on each floor. The ground floor room is reached by the door on the river facade. A small brick fireplace projects into the room on the center of the east gable. To the right of the fireplace is a winder stair leading to the main floor. The window on the river facade and one centered on the west gable provide light to the room.

The main floor is identical in size to the ground floor. Entrance is made through the door in the east bay of the land facade, with a second door in the west bay of the river facade leading onto the porch. The chimney rises on the east gable wall, but is only fitted for a stove, with no fireplace. A winder stair

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

to the right of the chimney leads down to the ground floor and up to the second floor.

The second floor is larger than the lower floors, as the porch is engaged under the roof, giving more floor space on this story. The chimney is fitted for a stove pipe and rises along the east gable wall; it is corbeled towards the front to allow the stack to rise through the ridge of the roof. The winder stair descends to the right of the chimney. Light is provided by one dormer on each facade and a single six-over-six window centered on the west gable.

Construction Details

The house rests on a brick foundation wall laid in six-course American bond. The present floor in the cellar is concrete. First and second floor joists are 7 1/2 x 2, laid parallel to the gable on 16-inch centers.

The common rafter roof is constructed of 4 x 3 circular sawn timbers set on 26-inch centers at a 51-degree pitch. The rafters are butted together at the ridge; each pair is joined by a 1 x 6 collar that doubles as a second floor ceiling joist.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-198

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Captain's Houses are probably unique. Taken individually, they are reminiscent of a style of small house or cottage common throughout the maritime areas of the Deep South, finding particular favor in the Carolinas and the Gulf Coast. By combining four essentially identical houses, the builder has created a remarkable ensemble.

As part of the early architectural fabric of Centreville Wharf, the Captain's Houses can also be viewed as significant in the social and economic history of Queen Anne's County and in the maritime trade between Centreville and Baltimore.

Local tradition holds that the four houses on Corsica Street and two identical houses on Corsica Street were constructed soon after the Civil War by Captain John H. Ozmon. Captain Ozmon ran a shipping business between Centreville

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and Baltimore throughout the late 19th century, and these houses are said to have served as quarters for boat crews between voyages.

Although documentation regarding both Captain Ozmon and the houses in question is somewhat sketchy, both traditions seem to be born out at least in part. Ozmon first appears in the county land records in 1863, and in the ensuing years he became quite active in real estate transactions around Centreville Wharf.

In 1865, Ozmon is listed as owner of a half-interest in the 72-foot schooner "The Adventure of Baltimore". The following year, Ozmon and William H. Emory acquired the other half-interest.<sup>(1)</sup> It seems likely that this schooner formed the beginning of Captain Ozmon's maritime career.

In 1869, Ozmon began to buy property along the waterfront on Corsica Creek. He continued to buy and sell property over the next thirty years, and by the time of his death, in 1902, owned much of Centreville Wharf.

After his death, a survey plat of his Wharf property was prepared, and the numbered parcels were divided between the two children, Joseph W. Ozmon and

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Florence V. Larrimore. The survey plat is on file in the Courthouse, and the parcel of land on which the Captain's Houses stand was designated "Lot 7" (See Figure 1). This lot was described as being improved by six frame tenant houses and a stable building and contained slightly less than five acres, not including marsh land. Unfortunately, the 1903 deed does not specify how Ozmon acquired Lot 7. (2)

Most probably Lot 7 was the "lot of land and marsh... on the west branch of Corsica Creek", purchased from Edward B. Newnam on October 10, 1877. This parcel was part of "Chesterfield" and "Dockery's Lot" and cost three hundred dollars. (3)

Ozmon was obviously busy during this period, as the 1877 deed with Newnam includes a reference to "the house now being erected by said Ozmon", and an 1880 agreement with James W. Thompson notes:

...the said Ozmon is about to build two houses on the lot lately purchased of Mrs. Forman, that will front on a small piece of land belonging to said Thompson... (4)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The latter of these references probably refers to the two houses on Corsica Street, which adjoin the Thompson property, and it seems probable that they closely followed the construction of the houses on Corsica Street.

By 1895, Ozmon had amassed buildings and real estate valued in a tax assessment of that year at sixteen thousand dollars. The valuation enumerated twenty-five separate parcels of land, with twenty-three houses, four granaries, a warehouse, and a store house and dwelling. <sup>(5)</sup> Included among this list is the following entry:

Six tenant houses situate on the left side of the public road leading from Centreville to Corsica Neck at or near Centreville Landing	
Lots @ \$50 each	\$ 300
Dwellings and outbuildings thereon @ \$300 each	\$1800

In addition to real estate, Ozmon owned a half-interest in the schooner "Corsica", valued at

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

four hundred dollars.

Although this 1895 assessment includes the earliest reference to the Captain's Houses, it seems quite probable that Ozmon rarely left property vacant for long, and architectural evidence argues for a construction date no later than 1880. The houses do not appear in the Queen Anne's County Atlas of 1877. A date of circa 1878-1880 is proposed.

After his death in 1902, Ozmon's property was divided between his two children, and Lot 7 passed to his son, Joseph W. Ozmon. In 1909, Joseph Ozmon and his sister, Florence V. Larrimore, redivided the properties, and Lot 7 transferred to Florence Larrimore. The property was resurveyed and subdivided into separate lots, with the houses located on lots 6 through 9, lot 6 being the southernmost of the four. These four lots were eventually sold off individually and were not reassembled into a single property until 1969, when William and Kathleen Rodgers purchased the majority of the original Lot 7 in two transactions. (6)

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds: Liber SED No. 2, folio 458. November 6, 1866.
- (2) The survey was made by B. S. Elliott on November 17, 1903, and is recorded in Deed book JEG No. 6, folios 6 and 10. The division of real estate by Joseph W. Ozmon and Florence V. Larrimore is recorded in JEG No. 6, folios 1-10. The property was redivided in 1909. Refer to SS No. 6, folio 175.
- (3) Deeds: Liber JW No. 7, folio 255. October 10, 1877.
- (4) Deeds: Liber JW No. 11, folio 70. July 6, 1880.
- (5) See 1895 Tax Assessment Book for District Three, Queen Anne's County, at Hall of Records.
- (6) Deeds: Liber CWX No. 40, folio 90-97.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

4/26/78

STREET & NUMBER

124 South Commerce Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

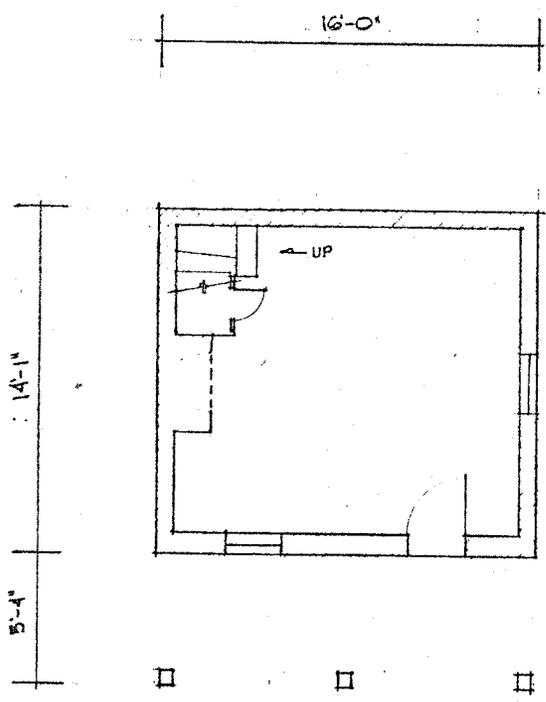
Maryland 21617

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.

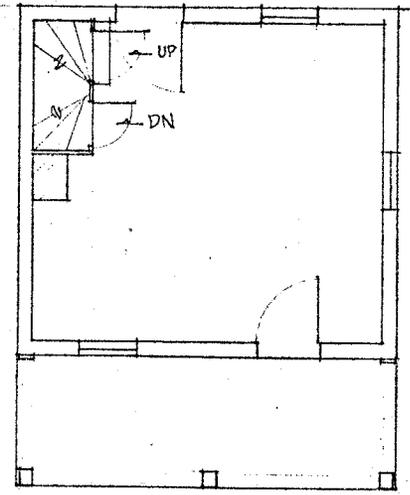
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

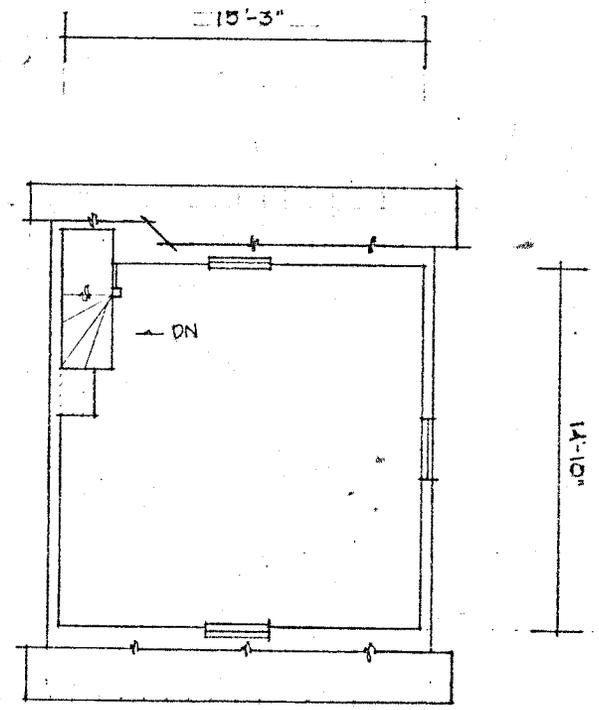
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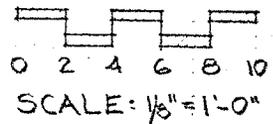
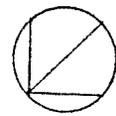
CELLAR



FIRST FLOOR



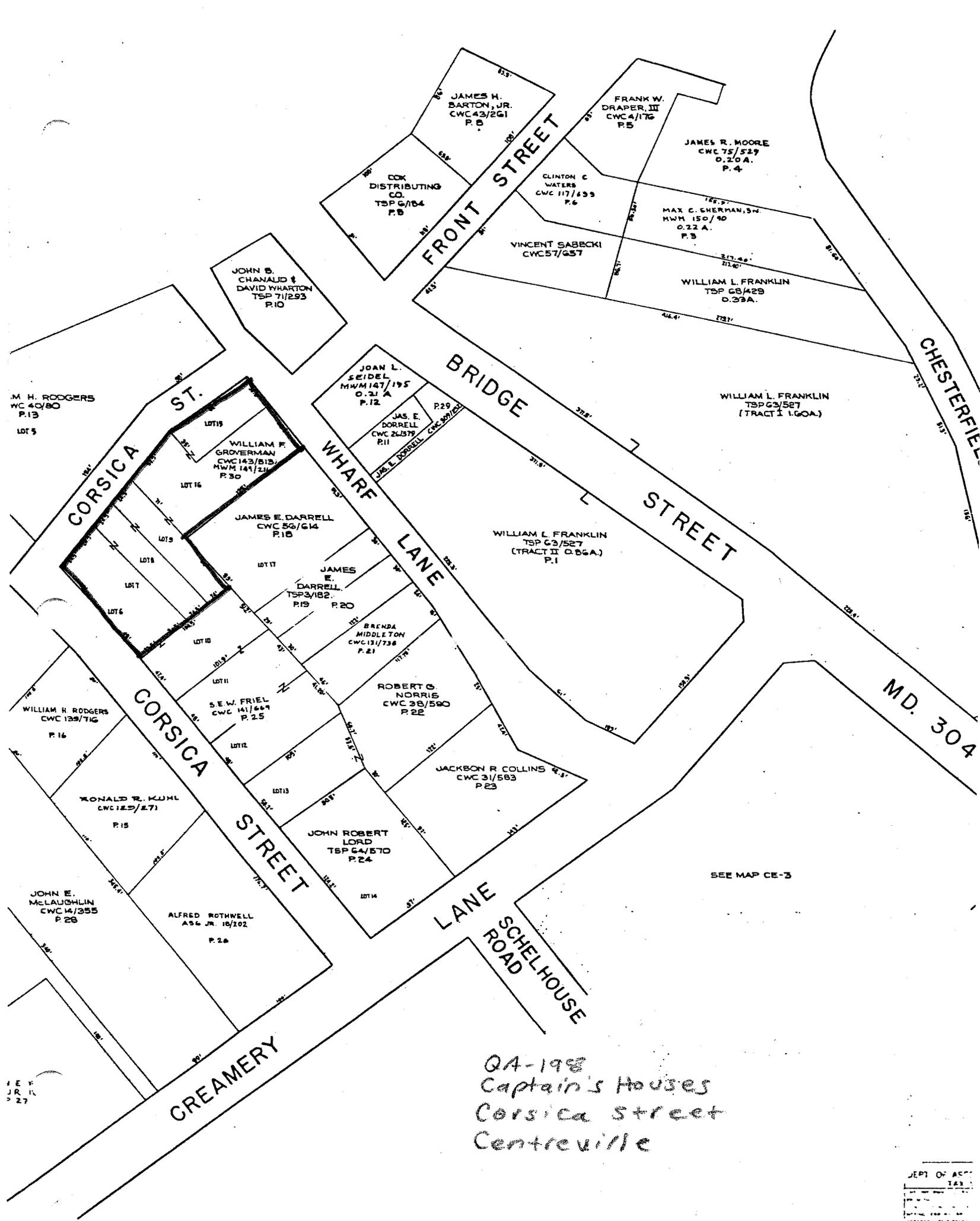
SECOND FLOOR



QA-198

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSES  
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

MARCH 21, 1978.



QA-198  
 Captain's Houses  
 Corsica Street  
 Centreville



QA-198  
Captain's Houses

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





S S S

QA-198

Captains House  
Centreville landing  
ORV 1978



QA-198

Captain's House

Centerville Wharf

OR V 1978



QA-193 Captain's Houses

ORV 1978

A large, stylized handwritten signature or scribble, possibly reading 'H. E. S.', is written across the lower half of the page. The lines are fluid and interconnected, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the top and a long, sweeping tail at the bottom.



QA-198 Captains Houses  
OKV 1978

SES