

QA-277

Ozmon Warehouse  
Centreville Landing  
Private

circa 1883

The Ozmon Warehouse was built circa 1883 by Captain John H. Ozmon, prominent among the schooner captains who shipped freight between the Eastern Shore and Baltimore in the latter half of the 19th century. Originally constructed as a warehouse for phosphate and grain, the building has served a variety of purposes over the years, and today stands as one of the few surviving remnants of the post-Civil War heyday of Centreville Landing.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Captain Ozmon's Warehouse, "Jumbo Granary"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Front Street, Centreville Wharf

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James H. Barton, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

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 43

Folio #: 263

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL     STATE     COUNTY     LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

PA-277

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Ozmon Warehouse is a large gable roofed, frame building situated on the edge of the west branch of Corsica Creek at Centreville Wharf. Two-and-one-half stories in height, the warehouse is oriented so that one gable end fronts on Corsica Creek, while the other gable faces Front Street.

Although quite plain in appearance, the sheer mass of the building makes it a landmark in Centreville Wharf, and the cedar shingle roof, weatherboard covered walls, and the large wooden boom on the water-front gable contrast sharply with the gleaming silver tanks of a fuel yard directly adjoining it to the south.

Because of its orientation to the creek and to Front Street, the gable ends are the principle facades of the building. The west gable, facing the creek, has large double doors hung on heavy iron strap hinges on the first and second floor, and a large single door in the center of the upper gable. The boom is actually a simple crane, constructed of telephone poles, and situated at the northwest corner of the building. This crane is of 20th century construction, but probably replaces a similar earlier boom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

The east gable, facing the street, is identical to the west gable, with a short, heavy timber supporting a pulley projecting from the upper gable.

There are two large single doors on the north facade, with large blocked window openings to the right of each door. There is one single door on the south facade, with a six light window to the right of the door.

A box cornice with deep soffit and crown molding returns at the gables and offers a certain air of refinement to the exterior of the building.

The interior consists of a large open work area on all three floors, with the stairs and several storerooms partitioned off at the east end of the building. All of the interior spaces are dominated by the highly visible structural system of the building. The first floor is divided into three long aisles by a system of heavy posts and beams running parallel to the ridge of the roof. The posts are massive, with huge, beveled bearing plates supporting equally massive beams or "summers". These in turn support the second floor joists.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

In the northeast corner of the building, there is a wide stair enclosed by a board partition, with a storage room below the stairs. There is a larger room in the southeast corner that was probably used either for storage or as an office.

The second floor is nearly identical to the first, with the stair in the northeast corner and two smaller work areas screened by board partitions in the two southeast bays. The framing on the second floor is somewhat lighter in scale, but no less impressive.

The third floor is an open loft, uninterrupted by supports or partitions. The common rafter roof is tied together by lightweight collar beams about nine feet above the floor, eliminating any need for posts or other supports.

Although the timber framing is well crafted, it is purely functional, and the only apparent concessions to decoration in the building are the batten doors in the gable ends and to the first floor storeroom. These doors seem to be of a transitional type, probably dating to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The vertical boards are beaded, but are of standard, five-inch

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

width. The battens are carefully beveled, but are laid in the Z pattern that became standard by the late nineteenth century. The boards are secured to the battens with clinched nails, but the nails, rather than hand wrought, are machine made, with tapered points.

Unfortunately, little remains to indicate how the building was originally used. There are a few wooden chutes, and holes in the floors where other chutes may have been, but little evidence of machinery or tools. It seems probable that this building was used largely as a granary and/or warehouse.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PA-277

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 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 checked="" 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 **circa 1883** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Capt. J. H. Ozmon (owner)**

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ozmon Warehouse was built circa 1883 by Capt. John H. Ozmon for use as a combined warehouse and granary. At that time Centreville Landing was a prosperous commercial area serving the schooners that carried grain, lumber, and agricultural products to Baltimore and Norfolk and returned with manufactured goods and merchandise for the merchants of Centreville and the rural farming districts of the county. Among the numerous warehouses, boat sheds, piers and stores that grew up along the wharf in the 19th century, only two warehouses and Ozmon's brick store have survived.

Captain John H. Ozmon was certainly the most prominent and ambitious of half a dozen schooner captains operating out of the Centreville area in the late 19th century. Beginning in the 1860's he acquired numerous parcels of land along the Centreville waterfront, and by the late 1870's

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

had embarked on an ambitious building scheme, constructing numerous dwelling houses, as well as a store, several granaries, and a large residence overlooking the wharf area. It is unclear when he acquired the property on which the warehouse stands, but in May, 1883 the Centreville Record reported:

...A New Granary -- Captain J. H. Ozmon of Centreville Landing will soon have a new granary erected on his wharf property adjoining the coal wharf of Dr. R. M. Price. The building will be 3 stories high, the lower floor of which will be used by Mr. Andrew J. Thawley to store phosphate. The remaining two floors will be used for storage of grain... (1)

Following Ozmon's death in 1902, the property passed to his daughter, Florence V. Larrimore, and in 1919 she sold "The Jumbo Granary Lot" to the Superior Guano Company for \$1300. (2) In 1927 the Superior Guano Company sold the property to Anna M. Barton. (3) It has remained in the Barton family

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ever since, and is still referred to as the "Jumbo Granary".

## Footnotes

- (1) Centreville Record, May 31, 1883. Copy in possession of Leo Dulin, Sudlersville.
- (2) Deeds Liber JFR 2, folio 400. July 9, 1919.
- (3) Deeds Liber BHT 7, folio 382. December 17, 1927.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore.

Chapman, New York, 1898.

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

5/8/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

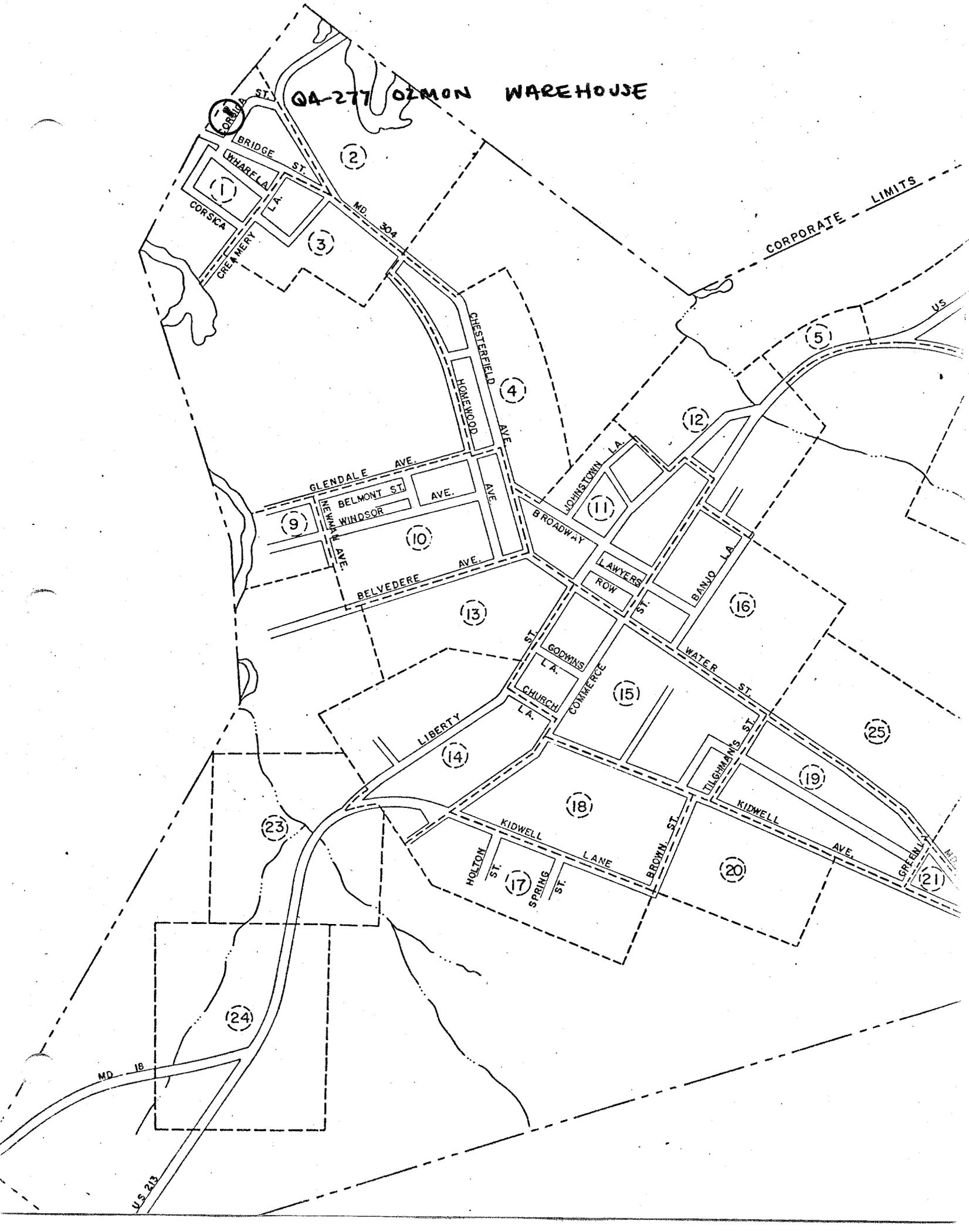
Maryland

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

# QA-277 OZMON WAREHOUSE





QA-277



QA-277

Ozmon Warehouse  
Centreville Landing  
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)  
View from north



QA-277 Ozmon Warehouse  
Centreville Landing  
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)  
Second floor interior



QA-277 Ozmon Warehouse  
Centreville Landing  
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)  
First floor interior



QA-277 Ozmon Warehouse  
Centreville Landing  
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)  
3rd floor interior