CAR-46

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Memory Lane

other names CAR-46

2. Location

street & number 24700 Williston Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Denton ☒ vicinity

state MD code MD County Caroline code 011 zip code 21629

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 of certifying office/Title — Date 9-8-00

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 certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.0 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Hobbs, MD quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	226370	4298130	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)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory J. Nizza
organization Owner date 12/99
street & number 24700 Williston Road telephone 410-479-2107
city or town Denton state Maryland zip code 21629

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Mary Ellen Black & Gregory James Nizza
street & number 24700 Williston Road telephone 410-479-2107
city or town Denton state MD zip code 21629

Paperwork Reduction 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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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD
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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Description Summary:

Memory Lane is a two-and-one half story, frame Italianate style house constructed in 1864 and distinguished by extensive porches, decorative brackets, and an octagonal cupola crowned with an ornate finial. The wails are sheathed in wooden clapboards. The roof is asphalt shingle with three brick chimneys. The house is sited on high ground facing directly south in the middle of a 40-acre farm in the village of Williston. Williston was once a thriving port on the Choptank River, where steamboats would stop twice daily to ship grains and tobacco to the Chesapeake Bay and ports beyond. The property immediately surrounding the house retains noteworthy landscape features, including a pair of European Purple Beeches and the National Champion Bigtooth Aspen. Remnants of a grand circular driveway are in evidence out front with a central raised mound topped with massive English boxwoods. At the entrance to the property towers a matching pair of American Beeches. Directly behind the main house is a weatherboarded milkhouse, with the plaster walls and water troughs still intact, and a hip roofed, four seat, privy. The property is in very good condition and has had very little alteration since its construction with the exception of modernization of plumbing and mechanical systems and upgrading of the kitchen and bathrooms.

General Description

The Memory Lane house faces directly south. It is a T-shaped dwelling with a large front section with high ceilings large rooms and a rear ell with lower ceilings and smaller rooms. The house consists of two stories with an attic and a crawl space. The entire front facade features a one story wraparound porch with brick piers and latticework in-between with rectangular columns, eight across the front and four down each side, with chamfered corners. Each porch opening features wooden moldings which create an arched portal opening. The porch ceiling is plaster and the porch posts feature ornate scroll column brackets. The first floor features tall floor to ceiling windows approximately eight feet tall, with four over four panes. The entire exterior facade is covered with wood weatherboard siding. The second story features three shorter four over four windows. The asphalt roof features wide, overhanging eaves supported by large, ornate cornice brackets, sixteen across the front facade and eight down each side. Each end of the dwelling features an interior brick chimney. The dwelling is crowned with an octagonal cupola, featuring eight operable windows, ornate brackets, and topped with an ornate turned finial.

The interior floor plan features a large front section that consists basically of four large rooms, two downstairs and two up, on either side of a central stairway. The front staircase features a particularly ornate carved newel post and fancy carved step ends. The wide staircase features turned balusters and a mahogany railing. Each of the four large rooms in the front section has a fireplace and a mantel and all the rooms feature wide carved moldings around the doors and windows with particularly fancy moldings in the downstairs parlor. All the walls inside the dwelling were originally wallpapered but were covered with textured plaster around 1960 and still retain that finish.

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The rear ell features smaller rooms with lower ceilings with three window bays on each floor and a single window on the rear. Flooring throughout the house is of random width soft yellow pine. The porch roof was originally metal but is now covered in asphalt shingle. The main roof was originally wood shingle but is now asphalt shingle. Window and door surrounds feature fancy milled moldings. The cornice brackets on the rear ell are of a more simple design.

The wood framed building is sheathed in horizontal drop siding and rests on a brick foundation. All windows, doors, and hardware are original. The kitchen has been modernized, bathrooms have been added, and hot water oil fired baseboard heat was added around 1960.

The dwelling is situated in a grove of large old trees approximately 250 feet back from the road. Two large European Purple Beech trees shade the house on its southwest corner. A national champion Bigtooth Aspen shade the house on the northeast corner. A forest of mixed trees stands behind the house to the north. A raised boxwood mound at the front of the house crowns what was once a circular driveway. The front yard is extensively landscaped highlighted by two enormous American Beech trees with a large iron chain linking them at what was obviously the entrance to the property before the trees grew too large to allow vehicles to pass between them. The dwelling is sited on high ground with approximately one acre of lawn, surrounded by agricultural fields.

Directly behind the dwelling stand a weatherboarded milkhouse with its water troughs and plastered walls and ceilings intact. The milkhouse is 12 by 12 feet in dimensions on a brick foundation and has a hip roof with wide overhanging eaves, with a cedar shake roof and a crowned at the top with a simple straight finial. Behind the dwelling approximately 50 feet to the northwest stands the old privy, in original but deteriorated condition. The privy is 10 by 10 feet in dimension on a brick foundation and features four seats, plaster walls and ceiling, wainscoting, and two six over six windows. It has a hip roof with a badly deteriorated cedar shake roof and is absent of a finial. Both outbuildings are finished in simple weatherboarding and with the exception of the finials are devoid of any exterior ornamentation seen on the main dwelling. The entire property retains a high degree of integrity, having had only three sets of owners in its history.

8. Statement of Significance

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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 as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1864

Significant Dates

1864

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on files (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:

_____

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Significance Summary:

Memory Lane, built in 1864, is a product of the national wave of interest in the Italianate style in America, and is an exceptional example of the ornate craftsmanship of this style. Contextually it relates to the great impact of the shipping trade on the area's economy, whereas the Italianate style cupola served as an enclosed widows walk from which the steamboats could be seen approaching the nearby wharf. This home was built by the wealthy shipping magnate who ran the wharf, A. J. Willis, as a wedding gift for his daughter when she married. The Italianate style was frequently chosen by wealthy country landowners of the period who wanted to show off their taste. With its wide overhanging eaves, ornate brackets, large cupola, and extensive porches, the house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of the best residential examples of the Italianate style on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

Memory Lane was built in 1864 in the village of Williston, a thriving shipping port on the Choptank River in Caroline County, MD, by Colonel A. J. Willis, a shipping magnate who ran the port of Williston, as a wedding gift for his daughter Mary Virginia. She married B. Gootee Stevens, who became president of the Denton National Bank. Colonel Willis became a very wealthy as a result of the thriving shipping trade and set out to build an appropriate showplace for his daughter and her husband to live in.

Memory Lane was the seat of a 40 acre farm at the entrance to the village of Williston and serves as an ornate symbol of the success of the shipping port. At that time Williston was one of the leading ports in the county, with steamboats stopping twice daily to export the grains grown in the fertile fields of Caroline County. By 1860 the Italianate mode's informal, picturesque character had supplanted the Greek Revival in popularity and was the mode chosen for Memory Lane. The large octagonal cupola that crowns Memory Lane was an important feature. At a time when the rivers were the highways of America, these rooftop observatories provided a bird's eye view of ships transporting goods and people into and out of port. The cupola also served as a form of air conditioning, as its eight windows could be opened in the warm summer months to let hot air rise up and out of the house.

Memory Lane's current physical condition is a superb representation of its period of significance. The property is in remarkably original condition, now with only the third set of owners in its history, and with very little changes since 1864. The house retains all of its original exterior moldings, including the large ornate sandwich brackets under the wide, overhanging eaves that were the hallmark of the Italianate mode at the time. These sandwich-style brackets were mass produced by 1864 and were readily available through catalog order.

An expansive and elegant porch is another distinctive feature of the Italianate style, and the porch at Memory Lane is a perfect example. Square porch posts with beveled edges and fancy gingerbread moldings support an especially wide veranda that still retains its original curved plaster porch ceiling.

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Memory Lane possesses many of the same features found in Design XXVII in Andrew Jackson Downing's Architecture of Country Houses, published in 1850. This design featured a rectangular house with three windows on the upper floor, a roof supported by brackets, and a one-story wraparound porch supported by square posts with chamfered columns and column brackets. As described by Downing, "A simple, rational, convenient, and economical dwelling for the southern part of the Union, is all that we have aimed at in this design. A modification of the Venetian mode has been chosen for the exterior, because it affords, in its broadly projecting roof and long veranda, that ample shade so indispensable to all dwellings in a southern climate."

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

Bourne, Michael. Inventory of Historic Sites in Caroline County. Maryland Historical Trust, 1980.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. The Architecture of Country Houses. Orig. pub. 1850; rpt. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1969.

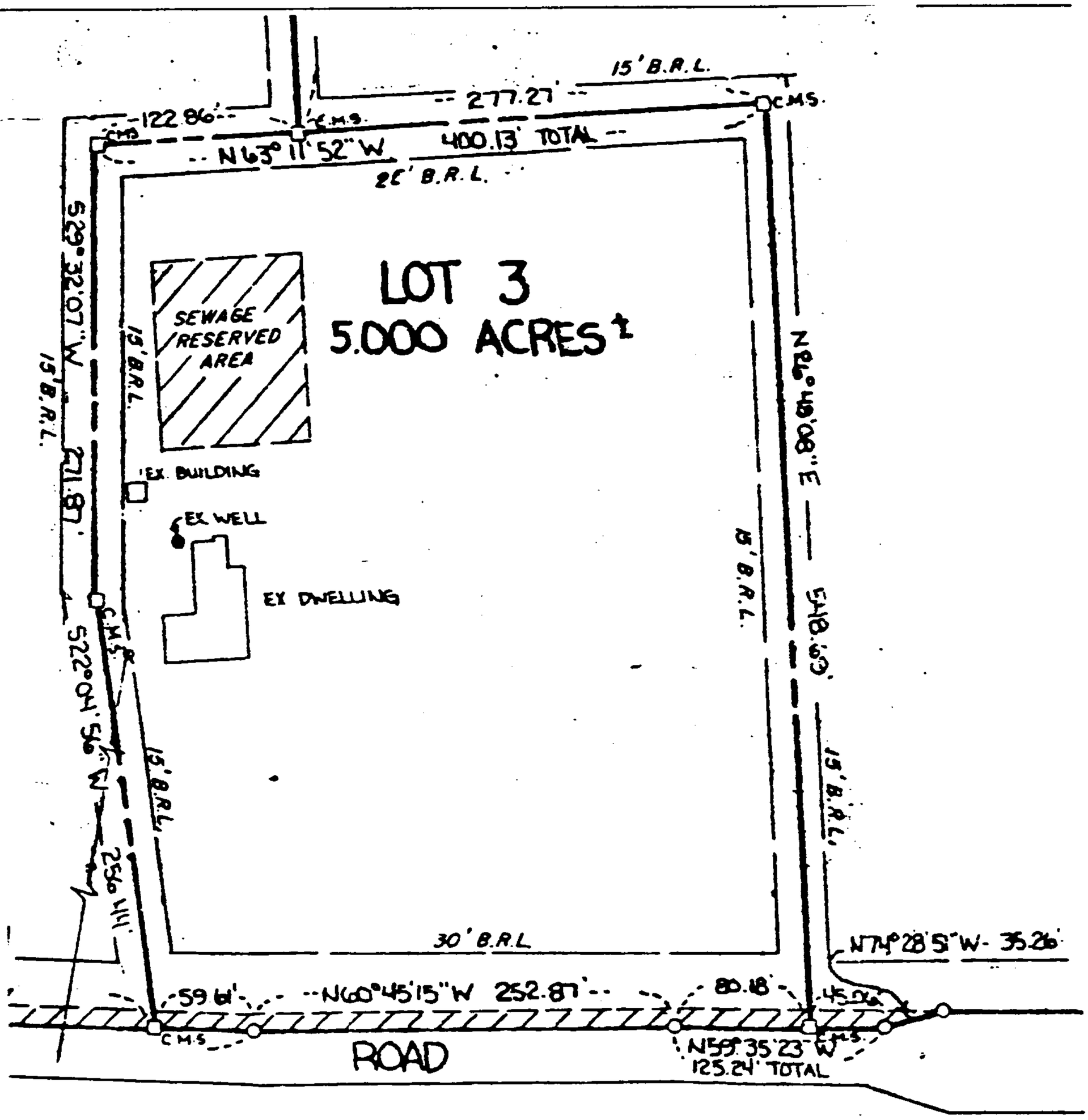
Fleetwood, Mary Anne. Voices From the Land: A Caroline County Memoir. Caroline County Historical Society, 1983.

10. Geographical Data:

erbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is shown as Parcel 245, Lot 3 on the Caroline County tax map. A plat indicating metes and bounds accompanies this documentation.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 5 acres, comprises the remnant of the land historically associated with the resource, and encompasses the house, outbuildings, and landscape features within their immediate setting.

Property Plat



Source: Land Records of Caroline County, Maryland

Hobbs Quad.

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MEMORY LANE

CAROLINE

COUNTY. MD

18-426370-

4298130

MEMORY LANE

CAR 46

ELLIS DAVIDSON

10/97

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MEMORY LANE

ELLIS DAVIDSON

12/97

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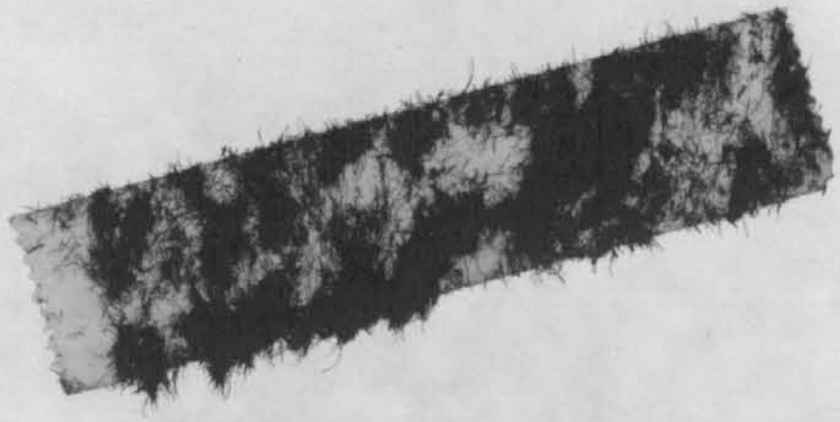

M. Bourne

6/70