FHR-8-300 (11-78)

Easement

QA-198

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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street & number Corsica Street (west side, S. of Corsica Neck Rd) not for publication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

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ 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 elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date 1978 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ 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.

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(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

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

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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(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.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

(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

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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

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Centreville Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	4 0 16	9 13 10	B			
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 X 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 J. Mitchell 8-25-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS 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

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(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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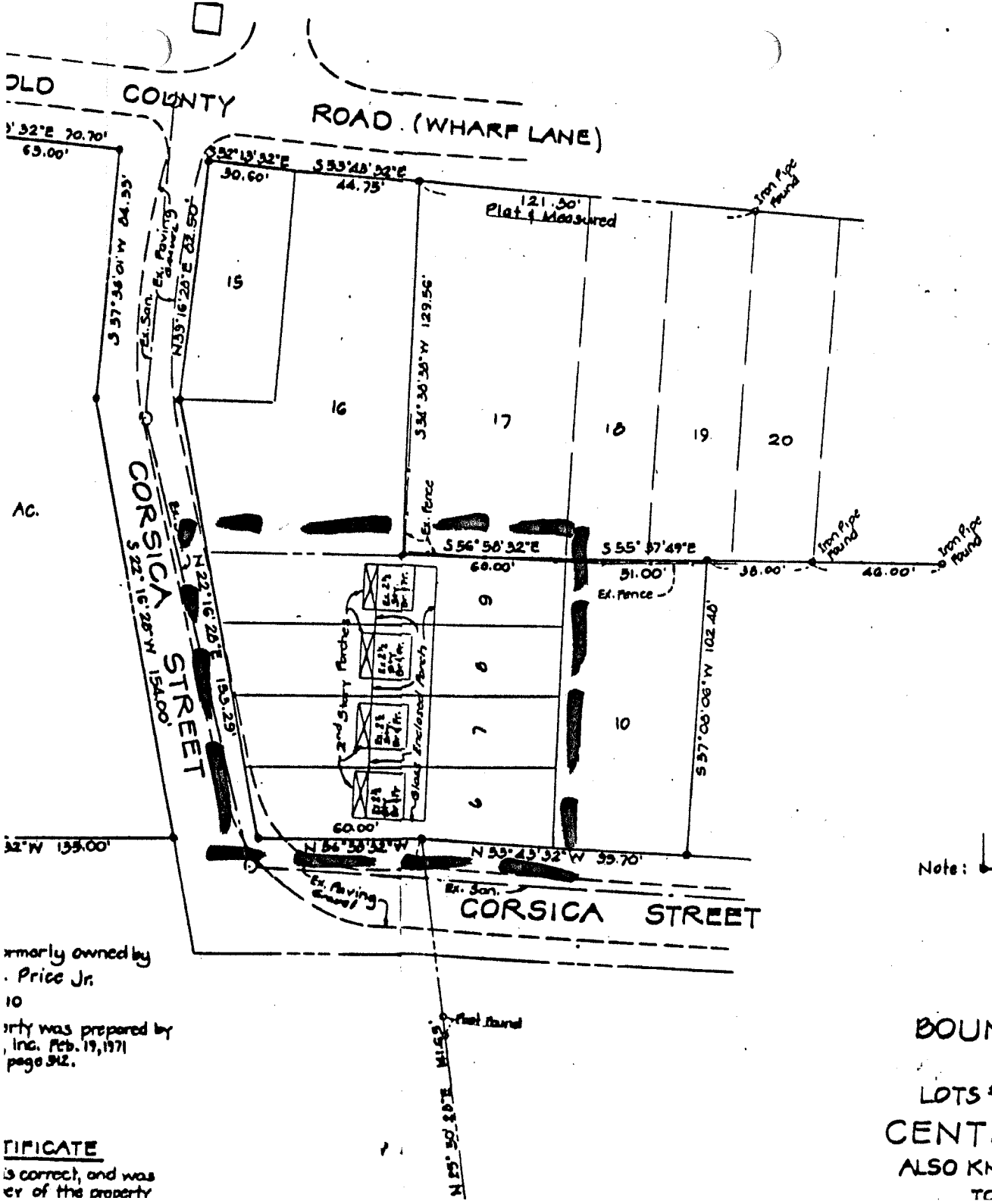
Geographical Data

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'.



rmerly owned by
. Price Jr.
10
rty was prepared by
, Inc. Feb. 19, 1971
page 312.

TIFICATE
is correct, and was
er of the property

William H. & Kathleen Rogers deed dated Mar. 3, 1969 recorded Mar. [illegible] 1969 in C.W.C. 40 page 44.

2. Robert H. Thompson et. al. to William H. & Kathleen Rogers deed dated Mar 3, 1969 recorded Mar. 4 1969 in C.W.C. 40 page 50.

Plats : Plat of Joseph W. Ogman property dated October 21, 1914, recorded in W.H.C. 1-A page 245 special file # 17083

Total Area : 1.271 Acres

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

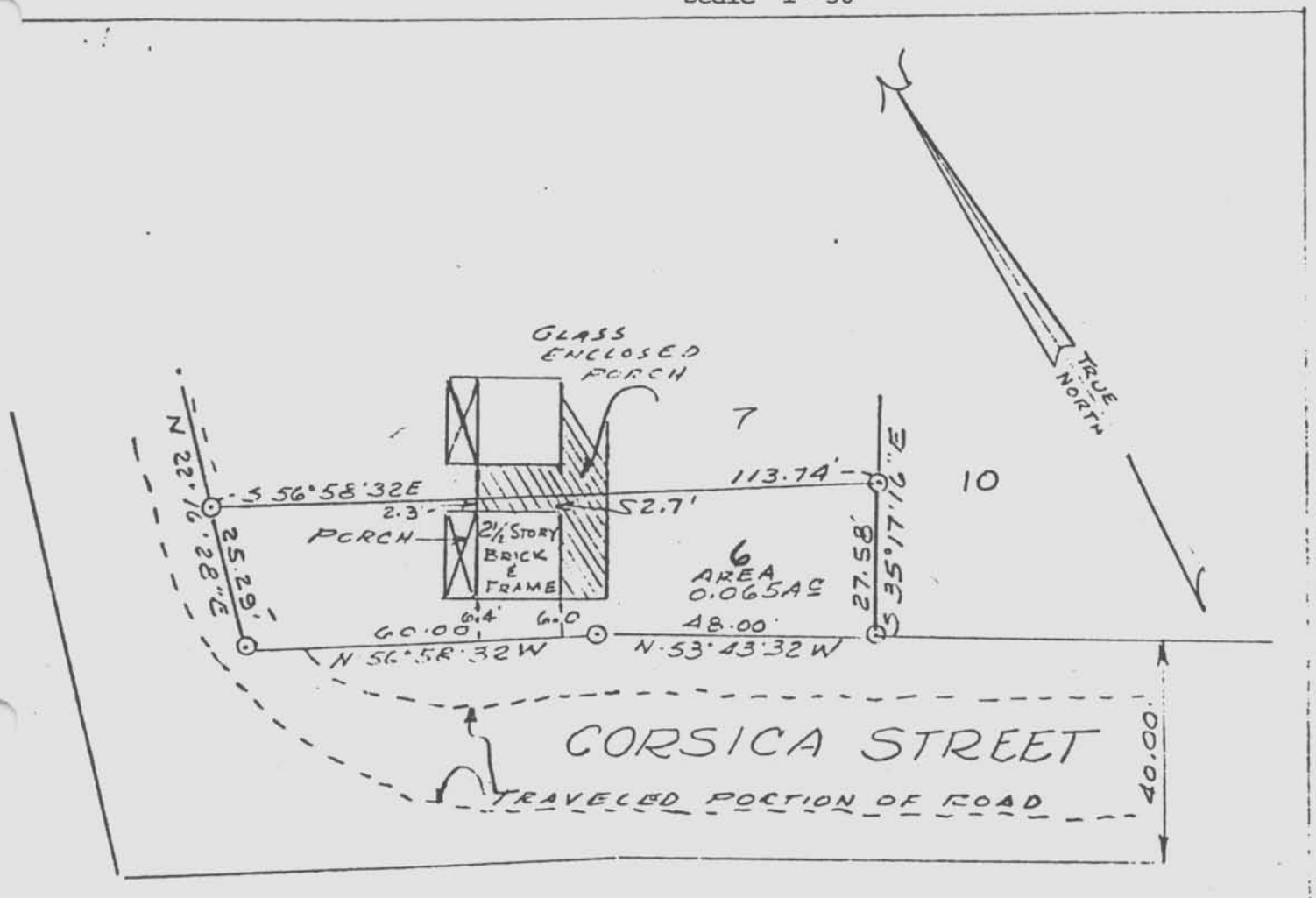
boundary map 1 of 5

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

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

boundary map 2 of 5
scale 1"=30'



LEGEND
Ò DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE

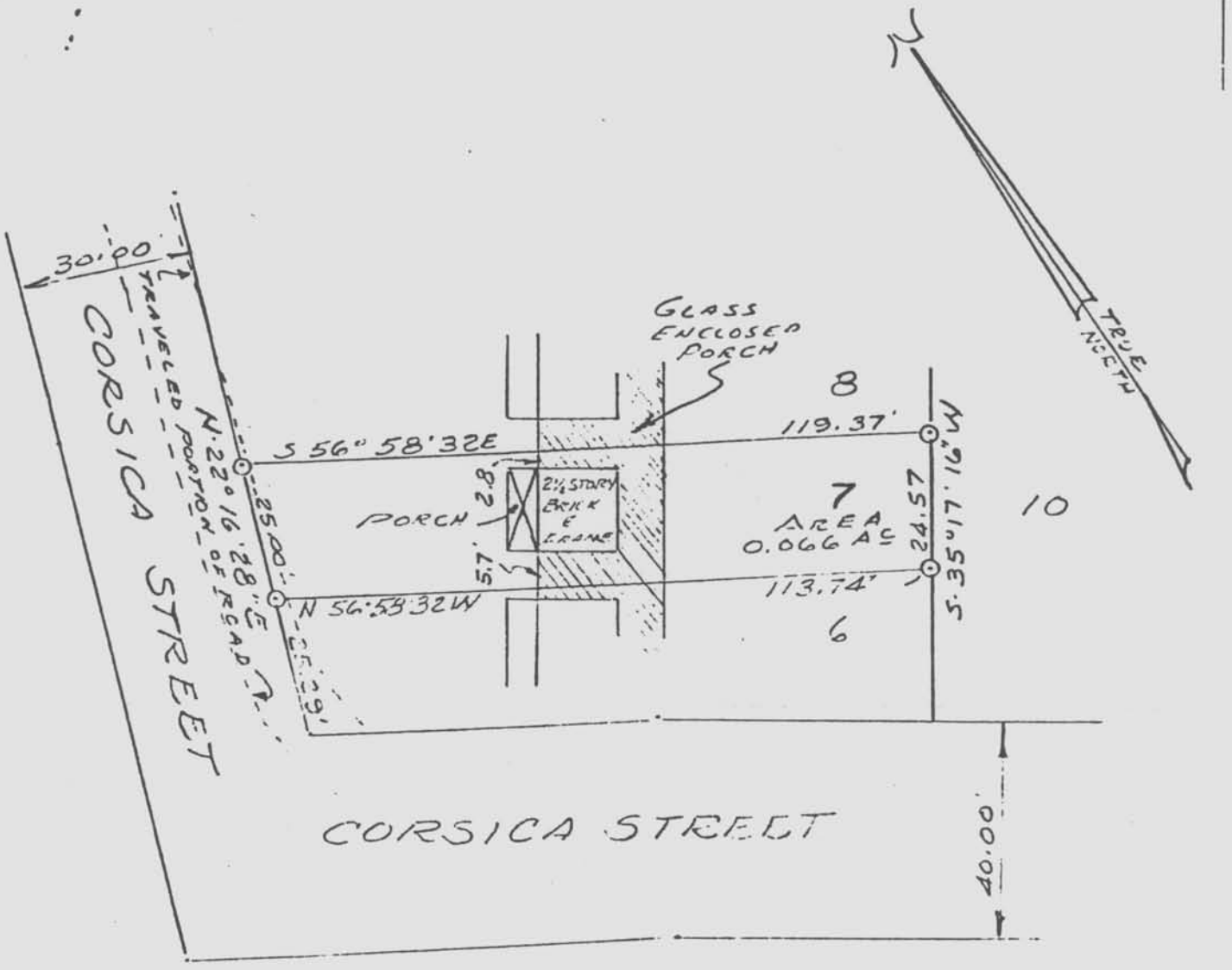
PLAT OF JOSEPH W. OZMAN
PROPERTY DATED OCT. 21, 1914
RECORDED IN Q.A.H.C. LIBER 1-A
FOLIO 245 SPECIAL FILE, No 17083

STATE OF MARYLAND
CLARENCE H. MILLER
No. 4011
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

QA-198

boundary map 3 of 5
scale 1"=30'



LEGEND
-O- 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

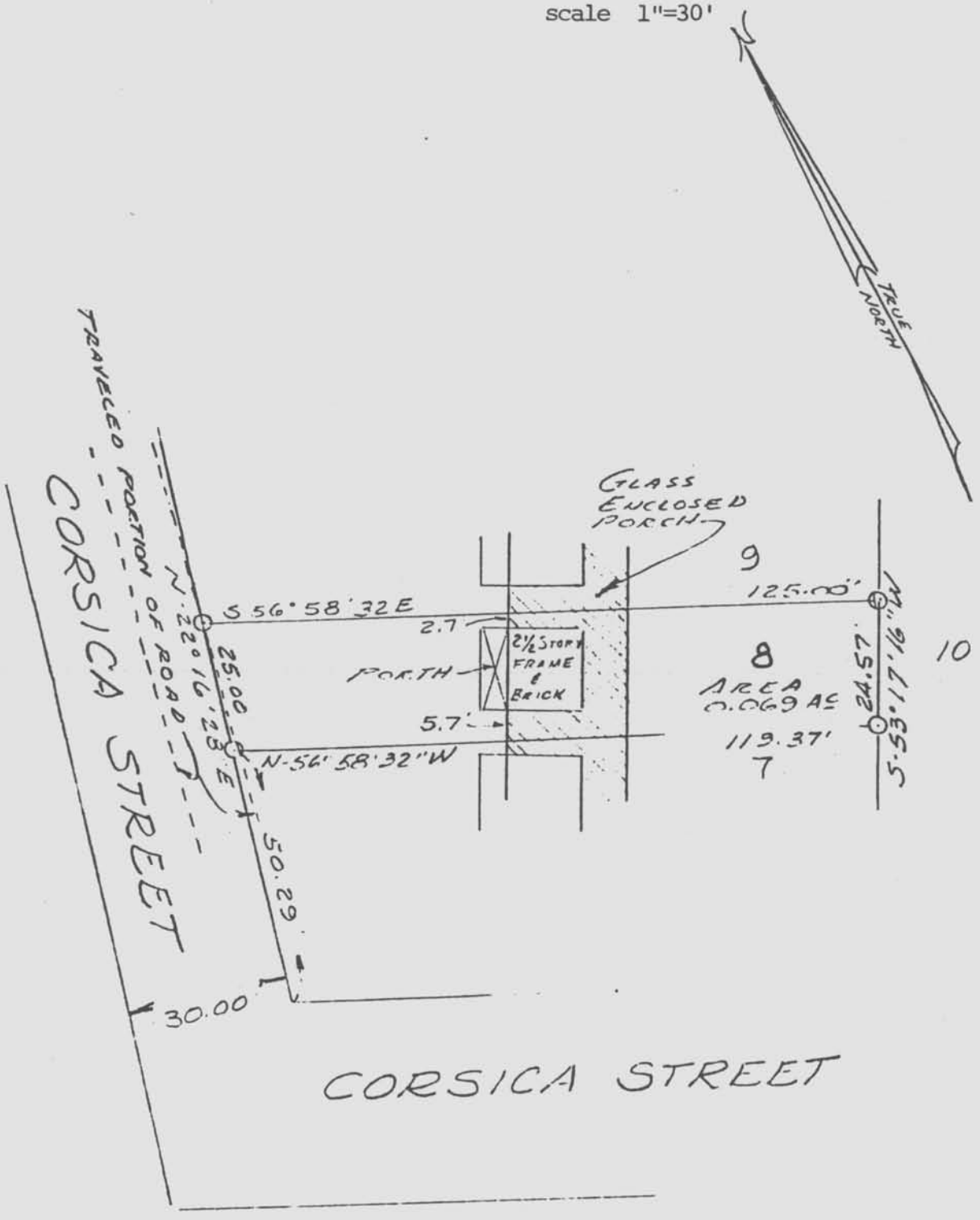
STATE OF MARYLAND
CLARENCE
PRO

Captain's H[illegible]es
Queen Anne's [illegible]ounty
Maryland

QA-198

boundary map 4 of 5

scale 1"=30'



LEGEND
d DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE
PLAT OF JOSEPH W. OZMAN PROPERTY
DATED OCT. 21, 1914, RECORDED IN Q.A.C.
LIBER J-A FOLIO 245
SPECIAL FILE No 17063

STATE OF MARYLAND
CLARENCE H. MILLER
REGISTERED
LAND SURVEYOR

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

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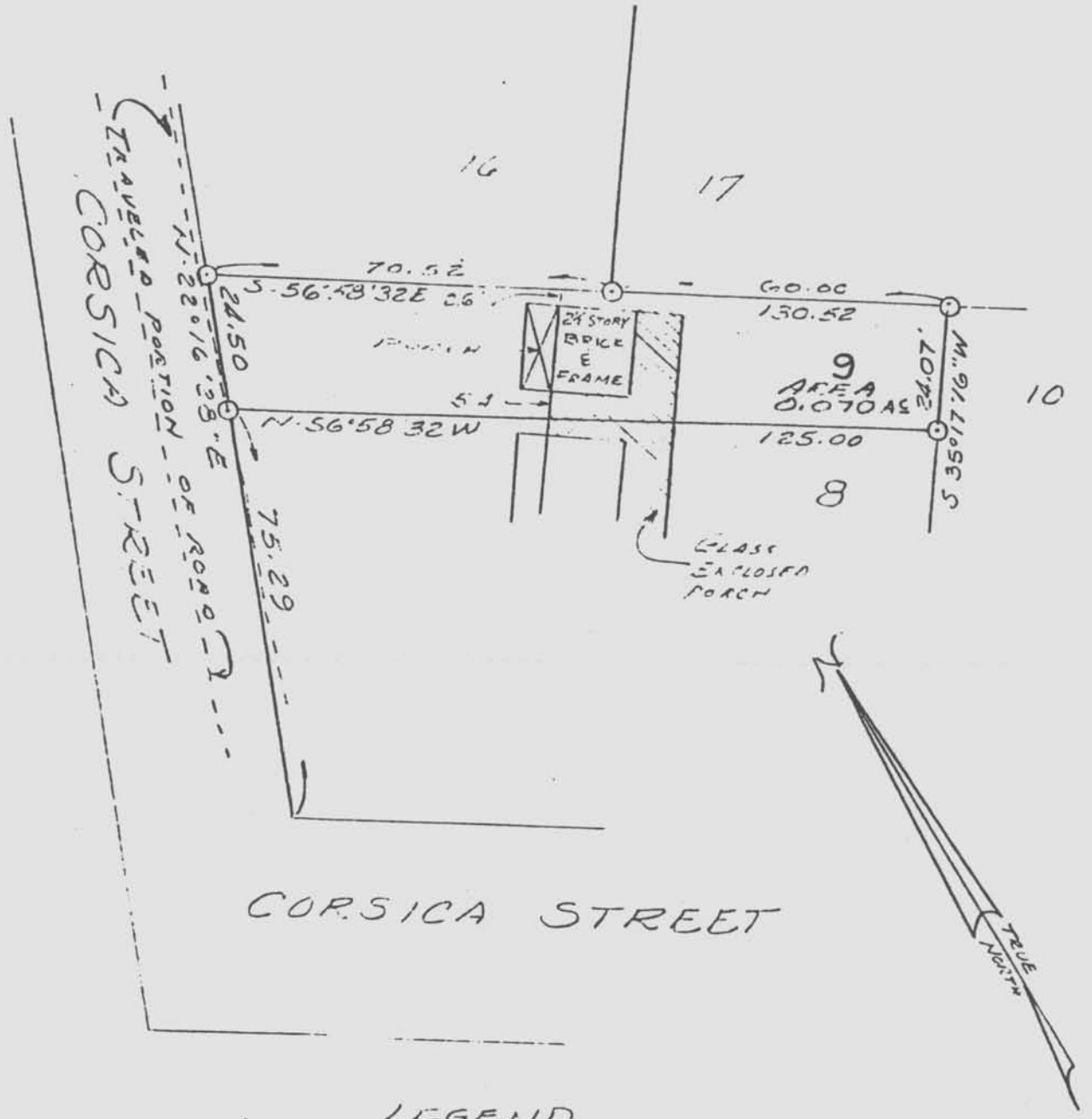
boundary map
scale 1"=30'

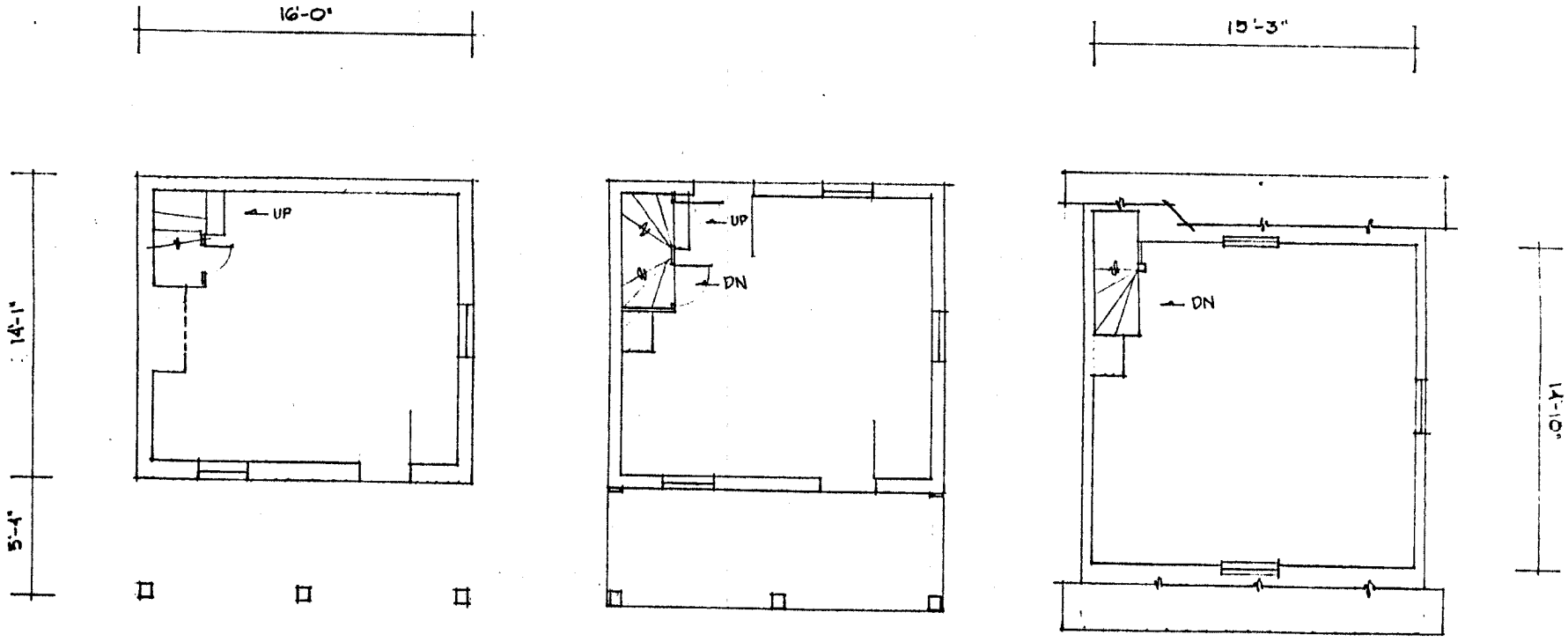
5 of 5



LEGEND
○ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

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

STATE OF MARYLAND
CLARENCE W. MILLER
NO. 4011
REGISTERED
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR



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QA-198

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSES

CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

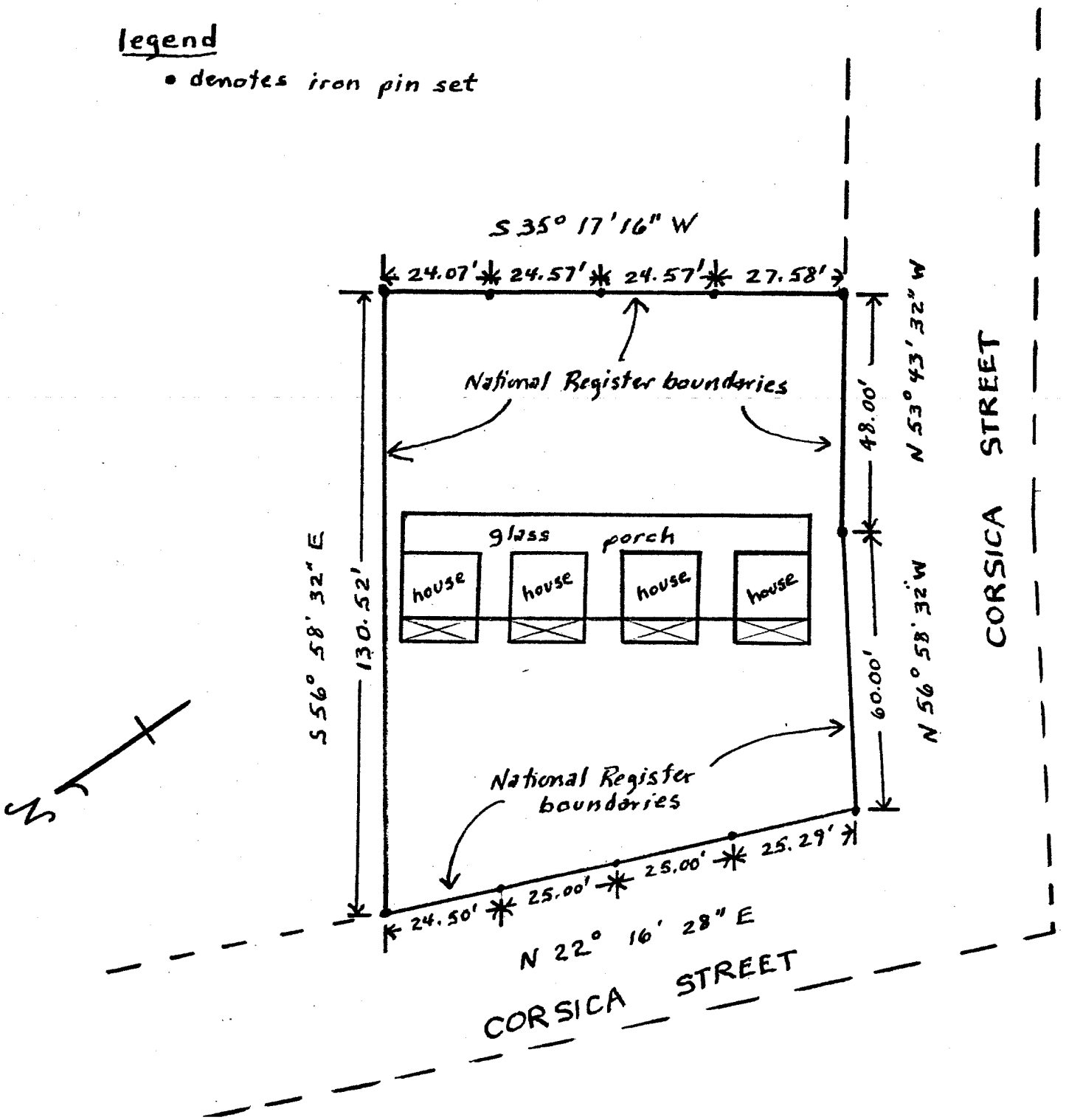
Queen Anne's County

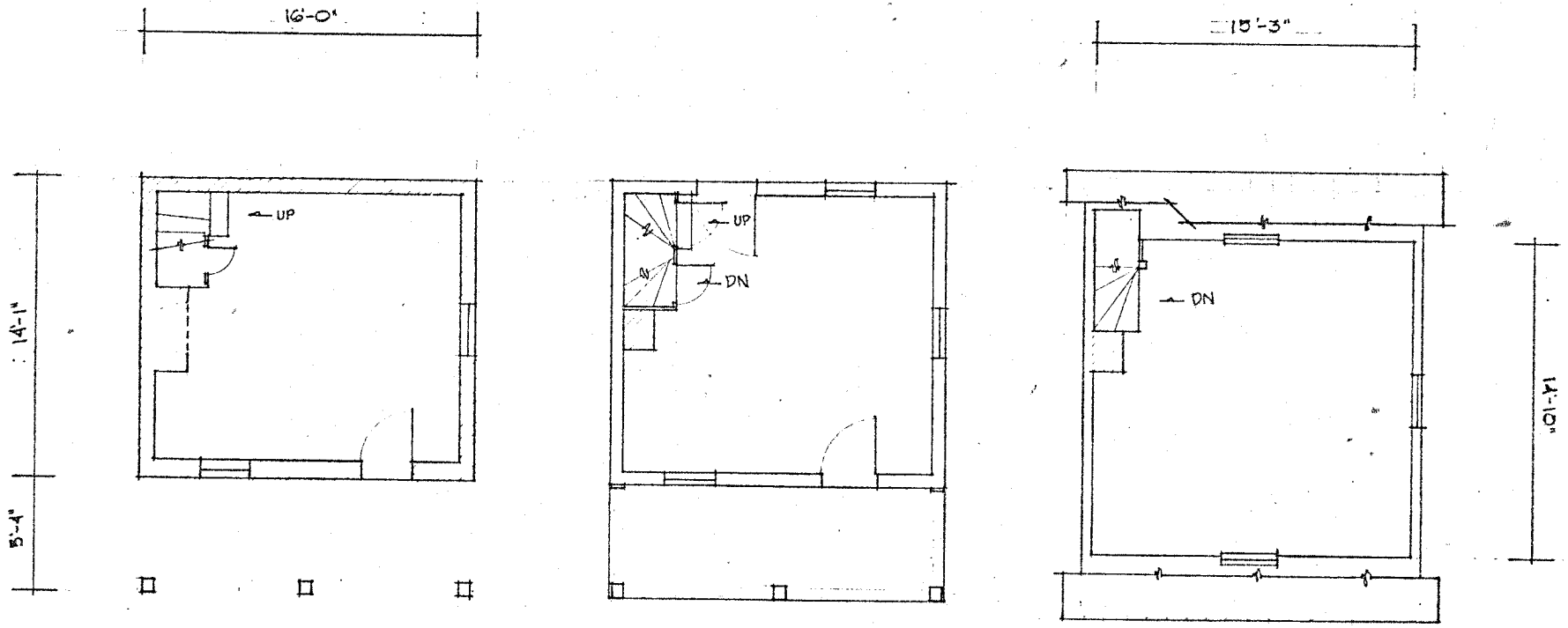
MARCH 21, 1978.

QA-198

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

National Register boudaries
October 1980
scale 1"=30'





CELLAR

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

0 2 4 6 8 10

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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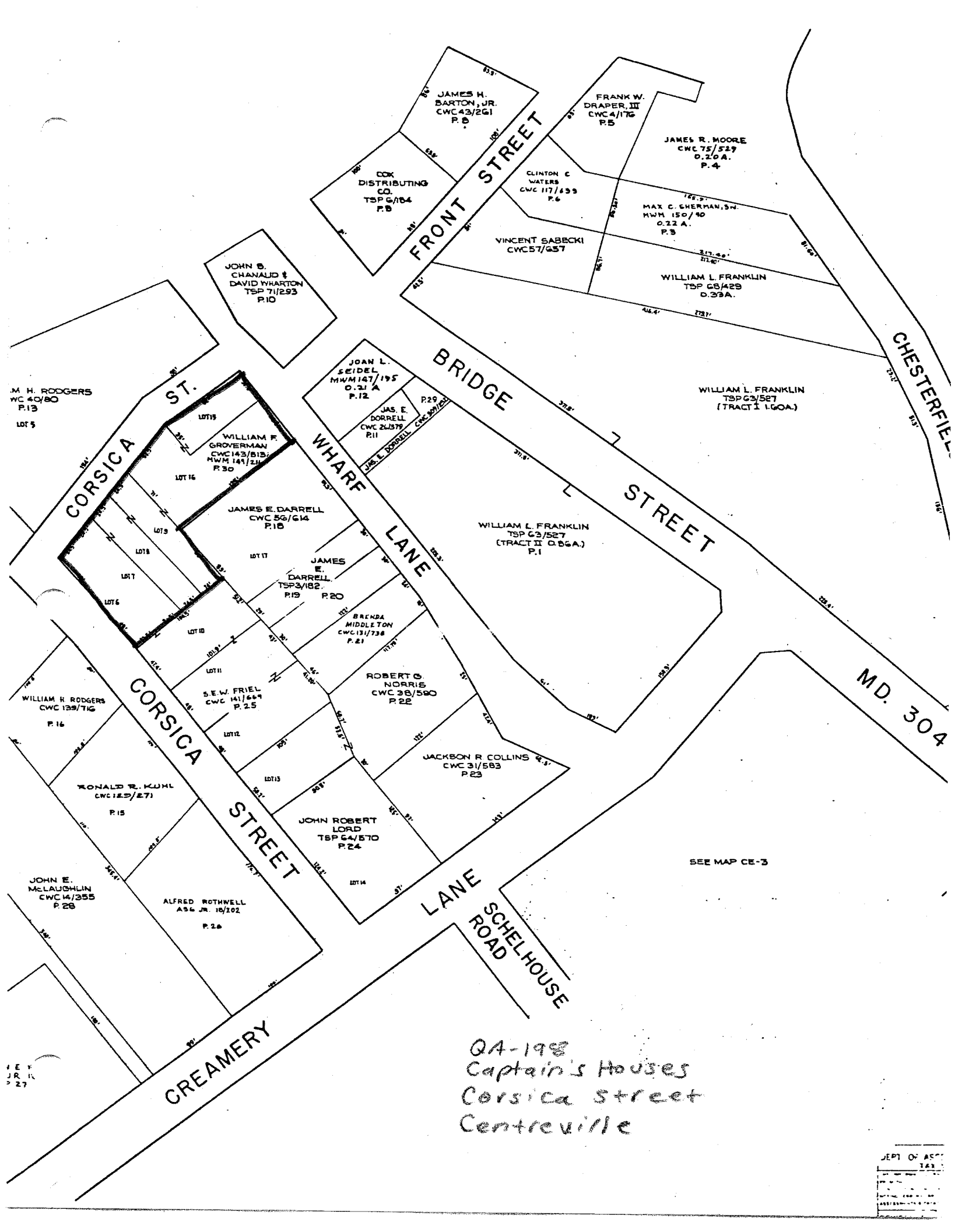
THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSES

CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

MARCH 21, 1978.



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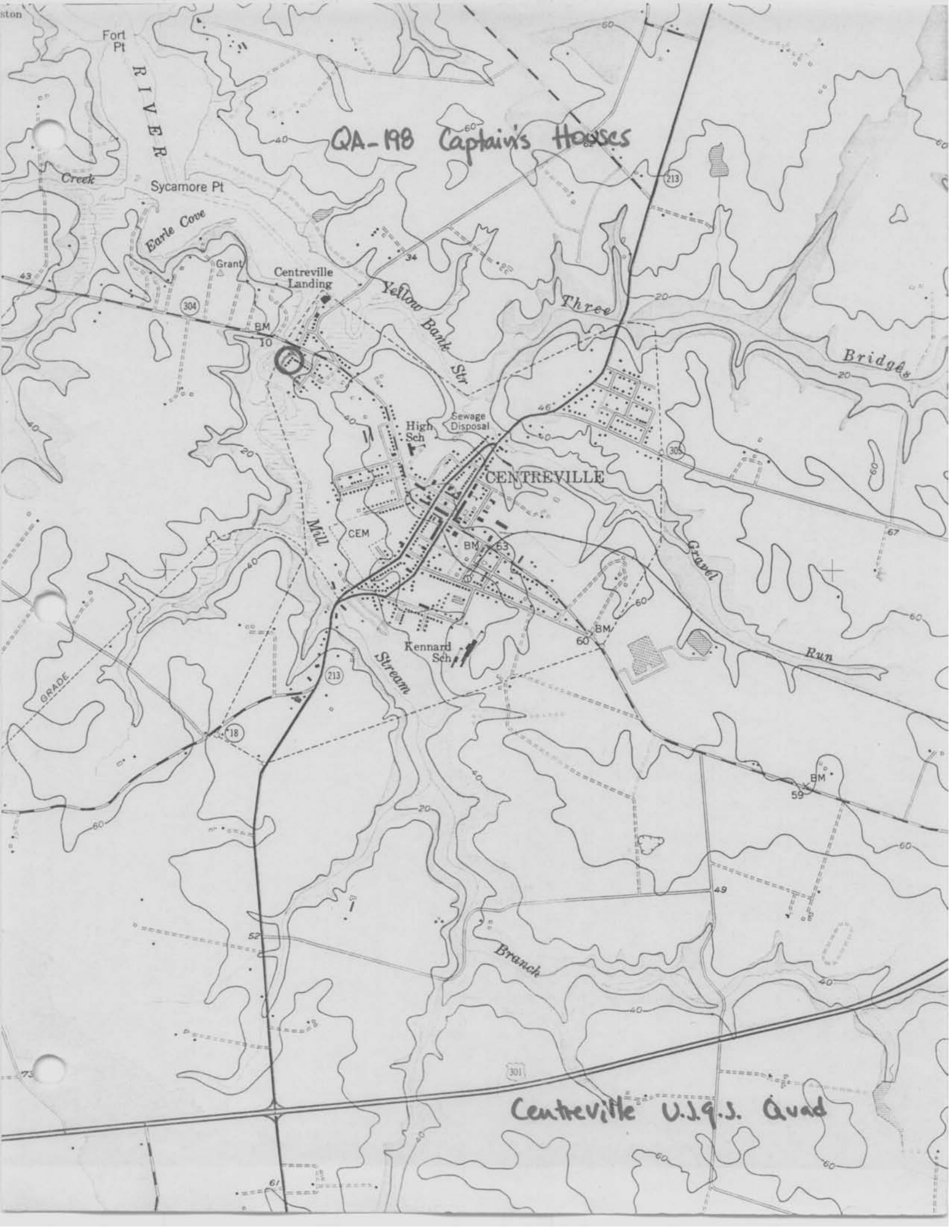
Captain's Houses
Corsica Street
Centreville


QA-198 Captain's Houses
Fort Pt
RIVER
Creek
Sycamore Pt
Earle Cove
Grant
Centreville Landing
Yellow Bank Str
Three
Bridges
High Sch
Sewage Disposal
CENTREVILLE
Mill
CEM
Gravel
Run
Kennard Sch
Stream
GRADE
Branch
Centreville U.S.G.S. Quad

QA-198
Captain's Houses

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

QA-198

Captains Houres

Centreville landing

ORV 1978

QA-198 Captain's Houses
Centennial Wharf
ORV 1978

QA-198 Captains Houses
ORV 1978

QA - 198 Captains Houses

OFV 1978