

56-1929

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 processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage

other names Bay Breeze, WO-590

2. Location

street & number 706 St. Louis Ave. not for publication

city or town Ocean City vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21842

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).

Erin H. Hagle
Signature of certifying official/Title

Director/SHPO 11.9.2017
Date

Maryland Historical Trust
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 official/Title _____ 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper *Patrick Ardun* Date of Action 12/26/2017

Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage (WO-590)
Name of Property

Worcester County, MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation Concrete
walls Concrete
Asbestos
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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 has 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
MARITIME HISTORY

Period of Significance

1949-1964

Significant Dates

1949-50
c. 1964

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Capt. Robert S. Craig

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Craig, R.S., designer 1949; builder unknown
Craig, R.M., designer 1964; General Contractors, builder

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: _____

Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage (WO-590)
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre Ocean City, MD USGS quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

3															
	Zone			Easting			Northing								
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 Robert M. Craig

Organization _____ date June 2016

street & number 520 Oakdale Rd. NE telephone _____

city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30307

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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WO-590
Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage

Name of Property

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County and State

Description Summary:

The Captain Robert S. Craig Summer Cottage (Bay Breeze Cottage) is a well preserved 1½ story concrete block residence with frontal gable, full-width front porch and small rear porch built in 1949-50 on a newly laid out residential lot in the then undeveloped area between 7th and 8th streets on the east side of St. Louis Avenue in what is now midtown Ocean City, Maryland. When the cottage was built, this location was the extreme northwest corner of Ocean City's town development. The house is a plain rectangle with gable front. The integrity of the property is fully intact with the 1950 Bay Breeze cottage with attached c 1964 "Captain's Kid" rear apartment, as well as the converted tool shed/one-room efficiency apartment all virtually unchanged since built at mid-century.

General Description:

At the time the cottage was built, only Captain Craig's wife's parents house, "Sunny Bay," on the northeast corner of 8th St. and St. Louis Avenue, and a few houses and an apartment building overlooking Sinepuxent Bay, existed in the vicinity: Bay Breeze, sited one block from the bay, was otherwise surrounded by sand, small dunes, and sea grass, then characteristics of the vicinity west of Philadelphia Ave. and north of 7th Street. St. Louis Avenue ended at 9th street, where the bay, in the area between 9th and 15th Streets (before the backwater was filled in for buildings), extended water and marshlands a block (or more) further east than today; at ocean front, the famous Ocean City boardwalk then ended at 15th St. (as well). Development north of 15th Street (ocean front) and north of 7th Street (bayside) dates from the 1950s. Although development has occurred since 1950 in the immediate surrounding area, the neighborhood today remains residential.

Captain Craig's Bay Breeze cottage was constructed of concrete block with concrete (brick edged) porch floors and four 4x4 unadorned posts supporting the front porch's shallow hipped roof. An open X-cross balustrade edges the porch roof. The west gable façade comprises a central entrance door flanked on its left by a single 6/6 sash window and by paired 6/6 sash on the right. A smaller 6/6 sash appears in the gable peak. The two western bays of the south elevation are defined by paired 6/6 sash, with another similar window in the shed dormer above (added in the late 1950s). A brick exterior chimney – intended to serve a heat and cook stove that was never installed – rises on the south elevation. Decorative green batten-style shutters (reinstating the style originally installed on the cottage) flank the windows, whose red brick sills contrast against the otherwise white-painted house exterior. Two planters were built fronting the porch. The gable roof is surfaced in green asphalt shingles.

The interior of Bay Breeze comprises a large living room/dining room, three bedrooms, one bath, and a knotty pine kitchen (popular in Ocean City at the time). Original pine floors have been restored throughout, and the original knotty pine kitchen cabinets and paneling are extant; the Formica

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countertops have been replaced in kind [matching materials and style] in 2016. Intended for summer use only, the cottage was never heated. In the rear bedroom, a ladder accesses a dormitory-style attic bedroom where the family slept, as Mrs. Virginia Craig rented the downstairs bedrooms to summer tourists, and, from the 1960s on, to members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol. Original early construction board (pre-sheetrock) is retained throughout the dormitory space and down stairs on the back porch. Circa 1960, paneling was added to the three downstairs bedrooms and an outside staircase and exterior rear upper-level deck and door were added to access the attic dormitory bedroom, independent of the downstairs rear bedroom ladder (the house never had an interior staircase).

About 1964 a two-bedroom rental apartment (designed by Captain Craig's son, Robert M. Craig) was attached to the rear of the Craig cottage. The so-called "Captain's Kid" apartment has a galley kitchen, full bath, and living room all under a flat roof. At the same time, a small patio was constructed connecting the cottage's back porch and the stoop entry porch of the "Captain's Kid" apartment. Also in the same campaign, a tool shed from a property at 13th and Philadelphia Ave. in Ocean City was moved five blocks onto the property and converted to a one-room efficiency rental apartment. The toolshed/efficiency apartment is sited at the rear of the approx. 50 x 150-foot lot; it is of wood frame construction with asbestos siding. Various original plantings (blackberry bush along rear of property, sweet pea, forsythia, and Rose of Sharon) also survive.

Subsequent to the period of significance, the only alterations were a minor [48 sq ft] enlargement of the pantry to include a laundry and additional half bath, swapping the location of the refrigerator and stove in the kitchen, a small enlargement of the counter space to accommodate a dishwasher, and remodeling the main bathroom within its original footprint to provide an indoor shower instead of bathtub. These minor changes, carried out between 2012-16, do not affect the integrity of the cottage.

For more than six decades "Bay Breeze" served as a Craig family summer home with cottage bedrooms and apartments rented to (mostly) members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol (OCBP). After his retirement from high school teaching in 1981, Captain Craig moved to a winterized bayside house 11 blocks away in order to reside year-round in Ocean City. The Bay Breeze Cottage and apartment were restored in 2012-16 by Captain Craig's son, who had inherited the house upon Captain Craig's death in 2009. The younger Craig used family photos, personal memory (he had been raised, summers, in the beach house) and professional knowledge to guide the restoration work. Original six over six casement windows throughout and the original front door (four panel with four small top lights) remain, exterior and interior materials and surfaces remain with the exception of using vinyl shutters, in the original shutter style, as documented in photographs. Interior doors, butt-joint trim, and original baseboards remain; in addition, knotty pine walls and kitchen cabinets, historic paneling in bedrooms, and interior pine floors all remain intact and have been refurbished.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Bay Breeze derives significance under Criterion B for its association with Captain Robert S. Craig, whose role in the development and leadership of the Ocean City Beach Patrol (OCBP), the town's ocean lifeguard organization, spanned over fifty years and contributed to the growth of the town as a beach resort. Throughout three decades of the OCBP's history, the cottage served as its informal headquarters, where meetings were held, records were kept, and summer lifeguards found sleeping accommodations. During Captain Craig's leadership, the OCBP became nationally known for its management and ocean rescue work. Captain Craig initiated the use of semaphore communications among beach lifeguards, and incorporated innovative rescue technology in the OCBP's operations. When the town completed its Beach Patrol headquarters in 2015, the administrative third floor was named for Captain Craig, six years after his death.

Bay Breeze was designed by Captain Robert S. Craig and constructed in 1949-50; the attached "Captain's Kid" apartment was designed by his son Robert M. Craig and built circa 1964; and a frame tool shed was moved to the property and remodeled as an efficiency apartment at the same time. Bay Breeze was restored in 2012-16 under the supervision of architectural historian Robert M. Craig. The property has served as a family retreat continuously over six decades.

The Period of Significance, 1949-1964, corresponds to the period during which the resource substantially achieved its historic form and appearance.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Robert S. Craig (1918-2009), a native of Wilmington, Delaware, came to Ocean City as a child; his parents operated a tourist home on Division Street near the Route 50 bridge. He attended Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, where his father taught, and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1940, he married Virginia Lee Mason of Berlin, Maryland, and they moved that fall to St. Louis, Missouri, where for over 40 years Craig taught Latin and Mathematics and coached at Principia Upper School, and Mrs. Craig worked in the school's publications office. Except for one year during World War II, Craig returned to Ocean City each summer to serve the Ocean City Beach Patrol, the organization he had joined in 1935. Craig became OCBP captain in 1946, remaining in charge of the organization until his retirement in 1986. For over 50 years, Robert S. Craig was guarding the beach or, famously during his early years as Captain, riding his bicycle on the boardwalk to oversee his lifeguards. The safety record he maintained for over half a century contributed incalculably to the development of the town.

During his tenure as Captain of the OCBP, Craig worked with a succession of mayors and governors, all of whom recognized the value to the state of Maryland of a safe beach at Ocean City. He was

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recognized by the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida as a leading trainer and educator of water safety and ocean lifeguard skills. The growth of his organization paralleled the economic development and expansion of the town of Ocean City: as city limits expanded from 33rd Street to 45th Street, to, ultimately, the Delaware state line at 146th St., the OCBP grew to close to 150 members to guard the added miles of ocean beach. Consistently maintaining an enviable record of safety, the OCBP's success encouraged investment in the developing town.

Captain Craig and the OCBP were nationally known, participating in lifeguard competitions up and down the Atlantic and in California; captains of other beach patrols traveled to Ocean City from as far afield as Brazil, to study the management and ocean rescue work of the OCBP. Captain Craig introduced the use of semaphore flag signals (still employed today despite advances in technology) for communication among lifeguards up and down the (now extensive) patrolled beach. Under Craig's tenure the protected beach grew from a few hundred yards of guarded beach to over ten miles. Craig's "shift and cover" technique insured that no section of the beach was left unprotected, even when several lifeguards were engaged in a coordinated rescue; sometimes lifeguards, from between two and six or more blocks away, would shift to cover adjacent sections of the beach vacated by a lifeguard engaged in an ocean rescue. Having observed similar rescue equipment employed on Florida beaches, Craig designed a model torpedo buoy and had a local sheet metal company fabricate scores of them for the beach patrol. Their use has contributed to the saving of countless lives. He inaugurated the annual lifeguard dance, a fund raiser to provide for end-of-the-season bonuses to lifeguards, and Craig served as impresario hiring "big bands" (Billy Butterfield) or popular local Maryland bands (The Admirals), securing the pier ballroom venue (now "Ripley's Believe it or Not"), and organizing the sale of ads in the lifeguard benefit ball booklet to raise the necessary money to pay the band and dance venue rental.

Before the organization had any official headquarters building or office, Bay Breeze served as the informal headquarters for the OCBP. At Bay Breeze, organizational records were maintained, life guards were interviewed and (after ocean testing) hired, and lost children (not yet reunited with their parents or guardians by end of day) were attended to by the Craigs until parents reconnected. After a decade of renting rooms to tourists, the downstairs bedrooms of Bay Breeze (from the 1960s on) became the summer home of scores of lifeguards over the years; the family utilized the cottage but slept in the attic dormitory space above.

Mrs. Craig's practice, in the 1950s and after, of renting rooms to seaside tourists reflects a tradition in Ocean City of women hostesses opening their homes to tourists and operating the town's inns and hotels. Mrs. Craig's mother [Mrs. Otho (Mary) Mason] once owned the Mount Pleasant (later Roosevelt) Hotel, and later developed rental apartments in the neighborhood of Bay Breeze. Mrs. Craig's aunt, Virginia Ayres [Swindler] was the first realtor in town. Mrs. Craig's first cousin, Betty Frame, owned the Lankford Hotel, now operated by her grandchildren. Like other women of Ocean

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City in the period, Virginia Lee Mason Craig opened her new summer cottage to tourists, and later brought greater focus to the house and its link to the Ocean City Beach Patrol by providing housing for summer lifeguards. This practice continued for 50 years. For many years, Mrs. Craig hosted breakfast for OCBP officers and other lifeguards. After Captain and Mrs. Craig retired and discontinued personal use of Bay Breeze cottage, the Craigs' son continued renting the cottage (and the adjacent apartments) to members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol.

The story-and-a-half gabled beach cottage is architecturally representative of mid-20th-century vernacular houses along the mid-Atlantic coast, built of concrete block in response to coastal weather conditions, without stylistic references to historic plans, form, or ornament, but with flexible use as a family home and tourist rental property.

The property remains family-owned, and continues to serve Captain Craig's son and grandson and his family during summer sojourns to Ocean City.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Nancy Powell, "Longtime OCBP Captain, Bob Craig, dies (ROBERT CRAIG: 1918-2009)" Ocean City Today, April 3, 2009 (<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/2224357/posts>, accessed 11/02/2017)

Hunter "Bunk" Mann. Vanishing Ocean City: Memories from Maryland's Famous Beach Resort. n.p., 2014

George and Suzanne Hurley. Ocean City: A Pictorial History. Donning Co., 1979

Mary Corddry. City on the Sand: Ocean City, Maryland, and the People Who Built It. Tidewater Publishers, 1991.

Louis Kelly *et al.* From Bridge to Boardwalk, An Audio Journey Across Maryland's Eastern Shore. Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, 2004.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Boundaries are described among the Land Records of Worcester County, Maryland in Liber 05796, folio 00062.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the single town lot historically associated with the resource.

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Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: WO-590

Name of Property: Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage

Location: Worcester County, Maryland

Photographer: Robert M. Craig

Date taken: May-August, 2015

Location of original digital files [or negatives]: MD SHPO

Photo captions:

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0001.tif
West façade
1 of 16

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0002.tif

View facing northeast; relocated tool shed converted to efficiency apartment in rear yard

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0003.tif
View facing northwest
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0005.tif
Tool shed/efficiency apartment, view from west
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0006.tif
Interior, living/dining room, facing east
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0007.tif
Interior, living/dining room, facing west
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0008.tif
Living/dining room, view south
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0012.tif

Northwest bedroom

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0015.tif

Middle bedroom

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0016.tif

Rear bedroom

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0018.tif

Closet with ladder to attic dormitory

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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0019.tif
Kitchen
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0022.tif
Attic dormitory, facing west
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0024.tif
Exterior, "Captain's Kid" apartment added c. 1964
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MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0025.tif
"Captain's Kid" apartment, living room
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Name of Property

Worcester County, MD

County and State

Section PHOTO Page 17



MD_WorcesterCounty_CraigCaptainRobertSCottage_0028.tif

"Captain's Kid" apartment, bedroom

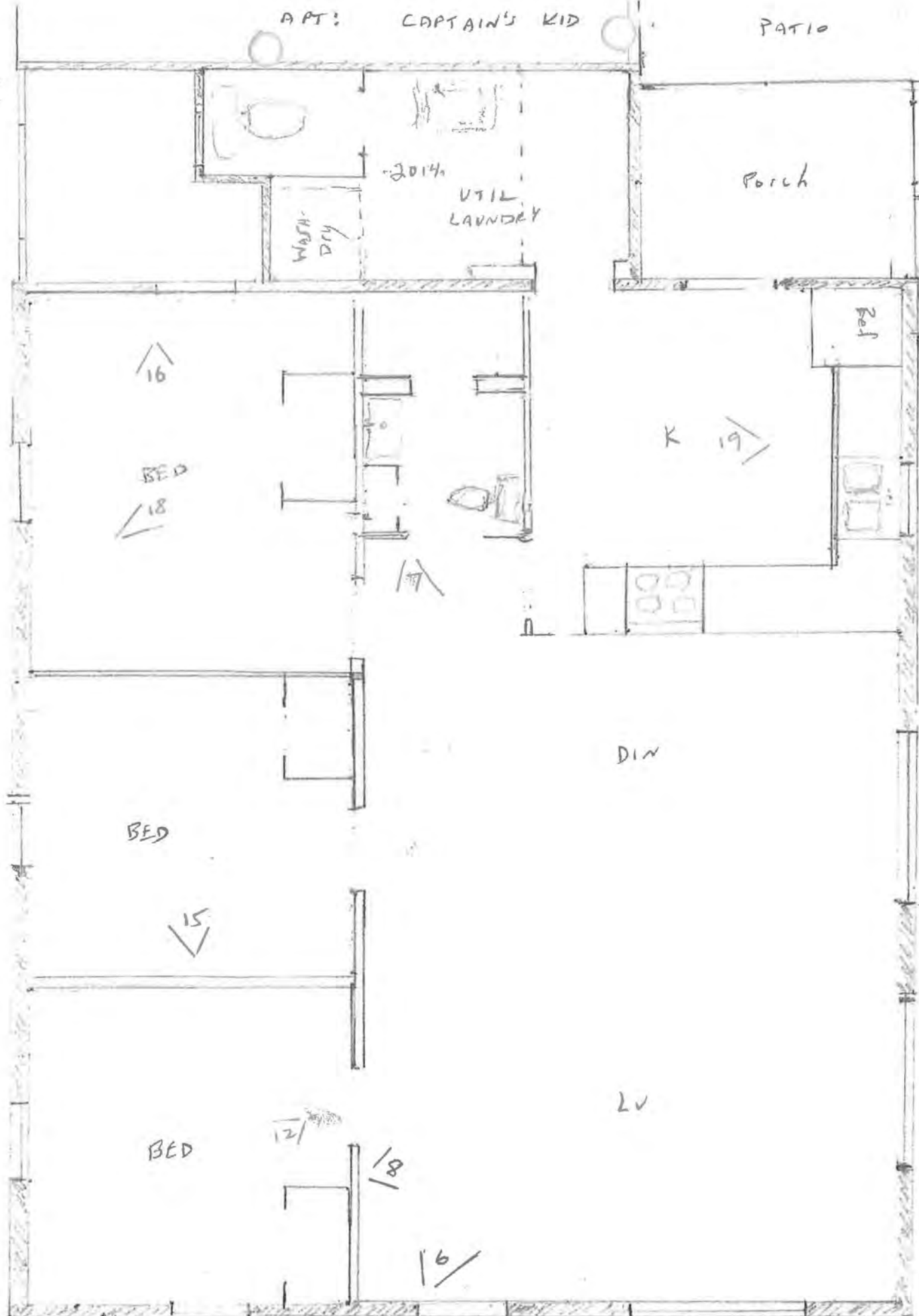
APT: CAPTAIN'S KID

PATIO

Show

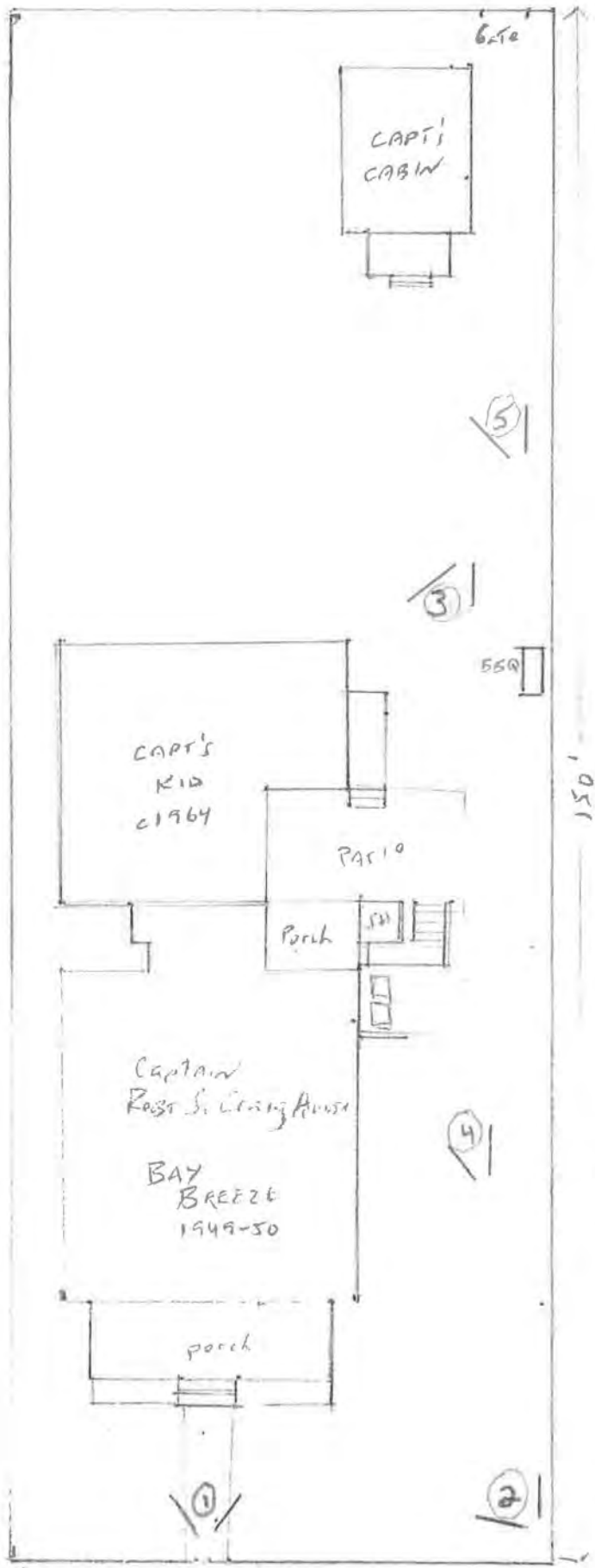


NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO PHOTO FILE NAMES < SHOWS DIRECTION OF VIEW



1/4" = 1'

WD-590
CAPTAIN ROBERT S. CRAIG COTTAGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRST FLOOR PLAN



NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO
PHOTO FILE NAMES

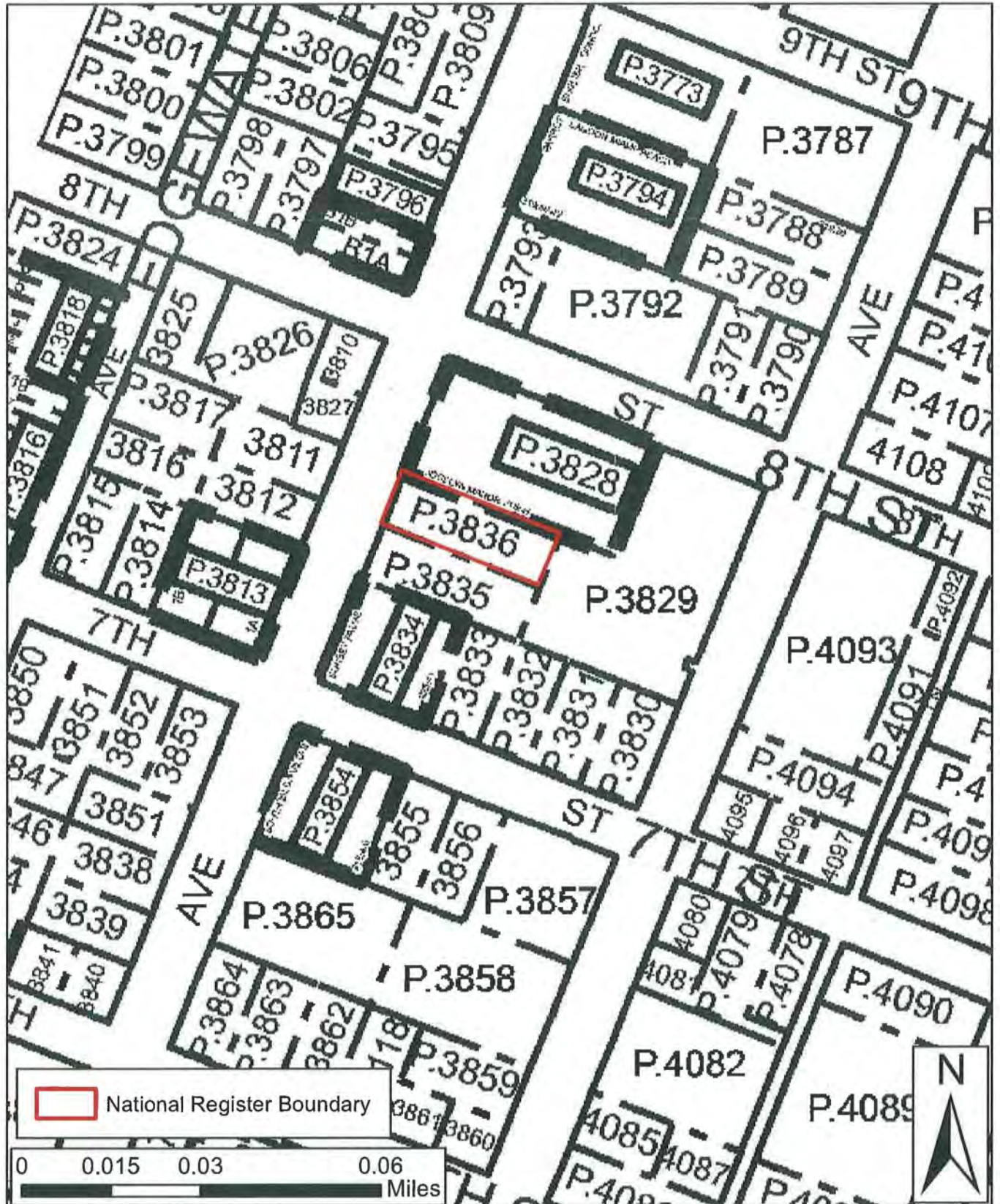
↳ SHOWS DIRECTION OF VIEW

WB-590
CAPTAIN ROBERT S. CRAIG
COTTAGE,
WORCESTER COUNTY,
MARYLAND

SIDE PLAN

706 ST. LOUIS AVE.
OCEAN CITY, MD, 21842

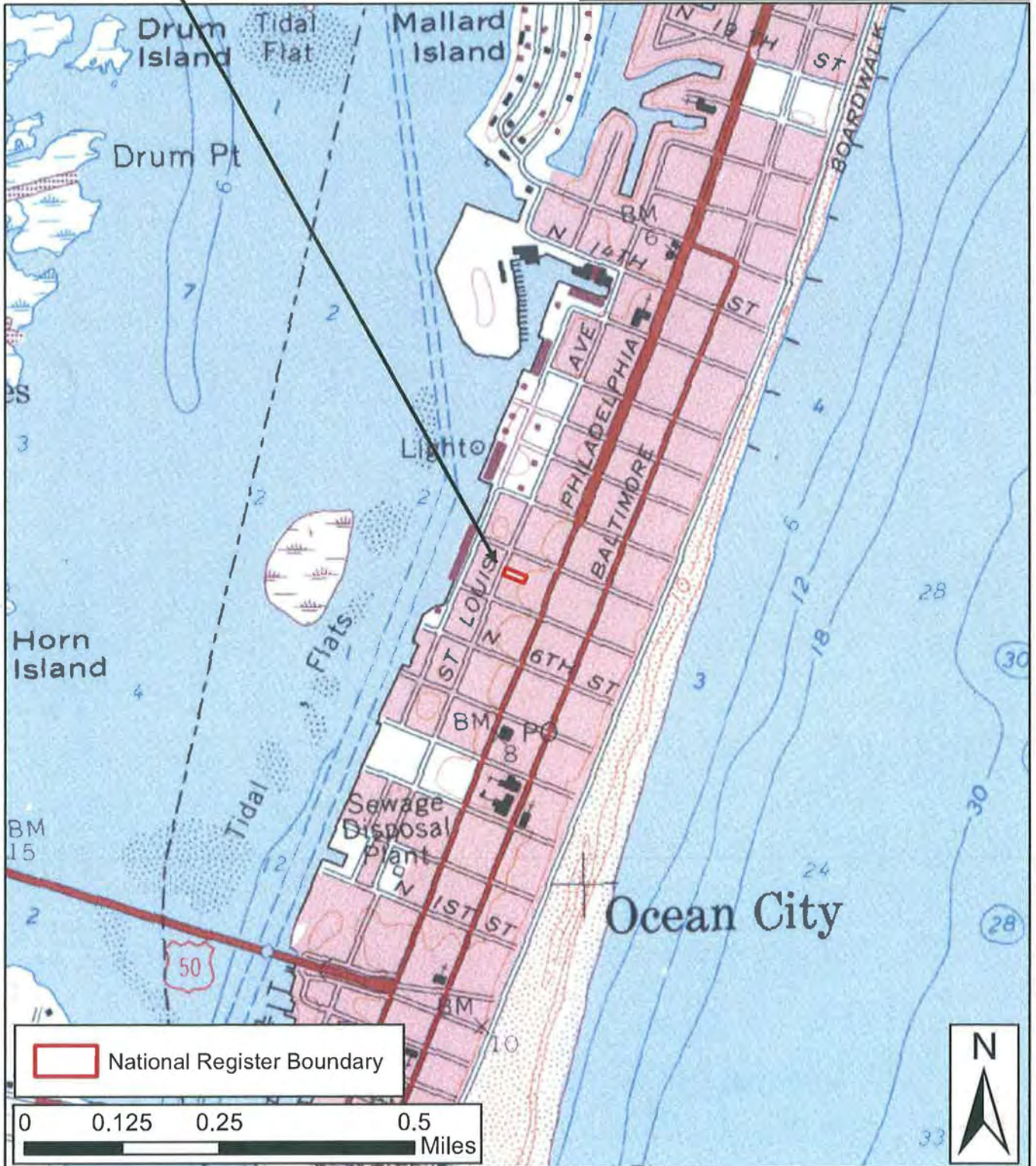
WO-590
Craig, Capt. Robert S., Cottage
706 St. Louis Avenue
Ocean City, MD 21842
Worcester County
Maryland



WO-590
Craig, Capt. Robert S., Cottage
706 St. Louis Avenue
Ocean City, MD 21842
Worcester County
Maryland
UTM Coordinates 18-492618-4243469
Ocean City, MD Quad
USGS Topographical Map
1:24,000



WO-590
Craig, Capt. Robert S., Cottage
706 St. Louis Avenue
Ocean City, MD 21842
Worcester County
Maryland
UTM Coordinates 18-492618-4243469
Ocean City, MD Quad
USGS Topographical Map
1:12,000





706











BAY BREEZE















BAY BREEZE







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage

Multiple Name:

State & County: MARYLAND, Worcester

Date Received: 11/13/2017 Date of Pending List: 12/8/2017 Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2017 Date of 45th Day: 12/28/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001929

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/26/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion B.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 12/26/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert S. McCord, Acting Secretary



November 9, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye St., NW
Mail Stop 2280
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Craig, Captain Robert S., Cottage

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is documentation for nominating the above-referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. The state review board and the owners concur in my recommendation for listing. Should you have questions in this matter, please contact Peter Kurtze at peter.kurtze@maryland.gov or (410) 697-9562.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hughes
Director-State Historic
Preservation Officer

EAH/krk
cc: State Clearinghouse # MD20160913-0808
Enclosures: NR form, maps, CD/DVD