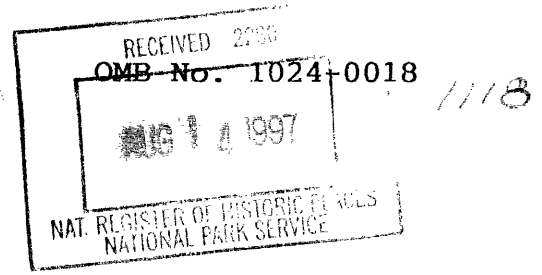


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**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 Edgar & Rachel Ross House

other names/site number CRS #S-7005

2. Location

street & number 413 High Street not for publication n/a
city or town Seaford, Seaford Hundred vicinity n/a
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19973

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Daniel P. Hoff
Signature of certifying official

July 18, 1997
Date

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Professional</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Work In Progress</u>	Sub: <u>Fall 1997</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Business</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Craftsman/Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt/Metal
walls Brick/Wood Clapboard

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 patterns of our history.
- B Property is 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance c. 1894-1934

Significant Dates c.1894-1897

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

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (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: Delaware State Archives

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>446910</u>	<u>4277180</u>	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 Mark G. Rayburn, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Sussex County Engineering Department date 6/24/96

street & number P.O. Box 589 telephone 302-855-7718

city or town Georgetown state DE zip code 19947
=====

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ian & Patricia French

street & number 201 Pennsylvania Avenue telephone 302-629-5331

city or town Seaford, Seaford Hundred state DE zip code 19973
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act 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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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

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Description

The Edgar and Rachel Ross House is a two and one-half story, brick and frame foursquare with decorative elements that can be attributed to the Late Victorian, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles. The house is located at 413 High Street, in one of the earliest developed sections of Seaford, on the eastern edge of Seaford Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware.

The main block of the house is a foursquare form, two stories in height, with a hipped roof, that creates an additional floor of available living space. There is a one story porch on the north (primary facade) and west elevations, which has a hipped roof with proportions similar to the main house. To the southeast of the main block is a brick ell, two stories in height with a shallow pitched gable roof. This ell is original to the house, as it is always shown on maps of the area, and is identical in construction to the main portion of the house. The house first appears on a 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Seaford. This would narrow the date of construction to 1894-1897, as much of the decorative detailing would support.

To the southwest of the main block of the house is a clapboard ell, two stories in height with a one story entry porch. This ell was added sometime between 1897 and 1904, according to the Sanborn maps of the town, and is constructed of frame. Part of the original two story porch, off the brick ell is visible to the east of this ell. This porch has detailing that is identical to the porch on the north and west elevations. The wooden ell is tied into the main house through a section of porch converted to dwelling space. To the east of the main block of the house is an office and commercial addition constructed of brick, one story in height and three rooms deep. This addition has a shallow pitched gable roof that a pedimented parapet shields from view.

There are roof dormers on all elevations of the foursquare portion of the house. The north elevation has a dormer with two windows and a hipped roof, while the dormers on the other elevations have one window and a shed roof. There are two corbeled chimneys visible from the south of the property. These chimneys have been parged and no exterior brickwork is visible.

The Edgar and Rachel Ross House is predominantly constructed of brick. The brickwork is a common bond, with a seven to one proportion of stretchers to headers. On the later brick office addition on the east elevation, only stretcher courses are used.

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Section 7 Page 2

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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The windows in the original portions of the house have segmentally arched openings, with the arches also articulated in brick. In the clapboard & later brick sections of the house, no arches are used in the window openings. The majority of the windows in the house are double hung wooden sash with a two over one light pattern. On the first floor of the wooden ell there are five window openings, all of which have four over four light wooden double hung sash. All of the other windows in the house have two over one light windows. It is important to note that while many of the window openings feature an arch, the window units within those openings are rectilinear. The remaining space is filled by wooden trim.

The exterior trim of the Edgar and Rachel Ross House is rather modest. The roof dormer on the north elevation has a denticulated cornice that wraps around all the visible elevations. This style of cornice is typical of the Colonial Revival and is used throughout the exterior of the house. None of the other dormers feature exterior trim.

The eaves underneath the hipped roof of the foursquare block of the house are open and feature exposed, decorative rafter ends. These rafter ends have an ogee shape at the tip. The eaves under the hipped roof of the wooden ell are boxed with no decorative detailing.

The main porch on the north and west elevations have an identical denticulated cornice, also featured on the north elevation dormer. The porch columns are fairly unadorned, reflecting the change away from the High Victorian use of complex exterior trim to the renewed interest in classical forms of the Colonial Revival. The columns feature simple classical detail on the base and at the top, where the capital forms the base of a shallow arch that acts as both the support of the weight of the porch roof and as a decorative element. These shallow arches have a "sawtooth" denticulated surface along the length. This porch motif is repeated throughout the exterior of the house. The entry porch on the wooden ell addition and the original two story porch of the brick ell both feature this decorative treatment.

One of the interesting decorative elements of the Edgar and Rachel Ross House is the use of decorative fielded panels in the section of infill of the main porch, on the west elevation. The panels, below the windows in the north & south ends of this wall feature inset panels of diagonally arranged beaded boards, although the angles of the diagonal are opposite from each other. The center panel in this wall has an inset with vertically arranged beaded boards.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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The interior of the Edgar and Rachel Ross House demonstrates a consistency of ornamentation and detailing that is similar, yet superior, to the exterior. Despite additions and alterations to the house, the interior trim is remarkably similar throughout the house.

The interior layout of rooms is typical for a foursquare house. The front door opens directly into the entry hall. On the east wall of the hall is a window opening that has been converted to a door opening, providing entry to the office addition. To the west of the entry hall is the opening to the first of two parlors in the Ross house. The second parlor is directly south of the front parlor, and features an opening with both wooden pocket doors and wood & glass french doors. It is in this southern parlor that the exterior wall has been shifted further west, through the infill of the exterior porch. In the southwest corner of this room is the entrance to a rear entry hall area., which is part of the wooden ell. This room also features a back stair case to the second floor. On the east wall of this room is a door into the kitchen of the house, located in the brick ell. There are two doors in this room, one on the east leads to the exterior of the house, and the door on the north leads to a hallway. There is an original rear staircase leading upstairs and downstairs off of this hall, and a pantry area. In the pantry, which was originally just a doorway to the exterior of the brick ell of the house, the original exterior paint scheme of the house is visible. This hallway leads into the dining room, which is directly south of the main entry hall and features a bay window.

On the second floor landing of the primary (north) staircase opens into a long hallway that runs north-south through the second floor. Directly in front of the landing is a linen closet off the hallway. At the north end of the house the hallway leads to a bedroom that encompasses the entire north wall of the second story. Moving south from this room thru the hallway there is a bathroom to the east, a bedroom to the southeast, and a room to the southwest that contains the landing of one of the rear sets of stairs.

The first floor entry hall is one of the most ornately decorated rooms in the house. The outside wall of the staircase is finished with wainscoting above the baseboard and is topped by a chair rail. The stair railing itself is composed of a Colonial Revival rail stock and turned balusters. The first floor newel post features flat inset panels flanked by carvings that match the balusters. The top of the post features round "dimple" details, Classical trim & a decorative urn.

The inside walls of the staircase are finished with fielded paneling above

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Section 7 Page 4

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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the baseboard. This paneling has wide raised rails and styles and deeply recessed panels. There are two other staircases in the house. The first, which leads from the second story hallway to into the kitchen is the original service staircase of the house. The second staircase is in the wooden ell addition, and again is a utilitarian staircase. Both of these staircases feature beaded board wainscotting and have doors at the first floor level.

Throughout the house hardwoods are the materials of choice for flooring. In the later brick office addition, linoleum is used. A variety of patterns are used in the laying of the floor. There are several rooms which have decorative borders, while utilitarian rooms have length-run boards.

The wall surfaces in the Edgar and Rachel Ross House are plaster, with a few exceptions. In the entry hall and in the entry room of the wooden ell to the southwest wainscotting and paneling are used. In the office addition there are floor to ceiling pressed terne wall surfaces. These products were very popular in the early 20th century. There is a baseboard, simulated fielded paneling with a chair rail, a stippled wall surface, a cornice, and a paneled ceiling all constructed of terne. All three of these rooms in this office area feature this ornamentation and are extremely intact, with very little deterioration. The center room of the office addition, just off the main foyer, has had a cashier platform and counter added.

Door and window casings are also very consistent throughout the house. In the office addition flat casings with minimal Classical detailing are utilized. In the majority of the house, Colonial Revival fluted casings are used. These are finished with Classical plinth blocks at the baseboard level "dimple" plinth blocks at the upper corners.

Directly to the south of the Edgar and Rachel Ross House, and divided between two property owners, is the only non-contributing resource included in this nomination, the garage. The garage is currently a facade with some remaining supporting structure. By opening the garage door it is possible to see that much of the wall framing and almost all of the roof framing has deteriorated dramatically.

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Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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Statement of Significance

The Edgar and Rachel Ross House, located at 413 High Street, in Seaford, Seaford Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, is a turn of the century, brick dwelling being nominated under National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance at the local level. The Edgar and Rachel Ross House is demonstrative of shifting architectural tastes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Ross House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building sits on its original lot, and despite the later alterations to the building the detailing & craftsmanship have survived intact. The neighborhood of the Ross House had changed since the buildings construction but still retains its' prominence as a commercial and residential core. The later alterations to the house have not detracted from the buildings significance or aesthetic value, and may have been beneficial. The only outbuilding, a garage that is shared with the adjacent vacant home on Spring Alley is listed here as a non contributing element, but it does not detract from the houses architectural impact as it is located to the rear of the property and is only visible from a secondary elevation. The garage is considered to be non-contributing because of extensive deterioration.

The Ross House was constructed between 1894 and 1897, according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps and supported by various deeds of the time. Edgar & Rachel Ross had spend several years previous to this consolidating the various parcels to form their property. By the time the house was constructed they Ross's owned all the land from the Nanticoke River to High Street, bounded by Market Street and Spring Alley.

Edgar C. Ross was born March 25, 1850 and raised in the Seaford area. His father, William H. Ross, had been the governor of Delaware and his plantation house (NR 1977), located just north of Seaford, is now a house museum. Edgar was a Colonel in the military and a successful businessman. He owned a canning company in Seaford, and also owned a fertilizer company with his brother William M. Ross. Edgar was a trustee of the Sussex National Bank in Seaford. He also was the owner of large areas of land in Sussex County. Rachel Barker Ross was born in December of 1871 (U.S. Census, 1900). The Ross's were married on April 19, 1892. Their first child and only son, Calhoun Edgar Ross, was born in December of 1893. Their second child, Elizabeth B. Ross, was born in May of 1897. The anticipated arrival of the Ross's second child may be the impetus for the construction of the house.

The first Sanborn map that indicates the presence of the Ross House is dated

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Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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July, 1897. The house, at that time, consisted of the foursquare main block, two and a half stories in height, with a bay window, a two story ell to the south, a one story ell to the south east, a one story porch on the north & west elevations and a two story porch to the southwest. The roof material was listed on the Sanborn maps as being slate or tin, as the symbol for both is identical. There were four other residences and numerous commercial structures on the Ross's property. By the next Sanborn map, dated December of 1904, the two story clapboard addition had been added, also roofed in slate or tin. This addition was made while retaining much of the earlier porch. The shared garage appears to have been constructed between December 1910 and July, 1923. The one story brick office addition did not appear on the July, 1923 map but showed up on the January, 1931 Sanborn map, and also had a slate or tin roof. By the January, 1931 Sanborn map all major changes and alterations to the property were completed.

Edgar Ross died on July 19, 1926 at the age of 76. His wife, Rachel died on November 16, 1934 at the age of 62. When Rachel Ross died the house and estate were divided between the two living children; Clara Ross Gage and Calhoun Edgar Ross, with power of Trustee given to Clara. Clara later petitioned the Court of Chancery to be removed as Trustee, and the Security Trust Company was appointed to fill that role. On July 18, 1935 the Security Trust Company sold it's one-half share of the house to Dr. Ira B. Allen for \$1,387.50. On July 27, 1935 Clara Ross Gage sold her one half share of the house to Dr. Allen for the same amount. The Ross House and the house & parcel directly south on Spring Alley were sold on August 1, 1973 to William Q. Clements for \$17,000. Clements was apparently already living in the house as his legal address on the deed was 413 High Street, in Seaford (Sussex County Recorder of Deeds, Book 858, Page 53).

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Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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Comprehensive Planning

Zone: Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp
Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Theme: Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts
Major Families
Property Type: Colonial Revival Eclectic Dwelling

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
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Major Bibliographical References

Martin, Roger A., A History of Delaware Through Its Govenors 1776-1984,
McClafferty Printing, Wilmington, Delaware, 1984.

Pomeroy and Beer's. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Seaford Map. 1868.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. May 1885.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. May 1891.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. July 1897.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. December 1904.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. December 1910.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. July 1923.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps. Seaford, Delaware. January 1931.

Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 32, Page 373.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 33, Page 91.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 47, Page 267.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 49, Page 217.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 50, Page 369.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 91, Page 106.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 119, Page 433.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 122, Pages 146, 353, 372.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 131, Page 224.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 135, Page 95.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 139, Page 30.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 141, Page 142.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 159, Page 550.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 168, Pages 551, 559.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 170, Pages 42, 79.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 175, Page 597.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 187, Page 141.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 190, Page 565.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 193, Pages 120, 348.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 199, Page 13.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 204, Page 489.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 216, Page 251.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 224, Page 105.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 245, Page 490.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 248, Pages 528, 596.
Sussex County Recorder Of Deeds. Book 256, Pages 557.

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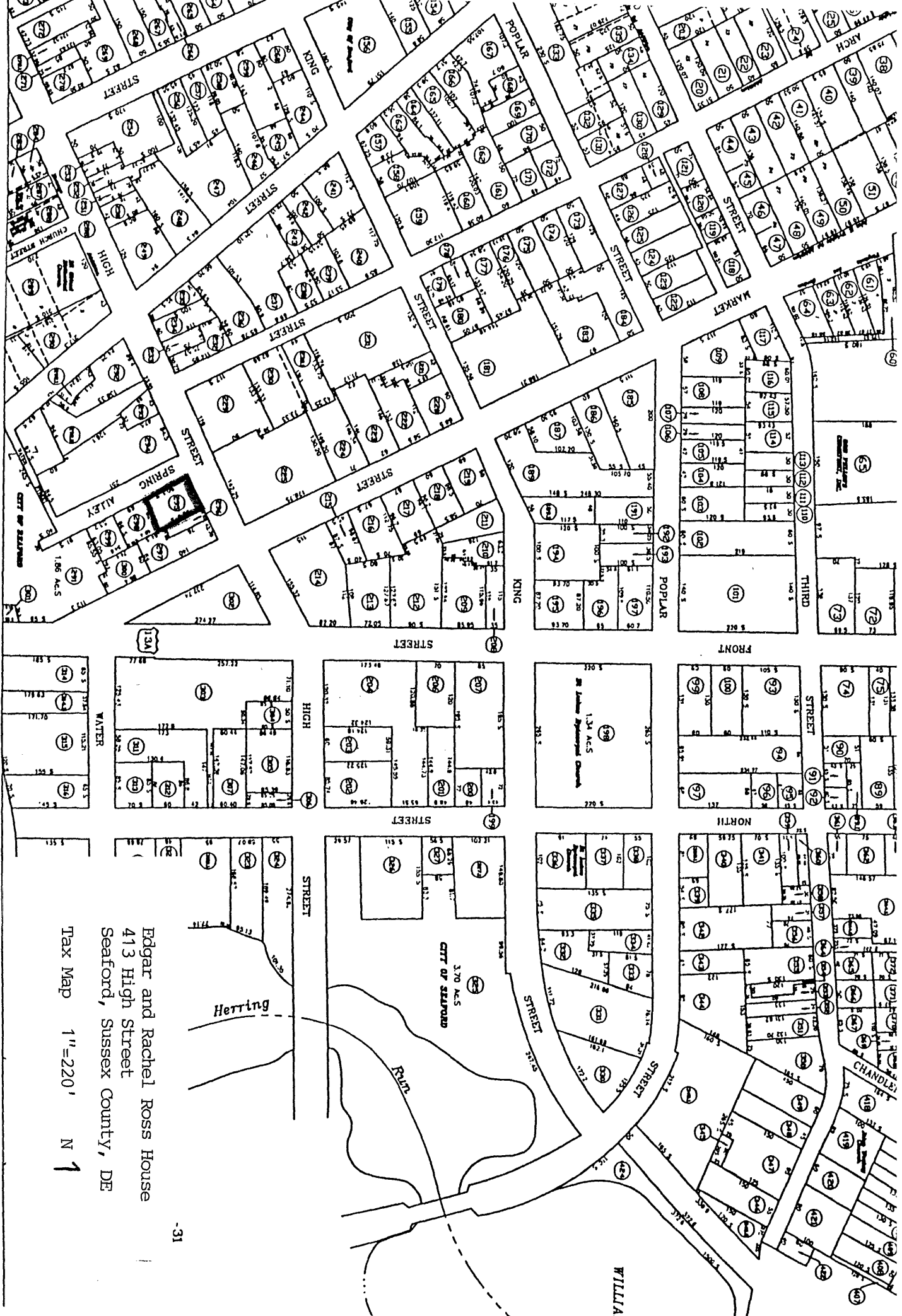
Section 10 Page 1

Edgar and Rachel Ross House
name of property
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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Edgar and Rachel Ross House is located on an urban lot at 413 High Street in Seaford, Seaford Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The parcel is less than one acre in size and is bounded on the north by High Street, on the west by Spring Alley, and on the east and south by adjoining property lines. This is all the property historically associated with the Edgar and Rachel Ross House.



Edgar and Rachel Ross House
 413 High Street
 Seaford, Sussex County, DE

Tax Map 1"=220' N 1