

**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

**1. Name**

historic Ozmon, Capt. John H., Store

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Centreville Wharf n/a not for publication

city, town Centreville n/a vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Queen Anne's code 035

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Draper, III

street & number

city, town Centreville n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21617

**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 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date November 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent     deteriorated    **Check one**    **Check one**  
 good         ruins             unaltered     original site  
 fair          unexposed       altered       moved    date           n/a          

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of previously listed  
National Register properties  
included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions  
and uses:

commercial

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Captain John H. Ozmon's Store is a two-story brick building constructed ca. 1880 fronting on Corsica Creek in Centreville, county seat of Queen Anne's County, Maryland. It is built into the side of a steep bank, with the store occupying the lower story and a dwelling on the second floor. The building evidently was constructed in two stages: the original section, closest to the creek, is three bays wide and two bays deep; this section remained unchanged when a two-bay-wide addition was made to the rear. The principal facade is the northwest, facing the creek; on the first floor, there is a large double door with a two-light transom in the left bay, and two large windows in the center and right bays. Iron bars cover the transom, and solid wooden shutters cover both windows. A cantilevered porch spans the second story, supported by chamfered stick-style brackets and enclosed with scrolled Victorian "splat" balusters. A single door with a two-light transom in the right bay allows access to the porch from the second floor; there is a large two-over-two window in the left bay. Square posts with simple molded caps support the porch roof, which has a deep soffit with a massive bracketed cornice and a large ogee crown mold. All door and window openings on this facade have arched segmental lintels, and the brickwork, laid in seven-course bond, has been painted and the joints stenciled. The interior of the ground level, where the store was located, remains relatively unchanged, and retains a large steel vault door with a combination lock and heavy handle, decorated with gold stenciling; above the door, in large gold block letters, is inscribed "John H. Ozmon". The walls are finished with narrow beaded wainscot and capped with a molded cornice.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** c. 1880 **Builder/Architect** Capt. John H. Ozmon, builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
 Applicable Exceptions: none  
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Captain John H. Ozmon's Store is significant for its architecture, and for its association with Captain Ozmon, a prominent local merchant who built a considerable business transporting grain, lumber, and other merchandise by sailing schooner between Baltimore (Md.), Norfolk (Va.), and points on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Architecturally, this combined store-and-dwelling is of an unusual form, and is unique in Queen Anne's County; the principal facade, facing Corsica Creek, is dominated by a highly decorative cantilevered porch, and shows subtle refinement in the carefully painted and stenciled brickwork and arched window and door openings. Stenciled brickwork is unusual on the Eastern Shore (only two examples are recorded in Queen Anne's County), and its use on this building may reflect Captain Ozmon's frequent contact with Baltimore, where this detailing was common in the late 19th century waterfront communities of Fell's Point and Federal Hill. The building was probably constructed circa 1880, when Ozmon's fortunes reached their peak, and was apparently used to market a variety of goods included in the schooner cargoes. An inventory of the contents of the store included in the administration accounts of Ozmon's estate (d. 1902) suggests that his primary trade was carried out with watermen passing through Centreville Landing, rather than with the landed populace of the town: his stock ranged from spices to fishing hooks, and included mundane grocery items, one bag of gold dust, and a surprising amount and variety of tobacco products.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore (New York: Chapman, 1898).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 0.214 acre

Quadrangle name Centreville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	4	0	7	0	2	0	4	3	2	3	0	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property comprises the single town lot upon which the resource stands, as delineated on the attached plat.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county n/a code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout v, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date November 1978; revised 1984

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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 [Signature] 11-28-84

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>2-14-85</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

QA-201

For NPS use only

received 12/12/84

date entered

Ozmon, Captain John H., Store

Continuation sheet Queen Anne's County, Maryland item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Among the numerous buildings around Centreville Wharf that are associated with Captain John H. Ozmon, perhaps the most curious is the brick store and dwelling house fronting on Corsica Creek. It is built into the side of a steep bank fronting on the main wharf area, and is in close proximity to the large frame residence built by Captain Ozmon in 1880 and occupied by him until his death in 1902.

The store was located on the ground level, facing the creek, with the entrance in the center of the northwest gable. The second floor served as a dwelling, and was entered by way of a porch at the east end of the southwest facade. Because of the steep hill, this porch is level with the high ground to the rear of the building.

In overall appearance, this is a somewhat awkward building. It is two stories high, of brick construction, with a flat roof and two porches. Evidently it was built in two stages, with the original building consisting of the section closest to the creek. This was three bays wide and two bays deep, with a porch cantilevered out from the second floor on the northwest gable. This part of the building remains relatively unchanged, and was simply enlarged by extending it two bays to the rear. This rear addition was made flush with the northeast wall of the main structure, but is set back from the southwest wall, with a two story frame porch carried across the southwest wall of the addition. This serves the main entrance of the second floor.

The northwest gable, facing the creek, is the principal facade. On the first floor, there is a large double door with a two-light transom in the left bay and two large (probably two-over-two) windows in the center and right bays. Iron bars cover the transom above the door, and solid wood shutters cover both windows. The second floor porch projects over this, forming a covered loading dock of sorts. A single door with a two light transom in the right bay allows access to the porch from the second floor. There is a large two-over-two window in the left bay. The porch is quite elaborate. It is supported by chamfered stick-style brackets, and is enclosed with scrolled Victorian "splat" ballusters. Square posts with simple molded caps support the roof, which has a deep soffit with a massive bracketed cornice and a large ogee crown mold.

All door and window openings on this facade have arched segmental lintels, and the brickwork, laid in seven-course bond, has been painted and the joints stenciled.

The northeast facade is relatively plain, with three two-over-two windows on the first floor and two on the second. The center window on the first floor has been bricked up. A plain corbeled brick cornice is carried across this facade.

QA-201

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Ozmon, Captain John H. Store

Continuation sheet Queen Anne's County, Maryland Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The southwest facade is also quite plain. The original section reflects a slight pitch to the rear in the roof, and the cornice in this case consists of a beveled rakeboard with a simple crown mold applied against it. There is a door with an arched lintel in the right bay on the first floor and the ruins of a small brick addition in the left bay. This small structure served as a vault for the store, and the outline of a vaulted brick roof, though now collapsed, can still be traced in the side wall of the main building. There are no openings in the second floor of the main building on this side.

The southwest facade of the rear addition is protected by a frame two story porch. This is much plainer than the gable porch facing the wharf, having square posts and a box cornice with a crown mold but no brackets. There is a door in the left bay and a two-over-two window in the right bay on each floor. The doors have transoms but the lintels are not arched. The rear wall of the addition is uninterrupted by openings.

The interior of the ground level, where the store was located, remains relatively unchanged. A boxed-in beam supported by a cast iron column with a flared top marks where the rear addition was made. The enlarged floor area is otherwise uninterrupted by partitions or supporting posts except for a small office that is situated in the southwest corner. A glass door and two large one-over-one windows in this partition isolate the office from the store, while still allowing visibility of the floor area. A large steel door in the side wall of the office leads to the masonry vault. The door has a combination lock and heavy handle, and is decorated with gold stenciling. Above the door, in large gold block letters, is inscribed "John H. Ozmon."

Otherwise, the interior is relatively plain. The walls are finished with narrow beaded wainscot paneling, and a molded interior cornice is the only concession to decoration.

The living quarters on the upper level consist of four rooms, approximately equal in size. The entrance is located at the east side of the south elevation; a small porch provides access from the hillside. The southeast room currently serves as a kitchen, with a small bedroom behind it. The southwest room is a parlor; a transomed doorway in its west wall opens onto the cantilevered porch. Another bedroom lies to the northeast. The walls and ceiling are finished with narrow beaded wainscoting; the parlor has a molded cornice. Interior doorways have transoms, and hold 4-panel doors in simple molded architraves.

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National Park Service**

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Ozmon, Captain John H., House

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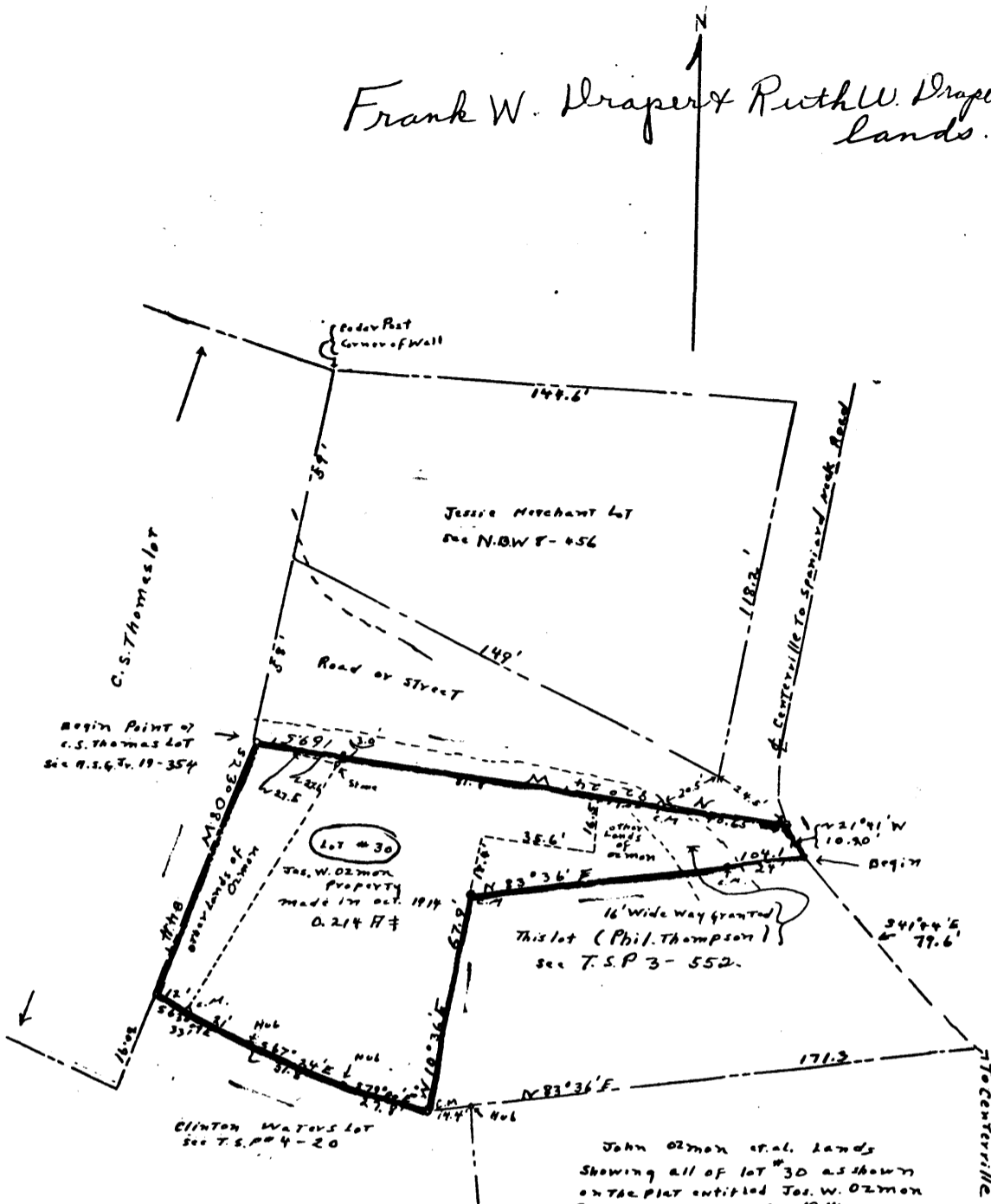
HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This combination store and dwelling is believed to have been built circa 1880 by Captain John H. Ozmon, a prominent local merchant who owned much of Centreville Landing in the last quarter of the 19th century. Ozmon rose to prominence in the years following the Civil War, and built a considerable business transporting lumber, grain and other merchandise by sailing schooner between Baltimore, Norfolk, and the Eastern Shore. He acquired a considerable portion of the waterfront at Centreville, buying it in bits and pieces ranging in size from several acres down to a few square perches. This brick store, together with his dwelling house on the hill overlooking the waterfront (QA-244) and the four "Captain's Houses" (QA-198) to the south, are all believed to have been constructed circa 1880, when Ozmon's fortunes seemed to have reached their peak. The store was evidently used to market a variety of goods included in the schooner cargos, and still contains the massive door to a vaulted safe with Ozmon's name stenciled in gold above the door. An inventory of the contents of the store is included in the administration accounts of Ozmon's estate (dated 1902) and offers an interesting insight into the products stored there. These range from spices to fishing hooks, and include mundane grocery items as well as one bag of gold dust. Certainly the most surprising aspect of this inventory is the unexpectedly large proportion of tobacco products. These include \$69 worth of cigars and cigarettes and \$104 worth of chewing tobacco, and together with snuff and smoking tobacco accounts for approximately 30 per cent of the total value of \$740. Whether the store was still actively in use at the time of Ozmon's death is uncertain, but it seems likely that his primary trade was with the watermen who passed through the Landing rather than with the populace of Centreville.

The building is of an unusual form, and is unique in Queen Anne's County. The principal facade, facing Corsica Creek, is dominated by the highly decorative cantilevered porch, and was undoubtedly a focus of activity along the waterfront. More subtle refinement can be seen in the carefully painted and stenciled brickwork of the front facade and the arched window and door openings. Stenciled brickwork is relatively unusual on the Eastern Shore, with only two recorded examples in Queen Anne's County, and on this building may be a result of Ozmon's frequent contact with Baltimore, where dozens of examples of this detailing may still be seen in the late 19th century brick buildings of Fells Point and Federal Hill.

Frank W. Draper & Ruth W. Draper  
lands.

Original Examined



John Ozmon et al. lands  
Showing all of lot #30 as shown  
on the plat entitled Joe. W. Ozmon  
Property Made in Oct. 1914.  
And other lands intended to be  
conveyed at this time.  
In Centerville, Queen Anne's County,  
Maryland.  
Scale: 1" = 40' - Mar. 1952.  
By F. B. Metcalfe,  
Surveyor.

QA-201  
Ozmon, Capt. John H., Store  
Queen Anne's County, Maryland  
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES

Certifying That I, J. B. Metcalfe, a registered Land surveyor of the State of Maryland did in March, 1952 - Complete a survey of a portion of the John Ozmon lands in Centerville, Queen Anne's County, The State of Maryland. Lying on the westerly side of the Centerville To Spaniards Neck State Road, with the following results obtained.

Beginning for the same at a point in the center of the aforementioned State Road which is the easterly end of the division line of the herein described land and those of Philip Thompson said point is N 83° 36' E - - 24.00 ft. from a 6" x 6" concrete monument planted on the said division line and on the westerly side of the aforementioned road and running

- (1) Thence by and with the centerline of said road.  
N 21° 41' W - - - 10.90 ft. to a point.
- (2) Thence by and with the southerly side of a Street or way that is shown on a plat of the Joseph W. Ozmon Lands made in 1914, and binds on the Northerly side of lot #30 as set forth on the heretofore mentioned Plat. (Note: a 6" x 6" conc. monument is