

**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

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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| <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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 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. 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 eligible? yes no

date 1978 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis _____ state Maryland 21401

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore. New York: Chapman, 1898, pp. 226-227.
 Queen Anne's Land Records, Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Centreville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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| 1 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 18 | 10 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification See Continuation Sheet, Item #10

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 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. Miller* 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

Romer M. Dwyer

date 11-17-80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Emma Jane Saxe*

date 11-10-80

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | AUG 29 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED | 07/17 1980 |

Captains Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(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.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | AUG 29 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED | NOV 17 1980 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(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.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| |
|----------------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED AUG 29 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED |

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(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.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | 11/5/80 |
| DATE ENTERED | NOV 17 1980 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County

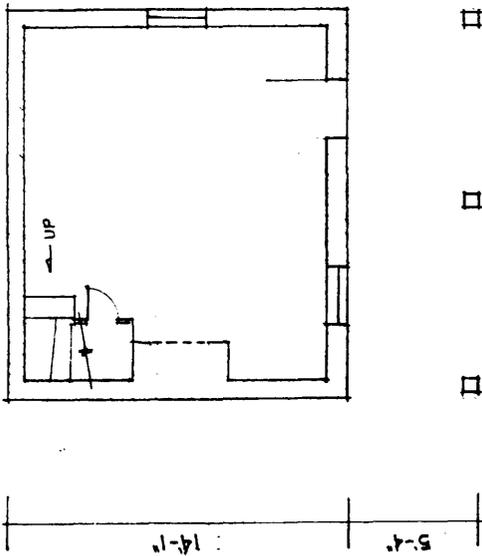
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

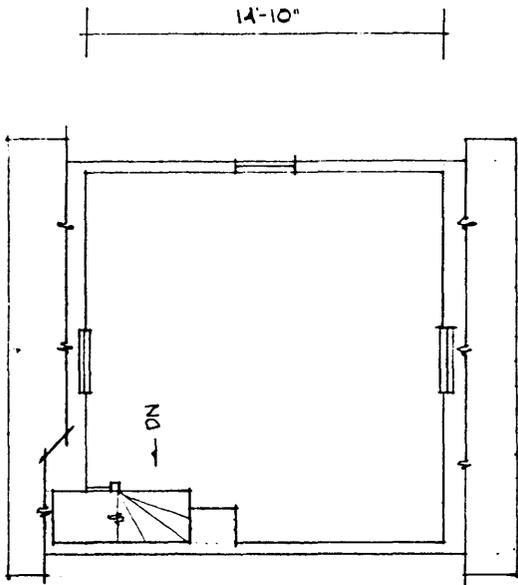
The boundaries for the property included in this nomination are delineated on the attached map labeled "National Register boundaries," dated October 1980, and drawn to a scale of 1"-30'.

16'-0"

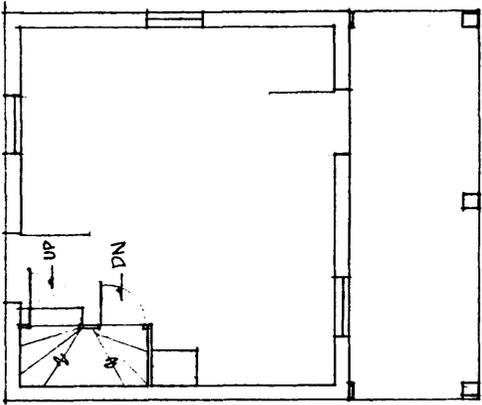


CELLAR

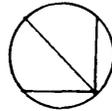
15'-3"



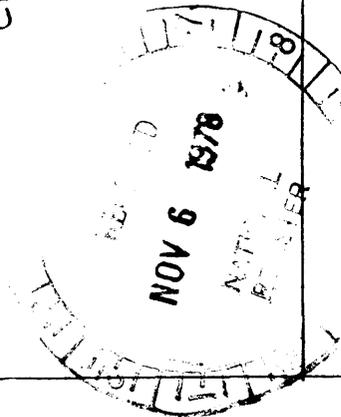
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



0 2 4 6 8 10
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



QA-198

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSES
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND
Queen Anne's County

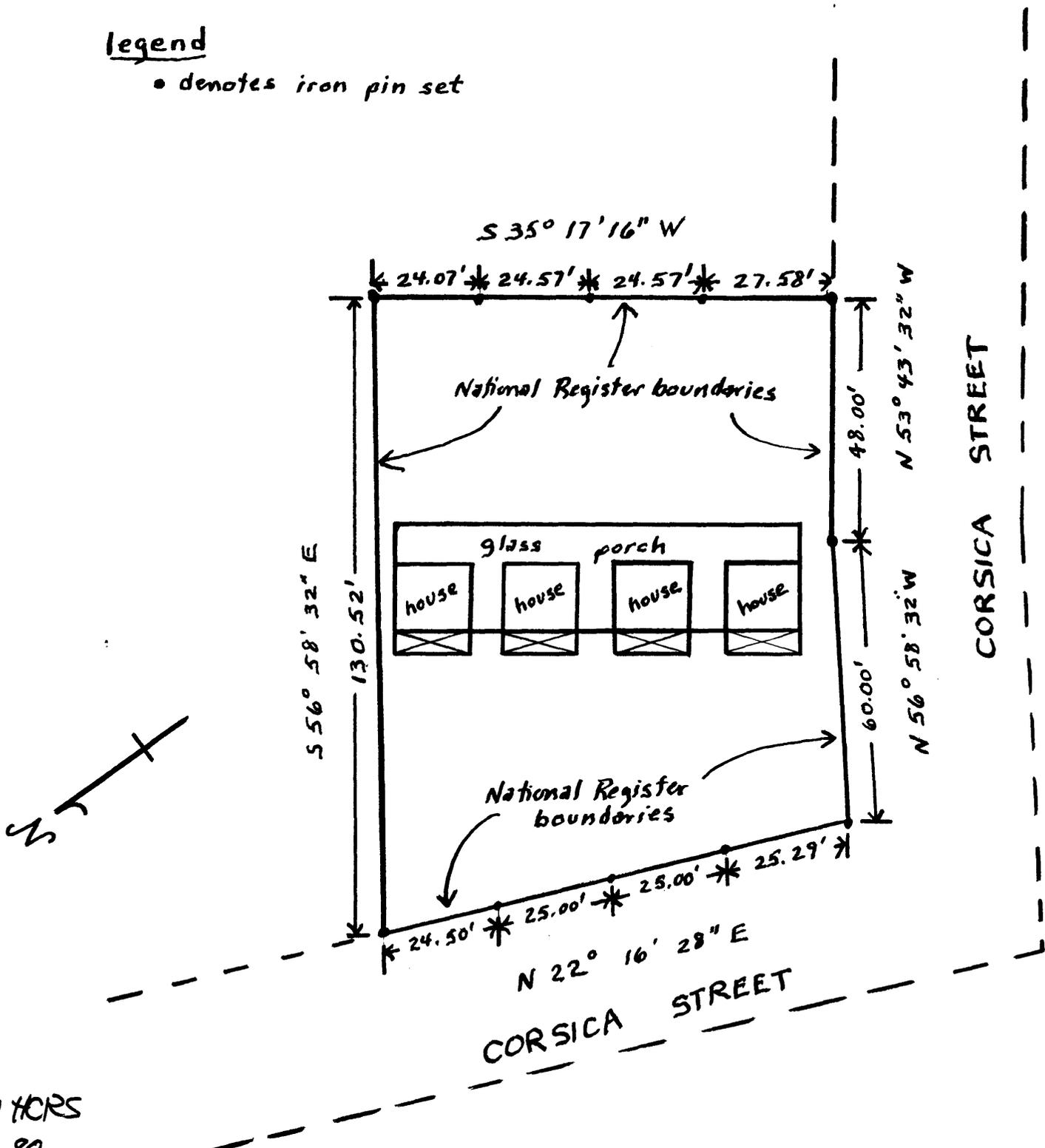
MARCH 21, 1978.

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

National Register boundaries
October 1980
scale 1"=30'

legend

• denotes iron pin set



Rec'd HCRS
11-5-80

Deeds: 1. James R. & Margaret J. Seward to William H. & Kathleen Rogers deed dated Mar. 3, 1969 recorded Mar. 4, 1969 in C.W.C. 40 page 94.
 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. Ozmon property dated October 21, 1914, recorded in W.H.C. 1-A page 245 special file # 17003

Total Area: 1.271 Acres

National Register Boundary
 ES 10-30-80

Captain's Houses
 Queen Anne's County
 Maryland

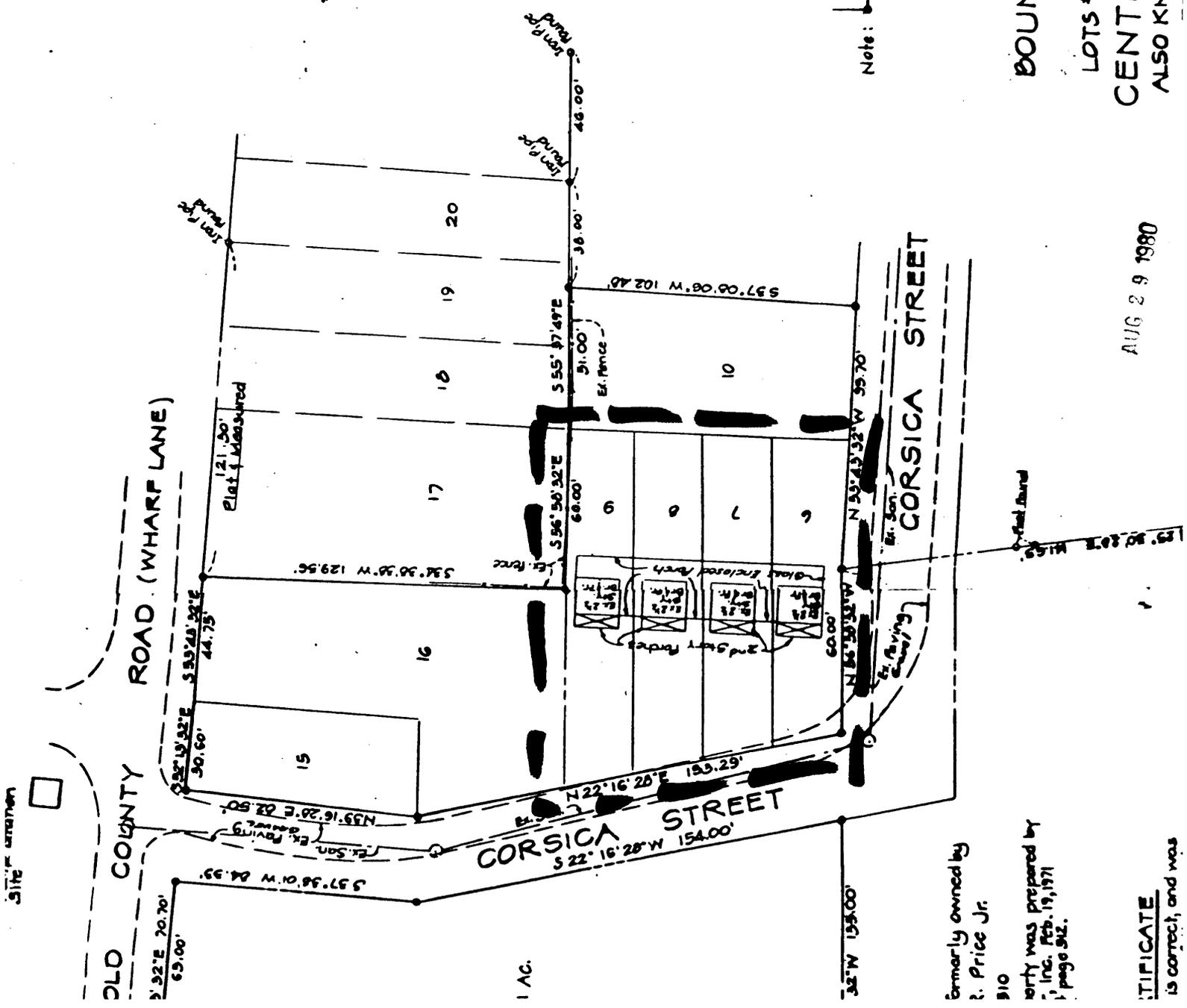
boundary map 1 of 5

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

Note: — Denotes 9/8" Iron Pin Set

BOUNDARY SURVEY PLAT
 OF
 LOTS # 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15 & 16
 CENTREVILLE LANDING
 ALSO KNOWN AS WHARF LANDING

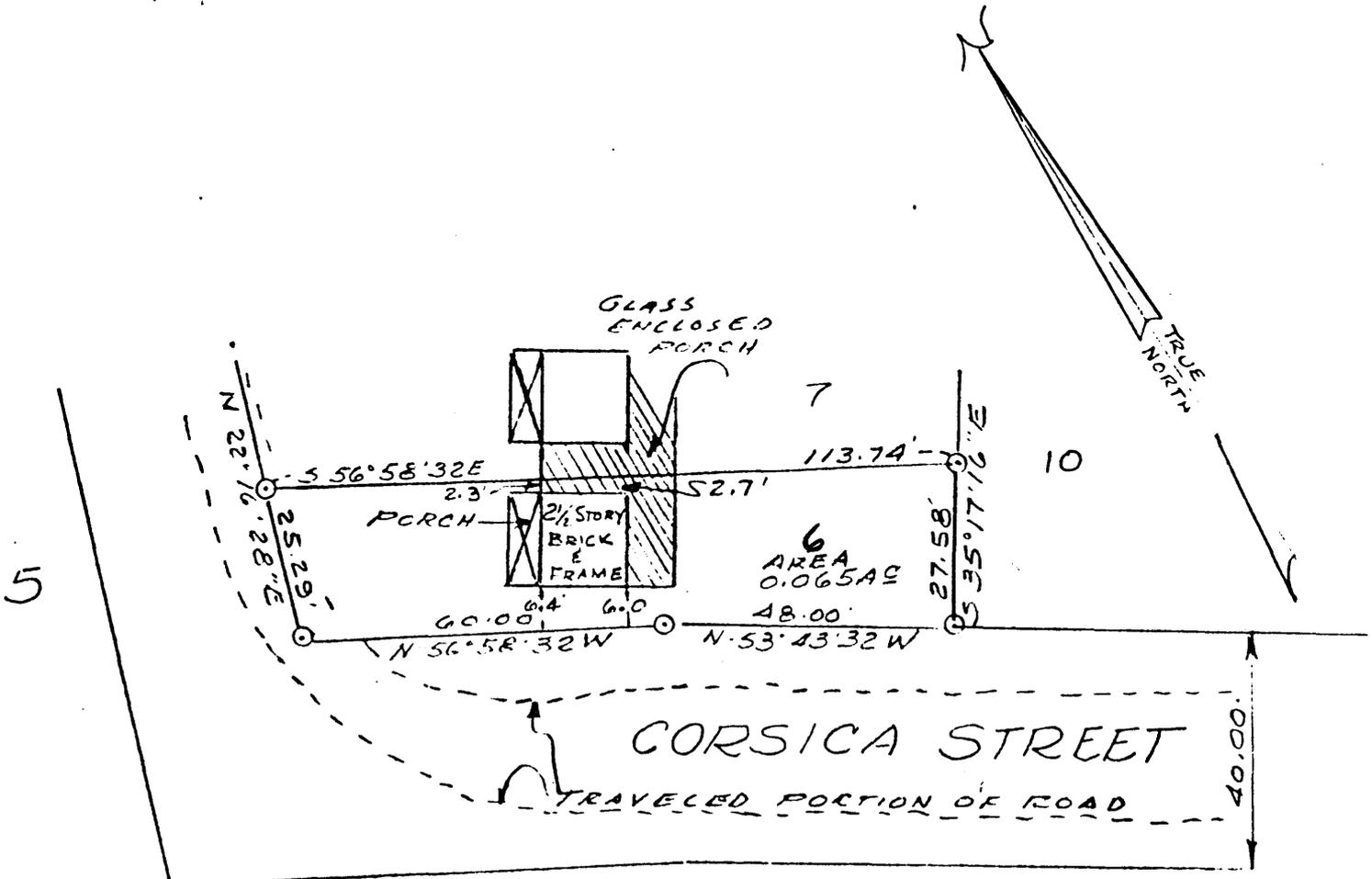
AUG 29 1980



Formerly owned by
 1. Price Jr.
 2. Price Jr.

Survey was prepared by
 J. Inc. Feb. 15, 1971
 page 312.

CERTIFICATE
 is correct, and was



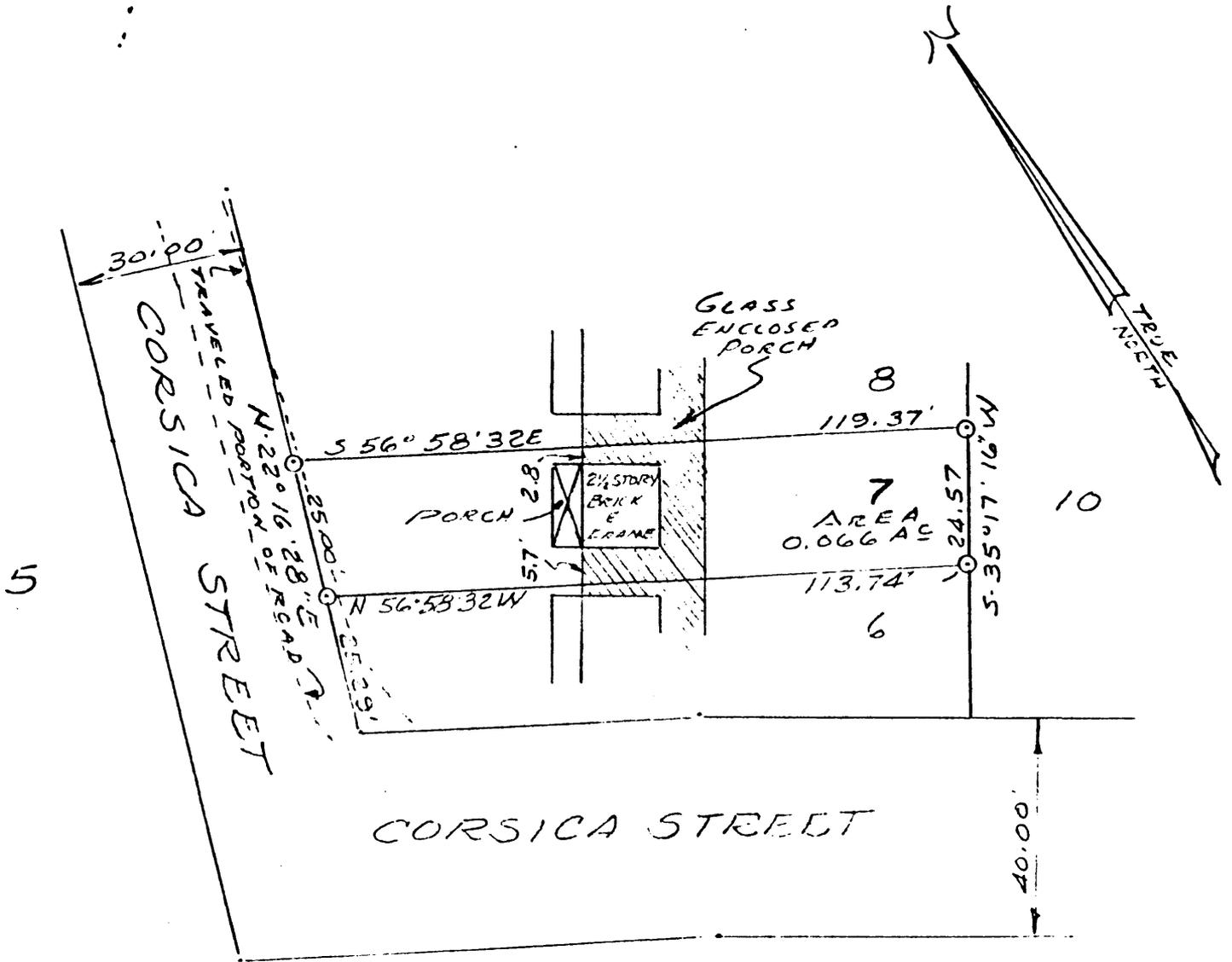
LEGEND
O DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE

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



AUG 29 1980



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

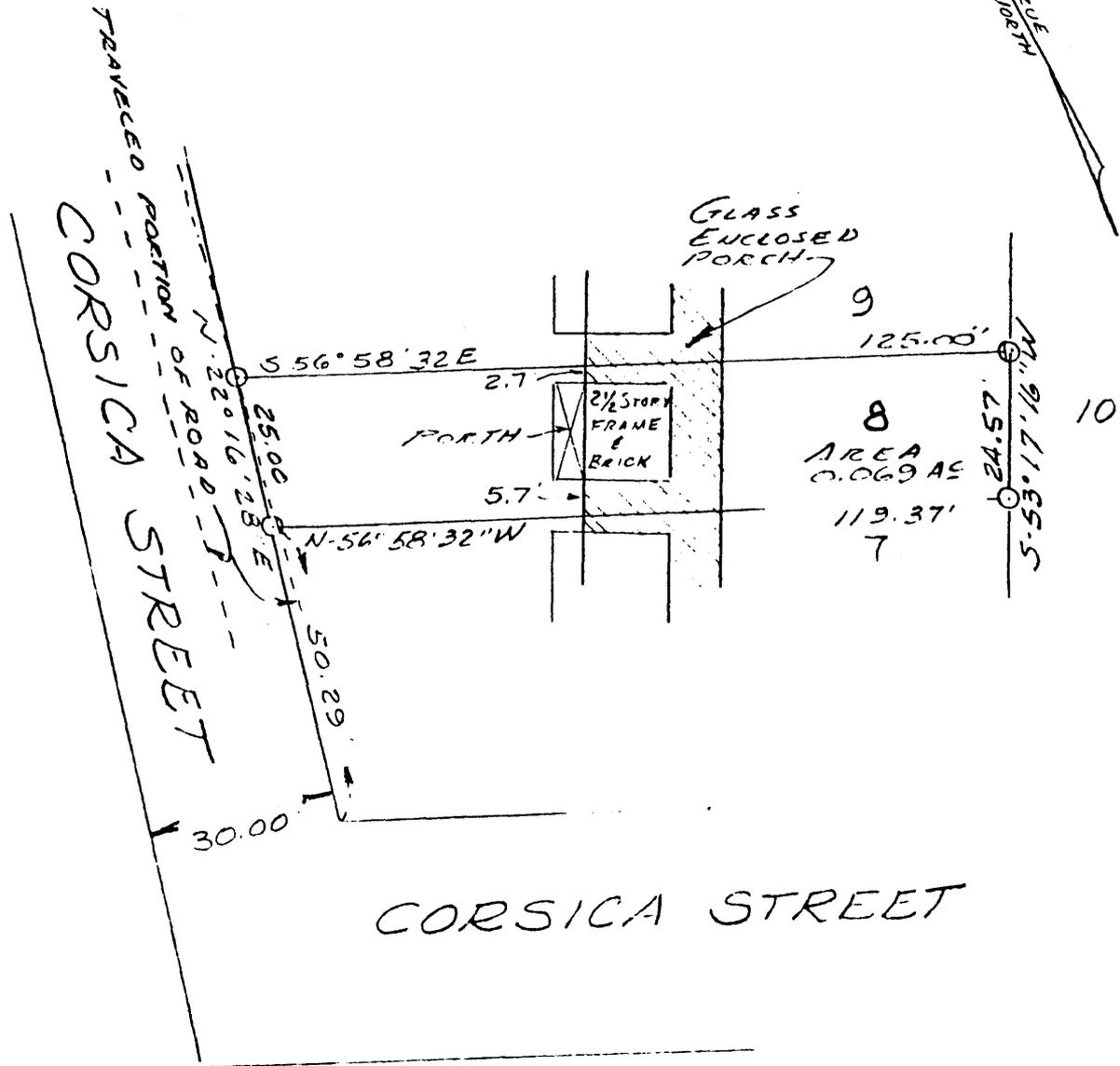
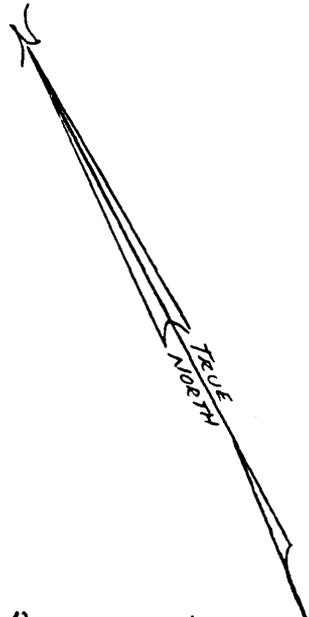


AUG 29 1980

Captain's Houses
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

boundary map 4 of 5

scale 1"=30'



LEGEND

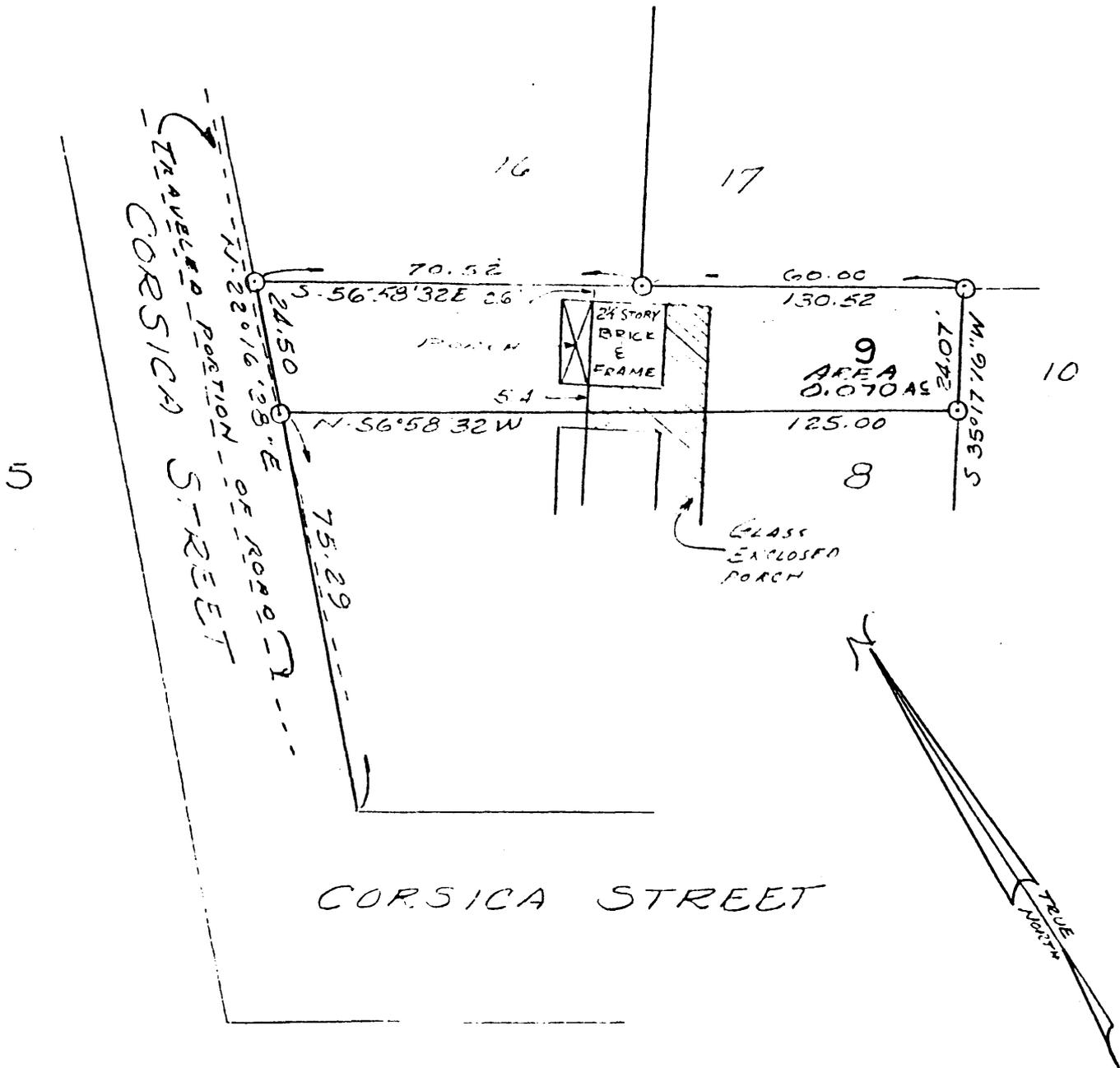
⊙ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

REFERENCE

PLAT OF JESSE W. OZMAN PROPERTY
DATED OCT. 21, 1914, RECORDED IN KING.
LIBER J-A FOLIO 245
SPECIAL FILE NO 17083



AUG 29 1980



LEGEND
⊙ DENOTES IRON PIN SET

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

AUG 29 1980

