



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 272-10
Negative no(s). 4906

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Blackbeard's Restaurant and	Common name AKA Chuckling Oyster Restaurant
County/Town/City Occoquan	Alley Arms Apartments
Street address or route number 302 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22191	
USGS Quad Occoquan	Date or period c1860-1910
Original owner Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residences & Commercial Buildings	
Present owner Donald L. & Ruby F. Sonner	Source of name
Present owner address P.O. Box 40	Source of date Architectural evidence
Occoquan, VA 22191	Stories 2 stories
Present use Restaurant and Apartments	Foundation and wall const'n Brick foundation (?); frame wall construction.
Acreage 8,000 sq. ft.	Roof type Asphalt shingle-covered gable, hip roof.

State condition of structure and environs Building in good condition; environs in fair condition.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

This is a collection of three, perhaps four, two-story frame-constructed buildings, with additions, located at the corner formed on the south side of Mill Street and the west side of Union Street. The corner building, a grocery store prior to its conversion to a restaurant, now has a modified, asphalt shingle-covered hip roof to conform with the gable roofs of the adjacent buildings, but it probably once had a metal-covered shed roof or "flat" roof. This building has a bracketed and dentiled box cornice, and its four bay by three bay exterior is clad with wide-gauge aluminum siding. The entrance to the restaurant is located in this building. The first floor exterior contains several panels of large, multiple-pane windows, set between square, recessed, moulded columns. Applied decoration at the first floor level consists of a bracketed, moulded, dentiled cornice. The upper floor windows in this section are 6/6 sliding sash, surrounded by architrave moulding and flanked by dark-colored shutters. The front door, a multiple-pane glass, double door, is reached by an open brick stoop with an iron rail.

Attached to the corner building's north end is a two-story gable-roofed, aluminum-clad, frame building, having a two-story rear addition and a one-story shed-roofed addition. There is wide aluminum box trim surrounding the 6/6 (replacement) sliding sash, shuttered windows. A late-19th century-early 20th century former residence, most of the identifying or distinguishing architectural or decorative details have been concealed by the new siding.

On the corner building's southwest end, facing Union Street, is a frame-constructed, two-story, weatherboard-clad, gable roofed, (Federal style?) former residence. Five bays long by two bays deep, it has a moulded cornice, a paneled frieze, and gable returns.* The windows

(Continued)

Interior inspected? Yes. *Building may be four bays long with a connector bay to the corner bldg.

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

The present owners purchased the property in 1967 from Rowena Leary. Leary had received it by inheritance in 1965 from John Leary. At the time of John Leary's ownership, the building(s) housed a grocery store. It is said that at one time, there were five grocery or general merchandise stores operating in Occoquan.

Blackbeard's Restaurant was opened in 1973, a year after floods caused by Hurricane Agnes damaged much of the town. In about 1978, the management of the restaurant changed, and it was renamed the Chuckling Oyster. Since the beginning of 1980, however, the restaurant has been called Blackbeard's.

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

BLACKBEARD'S RESTAURANT
(Cont.)

on the first floor front are reproduction-style replacements, but those on the second floor are ²/₂ sliding sash with plain box trim. The windows have dark-colored shutters. The front, pedimented, entrance is located in the center bay. The projecting pediment is supported by square columns. The front, (probably reproduction) double, door has three tiers of two panels per door. There is an interior brick chimney projecting from the southwest end, probably a stove flue. Attached to the southwest end is a one-story metal garage and storage area. Behind the whole complex and filling in the el formed by the three buildings is a two-story frame, shed-roofed (probably once a two-story porch) addition.

The interior of parts of the three buildings was remodeled in 1978. Room division, partitions, flooring, etc., probably has been renovated more than once. Ceilings, 1st floor, restaurant are high, pressed tin. Some plaster walls remain.

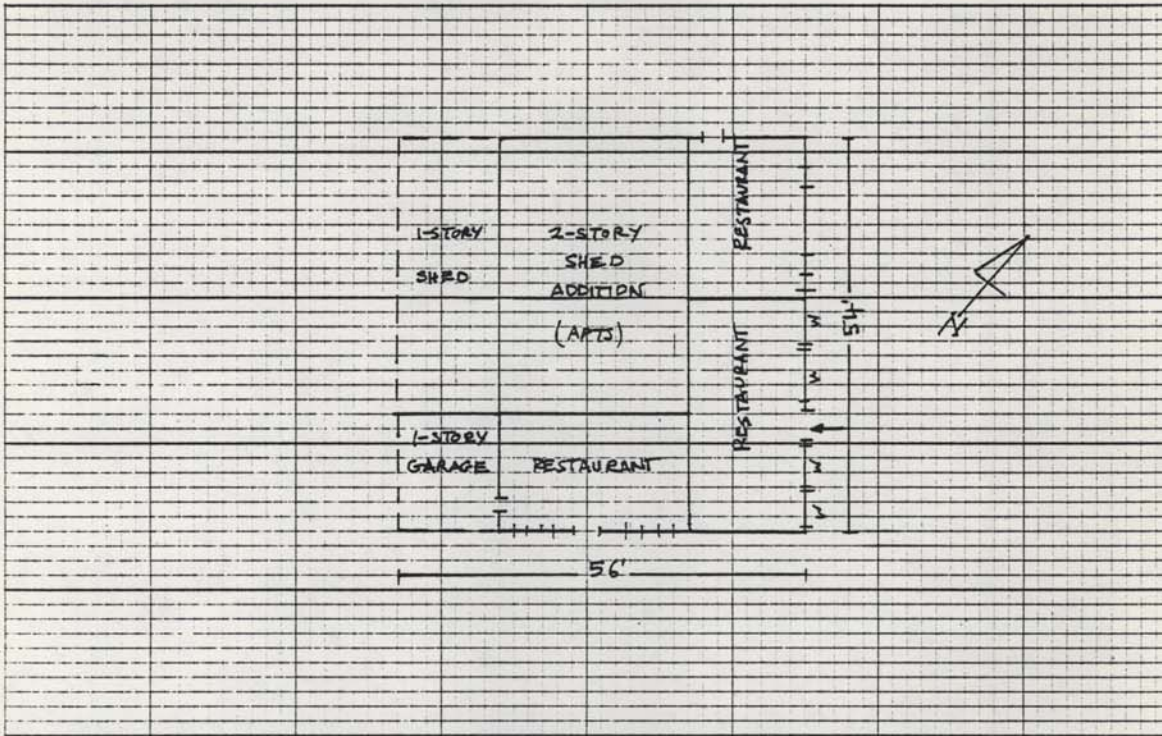
This collection of buildings, though no serious attempt has been made at restoration, is an important component in the commercial section of old Occoquan.

Sources and bibliography
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

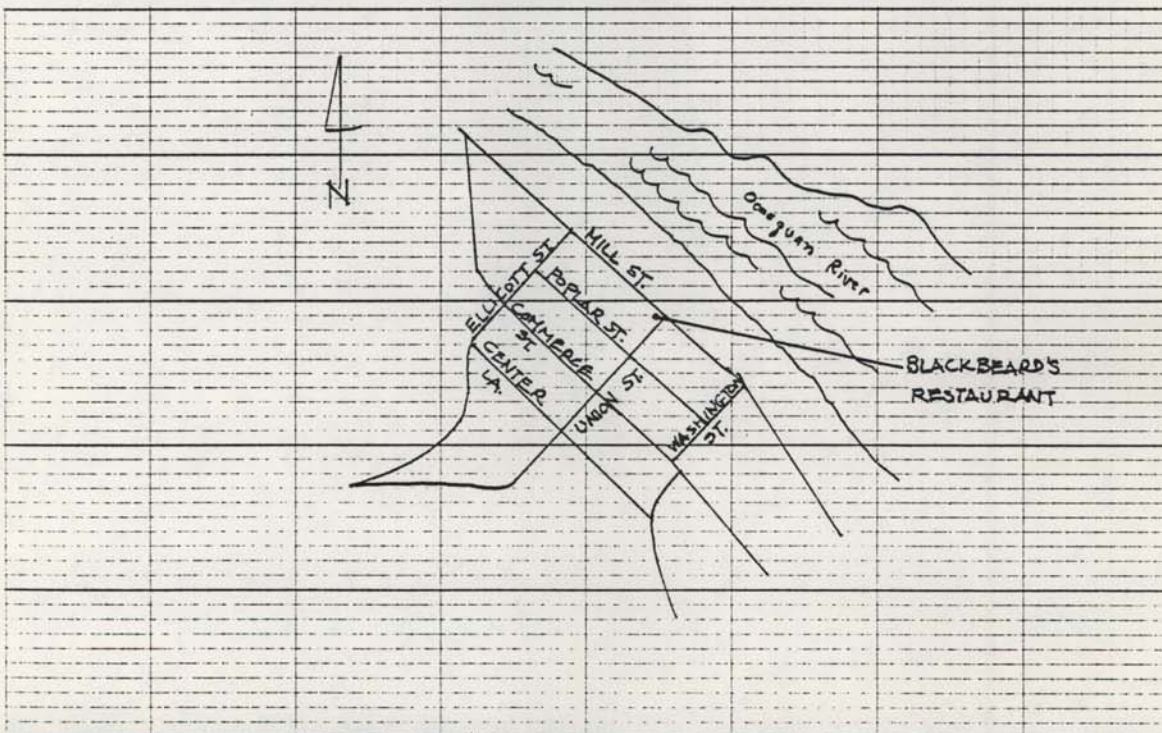
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mr. Sonner (owner).

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)

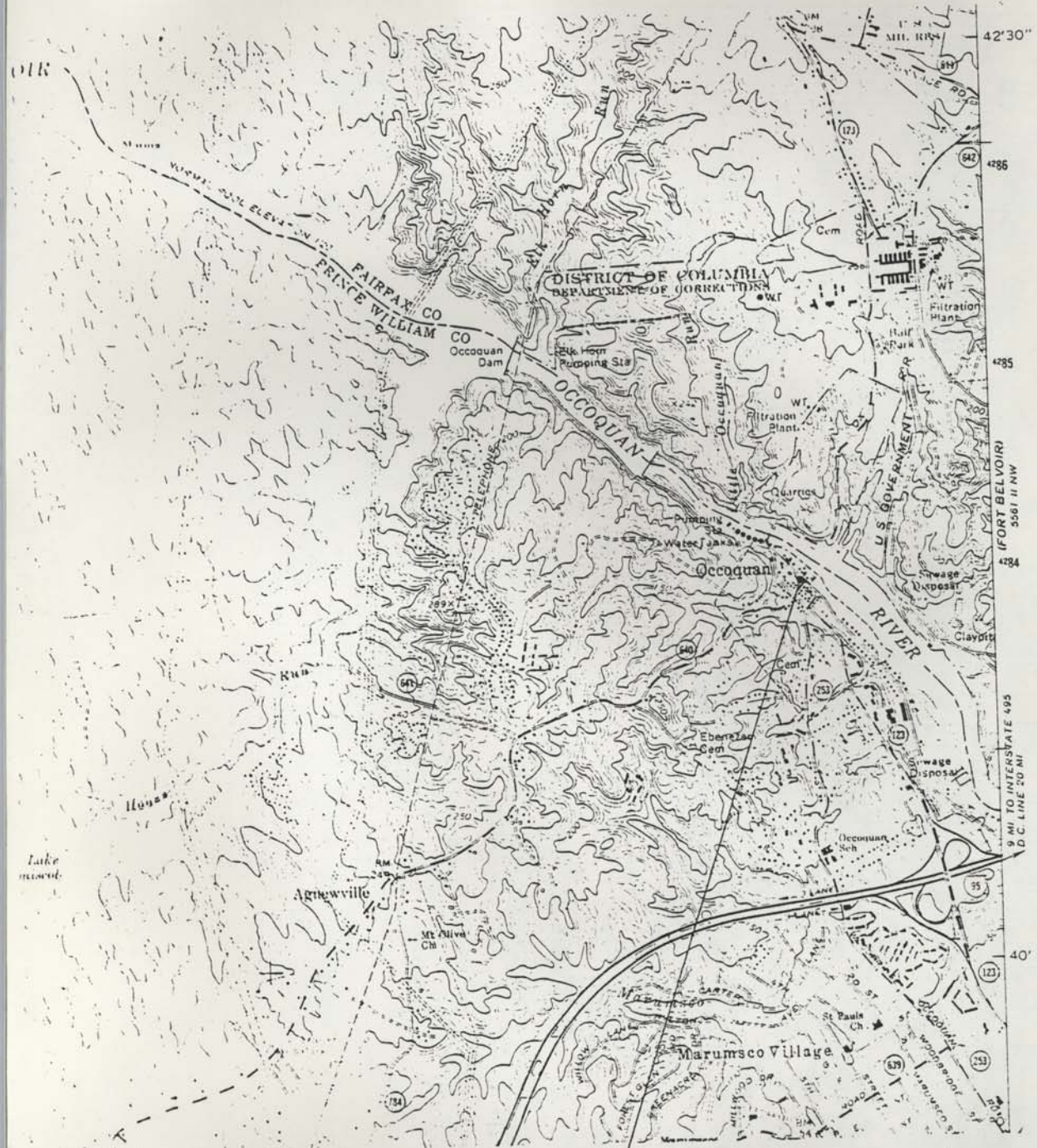


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, NVPOC

Date
SEP 1980



Occoquan Quad.

BLACKBEARD'S RESTAURANT 272-10