T-954 c. 1878
William M. Bergman House
Oxford
Private

William M. Bergman Sr., a Hessian blacksmith, settled in Oxford during the 1870s, perhaps lured by the opportunity and prosperity associated with Maryland and Delaware Railroad that was stretched to the Tred Avon in 1871. Whatever the reason for his immigration, William M. Bergman, aged 29, is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as a resident of Oxford with his 24-year old wife Alice, and three daughters, Gertrude, Florence, and Mary. Also residing in the household were Alice's 30-year old brother, Lineus Willhelm, a servant Kate Newnam, and a boarder George Gossage, an 18-year old blacksmith. In 1877, William Bergman purchased a leasehold interest from William H. Valliant and Samuel Guest for a lot on Morris Street, next door to a house he and his family evidently rented. (See T-761, Sarah T. Anthony House)

The architectural details of the William M. Bergman house reflect a construction date around 1880, perhaps as early as 1878 or as late as 1890. The building is designated on the 1891 Sanborn Insurance map in combination with a commercial front that extended to the street. On the insurance map the two-story commercial block is labeled "Hardw[are]" and the two-story house a "Dw[ellin]g." Standing on the north side of the storefront was a single-story office. With his background as a blacksmith, it is not too surprising to learn that William M. Bergman entered into the hardware business and probably performed various blacksmithing duties, either by his own hand or by his blacksmith boarder, George Gossage. Later insurance maps from the early 20th century indicate that William Bergman broadened his inventory by including

"paints, oils, and general supplies."

The Bergman house no longer includes the storefront extension to the street, but the house still reflects its late 19th-century construction with its decorative sawnwork front porch, sidelighted front entrance, and Victorian interior woodwork. The mahogany newel post and railing, and the series of turned balusters and scroll decorated stringer are interior finish features common to the last quarter of the 19th century.

The property remained in Bergman family hands for much of the 20th century. It was sold by William M. Bergman III, Jean Bergman Bateson, and Irene E. Bergman in 1972.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: William M. Bergman House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-954

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Survey No. T-954

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: William M. Bergman House

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 207 South Morris Street ___ not for publication

city, town: Oxford ___ vicinity of congressional district: First

state: Maryland county: Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_X_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murray

street & number: 207 South Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town: Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, p. 731 liber 569

street & number: Talbot County Courthouse folio 731

city, town: Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-954

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William M. Bergman house stands at 207 South Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, center hall/single-pile frame dwelling faces west with the cross-gabled roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1878, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof, finished with extended eaves and sloped soffits, is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a two-story, one room plan kitchen, which has been extended by shed roofed additions to the south and east.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking bay windows. The six-panel front door is framed by a five-light transom and two-light sidelights. A heavily molded panel is fixed below each sidelight. The adjacent bays are filled with three-sided bay windows. The window to the north is original, while the bay window to the south is a recent addition. The original bay window has slightly chamfered inner edges and rectangular panels below each window. The sash have been replaced. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed porch supported by square posts and trimmed with a decorative sawn fascia. The porch posts are accented with C-shaped corner brackets as well. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced windows flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a round arched louvered vent.

The south gable end is pierced by six-over-six replacement windows that have been blocked with the construction of bookshelves inside. The eave is extended and the soffit is enclosed. A single flue brick stove chimney pierces the south and north gable ends.

The interior has been recently reworked. Surviving in the center hall is a turned baluster mahogany staircase distinguished by turned newel post, turned balusters, molded handrail, and scroll decorated stringer. Four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds featuring a beaded inner edge.

The south room or parlor has been enlarged with the addition of the bay window on the front wall. Bookshelves have been added to the south wall. The north room features an early 20th century Colonial Revival mantel as well as built-in shelving. Surviving in the kitchen is a beaded board-and-batten door that formerly opened into a rear winder staircase.

The second floor is divided in a similar manner with the addition of a small room at the head of the second floor hall. Four-panel doors are framed by beaded edge surrounds.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-954

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

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

William M. Bergman Sr., a Hessian blacksmith, settled in Oxford during the 1870s, perhaps lured by the opportunity and prosperity associated with Maryland and Delaware Railroad that was stretched to the Tred Avon in 1871. Whatever the reason for his immigration, William M. Bergman, aged 29, is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as a resident of Oxford with his 24-year old wife Alice, and three daughters, Gertrude, Florence, and Mary. Also residing in the household were Alice's 30-year old brother, Lineus Willhelm, a servant Kate Newnam, and a boarder George Gossage, an 18-year old blacksmith.[1] In 1877, William Bergman purchased a leasehold interest from William H. Valliant and Samuel Guest for a lot on Morris Street,[2] next door to a house he and his family evidently rented.[3] (See T-761, Sarah T. Anthony House)

The architectural details of the William M. Bergman house reflect a construction date around 1880, perhaps as early as 1878 or as late as 1890. The building is designated on the Sanborn Insurance map printed in 1891 in association with a commercial front that extended to the street.[4] On the insurance map the two-story commercial block is labeled "Hardw[are]" and the two-story house a "Dw[ellin]g." Standing on the north side of the storefront was a single-story office. With his background as a blacksmith, it is not too surprising to learn that William M. Bergman entered into the hardware business and probably performed various blacksmithing duties, either by his own hand or by his blacksmith boarder, George Gossage. Later insurance maps from the early 20th century indicate that William Bergman broadened his inventory by including "paints, oils, and general supplies."[5]

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[1] Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population Schedule for Talbot County, compiled by Helen E. Seymour, 1996, p. 120.

[2] Talbot County Land Record, 83/388, 7 February 1877.

[3] John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases on other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commisson, Peninsula Press, 1976, p. 101.

[4] Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891, Maryland State Archives.

[5] Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901, Maryland State Archives.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-954

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	**date**	4/16/98
street & number	P. O. Box 5	**telephone**	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	**state**	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

T-954
William M. Bergman House
207 South Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 731

569/737	John K. Pulsifer (undivided half interest)
	to
12/23/1982	Edgar H. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath formerly two lots on East side of Morris Street extending with a depth of 306'4"
JTB 519/89	Edgar H. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath
	to
12/30/1977	Edgar H. McGrath and wife and John K. Pulsifer
519//87	Marguerite S. Owen Webster, Theodore E. Schimpff and Steven H. Schimpff
	to
12/30/1977	Edgar M. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath
507/795	Nellie Parsons Schimpff
	to
12/30/1976	Marguerite S. Owen Webster, Theodore E. Schimpff and Steven H. Schimpff Lot of ground formerly two lots 56 feet on east side of Morris Street extending back 306'4"

T-954
William M. Bergman House
207 South Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

465/387	Irene E. Bergman, et al. (Jean B. Bateson and Wm M. Bergman III)
	to
7/18/1972	Harper L. and Nellie Parsons Schimpff
463/561	Jean B. Bateson Oliver S. Mulliken, Personal Representatives of William M. Bergman
	to
6/21/1972	Irene E. Bergman, et al.

to William M. Bergman from

1. from William M. Bergman, Executor under Will of Susan E. Bergman, 8/15/1950, 288/66, conveying leasehold interest

2. from Ernest M. Thompson and John C. North, attorneys 2/9/1955, 320/246, $666.67 receipt whereof is acknowledged, The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the P. E. Church, all that property on the east side of Morris Street....consisting of two parcels;

    1. that lot of ground which was leased unto William M. Bergman Sr. by William H. Valliant and wife and Samuel Guest, 2/7/1877, 83/388, including $20.00 annual rent

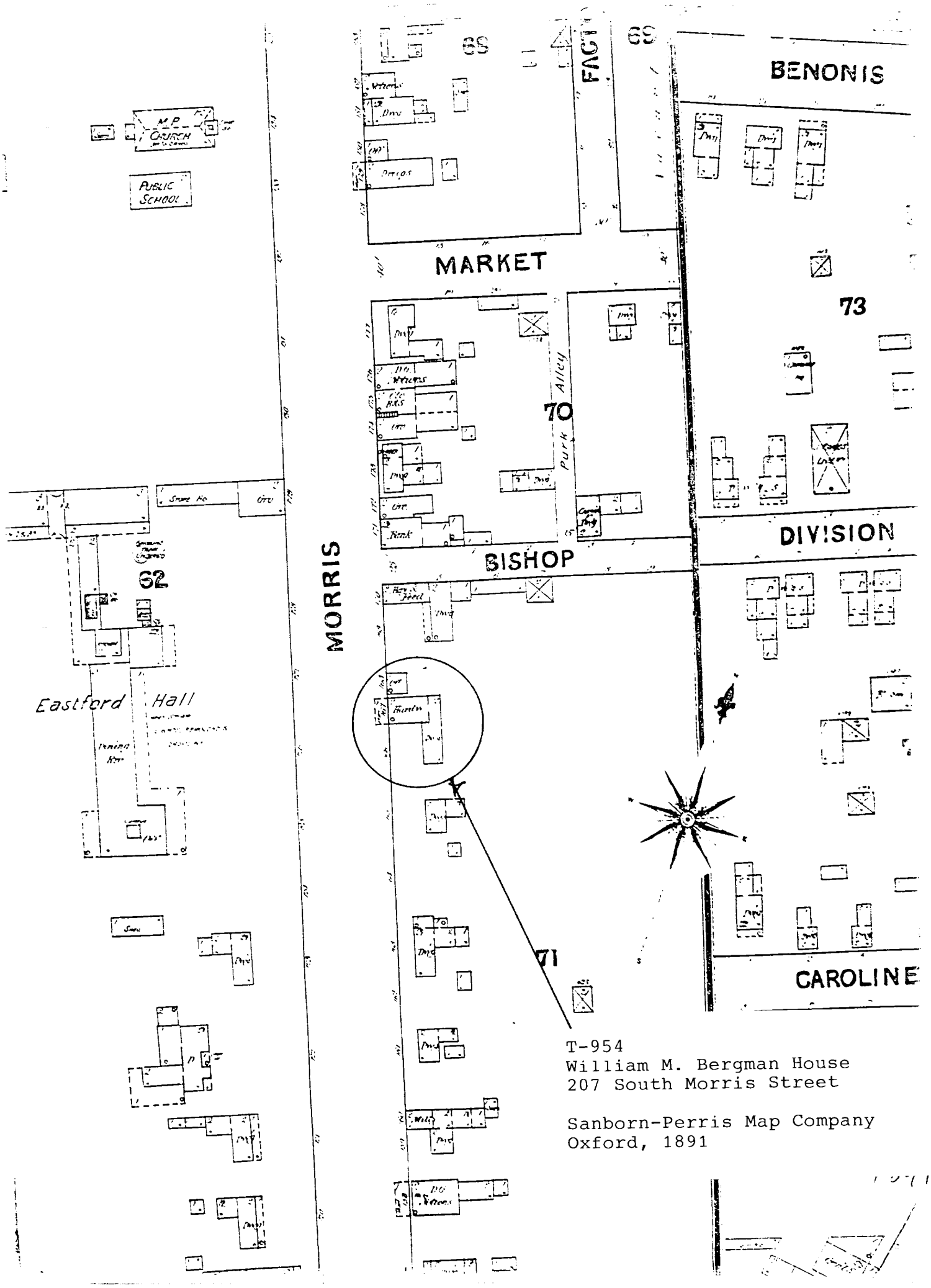
T-954
William M. Bergman House
207 South Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

2. Lot adjoining in the rear, 1/15/1882, 96/56, $20.00 annual rent

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE
William M. Bergman House, T-954
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

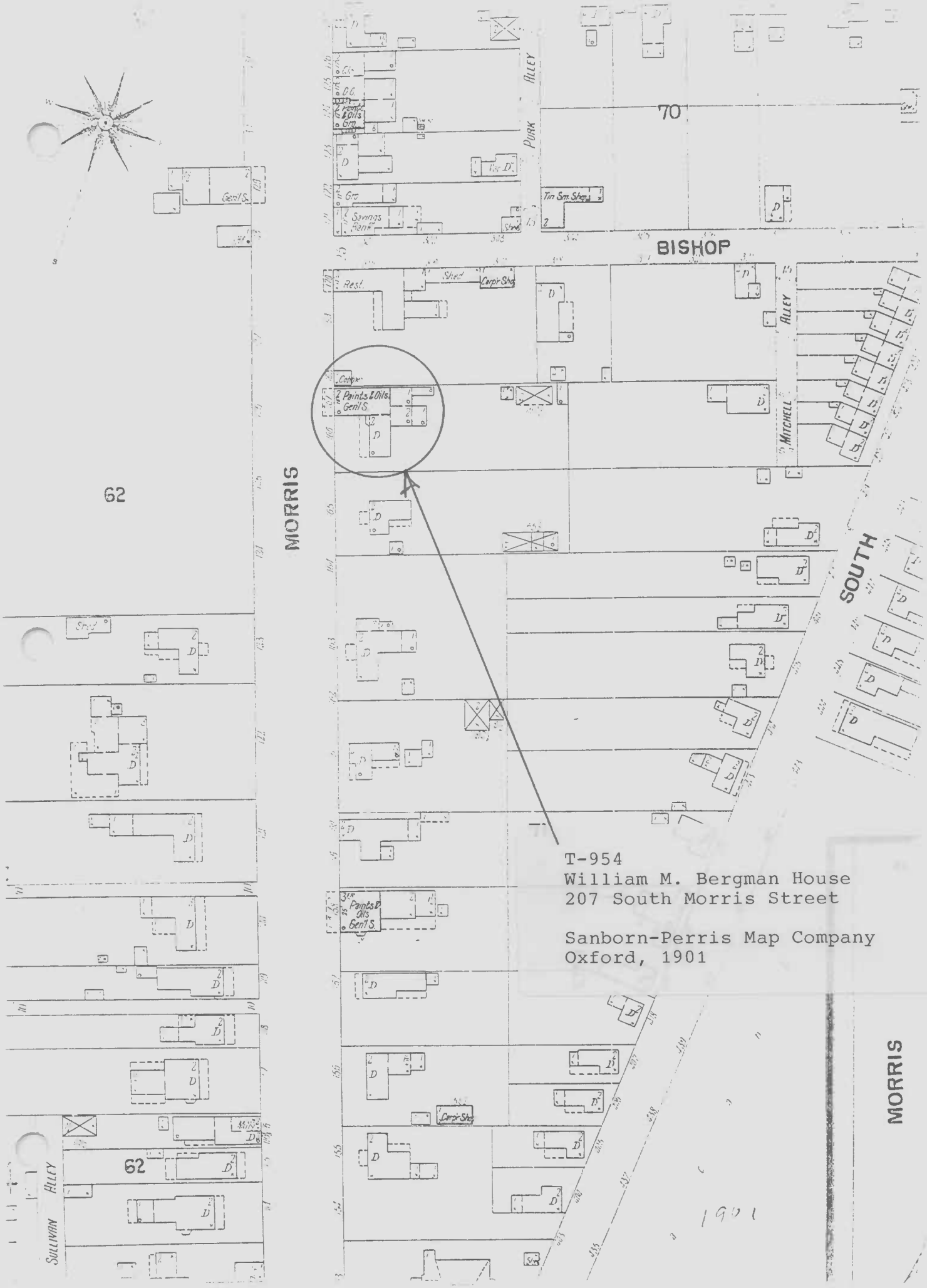
The Bergman house no longer includes the storefront extension to the street, but the house still reflects its late 19th-century construction with its decorative sawnwork front porch, sidelighted front entrance, and Victorian interior woodwork. The mahogany newel post and railing, and the series of turned balusters and scroll decorated stringer are interior finish features common to the last quarter of the 19th century.

With its Victorian porch essentially intact, the cross-gabled frame house contributes to the historic nature of Morris Street.



T-954
William M. Bergman House
207 South Morris Street

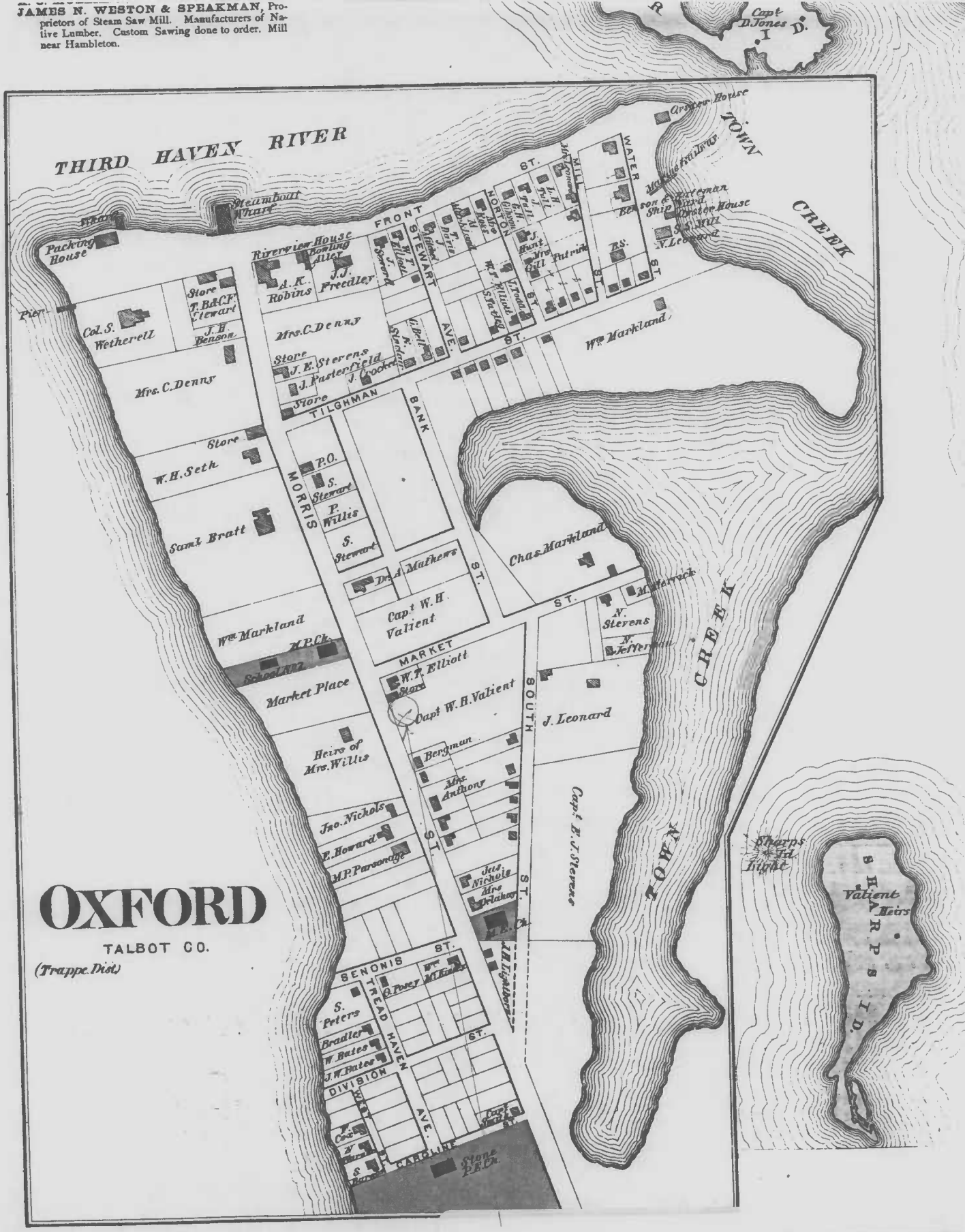
Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1891



T-954
William M. Bergman House
207 South Morris Street

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1901

JAMES N. WESTON & SPEAKMAN, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Native Lumber. Custom Sawing done to order. Mill near Hambleton.



OXFORD

TALBOT CO.

(Trappe Dist)

T-954
William M. Bergman House
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877

T-954
William M. Bergman House
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942
Plaindealing
Tar Creek
Pecks Point
Bellevue
Tank
Ferry Neck Ch
FERRY
RIVER
Town Creek
Flatty Cove
Tank
BM 10
Oxford Cem
Oxford
333
BM
BM 9
RRY NECK
TRED AVON
Fox Hole Creek
Bachelor Point
Creek
Boone
Benon Point

[illegible] 1954

[illegible] Mr. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Prince Tennant, [illegible]

Mrs. [illegible] Historical Trust

[illegible] 2

[illegible]