NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name BARNABY HOUSE

other names/site number T-228

2. Location

street & number 212 North Morris Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Oxford N/A ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Talbot code 039 zip code 21654

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district			sites
☐ public-State	☐ site			structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure			objects
	☐ object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards 8/07/92

Signature of certifying official Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

T-228

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling

N

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
COLONIAL	foundation STONE walls WOOD roof WOOD SHINGLE other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Barnaby House is a story-and-a-half, side hall/double-pile frame house erected in 1770 in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. Facing south, the weatherboard frame house is supported on a stone foundation with an excavated cellar. The house is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof marked by two shed dormers on the south side. Attached to the east gable end of the main house is a late eighteenth century single-story brick-ended kitchen wing, which is extended further east by two additional single-story rooms, a utility room and a storage room. The four-part house follows the distinctive stepped appearance common to Eastern Shore domestic architecture. While the exterior of the main block was reworked around the turn of the century with a new layer of weatherboards, fishscale shingles on the gable end, and two-over-two window sash, the interior has not been significantly altered since the late eighteenth century. Exposed in the four corners of the house are the principal posts, and a turned baluster stair rises in the northeast corner of the hall. The most elaborate Georgian woodwork is found in the south room or parlor. Served by a corner fireplace, the hearth wall is finished with intact raised paneling. Fixed in the southwest corner of the room is a built-in architectural barrel-back corner cupboard. The north room features a corner fireplace covered with raised panel woodwork as well. Perhaps the rarest interior feature is the series of incised schooners which decorate the large timber lintel over the kitchen fireplace.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The east gable end of the main block is largely covered by the single story brick-ended kitchen. The front (south) wall of the kitchen wing, formerly a porch, has been enclosed and is fitted with a series of three modern six-over-six sash windows. A twentieth century casement window pierces the back (north) wall, while the brick gable end is partially covered by the single story frame utility room. A single flue chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior of the Barnaby house follows a side hall/double-pile plan with ninety-five per cent of its period woodwork intact. The raised six-panel front door, distinguished by a chevron batten back, opens into a generous stair hall with encased corner and side posts. A slowly rising, closed stringer, dog-leg stair rises in the northeast corner. The staircase boasts a square fluted newel post, a boldly molded handrail, and a series of turned balusters. The area below the closed stringer is finished by one large triangular raised panel. The portion of the staircase fixed under the first landing is finished with raised panels as well, and a raised panel door opens into the closet below the stair. A small access door at the foot of the closet provides access to the cellar.

Raised six-panel doors open into the two adjacent rooms, each served by corner fireplaces. The hearth wall in the front room boasts an elaborate series of raised panels that highlight the overmantel and the area to each side of the fireplace. A single-panel door hung on H-shaped hinges opens into a chimney wall cupboard. The firebox, with its segmental arched opening, is framed by a molded surround.

Highlighting the opposite (southwest) corner is a built-in architectural barrel-back cupboard with fluted pilasters flanking a glazed upper door and arched panel lower doors. The glazed upper door features a top row of arched window openings. Each of the doors swings on H-shaped hinges. The cupboard interior is distinguished by a barrel back and cut-out shelving. Topping the corner cupboard is a crown molding which joins the cornice molding that encircles the room. The walls are also trimmed with chair rail and baseboard moldings.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

The back room is smaller and contains a corner fireplace as well. The overmantel is defined by two large raised panels, and the arched firebox is framed by a molded surround. Exposed in the rear (northwest) corner is another encased post. The room is also fitted with period chair rail, beaded edge baseboards, and a crown molding.

The second floor is divided into three rooms. Plastered stud walls separate the two rooms to the south from the upstairs hall, while a beaded board partition divides the smaller west room. Four-panel doors, hung on HL hinges, are framed by cyma curve surrounds. The northwest room is the only second floor space served by a fireplace.

The kitchen has been reworked with modern cabinets and appliances. Most noteworthy is the large cooking fireplace with a timber lintel. Distinctive to this timber beam is a series of etched carvings depicting Chesapeake bay schooners which highlight the front face of the lintel. The third section is a turn of the twentieth century single-story utility room that is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding and covered inside with narrow beaded boards. The fourth section is an early- to mid-twentieth century storage room.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

8. Statement of Significance

T-228

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1770

Significant Dates
1770

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Barnaby house is important in the architecture of Oxford, a small town on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Barnaby house is one of only three eighteenth century buildings remaining in Oxford. All of these buildings have been altered and enlarged in various ways over time. Of this group, the Barnaby house is the one which most retains its eighteenth century character. Although resheathed and added to by the twentieth century, the Barnaby house still possesses its original form, configuration, plan, and interior decorative detailing. The other two buildings have been engulfed by extensive later alterations and no longer appear from the outside to be eighteenth century houses. A fourth eighteenth century Oxford house exists, but it was moved out of the town many years ago.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 5
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural/Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

A transfer of a leasehold of the lot, executed on July 28, 1770, documents the construction of this single-story eighteenth century frame house. Edward Oldham transferred to Richard Barnaby, "All that lot at which in laying out the Town of Oxford was distinguished by number 53 on which he <Barnaby> is about to build a dwelling house."[1] The Georgian character of the interior woodwork supports the belief that this house is the dwelling that was erected for Richard Barnaby in 1770. By the time of the 1798 Federal tax, the assessors visited the property, then occupied by Richard Barnaby, Jr., but still held by his father. The assessment of the property included the following description:

> 1 Dwelling house, 1 story 28 x 27, 7 windows 50 x 24, 3 do <ditto> 40 x 16, value $200; 1 kitchen wood, 17 x 14, value $30; 1 stable 24 x 20, $54.50; 1 meat house, log 10 x 10, $8; 1 carriage house, $10; Situate in Oxford.[2]

By the mid nineteenth century the property was in the hands of Philemon Willis and his wife Mary Ann, who sold "the house and lot in the town of Oxford...being the same lot leased by Edward Oldham to Richard Barnaby."[3] Designated as "Lot 53" on Helmsley's plat of Oxford, the land was sold by Willis to James Stewart, in whose family it remained until 1886.[4] The house is designated on the 1877 Oxford town map in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas under the ownership of Samuel Stewart.[5] Between 1886 and 1972 the

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1 Talbot County Clerk of Court, Land Record 20/103, Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

2 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Richard Barnaby, Talbot County Free Library, Easton, Maryland.

3 Talbot County Clerk of Court, Land Record STH 7/78, Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

4 Ibid.

5 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, reprinted edition, Oxford town map, p. 101.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

property changed hands many times until the current owners acquired the house and lot in 1975.[6]

The Barnaby house is the oldest house in Oxford remaining on its original foundation. The single-story, side hall/double-pile timber frame dwelling, supported on a stone foundation, is remarkably well preserved with ninety-five per cent of its original interior woodwork intact. Significant interior features include the exposed principal posts, the turned baluster, closed stringer stair, the raised panel fireplace walls in each downstairs room, and the built-in architectural barrel-back corner cupboard in the parlor. Wrought-iron hardware remains on several doors. Around 1900, the exterior was reworked with the addition of shed roofed dormers, fishscale shingles, new two-over-two sash windows, and replacement weatherboard siding. These changes, however, do not detract from the historic nature of the house, but instead add to the dwelling as significant later changes added with a degree of respect to the original structure. Attached to the back of the house is a late eighteenth century brick-ended kitchen wing that survives with a rare timber fireplace lintel carved with incised renderings of Chesapeake bay schooners. The other stepped additions, the utility room and a storage shed, were built during the early to mid twentieth century. Altogether, the Barnaby house is one of the most significant eighteenth century, town-sited frame dwellings on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Three eighteenth century houses remain in Oxford. They are the Barnaby house, the core of the Robert Morris Inn, and the core of the Stewart house. Both the inn and the Stewart house were extensively altered over time. The Robert Morris Inn retains much of its eighteenth century plan of the main block and interior woodwork. About 1900, the exterior was reworked in a Victorian manner when a large hotel wing was added to one side and both sections tied together by a mansard roof. Little if any of the eighteenth century character of the Stewart house is discernable on the exterior or interior.

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[6] Talbot County Clerk of Court, Land Record 498/151, Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

Oxford was an active shipping port in the eighteenth century. The town languished as the American Revolution approached, and never recovered economically until the third quarter of the nineteenth century when the railroad arrived and the boom of the seafood industry in the Chesapeake Bay brought new growth to the surrounding communities. It was at this time that the Barnaby house was resheathed, the shed dormers were added, the 2/2 sashes installed, and the additions built.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

9. Major Bibliographical References

T-228

Talbot County Land and Tax Records, Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Talbot County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

USGS Quad: Oxford, Maryland

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	397900	4276910
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property measures 50' x 100' - 7,500 square feet more or less.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 10

Boundary Justification

The property consists only of the town lot upon which the resource stands.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

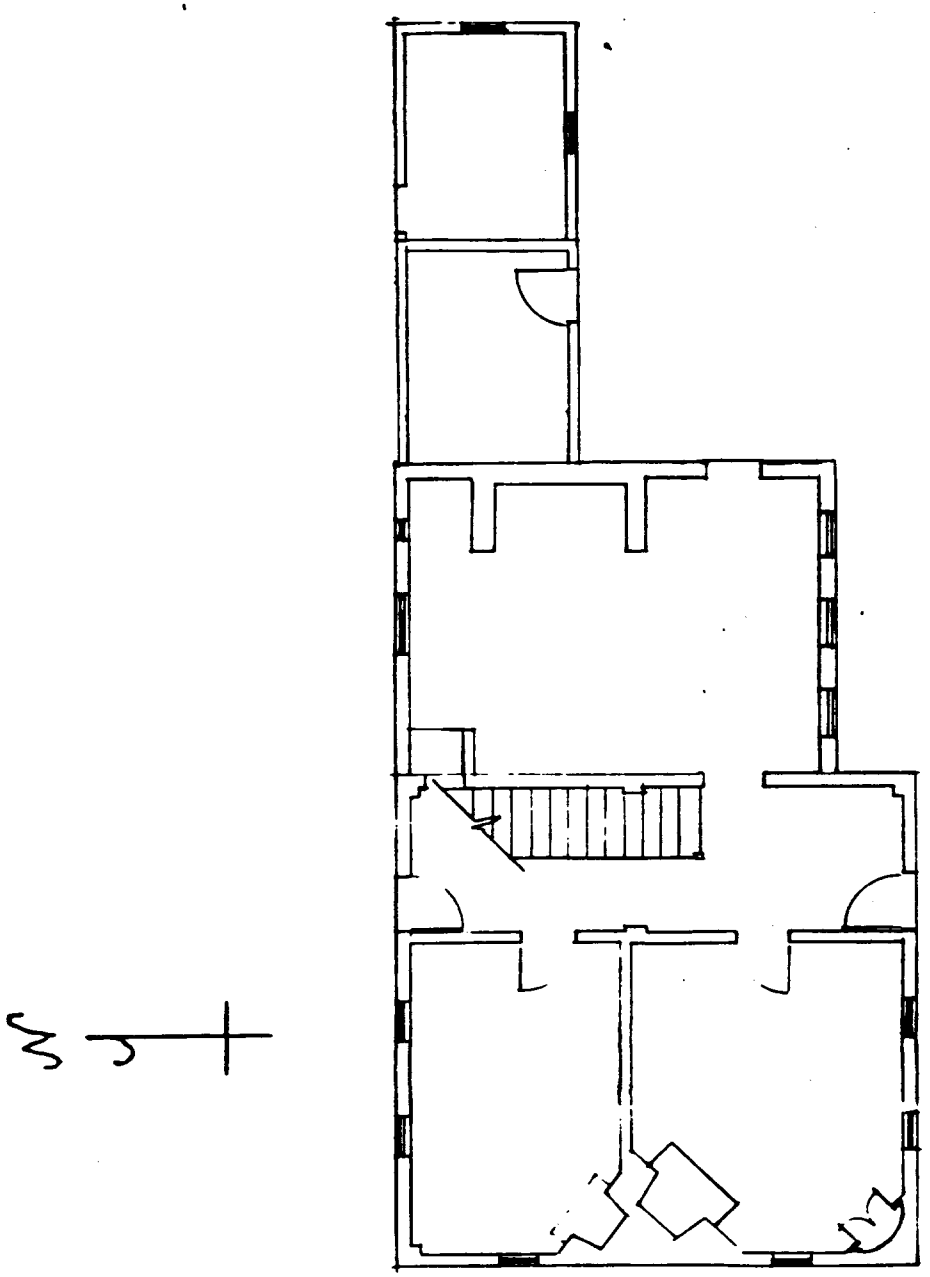
organization Private Consultant date October 31, 1991

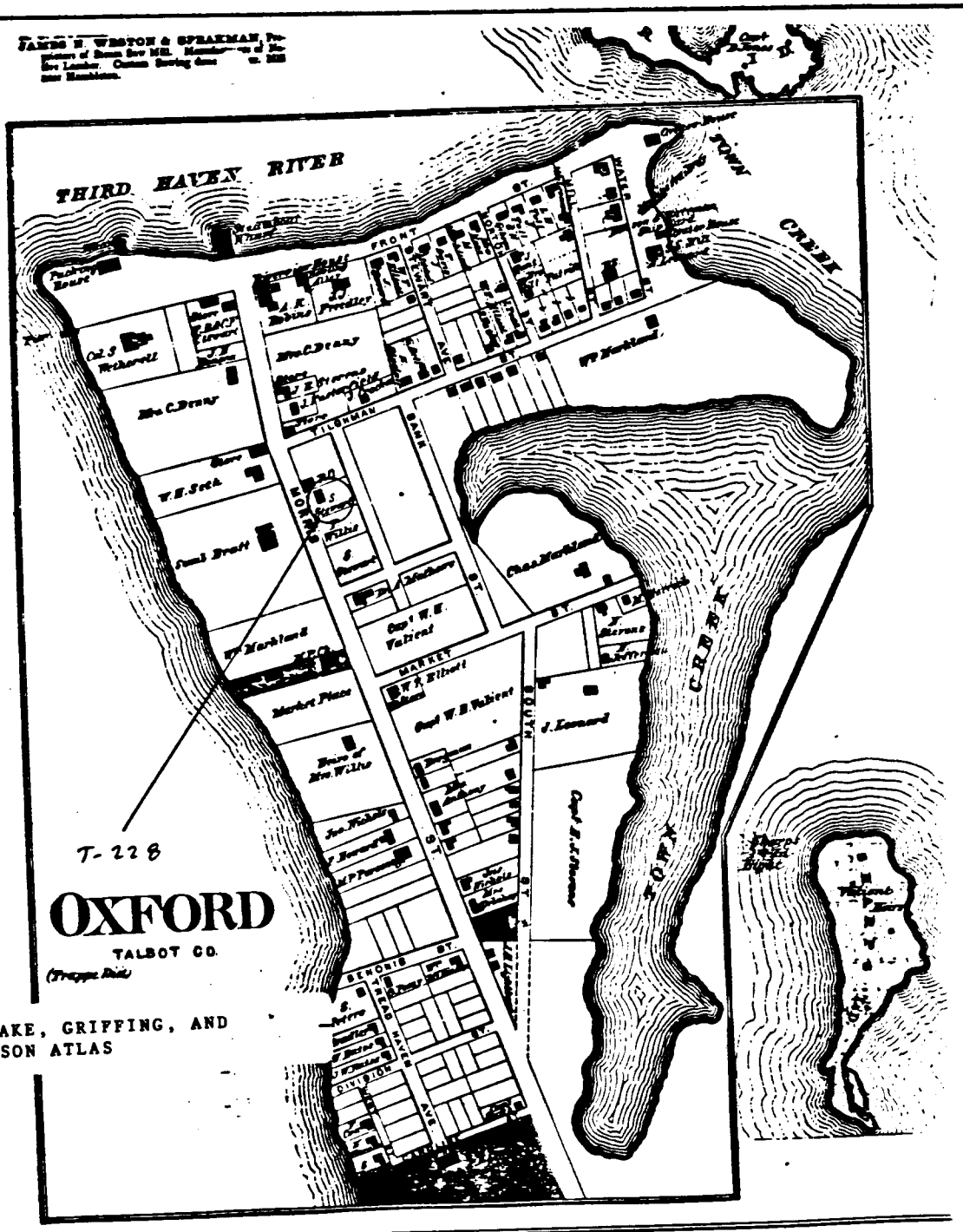
street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at the southwest corner of boundary line of George H. Schraeter on Morris Street, thence running with Morris Street 50', thence East 150' to Harrison Street now known as Factory Street, thence 50' along the eastern side of Factory Street to the corner of the Schraeter lot, thence by and with the Schraeter line for 150' to the place of beginning containing 7,500 square feet more or less. The property is further described in Talbot County Deed Book 498, Page 151, at the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton, Maryland.

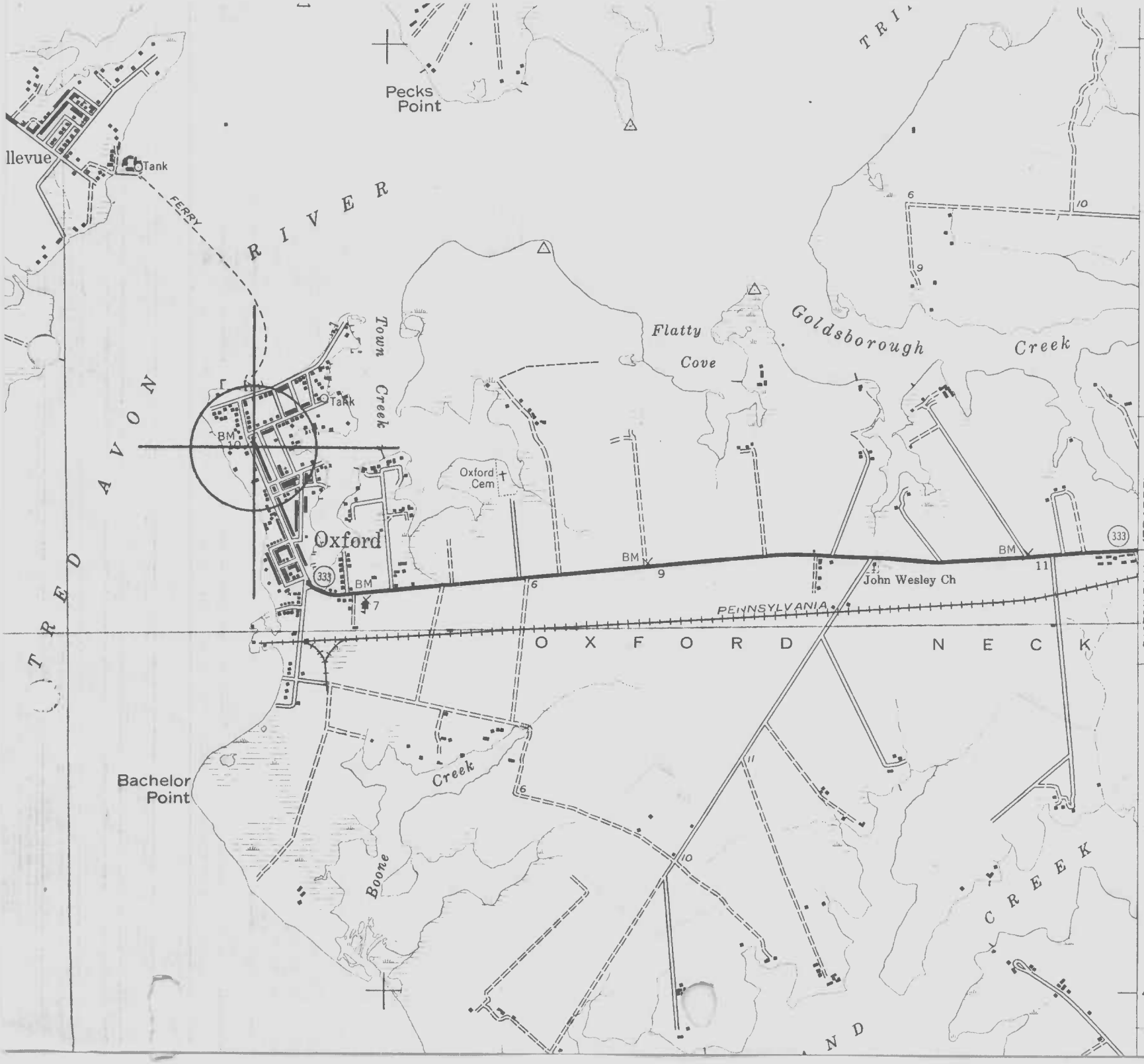




1877 LAKE, GRIFFING, AND STEVENSON ATLAS

Barnaby House T-228

Talbot Co



T-228

Barnaby House
T-228
Talbot Co
Maryland

18/397900/
4276910

Oxford quad

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest elevation
6/91, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
West elevation
6/91, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

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BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

CORNER CUPBOARD

10/91, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NOL/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD
CUPBOARD INTERIOR
10/91, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.
NEWEL POST & BALUSTERS
10/91, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228

BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD

STAR

10/91, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

EXPOSED CORNER POST

10/91 PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NOC. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228

BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

BACK ROOM - FIREPLACE WALL

11/91, PAUL TOUHEY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC/MHT HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228

BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

PARLOR - FIREPLACE WALL

1983, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Raised panel hearth wall cupboard
6/91, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

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BARNABY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

CHIMNEY BREAST CLOSET

1/6/91, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

T-228
BARNABY HOUSE
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Interior of built-in cupboard
6/91, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

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Barnaby House
Oxford

T-228