

T-333

Ferry Neck Chapel

Royal Oak

Private

1856

Recently converted into a private residence, this small frame chapel is raised on a brick foundation and covered with weatherboard. Exterior detail, as on many Eastern Shore chapels, is restricted to the entrance facade, which carries Greek revival elements. The entrance itself is composed of paneled double doors enclosed in a frame of pilasters carrying a full entablature of architrave, frieze, and cornice. The pilastered corners and cornice returns suggest pedimented gable(s). In the center of the gable directly above the entrance and double window is a sign with the date of the building: Anno Domini 1856. The interior, besides containing the main room for the congregation, had a vestibule, closet, and slave gallery (now a bedroom). The most outstanding feature of the interior is the arched ceiling; now covered with wallboard, the ceiling is still painted with original colors that range from light blue, rose, and lavender to tan and gold.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ferry Neck Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Ferry Neck Rd. and a private unnamed road south of Bellevue

CITY, TOWN

Royal Oak

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ferry Neck Church Assoc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Royal Oak

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21662

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 422

Folio #: 694

STREET & NUMBER

N. Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Ferry Neck Chapel is a small frame chapel located at the intersection of Ferry Neck Road and a private un-named road south of Bellevue.

The structure, which measures 38'5" x 30'4" stands about a foot and a half above ground on a brick foundation. On each side are slits for the passage of air. The long sides have three windows each with 9/9 sash and louvered shutters. The rear of the structure has two similar windows. Between the middle and rear windows, on both sides, rises a brick chimney, enclosed within the structure until it pierces the 'A' roof. The roof is covered with wood shingles and the walls are covered with white weatherboard with 7" exposure.

As with many of these country chapels on the Eastern Shore, the facade is the principal architectural element of the structure. In the center of the gable facade is a double door with Greek Revival style architrave having plain pilasters supporting a frieze with dentil course. A cornice crowns the composition. Above the door are a pair of windows with 6/6 sash and single leaf shutter for each. Above the windows is a wood sign bearing the inscription "ANNO DOMINI 1856". At both corners of the building are pilasters above which the cornice returns. This gable has a wide overhanging eave whereas the opposite gable has a flush barge board in the earlier style. At the base of the architrave is a huge monolithic granite step.

The building is one of the best preserved mid-19th century country chapels remaining in Talbot County.

Its interior has had little remodeling done in recent years. There is a very small vestibule off of which opens the main body of the church, a closet and a stair to the choir. The partition appears to be 20th century in date, however, a plaster line indicates its former position. The vestibule was about 4' wider originally and there was only access to the loft, the corner closet being accessible from the church as is the opposite one beneath the stair. The closet wall retains original painting on the plaster in imitation of ashler masonry. All of the woodwork is now grained to simulate wood.

The single most important and impressive feature of the building is the original painted arched ceiling. It is composed of a circular medallion, simulating plaster work of the period, placed in the center of a rectangular space. The wide borders of the medallion overlap the rectangle so as to produce four corners, each with a painted (pseudo plaster) corner. Other bands surround each element and the whole. Colors range light blue and gold to tan, rose, and lavender. Geometric borders also exist on the gables and there appears to have been a deep border around the top of the walls, which are now painted a uniform light grey.

At the front of the chapel is a low cushion-like railing with recessed panel face. To the left of the railing is a platform raised one step above the other floors. In the center and elevated one more step is the lecturn with the same type recessed panel work as the railing and balcony.

The interior has been maintained over the years and is still in good condition.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-333

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 checked="" 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 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 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Ferry Neck Chapel is typical of the chapels being built around the Eastern Shore during the middle of the 19th century. Its original painted ceiling is a fine survival from that period which is similar to a church in Accomac, Virginia and Drawbridge Chapel in Dorchester County. Preservation of the building has been a concern of the citizens living in the area over the past years. Its continued preservation would be a worthy undertaking.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Dec. 23, 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

T-333

Mark - this is for you now.  
I wrote to her about  
other questions.

THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601

MRS. ELIZABETH C. CARROLL  
LIBRARIAN

TELEPHONE  
822-1626

RECEIVED  
JUL 21 1977

July 19, 1977

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Miss Pamela James, or  
to whom it may concern:

Re.: Talbot County Historic Sites Survey

As you perhaps know, the five volumes of the Talbot County Historic Sites Survey are now in the Maryland Room of the Talbot County Free Library. I need not tell you how immensely valuable they are, and will continue to be, even after the publication of the Survey.

As present omissions, such as Sherwood (which I believe will be No. T244) are ready, will copies of the descriptions and photographs be sent to us or to the Talbot County Planning and Zoning Commission first?

MRE

In the process of preparing a card index, we have discovered some errors which I hope you will want to know about. For instance, Double Mills, T 332. Mr. Hulburt, the present owner has told us that he personally made the fireplace surrounds; therefore the one referred to in the Survey is not the original. Also, Plaindealing Site T 188 is not on Ferry Neck Road, but on Royal Oak-Bellevue Road. Perhaps it is a cavil to comment that the "choir" of Ferry Neck Chapel T 333 was more likely a slave gallery, and later, segregated seating for the Negroes.

As we study these surveys further, should we find additional errors do you want us to call them to your attention? Perhaps errors in numbering will correct themselves in time, but Fairview and Hampden have both been given the number of T 60.

May I make one more comment. In the May-June SWAP, it was announced that Sherwood has been added to the National Register and that it was the home of Matthew Tilghman. As far as researchers here have been able to determine, Matthew Tilghman lived at Rich Neck nearly all his life, from the time he went to live there as a boy until his death. He inherited Rich Neck from the widow of Matthew Tilghman Ward (Margaret) who died in 1747. When Matthew Tilghman died (will proved 26 May 1790) he left to his wife Ann "...my dwelling plantation and the lands whereon the same is seated called Rich Neck and Rich Neck Addition..."

Sincerely,

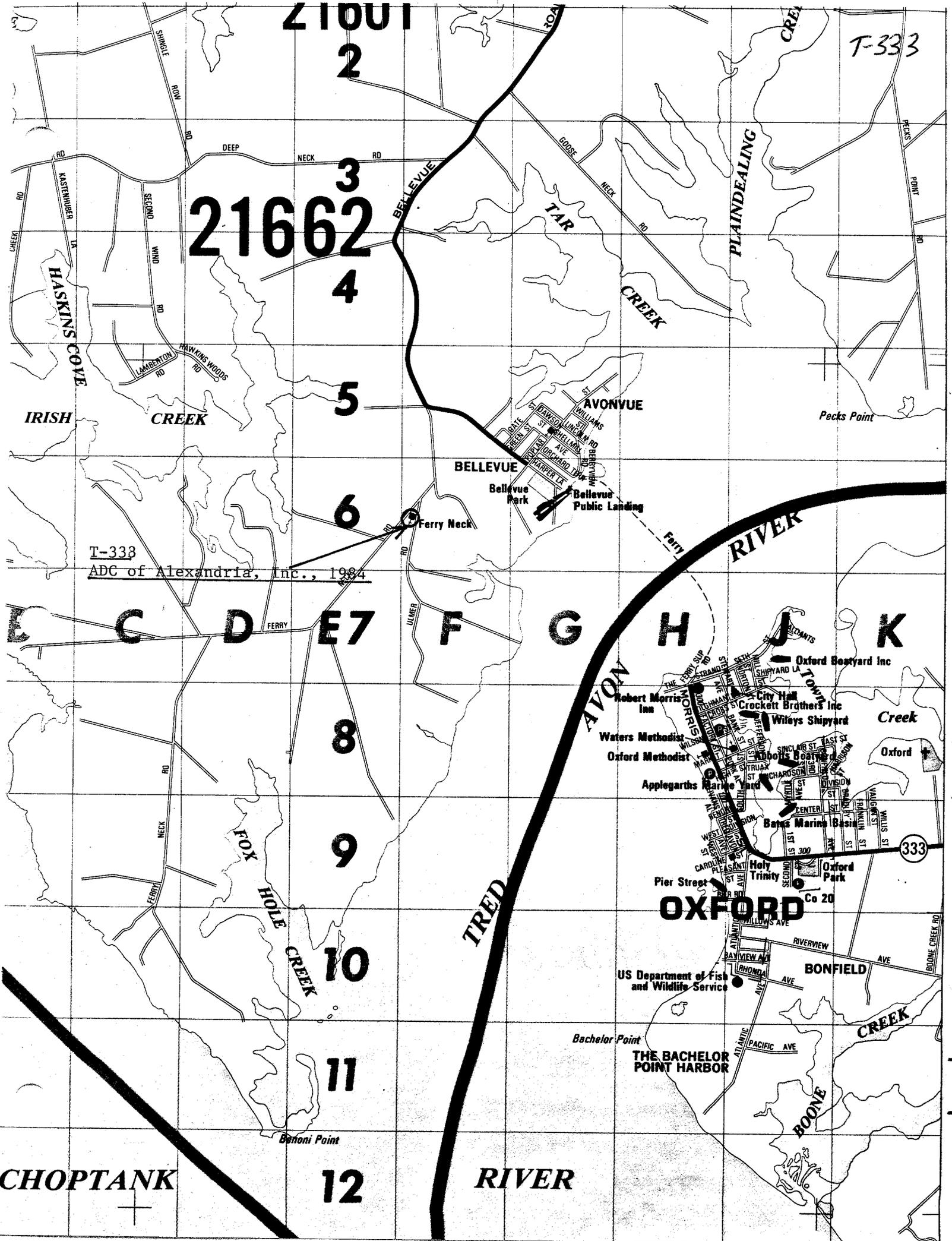
Mary M. Starin

Mary M. Starin  
(Mrs. Arthur N. Starin)  
Curator, Maryland Room

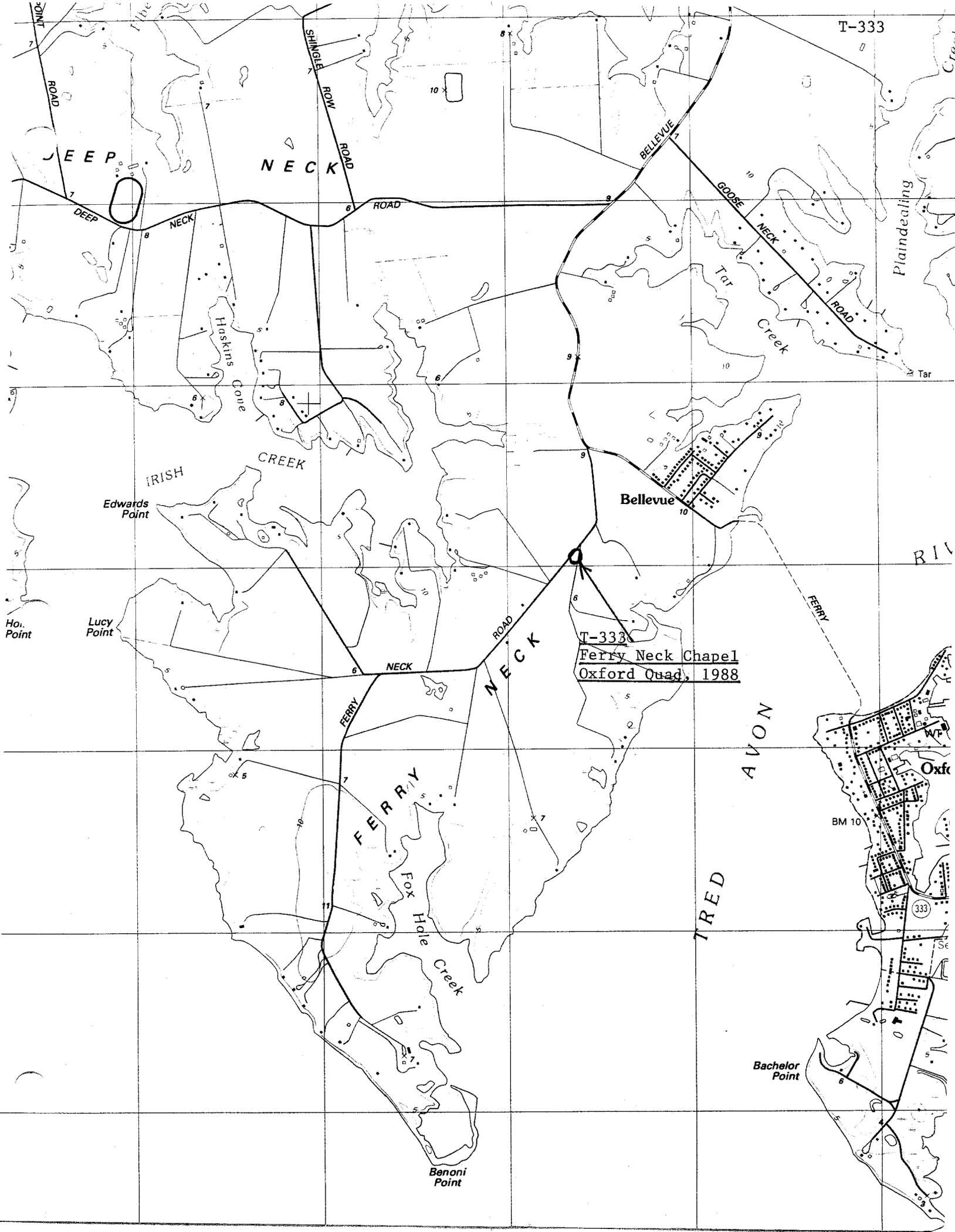
T-333

21662

T-338  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1984



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T-333  
Ferry Neck Chapel  
Oxford Quad, 1988



16 x 1.55

50% 333

Ferry Neck Chapel



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