NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oxford Historic District

other names T-1158

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Tred Avon River, Town Creek, and Caroline Ave. ☐ not for publication

city or town Oxford ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Talbot code 041 zip code 21654

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally x statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-9-05

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- x private
- x public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- x district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
206	72	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
206	72	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
GOVERNMENT/town hall
FUNERARY/cemetery
RELIGION/religious facility
TRANSPORTATION/water-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
GOVERNMENT/town hall
FUNERARY/cemetery
LANDSCAPE/park
RELIGION/religious facility
TRANSPORTATION/water-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic, Second Empire,
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY MOVEMENTS, Bungalow
OTHER/late 19th century regional types

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick, Stone, Concrete
walls Wood, Brick, Asbestos, Vinyl
roof Wood, Slate, Metal, Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.

☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
MARITIME HISTORY

Period of Significance

1688-1950

Significant Dates

1688

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Multiple unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 129 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baker Touart, Architectural Historian

Organization Private Consultant date 1.25.05

street & number Cedar Hill Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The town of Oxford, located in south central Talbot County, Maryland occupies a peninsula bounded by the Tred Avon River and Town Creek. Primary road access is provided by Maryland Route 333, a two-lane highway that traverses Oxford Neck connecting Easton and Oxford. The streets of the town are laid out on a rough grid plan oriented to the principal north/south avenue, Morris Street, which dead ends at the Strand, an east/west road that borders the Tred Avon River. Along the Strand, at the north end of Morris Street, is the landing for the Oxford/Bellevue ferry that connects Oxford with the small town of Bellevue on Ferry Neck. At the east end of the Strand there is a town parking area that overlooks the Oxford boatyard and docks. Streets that cross Morris include Tilghman, Wilson, Market, and High streets. At the south end of town are South Street, Benoni Avenue, Division Street, and Caroline Avenue. The south end of town is also distinguished by a boat building concern as well as mooring along the edge of Town Creek.

The Oxford Historic District is primarily defined by streetscapes of frame dwellings erected between 1875 and 1910 with varying degrees of decorative detailing. A few buildings dating from the mid to late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are located along North Morris Street near its intersection with the Strand. Tree-lined streets with brick sidewalks and fenced yards are common and evoke a distinct late nineteenth-century character to the town.

The Oxford Historic District contains 206 contributing resources and 72 non-contributing resources.

General Description:

Oxford, Maryland is located in south central Talbot County in the mid section of the Eastern Shore region. The principal means of vehicular entrance and exit into or out of Oxford is by Maryland Route 333, which stretches across Oxford Neck from the county seat of Easton, a distance of approximately 10 miles. Maryland Route 333 runs in an east/west direction from Easton until it meets the south end of town, where the road turns nearly ninety degrees to head almost due north. In town this principal street is known as North and South Morris Street. At the north end of Morris Street is the landing for the Oxford/Bellevue ferry, established in 1683. It operates seasonally as is the only other means of entering or leaving the town. Oxford is

basically surrounded by water. The hook-shaped peninsula is bounded by the Tred Avon River to the north and west and Town Creek is located on its east flank. The Tred Avon River is a tributary of the Choptank River, a principal artery of Chesapeake Bay.

There are no structures remaining in Oxford from the seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries. The oldest surviving structures include four houses dating from the mid to late eighteenth century; a portion of the Robert Morris Inn (T-249), the Barnaby house (T-228), individually listed on the National Register, and a portion of the Stewart house (T-758), and Byberry (T-287), a story-and-a-half frame dwelling relocated from Morris Street to Wiley's boatyard during the 1920s. The northern end of the Robert Morris Inn, supported on a stone foundation, is distinguished on the interior with mid eighteenth-century Georgian woodwork. The turned baluster staircase and the raised-panel Georgian paneling distinguish the north half of this two-story structure which was reworked in the Second Empire style around 1875. Across the street from the Robert Morris Inn is a two-story frame structure known for the past hundred years as the Stewart house. The original story-and-a-half, two-room plan frame dwelling was reworked about 1825 and a second time around 1900. The oldest section retains portions of late eighteenth-century woodwork as well as a cellar fitted with a fireplace. South of these two structures is the Barnaby house, located at 212 North Morris Street. Already distinguished by a National Register listing, the Barnaby house is the best preserved of the three structures with its story-and-a-half, side hall/double-pile form and ninety-five per cent of its original c. 1770 woodwork intact. An adjacent brick-ended frame kitchen has a large cooking fireplace, and the fireplace lintel has carved depictions of Chesapeake bay schooners.

Another prominent dwelling located in the same vicinity of North Morris Street is the Grapevine house (T-248), an early nineteenth-century two-story, five-bay frame, center hall/single-pile plan structure. Like three of the previously cited eighteenth-century houses, this Federal dwelling is supported by a stone foundation. Original woodwork remaining in the house dates its construction around 1810 during the ownership of John Willis. The property was named after an old grapevine said to have been planted in the front yard in 1798.

Principal among the mid nineteenth-century structures remaining in the historic district is the Academy house, also known as the Bratt Mansion (T-238), a two-story, five-bay hip roofed frame dwelling supported on a raised brick foundation and built around 1849. The Morris Street elevation is a symmetrical five-bay façade defined by six two-story pilasters creating an even five-bay front pierced by six-over-six sash windows. The pilasters rise to a plain frieze and

boxed cornice that finish the base of the low pitched hip roof. The Academy house is one of the boldest, most formal expressions of Greek Revival domestic design in Talbot County. The other prominent Greek Revival structure in Oxford is the main body of the old St. Paul's M. E. Church, which is defined by wide corner pilasters and a dentiled cornice molding. The main block of the church was built in 1855-56, although the building has a bold Gothic Revival front erected in 1882. St. Paul's is also known for its elaborate pressed metal interior dating from a 1906 renovation of the interior.

Another Gothic Revival structure, the walls of Holy Trinity Episcopal church, date to the mid nineteenth century as well. Begun in 1853, the Gothic Revival structure, however, was never finished. It stood as a ruinous shell until the turn of the twentieth century when a roof and interior were completed in 1903. The interior and roof of Holy Trinity were gutted by fire in 1945, but the 1853 walls were salvaged and incorporated into the rebuilt church.

The decade of the 1850s is not well-represented in domestic architecture for Oxford due to the town's low population and slow growth at mid century. There are a few houses in town estimated to date to the period surrounding the Civil War. The Margaret Delahay house, located at 223 South Morris Street has architectural features consistent with that time. The two-story, three-bay, center hall frame dwelling has exposed brick firewalls on each gable end and a contemporaneous story-and-a-half rear wing. The house stands next to the former St. Paul's M. E. Church. Standing next to the Margaret Delahay house is James L. Nichols house at 221 South Morris Street, a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame dwelling also dating to the Civil War era. At the opposite end of Oxford, the Pastorfield-Valliant house and store, located at 300-302 N. Morris St., constitute an important complex dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Estimated to date around 1870, the two-story, five-bay frame house retains a high degree of integrity with few changes since its construction. Accompanying the house on the corner lot is a two-story, gable-front store built around 1860 and estimated to be one of the oldest commercial buildings remaining in town. The rectangular two-story main block retains a Victorian storefront in addition to a scalloped bargeboard that trims the extended eave. The store has experienced few exterior or interior alterations. The interior walls and ceiling are sheathed with wide boards and hand-planned multi-sided posts support the second floor. Nineteenth-century shelving and counters remain as well.

Following the arrival of the railroad in 1871, Oxford experienced a building boom that lasted through the turn of the twentieth century. Over ninety per cent of the buildings that define

the historic district date from the period stretching from 1870 through 1910. Principal among the larger dwellings is Sandaway Lodge, built around 1875 at the west end of the Strand by Philadelphian Samuel Wetherill. The large two-and-a-half story frame dwelling is distinctive for its combination of mansard and gambrel roof shapes. The house occupies a prominent site overlooking the Tred Avon River and is now part of the accommodations provided by the Robert Morris Inn. Also distinguished by a Second Empire mansard roof is 217 South Morris Street, also known as the Samuel F. Nichols house. Built around 1885, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling is dominated on the exterior by the dormered mansard roof with bracketed eave as well as a two-story square-sided bay window on the south side.

Less elaborate and representative of the medium sized dwellings dating from the late nineteenth-century includes the Amelia C. Ireland house, located at 220 South Morris Street. The two-story, side hall/double-pile frame house is trimmed with corner pilasters and paired cornice brackets which decorate the base of the hip roof. The front porch is enriched with decorative eave brackets as well as sawnwork and pendants between the posts. A two-story bay window enhances the south side. Another is the Parsons-Newnam house at 210 North Morris Street, a two-story, two-bay side hall/double-pile plan frame dwellings featuring a low pitched hip roof and a two-story bay pavilion on its south elevation.

While there is considerable repetition of late nineteenth-century house forms, particularly side hall/single- or double-pile and center hall/single pile plans, there is at the same time significant variation in size, roof configuration and exterior decoration. One of the more unusual examples of the side hall/single-pile plan is the Thomas A. Markland house, located at 104 Benoni Street. Benoni Street, named after nearby point, was subdivided and named by 1877, but there were no houses along its northern side until the early 1880s. The Thomas Markland house, dating around 1885, is a two-story, two-bay frame house with a M-shaped gable front roof. Each of the front gables is pierced by a pointed arch window framed by a field of decorative fishscale shingles. The sidelighted side entrance is sheltered by a gable roofed porch, whereas the adjacent wall surface is dominated by a two-story bay pavilion.

More typical of the two-story, two-bay frame houses is the Planner Elliot house, located at 102 Caroline Street at the south end of the district near Holy Trinity Church. The two-story, two-bay side hall/double-pile house, built around 1887, was designed with a narrow street frontage to fit the lot. The gable-front dwelling features a decorative Victorian porch, two-over-two sash windows, and a round arched window in the gable end. Attached to the back of the

house is a shorter two-story service wing. Many of the houses erected along South Street during the early to mid 1880s follow the two-story, two- or three-bay side hall/parlor plan with exterior definition limited to a period porch, similar to 228 South Street, which retains much of its original exterior finishes. Small two-story, one-bay, two-bay or three-bay houses, with one-room, or side hall/parlor plans, were erected independently or speculatively for Oxford's laboring class of white and black workers employed in the town's oyster packing firms, shipyards or assorted businesses that surfaced during the late nineteenth-century. Many of Oxford's black residents resided along Market and Tilghman streets, in the vicinity of the Waters Methodist Protestant Church near the corner of Market and Bank streets. The congregation organized in 1873, and a single story frame church stood on the lot until it was replaced in 1886 with the asymmetrically designed structure featuring a corner entrance and bell tower reflecting the prevailing Gothic Revival influence. Currently supported by a rusticated concrete block foundation, the ell-shaped frame structure retains its 1883 datestone in the southeast corner.

Atypical and singular among the late nineteenth-century buildings in Oxford is a two-story brick townhouse that stands at 200 Tred Avon. Built in a speculative scheme around 1885 by the Bergman Brick Company, the two-story three-bay side hall/double-pile plan house was patterned after an urban rowhouse, but others of the same form were not built down the street as originally planned. The Tred Avon elevation is enhanced with a bracketed cornice. Other evidence in Oxford of the Bergman Brick Company, are many paver bricks in the sidewallks along North and South Morris streets stamped with the capital letter B.

The fourth quarter of the nineteenth century also brought a new generation of commercial buildings to house the surge of stores and shops that opened with the steady population increase after the late 1870s. Groceries, hardware stores, drugstores, clothing and millinery establishments opened in town, primarily along Morris Street. While the center length of Morris Street at its intersection with Market was where the principal commercial activities were concentrated, other stores were spaced intermitently between Morris Street's north and south ends. Known currently as the Oxford Mews, the two-story, three unit commercial block was erected around 1878 and is distinguished by a highly decorated eave featuring intricately carved brackets and incised panels between the cornice brackets. The Oxford Mews block is also distinguished by three intact plate glass storefronts. A Tuscan columned porch was added during the early twentieth century as a shelter across its full front. Standing independent of any other commercial building is another two-story frame storefront that stands at the corner of North

Morris and Tilghman streets. Known historically as the former Dawson Bakery, the two-story, two-bay structure, erected around 1880, survives with a intact plate glass storefront and a double-door entrance. The paneled knee wall below the glass store windows is finished with an incised decoration. The best known commercial location in Oxford during the late nineteenth century was the River View House, now the Robert Morris Inn, which was restyled with a Second Empire mansard roof around 1875 in order to house additional rooms. New hotels and boarding houses were erected elsewhere in Oxford, particularly after the Eastford Hall fire in 1894. At some point before the turn of the twentieth century, the large and beautifully sited Wetherill house at the west end of the Strand was converted into a hotel for summer guests.[1]

The first quarter of the twentieth century produced continued investment in Oxford, albeit on a reduced pace from the explosive days of the 1880s and 1890s. Limited numbers of new dwellings and stores were erected after 1900, particularly as the population started a distinct decline after 1910. One of the most visible construction projects in town during the early twentieth century was the design and building of the Oxford Bank on the west side of South Morris Street. Conceived in the prevailing neoclassical taste by Easton architect, Frank Ross, the single-story brick bank was built by contractor J.P.A. Elliott.[2] Now used as a real estate office, the former bank property retains a metal fence produced by the Stewart Iron Works.

Houses with Colonial Revival inspired exteriors were erected in various locations, such as 305 North Morris Street. The story-and-a-half frame house, erected around 1920, has a broad gambrel roof and a Tuscan columned porch. Standard Colonial Revival inspired four-square dwellings were erected as well, particularly on generously sized lots along North and South Morris streets. Colonial Revival modifications were made as well to the older Victorian housing stock, especially with the replacement of a worn-out or out-of-date porch. Many early twentieth-century Tuscan columned porches front older Victorian dwellings.

Following the stock market failure and attendant Depression, little in the way of major building projects took place aside from the replacement of the town office in 1932 after a fire destroyed a row of frame commercial buildings on North Morris Street. Resident citizens or visitors maintained the housing stock built during the boom years, or in other cases, rented them to the remaining work force employed in the shipyards and dwindling number of seafood and/or

[1] Sanborn Insurance Map, Oxford, 1901.
[2] *Easton Star-Democrat*, 1916.

fruit packers. Ever since the late nineteenth century, and especially during the second quarter of the twentieth century, Oxford has been seen as a pleasant place to buy a summer house or retire in a quieter, less harried village atmosphere. Within the last thirty years, this trend has continued with many dwellings held by non-resident or seasonal occupants. The housing stock in Oxford has experienced a dramatic change in the last twenty-five years as new demands are placed on mostly mid-sized to small frame dwellings. In an effort to maintain the essential integrity of Oxford's historic structures, a zoning ordinance with a commission to review alterations within the historic district was established in 1976.

Properties within the Oxford Historic District:

C=Contributing NC=Non-Contributing

North and South Morris Streets

1. North Morris St. and The Strand, Robert Morris c. 1750, c. 1875 Two-and-a-half story, 7-bay by 2-bay frame house with Second Empire mansard roof C

2. 319 North Morris Street (Stewart House) c. 1790, c. 1825, c. 1900 Two-story frame house built in three periods with eighteenth century core, principal location on North Morris Street C

3. 315 North Morris Street (Stewart-Benson House) c. 1880 Two-story, three-bay, hip roofed frame house with weatherboard siding, chamfered post porch, 2 outbuildings C (3)

4. 313 North Morris Street, c. 1880 Two-story, asymmetrical plan frame house with heavily molded front door, two-over-two sash C

5. 311 North Morris Street, c. 1880 Two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house C

6. 310 North Morris Street, c. 1980, Story-and-a-half frame house set back from road, recycled early nineteenth-century woodwork NC

7. 309 North Morris Street (Grapevine House), c. 1815 Two-story, five-bay center hall plan frame house with Federal woodwork, early 20th century gable end wing C

8. 307 North Morris Street, c. 1920 Two-and-a-half story, four-square frame house with hip roof dormer, Tuscan columned front porch C

9. 308 North Morris Street, (Noah J. Foxwell House) c. 1880 Two-story, asymmetrical plan frame house, plain post front porch C

10. 306 North Morris Street, c. 1920 Two-and-a-half story, four-square frame house C

11. 305 North Morris Street, c. 1920 One-and-one-half story, gambrel roofed Colonial Revival frame house C

12. 302 North Morris Street, c. 1870 Two-story, five-bay, center hall plan frame house, decorative turned post front porch with sawn corner brackets, four-over-four sash windows C

13. 300 North Morris Street, (Jeremiah Valiant Store) c. 1860-70, Two-story gable front frame store with intact storefront and decorative sawn bargeboard C

14. 301 North Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay cross-gabled frame house with decorative turned post porch C

15. 220 North Morris Street and Tilghman St. c. 1880 Two-story, two-bay frame store with intact commercial front and bracketed eave C

16. 213 North Morris Street, c. 1870 Two-story, three-bay frame house, interior end brick chimneys C

17. 218 North Morris Street, Point Comfort, c. 1880 and earlier, Two-story asymmetrical frame house built in stages with two-story side hall/parlor south wing C

18. 216 North Morris Street, c. 1910 One-and-a-half story gambrel roofed frame house with gambrel roofed dormer C

19. 209 North Morris Street, c. 1970-90, Single-story shingled exterior, modern house NC

20. 207 North Morris Street, (Samuel W. Bratt house) c. 1880, c. 1920, Two-story, three-bay frame house with Colonial Revival porch C

21. 214 North Morris Street, c. 1850-1880 Two-story, part brick, part frame house/storefront, asymmetrical form with storefront projecting forward from the two-story house, which has a two-story bay pavilion dominating its front, flush gable ends to the house. C

22. 212 North Morris Street, (Barnaby House) National Register listed, 1771, Story-and-a-half side hall/double-pile frame house on stone foundation with single-story brick-ended rear wing, large degree of original eighteenth-century woodwork. C

23. 210 North Morris Street, (Parsons-Newnam House) c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house with low hip roof, chamfered porch posts, two-story bay window on south side. C

24. 208 North Morris Street, (Thomas W. Blades House), c. 1883, Two-story, three-bay frame rowhouse form with decorated parapet, modern wing to north C

25. 206 North Morris Street, (Charles E. Leonard House), c. 1880, Two-story, asymmetrical frame house with recessed front entrance, decorative sawn brackets in cornice, wood finials along roof peaks. C

26. 204 North Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house, Gothic point window in gable front, four-over-four sash windows C

27. 203 North Morris Street, c. 1970-80, Single story ranch house NC

28. 202 North Morris Street, (Parsons House), c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay hip roofed frame house with two-story bay window. C

29. 201 North Morris Street, c. 1960, Single-story frame ranch house NC

30. 200 North Morris Street, (Harrison-Haddaway House), c. 1878, Two-story, two-bay hip roofed frame house, bracketed eave, decorated Victorian porch, paired sash, double-door side-lighted entrance C

31. 110 North Morris Street, c. 1870, Two-story, two-bay frame house, hip roof, paired windows C

32. 108 North Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay, gable-front frame house C

33. 106 North Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-and-a-half story frame house with decorated bargeboard, round arched attic window, turned post porch C

34. 105 North Morris Street, c. 1920, Two-and-a-half story four-square frame house with hip roofed dormers, Tuscan column porch C

35. 104 North Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story frame house, remodeled C

36. 103 North Morris Street, c. 1960, One-and-a-half story frame house NC

37. 102 North Morris Street, c. 1950, Single-story frame bungalow, plain detailing C

38. 101 North Morris Street, (Oxford United Methodist Church), 1948, Single-story brick church with Colonial Revival entrance, round arched windows, octagonal bell tower and spire C

39. 100 North Morris Street (Oxford Community Services Building) 1932, Two-story, brick town hall renovated in 2000 (Building was oriented to face N. Morris but in remodeling effort, the principal entrance was turned to face Market Street) C

40. 101 South Morris Street, (Oxford Museum) c. 1900, Single-story gable-front frame store converted to museum C

41. West Side of Morris Street, (Town Park on the Tred Avon) Large open space designated on the 1707 plat of the town C

42. 102 South Morris Street, (Tred Avon Yacht Sales) c. 1880, Two-story, gable-front commercial block with bracketed eaves C

43. 103-107 South Morris Street, (Oxford Mews Commercial Block) c. 1878, Two-story, three-unit frame commercial block, with intricate decorated parapet, intact glass storefronts, early 20th c. Tuscan columned porch stretches across front C

44. 106 South Morris Street, c. 1960, Single-story ranch house on Tred Avon NC

45. 111 South Morris Street, c. 1990, Two-story, three-bay commercial block with Colonial Revival detailing NC

46. 113 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-part frame commercial block, gable-front elevation with side and rear wings C

47. 201 South Morris Street, (Oxford Market) c. 1880-90, Two-story, one-bay gable-front frame store with brick veneered first floor C

48. 202 South Morris Street, (former Oxford Bank) 1916-17, Easton architect, Frank Ross, Builder J.P.A. Elliott, Fence made at Stewart Iron Works, Single-story neoclassical brick bank C

49. 51. 200 South Morris Street, c. 1950, Single story frame cottage C

50. 204 South Morris Street, c. 1940, Single-story frame house C

51. 206 South Morris Street, c. 1940 One-and-a-half story frame Cape Cod with garage C

52. 207 South Morris Street, (William M. Bergman House) c. 1879, Two-story, three-bay frame house with decorative Victorian porch C

53. 208 South Morris Street, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay center hall plan frame house with Tuscan columned porch C

54. 209 South Morris Street, (Sarah T. Anthony House) c. 1870, Two-story, three-bay frame house with hip roofed single-bay porch and exterior corbelled base chimney stack, smokehouse, C (2)

55. 210 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story Victorian frame house with late 20th-century modifications C

56. 211 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house, two-over-two sash C

57. 212 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, five-bay frame house with shingled exterior, four-over-four sash, extensively reworked in 1990s C

58. 213 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story gable-front frame house with story-and-a-half stepped format side wing C

59. 214 South Morris Street, (Stewart-Cooper House) c. 1880, Two-story, five-bay, cross-gabled, center hall frame house C

60. 215 South Morris Street, c. 1870, Two-story, three-bay frame house with Tuscan columned front porch and six-over-one sash windows C

61. 216 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house, two-over-two sash, bracketed porch C

62. 217 South Morris Street, (Samuel F. Nichols House) c. 1885, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house with dormered mansard roof, two-story bay window on south side, side hall/double-pile plan C

63. 218 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house with hip roof, two-over-two sash windows C

64. 219 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay frame house with side hall/double-pile plan C

65. 220 South Morris Street, (Amelia Ireland House) c. 1880, Two-story side hall/double-pile plan frame house with hip roof, bracketed eave, corner pilasters, and Victorian porch C

66. 221 South Morris Street, (James L. Nichols House), c. 1862, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay cross-gabled frame house with single-bay hip roofed portico C

67. 222 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay side hall/parlor frame house with plain porch, round arched attic window C

68. 223 South Morris Street, (Margaret Delahay House), c. 1862, Two-story, three-bay frame

house with single-bay porch, two-over-two sash windows C

69. 224 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay frame house with heavily molded front door, decorative sawn brackets C

70. 225 South Morris Street, (St. Paul's M. E. Church) c. 1855-56, 1883, 1906, Single-story gable front frame church erected with Greek Revival cornice, enlarged with unusual Victorian front and door with Gothic windows, restyled inside with pressed metal walls and ceiling in 1906. C

71. 226 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house with hip roof, two-over-two sash windows, Victorian porch C

72. 228 South Morris Street, (Aubrey Harris House) c. 1924, Two-story-story four-square frame house with chamfered post porch on two sides C

73. 300 South Morris Street, (Town Creek Foundation Office) c. 1900-20 Single-story gable-front frame structure with shingled exterior C

74. 301 South Morris Street, (Mary L. Sibley House), c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house with decorative Victorian porch, two-over-two sash, fishscale shingles on gable C

75. 302 South Morris Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame house with Victorian porch, chamfered posts and sawn brackets, two-over-two sash C

76. 303 South Morris Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay side hall/double pile frame house C

77. 304 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house two-over-two sash C

78. 305 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house, two-over-two sash, fishscale shingles in gable, round arched attic window C

79. 306 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house with remodeled exterior C

80. 307 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay frame house with two-over-two sash

and Tuscan columned porch C

81. 308-310 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, four-bay frame duplex, remodeled exterior C

82. 309 South Morris Street, c. 1930-40, Single-story frame bungalow with hip roof C

83. 312 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay, frame house with hip roof, turned post porch. C

84. 313 South Morris Street, c. 1890, Two-story frame house with bracketed eave repositioned on lot C

85. 315 South Morris Street, c. 1980, One-and-a-half story frame and concrete block house NC

86. 317 South Morris Street, c. 1910-20, c. 1990, Oxford Yacht Agency property, boatyard with single story frame shop C

87. 400 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, asymmetrical frame house with recessed entrance bay, heavily molded front door, two-over-two sash, single-story bay window C

88. 402 South Morris Street, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay, frame house with two-over-two sash recently reworked C

89. 404 South Morris Street, , c. 1880-90, Two-story, two-bay frame house with remodeled ext. C

90. 406 South Morris Street, c. 1880-90, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house, remodeled exterior C

91. 408 South Morris Street, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house C

92. 410 South Morris Street, c. 1875, Two-story, three-bay, side hall/parlor frame house with Victorian porch with sawn balusters, two-over-two sash windows, two-story porch facing Caroline Street C

93. 500 South Morris Street, (Church of the Holy Trinity) 1853, 1903, 1945 fire, Gothic Revival

stone church started in 1853 but left incomplete, left in ruin, turn of the century reworking of ruin completed in 1903, 1945 gutted building, exterior restored to pre-fire appearance C

94. 502 South Morris Street, c. 1910, Large two-story, cruciform shaped frame house as rectory, two-over-two sash windows, fishscale shingles in gables C

The Strand

95. West Strand, 1976, Custom's House reconstruction, One-story, one-room plan frame structure with beaded siding, exterior brick chimney NC

96. 99 West Strand, c. 1990, Two-story, gable-front frame house with two-story porch NC

97. 100 West Strand, c. 2000 (Oxford Yacht Club) Modern building on historic grounds of yacht club started in 1931 NC

98. 101 West Strand, c. 1880, Two-story asymmetrical plan Victorian house with two-over-two sash, sawn brackets, round arched attic window C

99. 103 West Strand, (Sandaway) c. 1875 and later, Elaborate two-and-a-half story eclectic Victorian house with gambrel and mansard roofs turned by turn of century as Sinclair House for summer guests C

100. 100 East Strand, c. 1960, Single-story frame house NC

101. 102 East Strand, c. 1950, Single-story frame house C

102. 104 East Strand, c. 1880, Two-story, three-bay side hall/double-pale frame house with hip roof, shingled exterior and decorative sawn bracket porch C

103. 106 East Strand, c. 1980, Two-story, gable-front shingled house NC

104. 108 East Strand, c. 1980, Two-story, four-bay frame house NC

105. 110 East Strand, c. 1880, Two-story gable-front frame house, reworked C

106. 112 East Strand, c. 1900, Two-story frame house with two-story porch, reworked ext. C

107. 200 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-story three-bay frame house with Victorian porch, turned posts and sawn brackets C

108. 202 East Strand, c. 1900, Two-story, five-bay frame house, remodeled C

109. 204 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay, frame house with two-story Victorian porch C

110. 206 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-story, one-bay x two-bay gable-front frame house C

111. 208 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-story, gable-front frame house C

112. 300 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house C

113. 302 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-and-a-half story, five-bay, double gabled frame house, Gothic point to attic windows, two-over-two sash, currently under renovation C

114. 304 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay cross gable frame house with round arched window in gable C

115. 306 East Strand, c. 1890, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay cross gabled frame house with modern front porch C

116. 400 East Stand, Oxford Boatyard Complex, c. 1890 Two-story, two-bay shingled frame house C

117. 402 East Strand, Oxford Boatyard Complex, Single-story gable roofed building with stick supports under eaves C

118. 404-410 and 412-418 East Strand, c. 1980, (Oxford Condominiums) Late 20th century two-story Colonial Revival brick veneered brick complex NC

119. 420 East Strand, Town Parking Lot with frontage on Town Creek C

120. 500-504 East Strand, c. mid to late 20th century (Mears Yacht Haven) Single story ranch style house and waterfront complex associated with marina. C

121. 501 East Strand, c. 1940, One-and-a-half story frame Cape Cod with single-story wing C

122. 503 East Strand, Vacant Lot

123. 505 East Strand, c. 1920 One-and-one half story asymmetrical Cape Cod, exterior corbelled brick chimney C

124. 506 East Strand, c. 1970-90, Two-story frame and brick house built in Colonial Revival form NC

125. 507 East Strand, c. 1990-2000 Two-story, tee-shaped frame house of modern construction NC

126 508 East Strand, c. 1990, Single story ranch style house NC

127. 510 East Strand, c. 1990-2000, Two-story, gable-front frame house of modern construction NC

128. 512 East Strand, 1928, Single-story frame bungalow with hip roof C

129. 514 East Strand, c. 1980, Modern frame house NC

130. 516 East Strand, c. 1980, Modern frame house on point NC

Mill Street

131. 103 Mill Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame restaurant NC

132. 105 Mill Street, vacant lot

133. 107 Mill Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house C

Norton Street

134. 100 Norton Street, Two-story, two-bay frame house, remodeled and raised on high found. C

135. 101 Norton Street, c. 1890 Two-story, two-bay, gable-front frame house, extended eaves sloped soffits, abandoned C

136. 102 Norton Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house NC

137. 103 Norton Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house NC

138. 104 Norton Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house NC

139. 105 Norton Street, c. 1980, Single-story gambrel roofed frame house NC

140. 107 Norton Street, c. 1990, Modern two-story house NC

141. 108 Norton Street, c. 1940, Single story frame bungalow with engaged porch C

142. 109 Norton Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch NC

143. 110 Norton Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house with shingled exterior C

Stewart Street

144. 100 Stewart Street, c. 1900, Two-story, two-bay frame house C

145. 101 Stewart Street, c. 1900, Two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame house with Tuscan columned porch C

146. 102 Stewart Street, c. 1900, Two-story asymmetrical ell-shaped frame house C

147. 103 Stewart Street, c. 1900, Two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame house with six-over-six sash windows C

148. 105 Stewart Street, c. 1940, Single-story wood shingled Cape Cod with moon shaped cut-outs in shutters, paired two-over-two sash, concrete block foundation C

149. 106 Stewart Street, c. 1900, Two-story, three-bay frame house with Victorian porch, sawn brackets, six-over-six sash windows C

150. 107 Stewart Street, c. 1980, Single-story gable-front ranch house NC

151. 108 Stewart Street, c. 1980, Two-story, two-bay frame of modern construction NC

152. 109 Stewart Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house, side hall/parlor plan with six-over-six sash windows C

Tilghman Street

153. 99 Tilghman Street, c. 1950, Single-story frame Cape Cod C

154. 100 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Two-story, three-bay frame house of modern construction NC

155. 102 Tilghman Street, c. 1880, One-and-a-half story, two-bay frame house with six-over-six sash, well preserved small house C

156. 104-106 Tilghman Street, c. 1910, Two-story, four-bay frame duplex with shingled ext. C

157. 107 Tilghman Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house with weatherboard siding over original board-and-batten exterior (battens stripped) C

158. 109 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Single-story gable front frame ranch NC

159. 110 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Two-story, asymmetrical frame house of modern const. NC

160. 111 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Two-story frame house of modern construction NC

161. 200-202 Tilghman Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame houses of modern construction NC

162. 201 Tilghman Street, c. 1890, Two-story gable-front frame structure, former African-American Odd Fellows Lodge Hall, distinguished by pressed metal shingle exterior and cupola C

163. 204 Tilghman Street, c. 1890, Two-story, cross-gabled frame house with single-story service wing C

164. 205 Tilghman Street, c. 1980, Two-story, three-bay frame house of modern construction NC

165. 206 Tilghman Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch of modern construction NC

166. 208 Tilghman Street, c. 1890, Two-story gable-front frame African-American school building on pier foundation under restoration, small single-story gable front building in front C (2)

167. 209 Tilghman Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house C

168. 211 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Two-story duplex of modern construction NC

169. 301 Tilghman Street, c. 1900, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house with side wing C

170. 300-306 Tilghman Street, (Cutts and Case, formerly Wiley's Boatyard) One-and-a-half story frame house, renamed Byberry, resited on this property around 1929 from its original location on Market Street, historic boat building location on Town Creek C

171. 305 Tilghman Street, c. 1970, Single-story ranch style house NC

172. 307 Tilghman Street, c. 1980, Two-story, two-bay gable front house of modern const. NC

173. 308 Tilghman Street, c. 1970, One-and-a-half story, Colonial Revival style frame house NC

174. 309 Tilghman Street, c. 1990, Two-story, three-bay frame house of modern construction NC

175. 314 Tilghman Street, c. 1950, Single-story frame ranch house C

176. 318 Tilghman Street, c. 1970-80, Single-story frame restaurant on creek with parking lot NC

Factory Street

177. 102 Factory Street, c. 1900, Two-story, one-bay, gable-front frame house with two-over-two

sash windows, plain exterior C

178. 104 Factory Street, c. 1990, Single-story brick veneered building housing bank NC

179. 200 Factory Street, c. 1950, Story-and-a-half Cape Cod frame house C

180. 204 Factory Street, c. 1990, Story-and-a-half Cape Cod frame house NC

181. 208 Factory Street, c. 1970, Single-story frame house of modern construction NC

182. 210 Factory Street, c. 1990, Story-and-a-half salt-box shaped house with shingles ext. NC

Wilson Street

183. 201 Wilson Street, c. 1990, Single-story frame house of modern design & construction NC

184. Wilson Street, c. 1980, Single-story brick post office of modern construction NC

Bank Street

185. 200 Bank Street, c. 1990, Single-story house of modern construction NC

186. 201 Bank Street, c. 1980, Two-story frame house with multiple gable front, modern NC

187. 202 Bank Street, c. 1980, (The Hinckley Company, Yacht Services) Boatyard and repair on Town Creek since 1928 C

188. 203 Bank Street, c. 1900, Two-story, two-bay frame house with several rear additions C

189. 205 Bank Street, c. 1980, One-and-a-half story, gambrel roofed frame house, modern NC

Market Street

190. 101 Market Street, c. 1950, Single-story frame house houses town library C

191. 201 Market Street, c. 1990, Two-story, gable-front frame house, modern construction NC

192. 202 Market Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house, remodeled C

193. 203 Market Street, c. 1890, Two-and-a-half story cross-gabled frame house, Waters Methodist Church parsonage C

194. 204 Market Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house with shingled exterior C

195. 205 Market Street, 1873, 1886, 1907, 1917, Waters Methodist Church Single-story asymmetrical plan frame church on rusticated block foundation with 1886 datestone reset from earlier position, bell tower and steeple in front corner of plan C

196. 206 Market Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house C

197. 208 Market Street, c. 1990, Two-story frame house of asymmetrical mod design & const. C

198. 210 Market Street, Two-story, shingled frame house, extensively reworked C

199. 212 Market Street, Two-story, two-bay frame house with two-story porch facing South Street, modern construction NC

200. 300 Market Street, Two-story, two-bay frame house shingled exterior, remodeled C

201. 302 Market Street, Two-story, two-bay frame house, side entrance with heavily molded four-panel door with later additions to rear C

202. 304 Market Street, (Billingslea House), Two-story, two-bay frame house, side hall/parlor plan with additions to rear, facing Town Creek C

203. 303 Market Street, c. 1960-70 (Oxford Arms Condominiums) Single-story gable-front frame structure, multiple units NC

204. 305 Market Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame house of modern construction NC

205. 307 Market Street, c. 1990, Story-and-a-half Gothic style frame house of modern design and construction NC

High Street

206. 100 High Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house C

207. 101 High Street, c. 1890, Two-and-a-half story cross-gabled frame house with six-over-six-sash windows and round arched window in gable C

208. 102 High Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house, one-room plan C

209. 103 High Street, c. 1900, Single-story gable-front frame cottage, two-over-two sash C

210. 104 High Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house with side entrance, one-over-one sash C

211. 107 High Street, c. 1890, Two-story, ell-shaped frame house, two-over-two sash C

212. 109 High Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house with side hall plan, two-light transom over door C

Truax Street

213. 102 Truax Street, c. 1875, Two-story, three-bay, hip roofed frame house, center entrance, two-over-two sash, bracketed eave at corners, prominent site overlooking Town Creek C

Jefferson Street

214. 100 Jefferson Street, c. 1990, One-a-half story frame house of modern construction NC

215. 103 Jefferson Street, c. 1990, Two-story asymmetrical frame house of modern const. NC

216. 105 Jefferson Street, c. 1990, Two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house with wings to

each side of modern construction NC

217. 109 Jefferson Street, c. 1950, Single-story frame ranch house C

South Street

218. 100 South Street, c. 1990, One-and-a-half story, three-bay Cape Cod of modern const. NC

219. 105 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house, remodeled C

220. 109 South Street, c. 1890 Two-story, three-bay shingled frame house, exterior brick chimney C

221. 200 South Street, Vacant Lot

222. 201 South Street, Single-story Cape Cod style house of modern construction NC

223. 202 South Street, Two-story, three-bay frame house, side hall/double-pile plan with two-over-two sash windows C

224. 203 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house with Tuscan columned porch, bay window on south side C

225. 204 South Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house NC

226. 206 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house, two-over-two sash Tuscan columned porch, under current renovation with higher foundation C

227. 207 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house, remodeled C

228. 208 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house with round arched attic window and Tuscan columned porch C

229. 209 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay side hall/parlor plan frame house with Tuscan columned front porch C

230. 210 South Street, c. 1900, Two-story, three-bay frame house, two-over-two sash, plain boxed cornice C

231. 211 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay side hall/parlor plan frame house, remod. C

232. 212 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house C

233. 213 South Street, c. 1890, (Creekside) Two-story, two-bay frame house, side hall/parlor plan, sidelighted front entrance C

234. 214 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house with Victorian porch C

235. 215 South Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house of modern construction NC

236. 216 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house, six-over-six sash C

237. 218 South Street, c. 1883, Two-story, three-bay, frame house with shingled exterior C

238. 220 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house, remodeled C

239. 217 South Street, c. 1980, Single-story frame ranch house NC

240. 219 South Street, c. 1980, One-and-a-half story, board-and-batten frame house of modern construction NC

241. 221 South Street, c. 1890, (Maplehurst), Two-story, tee-shaped frame house with shingled exterior and Tuscan columned porches, site where the Nelly Stevens holly was developed C

242. 224 South Street, c. 1960, Single-story frame ranch house NC

243. 226 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay frame house, remodeled C

244. 228 South Street, c. 1890, Two-story, two-bay side hall/parlor plan frame house, six-over-six

sash windows, original siding, best preserved of the small houses along South Street C

Benoni Street

245. 100 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house, side hall/parlor plan, gable front with round arched attic window C

246. 101 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house, Victorian porch with Colonial Revival style rear wing C

247. 102 Benoni Street, c. 1890, Two-story, three-bay frame house with side entrance, Victorian chamfered post porch C

248. 103 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house with Victorian porch and two-over-two sash C

249. 104 Benoni Street, c. 1885, (Charles Markland House) Two-story, double gable-front frame house with fishscale shingles, bay window, and single-bay entrance porch C

250. 105 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay, frame house, shingled exterior with Victorian porch, two-over-two sash C

251. 106 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house with shed roof slating to rear, turned post porch, paired two-over-two sash windows C

252. 107 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay, gable-front frame house, four-over-four sash, plain post porch, original louvered shutters C

253. 108 Benoni Street, c. 1980, Two-story, three-bay frame house with projecting baffle entrance on front, heavily molded four-panel front door NC

254. 109 Benoni Street, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay frame house with heavily molded front front door C

Tred Avon Avenue

255. 100 Tred Avon, c. 1980, Two-story, three-bay cross-gabled frame house, shingled exterior, Colonial Revival front entrance NC

256. 101 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house with chamfered post porch C

257. 102 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house, remodeled C

258. 103 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house, six-over-six sash C

259. 104 Tred Avon, (Fortenbaugh House) c. 1906, Two-story gable-front frame house rebuilt in late 1940s. C

260. 105 Tred Avon, c. 1980, Story-and-a-half gambrel roofed house of Colonial Revival design & construction NC

261. 106 Tred Avon, c. 1970, Single-story ranch style house with garage elevation on Tred Avon and entrance elevation on West Street. NC

262. 107 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay frame house with shingled exterior, plain porch posts, replaced sash C

263. 200 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay brick rowhouse with decorated eave, only historic brick residence in town C

264. 201 Tred Avon, c. 1910, Two-story, three-bay stuccoed frame house with later wing C

265. 202 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay, gable-front frame house, six-over-six sash plain weatherboard siding C

266. 204 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay side hall/parlor frame house with six-over-six sash windows C

267. 205 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay frame house, shingled exterior C

268. 206 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house C

269. 207 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame house with Victorian porch C

270. 208 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house C

271. 209 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame house, Victorian porch C

272. 210 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay frame house with chamfered post porch C

273. 211 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, two-bay, side hall/parlor plan frame house, two-over-two sash windows C

274. 212 Tred Avon, c. 1885, Two-story, three-bay frame house with bay window in center position on first floor, side entrance on Caroline Street C

West Street

275. 100 West Street, c. 1940 (Thread Avon Cottage) One-and-a-half story Vernacular Revival frame house with wings facing river C

276. 102 West Street, c. 1980, Two-and-a-half story double gabled frame house with shingled exterior, new design and construction NC

Caroline Street

277. 100 Caroline Street, c. 1880, Two-story frame house with later additions C

278. 102 Caroline Street, c. 1880, Two-story, two-bay gable-front frame house C

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Oxford Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the Eastern Shore region of Maryland. Oxford is one of Maryland's earliest towns, with a fledgling village established on the edge of the Tred Avon River by the mid to late 1660s. During its first hundred years, Oxford developed into a principal port for the region, second only to Annapolis prior to the rise of Baltimore and Chestertown during the mid eighteenth century. While there are no surviving resources representative of the town's first century, the Tred Avon ferry has been in operation with various vessels since it was established by the Talbot County court in 1683.

The district derives additional significance under Criterion C for its architecture, an exceptionally cohesive and well-preserved collection of domestic, commercial, and ecclesiastical properties primarily dating from the town's principal period of growth, i. e., the last quarter of the 19th century through the World War I era. Integral to the district are a number of significant properties that predate that period, representing its late 18th century and early-to-mid 19th century history. The town's early 18th century grid plan, documented by a survey completed in 1707, remains essentially intact.

The period of significance, ca. 1668-1950, encompasses the period between the founding of the town and the mid-20th century, by which time the district had substantially achieved its present form and appearance.

Although Oxford's position as a viable port and location for trade declined steadily after the Revolutionary war, the town resurfaced as an important site for shipbuilding and oyster and fruit processing during the mid to late nineteenth century, particularly with steamboat transportation and a railroad line across Oxford Neck by 1871. With new-found wealth derived from the water and the land, Oxford experienced economic prosperity and growth that were evident tangibly in a rebuilding of its housing stock and expansion of its town limits. Oxford developed into one of the three most populous and commercially active towns in Talbot County by the last decades of the nineteenth century. Unusual to the town as well is its historical association with the Maryland Military and Naval Academy, a preparatory school for young men, during the mid-to- late nineteenth century, which is represented by the architecturally prominent Academy House.

Oxford's housing stock is representative of the priorities and livelihoods of town residents for the past 230 years. The town's oldest structures, the Barnaby house and a portion of the Robert Morris Inn, reflect third quarter of the eighteenth-century frame building traditions and finishes. While only a handful of structures date to the early to mid nineteenth century, the town's collection of late nineteenth-century frame dwellings is especially extensive and reflects largely middle class aspirations in building facades characterized by modest levels of architectural elaboration. Also significant architecturally are the town's three historic churches.

Resource History and Historic Context

Situated on a prominent hook of land jutting out into the protected harbor of the Tred Avon River (also known as Third Haven) with advantageous proximity to the Choptank River and the Chesapeake Bay, the town of Oxford was situated ideally for the water-borne trade and commerce of seventeenth and eighteenth-century Maryland. The exact point when a village was established on this peninsula is lost to history, but several primary sources indicate a date within a decade after the land was patented to Edward Lloyd in 1659. Called "Heir Dier Lloyd," the patent name translates as "Long land Belonging to Lloyd." Initially comprising thirty acres, the fledgling village of Oxford was established by a later owner of the water-front tract, William Stephens, Jr., who gifted the land in the mid to late 1660s to Lord Baltimore. The village was called out specifically in the 1668 will of William Parrott, who left to his son, William, Jr., "my share of house and land at Oxford." Within the following year, in April 1669, Cecilius Calvert revised an early proclamation in declaring eleven locations in the province as official ports of entry, one of which was identified as the "Town Land" on the Tred Avon. In 1670, when Augustine Herrman's map of Maryland was published, Oxford is clearly labeled on its peninsula jutting out into the "Treavon Creek." Lastly, and perhaps most provocatively, in 1671, John Pitt sold to Edward Roe, "two thirty-foot houses lying and being in the citty of Oxford." The extent of development of early Oxford during the 1660s and 1670s is left largely to conjecture due to limited documentation, but its importance as a site for trade and commerce was stated clearly in a 1679 court order whereby the Talbot justices offered that the "city of Oxford is a fit place for an ordinary, it being convenient for shipping." [3]

Oxford's position as a place of commerce was strengthened in 1683 with another provincial declaration, "*An Act for the Advancement of Trade,*" along with a Talbot County decision to award Richard Royston the right to operate a ferry across the Tred Avon from Oxford

[3] Dickson J. Preston, *Oxford: The First Three Centuries*, Easton, Maryland: The Historical Society of Talbot County, 1984, pp. 3-11.

to the opposite shore. As well it was Royston's duty to provide passage for anyone on board ship riding on anchor in the harbor.[4] The provincial act of 1683 was an effort to legislate development and control trade with the establishment of thirty-three towns across the province. The act was designed to formally establish the towns with ambitious one-hundred acre plots to be dedicated for survey and laid out in lots, streets, lanes and alleys with set asides for public spaces including churches, market squares, and other public buildings. The act tried to force development by requiring the construction of a house at least twenty feet square within six months. The act also identified Oxford as the official port of entry for the mid Shore. Officials in Talbot County met the following July on the land of William Combs on the Tred Avon for the purpose of formally laying out the town of Oxford. Lots were quickly taken up by many of the county's most prosperous planters and officials, but like many forced actions driven by proprietary interests, the town's growth in the decade following 1683 did not match the ambitions expressed in the act.

As experienced elsewhere on the Chesapeake, sizable development within a town context was not common since trade was, for the most part, conducted from private plantations with river-front wharves. It was in the best interests of the Lords Baltimore, however, that trade be controlled and duties and/or taxes collected on imports or exported goods. Despite its tentative growth during its first decades, Oxford was an active port that grew in importance during the years surrounding the turn of the eighteenth century. In 1694 another legislative act was issued declaring that Oxford and a new town on the Western Shore called Ann Arundell were named as the sole ports of entry for the entire province. The town known as Ann Arundell was soon renamed Annapolis, the Williamstadt was substituted for Oxford to honor the recently crowned King William. Annapolis was intended to be the major port for the Western Shore and Williamstadt the same for the eastern side of the bay. The name Williamstadt lasted only a few years and was mostly used for legal purpose.[5] After King William's death in 1702, the town was referred to almost exclusively as Oxford. Five years later, in 1707, an order was passed to resurvey the town once again to determine the exact amount of acreage contained within the town limits. As a result, surveyor William Turbutt redrew the town plat and included on the survey a profile of a sloop at sail on the waters of the Tred Avon. The town plan of 1707 more than likely followed that of the previous surveys due to the topography of the peninsula and the prior thirty-year history of ownership of some lots. High Street, later renamed Morris Street, was the principal north/south avenue that led to The Strand, initially known as Front Street, and the location of the ferry. When compared to the present grid of Oxford's streets, the principal

[4] Preston, p. 14.
[5] Preston, p. 26.

avenues have not been altered aside from the introduction of a few cross streets. Also partially depicted on the 1707 plat is edge of a small uninhabited island situated off the northeast end of the peninsula, which is not known to have been inhabited until the mid to late nineteenth century.

A principal reason for the 1707 resurvey of Oxford was the concurrent movement to establish the Talbot County court in the town after the partition of Queen Anne's County in 1706. The location of the courthouse at a place called York was deemed too far north in the reduced and reconfigured Talbot County. Oxford, then being the only town, was established as the site of the relocated court where it met in temporary quarters between 1708 and 1710. Legislation was passed for a levy of tobacco to be applied to the cost of the new courthouse at Oxford. In spite of these definite plans for the construction of the new courthouse at Oxford, movements were afoot to counter that plan with a county seat at a more centrally located site, convenient for all Talbot countians. Principal among the local gentry opposing Oxford as the county seat was Edward Lloyd (1670-1718), who was a justice in Talbot County, a member and later president of the provincial council, and who also served as the unofficial governor of Maryland between 1709 and 1714. In the fall of 1710, Edward Lloyd signed legislation relocating the courthouse to a two-acre site at the head of the Tred Avon River at a place called Pitt's Bridge.[6] For much of the eighteenth century, the site was known as Talbot Courthouse until it was renamed Easton.

Even though Oxford lost its bid to become the county seat, the town flourished during the following half century as the principal port on the mid Shore, and it remained the only town of any consequence in Talbot County until the late eighteenth century. Oxford's early eighteenth century rise in commercial importance is tied primarily to the activities of John and Samuel Chamberlaine, sons of prominent Liverpool merchant Thomas Chamberlaine, who surface in Talbot County by 1714. Both men were at times representatives, known as factors, for the Liverpool trading firms, Gildart & Company and Foster Cunliffe & Company, which used Oxford as a principal port in the lucrative trans-Atlantic trade between Great Britain, Africa, the West Indies and America. The receipt books of Samuel Chamberlaine, Sr. and Jr. cover the years between 1722 and 1771 and document merchant ships at Oxford from a diverse cross-section of foreign and domestic Atlantic ports. In another line of investment, John Oldham, an early resident, received permission from the provincial legislature in 1717 to erect a windmill on Town Point.[7]

Oswald Tilghman, *History of Talbot County, Maryland.* Volume 2, Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Co., 1967, p. 220.
Preston, p. 43.

By the second quarter of the eighteenth century, Oxford was firmly rooted in trans-Atlantic commerce, and according to former resident, Jeremiah Banning's opinion, *"the leading tobacco port of the first half of the century."*[8] Jeremiah Banning (1733-1793) a successful merchant in his own right, knew Oxford during these prosperous decades as a youth and described the place in his autobiography. He characterized Oxford at mid century with the statement, "*whose Strands and streets were covered with busy, noisy crowds ushering in commerce from almost every quarter of the globe.*"[9] Much of Oxford's prominence, during the late 1730s and 1740s, was due to the energies and entrepreneurial skills of Robert Morris, Sr. (1711-1750), who arrived in the Talbot County port in 1738 as a replacement factor for Foster Cunliffe & Company.[10] At 27 years old with no known formal education, Robert Morris Sr. possessed a remarkable sense of determination, perseverance and intuition to refocus Cunliffe's investments from Virginia to Maryland and particularly Oxford. By the time of his accidental death in 1750, Oxford was the principal trading center on the mid Shore with satellite stores at Cambridge, Chestertown, Townside (Crumpton) and at the Head of Wye (probably Queenstown). Ledger books from Robert Morris's period of activity, dating from 1743 to 1750, survive as well as advertisements in the *Maryland Gazette* which document a trade in tobacco, rum, salt, sugar, molasses, wine, British manufacturers, and servants. For example, on July 8, 1746 Robert Morris announced via the Annapolis paper,

> *By the Subscriber, at Oxford, in Talbot County, for Bills of Exchange, Gold, Paper Money or Tobacco, a fine parcel of Isle of Man Salt, Barbadoes Rum, Sugar, Molasses, and a Parcel of Negro Men, Women, Boys an Girls, just imported in the Ship Cunliffe, Capt. Johnson, from Barbadoes, Also Variety of European Goods.*[11]

One of Cunliffe's chiefs exports to Oxford was salt, which was needed desperately by Chesapeake residents for safely curing meat. During the period between 1743 and 1749 the Cunliffe accounts document the shipment of close to 30,000 bushels of refined salt.[12] In addition to his position as factor for Foster Cunliffe & Company, Robert Morris amassed a considerable estate as a trading agent acting on his own behalf with dozens of other firms and individuals, particularly up and down the east coast of America. Robert Morris was a wealthy merchant with

---

ean B. Russo, *Free Workers in a Plantation Economy, Talbot County, Maryland, 1690-1759*, p. 19.
bid. p. 20.
Preston, p. 54.
Maryland Gazette, 8 July 1746.
Preston, p. 63.

a promising future at age 39, however an accidental wound in August 1750 ended his life abruptly. The *Maryland Gazette* announced on July 18,

> *The account of the death of Robert Morris, Merchant, at his house in Oxford last Thursday, is printed. He is agent and factor of Foster Cunliffe, Esq. of Liverpool. He was accidentally shot in the arm by the guns of the Liverpool Merchant, a ship of Mr. Cunliffe's and the wound mortified. James Dickenson was nearly shot.*[13]

Within the years following Robert Morris's accidental death, Foster Cunliffe & Company realized the diminishing nature of their prospects on the Chesapeake and started to liquidate their assets, particularly following Foster Cunliffe's own passing in 1758. Despite Foster Cunliffe's abandonment of the region, Oxford continued to be an active port; shipping records in 1761 document that 71 vessels cleared the port that year.

Time, however, was not on Oxford's side with the rising importance of other Chesapeake ports, particularly Baltimore, during the third and fourth quarters of the eighteenth century. By the time of the Revolutionary War, trade within the mid Shore was increasingly focused on a cash crops in wheat and corn, and especially centered within upper bay ports like Baltimore, Chestertown and Head of Elk, later Elkton. At the close of the eighteenth century, Oxford had slipped into a dormancy that was summarized by its sixty-year old Oxford customs agent Jeremiah Banning:

> *The poor, drooping & forsaken Oxford, bereft of almost every comfort in life, hath nothing remaining to console it, except its salubrious situation & fine navigation which may anticipate better times. Oxford, whose strands & streets were once covered with busy, noisy crowds, rushing in common from almost every quarter of the Globe, & whose rich blooming lots echoed with fat lowing kine, --alas! is now shaded by wheat, corn & tobacco. The once well worn streets are now grown up with grass, save a few narrow tracks, made by the sheep & swine –& the strands have more the appearance of an uninhabited island than where human feet had ever trod.*[14]

While Jeremiah Banning commented on the lack of commerce and the overgrown nature of Oxford's streets in 1793, he did not leave an impression of Oxford's architecture at the close of the eighteenth century. However, by testimony of the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798,

---

[13] *Maryland Gazette*, 18 July 1750.
[14] Preston, p. 126.

the town's improvements are documented owner by owner, although the specific lot numbers were not designated. Fourteen of the fifteen dwellings recorded in Oxford were single-story or story-and-a-half timber frame structures, a couple of which were described as "old" at the time of the assessment. Most houses were of typical proportion for middle range town residences, either rectangular or squarish in dimension. Side hall/double pile plan dwellings, or two-room, hall/parlor plan houses were evidently common with overall measurements ranging around 32' by 24', like Richard Barnaby's side hall/double pile plan house (T-228), or 40' by 20' as in the case of Thomas Coward's house occupied by Edward Bromwell. There were no dwellings built entirely of brick, which was limited to foundations, a rare end wall, chimneys and two itemized meat houses listed in the assessment . Although not recorded by the assessors, stone, presumably reused ballast, was used in the construction of the Barnaby house, the Stewart house (owned by John Stoker in 1798) and the mid eighteenth-century portion of the Robert Morris Inn (T-249). There was only one two-story dwelling in the 1798 assessment of Oxford, located on the property owned by Margaret Johns, who owned ten contiguous ¾-acre lots. Her house measured 36' by 20' and was lighted generously by fourteen windows. The dwelling was accompanied on the lot by a detached kitchen, a fowl house, and a chaise house for her carriage. The smallest assessed house was that of free black Levin Cox, which was a 16' by 14' frame structure situated on two ¾-acre lots. The only indication of business activity was on the property of Edward Bromwell, Sr., who held 7 lots equaling 5 ¼ acres improved by 14' by 12' wind mill.[15]

The decades following the turn of the nineteenth century, although extremely prosperous for many Eastern Shore planters and professionals, did not revive commerce and trade in Oxford, even though the town maintained its port of entry status and custom's house, which remained in place until the 1860s. The growth of Baltimore, Annapolis, Chestertown, and closer to home, Easton, eclipsed any efforts in Oxford to improve and rebuild its former place in the commercial trading network on the Chesapeake. New and expensive brick and frame buildings were being erected in Easton, which had its own access to the Tred Avon. Easton's central location in the heart of Talbot County along the principal north/south road serving the mid Shore, cemented its place as the principal focus of commerce and source for professional services for the region.

In 1807, when Joseph Scott published his geographical description of Maryland and Delaware, he wrote of the Oxford,

---

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Third Haven Hundred, Oxford listings, Microfilm at the Talbot County Free Library.

Oxford, a port of entry, situated on the E. side of the Thirdhaven river, which falls into the Choptank; about eight miles above the mouth of that river. It is a small place, and does very little business. It was established in 1694; and is 13 miles s. by w. of Easton.[16]

By 1800 the population in Oxford had dwindled to around 90 residents; 70 white and 20 black. The town, in essence, had become home to a handful of families who remained for whatever reason. There was no appreciable increase in Oxford's population for the next fifty years, although there were some signs of political and economic improvement from time to time. The town was known for its healthy climate, and a few well-off families built second residences to which they would retreat during the hot, humid Chesapeake summers. When the huge estate of Oxford Neck planter and attorney John Leeds Kerr was advertised for sale in July 1844 an inducement to acquire the small island adjacent to the town stated:

The Island at Oxford, presenting a favorable opportunity for persons desirous to secure a pleasant summer residence at a place long noted for its health. It is near the Steamboat Landing and sufficiently large for a cottage and grounds; being opposite the Summer residence of Wm H. Groome, Esq.[17]

Steamboat service on the Tred Avon with stops at Oxford had started as early as 1819, but it was not until the larger capacity vessels with regular schedules in the second half of the nineteenth century did steamboats become a reliable, heavy duty mode of transportation. Also during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the town government was reconstituted in 1825 and ferry service, which had been discontinued around the time of the Revolution, was restored in 1836.[18] Another sign of progress was the establishment of a post office at Oxford in 1849 with three-times a week deliveries. Despite these distinct improvements during the first half of the nineteenth century, the town was still defined by a dispersed string of frame dwellings that stood on large lots along the town's principal streets. The only graphic representation of the town from this time period is the United States coastal survey chart dating from 1847, which distinguishes well the wide spacing of the dwellings with a small cluster at the intersection of High (Morris) Street and the Strand. Kerr's Island is boldly labeled as well. (See accompanying map) The town contained no more than a couple dozen buildings.[19]

Joseph Scott, *A Geographical Description of Maryland and Delaware, Also of the counties, towns, rivers, bays, and lands*. p. 102.
Easton Gazette, 13 July 1844.
Preston, p. 146.
U. S. Coastal Survey Chart, 1847, National Archives.

Probably the most promising event for Oxford in the late 1840s was the creation of the Maryland Military Academy, supported in large part by General Tench Tilghman of nearby Plimhimmon plantation. Tilghman brought in West Point graduates for instructors, and a complex of buildings was erected in the center of town overlooking the Tred Avon. The school was intended as a preparatory institution for the U.S. Naval Academy; its first superintendent was a classmate of Tilghman's, John H. Allen. The board of trustees was led by Talbot countian and former commandant of the Naval Academy, Commander Franklin Buchanan.[20]
In spite of much promise during its first years of operation, the complex caught fire in 1855, and the only surviving structure was the superintendent's residence, a bold two-story Greek Revival frame dwelling erected atop a raised brick foundation. Known later as the Bratt Mansion, or simply, the Academy House (T-238), the hip roofed dwelling is the most elaborate structure in Oxford dating from the mid nineteenth century.

Another of Tilghman's projects was the construction of an Episcopal church in town. In 1853 the stone walls of a Gothic Revival church were completed, however a failure to procure the balance of the funding resulted in an incomplete building with no roof or windows. The church walls were left standing during the balance of the nineteenth century. Construction was not restarted on Holy Trinity until the turn of the twentieth century. It was completed in 1903.

The local Methodist Episcopal congregation, on the other hand, was more successful in raising the money to build a sizable Greek Revival church at the intersection of High (Morris) Street and South Street in 1856. Named St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, the gable-front frame structure was restyled during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with Gothic Revival alterations.

A second Methodist congregation was established at the close of the Civil War when a group of southern sympathizers physically left the St. Paul's congregation during a Sunday service on April 9, 1865 when Lee's surrender at Appomattox was announced.[21] Another Greek Revival church was erected on part of the town square, and it was remodeled in 1892 in Gothic taste with a three-story tower and pointed arch windows across its principal façade. The two congregations reunited in 1939, and nine years later built a Colonial Revival church in on the town square site.

Preston, p. 147.
Preston, pp. 161-62.

The decade following the Civil War signaled a period of new prosperity for Oxford, with the restart of construction of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad, chartered originally in 1854 concurrent with the laying of the Delaware Railroad down the spine of the state. Financing and the laying of track progressed slowly, beginning in 1857 and continuing until 1859 when construction was halted at Greensboro, Maryland. The Civil War interrupted further progress until 1865. The railroad did not reach Oxford until 1871.[22] When it did, the townspeople planned a huge celebration scheduled for July 4th. The *Easton Star* filed the following report:

> *Three thousand people thronged Oxford on the 4th of July. Early in the morning, the people came forth from the surrounding country, by land, and water, on horseback, in carriages, in wagons, in boats, on foot, and every other way. A steam tug brought a large party from Cambrige. A double train of about 20 cars arrived by railroad, bringing people from Smyrna, Clayton, Kenton, Slaughters, Marydel, Goldsborough, Henderson, Greensborough, Ridgely, Hillsborough, Cordova, Woodland, and Easton...*[23]

The Delaware and Maryland Railroad lasted in name until 1877 when it was reorganized as the Delaware and Chesapeake Railroad Company.[24] The railroad, stretched across Oxford Neck, intersecting the town at its south end with a wharf on the Tred Avon. Improvements were made gradually, particularly after the reorganization of the company. On April 17, 1880 the *Easton Gazette* reported:

> *The work on the ground at Oxford, recently purchased by the Delaware & Chesapeake R. R. Co., is being put thro' a thorough change. The freight house is up and the other buildings are in course of construction. The marsh is also ditched and is dry and firm. These improvements will add very much to the health and appearance of the Southern portion of Oxford.*[25]

Construction of the railroad infused Oxford with the same progressive, energetic boost that occurred at every other town and village along its path. The town's economic position had improved markedly by the time the town map was published in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas.[26] The town's boundaries were extended to provide new lots for houses

---

John C. Hayman, *Rails Along the Chesapeake: A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978*, pp. 41-45.
Easton Star, 11 July 1871.
Hayman, p. 45.
Easton Gazette, 17 April 1880.
John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, p. 101.

between Benoni and Caroline streets, and a new generation of dwellings was being built for the white and black residents along Tilghman Street in the vicinity of the shipyard and steam saw mill on Town Creek. Located along Town Creek at the same time were two oyster shucking houses, a business that had been growing steadily prior to the Civil War.

The railroad link to the East Coast's urban markets catapulted the oyster export business across the Eastern Shore and turned small fishing villages into boom towns. Oxford was no exception. By 1884 there were 12 oyster packers and one fruit packer conducting business in Oxford.[27] Between 1870 and 1890 the town's population quadrupled from 277 residents to 1,135 citizens. Land was further subdivided and new houses were rising in every direction. In 1882 a causeway was erected between mainland Oxford and Kerr's Island.[28]

Many locals as well as new residents capitalized on Oxford's past as a resort with major improvements to provide new accommodations for summer visitors. Known as the River View House, the old eighteenth-century dwelling on the corner of Morris Street and the Strand was reworked by James Norris, a hotel owner from Easton, with additional rooms disguised by a stylish Second Empire mansard roof. For recreation, a bowling alley was located behind the hotel, according to the 1877 town map. In 1878, James Norris financed as well the construction of an ambitious three-story hotel, on Morris Street overlooking the Tred Avon just south of the town square. Named Eastford Hall, the long rangy complex was built to serve hundreds of guests arriving by boat or train. Two years following its construction, a Washington correspondent wrote the following, printed on August 21, 1880:

> *"Eastford Hall," Oxford, Md., August 10, 1880—The writer, hearing so much of the popularity of the above town, concluded to go and see for himself what the Eastern Shore could do in the way of pleasure, and accordingly left your city on Friday last to enjoy a few days' rest "down on the river side."*
>
> *Oxford is a quite a pretty place, situated on one of the prettiest little sheets of water in the world, viz: Tred Avon creek, and is accessible either by boat or cars. It was our pleasure to be invited, on Saturday last, by a party of excursionists from Philadelphia, together with a number of Washington and Baltimore ladies, to enjoy a sail down the creek on the swift yacht "Comet." Too much cannot be said with*

[27] R. L. Polk & Co., *Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, Volume 1, Baltimore, Maryland, p. 554.

[28] Preston, p. 178. (The island was known by various names during its history. Aside from Kerr's Island, it was also known as Stewart's Island, Vancouver, and Town Island.)

reference to the sail, the rippling waters of the Tred Avon, or the nice company on board; suffice it that everything passed off gloriously, and in returning all were in good humor to devour a "square meal," such as friend Norris, of "Eastford Hall," sets before his guests.

The peace and quiet longed for by many of our people can be enjoyed by a visit to this place. The beautiful lawns and arbors of the surrounding town, with the green grassy yards, are lovely; the coolbreeze (sic) from either side of the river is exhilarating, and bracing. Music every morning in the hallway summons the guests to breakfast—The dancing hall is open at 8 o'clock sharp every evening, and is comfortably crowded. The sunsets are perfectly grand, and are eagerly watched for by all. Fishing, crabbing, sailing, and rowing are but few of the many pleasures to be enjoyed while here. The drives are beautiful, and are indulged in daily by many of the young people.[29]

In 1885, Eastford Hall was leased by the newly formed Maryland Military and Naval Academy, which operated as a preparatory school for both the Naval Academy in Annapolis and West Point. The first year the school opened, 170 cadets were enrolled. The school operated only a few years when mismanagement forced its closure in 1888.[30] Six years later, on August 16, 1894, the main building of the Eastford Hall complex caught fire and was completely destroyed.[31]

Although the burning of the Eastford Hall complex left a gaping hole in the Morris Street landscape, the overall prosperity and growth of the town more than compensated for the loss. The decades spanning the turn of the twentieth century continued the upward swing for the town; the population exceeded 1,200 residents in 1900. With the prosperity associated with the oyster packing houses and other businesses, new construction throughout town was sponsored by a cross-section of Oxford residents. Improvements were made to schools and local churches. The Holy Trinity P. E. church was finally completed in 1903, and the St. Paul's M. E. congregation financed a remodeling of its building in 1906. Back in 1883, the black residents of Oxford organized their own Methodist congregation and made periodic additions and modifications to their church on Market Street in 1908 and 1917.[32] As well, the black residents of Oxford had their own fraternal lodge and school, located on

[29] *Easton Gazette*, 21 August 1880.
[30] Preston, pp. 180-86.
[31] *Ibid*, p. 186.
[32] Preston, p. 204.

Tilghman Street. Summarizing Oxford and some its institutions is a descriptive article, printed in the Easton Star-Democrat on October 21, 1916:

> *Oxford, Talbot county, Maryland, a beautifully situated little city on the Tred Avon River, and said to be the prettiest and healthiest location on the Eastern Shore by its many visitors in its vicinity as well as out of it; early and afternoon trains going north and returning each day on the Pennsylvania railroad; also fine and commodious steamers ply daily to and from Baltimore, Md. The city has ten efficient teachers in its public schools, including the Oxford High School, with its commercial teacher. Holy Trinity P. E. Church, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant churches are very nicely situated, comfortably fitted up, being well lighted and heated also able and efficient ministers...Fraternal Hall, the home of the Tred Avon Lodge, No. 12, I.O.O.F.; Knights of Pythias Lodge, and the 106 and over members of Washatella Tribe, Independent Order of Red Men, is a finely located building, with a seating capacity on the first floor for between four and five hundred persons easy...The new bank is another very good brick and concrete building nearing completion, adjoining the said hall....Oxford has twenty stores—three dry goods, one general hardware store, balance mostly groceries, a few confectionary stores, two shipyards, engine factory, etc. The Hall room, first floor, would be fine for a lyceum....There is also plenty of room for a library reading room.*[33]

Even though it was not particularly evident at the time, Oxford's business profile and economic strength were at their heights during the first decades of the twentieth century. By the time of the 1920 census, the population showed a distinct decline, owing largely to the diminishing seafood industry and competition from more accessible towns by truck and automobile. Nevertheless, the community of Oxford and its residents continued on despite the fall of its population once again. A handful of residents established the Tred Avon Yacht Club in 1931 under the moniker, the "Kap-Dun Club."[34] The yacht club membership built a clubhouse facing the Tred Avon on land leased from the town. The following year, in 1932, the town commissioners financed the construction of a new municipal building on the corner of Morris and Market streets.

The second quarter of the twentieth century brought many positive and negative events for the town. A group of watermen families resettled in Oxford due to the severe

[33] *The Easton Star-Democrat*, 21 October 1916.
[34] Preston, p. 215.

erosion of Holland's Island. Jack's Point, on the east side of Town Creek, was where they settled, and the area was annexed into the town in 1931.[35] In spite of the infusion of new families, the population was still in a downward slide, reaching 846 residents by 1940. The early 1930s, and particularly 1933, were especially difficult years. As a result of the stock market collapse and the ensuing Depression, the Oxford Bank, in operation since 1890 and housed in a relatively new brick structure since 1917, failed and closed its doors permanently. During August 1933, the Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane swept through the mouth of the bay and ravaged every waterfront town, village and farm. At the height of the storm, much of Oxford was underwater. Despite these devastating national and regional events, Oxford and its residents continued to pursue work on the water as well as in the town's boatyards. Oxford Boatyard, in particular, was awarded lucrative contracts during World War II.

The last fifty years has witnessed new interest in Oxford as quiet residential community for retirees. The town's remote location and its beautiful setting surrounded on three sides by water views have long attracted old and new residents. With intensified pressures on town's historic housing stock with the influx of new residents during the last thirty years, Oxford's town commissioners passed legislation creating a historic district, confirmed by the town commissioners on April 18, 1974. Two-and-a-half years later, on September 8, 1976, a historic district commission was empowered to monitor and review changes to buildings within the historic area.

[35] Preston, pp. 216-17.

Bibliographical References:

Easton Gazette, various issues.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Talbot County, Microfilm at the Talbot County Free Library.

Graham, John L. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.* Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Green, Karen Mauer. *The Maryland Gazette: 1727-1761.* Galveston, Texas: Frontier Press, 1989.

Hayman, John C. *Rails Along the Chesapeake: A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978.* Marvadel Publishers, 1979.

Polk, R. L. & Co., *Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, Volume 1, Baltimore, Maryland, 1884.

Preston, Dickson J., *Oxford: The First Three Centuries*. Easton, Maryland: The Historical Society of Talbot County, 1984.

Russo, Jean B. *Free Workers in a Plantation Economy, Talbot County, Maryland: 1690-1759.* New York and London: Garland Publishing Company, 1989.

Schmidt, Cynthia V. *1832 County Tax Assessment transcription*, Talbot County.

Scott, Joseph, A Geographical Description of Maryland and Delaware, Also of the counties, towns, rivers, bays, and islands. Philadelphia: Kimber, Conrad, and Co., 1807.

Talbot County Inventory of Historic Properties, Town of Oxford, survey forms produced by Paul B. Touart.

Talbot County Land Records, various volumes, Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

UTM References:

Oxford, MD quad

1: 18-397628-4283357
2: 18-398471-4283794
3: 18-398425-4283195
4: 18-398217-4282433
5: 18-397978-4282342

Verbal Boundary Description:

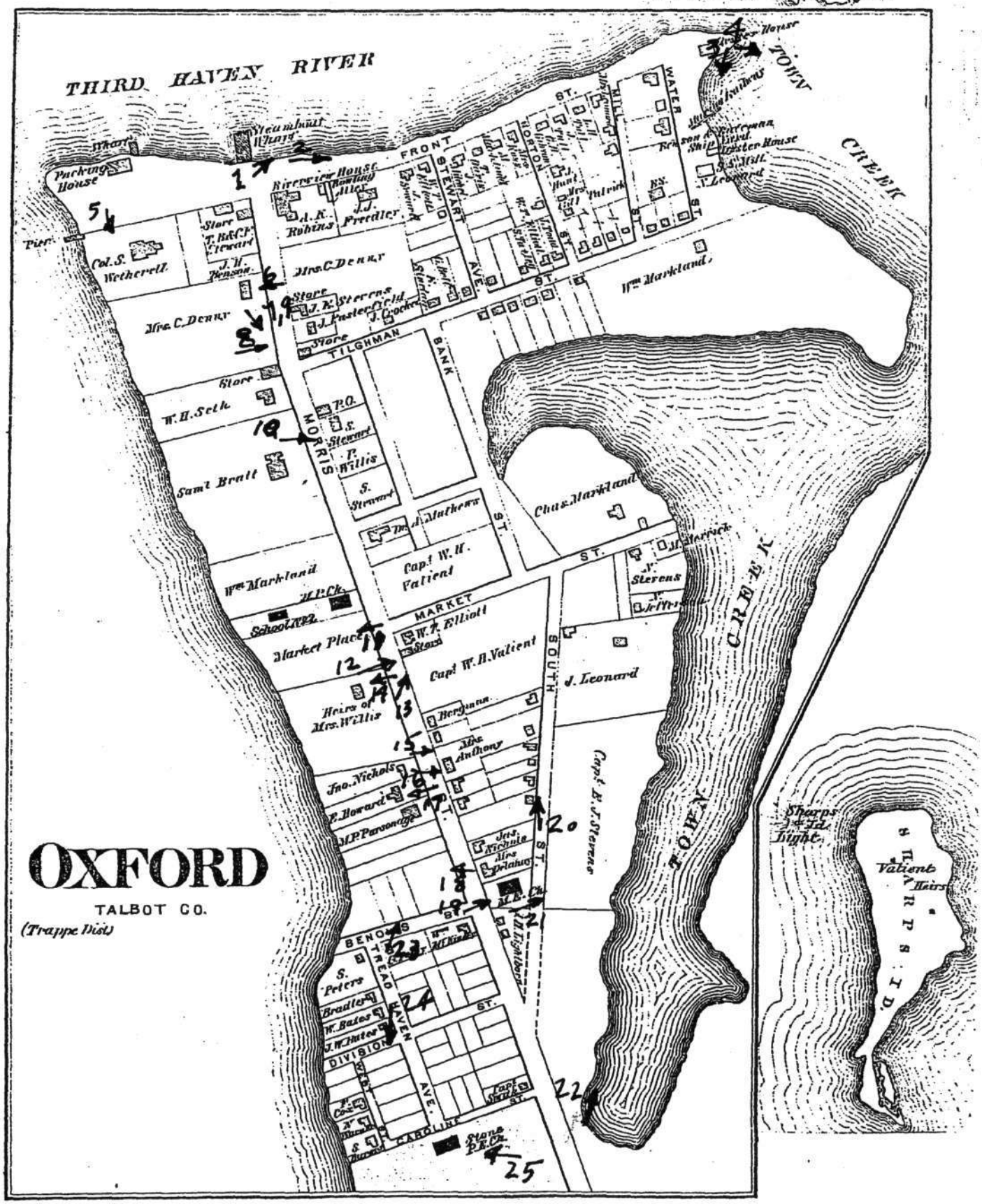
Beginning at a point on the edge of Town Creek, east of the right-of-way of MD 333, a point which is coincidental with a straight line drawn east/west on an even course with the southern boundary line of the Church of the Holy Trinity property, thence in a northerly direction by and with the shoreline of Town Creek for the distance of 5,000' +/- around Town Point to the entrance of the Tred Avon River, thence by and with the shoreline of the Tred Avon River in a westerly direction for the distance of approximately 2,500' +/- around the point of land defining the northwestern edge of the peninsula, thence in a southerly direction by and with the shoreline of the Tred Avon River for the distance of approximately 3,500' +/- to a point on the shoreline of the said river that is coincidental with the extension of the southern line of the property owned by the Church of the Holy Trinity (located south of Caroline Avenue), thence in an easterly direction for the distance of approximately 875' +/- by and with the said southern boundary to the place of beginning, containing 129 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

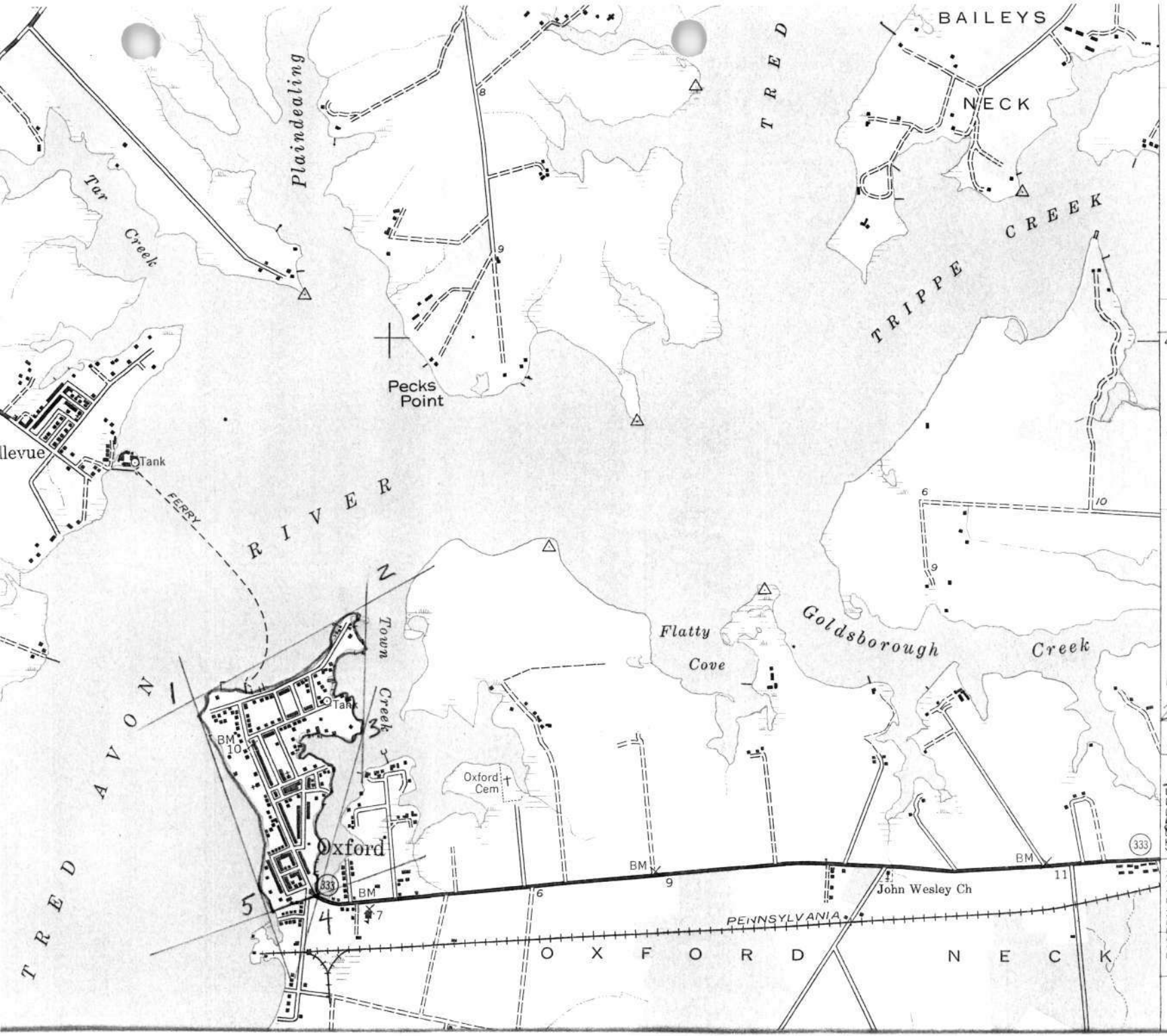
The boundary for the Oxford Historic District follows the natural shoreline of the peninsula and encompasses the most cohesive concentration of historic properties which define the character of the district. Areas of town that lie south of the historic district boundary exhibit less integrity and contain substantial numbers of recent intrusions.

T-1158

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



PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.



T-1158

Oxford Historic District

Oxford, Talbot County MD

UTM References:

1. 18/399628/4283357
2. 18/398471/4283794
3. 18/398425/4283195
4. 18/398217/4282433
5. 18/399918/4282342

STRAND
OXFORD-BELLEVUE FERRY

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

INTERSECTION OF THE SPRING AND NORTH MORRIS ST - FERRY LANDING

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

1 OF 25

T-1158
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT
OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.
THE STRAND - LOOKING EAST
1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
2 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

WATERFRONT ON TOWN CREEK FROM OXFORD TOWN PARKING LOT - LOOKING SOUTH

1/05, PAUL TOUHART, PHOTOGRAPHER

3 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

WATERFRONT ON TOWN CREEK FROM

TOWN PARKING LOT - LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

4 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

SANDAWAY - NORTH ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

5 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

GRAPEVINE HOUSE - 309 N. MORRIS ST.

EAST ELEVATION

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

6 OF 25

T-1158

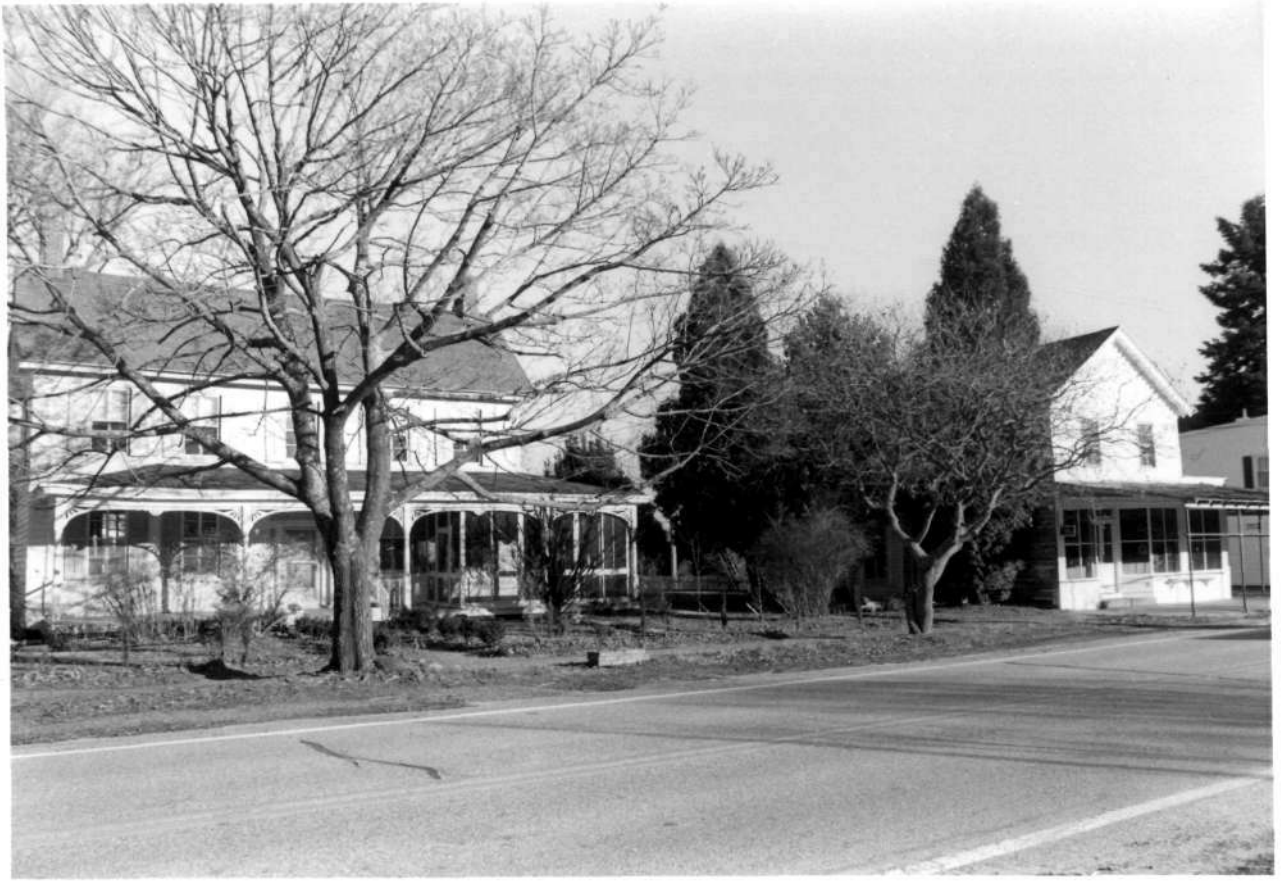
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

NORTH MORRIS ST. LOOKING SOUTH

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

7 OF 25



T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

PASTURIZED. VALLIANT HOUSE - WEST ELE.

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

8 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

NORTH MORRIS ST. LOOKING SOUTH

1/05, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

9 OF 25

T-1158
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT
OXFORD, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.
WEST ELEVATION - N. MORRIS STREET
11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
10 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

TOWN PARK (FORMER MARKET SQUARE)

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

VIEW TO THE WEST OVER TREE AVON

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

11 OF 25

Oxford

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOUTH MORRIS STREET - COMMERCIAL BLOCK AND OXFORD MUSEUM

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

12 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOUTH MORRIS STREET - SW ELEV.

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

11/04 PAUL TOUHART, PHOTOGRAPHER

13 OF 25

202

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

FORMER OXFORD BANK

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTO.

14 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

213 SOUTH MORRIS ST.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

15 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAMUEL F. NICHOLS HOUSE (217 S. MORRIS ST)

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOMART, PHOTOGRAPHER

16 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

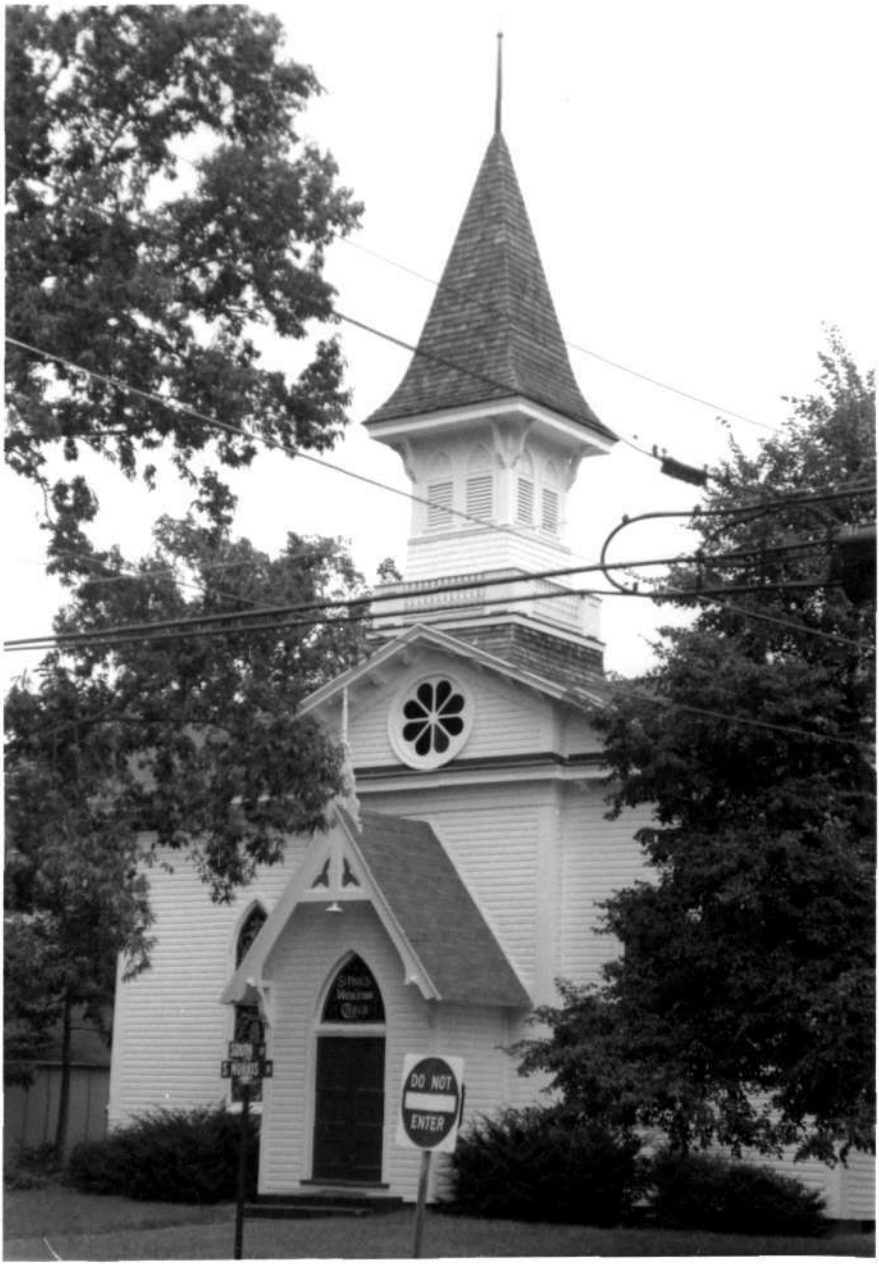
AMELIA IRELAND HOUSE, SOUTH MORRIS ST.

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD. EAST ELEV.

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

17 OF 25

T-1158
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOUTH MORRIS STREET - WEST SIDE
OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.
EAST ELEVATION
11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
18 OF 25


DO NOT
ENTER

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

ST. PAUL'S M.E. CHURCH

WEST ELEVATION

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTO.

19 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

SECOND STREET

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

20 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

SOUTH STREET - STANLEY HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

WEST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

21 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

TOWN CREEK HARBOR

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

11/04, PAUL TOUHART, PHOTOGRAPHER

22 OF 25

T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

BENONI STREET – SOUTH ELEVATION

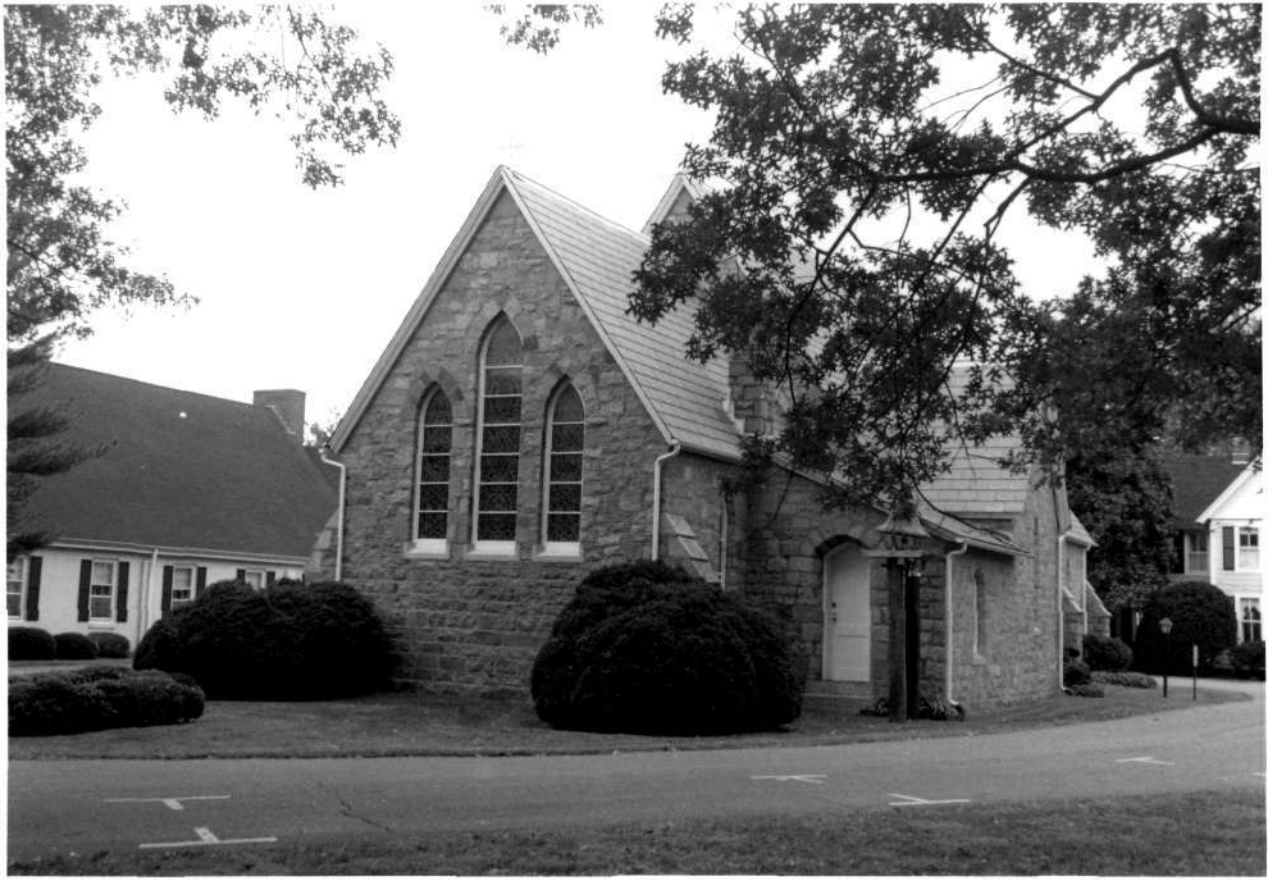
(THOMAS MARYLAND HSE IN CENTER)

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

11/04 PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

23 OF 25

T-1158
OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT
TRED AVON AVE. (NORTHEAST ELEVATION)
OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.
11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
24 OF 25



T-1158

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

HOLY TRINITY P. E. CHURCH

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

11/04, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

25 OF 25