

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Royal Oak Market

## 2. Location

street & number Royal Oak Road  not for publication

city, town Royal Oak  vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use                                    |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government            | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation    |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

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

name Charles C. Morsberger

street & number P.O.Box 147 telephone no.:

city, town Wittman state and zip code MD 21676

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 693

street & number folio 742

city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-909

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   | date of move _____                                |

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

The Royal Oak Market, now known as the "General Store" is located on the north side of Royal Oak Road in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland. This structure faces south with the principle gable oriented on a north/south axis.

This one-story frame structure is sheathed in cream, wood grain, german, vinyl siding and roofed with tin. The old foundation, which consisted of brick and wood piers, is now reinforced with concrete.

The south (main) elevation has a shed tin roof porch across the first floor with a cement pad floor and round metal pipe supports. The central bay of this elevation is a set of two inset single-light over two-panel doors. These double doors are flanked by shop windows. The shop windows are divided into four large rectangular segments on either side of the central doorway. A horizontal band of ten smaller rectangular glass panes stretches across the top of these windows and acts as the transom above the entrance door. This gable end elevation is finished with a green boxed cornice. There is a single light window and a louvered vent with wide, green surrounds at the attic level. A modern, one-story, shed roof addition of a smaller scale extends to the east of the store's main body. This addition is sheathed in the same siding as the store, but roofed with asphalt shingles. The addition is lit by one, large rectangular pane window and pierced by a nine-light over two-panel door.

The west elevation is pierced by two air conditioning units. One modern door with a cement ramp sits at the rear of the building. A flat roof, one-story addition projects to the north. This side of the addition is lit by one one-over-one sash window and has an exterior brick chimney.

The north elevation has a one story, flat roof addition which extends across and beyond the main body of the store. This addition is lit by one one-over-one sash window and pierced by one six-light over four-panel door. A gable roof addition projects to the east from the east end of this elevation. The gable roof addition is lit by two one-over-one sash windows on the north side, one one-over-one sash window on the east side, and one one-over-one sash window and six-light over four-panel door on the south side.

The east elevation has a modern shed roof addition which stretches across its entire length and is lit by one rectangular pane window. A gable

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-909

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

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Bernice Leonard writes about this property in Twig and Turf III. The site of the Royal Oak Store was once part of the farm known as "Retreat" purchased by Edward Thomas Benson from the heirs of Anthony Banning in 1863. In the 1876 tax assessment, Benson was taxed for a storehouse of dry goods and groceries and for a carpenter shop on this lot. In the 1877 Atlas the site of the current building is labeled as "E. T. Benson Store & P.O." This store burned to the ground in 1893.

In 1919 William F. Seymour received a leasehold interest in the property by means of a deed of assignment from Lucy A. Seymour, wife of George Seymour (T.C. Land Records 182/490). Seymour conducted a grocery business in the store until 1950 when it was sold to Nathan J. L. Dieter. Ten years later Dieter sold the property to Edward and Eugenia E. Callahan. The Callahans continued to run the store until 1974 when it was conveyed to George and Suzanne Hunt who then conveyed it to Richard A. Rhine in 1982. Rhine sold the property to the Morsberger family, its current owners, in 1990.

The Royal Oak Store is now known as the "General Store" and is the only grocery store operating in the town today. The current owners are in the process of restoring the interior of the old store building, while business is conducted in a remodeled addition.

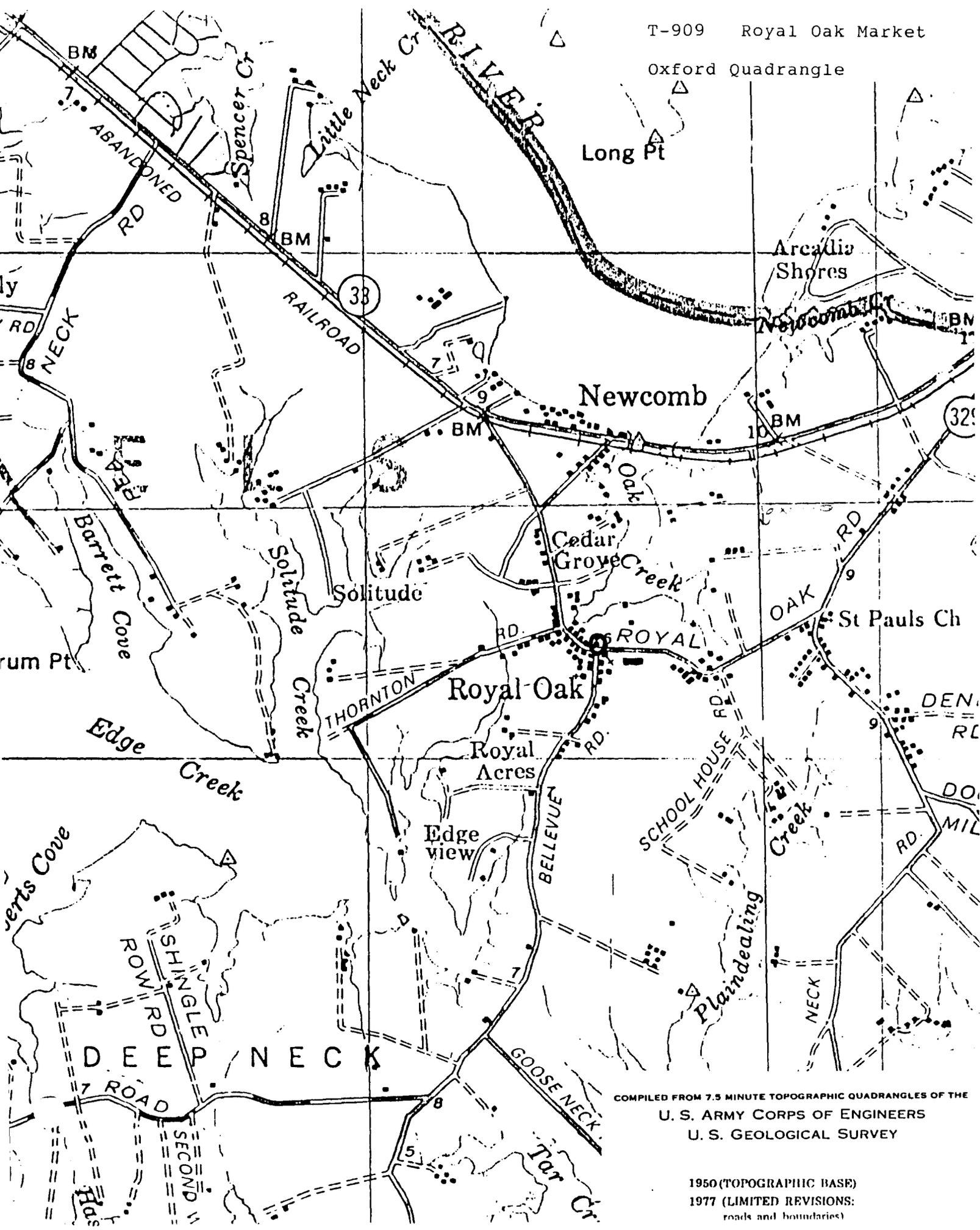


T-909

Royal Oak Market Description cont'd.

roof addition projects from its northern end. An interior brick chimney, which formerly connected to the store's pot bellied stove, projects from the tin roof of the store's main body.

The interior of the old store is currently empty while the modern shed roof addition is being used for commerce today. The empty store consists of one large room with wooden floors, the original wood counters, and an ornate meat locker on axis with the entrance door. This large piece of furniture, which is decorated with ionic columns, cut glass mirrors, and brass fixtures, originated at "Ottenheimer Bros. Inc., Baltimore Maryland." The meat locker is flanked on either side by a five panel door leading to the rear storage area. Behind the storage area is an addition once used as an apartment.



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE  
 U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
 U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)

1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:  
 roads and boundaries)



T-909

ROYAL OAK MARKET

SE ELEVATION



T-909

ROYAL OAK MARKET INTERIOR,

ROYAL OAK, MD

OWNER'S COLLECTION.



T 907

ROYAL OAK MARKET INTERIOR

ROYAL OAK, MD.

OWNER'S COLLECTION.