

T-953
Samuel W. Bratt House
Oxford
Private

c. 1890, c. 1920

The two-and-a-half story frame house that stands on the north side of the Academy House dates to the last decade of the 19th century. Built with a center hall/single-pile plan and Victorian interior woodwork, the house was the residence of Samuel W. and Fanny M. Bratt during the first decades of the 20th century. The closed stringer, turned baluster staircase and the Victorian mantel in the dining room are architectural features that place initial construction around 1890. Standing in the backyard is a brick nogged frame smokehouse that predates the house and was probably one of the domestic outbuildings built behind the Academy House next door. Brick nogging and mature cut nails indicate that it was erected around 1850.

Samuel W. Bratt, one of seven children to grow up on the property now known as the Academy House, had not been conceived when his parents, Samuel and Mary A. Bratt, acquired the Maryland Military Academy property from trustees Tench Tilghman, John W. Cheezum, and Richard Thomas. In 1864 the couple bought a string of lots along Morris Street, and three years later they acquired another lot that completed their purchase. Situated on the property was the stately two-story Greek Revival dwelling. By 1870, Samuel Bratt and his wife Mary are listed in the Ninth U. S. Census with six children as well as Rose Collins, a black servant and Joseph Plummer, a 30-year old sailor. Samuel is listed as a three-year old. In 1904 Samuel W. Bratt purchased the Oxford house and lots from the executor of his mother for \$7,500. According to the

Sanborn Insurance maps a house does not appear on this lot until 1919, indicating that Samuel W. Bratt more than likely moved an older house to this site. Three years later, in December 1922, the house and lot were sold Herbert R. and Wilsie Smith Gibson.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Samuel Bratt House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-953

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

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

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

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-953

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel W. Bratt House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 207 North Morris Street not for publication

city, town Oxford vicinity of congressional district First

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Mr. and Mrs. Claude F. Brice, Jr.

street & number 207 North Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 817

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 580

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-953

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			c. 1890-1919

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

The Samuel W. Bratt house is located at 207 North Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1890 and moved to this site by 1919, the two-story, center hall, single-pile dwelling is supported on a brick foundation with an excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with a combination of German siding, wood shingles, and vinyl siding. Covering the steeply pitched roof is a layer of asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story, one-room plan wing, which has been enlarged by single story and two-story additions. Standing behind the house is a brick-nogged frame smokehouse that dates to the mid 19th century.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and paired two-over-two sash windows to each side. The modern six-panel door is framed by original sidelights and transom. A Victorian bed molding is fixed under the transom window. The paired windows to each side are flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a Tuscan columned hip roof porch covered with a seamed tin roof. Extending outward in front of the house is a brick sidewalk augmented by a small concrete section in front of the brick stoop. Scratched in the concrete is the name "Samuel Bratt." The second floor of the east elevation is dominated by a projecting five-sided bay window, which rests atop the porch roof. The bay window is covered by a cross gable pierced by a diamond-shaped window. The bay window is flanked by paired two-over-two sash windows that have louvered shutters. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

The north and south gable ends are largely alike with German siding and pairs of six-over-one sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The windows flank interior end brick chimneys, which pierce each gable end. Evidence found in the attic indicates that the roof was rebuilt around 1920-30, and the gable ends were enclosed with triangular pediments. Each tympanum is covered with a layer of wood shingles, and the attic is lighted by pairs of two-over-two sash windows.

The west (rear) wall of the front block is largely covered by the two-story, one-room plan rear wing, which has been extended by two-story and single story additions. The rear walls of the house are covered with vinyl siding that imitates the profile of German siding.

The interior of the house follows a center passage/single-pile plan with a closed stringer staircase rising against the north wall of the passage. Turned newel and landing posts have ball finials and rectangular balusters support a molded handrail. The exposed surface of the closed stringer is molded. Around 1920-30 the parlor door opening in the south passage wall was enlarged and decorated with Ionic columns supported on low knee-high walls. The parlor mantel in the south room has been redesigned in a Colonial Revival manner with raised-panel woodwork. The mantel in the north room dates from the late 19th century and features mass-produced Victorian brackets and ornament. The cellar stair is accessed through a beaded board door.

(Continued)

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates **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.

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¹ Talbot County Land Record, STH 71/238, 23 August 1864.
² Ninth Census of the United States (1870) Population Schedule for Talbot County, transcribed by Helen E. Seymour, 1996.
³ Talbot County Land Record, FGW 141/375, 22 January 1904.
⁴ Sanborn Insurance Map, 1919, Maryland State Archives.
⁵ Talbot County Land Record, CBL 194/313, 26 December 1922.

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Samuel W. Bratt House, T-953
207 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

The second floor is divided by a center passage with two rooms to the south and a bedroom and bathroom to the south. Four-panel doors are framed by beveled edge backband surrounds. The attic is unfinished. The common rafter roof framing has been reworked with extensions added to rafter ends and old German siding used as nailers. The framing members are joined by wire nails. It appears the roof was rebuilt during the 1920s and the German siding that was stripped from the gable ends was reused as nailers.

Located in the back yards is a gable-roofed frame smokehouse that predates the house and may have been formerly located behind the Academy House next door. Now located along the north fence line, the smokehouse used to stand off the southwest corner of this house before being relocated to its present site. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the exterior is sheathed with a combination of German siding and plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Piercing the east (main) wall is a board and batten door pierced by large key holes. The wooden lock has been removed. The spaces between the framing is filled with brick nogging. The interior has been reworked but the undersides of the rafters and nailers are covered in black soot typical of smokehouses. For a period this building housed a Delco generator.

T-953
Samuel W. Bratt House
207 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 400 Parcel 694

817/586

Claude F. Brice, Jr.
Evelyn W. Brice

to

12/8/1995

Claude F. Brice, Jr. and Evelyn W. Brice as Trustees
of Evelyn W. Brice Trust

JTB 530/102

Wilsie Smith Gibson

to

12/29/1978

Claude F. Brice, Jr.
Evelyn W. Brice

JTB 481/581

Martha Ellen Gibson Kousoulas and
Betty Ann Gibson Lee

to

2/11/1974

Wilsie Smith Gibson

JTB 352/116

Harry E. Clark and Ellen C. Clark

to

12/24/1958

Martha Ellen Gibson Kousoulas and
Betty Anne Gibson Lee

T- 953
Samuel W. Bratt House
207 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTB 352/113

Wilsie Smith Gibson

to

12/24/1958

Harry E. Clark and Eilen C. Clark

CBL 194/313

Samuel W. Bratt and Fanny M. Bratt

to

12/26/1922

Herbert R. Gibson and Wilsie Smith Gibson

40' x 187' lot with 18' alley

FGW 141/375

Alfred Smith et al. Executors of Mary A. Bratt

to

1/22/1904

Samuel W. Bratt

\$7,500 lands bounded on the north by the
property of Mrs. William H. Seth and
on the South by the property of H. B.
Bratt...Lot numbers 38, 39, 40, 41, 42,
and 43

(Second deed from Eugenia H. Bratt,
3/23/1904, FGW 141/412, ground rent)

753

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Page 3

Samuel W. Bratt House
207 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

STH 74/276

Tench Tilghman and Anna M. Tilghman

to

11/27/1867

Mary A. Bratt (wife of Samuel Bratt)

Lot 75 as indicated on plat drawn by B. F. Johns,
Lot 38 as indicated on plat drawn by Phil Helmsley
5 perches along Morris Street through to Tred Avon

STH 71/238

Tench Tilghman, John W. Cheezum, Richard Thomas
Trustees of Maryland Military Academy Company

to

8/23/1864

Mary Ann Bratt

\$2,850.00

Lots 40, 41, 42, 43 or on later plat 77, 78, 79, 80

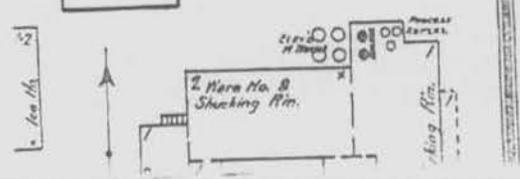


MORRIS

TILMAN

FACTORY

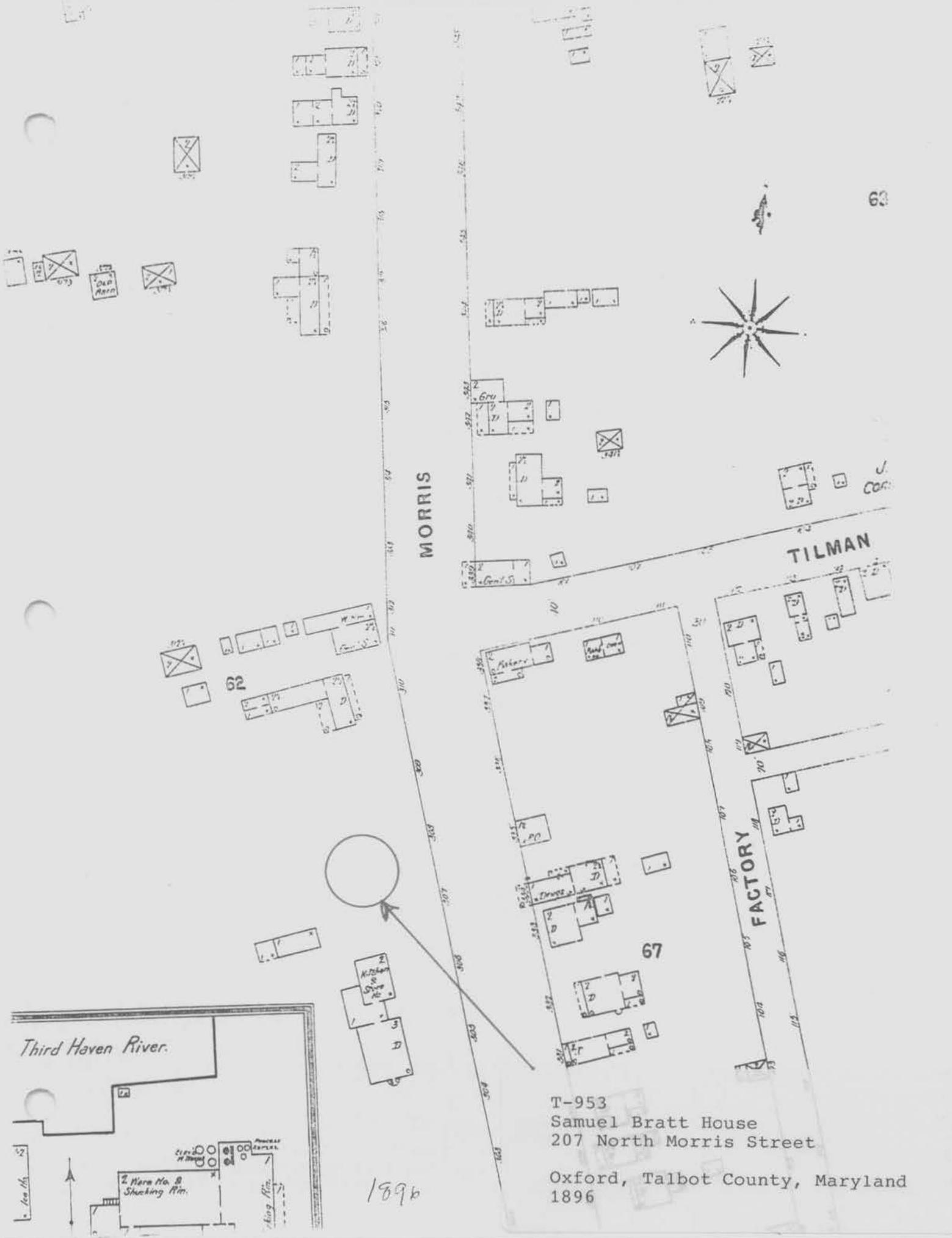
Third Haven River.



1896

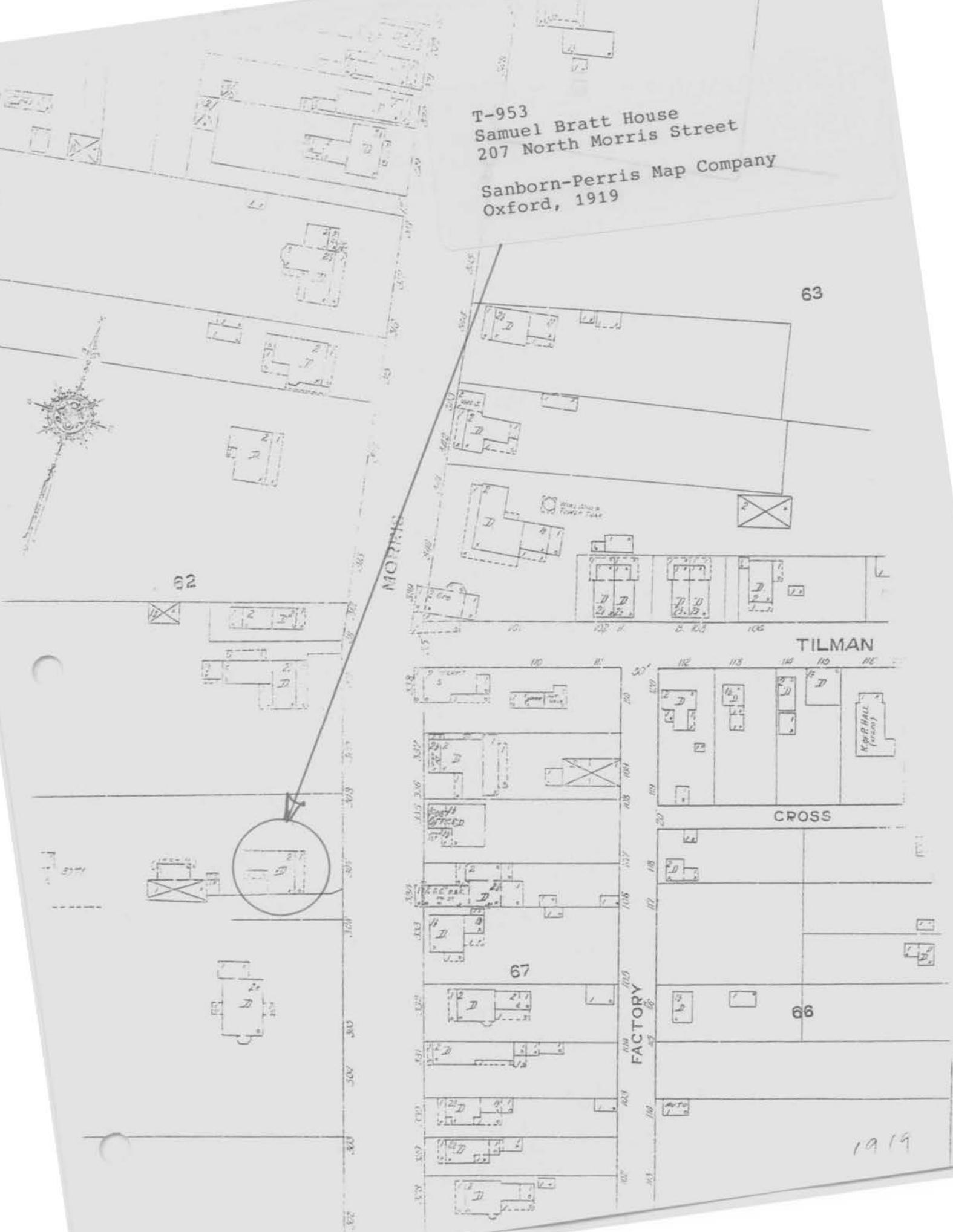
T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
1896



T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1919



63

62

MORRIS

TILMAN

CROSS

67

FACTORY

66

1919

L261

T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

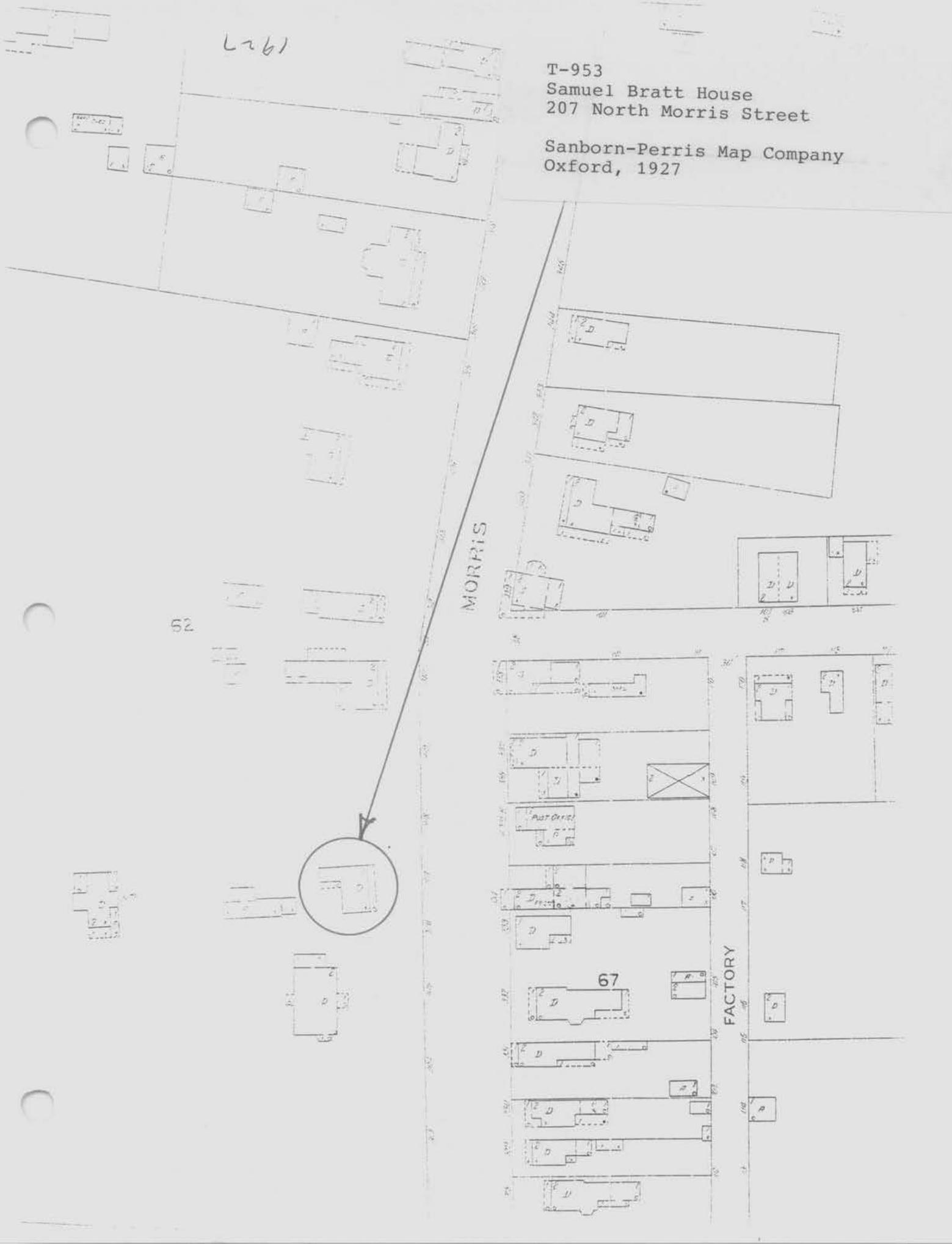
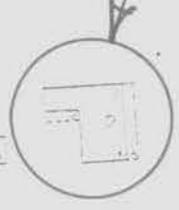
Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1927

52

MORRIS

FACTORY

67



T-953
Samuel W. Bratt House
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





MORRIS

TILMAN

FACTORY

62

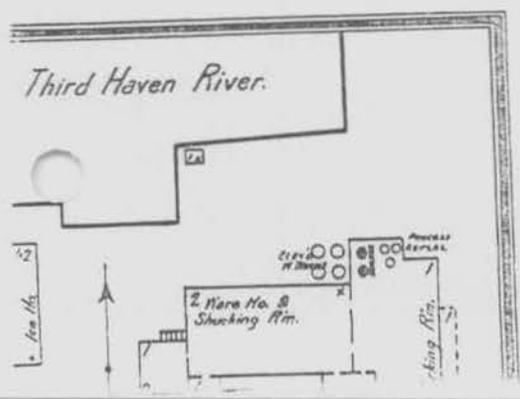
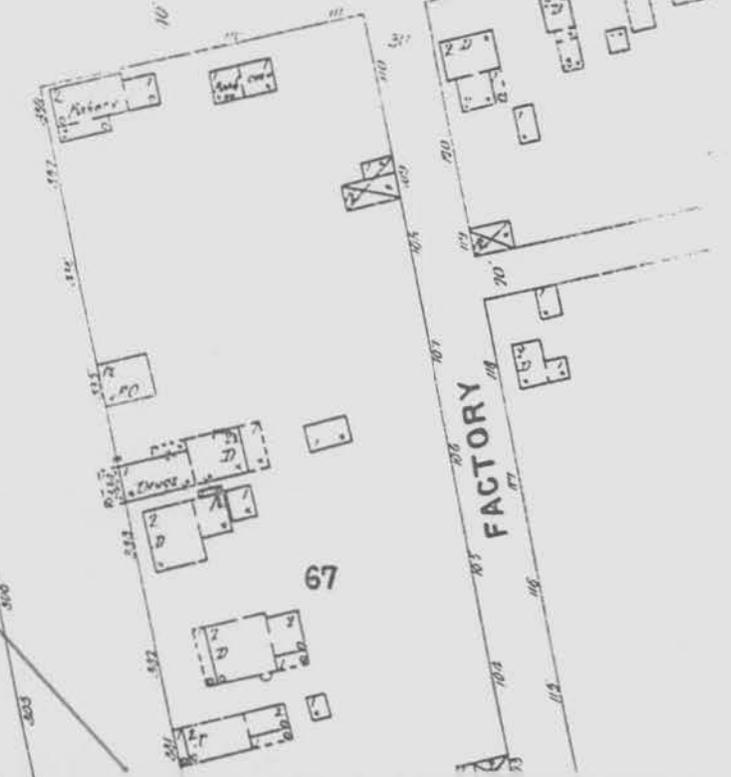
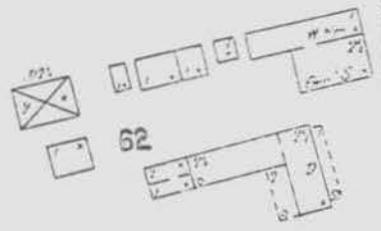
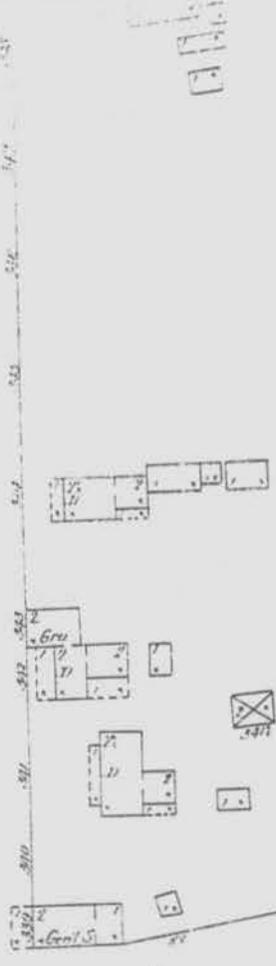
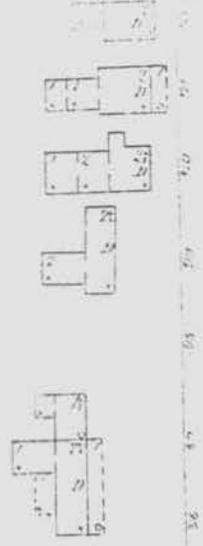
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Third Haven River.

T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

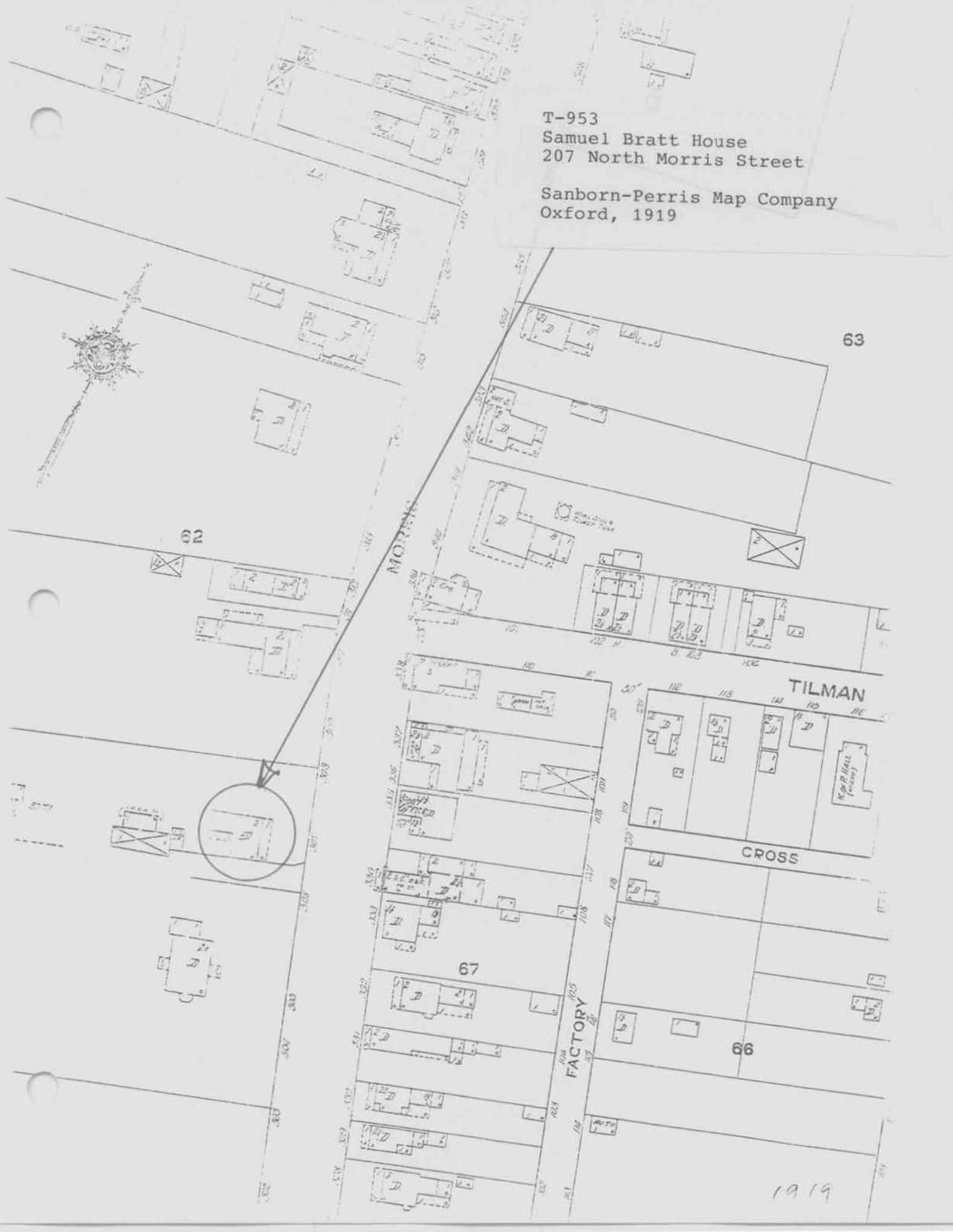
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
1896

1896



T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1919



1919

L261

T-953
Samuel Bratt House
207 North Morris Street

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1927

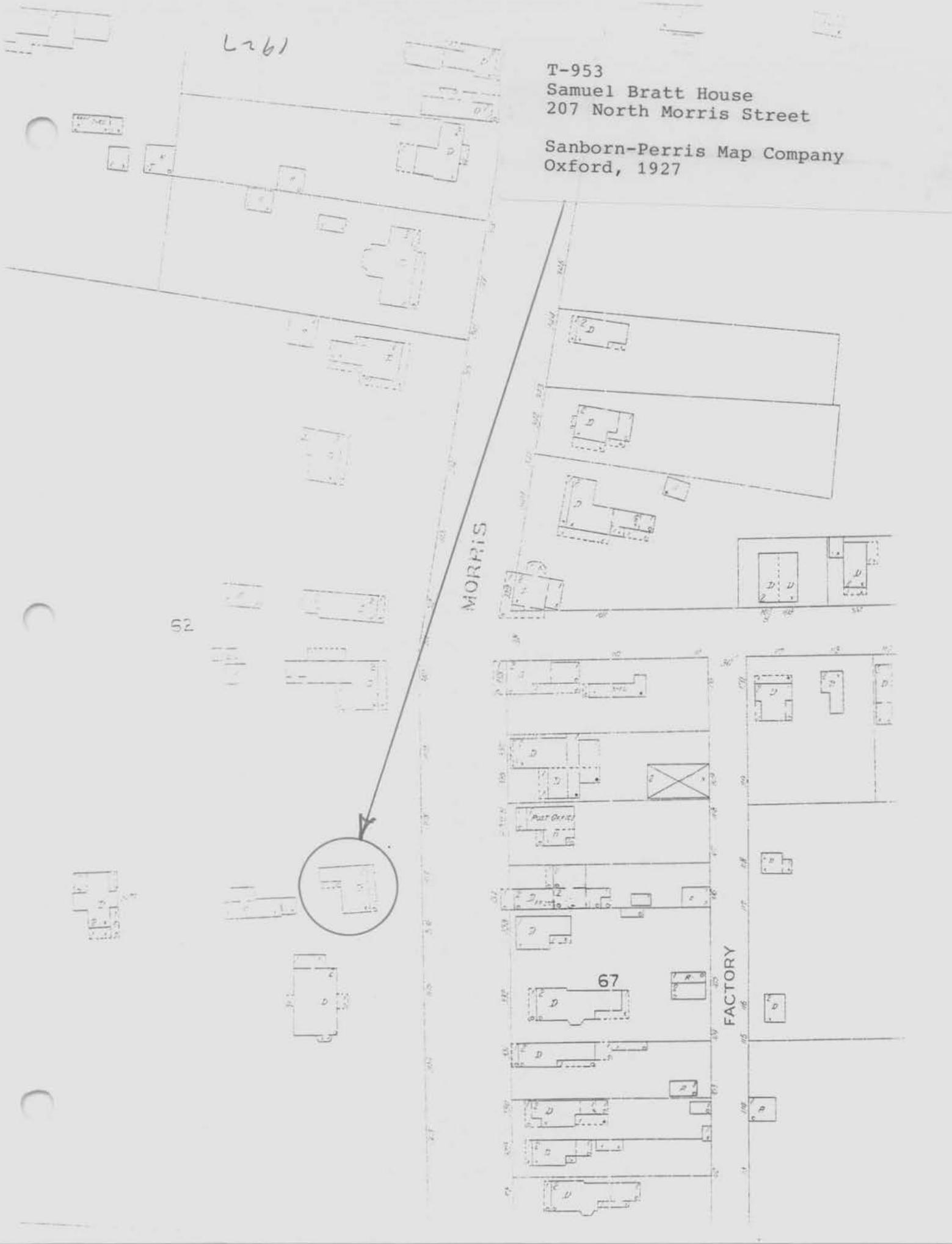
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MORRIS

FACTORY

67

Post Office



T-953
Samuel W. Bratt House
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





T-943

Samuel A. Pratt House

Oxford, Talbot Co., Md.

East elevation

9/90, Paul Towant, Pittsburg

NE/ND. Hist. Trust

1 of 5



7-953

Samuel W. Pratt House

Oxford, Talbot Co., Md.

SW corner of lot

2 of 5

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4/99, Paul Toward, Historian



T-953

SANITARY W. BRANT HOUSE

OKRONG, TAUBAT Co., MD

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF POND

NEAR / MD. HISTORICAL TAUBAT

4/98, PAUL TOWN, PITTSBURGH

3 of 5



T. 953

Sandra W. Pruitt House

Oxford, Talbot Co., MD

Southeast elevation of SW corner
4/99, Paul Turner, Photographer

4 of 5

neg. / M.D. Historical Trust



T-953

Samuel W. Bader House

Chillicothe, Taylor Co., Md.

East wall of Smokehouse

4/98, Paul Towner, Pittsburgh

Mey/MD Historical Trust

9 of 5