

T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
Oxford  
Private

c. 1878

William M. Bergman Sr., a Hessian blacksmith, settled in Oxford during the 1870s, perhaps lured by the opportunity and prosperity associated with Maryland and Delaware Railroad that was stretched to the Tred Avon in 1871. Whatever the reason for his immigration, William M. Bergman, aged 29, is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as a resident of Oxford with his 24-year old wife Alice, and three daughters, Gertrude, Florence, and Mary. Also residing in the household were Alice's 30-year old brother, Lineus Willhelm, a servant Kate Newnam, and a boarder George Gossage, an 18-year old blacksmith. In 1877, William Bergman purchased a leasehold interest from William H. Valliant and Samuel Guest for a lot on Morris Street, next door to a house he and his family evidently rented. (See T-761, Sarah T. Anthony House)

The architectural details of the William M. Bergman house reflect a construction date around 1880, perhaps as early as 1878 or as late as 1890. The building is designated on the 1891 Sanborn Insurance map in combination with a commercial front that extended to the street. On the insurance map the two-story commercial block is labeled "Hardw[are]" and the two-story house a "Dw[ellin]g." Standing on the north side of the storefront was a single-story office. With his background as a blacksmith, it is not too surprising to learn that William M. Bergman entered into the hardware business and probably performed various blacksmithing duties, either by his own hand or by his blacksmith boarder, George Gossage. Later insurance maps from the early 20th century indicate that William Bergman broadened his inventory by including

“paints, oils, and general supplies.”

The Bergman house no longer includes the storefront extension to the street, but the house still reflects its late 19th-century construction with its decorative sawnwork front porch, sidelighted front entrance, and Victorian interior woodwork. The mahogany newel post and railing, and the series of turned balusters and scroll decorated stringer are interior finish features common to the last quarter of the 19th century.

The property remained in Bergman family hands for much of the 20th century. It was sold by William M. Bergman III, Jean Bergman Bateson, and Irene E. Bergman in 1972.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: William M. Bergman House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-954

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban 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-954  
Magi No.  
DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic William M. Bergman House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 207 South 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	<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 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murray

street & number 207 South 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 Map 400, p. 731  
liber 569

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 731

city, town Easton state MD 21601

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-954

<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	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The William M. Bergman house stands at 207 South Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, center hall/single-pile frame dwelling faces west with the cross-gabled roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1878, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof, finished with extended eaves and sloped soffits, is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a two-story, one room plan kitchen, which has been extended by shed roofed additions to the south and east.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking bay windows. The six-panel front door is framed by a five-light transom and two-light sidelights. A heavily molded panel is fixed below each sidelight. The adjacent bays are filled with three-sided bay windows. The window to the north is original, while the bay window to the south is a recent addition. The original bay window has slightly chamfered inner edges and rectangular panels below each window. The sash have been replaced. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed porch supported by square posts and trimmed with a decorative sawn fascia. The porch posts are accented with C-shaped corner brackets as well. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced windows flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a round arched louvered vent.

The south gable end is pierced by six-over-six replacement windows that have been blocked with the construction of bookshelves inside. The eave is extended and the soffit is enclosed. A single flue brick stove chimney pierces the south and north gable ends.

The interior has been recently reworked. Surviving in the center hall is a turned baluster mahogany staircase distinguished by turned newel post, turned balusters, molded handrail, and scroll decorated stringer. Four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds featuring a beaded inner edge.

The south room or parlor has been enlarged with the addition of the bay window on the front wall. Bookshelves have been added to the south wall. The north room features an early 20th century Colonial Revival mantel as well as built-in shelving. Surviving in the kitchen is a beaded board-and-batten door that formerly opened into a rear winder staircase.

The second floor is divided in a similar manner with the addition of a small room at the head of the second floor hall. Four-panel doors are framed by beaded edge surrounds.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-954

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/ 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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<sup>1</sup> Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population Schedule for Talbot County, compiled by Helen E. Seymour, 1996, p. 120.

<sup>2</sup> Talbot County Land Record, 83/388, 7 February 1877.

<sup>3</sup> John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases on other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, Peninsula Press, 1976, p. 101.

<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891, Maryland State Archives.

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901, Maryland State Archives.



T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
207 South Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 731

569/737                      John K. Pulsifer (undivided half interest)

to

12/23/1982                      Edgar H. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath  
formerly two lots on East side of Morris Street  
extending with a depth of 306'4"

JTB 519/89                      Edgar H. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath

to

12/30/1977                      Edgar H. McGrath and wife and John K. Pulsifer

519//87                      Marguerite S. Owen Webster, Theodore E. Schimpff and  
Steven H. Schimpff

to

12/30/1977                      Edgar M. McGrath, Jr. and Joan M. McGrath

507/795                      Nellie Parsons Schimpff

to

12/30/1976                      Marguerite S. Owen Webster, Theodore E. Schimpff and  
Steven H. Schimpff

Lot of ground formerly two lots 56 feet on east side of  
Morris Street extending back 306'4"

T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
207 South Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

465/387 Irene E. Bergman, et al. (Jean B. Bateson and Wm M. Bergman III)

to

7/18/1972 Harper L. and Nellie Parsons Schimpff

463/561 Jean B. Bateson  
Oliver S. Mulliken, Personal Representatives of  
William M. Bergman

to

6/21/1972 Irene E. Bergman, et al.

to William M. Bergman from

1. from William M. Bergman, Executor under Will of Susan E. Bergman, 8/15/1950, 288/66, conveying leasehold interest
2. from Ernest M. Thompson and John C. North, attorneys 2/9/1955, 320/246, \$666.67 receipt whereof is acknowledged, The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the P. E. Church, all that property on the east side of Morris Street....consisting of two parcels;

1. that lot of ground which was leased unto William M. Bergman Sr. by William H. Valliant and wife and Samuel Guest, 2/7/1877, 83/388, including \$20.00 annual rent

T-954  
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207 South Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

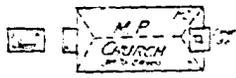
2. Lot adjoining in the rear, 1/15/1882, 96/56,  
\$20.00 annual rent

## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

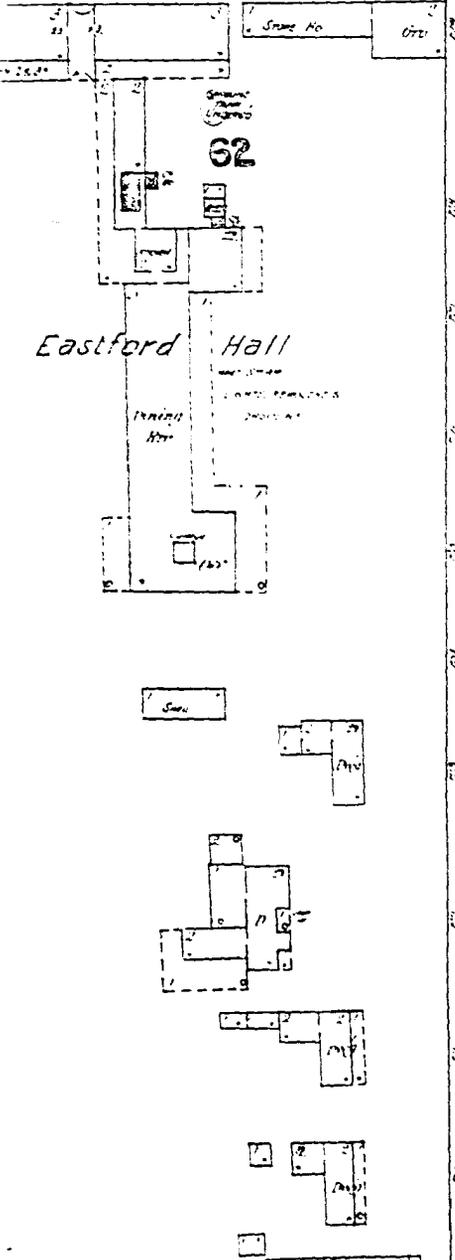
William M. Bergman House, T-954  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

The Bergman house no longer includes the storefront extension to the street, but the house still reflects its late 19th-century construction with its decorative sawnwork front porch, sidelighted front entrance, and Victorian interior woodwork. The mahogany newel post and railing, and the series of turned balusters and scroll decorated stringer are interior finish features common to the last quarter of the 19th century.

With its Victorian porch essentially intact, the cross-gabled frame house contributes to the historic nature of Morris Street.

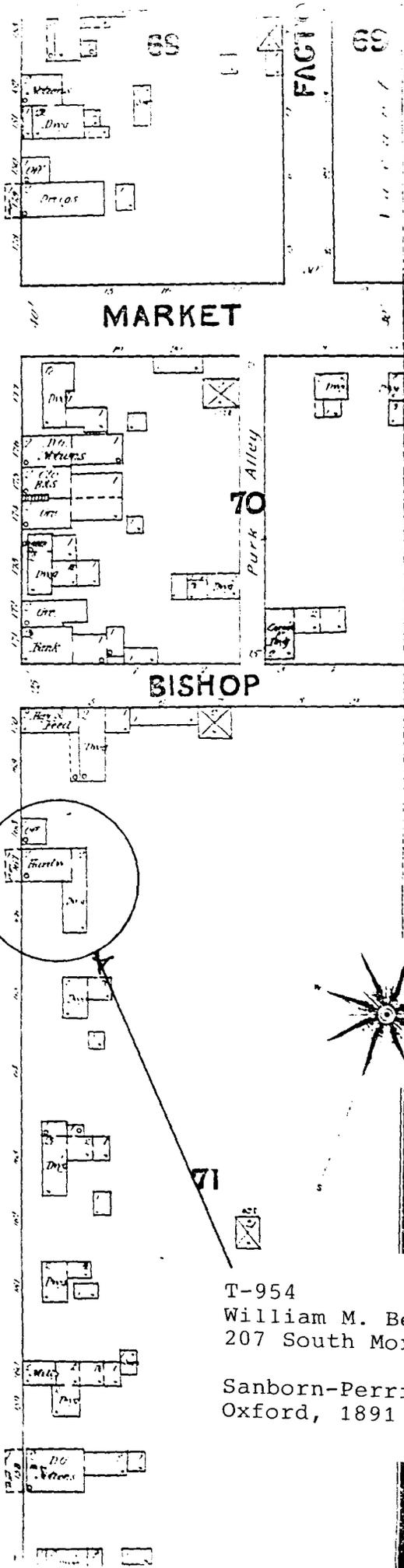


PUBLIC SCHOOL



Eastford Hall

MORRIS



MARKET

BISHOP

70

71

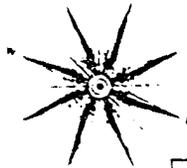
FACTORY

BENONIS

73

DIVISION

CAROLINE



T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
207 South Morris Street

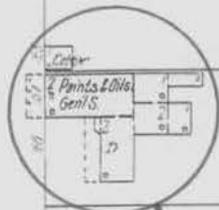
Sanborn-Perris Map Company  
Oxford, 1891

1071



62

MORRIS



T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
207 South Morris Street

Sanborn-Perris Map Company  
Oxford, 1901

SOUTH

MORRIS

70

BISHOP

PUNK ALLEY

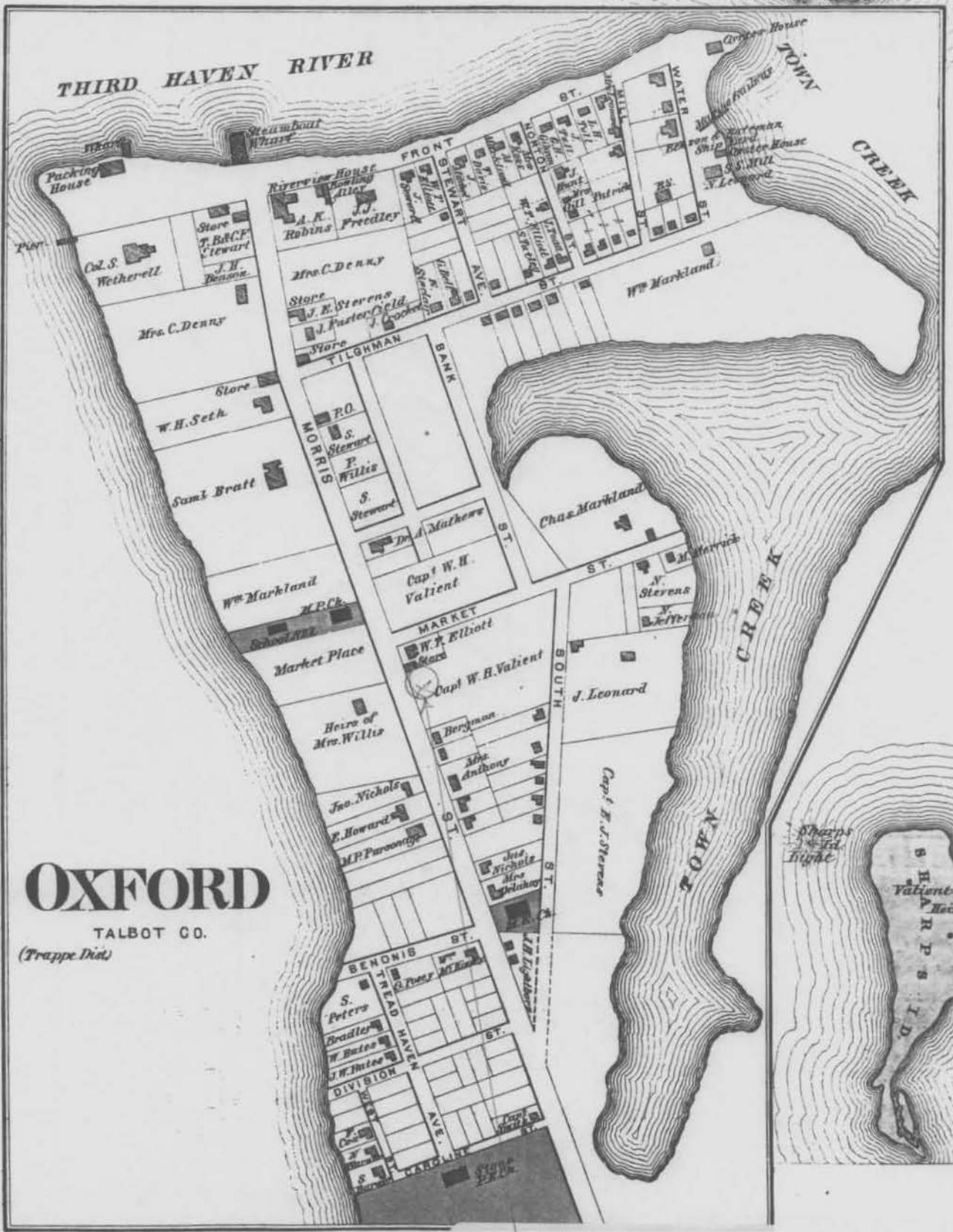
MITCHELL ALLEY

SULLIVAN ALLEY

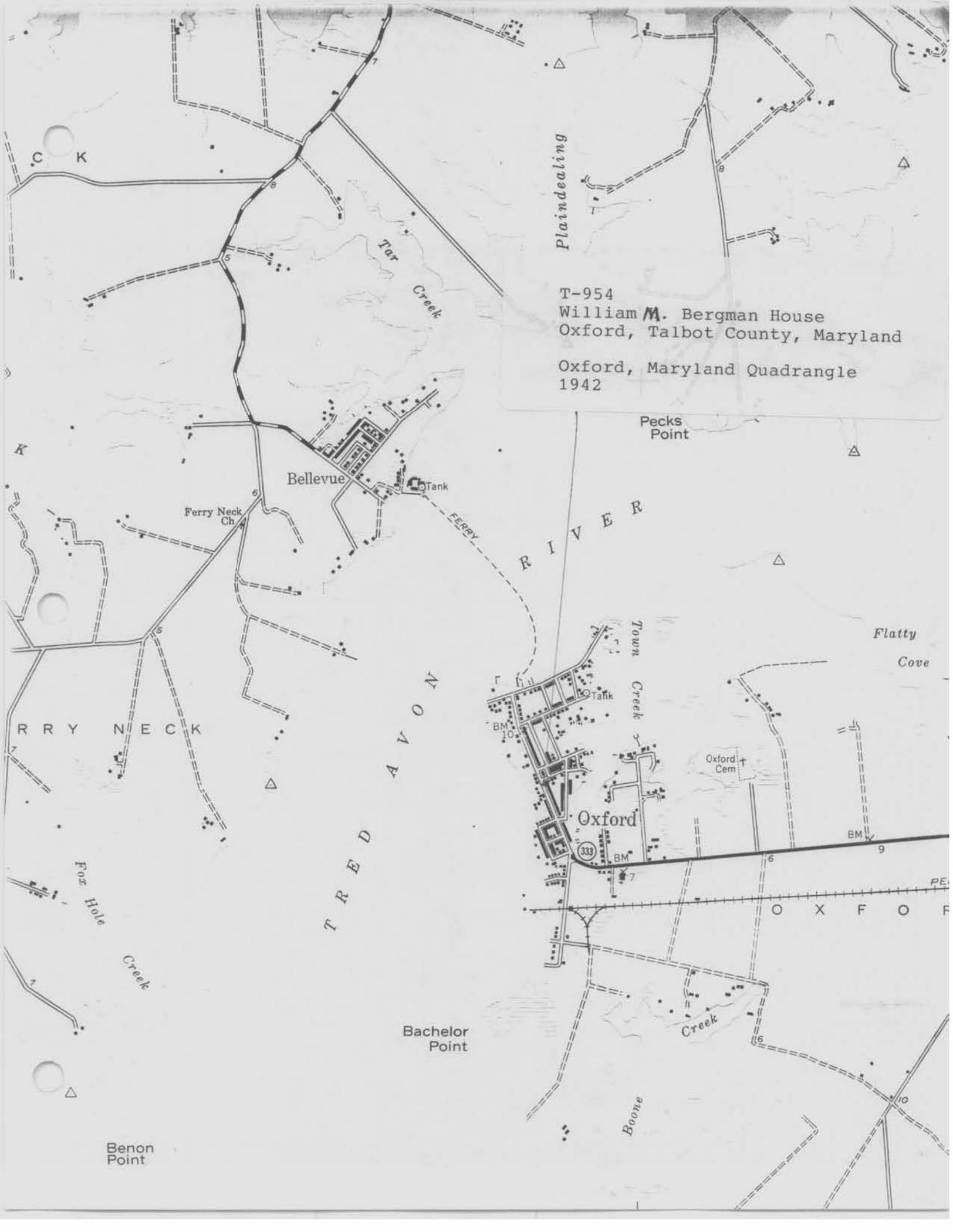
62

1901

JAMES N. WEBSTON & SPEAKMAN, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Native Lumber. Custom Sawing done to order. Mill near Hambleton.



T-954  
 William M. Bergman House  
 Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
 Atlas 1877



T-954  
William M. Bergman House  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

C K

K

FERRY NECK

Fox Hole  
Creek

Benon  
Point

TRED AVON

Tar  
Creek

Bellevue

Tank

Ferry Neck  
Ch

FERRY  
RIVER

Oxford

BM 10

333

BM

7

BM

BM

Tank

Town  
Creek

Oxford  
Cem

BM

9

Flatty  
Cove

Bachelor  
Point

Creek

Boong

Plaindealing

Pecks  
Point

O X F O R D

PE

10



1. 934

William A. Bushman House

Chester, Talbot Co., Md.

Wm. A. Bushman

9/98 Paul Towart, Photographer

Md. Hist. Trust

1 of 2



t-904

William M. Bergman House

Oxford Trust Co. No. 1

Southwest elevation

1/99, Paris Tower, Autograph

NE 1/4, 14500000 Trust

2 1/2 2