

T-955
The Oxford Bank
Oxford
Private

1916

The brick construction and neoclassical design of the former Oxford Bank distinguish it among the surviving structures that define the town's commercial district. Tuscan columns flank the distinctive double door entrance and support a wooden pediment that frames a large, round arched entrance transom. The transom, itself, is a defining element with its beautiful leaded glass window. Also unusual to the property is the early twentieth-century metal fence that stretches along South Morris Street in front of the building. Fixed on a lower rail of the gate is the shield-shaped maker's plaque, which is embossed with "The Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnati, Ohio."

Construction of the bank building is documented by a short article written in the July 22, 1916 issue of the *Easton Star-Democrat*, which stated

The Oxford Bank has begun work on its new banking house to be erected on its town lot adjoining Fraternal Hall. The building will be of brick [and] concrete. Frank Ross, of Easton, is the architect and J.P.A. Elliott, of Oxford, the builder. The building when completed will be one of Oxford's principal improvements this year.

The Oxford Bank served the community until its doors closed during the mid 1930s when the property was sold in the wake of an equity case between the State of Maryland and the Oxford Bank. Since that time, the building has been used for a number of different purposes including the town post office.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: The Oxford Bank

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-955

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
 Commerce

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

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

4. Resource Type(s): Bank

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Oxford Bank

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Morris Street not for publication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 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	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 Fred T and Jacqueline Webb

street & number 25 Potter Street telephone no.:

city, town Haddonfield state and zip code New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 819

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 791

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-955

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Oxford Bank is an early 20th century single-story brick building that stands on the west side of South Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front bank building faces east.

Built in 1916, the single-story, rectangular brick building is laid in stretcher bond atop a poured concrete foundation. The stretcher bond brick walls, laid with recessed mortar joints, rise to a parapet that disguises the low pitched gable or flat roof. The brick walls are painted grey.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a prominent double-door entrance defined by a large round arched door opening flanked by projecting Tuscan columns that rise to a neoclassical pediment. The partially glazed double front doors are topped by a round arched, leaded glass transom window. The transom window is accented by a soldier arch fitted with a center keystone. Extending from the cornice level is an entablature that stretches to the outside corners of the building, and it is visually supported by flat brick pilasters.

The south side is three bays across defined by four brick pilasters. Centered in the east bay is a single-pane sash window topped by a segmental arch. The other two bays are filled with door openings, and a handicapped ramp has been erected to serve the center door.

The north side of the bank building is three bays as well, and four brick pilasters define the intervals. Single-pane sash windows pierce the north wall.

The interior has been reworked over the years to serve a variety of commercial purposes.

Located along the front edge of the property is an early 20th century iron fence that retains its original gate. A shield-shaped maker's plate is fixed on a lower bar, and it is embossed "The Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnati, Ohio."

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 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 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 1916 **Builder/Architect** J.P.A. Elliott/Frank Ross, 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.

The brick construction and neoclassical design of the former Oxford Bank distinguish it among the surviving structures that define the town’s commercial district. Tuscan columns flank the distinctive double door entrance and support a wooden pediment that frames a large, round arched entrance transom. The transom, itself, is a defining element with its beautiful leaded glass window. Also unusual to the property is the early twentieth-century metal fence that stretches along South Morris Street in front of the building. Fixed on a lower rail of the gate is the shield-shaped maker’s plaque, which is embossed with “The Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnati, Ohio.”

Construction of the bank building is documented by a short article written in the July 22, 1916 issue of the *Easton Star-Democrat*, which stated

*The Oxford Bank has begun work on its new banking house to be erected on its town lot adjoining Fraternal Hall. The building will be of brick [and] concrete. Frank Ross, of Easton, is the architect and J.P.A. Elliott, of Oxford, the builder. The building when completed will be one of Oxford’s principal improvements this year.*¹

The Oxford Bank served the community until its door’s closed during the mid 1930s when the property was sold in the wake of an equity case between the State of Maryland and the Oxford Bank.² Since that time, the building has been used for a number of different purposes including the town post office.

The Oxford Bank building is an important element in the architectural and historic fabric of the Morris Street. The well preserved nature of its exterior combined with the surviving early twentieth century iron fence contribute to the historic nature of the commercial district.

¹ Easton Star-Democrat, 22 July 1916, Talbot County Free Library.

² Talbot County Land Record, TFJ 240/342, 6 November 1937.

T-955
The Oxford Bank
South Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 705

819/791 Diane G. Schulte

to

1/17/1996 Fred T. and Jacqueline Webb

Property described on a plat entitled: Survey Plat of the
land of Muriel Grymes Blumenthal in the Town of
Oxford, dated 8/1984, JTB 63/39

JTB 590/310 Muriel Grymes Blumenthal (formerly Muriel Saltsonstall
Grymes)

to

8/20/1984 Diane G. Schulte

JTB 359/296 Arthur J. Grymes

to

10/1/1959 Muriel Saltonstall Grymes

Parcel A: All those two contiguous lots..commonly known as
the Post Office property

TJF 240/342 Warren F. Sterling, Receiver of the Oxford Bank

to

11/6/1937 Arthur J. Grymes, Jr. \$1,750.00

Public Sale 8/21/1937, Equity Case, State of Maryland vs.
The Oxford Bank

T-955
The Oxford Bank
South Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

CBL 172/240 William D. Nichols

to

1/3/1916 The Oxford Bank

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Town Hall lot

Easton Star-Democrat, 22 July 1916

The Oxford Bank has begun work on its new banking house to be erected on its lot adjoining Fraternal Hall. The building will be of brick [and] concrete. Frank Ross, of Easton, is the architect and J. P. A. Elliott, of Oxford, the builder. The building when completed will be one of Oxford's principal improvements this year.

T-955
The Oxford Bank
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
Oxford, 1919





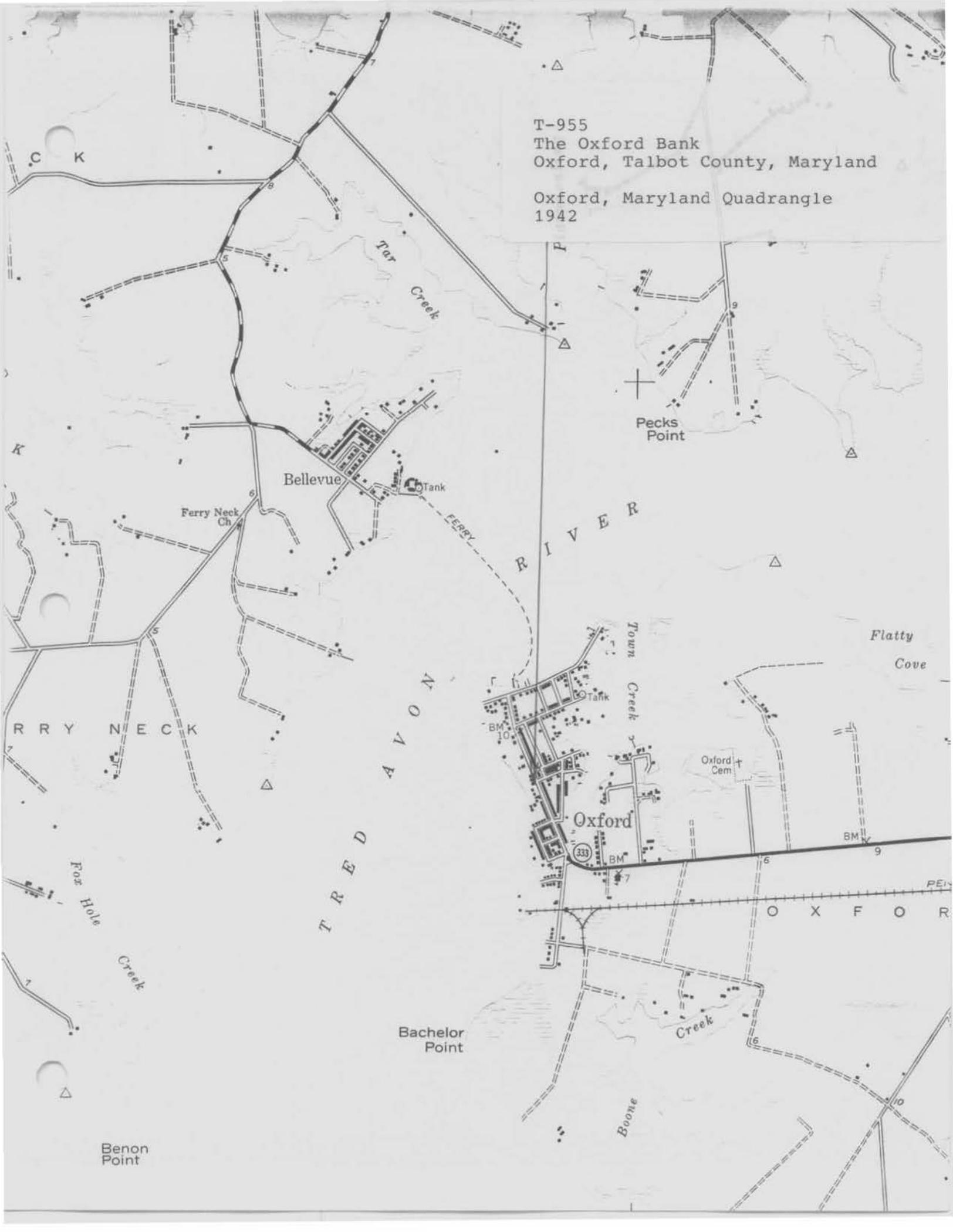
25

T-955
 The Oxford Bank
 Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Sanborn-Perris Map Company
 Oxford, 1927

T-955
The Oxford Bank
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





+955

Town OXFORD BANK

OXFORD, FAIRBORN COUNTY, MD
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

4/90, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEB. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 4



T-955

Tire Oxford Bank

Oxford, Talbot County, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

4/98, Paul Towart, Photographer

NEE / MD. Historical Trust

2 of 4



T-955

THE OXFORD BANK

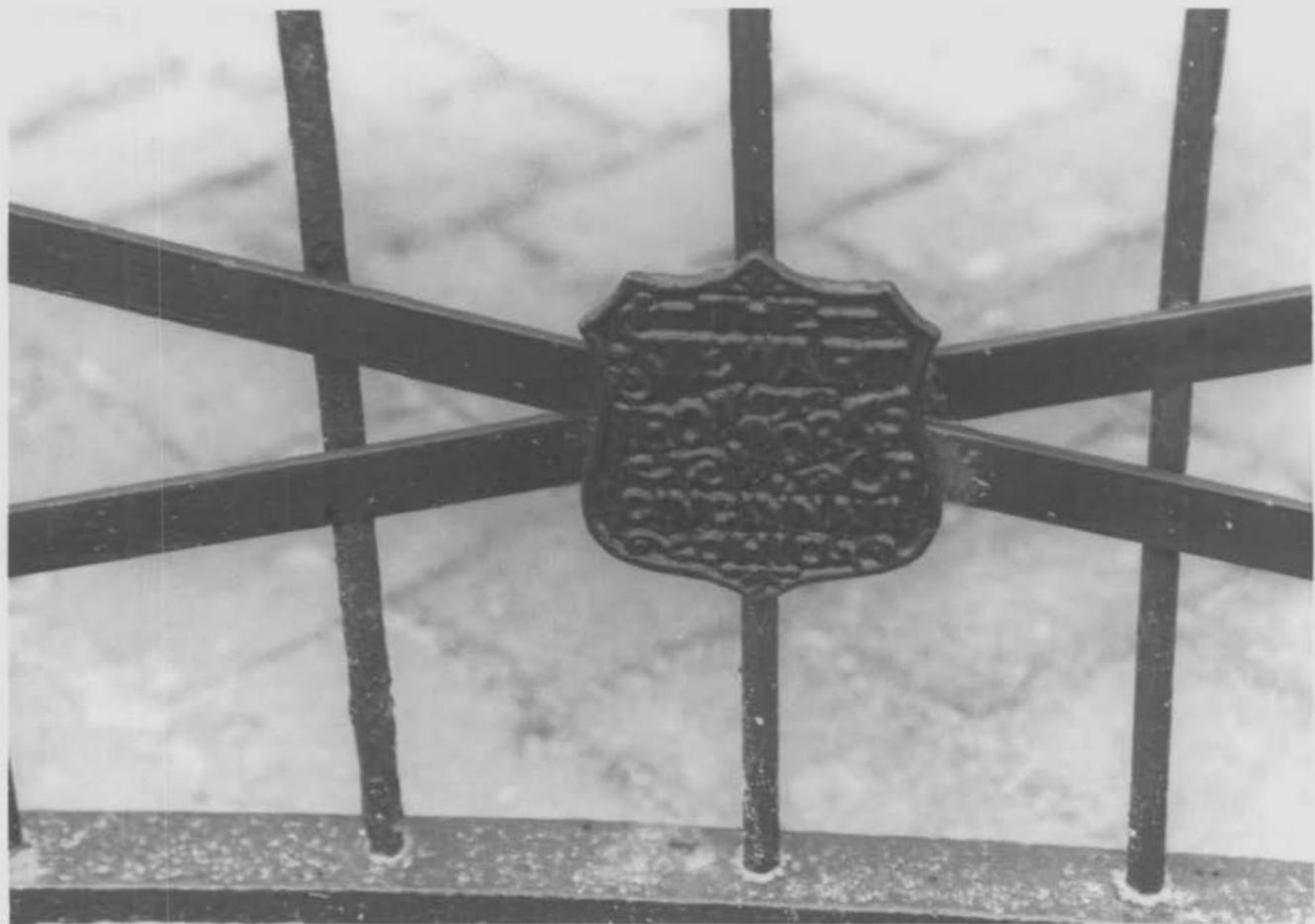
OXFORD, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

IRON KENCE - STEWART IRON WORKS

4/99, PAUL TOWNES, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEMPHIS HISTORICAL TRUST

9 of 9



T-955

The Oxford Place

Oxford, Talbot Co., Md

Marple's Menagerie, Stuart Iron Works

9/99, Paul Towant, Photographer

Nor. Ind. Historical Trust

9 0 1 9