

T-959
Parsons House
Oxford
Private

c. 1880

Simply known as the Parsons house due to the long-term ownership of this property by that family, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was erected around 1880. Similar to 210 North Morris, also erected by the Parsons family, this side hall/double pile dwelling survives with many of its original features that have been blended with early to mid twentieth century modifications. A photograph of the house taken in the early 1890s reveals a Victorian porch on the front and a single story bay window to the south. The bay window was raised to a two-story height sometime after the image was taken and the front porch was simplified with the insertion of square columns in lieu of turned posts and sawn bracket decoration. Nevertheless the house retains its essential late 19th century character and contributes to the historic nature of North Morris Street.

Construction of this dwelling occurred around the property was sold by Samuel Stewart to Susan A. Parsons. She is listed in the 1880 United States census in her 54th year with her five children. Edward, a 23-year old merchant, is listed on the deed with his mother. The property descended through the Parsons family until 1979.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Parsons House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-959

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-959

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Parsons House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 202 North Morris Street not for publication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 David N. and Margueritte S. Webster

street & number 202 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 Map 400, P. 564
liber 807

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 235

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

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 Parsons house is located at 202 North Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay side hall/double-pile frame house faces west with the low pitched hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1880, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with a layer of wood shingles. The hip roof is sheathed with seamed tin. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that has been extended on the south side with an enclosed porch. A single-story modern addition is attached to the east end of the kitchen wing.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows to the south. A six-panel front door is framed by a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. The adjacent two-over-two sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the entire first floor is an early 20th century square column porch. The second floor is lighted by three unevenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The base of the roof is enclosed with a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings. Rising through the center of the house is a pair of internal brick chimneys.

The south side of the house is two bays deep with the east bay defined by a two-story polygonal bay window filled with two-over-two sash windows on the south side and narrower single-pane sash windows to each side. The western bay is marked by two-over-two sash windows on each floor.

The east (rear) elevation of the main block is largely covered by the two-story dining room and kitchen wing, which is extended on its south side by a single-story enclosed shed porch.

Inside, the house is divided into side hall/double-pile plan. The late 19th century staircase retains a heavily turned mahogany newel post that is distinguished by an octagonal taper to the center section. A molded handrail is supported by a series of turned balusters. The stringer is plain. Trimming the perimeter of the room is a ogee molded baseboard. Bulls-eye block surrounds typical of the late 19th century trim the door and window openings.

The double parlors have been reworked with the replacement of the Victorian mantels and the insertion of a pair of Tuscan columns between the two rooms. Neo-federal mantels decorate the fireplaces.

The rear wing has been reworked. The original moldings have been largely replaced by mid 20th century woodwork.

The second floor retains bulls-eye block surrounds that frame four-panel doors.

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 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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Construction of this dwelling occurred around the property was sold by Samuel Stewart to Susan A. Parsons.¹ She is listed in the 1880 United States census in her 54th year with her five children.² Edward, a 23-year old merchant, is listed on the deed with his mother. The property descended through the Parsons family until 1979.³

¹ Talbot County Land Record, JFT 89/494, 1 January 1880.

² Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Talbot County, transcribed by Helen E. Seymour, 1997, p. 117.

³ Talbot County Land Record, JTB 532/171, 21 March 1979.

T-959
Parsons House
202 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 564

807/235 Margueritte S. Webster
 Steven H. Schimpff

to

7/24/1995 Margueritte S. Webster
 David N. Webster

Parcel 1

JTB 532/171 Ernest M. Thompson, Personal representative of
 the Estate of Eunice P. Highley (died 3/29/1977)

to

3/21/1979 Margueritte S. Webster
 Theodore E. Schimpff
 Steven H. Schimpff

JTB 337/531 T. Hughlett Henry, widower

to

3/18/1957 Margaret E. Parsons
 Eunice P. Highley

337/529 Margaret E. Parsons, widow

to

3/18/1957 T. Hughlett Henry

T-959
Parsons House
202 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

CBL 215/79

Ida V. Stevens

to

7/16/1928

Margaret E. Parsons
Edward T. Parsons

120/24

Ormond Hammond, trustee

to

10/18/1893

Margaret E. Parsons, wife of Edward **E.** Parsons

\$350

TH 119/300

Samuel Stewart

to

8/7/1893

Ormond Hammond

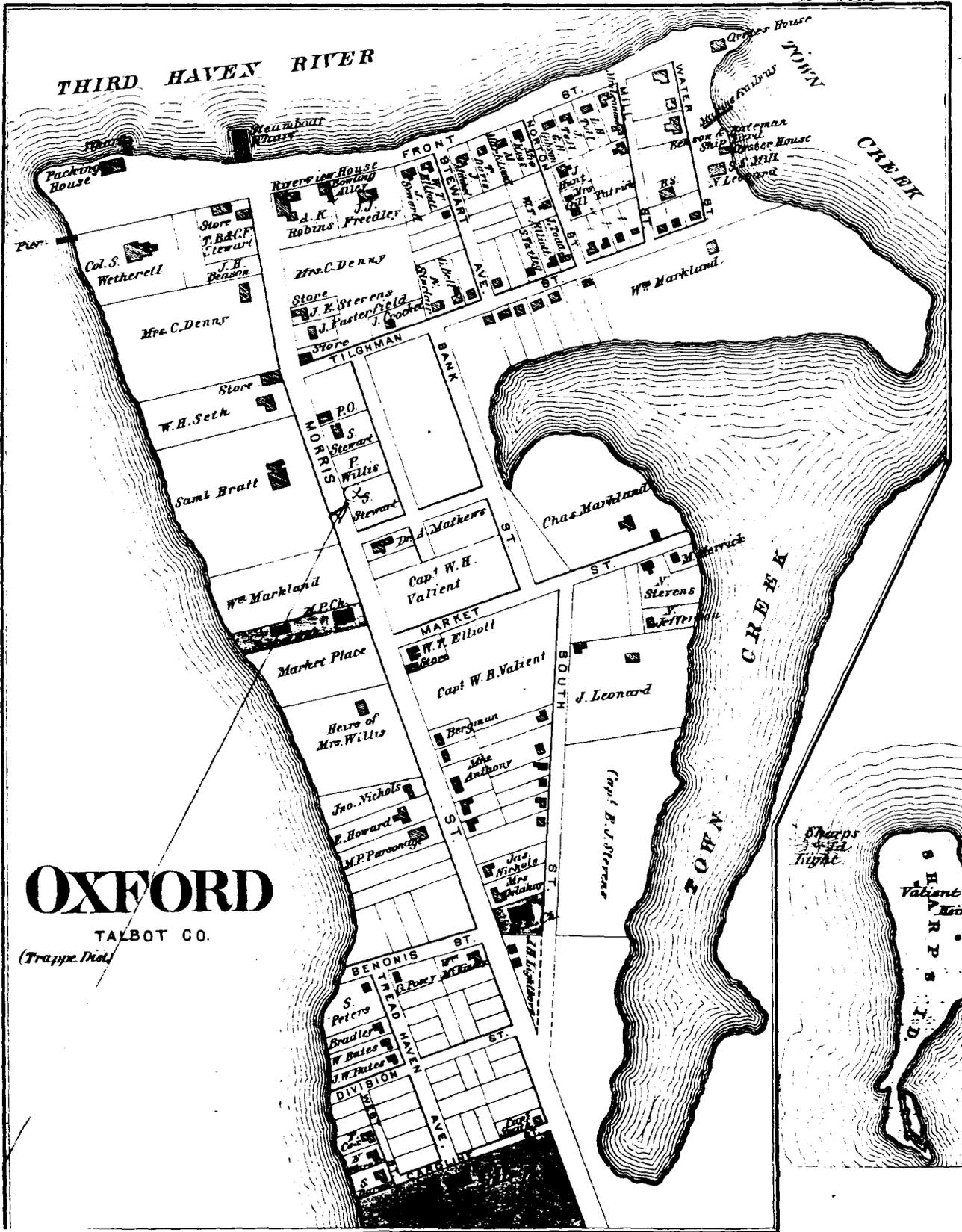
Lease
JFT 89/494

Samuel Stewart

to

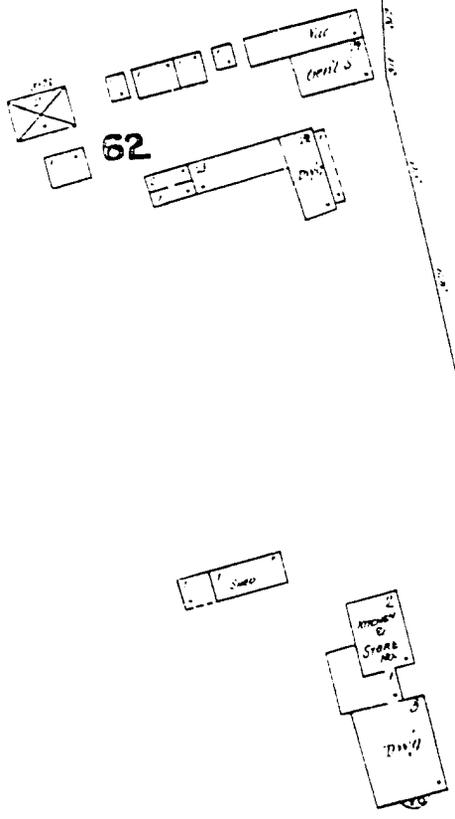
1/1/1880

Susan A. Parsons
Edward T. Parsons

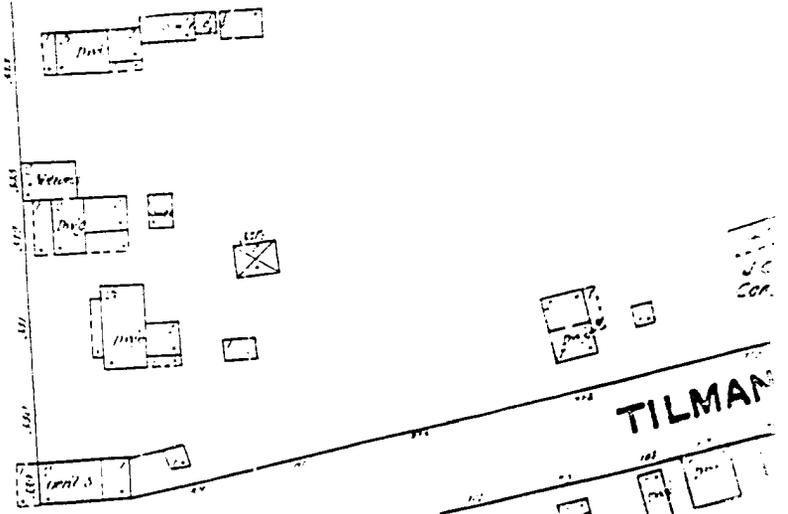


T-959
Parsons House

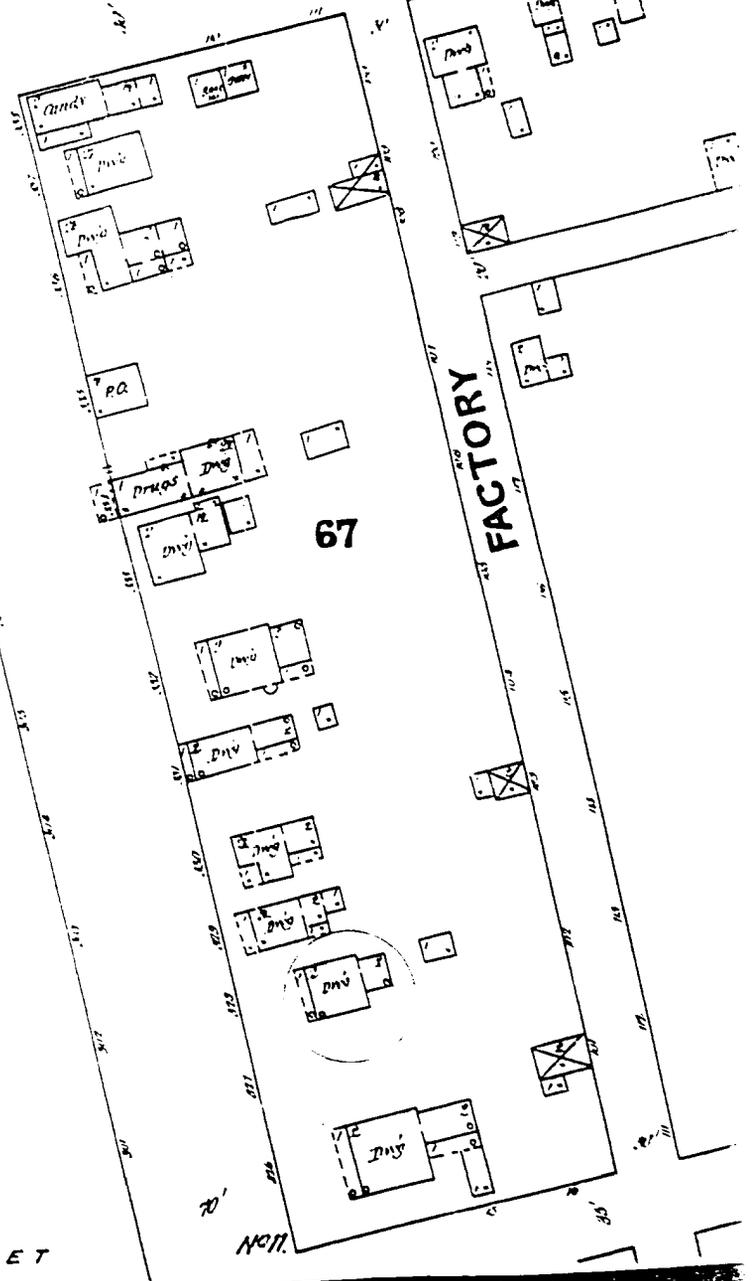
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



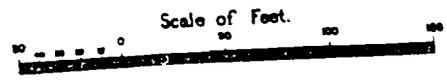
MORRIS



TILMAN



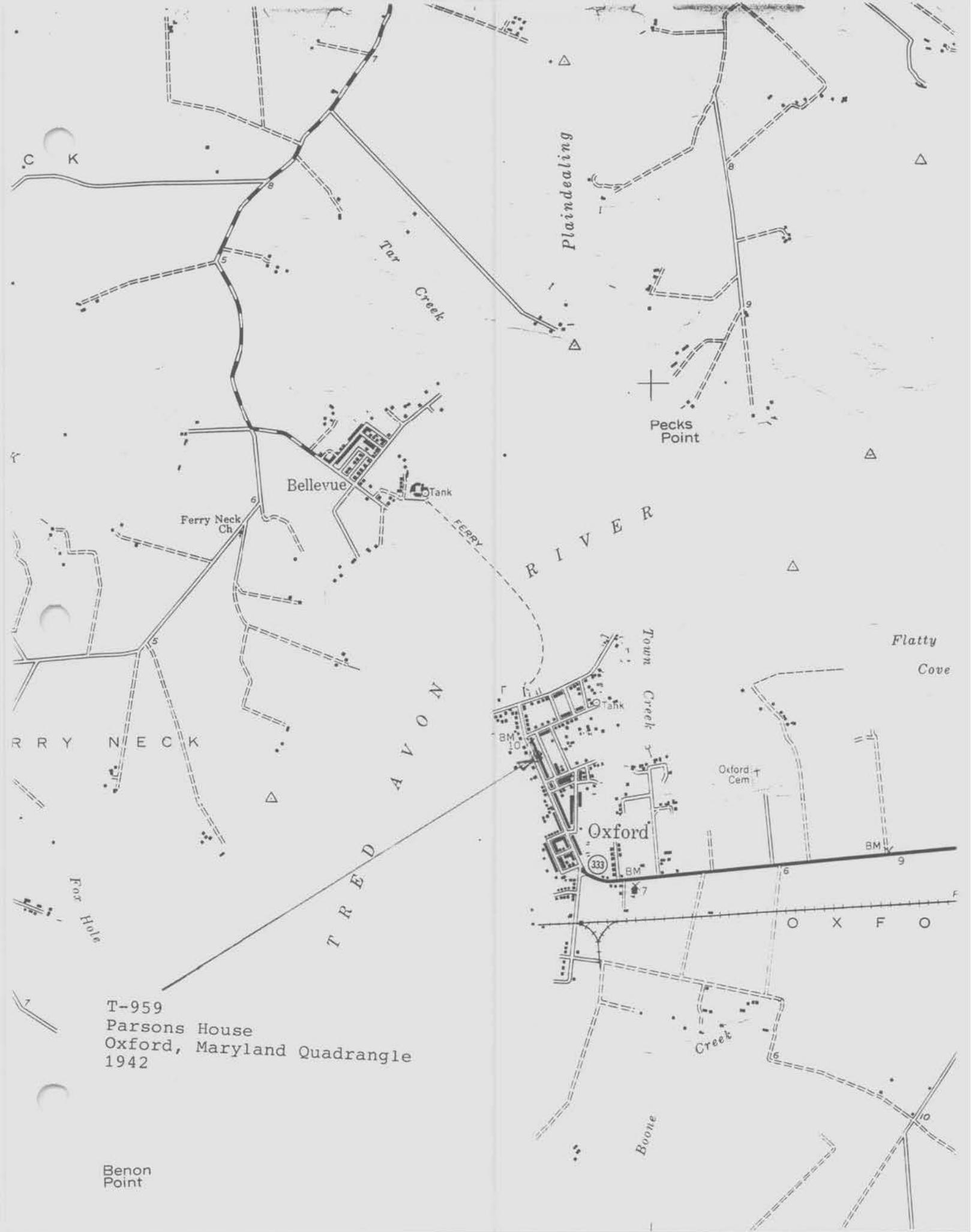
T-959
Parsons House
Sanborn Insurance Map
1891



1891

SEE SHEET





T-959
Parsons House
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

Benon Point



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 5



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

WEST ELEVATION OF PORCH

5/98, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 5



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OVERROAD, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF PORCH

5/98, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

M&G/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

7 of 5



T- 959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TAUBET C, MA

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHIC

NEG / MID HISTORIC TRUST

4 of 5



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG/M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

9 OF 5