

T-962  
Parsons-Newnam House  
Oxford  
Private

c. 1880

The two-story, three-bay hip roofed house that stands at 210 North Morris Street is a well preserved late nineteenth-century dwelling erected around 1880 for . P. Parsons. He purchased the lot from Philemon and Mary Willis in February 1880 and financed construction shortly thereafter. The property passed to his heirs, Sallie E. Parsons and Ethel A. Parsons. In 1902 Sallie E. Parsons transferred ownership of the house and lot to Howard W. Newnam for \$1500. The property has remained in Newnam family ownership to the present time.

Distinguished for its intact condition, the late nineteenth century side hall/double pile dwelling is embellished with subtle Victorian exterior and interior trim. One of the most dynamic architectural elements is the walnut newel post and molded handrail. Common to the period is the scroll decorated stringer. Also typical of the late nineteenth century are the bulls-eye block surrounds that frame the interior door openings. Enlarging the south parlor or dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor is a two-story bay window that extends from the south side of the main house.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Parsons-Newnam House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-962

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. 962

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Parsons-Newnam House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 210 North Morris Street  not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Nancy Newnam Newton

street & number 408 Yale Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Swarthmore state and zip code Pa 19801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, p. 564  
liber 517

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 565

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Parsons-Newnam house is located at 210 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 a shallow pitched hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating around 1880, the two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding over weatherboards. The shallow pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that was built in at three stages according to the current owner.

The west (main) facade is a slightly uneven three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. A Victorian four-panel front door is framed by a four-light transom and three-light sidelights that have decorative panel below. The adjacent windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Stretching across the first floor is a hip roof porch supported on chamfered posts. The fascia board of the porch cornice is enriched with a decorative edge molding. Lighting the second floor are three unevenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. A boxed cornice finishes the perimeter of the roof. Piercing the center of the roof are brick chimneys.

The south side of the house is a two-bay elevation with a two-story bay window marking the east bay. The bay windows is pierced by two-over-two sash windows in front and single-pane sash windows to each sloped side. A mid-level cornice is decorated with brackets and rectangular panels fill the space above the first floor window and between the brackets. Decorative brackets also distinguish the top of the bay window at the second story level. The adjacent west bay is filled with two-over-two sash windows on each floor.

Marking the north side of the main block are pairs of two-over-two sash windows on each floor, and the openings are flanked by louvered shutters.

The east (rear) elevation of the main block is largely covered by the two-story service wing that has been extended with shed additions to the east and south. The north side is marked by an asymmetrical fenestration including two-over-two sash windows.

The interior has been restored over the past thirty years and most of the original late nineteenth century woodwork remains intact. The side entrance hall is distinguished by a turned walnut newel post and a molded handrail supported by turned balusters. The stringer is enriched with a scroll decoration typical of the late nineteenth century. The inner hall partition is pierced by two door openings that open into the parlor and dining room. Bulls-eye block surrounds frame four-panel doors. The bulls-eye block has a stylized floral design on the first floor, in contrast to a more plain design on the second floor. The adjacent parlors retain Victorian mantels and each firebox is fitted with an iron coal stove. Bulls-eye block surrounds frame the doorways and ogee molded baseboard trims the perimeter of the rooms.

(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 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The two-story, three-bay hip roofed house that stands at 210 North Morris Street is a well preserved late nineteenth-century dwelling erected around 1880 for . P. Parsons. He purchased the lot from Philemon and Mary Willis in February 1880<sup>1</sup> and financed construction shortly thereafter. The property passed to his heirs, Sallie E. Parsons and Ethel A. Parsons. In 1902 Sallie E. Parsons transferred ownership of the house and lot to Howard W. Newnam for \$1500.<sup>2</sup> The property has remained in Newnam family ownership to the present time.

Distinguished for its intact condition, the late nineteenth century side hall/double pile dwelling is embellished with subtle Victorian exterior and interior trim. One of the most dynamic architectural elements is the walnut newel post and molded handrail. Common to the period is the scroll decorated stringer. Also typical of the late nineteenth century are the bulls-eye block surrounds that frame the interior door openings. Enlarging the south parlor or dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor is a two-story bay window that extends from the south side of the main house.

<sup>1</sup> Talbot County Land Record, Lease 89/286, 18 February 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Talbot County Land Record, Lease 139/381, 7 October 1902.



## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

Parsons-Newnam House, T-962  
210 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

The second floor is divided into three bedrooms that open off the upstairs hall. Four-panel doors are framed by bulls-eye block surrounds. The back portion of the upstairs hall has been reworked to include a separate bathroom and hall to the rear wing. A bulls-eye block surround frames a four-panel door that opens into the bathroom. The rear wing is finished in a very plain manner. A narrow staircase rises between the current dining room and kitchen to provide separate access to the two bedrooms in the back of the house. A shift to narrower flooring in the back room indicates that the two sections rooms were built at slightly different times. The room closest to the main block dates from the same period as the main block whereas the back room was probably added within ten to twenty years of initial construction.

T-962  
Parsons-Newnam House  
210 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 564

517/565                      Catherine E. Newnam

to

10/28/1977                  Nancy Newnam Newton

406/224                      Howard W. Newnam  
Ida M. Newnam

to

10/16/1965                  Howard W. Newnam, Jr.  
Catherine E. Newnam  
Being a portion of Lot No. 53 on Helmsley's plot of Oxford

167/427                      M. Tilghman Johnston

to

4/24/1914                  Howard W. Newnam  
Ida M. Newnam

167/426                      Howard W. Newnam  
Ida M. Newnam

to

4/24/1914                  M. Tilghman Johnston

T-962  
Parsons-Newnam House  
210 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Lease  
139/381

Sallie E. Parsons, Guardian of Ethel A. Parsons

to

10/7/1902

Howard W. Newnam

\$1500.00 and which said leasehold by distribution of the personal estate of W. P. Parsons, in the Orphan's Court for Talbot County became vested in Sallie E. Parsons and Ethel A. Parsons as personal representatives of said W. P. Parsons

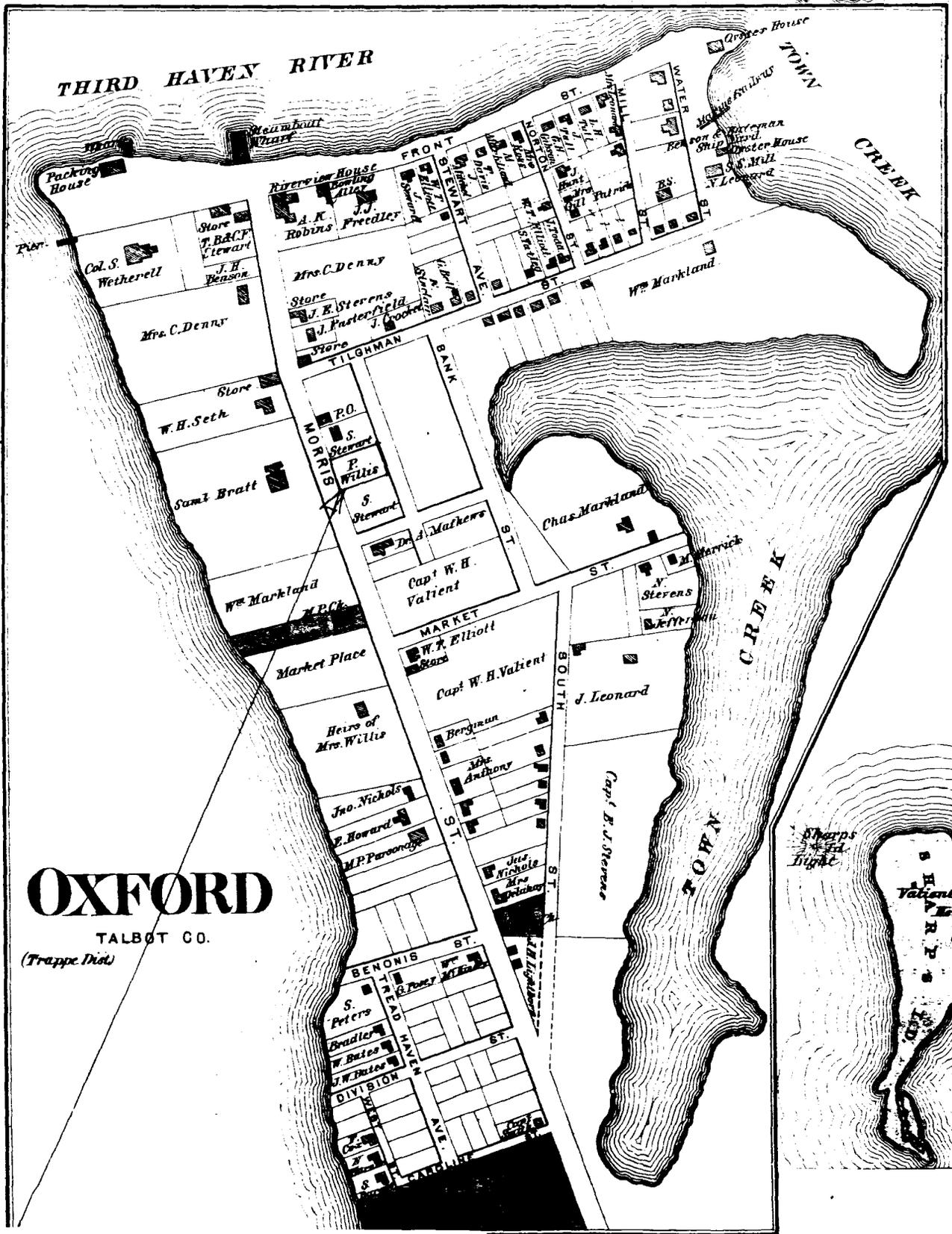
Lease  
89/286

Philemon Willis  
Mary A. Willis

to

2/18/1880

W. P. Parsons



# OXFORD

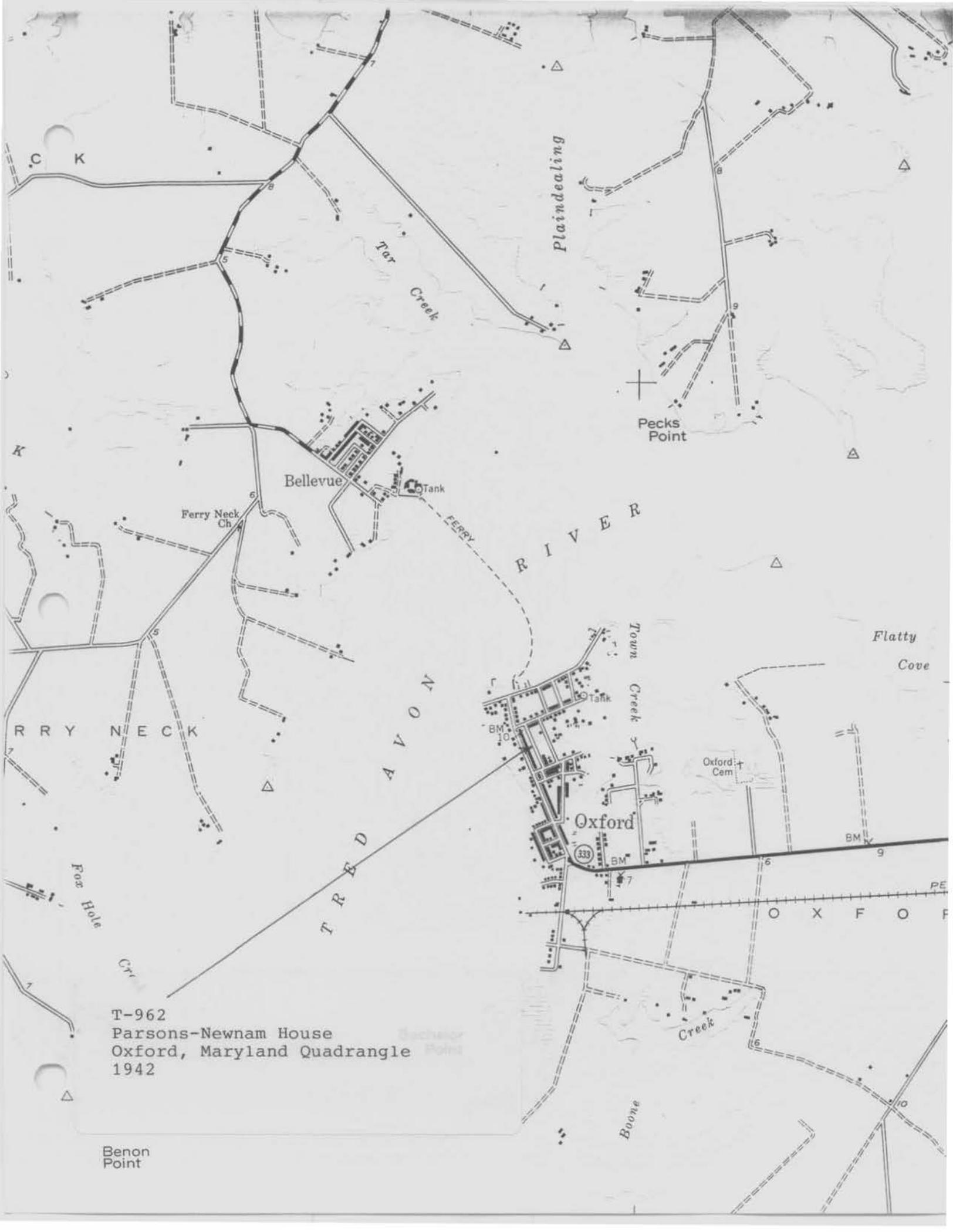
TALBOT CO.

(Trappe Dist)

T-962  
Parsons-Newnam House  
210 North Morris Street

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877





T-962  
 Parsons-Newnam House  
 Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942

Benon  
 Point



T-962

PARSONS-NEWMAN HOUSE

Oxford, Talbot Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

6/98, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEA/M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



T-962

PARSONS-NEWNAM House

Oxon, Talbot Co, MD.

West elevation of porch

5/93, Pam Towart, PITOTOGARPHIC

NEW. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 3



T-962

PARSONS-NEWMAN HOUSE

OKLAHOMA, TARRANT CO., M.D.

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TARRANT, ARCHITECT

NEQ / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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