

# Oxford History

Oxford is one of the oldest towns in Maryland and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Although already in existence for perhaps 20 years, Oxford marks the year 1683 as its official founding, for in that year Oxford was first named by the Maryland General Assembly as a seaport and was laid out as a town. In 1694, Oxford and a new town called Anne Arundel (now Annapolis) were selected the only ports of entry for the entire Maryland province. Until the American Revolution, Oxford enjoyed prominence as an international shipping center surrounded by wealthy tobacco plantations.

Early citizens included Robert Morris, Sr., agent for a Liverpool shipping firm who greatly influenced the town's growth; his son Robert Morris, Jr., known as "the financier of the Revolution;" Jeremiah Banning, sea captain, war hero, and statesman; The Reverend Thomas Bacon, Anglican clergyman who wrote the first compilation of the laws of Maryland; Matthew Tilghman, known as the "patriarch of Maryland" and "father of statehood" and Colonel Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to George Washington and the man who carried the message of Cornwallis' surrender to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

The American Revolution marked the end of Oxford's glory. Gone were the British ships with their variety of imported goods, and tobacco was replaced by wheat as a cash crop. Businesses went bankrupt, cattle grazed in the streets, and the population dwindled.

After the Civil War, Oxford emerged from its "long slumber" to nearly 100 years of a new prosperity signaled by completion of the railroad in 1871 and improved methods of canning and packing which opened national markets for oysters from the Chesapeake's bountiful beds. Business was booming, houses were going up everywhere, and tourists and boaters were arriving in droves. But it was not to last. In the early part of the 20th century, the oyster beds played out, the packing houses closed, other businesses went bankrupt, and the railway and steamships eventually disappeared. Oxford became a sleepy little town inhabited mainly by watermen who still worked the waters of the Tred Avon.

Oxford today is still a waterman's town, but is enjoying a new resurgence based on tourism and leisure activities. Its quiet charm, fresh air, summer breezes, and clean water provide a haven from the hustle and bustle of city life for boaters, weekend visitors, and summer residents.



# ANNUAL EVENTS

- Oxford Day** - 4th Saturday in April
- Fine Arts Fair** - 3rd weekend in May
- Oxford Kids Camp** - June/July
- Yacht Club Fireworks** - 4th of July week (date varies)
- Paint Oxford Day, Plein Air Easton** - July
- Oxford Regatta** - 2nd weekend in August
- Heritage Regatta** - 4th weekend in August
- Road Rally** - 3rd weekend in September
- Picket Fence Auction** - Sept/Oct (date varies)
- OLA Antique Show** - Waterfowl weekend
- Model Boat Show** - Waterfowl weekend
- Christmas on the Creek** - 1st weekend in December

- On-going Events**
- Firehouse Pancake Breakfast** - 2nd Sunday monthly
- Sailboat Races** - Friday nights (May - Sept.)
- Oxford Museum Special Exhibits**
- Tred Avon Players Performances**

Visit [www.portfoxford.com](http://www.portfoxford.com) for more information.



# HISTORIC PLACES OF INTEREST IN OXFORD

**Academy House (Bratt Mansion)**  
Officers' residence for the Maryland Military Academy from 1848-1855.  
**205 N. Morris St. (Private residence)**

**Barnaby House**  
Built in the 1770s by Captain Richard Barnaby. The Barnaby House features pine woodwork, corner fireplace and hand-made staircase.  
**212 N. Morris St. (Private residence)**

**Byberry & Calico**  
Moved to the grounds of Cutts & Case in the 1930s, Byberry is Oxford's oldest house, dating from 1695. The original structure is a typical early Oxford cottage. Calico, a Tudor-style cottage, was built in the early 1700s.  
**(Private residence)**

**Grapevine House**  
Built by John Willis in 1798. The grapevine in front of the house was brought to Oxford from the Isle of Jersey in 1810.  
**309 N. Morris St. (Private residence)**

**Oxford-Bellevue Ferry**  
Believed to be the oldest privately operated ferry in the country. Started in 1683, service was discontinued after the American Revolution, was resumed in 1836, and has been in continuous operation since that time. A visit to Oxford is not complete without a ride on today's ferry, *Talbot*. Bring your car, bicycle or come as a passenger!  
**N. Morris St. & The Strand / 410-745-9023**



Oxford Custom House

**Oxford Custom House**  
Built in 1796, the building is an exact replica of the first Federal Custom House built by Jeremiah Banning, the first federal Collector of Customs.  
**N. Morris St. & The Strand**

**John Wesley Preservation Society and Museum**  
This Methodist Episcopal church served as a house of worship for black and white parishioners before the Civil War.  
**9457 Evergreen Rd. / [johnwesleychurch.org](http://johnwesleychurch.org)**

**Oxford Museum**  
Founded in 1964, the Oxford Museum houses a collection of artifacts and memorabilia from Oxford's past.  
**101 S. Morris St. (across from Town Park) / 410-226-0191**

**Robert Morris Inn**  
The original 1710 structure, incorporated into the present Inn, was the home of Robert Morris, Sr., and his son. Robert Morris, Jr. helped finance the Revolutionary War, counted George Washington as a friend, and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution.  
**N. Morris St. & The Strand**

**Colonel Tench Tilghman Monument**  
Aide de Camp to General George Washington.  
**Oxford Cemetery, just outside town limits on Route 333**

Oyster tonger at work on traditional skiff.

Photo credits: Oyster tonger courtesy of Oxford Museum; town of Oxford sign, couple on park bench © Randy Welch.



# VISITOR SERVICES

- U.S. Postal Service:** Wilson & Bank Sts.  
410-226-5629
- Oxford Library:** 103 Market St. ~ 410-226-5727
- Town Office:** 100 N. Morris St. ~ 410-226-5122
- Bay Vanguard Bank**  
104 Factory St., PO Box 309 ~ 410-226-0200
- Conservation Park:** 4890 Boone Creek Rd.
- Dog Park:** J.L. Thompson Dr. & Pier St.
- Police:** 410-226-5650 ~ 410-822-0095 for dispatch
- Police~Fire~Ambulance Emergency: 911**
- U.S. Coast Guard:**  
Non-Emergency 410-226-0581  
Emergency 410-226-0580

# CHURCHES

- Oxford Methodist Church**  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.  
N. Morris St. – next to the Park, PO Box 117
- Waters United Methodist Church**  
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.  
Market & Bank Sts., PO Box 125
- Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal)**  
Services: 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.  
Combined Eucharist: 1st Sunday each month, 9:30 a.m.  
S. Morris & Caroline Sts., PO Box 637



From Easton: Take Rt. 50 to Easton Parkway (Rt. 322), then Rt. 333 South 11 miles to Oxford



We share our roads with bicycles and pedestrians so please observe the 25 MPH speed limit in town.

Find us on Facebook  Oxford Maryland Events

[portfoxford.com](http://portfoxford.com)

# OXFORD MARYLAND



More than a Ferry Tale



DINE · DOCK · DREAM · DISCOVER



## FIRST PORT OF ENTRY ON THE EASTERN SHORE – 1683

### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### 1 Nichols House Cottage B&B

A charming Bed & Breakfast in the historic district, walkable to town attractions and restaurants. A registered historic Victorian style property, well appointed, with modern comforts.

217 S. Morris St. ~ 302-497-5898

[nicholshousecottage@gmail.com](mailto:nicholshousecottage@gmail.com)

#### 2 The Oxford Inn and Pope's Tavern

A historic circa 1880 inn and restaurant serving authentic Italian cuisine featuring homemade pastas, sauces and desserts. Located at the head of Town Creek, you can step off the porch and stroll down South Morris St., one of the oldest streets in America.

504 S. Morris St. ~ 410-226-5220

[info@oxfordinn.net](mailto:info@oxfordinn.net) ~ [oxfordinn.net](http://oxfordinn.net)

#### 3 The Robert Morris Inn

Historic inn dating back to 1710, and now the Eastern Shore's most unique tavern and Inn. Colonial bed and breakfast rooms available overlooking the Tred Avon River. Located near the Oxford Bellevue Ferry, which provides a 7 mile shortcut to St. Michaels.

314 N. Morris St. ~ 410-226-5111

[robertmorrissinn.com](http://robertmorrissinn.com)

#### 4 Sandaway Suites & Beach

A boutique hotel with a private sandy beach. Sandaway offers waterfront suites with vacation rental amenities in the beautiful historic district. Suites are ideal for 2-night getaways or extended stays. Most of the 18 accommodations feature amazing water views and porches.

103 W. Strand Rd. ~ 1-888-726-3292 (1-888-SANDAWAY)

[sandaway.com](http://sandaway.com)

### RESTAURANTS

#### 5 Capsize

Arrive by land or by sea and relax with a drink on our deck overlooking Town Creek or dine in our waterside dining room. Comfortable lounge seating and dining options both inside and out. Capsize serves American Cuisine on the sparkling waters of Town Creek. If coming by boat, we have free dockage while you dine.

314 Tilghman St. ~ 410-226-5900 ~ [capsizeoxmd.com](http://capsizeoxmd.com)

#### 6 Doc's Sunset Grille

Traditional American and Eastern Shore Menu. Tiki bar and outside seating in a relaxing atmosphere.

104 West Pier St. ~ 410-226-5550

#### 7 Oxford Social Cafe

Coffee, baked goods & Scottish Highland ice cream.

102 S. Morris St. ~ [oxfordsocialcafe.com](http://oxfordsocialcafe.com)

#### 8 Pope's Tavern & Market at the Oxford Inn

Serving authentic homemade pasta and Italian cuisine and available for takeout from our market.

405 S. Morris St. ~ 410-226-5220

#### 9 Robert Morris Inn and Salter's Tavern

Once the home of Robert Morris who gained fame as "Financier of the Revolution". Now the Eastern Shore's most unique historic restaurant and Inn under Chef Proprietor, Mark Salter.

314 N. Morris St. ~ 410-226-5111 ~ [robertmorrissinn.com](http://robertmorrissinn.com)

#### 10 The Scottish Highland Creamery

Hand-crafted, gourmet ice cream and sorbets made daily on site, gelato style, with fresh ingredients. Come taste a bit of Italy with Scottish flair! An Eastern Shore favorite! Behind Capsize by the boat ramp. Two locations to serve you.

314 Tilghman St. & 103 S. Morris St. ~ 410-924-6298

[scottishhighlandcreamery.com](http://scottishhighlandcreamery.com)

### SHOPPES

#### Duck and the Dog

Webstore for ethically produced items for infants and toddlers.

P0 Box 391 ~ 410-226-6538 ~ [duckandthedog.com](http://duckandthedog.com)

#### 11 Mystery Loves Company Booksellers

Full-service bookstore specializing in mysteries and books about the Chesapeake. Nautical books, books by local authors & books for all ages. Open year round. Special orders taken. Frequent author events.

202 S. Morris St., P0 Box 160 ~ 410-226-0010

[mysterylovescompany.com](http://mysterylovescompany.com)

#### 12 Oxford Market & Deli

All your provisioning needs can be filled here. Groceries, beer, wine and liquor. Homemade subs, sandwiches, and cold cuts. Salads, soups, baked goods, assorted fruits and vegetables, and fresh baked breads. Hand-dipped ice cream. Newspapers, maps and ATM.

203 S. Morris St., P0 Box 217

410-226-0015 ~ Fax: 410-226-0175

#### 13 Oxford Vintage & Trade

Offering a curated collection of antique and vintage items with a flair for Maryland's Eastern Shore. We carry nautical items, home décor, china, linens, dinnerware, jewelry, art, books, and vinyl records.

202 Bank St. ~ 610-952-7849

[facebook.com ~ oxfordvintage.trade](http://facebook.com/oxfordvintage.trade)



#### 14 Treasure Chest Gift Shop

Art gallery and gift shop on the main street featuring locally made sea glass jewelry, pottery, mosaics, painted furniture, Oxford memorabilia, soaps and lotions, T-shirts, notecards, artwork, postcards and much more!!

111 S. Morris St. ~ 410-924-8817

[treasurechesttoxford@gmail.com](mailto:treasurechesttoxford@gmail.com)

[treasurechesttoxford.com](http://treasurechesttoxford.com)

### ATTRACTIONS

#### 15 John Wesley Preservation Society and Museum

The John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church served as an important house of worship for black and white parishioners prior to the Civil War. The church was sold to black members in 1877 and the adjacent Cook Shop was built in the 1940s. We encourage you to visit this remarkable treasure of Oxford history.

4957 Evergreen Rd. ~ [johnwesleychurch.org](http://johnwesleychurch.org)

#### 16 Oxford Bellevue Ferry

America's oldest privately owned ferry shuttles back and forth across the Tred Avon River each day from 9 am until sunset (call for exact times). The ferry carries nine (9) cars, numerous motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians on each trip. RV's, trucks and trailers also accommodated. Operates April through November. (Mailing address: 27456 Oxford Rd., Oxford, MD)

101 E. Strand in Oxford, or 5536 Bellevue Rd. in Bellevue

410-745-9023 ~ [obferry@aol.com](mailto:obferry@aol.com) ~ [oxfordferry.com](http://oxfordferry.com)

#### 17 Oxford Community Center

OCC provides residents and visitors alike a year-round schedule of educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and events. It is a mid-shore treasure enriching lives since 1928. Visitor information and maps available.

200 Oxford Rd., P0 Box 308 ~ 410-226-5904 ~ [oxfordcc.org](http://oxfordcc.org)

#### 18 Oxford Museum & Gift Shop

Showcasing the more than 325 years of Oxford, MD history. Exhibits are exclusively devoted to its people, their way of life, and their contributions.

101 S. Morris St. (across from Town Park) ~ 410-226-0191

[oxfordmuseummd.org](http://oxfordmuseummd.org)

#### 19 The Waters Edge Museum

Telling the story of life on the Eastern Shore for people of color and seeking to empower young people to find their place in history.

101 Mill St. ~ [watersedgemuseum.org](http://watersedgemuseum.org)

#### 20 Tred Avon Players (TAP)

A non-profit theater group, organized in 1982, presenting entertaining plays and musicals in the Oxford Community Center (OCC).

Reservations: 410-226-0061

[facebook.com ~ TredAvonPlayers](http://facebook.com/TredAvonPlayers)

### MARITIME

#### 21 Campbell's Bachelor Point Yacht Co. & Yacht Sales

At the mouth of the Tred Avon River, this 80-slip marina (with two floating docks) has a pool and picnic area. The boatyard offers full-service maintenance, varnish, repowers and repairs. Travel lift and dry storage available. Certified Cummins dealer. Wi-Fi available. Yacht sales office on the premises.

26106A Bachelor Harbor Drive, P0 Box 410 ~ 410-226-5592

[mbickford@campbellsboatyards.com](mailto:mbickford@campbellsboatyards.com)

[campbellsboatyards.com](http://campbellsboatyards.com)

#### 22 Campbell's Boatyard @ Jack's Pt.

On Town Creek, this full service 56-slip boatyard offers boat repair, varnish work, maintenance and repowers, slip rentals (with two floating docks), haul-outs and dry storage. Yamaha certified dealer. Wi-Fi available.

106 Richardson St., P0 Box 410 ~ 410-226-5105

[dfrey@campbellsboatyards.com](mailto:dfrey@campbellsboatyards.com) ~ [campbellsboatyards.com](http://campbellsboatyards.com)

#### 23 Campbell's Town Creek Boatyard

At the head of Town Creek, this 40-slip boatyard offers dockage—with the Jack's Point shop doing the boat repairs and maintenance, in addition to haul-outs and dry storage. The shop at Town Creek specializes in custom boat building. Wi-Fi available.

109 Myrtle Ave, P0 Box 410 ~ 410-226-0213

[scampbell@campbellsboatyards.com](mailto:scampbell@campbellsboatyards.com)

[campbellsboatyards.com](http://campbellsboatyards.com)

#### 24 Cutts and Case Shipyard

Design, Build, Restore, Maintain

306 Tilghman St., P0 Box 9 ~ 410-226-5416

[cuttsandcase.com](http://cuttsandcase.com)

#### 25 DiMillo's on the Chesapeake East

Located at the former Hinckley yard, on the south end of Town Creek, a full-service marina with over 50 slips, public laundry facility, swimming pool, service department and heated storage. We're also the Northern Chesapeake Bay's exclusive dealers for Sabre Yachts, Back Cove Yachts, and Limestone Boats, and brokers for all brands of pre-owned power and sailing yachts.

202 Bank St., P0 Box 129 ~ 410-226-0100

[Dimillosyachtsales.com](http://Dimillosyachtsales.com)

#### Marine Minute

Keeping boaters informed and engaged in issues, articles, and profiles related to the marine industry. Marine Minute offers daily news flashes through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

443-220-4339 ~ [themarkineminute.com](http://themarkineminute.com)

#### 26 Safe Harbor Oxford

Stunning poolside views of the Tred Avon River complement warm personalized service and small-town charm at Safe Harbor Oxford. The marina's complement of upscale amenities, expert marine service, and close-knit community create a truly boater-friendly setting.

402 E. Strand ~ 410-226-5101

Fuel & Dockmaster 410-226-5450

[shmarinas.com/locations/safe-harbor-oxford](http://shmarinas.com/locations/safe-harbor-oxford)

#### 27 Tred Avon Yacht Club

TAYCers take pride in welcoming sailors and hope that our weather and waters cooperate to make your visit one to remember.

100 W. Strand ~ 410-226-5269 ~ TAYC.com

#### Tumblehome Cruises

Private cruise rentals.

410-726-3453 ~ P0 Box 539 ~ [tumblehomecruises.com](http://tumblehomecruises.com)

[info@tumblehomecruises.com](mailto:info@tumblehomecruises.com)

#### JP & Associates - Marine Surveyors

(410) 726-3453 ~ P0 Box 539

### SERVICES

#### Atlantic Financial Group, LLC

A boutique financial services firm.

443-249-3311 ~ [Atlanticfinancialgroup.com](http://Atlanticfinancialgroup.com)

#### Bay Cookie Company

Beautiful homemade designer cookies.

773-590-6280 ~ [baycookieco.com](http://baycookieco.com)

#### 28 Benson & Mangold Real Estate

27999 Oxford Rd. ~ 410-822-1415

[info@bensonandmangold.com](mailto:info@bensonandmangold.com)

220 N. Morris St. ~ 410-226-0111

#### Henry S. Hale

of Benson & Mangold Real Estate

220 N. Morris St., P0 Box 142 ~ 410-829-3777

[henryshale@gmail.com](mailto:henryshale@gmail.com)

#### Jane M. McCarthy

of Benson & Mangold Real Estate

27999 Oxford Rd. ~ 410-310-6692

[jmcarthy310@gmail.com](mailto:jmcarthy310@gmail.com)

#### Ray Stevens

of Benson & Mangold Real Estate

220 N. Morris St., P0 Box 208 ~ 410-310-6060

[info@bensonandmangold.com](mailto:info@bensonandmangold.com)

# OXFORD

OXFORD



Business Association

25 mile per hour  
speed limit starts here!

Route 333  
Oxford Rd.

Oxford Fire  
Department

17/20  
Oxford  
Community  
Center

Second St.

J. L. Thompson Dr.

E Pier St.

Willow Ave.

River View Ave.

Bayview Ave.

Rionda Ave.

Bachelor Point Rd.

Lang's Landing Rd.

Bachelor Harbor Dr.

Bachelor Point Ct.

West Ave.

Caroline St.

W. Pier St.

S. Morris St.

Robes  
Harbor Ct.

Pleasant St.

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