

## Pieces of Oxford's Past

Oxford's location was determined in the early 1800s when a site was selected for Ohio's second public university. To end the squabbling among competing towns and cities, the decision was made to locate the new school in an almost uninhabited wilderness area in northwestern Butler County. The resulting village would be given the classic name Oxford.

For many years before, indigenous tribes including the Miami and Shawnee had shared the rolling hills of southwestern Ohio. After their defeat by the army of General Anthony Wayne they were banished from the region by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. By 1809 when Miami University was chartered, descendants of European immigrants had begun to settle along the Four Mile Creek (called Tallawanda by the Native Americans).

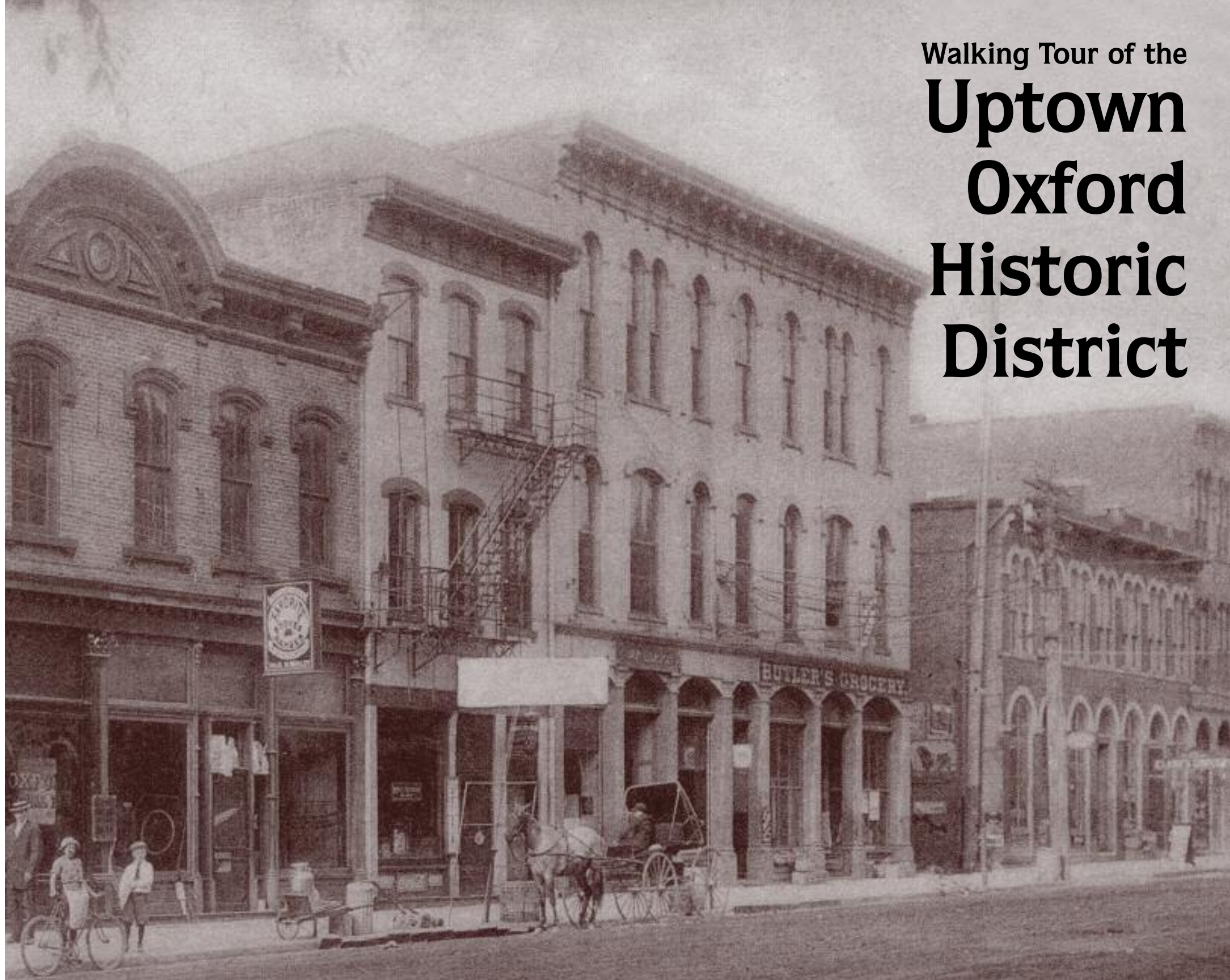
In 1810 settlers bought lots in the new village that was laid out in a tract still referred to as the Mile Square. The university and two public squares were included within Oxford's boundaries. The campus was situated at the eastern edge, and the town squares were located near the center of what would become the Uptown business district. Together the village and the university developed over the next two decades, and in 1830 (with a population of over 700) Oxford was incorporated.

By 1856 the village was the home of five institutions of higher learning. Miami University, the Oxford Theological Seminary, the Oxford Female Institute, the Western Female Seminary, and the Oxford Female College made Oxford a true college town much like the city in England for which it was named.

In the following years Oxonians witnessed many changes in their small town. The Theological Seminary moved to Monmouth, Illinois, and Miami students left to fight on both sides of the Civil War. The Female Institute and Female College merged into what would become Oxford College for Women. Miami closed for twelve years and the Female Seminary became the Western College for Women. By the end of the twentieth century the remaining women's schools had closed, leaving only Miami.

While few pre-Civil War buildings remain in the Uptown Oxford Historic District, many built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries can still be seen. Most of these have replaced earlier buildings although some are the first ones on their sites. Brief descriptions of their significance are given, with additional information available from tour escorts and the public library.

## Walking Tour of the Uptown Oxford Historic District



# Walking Tour of the UPTOWN OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Designated by the City of Oxford in 1987, the Uptown Oxford Historic District is one of the city's three historic districts and is the only one that includes commercial, residential, recreational, and religious sites. This self-guided walking tour of the High Street business district covers a twelve-block area and provides brief descriptions of the historic and architectural significance of 96 sites. Buildings included in the tour are limited to those that were constructed prior to World War II and that are still standing. (Only one exception was made, and that was in order to include the wedding site of a U.S. president despite the fact that the house was demolished.)

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To take the entire walking tour, begin at the Oxford Community Arts Center at the southwest corner of West High Street and South College Avenue. The circled number next to each address in the booklet corresponds to a location on the foldout map in the back.

The complete tour takes approximately two hours. Shorter tours can be taken of just the West End (about an hour and 15 minutes) by following numbers 1-50 and 78-96 or of only the East End (about 45 minutes) by following numbers 51-77.

To arrange escorted group tours contact the  
**Oxford Visitors & Convention Bureau** at  
14 West Park Place, Second Floor  
Oxford, OH 45056  
Phone 513-523-8687  
Fax 513-523-2927  
E-mail [info@enjoyoxford.org](mailto:info@enjoyoxford.org)  
Website [www.enjoyoxford.org](http://www.enjoyoxford.org)

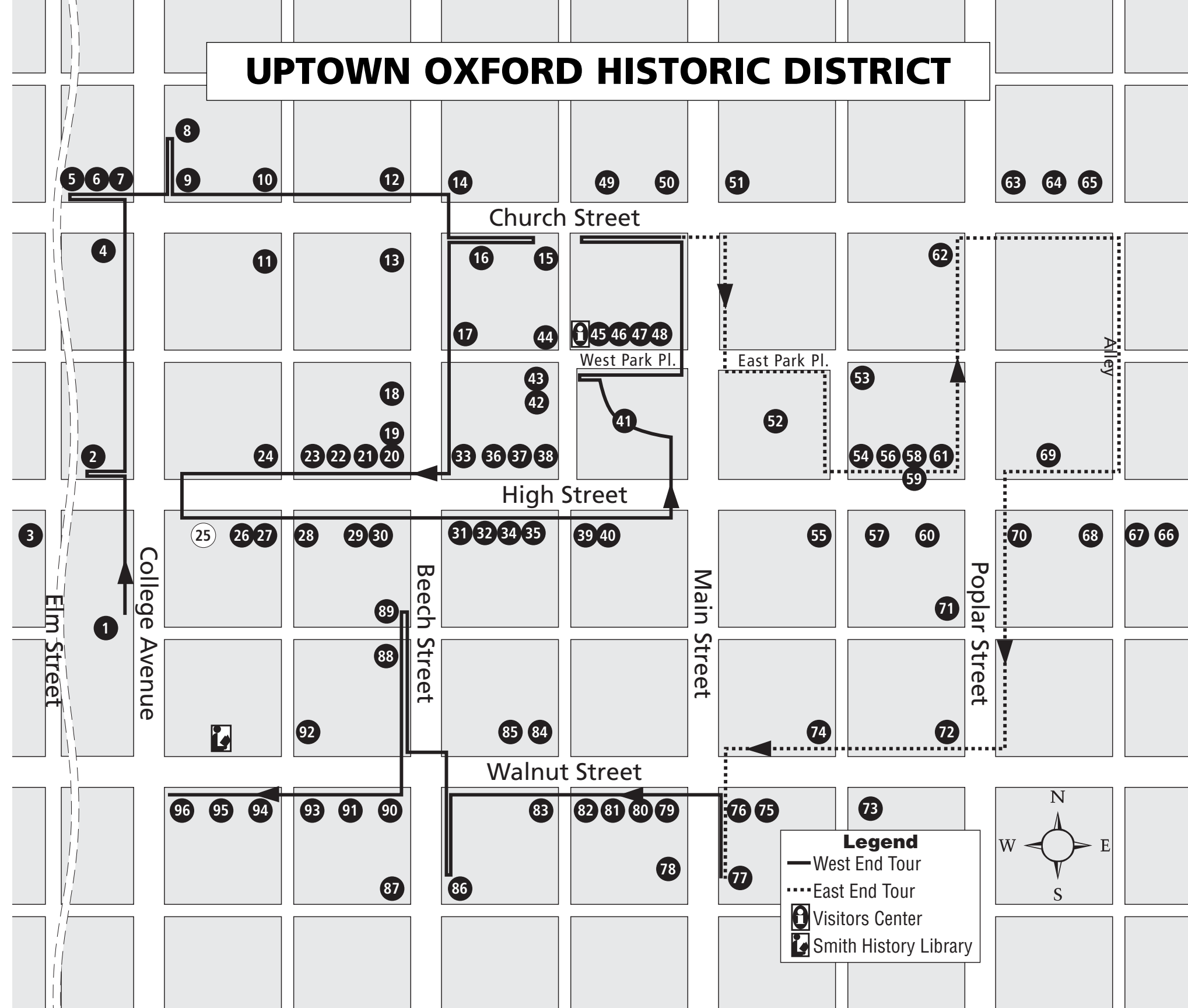
For additional information on Oxford history  
contact the  
Lane Public Libraries'  
**Smith Library of Regional History**  
15 South College Avenue  
Oxford, OH 45056  
Phone 513-523-3035  
Fax 513-523-6661  
E-mail [sml@lanep.org](mailto:sml@lanep.org)  
Website [www.lanep.org/smith.html](http://www.lanep.org/smith.html)

Photographs were taken by Nora E. Bowers, John F. Brouhard, J. E. Elliott, George R. Hoxie, Ralph J. McGinnis, Miami University *Recensio* staff, Hazelett A. Moore, Frank R. Snyder, Robert E. White, Gilson P. Wright, and others whose names are not known. The photos date from as early as the 1870s and are part of the Smith Library collection.

Cover: This postcard image produced by Kraemer Art of Cincinnati was titled, *West on High St. Oxford, Ohio*. Photographed circa 1909-1910, it shows the south side of West High Street in the block between Main and Beech Streets. The digital image is part of the Smith History Library's Clyde Bowden Postcard Collection.

Produced  
by  
Smith Library of Regional History  
and  
Oxford Visitors & Convention Bureau

Oxford, Ohio  
2001  
revised 2009





10 South College Avenue

**1 10 South College Avenue**  
Chartered in 1849, the Oxford Female Institute later merged with the Oxford Female College (located east of town). This building, later known as Oxford College for Women, first had Greek Revival and then had Victorian-era architectural features added before the school closed in 1928. After being acquired by Miami University, Neoclassical elements were added, and the building served as a dormitory until 1998. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### POINTS TO BE REMEMBERED.

☞ Oxford College has a faculty of twenty-five persons, three of them gentlemen; it has departments of music, art and oratory and a commercial course.

☞ A modern building healthful, well equipped and ventilated, an elevator to save much climbing of stairs, bed rooms carpeted and prettily furnished, fine grounds.

☞ A homelike life: the President, his wife and daughters and the ladies of the faculty live in constant intercourse with students, an advantage impossible in large colleges.

Oxford College promotional brochure, c. 1899



**2 210 West High Street**  
Built in the first decade of the 1900s, this brick house was the residence of the family of Rose (Weir) and Zora Beckett, a businessman. Next it was the home of Althea (Wagner) and John Hutchisson, a grocer, and by the mid-1960s the building had been converted to commercial use as a real estate office and beauty salon.



*Oxford Herald*, November 17, 1911

**3 303 West High Street**  
(To save time this site can be viewed from 210 W. High St.)  
This two-storey brick dwelling might have been built as early as 1859 and once had a full-length front porch. It was the home of a meat shop proprietor in the early 1900s and later became the residence of Mary (Kimball) and George VanAusdall, a retired Indiana farmer. By mid-century the house was converted to apartments, and in 1989 an addition was constructed on the west side.



22 North College Avenue

4

#### 22 North College Avenue

The *Alexander House* was built soon after the Civil War by retired farmer John Shera and eventually displayed evidence of both Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The house was subsequently occupied by Emma (Duvall) and Herschel Hinckley, a physician, and then by Elizabeth (Horner Hull) and William Alexander, also a doctor. Both families made alterations to accommodate the medical practices. The home was later converted to apartments before becoming a bed and breakfast in the 1980s and later a restaurant. The property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### PERSONAL

Lyman Hinckley, youngest son of Dr. H. D. Hinckley has accepted a position with a Lumber Company in Texas.

*Oxford Herald*, March 4, 1910

**5 214 West Church Street**

This dwelling was probably built before the Civil War, but little is known about its occupants in the 1800s. In the 1900s a number of renters followed one another, including the families of a house painter, a printer, a truck driver, and an auto repairman. Before the end of the twentieth century, replacement siding covered the frame exterior, and college students were the tenants.

**6 208 West Church Street**

The *Clough Cottage* was built in the late 1930s for Mabel (Gillard) and William Clough, a pharmacist at the drugstore owned by his wife's family. Later in the century the small frame home was rented to college students.



**200 West Church Street**

**7 200 West Church Street**

The *Ferguson House* was built in 1865 by Scottish immigrants Catherine (McGregor) and John Ferguson, a tinsmith. The brick residence with Greek Revival style elements was remodeled in 1937 and remained in the Ferguson family until 1990. It was later rented to college students.

**8 111 North College Avenue**

Designed by architect David Maxfield, this Cape Cod house was built in 1938 for Dessa (Shupe) and Mervin Shellhouse, owner of a printing business. The couple ran an antiques shop from a building in their backyard. Later in the century the house belonged to a university professor.



**130 West Church Street**

**9 130 West Church Street**

The *Stork-Kolb House* was built in the first decade of the 1900s and originally had decorative Queen Anne wood and metal detailing. It was the home of Edna (Mee) and Arthur Stork, an Oxford businessman and later the home of Isabella (Carnes) and Joseph Culler, a physics professor. During the latter half of the 1900s Lillian (Greschel) Kolb lived here and ran a guest home. By the end of the century, college students lived in the house and in the converted garage; vinyl siding was added in the early 2000s.

**Guest Homes**

**KOLB GUEST HOME 130 W Church  
Δ3-5124**

*Oxford, Ohio City Directory, 1958*



116 West Church Street

**10** 116 West Church Street

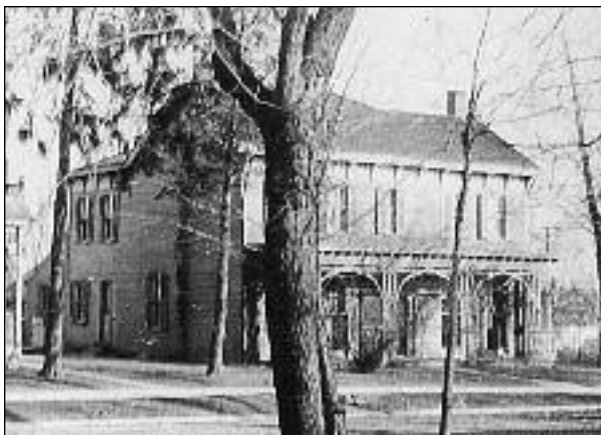
The *George Munns House* was probably built in 1904 by Mary (Shera) and George Munns, a local banker. The Colonial Revival style residence was later used as a fraternity house, a rest home, a church, and apartments. Vinyl siding replaced the original wood siding.



117 West Church Street

**11** 117 West Church Street

Erected in 1911, the *Johnston-Prather House* was built in the Neoclassical style by Anna (McCreary) and William Johnston, a lumber dealer whose business was located across the alley. The Joe Prather family owned the home from the 1950s to the 1990s, and by the early 2000s it was used for commercial purposes and later for student housing.



**100 West Church Street**

**12 100 West Church Street**  
Probably built before the Civil War, this two-storey frame dwelling exhibited both Federal and Italianate style elements and originally featured a front porch with decorative "gingerbread" detailing. Initially a single-family residence, it was converted to apartments in the 1900s.



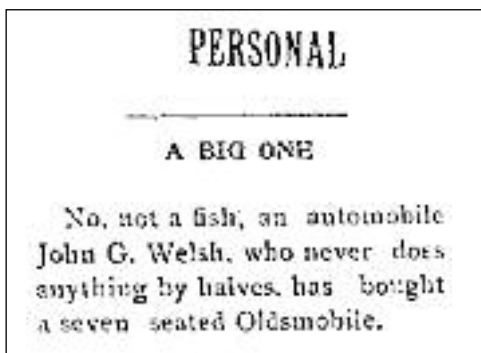
**101 West Church Street**

**13 101 West Church Street**  
This Federal style home was probably built in the 1830s. It is believed that in the early 1850s future U.S. President Benjamin Harrison boarded here while attending college. Colonel James Newton, a merchant, lived in this house during the "Irish Riot" of 1862, and in the late 1800s and early 1900s it was the home of Eliza (Munns) and Edward Greer, a retired farmer and native of Ireland. The house was a funeral home from the 1920s through the end of the century.



32 West Church Street

**14** **32 West Church Street**  
The *J.G. Welsh House*, with Shingle style and Colonial Revival style elements, was built about 1901 by Mary (Mollyneaux) Millikin and soon became the home of Mary (Preston) and John Welsh, a banker. In 1947 the Lutheran Church purchased the property and soon added their chapel at the rear. It was later used for offices, apartments, and a fraternity house.



*Oxford Herald*, April 29, 1910

**15** **17 West Church Street**  
Constructed in 1924, this typical American Foursquare residence was owned by Minnie (McVicker) and Harry Kapp, a carpenter, who might also have been the builder of the house. In the later 1900s it was the home of retired farmer, Oliver Bourne. Replacement siding was added by the end of the century.



29 North Beech Street

**16** **29 North Beech** (also 31 & 33 West Church Street)  
The *Munns-Norris House* was built in the early 19th century and in 1845 was purchased by Irish immigrants Grace (Greer) and Thomas C. Munns, a coal and lumber dealer. The home remained in the family until Munns' granddaughter, Sara Norris, an organist and music instructor, sold it in the 1950s. By 1970 the building had been converted to offices.

**PERSONALS**  
—  
The Coming and Going of  
our People

Miss Sara Norris will spend  
Thanksgiving with her aunt  
Miss Frankie Munns at Marion,  
Ohio.

*Oxford Herald*, November 25, 1910



15 North Beech Street

**17 15 North Beech Street**

The Federal style *David Magie House*, with added Greek Revival style elements, was probably built in the 1830s and in 1859 became the town home of Hannah (Young) and David Magie, a farmer. He developed the Magie hog, one of the strains that led to the Poland China breed. The home belonged to members of the Manche family in the 1900s before making the transition in the 1950s to apartments and then to offices.



POLAND CHINA HOG from *The People's Farm and Stock Cyclopedia* by Waldo F. Brown, 1884



10 North Beech Street

**18** **10 North Beech Street**  
 Originally named the Oxford Theater, this movie house was built in 1911 with Arts and Crafts style elements. It was called the Talawanda Theater from 1950 until the 1980s when it was substantially enlarged and renamed the Princess.



*Oxford News*, March 5, 1931



6, 8 North Beech Street

**19** 8 North Beech Street

Erected at the end of the 1800s (possibly as an addition to the corner edifice), this narrow brick building housed a bowling alley for over ten years. The Sunshine Restaurant, owned and operated by Fredericka (Free) and Anthony Hodzins, occupied the site from 1929 to the 1960s. Later businesses included another restaurant, a shoe repair shop, and a cosmetics store.



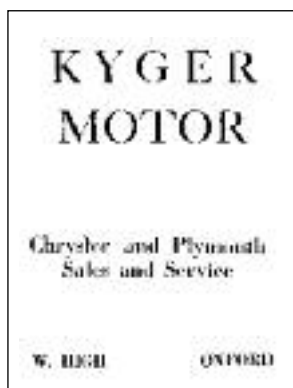
Miami *Recensio*, 1933

**20** 6 North Beech Street (formerly 100 West High Street)  
Built by the 1880s, this vernacular brick edifice once housed a saloon on the first floor and a carriage painting business on the second floor. The building was later occupied by a poolroom, a gasoline station, and a children's clothing store during the first half of the 1900s and by Ruhlman's Grocery for most of the latter half of the century.



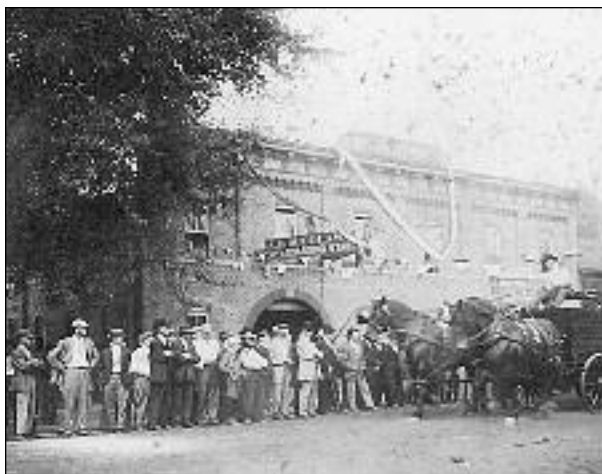
104, 100 West High, 6 North Beech

**21** **100 West High Street** (formerly 102 West High Street) This two-storey brick building with modest Italianate features was constructed as a residence before 1899, and from it the Cormier family ran an undertaking business from 1909 until the late 1920s. It remained a private home with renters upstairs until the grocery next door expanded into it in 1963. Other enterprises have occupied the site in recent years.



Miami *Recensio*, 1947

**22** **104 West High Street** Erected by 1919, this two-storey brick building was the location of an auto repair shop operated by African-American Ben Gibson during the 1920s. The Kyger family added Art Deco elements when their car dealership used the site from the 1930s until 1968. The building was subsequently occupied by a dry cleaning business and later by restaurants after undergoing substantial façade changes.



112-114 West High Street

**23** **112-114 West High Street**  
Called the *Beckett Block* when it was constructed in the early 1900s, this Italianate style building was originally a livery and boarding stable. The upper level became the USO clubroom in 1942 when military personnel were training in Oxford during World War II. The Halter name was placed at the top of the building when the family plumbing business occupied the site later in the 1940s, and grocery stores were located on the first floor during much of the latter half of the twentieth century. The original brick arches can be seen over the second-storey windows.

**A. D. DOUGLASS**  
Proprietor of the  
"GRAY EAGLE" LIVERY AND FEED STABLE  
West High St. Beckett Block  
Phone 3, -:- OXFORD, O.

*Oxford Herald*, March 24, 1911



**118 West High Street**

- 24** **118 West High Street**  
The federal government provided funds for the construction of this Colonial Revival style brick post office that was completed in 1938. After the post office ceased operation at this location in 1988, the building was bought by the City of Oxford and later became the Oxford Courthouse.



**131 West High Street**

- 25** **131 West High Street**  
(A gas station now occupies the site.)  
A two-storey vernacular frame building stood near the southeast corner of High and College from 1827 until 1940 when it was razed to make room for the expansion of the gasoline station on the corner. Known as the *Temperance Tavern* and later as *Dr. Scott's Boarding House*, it was the location of the 1853 wedding of Caroline Scott and Benjamin Harrison, who became the 23rd U.S. president.



119-121, 123 West High Street

- 26** **123 West High Street** This one-storey commercial building was probably constructed with a pressed metal façade in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Later, concrete veneer made to look like stone was applied to the front of the building. Businesses here included a barbershop, a dry cleaning establishment, and a shoe repair shop.



*Oxford News*, August 25, 1932

- 27** **119-121 West High Street** Possibly built as early as 1839, this two-storey vernacular style residence was converted to business use by the 1930s. While people lived on the second floor, some first-floor commercial enterprises included a furniture store, a gasoline station, a beauty parlor, a sewing machine business, a real estate office, a copy shop, and an attorney's office. Although the original red bricks of the *Beal Building* have been covered by a brick-like veneer, scalloped wood trim can still be seen under the eaves.



117 West High Street

**28 117 West High Street**

Possibly built as early as 1839, this Greek Revival style brick house belonged to gun maker Joseph and German-born Wilhelmina (Styhr) Hayden for most of the remainder of the 1800s. In the early 1900s it was the home of Frederick and Odille (Courtemanche) Cormier, Canadians of French descent. During the 1920s part of the porch was enclosed for use as a gas station office, and by the 1930s the Cormiers' son added a building at the rear to accommodate a funeral parlor. Other families occupied the residence until the 1990s when it was rented to college students.

Joe Hayden, of Oxford, exhibited a splendid rifle and also an unsurpassed double barrelled shot gun, each his own manufacture. He is undoubtedly the best gun maker in the Miami valley.

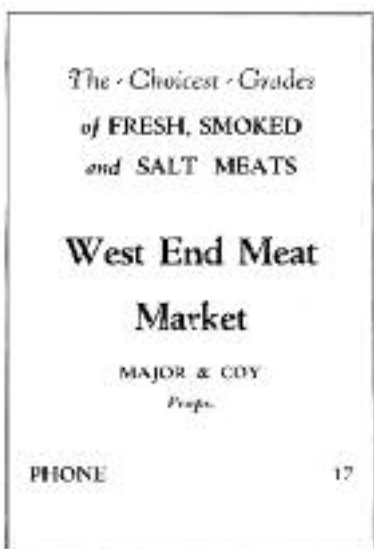
*Hamilton Telegraph*, October 10, 1867



109, 111 West High Street

### 29 111 West High Street

Probably erected in 1888, this two-storey brick building was first occupied by a tailor's establishment and then by a grocery store. In the early 1900s it was known as the West End Meat Market and was later operated by Golda (Orem) and Truman Major, who lived above their store. Businesses after World War II included an architect's office, a real estate agency, and a pet store.



Miami *Recensio*, 1927

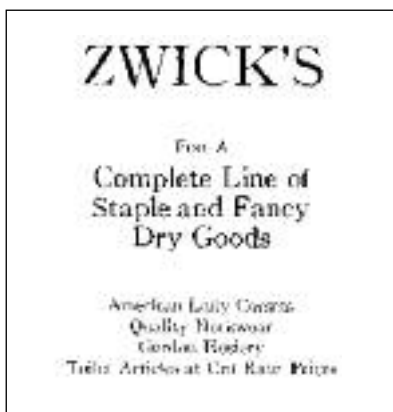
### 30 109 West High Street

Built by 1870, this Italianate style commercial building housed bakeries for most of its first 40 years. From 1912 until 1976 the family of Pauline (Piraino) and Michael Corso, immigrants from Sicily, operated a fruit and vegetable market here while living above and behind the shop. Bakeries again occupied the site for most of the remainder of the 20th century.



33, 35-37-39 West High Street

**31 35-37-39 West High Street**  
 Built in 1883 by Bavarian immigrant Moritz Schlenck, this Italianate building that still bears his name originally housed three family-owned stores selling groceries, dry goods, and shoes. Grandson Charles Zwick had a store in the *Schlenck Block* until 1974, and Beasley's Bakery was located in the corner shop from the 1940s to the 1980s.



*Miami Recensio*, 1920

**32 33 West High Street**  
 Built of rusticated concrete blocks early in the 1900s, this building originally housed a restaurant. Barbershops occupied the site from the 1920s to the 1970s and were succeeded by small specialty shops.



**38 West High Street**

**33** **38 West High Street**  
 Ezra Bourne, horse trader and livery stable owner, built this brick building in the Italianate style in 1900. In 1909 it was bought by the Oxford Hardware Company, which operated here until 1984. Although the bricks have been covered by stucco and the majority of distinguishable architectural features removed, the stepped gable façade is still visible. (The bell tower in the photograph was used to summon volunteer firemen from the West End of town.)

**Oxford Hardware Co.**  
 Dealers in  
**BUILDERS' HARDWARE,**  
 Stoves, Tinware, Paints, Varnish, Oils, Window Glass,  
 Etc.  
 The American Field Feeds a Specialty  
**OXFORD, - - OHIO,**

**Rider-Lewis. The Car Ahead.**

*Oxford Herald, December 17, 1909*

**34** **31 West High Street**  
 Beginning with its construction about 1885, this Italianate style brick building housed a number of commercial enterprises, including saloons, restaurants, pool rooms, a produce market, and a combination clothing and dime store. Oxford's African-American Freemasons used the upper floor as their lodge hall in the 1930s and 1940s. Architectural features include windows with triangular pediments and decorative cornice brackets.



**31 West High Street**



**29 West High Street**

**35** **29 West High Street**  
 Constructed in the late 1800s, this Italianate style building was occupied by hardware and grocery stores for many years. From at least the 1940s until the 1960s it housed variety and dime stores. Later businesses included a savings association and a tanning salon.

## **BEE HIVE GROCERY**

They are always the first to  
 reduce the high cost of living

Fresh Country Butter, Eggs and Lard all the time.

OXFORD, OHIO

PHONE 314



32, 26-28 West High Street

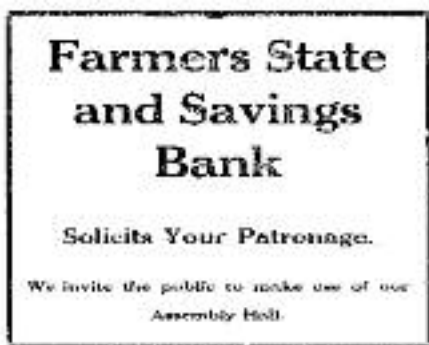
**36 32 West High Street** Probably erected in the early 1890s, this two-storey brick building began as a harness shop with a billiard room above. It was later occupied by a restaurant, grocery stores, a barbershop, a poolroom, and other commercial enterprises. The location of the *Oxford Press* newspaper from 1941-1968, it was here that the editor's column "Beneath the Tower" received its name from the water tower that stood a block away.

**37 26-28 West High Street** Originally constructed in 1871 as a three-storey brick building in the Italianate style, it has been called both *Davis Hall* and the *Davis Block* because Joshua Davis was its first owner. The third floor was initially a high-ceilinged opera house, which was later used as a meeting hall for the G.A.R. and then for the Knights of Pythias. Major façade changes resulted from a 1924 fire, and in 2008 a fourth floor was created out of the old opera house space. The extra level required installing a new upper row of windows and re-sizing the third floor windows. First floor businesses have included a tinsmith's shop, hardware stores, a grocery store, clothing stores, a theater, a poolroom, restaurants, and a variety store.



20 West High Street

**38** **20 West High Street**  
Banks have occupied the first floor of this Italianate style brick edifice since its construction in 1872. For a number of years the second floor of this *Bank Block* was used by printers, dentists, and other businesses, while the third floor was the lodge hall of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the 1880s the basement level housed an African-American-owned barbershop. Remodeling in the 1950s altered the first floor façade.



*Oxford Fair Booklet*, September 1915



11, 15-17-19 West High Street

**39** **15-17-19 West High Street**  
This three-storey Italianate style building was erected by George and Moses Kyger in 1868. The third floor, called *Kyger's Hall*, was used for public entertainment and dances and then by the USO toward the end of World War II. The second floor was used for residential units, a tailor's establishment, a barbershop, and office space. Known as the *Horner Building* for most of the 1900s, the first floor housed various businesses that sold dry goods, groceries, clothes, drugs, and hardware.

**40** **11 West High Street**  
John Chatten, a saddle-maker, constructed the *Chatten-Hayden Building* by 1867. The third floor of this Italianate style building was used as a meeting hall for fraternities and other groups, while offices were located on the second floor. First floor businesses included Chatten's harness shop, a drugstore, and for over 50 years, Clyde Hayden's Shoe Store. Businesses in the later 1900s included a home accessories store and a delicatessen.



West Park

**41 West Park**  
For many years the most prominent feature of the *West Park* was the bandstand that served the community from 1874 to 1936. During the 1900s, veterans were remembered with a flagpole, a naval cannon, and a small raised plaza. The park was named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1992 and completely redesigned in 2000.

**42 Unnumbered West Park Place**  
It was probably in the late 1920s that this narrow passageway was enclosed with a concrete veneer façade that was made to look like stone. It included a rear stairway to upper levels of the buildings facing High Street and maintained rear access to the first floor businesses. It also created some additional interior space on an upper level.

**43 10 West Park Place**  
The two-storey brick *McCord Building* was constructed in 1875 by undertaker Samuel Gath and then housed Frank McCord's furniture store until the 1920s. From the 1930s to the 1960s a bowling alley occupied the site, followed by various other businesses. The front of the building has been covered by a more recent brick veneer.



12 and 14 West Park Place

**44** 12 West Park Place

This one-storey brick building, known as *Park Place Hall*, was constructed for roller-skating and dancing in the late 1920s. From the 1930s to the 1980s it was occupied by printing companies, and by the 1990s it was used for offices.



*Oxford News*, December 19, 1929

**45** 14 West Park Place

Constructed by 1875, this two-storey brick building still exhibits Italianate features in its arched windows. For about 90 years grocery stores and dry goods businesses occupied the first floor. The 1971 remodeling of the building next door included this building and made office space available on both the first and second floors.



14, 16-18 West Park Place

**46 16-18 West Park Place**  
Erected by Arthur Stork in 1917, this two-storey brick building, designed in a commercial vernacular style, was occupied by automobile dealerships for over 50 years. In 1971 an insurance business remodeled the building.

**47 20 West Park Place**  
Probably built by the 1850s, this two-storey commercial building housed a dry goods store and then a saloon, until the 1900s, when subsequent businesses included a nickelodeon, an antiques shop, a music store, a sewing machine service shop, and a decorating center. In 1974 the flower shop to the east expanded into the space, and at some point the second-storey bricks were covered with a painted brick-like veneer.

**48 22 West Park Place**  
Possibly built as early as the 1830s, this remaining part of a larger brick building was used for cigar making in the 1880s. Commercial enterprises in the 1900s included a plumbing business and, after World War II, a florist's shop.

**49 12 West Church Street**

The *Johnston-Caldwell Home* was built in the 1890s in the Queen Anne style. In the early 1900s it belonged to Elizabeth (Ramsey Cramer) and John Johnston, a lumber dealer, and in the mid-1900s it was the home of Laura (Wolf) and John Caldwell, the village postmaster. In the later years of the century alterations and additions were made to convert the residence to doctors' offices.

**50 2 West Church Street**

Built in 1909, this dwelling has lost most of its identifying architectural features. After World War I it was the home of Dr. Wade and Marion (Thayer Ashton) MacMillan. He was the medical director at Miami University, and she was a psychology professor at Oxford College for Women. By mid-century the residence was occupied by the family of Henry Montgomery, a classics professor, and by the end of the 1900s it was used as a business office for the nearby medical practice.

*To begin a tour of only the East End (or to continue a tour of the entire district), proceed to number 51.*

*To complete a tour of only the West End of the district, turn south on Main Street and resume the tour at number 78.*



**101 North Main Street**

**51** **101 North Main Street**  
This Romanesque style limestone church with a slate roof was under construction from 1925 until 1927. It was named the Memorial Presbyterian Church because it was erected with funds donated by Laura (Magie) Kumler in memory of her husband and daughter. In 1966 this church merged with the United Presbyterian Church, and in 1983 the name was changed to the Oxford Presbyterian Church.



**East Park**

**52** **East Park**  
A well-known landmark that could be seen for miles was the water tower, which stood in the *East Park* from 1922 until 1998. From 1885, there was also a Civil War cannon here, until it was moved to the west park when both Uptown parks underwent a major redevelopment in 2000. The park was named Oxford Memorial Park in 1992.



48-52 East Park Place, 20-22-24 East High Street

**53** **48-52 East Park Place**  
Erected on McCullough family property in the 1800s, these two buildings (which now appear as one) were built of bricks that were later covered by stucco. Modest Italianate style elements can still be seen. Until the 1930s, blacksmiths occupied the north part of the building while a woodworking shop, an upholstery business, and a bakery succeeded one another in the south part. Later a telegraph office, a bus station, a taxi stand, and a dentist's office were located here, followed by a utility company, a barbershop, and ice cream stores. Recently the upper level has housed the Oxford Community Foundation, but it was earlier the location of the Hillel Foundation where Miami's Jewish students met in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

**54** **20-22-24 East High Street**  
The *McCullough Block*, featuring stepped gables, is Oxford's oldest commercial building and was constructed about 1818 by the McCullough family. Later enhanced with a brick exterior, the building housed a tavern, rooming house, and hotel at various times. In 1855 Sigma Chi Fraternity was founded in a student's room on the second floor. For over one hundred years drug stores occupied the front of the building while other businesses operated from the Park Place entrances.



19-21 East High Street

**55** 19-21 East High Street

Built of large yellow bricks about 1910 and later named for its Greek immigrant owners in the 1930s, the *Vlachos Building* features decorative tile work in relief between the second-floor bay windows. For close to fifty years barbershops occupied the west half of the building, and men's clothing stores occupied the east half, while apartments were located on the second floor. Toward the end of the century a beer and wine store occupied the site, and paint was applied to the exterior bricks.

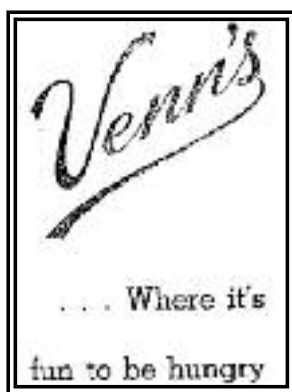
Nothing like a  
**Hart Schaffner & Marx**  
Suit for Style  
More here for your money than you'll find anywhere.  
**NESSELHAUF & PETERS**

*Miami Recensio*, 1923



26-28-30 East High Street

- 56** **26-28-30 East High Street** Possibly built in the 1850s, with an Italianate style façade added in the 1870s, this brick building housed numerous commercial enterprises, including an art school, a milliner's shop, a laundry, a newspaper office, restaurants, a photographer's studio, shoe stores, and clothing shops.



Miami *Recensio*, 1941



31 East High Street

**57** 31 East High Street

Designed by Hamilton architect Fred Mueller and erected by Oxford contractor T. C. Lloyd in 1910, this two-story brick building featured a second-floor bay window. The first owners were German immigrants Pauline (Neuhaus) and Bernhard Ringold, a baker and Civil War veteran. It was here in 1916 that Greek immigrant Andrew Rubekas opened a confectionery called the Purity, which later became a restaurant and existed as a bar until the late 1970s.

**The Purity Sweets**

The place where Miami,  
Western and Oxford  
meet their friends. We  
make our own . . . . .

FINE CANDIES  
— and —  
ICE CREAMS

**“The Purity”**  
‘Oxfordtown’s Trysting Place’  
PHONE 436

*Miami Recensio*, 1923



**32 East High Street**

**58 32 East High Street**

Probably constructed before the Civil War (with an Italianate façade added in the 1870s), this two-storey brick building was extensively altered again in the 1930s with the addition of a Colonial Revival façade. Acquired by the Folker family (whose initial can be seen in the entryway tile), the building was occupied over the years by a grocery store, the township clerk's office, a printing business, a laundry and dry cleaning establishment, a jewelry business, a record shop, and clothing stores.



*Phone 38—For Our Service On*  
 Dry Cleaning, Dyeing, Carpet Cleaning, Pressing, Repairing,  
 Hemstitching, Hat Blocking, Everything Under  
 the Sun of Dry Cleaning—we do.  
*Office and Press Shop—32 East High Street*

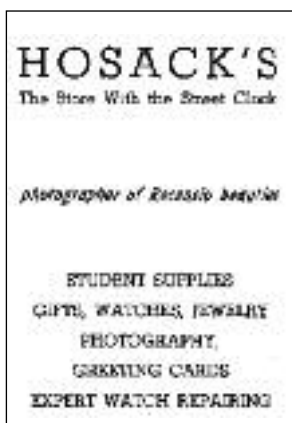
**Grandpa's**  
DRY CLEANING

Miami *Recensio*, 1930



**Clock**

**59** **Clock**  
In the 1880s this clock was located on the south side of High Street in front of a jewelry store owned by Frank Schweeting, a native of Germany. It was moved to its present location in the late 1930s, and the numerals on the face were changed from Roman to Arabic in the late 1950s. The clock was purchased by the City in 1979.



*Miami Recensio, 1941*



**35-37-39 East High Street**

**60 35-37-39 East High Street** Probably erected about 1840, the Federal style building was occupied by a law practice, a confectionery, a shoe store, a temperance hall, a tailoring business, a hat shop, and photographers' studios. Frank R. Snyder bought the studio in 1897 and later sold stationery, art supplies, and gifts. Owned by the family until 2006, Snyder's was Oxford's oldest business when it closed.



**36 East High Street**

**61 36 East High Street** This Art Deco style edifice was built in 1938 as the Miami-Western Theatre, which was named for the local university and the women's college that generated a large number of Oxford's movie-goers. After the theatre closed in 1988, the building was remodeled and opened as a bar and restaurant in 1993.



14 North Poplar Street

**62** **14 North Poplar Street**  
Oxford's Methodist Church was built in the Gothic Revival style between 1872 and 1875. Its two spires, completed over a decade later, make it visible on the skyline from miles away. An addition in 1969 provided classrooms and offices to the south.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Thursday night Dr. V. F. Brown preaches; Friday night Rev. O. J. Kestle preaches Sunday morning 10.30 church membership Rally day service, sermon by the pastor, on "The Daily Tragedy of Life." Decision day in the Sunday School and Baptismal service for children and others at the regular preaching hour. By previous agreement the congregation unites in Union service at night at the First Presbyterian church, Chas. L. Bovard, Pastor,

*Oxford Herald*, January 14, 1910



104 East Church Street

**63** 104 East Church Street

Construction of this brick edifice was completed in 1839, making it Oxford's oldest house of worship. Until 1858 the Greek Revival style building housed both the Associate Reformed Church and the Oxford Theological Seminary. As the result of a merger in 1858, it became the United Presbyterian Church. After merging with Oxford's Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1966, it was renamed the Seminary Building and used for church and community activities.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Morning Sermon at 10:30  
subject, "Spiritual Growth."

Sabbath School 9.30 A. M.

Young People's Meeting 6.15  
in the evening,

There will be a Union Meet-  
ing at 7 o'clock in the Presby-  
terian church. C. G. Morrow,  
Pastor.

*Oxford Herald*, January 14, 1910



**108 East Church Street**

**64 108 East Church Street**  
Built in 1892 by the United Presbyterian Church, this two-storey frame house served as a parsonage until the church merger of 1966. In the 1980s and '90s, it was occupied by social service agencies, and by 2000 it was rented to college students. Shingles now cover the original wood siding.

**65 114 East Church Street**  
This Federal style house is believed to have been built before the Civil War and was purchased by John Miller, a coal dealer, in 1864. The property remained in his family until the death of his widowed daughter, Jane (Miller) Bourne in 1919. In the 1920s the original red brick exterior was covered by stucco, and for the next fifty years it was occupied by families including those of Miami professors who taught English, geology, German, music, and speech. In the later years of the 20th century, it served as an insurance office and then as college student housing.

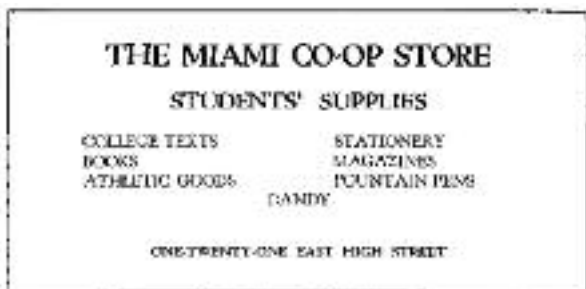
### **Alleys**

Oxford, like many small towns, was laid out with alleys to provide rear access to residential and commercial buildings. In the business district these passageways (narrower than streets) allowed merchants to receive deliveries and have refuse removed without using their front entrances. Fewer deliveries are made this way today because modern trucks are larger than the earlier horse-drawn wagons.



121 East High Street

**66** **121 East High Street**  
Erected in 1925, this two-storey vernacular building was occupied by the Miami Co-op Store for almost 50 years. In addition to managing the textbook and school supplies business, owner John Frazier ran an insurance agency and rented apartments upstairs. Later the building was remodeled, and by the end of the century an eating establishment occupied the site.



*Miami Recensio*, 1927



**67** **117 East High Street**  
Built in 1936 as the *Campus Gates Apartments*, this two-storey frame building exhibited Colonial Revival style elements. Each of the eight units was typically occupied by a single working woman (a secretary, a shop proprietor, a professor, a hospital employee, a typist, a telephone operator, a teacher) who lived within walking distance of her job. In 1965 the building was converted to commercial use.

A COMPLETE LINE OF  
**OFFICE SUPPLIES**  
AND  
**EQUIPMENT**  
PRICES RIGHT      QUICK SERVICE  
PHONE 523-6331  
*Cameron's*      COLLEGE AND  
OFFICE SUPPLY  
117 East High St., Oxford

*Oxford Press*, August 21, 1969



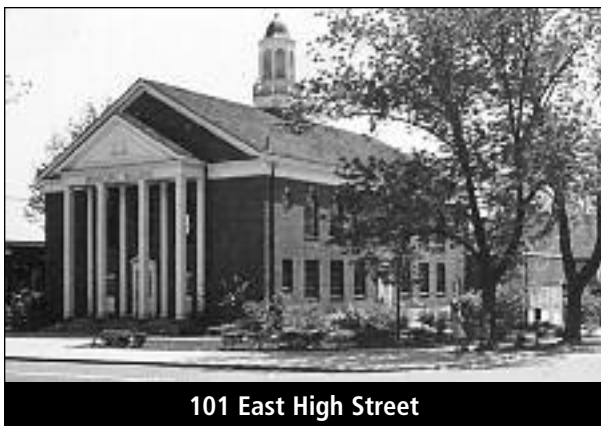
111 East High Street

- 68** **111 East High Street** St. Mary Church, built in an interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, has served its Catholic parishioners in this location since its construction was completed in 1921. The west wing was added in 1942 to house a rectory and meeting rooms.

St. Mary's Catholic - Dedication of the new church at 10 o'clock Sunday morning. Sermon by Archbishop Henry Mueller, of Cincinnati; mass by Rev. Raphael Markham, of Cincinnati.

*Hamilton Evening Journal*, May 27, 1921

- 69** **110 East High Street** One of Oxford's oldest buildings in the business district, this two-storey, Federal style, brick edifice was erected by 1839. With the exception of a grocery store and a cobbler shop, it was occupied primarily by residential units until the 1900s. Subsequent commercial enterprises included a car dealership, a printing company, a music store, and by 1970, a bookstore.



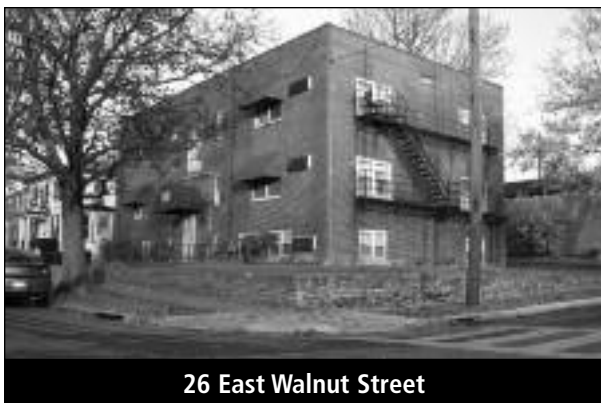
101 East High Street

**70 101 East High Street**  
 Designed by architect Rial T. Parrish, Oxford's red brick *Municipal Building* was erected as a public works project in 1939. A Colonial Revival style edifice, it replaced the old Town Hall that had stood on the same site. The fire department occupied the rear portion of the building until 1983, and the police station remains in the building today.

**71 12 South Poplar Street**  
 The *Marquis-Peden House* was built prior to 1925, and two of its early residents were Hungarian immigrants Lena (Schady) and Anton Marquis, who ran a shoe repair shop on High Street. Constructed of wood frame with brick exterior, this two-storey residence with Craftsman style details was later the home and gift shop of Helen Peden for many years before being converted to offices.



Miami *Recensio*, 1920



26 East Walnut Street

**72** **26 East Walnut Street**  
 The *Folker Apartments* were constructed in the late 1930s by Earl C. Folker, Oxford businessman. The multi-storey, glazed brick building included eight units and was typical of the period in its modern design with evidence of International style influence. It remained in the Folker family until the 1990s, and in the early 2000s, new owners replaced the original casement windows and flat roof.

**STOP AROUND THE CORNER**

for our

- RICH
- CREAMY
- DELICIOUS

**DOUBLE DECKER CONES**

**FOLKER'S ICE CREAM**

PHONE 55

EAST PARK PLACE

*Miami Recensio, 1940*

**73** **19 East Walnut Street**  
 A vernacular frame dwelling, the *Old Rectory* was built by the 1880s and at one time had a full-length front porch. Acquired in 1947 by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, it served as the parish rectory until 1954. The building was later used by the church for classrooms, a thrift shop, apartments, meeting space, a nursery school, and offices.



16 East Walnut Street

**74** **16 East Walnut Street**  
Isabelle (Coulter) and William Stewart, who was born in Ireland, built this residence in 1909. He was the superintendent of Oxford Public Schools for 27 years, and it was for him that a local school was named. Originally sided with wood and including some Colonial Revival style elements, the exterior of the *Stewart Home* was later covered with vinyl.

**75** **7 East Walnut Street**  
Built in the early 1900s, the *Beeks House* featured an asymmetrical façade with Queen Anne style detailing. It was originally the home of Mary (Keely) and Oscar Beeks, a dentist. Later occupants included members of the forerunner of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity (for one year) and then other college students. Aluminum siding replaced the original wood exterior.

---

**DR. O. A. BEEKS**  
**...DENTIST...**  
Teeth Extracted Without Pain.  
Office at Residence, OXFORD, OHIO,  
Phone -61.

---

*Oxford News*, February 7, 1908



3 East Walnut Street

**76** **3 East Walnut Street**  
Though remodeling has changed some of its architectural features, this two-storey brick dwelling was originally constructed in the Italian Villa style. It was erected in the early 1860s by Sarah (Porter) and Walter Jones, a paver and bridge builder. Later residents included the families of an apothecary, a tailor, a merchant, an attorney, and a banker before the house was converted to apartments.



109 South Main Street

**77** **109 South Main Street**  
The *Hidlay House*, built in the early 1900s with Colonial Revival style elements, was for almost half a century the home of Dora (Rains) and Milton Hidlay, a flour mill proprietor. The house became rental property before the end of the 20th century.

*This concludes the tour of the East End of the district. To return to the starting point of the East End tour, proceed north on Main Street.*

*The West End tour resumes here.*

**78** 108 South Main Street

Probably built in the 1830s, this brick house was the location of a saloon operated by Irish immigrant Patrick Dugan in the 1870s. Later known as the *Ferris Home*, it belonged to Amelia and Henry Ferris, a drayman, who lived here for close to forty years. In the late 1920s the building was remodeled for use as a tea room, and then for almost thirty years it was the residence of the family of a Hamilton insurance company executive before being converted to rental property.



102 South Main Street

**79** 102 South Main Street

The oldest part of the *VanAusdall House* might date to 1839, but subsequent additions and aluminum siding have altered its appearance. The home and office of a physician during the later 1800s, it became a rooming house for college students in 1920 when it was purchased by Margaret (Cosbey) VanAusdall. The following year the short-lived Delta Sigma Rho fraternity was founded here. VanAusdall heirs still owned the property and rented to college students in the 2000s.

**80** 7 West Walnut Street

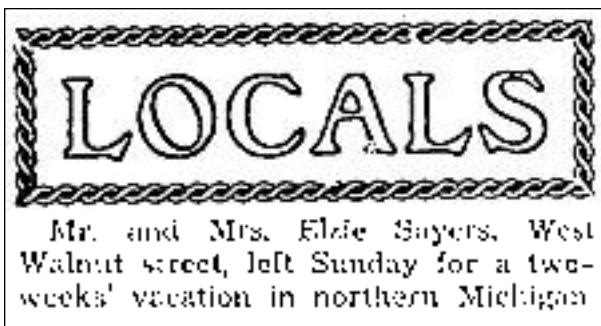
Originally wood-sided, the *Stearns House* was built in the late 1920s by Wilma (VanAusdall) and Theron Sterns, a post office employee. The Sears & Roebuck house was erected on a piece of her mother's lot and remained in the family until later in the century when it was covered with vinyl siding and used for rental property.



9 West Walnut Street

**81** 9 West Walnut Street

Constructed by the early 1920s, the *Jones Bungalow* was the home of Alma (Fermann) and Elzie Sayers. It became the home of Ida (Ludwig) Jones in the 1940s and remained in her family as rental property into the 2000s.



*Oxford Press*, August 25, 1932



15, 17 West Walnut Street

**82** **15 West Walnut Street**  
Briefly a chapter house of the “non-fraternity” that became Phi Kappa Tau, this residence was built by 1907 with wood siding that was later covered with vinyl. A rooming house for a number of years, it was from the late 1950s to the 1990s the home of Hilda (Doerflein) Sauerland, a flower shop employee.

**83** **17 West Walnut Street**  
Built in 1909, this house belonged to Flora (Alexander) and Charles Jones (a retired farmer) from before 1920 until the 1940s. Their son Orin and family then lived here until the property was sold to Winona (Miller) and Lewis Schocke, another retired farmer. By the early 2000s the original wood siding was replaced by vinyl, and the house was rental property.

**Miss C. A. Jones  
Given Commission**

Miss Carol Ann Jones, daughter of Mrs. Orin Jones of West Walnut street, has accepted a commission as second lieutenant in the medical department of the U. S. army and will begin active duty on June 20 at Camp Knox, Ky., where she will be stationed for five weeks.

*Oxford Press, June 7, 1945*



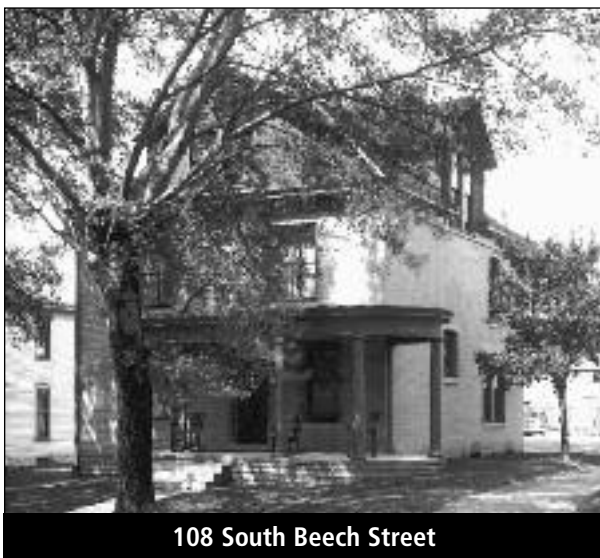
20 West Walnut Street

**84** **20 West Walnut Street**  
The *Welliver-Beal Bungalow* was built in the Craftsman style in 1920. After serving as the residence of Adelaide (Hatch) and George Welliver, a retired banker, it became the home of Roger and Mary (Smith) Beal. He was a mail carrier and later postmaster while she ran a guest home in their residence. By the end of the century the building was converted to other uses.

**85** **28 West Walnut Street**  
The *Burkhardt Bungalow* was built in 1922 by Elizabeth (Milders) and Gottlieb Burkhardt, a native of Germany, who before his retirement had been a baker, confectioner, restaurateur, and banker. Daughter Lena, a bookkeeper and bank teller, lived here until her death in the 1960s.

**86** 109 South Beech Street

The *Karl Zwick House* was built as a double house (duplex) with Colonial Revival style elements in the first decade of the 1900s. The family of Jeanette (Law) and Karl Zwick, a dry goods merchant, lived in one half of the residence and rented the other half for over fifty years. The dwelling later belonged to the owner of a nearby car dealership.



**87** 108 South Beech Street

This brick house, with Colonial Revival style elements, was owned by Hugh Moore, a physician, for several decades after it was built in 1907. Early tenants were Delta Kappa Epsilon and Alpha Theta Phi fraternities. Later renters were the families of a professor, a doctor, and a minister. By the end of the century, college students were the usual tenants.



**14 South Beech Street**

**88 14 South Beech Street**

This Greek Revival style church was erected by Joel Collins in 1855 and was purchased by Bethel A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Church two years later. Oxford's oldest African-American congregation, Bethel acquired the property fifteen years after forming in 1842. Alterations have included interior remodeling in 1896, the addition of a vestibule in 1950, the construction of a rear annex in 1954, and the replacement of the annex with a larger one in 1981.



**12 South Beech Street**

**89 12 South Beech Street**

Built in 1914, this concrete block building with a "Boomtown" front, served as the village post office for ten years. Other businesses (including a transfer and storage company, an auto parts dealership, and a real estate office) occupied the site before the DiPaolo family opened a pizza place in 1976 and then operated a restaurant here from 1979 to the end of the century. The building was extensively altered in the 1980s.



103 West Walnut Street

**90 103 West Walnut Street**

In 1864 Jeannette (Hinckley) and Scottish immigrant Hugh Gilchrist, a physician, bought this two-storey brick house from storekeeper John Clough. It is believed that the house was built in the 1840s and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The oldest part of the *Gilchrist-Moore House* was built in the Federal style, but Victorian-era details were added in 1872 when the home was enlarged and remodeled to accommodate the doctor's office. Two generations later, Gilchrist relatives Hugh and Hazelett Moore practiced medicine here until the property was sold out of the family in 1931. It was later the home of Bohemian natives Martha (Stein) and Victor Furth, an architect, who fled Nazi Europe. The building was converted to office space in the early 2000s.

**91 113 West Walnut Street**

This house with Arts and Crafts style elements was constructed in the early 1920s with an upstairs apartment. It was built by Wealthy (Hutchisson) and Perry Schultz, a retired Indiana farmer. For a short time in the mid-1960s the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity used it as an annex to their chapter house a few blocks away. Ealetta (Lowe) Dingedine called it "Walnut Lodge" when she converted it to a residence for retired women in 1965. By the early 2000s, university students were the tenants.

**92 114 West Walnut Street**

Fish-scale shingles can still be seen on this Queen Anne style residence. Built by 1892, it was the home of Elena (Shera) and John Keller, a salesman, whose family lived here for over half a century. Later, vinyl siding replaced the original wood exterior.



115, 117 West Walnut Street

**93** **115 West Walnut Street**  
Built in 1909, this late Queen Anne style residence once housed the Adelphic Association, a forerunner of the Alpha Delta Sigma fraternity (which later became part of Sigma Alpha Epsilon). From the 1920s to the 1960s the frame house belonged to the Samuel Douglas family, and by the 1980s it had been converted to office space and sided with vinyl.

**94** **117 West Walnut Street**  
The *William Shera Home*, built in the Colonial Revival style, was probably constructed in time for the 1902 marriage of Hattie (Roudebush) and William Shera, who was in the banking business. Their nephew, who lived with them, inherited the house, and it remained in the Shera family until the 1940s. The residence was the home of university professors for most of the later 1900s and still retains its original wood siding.

**BEAUTIFUL HOME WEDDING.**

—  
**Mr. W. M. Shera and Miss  
Hattie Roudebush  
Married.**  
—

At high noon, on Wednesday of this week, Mr. William M. Shera, assistant cashier in the Oxford National Bank, and Miss Hattie Roudebush, were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Roudebush, in Owensville, Clermont county.

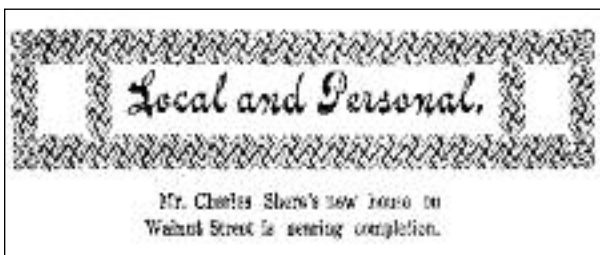
*Oxford News*, April 25, 1902



123, 129 West Walnut Street

**95** 123 West Walnut Street

The *Charles H. Shera House*, a two-storey frame dwelling with Colonial Revival elements, was built in 1902 for newlyweds Jessie (Hauk) and Charles Shera, who was in the condensed milk business. After his wife's death, Charles (and his infant son) moved next door to live with his brother and sister-in-law. This house was rented to others before being sold out of the Shera family. In the second half of the 1900s it belonged to the family of an employee of Mosler Safe Company in Hamilton and then to the family of an African-American Air Force officer connected with Miami's ROTC program.



*Oxford News*, March 28, 1902

**96** 129 West Walnut Street

The *Caleb Shera Home* was built about 1904 by Anna (Matson) and Caleb Shera, a banker. This two-storey frame home in the Colonial Revival style remained in the Shera family for over half a century before it became rental property.

# Notes