

PH0150533

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 17 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 5 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oxford Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

college & residential area centered around Wesley St.

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oxford

VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Newton

217

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Newton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Covington

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

HABS

DATE

1936-37

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

# 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Oxford was begun early in 1837 when the Methodist Church elected to expand its educational program by purchasing acreage two miles from its labor school. Three hundred acres were set aside for a Christian collegiate community named Oxford. A Methodist minister and surveyor, Edward Lloyd Thomas laid out the town plan with Oxford's main street converging on the site of the central building of the campus. The Oxford Historic District, which is the major portion of historic Oxford today includes Oxford College of Emory University, "Old Church", two cemeteries, two commercial establishments, and numerous residences built by Emory College related persons.

Emory at Oxford was built around a rectangular central park plan. Although the buildings date from the early 1850's to the present, there were earlier structures, no longer extant. Phi Gamma Hall (1851) and Few Hall (1852) oppose each other on the north-west and northeast ends of the park respectively. Both buildings are variations of two story severe Greek Revival structures, temple form designs with columned porticos.

Chronologically the next extant addition to the campus was the Few Monument in the open park area. The marble shaft monument was erected c.1855 by the Grand Masonic Lodge of Georgia in memory of Ignatius A. Few. To the west of the campus is Soldier Cemetery, dating from the 1860's when 25 Union and Confederate soldiers were buried in simply marked graves.

After the War Between the States, in the 1870's and 1880's several other additions were made to the campus. Language Hall (1874) and the Science Building (1875) are two story brick structures with central pedimented gables and simple classical details. The Chapel in the western portion of the park was built in 1875, as a one story brick structure with classical details of returns on the gables of the sanctuary portion and narthex as well. All of these buildings were constructed of materials salvaged from the old "main building."

In 1881 Seney Hall, a Victorian Gothic style three story brick administration building was constructed on the foundations of the first administration building which was a Greek Revival style structure erected c.1852-3 and torn down in 1872. Seney Hall with its five story clock and bell tower, (the bell of which was given to Alexander Means for the college by Queen Victoria c.1855) has interior details of heavy gothic designs and balconied class and library areas.

Adjacent to Seney Hall on the west is the Old Gymnasium (1885), a one story single brick structure, that now houses an indoor swimming pool. Originally this building was the Old Manual Arts Training School. Professor Isaac Hopkins, in charge of the Department of Physics and Manual Arts at Old Emory, was elected the first President of Georgia Institute of Technology.

Candler Hall on the east side of Seney Hall was built in the Neo-classical style c.1897 and used as a library until the new one between the Chapel and Phi Gamma Hall was constructed in the 1970's. Several dormitories have been constructed north of the central park. With the exception of Haygood Dormitory, built in 1912 in a Renaissance Revival variation, most are plain brick structures with little architectural merit.

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Wesley Street, directly north of the Emory campus, is a sparsely settled residential street with houses dating from 1837 to the present. At the corner of Wesley and Clarke Streets is the Haygood House, built by Bishop A. G. Haygood in 1894. This two story frame structure is Neo-classical in style and basically a four room central hall plan. Across Clarke Street is a two story frame, deteriorating house, Florida Hall (c.1840) that was originally used as dormitory space for the Emory students.

Between Clarke and Soule Streets on Wesley are two frame c.1900 houses, two modern residential intrusions, the "Old Church", site of Kitty's Cottage and the Hopkins House. The "Old Church" is a frame Greek Revival building with pedimented gable, a later bell tower, two entrances and framing pilasters. This original portion was constructed in 1841 and two wings added c.1880 extended the sanctuary area.

An underdeveloped area, once the site of Kitty's Cottage, adjoins the Hopkins House (c.1850) on the corner of Soule and Wesley Streets. The Hopkins House is a one story frame hip roofed cottage with a simple Victorian porch. Dr. I. S. Hopkin's one room frame workshop still remains to the south of the main house.

Across Soule Street is the "President's Home", with its original two story, two over two central portion having been built in 1837. Nineteenth century additions include a two story, two room central hall addition and two one room additions to either side of the front porch. Victorian details of eave bracketing and porch trim were apparently added at this time.

The Branham House (c.1840), a two story Classical influenced frame, five bay structure has a two story central portico and a central hall plan. Mantels are simple with pilasters supporting three part paneled frieze and shelf.

On Watson Street, across from the Branham House is Andrew Hall (c.1842?). This two story, three bay frame structure with double doric columned porches on both rear and front facades, has been recently renovated into a student dormitory.

Along West Collingsworth Street on both sides of Wesley are three simple one story frame structures that date from the mid to late nineteenth century. At the end of Collingsworth Street is the Oxford Cemetery which was part of the original town plan.

The corner of Watson Street and Wesley Street is the Stone House, built on the highest spot in Oxford by Edward Lloyd Thomas soon after he planned Oxford in 1837. This two story frame house has a four room central hall plan with rear kitchen addition. Two stairs lead to the second floor; one from the south rear room to a bedroom upstairs and another main one in the central hall. Carefully restored, the interior details revealed a marbled mantel, grained wainscot panelling and deep plaster cornice and medallion treatment in the parlor.

(continued)

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At the corner of Fletcher and Asbury Streets is the Capers-Dickson House (c.1840), a two story L shaped structure with central hall plan and delicate Federal characteristics. The central two story temple form portico has on each floor a fan lighted door trimmed with pilasters and square corner medallions. The front parlor mantel has an unusual Adam style triple sunburst frieze supported by bamboo-like "pilasters". North of the Capers-Dickson House is a cottage which was originally the Dickson Gin House.

On Asbury Street between West Fletcher and Clarke Streets are two nineteenth early-twentieth century houses. One is the Zora Fair Cottage which is a one and a half five bay frame structure. At the intersection of Clarke and Asbury Streets on the southwest corner is the Worsham Cline House, a plantation plain style house with Victorian trim, c.1860. Behind this house are two nineteenth century houses, one of which is a frame cottage type, known as the Shaw-Harris-Allgood House.

In 1910 the Allen Memorial Methodist Church was constructed in a Beaux Arts style to replace the "Old Church."

Along heavily traveled Emory Street are several structures, residential and commercial. One, already on the National Register, is Orna Villa. Also in this area are c.1900 Emory College fraternity houses, a brick firehouse, a two story rock constructed store and one story rock jail, several Victorian frame houses as well as the Yarborough Oak tree, over 200 years old.

Planned as a unit in 1837, Oxford has remained unaltered in street plan to the original that Thomas designed. The intrusions mentioned above and noted on the map play an insignificant part in the visual environment of this district.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward Lloyd Thomas, surveyor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oxford Historic District is significant as an early nineteenth century planned community, as a center of considerable Methodist educational interest and history, and architecturally as a town with numerous well maintained nineteenth century buildings.

The village of Oxford named for the British Oxford University where John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism, had studied, was carved out of forests and streams in the late 1830's with the only previously occupied land nearby being the Alexander Means home, Orna Villa, and its surrounding property. To the west of the Means' property the town of Oxford was surveyed and laid out by Edward Lloyd Thomas, a third generation surveyor already having laid out the town of Columbus, Georgia in 1827-8. Oxford is and has been an educational-religious center and is perhaps the only town planned and laid out under the direction of the Methodist Church. The plan has two focal axes. The earliest is the Oxford College of Emory University campus from which streets, named for famous Methodists, radiate outward. The second is halfway along Wesley Street where the Old Church is at the end of a 165 foot wide street. Roughly only the right half of the town plan was ever executed and until ten years ago little or no development had taken place in this original area.

Oxford was laid out as the site of Emory College chartered by the state legislature on December 10, 1836. (Emory College was the original name for this Oxford located institution, but in 1915 Emory University in Atlanta was established and at that time "Emory at Oxford" became a two year college, later to be renamed Oxford College of Emory University.) The college was named for the young Bishop John Emory who died in a carriage accident.

Oxford College professors and presidents as well as numerous other outstanding Georgians lived around the college campus. The first president, Dr. Ignatius Few, in order to raise money for the college, peddled lots to various citizens. Edward Lloyd Thomas received three such lots and chose lot number 85 for his residence in which he lived from 1837 to 1852. Thomas was later called upon to survey the Georgia-Alabama line, a point of controversy for many years. A subsequent owner of Thomas' house was George Washington Whitfield Stone, the founder and first president of Phi Gamma Debating Society, an 1842 graduate of Emory and later professor of mathematics and Latin.

Issac Hopkins, the original owner of the Hopkins House on Wesley Street, joined the Emory faculty as professor of physical science and taught Latin, English and served as President of the college. At Oxford College he laid out one of the state's earliest programs of technological education and served as the first president of the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1888.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atkinson, Jack P., submitted documented material and partial draft of nomination; on file at Department of Natural Resources.  
 Jarrell, Oxford Echoes, 1967.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 146 acres

UTM OK  
 CD

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	2,3,4	0,4,10	3,7	2,4	9,6,10	B	1,7	2,3,4	0,0,0	3,7	2,3	3,4,10
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,7	2,3,3	4,2,0	3,7	2,3	3,6,10	D	1,7	2,3,3	4,6,0	3,7	2,4	9,10,10
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of West Pierce, Haygood and Whatcoat Streets, continue south on Haygood to include the property immediately to the rear of campus structures (Seney Hall, Candler Hall, etc.); then continue west, northeastward to include the Soldiers Cemetery then north, along Coke Street to W. Watson Street; continue North on W. Watson only to the rear property line of Andrew's Hall, eastward to the pasture area, then north to the rear property line of houses on W. Collingsworth Street;

(continued)  
 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian  
 (Jack P. Atkinson, Historical Consultant)

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources DATE 3-31-75

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C TELEPHONE 404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia 30334

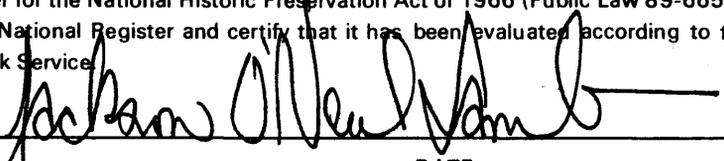
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

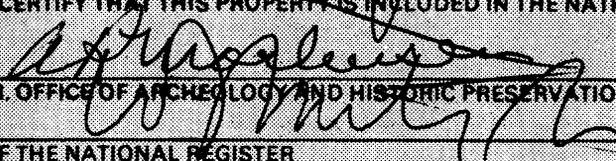
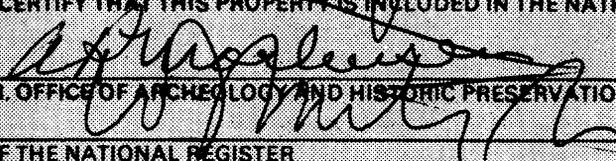
NATIONAL X STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE Jackson O'Neal Lamb DATE April 7, 1975  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE <u>6/5/75</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>JUN 4 1975</u>
ATTEST:	
	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

Numerous presidents of Oxford College had far reaching impacts in and outside the Methodist Church. Dr. Atticus G. Haygood, on Thanksgiving Day, 1880, delivered his famous sermon called "The New South" in the Old Church, a sermon of reconciliation of which Henry Grady said, "I lit my torch at Haygood's flame."

Zora Fair, a well known Confederate spy, lived on Asbury Street in Oxford. Gustavus Orr, a subsequent resident, was an early leader in Georgia education. He was instrumental in finalizing the survey of the Georgia-Florida border dispute. Down the street lived Cora Harris, early twentieth author of A Circuit Rider's Wife, (1910).

The Capers Dickson House had several significant residents including William H. Mell, Oxford's first postmaster, whose nephew, later to become chancellor of the University of Georgia, operated the town's first primary school in his uncle's kitchen. David Dickson, a later owner of this house was well known for his experimentation with improved cotton seeds. An 1873 Memphis newspaper account states "A Splendid stalk of cotton three feet long....completely covered with full bolls....grown on this plantation of David Dickson at Oxford is on display....Dickson's famous cluster cottonseed."

Architecturally the Oxford Historic District has many significant buildings representing plain style frame structures, severe and pure classical designs, monumental Victorian structures as well as early Neo-classical styles. The two most important buildings architecturally are Few Hall and Phi Gamma Hall, both mid-century high Greek Revival debating buildings, with careful consideration to classical form, symmetry and detail. Seney Hall represents a good example of Victorian Gothic. The residential structures have fine details of wainscotting, marbelizing, millwork and plaster work.

Recently the town of Oxford was designated the sixteenth Historic Shrine of the United Methodist Church by the General Conference. It was the first entire town to be so designated.

10. Verbal boundary description: (continued)

then eastward to Oxford Cemetery, circumferencing its boundaries, then south on Asbury Street to Fletcher Street; eastward on Fletcher to Emory Street; then northward on Emory Street to include the two c.1900 fraternity houses, and southward along the rear property lines of Emory Street structures to alley just south of Whatcoat Street and Emory intersection; then west to Emory Street; then south to W. Pierce Street; west along W. Pierce to beginning point.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Key to Sketch Map

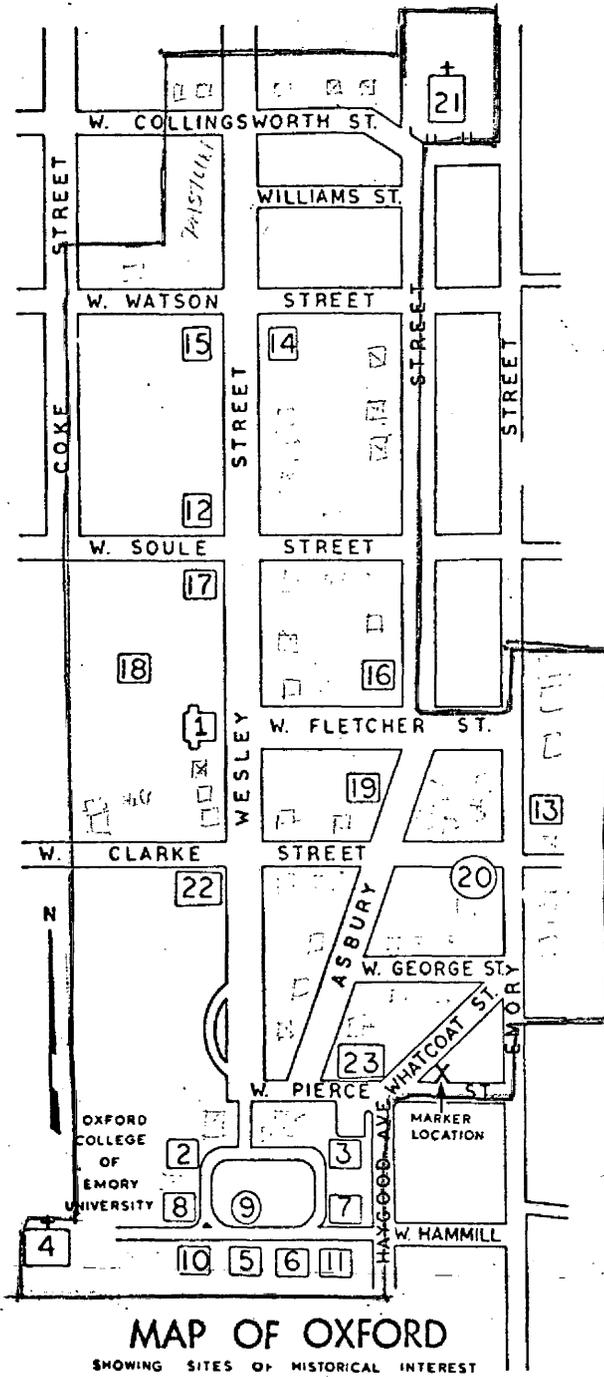
Oxford Historic District

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. "Old Church"            | 14. Stone House                     |
| 2. Phi Gamma Hall          | 15. The Branham House               |
| 3. Few Hall                | 16. Capers Dickson House            |
| 4. Soldier's Cemetery      | 17. Hopkins House                   |
| 5. Seney Hall              | 18. "Kitty's Cottage location"      |
| 6. "Language Hall"         | 19. "Zora Fair's Cottage"           |
| 7. "Science Building"      | 20. Yarbrough Oak                   |
| 8. Prayer Chapel           | 21. Oxford Cemetery                 |
| 9. Few Monument            | 22. Haygood House                   |
| 10. "Old Gym"              | 23. Allen Memorial Methodist Church |
| 11. Candler Hall           | 24. Andrew Hall                     |
| 12. The President's Home   | 25. Florida Hall                    |
| 13. Alexander Means' House | 26. Haygood Hall                    |

Intrusions - generally mid-twentieth century, small brick and frame residences.

Structures marked, but not intrusions are generally c.1900 residences.

# HISTORICAL POINTS OF INT.



*To include the two  
col 400 photos*

*17. Historic of New Bldgs*

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oxford Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Newton

STATE

Georgia

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Historic Old Oxford Georgia

SCALE Not to scale

DATE no date

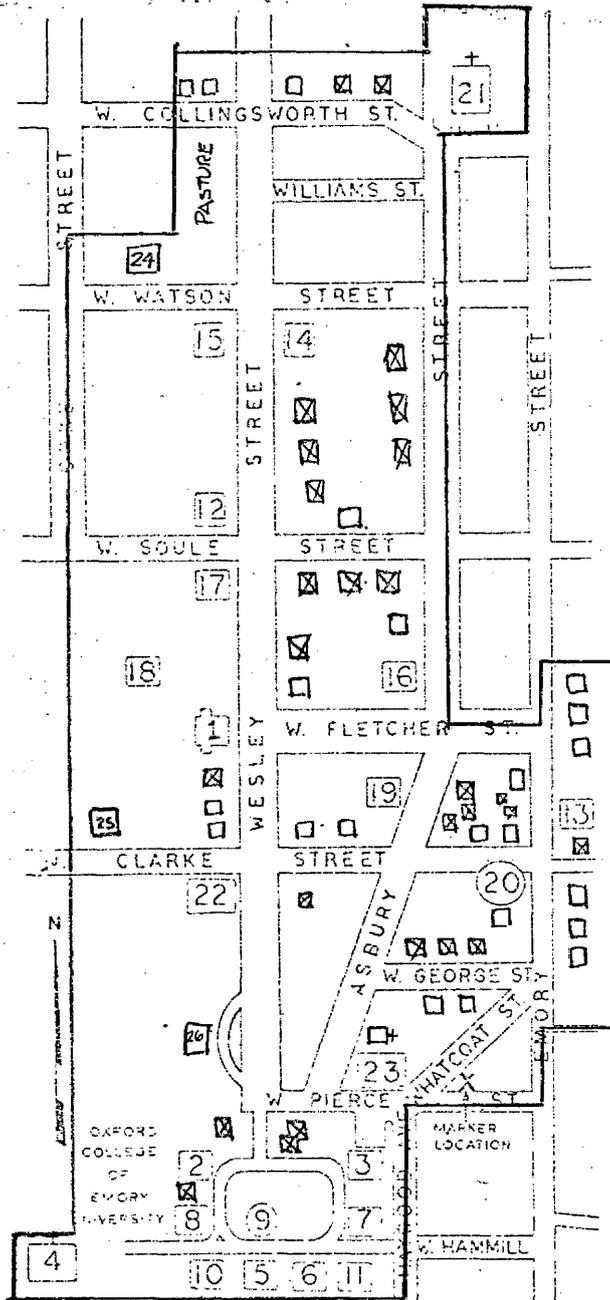
**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Sketch Map

Oxford Historic District



MAP OF OXFORD  
SHOWING SITES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST