Riverton
M:23-90
Montgomery County, Maryland

The property known as Riverton, located just off of Gold Mine Road near Brighton in northeastern Montgomery County, consists of a mid-19th century Greek Revival stone dwelling and several acres of land, originally constructed by Joshua and Edward Peirce, well-known Quakers of the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and its community. Although the house has undergone a major renovation, including the rebuilding of both end walls, the dwelling retains its original massing and much of its interior detailing.

Riverton, built prior to 1848, provides important information on Montgomery County's pre-Civil War history and heritage. It is directly associated with the Peirce family who, originally from Pennsylvania, came to Sandy Spring region in the 1820s. Further, the property is directly associated, through the destruction by fire of Joshua Peirce's barn in 1844, with the formation of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County in 1848. The company, started by area farmers (many of whom were Quakers) as a way to support area farming, was a progressive development for its time. Although Riverton was partially rebuilt in the 1980s, the property survives as an important reminder of the rich history of the Quaker role in the history of Montgomery County, and thus meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory No. M-23-90
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name of Property

historic name Riverton
common/other name Brooke Black Meadow

2. Location

street & number 1201 Gold Mine Rd. Not for publication _____
city or town Brookeville Vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code _____ zip code 20833

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X	private
	public-local
	public-State
	public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

1	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes _____ Name of Listing_____ No X

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Vernacular Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
roof Gable: Standing Seam Metal
walls Stone: Stucco
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

__X__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

__X__ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance circa 1848-1880

Significant Dates circa 1848

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Farquhar, Roger Brooke, "Historic Barn Destroyed by Department of Parks," *The Sentinel*, January 27, 1966.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*. Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Forman, Henry Chandlee, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland* (Easton, MD.), 1934.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Vertical Files.

Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County (Records at the Montgomery County Historical Society).

Nesbitt, Martha, "To Fairfield with Love: A Rural Maryland House and Household," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 70, No. 1, Spring 1975, 68-89.

Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879.

Martenet and Bond, *Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.044 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Riverton occupies Parcel # 784 on Montgomery County Tax Map JU 122.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
This parcel is part of a larger parcel of land that was associated with the property since the 18th century.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians
organization M-NCPPC date
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

12. Property Owner

name Timothy S. and Sally Eller
street & number 1201 Gold Mine Road telephone 301-774-7736
city or town Brookeville state MD zip code 20833

The property known as Riverton, located just off of Gold Mine Road near Brighton in northeastern Montgomery County, consists of a mid-19th century stone dwelling and several acres of land, originally constructed by Quakers, Joshua Peirce and his son, Edward. Although the house has undergone a major renovation, including the rebuilding of both end walls, the dwelling retains its original massing and much of its interior detailing. The house survives as a pre-Civil War, Quaker-built dwelling.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Constructed in 1848, Riverton is a two-story, five-bay, center-passage-plan house constructed of stone and covered with a pebble dash stucco finish. It is set upon a low stone foundation and is covered with a gable roof, clad with standing seam metal. A two-story frame service wing, extending off of the rear elevation of the house, was constructed circa 1880 to replace an earlier log kitchen on the site. In 1975, after one end wall of the house collapsed, the entire dwelling underwent a major renovation.

Exterior Description:

The south elevation of the house is divided into five equal bays, consisting of a central entry and windows on the first story and five 6/6 windows[1] on the second story. All of the windows are recessed slightly into the masonry walls, have wood sills and large beaded stops. The central entry, deeply recessed into the wall, features its original six-paneled wood door and a four-light transom, both typical of the period (1848).

The east end elevation was completely rebuilt in 1975 after it collapsed. Clad with stucco, this end wall has a partially engaged and rebuilt exterior end chimney on center, and new 6/6 windows on all levels.

The west end wall, although it did not collapse, was also rebuilt after 1975. Here, the original window and chimney configurations have been altered. Originally, this end wall included single windows in the rear bays and none in the front bays, and an inside end chimney. As rebuilt, the wall has windows in both the front and rear bays and a rebuilt, partially engaged brick chimney that mimics that found on the east end elevation. A single original window, found in the front bay of the second story, originally occupied the rear bay of the first story.

[1] The center window on the second story is missing some muntins, that were not replaced after the window was broken (in recent years).

The north elevation of the house has no openings on its exposed western half, save for a bulkhead entrance to the cellar, while its eastern half is occupied by a two-story, frame service wing, added in the fourth quarter of the 19th century.

Service Wing:

The two-story rear wing was built against the eastern half of the north wall of the main house circa 1880. Set upon a stone foundation, this rear wing is constructed of balloon frame, is clad with asbestos shingles, and is covered with a gable roof, sheathed with standing seam metal. The wing is two bays deep with 6/6 windows in both stories. One window on the east elevation of the wing was enlarged to accommodate a pair of 6/6 windows. The north elevation of the wing is located in the end gable. It features return gables and two, 6/6 windows on the second story and at the attic level. The first story has a single 6/6 window in the west side, and a small, one-story shed roof addition on the east.

Interior:

The interior of Riverton is configured with a center-passage, single-pile plan. The eight-foot passage, which joins 16-foot-wide rooms to either side (identified as parlor and dining room in the 1848 Mutual Insurance Society policy on Riverton), features an elegant, straight-flight, open stringer stair with a turned newel set upon a high, square base; square balusters; and a 3/4-round banister.

Both of the front rooms retain their original configuration, but feature entirely new mantels located on center of their exterior end walls. In addition, a variety of trim is found throughout the first story, ranging from elemental, square-edged door and window casings with corner blocks found in the hall and probably original to the house, to pedimented and flat-headed cornice casings found in both parlors. The hall leads beyond the stair into the rear ell (kitchen and service stair). The rear ell is also accessible through the east front room. Both of these 4-paneled doors have stone sills, and interior bead trim.[2] The service wing contains the present-day kitchen and living space, a half-bath and a service stair leading to the second story of this wing.

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[2] These are the only known openings to have existed on the original exterior wall of the house. Based upon the 1848 Mutual Insurance Society policy on Riverton, the house originally had a detached, 1-1/2-story log kitchen located adjacent to the house. These doors probably led to this kitchen dependency, though why there were two is not known.

the present-day kitchen and living space, a half-bath and a service stair leading to the second story of this wing.

The second floor of the main house, originally "three lodging rooms and a passage" now includes the three rooms, and passage, plus a bathroom (accommodated at the front end of the hall). The west side of the main house contains one large bedroom, while the east side has two smaller ones. A single fireplace in the front room has a simple, molded wood surround, mitred at the corners, and a mantel shelf, which appears to be a later addition, floating above it.

The second floor of the main block retains most of its original random-width wood floors and square-edged trim with an interior bead and no backband.

The second floor of the service wing consists of two bedrooms, a stair landing and a large bath. The bedroom, located in the west side of the wing, has a large fireplace opening with a brick surround; a brick, jack-arched lintel; and a stone hearth. A wood mantel shelf hovers above this opening.

The attic level of this wing--a finished space, reached by a winder stair from the second floor--reveals some history to the building's evolution. The roof framing above this wing is partially visible from an access door located in the side wall, and reveals a common roof rafter where the rafters meet at a ridge board. Also visible, at this point is part of the north slope of the main roof which was covered over at the time that the service wing was added. This roof is sheathed with well-worn wood shingles. Based upon the aged quality of the wood shingles, it was probably close to 40 years old at the time it was covered. This would date the addition to circa 1888, or more conservatively, the fourth quarter of the 19th century. This date corresponds with the balloon frame method of construction and the machine-cut lath found in the wing.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Riverton, built circa 1848 by Quakers Joshua Peirce and his son, Edward Peirce provides important information on Montgomery County's pre-Civil War history and heritage. The property is directly associated with the Peirce family--prominent local Quaker farmers--who came to Sandy Spring from Pennsylvania in the 1820s. Further, the property is directly associated, through the destruction by fire of Joshua Peirce's barn in 1844, with the formation of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County in 1848. The company, started by area farmers, many of whom were Quakers, as a way to support area farming was a progressive development for its time. Although Riverton was partially rebuilt in the 1980s, the property survives as an important reminder of the rich history of Montgomery County, and thus meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context

The property known as Riverton was formerly called Black Meadow, and was owned during the 18th-century by the eminent James Brooke. James Brooke was a Quaker, a founding member of the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (1753), and a large land owner in Montgomery County.[3] On this tract of land, and in an effort to free himself from the dependence on the price of tobacco[4], James Brooke built what is traditionally said to have been the first flour mill in Maryland.[5] Built by 1749, the mill was located on the Hawlings River. By 1760, Brooke either converted the mill into a biscuit

[3] By 1763, James Brooke held 22,834 acres in Montgomery County, mostly concentrated around the Sandy Spring area. (Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland 1776-1976*, Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976, p. 11.)

[4] MacMaster and Hiebert, 17.

[5] The Annals of Ellicott's Mills state that when the Ellicotts commenced the improvements at Ellicott's Mills before 1772, the manufacture of wheat into flour was unknown in Maryland, but that James Brooke, "an enterprising farmer and large landowner in Montgomery County, entertained more advanced views and determined to try the experiment in his mill on the Hawlings River. After succeeding in grinding the wheat, he found a market for the flour...[he] erected a bakery and converted his flour into ship biscuit..." as quoted in site file "Brooke Mill," Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files.

factory, or built a biscuit factory near the mill.[6] The factory apparently made a "very excellent variety of ship biscuits, for which there was at one time a great demand..."[7] A 1929 account of the site indicates that there were no traces of the mill, but that the "foundation of the bakery shows plainly. The charcoal used as fuel still leaves the soil all around black."[8]

At his death in 1787, James Brooke vast estate was divided between his children and grandchildren. Black Meadow went to his granddaughter Deborah Brooke, who was married to George Chandlee, a Quaker whose family came to Sandy Spring from Pennsylvania.

Deborah and George had two children, Mahlon and Hannah (1789-1852). Mahlon Chandlee, a farmer, miller, and carpenter is best known in Sandy Spring for having built the wooden benches in the Sandy Spring Meeting House during its construction in 1817. Hannah Chandlee married Joshua Peirce in 1811. Joshua Peirce descended from the Quaker Peirces -- early Quaker pioneers who followed William Penn in 1684 to Chester County, Pennsylvania as part of his "Holy Experiment." Joshua Peirce and his wife, Hannah, lived in Philadelphia until 1822, when they made the trek to Sandy Spring to Hannah's family's land at Black Meadow. There they established themselves in a log cabin, in proximity to the mill on the Hawlings River.

Joshua Peirce built the two-story stone dwelling on the site by 1848, along with a barn, constructed in 1841, near the Hawlings River. The barn gained notoriety when, a year after it was constructed, it burned down. The loss of Joshua Peirce's barn inspired the Quaker community to form a fire insurance company that would protect farmers from such calamities. Although it took several years, the Quaker community eventually succeeded, and in 1848, the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County was born. Joshua Peirce was one of the 18 incorporators of the fire insurance company, which is still in existence in Sandy Spring, Maryland today. Joshua Peirce rebuilt his barn, which stood until

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[6] There are conflicting accounts as to whether the mill was converted, or was a separate building. One account (no date) states that "halfway from the mill site and present barn a bakery was located where ship biscuits were made..." Another account states that the mill was later altered into a biscuit factory. See Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files, "Brooke Mill".

[7] *Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. IV (1929), p. 480.

[8] As quoted in site file "Brooke Mill," Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files.

1966, when it was demolished. [9]

A July 31, 1848 Mutual Insurance Society policy issued on Riverton describes the house as "a stone dwelling, 2 stories high, 43 feet by 21 feet, containing a Parlour, Dining Room and Passage below - above, are 3 lodging rooms & passage, plastered throughout." The policy also informs us that a 1-1/2-story log kitchen, measuring 19 feet by 25 feet, adjoined the house, and that a three-story barn (having two stories of stone and one of wood) was located approximately 100 yards from the house.[10] The house was insured for $1,000, while the barn, "protected by a lightening rod, in good order" was insured for $900.00.[11] A second policy, dated 1857 and signed by Joshua Peirce, increased the first by $850 to cover a wagon and harnesses in the barn; a threshing machine; and other agricultural items.

Five years later, in 1853, Hannah passed away and on January 25, 1854, the estate of Hannah Chandlee Peirce was divided among her children, George, James, Charles, Edward, Deborah, and Ann.[12] While Ann Peirce held on to her 28-acre inheritance, Edward Peirce bought out the remaining heirs for sole ownership of Black Meadow.

In 1856, Edward married Sophia Rummer, and brought her to live at Black Meadow. Since taking over the house, Edward built another house, called Fairfield (M: 23-85), for his sister Ann and his father, Joshua Peirce on Ann's 28-acre tract of Black Meadow. In 1860, Edward sold 159 acres of Black Meadow, including the house, to Samuel A. Janney. The Janneys, who retained ownership until 1923, named the property Riverton. In 1860, following the sale, Edward Peirce then apparently moved to Fairfield.

That same year, Ann Peirce married Benjamin Franklin Tillum, and the two moved to Philadelphia. In 1863, the year of Joshua Peirce's death, Ann deeded her 28 acres to Edward Peirce for

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[9] The barn was destroyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1966. The Commission had acquired the barn along with 35 acres along the Hawlings River as part of its "open space" and parks program." The Commission demolished the barn when neighbors complained that it was a danger to their children. "Historic Barn Destroyed by Department of Parks," *The Sentinel*, January 27, 1966.

[10] Mutual Insurance Society of Montgomery County, Policy #64.

[11] This fire insurance policy was one of the first policies to be issued by the newly formed Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

[12] Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book JGH 3 Folio 63

$3,100.00.[13]

Samuel Janney, who purchased the 159-acre Riverton in 1860, is listed in the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Atlas as a farmer and owner of 200 acres of land near Brighton. According to Roger B. Farquhar, Janney was from Baltimore and was a nephew of Johns Hopkins, the philanthropist and founder of the University which bears his name. During their ownership of Riverton, the Janney's added the two-story rear service wing to the house, replacing the 1-1/2-story log kitchen.

Samuel Janney died in 1884. In 1899, his widow, Catherine Janney conveyed Riverton and its 159 acres to all of her children, though she apparently continued to live their until her death in 1923. At that time, the property passed out of Janney family hands to Elbin Leishear. In 1955, Riverton was purchased by Roger Brooke Farquhar III--a direct descendent of James Brooke--who thereby returned the property to its original family line.

The property is currently owned by Timothy and Sally Eller, who purchased it in 1980. At that time, the house was in ruinous condition following the collapse of one end wall in 1975. The Ellers have since rebuilt the wall and undertaken a major renovation of the entire house.

[13]Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book JGH 19 Folio 247.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-90

Riverton
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

==========

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Peidmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Standing structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): Single Dwelling

Known Design Source:

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-90
Riverton
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

==========

Chain of Title:

	James Brooke to granddaughter Deborah Brooke.
	Deborah Brooke married George Chandlee.
	George Chandlee's daughter, Hannah, married Joshua Peirce.
	George Chandlee's son was Mahlon Chandlee.
1848	Edward Peirce built Riverton for his father Joshua Peirce. This was on the land of his sister, Deborah and George Chandlee. (From "To Fairfield with Love" by Martha Nesbitt.)
1853	Edward Peirce assumed ownership of Riverton, by buying out his brothers and sisters: George, James, Charles, Deborah, and Ann. (From "To Fairfield with Love" by Martha Nesbitt.)
Summer 1856	Edward built Fairfield for his sister Ann and their father, Joshua Peirce.
October 16, 1856	Edward Peirce married Sophia Rummer and brought her to live at Riverton.
September 19, 1860	Edward Peirce sold Riverton to Samuel A. Jauney. 159 acres. (Deed Book JGHS Folio 230)
1863	Joshua Peirce Died.
September, 1923	Catherine Janney died.
1924	Riverton sold to Elbin Leizear. (Annals IV p. 479)
March 15, 1924	Samuel A. Janney sold to Elbin Leishear. (Deed Book 344 Folio 321)
GAP	
November 25, 1980	Barton L. Van Riper et al to Timothy S. Eller and Sally E. Eller. (Present Owners) (Deed Book 5661 Folio 560)

RIVERTON (M: 23-90)

Casual User Application

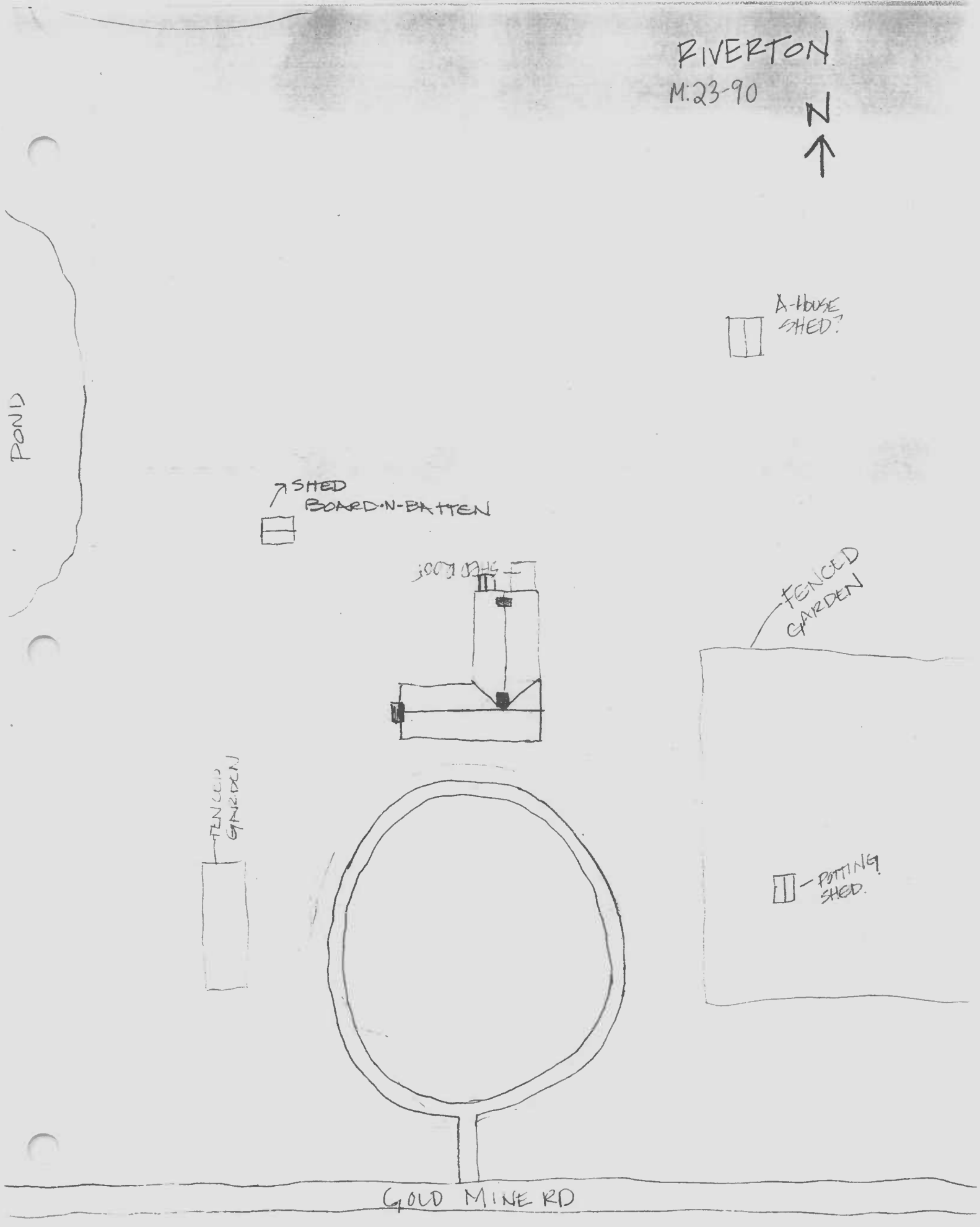
M-NCPPC

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

N

Scale 1" = 400'

Research & G I S
Technology
Research & Technology Center


RIVERTON
M:23-90
N
A-HOUSE
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BOARD-N-BATTEN
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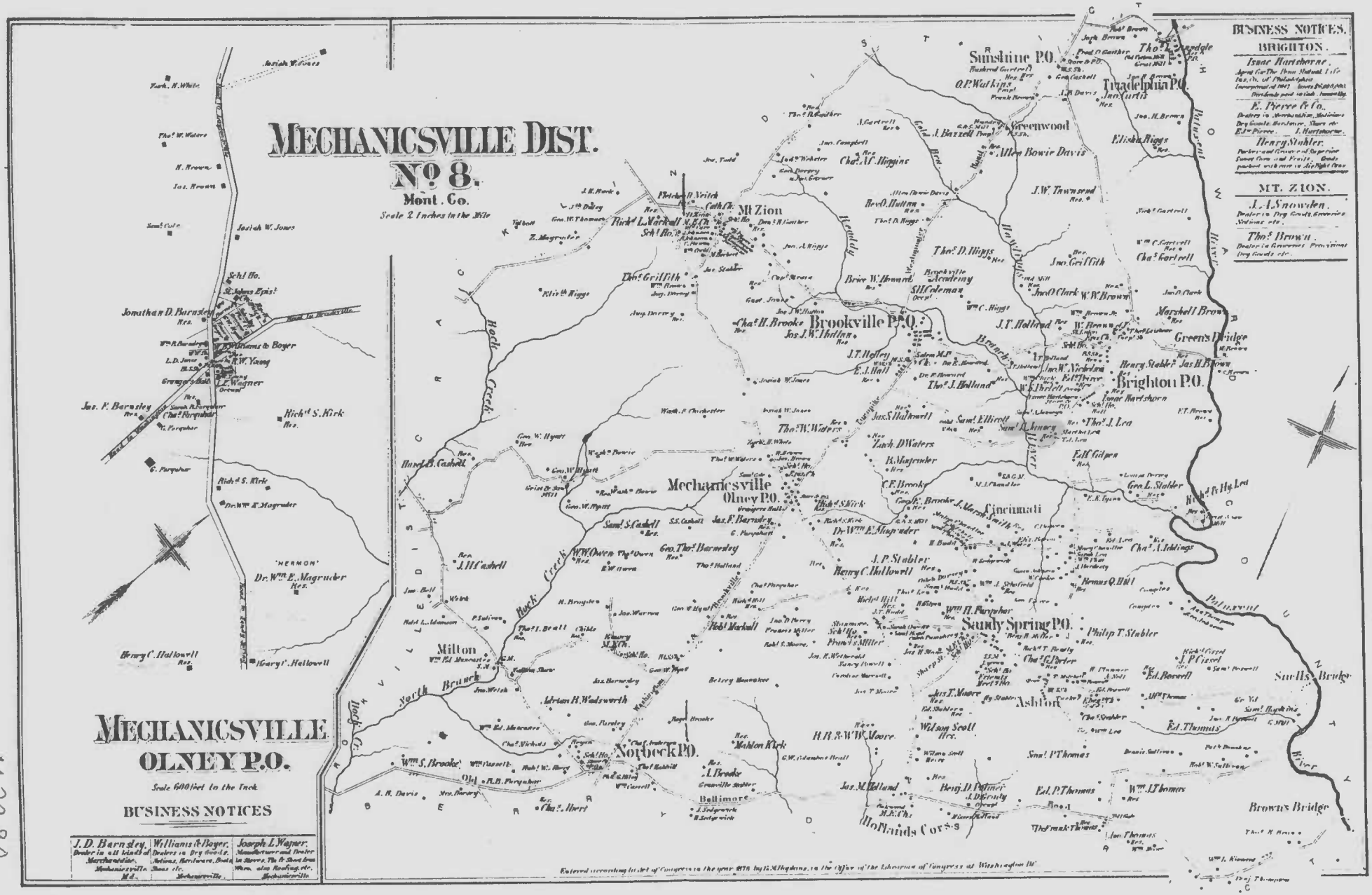
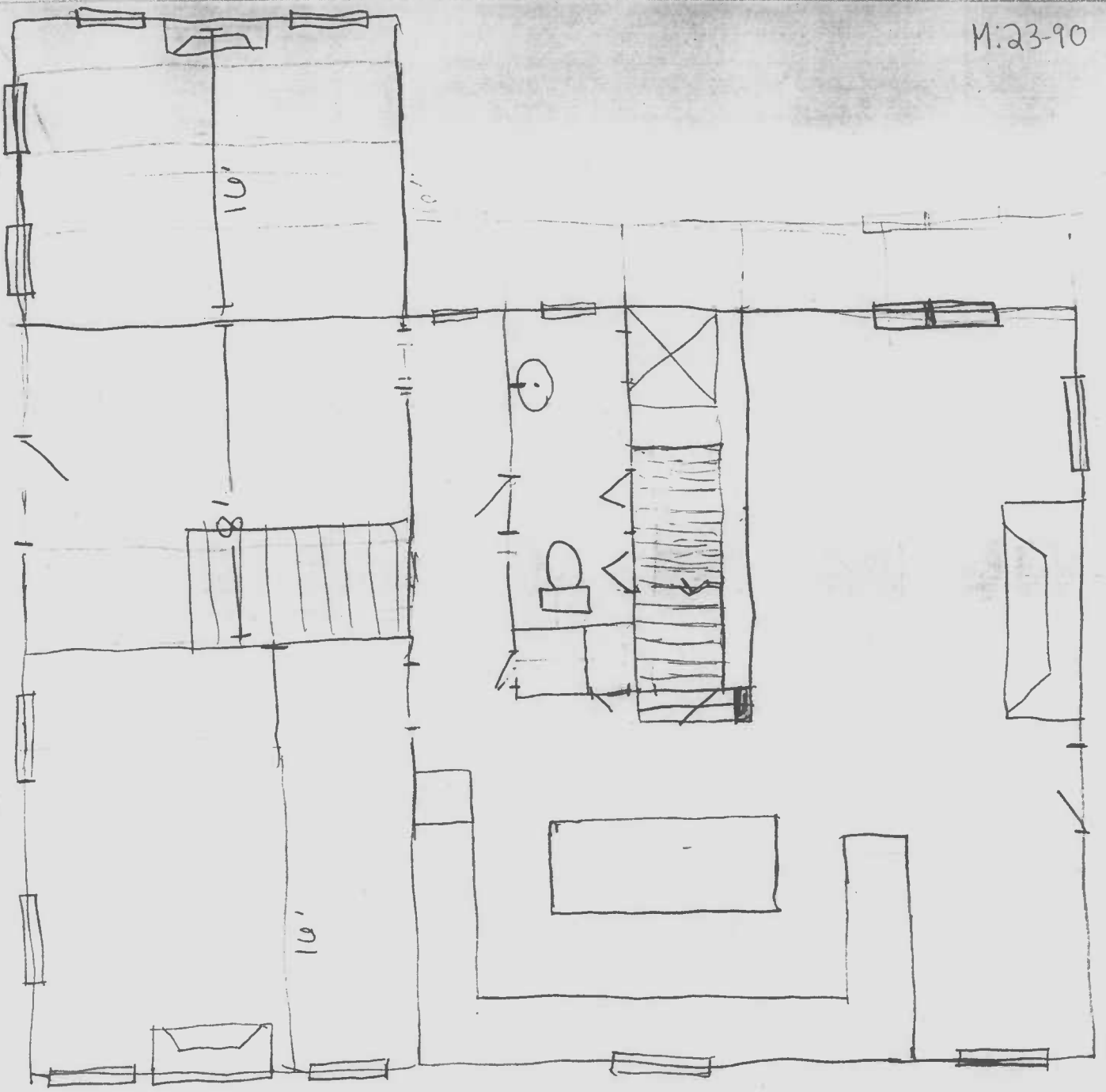
POTTING
SHED.
GOLD MINE RD



M.23-90

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879.* Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

M:23-90



FIRST FLOOR

RIVERTON
(23-90)

Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 10' 46.1" N 077° 01' 23.3" W
Caption: RIVERTON (M: 23-90)
1201 Gold Mine Rd.

Copyright (C) 1997, Maptech, Inc.

29 9'99

M:
23-90
RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH
1 OF 10

29 4'99

M
23-90
RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SE OBLIQUE LOOKING NW
2 OF 10

29 4'99

M:
23-90
RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
3 OF 10

29 4'99

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KIM WILLIAMS
4-20-99
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KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ELEVATION
5 OF 10

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RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION'S ENTRY DOOR
6 OF 10

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M:
23-90
RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NEWEL, LOCATED IN FRONT ENTRY HALL
7 OF 10

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23-90
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KIM WILLIAMS
4-29-99
MARYLAND SHPO
DINING ROOM
9 OF 10

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23-90
RIVERTON
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-20-99
MARYLAND SHPO
2ND FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM
10 OF 10

M #23-90
1605955504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Riverton

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1201 Gold Mine Road

CITY, TOWN
Brookeville ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	✓OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
✓BUILDING(S)	✓PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	✓PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	___YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		✓NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Eller Family (new owners in 1975) Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
1201 Gold Mine Road

CITY, TOWN
Brookeville ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:
Folio #:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M.23-90

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	✓ORIGINAL SITE
✓GOOD	__RUINS	✓ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a five-bay, fieldstone farmhouse that has been covered with pebbledash. There is a central door with transom-light, and the window sash is 6/6. The house faces south, and a later, one-story, open porch crosses this facade. Fireplace chimneys are internal, but a new brick chimney has been added on the east exterior wall (as a result of the recent collapse of this wall.) Shortly after the Ellers purchased the house from Farquhar, the east wall and SE corner fell out, as a result of years of interior water damage to the old mortar. The wall has been repaired within the past several weeks.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-90

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
✓1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY CO., MD. (1961) pp. 259-262.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1961) pp. 259-262.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE

M-NCPPC 8/13/75

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

8787 Georgia Ave. 589-1480

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Silver Spring Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

M#23-90 HISTORY OF MONT. CO - FARQUHAR; 1962

development in 1870-1876 offered him his greatest opportunity.

About 1882 he became connected with the Bell System, and in a few years by rapid advances became Chief Engineer of Underground Construction. Never marrying, he was employed by the Bell System and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company for over 45-46 years. His alleged retirement at the age of seventy-two was in name only. Master of the important and the highly specialized work of cable-testing, he was made chairman of the Joint Electrolysis Committee for which work he seemed irreplaceable.

Ernest Lea Iddings, the second son of Charles A. and Elizabeth, born at Riverside in October, 1860, was self-taught in the hard school of experience. He needed no college education to succeed in the mechanical employment to which he devoted a long life. He married Maria Rust of Washington in December, 1886. They went at once to Elton, the Sarah Brown house, where Ernest remained as tenant farmer for three years. After this experience he acquired a farm, Atholwood, near Riverside, where he lived off and on for several years until he became an employee of the American Agricultural Chemical Company. In this work he became a trusted employee with full authority in the erection, modification, and maintenance of fertilizer plants all over the country. He retired in 1926 and died at Catonsville, Maryland, in February, 1934.

Ernest L. Iddings and Maria had five children. Rebecca, now Mrs. Leon Small, is the oldest. The old homestead was devised to her by Frederick, the last survivor of the three brothers, and she and her husband have built a small colony (of family homes) about the grounds. Next to Rebecca comes Fred, a lawyer and judge in Boston; then Llewellyn, a builder; Elizabeth, widow of the late Professor Walter Wheeler Cook, who lives in a small cottage on the lawn; and Margaret, now Mrs. Rossman, of Connecticut.

Richard P. Iddings, the third son, was born at Riverside in 1866. He did an unusual thing after many years' employment in an important position as chemist with a large textile company in Massachusetts. Although a highly valued and trusted employee of the Arlington Mills Company, he resigned his position at a little more than fifty years of age and came home to Riverside to care for his aged mother and an unmarried aunt, both over eighty. He passed away in 1943.

Ernest L. Iddings and Maria have two daughters living: Rebecca Iddings Small, wife of Leon Small, and Elizabeth Cook, widow.

Elizabeth Stabler Iddings one day was planting a small oak tree in front of the house. As the family watched the ceremony an unusually large flock of wild geese flew over, a fact which diverted the family's attention from the tree-planting. When their attention returned to the planting ceremony, Elizabeth, having already planted the tree, pulled it up and planted it again so as to be witnessed by the group. When Elizabeth's son, Frederick, was over eighty, he climbed to the top of that same oak to install an electrical arrester or lightning rod, to insure its life for some more generations.

The house faces toward the setting sun. Entering the front hall, one finds the living room on the right. Behind that is a library, and on the left of the front hall is a parlor. Both living room and parlor have fireplaces.

The photograph of Riverside was taken about 1886. Charles and Elizabeth Iddings are both in the group in front of the house. Leon Small was the Chief Engineer of the Baltimore Water Department before he retired.

Riverton

THE lure of the wilderness combined with the heroism of a pioneer must have induced a hardware dealer with four sons and one daughter to leave the City of Brotherly Love in 1822 to establish his family in a log cabin in the woods of Montgomery County. Joshua Peirce and Hannah (Chandlee) Peirce, his wife, were hardy Quakers. The Hawlings River valley where they settled was a friendly community where the Chandlees had inherited lands. The farm was owned by Hannah's parents, and had a mill and a biscuit factory on it.

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This mill according to Scharf's History was built in 1737 by James Brooke of Charley Forest. The biscuits were shipped to Elkridge Landing, Bladensburg and Joppa.

The house shown right built of stone, covered with stucco, was built in 1845-1850. To the immediate rear of the present house the log cabin or cottage referred to above was situated. The mill and factory stood on the slope to the left of the house near the Hawlings River which flows through the farm. This mill was undoubtedly one of the first mills built in Montgomery County. Both the mill and biscuit factory disappeared more than a century ago. The mill race was a mile long, and parts of it are still visible.

Riverton, which before the Civil War was always known as Brooke Black Meadow, is located about 400 yards west of the roadway from Ashton to Brighton. In early land deeds, this roadway was known as the Bladensburg-New Market Pike.

The Peirce family in 1684 followed William Penn, the other Quaker pioneer, from England. George Peirce with his wife, Ann (Gainer) Peirce, and three small children, sailed from Bristol, and the family for generations had a tract of land in Chester County, Pennsylvania. On that tract in 1950, with the old red brick house of the family preserved, is located the gorgeous Longwood Gardens of Pierre S. du Pont. Mr. du Pont purchased the old home with 250 acres just after 1900 and, with the house as a nucleus, developed the old Quaker homestead into one of America's finest estates with 1,000 acres, outdoor theater, greenhouses, and numerous other buildings. (See James Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland, page 672.)

After the first third of the eighteenth century, people began to turn their attention to wheat raising, and a mill for the manufacture of wheat flour was built by James Brooke about 1737, near the junction of the Hawlings River and the Patuxent. This mill stood in the ground of Brooke's Black Meadow, or what later became known as Riverton, on the rocky slope near the Gold Mine Road, as one drives down the road toward the present bridge over the Hawlings River.

Brooke Black Meadow, with an addition to Brooke Black Meadow, was part of the landed estate of James Brooke, who settled at Charley Forest in 1727 after his marriage to Deborah Snowden, a daughter of Richard Snowden III. Her father was a very large landowner in Prince George's, and later in Montgomery County. Their son James, Jr., on October 20, 1759, married Hannah Janney. The marriage license in possession of a descendant describes them as "James Brooke of the County of Frederick, Province of Maryland, and Hannah Janney, of the County of Loudon, Colony of Virginia." They lived in a cabin on the Hawlings River near Riverton. The century old stone house at Riverton was built by a descendant of James Brooke (See Charley Forest, page 117) on land which was part of his vast estate. Brooke began to acquire land in this area before 1750, and at the time of his death in 1784 he owned more than 20,000 acres.

A daughter of the above couple, Deborah Brooke, married George Chandlee, August 27, 1783, and one of their daughters, Hannah, married Joshua Peirce on October 2, 1811. (Deborah inherited a large tract from her grandfather, James Brooke.) Joshua was born March 1789, and died 1863. His wife was born March, 1789, and died 1852. With their children they made the difficult migration from Philadelphia in 1822.

In a letter from Joshua Peirce dated March 31, 1822, to his brother-in-law Edward Chandlee, he refers to their trip as follows: "We arrived last evening all well after a tedious and fatiguing journey over a long and ruff road," and he refers also to "the humble cottage destined to be our future residence in this land of hills." This fixes the date the Peirces came to "Brooke Black Meadow."

In another letter dated September 5, 1822, Joshua Peirce tells Edward Chandlee that "Thomas Lea of Wilmington with his wife, Betsy Lea, are coming to Walnut Hill," and they moved there the next spring. Both families made the long trip using the same wagon to transfer all their belongings to Maryland. (See Walnut Hill Story.)

In 1841 a calamity at Black Meadow stirred the sleepy community into typical action to better its citizenry. Joshua had just filled his fine new barn with a bountiful harvest. From some cause unknown, it burned to the ground with his year's crops going up in smoke. This started the thrifty Quakers thinking of a remedy. Several meetings were held and years elapsed, but finally in 1848 this unfortunate event resulted in

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the formation of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County. Joshua Peiree was one of the founders of that company which has been such a sueeess and benefit in the state and county for 113 years.

Before the death of Joshua in 1863, Edward, a son who had been born in Philadelphia in 1820 and who was two years old when his parents came to Maryland, bought out the other heirs to the old farm. Before this, in 1854, two years after the death of Hannah, a division of the estate had been made.

Edward Peiree was the builder of the Riverton house shown above, just before or just after his journey to California in 1849. In 1860 Edward moved to Fairfield, and sold Riverton to Samuel A. Janney of Baltimore. Aeeording to a survey in August, 1878, made by William Hartshorne, the farm had 178 aeres at the time. Samuel Janney married Catharine Hall, daughter of Elisha J. and Mary Brooke Hall of Longwood in 1863.

Samuel A. Janney was a nephew of Johns Hopkins, the great philanthropist and founder of the University perpetuating his name. It is of interest that Hopkins evidently seleeted the farm for young Janney, although it is not revealed whether he paid for it. Allen Bowie Davis of Greenwood, was quoted in a speech before the local Grange before 1860 as saying that when he had been in Baltimore, Johns Hopkins had asked him if he knew of a good farm in Montgomery County for sale. Brooke Black Meadow was selected, and Samuel, and Catharine, who was usually called "Kate," went there as bride and groom. They changed the name at that time to Riverton.

Samuel and "Kate" Janney had a family of five sons and two daughters. The oldest son, John H., married Sallie Randolph Turner of Virginia, and they spent their entire lives at Brooke Meadow, an adjoining farm. Of the daughters, Mary beeame the wife of Ulrie Hutton, and lived to an advaneed age on a farm near Brighton, and Sallie married Ernest Adams of Howard County, and remained on a farm there. Samuel J. married Ethel Hopkins from Gloucester, Virginia, and retired to a modern bungalow near his birthplace. He passed away a few years ago.

Joseph E. Janney married Huldah Newsome of Indiana. They were classmates at Earlham College. They farmed near Riverton for many years. Richard Janney, the fourth son, married Henrietta Hopkins, a sister of Ethel, and lived in Virginia, and Frank W. Janney married and beeame a prominent physieian in Baltimore.

Samuel A. Janney, Sr., died in 1884 at the age of fifty-one when on a trip to England in an attempt to regain his health. At the time of his death the oldest ehild, John H., was only eighteen years of age. The mother of the large family, with remarkable fortitude, a most resoureeful and eapable woman, earried on the farm with sueh help as her children could give, and all reached maturity and attained sueeess. Catharine H. Janney lived to the age of eighty-three years, passing away in 1923. To the very end of her life filled with struggle, she retained her quiek wit and remarkable memory unimpaired.

NO. 99 D-10 EDWARD PEIRCE 1848 STONE AND STUCCO

In a deed dated January 1, 1899, Catharine Janney for the nominal sum of $500 eonveyed the home farm with 159 aeres to all her ehildren, and on Mareh 15, 1924, the Riverton farm with 180 aeres of land was eonveyed to Elbin Leishear by deed exeeuted by all the Janney heirs. Mrs. Leishear's maiden name was Laura Helen Curtis.

The sturdy house eovered with stueeo is built of stone whieh was quarried nearby, and wheeled up inclines to the masons. The house is of simple design, with eenter hall, and rooms eaeh side. It has four rooms and two baths on the second floor, and three rooms on the third floor. The house has 13 rooms. When the Farquhars purehased the property in 1955, the rugged house was eompletely modernized. A

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deep well was dug, modern septic tanks installed, the rear half of the house which is frame construction, was fully insulated on three sides and ceilings and two extra modern bathrooms installed making three in all. A new oil fired furnace, providing hot water heat, in baseboards, has given a uniform, complete, comfortable temperature in winter. A hard surfaced driveway was installed.

James Brooke began to acquire property in this area before 1750 and at his death in 1784, owned more than 20,000 acres. The Riverton property has been owned since about 1759 by Brooke descendants with exception of two brief periods until 1955 when purchased by Roger Brooke Farquhar III—who thus returned it to the original family line.

Roger Brooke Farquhar III, and Mary Stetson Farquhar, his wife, were married in Albany, N. Y., in December, 1942, and purchased the Riverton place with eight acres in 1955. They are the owners in 1962, and have six children as follows: Ann P., aged 17; Judith B., 15; Cynthia H., aged 14; Thomas Brooke, 10 years; Peter S., aged 7 years, and Mary T. Farquhar, aged 5 years.

OPPORTUNITY

"Master of human destinies am I!!!
Fame, love, and fortune on my footsteps wait.

Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote, and passing by

Hovel, mart, and palace—soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate.

If sleeping, wake—if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,

And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe

Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,
Condemned to failure, penury, and woe,

Seek me in vain and uselessly implore.
I answer not, and I return no more."

JOHN J. INGALLS

#23-90

NAME RIVERTON

LOCATION GOLD MINE RD., BROOKEVILLE, MD.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 8/13/75
M. DWYER