

WI-353  
Riverton  
Sharptown vicinity  
Public and private

Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Located halfway between Vienna and Sharptown, the village of Riverton is situated on a sandy ridge of land bordering the Nanticoke River. Once a thriving village of several hundred residents, Riverton has subsided into a quiet residential river community surrounding the local church. In 1891 the village was described for R. L. Polk's Maryland and District of Columbia gazetteer as

Situated on the Nanticoke River, in Wicomico County, 16 miles northwest of Salisbury c [ourt] h [ouse], and 10 from Laurel, Del., the shipping station, on M & D Div of the P [hiladelphia] W [ilmington] & B [altimore] R R. Seaford, Del. is the location of the nearest bank.

The population at the time was established at 250 residents. The early history of the village is not well defined, but it was known as "Bacon Quarter" prior to a name change around the time of the Civil War. Sophronia Taylor suggested changing the name to Riverton when a post office was established. At its economic peak around 1890 to 1910 the village boasted regular service by steamboat and a host of local businesses including a canning factory, several stores, a shirt factory, and local sawmills.

With the discontinuation of steamship service after World War I and the increasing mobility of private residents with automobiles, commerce in the small community stagnated. Riverton today is a quiet river community of private residences located on or near Nanticoke River. The Riverton United Methodist Church remains an active institution in the village.



**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF Survey No. WI-353  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic Riverton

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Riverton Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Riverton \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Various owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-353

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The village of Riverton is located on the south shore of the Nanticoke River southwest of Sharptown in Wicomico County, Maryland. Riverton Road (County Road 460) winds in a northeast/southwest direction and parallels the river until turns at a right angle in the heart of the village. Two side roads, Riverton Wharf Road (County Road 490) and Schoolhouse Road (County Road 456) intersect Riverton Road. The terrain along the river is generally level with a few sandy ridges along the north side of Riverton Road.

The building stock that defines Riverton dates from the second half of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century, with the majority of dwellings dating between 1870 and 1920. Approximately one-dozen (12) frame dwellings are oriented along Riverton Road and the two side roads. Repeating familiar nineteenth and early twentieth-century house forms, many of the dwellings are two-story, three-bay frame structures with side passage/single pile plans or center passage/single pile plans. Several dwellings have asymmetrical plans with projecting pavilions.

Supported on low brick foundations, the houses are sheathed with a combination of artificial sidings including asbestos, vinyl, and aluminum, and the steeply pitched gable roofs are largely covered with asphalt shingles. Two-over-two sash windows or replacement windows light the first and second floors, and a few houses retain decorative elements that include turned post porches and decorative fishscale shingles.

Centered in the community is the Riverton United Methodist Church (See WI-355), built in 1936-37 after the late nineteenth-century building burned.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-353

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

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The population at the time was established at 250 residents.<sup>1</sup> The early history of the village is not well defined, but it was known as "Bacon Quarter" prior to a name change around the time of the Civil War. Sophronia Taylor suggested changing the name to Riverton when a post office was established.<sup>2</sup> At its economic peak around 1890 to 1910 the village boasted regular service by steamboat and a host of local businesses including a canning factory, several stores, a shirt factory, and local sawmills.<sup>3</sup>

With the discontinuation of steamship service after World War I and the increasing mobility of private residents with automobiles, commerce in the small community stagnated. Riverton today is a quiet river community of private residences located on or near Nanticoke River. The Riverton United Methodist Church remains an active institution in the village.

<sup>1</sup> R. L. Polk, *Maryland and District of Columbia Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1891- '92*. Vol. II, R. L. Polk & Co., Baltimore, 1891, p. 765.

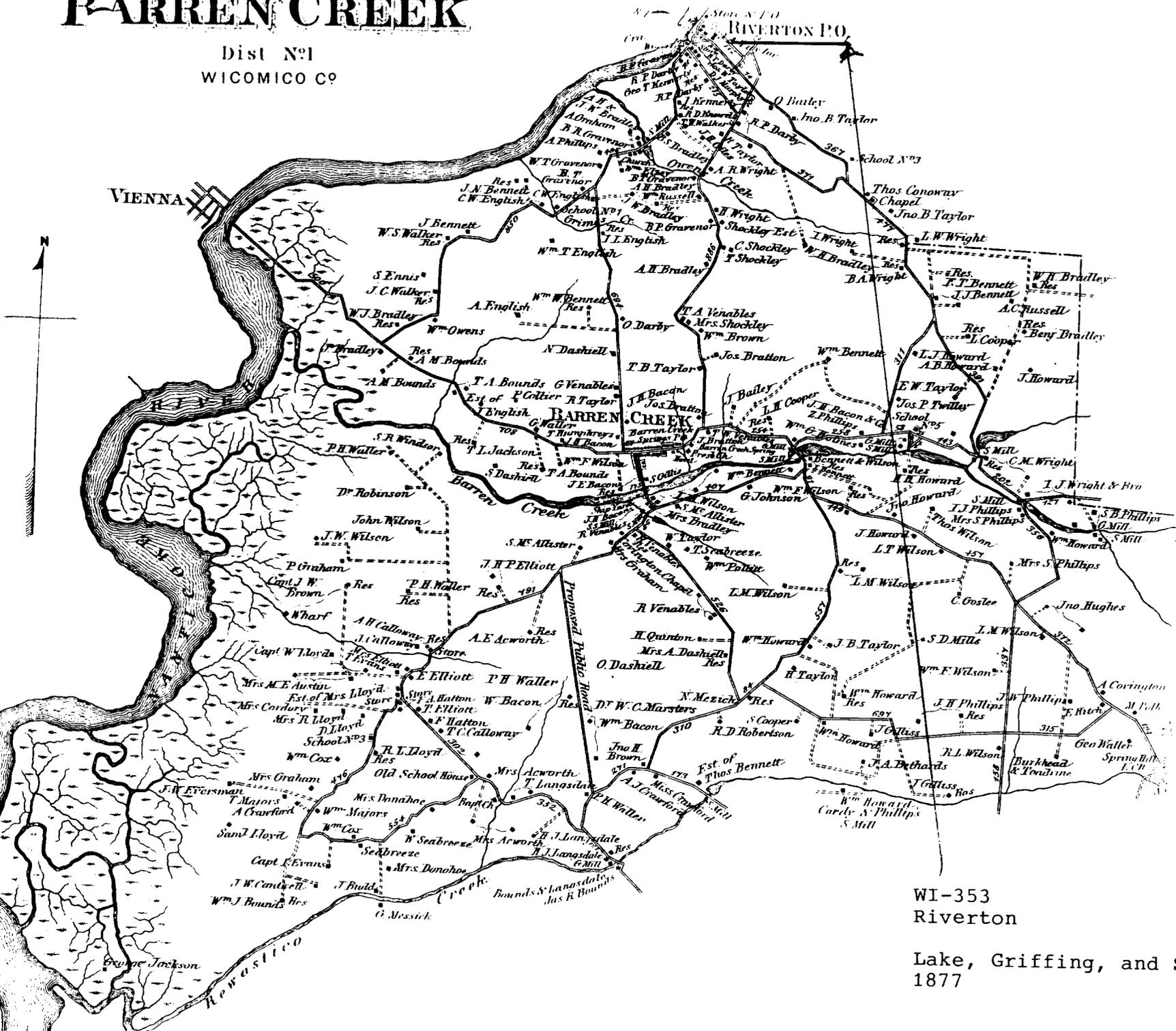
<sup>2</sup> George H. Corddry, Jr., *Wicomico County History*, Peninsula Press, Salisbury, Maryland, 1981, p. 48.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



# PARREN CREEK

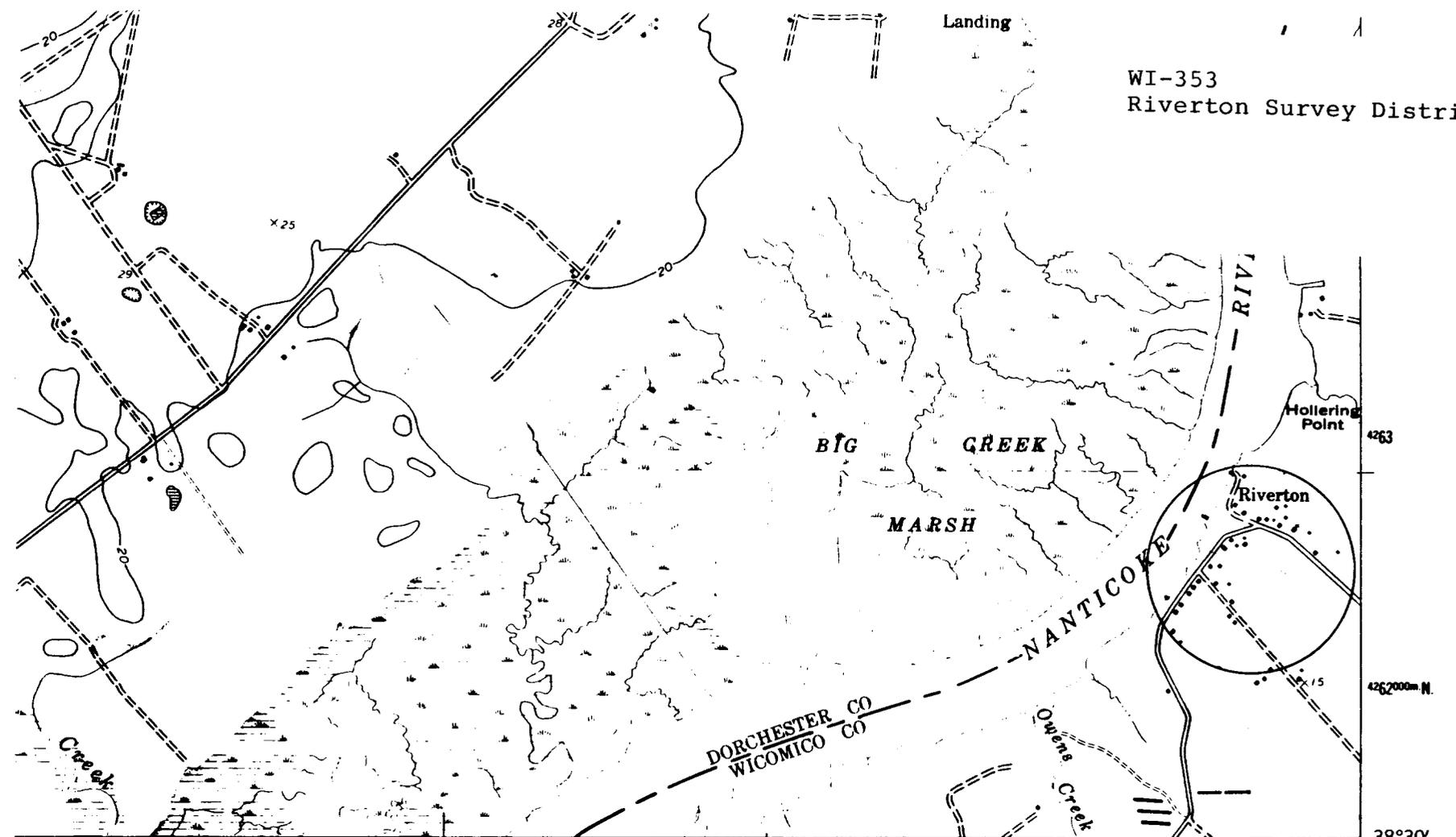
Dist N<sup>o</sup>1  
WICOMICO CO



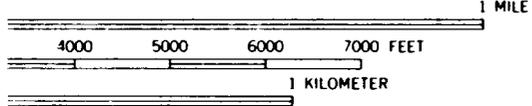
WI-353  
Riverton

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
1877

WI-353  
Riverton Survey District



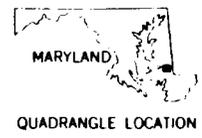
PRINGS) NE 4000  
430 47'30" 432 434000m E 38°30' 75°45' 4263



VAL 20 FEET  
ICAL DATUM OF 1929

OXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
APPROXIMATELY 1 FOOT

IAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
RVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	
U. S. Route		State Route	

RHODESDALE, MD.

N3830—W7545/7.5

1944  
PHOTOREVISED 1974  
AMS 5861 III SE—SERIES V833

(HEBRON)  
5860 | NW