

WI-355  
Riverton United Methodist Church  
Riverton  
Public worship

1936-37

Situated on a sandy knoll in the center of this river village, the Riverton United Methodist Church is a modest single-story, gable-roofed frame building dominated by an entrance on its gable end front. The side walls are defined by a series of rectangular window openings filled with sash windows that have perimeter panes of colored glass. Fixed on the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble datestone that documents the construction of this church in 1937. This building is the second to stand on this site; the former late 19th-century structure burned in January 1936. The construction of the first church is dated to 1887 when John E. Taylor and his wife Sophronia J. Taylor and Loretta A. Taylor conveyed two lots in the village to Riverton to the trustees of the Riverton M. P. Church for \$50. Sited in the deed were trustees, Isaac Kennerly, William T. Darby, Benjamin P. Gravenor, John W. R. Higgins, William C. Bradley, Francis J. Kennerly, and B. Wesley Gravenor. The deed specifically mentions the lots being "part of the lands of the late J. A. Taylor dec'd and the same upon which the said Riverton M. P. Church is now in course of erection..." The 1887 church was a Gothic Revival building distinguished by a steeply pitched roof and a center entrance tower.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Riverton United Methodist Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-355

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture  
  Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):     Modern Times  
  1930-Present
  
4. Resource Type(s):             Church

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-355

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riverton Methodist Protestant Church

and/or common Riverton United Methodist Church

### 2. Location

street & number 11260 Riverton Road \_\_\_ not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

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

name Trustees of Riverton United Methodist Church

street & number 11260 Riverton Road telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1013

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 833

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

<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.

Riverton United Methodist Church is situated on a small knoll in the community of Riverton, located in northeastern Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces southwest with the principal gable oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1936-37 on the site of an earlier church, the single-story frame building is supported on a raised, stretcher bond brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Located on the north side of the church is a 19th and 20th century cemetery.

The southwest (main) facade is dominated by an entrance tower capped by a squat pyramidal roofed tower. Centered in the front wall of the tower is a double door entrance topped by a four-light transom. A multi-paned colored glass window marks the second level. Piercing the wall to each side of the tower are rectangular window openings filled with colored and pebbled-surface glass windows. A large center pane of opaque pebbled glass is framed by a perimeter of colored glass panes. Fixed in the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble datestone inscribed "Rebuilt 1937."

The northwest and southeast sides of the church are four bays across with colored and pebbled glass windows. Like the front windows the side windows have colored glass panes around a center pane of opaque pebbled glass. Rectangular three-pane windows pierce the foundation wall. Rising through the north side is an interior brick stove chimney.

The northeast (rear) gable end is partially covered by a single-story gable roofed wing. The cemetery, primarily located on the north side of the church, contains a range of 19th and 20th century markers.

The interior of the church was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-355

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 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      1936-37      **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.

Situated on a sandy knoll in the center of this river village, the Riverton United Methodist Church is a modest single-story, gable-roofed frame building dominated by an entrance on its gable end front. The side walls are defined by a series of rectangular window openings filled with sash windows that have perimeter panes of colored glass. Fixed on the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble datestone that documents the construction of this church in 1937. This building is the second to stand on this site; the former late 19th-century structure burned in January 1936. The construction of the first church is dated to 1887 when John E. Taylor and his wife Sophronia J. Taylor and Loretta A. Taylor conveyed two lots in the village to Riverton to the trustees of the Riverton M. P. Church for \$50.<sup>1</sup> Sited in the deed were trustees, Isaac Kennerly, William T. Darby, Benjamin P. Gravenor, John W. R. Higgins, William C. Bradley, Francis J. Kennerly, and B. Wesley Gravenor. The deed specifically mentions the lots being “part of the lands of the late J. A. Taylor dec’d and the same upon which the said Riverton M. P. Church is now in course of erection...”<sup>2</sup> The 1887 church was a Gothic Revival building distinguished by a steeply pitched roof and a center entrance tower.

The 1937 Riverton United Methodist Church deserves listing in *Category C*, which identifies buildings of modest architectural interest, but which nevertheless contribute to the overall historic development of the region and community.

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<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 3/139, 8 October 1887.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-355

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 5/18/98

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
 DHCP/DHCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7600

WI-355  
Riverton United Methodist Church  
Riverton  
Chain of title

1013/833                      Riverton United Methodist Church, formerly known  
as Riverton Methodist Protestant Church

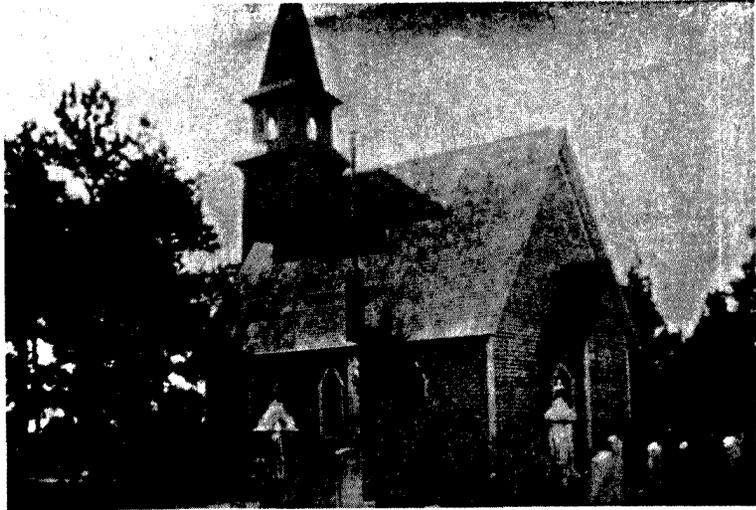
6/6/1984

FMS 3/139                      John E. Taylor and wife Sophronia J. Taylor and  
Loretta A. Taylor

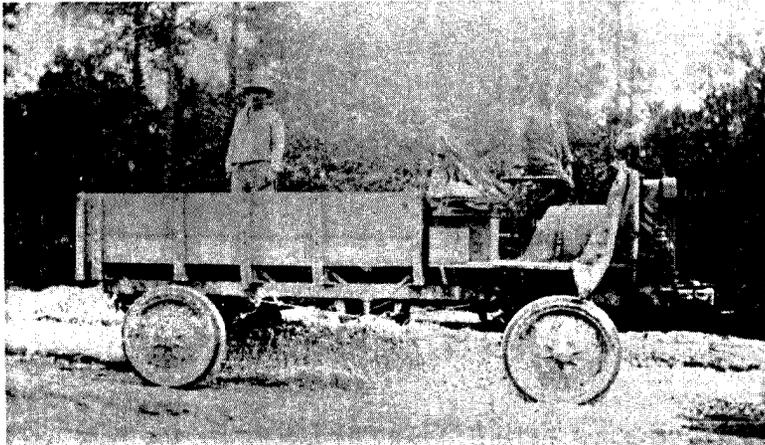
to

10/8/1887                      Isaac Kennerly, William T. Darby, Benjamin P. Gravenor,  
John W. R. Higgins, William C. Bradley, Francis J. Kennerly,  
B. Wesley Gravenor, Trustees of Riverton M. P. Church

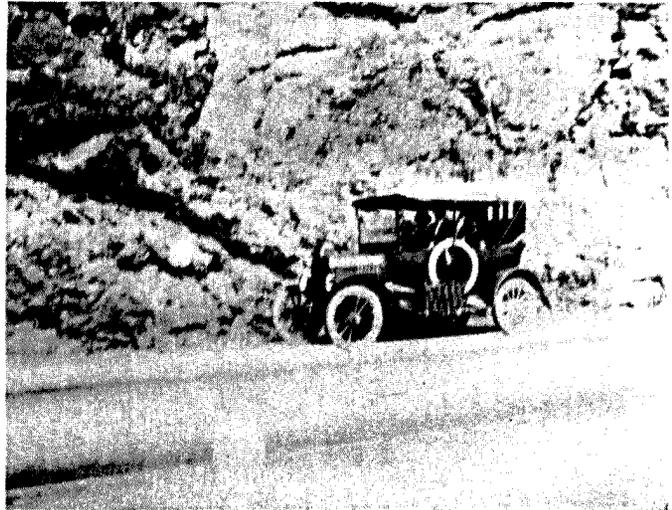
\$50    ...in the two lots of land situated in the village of  
Riverton and known as Lots number 6 and 7 on the  
late John B. Taylor's plot....containing one acre, one  
rood, and sixteen square perches...It being a part of  
the lands of the late J. A. Taylor dec'd and the same  
upon which the said Riverton M. P. Church is now  
in course of erection...



Riverton Methodist Church, burned Jan., 1936. Furnishings which were saved were used in the new church, dedicated March 1937 and still in use. Below, interior of original church.



Truck used at Riverton canning house, c. 1910.



Riverton folks "touring", c.

WI-355

