

WI-377
Train Venables House
Riverton vicinity
Private

c. 1870

The Train Venables house stands at the end of a gravel drive off Riverton Road in the historic community known as Spring Grove. Marking the county road between Riverton and Mardela Springs is the old Spring Grove Methodist Episcopal church. The Train Venables house, along with the Russell house (WI-374), are two mid to late nineteenth century dwellings that survive as remnants of this former river community. The Train Venables house is a story-and-a-half, one-room plan structure dating around 1870. Now enclosed, the front porch used to have turned posts and decorative corner brackets. The one-room plan main block extends to the rear with a single-story service wing.

Train Venables surfaces in the land records as the grantee for this house and lot in an 1885 transfer from Thomas W. English. In later transactions the property is referred to as "Spring Grove."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Train Venables House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-377

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

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

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Train Venables House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 11013 Riverton Road ___ not for publication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	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 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 Edward Ray and Mary Ann Stickel

street & number 11013 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 Map 5, P. 102
liber 907

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 536

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-377

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 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 Train Venables house at the end of a gravel drive with an address of 11013 Riverton Road, southeast of the village of Riverton, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The northeast (main) elevation of the story-and-a-half, one-room plan house is covered by an enclosed porch. A photograph of the house taken before main alterations were made depicts a turned post porch embellished with simple corner brackets. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards and the roof is covered with tin. The base of the roof is treated with a boxed cornice.

The northwest gable end is pierced by six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and narrow four-over-four sash windows on the second floor. The gable end is flush.

Attached to the back of the front block is a single-story rear wing that has been enlarged with single story enclosed porch additions.

An interior photograph of the house before and during remodeling shows a plain post and lintel mantel that was flanked by an enclosed winder staircase.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-377

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Train Venables house stands at the end of a gravel drive off Riverton Road in the historic community known as Spring Grove. Marking the county road between Riverton and Mardela Springs is the old Spring Grove Methodist Episcopal church. The Train Venables house, along with the Russell house (WI-374), are two mid to late nineteenth century dwellings that survive as remnants of this former river community. The Train Venables house is a story-and-a-half, one-room plan structure dating around 1870. Now enclosed, the front porch used to have turned posts and decorative corner brackets. The one-room plan main block extends to the rear with a single-story service wing.

Train Venables surfaces in the land records as the grantee for this house and lot in an 1885 transfer from Thomas W. English.¹ In later transactions the property is referred to as "Spring Grove."²

The house deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies properties of moderate architectural and historical interest.

¹ Wicomico County Land Records, IDT 158/227, 4 March 1929, "being the same land which was conveyed to Train A. Venables by deeds from Thomas W. English on September 4, 1885."

² Wicomico County Land Records, A J S 829/565, 1 November 1974.

WI-377
Train Venables House
11013 Riverton Road
Riverton vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Map 5, Parcel 102

907/536

Marcus N. Ruff
Jean S. Ruff

to

10/14/1978

Edward Ray Stickel
Mary Ann Stickel

A J S 829/565

Caper Acres, Inc.

to

11/1/1974

Marcus N. Ruff
Jean S. Ruff

Parcel 3 2 3/4 acres "Spring Grove"

JWTS 607/4

Richard E. Cullen
Willis L. Hancock, trustees

to

2/26/1965

Caper Acres, Inc.

JWTS 285/36

L. Atwood Bennett

to

1/31/1947

B. Scott Bennett

WI-377
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Riverton vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 280/457 J. Asbury Holloway

to

9/23/1946 L. Atwood Bennett

L. Atwood Bennett

to

9/21/1946 J. Asbury Holloway
Spring Grove

IDT 204/88 Fred Terry, widower

to

2/3/1937 Della Bennett
James G. Bennett

2 3/4 acres

WI-377
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Chain of title continued

Page 3

IDT 158/227

Etta Elliott and others

to

3/4/1929

Fred Terry

being the same land which was conveyed to Train A.
Venables by deeds from Thomas W. English, 9/4/1885

MARDELA SPRINGS QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

581 N SW
(SHARPTOWN)

47'30"

'32

1:150 000 FEET

'33

'34

75°45'

38°30'



'61

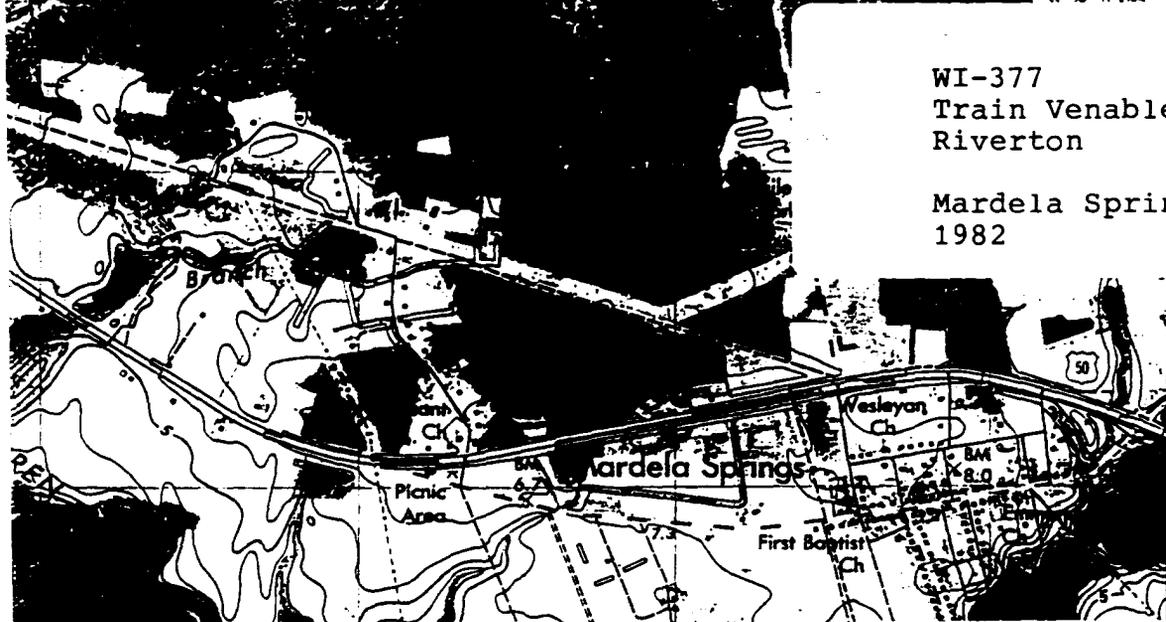
'60

240 000
FEET

'59

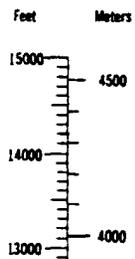
WI-377
Train Venables House
Riverton

Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle
1982



SALISBURY 14 KM
CLEAN CITY 8 KM

CONVERSION
SCALES



'57

27'30"