Researching Your Riverton Home



A Presentation for the Historical Society of Riverton Revised Spring 2022

> Research by Patricia Smith Solin PowerPoint Layout by John McCormick



Outline



- Purpose of Presentation
- Brief Early History of Riverton
- Suggested Protocol
- How to Apply for a HSR Plaque

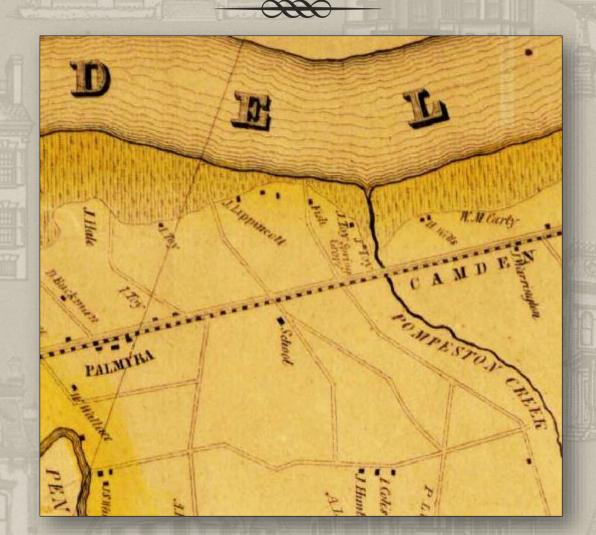


Purpose of Presentation

To introduce basic researching techniques and local resources that can help reveal the history and ancestors of their Riverton home.



Brief Early History of Riverton



Detail of Otley & Whitford Map of Burlington County, 1849

Early Historic Dates



- Established in 1851 with summer mansions for the founders, and others, built along Bank Ave. and Main St..
 Farmland surrounds much of the town See the Porch Club's <u>restored map!</u>
- 1851-1865: Few stores, no post office. Summer homes and rooming houses were built for part-time residents.
 - 1852: Riverton Improvement Co. established
 - 1855: First church built
 - Civil War 1861 to 1865
- 1865-1880:
 - 1868: Builder, Joel Grant of Riverton got the bid to build the town hall in Cinnaminson
 - 1871: First US Post Office
 - 1873: Dreer's Nursery
 - 1875: Lippincott Ave. surveyed for development First addition to the village

- 1880-1910:
 - 1880: Gaslights installed
 - 1886: The Lyceum
 - 1890: Riverton Free Library, Porch Club, Fire Company
 - 1892: First public sewage system initiated on Main St.
 - 1893: Riverton withdraws from Cinnaminson Twp. to become a municipality
 - 1894: Riverton elects first mayor
 - 1900: Street names and house numbers standardized; Riverton Country Club
 - 1907: Cinnaminson Bank & Trust
 - 1910: First brick school building
 - ~1910: Development extends to land on other side of the railroad track, and widens throughout town

Suggested Research Protocol



Step 1 -- Maps



- Maps are terrific and easy to use.
- Even if you have your deed, it's great to see how your property may have changed over the years.
- Detail, New Map of Burlington
 County from actual surveys and
 official records, Parry, Sykes, and
 Earl 1859

Map Sources





Two Online Free Sources



- ✓ Princeton University<u>Sanborn Insurance Map</u><u>Collection</u>

Sanborn Maps of New Jersey: Riverton

Two Favorite Riverton Maps







1886 Hunter & Richards Map

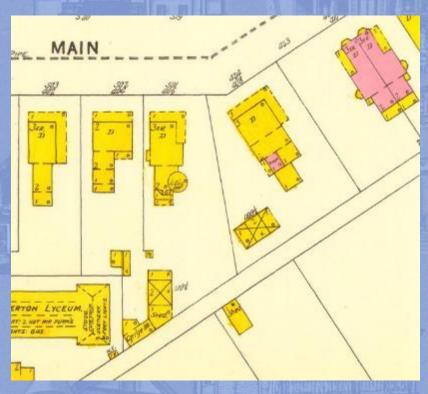
1890 Bird's-Eye View

Sanborn Insurance Maps



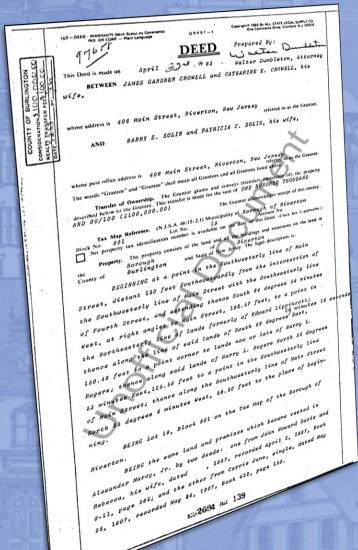


The oldest mapping company in the US, the Sanborn Insurance company, created over a million maps of US cities and towns from 1867-1970.



1905 Sanborn Insurance Map (Detail) of 400 Block of Main Street

Step 2 - Deeds



What is a deed? It is a legal document that is signed and delivered, especially one regarding the ownership of property or legal rights. See also **title deed.**

Maybe you already have a deed to your home – Excellent!

Your Deed Table



- You need to keep track of the information you find in each deed for your house.
- Create a table that has the deed date, grantor, grantee, deed book/page number, sale price, and a section for notes.

Deed Date	Grantor (Seller)	Grantee (Buyer)	Deed Book/Page Number	Sale Price	Notes
02 Feb 2000	Martha & George Washington	YOU – John & Jane Doe	202020/777	\$200,000	Block/Lot Number 100/1
10 Mar 1983	Estate of Mary Lincoln	Martha & George Washington	191919/555	\$1.00	As sole heir, Martha inherits her mother's estate.

Block and Lot Numbers

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500 Date: 1895

Ownership: Christ Episcopal Church

<u>Description</u>: Christ Episcopal Church Parish house, stone first floor, shingle second floor with flaired courses meeting a crown molding between. Basement awning sash, Codic?

Romanesque arched windows at first and second with replacement sash. Serpentine slate roof,

Contributing

405 - 5

Block/Lot:

metal ridge cresting, crown and frieze board cornice. Slate shingled entrance gable supported on Gothic wood wall brackets over high masonry steps and landing, facing Fourth Street.

History: Ground broken 1894. Architect: Archibald A. Fraser, son of John Fraser. Archie died in the summer of 1895, just before the building was completed.

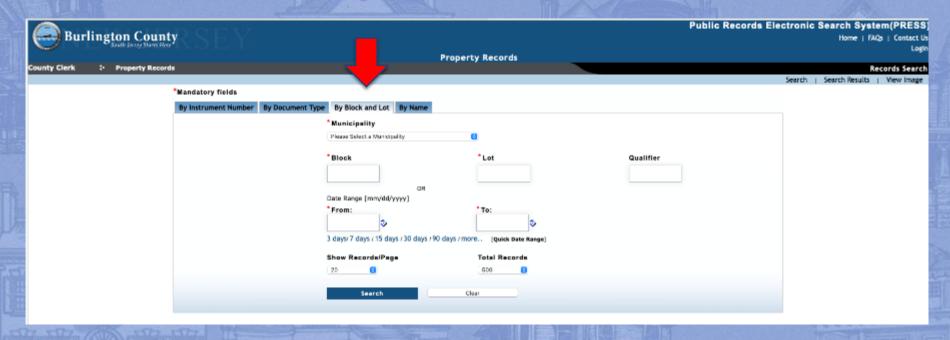
- This is a sample entry from <u>Riverton's 1999 National</u> <u>Register of Historic Places Registration Form</u>.
- Note that the block and lot numbers are at the upper right-hand side of the entry.

You Have Your Current Deed



Deed Date	Grantor (Seller)	Grantee (Buyer)	Deed Book/Page Number	Sale Price	Notes
					Block/Lot Number

Start filling out your table.



No Deed?



Use the searchable, online database at the Burlington County <u>Public Records Electronic Search System</u> (PRESS)



Public Records Electronic Search System(PRESS)

Sample Search Result







County Clerk : Records Search

Get Image

Instrument Detai	ls	
Туре	DEED	
Inst. Number	382740	
Date	05/02/1983	
Book/Page	DEEDS-2694/139	
Direct Party	MARCY JR ALEXANDER; CROWELL JAMES; CROWELL MARJORIE; CROWELL CATHARINE	
Indirect Party	SOLIN PATRICIA; SOLIN BARRY	
Block/Lot	/	
Township		

Problem Going Earlier?



- Exhausted the PRESS online site?
- Go to another website: Burlington County's Deed Archives



Index Images	Book/Page	
Search Type:		
Deeds	Reset	
Book Number:		
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rage Number.	(1/41-1-1)	
	¾ Load	

Finding Your House's Roots



Architectural
Attributes

™ People

- Riverton's Historic

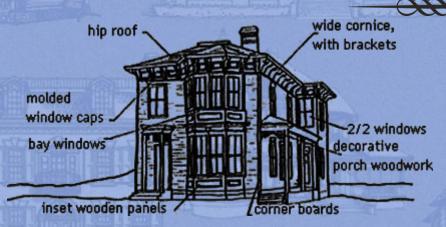
 Newspapers & The

 Gaslight News
- Other Online Resources

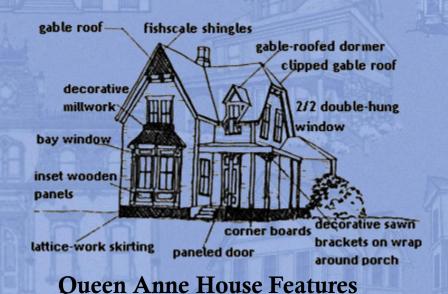


Part of a greeting card found behind the mantel at 406 Main Street, home of Dr. Alexander & Mary Ann Marcy, c. 1890's

Architectural Attributes



Italianate House Details



- What style is your home?
 Victorian, Italianate,
 Gothic Revival, Stick Style,
 Second Empire, Colonial,
 or another one?
- Determine the architectural style of your home and make a list of its qualities and unique characteristics.

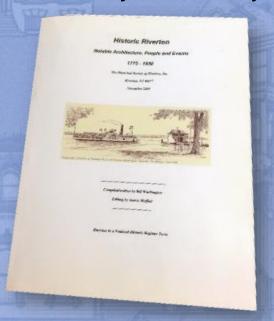
Image thanks to Old House Web

More Resources

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See if your home is listed in Bill Find hundreds of Washington's book: structures listed in

Historic Riverton: Notable Architecture, People and Events, 1776-1930 available at the Library or for sale by the Society



Find hundreds of structures listed in Riverton's 1999 National Register for Historic Places Registration Form available online

NPS Form 15-800	RECEIVED 2290	OME No. 10024-00
(Sr. 199)		
United States Department of the Interior	FEB 1999	1
National Park Service		21
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	MALESCATE OF MICHIGAN PLACES MICHIGAN PARK SERVICE	<i>σ</i>
The form is for use in numerating or requesting determinations for inde- national Register of Master. Places Reposition Form Studential Register by writing the information requested, if as less does not apply to the I authorized dissolitation, reservals, and was all oppositions consis- erations and marable flams on confinuation should (MF) from 10-8008;	properly being documented, error "NIA" to	"not applicable." For functional
1. Name of Property		
Riverton Historic Distric	rt	
historic name Kitverton Historic District		
other names/site number		
2. Location		
		A
street & number Boughly bounded by the Delaware	e River, Park Avenue, venue, and Fulton Street	not for publication
cey or town Riverton Scrough		☐ vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Br	erlington code 00	5 zip code 08077
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
State-Pederal Agency Certification		
As the assignated authority under the National Historic Preservation of velocities and the documentation of velocities and professional require to the procedural and professional require to make to the factorial Register orders. I recommended to decrease of the factorial Register orders. In recommended to decrease of the factorial Register orders.	 standards for registering properties in the enserts set forth in 36 CFR Plot 60, in my interest that this property be considered as 	National Register of genion, the property
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More Resources Riverton Walking Tours

The HSR has two handy and informative Self-Guided Walking Tours of our town. They have a wealth of information of housing styles and architectural design information.



Historic Newspapers

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1921-New Era

1912- New Era

nicely.

Dr. Alex. Marcy, Jr., has announced his final decision that he will not be the Democratic candidate for Senator from Burlington county, for personal reasons, which he says he may give out later.

On Wednesday R. C. Stoughton, Louis

Mrs. Marcy Will Tell of Congress Growth

Mrs. Alexander Marcy, Jr., will address the meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association next Thursday afternoon, February 17th, at 3.30.

The New Jersey Congress of Mothers was organized in Riverton in the year 1900. Mrs. Marcy was one of the original members and will give a reminiscent survey of the growth of the organization, which will be very interesting and entertaining to old and new members alike.

Mrs. J. Lawrence Lippincott, who is a member of the committee of the County Traveling Library, will give a report of the work accomplished so far.

Come and secure a tag for the children and help move the flag to another grade.

Riverton Tournal.

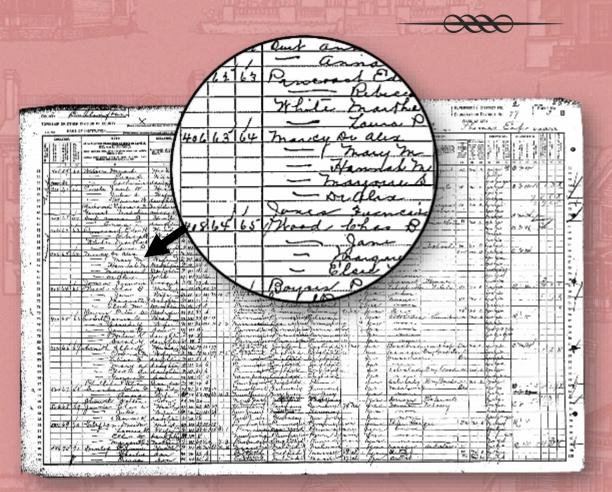
THE PALMYRA RECORD

THE NEW ERA

SITURIAL THE NEW \$86,800 SCHOOL BUILDING

RIVERTON'S NEW \$86,800 SCHOOL B

People





ancestry.com



FamilySearch

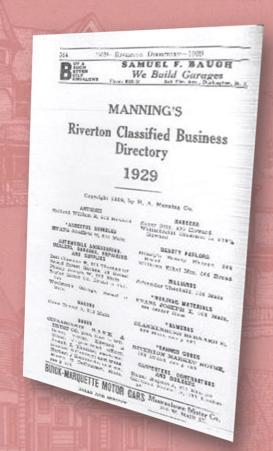
Two More Sources

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1926 The Romance of Riverton



1929 Manning's Riverton Classified Business Directory



Historical Society of Riverton Historic Plaque Application

Fill out as much information as you know. Please type or print clearly. Call Bill Brown - 856-303-8513, 617 Linden Ave. or Bill McDermott, 809 Main St. 856-786-0852_for more information.

Section I € Current Owner and Historic Plaque Applicant Information

The intention of our plaque program is to share the rich history of Riverton with residents and visitors. We achieve this through the placement of plaques to identify a house or structure and make that information available through our archives, on the historical society web site and on the *Historic Riverton Walking Tours*, where appropriate.

1. Applicant Name(s):
2. Applicant Telephone
Home: Work: Cell:
3. Applicant E-mail: 4. Applicant Mailing Address:
Street:
City: State: Zip:
5. Historical Society of Riverton Member: Yes No
Section II. Original and Other Significant Owners of the Structure
Research Information: Please include as much of this documentation/information. Identify the source of information even if it from anecdote or legend. Check our web site for tips on conducting your research including the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, Riverton Historic District and include copies of photographs if available.
1. Original Owners(s)/Builders/Architect(s)
Full Name:

HSR Plaque

Once you have completed the research on your home, you can submit an application to the HSR Board.

Check out the guidelines and the application on the HSR website.







Slide 4 - Brief Early History of Riverton

Otley & Whitford Map of Burlington County 1849. Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/item/2012586251/

Slide 5 - Early Historic Dates

See Historical Society of Riverton, *The Gaslight News*. https://rivertonhistory.com/gaslight-news/

Slide 7 - Map Sources

Historical Society of Riverton. Images: Maps https://rivertonhistory.com/images/maps/

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Resources



Slide 8 – Two Favorite Riverton Maps

Hunter and Richards Map of Palmyra and Riverton, 1886 https://rivertonhistory.com/images/maps/#jp-carousel-125869

Birds Eye Bird's-Eye-View, Riverton, Otto Koehler, 1890 https://rivertonhistory.com/images/maps/#jp-carousel-1411

Slide 9 – Sanborn Insurance Maps

United State Census: History: 1890 Census Fire, January 10, 1921 https://www.census.gov/history/www/homepage archive/2021/january 2021.html

Sanborn Insurance Maps: Princeton University
https://library.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/aids/sanborn/burlington/riverton.html

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Resources



Slide 12 - Block and Lot Numbers

National Register of Historic Places Application Form, Riverton NJ, 1999. https://rivertonhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Historic-Riverton-District-app-1999.pdf

Slide 14 & 15 - No Deed? & Sample Search Result

Burlington County Public Records Electron Search System (PRESS)
https://press.co.burlington.nj.us/Press/clerk/ClerkHome.aspx?op=basic

Slide 16 – Problem Going Earlier?

Burlington County Deeds Archives
http://ccarchive.co.burlington.nj.us/Login.aspx

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Resources Slide 24 – HSR Plaque HSR Plaque Guidelines https://rivertonhistory.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/02/Guidelines-for-Preparation-of-Historic-Building-Plaques-2016.pdf HSR Plaque Application https://rivertonhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Historic-Plaque-Application.pdf

Resources



More Resources

- Washington, Bill. <u>Historic Riverton: Notable Architecture, People and Events:1775-1930</u>.
 Riverton, NJ: The Historical Society of Riverton, Inc. 2004.
- Structure and Ornament: A Guide to Architectural Styles in Burlington, New Jersey, 1700-1900. Text by Keith W. Betten. Artwork by Mildred Engle. Mt. Holly, NJ: The Burlington County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 1979.
- The Historical Society of Riverton, *The Gaslight News*, Self-Guided Walking Tours: 1989, 2021.

https://rivertonhistory.com/2021/05/better-late-than-never-two-riverton-walking-tours-available/

- The Historical Society of Riverton, The Gaslight News, Historical Newspapers https://rivertonhistory.com/historical-local-newspapers/
- The Historical Society of Riverton, <u>The Gaslight News Newsletter</u> https://rivertonhistory.com/gaslight-news/
- The Historical Society of Riverton: An Edwin Cooper Production for Riverton's Chamber of Commerce, 1926. A 43-Minute Videotape Made From the Original Film. The Historical Society of Riverton. Commentary notes researched and written by Betty B. Hahle. 1990.

 https://rivertonhistory.com/store/
- Griscom, Lloyd E. Tales of Three Towns: Cinnaminson, Palmyra & Riverton. S.l.: s.n., 1981

