

Researching Your Riverton Home



A Presentation for the Historical Society of Riverton
Revised, February 2026

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.





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 [restored map!](#)
- 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

A detailed historical map of Riverton, Delaware, showing a grid of streets and various buildings. The Delaware River is on the right, and a railroad runs along the bottom. Streets include First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth, as well as Main, Market, and others. Buildings are labeled with names like J. C. Smith, J. C. Smith, and others. A scale bar indicates 100 feet.

- ❧ 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

- ❧ [Historical Society of Riverton's Map Collection](#)
- ❧ [Princeton University Sanborn Insurance Map Collection](#)

Sanborn Maps of New Jersey: Riverton

Two Favorite Riverton Maps



1886 Hunter & Richards Map

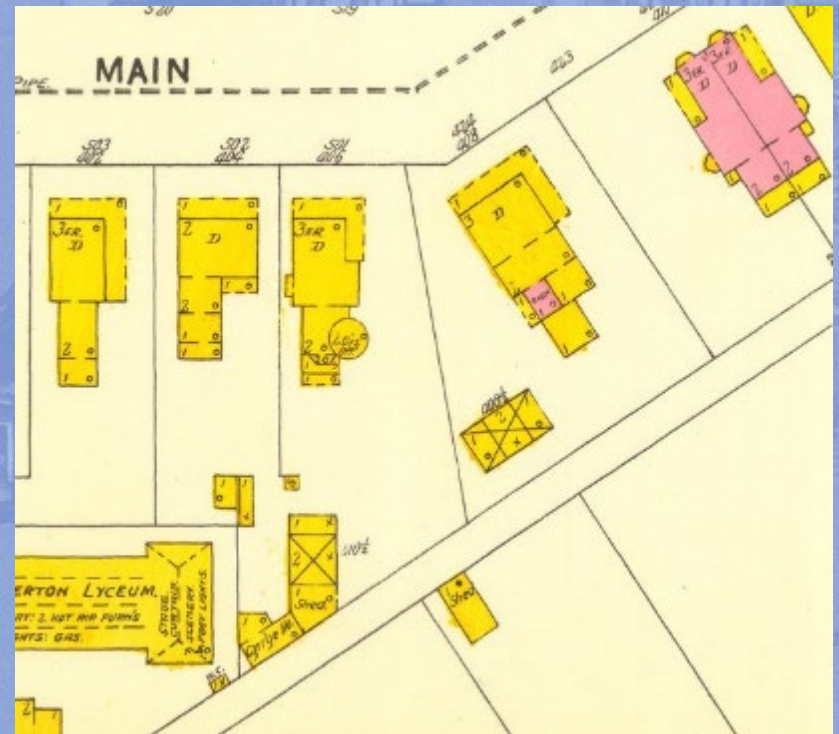


1890 Bird's-Eye View

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

107 - DEED - WARRANTY with Statutory Covenants
IND OR CORP - Plain Language

Copyright © 1982 By ALL STATE LEGAL SUPPLY CO
One Commerce Drive, Cranford, N.J. 07016

GRVST - 1

97678

DEED

Prepared By:
Walter Dumbleton
Walter Dumbleton, Attorney

This Deed is made on April 30, 1983

BETWEEN JAMES GARDNER CROWELL and CATHERINE E. CROWELL, his wife,

whose address is 406 Main Street, Riverton, New Jersey referred to as the Grantor,

AND BARRY S. SOLIN and PATRICIA C. SOLIN, his wife,

whose post office address is 406 Main Street, Riverton, New Jersey referred to as the Grantee.

The words "Grantor" and "Grantee" shall mean all Grantors and all Grantees listed above.

Transfer of Ownership. The Grantor grants and conveys (transfers ownership of) the property described below to the Grantee. This transfer is made for the sum of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$100,000.00)**

The Grantor acknowledges receipt of this money.

Tax Map Reference. (N.J.S.A. 46:15-2.1) Municipality of Borough of Riverton
Block No. 801 Lot No. 19 Account No. 19 minutes 18 seconds

☐ No property tax identification number is available on the date of this Deed. (check box if applicable)

Property. The property consists of the land and all the buildings and structures on the land in the County of **Borough of Burlington** and State of New Jersey. The legal description is:

BEGINNING at a point in the Southwesterly line of Main Street, distant 150 feet Southwesterly from the intersection of the Southwesterly line of Main Street with the Southeastery line of Fourth Street, and extending thence South 64 degrees 54 minutes West, at right angles to Main Street, 192.67 feet, to a point in the Northeastery line of lands formerly of Edward Lippincott, thence along the line of said lands of South 58 degrees East, 150.49 feet to a point corner to lands now or late of Harry L. Rogers; thence along said lands of Harry L. Rogers North 33 degrees 53 minutes East, 125.58 feet to a point in the Southwesterly line of Main Street; thence along the Southwesterly line of Main Street North 45 degrees 6 minutes West, 88.50 feet to the place of beginning.

BEING Lot 19, Block 801 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Riverton.

BEING the same land and premises which became vested in Alexander Maroy, Jr. by two deeds: one from John Howard Davis and Rebecca, his wife, dated 1887, recorded April 2, 1887, Book 0-11, Page 565; and the other from Carrie Jane, single, dated May 25, 1907, recorded May 28, 1907, Book 422, page 150.

BOOK 2694 PAGE 139

COUNTY OF BURLINGTON
CONSIDERATION \$100,000.00
REALTY TRANSFER FEES \$100.00
DATE 4/30/83 BY [Signature]

❧ 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



500 Date: 1895 Contributing Block/Lot: 405-5
Ownership: Christ Episcopal Church
Description: Christ Episcopal Church Parish house, stone first floor, shingle second floor with flaired courses meeting a crown molding between. Basement awning sash, Gothic Romanesque arched windows at first and second with replacement sash. Serpentine slate roof, 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 Riverton's 1999 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.
- ∞ 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.

 **Burlington County**
South Jersey Starts Here

Public Records Electronic Search System(PRESS)
Home | FAQs | Contact Us | Login

County Clerk | Property Records | Records Search

Property Records

Mandatory fields

By Instrument Number | By Document Type | By Block and Lot | By Name

*Municipality
Please Select a Municipality

*Block OR *Lot Qualifier

Date Range [mm/dd/yyyy]
*From: *To:
3 days / 7 days / 15 days / 30 days / 90 days / more... [Quick Date Range]

Show Records/Page Total Records

No Deed?



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



Sample Search Result



 Burlington County South Jersey Starts Here										
Public Records Electronic Search System(PRESS)										
County Clerk ▾ Records Search										
PRESS Home Contact Us FAQ										
Search Search Results View Image										
Search Results										
1										
	Type	Direct Party	Indirect Party	Inst. Num	Recorded	TownName	Block	Lot	Book	Page
View	DEED	MARCY JR. ALEXANDER	SOLIN PATRICIA	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	MARCY JR. ALEXANDER	SOLIN BARRY	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL JAMES	SOLIN PATRICIA	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL JAMES	SOLIN BARRY	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL MARJORIE	SOLIN PATRICIA	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL MARJORIE	SOLIN BARRY	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL CATHARINE	SOLIN PATRICIA	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
View	DEED	CROWELL CATHARINE	SOLIN BARRY	382740	5/2/1983				DEEDS-2694	139
1										

 Burlington County South Jersey Starts Here	
County Clerk ▾ Records Search	
Get Image	
Instrument Details	
Type	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](#)



The image shows the login page for 'Image sync'. It features a logo with a green square containing a white 'S' and the text 'Image sync'. Below the logo are fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a 'Guest Login' link, a 'Login' button with a key icon, and a 'Submit' button with a checkmark icon. A red arrow points to the 'Guest Login' link.

Image sync

[Guest Login](#)

Username

Password

 Login

Don't have an account? Click [here](#) to create one.

Forgot your password? Enter your username below to have a new one emailed to you.

User Name:

 Submit



The image shows the search page for 'Image sync'. It features a header with the 'Image sync' logo and a 'Menu' link. Below the header are tabs for 'Index Images' and 'Book/Page', with a red arrow pointing to the 'Book/Page' tab. The search form includes a 'Search Type' dropdown set to 'Deeds', a 'Reset' button, a 'Book Number' field, a 'Page Number' field, a 'Load' button, and a pagination section with 'Page(s)', 'Through', and a download icon.

Image sync Menu

Index Images Book/Page

Search Type:

Deeds   Reset

Book Number:

Page Number:

 Load

Page(s) Through 

Finding Your House's Roots

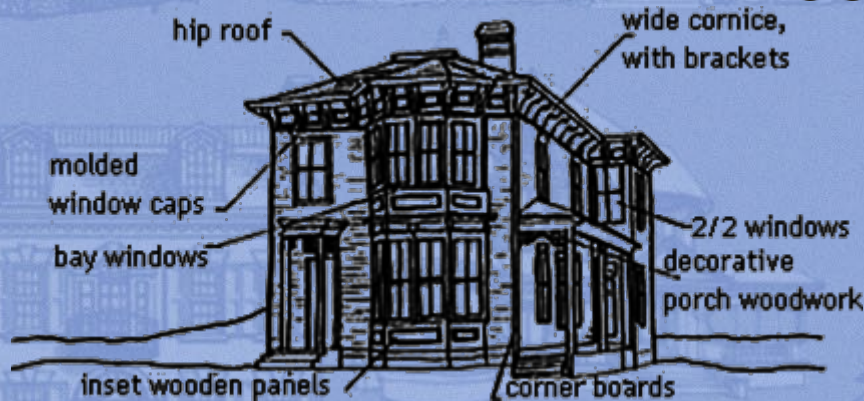


- ❧ Architectural Attributes
- ❧ People
 - ❧ Riverton's Historic Newspapers & The Gaslight News
 - ❧ Other Online Resources



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



Queen Anne House Features

❧ What style is your home?
Victorian, Italianate,
Gothic Revival, Stick Style,
Second Empire, Colonial,
or another one?

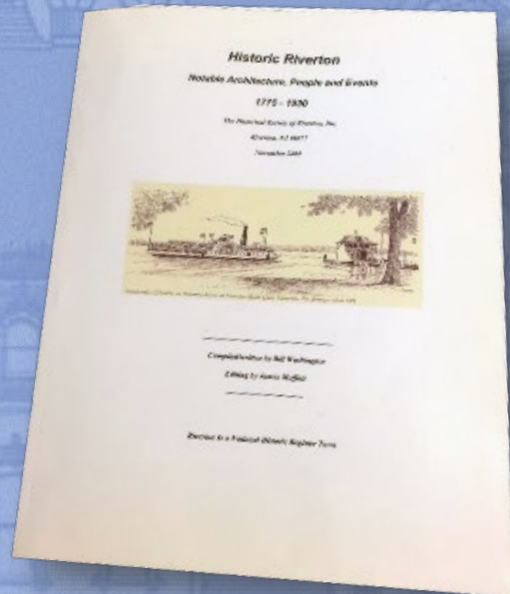
❧ Determine the architectural
style of your home and
make a list of its qualities
and unique characteristics.

Image thanks to [Old House Web](http://OldHouseWeb.com)

More Resources



See if your home is listed in Bill Washington's book:
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 10-900
 (Oct. 1990)
 United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
 National Register of Historic Places
 Registration Form

RECEIVED 2200
 FEB 1 1999
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CRS No. 13024-0218 271

This form is to be used in submitting or requesting nominations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (NPS Form 10-900). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. As soon as the form is completed, it should be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. For instructions on entering the information requested, see the instructions in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Place additional entries and separate forms on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a separate sheet for each property or complete all items.

1. Name of Property
 historic name Riverton Historic District
 other name/site number

2. Location
 street & number roughly bounded by the Delaware River, Park Avenue, N/A, not for publication
 Thomas Avenue, and Fulton Street
 city or town Riverton Borough
 state New Jersey code 031 county Burlington code 003 zip code 08077

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
 As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ not significant. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
 Signature of State/Federal Official
 Michael J. Connelley
 State of New Jersey and Bureau

4. National Park Service Certification
 I hereby certify that this property is:
☒ listed in the National Register
☐ has been determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (specify):
 Date of Action
 7/5/99

More Resources

Town & Rivertonians Photos

- ❧ The HSR has in its archives a collection of photos of streets, businesses, and homes in Riverton as well as individuals!
- ❧ The latest additions are a collection of photos from over 50 years ago – your home might be here! Check it out!



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



1921-New Era

1912- New Era

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.

ately.

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 E. C. Stoughton, Louis

Riverton Journal.

Published at the Post Office, at Riverton, N. J., at Second-class



THE WEEKLY NEWS.

A BOLD CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS
PALMYRA & A. NATIONAL AFFAIRS
10 CENTS PER COPY
100 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE PALMYRA RECORD

A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE
PALMYRA, N. J., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1917.
VOL. IX, NO. 27

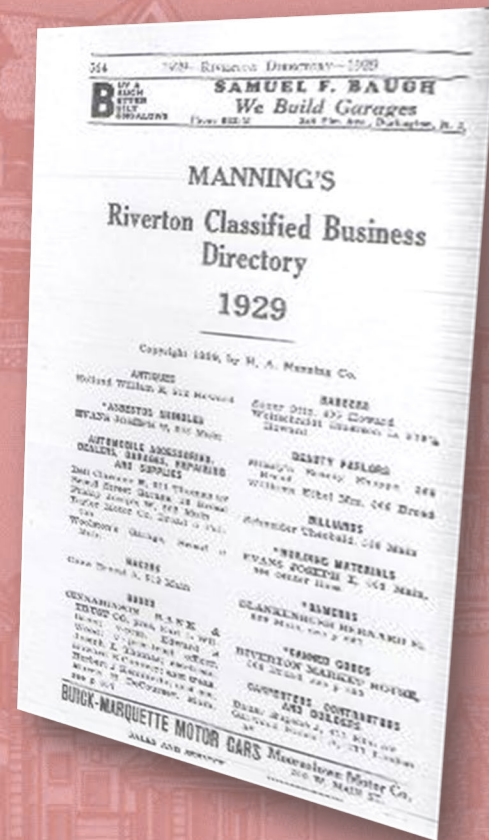
SPORTS



FamilySearch

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 Owner(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](#).



Resources

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/>

RIVERTON. N.J. 1890.

DES. LITHO. PUB. BY OTTON ROEDER, RIVERTON, N.J.

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>

RIVERTON. N.J. 1890.

DES. LITH. PUB. BY OTTO KOEHLER, RIVERTON, N.J.

Resources

A detailed historical map of Riverton, New Jersey, from 1890. The map shows a coastal town with numerous houses, streets, and a waterfront with several sailboats. A large bridge is visible in the foreground. The title 'Riverton N.J. 1890.' is at the bottom. The map is framed by a thin black border.

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>

RIVERTON. N.J. 1890.

DES. LITH. PUB. BY OTTO ROEDER. RIVERTON, N.J.

Resources

Slide 24 – HSR Plaque

HSR Plaque Guidelines

<https://rivertonhistory.com/wp-content/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>

RIVERTON. N.J. 1890.

DES. LITH. PUB. BY OTTON ROHLER, RIVERTON, N.J.

Resources

More Resources

- Washington, Bill. Historic Riverton: Notable Architecture, People and Events:1775-1930. 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, *The Gaslight News* Newsletter
<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

RIVERTON. N.J. 1890.

DES. LITH. PUB. BY OTTON ROEHLEN, RIVERTON, N.J.

The background of the slide is a light teal color with a collage of various Victorian-style houses. The houses are drawn in a sketch-like, line-art style with some shading. They feature various architectural details such as gables, bay windows, porches, and chimneys. The houses are arranged in a somewhat overlapping manner, creating a sense of a neighborhood or a collection of homes.

The End

