



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
Boating Services Unit, Boat Facilities and Public Access Planning Division,  
coordinates the creation of a statewide network of access sites and water trails in Maryland.  
580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401  
phone: 1-877-620-8DNR  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/boating](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating)  
[www.dnr.Maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.Maryland.gov)

**Dorchester County Tourism**  
2 Rose Hill Place, Cambridge, MD 21613  
phone: (410) 228-1000  
[www.tourdorchester.org](http://www.tourdorchester.org)

**Wicomico County Recreation, Parks & Tourism**  
500 Glen Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21804  
phone: (410) 548-4900  
[www.wicomitocountyrecreation.com/marina.htm](http://www.wicomitocountyrecreation.com/marina.htm)

**Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**  
Division of Parks & Recreation - 302-739-9235  
Division of Fish & Wildlife - 302-739-9912  
[www.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov)

**Southern Delaware Tourism**  
phone: 800-357-1818  
[www.visitoutsoutherndelaware.com/welcome.htm](http://www.visitoutsoutherndelaware.com/welcome.htm)

**The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance**  
is a bi-state consortium of diverse groups organized to preserve the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River watershed for the benefit of present and future generations.  
phone: (410) 873-3045 ext. 503  
[www.nanticokeiriver.org](http://www.nanticokeiriver.org)

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The Nanticoke River is the largest Chesapeake Bay tributary on the lower Delmarva Peninsula, meandering gently through marshland, forests and farmland, on its 50 mile journey from southern Delaware to Tangier Sound in Maryland. Navigable beyond Seaford, Delaware, the river has played an important role in commerce and trade throughout its history, providing a critical water route for early Native American tribes, and later for European settlers. The Nanticoke watershed encompasses approximately 725,000 acres, including over 50,000 acres of tidal wetlands, which represent about one-third of all the tidal wetlands in the State of Maryland. The watershed is also the most biologically diverse watershed on the Delmarva, and is home to the highest concentration of bald eagles in the northeastern United States. According to the 2000 Census, the watershed is home to 42,459 residents. Population density is expected to increase by 19.5% between 2000 and 2020.

## Nature and Heritage Tourism

The Eastern Shore offers many opportunities to relax, recharge, and leave hectic lifestyles behind. Local roads and byways are flat, offering excellent cycling adventures, while the many pristine waterways provide scenic trails for recreational boaters, as well as both novice and experienced paddlers. Visitors to the region have the option of bringing bicycles and kayaks from home or renting them from a local outfitter.

In addition to recreational activities, visitors to the Eastern Shore will find opportunities to explore and learn about the area's rich cultural heritage. The history and heritage of the Eastern Shore has been shaped and refined by its relationship to the bay with its abundant natural resources and miles of shoreline. The story begins 12,000 years ago with settlement of the area by various Native American tribes, through the colonial and civil war eras, and continues to the booming seaports and agricultural community of the 19th century. The collection of Maryland Heritage Areas on the shore offers an intriguing combination of these stories that are being preserved, interpreted and shared in various museums, attractions, oral histories, trails and events.

A majority of the Nanticoke watershed consists of forests, wetlands and agricultural fields. The landscape still retains abundant freshwater and saltwater marshes and unspoiled areas that provide a glimpse into how things may have looked when Captain John Smith explored the area 400 years ago.

When English settlement began in the 1660's, activity was generally focused on areas of high, dry, ground suitable for farming and accessible to navigable waterways. Further development took place with the arrival and expansion of the railroads in the late 1800's which helped to create and support small rural communities. Today, traditional activities such as farming and fishing are still regionally important, however new residential development is occurring, at a rapid pace, due to the desire for waterfront property and greater economic opportunities.

Development and deforestation threaten significant natural areas and archaeological sites, stream channelization and dredging disrupt aquatic habitats and destroy wetlands, and nutrient and sediment-laden runoff from a variety of sources affects water quality and

wetland functions. Both Maryland and Delaware have identified the Nanticoke watershed as a priority area for protecting and enhancing natural resources for recreation and conservation and recognize the need to develop a greater sense of stewardship among the growing population.

## Living Resources

The interaction between land and water that takes place in the Nanticoke watershed has created diverse natural conditions and an abundance of wildlife. The diversity of forests, fields and shallow marshes, provides suitable habitat for a number of rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species. Neotropical songbirds, such as warblers and the American redstart, rely on the watershed's forests during their annual migrations and nesting. Other bird species found in the area include: eagles, ospreys, herons, peregrine falcons, owls, wild turkeys, and many different waterfowl and wading birds. Mallards, black duck, wood duck, and Canada geese are the principal migratory game species which breed in the watershed. Extensive wood duck habitat is present in the wooded swamps that border the upper Nanticoke River and Marshhope and Broad Creeks.

A variety of mammals can also be found in the watershed including: beaver, raccoons, rabbits, otters, opossums, skunks and red and grey fox. Muskrats are commonly seen in the marsh along with nutria. The nutria is a South American rodent that was accidentally introduced to the area in the 1930's, resulting in considerable damage to the wetland and field areas where they roam. Fortunately, recent efforts to control nutria are achieving significant results.

Healthy populations of squirrel, rabbit and deer also provide recreational opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. Delmarva fox squirrel is one of the rare animals that makes its home here and were once common throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. This large, steel-gray squirrel was declared endangered in 1967 and is currently found in only four counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore and in Sussex County, DE. The loss of suitable woodland habitat (due primarily to land clearing) is the major factor in the squirrel's decline. Other rare amphibians found here include the carpenter frog and the eastern tiger salamander.

## Wetlands and Marshes

Wetlands are highly valuable resources which provide water quality enhancement, flood protection, wildlife habitat and other functions. Non-tidal wetlands consist principally of floodplain swamps and seasonally flooded forests above the tidal limits. Expansive tidal marshes are found below Vienna and along the mouth of the river at Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area.

The Nanticoke River Watershed harbors more rare plants than any other landscape on the Delmarva Peninsula. Pitcher plants, box huckleberry, spreading pogonia orchid, wild lupine, reindeer moss, Parker's pipewort, seaside alder and reversed bladderwort can all be found in the area. White cedar swamps were once quite common in the Nanticoke watershed but today only remnants of them persist. These unique and declining wetland ecosystems are named for the tree that dominates them and are noted by their high acidity and unusual plants.

Giant Reed, or Phragmites, is an invasive species that invades tidal and nontidal wetlands areas and low areas that have been damaged or disturbed. Once established, it grows to exclude the native marsh species that provide wildlife and aquatic species with diverse and productive marsh habitats. Unfortunately, thousands of acres of Nanticoke River marshes have been degraded by the invasive plant which is a common sight along its shoreline.

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is considered an indicator species for water quality and provides important habitat for many animal species. Historically, there were well-established SAV beds in the lower Nanticoke but they have been steadily declining since the 1970's. Surveys also indicate a significant reduction in waterfowl, fish and shellfish populations. A variety of factors have contributed to this decline: habitat disturbance, over-harvesting, blockages to fish migration, pollution and disease.

Historically, coastal marshes like those in the Nanticoke River watershed were generally wider and landforms like spits, beaches, and islands were notably different than they are today. While wetlands and coastal areas are afforded some protection from development under State and Federal wetland regulations, due to a combination of sea level rise, erosion and other factors these fragile marshes are being damaged and even destroyed. A recent report noted a reasonable projection for sea level rise of at least 2 feet by the year 2100. As a result, water quality will suffer and habitat for marsh dependant wildlife and food webs for many aquatic species will be irreversibly changed.

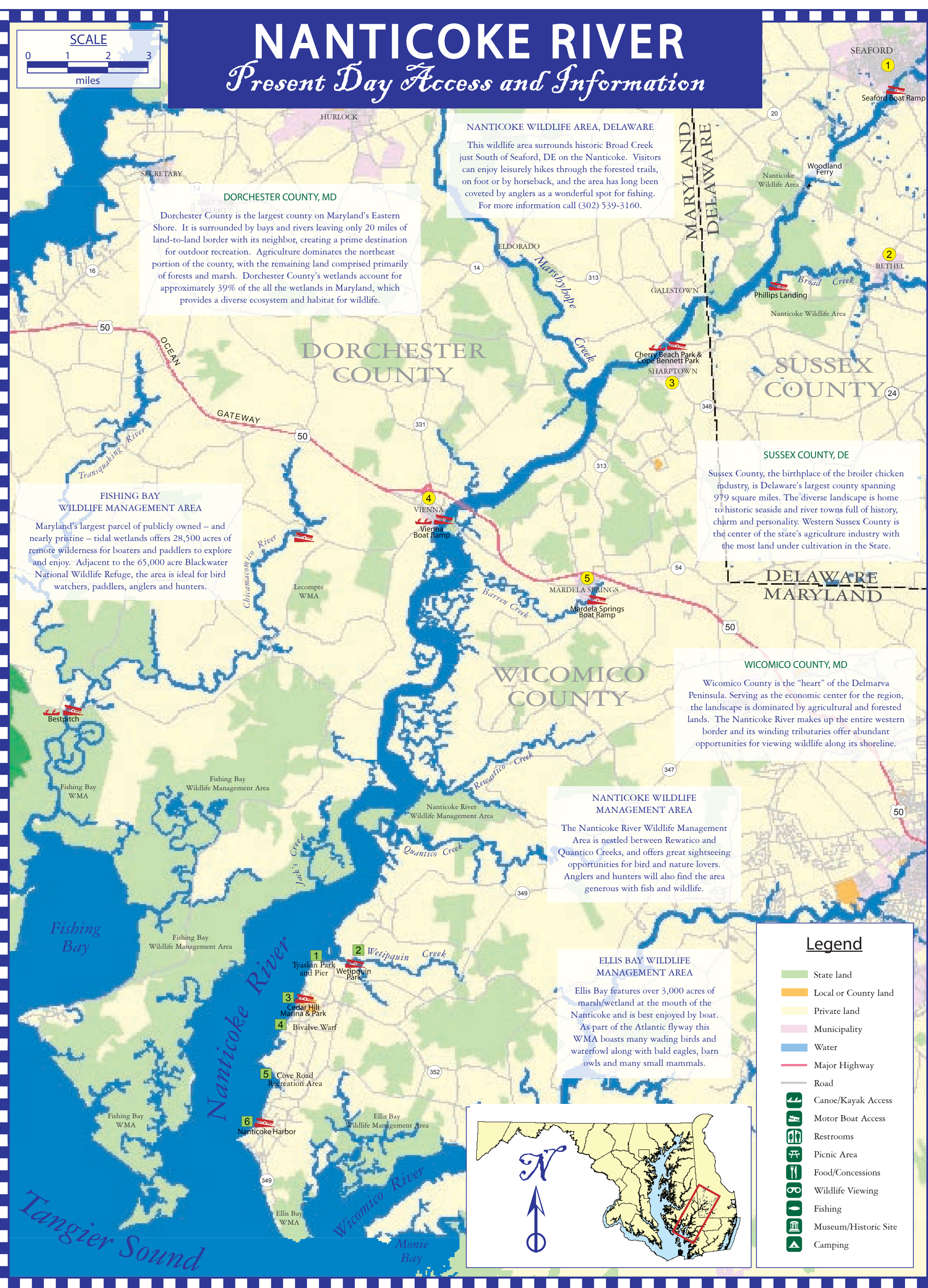
## Fisheries and Aquatic Life

During the 17th century Tangier Sound (just below the mouth of the Nanticoke) was host to a great number of historical oyster beds and other shellfish, like hard clams, that thrived in the pristine waters. The oyster beds were sometimes found extending up into the Wicomico River. Like many areas in the Bay these oyster bars have suffered from over fishing and a decline in water quality. More recently, the diseases Dermo and MSX have reduced the population further. Oyster harvests were relatively low during the late 1960's and early 1970's, rebounded slightly in the late 1970's, and since that time, have shown a steady decline. Blue crabs are found throughout the lower portions of the river system. While annual harvests vary, the crab remains one of the most viable commercial fisheries in the area.

Resident and transient fish species support both recreational and commercial fisheries. The principal recreational species include: white and yellow perch, pickerel, catfish, and largemouth bass in the upper reaches of the watershed and bluefish, sea trout, and striped bass (rockfish) in the lower reaches. Extensive research is being conducted on the Nanticoke due to the serious decline of striped bass spawning. The Nanticoke has long been a spawning ground for Striped Bass, White Perch, and American Shad - along with other anadromous fish species (species that live in saltwater but spawn in freshwater). Typically these spawns or 'runs' occur during the warmer spring and summer months.

## Poultry Industry

The United States has come a long way toward achieving President Hoover's vision, due in part to the inspiration of local farmers in Sussex County, Delaware. Agriculture has played an important role in the economy and lifestyle in Delmarva, with innovation taking place throughout history to capitalize on market changes. From shortly after John Smith's voyage to the Revolutionary War, corn and tobacco filled the fields. Tobacco was slowly replaced by wheat, although there was little export of products outside the region until railroads became part of Delmarva's infrastructure. In the 1850's, with efficient rail transport, agriculture- mostly fruits and vegetables, boomed. Through the early twentieth century chicken as a meat product was just a small by-product of egg production. In 1923 Cecile Steele was delivered too many chickens for her egg business. She sold the excess birds at sixty two cents a pound. Delmarva agriculture never looked back. By the 1950's crops of corn and soybeans to feed the chickens began to dominate the rural landscape. Today, Sussex County remains the largest producer of broiler chickens in the United States.



### River Towns and Points of Interest

**SEAFORD, DE 1**  
Seaford was once part of Dorchester County in the Province of Maryland. First called "Hooper's Landing", Seaford was laid out in 1799, and incorporated in 1865, just three days prior to the end of the Civil War. In 1939, Seaford became the "Nylon Capital of the World" when the DuPont Company opened the first Nylon plant. Tobacco cultivation was also prominent in Seaford. William Henry Harrison Ross, an innovative farmer with extensive land holdings in Seaford, became Delaware's Governor in 1851. The Ross Mansion and Plantation features his Italian Renaissance style home.

**BETHEL, DE 2**  
The entire town of Bethel, a quaint village of Victorian and Italianate architecture, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Once a prosperous shipbuilding center, the community is traced to 1840 when Kendall Lewis laid out twelve building lots. Originally known as Lewisville, the name changed to Bethel in 1880.

**SHARPTOWN, MD 3**  
Sharptown once laid claim to the largest fleet of schooners anywhere on the river, building eighteen U.S. merchant ships in the latter part of the 1800's. This industry flourished up until the early 19th century when most of the area's forests had been cleared (as a result of boatbuilding and farming) and shipbuilding all but disappeared from the region. While shipbuilding is no longer a way of life on the Nanticoke, barges still actively transport goods up and down the river as in colonial times. Cherry Beach and Cope Bennet Parks provide the following amenities.

**VIENNA, MD 4**  
The waterfront community of Vienna was known as a hub for commerce and trade and in 1762 was an official customs collecting port in the colonies. It became a fortress both during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The British attacked the town time and time again, due to its importance as a major transportation hub and supply line for American troops. Prior to John Smith's voyage in 1707, this shoreline was first inhabited by Native Americans.

**MARDELLA SPRINGS, MD 5**  
Originally called Barren Creek Springs, Mardeella Springs has many historic buildings including: Barren Creek Heritage Center and Museum, Barren Creek Presbyterian Church built 1842 (location of the original Mason-Dixon Marker), the Barren Creek Spring House which was the focus of the town's attraction as a mineral water spa in the 1800s through the early 1900s, and the Adkins Historical Complex & Museum. Other sites of interest include: the Tobacco Warehouse which was an official exporting center for locally grown tobacco through much of the 1700s, ship yards which once stood on the Barren Creek, and the Barren Creek Hotel site which dates from the latter 1700s.

### Additional Wicomico County Parks (with water access)

**1** Tyaskin Park and Pier  
**2** Wetipquin Park  
**3** Cedar Hill Marina & Park  
**4** Bivalve Warf  
**5** Cove Road Recreation Area  
**6** Nanticoke Harbor

For more information contact the Wicomico County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism at (410) 548-4900.



## Land Use and Landscape

Archeological sites along the Nanticoke River's winding shores contain evidence of the farming, fishing and hunting pursuits of Native American peoples, dating back to 900 A.D., more than 700 years before European settlers arrived. These sites speak to the life of a people intricately connected to the water -- living along its shorelines, and sustaining themselves through fishing and farming -- a society not so different from the communities that exist along the River today.



First encounter on the Eastern Shore

During the early 17th century when John Smith visited the River, about 1000 acres of the watershed landscape was utilized for agriculture. Today, farming has evolved into a major industry that is important to the economy of the region. The expanses of freshwater and saltwater marshes that can still be seen today retain many qualities that provide a glimpse into how the area may have looked at the time of Captain John Smith's explorations in 1608. However, upon further analysis, numerous alterations to the landscape are apparent, including impacts from sea level rise and changing land use.

## Wildlife and Habitat

At the time of Smith's explorations, Native Americans used line and fish hook, fish "weirs" and large nets to catch the fish as they came to spawn. They taught the English settlers how to build fish weirs. Modern day fishermen still enjoy the abundance of aquatic life that inhabits the river.



Hunting wild turkey

During the Late Woodland period animals were an important resource for Native Americans. The three woodland species found most frequently in archaeological sites are deer, turkey and turtles. The wild turkey was once a major food source for the Nanticoke people but was almost expunged from the area until a re-introduction of the species in the early 20th century. This re-introduction has been met with some success. Wild turkeys can be seen once again throughout the watershed. Beaver were prized not only for their pelts but for food as well -- some considered the tail a delicacy. Soon after the appearance of Europeans the quest for the desirable pelts became intense. During the 1600's it is believed that the fur trade was responsible for over a million beavers being removed from the tidalwater area. This action effectively exterminated the species by the 1700's. Beaver have since been reintroduced to the Eastern Shore and are enjoying a comeback.

Seaside Alder is a rare tree that grows in only two places in the world: the lower Delmarva Peninsula and Oklahoma.



It has been theorized that the species was brought to the west by the displaced Nanticoke Indians who used the plant for medicinal purposes. White Cedar Swamps, are a unique and declining wetland forest type, named for the tree that dominates them. Typified by their high acidity and unusual plants, the pockets of this rare ecosystem that persist in the Nanticoke are probably remnants of a past age in which they were common.

## Marshes and Waterways

The Nanticoke enjoys a rich diverseness of marshland and marsh plants. The freshwater "breadbasket" marshes described by John Smith were plentiful along the Nanticoke. Today these marshes reflect the changing landscape and salinity of the water but are still present and contain many rare plant species. The plant species "arrow arum" (*Peltandra virginica*) or "tuckahoe" was used extensively by the Nanticoke Indians as a food source.

Another species, the arrowroot or "duck potato," was also used as a major food source. You can still find these freshwater plants in reaches of the Nanticoke and Marshyhope. These natural root crops and excellent agricultural soils helped the Nanticoke decide their village locations.



Arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*)

The saltwater marshland of the Nanticoke River was used by the Native Americans as a source of medicinal plants as well as for more practical uses. The reed-like plants like the cattail were woven into mats which served as house siding, rugs and doors by the Nanticoke Indians who also sold these mats to the English. The European settlers used the marshland mainly as natural open pasture for livestock. A description of the area noted that "...all the coast is low broken isle of moras grown a mile or two in breadth and ten or twelve in length, good to cut for hay in summer and to catch fish and fowl in winter."

## Fisheries

The Nanticoke was a thriving fishing ground and a major food source for the Native Americans, and continued to be an important industry for people living along the River for hundreds of years. Anecdotal tales passed on from Native Americans up through modern day waterman of the 20th century talk about the abundance of fish life in the river. Evidence of the existence and abundance of oysters in 1608 is demonstrated by the oyster middens - collections of shell and other refuse - found along the river that are the remains of Nanticoke Indian fishing camps. One such oyster shell site may be the village of Nause where Smith noted two or three small houses adjacent to the river's edge.

Sturgeon fossil records date back more than 150 million years making them among the oldest vertebrates. There are two species of native sturgeon to the Chesapeake Bay, the shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon. Captain John Smith wrote that there were more sturgeon - now rarely seen in the Bay - "than could be devoured by dog or man". In the 1800's the Atlantic sturgeon were of significant commercial importance on the East Coast, harvested primarily for their highly prized roe or caviar. The Atlantic Sturgeon fishery once thrived in the Chesapeake Bay peaking around the turn of the 19th century. Since that time a major decline in the fishery has come about due to over fishing, habitat destruction, river damming and other issues. Reintroduction of the fish has been tried with some success in the Nanticoke River.

Since colonial times American shad have been valued both for their delicious meat and roe. During most of the 1800's the American shad fishery was the largest fishery in the Chesapeake Bay with documented shad landings close to one million pounds in the Nanticoke River alone. The fishery suffered a sharp decline in the beginning of the 20th century due to over fishing, fish blockage and poor habitat. Measures to boost the American shad population include releasing hatchery-reared fishes and fitting dams and block-ages on rivers with fish passages to allow American shad to reach historical spawning areas. American shad is returning to the Nanticoke River and the town of Vienna celebrates this historical fishery annually with a "Shad Fest" on the river in April.

## Native Americans

Native American history of the area can be traced back through the archaeological record to at least 12,000 years ago.

## ORIGINS

The Nanticoke were ancestors of the great Algonquin tribes that originated in the Great Lakes region and then migrated to the eastern seaboard and then South to the Delmarva area between 1000 to 2000 years ago. Like most Native American populations of the time, their primary food source was wild game and fish along with nuts, seeds, root crops

and some cultivation crops like the sunflower and squash. By 1000 years ago maize crops -- introduced by tribes to the south -- were much more extensively grown, contributing to a more sedentary lifestyle. By 1608 A.D., the Algonquians of the Chesapeake lived in summer-fall farming villages and lived in spring fishing quarters and winter hunting quarters.

At the time of Smith's voyage up the Nanticoke River, he reported 200 warriors, which is much less than the reported 2,000 to 3,000 men, women and children who he reported gathered to trade with him. They were organized into a chiefdom which meant that a paramount leader had a certain amount of control over several smaller chiefdoms and villages under his dominion. The paramount leader controlled trade. Smith reported the Nanticoke as the "best merchants of all others."

The Nanticoke River provided an abundant amount of natural resources and so enabled the Nanticoke people to be less reliant on corn agriculture than many of their native counterparts in the Chesapeake region. The Nanticoke made use of the marshlands, hunted, fished, and grew crops along the river in addition to using the river as a major transportation corridor. Unlike present-day Euro-American culture, that view the river primarily as a boundary line and a political division, the Nanticoke viewed the river as a connection and often villages spanned both shorelines.

## TRADE

The Nanticokes were known as excellent traders and their most prized commodity were the "wampumpeak," later just peak, or highly polished whelks and clam shell beads they produced. Also used for bartering, but not as highly valued as peak was "roanoake" -- strings of circular clam shell beads. Traces of these beads have been found as far as the Ohio River Valley and the Great Lakes and their "monetary" importance in the Indian culture extends well into the 18th century. Trade records show the value of items in pounds of tobacco and length of roanoake.



String and belt made of wampum

Of the items to be traded between the English and the Native Americans, the English most valued pelts -- specifically beaver -- and sometimes corn. The Native Americans valued metal tools, guns, and cloth -- sometimes fashioned into matchcoats or simple cloaks. Trade between the two groups flourished until the late 17th century when over-hunting and the conversion of hunting grounds to English tobacco farms greatly diminished the viable fur-bearing animal populations.

## ENGLISH SETTLEMENT

After John Smith's voyage, the Nanticoke Indians had limited relations with the English until settlements began in the later part of the 17th century. Relations between the two groups were often hostile with most contact limited to fur and other forms of trading.

Tobacco farming was the driving force for settlement in the area. By the mid-1660s the English began taking land patents along the Nanticoke. This caused discord between the local tribes and the settlers over unfenced livestock, and unlawful clearing and settling of Indian land. During certain seasons of the year, the local Native Americans would leave their fields and travel to hunting or fishing quarters, only to find their land had been claimed by the English upon their return. The English claimed they had found the fields "vacant" and settled them as their own.

## RESERVATIONS AND MIGRATION

By the end of the 17th century the Maryland Assembly began to establish reservations for the Nanticokes to protect a core of their dwindling land base. The Proclamation of 1678, which established the Pockamee Reservation, was the first such attempt to save land and create Indian towns. This was not terribly successful since the proclamation was rarely enforced and the towns were never officially surveyed. English encroachment continued. In 1698, the Chicone

Reservation was established along the Nanticoke River. This reservation, along with the Broad Creek Nanticoke Reservation established in 1711, provided some protection to traditional Native American culture. The reservations existed with a self-sustaining population over the next 50 years. However, after a planned uprising was pre-empted by the Maryland English in 1742, most Native Americans decided to leave the Eastern Shore and Maryland. The Nanticokes who remained, tried to preserve their way of life for another five decades in Maryland and Delaware. Most decided to leave Maryland by the end of the 18th century, joining their relatives who had moved to the north and west, away from encroaching settlers.

## European Influence of Agriculture and Tobacco

Tobacco was the primary source of agricultural income in and around the Nanticoke during the 17th century, as it was throughout most of the southern colonies. Legislation was passed during the later part of the century that encouraged the establishment of towns and ports where tobacco could be shipped easily, like the town of Vienna on the Nanticoke's western shore. This changed somewhat during the 18th century, when farmers began to switch to other crops like corn and grains, that were less costly to maintain (needed no slaves) and easier on the soils. Although these crops were seen as supplements to tobacco crops for many smaller farmers, tobacco still managed to maintain quite a presence. During the 18th century Vienna became a central point on the Eastern Shore for unloading and loading of tobacco.



Tobacco plants

Vienna was known as a hub for commerce and trade, and in 1762 became an official customs collecting port. It became a fort both during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The British attacked the town time and time again because it was used as a major port for the shipment of supplies to troops.

## Shipbuilding

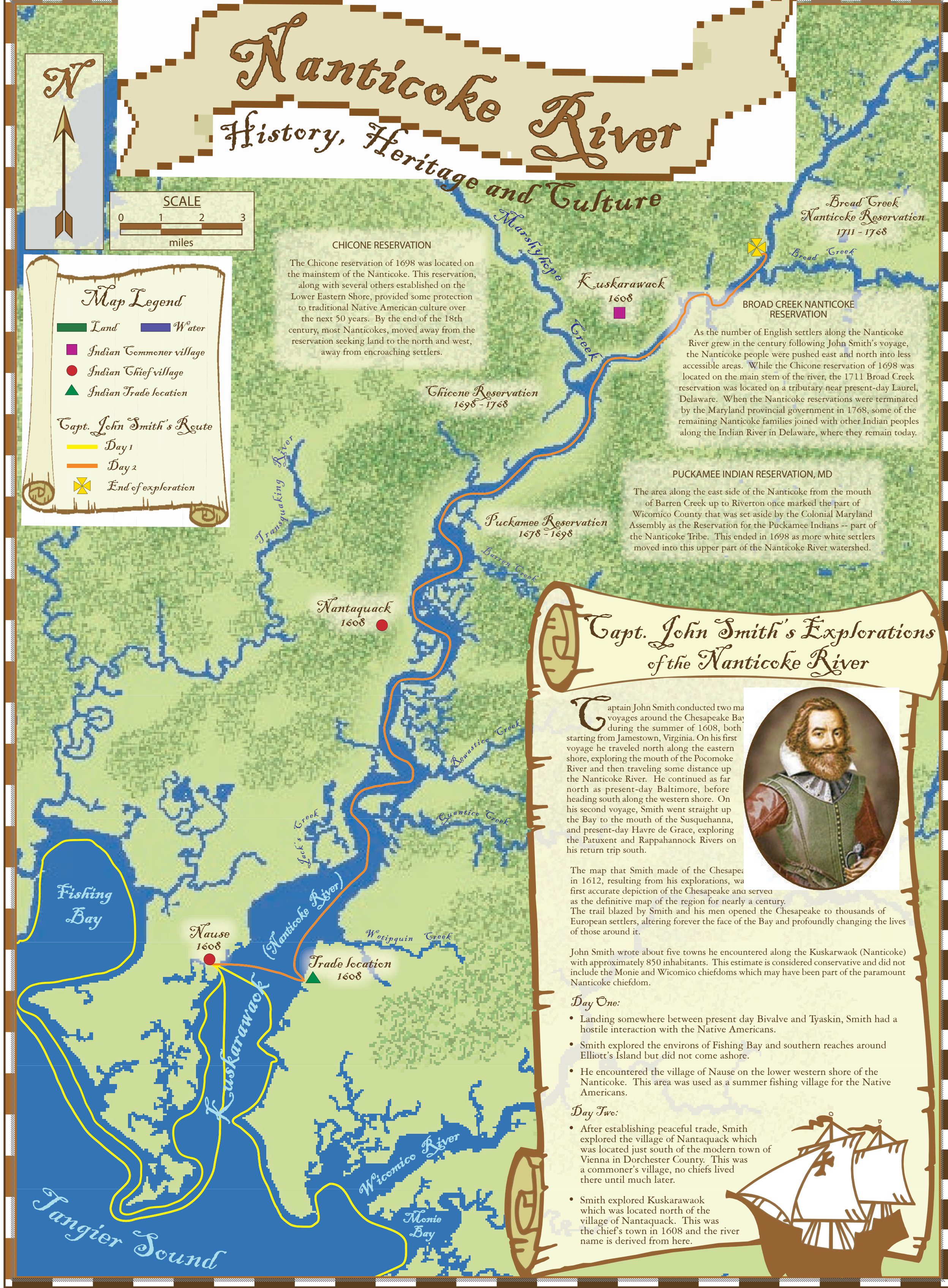
The tobacco industry spawned other industries along the river most notably boat building. The Nanticoke River was part of a thriving shipbuilding industry during the 19th century. Sharptown, Vienna and Bethel were known as boat building centers and ferries frequently traveled back and forth transporting tobacco and other goods. Sharptown once boasted the largest fleet of schooners on the river and laid claim to building eighteen U.S. merchant ships in the latter part of the 1800's. This industry flourished up until the early 19th century when most of the area's forests had been cleared.



Bethel was a prosperous port and shipbuilding community in the 1800's and many of the town's homes were built by ship carpenters for sea captains of that era. With the incorporation of the Lewisville Marine Railway Company in 1871, Bethel's reputation as a center for ship repair and construction was firmly established. Approximately 40 vessels were built here before the last ship was launched in 1918. Many were "sailing rams," one of the largest types of sailing vessels constructed in the Chesapeake Bay region, and uniquely designed to sail in shallow coastal waters.

Shad barges, long, flat-bottomed workboats, are exclusively a product of the Nanticoke River craftsmen. Boat builders in every town along the river produced these skiffs. The historic shad barge was rowed, but could carry a sail, and was used to haul goods to market. Today the only shad barge between Seaford and the Tangier Sound belongs to Jack Knowles of Woodland, Delaware.

While shipbuilding is no longer a way of life on the Nanticoke, barges still actively transport goods up and down the river like they did during colonial times. In addition, pleasure boating has become a dominant part of today's river landscape.



## Museums and Historical Resources

**SEAFORD MUSEUM, SEAFORD, DE**  
The Seaford Museum is located at 203 High Street in the former post office building. It serves as a repository for historical artifacts that highlight the area from early Native American presence to present day, including the DuPont nylon legacy, and shipbuilding, boating and fishing. The original map of Seaford is on display. Open Sundays 2-4, or by appointment. (302) 628-9828. Free.

**BETHEL HERITAGE MUSEUM, DE**  
Located on North Main Street is the Bethel Heritage Museum, exhibiting Nanticoke and Chesapeake Bay shipbuilding history and heritage. There are no regular hours. Call (302) 875-5425 or (302) 875-5871. Free.

**DAYS GONE BY MUSEUM AND SHAD BARGE, DE**  
This private museum run by Jack Knowles, former shad fisherman, houses a collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the heyday of shad fishing and from the Nanticoke River and Woodland area. The museum is located in Woodland, southwest of Seaford. Jack Knowles also owns the only shad barge still operating between Seaford and Tangier Sound. No regular hours; call (302) 629-9889. Free.

**WOODLAND FERRY, DE**  
By the 1740s a ferry service was operated at Woodland by the Cannon family and was the only location for many miles where the Nanticoke could be safely crossed. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and operated by the State of Delaware at no charge from sunup to sundown, seven days a week.



**NANTICOKE INDIAN ASSOCIATION MUSEUM, DE**  
This museum is tribally-owned and housed in a one-room community school house that closed in 1964. The Museum provides a historical glimpse of the Nanticoke people, pottery, spears, arrow points and jewelry artifacts are on display. The museum is located on the corners of Route 24 (John J. Williams Hwy) and Route 5 (Oak Orchard Rd.) in Millsboro, DE. Open 10-4, Friday and Saturday in April and 10-4 Tuesday through Saturday from May through October. For more information call (302) 945-7022.

**SHARPTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MD**  
This museum, located on 408 Main Street, helps guide tourists through Sharptown's history as a boat building powerhouse from the 18th and 19th century to today. The building is on the site where a large shipyard operated from the mid-1800s until World War I when the last ship was launched. An extremely busy steamboat wharf business and several saw mills operated nearby. The bridge connecting Sharptown to Dorchester County was preceded by a ferry from the late 1700s to early 1800s.

**VIENNA HERITAGE MUSEUM, MD**  
The Vienna Heritage Museum, located on Race Street, holds many unique artifacts tracing the town's rich history since colonial times. The museum features actual working machinery used in the last mother-of-pearl button factory in the United States. For more information call (410) 228-1000.

**MASON-DIXON MARKERS**  
Just 2.5 miles east of Mandela Springs, on Route 54, is the original Mason-Dixon Cornerstone which marks the corner of the Delaware and Maryland state boundary. Surveyed in 1756 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon of the British Royal Observatory, this marker is one of many stones which eventually marked the famous Mason-Dixon Line. The line came to symbolize the border between slave and free states during the Civil War. For details of how to get to the marker, contact the Maryland Tourism Information Center at (410) 548-4914 or the Delaware Heritage Commission at (302) 744-5077.



Delaware Heritage Commission