



The historic Cannon Hall, est. 1812

Don't Miss the Woodland Ferry Festival

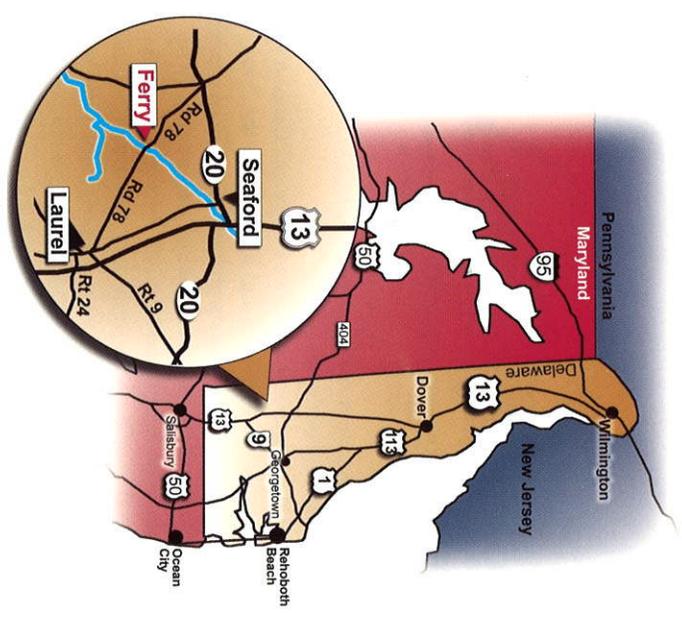
Held annually the second Saturday in September, the Festival includes a craft and flea market, children's activities, historical displays, tours of historic Cannon Hall, antiques, food, fun and entertainment. Mark your calendars—it's a unique event the whole family will enjoy!

Woodland Ferry Open Golf Tournament

The Woodland Ferry Association's Annual Open Golf Tournament is held at the beautiful 14-hole Woodland Golf Park course in Woodland. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, which includes great prizes and a delicious luncheon.

For date of play and other information, please contact the Secretary of the Woodland Ferry Association at the numbers shown under heading, *Ferry Information*.

The annual Woodland Ferry Festival



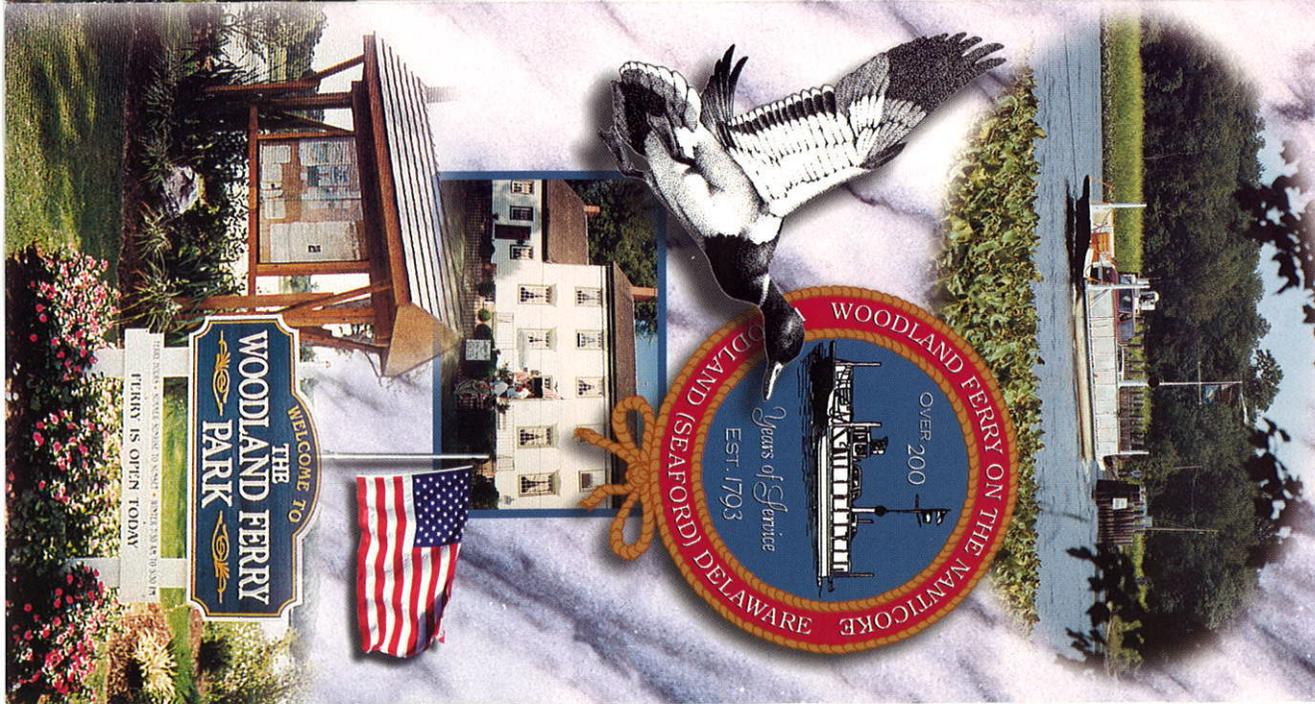
From Seaford, DE: At the intersection of U.S. Rt. 13 and Rt. 20 West (Norman Eskridge Hwy.) at McDonald's Restaurant, turn onto Rt. 20 West and follow the small blue and gold directional ferry signs to the ferry. Or, once on Rt. 20 West, one may choose to continue for 6.2 miles through the City of Seaford and the surrounding countryside. At Reliance, turn left onto Rd. 78 (see large ferry sign) and proceed 3.6 miles to Woodland and the ferry.

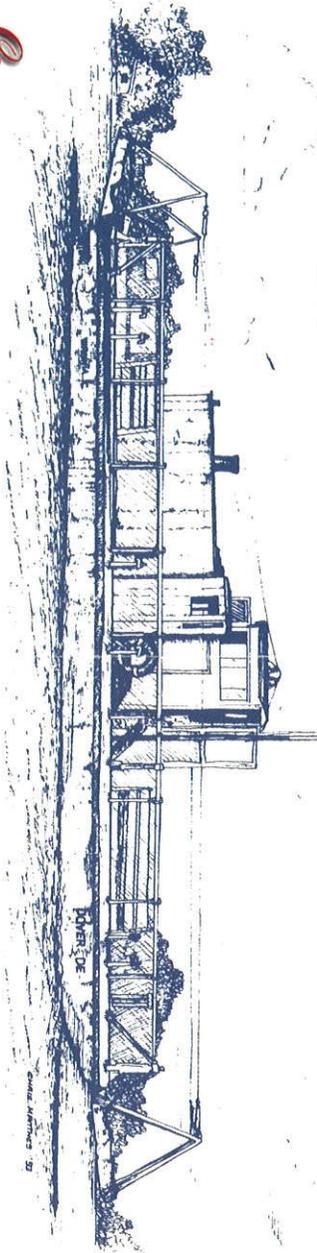
From Laurel, DE: At the intersection of U.S. Rt. 13 and Rt. 9, turn west off Rt. 13 onto Rt. 9 (at Bargain Bill's) and proceed to the second traffic light, a distance of 0.6 miles. At this five points intersection, bear right onto Rd. 78 (see ferry sign) and travel 5.0 miles to the Nanticoke River and the ferry.

This brochure was made possible by the Woodland Ferry Association and the State of Delaware
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Ride the Historic WOODLAND FERRY





Gentle breezes blow as the Woodland Ferry glides you across the placid waters of the Nanticoke River. Canada geese, ducks, blue heron, osprey and other wildlife accent the peaceful surroundings of the river. For over 200 years the Woodland Ferry has faithfully made its journey connecting the banks of Woodland and Bethel, Delaware. History abounds in this quaint village of Woodland, a place almost forgotten by time.

The History of the Woodland Ferry
 Woodland was once a part of Dorchester County, Maryland in the 17th and early 18th century. The early English settlements were much like those of the Indians: living along the river, on dry ground and next to a supply of fresh drinking water.
 In 1658 laws were passed by the State of Maryland requiring that all counties must maintain free passage ferries for making "...river, creeks, branches and swamps passable for horse and foote." This bill leaves open the question as to whether private ferries were already in use at that time. A firm date has not been established for the first crossing at the Woodland Ferry site but it could be before

1671. It is possible that this may be the oldest ferry still in use in the United States.

The Woodland Ferry was once known as "Cannon's Ferry" because it was owned and operated by the Isaac Cannon family. The Cannons received the official permit to operate the ferry from the State of Delaware in 1793. At that time the ferry carried horses, carriages, wagons, coaches and people. In the early days, the trip across the currents was difficult. The power to propel the ferry was supplied by the ferryman, a horse, ropes and notched poles. Even the passengers were expected to help.

This laborious method continued until 1930 when an automobile engine was fastened on the side, and a steel cable was attached to the ferry and strung along the bottom of the river. The cable was tightened and loosened by means of a winch which afforded a way of keeping the ferry under control.

Before 1935, when the State of Delaware assumed ownership of the ferry, the ferryman lived in the ferry house opposite the slip. He was not required to operate the ferry at night but often did so, if someone offered him a tip.

The Woodland Ferry Today

Over the last 200 years there have been many different ferries at this location. Today's ferry is a 65-foot steel, diesel-powered, cable-operated vessel regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard. It is the last cable-operated ferry in Delaware. Now 38 years old, in 1989 it underwent a \$200,000 refit in Portsmouth, VA. The ferry is operated by the State of Delaware Department of Transportation, and carries an average of 69,215 vehicles a year. The crew consists of a Coast Guard certified captain and a deckhand.

The ferry crosses the 500 feet of water in less than three minutes, usually carrying three regular-sized cars or four compact vehicles.



The historic Woodland Church, est. 1883

The Woodland Ferry Association

The nonprofit Woodland Ferry Association was formed in 1993 to organize the 200th anniversary celebration of the ferry. The group tirelessly continues its work promoting the ferry and surrounding historical sites, such as Cannon Hall and the Woodland United Methodist Church. The Association is also responsible for planning and carrying out its annual Woodland Ferry Festival and the Woodland Ferry Open Golf Tournament. One of its other projects is the maintenance of the beautiful Woodland Ferry Park. In the summer of 1999, the Association began the development of Woodland Ferry Park South on the Bethel-Laurel side of the Nanticoke River. Members also plan to promote the unique Woodland Ferry and the village of Woodland by placing several large signs at key locations throughout Western Sussex County.
 The sale of Woodland Ferry souvenirs and grants from the State of Delaware enable the Association members to complete the work which they undertake.

Ferry Information

Hours of Operation: Winter—Sunrise to Sunset.
 Summer—6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. **Fare:** Free to all.

Delaware Department of Transportation
 South District Engineer: 302-856-5200
 Ferry House in Woodland, DE 302-629-7742

Woodland Ferry Association
 Rt. 3 Box 111, Seaford, DE 19973
 302-629-8077
 Fax: 302-628-0285 or 302-628-2556

Internet Web Site: www.woodlandferry.com

