VII. ROCK CREEK



VII. ROCK CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICTS

LINDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT (1873)

36/2



Holcomb House (1887), 2200 Salisbury Road



William Simpson House (c1890s), 2303 Linden Lane

Baxter House and Doolittle House (c1870s)

As the first railroad suburb in Montgomery County, Linden represents an early step in the county's transition from a rural, agrarian region to a commuter suburb. In 1873, the same year that the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was completed, Charles M. Keys subdivided thirty-two acres of his 185-acre farm and platted Linden. Keys was the founder of a District coal and wood company, E. C. Keys and Sons.

Linden had its own railroad station, located at the end of Montgomery Street. Early houses were built on Salisbury Road, which was originally a walkway known as Maple Drive. The houses faced the walkway with vehicular access from Linden Lane and Montgomery Street. This arrangement is found in Washington Grove, a religious retreat also platted in 1873. Early dwellings in both communities were designed in the Gothic Revival style. Among Linden's earliest houses are a pair of Gothic Revival houses built on Salisbury Road, probably in the 1870s: the Baxter House, 2201 Salisbury Road, and the Doolittle House, 2209 Salisbury Road. One of the earliest residences in the community is the Lawrence House of 1874 (see individual site description p. 299).

By 1889, the Washington Star reported that a number of "beautiful homes" had already been constructed in Linden by "well known Washingtonians." Curtis and Elizabeth Holcomb built the Second Empire style Holcomb House in 1887, at 2200 Salisbury Road. Queen Anne style houses dating from the 1890s are the Wolfe House, 9310 Brookeville Road, and the William Simpson House, 2303 Linden Lane. By the turn of the century, there were about a dozen houses in Linden. In the early 1900s, citizens built Craftsman influenced residences on Warren Street. The historic district of 17 houses was designated in 1993.



TAKOMA PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT (1883) NR

Takoma Park is historically significant as both an early railroad suburb and a streetcar community. It was the second railroad suburb of Washington, platted ten years after Linden. The opening of streetcar lines led to the development of new subdivisions, expanding the Takoma Park community in the early-20th century.

Throughout much of the 19th century, the land was open farmland and vacation retreats for Washingtonians. A few houses from this period still exist. The *Woodward House*, 25 Holt Place, built c.1875-85, originally faced one of the oldest roads in the area, now known as Carroll Avenue. The house is reputed to have been the country residence of one of the Woodwards of Woodward & Lothrop's department store. The **Douglas House** (Mid-1800s) is a Greek Revival residence dating from the mid-1800s (see related individual site description p. 297).

Takoma Park was platted in 1883. Developer Benjamin Franklin Gilbert promoted the property for its natural environment and healthy setting. The site offered fresh water, trees, and a high elevation to escape the malaria-ridden District of Columbia. In 1883, Gilbert purchased a 90acre farm and platted a subdivision with picturesque, winding streets named for native trees, including Sycamore, Chestnut, Hickory, and Oak. Equally reflective of Gilbert's promotion of the natural setting is the use of the Native American "Takoma," meaning "exalted" or "near heaven." Later he added the "Park" appellation to draw attention to its healthy environment.

Takoma Park houses built between 1883 and 1900 were fanciful, turreted, multi-gabled affairs of Queen Anne, Stick Style, and Shingle Style influence. Some of the earliest architect-designed houses in the county are in Takoma Park. Leon Dessez, later the Chevy Chase Land Company architect, designed the Cady-Lee House (1887), 7315 Piney Branch Road. These first houses were substantial residences with spacious settings. The lots were deep, typically 50 feet by 200-300 feet and had 40foot setback requirements. Extensive numbers of these first houses remain, constructed between 1883 and 1900.

The earliest dwellings were built on Cedar Avenue (originally known as Oak Avenue), Maple Avenue, and Holly Avenue. The *Veitenheimer House*, 7211 Cedar Avenue, and the *Thomas-Siegler House*, 7119 Cedar Avenue, were built in 1884. The latter was the home of Isaac Thomas, the town's first storekeeper and postmaster. The *Ida Summy House* (c1886), 7101 Cedar Avenue, is named for its first resident, credited with suggesting the name "Takoma" to Benjamin Gilbert over a game of cards. Dr. Bliss resided at *7116 Maple Avenue* (1886) while up the street lived Ben Davis, Takoma Park mayor and town clerk, and his large family, at *7112 Cedar Avenue* (c.1888). The Queen Anne-style Carroll House

Takoma Park houses, from B. F. Gilbert real estate brochure, 1888.



Dr. B. Bliss House (1886)



7704 Takoma Avenue (c1905-1915)



Takoma Park commercial district



Carroll Avenue streetscape



101 Park Avenue; 1990 photo.

(1880s), 7700 Takoma Avenue, features a second-story solarium, threestory side tower, and ribbons of multipane windows.

Gilbert was more than just the developer of the community-he was a resident and civic leader. He built one of the first houses in the new community for himself and later became the town's first mayor. According to tradition, part of Gilbert's first cottage may still exist within the house at 106 Tulip Avenue. By 1886, Takoma Park had a post office and a new railroad station. Fifteen trains a day ran between Washington and Takoma Park to serve a population of 100.

By 1893, the town's population quadrupled. Four subdivisions had

expanded the town, which was incorporated in 1890. Takoma Avenue, Pine Avenue, and Holly Avenue were among the streets to develop during this period. The house at 7211 Holly Avenue (c.1894-5) was the home of Garrett M. Davis, a clerk for the General Land Office who had been a member of the first town council in 1890. The house at 7700 Takoma Avenue (1896) was formerly used as a dormitory for the adjacent Bliss Electrical School, established in 1894 (present site of Montgomery College).

The first multi-family buildings in Montgomery County were built in Takoma Park. The earliest documented multi-family dwelling is the Ford House at 7137-39 Maple Avenue. Brothers Byron and Seth Ford built this large, elaborate, frame double-house in 1885 for their families. The next multi-family dwellings to be built in the county were not constructed until 1907. They are found at 7102-04, 7106-08 Maple Avenue, and 7103-05 Cedar Avenue. Other early apartment buildings are found at 7012-26 Carroll Avenue.



The start of streetcar service along Carroll Avenue in 1897, operated by the Baltimore and Washington Transit Company, made the adjacent areas more attractive for residential development, leading to new subdivisions. This line, supplemented in 1910 by the Washington and Maryland line (1910-27), led to the creation of eight additional subdivisions extending out from the trolley lines. The inexpensive electric streetcar, the availability of low-cost house plans and kit houses in combination with smaller lot sizes made home ownership in Takoma Park possible for individuals of more modest income levels than during the previous period. By 1922, the population soared to 4,144, making Takoma Park the tenth largest incorporated town in Maryland. Among the streets, which developed during the 1910s and 1920s in response to the establishment of streetcar lines are Willow, Park, Philadelphia, and Carroll Avenues.

The appearance today of much of the Takoma Park historic district is formed by the large numbers of dwellings constructed from 1900 into the 1920s. The houses built in Takoma Park during this period reveal changing American tastes in house design from the elaborate



ornamentation of the late 19th century dwellings to more practical, simplified designs. Many of these early twentieth century houses reflect the aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which emphasized the inherent nature of the building materials and structural elements for ornamentation. Similarly, they reflect a social trend towards a more informal, unpretentious style of living.

Scores of Bungalows, and Craftsman-style houses and catalog-order houses were built in this era, including the outstanding bungalow at 101 Park Avenue (p. 288). Advertisements from 1914 for bungalows on Willow Avenue promoted their accessibility—just "three minutes to car line"—and individuality—"no two are alike in design." At least fifteen models of Sears kit houses have been identified in the proposed historic district, including the turreted 7303 Takoma Avenue.

In addition to increased accessibility to Washington, another factor played an important role in bringing new residents to Takoma Park. Seventh Day Adventists chose the town for their national headquarters in 1904. By 1916, it was estimated that one-third of Takoma Park's residents were associated with the church.

After the turn of the century, community services including schools and libraries began to blossom. The Seventh Day Adventist Elementary School, at 8 Columbia Avenue, was built in 1905-6. The building was later used by the City of Takoma Park as a municipal building and police station before it was converted to a residence. The town's first public library was established in 1935 under the direction of the Takoma Park Women's Club, in a donated house at 308 Lincoln Avenue (formerly 5 Jackson Avenue). By 1937, the library moved to the more spacious house at 8 Sherman Avenue (1928), where it remained for nearly two decades. In later years, this building was used to house the City's recreation offices and health clinic. The house at 11 Pine Avenue (1902) was the Adventist's Columbia Union College Library. In later years the building was used for a speakeasy (bar and pool hall) before being converted back to a residence.

Takoma Park's commercial areas known as Old Town and Takoma



Takoma Junction Carroll Avenue

Seventh Day Adventist Church, Carroll & Laurel Avenue (1923)



Hickory Avenue streetscape



Carroll Avenue bungalows



Frederick Pratt House (1895)

Junction retain much of their early 20th century character. Most of the buildings are 1-2 story brick structures with simple detailing. Particularly noteworthy examples are the *Park Pharmacy* building prominently located at the intersection of Laurel and Carroll and the commercial building at 7000 *Carroll Avenue* which exemplifies the Art Deco period with its zigzag motif cornice and polygonal light fixtures (p. 287). The *Sovran Bank* building at Carroll and Willow (originally the Suburban Trust) is a distinguished example of Beaux Arts design. The charming Tudor Revival character of the building at 7060 Carroll Avenue, historically known as the *Glickman Service Station*, is a familiar neighborhood landmark still in use servicing cars.

Though the train no longer stops there, the town's close relationship with mass transportation continues. The Metro enables residents to continue the tradition, started with the railroad and extended with the streetcars, of living in the suburbs and commuting to the District using mass transit. Two sections of the Montgomery County portion of Takoma Park have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Takoma Park Historic District since 1976.

CAPITOL VIEW PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT (1887) 31/7

Capitol View Park is a railroad community begun in 1887 when Mary and Oliver Harr purchased and subdivided land along the B&O's Metropolitan Branch between Forest Glen and Kensington. The community's name came from the view of the Capitol dome afforded by the upper stories of some of the early houses. Because of the growth of trees in intervening years, this view is no longer possible. Capitol View Park, however, continues to retain the scenic, rural setting which attracted its first inhabitants from Washington. Narrow, country lanes wind between large lots, the average of which is 12,000 square feet. Farmer Thomas Brown built a house in the post-Civil War era, before the railroad bisected his farm. Set back on a long curving driveway, Brown's dwelling still stands, known as the *Case House*, at 9834 Capitol View Avenue.

Capitol View Park is a picturesque blend of many architectural styles dating from the 1890s to the 1980s. The community represents the architectural history of Montgomery County over the last century. The first houses built in Capitol View Park were designed in the Queen Anne style, characterized by their picturesque rooflines, large scale, numerous porches, and variety of building materials, including clapboard and fishscale shingles. Notable Oueen Anne-style houses, built in the 1880s and 1890s, are found on Capitol View Avenue, Meredith Avenue, Lee Street, and Menlo Avenue. Residents built Colonial Revival style dwellings beginning in the 1890s. These dwellings feature classical details including cor-



nices with entablatures, heavy window molding, and large round porch columns. Frederick Pratt built the impressive stone and shingle *Pratt House*, 10012 Capitol View Avenue, in 1895.

10201 Meredith Avenue

Capitol View Park includes a small commercial district near the site of the railroad station. The building known as *The Castle*, 10 Post Office Road, began as a general store and post office in 1883. National Park Seminary's headmaster John Cassedy enlarged the structure and his successor James Ament transformed the business into an early sort of shopping center. Several small stores, post office, and apartments were united in a castle theme created by granite crenellations and turrets. Nearby, William Fowler operated a grocery store by 1925. The one-story *Fowler's Store* still stands, known today as Forest Glen Country Store.

By the turn of the twentieth century, smaller-scale

houses were becoming popular. Designed to harmonize with natural settings, these structures have a horizontal emphasis and were painted in natural tones. This group includes Bungalows and Craftsman-style houses built from 1900 into the 1920s. Early examples are found on Stoneybrook Drive, Meredith Avenue, and Capitol View Avenue.

The pace of growth in Capitol View Park continued at a constant rate until the 1940s when a construction boom added nearly 50 houses to the community. Since then, houses have been added at a more leisurely rate, continuing the pattern of diversity that characterizes Capitol View Park.



The Castle (1883; 1920's)



St. John's Academy (1874), 2404 Forest Glen Road



St. John's Church (1894) Historic view

2411 Holman Avenue

Forest Glen Historic District (1887)

31/8

Forest Glen Historic District is historically closely tied with National Park Seminary and Capitol View Park Historic Districts. The subdivisions of Capitol View Park and Forest Glen were both established in 1887. The same year, the Forest Glen Investment Company built a resort hotel known as the Forest Glen Inn. The hotel later became the centerpiece of a finishing school known as National Park Seminary.

A promotional brochure for the 166-acre Forest Glen subdivision haled the "healthy, well located, and easily accessible suburban village, and in addition, a commodious summer hotel, which should be especially adapted to the wants of the very large class of officials and business men who find it necessary or pleasant to remain near Washington during the summer months." The brochure advertised construction of beautiful houses, noting the expectation that more would soon be built. While the Forest Glen Inn proved a financial disaster and was sold in 1894, the area, however, continued to grow as a residential community. Developers organized a streetcar line, forming the Washington, Woodside, and Forest Glen Railway, to extend service from Silver Spring through Forest Glen, ending at National Park Seminary (see map p.42). The trolley line operated from 1897 until 1927.

The center of the Forest Glen is a block containing St. John's Church and Cemetery. The site is significant to the history of the Catholic Church in the United States for it was here that John Carroll opened the first secular church in the colonies. The history of the church extends back to c1776-86 when John Carroll built a small chapel for the benefit of



the local Catholics. The Catholic community had grown since Carroll first opened a place of worship in his mother's Forest Glen residence, c1774. A replica of the Carroll Chapel, built in 1934, stands on the site.

St. John's Church is a Gothic Revival church constructed of red Seneca sandstone in 1894. The substantial church has stone buttresses that flank stained glass windows on the side elevations, and a three-story tower with belfry marking the front entrance. E. Francis Baldwin designed the church. Baldwin is best known as the architect for the B&O Railroad and designer of Montgomery County's train stations, yet he worked for the Catholic Church extensively in the Washington area and in Baltimore. Since the growing St. John's congregation moved to a Georgia Avenue site, the church has served the Polish Catholic community. The cemetery, with gravestones dating to the 1790s, contains the remains of members of the Carroll family and many other early residents.

Surrounding the village green, resident developers and private individuals built picturesque Queen Anne and Stick Style dwellings in the 1890s. The *Everett House* (1891), at 2411 Holman Avenue, is one of the most exuberant examples of Stick Style architecture in the county. The president of the Forest Glen Investment Company built the *Joseph Hertford House* (1891), a highstyle Queen Anne house with a three-story tower designed to offer commanding views of the countryside. The Forest Glen Post Office and Store were located near the train station, technically part of the Capitol View Park subdivision (see p. 289).

The modest structure at 2404 Forest Glen Road was *St. John's Academy*, a Catholic school for girls, built in 1874. After 1883, the structure served as a rectory until *St. John's Rectory* (1899) was built at 1000 Rosensteel Avenue. Rev. Charles Rosensteel, first resident pastor of St. John's since John Carroll, built the rectory and directed construction of St. John's Church.

NATIONAL PARK SEMINARY HISTORIC DISTRICT (1887, 1894) NR

Vicinity of Linden Lane and Woodstock Avenue

The wooded architectural fantasyland known as National Park Seminary was a finishing school for young women established in 1894. The site began as a speculative real estate development intended to capitalize on proximity to the railroad. An ornate Stick Style hotel, the *Forest Inn* (1887), was the centerpiece of the resort, built with wraparound porches, towers, and applied stickwork detailing. When the hotel proved unsuccessful, John



and Vesta Cassedy purchased the site, converting the inn into a boarding school. National Park Seminary became one of the most popular and exclusive finishing schools in the Washington area.

Hertford House (1891)

The Main, originally the Forest Inn north elevation; 1986 photo.



Gymnasium



The Villa, north & east elevations



The Ballroom; 1934 photo

Swiss Chalet, south elevation

Young women from wealthy families were groomed to fulfill their roles as society matrons. A basic principle in the National Park Seminary program was the importance of understanding foreign and domestic culture. Underscoring this philosophy was the architecture and interior design on campus, inspired by the grand, international architecture of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Between 1894 and 1907, the Cassedys constructed a score of fanciful buildings. Sorority meetings were held in the English Garden Castle, Swiss Chalet, American Bungalow, Colonial House, Spanish Mission, Dutch Windmill, and Japanese Pagoda. Students resided in the Italian Villa and the Shingle Style Senior House. They took physical education classes in the Classical Revival Gymnasium and studied in the Shingle Style Miller Library.

Beginning in 1916, NPS President Dr. James Ament instituted his own building campaign, expanding campus buildings, constructing an elaborate network of covered walkways and bridges, and installing classical garden sculptures. Ament designed the last building constructed on campus—the awe-inspiring Ballroom (1927), which, when constructed, was the tallest building in Montgomery County.

During World War II, the U.S. Army acquired the site for a convalescent center for soldiers who spent an average of 20 days in the bucolic setting. A Baltimore reporter described the transformation of the site: A "one-time finishing school for ritzy sweet young things becomes the healer of the sick and maimed, giving the boys in khaki a luxurious but none the less homelike atmosphere to smooth the comeback trail. There's no suggestion of the hospital about it—and for that the men are grateful."

After the Army, in the 1970s, relocated its medical facility to the main Walter Reed campus in Washington, D.C., the buildings that comprise this historic district were used for administration and then abandoned. Many have deteriorated and others have been lost to fire and vandalism. One of the best loved structures was the Odeon Theatre, destroyed by fire in 1993. Stabilizing efforts and compatible reuse options are a high priority for this outstanding and important resource. In January 2000 the Army announced plans to sell the property through the General Services Administration.



KENSINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT (1890) NR

31/6

The Kensington Historic District is a well-preserved, turn-of-the-century garden suburb with Victorian era residences, curvilinear streets, and a vital commercial district. The community has its origins in a railroad stop known as Knowles Station, named after the major land holding family in the area. Beginning in 1890, Washington developer Brainard Warner purchased and subdivided property along the Metropolitan Branch, transforming the community from a small passenger stop to a park-like suburban community. He named his subdivision Kensington Park, after a London suburb, and established a library, town hall, and Presbyterian church. Under Warner's persuasion, the Knowles Station depot and post office eventually changed to the Kensington moniker.

Noted Baltimore architect E. Francis Baldwin designed the *Kensington Railroad Station* in 1891. The station is similar in design to Baldwin's Germantown and Dickerson stations. A polygonal ticket window bay faces the tracks. The east end, now enclosed, originally served as an outdoor waiting area.

Warner founded a library for Kensington residents, donating the land and constructing the building. *Noyes Library* is named for Crosby

Noyes, editor and publisher of the *Washington Evening Star*, who assembled its book collection. With its opening in 1893, Noyes Library became a social and educational hub of Kensington. Today, Noyes is the only children's library of the Montgomery County Public Libraries.



Kensington, West Baltimore Street; 1902 photo



10234 Carroll Place

Below: Warner House, 10231 Carroll Place Below left: Howard Avenue, Kensington





Noyes Library (1893)

Inviting friends to join him in the country, away from the heat and congestion of Washington, Warner established his own summer residence on a large, circular parcel of land at the heart of the community. The Warner House, also historically known as Hadley Hall, is sited at the southern end of the historic district, at 10231 Carroll Place. The substantial structure is now the Carroll Manor Nursing Home. Kensington residences are designed in a variety of architectural styles popular during the Victorian period, including Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival. These houses, built in the late 1800s and early 1900s, are clustered around the railroad station.

Residents of the growing community incorporated the Town of Kensington in 1894, with its own governing body. The suburb's appeal strengthened when Warner and others organized a trolley line along Kensington Parkway to Chevy Chase, to connect with the Capital

Traction Line to Washington. Supplementing train service, the streetcar, operating from 1895-1933, made Kensington even more accessible in the pre-automobile era.





The National Guard built the Kensington Armory in 1927. The Armory is one of the few remaining unaltered National Guard Armories of which several were built throughout the state. With its castellated parapets and drill-hall section buttresses, the fortresslike structure remains today a Kensington landmark, today in use as the Kensington Town Hall and Community Center.



Kensington B & O Railroad Station (1891); photo 1901



INDIVIDUAL SITES

MILTON (Early 1800s; 1897; 1930) 15512 White Willow Lane

A stone smokehouse is the only standing structure left of the Rock Creek farm known as Milton. Joseph Elgar established the farm in the late 1700s and operated a mill nearby. The Robertson-Muncaster family, who resided here from at least 1814 until 1928, were agricultural leaders in the county. Milton remained one of the last operating farms in the area, still operating in the 1970s. In 1897, John Muncaster engaged Thomas C. Groomes to design a new hipped roof residence,

replacing the original 18th century house. The house, which had been expanded in 1930, was destroyed by fire in 1986. Remnants of the Muncaster Mill are evident near Meadowside Lane. The substantial stone smokehouse was restored in 1987.

BEALL CEMETERY (1831-95) Between 14121 & 14125 Beechview Lane

This mid-19th century family cemetery includes the burial sites of prominent early settlers of this part of Montgomery County. The largest stone is inscribed with the name of Daniel Beall (1748-1835), his wife Nancy and daughter Eliza. The Bealls were the first family to settle in the Georgia Avenue-Bel Pre Road area. Daniel, grandson of "Robert the Scotsman," owned 500 acres at the time of his death. The small 40' by 90' site, surrounded by mature spruce trees, contains seven stones marking the remains of 13 family members. The earliest burial is 1831, the last 1895, with the majority dating from the third quarter of the 1800s. Beall family members continue to own and care for the cemetery.

ACORN PARK AND THE SILVER SPRING (*c Mid* 1800s) Newell St. & Blair Mill Rd. & Rt. 410 36/5

27/15

This tiny urban park is the site of the original spring that gave name to the town of Silver Spring. According to tradition, Francis Preston Blair discovered in 1840 the spring that once bubbled up through shiny mica sand. Blair was a powerful newspaper publisher and a friend of President Andrew Jackson. Upon discovering the delightful spring, Blair became so enamored by the beauty of the area that he and his wife Eliza established, in 1842, a 300-acre summer estate here that he called *Silver Spring*. The residence, located on Eastern Avenue, was demolished in 1955. His winter house, Blair House, is now the President's official guest house in Washington, D.C.

Blair built the Acorn gazebo on his Silver Spring estate. It is a good example of rustic garden structures and furniture popular in the mid 1800s. The acorn motif is said to have had sentimental meaning for the Blairs. According to tradition, Francis proposed to Eliza under an oak tree.

Milton (Early 1800s; 1897; 1930) 27/2



and the line



Acorn Park & The Silver Spring 36/5 (c Mid 1800s)

The gazebo, moved from elsewhere on the estate to its present site in 1955, is owned by M-NCPPC. A public-private partnership forged in 1994 led to the revitalization of Acorn Park and adjacent murals depicting scenes from Silver Spring's history by artist Mame Cohalan.

> **JESUP BLAIR HOUSE (1850)** 36/6 900 Jesup Blair Drive

> Originally known as The Moorings, the Blair family built this distinguished residence about 1850 as a summer retreat. The square, two-story frame house incorporates elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling. The design of the house has an unusual level of sophistication for the area. High style features include wooden corner quoins, louvered cupola, and paneled window openings. A pronounced door cornice with wide frieze rests on slender pilasters. For many years, the residence was home to Mary J. Blair, daughter-in-law of Francis Preston Blair, whose

Silver Spring estate, located on the opposite side of Georgia Avenue, was namesake to the community. Mrs. Blair maintained a Washington residence in addition to this summer residence. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, brother-in-law of Mary Blair, resided at The Moorings in the 1860s. The property remained in the Blair family until 1937 when Violet Blair Janin, grandchild of Francis Preston Blair, dedicated the property to the State of Maryland as a memorial to her brother, Jesup Blair.

DOUGLAS HOUSE (Mid-1800s) 18 Sherman Avenue

General Samuel Sprigg Carroll (1832-1893), a Union Civil War General, retired to Carroll Manor in 1869 where he lived the rest of his life. The manor house, located on what is now Manor Circle, was demolished in the 1950s. Built on the Carroll Manor property, the Douglas House, dating from the mid-1800s, is one of only a handful of houses within a twoblock radius that predate B.F. Gilbert's earliest subdivision in Takoma Park. After Carroll's death, his daughter, Katherine C. Beale subdivided 96 acres and incorporated them into Takoma Park, naming it the General S.S. Carroll Addition. Beale selected street names representing Civil War figures, including Sherman, Lee, Grant, and Lincoln, in remembrance of her father's career.

The Douglas House is a good example of Greek Revival architecture, a style not common in Montgomery County. Important architectural features of the two-story, eaves-front residence include a boxed cornice featuring a frieze with incised brackets and returns on both gable ends. Beneath the present asbestos siding are the original narrow clapboards. Though the windows have been replaced, they retain their original wooden surrounds (though most are covered with aluminum siding) with projecting cornices. Patterned tin siding in pediment areas was probably added in the late-19th century. A corbelled interior chimney is located on the southeast side of the house.







Jesup Blair House (1850); 1990 photo 36/6

37/3-3

CONDICT HOUSE (*c*1852-65) 9315 Greyrock Road

Jane Causin and Dr. Henry F. Condict established their residence on a 57acre property conveniently located on the Ashton-Colesville Turnpike at Sligo Creek. The house represents one of the few remaining pre-Civil War era properties in the Silver Spring area. Gothic Revival influence may be seen in the center cross gable roof and pointed arch window. Henry Ford Condict (1804-1893), a New Jersey native, graduated from Princeton University, received a medical degree from Columbia University (1830), and established his practice in Washington, D.C. In 1832, he married Jane Adelaide Causin, daughter of his partner, Nathaniel P. Causin. Upon his death, Condict was memorialized for his successful medical practice, his spirit of friendship, and his skill as a classical scholar. By the early 20th century, the property was known as Grey Rocks, undoubtedly for a still visible local stone outcropping. From 1949-86, the house was the residence of County Council members David and Elizabeth Lee Scull, and State Delegate David L. Scull.

JOHN AND ELL CHAMPAYNE HOUSE (c1856-65) 27/12 14201 Layhill Road

The three-bay, side gable Champayne House is typical of Montgomery County houses dating from the mid-1900s, The residence was at the center of the crossroads community of Layhill, today dominated by a shop-

ping center. When John and Ell Champayne bought the 114-acre property in 1856, neighbor George Bonifant described it as "one of the roughest places in our district, there was no improvements on it, it was mostly covered with pine." Over the next few years, John cleared the land, and built a dwelling, stable, corncrib and other necessary outbuildings. Ell's family, the Bealls, furnished most of the lumber for the outbuildings and fencing. John also built a blacksmith shop that became the center of the developing Layhill community. By the time of Ell's death in 1874, Bonifant stated that "the land generally and every-



36/34

thing else about it has been improved as much as anyplace in the neighborhood comparatively, during the time Champayne lived on it." The Champayne House has a central second-story window with sidelights echoing the sidelights of the front door. The box cornice has gable returns. The two-story frame house had eight rooms with an attic and a back building, as described in a trustee sale of 1880. Ell Beall Champayne is buried in the **Beall Cemetery** on Beechview Lane (see p. 296).



Condict House (c1852-65)

36/34

John and Ell Champayne House (c1856-65)

36/8

RIGGS-THOMPSON HOUSE (c1858; 1866) 711 Pershing Drive

George Washington Riggs was the founder of what became Riggs National Bank and one of Washington, D.C.'s wealthiest and most influ-



Riggs-Thompson House (c1858; 1866); photo 1924-31

36/8

27/6



A. J. Cashell Farmhouse (1868)



Center and Annie Lawrence House 36/2-1 (1874); 1999 photo

ential citizens. He and his wife Janet Shedden established a 140-acre country estate in Silver Spring about 1858. Their brick Second Empire style residence forms the central core of the present structure. George and Janet Riggs' previous summer estate had been a Gothic Revival cottage they built in 1842. That residence still stands and is known as the Anderson Cottage, at the U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home. At the height of the Civil War, when soldiers were torch-

ing and plundering Silver Spring houses, the Riggs' sold their property and moved to safer territory in Green Hill, Prince George's County. William H. Thompson, locally prominent businessman and social

leader, expanded the house about 1866, creating an Italianate-style estate. A contemporary account described the home of Thompson and his wife, Helen Nourse as "an elegant residence attractively located in the center of...choice land...and containing fine forests, beautiful drives and lawns." Under the tremendous demand for houses in the early 20th century, the large estate was developed, in 1924 and 1931, into residential subdivisions. Since 1933, the Riggs-Thompson House on its remaining property served educational purposes, as the long-time Holy Names Academy and Convent, and more recently, the Chelsea School.

27/6 A. J. CASHELL FARMHOUSE (1868) 15308 Morningmist Lane

Farmer and blacksmith, Andrew J. Cashell built this three-bay house about 1868. Andrew inherited the land from his father who had died four years earlier. Andrew was a trustee of the Layhill Methodist Episcopal Church. The well-preserved house has a boxed cornice with patterned dentils and gable returns. A one-story rear kitchen ell was expanded in the 1930s with a second story and massive exterior brick chimney. A small wash house, which may be a log structure, has a projecting front gable and rear brick chimney.

CENTER AND ANNIE LAWRENCE HOUSE (1874) 36/2-1 2312 Warren Court

This Italian-villa style house was built by Major Center and Annie E. Lawrence in 1874 on a two-acre parcel of land located near the Linden Railroad Station. It was one of the first houses constructed as part of the Linden subdivision. The Lawrence House has its original beaded tongueand-groove exterior siding and three-story tower. A cupola has been reconstructed with the aid of historic photographs. Outbuildings supporting the Lawrence estate once included a barn, greenhouse, and a pavilion. A brick milk house near the kitchen wing of the main house is still standing.

DAVIS-WARNER HOUSE (*Late 1800s*) 8114 Carroll Avenue

The Davis-Warner House is an excellent example of Stick Style architecture. The substantial residence features characteristic applied surface stickwork with diagonal cross bracing, decorative gable trusses and wraparound porch with oversize brackets and pierced balustrade. Local examples of Stick Style architecture date from 1885-91. By 1865, John B. Davis operated a store at the crossroads of Carroll Avenue and University Boulevard and lived nearby. From 1878 until 1913 Samuel R. and Fanny Priest owned the 120-acre property. From 1940, the residence was the primary structure of the Cynthia Warner School, a private elementary and secondary school. To make way for a new church at 8116 Carroll Avenue, the residence was moved downhill to its present site.

ROCK SPRING (1879) 15021 Rocking Spring Drive

Situated on a hill, adjacent to Rock Creek Park, this large Gothic Revival influenced house was the home of Roger Brooke Farquhar, a successful dairyman and civic leader who was Director of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring for 50 years. Historian Roger B. Farquhar, Jr., son of the builder and inheritor of his father's 11-volume diary, stated that the 14room house was built in 1879 for \$4,913.33. The house "was looked upon as an extravagence with its large rooms, water supply, modern bath (one of the first in the county with modern plumbing), and five fireplaces." The house was designed by Rockville architect Thomas Groomes. The residence retains original bargeboard, slate roof, louvered shutters, and 2/2 sash windows, though a concrete deck replaces the original wrap-around porch. A double-leaf front door on the main (east) façade opens into a stair hall. A curving three-story stair is adorned with brackets and a carved newel post. A graceful arch divides the stair hall from a vestibule. A large 2¹/₂-story carriage house/garage (36' x 36') has random-width split siding on sides and German siding on the front façade.

LAYHILL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH (1886) 27/10 14500 Layhill Road

The church now known as Oak Chapel United Methodist Church was originally the Layhill Methodist Episcopal Church South. The congregation formed when the Layhill church divided over the issue of slavery and pro-slavery members formed a new church. Reflecting the unification of the Methodist church, the church was renamed in 1948. The modest front gabled building reflects the simplicity of late 19th century rural church architecture. Located on a knoll surrounded by mature oak trees, it is visually prominent on a bend in Layhill Road. The surviving church was one of a cluster of community buildings. The Lay Hill Academy (1837-1957) stood directly north, and the log Lay Hill Community Hall was across the street. The cemetery east of the church contains markers from 1873. The church has vinyl siding, and rear additions of 1940 and 1970. Replacement windows are substitutes for originals damaged in a 1979 fire.

37-18

27/1



Davis-Warner House (Late 1800s) 37-18



Rock Spring (1879)

27/1



Layhill Methodist Episcopal Church South (1886)

36/10



Wilbur House (c1887); 1998 photo 36/10



Rock Creek Bridge (1896)

WILBUR HOUSE (c1887) 1102 Edgevale Drive

Eliza Stone Condict Wilbur built this Second Empire style house on the property of her childhood home, the Condict House (see related property). In 1883, Eliza married Jeremiah B. Wilbur and, in 1887, received the 28.5-acre property, half the estate of her father, Dr. Henry Condict. The Wilburs lived at this house, which they called Sunnyside, until their deaths in 1912 and 1914. Notable features of this outstanding residence include slate fishscale shingles, floor length windows, chamfered porch posts, and double front door with pedimented transom. The house today is located on a double lot in a section of Woodside Park.

ROCK CREEK RAILROAD BRIDGE (1896) 31/5-1 Beach Drive, north of Knowles Avenue

This single-arch stone bridge represents an overhaul of the Metropolitan Branch in the 1890s made in response to suburban growth and increased freight and passenger rail traffic. The railroad originally crossed Rock Creek on a four-span Bollman truss viaduct that measured 450 feet long and 70 feet high. Heavier trains and increased traffic made the bridge obsolete. Rock Creek Bridge now spans Beach Drive and the Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail.

ASPIN HILL PET CEMETERY (1922) 27/17 13630 Georgia Avenue

The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery is one of the largest and earliest pet cemeteries in the country. Richard and Bertha Birney, breeders of Boston terri-

> ers, Scotties, and schnauzers, established a boarding kennel here in 1921. The business included care of health care facilities, described in the 1930s as "the only authorized animal hospital south of New York"; and a four-acre pet cemetery. Cemetery records, dating back to 1922, document more than 50,000 animal burials. Notable pets buried in the cemetery include seven dogs that belonged to J. Edgar Hoover; Jiggs, from the Our Gang movie series; and Rags, mascot of the First Division in World War I "who risked life and limb in the Meuse-Argonne when he crossed enemy lines to deliver a note to Allied Forces." President Lyndon



27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery (1922)

Johnson's dogs were cremated at Aspin Hill and the remains sent to Texas. The site includes a wide variety of gravestones, animal sculptures, and mature landscaping. Also on site are a frame chapel, a gable-roof kennel with decorative brickwork, and a 1930s brick bungalow. The Birneys named their residence and business after a similar kennel in England named Aspin Hill (in contrast to the local neighborhood of Aspen Hill). Renaming the site Aspin Hill Memorial Park, the organization known as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) maintains and operates the cemetery. The site is used for education and animal care.

SILVER SPRING ARMORY (1927) 925 Wayne Avenue

The dedication of the Silver Spring Armory in 1927 was a key event in the town's development. Designed by state architect Robert L. Harris, the castle-like brick building was an imposing new landmark in a quickly growing town. The armory was the second armory built in the early 1900s. In that era, the National Guard became a state-based reserve force of volunteers for the U.S. Army, rather than the series of stand-alone state militias that had existed since the 1700s. Silver Spring's Company K of the 1st Maryland Infantry was established by founders of 20th century Silver Spring E. Brooke Lee and Frank L. Hewitt. The first National Guard Armory in Silver Spring was built at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Silver Spring in 1914. It was redesigned as a Colonial Revival fire station in 1927 when the new armory was built. The 1927 Armory became a significant social and recreational center in the 1930s and 1940s, the scene of political fundraisers, exhibitions, and weekend roller-skating sessions. In 1974, the Armory closed and was renovated, expanded, and reopened, in 1980, as a community center. To make way for the Silver Spring Revitalization Plan, the Armory was demolished in 1998.



36/14

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery (1922) 27/17



31/10

36/3



Jenkins Broadcasting Station (1929) 31/10

JENKINS BROADCASTING STATION (1929) 10717 Georgia Avenue

This unassuming cottage was the center of operations for television pioneer Charles Francis Jenkins. From his television studio in this house, Jenkins directed teleplays enacted by his own staff and neighborhood children. Home viewers watched his soundless radiomovies with radio conversion kits invented by Jenkins and sold for \$7.50. In 1928, Jenkins received one of the first licenses in the country for simultaneous broadcasting. He set up a studio at 10717 Georgia Avenue and erected two 100foot steel transmitting towers. A Quaker from Dayton, Ohio, Jenkins became a prolific and successful inventor. He held over 300 patents, including an 1893 patent for a movie projector prototype. The Jenkins Station broadcasted radiomovies from 1929 until 1932, two years before Jenkins' death. His Radio Movie Broadcast Station provided one of the earliest regularly scheduled television services in the country.

MEADOWBROOK STABLES (1934) 8250 Meadowbrook Lane, Rock Creek Park

When it opened in 1934, Meadowbrook Stables was hailed as one of the finest saddle clubs in the East. The facility, which hosted local, national, and international horse shows and festivities, was built in response to the popularity of these events in an era when Montgomery County was fostering a country-club image. The large Colonial Revival horse barn is notable for the quality of its design and construction. The facility also includes a blacksmith shop and outdoor riding ring, which, together with the barn, are part of publicly owned parkland. The stables have also been known as Rock Creek Stables.



Meadowbrook Stables (1934)

Falkland Apartments Cupola Building (1936) 8305 16th Street

The Falkland Apartments were a prototype garden apartment complex in the county which marked the advent of several trends in architecture and planning: large-scale community design and building, multiple-dwelling unit developments, rental housing, and environmental architecture with unified site planning carefully fitted to the terrain. Built between 1936

and 1938, Falkland embodies the improved rental housing design and site layout that the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) developed and encouraged early in the 1930s, following the Great Depression. As such, it represents an advance for the County in housing design, a significant step in the sequence that began with the English Garden Cities, and which included Radburn, New Jersey (1929), and Pittsburgh's Chatham Village (1932-6). One of the first three projects insured by the FHA, Falkland initiated the suburban garden-apartment vogue that popularized and made acceptable this affordable housing type.

The 480-unit, Colonial Revival style Falkland complex well illustrates the garden apartment ideal

with its large landscaped site, low two- or three-story construction, grouped parking and garages, common open spaces, and rental tenures among young adults and the elderly. Its architect, Louis Justement, was widely recognized in the housing field for a new form of social architecture. A moving spirit in the Washington Building Congress, Justement contributed to the broader interpretation of the architect's role, and extended his influence through his writings. He pioneered the emerging field of environmental architecture. In Falkland's design, Justement retained existing trees and a Y-shaped stream valley that, in his words, "*provide privacy as well as agreeable surroundings.*" The architectural centerpiece of the complex is the main entrance known as the Cupola Building. Located at the corner of 16th Street and East-West Highway, the Cupola Building features a copper-roofed turret with spire.

SILVER SPRING POST OFFICE (1936-7) 36/11 8412 Georgia Avenue

The Works Progress Administration built the Silver Spring Post Office in 1936-7. Located in the heart of the Georgia Avenue commercial district, the post office represents the strong influence of the American Renaissance and revived classicism on Depression-era architecture. The post office is contemporaneous with the similarly traditionally styled **Falkland Apartments**, built in part with Federal funds, and barely predates the modernistic Art Deco buildings that have come to characterize Silver Spring, including the **Silver**









Silver Spring Post Office (1936-7); 36/11 Historic postcard

Theatre and Shopping Center. The U.S. Postal Service vacated the Georgia Avenue building in 1981. The mural from the post office, titled "The Old Tavern" by Russian artist Nicolai Cikovsky, was installed at the Silver Spring Public Library in 1997.

The history of the Silver Spring Post Office is tied closely with community history and the U.S. Postal Service. Gist Blair applied to the federal government for a Silver Spring post office and was sworn in as Silver Spring's first postmaster, in 1899, a post in which he served until 1906. The post office was located near the train station. Blair's father was Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General under President Lincoln, from 1861-4. Grandfather Francis Preston Blair, who established the original *Silver Spring* estate, was the first to successfully petition for a Silver Spring post office (it closed after only two years of operation). The Georgia Avenue post office was built on the site of the postmaster's residence.

SILVER THEATRE AND SHOPPING CENTER (1937-8)36/7-3SE Corner of Georgia & Colesville

The Silver Theatre and Shopping Center complex, which opened in 1938, is a rare example of an early planned neighborhood shopping center with parking integrated into the complex. The complex was planned to include all the retail uses required by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, and to accommodate 50,000 patrons. The Silver Theatre had a seating capacity of 1,100. The complex was one of the first in the region to recognize the importance of and to design for the automobile: parking areas were provided at both the front of the complex and at the rear with a connecting underpass for both cars and pedestrians. Many of the stores had double entrances and could be entered from the front or the rear parking areas. The complex originally included a gas station island, no longer standing.

Architecturally, it reflects a fine example of streamlined Moderne styling with Art Deco detailing, designed by John Eberson, a national theater architect who also designed the Bethesda Theatre (1938). Eberson rejected earlier and more traditional commercial designs in favor of a thoroughly modern style—streamlined Moderne with Art Deco detailing. Early 20th century streamlining was symbolic of the dynamic industrial and



Silver Theatre and Shopping Center 36/7-3 (1937-8); 1938 photo

technological advances of the period, and was characterized by sleek mechanical curves and allusions to machines, such as trains and ships. The Silver Theatre, in particular, makes reference to nautical design themes. The Silver Theatre and Shopping Center was built at a time when Montgomery County was experiencing unprecedented growth. The complex was built in response to this development trend and vividly symbolizes the forces that changed and shaped 20th century Montgomery County.

WTOP TRANSMITTER BUILDING (1939-40) 2021 or 2115 University Blvd.

Marking a new era in communication technology of Montgomery County, the WTOP Transmitter Building is a rare and bold example of International Style of architecture. Washington architect E. Burton Corning designed the facility in 1939 and it was completed early in 1940.

The transmitter, historically known as WJSV, has a cutting-edge design with a distinctive sculptural quality, lack of ornamentation, and stark simplicity that are hallmarks of the International Style that was virtually unknown in Montgomery County. Influence of the Art Moderne, popular in this era, is evident in curving, streamline surfaces and the use of glass block. Architectural Record featured a two-page spread on the WJSV/WTOP Transmitter, in 1941; one year after the radio station began operation.

Technological advances in radio broadcasting demanded an appropriately futuristic architectural expression. When the WJSV began operating in 1927, the radio station had a 50-watt transmitter, and there were 6 million families in the

nation with radios. In 1939, WJSV announced plans for a new transmitter to broadcast at 50,000 watts, the maximum power the FCC allowed. The nation's radio families had grown to 27¹/₂ million. WJSV was the principal station for the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Washington area's most powerful broadcasting station. The station's call letters were changed in 1943 to WTOP, representing the slogan "The Station at the Top of the Dial." The station continues to be broadcast from this facility, now operated remotely from offices in Northwest Washington.

MONTGOMERY ARMS APARTMENTS (1941) 8700-8722 Colesville Road

Montgomery Arms Apartments are a fine example of modernistic Art Deco style apartments. The apartments were designed by Washington architect George T. Santmyers, best known for his Art Deco apartment houses. Three apartments—one five-story and the others three-story—are arranged around a landscaped courtyard. The arrangement is designed to foster a sense of community, creating a mini-neighborhood. In its Art Deco design, Montgomery Arms showcases modern materials and tech-

WTOP Transmitter Building







36/7-2

(1939-40)



niques including glass block panels, zigzag patterned brick, corner windows, and geometric machine-influenced design. The apartments are extremely well preserved down to the original doors with single round windows and hemi-circular handles. The forward-looking design of Montgomery Arms Apartments represent the development of Silver Spring as a major suburban center.

SILVER SPRING B & O RAILROAD STATION COMPLEX 36/15 (1945) NR

8100 Georgia Avenue

The Silver Spring Railroad Station is Montgomery County's only extant 20th century train station and was the last substantial station built on the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O line. For the first time, in 1936, the B&O made Silver Spring the only suburban stop for express trains. With greater passenger visibility and hopes for increased ridership, the B&O constructed a modern station in 1945, replacing the 1878 Gothic Revival station on the same site. In this era, Silver Spring became the largest commercial center in Maryland, second only to Baltimore.

The brick Colonial Revival complex is a little altered example of standardized institutionalized design used for railroad stations in the mid-1900s. The main station on the north side of the tracks held the ticket

> office, waiting room, and freight storage room. Original features include a slate roof, fan-light dormers and transom, granite sills and keystones, interior terrazzo floor, and tubular chrome chairs. A trackside canopy sheltered waiting passengers. Across the tracks, a smaller, two-story waiting station for south-bound passengers has freight storage on the lower, ground-level. An underground tunnel lined with glazed block connects the two sides of the tracks. The Silver Spring Train Station Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Silver Spring Tastee Diner is an important example of the machineexpressive Art Moderne style and is one of the few historic diners left in the State of Maryland. The structure is a classic example of vernacular commercial architecture based on the form and styling of sleek, modern railroad cars. The exterior surface of porcelain enamel has rounded corners trimmed with curved bands of stainless steel wrapping around the diner's streamline form. A continuous band of ribbon windows flows across the front and sides. Jerry O'Mahoney, Inc. constructed the diner at its Elizabeth, N.J. factory and shipped it to Silver Spring in two sections. In 2000, the diner was moved from its original site at the northwest corner of Georgia and Wayne Avenues to its present location. The Tastee Diner is the only historic diner in the county exhibiting its original railroad car design, and is one of only a dozen pre-1960 diners known to exist in Maryland.



Silver Spring B & O Railroad 36/15 Station Complex (1945)





Tastee Diner (1946)