

Montgomery, in fact, was particularly fortunate in the composition of her early population, which was a harmonious blending of the English colonists of wealth and influence and of those energetic German and Scotch-Irish settlers from the North who carved their fortunes with their hands.

—J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, 1882



Chapter One

BUILDING TRADITIONS AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

Note: Names in bold are historic sites that are designated either on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation or on the National Register of Historic Places. These resources are listed in the index for reference to more detailed information found in the inventory section.

Opposite: The C & O Canal Company built **Great Falls Tavern** in 1831. From the time the imposing Federal-style structure was first built, it attracted tourists and canalboat operators. Great Falls Tavern remains one of the most visited historic sites in the county.

Below left: The **Bussard Farmstead** includes a dwelling begun in the early 1800s and expanded in 1908, and a bank barn built in 1898. Located in M-NCPPC's Agricultural History Farm Park, the complex serves to educate residents about Montgomery County's agricultural heritage.

Below right: When it opened in 1938, the **Silver Theatre and Shopping Center** was one of the most comprehensive and innovative retail complexes in the region. The theater is being rehabilitated as the centerpiece of a complex that will house the American Film Institute.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HAS A RICH ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY spanning over 250 years. Its abundant character stems in large part from the dual nature of this border county located in a border state. Building traditions and settlement patterns in the county are southern and northern, British and German, rural and metropolitan. Situated in a state just south of the Mason-Dixon line, the county is yet heavily influenced by the north. Early settlers were English and Scottish tobacco planters who migrated from the Chesapeake and established staple crop plantations dependent on slave labor. Soon after came farmers from heavily Germanic areas of Pennsylvania and northern Maryland, establishing family operated wheat farms.

After the nation's capital was carved in part from Montgomery County land in 1791, a metropolitan force began to shape a new duality in the previously rural landscape. Wealthy Washingtonians, including high-level government officials, established country estates in the county by the early 1800s. Later in the century, railroad and streetcar lines radiating from the city brought new communities populated by middle-class white-collar workers, many of who hailed from the north.



Claire Lise Caviochi, M-NCPPC, 6-2000.



Gensler Architects.

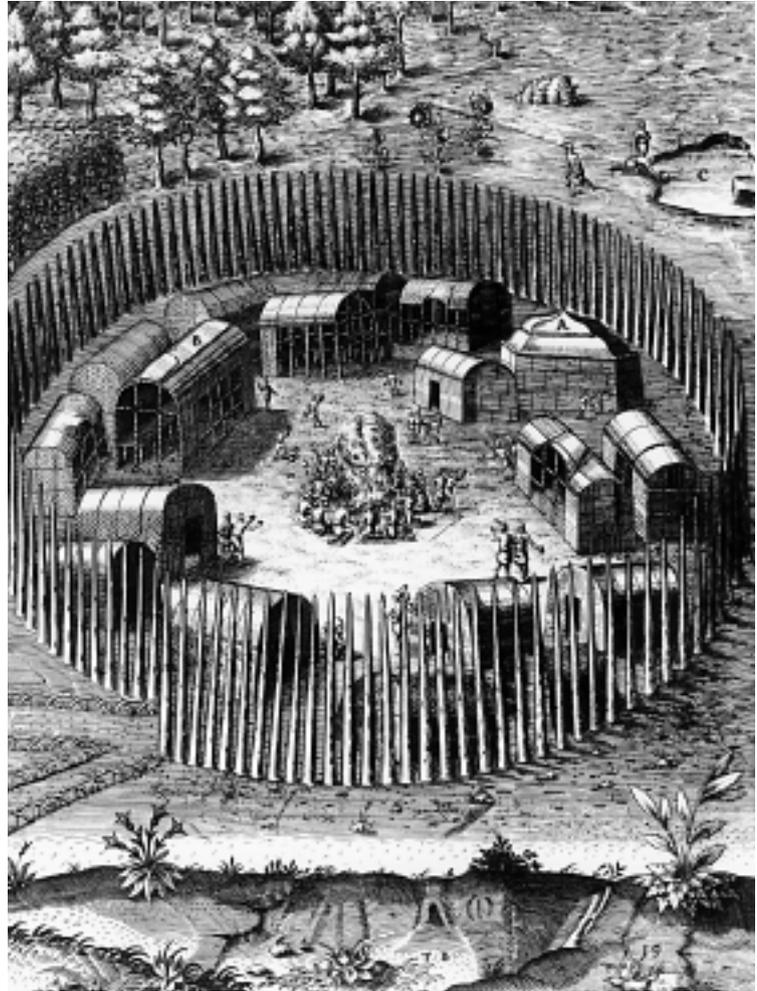
EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Montgomery County was a crossroads for many native peoples. From the north came Iroquoian-speaking Senecas and Susquehannocks, while Algonkian speakers traveled from the east and west. The Piscataways were from the east, and Souian or Shawnees from the west. These indigenous peoples developed hunting trails and transportation routes in and through the County, which formed the basis for later development.

The earliest native sites are related to those Late-Pleistocene Paleoindians whose twelve-thousand-year-old seasonal hunting and gathering camps are found along our major stream valleys. About 8,000 years ago, these were replaced by the Archaic peoples. Hunting smaller game, this culture endured till about 1000 BC. It is this later Archaic culture, from 3000 to 1000 B.C., that gives Montgomery County its most widespread usage. During this later period, soapstone bowls were used as cooking vessels. William Henry Holmes, the first Smithsonian archaeologist and county summer resident, identified many of these early soapstone quarries.¹

The first permanent indigenous settlement to be documented in the State of Maryland was the **Walker Prehistoric Village**, located in the Potomac River floodplain north of Seneca Creek. People inhabited the Walker Village during the Late Woodland Period from about 1200 to 1500 A.D. By this time, floodplain agriculture was widely practiced. The site is unique among Potomac Valley sites for its large and variable ceramic sample. The Walker Village is associated with the Montgomery Focus, the name given to the Late Woodland culture believed to be ancestral to later, local Algonkian speakers.

Archeological excavations suggest that the Walker Village was enclosed by a wall or palisade, with dwellings arranged in a circle surrounding a central plaza. Thomas Hariot's *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia* (1590) described native settlements that were "encompassed about with poles stuck fast in the ground... Their dwellings are build with certain posts fastened together, and covered with mats..."²



Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Tracy W. McGregor Library of American History



Late Archaic, Savannah River-like blade from Takoma Park area, 3000-1000 BC. Thomas Wilson collector.

¹James Sorensen, "A Search for Missing Links: Finding Prehistoric Montgomery," *Montgomery Gazette Magazine*, 6-6-1997, C-20.

²A historian and surveyor, Thomas Hariot was a member of the Roanoke Island, Virginia, settlement of 1585 and chronicled the area's natural resources and native inhabitants. To accompany Hariot's text, Theodore de Bry made a series of engravings based on watercolors of John White, a member of the 1585 colony. The engravings appeared in De Bry's 1590 edition of Hariot's report (originally published 1588). The commentary about the natives accompanying the engravings was probably written either by de Bry or White. Melissa S. Kennedy, University of Virginia. <www.people.virginia.edu/~msk5d/hariot/main.html>. Commentary text from California State University, Global Campus project, American Indian Studies. <<http://www.csulb.edu/projects/ais/woodcuts/>>

At the Walker Village site, graves, dug under the houses, were numerous and densely grouped. The number of graves indicates a high death rate, suggesting that the site reflects a period of European-generated epidemics, even before the earliest stage of physical contact with Caucasians. Cooking vessels from local clay replaced the bulky soapstone bowls used by earlier natives. The exceptional array of pottery recovered at the site has a rich variety of finish and pattern design, representing at least four separate periods of occupation by native peoples influenced by ceramic traditions from north, east, west, and south. Further research is needed to unravel these various levels of occupation. Archeologist Howard A. MacCord, Sr. observed that the Walker Village appears to be the most recent among “the series of Montgomery Focus sites in the middle Potomac area. It may have been the last village occupied before the inhabitants, carriers of the Montgomery culture, moved out of the area.”³

Opposite: Engraving by Theodore de Bry, based on watercolor of John White, a member of the Virginia colony of 1585. Thomas Hariot, A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia, 1590 edition.

Below: The Great Falls of the Potomac River are a transition area between the Tidewater and the eastern edge of the Piedmont Plateau. In the Late Woodland period, after 900 AD, natives practiced floodplain agriculture and built villages in the Potomac River Valley.

³Wayne E. Clark, “Walker Prehistoric Village Archeological Site,” National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, 1974. Roland E. McDaniel, *The Language of the Motif: An Analysis of the Walker Village Late Woodland Ceramics*, The American University, Washington, D.C., 1987, PhD Thesis, Anthropology. Howard A. MacCord, Sr. “Recent Potomac Valley Archeological Work and its Relationships to the Montgomery Focus,” in Richard G. Slattery and Douglas R. Woodward, *The Montgomery Focus: A Late Woodland Potomac River Culture*, Bulletin 2, The Archeological Society of Maryland, 1992.



The first European to map the area was Captain John Smith. By the time he traveled up the Potomac River to Little Falls in 1608, several major Indian trails were in use in the county. Native trails established the basic framework for Montgomery County's road system. A major north-south trade route became the Frederick-Rockville-Georgetown Road, present day Rt. 355.⁴

The earliest European villages in the area were George Town, platted in 1751, and Frederick, 1745. English planters and their tobacco culture dominated George Town, while Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania populated Frederick. The entire region was in the same county in this era: from 1748 to 1776, present-day Montgomery County was the southern part of Frederick County. The Georgetown-Frederick Road connecting these two major communities bisects the county, which became fertile ground for the joining of cultures. As evidenced in its architecture and communities, Montgomery County represents the mix of predominantly English and German traditions.⁵

⁴James Sorensen, "Prehistoric People in Your Backyard," *Montgomery Gazette Magazine*, 5-9-1997, C-20. River Road was also an early Indian trail. Ridge Road is cited as an early trail, leading from Parr's Spring and points north to the mouth of Seneca Creek.

⁵Robert Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980*, Baltimore, Md: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988 p.69. Montgomery County, originally the lower portion of Frederick County, was created in 1776. Georgetown was carved out of the county when the District of Columbia was established in 1791.

The Georgetown-Frederick Road has been the backbone of Montgomery County for 250 years. This 1795 map shows the road connecting two communities that were established in the mid 18th century. Through the late 1700s, the English tobacco culture dominated Georgetown, while Germanic wheat farmers populated Frederick.



TOBACCO PLANTATIONS AND CHESAPEAKE BUILDING TRADITIONS

The first European settlers in the county were tobacco planters who came from the Chesapeake Region in the 1710s. They established tobacco plantations along waterways. Although land patents had been granted beginning in the 1680s, most were held by early speculators who did not live in Montgomery County. Immigrants to the Patuxent watershed area came from Anne Arundel County, including present-day Howard County. Richard Snowden III, of Prince George's County, acquired over 9,000 acres in Montgomery County by 1743. His daughters and their spouses, Deborah and James Brooke, Elizabeth and John Thomas and Mary and Samuel Thomas were among the first Quaker settlers in the Ashton area. Along the Potomac River, Stephen Newton Chiswell was among the earliest settlers, acquiring land in 1738.⁶

Tobacco was the only cash crop of the Maryland colony. In 1790, Maryland planters raised about one-fourth of all tobacco exported from the United States. The rough landscape of forests, rock, and thin soils prevented county planters from establishing the large-scale plantations found in the Chesapeake region. Montgomery County tobacco farms were typically 100-200 acres. Nonetheless, county farmers produced one-fifth of the tobacco exported from Maryland. Tobacco remained the staple crop into the 1790s, after which wheat farming became more prevalent.⁷

One of the few tobacco houses left in the county is located at the Brandenburg Farm on Mullinix Mill Road. This modest 18' x 25' structure may date from the mid-1800s. Round logs are dovetailed at the corners and chinked with thin stone slabs laid in a herringbone pattern. Interior cross poles were used to dry tobacco.

⁶Barnett, Todd H. "Tobacco, Planters, Tenants, and Slaves: A Portrait of Montgomery County in 1783." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 89:2, Summer 1994. p.185.

⁷Hiebert and MacMaster, *A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland*. Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976, p.116.



Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC, 1974.

TOBACCO HOUSES

Tobacco houses were the most common outbuildings in Montgomery County through the 1700s. Farmers built these barns of log or frame with interior cross poles used for curing the tobacco leaves. Today, tobacco houses are rare. Farmers in this northeastern-most part of Montgomery County continued to grow tobacco into the late 1900s, raising and curing the leaves using Colonial-era techniques.*

*Barnett, "Tobacco, Planters, Tenants, and Slaves", p189. The term tobacco house was traditionally used to describe this type of outbuilding. The suffix "house" described many building types, such as springhouse, smokehouse and meeting house. Carl R. Lounsbury. *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture & Landscape*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Tobacco determined the shape of early settlement in the county. Tobacco farms were remotely located along waterways. Planning historian John W. Reps has observed that throughout much of the 17th and 18th centuries, much of Maryland's tobacco trade, including shipment and storage, "took place on the wharfs and in the warehouses of individual plantations". Despite legislation to promote the development of towns beginning in 1668, few towns were established over the following half-century. Surviving plats of Maryland towns from this era followed the English tradition of rectangular gridiron plans. Towns and villages would not exist in Montgomery County until the late 1700s. Planters were individualistic, relying on churches, taverns, and mills for social contact. Entrepreneurs built taverns along well-traveled market roads. Charles Hungerford opened a tavern at the intersection of the roads to tobacco inspection warehouses at Bladensburg and George Town, and a community soon grew. The settlement, later known as Montgomery Court House and then Rockville, was selected for the county seat in 1776 and subdivided by William P. Williams in 1786.⁸

Speculators rented their land out to tenant farmers. In 1783, sixty-three percent of household heads in the county were tenants on land owned by others. These farmers lived in modest houses, typically 1½-story dwellings with side gable roofs and one to two rooms on each floor. These houses are characteristic of the Tidewater area from the late 1600s through

⁸Jean B. Russo, "The Early Towns of Montgomery County, 1747-1831," *Montgomery County Story*, 34:2, May 1991. Carol Ely, "The Northwest Hundred: Family and Society on the Maryland Frontier," *Montgomery County Story*, 22:4, November 1979. John W. Reps, *Tidewater Towns: City Planning in Colonial Virginia and Maryland*. Williamsburg, Va: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1972, pp.58-60, 92,96, 103-16.

TAVERNS

In the mid 1700s, taverns served as public meeting places. Towns and villages had not been established in this era. Tobacco planters came from their isolated-dwellings along waterways to meet at taverns, typically located on the roads to inspection facilities. Several communities grew around these early taverns. Hungerford Tavern was established by 1769 at the crossroads of routes to Bladensburg and George Town, and later served as the county's first courthouse. By the late 1780s people begin to build houses near the tavern, and the town of Rockville was incorporated in 1801. Dowden's Ordinary, a tavern built about 1754, was located near Clark's trading post on the Georgetown-Frederick Road. Clarksburg was not platted until the early 1790s. The community of Laytonsville grew near Cracklintown Tavern.

Major improvements to roads created more tavern businesses. The Brookeville-Washington Turnpike was completed in 1828. In this era, Lucretia Beall constructed Higgins Tavern, in Norbeck. The structure, with its original 1½ story log section, still stands along the road, now Georgia Avenue.



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In the Chesapeake region through the mid-18th century, an ordinary was a structure licensed for accommodating travelers and entertaining guests. In the later 18th century, the structures were known more commonly as taverns. Michael Ashford Dowden constructed a log ordinary and received an operation license in 1754. Dowden's Ordinary was demolished in 1920.



M:NCPPC, 1974

Chiswell Place, a small scale log structure, is typical of late 18th century houses in Montgomery County.

*Reverend Alexander Williamson was the rector of Prince George's Parish of the Anglican Church, one of the richest parishes in the Maryland colony. Williamson built **Hayes Manor** between 1762 and 1767 and named it after the home of William Pitt, Prime Minister of Britain. The historic landscape includes a formal boxwood garden, evidence of bowling green, and the Dunlop family cemetery. For 173 years, the Dunlop family owned Hayes Manor, beginning with Scottish immigrant James Dunlop who owned the estate from 1792.*

the 1700s. Local examples were most often built of log. One of the earliest of these was Charley Forest built c1727 by James and Deborah Brooke in Sandy Spring (demolished in 1913). Several of these fragile houses have survived. The earliest section of **Moneysworth**, near Clarksburg, is a Tidewater-influenced house, built by 1783. **Chiswell Place's** original section dates from c1778-1793. The English built gambrel roof houses in the late 1700s in the Chesapeake, in the same time period the Dutch were building flared gambrel roof houses in New York and New Jersey. Surviving gambrel roof houses include **Clifton** (p. 55), **Greenwood**, and **The Oaks**.

Rare among the English planters in the county were those who resided on their property and had the means to construct more permanent residences. A prime example of an English influenced estate is **Hayes Manor**, the country residence of parish curate Alexander Williamson (pictured here and on page 68). He named his estate for the home of an English Prime Minister, had the house designed in English Georgian style, and outfitted the grounds with boxwood gardens and a bowling green. Another English-influenced landscape feature from the late 1700s through the 1800s was the tiered design known as a waterfall garden. An 1832 advertisement for **Mount Nebo**, near Poolesville, described the garden with "handsome falls" in front of the house. A garden at **Dowden's Luck** was found to have three flat 25' x 10' terraces, established in the last half of the 1800s.⁹

⁹**Locust Grove**, a two story brick house, was considered a mansion in 1783 compared to the more typical one- and two-room houses. Like Hayes Manor, **Pleasant Hills**, near Darnestown, was built in the 1760s and has two main façades.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M:NCPPC, 1993

Native Scotsman Robert Peter, representing a Glasgow tobacco firm, resided in Georgetown, site of the official tobacco inspection warehouse. Peter became first mayor of George Town and owned over 10,000 acres of land, including large tracts near Seneca Creek and Poolesville. His descendants developed sandstone and marble quarries along the Potomac River and built near Seneca the two-story **Montanverde** residence (c1806-1812), originally used as a summer retreat, and **Montevideo** (1830), an elegant Federal style dwelling built of stone.¹⁰

Settlers of Scottish ancestry built a significant number of early houses in the county, many of which are stone, a traditional construction material in Scotland. Zadock Magruder was a Revolutionary War leader and a founder of Montgomery County. His grandfather Alexander Magruder (d1677) was a member of the influential MacGregor clan, who arrived in Maryland a prisoner of war, and was able to acquire during his lifetime nearly 4,000 acres straddling the Patuxent River. Zadock's house, **The Ridge**, has a stone section that may pre-date the main brick block of 1750. Additional early Magruder family structures are a stone **Blacksmith Shop** on River Road, built by 1751; **Stoneyhurst**, a stone residence of 1767; Samuel Wade Magruder's **Locust Grove** (c1773); and the brick **Joseph Magruder House** of 1787. Zachariah Maccubbin, a second-generation Scottish descendant, established the **No Gain** estate in what is now Chevy Chase. His father had emigrated from Scotland to Anne Arundel County in 1659.¹¹

¹⁰A related site is the Colonial Revival **George Freeland Peter Estate** (1930-1), designed and built by descendants on land owned by the Peter family since 1760.

¹¹Historian Roger B. Farquhar states Magruder immigrated c1650-2. Magruder was a pseudonym for MacGregor. The English tired of hearing of Clan Gregor resistance in Scotland and banned entirely the use of the name MacGregor. *The Ridge*, 22-15, NR form, p.17. Ninian Beall was a native Scotsman brought to the colonies as an indentured servant c1650. Farquhar, p.165. Near Potomac is a community called Scotland, established by African Americans and named for early Scottish settlers. The Chevy Chase tract, granted in 1725 to Col. Joseph Belt, was named for a famous Scottish battle.



Robert Peter's son, George Peter, U.S. congressman and artillery major (above), built **Montanverde** as a summer estate by 1812. In 1830, John Parke Custis Peter, grandson of Robert Peter and member of the Maryland House of Delegates, completed **Montevideo** (below), one of the finest Federal-era houses built in Montgomery County.





John O. Brostrup. HABS, 1936

Built by 1856, the bank barn at the **Samuel Gaither Farm**, also known as Rolling Acres, is one of a several stone bank barns built in Montgomery County. A grid of small openings in the east end wall ventilates the interior.

Beginning in the 1830s, Montgomery County's landscape was transformed as farmers began to build substantial multi-purpose outbuildings known as bank barns. The King Farm bank barn stands on Prices Distillery Road, with Sugarloaf Mountain in the background.



WHEAT FARMING AND MID-ATLANTIC BUILDING TRADITIONS

The character of the landscape began to change dramatically as grain-producing farming began to replace tobacco plantations. By the late 1700s, Montgomery County population was changing. A wave of migrants from Pennsylvania traveled south in search of less densely settled, cheaper land and many settled in Montgomery County. In contrast to tobacco planters, who were dependent on slave labor and one staple crop, Mid-Atlantic farmers introduced Germanic-influenced farming practices. These new

settlers established family-operated farms with diversified crops and livestock, and large multi-purpose barns.¹²

¹²Robert F. Ensminger. *The Pennsylvania Barn*. Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992. pp.149-50.

The development of the Frederick area directly affected Montgomery County. When developer Daniel Dulany laid out the town of Frederick in 1745, he offered low-priced land to Germans, Swiss-Germans, and Scotch-Irish. The area became the fastest growing in Maryland, and by 1750 Frederick was the largest town in the state. Succeeding generations of millers, blacksmiths, farmers, and merchants from Frederick County moved to Montgomery County, joining migrants from Pennsylvania who had already settled there.¹³

Migrants from the north brought new building types and settlement patterns that had a dramatic impact on Montgomery County's landscape. Large barns designed to hold diverse livestock, hay, and grain overshadowed dwellings. Residents built houses and outbuildings into hill-sides. Northerners platted villages that provided commercial services to support farmers.

Hillside siting is a distinguishing characteristic of Germanic architecture. Most notable of these structures, because of its size and easily recognizable form, is the "bank barn." These large barns were built into a hillside with the lower stable located downhill and upper loft area on the uphill area. A central ramp enabled farmers to drive wagons into the loft to unload hay. The multi-purpose structures could hold a variety of livestock in the basement stable, and, on the upper level, farmers could process and store grains, hay, and straw. Approximately 130 bank barns



Pennsylvania native John Clark established the community of **Clarksburg**, surveying the land and subdividing lots along Frederick Road in the early 1790s. By 1804, Clarksburg was the largest town in Montgomery County, after Rockville. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, pioneer in the profession of architecture and frequent visitor to the county, made this sketch of Clarksburg in 1810. Houses and businesses hug the well-traveled Georgetown-Frederick Road.

¹³Brugger, pp.69-70. G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, Philadelphia, 1879, List of Patrons.*



Banked into a hillside, the miller's house at the **Brookeville Woolen Mill** has galleried porches stretching across the basement and first story levels. This house type is found in southwestern Pennsylvania and northeastern Maryland. The *Hawlings River* valley, tributary to the *Patuxent*, was one of the first areas in the county to be settled.



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have been identified in Montgomery County, dating from the 1820s to the 1890s. Local residents called bank barns “Switzer barns,” a reference to their Swiss-German origins. The majority of the barns are located along the Monocacy and upper Patuxent Rivers.¹⁴ Bank barns are discussed in Chapter 2.

In addition to barns, houses and other structures were often built into hillsides, reflecting Mid-Atlantic building traditions. Typical were side-gable 2½-story structures with an exposed basement that, in houses, often contained a kitchen. Representative of this building type is the **Brookeville Woolen Mill**, built by 1816, and **Mill Worker’s House**. Another Germanic house type, known as the Pennsylvania Farmhouse, is well represented in Montgomery County. These dwellings have two adjacent front doors usually centered on the front façade and found primarily on houses without a central hallway. Doors allowed direct access to a public meeting room and a private family room. Surviving dual entrance houses that span over a century are the **The Oaks**, built around 1800, the **Bennett-Allnut House** of c1862, and the **Byrne-Warfield House** of c1912.¹⁵

Pennsylvania influence may also be seen in several of the county’s early communities. A linear town plan known as the Pennsylvania Town extends into villages in Maryland’s piedmont region. In contrast to cross-roads communities, the Pennsylvania plan is concentrated on one main road. Densely concentrated buildings are constructed close to the road with alleys located in back. Houses and businesses are interspersed, and churches generally have peripheral sites. Communities that bear these characteristics are two towns platted in the 1790s: **Clarksburg**, established by John Clark, of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and **Hyattstown**, settled by Jesse Hyatt, of Frederick County. Unlike most 18th century town plans in Maryland which were English-influenced gridiron plans established by public officials, the plans of these two communities were linear and the work of private landowners.¹⁶ **Germantown** is a community that grew around the farm that native Germans Jacob and Dorothy Snyder established in 1836. By about 1850, they were joined by several other German families and soon developed a commercial area that came to be known as Germantown.¹⁷

With the wave of people from the Mid-Atlantic region came a shift from tobacco farming to grain farming. In the mid-19th century, 78% of Poolesville area farms grew wheat as their principal crop, while 22% grew tobacco. Only three



Park Historians Office, M-NCPPC.

With the help of a steam engine, the Mullineaux family harvested wheat in 1919 at the Becraft Farm, near Clagetsville. At that time, wheat remained the largest single crop acreage in the county, yet was more important for straw bedding than as a money crop.

¹⁴Ensminger, pp.68, 149-50. Hillside siting discussed in Edward Chappell, “Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement,” in Upton and Vlach, *Common Places*, p.36.

¹⁵Glassie, “18th c. Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building” in *Common Places*, 406-8. More research is needed to identify houses with the 3-room, central chimney plan known as the German or Continental house type.

¹⁶Wilbur Zelinsky, “The Pennsylvania Town: An Overdue Geographical Account,” in *The Geographical Review* 67:2, April 1977. Recruiting German artisans of Montgomery County to work in his tannery, Gerard Briscoe laid out a town called Germansburgh by 1773. Descendants of this community later resided at near-by Summit Hall Farm, Gaithersburg. Russo, p159. William E. Hutchinson, in Elizabeth B. Witzfall et al, *Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, Maryland*. City of Gaithersburg, 1978, p.2. Repp, p.239.

¹⁷Susan Soderberg, *A History of Germantown, Maryland*. Germantown, Md: Privately published, 1988.

MILLS

Water-powered mills were established throughout the county. As tobacco farming began to wane, in the late 1700s, and the wheat trade picked up, gristmills and flourmills began to flourish. In addition, saw mills and woolen mills were built. **Black Rock Mill** (1815) is a rare surviving example of the fifty or more water powered mills that were once vital to Montgomery County farmers and residents. A wooden undershot water wheel harnessed the water-power of Seneca Creek to grind wheat and corn, using three sets of millstones, and to cut lumber, with a circular saw blade. The flour or gristmill was mainly used following harvests, while the sawmill operated year round. Lumber sawed at Black Rock Mill was used to build the Liberty Mill, a steam operation in Germantown, which ironically helped put Black Rock Mill out of business.

After the opening of the C & O Canal, a network of roads, warehouses, and grain elevators connected mills with canal traffic to Georgetown. A prime example was the DuFief Mill, established about 1850 on the Muddy Branch. John L. DuFief built a flour and grist mill, miller's house, and blacksmith shop, and created a road connecting the complex with the canal's Pennyfield Lock, where he operated a warehouse, barrel house, and wharf. The four-story mill structure was fifty by sixty feet and capable of manufacturing 10-12,000 barrels of flour a year. Once this merchant mill was established, a network of roads grew to provide access for farmers as far away as Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Damascus. The **Dufief Mill Site**, found in the Muddy Branch Regional Park on both sides of Turkey Foot Road, includes the stone millpond dam and wooden footings of the head-race aqueduct.

Of the many mills that once stood in Montgomery County, few are represented by physical remains. One of the best preserved is **Hyattstown Mill**, built in 1918 on the site of a late-18th century mill. The deteriorating ruins of **Clopper's Mill** (1795; 1834), at Waring Station and Clopper Roads may still be seen today.

percent of farmers in the eastern part of the county grew tobacco.¹⁸ The increase in wheat production through the early 1800s coincides with construction of bank barns and gristmills. By 1783, there were about 25 mills in the county. By about 1810, there were some 50 mills, of which some 38 were merchant and gristmills.¹⁹ Wheat continued to be a principal crop into the 20th century. More wheat was grown in central Maryland than anywhere else in the United States, outside of Kansas and South Dakota.²⁰

Traditional Mid-Atlantic farming practices and agricultural reform dramatically improved soil conditions in the county. The practice of one-crop tobacco farming had depleted nutrients from the soil throughout Montgomery County by the 1790s. The worn-out soil forced many farmers to move westward in search of better farmland. Others began to improve the land through crop rotation, diversified crops, and mecha-

¹⁸Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.124-5.

¹⁹Eleanor Cook, "Early Water Mills in Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Story*, 33:4, November 1990.

²⁰Hiebert and MacMaster, p.242.



Maryland Historical Society, c1880

Edward Stabler was one of several innovative Sandy Spring citizens who improved farming practices in the mid-1800s. Stabler invented a seed drill and corn-husking device and was a founder of the Montgomery Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was born at Harewood, where he later resided with his wife Ann Paterson Gilpin.



Postcard, Montgomery County Historical Society, no date.

Francis C. Clopper operated a mill on Great Seneca Creek. He expanded the existing stone mill in 1834 with bricks made at his Woodlands estate. The original mill dated from 1795, and a mill had been on site as early as the 1770s. **Clopper's Mill**, now in ruins, stands near Clopper and Waring Station Roads. The Woodlands mansion was located near the Visitors Center at Seneca Creek State Park.

Thomas Hilleary built the water-powered merchant mill known as **Black Rock Mill** in 1815. The mill is now located in the Seneca Creek State Park. Operating under a long-term lease, M-NCPPC stabilized the structure in 1986 and erected an exhibit interpreting the history of milling.

nization. Leading the reform were Thomas Moore (1762-1822) of **Longwood** and Isaac Briggs (1763-1825) of **Sharon**, who were brothers-in-law, engineers, and Sandy Spring Quakers. Acquaintances of Thomas Jefferson who shared his enthusiasm for inventiveness and reform, the duo created, in 1799, the Sandy Spring Farmers' Club. Two years later, Moore published a guidebook instructing farmers on improved agricultural practices. In 1803, Briggs and James Madison founded the American Board of Agriculture, forerunner of the Department of Agriculture. In the Board's first slate of officers Briggs was secretary and Madison president.²¹

Farming reformers promoted crop rotation, fertilization, and improved machinery, such as threshing machines and moldboard plows. Most farmers were slow to adopt improved farming methods, due in large part to prohibitive costs. Transportation improvements in the early 1800s, including turnpikes and the canal, helped in the economic distribution of fertilizer, as did the appearance, in 1847, of chemical fertilizer to replace expensive Peruvian guano. Farmers founded the Montgomery County Agricultural Society in 1846 and organized a county fair to exhibit new livestock breeds and farm machinery. Later in the century, a greater segment of the population benefited from the railroad for making transportation of fertilizer cheaper and for opening up the Washington market.²²

²¹Hiebert and MacMaster, *A Grateful Remembrance*, pp.117-9.

²²Ibid, pp.120-6.



M-NCPPC, 1986.

GENERAL STORES AND POST OFFICES

By the early 1800s, businesses in towns and villages provided services for nearby farmers. Commercial activity in most communities centered on the general store. The general store was a community gathering-place where farmers and residents exchanged news. A traditional building form that persisted throughout the 1800s and into the early 1900s was a two-story, front gable structure. The second story was used as a community meeting hall or for the storekeeper's apartment. A surviving example is the **Seneca General Store** (1901), known more recently as Poole's Store. By the 1920s, general store buildings were one-story frame structures, such as Fowler's Market, now known as Forest Glen Country Store, built by 1925 located in the **Capitol View Park Historic District**.

Most early post offices were independently operated services located in a community's general store. Until the very end of the 1800s, the



Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC, 1974

Above and left: H.C. Darby built the Darby Store and Post Office in 1910. The store was a primary community gathering place in the crossroads town of Beallsville.



Andrea Rebeck, M-NCPPC, 1987

U.S. Postal Service did not deliver mail to a home address outside of major cities. Residents had to travel to the nearest post office to pick up mail. Since the travel over unimproved roads was often arduous, farmers delayed mail pick-up for days or weeks until the trip could be combined with other errands. The Clarksburg Post Office, established in 1800, was located in John Clark's general store. The oldest post office in the county was Rockville, first called Montgomery Court House, in 1795. Other early post offices were in Sandy Spring (1817) and Brookeville (1820).

*Opposite: Slave quarters are tangible reminders of the practice of slavery. Though most slave quarters in Montgomery County were probably log, the remaining buildings that have been positively identified are largely of stone construction. This 16' x 24' slave quarter at the **Wallace Poole House** (Dowden's Luck) was included in an 1842 inventory. A brick smokehouse stands nearby.*

AFRICAN AMERICANS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

Though local tobacco plantations were small in scale compared to the large estates of the Deep South, they relied nonetheless on slave labor. In 1790, slaves were one-third the entire population in Montgomery County. The number of slaves exceeded that in Frederick County to the north (12%), but was not as large as its southern neighbor, Prince George's County (52%). There were five times more slaves than free blacks here in the 1840s-50s. The travesty of one person owning another and brutal treatment of slaves were realities of the county's first 150 years.²³

Josiah Henson, a slave in Montgomery County at the turn of the 1800s, described living conditions: "We lodged in log huts, and on the bare ground. Wooden floors were an unknown luxury. In a single room were huddled, like cattle, ten or a dozen persons, men, women, and children. All ideas of refinement and decency were, of course, out of the question. We had neither bedsteads, nor furniture of any description. Our beds were collections of straw and old rags, thrown down in the corners and boxed in with boards; a single blanket the only covering. The wind whistled and the rain and snow blew in through the cracks, and the damp earth soaked in the moisture till the floor was miry as a pigsty. Such were our houses. In these wretched hovels were we penned at night, and fed by day; here were the children born and the sick—neglected." Henson's memoirs inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. On Old Georgetown Road, the **Riley House** with attached log kitchen survives from the Riley plantation where Henson was enslaved for some 30 years.²⁴

²³George W. McDaniel. *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County*. Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1979, pp.15-16. Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.114-5.

²⁴Josiah Henson, *Truth Stranger than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Own Life* (1858) quoted in Hiebert and MacMaster, p.153.

D.D. Buck, *The Progression of Race in the U.S. and Canada* (1907) National Afro-American Museum and The Ohio Historical Society



*Josiah Henson (1789-1883) served as the model for the main character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Born a slave in Charles County, Maryland, he was brought to Montgomery County as a child. Henson lived on the Riley plantation, south of Rockville. **The Riley House**, with a log kitchen wing, is known locally as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Josiah, his wife Nancy, and their four children escaped to Canada in 1830 through the Underground Railroad.*



Robin Ziek, MHCPPC, April 1995.

Most plantations had much smaller slave populations than those found further south. Over half had five slaves or less, and three quarters owned nine or less. An exception was Allen Bowie Davis, who owned about 100 slaves in the 1850s. Slave quarters still stand at Davis' **Greenwood** property, north of Brookeville. Slave quarters are further discussed in the chapter on Outbuildings.²⁵

Members of Quaker and German communities opposed slavery. The Quaker community of Sandy Spring was home to the first freed slaves in the county. In the 1770s, Sandy Spring Quakers freed blacks and conveyed land for a church and dwellings. The earliest black congregation in the county was established at **Sharp Street United Methodist Church** in 1822. Originally housed in a log building, the church was replaced in 1886 by a frame structure that burned in 1920. The present church was constructed in 1923. In the western county, early free black settlements included Big Woods (1813) and Mount Ephraim (1814). Elijah Awkard of Big Woods was owner of one of the largest tracts of land (163 acres) for a black person in the late 1850s. In 1860, over 1,500 free blacks lived in Montgomery County.²⁶

Vast numbers of fugitive slaves passed through Montgomery County on the Underground Railroad, an organized system of escape run by volunteers who sheltered, fed, and transported escaping slaves to destinations as far north as Canada. A primary factor behind the Underground Railroad was the supportive Quaker community which aided fugitives. Tradition holds that, among others, the owners of **Sharon**, **Bloomfield**, and **Mount Airy** assisted runaway slaves.²⁷

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The evolution of early roads is reflective of the county's history of settlement. With its origins as a native trail, River Road became in the English colonial era a primary route for farmers taking tobacco to market. George Town and Bladensburg were sites of the two tobacco inspection houses. River Road and Frederick Road both led to George Town. By the 1740s, Frederick Road had become an established route connecting Frederick and the tobacco port of George Town. The present-day Darnestown Road-Veirs Mill Road-University Boulevard corridor approximates an



Martinsburg Road, near Poolesville, is one of the few surviving one-lane paved roads in Maryland. The road represents the burgeoning automobile era when a one-lane paved strip of road was the minimum requirement for drivers of early cars. The road was originally paved in 1931 with one mile of concrete that was 20 feet wide. Sections of the road have been supplemented with gravel shoulders to provide extra width.

Opposite: Detail, "Map of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware." Compiled from official sources and drawn by Chas. Heyne C. E. Lith of J. Bien. NY, New York: E. & G. W. Blunt, 1861.

²⁵Ray Hiebert and Richard MacMaster, p.152.

²⁶McDaniel, p.15.

²⁷Anthony Cohen, *The Underground Railroad in Montgomery County, Maryland: A History and Driving Guide*, Rockville, Md: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1994.



Kimberly Prothro, Traces, 1990.

18th century road that ran southeast from Rockville to Bladensburg. These roads were known locally as rolling roads, named for the way in which hogsheads of tobacco were pulled behind horses or oxen.

As the economy grew less dependent on tobacco and more reliant on grain, the road network began to change in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. A new era of roads led northeast to Baltimore markets. Certified in 1793, Baltimore Road led from Spink's Ferry across the Potomac, at the mouth of the Monocacy River, to Greens Bridge across the Patuxent River. Local farmers hauled grain and drove cattle along this route. Also benefiting from the Baltimore Road network were farmers from Virginia and Ohio who crossed the ferry. Along this route grew the communities of Barnesville, Laytonsville, and Triadelphia. Original sections include today's Old Baltimore Road and Norbeck Road. In the eastern part of the county, workers began constructing the Columbia Turnpike in 1810. After the opening of the canal and railroad, the network of roads to Baltimore was less essential to county citizens. Residents recall, however, stories of early 20th century drivers conducting long horn cattle to market on Baltimore Road.²⁸

Illustrating the evolution of county road construction is **Martinsburg Road**. Local residents originally petitioned for the road in 1838 to provide access to Gott's Mill with connections to Edward's Ferry and the C & O Canal. In 1899, the county had only 45 miles of hard surface road, mainly on well traveled turnpikes. After widespread use of the automobile, the demand increased for hard surface roads. In 1931, a one-mile stretch of Martinsburg Road was paved with concrete 20 feet across. The single lane of paving, the minimum requirement for hard surfacing, was typical of early hard surfaced roads in Maryland.²⁹

²⁸Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.99 & 107. Jane Thompson, Sugarloaf Regional Trails Landmarks Research Form, "Old Baltimore Road," No date (late 1970s).

²⁹Hiebert and MacMaster, p.236. Bruegger, p.430. The same year Martinsburg Road was paved, Walter K. Matthews bought the **Lawrence White Farm** and created Linden Park, a local retreat where local residents gathered for concerts and picnics. Gail Rothrock, (Ed.) *Circling Historic Landscapes*, Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1980, Second Edition 1999, pp.30, 33.



Library of Congress.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL

In 1828, President John Quincy Adams broke ground for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal near Little Falls, and, by 1831, there were approximately 20 miles of canal in use between Georgetown and Seneca. Construction of the canal provided the means for importing fertilizer to enrich the soil. With easier access to markets, farms located near the canal began to prosper. John Saunders, a Virginia native, built the stone house at **Ellerslie** near the canal in 1853. Some 83 barges a week were using the Canal, by 1859, to transport grain, flour, coal and farm products to Washington and Georgetown. Much of the shipping originated at Seneca, where crop production remained high in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1839, the Canal was open to Hancock, Maryland, and when completed to Cumberland, Maryland, in 1850, was a total of 185 miles long.

A sandstone quarry near Seneca was the source of stone used in the construction of the canal and for building construction throughout the metropolitan area. The **Seneca Stone Quarry's** distinctive reddish sandstone was in use from 1774 until 1900. The quarry was most actively worked during and soon after the canal construction in the 1830s. The magnificent ruins of the monumental **Stone Cutting Mill** still stand at the terminus of Tschiffely Mill Road.

The C & O Canal has been protected in the C & O Canal National Historic Park, operated by the National Park Service. One-fourth of the 185-mile canal lies in Montgomery County. Outstanding canal resources include **Great Falls Tavern** (p. 2) and the **Monocacy Aqueduct** (opposite). Other important recognized structures along the canal include eight lockhouses, eight locks, commercial buildings and warehouses, and engineering features including bridges and culverts.



Montgomery County Historical Society



Clare Lise Cavicchi, MNCPPC, 2000.

*Top: Because the water level rose about 605 feet between Georgetown and Cumberland, it was necessary to have a series of locks which rose in increments of about 8 feet. Locks were carefully constructed of finished stone with mortar joints. While most lockhouses were constructed of Seneca sandstone, the **Pennyfield Lock House** (1830) is built of roughly coursed shale with sandstone lintels and sills. The dwelling dates from 1830 and the lock (#22) from 1831.*

*Opposite: The **Monocacy Aqueduct** (1829-33) is one of the finest masonry structures in the region. Known as the crown jewel of the C & O Canal, is the largest of the canal's eleven aqueducts. The seven-arch aqueduct is 516 feet long and built of dressed white quartzite, quarried from Sugarloaf Mountain. This 1936 view shows the aqueduct before a series of floods battered the aqueduct later in the century. Following listing on the National Trust's Most Endangered Places in the country, the National Park Service announced, in 1999, a \$5.5 million restoration plan.*

*Left: Mules and drivers walked along the towpath of the C & O Canal as mules pulled boats by towlines more than 100 feet long. The mules pulled canal boats along at a rate of 2.5 miles per hour. The community of **Edward's Ferry**, had a population of 36 residents (1880), with a general store and post office, warehouse, and lockhouse.*

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A large engineering project that contributed to the area's growth was the construction of the Washington Aqueduct in the 1850s, which ran parallel to the canal. This project was designed to tap an abundant supply of clean water above Great Falls, on the Potomac River, for use in the rapidly growing District of Columbia. A dam was built at Great Falls to divert water into a conduit that ran all the way to reservoirs in the District. Not only did this project bring an influx of new workers into the area, it also improved access to the area through the construction of Conduit Road above the system, now known as MacArthur Boulevard. The handsome **Water Supply Building** stands near the Great Falls Tavern, serving as a reminder of this significant engineering feat.

Commercial use of the canal peaked in the 1870s. Frequent floods and the opening of the railroad in Montgomery County led to the canal's decline. Shipping on the canal ceased in 1924.





Montgomery County Historical Society

GOLD MINING

Located at the northernmost end of the Appalachian Gold Belt, Montgomery County was once the scene of extensive gold mining operations. The first U.S. gold rush began in the early 1800s in Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama. National and local newspapers spread gold fever. In the first documented discovery of gold in the county, Samuel Ellicott, in 1849, invited a geologist to inspect rock outcroppings on his **Brooke Meadow** farm. The *Maryland Journal* published the findings positively identifying gold. Samples indicated that a mine could provide a valuable yield. Ellicott constructed a 60-foot mine shaft and contracted to sell the property to a New York gold company, but the deal fell through. A total yield of \$2000 was reported from the **Ellicott Mine**.

The gold rush in Montgomery County began after the Civil War. Historian Walter Goetz has identified 22 gold mines in the county, and more than half of them were located in the Potomac area. The first county gold mine to be commercially exploited was the **Maryland Mine**, near Great Falls. A former California prospector discovered the site in 1861 and opened it in 1867. Reputed to be one of the largest gold mines in the Eastern United States, the Maryland Mine was long-lived, operating intermittently until 1951.³⁰

In contrast to the large-scale commercial nature of the Maryland Mine, the **Rock Run Mines**, in today's Watts Branch Regional Park, was a hand-dug, folk enterprise. W.T.S. Kirk, an experienced Georgian miner and astute businessman, opened the mines in 1887 and obtained over \$20,000 in gold in the first year of operation. Most of the profits were lost, however, because of a lawsuit brought by local farmers whose cattle died from drinking the cyanide runoff generated by mining operation.

³⁰There were 12 gold mines in the Potomac area, five in the Rockville area, three in Cabin John-Bethesda, one near Brookeville (Ellicott) and one near Boyds. Walter Goetz, *Montgomery County Gold Fever*, Privately Published 1988.

The original Maryland Mine structures were recorded in this photograph taken before a disastrous explosion destroyed them on June 15, 1906.

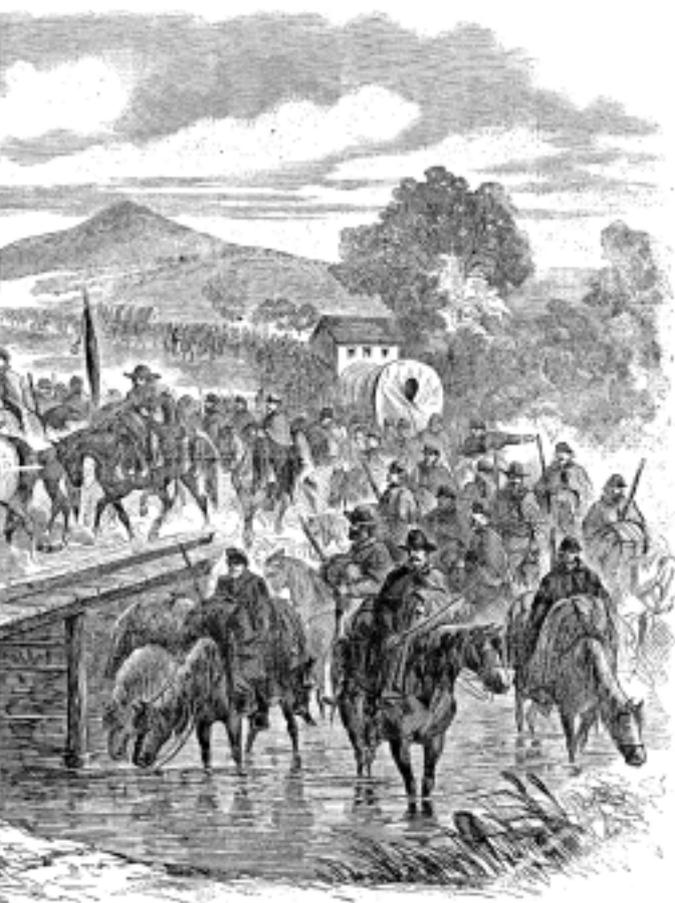
Located on the site today are a reconstructed boiler house, a water tower on its original cement supports, amalgamation mill ruins, and three mine shafts.



Harper's New Monthly Magazine, October 1866.

Below: Sketched near Poolesville, this scene depicts the Confederate calvary of Major General J.E.B. Stuart crossing the Potomac River. Sugarloaf Mountain is in the background. *Harper's Weekly*, November 1, 1862.

Below right: Union troops from Massachusetts established headquarters in the stately residence at **Pleasant Hills** (c1760-65), near Darnestown.



CIVIL WAR

During the Civil War, Montgomery County residents were divided in their loyalty between the North and the South. Citizens in the western part of the county, with economic and social ties to Virginia, tended to sympathize with the South, while others, such as Sandy Spring's pacifist Quakers and numerous residents with northern ties, aligned with the north. When the State of Maryland could not agree on the subject of secession, the federal government took control of the state to ensure its position in the Union. In spite of this, many southern allied men crossed the Potomac, going south to join Rebel units.³¹

An arc of 93 unarmed batteries fortified a 34-mile radius around Washington. **Battery Bailey** is the only remaining Civil War defense site in Montgomery County. It is located in Westmoreland Hills Local Park. Though no major battles were fought in the county, residents saw tremendous movement of troops during the war years, especially along the Frederick Road and across the Potomac. Several skirmishes were fought on county soil and troops camped on county farms. Farmers suffered much property damage and lost livestock wherever soldiers encamped. The Union Army established headquarters at **Pleasant Hills** and the **Samuel Thomas Magruder House** (p. 69). A signal station built into a huge chestnut tree on the Magruder Farm, relayed messages between Washington, D.C. and Harpers Ferry via Sugarloaf Mountain.

Strong Southern sympathies of many county residents are represented by the Confederate Soldier Statue, which now stands next to the Red Brick Courthouse in Rockville. Rockville residents fought for both sides of the Civil War, but sympathies of the majority lay with the Confederacy. The monument was erected in 1913. The statue is located in the **Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District**. Another Confederate monument is found in Silver Spring's Grace Church Cemetery. Dedicated in 1896, the granite shaft marks the grave of Confederate soldiers who died during Jubal Early's 1864 raid on Washington.³²

³¹Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.167-71. Charles T. Jacobs, "Civil War Guide to Montgomery County, Maryland," 1996 edition.

³²Originally erected in a triangle in front of the Red Brick Courthouse, Rockville's Confederate Soldier Statue was later moved to its present site.

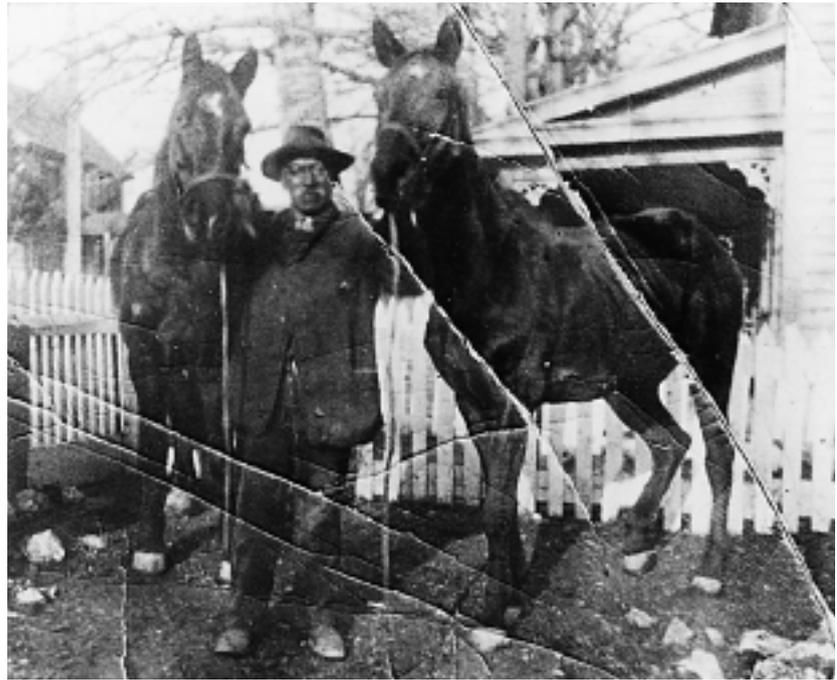


AFRICAN-AMERICANS, AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

In 1870, the black population made up 36% of the total county population. After emancipation, many African-Americans were able to buy land from or were given land by white plantation owners, often their previous owners. Free blacks transformed fields and scrubland into intensively developed settlements of agricultural homesteads. Over 40 African-American communities have been identified in Montgomery County. Communities that are represented today by standing historic structures include, in the Poolesville area, Sugarland, Jerusalem, the Boyds settlement and the Martinsburg settlement; in the Potomac area, Tobytown, Pleasant View, Scotland, Gibson Grove, and Poplar Grove; Mt. Zion and the Sandy Spring settlement in the Olney area; Good Hope and Smithville, in the Eastern region; and Hawkins Lane, near Rock Creek.³³

The first community building constructed by residents was typically a church, often also used as a school and social meeting hall until other structures were built. A noteworthy complex of community buildings is found in Martinsburg, near Poolesville. Still standing are the **Warren Methodist Episcopal Church** (1903), **Martinsburg School** (1886), and the **Loving Charity Hall** (1914). The hall was the headquarters for a benefit society that provided health and burial services for families at a time when insurance companies did not allow coverage for black citizens.

Families built their own houses that typically had two rooms up and two rooms down. In the first years after emancipation, most houses were built of log. By the 1880s, blacks began to build frame houses, which ranged



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Born a slave about 1849, John Henry Wims bought land about 1885 and built his own house in **Clarksburg**, at 23311 Frederick Road. Wims, aided by his two-horse team, was one of the few black mail carriers in the county.

³³Population in Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980*. Figure 16. Communities identified in George W. McDaniel, "Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County," and Everett L. and La Barbara W. Fly, "Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study," Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Development, 1983.



MANGPC

This rural community of Martinsburg still retains its three major civic buildings: church, school, and benefit society lodge. Martinsburg, which began as a pre-Civil War crossroads village, was unusual in being a bi-racial community. At least one black settler was free before the Civil War. After emancipation, former slaves remained here, purchased land, and continued to work as farmers or craftsmen. Carpenter Scott Bell built the handsome Gothic-influenced **Warren M.E. Church** (left). Bell also constructed, in 1914, the **Loving Charity Hall** (far left), the lodge hall for the Loving Charity Society, a community benefit group active throughout Maryland and headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. The large two-story hall served as a community center for plays, dances, lectures and other local events. It is one of the few surviving lodge halls in the state. The oldest building in the complex is the Martinsburg School (center), probably built in 1886.

from simple one or two room structures to two story dwellings with two rooms on each level. While several community buildings from African-American settlements have been preserved, few houses built by free blacks have survived. Among the remaining examples are the John Henry Wims House (c1885) at 23311 Frederick Road, in the **Clarksburg Historic District**, and the Diggins House (c1870s-90s), 19701 White Grounds Road, in the **Boys Historic District**.³⁴

Quakers supported one of the earliest schools for black children, held in the Sharp Street Church about 1864. Sandy Spring area Quakers financed the school and supplied teachers from the nearby Friends' school at Fair Hill. Public schools were not available to black children until after 1872.

EDUCATION

Maryland was one of the last states in the Union to establish a public school system. Through the mid-1800s only private academies and church schools were available for privileged children. A surviving example of a church school stands in the **Forest Glen Historic District**. In 1874, mem-

*The Brookeville Academy, established in 1808, was one of the first private academies in the country. Male students came throughout the state, boarding with local families and studying a classical curriculum with the aid of a 600-volume library. The first story of the stone building was built in 1810 and the second story added in 1840. The structure is a community hall in the **Brookeville Historic District**.*

³⁴George McDaniel, *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County*, Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1979. Examples of houses in M-NCPPC files, including Tobytown and Scotland.



bers of St. John's Catholic Church in Forest Glen built St. John's Academy in a modest one-room structure.³⁵

In 1860, the General Assembly of Maryland passed a resolution establishing countywide public schools. Fifteen common schools opened throughout the county, providing primary education for rich and poor white children. An early surviving school is the stone **Seneca School** (1868), in the Seneca Historic District. More typical of one-room schools is the well-preserved **Kingsley School** (1893). County school commissioners provided architectural plans for the front-gable building, which opened to area students in September 1893. The school closed in 1935, when, during the Great Depression, local families left the area in search of work.

Before 1872, black property owners paid taxes to support schools that their children were not allowed to attend. In 1872, the Maryland State Legislature ruled that one school in each election district must be open for black children. Representative of state-mandated schools are the **Quince Orchard School** (c1875), and the **Boys Negro School** (1895). A proposed civil rights law giving full rights of citizenship to blacks failed in 1874. The policy of segregation lasted for three quarters of a century.³⁶

After the turn of the 20th century, a new generation of schoolhouses appeared, influenced by nationwide architectural standards, new health-conscious attitudes, and a growing county population. The designs of larger, two-room schools maximized light and air circulation with foundation and roof vents, flues, and over-size windows. Reflecting this new era of school architecture are Rockville's **Montrose School** and the **Clarksburg School**, both built in 1909.³⁷

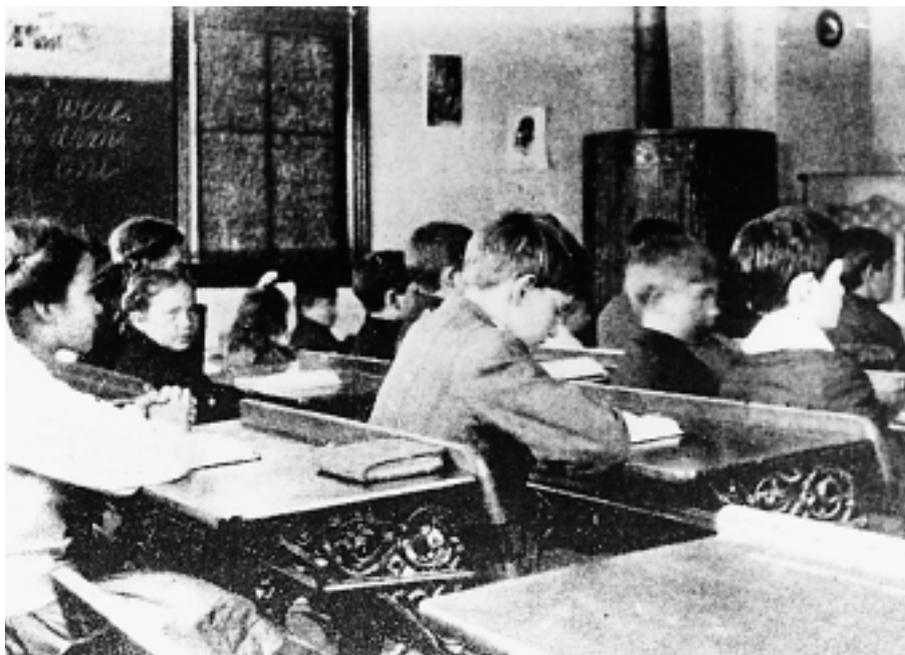
In contrast, two-room schools weren't built for black students until the 1920s. The **Smithville Colored School** (1927) is one of 15 Rosenwald Schools built in Montgomery County in this era. These schools recall the iniquities of the Jim Crow era of segre-



George McDaniel collection, Montgomery County Historical Society

*African-American children in the Poolesville area had no public school before 1925. They attended classes in the Loving Charity Hall, a community building located behind the **Elijah Methodist Church**, in Poolesville. 1909 photograph.*

From the time that Maryland public schools were first mandated in 1860 until the early 1900s, white students were taught in one-room schoolhouses. Maryland school classroom, early 1900s. From Rural Survey of Maryland.



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³⁵Donald Leavitt, *Montgomery County Story*, 22:2 (May 1979).

³⁶Margaret Coleman, "Maryland Historic Trust Inventory Form: Boys Negro School," 1978. The Boys School has been restored for interpretation as a historic site museum.

³⁷Donald Leavitt, "Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form: Montrose School," Peerless Rockville Ltd, 1977.



William Bushong, M-NCPPC, 1984

The **Smithville School** is one of 15 Rosenwald Schools built for black children from 1926-8.

The simple frame structures contrast starkly with the large brick facilities built for white children in the same era.

gation and the struggle of the African American community to obtain better educational facilities. Julius Rosenwald, founder of Sears, Roebuck and Company, provided the funding for more than 5,000 schools for black children in the South before 1940. The schools were an improvement for black students, yet the simple frame structures stand in contrast to the stylish, brick schools such as the Colesville Elementary School for white students built in the same era.

The **Colesville Elementary School** (1929), located on New Hampshire Avenue, signifies one of the first professionally designed school facilities in the county. Silver Spring architect Howard W. Cutler designed Colesville as well as many other early schools for the county school system. These new facilities were built in an era of public school reform and mushrooming suburban growth when one-room rural schools were consolidated into larger regional schools. Cutler's stylish schools, featuring popular Colonial Revival and Art Deco designs, made a strong statement promoting the state of the art facilities, and reflect the new standard of school construction throughout the county in the 1920s.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School,
Public Works Administration, 1939

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The County had five high schools in 1920, offering at least one year of education above the eighth grade. Montgomery County was the first county in Maryland to offer a full high school program when it enacted a mandatory 12-year school system in 1926. When the original **Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School** building was constructed in 1935, it was the largest school building in Maryland. Its monumental size and architectural dignity distinguish the school from other academic buildings of the early 1900s, making Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School one of the most important civic monuments of the pre World War II period. The Public Works Administration built both the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and **Montgomery Blair High School**, in the New Deal era (see p. 47). The first high school for black children didn't open until 1927, a two-room school in Rockville. Adopting a consolidation plan in 1949, the School Board built the Carver High School for black students in 1950. The separate but equal policy of education ended in 1954, and schools weren't fully integrated until 1961.*



*Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.278-80, 347. Nina H. Clarke and Lillian B. Brown, *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961*. New York, NY: Vantage Press, 1978. pp.44-7, 67-9, 124-5.

RELIGION

Essential to the lives of early families, organized religion was the focal point of social, educational, as well as spiritual life. After the ascension of William and Mary to the English throne, the Church of England, or Episcopal Church, became the official church in Maryland in 1692, despite the strong opposition of Roman Catholics and Quakers.³⁸ Even as they were required by law to support the Anglican Church through taxes, followers of non-establishment religions remained devout. Presbyterians, Catholics, and Quakers gathered together to worship in the early 1700s, followed by Methodists and Baptists in the 1770s-80s. Congregants often met in private homes before building simple churches, typically of log, replaced by more permanent structures as means allowed. Future research on the diverse population of the 20th century will undoubtedly reveal significant historic sites of Jewish and other religious groups.

CHURCHES

Episcopal

Montgomery County was a frontier in the early 1700s. In this westernmost parish, Anglican colonists had to make a special request by petition to have a place of worship known as a chapel of ease. The rector, a clergyman in charge of the parish or church region, traveled to these modest buildings every few weeks to hold services. After the American Revolution, the Anglican Church was no longer the established church. Anglicans in the Beallsville area petitioned the General Assembly for a chapel of ease in 1734, and the **Monocacy Chapel** was constructed by 1748. Civil War troops heavily damaged the chapel and it was rebuilt in 1912.³⁹

Episcopal parishioners built a Chapel of Ease in 1739, near Rockville. A new church was built in Rockville in 1822, and then was replaced in the 1880s by the present Christ Episcopal Church, located in the **Montgomery County Courthouses Historic District**. Another early Chapel of Ease was built in Brighton in 1761. Its successor was the first St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, built where the Hawlings River crosses Sundown Road, near Unity, followed by Laytonsville's St. Bartholomew Church.

The oldest Episcopal church building in continuous use is **St. John's Church** in Olney, built in 1842-5. Members organized the church as a separate congregation within St. Bartholomew's Parish.



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³⁸Hiebert and MacMaster, pp.23-6.

³⁹Ibid, p.24.



Above: *Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House* (1817).

Opposite, top: *St. John's Episcopal Church* (1842-5), Olney. *Sentinel*, 1967.

Opposite, bottom: *Christ Episcopal Church* (1880s), Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District, Rockville.

Quaker

Quaker families settled in the Sandy Spring area in the 1720s. Founding families were the Brookes, the Thomases and the Snowdens. Sandy Spring Quakers were pioneering leaders in agricultural innovation and in institutionalizing education, banking, and insurance. The most readily recognizable Quaker building type is the meeting house. Simple, yet built of high quality material, meeting houses are reflective of the social and cultural heritage of the Quaker tradition and religion. Meeting houses are typically characterized by their rectangular shape, twin entrances, and simple detailing. The plainness of the architecture reflects the simplicity of the Quaker meeting, a silent waiting devoid of hymn singing, creed reciting, or sermoning.⁴⁰

The **Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House** is a large brick structure built in 1817. A split in the Quaker Meeting in 1828, divided Quakers into the Hicksites, followers of Elias Hicks who promoted a person-centered, rather than Christ-centered, religious outlook and the Orthodox, who believed in a literal interpretation of the Bible and divinity of Christ. Orthodox Quakers broke away from the Hicksite Sandy Spring Meeting and built a new meeting house in 1880, the frame **Ashton Orthodox Meeting House**.

⁴⁰Kimberly Prothro Williams, "Quaker-Related Historic and Architectural Properties of Montgomery County, 1753-1900." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, M-NCPPC, 1999.

Presbyterian

In 1724-5, residents built a log Presbyterian church near Potomac, on the approximate site of the present Potomac United Methodist Church. Known as Captain John Church, the congregation thrived until the early 1800s. The church closed in 1850, its members having migrated to join a Bethesda congregation. Originally known as the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, the **Bethesda Meeting House** is the earliest extant church in the county built as a Presbyterian church. The Greek Revival church was constructed in 1850, on the foundation of its predecessor, an 1820 structure destroyed by fire. Another temple-front Greek Revival Presbyterian church was built in Darnestown. A congregation organized in 1855, began to build a church the following year, which was dedicated in 1858. The original section of the **Darnestown Presbyterian Church** was enlarged in 1897 with the present Shingle Style bell tower and front addition. The **Hermon Presbyterian Church** (1874) was organized in the home of Mary Catherine Holmes Magruder Carter, on Persimmon Tree Road. Carter was a direct descendant of Ninian Beall, who is known as the father of Presbyterianism in Maryland. Hermon Presbyterian Church is one of finest Victorian-era Gothic Revival churches in the county.



Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Historical Society

Roman Catholic

Significant to the history of the Catholic Church is St. John's in Forest Glen. John Carroll, first Catholic bishop and then first archbishop of the United States, established the congregation about 1774. Sometime in the following decade, he built a small chapel nearby for the growing Catholic community. The Carroll Chapel was reconstructed in 1934. The congregation built, in 1894, the substantial St. John's Church, a Gothic Revival church constructed of red Seneca Sandstone. After the growing St. John's congregation moved to its 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. The church, chapel, and cemetery are in the **Forest Glen Historic District**.⁴¹



Montgomery County Historical Society

Built in 1817, Rockville's St. Mary's Church was the first brick Catholic Church in the county. The church is located in the **Third Addition to Rockville and St. Mary's Church Historic District**.

⁴¹Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Lauriola (Ed.), *Saint John the Evangelist: The History of the Parish, 1774-1984*. Silver Spring, Md, 1984. Catholic residents are said to have established a parish seat in Barnesville as early as 1741. Gail Rothrock (Ed), *Sugarloaf Regional Trails* (1980), p.48; "Barnesville, Maryland—Since 1747," *Montgomery County Story*, August 1972, p.7.



Montgomery County Historical Society

Above: **Seneca Baptist Church** (c1817),
Sentinel, 1964.

Opposite top: **Bethesda Meeting House** (1850).

Opposite bottom: **St. Mary's Church** (1817),
Third Addition to Rockville Historic District. R.
G. Alexander, *Sentinel*, 1954.

Influential property-owner Francis Cassatt Clopper established the first Catholic church in the Gaithersburg area in 1838. A Protestant, Clopper had married Ann Jane Bryant, a fervent Catholic, and their children were reared in the Catholic faith. When the Cloppers moved to the area in 1812, the closest Catholic churches were in Rockville and Barnesville. They donated land from their estate on Clopper Road, and a church was built in 1838, and dedicated in 1846. Built on the same site is the present **St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church**, a Carpenter Gothic style chapel dating from 1883.

Baptist

Dawsonville area residents organized the earliest Baptist congregation in Montgomery County, and one of the earliest in the State of Maryland, about 1772. After meeting for decades in a log structure near Seneca Creek, the congregation built the stone **Seneca Baptist Church**, about 1817. The Seneca Baptist congregation profoundly influenced religious reform movements of the late 1700s, involving separation of church and state.

In the early 1800s, members of the Seneca Baptist Church branched off to found other Baptist churches in the county. Established in 1805, Upper Seneca Baptist Church is the fourth oldest Baptist congregation in Maryland. The original church building was a log structure known as White Oak Chapel, near present Watkins and Log House Roads. The present church building, in the **Cedar Grove Historic District**, was constructed in 1888.

Methodist

One of the oldest Methodist congregations in the County is the Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation organized in 1788, under the leadership of Clarksburg founder John Clark. Located in the **Clarksburg Historic District**, the present Gothic Revival-style church of 1909 succeeds an 1853 brick church and the original log chapel of 1794.

Another early Methodist congregation organized about 1790 near Laytonsville. Ignatius Pigman, the first Montgomery County native to become a Methodist circuit rider, donated an acre of land on which a log church was constructed. In 1830, the congregation replaced their rustic chapel with a brick church of about the same size as the present building. After the first brick church deteriorated, the congregation built the present **Goshen Methodist Episcopal Church**, in 1870. For the last half-century the structure has been known as the Goshen Mennonite Church.⁴²



Montgomery County Historical Society

Above: **Goshen Methodist Church** (1870).

The issue of slavery divided the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844. Members who opposed slavery joined the Methodist Church North, while those who supported the practice of slavery became members of the Methodist Church South. In communities throughout the county residents built new churches to shelter newly fractured congregations. The churches built for congregations of Methodist Churches North and South stand in the **Hyattstown Historic District**.⁴³

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and Methodist Protestant Church reunited. The church became the United Methodist Church in 1965 when Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches combined. Black members, who had previously been segregated within the church, chose to form their own churches. The oldest African-American congregation in the county, **Sharp Street United Methodist Church** was formed in 1822 in a log cabin. Blacks freed by Quakers in the late 1700s organized the church. Quakers contributed to its extensive educational programs. The present building was constructed in 1923. The church takes its name from Baltimore's Sharp Street Church, regarded as the Mother Church of black Methodism.

Opposite: A national series of statues known as **Madonna of the Trail** honors the significant role women played in westward expansion. Montgomery County's Madonna statue stands on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda.

⁴²Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form, Goshen Methodist Episcopal Church. Hiebert and MacMaster, p.26.

⁴³Nina H. Clarke, *History of the 19th Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C.* Vantage Press, 1983. Hyattstown Historic District Inventory Form.

The Methodist Sugar Loaf Mountain Chapel was dedicated for use in 1788. Land donor Thomas Morton stated that the acre of land be “for the Express purpose and intent of building a Preaching house thereon for the use of the people called Methodists”... Morton further specified that church trustees might use “Sugarloaff Chappell to preach or expound God’s holy Word therein, provided always that the said persons preach no other doctrine than is Contained in Mr. Westley’s Notes on the new Testament and his four Volumes of Sermons.”⁴⁴ By the early 1800s, Methodism was the majority religion in the state.

Methodists held outdoor religious revival services at camp meeting grounds at several sites in the county. The most extensive and best-preserved camp meeting is at Washington Grove. Washington Methodists set up camp meeting grounds at Washington Grove in 1873, the opening year of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad. The first few years, camp goers stayed in tents and then built Carpenter Gothic cottages. An open pavilion, called the tabernacle, sheltered services. Washington Grove became an incorporated town in 1937. In the **Washington Grove Historic District**, one can still find early camp meeting cottages, the Assembly Hall, and the site of the Tabernacle, known as the Sacred Circle. In the 1930s, picking up where Washington Grove camp goers left off, Methodists established in Damascus and Spencerville camp meetings that are still active today. The long-lived Emory Grove Camp Meeting began in 1877 and continued into the 1960s.

The Chautauqua movement was an effort to democratize learning within an ecumenical Protestant religious framework by bringing art, science, and literary culture to the masses. The movement grew out of a Methodist Sunday School training camp on Lake Chautauqua, New York. By 1891, there were 52 assemblies nationally. The first Chautauqua in the county was organized in **Glen Echo** in 1891, and operated until 1903. Washington Grove’s Chautauqua Committee had its first season in 1902 and continued to offer well-attended programs for over a decade.⁴⁵

WOMEN

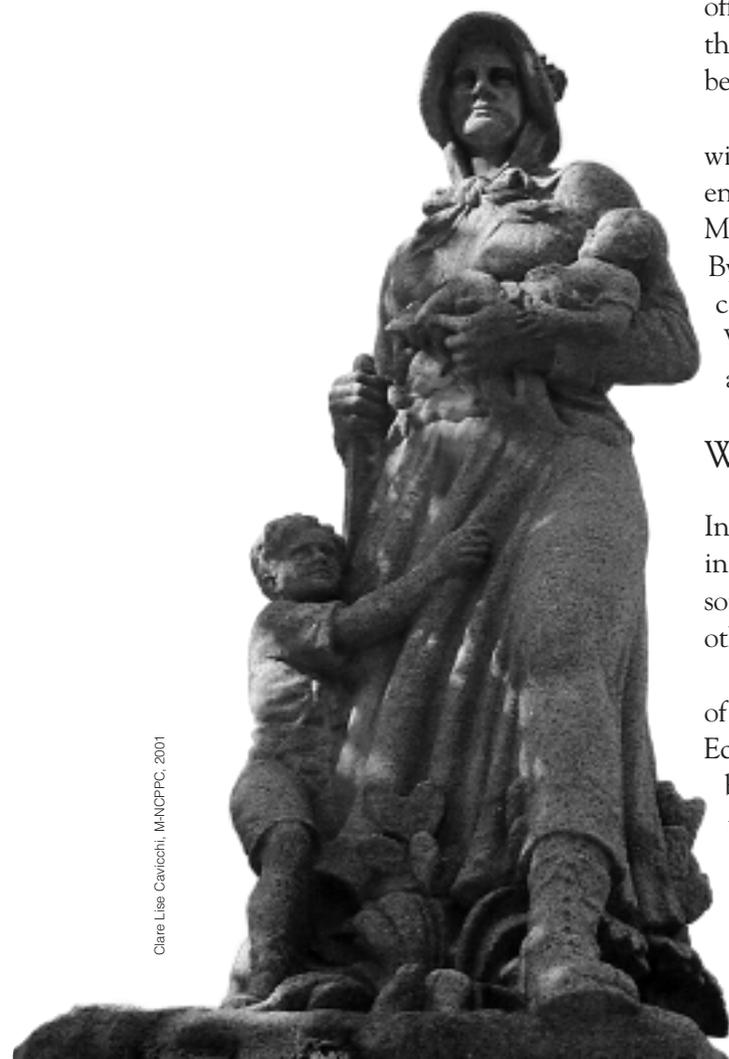
In diverse and remarkable ways, women have made major contributions in the history of Montgomery County. The lives and achievements of some Montgomery County women are legendary, while the significance of others is often overlooked.

The first National Historic Site dedicated to the accomplishments of a woman was the **Clara Barton House** (c1892). The structure, in Glen Echo, served first as a warehouse for disaster relief supplies and, in 1897, became headquarters of the organization and Barton’s residence. From this house, she organized and directed American Red Cross relief efforts for victims of natural disasters and war.⁴⁶

⁴⁴Mark Walston, Sugar Loaf Mountain Chapel, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form, 1978.

⁴⁵Less permanent camp meeting grounds existed from the early 1800s, including Hopewell Chapel, near Damascus, and Federal Chapel, Colesville. Hiebert and MacMaster, p.212. Philip K. Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873–1937*. 1988.

⁴⁶The National Park Service owns the **Clara Barton House**, which is interpreted as a house museum.



Rachel Carson, renowned biologist, naturalist, writer, and poet, drew public attention to the danger of chemical pesticides and herbicides to public health. She was living in the Silver Spring house she designed when she wrote, in 1962, her remarkable book *Silent Spring*. This influential work dramatically altered the way Americans thought about the natural environment and led to the establishment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. Carson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest official honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian. The **Rachel Carson House** (1956) was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993.

Several women from the Sandy Spring community were influential in women's independence and the suffrage movement. Mary Bentley Thomas (1845-1923), as president of the Women's Suffrage of Maryland, played a major role in the struggle for women's rights. Mary Thomas grew up at **Bloomfield** in Sandy Spring and succeeded Sandy Spring resident Caroline Hallowell Miller as president of the state suffrage association.

Elizabeth Ellicott Lea (1797-1858) was an influential writer of one of the best-loved house-keeping guides of the era, *Domestic Cookery, Useful Receipts and Hints to Young Housekeepers*. Betsy Lea, as she was known to the family, was well educated, industrious, and a liberal Quaker. Intending the book to serve as a handbook for the inexperienced newlywed, she published her cookbook at her own expense in 1845. By 1879, 19 editions had been published. Elizabeth Ellicott Lea inherited **Walnut Hill** and expanded the c1820 brick house, installing a bake oven to test her recipes.

Representing less well-known but influential women is the **Madonna of the Trail** statue in Bethesda. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected twelve identical sculptures to commemorate American pioneer women and their role in the country's westward expansion. The Bethesda statue was erected on Wisconsin Avenue in 1929, marking an important route taken by settlers traveling to the West.

Women have played active roles in promoting education and fostering community life, often creating organizations to promote their cause. Two of the earliest, the Women's Mutual Improvement Association (1857) and the Home Interest Society (1870), started in Sandy Spring. The Takoma Park Women's Club established the first public library in the town of Takoma Park, in a donated house in the mid-1930s. The Lincoln Avenue residence is in the present **Takoma Park Historic District**. In Rockville, the Women's Club, established in 1900, created that city's first library in Dr. Stonestreet's Office, now located in the **West Montgomery**



Rachel Carson in her Silver Spring house after the publication of her seminal work, *Silent Spring*, 1963.

Opposite top: The architectural fantasyland known as **National Park Seminary** was a finishing school for young women established in 1894.

Opposite bottom: **Clara Barton House**.



National Park Seminary Catalog, 1937-38. Courtesy: Save Our Seminary

Avenue Historic District.⁴⁷ **National Park Seminary** (1894) in Forest Glen was a finishing school for young women designed to provide skills for managing estates and operating in social venues of wealthy families.

Lilly Moore Stone (1861- 1960) was an outstanding civic leader who founded the Montgomery County Historical Society and a shrewd businesswoman who operated the Stoneyhurst Stone Quarries. Following a disastrous barn fire and the death of her husband, Frank Pelham Stone, in 1921, Stone, in her early sixties, turned to a career in stone quarrying. Under Stone's direction over the next 30 years, Stoneyhurst stone, a granite-like mica schist gained a reputation as an excellent building material known

for its color, versatility, and durability. The stone was used in buildings and structures throughout the metro region, including the Washington Cathedral's Chapel of Aramathea and the National Zoo's birdhouse. Lilly Moore Stone's own residence **Glenmore** (1937), 8311 Comanche Court, is sheathed in Stoneyhurst stone.

A group of Montgomery County women formed the Farm Women's Cooperative as a self-help response to the severe economic conditions of the Great Depression. In 1932, they held the first market in an empty Bethesda storefront, selling fresh produce and home-made products directly to suburban families. The women built the permanent **Farm Women's Market** in 1934 and it has been in continuous use as a farm market ever since.

⁴⁷Dr. Stonestreet's Office was originally located on East Montgomery Avenue. The Montgomery County Historical Society moved the building near the *Beall-Dawson House* and operates it as a museum.



David D. Ballard: HABS, 1976

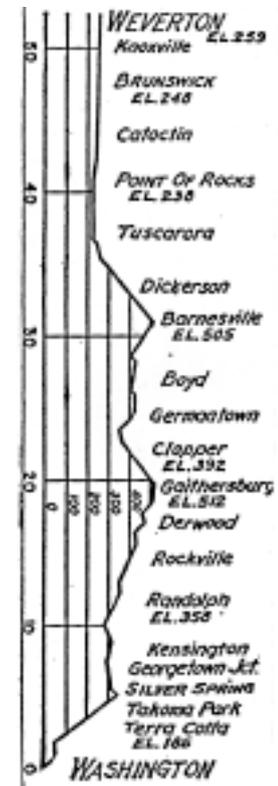


J. Thomas Scharf History of Western Maryland, 1882

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

A metropolitan influence in Montgomery County began when the nation's capital was established in Washington, but mushroomed with the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. Train stops became centers for trade, manufacturing, summer resorts, and suburban communities. While a trip from Rockville to Washington by wagon used to take hours over rough and muddy roads, a train ride took 45 minutes at a cost of 45 cents. The railroad revitalized the farm economy with ready availability of lime fertilizer and readily accessible markets for perishable farm produce. Dairy farmers especially benefited from quick, cheap shipment.⁴⁸

⁴⁸Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Inventory of Historic Sites, Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.



Reproduced from Herbert H. Harwood, Jr. Impossible Challenge (1979)

The Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railway through Montgomery County opened in 1873. This B & O grade profile, from the 1920s, illustrates the elevation of Montgomery County stations along the Metropolitan Branch.

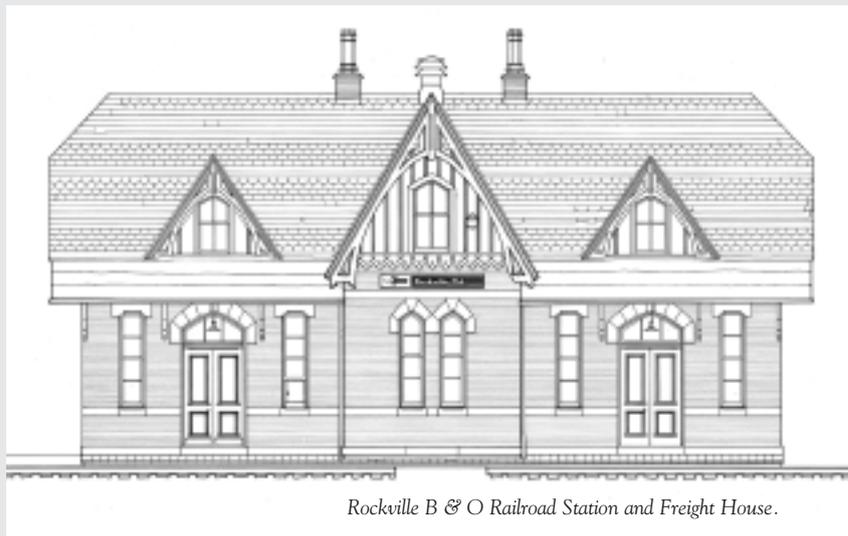
Trains brought city dwellers out for weekends in the country and enabled farmers to ship perishable goods to market. The train came through several times a day, stopping at 13 stations in Montgomery County. Clopper Station vicinity, north of Gaithersburg.



Montgomery County Historical Society

RAILROAD ARCHITECTURE

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company hired Baltimore architect Ephraim Francis Baldwin to develop standardized designs for the railroad stations. Four Baldwin-designed stations in Montgomery County have remained. **Rockville Station** (1873) and **Gaithersburg Station** (1884) are brick structures, while **Kensington Station** (1891) and **Dickerson Station** (1891) are frame. The Colonial Revival **Silver Spring Station** dates from 1945, replacing an 1878 station, a twin of the Rockville station. The new Silver Spring Station was better able to serve the booming suburban population.* Two massive stone viaducts are noteworthy on the Metropolitan Branch, crossing the Great Seneca Creek and the Little Monocacy. Both built in 1906, they are the product of a massive modernization campaign of Leonor Loree who came to the B & O from the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1901. The viaducts are uncommon on B & O lines yet more typically found on the Pennsylvania Railroad, evidence of Loree's influence. The **Waring Viaduct** is a 350 foot-long, three-arch bridge of roughly-dressed granite that supports railroad tracks which are about 70 feet above the Great Seneca Creek. The **Little Monocacy Viaduct** has not yet been evaluated for historic designation.



Rockville B & O Railroad Station and Freight House.

HABS, 1977

*Carlos P. Avery, "The Stations on the Metropolitan Branch, B & O RR," *The Bulletin of the Railroad Station Historical Society*, 15:5 (Sept-Oct 1982). Susan Soderberg, *The Met: A History of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, Its Stations and Towns*, Germantown Historical Society, 1998. The Washington Grove station closed in 1954 and was demolished. In 1997 a waiting shed was constructed, based on a 1906 B & O design. Stations at Garrett Park and Barnesville, demolished in the same era, have been replaced respectively by a Landover waiting shed and a Rockville gas metering station. The Germantown station was rebuilt, after a 1978 fire destroyed the original 1891 station, and was supplemented by a waiting shed in 1998.

DAIRY FARMING

By the early 1900s, half of all the farms within three miles of the railroad were in the dairy business. Large, specialized dairy farms became the county's chief form of agriculture by 1915. When road improvements after World War I made feasible trucking milk into the District of Columbia, dairy farms became common throughout the county. Dairying became a source of wealth through the mid-1900s. Farms grew larger to produce necessary feed for large dairy herds. Constructing a new generation of barns, farmers used concrete, an easily maintained material that met new sanitary requirements. These gambrel-roof, concrete block dairy barns became a prominent feature of the rural landscape.⁴⁹

One of the earliest dairy farmers in Montgomery County was Colonel James Alexander Boyd, a Scottish immigrant who established a 1,100-acre farm in 1873. Boyd was a construction engineer for the building of the B & O Railroad. His estate, known as Bonnie Brae, became a model dairy farm with lush pastures and productive grain fields, thanks to shipped-in

Md.-Va. Milk Producers Assn., *Milk for the Nation's Capital* (1950).
Courtesy: Mary M. Garrett Abert



Maple Spring Farm was, by 1950, one of the leading dairy farms in Maryland. The 19-bay barn was built in 1942.

⁴⁹MacMaster and Hiebert, pp.239-43. Andrea Rebeck, "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century: A Study of Historical and Architectural Themes," Silver Spring: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historical Trust, 1987.

fertilizer and proper drainage. Boyd imported Scottish dairy cows, and built a large house and dairy complex complete with tenant houses and store for employees. Also on his property, he built houses for railroad workers. The railroad station and the community that grew around it became known as Boyds.

SUMMER RESORTS

In search of cooler summer locales, Washington residents flocked to elevated and shaded Montgomery County. In the 1840s, Francis Preston Blair, editor of the *Washington Globe*, became enchanted by a glittering spring east of Rock Creek and established the estate he called Silver Spring. Distinguished Washingtonians who subsequently built summer houses in the area that came to be known as Silver Spring were Crosby Noyes, *Washington Star* editor, and George Washington Riggs, founder of Riggs National Bank. Riggs's house, known today as the **Riggs-Thompson House**, still stands at 711 Pershing Drive.

Later in the century, commuter trains brought summer residents and vacationers to Montgomery County's countryside. The Metropolitan Branch of the B & O began running in 1873. The same year, Methodist church organizers established the Washington Grove Camp Meeting as a summer retreat. Opening for business on the meeting ground in 1881, the Albany Hotel had rooms to house visitors and a dining hall that also served campers. After the close of the last camp meeting in 1924, the hotel fell into disrepair and was torn down.

Further north, in the Ten Mile Creek area near Boyds, farmers expanded houses and speculators built boarding houses to meet the needs of seasonal visitors. Somerset T. Williams built the grand 22-room Burdette hotel known as **High View** (1887). The area's resort business peaked between 1910 and 1915.

Hotels in Rockville offered lodging to salesmen and travelers in the county seat. The **Woodlawn Hotel**, 500 West Montgomery Avenue, was the only Rockville hotel built and operated primarily for the summer resort trade. Built between 1887 and 1890, the 40-room brick hotel (p. 71) was a popular destination for about a decade. In 1909, the building became a private sanitarium, renamed Chestnut Lodge. The structure, located in Rockville's **West Montgomery Avenue Historic District**, remains today a reminder of the heyday of the summer resort hotel.

Many hotels that opened in Montgomery County were financially unsuccessful. Takoma Park developer Benjamin F. Gilbert opened the 160-room North Takoma Hotel in 1892-3, on today's Montgomery College site. In 1908 it became the Bliss Electrical School, but was destroyed by fire the same year, just after it was renovated. The Glen Sligo Hotel of 1900 offered a roller coaster and bowling alleys, yet operated at a loss and was sold in 1902.



Andrea Rebeck, M-NCPPC, 1987.

The gambrel roof dairy barn that became the icon of the American farm through much of the 20th century enjoyed its greatest popularity in the 1930s-40s. Francis Windolph built a huge concrete block dairy barn on his Dawsonville farm about 1930.

*Francis Preston Blair's estate, known as Silver Spring, was established about 1842. The Gothic Revival-influenced house, seen in this 1920s photograph, was razed in 1955. Surviving are the **Acorn Park** gazebo and the Silver Spring itself. Blair's son James Blair subdivided his own house from the estate grounds, which he called the Moorings and is known today as the **Jesup Blair House** and **Local Park**.*



John C. Proctor, *Washington Past and Present*, 1930. Courtesy: Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

The hotel became a casino and, when protesting residents led the Town of Takoma Park to tear down the streetcar access, owners were forced to close and the hotel was demolished.⁵⁰

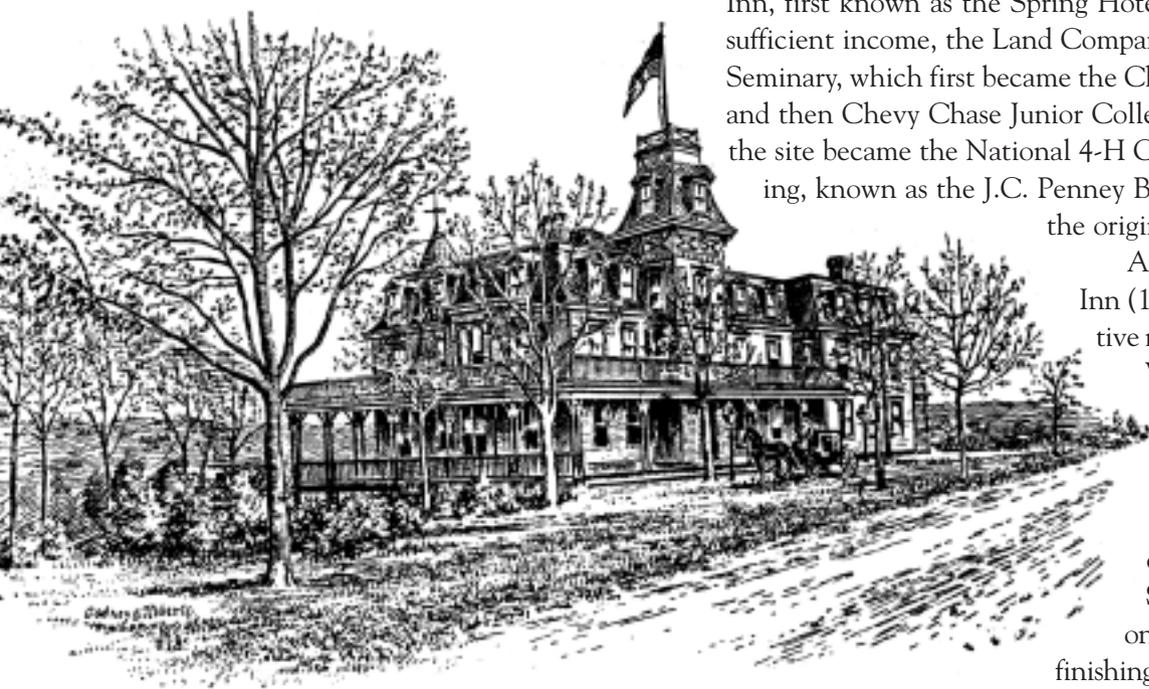
In 1893, the Chevy Chase Land Company built the Chevy Chase Inn, first known as the Spring Hotel. When the hotel failed to bring in sufficient income, the Land Company leased the hotel as a Young Ladies Seminary, which first became the Chevy Chase College for Young Ladies, and then Chevy Chase Junior College. After the college closed in 1950, the site became the National 4-H Center Headquarters. The main building, known as the J.C. Penney Building (1976), is a reconstruction of the original hotel structure.

An ornate Stick Style hotel, the Forest Inn (1887), was the centerpiece of a speculative real estate development in Forest Glen. When the hotel proved unsuccessful, John and Vesta Cassedy purchased the site and converted it, in 1894, into a finishing school for young women. The hotel became the centerpiece of the **National Park Seminary** campus. The facility became one of the most popular and exclusive finishing schools in the Washington area.

Envisioning a Potomac River resort reminiscent of the Catskills, the Baltzley brothers built a majestic hotel in 1889 called the Glen Echo Café (p. 38). Designed in a rustic style, the immense, sprawling hotel was constructed of rough-hewn logs from 30,000 trees. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1890, after only one summer season. The following year, however, Glen Echo was chosen for an assembly site for a Chautauqua, part of a national circuit of educational and cultural events. In 1911, a streetcar company transformed the site into **Glen Echo Park**, an amusement park that attracted visitors into the 1960s.

One of the few financially successful hotels was the magnificent Cabin John Hotel. Rosa Bobinger opened a lunchroom to serve co-workers of her husband, Joseph, a stonemason engaged

in building the **Cabin John Bridge**. An engineering marvel of its day, it was the largest single-span masonry bridge in the world. In 1873, the Bobingers built a modest lodge, and expanded the operation to eventually create a 40-bedroom hotel with two 100-seat banquet halls, three bars, and numerous smaller halls and shops. The hotel, which reached its peak of popularity from the 1890s to 1910, remained open until 1925 and was destroyed by fire in 1931.⁵¹



Cabin John Hotel, early postcard view.

Somerset T. Williams built a 22-room hotel in 1887, naming it **High View** in honor of its setting on a knoll overlooking Ten Mile Creek Valley. Located in the community of Burdette, just outside Boyds, Williams' inn was also known as the Burdette Hotel.



Kimberly Frothro, Traceries.

⁵⁰Ellen R. Marsh and Mary Anne O'Boyle. *Takoma Park: Portrait of a Victorian Suburb*. Takoma Park, Md: Historic Takoma, Inc, 1984.

⁵¹Andrea Price Stevens, "Suburban Summer Resorts, 1870-1910," *The Montgomery County Story*, 24:3 (August 1981).

CASTLES

From the late 19th century to the early 20th century, several imaginative property owners in Montgomery County built fantastical structures designed to resemble medieval castles. The Baltzley brothers Edwin and Edward envisioned the Potomac as Montgomery County's answer to Germany's Rhineland. The brothers built stone castles to serve as models for their Glen Echo community. The Baltzleys bought promoted the scenic views of the river and opened a series of granite quarries. Houses were built beginning in 1890. Still standing are the **Baltzley Castle**, **Charles Castle**, and **Kimmel House**. Also dating from about 1890 is the **Glen Echo Chautauqua Tower**. A prolific inventor, Edwin Baltzley made his fortune on a patented mechanical eggbeater. The brothers, beginning in 1888, purchased over 900 acres and platted the Glen Echo Heights subdivision. A disastrous 1890 fire at the Baltzley's Glen Echo Cafe and rumors of malaria put an end to the Baltzley's real estate business.

Two castles were built near Forest Glen as part of the private girl's school. John and Vesta Cassedy established National Park Seminary, creating one of the most popular and exclusive finishing schools in the Washington area where 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, including the English Garden Castle. The structure is in the **National Park Seminary Historic District**. Near the railroad station, James Ament, headmaster succeeding John Cassedy, created a complex of stores known as The Castle. Located at 10 Post Office Road, the structure began as a general store and post office in 1883. Several small stores, post office, and apartments were united in a castle theme created by granite crenellations and turrets. The store complex is located in the **Capitol View Park Historic District**.

Clarence and Daisy Calhoun built Rossdhu Castle (1927) near Rock Creek in Chevy Chase. The residence was allegedly designed to resemble the family's ancestral home in Scotland. Though the main house was demolished in 1957, the matching gatehouse residence still stands near Woodbine Road and Beech Drive.



The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

*Edwin and Edward Baltzley commissioned Philadelphia architect Theophilus P. Chandler, Jr. to design a series of castle-like structures for their Glen Echo Heights community. The brothers envisioned the region as America's version of the German Rhineland. Chandler's rendering, made between 1890 and 1891, depicts a residence that bears similarity with the **Kimmel House** on Mohican Road.*



Hazel Reynolds Collection, Park Historians Office, M-NGPFC.

Glen Echo Café Entrance, c1890.

RAILROAD ERA SUBURBANIZATION

After the Civil War, polluted drinking water, disease epidemics, and shortage of affordable housing plagued Washington residents. Developers and the B & O Railroad promoted Montgomery County land in the 1880s by emphasizing fresh water, freedom from disease, picturesque scenery, and low-cost housing. These virtues are reflected in the names speculators



Railroad Crossing in **Takoma Park** in the early 20th century.

chose for the communities they platted along the railroad line: Takoma Park (1883), Forest Glen, Capitol View Park, Garrett Park each established in 1887, and Kensington (1890). By 1891, a dozen communities were platted along the railroad line. Architects designed houses to set the tone for new development. For \$6.45 a month, a Garrett Park resident could travel the 12½-mile route and arrive at Washington's Union Station in 34 minutes. The first railroad suburb in the county was **Linden**, platted in 1873, the year the Metropolitan Branch opened. Locals referred to Linden as Yankee Town for the predominance of residents from northern states.⁵²

Land in Montgomery County was cheaper than in the District of Columbia. For \$4,000, in 1903, a person could buy a half-acre lot in the District of Columbia and get "eighteen feet front, a six-room brick house, a lawn as big as a small hall bedroom, and a back yard three long strides each way." For the same amount, in Takoma Park,

*"he will get eight rooms and an attic, a front lawn bigger than his entire town lot, side lawns thirty feet wide, and a back lot a hundred feet each way. He will find three or four good oak trees, already on his lot, and can plant maples or poplars or willows, ten of them if he likes, and not crowd them. He can have twenty fruit trees in his back yard, or he can raise two hundred chickens."*⁵³

The B & O Railroad promoted suburban development, publishing brochures and maps promoting "the pleasures as well as the advantages of a home in the country."

By 1888, the company offered half-price freight of construction material and furnishings destined for sites along the Metropolitan Branch. During this era, builders used triple-beaded, tongue and groove lumber to construct houses in railroad communities. This distinctive lumber, which was likely transported in bulk from Washington's lumberyards, was creatively used for interior paneling, exterior siding, and porch ceilings.⁵⁴

⁵²Andrea Price Stevens, "Suburban Summer Resorts, 1870-1910," *The Montgomery County Story*, 24:3 (August 1981).

⁵³M-NCPPC research files, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Schedule, June 1891. Fava Naeff & Co. Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, 1890.

⁵⁴*Washington Times*, "Takoma Park: Unique Among Washington Suburbs," 1903.

⁵⁴Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, "Suburban Homes along the line of the Picturesque B & O." 1888. Triple-beaded lumber is found in Linden (2312 Warren Court, 1874), Washington Grove (127 and 201 Grove Avenue, c1883-4), and Garrett Park (4711 Waverly Avenue, 1889).

Though many architectural styles are represented in railroad suburbs, including Second Empire, Stick Style, and Shingle Style, the leading design of early suburban houses was Queen Anne (a discussion of architectural styles follows in Chapter Two). These substantial, turreted, asymmetrical residences dominate the early development of communities such as Kensington, Takoma Park, Somerset, and Garrett Park.

Despite the conveniences inherent in railroad suburbs, decades passed before the subdivisions fully developed. With the intent of preserving open space around their residences, many families purchased two or more lots, with houses straddling lot lines. Many were summer residences for wealthy Washington families. As historian Andrea Rebeck wrote, "Commuting by train proved not to be as convenient as originally proposed...The train schedule, travel time and fares which increased the farther one went from the city line, discouraged moderate and middle income families from building homes too far out on the rail line."⁵⁵

STREETCAR ERA SUBURBANIZATION

In the late 1890s, Montgomery County real estate speculators began to use streetcar technology and resorts to draw residents to new suburban communities. Chevy Chase was the county's first and most influential streetcar suburb planned and developed between 1892 and 1930. It was the most visionary investment in Montgomery County real estate. Upscale residences in a comprehensively planned environment set the tone for early twentieth century neighborhoods throughout northwest Washington and southern Montgomery County. Architecturally, **Chevy Chase Village** contains the county's highest concentration of outstanding architect-designed suburban houses rendered in post-Victorian styles of the period 1890-1930. Together, the surviving plan and architecture of Chevy Chase Village represents one of the most intact and important examples of suburban planning and architectural expression built in the region before World War II.

Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada incorporated the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1890 and arranged for the purchase of land along a proposed streetcar line. From the beginning, Newlands sought to develop a singular



The Chevy Chase Land Company extended Connecticut Avenue into Montgomery County and established the streetcar line known as Rock Creek Railway. This view of Connecticut Avenue, taken about 1915, looks south from Bradley Lane.



⁵⁵Andrea Rebeck, p.3.



Chevy Chase Historical Society. Courtesy: Aria Mesrobian

neighborhood of the finest quality. Newlands' comprehensive plan included zoning, architectural design guidelines, landscaping, and infrastructure, including construction of the Rock Creek Railway, trestle bridges over Rock Creek, water and sewer systems, and an electric powerhouse. The \$1,250,000 corporate investment in the infrastructure of the region was a remarkable statement of faith in the growth and progress of the national capital area and created the foundation for regional community building on an unprecedented comprehensive scale. Taken as a whole, the buildings in Chevy Chase Village—sited along the planned, curving street system and landscaped grounds—represent an important cultural expression of American wealth and power in the early twentieth century and reflect in their designs the optimism and comfort considered central to domestic architecture of the post-Victorian American suburb.⁵⁶

In all, Montgomery County had six major streetcar lines with terminals at Takoma Park, Forest Glen, Kensington, Rockville, Great Falls, and Cabin John. To attract riders to streetcar lines, developers created amusement parks at the terminus, such as Takoma Park's Wildwood Park, Chevy Chase Lake, and Glen Echo Park. The Tenallytown and Rockville line (1890) operated Bethesda Park amusement park at its northern terminus that was extended to the Rockville fairgrounds and then, in 1904, to Woodlawn Hotel. The community of **Somerset** was platted in 1890 along this line, which is present day Wisconsin Avenue.

Fava Naeff and Co. Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, 1890.

⁵⁶For a comprehensive history of Chevy Chase, see Elizabeth Jo Lampl and Kimberly Prothro Williams, *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital*. Silver Spring, Md: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1998.



Library of Congress

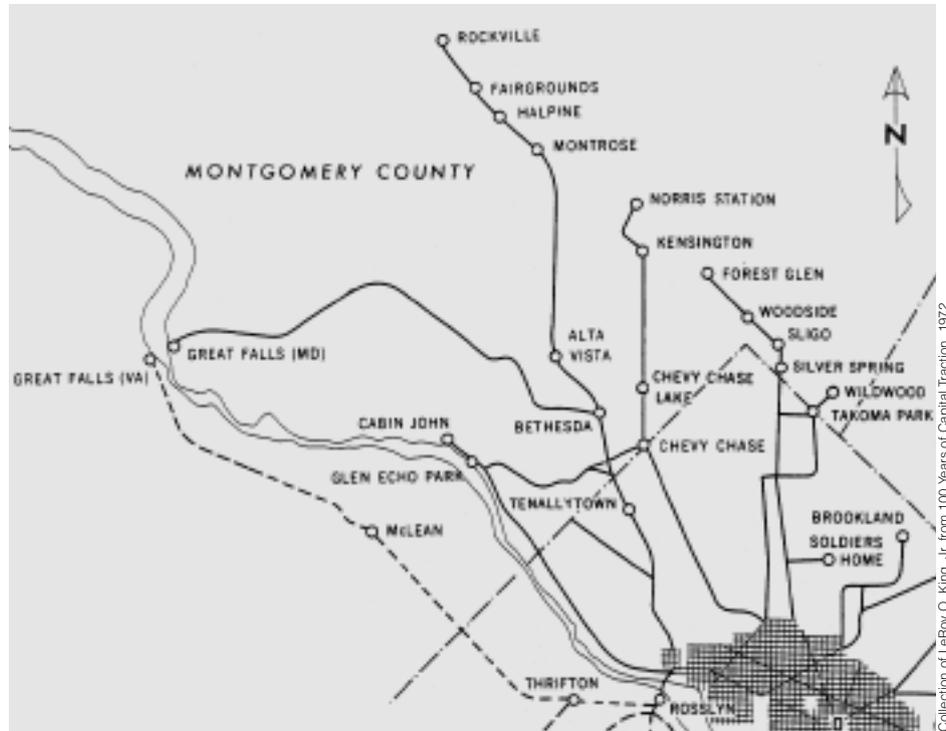
Communities that had been platted in the railroad era blossomed in the streetcar era as Montgomery County's population grew in the 1920s. In Takoma Park, eight subdivisions opened along trolley lines and the population soared, making the community the tenth largest incorporated town in Maryland by 1922. The houses built in this era reflect changing American tastes in architecture, from the elaborate ornamentation of the late 19th century to more practical, simplified designs. Scores of Craftsman style bungalows, with low sloping roofs and exposed rafter tails, came to characterize Takoma Park streetscapes.⁵⁷

RECREATION: HUNT & COUNTRY CLUBS, PARKS, & BASEBALL

In the 1920s and 1930s, Montgomery County became a recreational playground for Metropolitan area residents. It was the era of the so-called "white collar invasion" of the county, when Washingtonians with increasing leisure time joined country clubs, converted working farms into horse farms, and went to baseball games.

The image of country living came in part from prominent Washingtonians who had established estates in Montgomery County. In the early 1900s, country estates designed by some of the nation's most accomplished architects graced Rockville Pike and dotted the countryside from North Chevy Chase to North Bethesda and Potomac. One of the earliest of several brick Classical Revival mansions was the **Charles Corby Estate** (c1914), now known as Strathmore Hall. Corby, a bread manufacturer and inventor, hired Charles Barton Keen to enlarge an existing house, creating a grand residence with oak paneling, parquet floors, stone fireplaces, and a two-story music room.

John Russell Pope, one of the nation's premier architects, designed two notable Classical Revival residences in Montgomery County. Pope's **Wilkins Estate** (c1917), near Rockville,



Streetcar Lines connecting Montgomery County and Washington, D.C.

When the facility opened in 1934, **Meadowbrook Stables** was hailed as one of the finest saddle clubs in the East.



⁵⁷The history of the streetcar is presented at the National Capital Trolley Museum in Wheaton.



Lois Snyderman, 1991

Washington architect John J. Whelan designed the Beaux Arts style **Marwood** (1931). Original owners Samuel K. Martin III, heir to a Chicago fortune, and his wife Jane C. Martin entertained lavishly at Marwood, when they weren't living abroad. The Martins had a theatre installed for the amusement of family and friends.

Above right: Walter "Big Train" Johnson (1887-1946) was the fastest baseball pitcher in the history of the game when he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, in 1936.



National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

summer home of Washington Post publisher John F. Wilkins, was featured in *The American Architect* magazine. A decade later, Pope designed **Woodend** (1927-8), in North Chevy Chase, for Chester Wells, a naval officer, and Marian Dixon Wells, Australian heiress. Nearby, a protégé of Pope, architect Edward Clarence Dean designed David Fairchild's Arts and Crafts and Japanese-influenced residence known as **In the Woods** (1910).

Wolcott Waggaman used Italian villa imagery in his design of financier Lyman and Elizabeth Kendall's **Kentsdale** residence (1928), built on a 1,000-acre estate in Potomac. On a site overlooking the Potomac River, John J. Whelan designed the monumental **Marwood** (1931) in high-style Beaux Arts style.

Montgomery County was home to two renowned baseball pitchers. Jack Bentley, born in Sandy Spring and owner of **Oakleigh**, played for the New York Giants. Walter "Big Train" Johnson, pitching for the Washington Senators, owned a farm in Bethesda known today as the **Walter Johnson House**. Bentley and Johnson competed against each other in the 1924 World Series. Johnson ultimately led his team to victory in the game that went to 11 innings. After retiring from his baseball career, Johnson served two terms as a County Commissioner.

The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission was created in 1927 to manage a system of stream valley parks and oversee development of adjacent land. By 1932, there were 12 golf and country clubs in Montgomery County, which were three-quarters of the total clubs in the Metropolitan area. Accompanying some clubs were residential developments, such as Manor Park (1927) and Kenwood (1928). The Potomac Hunt moved to Montgomery County in 1931 when the Washington Riding and Hunt Club moved its kennels from Northwest Washington to Potomac. Since 1980, the Potomac Hunt has been quartered on Peach Tree Road, near



Claire Lise Cavicchi, M-NOPPC, 1998

Barnesville.⁵⁸ **Meadowbrook Stables** opened in 1934 in Rock Creek Park, Silver Spring, and hosted local, national, and international horse shows and festivities. Hailed as one of the finest saddle clubs in the East, the facility included a large Colonial Revival horse barn, outdoor riding ring, and blacksmith shop.

DAWN OF THE AUTOMOBILE

At the turn of the 20th century, the automobile was an expensive novelty for the rich. Two decades later, the availability of mass-produced automobiles led to their widespread use. From 1920 to 1930, the number of registered cars in the nation more than tripled. By the end of that decade, one of every five residents in Montgomery County owned a car. The automobile age brought a new set of building types and development patterns. Builders designed roadside architecture to be recognized from behind the windshield of a moving automobile. Developers subdivided tracts of land away from previously settled railroad and streetcar lines.⁵⁹

⁵⁸A Washington Hunt traversed downtown Washington after its organization in 1828. The Chevy Chase Hunt evolved from the Dunblane Hunt Club, operating from 1892 until about 1912. The Washington Riding and Hunt Club had organized hunts in Rock Creek Park from the 1920s until the kennels were moved to Potomac in 1931. The name of the hunt changed in 1938 from the Riding and Hunt Club to the Potomac Hunt. Margo McConihe (Ed), "By-days and Bygone Days with the Potomac Hunt," in *History of Potomac*, Potomac Almanac, 1970. Austin H. Kiplinger, "The Potomac Hunt—A Few Facts," in *The How Not to Book of Country Life*, Montevideo, Christmas 1973.

⁵⁹Chester H. Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985. Andrea Rebeck, "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century," 1987.



Lake County (IL) Discovery Museum; Curt Teich Postcard Archives.

A prime example of commercial roadside fantasies popular in the early 20th century, the Cider Barrel (c1922) promoted sweet cider in the era of Prohibition, when alcohol was banned. Postcard, c1922.

By the end of the 1920s, one in every five county residents owned an automobile. Photograph, c1926.



Montgomery County Historical Society

AUTOMOBILE-AGE ARCHITECTURE

As autos became more common, owners of general stores such as Poole's Store installed gas pumps to serve motoring tourists. Built in 1927, **Bonfield's Service Station** was an early establishment built to serve to growing automobile culture. Bonfield's has the same two story, gable-front form as Poole's Store. This two-story building form was commonly used for commercial structures in Montgomery County since the mid-1800s. Bonfield's had a gas pump out front and an open-air grease pit on the side.

By the late 1920s, drive-through gas stations began to emerge on the scene. The Kensington Service Center (1926), in the **Kensington Historic District**, has a Bungalow-type form typical of these early buildings. A modest one-story office has a supported porch-like canopy sheltering the gas pumps.

By the 1930s, the most popular styling for gas stations included domestic imagery. Stations that looked like tiny houses fit in well with residential areas. In Takoma Park, the Tudor Revival mode was chosen for Glickman's Service Station (c1932), complete with stone-trimmed openings, half-timbered gables, and slate roof.

Just up the street, and dating from the same era, is the only remaining Art Deco gas station in the county, strategically located at the corner of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues. Both of these gas stations are in the **Takoma Park Historic District**.

One of the earliest shopping centers designed to accommodate the car, the **Silver Theatre and Shopping Center** in Silver Spring included a gas station surrounded by parking lot and affording a convenient way for drivers to get on and off the road. The gas station no longer stands. The Shopping Center is discussed in more detail in the following section on Automobile Suburbanization, which includes a discussion of early twentieth century movie theaters.

An outstanding example of early roadside architecture is found on Frederick Road (Rt. 355) near Germantown. Andrew Baker built the **Cider Barrel**, in 1926, to advertise his apple and cider business (opposite). Seeking customers among the droves of car travelers heading out of Washington, Baker carefully selected the Frederick Road site for his retail store, though his orchard was near the railroad community of Germantown. The oversize, streamline barrel quickly became a landmark and remains the beacon for a thriving roadside business today.

During this era, standardized hamburger stands became popular, serving a growing quick-lunch market. The first hamburger chain was White Castle, whose first stand opened in 1921. Following on its success, the Little Tavern chain opened in the Washington area. The restaurants drew on the nostalgia of domestic imagery with designs based on English cottage. Bethesda's **Little Tavern** is best preserved of those in Montgomery County. Two other Little Tavern structures still stand in Silver Spring.

One of the most popular wayside eateries in the early 1900s was the diner. In addition to offering a recognizable image to attract customers, diners came fully equipped with factory installed appliances, furniture, and décor. One of the earliest diner manufacturers was Jerry O'Mahony, established in 1913. The company was responsible for constructing Silver Spring's **Tastee Diner**, in 1946. The Streamline Moderne style is 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. Owner Eddie Warner operated Tastee Diners in Rockville (1932), Bethesda (1939), Silver Spring (1946), and Laurel (1951). In addition to the Silver Spring diner, the Laurel and Bethesda models are still in place, though the latter has been extensively altered.



Jack Boucher, HABIS, 1987.

The metal streamlined sign announcing Bonfield's Service Station (1921) heralded the fast pace of the automobile age. For 70 years, Walter Bonfield operated the MacArthur Boulevard business, living in the upper-level apartment. Bonfield expanded his automobile repair service to provide gasoline, installing gas pumps in 1936.

SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE AUTOMOBILE ERA

During the 1930s, Montgomery County's population rapidly increased as the Federal work force grew under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. During this decade, the population more than doubled, growing from 34,921 to 83,912.⁶⁰ High demand for housing among Washington workers coupled with increased use of the automobile led to development of new areas of the county. Much of the new development in the years before World War II was located near the District line. Single-family dwellings were the predominant housing type, yet multi-family housing complexes began to emerge.⁶¹

Garden apartments became a common multi-family housing type in the 1930s. In contrast to towering urban apartments with single entry and long hallways, garden apartments were a smaller-scale complex of 3- to 4-story structures. Several entrances in a cluster of buildings helped foster a sense of community, creating a mini-neighborhood. The first garden apartments in the county were the **Falkland Apartments**, built in 1936 at the intersection of 16th Street and East-West Highway in Silver Spring. Falkland Apartments marked the advent of large-scale community design and building as well as the beginning of unified site planning carefully fitted to the terrain. The Colonial-Revival Cupola Building is representative of this apartment complex and typical in its traditional styling of the majority of garden apartments. Less common were modernistic Art Deco style apartments of which **Montgomery Arms** is a prime example. Designed by Washington architect George T. Santmyers, who specialized in apartment houses, Montgomery Arms showcases modern materials and techniques including glass block, corner windows, and geometric machine-influenced design. The apartments represent the development of Silver Spring as a major suburban center.⁶²

As the residential development of Silver Spring grew, the commercial district expanded. Throughout the 1920s, a number of substantial new commercial buildings were constructed, primarily along Georgia Avenue. By the 1930s, over sixty stores had opened in Silver Spring and formed an almost continuous ribbon of development. The southeast corner of Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road became the site of one of the most comprehensive and innovative retail developments in the region - the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center.

The **Silver Theatre and Shopping Center**, which opened in 1938, provides a rare example of an early planned neighborhood shopping center with parking integrated into the complex (pp. 48-49). This design exemplifies the cultural, economic and social history of Montgomery County and the Washington region in the 20th century as car-oriented shopping complexes replaced smaller-scale commercial development.

The Rockville Post Office is one of three federally-funded post offices built in Montgomery County in the New Deal era.

⁶⁰Hiebert and MacMaster, p.302.

⁶¹In contrast with Washington, D.C., however, Montgomery County limited the number of multi-family complexes in this era. In 1941, County Commissioners passed a zoning moratorium prohibiting apartment buildings.

⁶²Michael Copp, "Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form: Falkland Apartments," #36/12, Falkland Tenants Assn, 1980. Carol Kennedy, "Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form: Montgomery Arms Apartments," #36/7-2, M-NCPPC, 1990.



NEW DEAL ARCHITECTURE

During the 1930s, Montgomery County benefited from President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. One of the first three projects insured by the newly created Federal Housing Authority (FHA) was **Falkland Apartments** in Silver Spring, built between 1936 and 1938. Falkland embodied the improved rental housing design and site layout that the FHA developed and encouraged in this Post-Depression era. For more on the Falkland Apartments in the context of multi-unit housing, see the following section on automobile-era suburbanization.

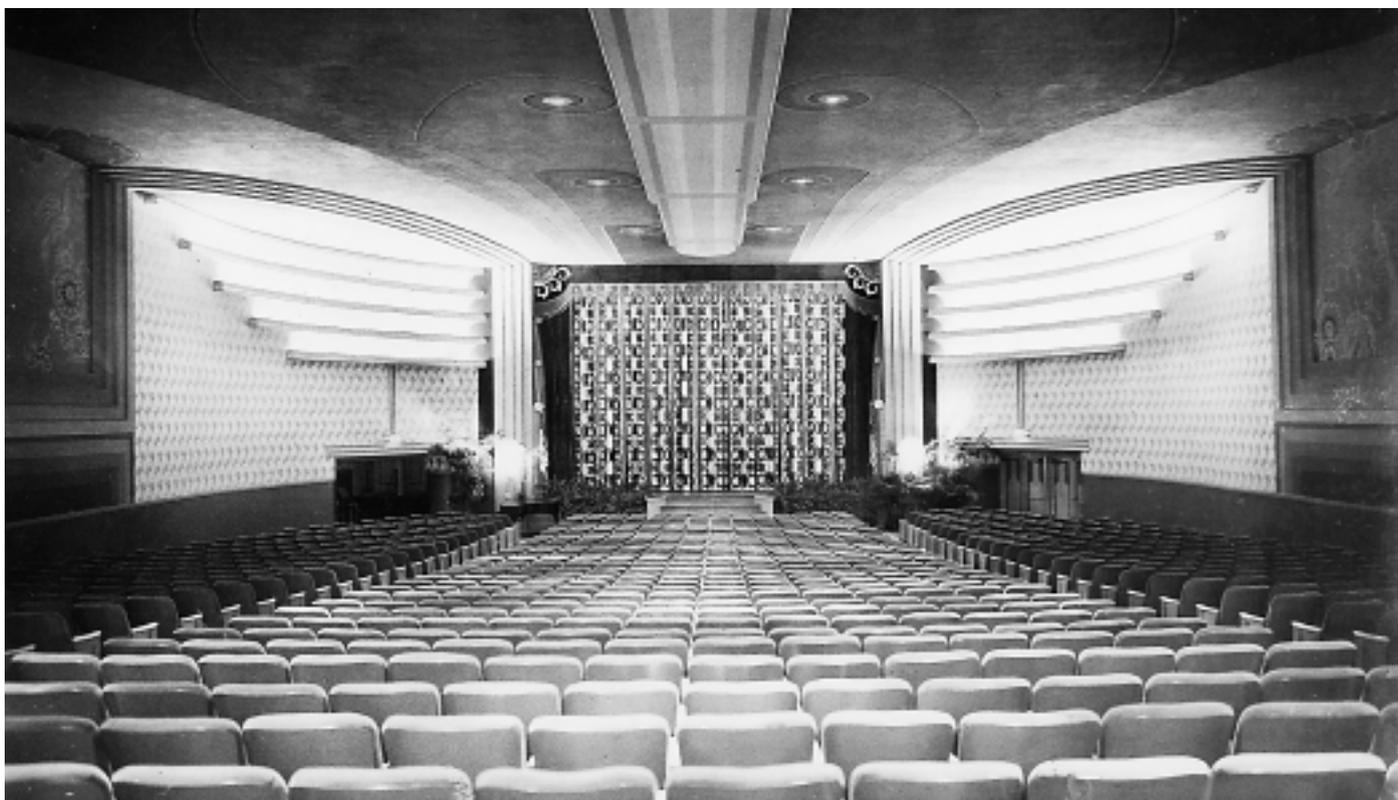
A prominent theme in New Deal architecture was regionalism, the intent to design buildings compatible with local styles, traditions, and materials. The Works Progress Administration funds built three post offices in the county, in Bethesda, Rockville, and Silver Spring. The **Bethesda Post Office** (1938) is built of locally-quarried Stoneyhurst stone. The **Rockville Post Office** (1939), in the Montgomery County Courthouse Historic District, is limestone and brick, reflective of the adjacent 1931 Grey Courthouse. The Neoclassical **Silver Spring Post Office** (1936) is contemporaneous with the similarly traditionally styled Falkland Apartments, predating the modernistic Silver Theatre and Shopping Center. The Department of the Treasury hired artists to paint murals for the lobbies of each of these post offices. Depicting local historical scenes, the murals were designed to boost civic pride in this post-Depression era. In 1997, the Silver Spring mural was installed at the Silver Spring Community Library. The **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Senior High School** (p. 25) and **Montgomery Blair High School** were both built in 1935 under the Public Works Administration.

Many historic structures in Montgomery County were recorded through a New Deal program known as the Historic American Building Survey (HABS). The Department of Interior established HABS in 1933 as a make-work program for architects, draftsmen and photographers. The first surveyors were charged with documenting a representative sampling of America's architectural heritage. Some 75 sites in Montgomery County have been recorded through the HABS program.

Innovative, motor-age elements of the complex included the parking areas at the front and rear, stores with double entrances so that they could be entered from the front or the rear parking areas, and a gas station that once stood at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road.

The streamline design of the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center, by architect John Eberson, is symbolic of the dynamic industrial and technological advances of the period. The theater interior design, for example, makes reference to nautical design themes. Eberson, a nationally recognized theater architect, also designed the modernistic **Bethesda Theatre** (1938) on Wisconsin Avenue. The theaters have futuristic designs built with modern materials. Highlighting blond brick walls are linear bands of black brick. Aluminum and glass marquees race across the front façade. While the Bethesda Theatre was planned as part of a larger shopping complex, the project was downsized with only single flanking stores, yet it included a free 500-car parking lot. The 1,000 seat theater provided state-of-the-art facilities, including high fidelity sound system, the latest projection equipment, and air conditioning.

The opening of the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center began a building boom that revolutionized the character of Silver Spring. The post World War II era brought a flurry of commercial construction, much of which was also in the streamlined Moderne style. These new buildings formed Montgomery County's first large-scale downtown area. The Silver Theatre and Shopping Center was at the head of major commercial changes in Silver Spring. In 1949, a reporter for the *Washington Times-Herald* summed up the tremendous changes: "...ten years ago, there was only 6,000 people to shop in Silver Spring, and District merchants called it a 'country town.' This year there are 60,000 and...nearly seven times



The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection, The Wolfsonian-Florida International University, Miami Beach, Florida.



Lake County (IL) Discovery Museum, Curt Teich Postcard Archives, 6B-H353

The Silver Theatre and Shopping Center complex, which opened in 1938, is a rare example of an early planned neighborhood shopping center designed for the automobile. A parking lot and gas station were integral features of the complex. Postcard, 1946.

Silver Theatre interior, 1938.

that number to drive to Silver Spring to buy...Within this wonderful decade, Silver Spring has become the largest business community in Maryland, excepting only Baltimore.”⁶³

TECHNOLOGY – FEDERAL AND INDEPENDENT SITES

The Federal government selected Montgomery County for institutional complexes beginning in the 1930s. The **Bethesda Naval Hospital Tower complex** (pg. 50) was built in the early years of World War II as the U.S. Navy’s principal center of medical practice. Franklin Delano Roosevelt selected the Bethesda site and provided the design concept. The National Institutes of Health was established in 1938, and was expanded nine years later to include the adjacent George Freeland Peter Estate. The Naval

Surface Warfare Center built the **David W. Taylor Model Basin** (1937-40) on a 186-acre tract in Cabin John. The facility enabled ship-builders, both governmental and commercial, to test ship designs using scale models.

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey’s Edwin Smith, an astronomer and geophysicist, established observatories in Rockville and Gaithersburg in the 1890s. Smith built the USGS’s first astronomical observatory for the study of latitude variation, in a small Forest Avenue building in Rockville’s **West Montgomery Avenue Historic District**. The **Gaithersburg Latitude Observatory** (1899) is one of six international observatories established by the International Geodetic Association to study the nature of the Earth’s wobble on its rotational axis. In 1957, the Federal Government purchased 555 acres of Gaithersburg land for the relocation of the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Technological innovations in the early 1900s are represented in Montgomery County’s historic sites. Two Wheaton sites are landmarks in the history of communications technologies. The **Jenkins Broadcasting Station** (1929) was the center of operations for television pioneer Charles Francis Jenkins. With its twin 100-foot steel transmitting towers, Jenkins’

⁶³Gwen Marcus, “Approved and Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Silver Theatre and Shopping Center, and Taste Diner,” M-NCPPC, 1994.



Lake County (IL) Discovery Museum, Curt Teich Postcard Archives

Radio Movie Broadcast Station, operating from 1929 until 1932, provided one of the earliest regularly scheduled television services in the country.

In contrast to the traditional residential appearance of the Jenkins Station, the **WTOP Transmitter Building** (1939-40) had a futuristic design reflecting a new era in radio technology. Located on University Boulevard, the transmitter was designed by Washington architect E. Burton Corning. The state-of-the-art facility broadcast at 50,000 watts, the maximum power the Federal Communications Commission allowed, becoming the Washington area's most powerful broadcasting station.

THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC SITES

The dual nature that has characterized the county's past remains a defining feature of Montgomery County today. Newcomers are often astonished by the contrast of working farms and high-tech companies, rural villages and urban downtowns.

Northern regions in the county have retained a rural character into the 21st century. One third of the county's land, about 90,000 acres, is protected farmland in the Agricultural Reserve. Of this land, about 50,000 acres is preserved farmland, protected by such programs as Transfers of Development Rights and state and local easements. The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair remains the largest county fair in Maryland. In addition to protected farmland, the County has 45,000 acres of local and federal parkland.

The southern and central portions of the county have an increasingly urban and contemporary character. While major population centers in the mid-1900s were in down-County areas, concentrated in Silver Spring,

The Bethesda Naval Hospital Tower (1939-42), 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, is a modernistic Art Deco complex designated on the National Register of Historic Places. 1943 view.

Opposite: When this photograph was taken in 1917, water flowed in the Silver Spring, near the Acorn Gazebo on Francis Preston Blair's 42-acre estate.

Today, the newly restored spring and gazebo are protected in an urban park near the revitalized Silver Spring Central Business District.



Montgomery County Historical Society



Clare Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 2001

Bethesda, and Wheaton, in recent years more and more people have been moving to communities in the county's center. The majority of growth in the last decade has occurred in the Germantown and Gaithersburg areas, near the High-Tech Corridor created along Interstate 270. The county's population rose from 164,000 in 1950 to 855,000 in 2001, and is expected to reach 1 million by the year 2020.⁶⁴ Increased development in northern parts of the county threatens its rural character. Farmland and woodland have been increasingly subdivided for residential use. The intensive development of the land for residential and commercial use; the loss of agricultural open space; and the increasing impact of roads and traffic on what was once a rural area presents major challenges for the preservation of remaining historic resources. An average of 3,500 housing units per year have been constructed in the past decade, while an average of eleven historic resources are designated each year.

Historic sites are tangible reminders of history. We would do well to remember the county motto to *gardez bien* or guard well the historic treasures of Montgomery County. Through the preservation and interpretation of historic buildings we may remember and learn from the past and gain inspiration for the future.

⁶⁴Research and Technology Center, M-NCPPC, June 2000.