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The **Heater-Garrett House** (18th century) stood near Gaithersburg, on the NW corner of Muddy Branch Road and Darnestown Road (Rt. 28). The house was destroyed by fire in the mid-1800s. The charcoal sketch owned by family descendants was photographed in 1974.



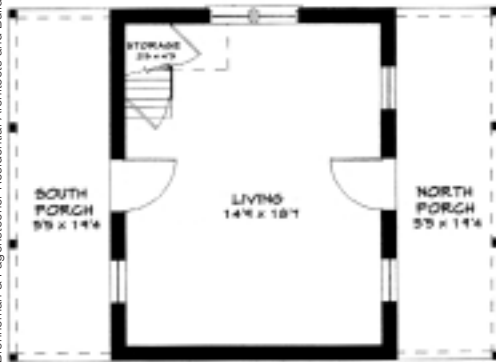
Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC, January 1972.

Typical 18th century dwellings in Montgomery County were one-story structures with one or two rooms on the main level and a loft sleeping area. A surviving example is the Warfield Log House, near Damascus. The one-room structure has an exterior stone chimney. A box staircase led to a loft bedroom.



Chapter Two HOUSES

Breneman & Pagenstecher Residential Architects and Builders, 1997



The original dwelling at Moneysworth, near Clarksburg, was a one-room log structure that was probably built by 1783.

THE FORM OF HOUSES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SETTLERS, STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE in the frontier wilderness, built impermanent folk houses in the early 18th century. Their modest dwellings, constructed of log, typically had one or two rooms on the first level with a loft above. Exterior doors opened directly into living space and stairs were concealed within closets. In the minority were the few successful planters who had the means to build brick houses reflective of their wealth and prominence. As the area became more settled through the century, residents throughout the county chose an ordered scheme for their dwellings to match their increasingly ordered lifestyles. Houses were planned with a symmetrical facade that reflected a new interior plan arranged around a central hall. Stairs were removed from closets and displayed in central or

side passages. The stair hall was a new mechanism for controlling the comings and goings of family and visitors.

Most early houses had side gable roofs and exterior chimneys. The steep side-gable roof and exterior chimney of the Warfield House (Late 1700s) are typical of early houses found in the Chesapeake region through the 1700s. Chimneys have sloped weatherings. The most common plan was the hall and parlor plan. One room, the hall, was a place to eat, cook, and sleep. The parlor, smaller and more private, typically had not an exterior door but was accessed through



Bill Libovitch/HABS, 1986



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936

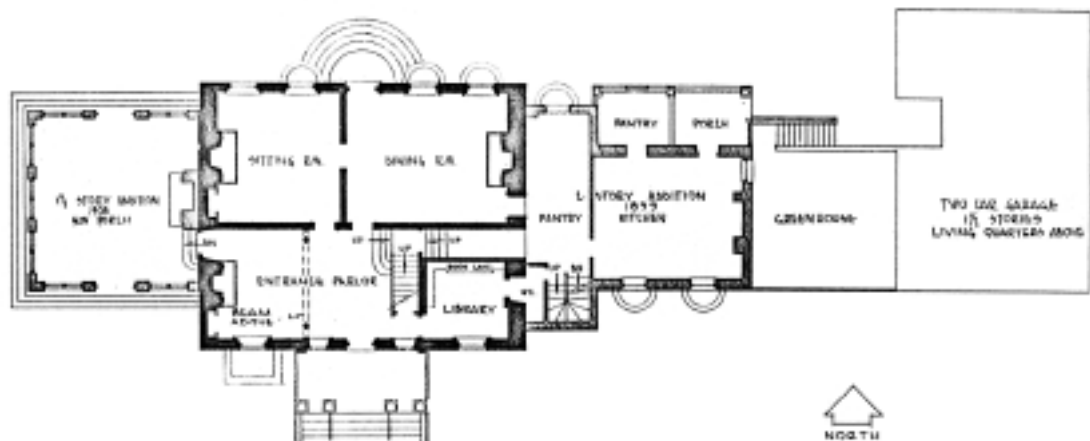
the hall. A late example of a hall and parlor plan house is the Duvall-Kruhm House, built about 1864.¹

Beginning in the mid-1700s, some successful planters began to build more substantial houses that were two rooms deep, with four rooms on a floor. This type of double-pile arrangement is known as a Georgian plan. The plan is reflected on the exterior by a five-bay, center entrance, front façade. Early Montgomery County examples of Georgian houses did not have a symmetrical plan. Elaborate, high-style mansions at **Hayes Manor** (c1762–7) (below) and **Pleasant Hills** (c1760–5) have spacious front stair halls that do not extend the full depth of the house. By the late 1700s, Georgian plan houses typically had a central hall with two rooms on either side, such as found at the **White-Carlin House** (c1793). **Locust Grove** (c1773) and **Rolling Ridge** (1790) (p. 56) are houses with double-pile plans that have paired chimneys to heat both front and back rooms.

*The house at the **Darnall Farm**, on Whites Ferry Road, consists of a two-room hall and parlor log structure covered with weatherboarding. The west chimney (left) shown in this historic photograph is no longer standing.*

***Hayes Manor** is one of the earliest and finest Georgian style houses in Montgomery County. Alexander Williamson built the house about 1767 on a 700-acre tract, after his appointment as curate of the Prince George's Parish of the Church of England. The asymmetrical double-pile floorplan has a front stairhall.*

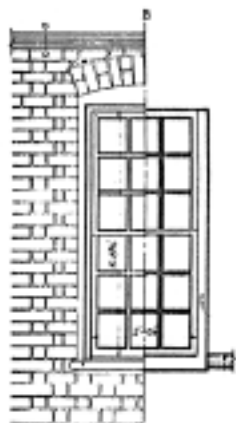
¹Less common are houses with one room behind the other and no stair hall. The original section of **Bloomfield** may have had a room behind room plan. Such buildings have been identified on the Delmarva Peninsula and in Southern Maryland. Orlando Ridout V, in *Architecture and Change in the Chesapeake*, pp.96–9. Bernard Herman, *Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700–1900*, Knoxville, Tenn: The University of Tennessee Press, 1987.



John A. Matthews, HABS, 1963



Clifton is possibly the earliest house in the county designed with the Georgian principles of a double pile plan and an open staircase. The brick gambrel roof structure (right) is typical of early-18th century dwellings of the Chesapeake area. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond with a checkerboard pattern created by alternating glazed black headers with red stretchers. John and Elizabeth Snowden Thomas are believed to have built the dwelling about 1742. The north wing (left) dates from 1846.



A distinctive early roof form is the gambrel, a roof that has two pitches, or slopes, on two sides. The gambrel roof house was more popular in Maryland than in any other southern colony. Several gambrel roof houses survive in Montgomery County. **Clifton** (1740s) and **Greenwood** (1755) have double pile plans, while **The Oaks** (c1797–1814) has the single pile, dual entrance arrangement typical of southern Pennsylvania.²



John O. Brostrup, HABSP, 1936

By the early 1800s, residents began to build side-passage, double-pile houses. Each floor had one room behind another, each opening onto the side hall. High-style brick examples of this house type, are mainly in villages and towns, such as Laytonsville's **Layton House** (1803) and Rockville's **Beall-Dawson House** (1815). Citizens throughout the county, however, built modest side-hall plan houses, typically of frame construction. Well-preserved examples include the **Nathan Dickerson House** (c1836) built on a Cabin Branch farm.

One of the most popular regional building types is the two-story, one-room deep house. These dwellings are a transformation of the hall and parlor house, often with two rooms per floor, yet more frequently by the early 1800s, with a center hall. The majority of three-bay two-story houses with center entrances have a center hall, one-room deep plan.

²Hugh Morrison. *Early American Architecture*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1952. Reprinted Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1987. p. 164. The Muncaster Mill, built in 1828 in Norwood, had a gambrel roof. The structure is no longer standing. Several historic houses have gambrel roof sections that were later alterations. Also, some gable-roof houses were changed to gambrel in the early 1900s, such as **The Ridge** and **Pleasant Fields**.

*Robert Ober, a prosperous Georgetown merchant of English descent, built **Rolling Ridge** in 1790. The Georgian style residence reflects Chesapeake area building traditions with its broad sloping roof, paired end chimneys and double pile plan. Classical brick pilasters between the outer bays and at the corners accentuate the symmetry of the five bay façade. The symmetrical exterior is reflected on the interior by a central passage and four equal size rooms.*



Clare Lise Caviochi, 2000

*The **Beall-Dawson House** (1815), 103 W. Montgomery Avenue, is a stylish Federal style brick residence built by Upton Beall, second Clerk of the Montgomery County Court. Prominently located on a corner lot, the dwelling has two public faces dressed with costly Flemish bond brick. The south façade overlooks West Montgomery Avenue (formerly Commerce Lane) and the east gable-end façade (at right) faces Adams Street and the courthouse. Brickwork on the side elevations and kitchen wing are laid in common bond. The Beall-Dawson House is located in Rockville's West Montgomery Avenue Historic District.*



Montgomery County Historical Society

The front section of the **Flint Hill** residence, on Bowie Mill Road, has a center-hall, one-room deep plan, constructed by the Bowie family about 1860–75. The Fraley family was photographed after moving into the farm in 1890.

This type was one of the most common dwellings built in the mid 1800s. On their 370-acre eastern county farm, later known as **Quaint Acres**, Elbert and Eliza Shaw built a center-hall, one-room deep house, in 1851. In the prosperity of the post-reconstruction era, residents built larger scale one-room deep houses, typically five bays wide. Such a structure was built at **Flint Hill**, when the Bowie family expanded their Bowie Mill Road residence, c1860-75 (left).

EXPANSIONS

Some homeowners expanded their houses with a series of descending additions like stairs, in a building plan known as a telescope plan. Some telescope houses are the result of an addition built between the main house and a dependency, such as at **Mount Carmel**. John and Mary Trundle built a two-story stone section in the early 1800s. Some years later, they added a frame portion to connect the house with an outbuilding from the late 1700s.³ Several early houses had covered walkways connecting the main house and a dependency. Hyphens were typically later enclosed in later years. At **The Ridge**, near Gaithersburg, a raised walkway led from the main dwelling (c1750) to a stone dependency. The connection was sheltered by a roof at an early time and then, by the early 1860s, was fully enclosed.

Families lucky enough to enjoy prosperous times elected to expand a house with a new main section that dominated the original house. When the Lewis family was ready to expand their dwelling at **Moneysworth**, near Clarksburg, they built a two-story dwelling on the

In the second quarter of the 19th century, the Lewis family built a one-room deep house (right) on the front of their one-room dwelling at **Moneysworth**. The central hallway (below) has an open-string double-run staircase.

³When viewed from the front, Mount Carmel has a telescope appearance. The entire structure is actually T-shaped, for an early stone kitchen in the back stands with ridge line perpendicular to the rest of the house. It was connected to the house with the addition of the frame section mentioned above.



Floorplan courtesy of Breneman & Pagenstecher Residential Architects and Builders, 1997



Bill Lebovich, HABES, 1996

gable end of the original one-room log house. The new section, built after 1855, stands with its ridgeline perpendicular to the old section that was thereafter put to use as a kitchen.

A common way to expand a side-passage house was to construct an addition off its side gable to create a center-hall residence. Such a transformation occurred at the **Frederick Gaither House**, near the Patuxent River. Owner and builder Frederick Gaither constructed the original three-bay, side-passage house in 1806. A date stone located in the south gable end of this section reads “FG 1806.” Soon after the Gaither family sold the property, in 1854, a two-bay extension was built, converting the house into a five-bay, central-passage-plan structure. Another example is **Walnut Hill**, where Elizabeth Ellicott and Thomas Lea expanded a side-passage house about c1823. The original dwelling had been built about 1820.

INTERIORS

The common 1½-story log house built in the 18th century had sleeping quarters in a second story loft. A staircase concealed within a closet, known as a box staircase, provided access to the upper level. Typical of the era is the staircase found at the one-room log house at



*Above: At the **Frederick Gaither House**, also known as Rolling Acres, the original house was the three-bay portion at the right. The expansion of the house with the two-bay addition, at left, is reflected in the irregular fenestration.*



*Left: Successive generations of the Veitch-Trundle-Gott family expanded the residence at **Mount Carmel**. The family built the main two-story block of red sandstone in the early 1800s. The one-story stone wing (left), built in the late 1700s, was likely used for slave quarters, dairy and smokehouse. Connecting the main section and dependency is a frame section dating from about 1833.*



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936.

Above right: A typical example of a box staircase is found at **Moneysworth**, near Clarksburg. The one-room log section of the house was built by 1783.

Right: The unenclosed staircase at **Clifton** (c1742) is prominently located in the front entry hall. The ends of the treads and risers of this transitional staircase are covered by a stringboard, known as closed stringer stairs.

Far right: Hayes Manor, open stringer stairs, HABS drawing.



Bill Lebovich, HABS, 1936.



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936.



Moneysworth, built by 1783. By the mid-1700s, staircases in upper-class Georgian-influenced houses began to take a more prominent position. Clifton, built about 1748, has a four-room plan and its open staircase rises in the entrance hall. A further development of the staircase was the opening of the ends of the stair treads, known as stringers. The staircase at **Chiswell's Inheritance**, in Poolesville, features open stringers decorated by applied scrollwork.⁴

⁴Carl Lounsbury, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* (1994). The earliest portion of **Valhalla** built in 1835 was a two-room structure with the door opening into the larger room and an enclosed staircase was built on the interior wall of the smaller room, presumably the parlor. The two-room **Duvall-Kruhm House** (c1864), has an open staircase directly opposite the front door.

Corner fireplaces are found in several early double-pile houses. At **Clifton**, corner fireplaces warmed the best room and two rear rooms. The best room, adjacent to the unheated stair hall, features a paneled chimney pile and corner closet. Three corner fireplaces are also found in the 1755 residence built at **Greenwood**. At **The Ridge** (c1750) the interior is divided into a best room and two smaller rooms each having corner fireplaces. The staircase opens into a small hall behind the best room.⁵

Interior woodwork became more elaborate in the late 18th century upper-class residence, symbolizing the wealth of its inhabitants. In addition to highly decorative staircases, wainscoting, built-in cupboards and other rich elaborate woodwork became a status symbol for wealthy citizens through the century. Fireplace walls were often fully covered with paneled wainscoting, while other rooms were paneled up to a chair rail with plastered walls above. Cupboards, known as buffets, were built into walls to store tablewares. They flanked a fireplace, as at Chiswell's Inheritance, or

were built into a corner, as at Clifton.

For the most part, little is known about the craftsmen responsible for intricate details found on many early houses. Patterns in the design of details often link the unknown craftsmen to a local region. Historians, for example, have identified several patterns of mantelpieces found in Poolesville area houses. One highly decorative mantel, dating from the late 1700s-early 1800s, decorated with reed molding, slender pilasters, and fan motifs is found at the **White-Carlin House**, **Joseph White House**, and **Hanover**. In the late

⁵Other residences with corner fireplaces include **Bloomfield**, near Sandy Spring, and the **Riley House**, near Rockville, known familiarly as **Uncle Tom's Cabin**.



Michele Naru, M-NCPPC, 2001.

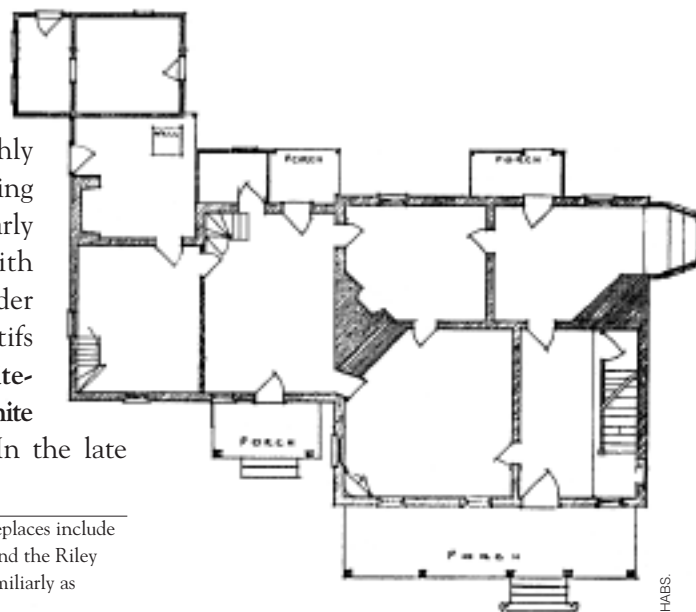
The staircase at **Chiswell's Inheritance** features open stringers decorated by applied scrollwork. A stylish Chinese-influenced trellis railing accents a portion of the staircase.

Left: Glazed doors on the segmentally arched buffet (corner cupboard) at **Clifton** are designed to display dishes and glassware.

Below: Clifton first floor plan.



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936.



HABS.



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936

Above: In the best room, or living room, at **Chiswell's Inheritance** (1796), built-in cupboards with butterfly shelves and keystone arches flank an elaborately detailed paneled fireplace wall. Unusual features of the cupboards are interior windows that provide natural light to illuminate their contents.

Right: The mantelpiece at the **White-Carlin House** (c1793) has reed molding and a fan motif pattern found in other Poolesville area houses of the late 18th century.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 2000

1820s to 1830, another design with tapered, reeded columns set in pairs graces mantels of the **Old Chiswell Place, East Oaks**, and the **Dr. Thomas Poole House**. A third design, dating from the mid-1800s, has a beveled frieze and reeded pilasters. It has been found in at least four Poolesville-area houses, including **Mount Nebo** and **Valhalla**.⁶

THE MATERIAL OF HOUSES

Log

The majority of Montgomery County houses built in the mid to late 1700s were constructed of log. In 1783, 70% of the dwellings identified by material in the tax assessment were log houses, typically 20–24 feet by 16 feet. Log construction originated among Germans and Scotch-Irish in southeastern Pennsylvania. Beginning in the 1730s, they migrated to Maryland and Virginia, bringing with them the tradition of building with log.⁷

Builders typically joined logs with V-notches and filled in the gaps between logs with stone and clay chinking. Chestnut was commonly used for log construction. The **Drury-Austin House**, built about 1768, was a one-room log house with a stone chimney and brick stack. One of the finest collections of log outbuildings is found at the **James Pearré Farm**, established c1857. Constructed of log are a double corn house with steeply pitched roof, a smokehouse, a dairy and a small barn.⁸

By the mid-1800s, few county residents were building log houses. Exceptions were African-Americans who built log dwellings for over a decade after emancipation. By the 1880s, frame houses began to replace log structures in black communities. In contrast to houses of landless farmers further south who could afford only houses with open windows and fire-place heat, the log houses of free blacks in Montgomery County had glazed windows and wood-burning stoves.⁹



*Above: The original section of the **Drury-Austin House**, at left, is one of the earliest log dwellings remaining in the Poolesville area. The one-story log house was built about 1768. Typical of vernacular log houses of the time, the house has exterior field-stone chimneys, V-notched log joints, and flat stone chinking. The one-room dwelling was furnished with “two featherbeds, two tables with six chairs, three chests, three pewter dishes, ten pewter plates, nine pewter spoons, one iron pot and a dutch oven.” The frame section (right) dates from about 1805.*

⁶On a more modest level, a simple yet distinctive design of gouged stars and reeded bars found at **Chiswell’s Inheritance** was also found in other Poolesville houses, including the **Wallace Poole House** (demolished). Source: Perry Kephart interview, 9-2000.

⁷In the 1783 tax assessment, 820 houses were identified as log, frame, or masonry. Of these, 577 were built of log. In Todd H. Barnett, “Tobacco, Planters, Tenants, and Slaves: A Portrait of Montgomery County in 1783,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* (89:2) Summer 1994.

⁸A settlement called Logtown, established c1765, lay near Summit Hall Farm in Gaithersburg. Origins of log houses in Kniffen and Glassie, “Building in Wood in the Eastern United State: A Time-Place Perspective,” in *Common Places*, p.173.

⁹George McDaniel, *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County, Sugarloaf Regional Trails*, 1979.



Kim Prothro, Traceseries, 1990.

Above right: Log structures are fragile resources, often having been abandoned generations ago in favor of more modern dwellings. This log tenant house was photographed on the *Milton* estate in 1973.

Right: The braced frame section (left) of this Hyattstown dwelling was exposed in this 1972 view. The log and frame structure, located next to the Horine House, was removed from the site soon after the photograph was taken.



Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC.

Frame

By 1783, 28% of houses were of frame construction. Early houses with wooden frames were built with heavy timber frame structures. European timber frame houses commonly used a system or wall enclosure in which spaces between heavy timbers were infilled with clay or brick called nogging. Such open walls were uncommon in the more rigorous American climate. More often on American timber frame houses, brick infill was eliminated and houses were sheathed in clapboard.¹⁰

Most houses in the region west of the Chesapeake had braced frames by the early 1800s. While timber frame houses had widely spaced, massive posts and beams to carry the load, the timber of cross-braced houses had

¹⁰Barnett, p.189.



Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC.



lighter and more closely spaced members. Diagonal corner braces provide lateral stability to the wooden framework. Builders may have added brick noggling to braced frames for extra insulation and rigidity, or possibly for fire prevention. Thomas Fletchall built **Mount Nebo**, near Poolesville, in the early 1800s. The center passage, one-room deep dwelling has a frame structure reinforced with brick noggling and sheathed with wood siding. Examples of braced frame construction are found at the **Nathan Dickerson House** (c1836) and the **Spencer-Carr House** (c1855). After the Civil War, balloon frames replaced timber construction. For the first time, houses were constructed entirely of light frame members enabling cheap and rapid construction by eliminating the need for hand-hewn timbers.¹¹

Brick

Masonry houses comprised less than 2% of the total housing stock in 1783. Those citizens who could afford to construct brick houses were in the minority and represent only the uppermost strata of the economy. Possibly the earliest surviving brick house in the county is **Clifton**, built c1742. Zadock Magruder built **The Ridge** (c1750) with a double-curve molded brick base. Other surviving 18th century examples are **Norwood** (1751), **Cherry Grove** (1773), **Locust Grove** (c1773), and the **Joseph Magruder House** (1787).¹²

A distinguishing feature of high-style brick residences in the mid-1700s was the exclusive use of header bricks on the main facade, in which bricks were only laid with their short ends or heads exposed. This design was expensive since it required more bricks. Header bond brick is rarely



John O. Brostrup, HABS, 1936.

¹¹Henry Glassie, *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia*, p.124.

¹²Barnett, p.189. Michael Bourne et al. *Architecture and Change in the Chesapeake*, pp.5, 12.

Below: **Stoney Castle** is constructed of cut sandstone with large quoining blocks marking the corners, and ashlar lintels and sills. This 1936 photograph records the construction of a two story Neoclassical portico (columns seen in foreground). Evidence of a one story full-width porch, probably not original, appears on the building itself.

Opposite above: Henry and Margaret Chiswell Young built **East Oaks** about 1829. The brickwork is embellished with random glazed headers and a decorative sawtooth pattern cornice.

Opposite below: The only known example of a gable inscription formed by glazed brick is found at is **Chiswell's Inheritance**, near Poolesville. This feature is more typically found in Eastern Maryland and the Delaware Valley.

found outside the Maryland colony. **Hayes Manor** (1762–7) has all-header pattern brickwork on two facades.¹³

Decorative patterns of glazed brick are characteristic of early Maryland houses. Glazed black headers at **Clifton** (c1742) alternate with red stretchers to form a checkerboard pattern. The side gables of **Pleasant Hills** (c1760–5), near Darnestown, are embellished with glazed black headers. The use of glazed headers to form gable-end inscriptions is characteristic from Eastern Maryland to New Jersey but uncommon in Montgomery County. A single known example is **Chiswell's Inheritance** which bears the inscription “C I” and date “1796.” Distinctive sawtooth pattern brick cornices grace several Poolesville area houses, including **East Oaks**, built c1829.¹⁴

Stone

Montgomery County residents were fortunate to have a variety of native stone available for construction. In the western region, a durable red sandstone was widely used. Quarried along the Potomac River, at the mouth of Seneca Creek, the stone became known as Seneca sandstone. The stone was used for building residences as well as outbuildings. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, farmers typically used uncut or roughly-cut stone that was uncoursed or laid randomly. The **White-Carlin House**, built around 1793,

¹³Donna Ware, in *Architecture and Change in the Chesapeake*, pp.12-3.

¹⁴Hugh Morrison, p.158.



is built of undressed Seneca stone laid in irregular courses and features keystone arches, quoining blocks, and cornice with dentil molding. In the Patuxent watershed, Georgian houses decorated with quoining include **Pleasant Fields** (c1776-1799) and **Retirement**. The landmark **Cabin John Aqueduct** (1853-63), at one time the longest stone arch bridge in the world, is faced with Seneca sandstone.

One of the earliest stone houses in the county is found in the Patuxent watershed. Near Brookeville, Thomas Riggs built the three-bay dwelling **Bordley's Choice** in 1765. Other three-bay stone houses from the late 1700s and early 1800s are found at **Greenwood**, **Brookeville Woolen Mill**, **Elton**, **Far View**, **Tusculum**, and the **Gaither Farm** (p. 58). Built in the fourth quarter of the 18th century, Pleasant Fields was one of the earliest large-scale stone houses designed in one coherent style. The generously proportioned dwelling is constructed of coursed, rough-cut stone with quoining blocks at the corners. The lintels are stone blocks with splayed ends. Similar proportions and quoins are found at **Stoney Castle** (Mid 1800s), near Poolesville (p. 65). A later five-bay house of uncoursed stone, designed in the Federal style, is **Retirement**, dating from 1842.

Less common were stone houses constructed with smooth-faced, cut blocks, known as ashlar or dressed stone. One of the earliest houses built of dressed stone was **Montevideo** (p. 68), near Seneca, built in 1830. The stonework was later covered with stucco. The Italianate mansion known as **Rocklands**, in the Poolesville area, was built in 1870 with dressed, coursed stone whose surfaces were tooled to create a texture of horizontal lines (p. 71).

Another popular local stone is a mica schist known as **Stoneyhurst** stone, quarried on River Road near Seven Locks Road, in Cabin John. Samuel Brewer Magruder built his house known as Stoneyhurst in 1767. The Stoneyhurst quarries provided stone for the construction of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal in the early 1800s. A century later, the stone was a popular facing material when Lilly Moore Stone reopened the quarry. In the era of New Deal government, the Works Progress Administration, in keeping with the philosophy of promoting regionalism, built the **Bethesda Post Office** (1938) of Stoneyhurst stone.

Potomac marble was another stone quarried along the C & O Canal it is not a true marble but a limestone conglomerate called breccia. Architect Benjamin H. Latrobe used the stone from this site for columns in the old U. S. House of Representatives (now Statuary Hall), 1816–9. The 22 richly colored shafts are each over 26 feet tall. Because the stone proved difficult to work, some of the shafts had to be pieced together from multiple blocks of stone. Instead of costing the estimated \$1,500 apiece, the column shafts ended up costing about \$5,000 apiece. The quarry, more accurately a ledge outcropping, is located near Masons Island, Martinsburg.¹⁵



Above: Baltimore native Ephraim Francis Baldwin designed dozens of stations for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. His **Rockville Railroad Station** dates from 1873.

Opposite: Thomas Groomes Residence and Office, Rockville

¹⁵Edward C. Carter II et al. *Latrobe's View of America, 1795-1820*. Maryland Historical Society, 1985.



Kim Prothro, Traces, 1990.

Other local stones used for construction were soapstone, granite, slate, and diabase rock. In the Ashton area, local soapstone was quarried in the 18th century for house construction. **Clifton**, built in the 1740s, has a soapstone foundation. Other early houses have soapstone hearths. Builders in the Bethesda area used granite for house construction. The section of **Milton** was a granite structure built before 1800. After purchasing a 500-acre farm in Glen Echo in 1888, the Baltzley brothers opened on-site granite quarries to construct German-influenced castles for their envisioned “Rhineland on the Potomac.” The **Baltzley Castle**, **R. A. Charles Castle**, and **Kimmel House** are reminders of this fanciful development scheme. Slate roof shingles for houses in the northwestern part of the county were made from stone quarried in the Little Bennett Creek valley, near present day Slate Quarry Road. **Sugar Loaf Mountain Chapel** (1861) was built with slate shingles quarried locally. Poolesville-area houses with slate roofs dating from the mid-1800s often have a three-diamond design, seen, for example, at **Valhalla** (c1855–65). Later in the century, between 1898 and 1905, a hard blue diabase rock in the Dickerson area was shipped by railroad to the District of Columbia for use as curbstones.



Montgomery County Historical Society

THE STYLE OF HOUSES

From earliest settlement through much of the 1800s, the majority of county residents built traditional folk houses. Changing fashions in architecture were acknowledged with simple applied molding, cornice detail, or a stylish front porch. Few houses, especially in the upcounty area, were fundamentally changed in terms of exterior form or interior floorplan during this period. Outside of railroad and streetcar suburbs, few houses were textbook examples of architectural styles, few were architect designed.

In the 19th century, builders began to use guidebooks for designing houses. Asher Benjamin first published his widely popular *American Builder's Companion* in 1806. Few patternbook houses in Maryland, however, were built before the 1860s. Local carpenter and builder William T. Hilton designed and constructed houses based on plans and designs in locally available patternbooks. His design for **Mount Ephraim** (1866–8) is said to come from a patternbook still in the family's collection. By the early 1900s, citizens bought ready-to-assemble houses through mail-order catalogs. The largest mail-order service was offered by Sears, Roebuck and Company, which sold more than 50,000 houses by 1930. Many Montgomery County communities include Sears houses.¹⁶

Professional architects working in Montgomery County were rare into the third quarter of the 19th century. One of the earliest was E. Francis Baldwin (1837–1916), architect for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad who designed a series of train stations in the county between 1873 and 1891 (p. 66). Baldwin did not graduate from an architectural school, but received his training as an apprentice in Baltimore.¹⁷

One of the earliest local architects was Thomas Groomes. Groomes popularized Victorian-era revival styles in the Gaithersburg-Rockville area (p. 67). One of his earliest known houses was **Rock Spring**, built in 1879. The number of educated architects rose later in the century, yet architecture remained a young profession until after 1900. The earliest architect-designed houses in the county are mainly found in residential suburbs such as Takoma Park

¹⁶Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1986. Researchers have identified at least 36 Sears houses in Takoma Park, Garrett Park, Kensington, Chevy Chase, and Cabin John. (M-NCPPC files) Documentary evidence suggests that **Headwaters Farm** (1927), home of railroad executive Lionel C. Probert, is a mail-order house, perhaps custom designed.

¹⁷Leland M. Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1979, p.95. Carlos P. Avery, "Baldwin & Pennington: Architects for the B & O Railroad," *Three Centuries of Maryland Architecture*, Maryland Historical Trust, 1982. Carlos Avery, Personal Interview, 10-25-2000. Congress first enacted a law requiring registration of architects in the District of Columbia in 1924. William Bushong, Judith Helm Robinson, Julie Mueller, *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, 1887-1987*. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987. p. 49.



Russell Jones, HABES, 1961.

Above: The Georgian style dwelling known as **Hayes Manor**, built 1762-7, was the residence Reverend Alexander Williamson, rector of Prince George's Parish of the Anglican Church. The brick residence has two front façades, customary for high-style Georgian houses. Both façades have expensive all-header bond brick. The east and west wings were added in 1899 and 1908.



John O. Brostrup, Historic American Building Survey, 1936.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 2000

Above: The Greek Revival **Samuel Thomas Magruder House** (Late 1850s) has a wide roof cornice and temple-like gable pediments. Flush board siding on the main façade recalls the stone construction of Greek prototypes.

Opposite below: John Parke Custis Peter began to construct the Federal style residence at **Montevideo** in 1828, and completed it in 1830. Characteristic of the style is the elegant elliptically arched door opening, fanlight transom, and shallow roof pitch. Large Palladian-inspired three-part windows provide ample light for the center-hall, double pile dwelling.

and Chevy Chase. A list of architect-designed buildings in Montgomery County from the late 1800s and early 1900s is found in Appendix.¹⁸

This section highlights individual architectural styles. While few houses in Montgomery County were designed in any one pure style, it may be helpful to understand distinct architectural traditions. The houses illustrated here, many of which were architect designed, are among the exceptions. Each were designed with one dominant theme. As one studies historic buildings throughout the county, one may see features of different styles come together on one structure. Greek Revival returns may grace a Gothic Revival cross gable roof on a post Civil War era house. A c1915 dwelling may have a bracketed Craftsman style roof with knee braces yet also feature a Colonial Revival porch with classical columns.

Georgian (1750–1800s)

By the mid-1700s, successful planters were a select segment of the population who enjoyed a period of prosperity. These wealthy landowners built formal, imposing houses, designed in the Georgian style. This style reflects Renaissance ideals of symmetry and classical detail made popular by English architects. Maryland examples are often two-rooms deep with a center or side stair hall. High-style Georgian houses were most often built of brick. On the exterior, a high foundation, marked by a molded water table, and tall chimneys emphasized the social status of inhabitants. A

belt course runs between the first and second stories. Common classical features are cornices with dentil molding; gauged flat arch lintels, often embellished with keystones; and quoins marking building corners.

Federal (1800–50)

Noted for its lightness and delicacy of ornament and proportions, the Federal style is a refinement of the preceding Georgian style. The Federal style was the first widespread architectural style in the county. In Poolesville, Rockville, and Laytonsville, the earliest consciously designed houses are of the Federal style. In brick examples, side gables often have parapet ends and curtain walls join paired chimneys. Doors flanked by slender columns have elliptical fanlight transoms. The Federal style house typically has a more shallow roof pitch compared to Georgian. Floor plans are usually either center hall or side hall plans.¹⁹

Greek Revival (1840–70)

Greece's war for independence and archeological findings shifted interest to Greek architecture by the 1830s. In addition, after the War of 1812, Americans had less affection for English influenced architecture. Greek Revival became the dominant style throughout much of the country. The ideal form resembled a Greek temple with pedimented roof, columns or pilasters, and full entablature with cornice, frieze, and architrave. Few high

¹⁸Groomes information courtesy of Peerless Rockville.

¹⁹Layton House (1804), Laytonsville; Beall-Dawson House (1815), Rockville; Dr. Thomas Poole House (1830–35), Poolesville.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 1995

style Greek Revival buildings are found in Montgomery County. Instead, Greek influence is found in architectural detail. The most common Greek feature locally is the side-gable cornice return (p. 57, Moneysworth). Doorways are typically rectilinear, with a glazed surround formed by transom and sidelights. Lintels are wide and blocky, sometimes having simple pediments. During this era porches became more common. One and two story porches have classical columns, while wall pilasters appear on side elevations. Roof pitches are typically shallow, yet few houses have full gable pediments.

Gothic Revival (1840–90)

In a reaction against formal classicism, English architects led a Picturesque movement emphasizing medieval, rambling, asymmetrical rural houses. By the mid-1800s, medieval-influenced Gothic architecture became popular in the U.S. through the patternbooks of Andrew Jackson Downing and others. The style decorated residences and churches. Locally, the style didn't catch on until after the Civil War. Making the highly decorative style feasible were jigsaw techniques for cutting out elaborate bargeboard, finials, and railings, and ready-made stock available through lumberyards and catalogs. Gothic houses have a vertical emphasis with steeply pitched roofs, pointed arch windows, and vertical board and batten siding.

In Montgomery County, few high-style Gothic Revival residences are found, yet the style's influence is pervasive throughout the county. Citizens dressed up their side gable houses with Gothic center cross gables. This house form became one of the most prevalent in the county in the post-Civil War era. Full-width porches are common on Gothic Revival houses, usually supported by square chamfered posts and brackets. While the majority of Gothic Revival residences were built before 1890, Gothic churches continued to be built well into the 20th century.



M-NCPPC, 1986

Above: The ell-shaped residence at **Mendelsohn Terrace** (1880) is dressed up with Gothic Revival cross gables on the front and side elevations.

Elaborations that further the Gothic theme are pointed-arch windows, scalloped bargeboard trim, and pendants dripping from the gable peaks. The gable over the front entrance contains the construction date.

Left: The highest concentration of Gothic Revival houses in the county is found in the **Washington Grove Historic District**. Washington, D.C.

Methodists established the camp meeting and built summer dwellings with decorative bargeboard, accented by steeple-like finials and scrolled brackets. The **Somerville-Marshall Cottage** on Grove Avenue was built about 1883.

Opposite top left: Benoni Allnutt, a successful Poolesville area farmer, built the Italianate style **Rocklands** in 1870. Characteristic of the style are the cubical massing of the residence, its bracketed cornices, and the central portico with squared, chamfered posts.

Opposite top right: Closely related to the Italianate style, the Second Empire style is distinguished by its hallmark mansard roof. The Second Empire style was a popular choice for late 19th century hotels and private academies. The **Woodlawn Hotel**, now known as Chestnut Lodge, was built 1887-90 in Rockville.

Opposite left: Located in the 1887 railroad subdivision of Forest Glen, the **Everett House** (1891), at 2411 Holman Avenue, is one of the most exuberant examples of Stick Style architecture in the region.

Opposite below: Queen Anne houses have a complex, asymmetrical massing and typically feature a variety of textured wall surfaces, including fishscale shingles, narrow clapboard, latticed woodwork, and patterned slate shingles. This **Takoma Park** residence, at 7323 Takoma Avenue, was built in 1898.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 1995.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, M-NCPPC, 2000.

Italianate (1860–90)

Like Gothic, Italianate architecture was part of the Picturesque movement made popular through Downing's patternbooks. Informal, rural Italian villas were the model for the style, which features box-like massing with low-pitched hip roofs and wide bracketed eaves. Windows often have round arches and heavy crown molding. Squared, chamfered porch posts tend to be heavier than in Gothic. Closely related to Italianate is the Second Empire style distinguished by its mansard roof. Sheltering a full additional floor, Second Empire structures in the county were mostly used for hotels and schools.



Michael Dwyer, M-NCPPC, 1975.

Stick Style (1860–80s)

Like the Gothic Revival, the picturesque Stick Style is based on medieval English architecture. In this case, wall surfaces and trusswork are decorated to suggest the structure of a half-timbered house. The majority of Stick Style houses in the county are located in railroad and streetcar suburbs, notably Takoma Park, Forest Glen, and Linden.



M-NCPPC, May 1992 M-NCPPC, May 1992.

Queen Anne (1875–1900)

The dominant style in the last quarter of the 1800s, Queen Anne houses have become synonymous with Victorian era architecture. Typically, houses have a complex form with projecting gable roofed pavilions, polygonal bays, towers and turrets. The ideal Queen Anne residence had textured wall surfaces achieved through patterned wood shingles and clapboard siding. In this era, expansive porches became outdoor living spaces. Full width and wrap around porches are usually supported by turned posts and spindlework. Popular in Montgomery County, the Queen Anne style graced houses on farmsteads and in suburban communities alike.

Colonial Revival (1875–1900; 1900–1945)

In its first phase, Colonial Revival houses were closely related to Queen Anne, sharing a similar complex massing yet bearing classical decoration, including pedimented gables, dentil molding, Palladian and oval windows with keystones. In contrast to the turned posts found on Queen Anne porches, Colonial Revival porch supports were classical columns. Early twentieth-century Colonial Revival houses were patterned more closely after original colonial-era residences. Typically houses from this era have simple forms with side gable roof or shallow hip roof and an entry portico.

Shingle Style (1880–1900)

Like the Queen Anne and early Colonial Revival styles, Shingle Style houses typically have complex massing yet the shape is enveloped in a smooth, shingled surface that unifies the irregular outline of the house. Most of Montgomery County's Shingle Style houses were built in Takoma Park and Chevy Chase.

Tudor Revival (1890–1940)

The Tudor style is loosely based on English vernacular buildings. Most early local examples have decorative half-timbering with stucco infill. By the 1920s, brick Tudor houses were more common. One of the largest concentrations of Tudor Revival houses in the county is in and near the Chevy Chase Village Historic District.



Clare Lise Cavicchi, MNCPPC, 1995.



Michele Naru, MNCPPC, 2001.



MNCPPC, 1987.

Right: The **Takoma Park Historic District** has a high concentration of Craftsman style houses. The residence at 7126 Carroll Avenue was built between 1915 and 1925.

Below: The richly ornamented Art Deco houses in Silver Spring's **Polychrome Historic District** were designed by John Joseph Earley and built 1934-5.

Opposite top to bottom: With its symmetrical façade, entry porch and classical details, this Grafton Street house in **Chevy Chase Village** is highly representative of Colonial Revival houses built after 1900.

Architect Harvey Page designed this Shingle style house (c1885-90) on Cedar Avenue, in the **Takoma Park Historic District**.

The landmark Tudor Revival **Corby Mansion** on Chevy Chase Circle is the product of Arthur Heaton's remodeling from 1909-1914. The residence was home to William Corby, pioneer in the automated baking industry.



M-NCPPC

Craftsman (1905–30)

The Arts and Crafts Movement was a reaction against elaborate ornamentation of the Victorian-era dwellings and toward more practical, simplified design. Craftsman houses reflect the inherent nature of building materials and structural elements. Brackets under wide eaves and gable end braces represent exposed rafter tails and beam ends. Many Craftsman houses have a low bungalow shape in which the main roof extends over the front porch. The largest concentration of Craftsman houses are found in the **Takoma Park Historic District** where one may find, in addition to Craftsman bungalows and cottages, less common two story, front gable Craftsman houses.

Art Deco and Art Moderne (1930–40)

Technological advances in material and techniques led to the modernistic Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. Geometric shapes, vertical emphasis, and stepped-up towers and projections characterize Art Deco design. Art Moderne has horizontal lines, with streamlined curved corners and smooth surfaces. New materials and elements used in both styles include glass block, corner windows, and concrete block construction. Several fine examples of Art Deco and Art Moderne are found in Silver Spring.



Constance Terry, M-NCPPC, 1993.



Constance Terry, M-NCPPC, 1993.