



Chevy Chase Historical Society

*A Walking Tour  
of Century-old  
Chevy Chase Houses*

April 1999

*A Walking Tour (Self-guided)  
of  
Century-old Chevy Chase Houses*

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Materials for this booklet have been compiled from the Chevy Chase Historical Society files, the files of the Historic Preservation Commission of Montgomery County, and Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Homes*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1984.

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## INTRODUCTION

This walking tour was created to celebrate the historic Village of Chevy Chase. As the country enters the millennium, awareness of the importance of the past is increasing. It was the wish of the Chevy Chase Historical Society to provide historical, architectural, and, in some cases, anecdotal information to people interested in the history of the Village.

We have selected twenty-five houses, plus the Village Hall, constructed in or before 1899, which we were able to document as being built in the prior century. This brochure was designed as an educational pamphlet to acquaint adults and children with architectural features that were prevalent at the turn of the last century. It is our hope that the tour will be a celebration of this wonderful treasure: the historic buildings in Chevy Chase Village.

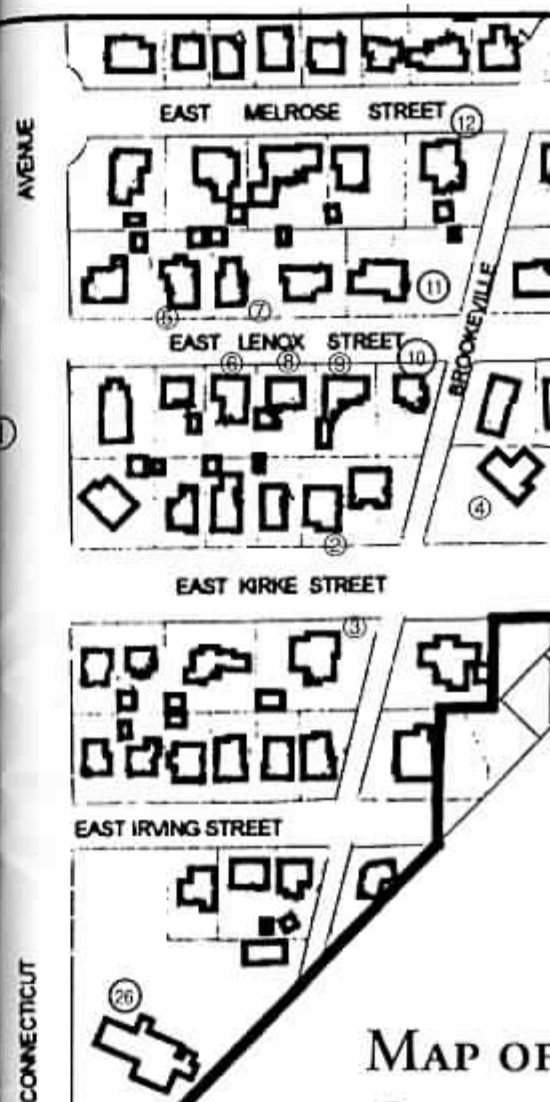
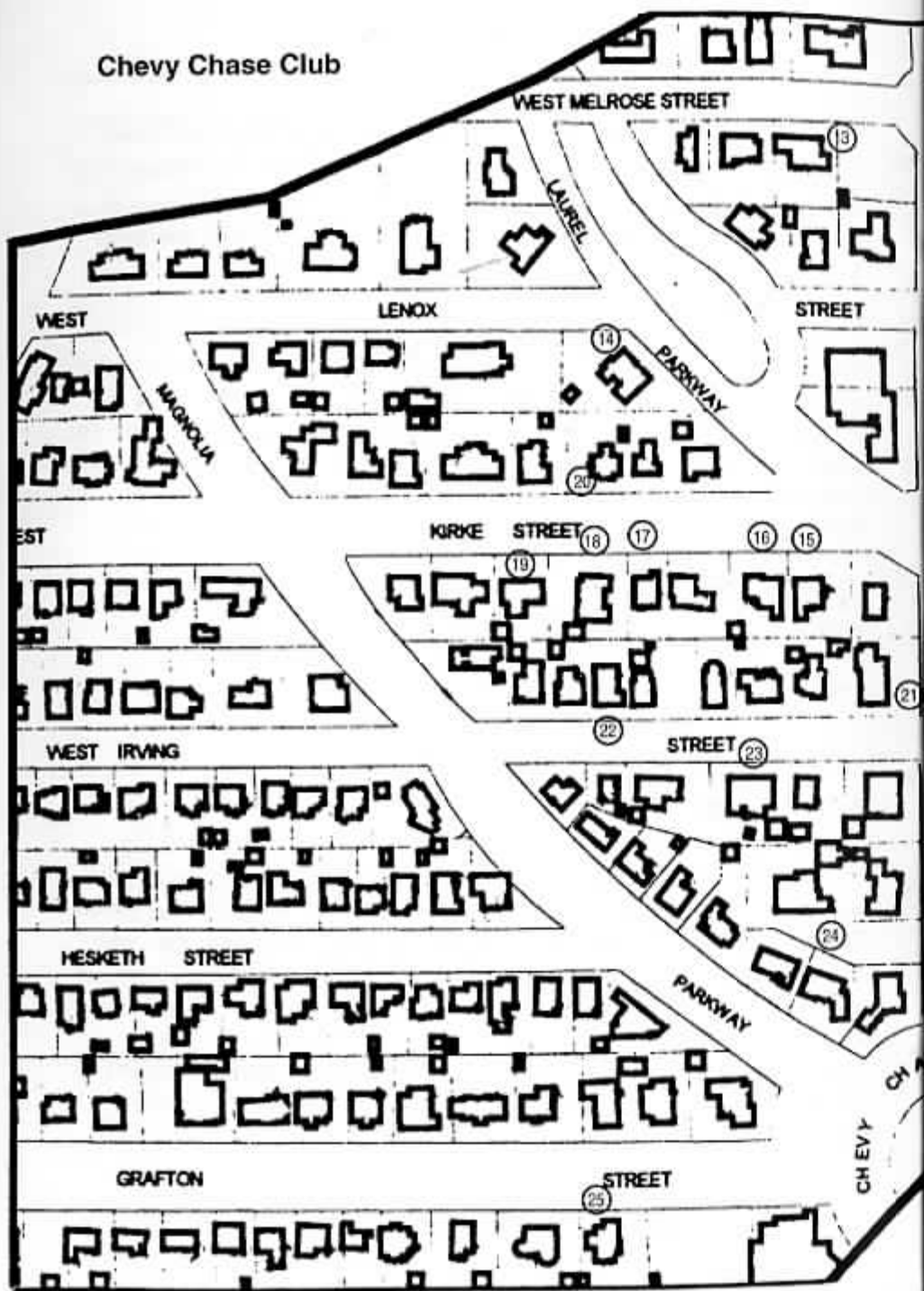
The tour is self-guided, and we request that the private property of the owners of the residences included on the tour be respected, and that viewing be from the sidewalk or roadway only.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to many people who worked on this brochure and the walking tour. We are grateful to the many owners who gave their permission to include their houses; to the docents who were willing to serve (rain or shine) for the first walking tour; to the Walking Tour Committee who conceived and created this event; and to the Chevy Chase Village staff and police who have cooperated and helped with the tour.

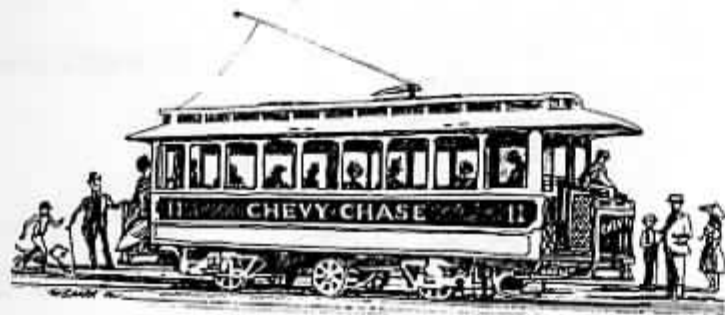
The format of this brochure was inspired by a similar pamphlet entitled *Walking Tour, Town of Brookeville* published in 1994 by the Town of Brookville, Maryland.

Chevy Chase Club



## MAP OF CENTURY-OLD CHEVY CHASE HOUSES

(Circled numbers correspond to house descriptions on following pages)



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

By Judith Helm Robinson

From the beginning, the development of Chevy Chase was a bold scheme. It required the initial purchase of more than 1,700 acres of farmland; the formation of the Chevy Chase Land Company with a capital stock of one million dollars; the construction of Connecticut Avenue's broad reach of more than five miles above Calvert Street; the creation of an electric railway line; and the establishment of clubs, churches and schools to fill the new residents' needs.

These grand plans of the 1890's took decades to realize, but even today, Chevy Chase bears the indelible stamp of its founders' ideals. Above all, it is the "home suburb," the neighborhood of homes they envisioned. Broad verandas, patterned shingles and half sleeping porches, decorative cornices, pergolas and a variety of roof lines define a wide range of residential architectural style.

Research to date suggests that the first houses in the Village were built by or for officers of the Chevy Chase Land Company. According to an account by Ella Given, Chevy Chase's first school mistress, the four original homes all in the vicinity of Connecticut Avenue and Irving Street were designed by Lindley Johnson of Philadelphia, with Washington architect Leon E. Dessez as his associate. Dessez was the first resident, moving into the house known today as the Lodge, just northwest of the Circle, in May 1893. Senator Francis G. Newlands (1848-1917), Senator from Nevada and founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, was the resident of the grand house on the northeast

side of the Circle. This house later became known as the Corby mansion for its owner William S. Corby, who patented the first dough-molding machine.

The first residential section, Section II or Chevy Chase Village, located between Chevy Chase Circle and Bradley Lane, opened in 1893. The post office building, now the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 5906 Connecticut Avenue, was a small, pebble-dashed structure that also accommodated a public library and the fire apparatus.

Despite all of the amenities, the sale of land in Chevy Chase went slowly. The first section, the Village, opened in the panic year of 1893. Only 27 houses were occupied by 1897, and it required all the long-term financial solidarity of Newlands and his company to withstand the collapse of the boom of the previous decade.

After World War I, construction picked up again. Then one style of architecture tumbled out on the heels of the preceding one. Virtually all of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century styles are represented today, including the Shingle, Colonial Revival, Tudor, French Eclectic, Spanish Eclectic, Mission, Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Prairie and Craftsman styles. Bungalows mix with grand Colonial Revival mansions, and designs range from formal architect-designed houses to Sears prefabricated structures.

Today the basic character of Chevy Chase as planned by the Chevy Chase Land Company in the 1890s has not changed. The large majority of the houses built over the years are extant. Of what were apparently the original four Chevy Chase houses, three remain: Newlands' home on Chevy Chase Circle, Stellwagen's house standing mid-block directly opposite the Corby mansion, and Herbert Claude's house at 5900 Connecticut Avenue.

Despite the passing of several characteristic features—Chevy Chase Lake was filled in during the 1930's, the electric railroad service was discontinued on Connecticut Avenue in 1935, and the bridges at Klinge Valley and Calvert Street have long since been replaced—Chevy Chase itself stands as Newlands envisioned it: a residential neighborhood, stable, comfortable and quiet.

This text was condensed from Ms. Robinson's chapter on the history of Chevy Chase contained in *Washington at Home: an Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital*. (Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988.)



*NOTE: Except for the Village Hall, all buildings are in private ownership. Visitors are requested to view structures from the public right-of-way only.*



No. 1

### 5906-5910 Connecticut Avenue

Built in 1896 by the Chevy Chase Land Company, this structure originally served as the post office, library, and fire department. The building was used for these three purposes from construction in 1896 through 1931. The library was established and run by Senator Newlands' daughters. From 1931 to 1941, the northern extension was added and occupied by the "Chevy Chase Citizens Committee." Beginning in 1941, the building was occupied by Miss Libby's private school, K-2nd, available to Village children. The school occupied the southern portion of the building. The post office moved to the center and north portion of the building, and then the Village office assumed the space of the "Chevy Chase Citizens Committee." In 1963, the northwest corner was added, to accommodate the post office.

The architecture is a striking example of the Craftsman style. It features a complex, undulating roof line reminiscent of thatched shapes, a pebble-dash stucco exterior, and unique paired windows featuring diamond grid mullions.



No. 2

### 9 East Kirke Street

With only five owners in over 100 years, this spacious house, combining features of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles on a basic four square form, has understandably been one in which its residents have felt comfortable. Built in ca.1894, the clapboard and shingle house, designed by Leon Dessez, originally showed plans for a one-bay porch, which was modified while under the original construction to wrap around the south-east corner of the structure. With the addition of a "family room" on the first floor, the open porch ends at the corner.

It is interesting to compare this house with 9 East Lenox, also by Dessez, since they are strikingly similar. Some unique characteristics of this house are the two-story rounded bay on the west side of the house and the broad overhanging eave. The distinctive form of the main pyramidal slate roof is echoed in the four-hip roof dormers.

According to records, the house, known as the Birney House, was built for T.W. Birney, who moved his family in soon after construction was completed. His daughters were instrumental in founding the Chevy Chase Library, which at that time was housed in what is now the Village Hall.



No. 3

### 10 East Kirke Street

This interesting and eclectic house, built in ca.1894, is sided in wood clapboard, is richly detailed, and features a complex massing and form. Although its design character today is mainly Colonial Revival, certain details such as the wide eaves are indicative of an earlier stylistic character.

The ample porch wraps almost entirely around the north and west facades of the house. The porch features simple Classical Revival details, and applied pilasters are set between the windows of the polygonal bay to the left of the main entrance. Set into the hipped roof are four dormers visible from the street—two on the front and two on the west side. The windows on the first and second floors are six panes over two panes. Notice the leaded window on the second story and the delicate dentil molding under the porch rail.

The original owners were the McCubbin family, for whom the house was built. The house is characterized by having only four owners in its 105-year life. The current owner has been here since 1986, and the prior owner was here 55 years. The McCubbin family lived here at least through 1912, according to the resident directory.



No. 4

### 101 East Kirke Street

This Colonial Revival house was built in 1899 by John L. Weaver, the last of three houses he built in the Village for his growing family. It was designed by Arthur B. Heaton, the brother of Mrs. Weaver. The circular driveway was constructed so that carriages could drive up to the door. In the center of the driveway, Mr. Weaver planted 4,000 tulip bulbs, according to his daughter Constance.

The Weavers lived here until 1915, when they sold the house to the Macfarlands. A subsequent owner, Dr. Whitman Cross, commissioned noted landscape architect Rose Greeley to design the garden (1924-29). Dr. Cross was a rose fancier who, according to one oral history, developed the Chevy Chase Rose, a climber the color of crimson glory. The fourth owners, Don and Sara Glassie bought the property in 1945, and donated many of the rose plants to the Chevy Chase Club to start its rose garden. The current and fifth owners of the house have lived here since 1954.

This elegant example of the Colonial Revival style is symmetrically composed. Three dormers pierce the hipped roof. The richly detailed entrance under the portico has a lovely fanlight and sidelights. The house originally had stables, and the house at the corner of Brookville and Lenox was part of the original property. In addition, the house at 102 East Lenox was the carriage house for the East Kirke Street property.



No. 5

### 3 East Lenox Street

This Classical Revival house, one of the earliest in Chevy Chase Village, is believed to be a unique example of the architecture of Leon Dessez, who also designed several other houses in the Village, all quite distinct. This symmetrical structure recalls the classical forms of antiquity, reminiscent of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Its facade is dominated by the full-facade, full-height entry portico with a delicate fanlight in its front-facing pediment and simple Doric columns. The entrance composition echoes the pediment above. A second story is cleverly masked from view. This was the first house built on East Lenox Street.

The house is wooden clapboard, and the roof line is gabled with hipped roof additions. The window style is consistently six panes over six panes. A sleeping porch (now enclosed) appears on the west side.

Built in ca.1894, the house was used as a primary residence by Morris Hacker, the Chevy Chase Land Company's chief engineer and the community's first "manager."



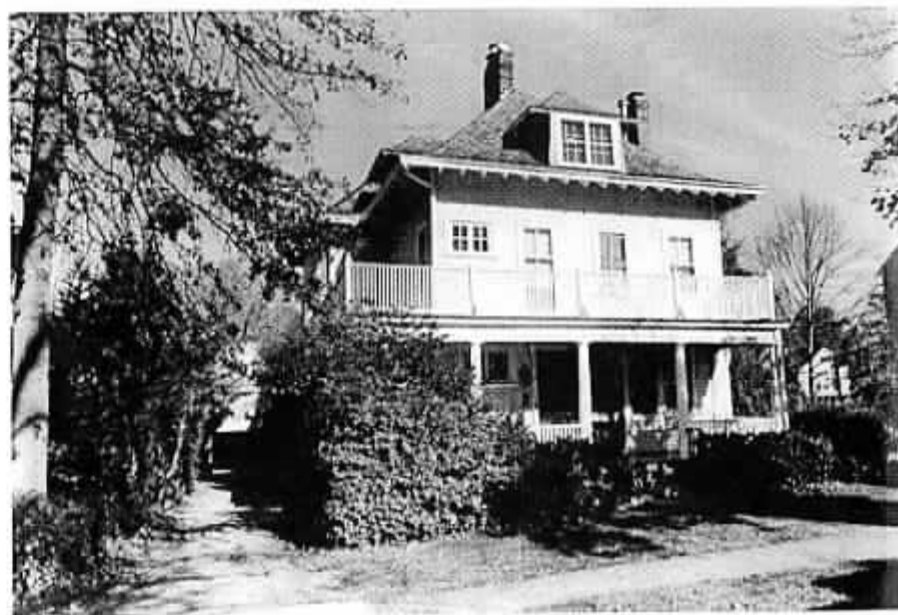


No. 6

### 6 East Lenox Street

This skillfully designed house in the Shingle style, constructed in ca. 1896 to the design of Washington architect Clarence L. Harding, takes its predominant character from the rich shingle cladding of its exuberant arcaded wrap-around porch. Note that even the porch supports are shingled. The rest of the house is clad in narrow clapboard.

Other eclectic Victorian aspects of the design are its complex massing features – with tower, dormers, pyramidal roof, and deep overhanging eaves all creating interest. A notable feature is the shingles polygonal tower on the west elevation, clad in shingles, wrapped with a band of windows just below its cornice, and with a pinnacle at the peak of its roof cap. The windows at the first story are multi-paned diamond-shaped groupings, a form roughly duplicated in the dormers.



No. 7

### 9 East Lenox Street

Architect Leon Dessez designed and built this "dwelling for D.S. Porter, Esq. of Chevy Chase" in ca. 1894. Its design incorporates elements of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles, and it shares many characteristics of other residences designed by Dessez, a number of which are located on East Lenox Street. The distinct design of the roof, with its deep flared eaves and pyramidal shape, is typical of his work.

The high pitch of the roof offered the architect the space to include in the design hipped dormers echoing the main roof. The window designs are also of interest. Next to the front door are double Queen Anne sash windows, and a small pair of windows appear on the southwest corner. Another feature of the Dessez house is the two-story curved bay that is visible on the west side of this house.



No. 8

### 8 East Lenox Street

Eight East Lenox was originally sold by the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1897 to John L. Weaver, who in turn built the residence that stands on the property today. Arthur B. Heaton is believed to be the architect. This was the second residence of the Weaver family in Chevy Chase. Another resident of some fame was Fred Kelly, one of the first newspaper columnists in the country. He was known as the "Sage of Ohio," after he moved from the residence in 1931 to Ohio and continued writing.

The structure of the house is complex, and has most likely been altered over time. Wooden shingles with diamond shaped contrasting shingles on the second story indicate its original Shingle style, and on the first story are narrow clapboards. More classical elements of the design include the handsome Palladian window set into the front-facing gable and the entrance configuration and porch. The one-story wing on the east side of the first story continues the clapboard siding. The gabled roof of the main structure is especially interesting, with its hipped roof dormers and break in the pitch of the roof just above the broad eaves.



No. 9

### 10 East Lenox Street

This excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture was probably built in 1899 by Lewis Earle as part of his Chevy Chase Land Company-sponsored construction in the Village. Mr. Earle bought the property from the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1898 for \$2,000 and sold it one year later, presumably after building, to Lewis J. Davis of Washington, D.C., for \$8,000 (see also 16 West Kirke, another Lewis Davis house).

The wood clapboard house has tremendous integrity. On the east side is a second-story enclosed sleeping porch with an open porch below. The front entrance is particularly skillful in design, with an alternating circle and diamond design in the sidelights flanking the door. A pedimented window is set above the portico. The roof is side-gabled, with a handsome dentiled cornice below, and the windows in both stories are the classic six panes over one. Symmetry and balance of the house are provided by the two bays on either side of the front door.

The current owners of this house have been here since 1975, and the previous owners, the William Sabine family, lived here 40 years. Prior owners were the Connor family, who lived here from 1922.



No. 10

### 12 East Lenox Street

This handsome four-square Colonial Revival house was built in ca. 1899 by Charles C. Tucker. The two-and-one-half-story wood clapboard has a sophisticated set of window designs on the first and second stories—varying from location to location. There are elegant combinations of circles, ovals and squares forming patterns in the sash. The third-floor dormer windows set into the hipped roof present the more traditional eight panes over one pane. The second-story bay is a diamond design executed in wood. This symmetrically composed house also features a full-facade porch.

The Tuckers who built this house came to a tragic end. According to one oral history, both Colonel and Mrs. Tucker had taken the streetcar down to the Knickerbocker Theatre in the District in 1922 when snow caved in the roof and they were killed.



No. 11

### 15 East Lenox Street

Built in ca. 1897, this residence was originally numbered 13 East Lenox. The house and property were assessed at an astonishingly high \$2,500 in that year, and this was one of the largest residences built in the Village at that time.

The house is an interesting and eclectic mix of styles – possibly altered over time. Primarily Colonial Revival in design, the house incorporates decorative wooden shingle siding as the primary exterior material. The rows of saw-tooth shingles that separate the first and second stories of the structure are distinctive. Notice the second-story porch on the west end of the house; this was originally a sleeping porch (now enclosed) which would afford a cooler night's sleep in the decades prior to air conditioning. The massive hipped roof supports seven dormers and three full decorative brick chimneys.

Judge Edward S. Northrop was born at 15 East Lenox in 1911. The family moved out of the house during the Depression, but Northrop, who was first elected at the age of 24 to municipal government, was still active in Chevy Chase Village as Superintendent of Public Service for Sections I and II.





No. 12

### 16 East Melrose Street

This Craftsman-style residence, formerly numbered 12 East Melrose, is said to be only the ninth house built in Chevy Chase Village. It was designed by George S. Cooper and built for John L. Weaver in ca. 1895. This was the first of three houses occupied by the Weaver family in the Village. The current owners have lived here since 1957. A unique feature of the house is that it has only one interior staircase. At the time it was built, two staircases were considered a necessity. This house represents the model "one staircase" house in the Village.

This handsome house combines elements of the Craftsman style (i.e., its wide roof overhangs and exposed eaves) with more classical detailing such as the broad Classical Revival porch. The multiple hipped roof is quite complex with a deep overhang, flared shape, two tall-patterned masonry chimney stacks and distinctive dormers with multi-paned windows. The house is clad in narrow clapboard, and features an oriel window on the west side.



No. 13

### 4 West Melrose Street

This Tudor Revival house was built in ca. 1895 for the actress Miss Annie Lewis. The architect was Louis D. Meline, and this house is thought to be one of the original cottages built in Chevy Chase. Originally the house had a very different look, with a front and side (east) porch. The plans and elevations were displayed in the *Scientific American*, September 1897. The house has undergone many renovations, with the front porch having been removed and the side porch enclosed. The west addition is not original, and the built-in garage is vintage 1920. The result is an engaging blend of many eclectic styles.

Architecturally, however, there are many interesting remaining historical features, particularly the front-facing jerkin-head (clipped) gable on the principle facade, with distinctive half-timbered detailing—set with a strip of four square windows—below. The roof shape is hip on gable, and both stories are wood clapboard.



No. 14

#### 4 Laurel Parkway

Another design by Louis D. Meline effectively combines wood and stone in a naturalistic manner. The first story has a partial stone facing, and the other principal material is shingle—enlivened by paneled wooden sections.

Built in ca. 1894, this Craftsman-style house was first occupied by the Lemley family. Then the William Curtis family purchased the property in the 1920's. The house has a hipped roof, strongly articulated with dormers and gables. It also features a two-story front bay, the first floor of which serves as a sheltered, classically detailed entrance to the front hall. The original bowed side porch wrapping the south side of the house was later turned into a two-story addition, maintaining the footprint of the original design. The handsome, north-facing porch is supported by Craftsman brackets.

The windows, though the same basic style of twelve panes over one pane and double-hung sash, appear in different combinations. Notice on the front of the house they are in pairs or single, while on the sides of the house they are triple, double and single.



No. 15

#### 4 West Kirke Street

Designed by Louis D. Meline, as is its mirror twin house (6 West Kirke Street), this Tudor Revival residence is a combination of stone and clapboard, whereas 6 West Kirke is stone, stucco and clapboard. Both houses were built in ca. 1895 and were pictured in a 1897 *Scientific American*. The gracious entrance on the east side has a simple portico on stone piers, above which is set a Palladian window.

The original owner sold the property in 1912 to William H. Delacy, an attorney who occupied the house with his wife and nine children, according to the 1920 census. Like 6 West Kirke, this house was built with apparent emphasis on the design of the windows. The first and second floors have entirely different styles of windows. The first-floor windows have diamond-cut mullions. On the second floor, the double-hung windows are fifteen panes over one pane. The third-floor windows are twelve panes over one.

The complex roof line features distinctive twin gables facing the street and another strong gable over the east entrance.





No. 16

### 6 West Kirke Street

This Tudor Revival residence, designed by Louis D. Meline, was built in ca. 1895, as was its mirror house at 4 West Kirke. Two and one-half stories in height, it has a stone first floor, a stucco second story, with clapboard on the attic level. Its complex roof line features a double front-facing gable, a distinctive tall decorative brick chimney, and multiple dormers and gables. The windows include a variety of multipaned sash. The most distinctive window, the exuberant large arch on the east side, is interesting to compare to those at 5900 Connecticut Avenue.

An early resident was Charles Muir. Muir was a Washington real estate developer who sold the property in 1912 to Samuel Henry and his family. Henry was an author and an active member in what was then the Chevy Chase Hunt Club, then located where the Chevy Chase Club now stands. Henry chronicled life in early Chevy Chase and around the Hunt Club in his book, *The Old Days with Horse and Hound*.



No. 17

### 12 West Kirke Street

One of the earliest houses built in the Village, this one was constructed in ca. 1898 by Fred Van Dyne. After the property had been purchased for \$900 from the Chevy Chase Land Company by Cuno A. Rudolph, Rudolph sold the property to Van Dyne, whose heirs remained there for an astonishingly long period until 1988! The Van Dynes were proud of their Dutch ancestry and so asked their builder to copy the house from a photo of a house in Amsterdam.

Though categorized as a Colonial Revival in design, the property has many Victorian characteristics such as its lavish massing, wide porch eaves, and bold asymmetrical gables set with a polygonal bay and intricate wooden spindle trim recessed just under the eaves on the northeast corner. The oval Adamesque window located at the pitch of the front gable and modified Palladian window are classical motifs. The exterior material of the house is a uniform narrow wooden clapboard. The handsome broad entrance features a transom over the front door and sidelights.



No. 18

### 14 West Kirke Street

Built in ca. 1894 for the Henry Cozzens family, this Queen Anne Victorian features exuberant projecting bays, gables and wrap-around porches. The Colonial Revival style is superimposed as handsome detailing in the form of such small-scale elements as the columns. The wood-shingle exterior was considered at the time to be an outstanding material to use on the exterior of a residence. Not only is it durable but, if properly maintained, expands and contracts with the changing weather, especially in the summer months of high humidity common to this area.

The architect was Chevy Chase Land Company architect, Leon Dessez. (Dessez is best known for the design of what is now the Vice-President's house.) He considered in his design the form and function of the then-popular sleeping porches, one on either side of the residence, integrating them into the main frame and design of the house. These sleeping porches are rare, as they remain unenclosed. The three large bay windows allow for superior air flow through the first and second floors. The house features a cross-gabled roof line and wide eaves.



No. 19

### 16 West Kirke Street

This sophisticated example of a Classical Revival house is noteworthy for the tall, two-and-one-half story front portico, with a lovely oval Adamesque window in its front-facing gable and lovely Palladian stair-hall window on the second story. Note the Ionic detail on the columns and handsome broken pediment (a characteristic Classical Revival detail) at the entrance. Multi-paned side lights further enrich the entrance. Textured stucco siding covers both stories, and the window style is six panes over two panes on the first floor.

The house was built in ca. 1895. The deeds show that the Chevy Chase Land Company sold the property to Lee D. Latimer in 1895 for \$900. Deeds also indicate a sale of this property to Henry Earle and Louis and Manche Meline in 1895. By 1896, Earle and the Melines sold the house to Lewis J. Davis of Washington, D.C. During the early 1900s, the residents were the General James C. Ord family. The house formerly had a wrap-around front porch, curving to the side porches. These porches, according to one oral history, were added in the late 1890s by occupants who liked to take walks completely around the house as on the deck of a ship! The present owners have lived here since 1962.



No. 20

### 11 West Kirke Street

This house is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style and was known as the "Mary Mackrille House." It was built in ca. 1894 and immediately occupied by Mrs. Mackrille, a widow, her two daughters and their domestic, Henrietta Rettig. Mrs. Mackrille, the owner, occasionally rented space for various uses. One of her tenants was the Cobb School, also known as the Chevy Chase Country Day School.

The house is of wood clapboard, highlighted with handsome reeded engaged pilasters at the corners, an oval window at the second story, and a broken pediment over the entrance. The third story was added at a later date. The hipped roof is accentuated with a widow's walk – an unusual feature in the Chevy Chase neighborhood. The house is five bays in width and features an unusual two-story bay on its east side.

A prior owner was an active gardener at the National Cathedral. The white marble front walk consists of many slabs found by the current owner throughout the yard. The marble is believed to have come from the Cathedral and was assembled to form the attractive walkway.



No. 21

### 5900 Connecticut Avenue

This property was originally built in ca.1893 for the family of Herbert Claude, a supervising engineer for the Rock Creek Railway System that was owned by Senator Francis G. Newlands. This structure housed the first post office in the Village until separate facilities were constructed. The post office was still housed in a room at the rear of the house when it served as a residence, although plans were in existence for the post office to move to 5906-5910 Connecticut Avenue.

The Tudor Revival house, designed by architect Lindley Johnson, possibly in association with Leon Dessez, is two-and-one-half stories high and has a gabled roof line. A prominent half-timbered gable and a pair of robust window arches dominate the facade. This shingle-clad residence has retained most of its original integrity with pergolas (arbors, or structures with open roofs supported by columns) and patterns of half timbering still existing. The Art Deco garage can be seen on the West Irving Street side of the house.

Purchased in 1898 by Elmer Gates, who already owned the entire block to the south, this house was one of the original six model "cottages" illustrated by Thomas J. Fisher and Company on an early 1890s plan of the Village.





No. 22

### 11 West Irving Street

The intricate detailing of 11 West Irving Street gives this ca. 1895 house a distinctive character. Architect Louis D. Meline honored symmetry when designing this four-square Colonial Revival house for A.B. Browne.

Symmetrically composed, the first floor of this frame home is balanced by paired windows on the left and a sophisticated entrance with side lights and a pair of oval Adamesque windows flanking the door. The windows in this house are especially fine. Notice that the delicate designs of the first- and second-floor paired windows have a large single pane on the bottom half and a diamond set within a square on the top half.

The hipped roof incorporates dormers which are in keeping with the symmetry of the total design. Two chimneys balance the roof line. One asymmetrical detail is the handsome, full-facade front porch, which wraps only the southeast corner of the house.



No. 23

### 8 West Irving Street

Built in ca. 1895, 8 West Irving Street is primarily Craftsman style, and an eclectic combination of design and construction materials. The house features an off-center through center hall with two bays of windows on the east side and only one on the west side.

The materials used in the construction are noteworthy, and vary from the foundation up to the dormer roof. The stone foundation gives way to a cedar-shingled first level. The shingles are in two-and-one-half-inch thick layers, one above the other, with a layer of saw-tooth detailing set between every two rows of straight shingles. The second floor exterior is a distinctive pebble-dash stucco. Other unique features of this residence are the English half-timbered frieze just under the cornice, set below the hipped roof, and the wide bracketed eaves.

One of the persistent stories about this house is that it was owned by an inventor at the turn of the century, who conducted electrical and acoustical experiments there. He was perhaps an assistant to Thomas Edison. Lending credence to this story, a prior owner, during renovation, found thousands of old-styled glass insulators in the walls, and left them there undisturbed. Or this house may have been the one that Professor Gates, occupant of the Lodge, used for "scientific and educational purposes." The house also was known in the 1920s as the "Chevy Chase Music Hall" since many performances were held there.



No. 24

### 5804 Connecticut Avenue

One of the first Prairie-style houses built in Chevy Chase and one of the original six model "cottages" illustrated by Thomas J. Fisher and Company, this stucco house dates to ca. 1892, when the Chevy Chase Land Company sold the property to Edward Stellwagen for a little less than \$6,000. The architect of the house was noted Philadelphian Lindley Johnson. The house was built for Mr. Stellwagen, although Leon Dessez, another well-known Chevy Chase architect, lived in it after it was built. The house is set back from Connecticut Avenue and faces Chevy Chase Circle.

By 1898, Elmer Gates, a professor, lived there and built a laboratory for "scientific and educational purposes" between Irving Street and Kirke Street. The house is known as "The Lodge," because the property temporarily provided housing for the Chevy Chase Club members in 1916.

The Lodge has a main two-story section and two one-story wings with a *porte cochere* on the east and a sun room on the west. Typical of the Prairie style, the house is characterized by a broad, low-pitched roof with wide eaves and stucco walls.



No. 25

### 8 Grafton Street

This strongly intact Shingle-style house was constructed in ca. 1897 by the Chevy Chase Land Company. Characteristic of the Shingle-style, dark continuous shingled walls blend its rambling picturesque massing features into a strong horizontal whole. Diamond-shaped contrasting shingles can be seen between the two second-story windows. The sophisticated wrap-around porch is supported with Tuscan columns. The house has two and one-half stories with three bays of windows. Among several distinctive windows are the triple first-floor front window with transoms echoed by the triple windows set in the front-facing gable.

Prior to the addition of a garage around 1916, the house had ten rooms and three bathrooms. The property was owned and developed by the Chevy Chase Land Company, and the original tax assessment was \$2,500.





No. 26

### 9 Chevy Chase Circle

This handsome residence is one of the earliest houses built in Chevy Chase. It was built as a multi-gabled, late Queen Anne-style house in ca. 1894, designed by noted Philadelphia architect Lindley Johnson. Its original resident was Senator Francis G. Newlands, founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, and originator of the concept of a suburb for Washington, D.C., serviced by the trolley car. Newlands occupied the residence until 1898 when the property was turned over to the Chevy Chase Land Company and leased as a summer residence. One of the most famous tenants was Lyman Gage, President McKinley's Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1909, William S. Corby, the "fabulously wealthy founder of Corby Baking Company" purchased the house and made extensive changes, working with skilled Washington architect Arthur B. Heaton. It was at this time, roughly between 1909 and 1914, that the classic Tudor Revival

detailing was added to the house and the large two-story music room was carved out of the interior. The gateway was built in 1915, and the garages were added in 1924 and 1927. The Corbys lived here for over 50 years and named the house "Ishpiming," meaning high place in Chippawa.

The half timber and stucco give the house its Tudor characteristics. Notice the fieldstone facing on the first floor. At the front (south) of the house, at the music room, are leaded windows with musical motifs.

The property originally was a 125,000-square-foot lot covering the entire block. A fieldstone wall now surrounds much of the property. The *porte cochere* at the north entrance provides the covered entryway. Notice the well-proportioned brick chimneys with their clay chimney pots. The estate is individually listed as a historic property in the Montgomery County *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.



An Architectural Guide to Selected Building  
Forms in Chevy Chase Village

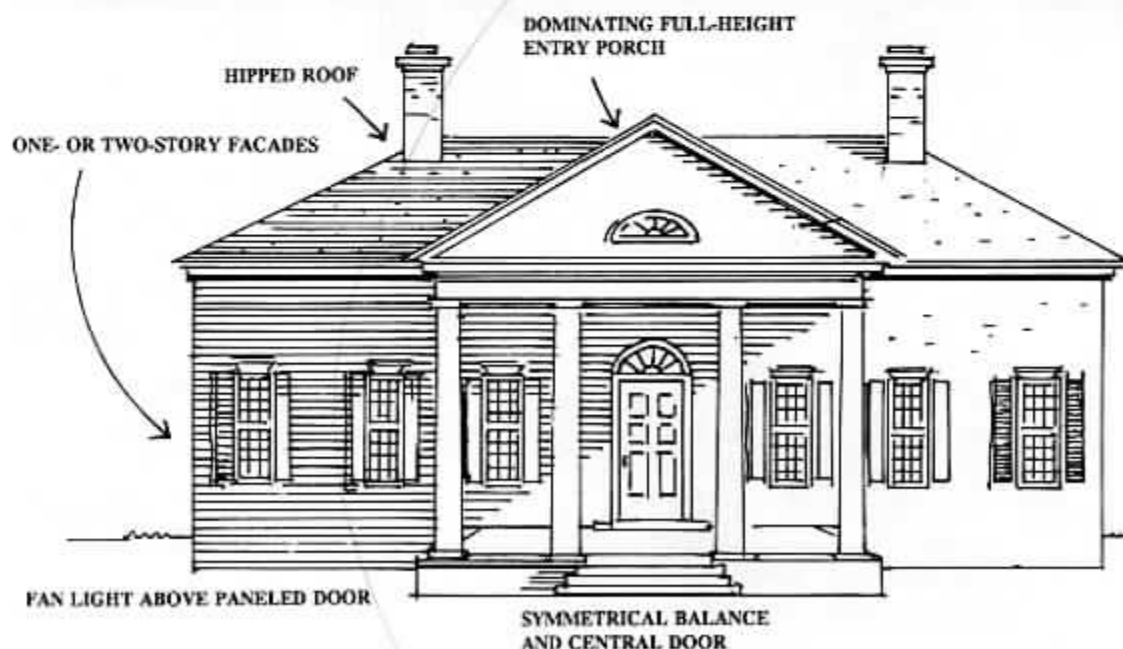
by  
W. Sharon Farr

## TYPICAL QUEEN ANNE DESIGN ELEMENTS



The Queen Anne is identified with Scottish-born architect, Richard Shaw (1831-1912). Facades were richly decorative and showed a great variety of odd roof angles, patterned shingles, spindles and ornate wood accents.

## TYPICAL CLASSICAL REVIVAL DESIGN ELEMENTS



Models of the Classical Revival were well received at the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893 and renewed interest in the Thomas Jefferson era quickly became extremely popular.

## TYPICAL COLONIAL REVIVAL DESIGN ELEMENTS



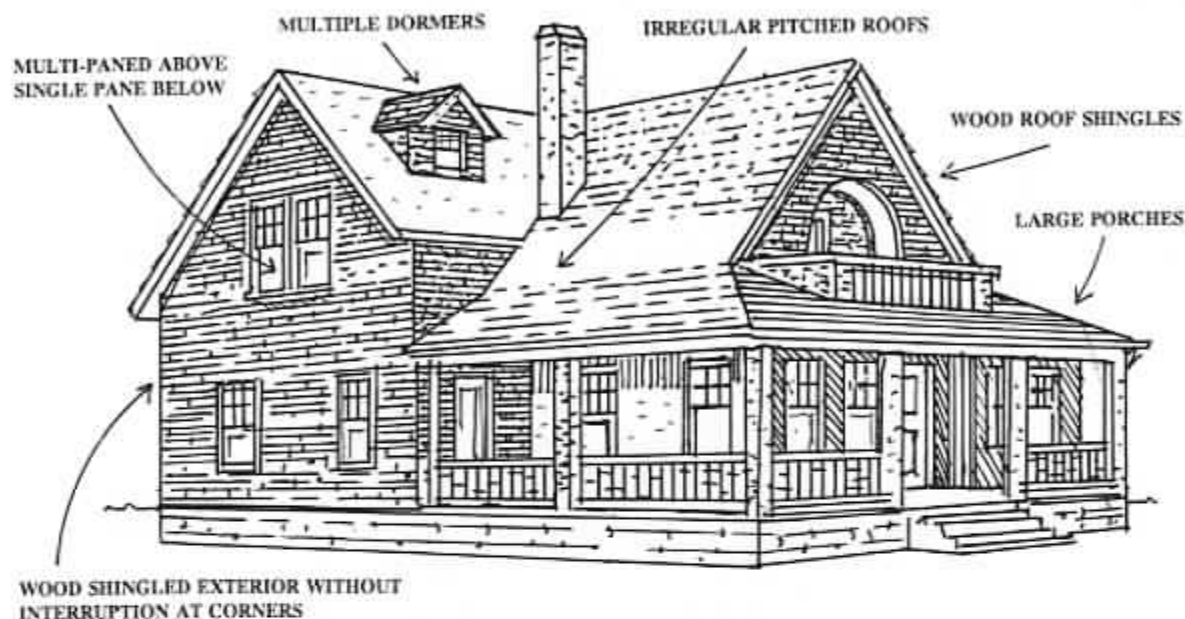
Interest in the early English and Dutch homes of the Atlantic seaboard led to the Revival period of the 1900s, especially the Georgian and Adams styles.

## TYPICAL TUDOR DESIGN ELEMENTS



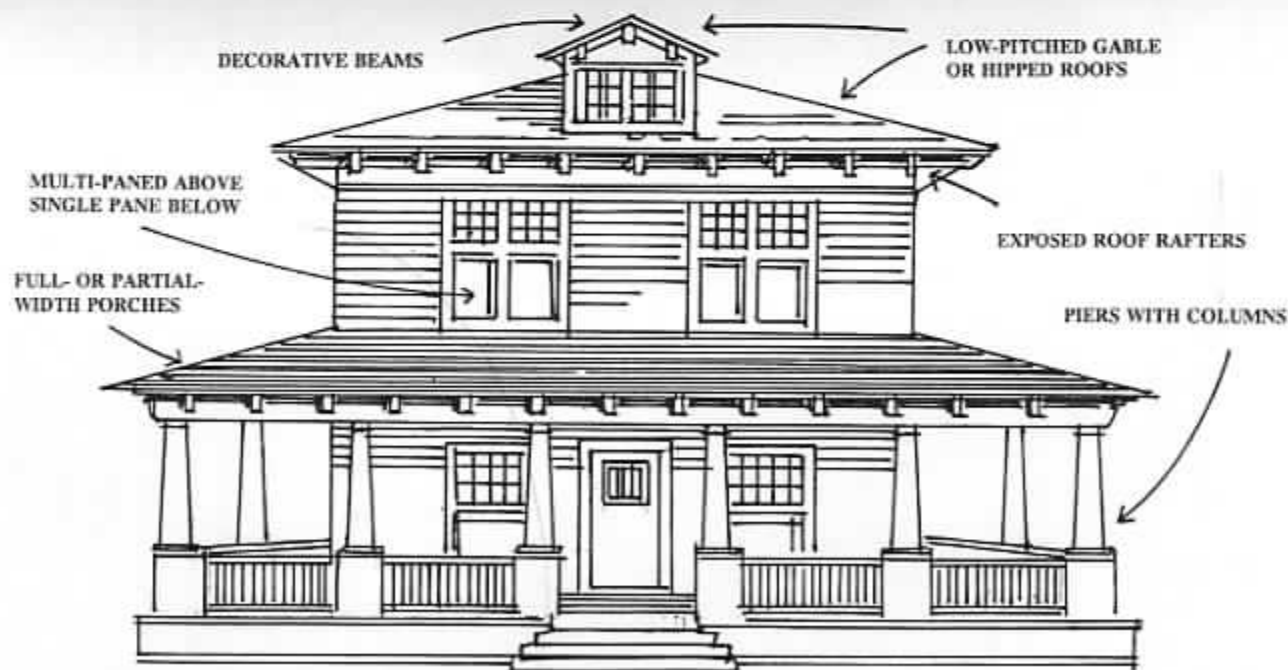
There are many variations of the eclectic American Tudor which were derived from the English cottages and grand manors of the late Middle Ages. Their most common characteristics are the use of half timbers and steeply-pitched, front-facing gables.

## TYPICAL SHINGLE DESIGN ELEMENTS



The shingle design of the early 1900s was originally found in the fashionable summer cottages of Newport, Rhode Island, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and coastal Maine.

## TYPICAL CRAFTSMAN DESIGN ELEMENTS



Inspired by the English Arts & Crafts movement of the early 1900s, the intricately designed Craftsman homes of southern California became popular nationwide. Bungalows typically exhibit strong Craftsman style.



## GLOSSARY

*Adamesque:* A window form, revived in this country in the 20th-century Classical Revival style, which draws upon the earlier work of English architect Robert Adam.

*Balustrade:* A railing system with top rail and spindles.

*Bay:* The regular division of the facade of a building, usually defined by windows or doors.

*Bracket:* A small carved wooden element which supports horizontal pieces, such as a cornice, window, or door hood.

*Broken pediment:* A pediment, characteristic of the Classical Revival or Colonial Revival styles, in which there is a gap between the two top portions of the pediment.

*Clapboard:* A siding consisting of a series of boards.

*Cornice:* A projecting molding at the top of a wall surface, such as may be found below the eaves of a roof.

*Dentil:* Small square blocks closely spaced to decorate a cornice.

*Dormer:* A small window with its own roof that projects from a sloping roof.

*Eave:* The edge of a roof that projects beyond the face of a wall.

*Gable:* 1. Triangular end portion of a building; 2. Decorative member having the shape of a triangular gable.

*Hipped roof or pyramidal roof:* A roof with four pitched sides that slope inward. Over a square plan, it becomes pyramidal.

*Jerkin-headed roof:* A roof having a hipped end, truncating a gable.

*Massing:* The overall shape and major volumes of a building.

*Light:* A section of a window, the pane or glass.

*Oriel window:* A bay window, often supported on brackets, located above the first floor of a building.

*Palladian:* An arched window, flanked by two smaller square-headed windows.

*Pebble-dash stucco:* An exterior wall coat, containing primarily portland cement and sand, with stone added for texture.

*Pediment:* The triangular space forming the end of a roof in Classical architecture, or the triangular cap over a window or door.

*Porte cochere:* A covered building entrance over a driveway or road, constructed to allow carriages or automobiles to pass below.

*Transom:* An opening over a door or window containing a glazed or solid sash.

Sources: Judith Robinson and *Walking Tour, Town of Brookeville*, Brookeville, Maryland: 1994.

#### ABOUT THE CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY . . . .

The Chevy Chase Historical Society was founded in 1981. Its purposes are: to sponsor educational programs; to collect, study and preserve the records relating to the history of Chevy Chase; and to build collections of relevant materials. These consist of historical photographs, maps, early histories, newspapers and architectural drawings. All materials are available to the public for research.

The Society holds a lecture program at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, once in the Spring and once in the Fall, and publishes a newsletter. The Society would like to receive photographs, letters and documents (or photocopies of such items) bearing on the history of Chevy Chase. Those interested in becoming members should call Fran Schorr at 301-656-2416.