



# **Celebrating Our History**

**An  
Architectural Tour  
of the  
Town of Chevy Chase**

**Town of Chevy Chase  
4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

**301-654-7144  
[www.townofchevyCHASE.org](http://www.townofchevyCHASE.org)**

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## **Celebrating Our History: An Architectural Tour of the Town of Chevy Chase**

### **A Project of the Town History Committee**

Mary Anne Hoffman, Project Chair  
Pat Burda, Eleanor Ford, Bridget Hartman, Jane Lawton  
Nancy Lemann, Frances Stickles, Julie Thomas

### **Architectural History Consultant**

Judith Helm Robinson

### **Artwork**

W. Sharon Farr

### **Layout & Production**

Dave Walton & Belinda Wilborn

### **Publisher**

Town of Chevy Chase

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## About This Booklet

This guide was created to celebrate the Town of Chevy Chase's architectural diversity and its legacy as one of the nation's first planned suburbs. Your neighbors on the Town History Committee who developed this booklet hope that it will be your companion on many enjoyable walks through our Town's picturesque neighborhoods, and that it will enhance your appreciation for what makes those neighborhoods so appealing.

We have selected 23 houses, plus four local landmarks, to tell the story of our Town and how it grew. We have provided information on each house's architectural style to help you compare it to similar styles elsewhere in the Town, both of older structures and of new ones being built today. Where possible, we also have included neighborhood anecdotes and local legends, delightful threads in the fabric of our community life.

Whenever you use this booklet for a self-guided tour, please remember to respect the private property of the featured residences and view them from the public sidewalk or roadway only.

# Houses on the Tour

(See mini-tours, pg. 50)





## Our Town and How It Grew

The lively parade of solidly built homes along tree-shaded streets depicted on our Town seal didn't just happen. It was the result of careful planning by entrepreneur Francis G. Newlands, who quietly bought up 1,700 acres of farmland northwest of Washington, D.C., in the late 1880s to build a model streetcar suburb for the nation's capital. Newlands created the Chevy Chase Land Company, then recruited top architects and engineers to build a subdivision of fine residences, attractive landscapes and top-notch community services.

First he had to extend Connecticut Avenue north from Calvert Street to Jones Bridge Road, building trestle bridges over Rock Creek and Klinge Valley to lay an electric streetcar line to his new suburb. Streetcars would deliver residents to their jobs downtown -- and groceries from downtown to their neighborhoods.

The first neighborhood, Section 2 or Chevy Chase Village, opened in 1893 in the area around Chevy Chase Circle. By the time Chevy Chase Section 3 opened in 1907, worsening economic conditions had prompted the Land Company to reduce street widths and some lot sizes to make space for smaller, more affordable houses. Section 4, the core of today's Town of Chevy Chase, was platted for development in 1909.

In all these sections, Newlands' Chevy Chase Land Company imposed building restrictions to ensure quality development. Houses built on Connecticut Avenue, along the popular streetcar route, could cost no less than \$5,000 (about \$135,000 in today's dollars). Homes on side streets had to cost at least \$3,000. Row houses, apartments and businesses were banned. And, following the ideas of celebrated landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, some Chevy Chase roads were laid out in a picturesque pattern, meandering to follow the natural terrain.

The rolling hills and many streams of Section 4 were ideal for this romantic approach. (Think Meadow Lane, designed as a curvilinear, tree-lined parkway threading along the route of a streambed.)

By 1915, some 36 buildings were scattered around Section 4: a few 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses, several grand 20<sup>th</sup> century homes along Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane and a scattering of bungalows along Ridgewood, Maple and Stanford. Meanwhile, Henry Ford's Model T was taking America by storm and replacing the streetcar. In 1935, the streetcar line closed, and buses took over. Old stables and carriage houses at the rear of lots were altered to become "auto houses," and new houses sported garages. Our streetcar suburb had become an automobile suburb.

Pioneering female developer Fannie J. Barrett became the first outsider to capitalize on the Chevy Chase Land Company's success. Her Chevy Chase Park subdivision, located adjacent to Section 4, imposed minimum construction costs and 25-foot setbacks similar to Land Company restrictions. By 1918, at least 17 handsome homes stood in Barrett's Chevy Chase Park.

After World War I, the thousands of government workers who remained in Washington flocked to the suburbs in search of a single-family home and a front yard. This set the stage for the building boom of 1920-1941, when several developers churned out 85 percent of the houses in today's Town:

- Brothers Monroe and Robert Bates Warren developed "Leland," a subdivision of three-bedroom Georgian and Tudor Revivals west of Section 4.
- Developers George F. Mikkelsen and Son purchased the large open area at the heart of Section 4, which had originally contained underground springs and the community water supply, to create "Mikkelsen's Subdivision" of well-designed central- and side-hall Colonials and Tudor Revivals.
- The Shannon & Luchs Construction Company re-subdivided portions of Chevy Chase Park to showcase a number of Colonial Revival homes designed by noted architect Arthur B. Heaton.
- And Monroe Warren, Sr. developed "Meadowbrook" in the Colonial Revival style.

In all these neighborhoods, architecturally interesting homes on generous, tree-shaded lots create the ideal suburb Francis Newlands had envisioned. Bungalows and Craftman-style houses built in the late teens and early twenties; Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Tudor and Mediterranean houses built in the mid-1920s-1940s comprise a compendium of 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture, a tribute to quality design, solid construction and good planning.

It all adds up to a great place to call home.

*-Mary Anne Hoffman*

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Houses marked with an asterisk (\*) have been designated for historic preservation by Montgomery County.



No. 1

**4500 Leland Street\***

This substantial Queen Anne style house is the oldest residence in the Town of Chevy Chase and a prominent neighborhood landmark. Built around 1892 on an acre of land before the creation of the Norwood subdivision, it was oriented to face Wisconsin Avenue. William and Bettie Offutt moved in soon after the house was built, leaving their home in Northwest Washington in the hopes that the country air would improve Bettie's failing health. The house, described as "entirely new having ten rooms, besides an attic and cellar," was valued at \$7,500. The Offutts raised their family of five children here.

Another large family, the Mirek Dabrowskis, purchased the house from two elderly Offutt sisters in 1965 and resided here with their eight children for 40 years. The Dabrowski daughters staged musical shows on the expansive front porch, as audiences of 200 watched from the front lawn. The children enjoyed playing hide-and-seek in the third floor tower and discovering old horseshoes in the back yard, remnants of an earlier time.

Now sheltering its third family, the house is a fine example of the Queen Anne style. It has a three-story tower with polygonal roof and wraparound porch. Sawtooth shingles enliven pedimented gables, while the remainder of the house is covered with German siding. Most windows have the original operable louvered shutters. Open, they look out on a far different scene than the Offutts ever viewed before the Town took shape around them.





No. 2

#### 4406 Leland Street

According to local residents, this Folk Victorian house served as a gardener's cottage or servants' quarters for the Offutt farmhouse at 4500 Leland Street. Real estate maps for this part of Montgomery County did not exist before 1927 to confirm when the house was built, but its style is that of dwellings built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century after railroads changed American housing dramatically. For example, this side-gabled house -- two rooms wide and two rooms deep -- could be constructed with light-weight lumber that arrived by rail. The railroads also provided local lumberyards with pre-cut detailing from distant mills. Many builders simply grafted pieces of this newly available trim onto the traditional house forms familiar to local carpenters.

The Folk Victorian style married elements from different architectural styles. Here, Queen Anne spindlework porch posts combine with Italianate porch brackets and flat, jig-saw-cut balustrade trim to produce a simple yet distinctive residence.

An elderly Offutt son resided here until the late 1960s, when he sold the house to a seamstress, who built the front driveway for her customers' cars. Until that time, the house only had a carriage stop at the front walk. After the current owner bought the property in 1987, she expanded the rear and side of the house and installed a stucco wall to frame an outdoor garden room. Antique ironwork on the front steps came from Canada. The 32 layers of paint discovered in a recent re-do came from more than a century of living.



No. 3

#### 6709 East Avenue\*

The Chase House, also known as Norwood Cottage, is one of the earliest houses built on East Avenue in the Norwood Heights subdivision. Norwood Heights was platted in 1893, oriented toward Bethesda and planned around the streetcar line on present-day Wisconsin Avenue. It clearly was influenced by Chevy Chase Land Company development, though its deed restrictions were far less stringent. Unable to withstand the financial panic of 1893, the Norwood Heights Improvement Company collapsed by 1906 with only a few houses built. Builders Monroe and Robert Warren later would incorporate much of Norwood Heights into their Leland subdivision.

Evidence suggests that this cottage was built by Royden and Ivy Chase, who acquired the property in 1905. Directories indicate the house may have been built by 1906. Royden Chase took out a mortgage in 1909 for \$2,000. The Chases owned the property until 1919. It may include remnants of an earlier house or outbuildings.

The Chase House is a fine example of a modest Craftsman-style cottage. The one-and-half story hipped roof dwelling has a wraparound porch supported by squared posts on stone piers. The foundation is fieldstone, as are two massive interior chimneys. The interior of the house includes gaslight fixture connections and radiator fittings stamped with a 1903 date. The house was been meticulously restored and expanded to accommodate an active young family.



No. 4

### 7002 Connecticut Avenue

Streetcars rumbled up Connecticut Avenue past this house years before the Chevy Chase Land Company subdivided Section 4, the core of today's Town of Chevy Chase, in 1909.

Built in 1906 for Will D. Nichols, a draftsman for the federal government, the house is one of few Queen Anne-style houses in the Town today. Queen Anne is one of the larger group of styles labeled Victorian. Queen Anne detailing includes the corner tower, the steeply pitched front gable with ornamental soffit returns, triangular window and wraparound front porch. The slate roof is original. Colonial Revival became the predominant style in the early days of Section 4, replacing in popularity Queen Anne houses like this one.

Noted Washington architect Winthrop Faulkner added to the house twice, carefully preserving the original exterior and interior. The Nichols family lived in the house continuously until 1964, longer than a previously published date of 1940. One other owner occupied the house for two years, until the current owners bought it in 1966, living here for what will be 40 years in August 2006. They say it has been for them a sunny, happy place to live.



Chevy Chase Historical Society Photo  
Gift of Mrs. Edith Claude Jarvis

No. 5

### Rosemary Circle/Millennium Park (Site of Rosemary Circle Water Tower)

Because Rosemary Circle was on high ground, the Chevy Chase Land Company built a water storage tower here in 1893. Supplied by a nearby pumping station which conveyed water from artesian wells, the tower supplied area residents with "pure, clear" water at reliable pressure and at a cost below city prices.

The 130-foot tower was constructed of steel, with a metal maintenance ladder spiraling to a ledge around the top. Neighborhood children made repeated attempts to climb the standpipe, some successfully. One girl, a 1935 Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School graduate, gained fame by hanging by her knees from the top of the winding stairs. Shortly after World War I, three boys decided to parachute off the side of the tank holding on to the corners of a big piece of canvas. It didn't work, but the ground was soft, and they all survived.

The graceful tower, compared by some to the Tower of Pisa, was dismantled in 1934 when a county system began supplying water and sewer services. Until then, the Chevy Chase Land Company fulfilled its real estate pledge to supply water, just as it had supplied electricity, public transportation and, in 1902, telephone service.





No. 6

### **Chevy Chase Elementary School\***

The Chevy Chase Land Company played an early and continuing role in the history of Chevy Chase Elementary School, one of Montgomery County's oldest public educational institutions.

The Chevy Chase School opened in 1898 as a two-room building at 3905 Bradley Lane on land donated by the Land Company. "Valley View" was the first school to be built on the grounds of present-day Chevy Chase Elementary School. It opened in 1917, thanks to the efforts of the county's first PTA, the Chevy Chase Home and School Association.

The architectural roots of present-day Chevy Chase Elementary School, often called the Rosemary School, date from the 1930s. Howard Wright Cutler, premier architect for Montgomery County public schools from the 1920s to 1940s, designed a three-part, u-shaped brick complex to replace Valley View. The 1936 nine-classroom brick west wing and exterior façade of his 1930 twelve-classroom brick east wing remain today. The central block was never built. Instead, a one-story "Long Hall" connected the two buildings for many years.

Cutler's 1930s design is a handsome marriage of Art Deco (stepped-up parapet roof, expansive fenestration and geometric window panels) and Classical Revival (limestone window quoins and portal entrances). A 1999-2001 renovation by Wieneck & Zavos Architects removed uninspired post-Cutler additions. A donation from the Land Company ensured compatibility with Cutler's original look.



No. 7

### **4101 Stanford Street\***

This Spanish Colonial Revival villa was designed by theater architect Reginald W. Geare, who also lived here for a time. The residence and its neighbors at 4103 and 4105 Stanford Street are significant both for their association with Geare, an active designer in Chevy Chase Park, and for their unusual architectural styling. This house features arched window and door openings, towers and turrets, terra-cotta tile roofs and stucco walls. Inside, a Juliet balcony overlooks a dramatic two-story-high living room.

Water damage in 2002 required removal of wallboard, revealing a 23'-high grand stairway to a basement ballroom. When basement wallboard was torn out, the current owner found a massive stucco fireplace, decorative medallions, four crimson arches and hand-painted murals. These designs were reminiscent of the flourishes in Geare's Lincoln, Metropolitan and Knickerbocker Theaters in Washington, D.C.

Tragically, the Knickerbocker Theater's roof collapsed during a heavy snowstorm in January 1923, killing 98 people. Although Geare's design was not blamed, he committed suicide in his home on Porter Street in Washington four years later.

In the years before his death, Geare doubtless enjoyed the Prohibition-era "speakeasy" hidden behind the basement furnace room wall at 4101 Stanford. The secret barroom is underneath the front yard, complete with a whiskey chute, where drive-by couriers delivered the contraband.



No. 8

#### 4109 Rosemary Street

This eclectic two-story stucco house overlooking Rosemary Circle is believed to have been built by J. P. Neff around 1925. It combines elements of several 20<sup>th</sup> century Revival styles. The symmetrical façade, gable and low-pitched roof of red clay barrel tiles are typical Mediterranean Revival features. The front entrance's fanlight, sidelights and freestanding columns are Colonial Revival touches. An open porch on the north and enclosed room on the south provide further balance. A garage is in the basement.

The current owners purchased the house from Rowland Lyons of the *Washington Star* newspaper family in 1972. A 1980 fire destroyed the kitchen and most of the downstairs. The kitchen was remodeled again in 1985. In the devastating storm of June 14, 1989, four trees fell into the house, destroying one bedroom, the screened porch and the den roof. Major repairs took more than a year to complete.

During their 35 years in the house, the current owners rented the house while abroad to Canadian and Portuguese diplomats. In 1990, they sold the triangle of land across the street to the Town, which named it Rosemary Triangle Park. The house enjoys an unobstructed view through the park to Rosemary Circle.



No. 9

#### 3903 Rosemary Street

E. Percival Wilson, a member of the early citizens' committee that helped form the Town, paid the Chevy Chase Land Company \$2,198.56 for this lot in August 1909. His was one of the earliest lot purchases in the newly platted Section 4. The house was built by 1916, when it was showcased in a real estate brochure promoting Chevy Chase as a community for discriminating homeowners. Sharing some of the same details as many of the bungalows along Rosemary, Ridgewood and Maple Streets, it is an excellent example of Craftsman-inspired architecture. According to its current owners, the residence has been home to only three different families.

Quality of workmanship and materials rather than exuberant ornamentation distinguishes 3903 Rosemary from its Colonial and Tudor Revival neighbors. A stuccoed first story, shingled second story, multi-paneled casement windows, broad gable-roofed entrance porch, overhanging eaves and exposed roof rafters acknowledge the home's Arts and Crafts heritage. The interior also retains much of its original Craftsman detailing. First floor rooms boast exposed beamed ceilings, naturally stained dark wood paneling and built-in cabinetry.

The most significant change to the exterior has been the enclosure of the first story open porch along the eastern façade and its sleeping porch above. A large rear addition, constructed as an artist's studio for the previous owner in the 1970s, is largely unnoticed from the street. A small "auto house" nestled in the rear of the property is a reminder of Section 4's early transition from streetcar to automobile suburb.



Chevy Chase Historical Society Photo  
Gift of Ara Mesrobian

No. 10

**National 4-H Conference Center  
(Site of Chevy Chase Springs Hotel)**

The Chevy Chase Land Company built a hotel on this site and an amusement park near Jones Mill Road to lure potential residents to the tamed countryside at the end of its streetcar line. Advertising nightly music, rural surroundings and a dollar dinner, the Chevy Chase Springs Hotel opened in 1894. Rooms were full in the summertime, but the hotel, soon known as the Chevy Chase Inn, sat nearly empty in the winter. The Land Company leased the inn to a private school for the winter terms and in 1903, sold the property to the Chevy Chase College for Young Ladies. A school remained in operation here under various names for the next 50 years. The National 4-H Foundation bought the property in 1951, and eight years later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower snipped the opening-day ribbon for the National 4-H Conference Center.

The original Chevy Chase Springs Hotel (pictured above after it became a girls' school) was designed by architect Lindley Johnson in early Colonial Revival style. Arthur B. Heaton designed several additions for dormitory space in 1917 and in 1938 re-clad the entire exterior in brick. In 1976, the 4-H Foundation demolished what remained of the original Chevy Chase Inn and constructed the present J.C. Penny Hall on its footprint. The new building's two-story Ionic portico and brick façade recall the hotel's early Colonial Revival style.

The Town of Chevy Chase had its offices and annual meetings here until the Leland Center opened in 1989.



No. 11

**7200 Connecticut Avenue\***

This Italian Renaissance Revival residence was built in 1925-26 by Stephano Luzapone, one of three homes he built here so that he and his brothers, Constantino and Frank, could raise their families together. The houses brought a more eclectic architectural character to Section 4 at a time of transition between the streetcar and automobile eras. Early photos show trolley tracks outside the front doors, but two homes feature detached garages. One streetcar passenger remembered seeing the houses -- one pink, one yellow and one orange-- on her way to Chevy Chase Lake.

The Luzapones were highly skilled ornamental plasterers who emigrated from Italy in the early 1900s. The interiors of all three homes feature marble floors and elaborately carved plaster molding, a testament to the skill of the brothers, who worked on Union Station, the U.S. Capitol and many other public buildings. Constructed of 18"-thick concrete and stucco, the three similar flat-roofed palazzos are two-story, three-bay structures with tall narrow casement windows.

In the rear the houses are connected by a sidewalk which allowed the boy cousins (no girls permitted) to sleep in summer on top of the double garage. #7200 has a fountain surrounded by a lily-of-the-valley garden and a family wine press in the basement. Constantino hosted many gatherings in the gold-leafed dining room for his nine children, his brothers' families and their friends. Guests always left with a full stomach and a bottle of wine from the Luzapone cellar.



No. 12

**7205 Meadow Lane\***

This Dutch Colonial Revival-style house, built in 1921 during a construction boom north of Thornapple Street, is typical of the eclectic architecture that blossomed in Section 4 between the wars. The two-story house features the hallmark of the Dutch Colonial style, a gambrel roof, which extends over a deep porch to be supported by simple round columns. The porch and roofline create a sense of scale similar to smaller houses in other parts of the Town. The house has a wide slate roof accented by a single eyebrow dormer window. Over the years, residents and guests have enjoyed watching life go by on Meadow Lane while they played shuffleboard on the spacious front porch.

The house was built after Bertha B. Shafer of Washington, D.C. purchased Lots 20 and 21 from the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1919. Bertha's husband, M. Rea Shafer, was a craftsman and furniture finisher. The Shafers owned the property until 1945.

Recent renovations have preserved the house's outstanding architectural integrity.



No. 13

**7320 Meadow Lane\***

This high-style Tudor Revival house was built in 1926 as the residence of Monroe Warren, one of the Town's most prolific builders. He and his wife Dorothy asked their son Monroe, Jr. to build them a small one-story house, but their son later recalled that they kept adding "two feet dimension to every room" until it was the imposing dwelling you see today.

With its rich detail and variety of building forms and materials, the 2 1/2-story residence is an excellent example of early English architecture. It has a dominant hipped roof with front-facing cross gable and various window treatments on all three levels. A small round-arched window in the front gable echoes larger arched door openings at the entry and side porch. Wall and roof surfaces include textured stucco, half-timbering, stone quoins and slate shingles.

Monroe Warren was the founder and senior partner of a family construction company, Monroe and R.B. Warren, Inc., which began business in 1920. The Warren brothers built low-cost homes in the 1920s in Chevy Chase's Leland community and pioneered the construction of cooperative apartments in Washington, including the beautiful but ill-fated Kennedy-Warren. The Depression proved a bad time to build the elegant Kennedy-Warren, and Monroe Warren was forced to declare bankruptcy. He wasted little time in starting another company, Meadowbrook Construction, Inc., which operated from 1932 to 1966 and built the Town's Meadowbrook community.

The current owners are believed to be the third family in the house.





*No. 14*

#### **7410 Connecticut Avenue**

Architect Mihrab Mesrobian had been practicing for 20 years in Washington when he decided to build a home for himself. It was 1941. Thinking he had only himself to satisfy as a client, he was surprised to discover that the Chevy Chase Land Company had final say over his designs. The corner lot at Connecticut Avenue and Woodbine Street was the last of prominence. Rather than the Beaux-Arts style for which he was better known, Mesrobian chose the International Style for his family residence. The Land Company thought the design was incompatible with the more traditional houses on the Avenue, but with adjustments such as replacing a flat roof with a hipped roof, Mesrobian's plan was accepted. The streamlined result was still ahead of its time and is often called Art Moderne.

Exterior surfaces of the white-washed brick house have horizontal stringcourses and incised geometric patterns. The recessed entrance is accented by a curved glass-brick window. Stone finials of fruit adorn the gates and balcony, while eagles spread their wings on the chimneys and basement garage.

Mesrobian designed a more modest house on the west end of the property (3902 Woodbine). Pearl Harbor occurred two months after the Mesrobian family moved into their house, and they quickly sold the Woodbine house to a navy captain. By the time the retaining wall was installed, the war had begun and brick was in short supply. It was used only as a trim, with cascading ivy softening the cinderblocks. Both house and wall remain unaltered, and a Mesrobian son is the current owner.



*No. 15*

#### **3910 Blackthorn Street**

Built before 1925 and said to be the first house constructed on the south side of Blackthorn Street, this Dutch Colonial is a variation on the Colonial Revival style. Its lot was purchased from the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1921 by Joseph Claghorn, but it is believed the house was built by the next owner, George Maxfield.

The house was completed by a team of high school students under the supervision of a professional architect. Each student was assigned a room and competed with embellishments such as special flooring and cornices, fireplaces and French doors. Ahead of its time, the master bedroom had its own bathroom and fireplace, but its closets were only deep enough for hooks, not a rod.

An addition to the rear was made in 1992. At that time structural footings were added to a house that had miraculously been standing without support, resting on a bed of cinders, for more than 60 years. Only the sway in the roofline indicates this history.

The house is of clapboard siding with a wide gambrel roof of shakes overhanging the front facade. The unusual sunroom is original to the house.

George and Lucy Maxfield, both practicing osteopaths, lived in the house until about 1970. Since 1975 the third and present owners have raised three children in the house, restored its charms and that of the garden, which in the Maxfields' time was tended by the groundskeeper at Columbia Country Club.





No. 16

#### 4128 Leland Street

Fannie Barrett, a wealthy widow and resident of Washington, D.C., was determined to develop real estate in Chevy Chase. In April 1909 she purchased 120 acres adjacent to the Chevy Chase Land Company's Section 4 and officially platted it as Chevy Chase Park in September 1910. Taking her cue from the Land Company, Barrett erected well-designed model homes in a park-like setting to attract potential buyers.

4128 Leland is an example of one of the first houses built by Barrett in 1914. These original Barrett homes were modest two-story frame residences that she built for \$11,000; other examples include 4132 and 4109 Leland and 4121 Woodbine. 4128 Leland is a stucco Dutch Colonial with a broad gambrel roof, projecting eaves, a deep front porch and French doors on one side of the main entrance and a bay window on the other.

Continuing down the hill toward Meadow, note 4112 Leland, where former FBI agent Gaston Means is said to have buried money swindled from Hope Diamond heiress Evalyn Walsh McLean, who paid him \$100,000 to find the kidnapped Lindbergh baby in 1932. Repeated excavations for the ransom have proved fruitless. Across the street at 4113 Leland is the home Fannie Barrett built for herself around 1923. She lived there until her death in 1943. Her daughter, Allene, continued to live in the house until she died in 1960.



No. 17

#### 4101 Leland Street

Fannie Barrett undertook a second wave of development in Chevy Chase Park in 1917. This Renaissance Revival residence was one of these homes, larger in scale and more elaborate in design than those Barrett originally developed. Most had third-floor sleeping porches since air-conditioning had not yet come into vogue, and all included basement garages, indicating the car's emerging importance. These homes were originally assessed between \$4,000 and \$5,500. By 1920, this house sold for \$25,000.

Architect Reginald Geare is attributed with the design of this house, as well as similar houses at 4103, 4105, 4106, 4108 and 4110 Leland. An influential architect in the early decades of the century, Geare was best known for his Georgian Revival theater designs. Not long after designing these Leland Street houses, he drew the plans for three Spanish Colonial Revival villas on Rosemary Circle (see Tour House #7). Geare owned 4101 Leland Street for its first year. Fannie Barrett's attorney, Roger Whiteford, was another early resident.

This Renaissance Revival house recalls the formal, highly symmetrical palaces built during the Renaissance in Tuscany and Northern Italy. Its distinctive French doors capped by semicircular blind arches, bold roof overhang and heavy corner blocks, or quoins, are typical Renaissance Revival features.

Leland Street was a logical place for Fannie Barrett to build these substantial houses. Newly constructed by 1915, Leland was the only paved interior street within the boundaries of what is now the Town of Chevy Chase.



No. 18

#### 4117 Woodbine

Many of the Town's earliest houses were bungalows, and fine examples can still be seen on Rosemary and Stanford Streets and Ridgewood and Maple Avenues. Most of the Town's bungalows were built at higher elevations to take advantage of cooler air in hot summer months. Air circulated through the houses' many windows, and deep porches lent shade and comfort.

Public records show that this bungalow was built in 1920. While it has not been firmly established that it was built from a Sears, Roebuck and Company kit, it is similar to several Sears designs available during the decades (1908-1940) when Americans could order pre-cut lumber and instructions for sturdy houses by mail, and have them delivered by rail.

The house exhibits many elements of an Arts and Crafts bungalow: a low-pitched roof that extends over the front porch, grouped windows and cutout brackets under wide eaves. The current owners believe that the Arts and Crafts-style porch light and matching chandeliers in the living room are original to the house. Beamed ceilings, window trim and doors are the original dark wood. Typical Arts and Crafts touches are built-in bookshelves around the stone fireplace and built-in dining room china cabinets.

Other Arts and Crafts-style houses on Woodbine include 4109 (two bungalows joined together by the current owners) and 4106 and 4108 Woodbine, spec houses built by the same builder in c.1906 and c.1908 respectively. Both have recently been remodeled.



No. 19

#### 4107 Woodbine Street

Gustav Stickley, a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement in America, helped popularize the style in his magazine, *The Craftsman*, from 1901-1916, and in his books, *Craftsman Homes* (1909) and *More Craftsman Homes* (1912). During that time he published hundreds of house plans—primarily for bungalows—stressing simplicity, harmony with the environment and use of local materials.

Many Craftsman homes were designed to allow people with limited masonry and carpentry experience to build them. Charles Moon, an early resident of the Town, modeled 4107 from two homes he saw in Stickley's *More Craftsman Homes*. Moon reworked the plans to suit his family's needs and then built the house himself with the help of his two young sons.

The house has plastered veneer walls over a wood frame. Porch posts are poured concrete that the family mixed by hand, then after 12 hours swept with a steel brush for texture and visual interest. Moon also included a sleeping porch on top of the house. One of the Moon sons, the current owner, remembers the entire family sleeping there in the summer.

Charles and Jenny Moon moved to the area in 1923 for Charles' job at the National Bureau of Standards. Like other Chevy Chase residents, they preferred not to live next to their place of business, but in a more bucolic suburb. They were not supportive when a neighbor built #4102 as a tea house. A zoning variance was denied, and the house was sold as a residence.



No. 20

#### 6909 East Avenue

The sideswept roof of this house – sometimes called a “catslide” roof – crowns one of the most popular styles in Leland, the 57-acre community west of Section 4 developed by builder/brothers Monroe and Robert Bates Warren in the 1920s and 1930s. The profile lends itself with equal ease to the shingled Craftman style seen here, and to Tudor Revival houses on nearby streets. See how many houses with this roof style you can spot between 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Oakridge Avenue, roughly the boundaries of the Leland community.

Tax records show that this house was built in 1925, but its architect is not known. A similar design was featured in a 1925 issue of the popular trade magazine, *American Builder*, so it is likely the design was borrowed. Monroe Warren’s son recalls that the catslide roof house was “very fashionable” in the 1920s, and that the difference between building it in frame or brick was only four or five hundred dollars.

Houses like this included a basement garage and shared a driveway with the neighbors. These “party drives” between houses left space for larger yards.

Hollywood came to the neighborhood in 1975, when Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford and Jane Alexander filmed two scenes for the Watergate saga, “All The President’s Men,” at 7009 East Avenue. Sound trucks and dressing room trailers stretched all the way to Bradley Lane for eight days. Between takes, Dustin Hoffman played touch football with neighborhood children.



No. 21

#### 7103 44<sup>th</sup> Street

A comparison of this house’s roof profile to tour house #20 shows that it is essentially the same house, with a different façade applied. Here, elements of the Tudor Revival Style are suggested. Nearly as prevalent as Colonial Revivals, the Tudor style gave a sense of continuity with the past to the upwardly mobile middle class who moved to the suburbs after World War I. They liked the style’s “medieval” look, its off-center front door with rounded Romanesque arch and the way wood strips applied over stucco recalled Elizabethan half-timbering.

A sign found in the garage rafters suggests that this 1927 house was a model home for the Warren brothers’ Leland development. The stucco and shutters are original. The pine trees on the shutters are similar to the Bethesda Chevy Chase High School yearbook’s pine tree emblem -- appropriate, since the original B-CC was one block north on 44<sup>th</sup> Street in the 1920s-30s.

The current owners’ sensitive additions to the house repeat the side porch arch and stucco of the original. Chunks of coal found when excavating the driveway confirm that the house, like others in the Town’s early days, was heated by coal. The coal chute was built into the foundation wall on the driveway side of the house.

An early resident of the house remembers a tall ham radio tower looming in the yard across 44<sup>th</sup> Street and a large Victory Garden next door during World War II. Neighbors to the rear kept a well-stocked chicken coop.



No. 22

### Leland Community Center

The site of today's Leland Center has been in public use since 1928, when Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was built here. One of only three high schools in Montgomery County, B-CC had 12 students in its first graduating class of 1929.

When B-CC moved grades 10, 11 and 12 to East-West Highway, Leland Junior High was created for grades 7, 8 and 9. In 1963 a new five-story building was constructed on the Elm Street side of the site, and the old school was demolished. Leland closed in 1981, and its student body merged with Western Middle School on Massachusetts Avenue to become Westland Intermediate School. Many uses for this land were considered, but the final agreement was that recreational space was the most urgent community need. A unique Town partnership with the County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission produced the Leland Community Center, which opened in 1989.

Today, the low-rise red brick building that wraps the higher box of the Leland Center gymnasium connects by a courtyard to a day care center. Both flat-roofed buildings are accented with horizontal bands of tan tile. The main entrance is a recessed bay with a slanted roofline, and its slant is repeated in the pitched roof of the wing, added for Town use in 1997. Designed by Town resident Stephen Muse, the addition features a cathedral ceiling and floor-to-ceiling windows, creating an attractive space for day and evening events.



No. 23

### 4509 Elm Street

This Colonial Revival-style house was the 1929 Star Model Home for Monroe and Robert Warren's Leland subdivision. It is typical of the last group of homes the brothers constructed in this part of Town "to meet the needs and desires of the average salaried man." Leland houses were priced from \$7,950 to \$13,450. A 10 percent down payment with monthly installments guaranteed a home could be purchased "without causing a strain," according to one ad.

The date on a newspaper found behind the bathroom wall during renovation work in 1995 confirms that this house was constructed in 1929. Advertisements suggest that the model home's solid brass hardware, brass electrical fixtures and dedicated radio outlet in the living room baseboard would be found in all Leland houses.

The Star Model Home had a tradesmen's entrance at the side leading directly into the kitchen pantry, allowing the rest of the house to be locked while the homeowner was away. Since many homes did not yet have electric refrigerators, the tradesmen's entrance was handy for ice deliveries.

Mrs. Monroe Warren, wife of the construction company's founder, personally supervised construction of many of the Warren brothers' homes, which may explain touches originally found in this one: a cedar-lined closet for storing woollens, a towel closet in the bathroom and a "rustic bridge and murmuring brook" in the back yard touted in one ad. Today, a sturdy sapling from Maryland's ancient Wye Oak grows along the same stream.





No. 24

### 7106 Beechwood Drive

Underground streams here in the heart of Section 4 made the land marginal for development when the Chevy Chase Land Company platted it in 1909, so it remained an unused expanse of green space for years.

George F. Mikkelsen and Son, prominent area developers, purchased the undeveloped property between Meadow Lane and Ridgewood Avenue from the Land Company in 1928 and commissioned Ralph W. Berry to design a subdivision. Berry, a professional engineer, was a former Section 4 building inspector.

Berry laid out gently curving streets, generous lots and incorporated many of the Land Company's building restrictions. Throughout the 1930s, Berry and A.W. Smith served as Mikkelsen's principal architects. Their Colonial and Tudor Revival homes reflected the same high standards as those in neighboring Section 4 — houses in harmony with the natural landscape, with shared driveways and detached garages.

This house, located on a high point in the Mikkelsen subdivision, is a well-crafted period home of the 1930s, combining elements of both Tudor and Colonial Revival styles. Decorative half-timber framing, rough brick and stucco surfaces, a subtle overhanging second-story front gable and handsome dining room casement bay window set with leaded glass detail its English roots. The interior echoes the ambience of the classical American Colonial home. Blueprints found in the attic reflect new technologies that were re-shaping 20<sup>th</sup>-century life: indoor plumbing, central heating and a garage for the family car.



No. 25

### 7018 Beechwood Drive

The massing, proportions and classical detailing of this 1933 two-story brick house confirm that George F. Mikkelsen and Son built for an upper-middle-class market of discriminating homebuyers. Programs of the New Deal such as the Home Owners Loan Corporation and Federal Housing Administration made long-term mortgages available that helped make homeownership a reality.

The house's handsome façade displays a symmetry and balance found in many of Mikkelsen's homes. Its triple-arched brick detailing serves to reinforce the harmony of the three-bay structure. The house has a classical entrance with fluted pilasters, 8/8 double-hung sash windows on the first story and a 6/6 configuration at the second level. These window arrangements reappear elsewhere in the Mikkelsen subdivision.

New technologies and the popularity of balloon frame construction allowed Mikkelsen and Son to create variations on a Colonial Revival theme throughout the 1930s in stone (7016 Beechwood), clapboard and brick (7013 Beechwood) and stone, brick and clapboard (7012 Meadow Lane).

The current owner of this house played in the neighborhood as a boy and recalls blocking off Beechwood at the top of the hill so snow plows couldn't reach the kids' favorite sleigh run. They would sled all the way down Beechwood to Meadow Lane.





No. 26

#### 4202 Leland Street

Arthur B. Heaton, who directed construction of the Washington Cathedral for 14 years, designed a row of five Colonial Revival-style houses in 1932, including 4202 Leland. Heaton was a Washington native associated with many prominent local projects including the Cathedral, the George Washington University campus and the Park & Shop in Cleveland Park. His Park & Shop was the first neighborhood shopping center to accommodate automobiles.

Heaton became involved with Chevy Chase in 1899, designing All Saint's Episcopal Church on Chevy Chase Circle, the Chevy Chase Library (now the Chevy Chase Village Town Hall), and remodeling Francis Newlands' house on Chevy Chase Circle in the Tudor Revival style. In the 1930s he designed more modest homes like these in the more modest Section Four.

These five residences (4200-4208 Leland) are all simple, three-bay Colonial Revivals with shared garages and an enclosed central entry vestibule, a Heaton signature. The builder was Shannon & Luchs Construction Company, which re-subdivided portions of Chevy Chase Park and Section Four in 1929 and 1930. The builder responded to the increasing number of cars in Town by carving the cul-de-sac west of Maple Street.

Colonial Revival houses like these expressed a simplicity sometimes attributed to the American Revolutionary period but necessitated by the Depression. This house features a second-story overhang and distinctive end-pendants Heaton used on other homes in the Town.



No. 27

#### 4112 Aspen Street

In 1932, having survived a disastrous financial partnership with Edgar S. Kennedy to build the Kennedy-Warren apartments in Northwest Washington, developer Monroe Warren, Sr., returned to home building in Chevy Chase and formed Meadowbrook, Inc. Approximately 60 solidly built brick, stone and clapboard Colonial Revival houses would ultimately grace the gently rolling streets of Meadowbrook, bounded by East West Highway, Aspen Street, Meadow Lane and Maple Avenue.

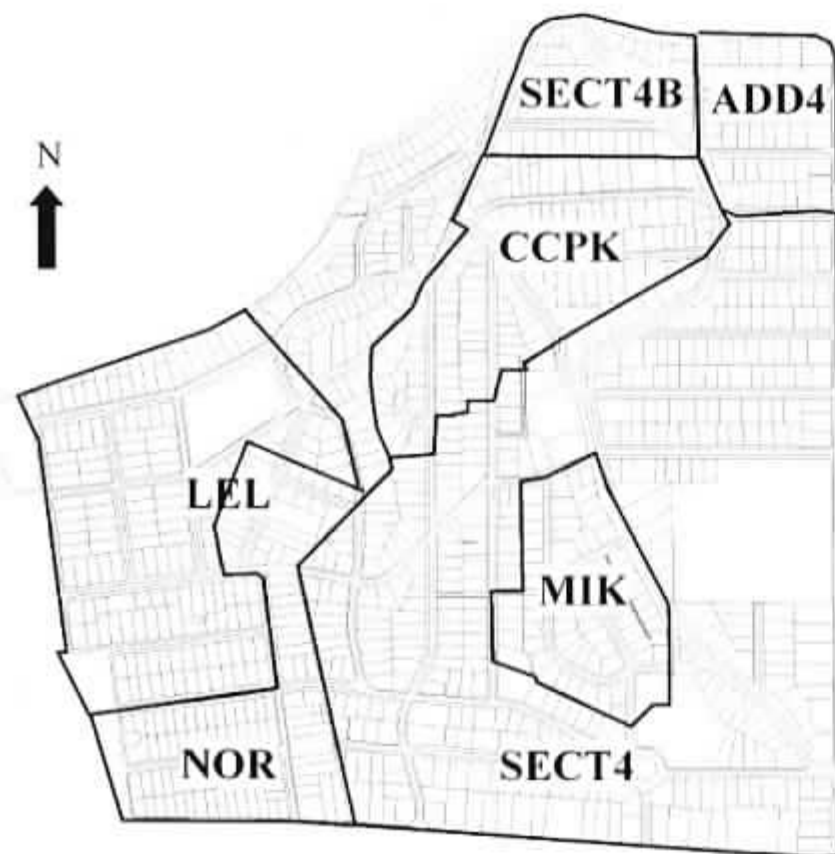
Harvey P. Baxter and Harry Edwards were Meadowbrook's architects of note. The architect of this house is not known, but its original details are similar to several Baxter and Edwards plans for Meadowbrook. Construction records indicate that the house was built between November 1932 and January 1933. The lot was purchased for \$651.63, and the house itself cost \$6,327.35.

4112 Aspen captures the Colonial Revival symmetry and Depression-Era simplicity of this mid-1930s to 1940s enclave of homes. A raised brick string-course separates the balanced windows on the first and second story. As with most Meadowbrook homes, classical ornamentation is restrained and reserved for the entrance. In the 1970s, the original one-story western side porch and first-story open porch and second-story sleeping porch in the rear were enclosed. These porches were common features of Meadowbrook homes. Today, most have been enclosed to accommodate changing life styles and air-conditioning.

## Historical Development

This map shows when our Town's various neighborhoods were created.

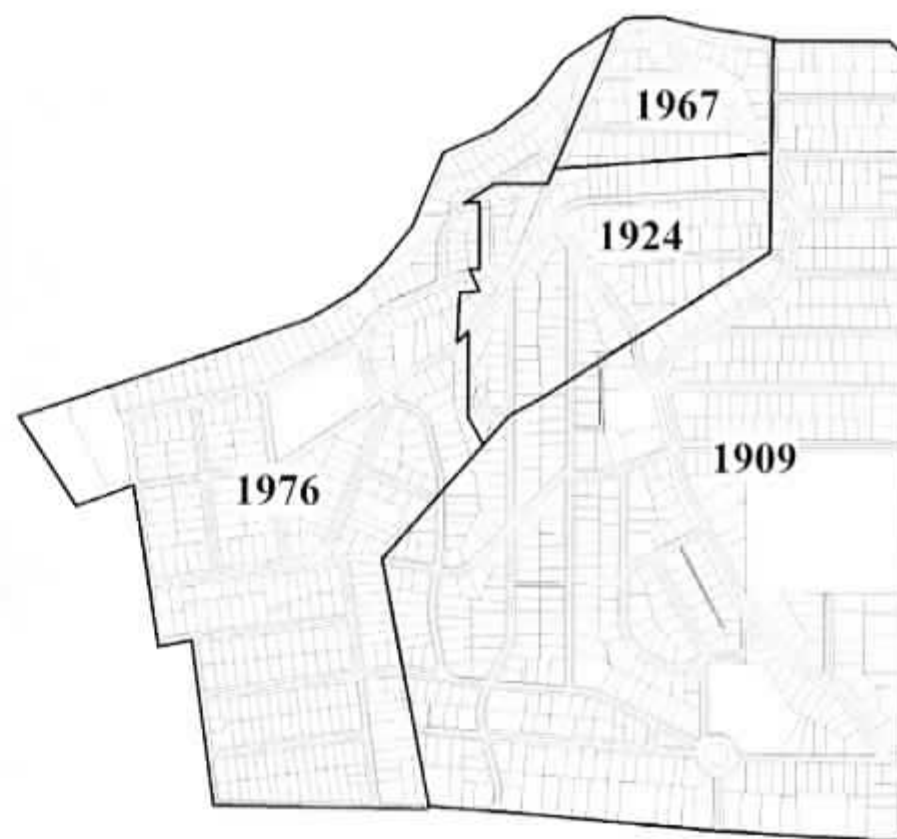
NOR - Norwood Heights, 1893  
SECT 4 - Chevy Chase Sect. 4, 1909  
CCPK - Chevy Chase Park, 1910; 1929/1930  
ADD4 - Chevy Chase Sect. 4 Addition, 1910  
LEL - Leland, 1920 (approximate boundaries)  
MIK - Mikkelson's Subdivision, 1928  
SECT 4B - Meadowbrook, Inc. 1932



## Municipal Growth

This map indicates the dates when neighborhoods officially became part of the Town. The Village of Chevy Chase, Section 4, was incorporated in 1918. In 1983, its name was officially changed to the Town of Chevy Chase.

1909 - Chevy Chase Section 4  
1924 - Chevy Chase Park  
1967 - Chevy Chase Section 4B  
1976 - Chevy Chase Section 8, 8A & 8B



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## Green Spaces

From the beginning, our Town's landscape was influenced by the ideas of Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of the U.S. Capitol grounds and New York's Central Park. Many of our streets follow the natural terrain, and lining them from the early days have been varieties of oak and beech, redbud, dogwood and a dozen other tree species.

In earlier times, water from spring-fed streams at the intersection of Woodbine Street and Oak Lane formed a pond for wading in the summer and ice skating in the winter. Today, more formalized spaces such as the Thornapple Path provide a quiet spot for rest and reflection, as well as a cut-through for pedestrians.

Four spaces are large enough to be designated officially as parkland for the Town. Residents Carl and Fred Zimmerman cared for several stretches of vacant land along Maple Avenue for years. After they sold their house across the street in 1969, the Town took over the plantings. Today a boulder with a plaque honoring the Zimmerman brothers marks the Town's first designated park.

The Town also maintains Tarrytown Park on Lynn Drive, the Rosemary Triangle Park, where Rosemary and Stanford streets come together at Rosemary Circle, and the Millennium Park (Rosemary Circle), where a white oak tree was planted to mark the start of a new millennium. The first three of these parks have seasonal plantings, but Millennium Park is simply lawn and trees. Trees have been added to these parks as memorials or to honor residents. Two other larger parks -- Elm Street Park and the Leland Center grounds -- belong to and are maintained by the county. The centerpiece of the Elm Street Urban Park is the sculpture "Girl With Hoop" by Jenny Read, a former Town resident.

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## Historic Designations

Nineteen structures in the Town of Chevy Chase have been designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. In addition to the residences listed below, the group of designated structures includes the Chevy Chase Elementary School at 4015 Rosemary Street. Designated houses on this architectural tour are noted with an asterisk.

|                       |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 4201 Bradley Lane     | 4103 Stanford Street | 7205 Meadow Lane*      |
| 4209 Bradley Lane     | 4105 Stanford Street | 7320 Meadow Lane*      |
| 6704 Connecticut Ave. | 4500 Leland Street*  | 7200 Connecticut Ave.* |
| 6800 Connecticut Ave. | 4312 Leland Street   | 7202 Connecticut Ave.  |
| 6812 Connecticut Ave. | 6709 East Avenue*    | 7204 Connecticut Ave.  |
| 4101 Stanford Street* | 3910 East-West Hwy.  | 7610 Connecticut Ave.  |

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## A Guide to Selected Architectural Styles in the Town of Chevy Chase

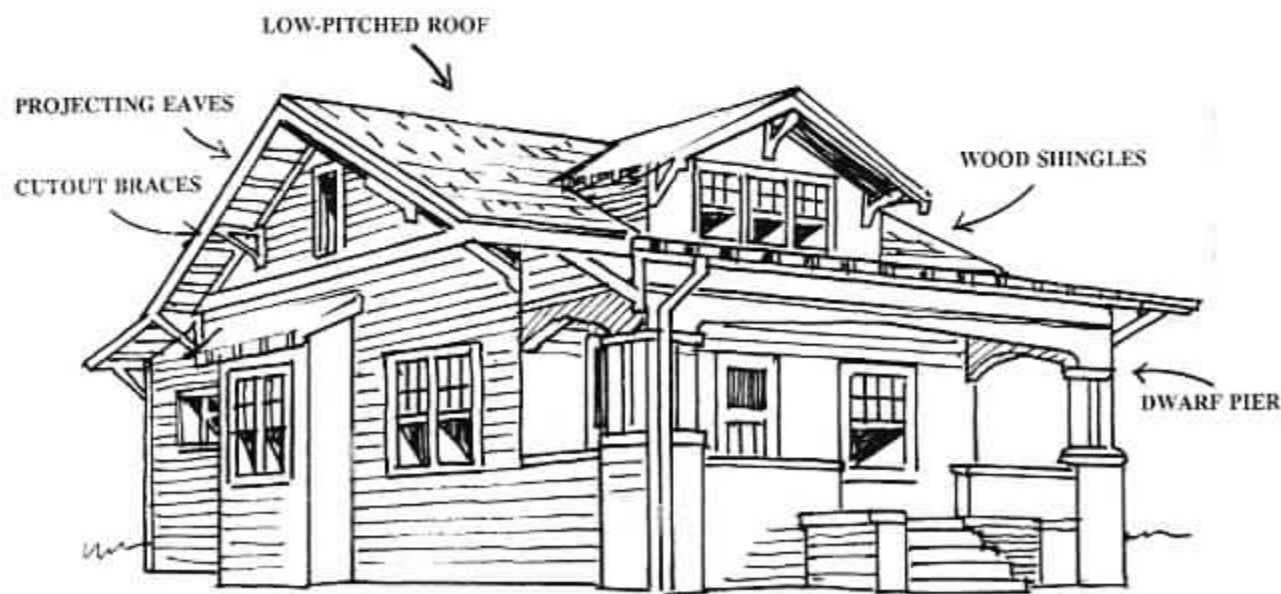
by  
**W. Sharon Farr**

## QUEEN ANNE



The dominant style in the last quarter of the 1800s, Queen Anne houses became synonymous with Victorian architecture. They featured a variety of roof angles, towers, turrets, and ornate wood accents. Expansive porches served as outdoor living spaces.

## CRAFTSMAN



The Arts and Crafts movement abandoned Victorian fussiness for more practical, simplified design. The most fashionable smaller dwelling in the early 1900s, Craftsman houses featured natural building materials and exposed rafters and beams, and often were bungalows.

## RENAISSANCE REVIVAL



By the late 19th century, many American architects had visited Italy and were familiar with formal, symmetrical Renaissance *palazzos*. They designed similar houses in the U.S. through the 1930s, with flat or low-pitched hipped roofs and classical features.

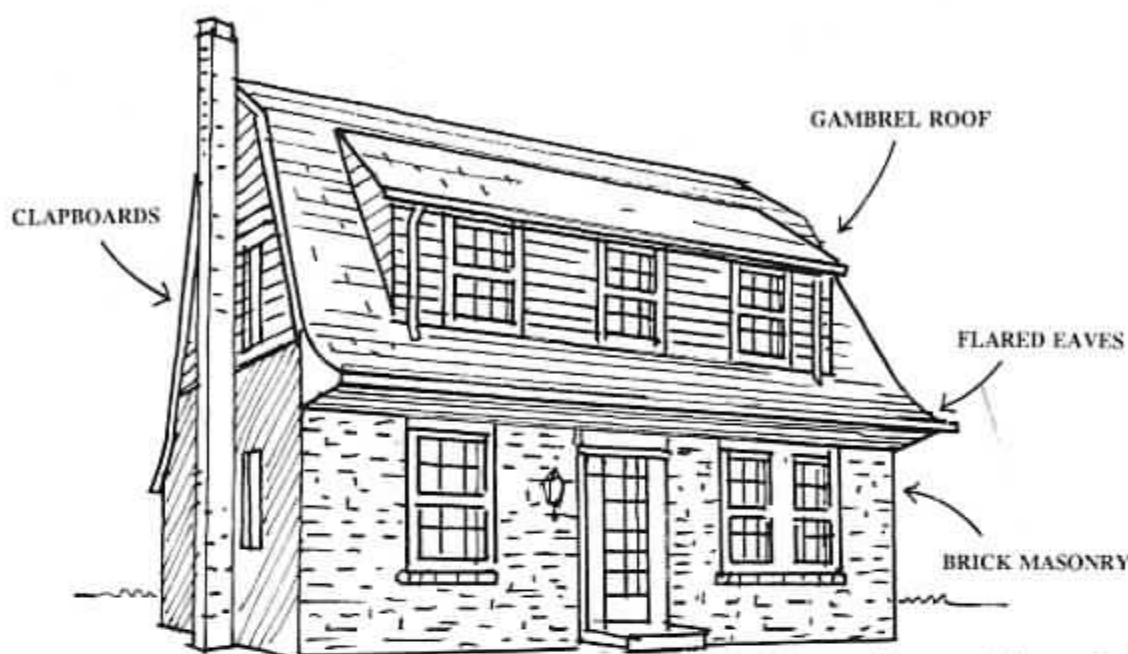
## COLONIAL REVIVAL



Interest in the early English and Dutch homes of the Atlantic seaboard led to the Revival period of the 1900s and the balanced, highly symmetrical Georgian influence most favored by Town of Chevy Chase builders.

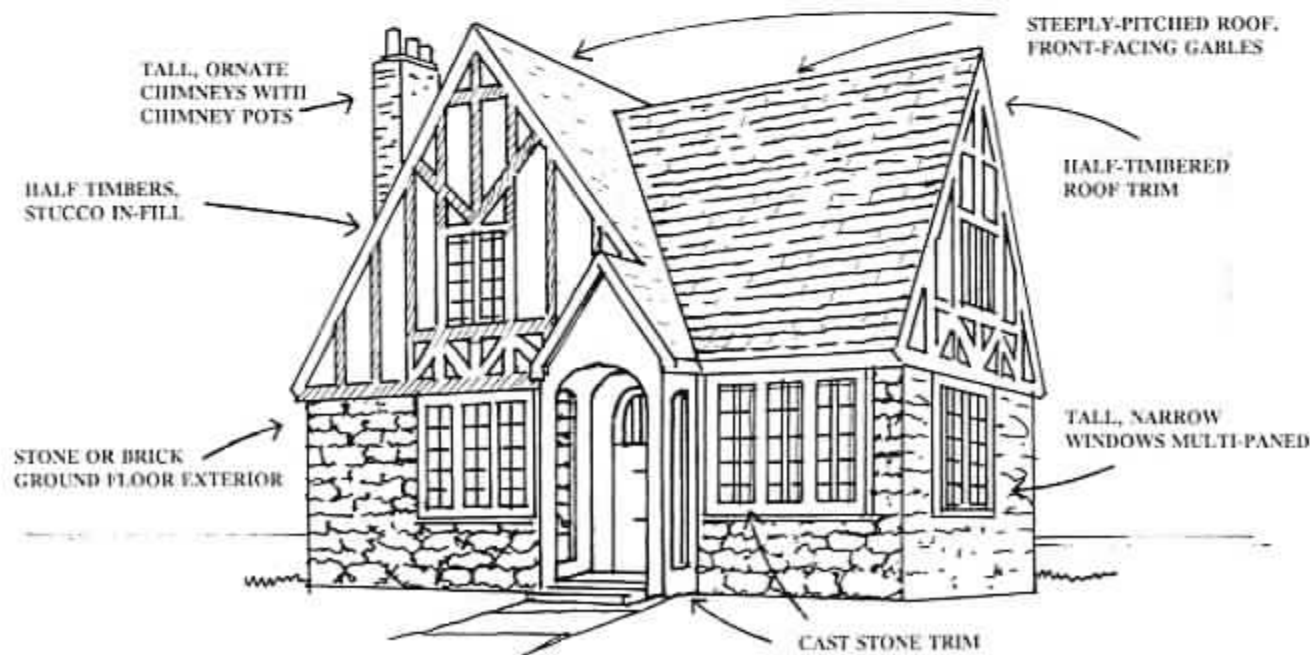


## DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL



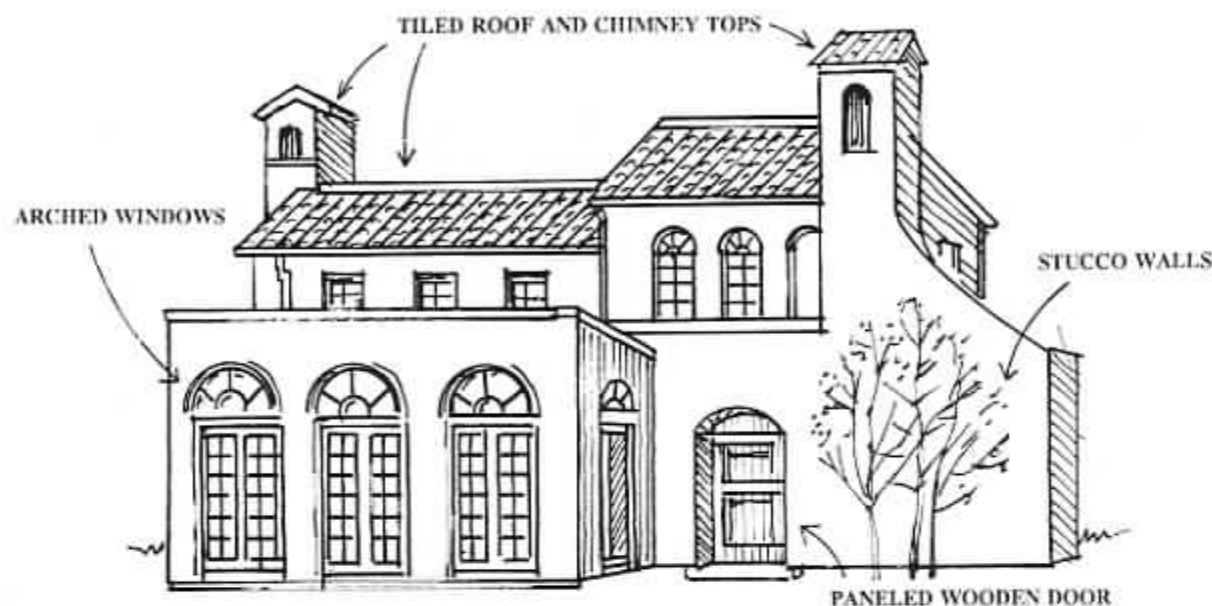
A popular variation in the Colonial Revival was the Dutch Colonial, reminiscent of barns and houses built by America's Dutch settlers. The style is known for its gambrel roof, sometimes with flared eaves and second-floor continuous frame "dormer."

## TUDOR REVIVAL



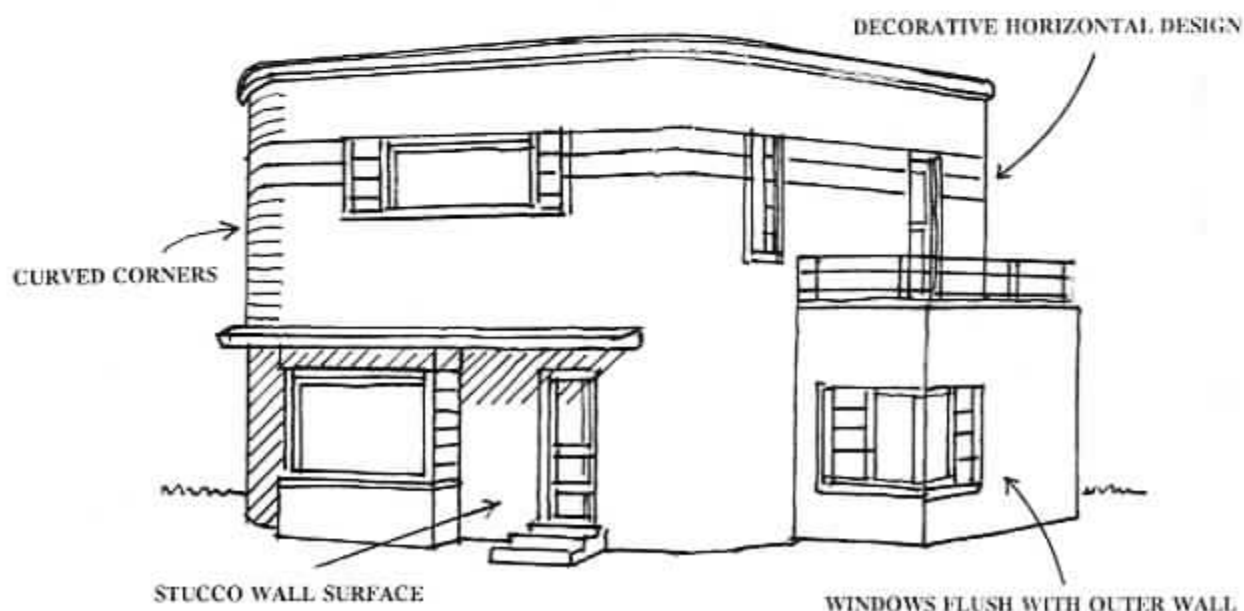
Popular in the 1920s, Tudor Revival houses are nearly as prevalent as Georgian Colonial Revivals in the Town. The style mixes elements from English cottages and grand manors of the late Middle Ages, including decorative half-timbers and steep, front-facing gables.

## SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL



San Diego's 1915 Panama-California Exposition sparked interest in the early architecture of California, Florida and the Southwest, where the past was not English but Spanish. Spanish Colonial Revival houses feature stucco walls, tiled roofs, and picturesque building outlines.

## ART MODERNE



Technological advances in materials and techniques led to the modernistic Art Deco and Art Moderne styles of the 1930s-40s. Art Moderne used horizontal lines with streamlined curved corners and smooth surfaces, flaunting new materials such as glass and concrete blocks.

## Glossary of Architectural Terms

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

**Balloon frame:** Construction of light timber framing using studs closely spaced.

**Bay:** The division of a building's façade usually defined by windows or doors.

**Blind arch:** A windowless arch above a window or door.

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

**Casement:** A window hinged to swing outward.

**Catslide:** In the southern United States, a gable-roofed house with a steep lean-to addition.

**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.

**Fanlight:** An arched transom over a door, usually with radial muntins.

**Fenestration:** The design and placement of windows in a building.

**Gambrel:** A roof form with two pitches, the lower one steeper than the upper.

**German Siding:** Horizontal wood cladding with a recessed groove on the top surface of each board.

**Half-timbered:** A heavy wood-braced frame filled in with brick, stone or stucco.

**Hipped roof:** A gable roof sloping inward on all four sides.

**Ionic:** One of the three basic classical column orders; it has a base, fluted columns and a capital with a spiral, scroll-shaped ornament.

**Keystone:** The wedge-shaped piece at the crown of an arch that locks the other pieces in place.

**Lintel:** Horizontal structure spanning and usually carrying the load above a window, door or fireplace.

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

**Muntins:** Thin pieces of wood or steel used to hold the individual panes of glass in a window sash.

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

**Pier:** An upright masonry structure, usually square, supporting an upper floor or roof.

**Quoins:** Heavy blocks adorning the corners of a building.

**Romanesque:** An architectural style characterized by the extensive use of rounded arches.

**Soffit:** The underside of a building part, such as an overhang or staircase; the interior curve of an arch.

**Stringcourse:** A slightly projecting band across a façade, usually between floor levels.

**Vestibule:** A room between the outer door and interior of a building.

**Window, 8/8:** Eight panes in the top over eight panes in the bottom of a double-hung window.

## Suggested Readings and Resources On Our Town's Architecture and History

*Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital* (Kathy S. Smith, editor; Windsor Publications, Inc. 1988)

*The Comfortable House: National American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930* (Alan Gowans, MIT Press, 1989)

*The Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present* (Town of Chevy Chase, 1990)

*Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War Two* (William G. Offutt, Bethesda, MD, 1995)

*Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital* (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 1998)

*Places from the Past: A Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, MD* (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001)

Montgomery County Historical Society  
301/762-1492

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission  
Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
301/563-3400

Chevy Chase DC Neighborhood Library  
202/282-0021

Chevy Chase MD Public Library  
301/986-4313

Chevy Chase Historical Society  
301/656-6141

Oral history interviews with Town residents  
301/656-6141

## Three Mini-Tours For Easy Walking and Driving

Houses on this tour are numbered according to their place in the Town's history, so some are too far from each other to be viewed on foot in chronological order. These three mini-tours will help you walk (or drive) through the Town's history, one neighborhood at a time.

### Mini-Tour #1

Park at Leland Community Center and walk to:

- No. 1 4500 Leland Street
- No. 2 4406 Leland Street
- No. 3 6709 East Street
- No. 20 6909 East Avenue
- No. 21 7103 44<sup>th</sup> Street
- No. 23 4509 Elm Street
- No. 22 Leland Community Center

### Mini-Tour #2

Park at Chevy Chase Elementary School during non-school hours and walk to:

- No. 10 National 4-H Conference Center
- No. 4 7002 Connecticut Avenue
- No. 9 3903 Rosemary Street
- No. 5 Rosemary Circle Water Tower Site
- No. 7 4101 Stanford Street
- No. 8 4109 Rosemary Street
- No. 24 7106 Beechwood Drive
- No. 25 7018 Beechwood Drive
- No. 6 Chevy Chase Elementary School

### Mini-Tour #3

Park at Chevy Chase Elementary School during non-school hours and walk to:

- No. 11 7200 Connecticut Avenue
- No. 12 7205 Meadow Lane
- No. 13 7320 Meadow Lane
- No. 14 7410 Connecticut Avenue
- No. 15 3910 Blackthorn Street
- No. 27 4112 Aspen Street
- No. 26 4202 Leland Street
- No. 16 4128 Leland Street
- No. 17 4101 Leland Street
- No. 18 4117 Woodbine Street
- No. 19 4107 Woodbine Street

## Notes