

Twentieth Century Building Styles: Late Modern Buildings (1950-present)

The post-World War II construction industry saw a reaction to the starkness of the international style, and building styles are characterized by the return of surface ornament and acceptance of more traditional building forms. The use of a variety of building materials and focus on industrial design were still important factors.

RANCH (1950-1975)

While ranch style homes are seen in California as early as 1935, the simple ranch style houses in Rockville appear in the 1950s. They replace the earlier minimal traditional houses in popularity. Ranch houses are one-story high with a low-pitched roof, moderate detailing, and typically follow a rectangular or L-shaped, like the house built at 702 Baltimore Road in 1953.



337 Lincoln Ave.

1935



408 Park Rd.

1945



702 Baltimore Rd.

1953

Ranch, continued



706 Baltimore Rd.

1953



5907 Vandegrift Ave.

1953

The “**Levittown Ranch**” is a particular variant that was built in large numbers in Twinbrook and Hungerford. These houses had a modern look and incorporate a number of California features such as the carport at the entrance. The house at 804 Crothers Lane, built in 1955, is a good example.



5909 Vandegrift Ave.

1953



804 Crothers Lane

1955

Ranch, continued



509 Calvin Ln.

1959



516 Calvin Lane

1959

SPLIT LEVEL (1955-1975)

The split level style emerged as a multi-story modification of the one-story ranch house that maintained the horizontal lines and overhanging eaves of the ranch style. There are several variants, which provide three separate levels of interior space. The typical split level will include a one-story block intercepted at mid-height by a two-story block. Exterior walls featured contrasting materials. Often, sunken garages or carports are incorporated into the design. A Twinbrook variant of this style is the house built circa 1958 at 908 Twinbrook Parkway, which features a multi-story block clad with horizontal siding and brick with an attached carport.



908 Twinbrook Pkwy.

1958



712 Twinbrook Pkwy.

1959

Ranch, continued



314 W. Edmonston Dr.

1958

Another variation of the split level style in Rockville features a **continuous roofline** from the second to first story; thus, the entire house is encompassed by the same roof instead of having separate roofs for each wing. This variation is shown in the house at 314 W. Edmonston Drive, built in 1958.



16 Farsta Ct.

1977

While most ranches are modest in detail, some display contrasting wall materials and textures such as the house at 16 Farsta Court which contains wood shingles on the upper half and brick on the lower half. Built circa 1977, this **split foyer** is a variant of the split level, with another new feature exhibited with the sunken garage.

CONTEMPORARY (1950-1970s)

The design characteristics of contemporary style buildings in Rockville overlap some of those present in buildings of the modern era. Similar to modern houses, contemporary houses feature low-pitched roofs with varying roof lines, and contrasting wall material, although they can be differentiated from modern houses by their emphasis on integration with the landscape such as the house built in 1974 at 800 Nelson Street (one of four designed in Woodley Gardens by local architects, John Wilmot, David Porter and Rolando Sanz). This house features a low-pitched roof, skylights, exterior walkway and landscaping.



800 Nelson St.

1974



794 Nelson St.

1974



796 Nelson St.

1974



798 Nelson St.

1974

Contemporary, continued



1605 Veirs Mill Rd.

1962

Contemporary commercial and institutional buildings illustrate a broader range of architectural design. Shopping centers, churches, libraries and office buildings are all created with a different function in mind. A church may be shaped to support the interior spiritual practice, as illustrated with St. Mary's church at 520 Veirs Mill Road, built in 1966, with its expansive stained glass windows. A shopping center may be designed to promote recognition for its shops through unusual design elements, such as seen at 1335 Rockville Pike and built in 1969.



1043 Rockville Pk.

1964



726 Anderson Ave.

1964



520 Veirs Mill Rd.

1966



1335 Rockville Pk.

1969

Contemporary, continued



100 Maryland Ave. 1970



51 Monroe St. 1976



202 Meadow Hall Dr. 1976



1350 Piccard Dr. 1980



1700 E. Gude Dr. 1982



1331 Rockville Pk. 1990



727 W. Montgomery Ave. 1960



275 N. Washington St. 1960



50 Edmonston Dr. 1963

NEW FORMALISM (1950s-1970s)

This style, pioneered by architect Edward Durell Stone, emphasizes a return to classically-inspired architecture, but with modern technological innovations. The form of the building is rectangular, covered in a flat roof, with walls of vertical shafts of ribbon windows integrated with enamel panels, exemplified in the Suburban Trust Building at 255 N. Washington Street, designed circa 1964 by Arthur L. Anderson. Typically the ornamentation of buildings in this style is achieved through sleek machine-made materials, such as the ornamental grillwork incorporated in the The Giant Food Supermarket, at 275 N. Washington Street, built circa 1960.



255 N. Washington St. 1964

BRUTALIST (1950s-1970s)

The use of raw concrete as the predominant building material for buildings inspired the name of this style. Pattern is often provided by the materials used to form the concrete, and different shapes are possible because of the fluidity of the material. The style became popular in Rockville in the 1980s. The Montgomery County Judicial Center, at 50 Maryland Avenue, was built in 1981 and is a good example of brutalist architecture, with its exposed concrete surface.



50 Maryland Ave.

1981



101 Monroe St.

1981



**1350 Baltimore Rd. ▲ 1734/1936-
Rockville Cemetery**

**CEMETERIES, PARK SITES AND
MONUMENTS (1734-1950s)**

Not all historic resources are residential and commercial buildings. Rockville includes several early cemeteries, archaeological sites, monuments, and even remnants of the local farming and milling industries. These are all aspects of a rich history, and they help to illustrate Rockville's story.



**Tweed St. 1763 -1819
Autre-St. Mary's Cemetery**



**Aintree Dr./Watts Branch ▲ c. 1813-1905
Wootton's Mill Site**



**115 W. Jefferson St. ▲ 1823-1896
Old Baptist Cemetery**



**312 Ritchie Pkwy. ■ 1874
Dawson Farm Park**

Cemeteries, Park Sites and Monuments, continued



205 Martins Ln. ▲ 1889-
Haiti Cemetery



101 S. Adams St. ■ 1890
Jacquin Trells Williams Park



127 Bullard Circle ▲ 1910
Rose Hill Barn and Dairy



29 Courthouse Sq. ▲ 1913
Confederate Soldier Statue



Frederick Ave. 1917-
Galilean Fisherman's Cemetery



16100 Frederick Rd. ▲ 1932
King Farm Dairy Barn

Cemeteries, Park Sites and Monuments, continued



16100 Frederick Rd. ▲ 1930s
King Farm Garage



16100 Frederick Rd. ▲ 1930s
King Farm Tenant House #8



1101 Grand Champion Dr. ▲ 1950s
King Farm Hay-Drying Shed



16100 Frederick Rd. ▲ 1950s
King Farm Tenant House #7



16100 Frederick Rd. ▲ 1950s
King Farm Horse Barn