MARYLAND
MODERN PERIOD
1930 - PRESENT

The effects of the Depression, and then the prosperity and growth after World War II, were seen in Maryland, as the state was increasingly influenced by national and international events, due to rapid advances in technology and mass communications. The dominance of urban and industrial culture became clearly established, although rural agricultural areas still comprised a large portion of the state. Baltimore and Washington, D.C, especially, were centers of commerce, industry, and culture, although later in the period these cities experienced a decline, reflecting a national trend. As many residents and businesses moved from the inner cities to the suburbs, suburban areas developed as a new center of influence in the state, with the greatest growth in the Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis area.

PIEDMONT
MODERN PERIOD
1930 - PRESENT

During this period many of the changes described above for Maryland as a whole were occuring most dramatically in the Piedmont. The events of the New Deal and World War II eras had important effects in the Washington metropolitan area in particular, as increases in government programs and returning verterans resulted in population growth and expanded suburban areas in adjacent counties, especially Montgomery County. Large Federal facilities in the Baltimore-Washington corridor helped new residential and commercial development in Montgomery, Howard, and Baltimore counties of the Piedmont. Development pressure in these counties and in Frederick and Carroll counties has continued, resulting in a decline in agricultural land. As new federal and state highways were built and expanded, workers were able to commute greater distances, thus expanding the existing suburbs. The I-270 corridor from the District of Columbia north to Frederick County has created anouther growth area, with important impacts for the City of Rockville.

During the period, the decline of inner cities in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and the urban renewal movement of the 1950s and 60s (also seen in Rockville) were then followed in the 1970s and 80s by renewed interest in rebuilding cities. All during the period, much of the western and central Piedmont retained its agricultural character, with small towns continuing to serve these rural areas.

ROCKVILLE
COUNTY SEAT TO SATELLITE CITY OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL
1931 - PRESENT

The completion of the fourth and largest courthouse in Rockville in 1931 symbolized local growth during the early 20th century. It occurred,

however, almost simultaneously with the Great Depression of the 1930s that crippled the national economy. Following the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 and the enactment of the New Deal programs, the City's fortune began to change. World War II closely followed, adding further economic stimulus to improve. Through the 1940s, the physical setting, government, economy, and population of the City made dramatic adjustments. World War II veterans bought small tract houses in the adjacent area of Twinbrook. The initial annexation of Twinbrook and several other areas in 1949 increased the population from its 1930 figure of 1422 to 6934 in 1950. The land area of the City increased as well adding over two thousand acres to cover 2752 acres in 1950. Economic development in the form of small shopping centers followed housing development as did reform in City government in the 1950s. By 1960, the population had reached over 26,000 and was growing. The once small town of long-time family decendants became a satellite city of Washington with new families voicing demands for a progressive government and modern community services.

Analysis

The rapid population growth in Rockville following World War II accompanied by annexation of large tracts of land (Twinbrook, Hungerfords, etc.), required the City to rethink its position as the seat of government of a rural, agrarian based county to that of an emerging satellite city capable of providing urban services and amenities required by an increasingly sophisticated population.

Major community service problems arose in the 1950s, most notably the failure of the City wells to meet the increased demand for water. This focused attention on the inability of a rural based government to respond to urban growth and development pressures. Citizens for Good Government, a non-partisan political party was formed in response to the water supply crisis and was elected to govern the City during its most dramatic growth years. Emphasizing community and family life as the center of the City's growth and development objectives, the new government encouraged sound planning for the future. Strong neighborhoods, good schools, adequate parks and recreation facilities, churches, and convenience shopping became the backbone of the new Rockville. Local government initiatives from planning to public works stressed improvement in the quality of family life when outlining their future course and policies; policies which were adopted as the 1958 Master Plan of Highways, and the 1960 Master Plan, the first master plans for physical development of the City and the first municipal plan in the State.

By the late 1960s, however, this direction had begun to shift. Rockville was no longer merely one of many cities surrounding Washington that provided a family-based environment, but a community needing a broader and more self-sustaining tax base. The City's large stock of post WW-II and older housing needed stability and encouragement to remain vigorous while commercial and residential developers were competing for fewer and fewer developable sites in the City. Increased vehicular congestion and the rise of urban shopping malls with convenient access and parking contributed to the physical and economic decline of the old commercial downtown. The problems facing Rockville's old downtown, more than any other factor, changed the course of the City, resulting in an urban renewal program that

redeveloped the town center and brought the question of the City's future to the forefront.

In 1970 the Mayor and Council addressed local concerns about the City's future by updating and readopting the Master Plan to guide the City through the 1970's into the 1980s. The Plan focused on a number of issues: housing, transportation, land use, economic development, central business district improvement, and the family as the mainstay of the City.

By 1986 the City's built environment presents a clear impression of progress, stability, and wealth. Between 1975 and 1985 the City doubled its commercial base and the streets and highways envisioned in the 1960 and 1970 Master Plan came to fruition as the City matured and reached a state of near complete development. A redevelopment of the less successful portion of the Urban Renewal area has begun, designed to capitalize on its proximity to one of the City's two Metro stations. The Montgomery County government complex occupies a large portion of the old town center, with still more construction contemplated to house an expanded regional library. The old "red brick" courthouse is being renovated. Industrial areas along the City's northern borders are flourishing. New, modern buildings are appearing along Rockville Pike and Hungerford Drive. The City's research and development area on the I-270 corridor has reached a state of maturity as the last available parcel of land was committed to development in 1986. To date there exists approximately five million gross square feet of research and development space in the City with two million additional square feet approved for development. New or refurbished hotels attract guests and group activities. City Hall has been expanded in a unique wrap-around fashion and cable television and bi-weekly City newsletters bring Rockville government into residents' living rooms.

What remains of the past is mostly that which has been preserved by the efforts of citizens and government working together. Projects like the City-sponsored "Rockville: Identity in Change" are the mirrors in which the community can see its own changing face.

Theme 1: Agriculture

During the 1930s, Rockville remained a center for shipping locally grown agricultural products by rail to the Washington metropolitan area. Rockville's depot adequately served the largely rural-agricultural County until the demise of nearby farms caused by foreclosure in the 1930s and the increased use of trucks in the 1940s.

Small farms of 100 to 200 acres surrounded the City through the 1930s and most of the 1940s. Typical of the County's agricultural operations, these farms were used for raising corn, hay, and wheat, and dairying. Tenant farmers began to oversee some of these operations as the long-time owners were either too old to farm, lived elsewhere, or had their farms repossessed. Many, however, continued to be owned and operated by old Rockville residents such as the Veirs and Dawson families.

Economically crippled by the effects of the Depression, the farmers around the City searched for new markets in which to sell their produce or dairy products. An agricultural co-operative opened in Bethesda in 1933 and provided one market. Later, the arrival of the New Deal programs for agriculture were welcomed by the local farmers. The Montgomery County Wheat Allotment Association offered one outlet by granting financial payment to those farmers allowing a portion of their land to remain fallow. Another County program, approved in 1936, benefited local milk producers by setting milk prices and inspection standards for the Washington market.(GP,p.301)

By the late 1940s, the County began to experience pressures for land development. Many of the small farms around Rockville were sold to developers. As subdivisions were completed, they often were annexed. This trend continued through the 1970s with almost all of the nearby farmland being developed. The one exception near Rockville is the Thomas Farm on Route 28. Although Mrs. Thomas still resides on the farm, she leases the land for small-scale farming. Development around the farm has increased through the 1980s.

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Farm Complex:	3	3	0	0
house	0	X	0	0
barn	0	X	0	0
outbuildings	0	X	0	0
privy				
storage shed				
granary				
smokehouse				

root cellar				
stable				
corn house/crib				
poultry house				
dairy				
greenhouse				
ice house				
Fence	0	X	0	0
Earthworks	0	X	0	0
Well/windmill	0	X	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

(1) Dawson Farm (Planning Area 3)
(2) Thomas Farm (Planning Area 15)(included as a resource, but not annexed into the City as 5/86)
(3) Veirs Farm (Planning Area 14)

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps:

1. List of farms and owners surrounding Rockville in the 20th century.

III. Registration

Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(1) Dawson Farm Grounds	None	M: 26/19	Dawson Farm Hist. Dist.
(2) Thomas Farm Grounds	(see above)		
(3) Veirs Farm Grounds	None		

IV. Stresses

Development remains the greatest threat to remaining farmland.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. Encourage appreciation and preservation of agricultural land.

VI. Implementation

A. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Conduct research on each resource and survey sites.

3. Encourage research on data gap.

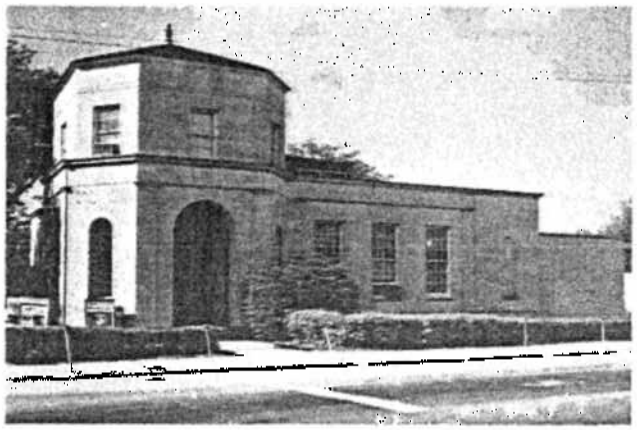
Theme 2: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

In 1931 the new "gray courthouse" was completed. Its imposing Neo-Classical style created a striking contrast to the neighboring 1891 Romanesque courthouse in both color and detail. Designed by Delos H. Smith and Thomas H. Edwards of Washington, the new courthouse was one of two buildings in the downtown business district built in this style. The other was the Maryland National Bank on the corner of East Montgomery Avenue and Perry Street.

FORMER FARMER'S BANK AND TRUST, COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Construction of the new Courthouse resulted in the razing of the Farmer's Banking and Trust Company building at Court Street and East Montgomery Avenue. Consequently, the Farmer's Bank purchased two lots on the north side of Commerce and commissioned Tilghman Moyer and Company of Allentown, Pennsylvania to design a building. The new bank overlooked the City's commercial district from this prominent location. Its popular Art Deco style was found on only a few buildings in the City, another being the Milo Theater.

By the mid-1930s, the need arose for a permanent post office for the City in a downtown location. A lot at the corner of Commerce Street (now Montgomery Avenue) and Washington Street was condemned for the new post office. This site contained a residence and a small frame building used by the Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper. Both were built by the Sentinel publisher Matthew Fields in 1855. The new post office was designed in an architectural style called English Georgian. Significant features include a WPA mural (see Theme 7: "Social, Educational, Cultural"), two-story hexagonal corner entrance tower and interior mezzanine overlooking the lobby and main workplace. The small size of the building indicates the small town needs of Rockville in 1939. The building was dedicated with a parade on July 22, 1939. ("Montgomery County Courthouse District")



OLD POST OFFICE

Rockville's business district by the 1940s stretched in an east-west direction for approximately eight blocks along East Montgomery Avenue and Commerce Lane extended. Typical of many small town main streets, a variety of architectural styles and uses were found there. These included two banks, institutional buildings, the Town Hall, Vinson's Drug Store, two late 19th-century hotels, a diner, pool halls, small restaurants, a variety of small stores and offices, and a theater. Some of these were typical brick commercial structures of the late 19th and early to mid-20th century; others were frame residences from the same period that were adapted for new uses. As a whole, the downtown area retained a scale and density of a small town county seat. ("Montgomery County Courthouse District")

A description of the downtown was given by Aulbert Footner in 1942:

> Rockville, the county seat,...Its long Main Street, lined on both sides with low buildings, no one of which has the slightest relation to its neighbors in size, design, material, or color, is an example of how far bad planning or lack of planning may go. In this respect it is very American. At any rate it has the merit of variety; it has so much variety that modern painter would find it an interesting subject for his brush.
>
> (Footner, Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore, p.134)

Prior to the 1940s, Rockville's housing matched the architectural variety of the turn-of-the-century downtown. It consisted of an assortment of types and styles from large late-19th-century and early-20th-century houses of popular styles located in the subdivisions to the west and south of the City to modest middle-class houses and small vernacular dwellings constructed in the same styles to the west, south, and east of the City. Generally, the large houses were owned by white families while the small dwellings were housing for many of the black and working-class white families.

An exception was the Lincoln Park development still growing from the late 19th century. By the late 1940s, Lincoln Park consisted of approximately 320 houses. Most of these were owner occupied and well maintained. In spite of the lack of a sewage system, Lincoln Park provided a home for many of the County's well-to-do blacks. This area was annexed into the City in 1949.

The area between Rockville Pike and Viers Mill Road was one of the most popular locations for development around Rockville. Miss Lillian M. Small owned a farm in this area; the other was the site of the former Selfridge Farm. Twinbrook, the first development, was planned by Joseph L. Geeraert et. al. Small houses were built ranging in price from $9250 to $11,500. This small city included roughly six-hundred houses and reflected the World War II influence with street names such as "Okinawa," "Midway," and "Coral Sea." (GR, pp 332-333)

By 1948-49 the first phase of Twinbrook was completed. The purchase of these houses had been assisted by the Federal Housing Administration and Veteran's Administration financing programs. This federal government

involvement left an impact on both the design of the houses and the types of families that purchased them. The popularity of the developments was evident and soon followed by the construction of nearby shopping centers along Rockville Pike and Veirs Mill Road. Congressional Plaza, completed in 1959 on the former Congressional Airport site, represented a new building phase for Rockville that was repeated numerous times within the City in the next two decades. (GR, p 356)

Such shopping centers began to compete with the downtown commercial core that had become congested and begun to show signs of poor maintenance and general disrepair. The City's urban renewal plan for the downtown was initiated after a number of alternatives were considered. Gradual compromises and planning efforts, however, resulted in a plan to clear forty-seven acres of the old downtown and replace it with high-rise housing, offices, and an enclosed mall. (See Theme 4: "Government/Law")

The urban renewal program and regional economies of the 1970s and 1980s stimulated changes in the City's built environment. In the downtown, the construction of Montgomery County Judicial and Office Center, Americana Apartments, and Rockville Mall established a new visual focal point for the eastern approach into the City. Around the Town Center, the designated historic districts began to have former large residences reused as offices. The South Washington Street Historic District is one example where most of the original houses are now used for law offices. West of I-270, a high technology research district developed with a mix of architecture and materials. New high-income neighborhoods were established as housing developments were built in this area. Rockville Pike and Hungerford Drive became a third location for development with low-scale commercial shopping centers and moderate-scale office buildings and hotels. These trends are expected to continue as the City establishes itself as a viable community to do business, work, and live.

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Bank	1	1	0	0
Post office	1	1	0	0
Housing development	1	1	0	0
Shopping center	1	1	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

(4) Former Farmer's Bank and Trust, First National of Maryland (Planning Area 1)
(5) 1939 Post Office, Washington Street (Planning Area 1)
(6) Twinbrook (Planning Area 8)
(7) Congressional Shopping Center (Planning Area 9)

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps:

1. Documented history of the urban renewal program in the town center.

2. Information on multi-family housing design and construction.

3. Information on recent buildings of architectural merit.

III. Registration

Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(4) Former Farmer's Bank and Trust	None	M: 26/11	Mo. Co. Courthouse H.D.
(7) 1939 Post Office	None	M: 26/11/2	Mo. Co. Courthouse H.D.
(8) Twinbrook	None		
(9) Congressional Shopping Center	None		

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. The identified and designated resources should be reviewed for condition, integrity, and significance to the themes. This should become a part of the permanent inventory file.

B. Encourage maintenance through public education and assistance programs.

VI. Implementation

A. 2-3 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Conduct a survey of condition of resources from this theme.

B. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Data gaps should be researched.

Theme 3: Economics

In spite of the Depression, the local economy stumbled along as did much of the nation through the 1930s. The City's proximity to the nation's capital, however, buffered it from some of the economic hardships experienced by other cities. Likewise, it was one of the first areas to benefit from the growth of the federal government and implementation of the New Deal programs.

One important development during the 1950s was the formation of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce. This group of local business representatives met monthly and organized programs to benefit the citizens and businesses. They have remained an active organization.

A number of black owned and operated businesses thrived in Rockville during this period. These included the first taxi and hauling business started by the Meads family, a hauling business owned by James Johnson, and a garage in Lincoln Park owned by Jim Davis.

The population increases and housing boom in the County and around Rockville in the 1940s precipitated the increase of suburban commercial centers. These centers gradually supplanted many of the downtown businesses and service establishments providing more immediate and less congested shopping areas for the suburban and car-oriented shoppers. The following are some of the businesses affected by either urban renewal or private development during the 1960s.

Milo Theater:

This Art Deco-style theater opened in 1935 opposite the Courthouse. It was adjacent a Piggly Wiggly Food Store and Peoples Drug Store with second-floor offices. A 300-space parking lot was located behind the buildings.

The grand opening of the theater occurred in October with the production of " Anna Karenina" starring Greta Garbo and Frederick March. Admission was thirty cents for adults and twenty cents for children. During the next twenty years, the theater was renamed the Villa, eventually, the theater closed and was subsequently razed under urban renewal. ("Now Closed, Milo Theatre Opened to Plaudits of All of Rockville," Sentinel)

Corcoran Hotel or Montgomery House:

Located at 224 E. Montgomery Avenue, this hotel survived from the late 19th century in a modified form. A false front of brick and storefront glass covered the first floor. The second-story windows and third-floor mansard roof remained, but in poor condition. Earlier in the century the hotel had housed local visitors for the County court. It also had provided a gathering place for many Rockville organizations and groups. For long-time City residents, the Corcoran was a landmark in whatever condition.("It's Almost Check-out Time for Ancient Rockville Hotel," Sentinel)

Roy's Place and Dietle's:

These two neighborhood establishments on East Montgomery Avenue provided the downtown with a special sort of ambiance. At Roy's Place, which opened in the 1950s, an odd assortment of posters, photographs, and other memorabilia created an atmosphere popular with County and downtown office workers for over a decade. Displaced by the urban renewal program, it relocated to Gaithersburg when the building was razed in the mid-1960s. Dietle's changed names and location several times (Tagart's, Hash Brothers, Apollo) and is now located in a small shopping center on North Washington Street.

Mr. T's:

Located on North Washington Street, local black businessman, George Johnson or "Mr. T" operated a popular restaurant for local residents. This business continued for many years adjacent his home. It eventually was replaced by Hickman's on North Washington.

Vinson's Drugstore:

The corner drugstore was a popular gathering place since the late 19th century. The two-story brick building represented the progress of Rockville as the County seat around the turn of the century. For a number of decades, however, it functioned as a local meeting place for politicians and a drugstore with a rare collection of herbs and medicinals until replaced by a developer with a modern office building in 1962. President Woodrow Wilson is said to have driven out to Vinson's to buy his Wolfhound tablets. (Much Has Occurred on Rockville's Lot 89", Sentinel)

I. Identification

A. Resource Types

None inventoried

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps:

1. Data on Rockville's businesses (length of time, type, location(s))

2. History of Rockville's Chamber of Commerce.

III. Registration

No resources identified for registration.

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

No resources identified for protection.

VI. Implementation

A. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Data gaps should be researched.

Theme 4: Government/Law

Through the 1930s and mid-1940s, Rockville's government remained much the same as in the early 20th century. Members of prominent families continued to be elected to public office and manage the roughly three-hundred-fifty acres of the City and its 1,400 residents. The tax rate was set at ninety cents per $100 of assessed value. This picture of local government was similar to many small towns in Maryland.

In 1932, the Montgomery County Welfare Board met with Rockville's Mayor and Council to discuss the area of "Monkey Run." This deteriorated area to the north of downtown included the Acorn Apartments on East Middle Lane in which 80 tenants lived in poor conditions. Monkey Run was considered one of the most deteriorated living areas in the County. The serious condition provoked action for federal assistance. Such assistance failed to be used because of the controversy raised over the three sites suggested for the new housing project. (Chronological Record of Rockville's Development,(CRRD) typed manuscript, 5/1/68, MCHS)

County politics also changed during this period. The Montgomery County Fusion Ticket organized by F. Barnard Welsh, held a rally at the Rockville courthouse in March 1934. This group endorsed a slate of alternative candidates for County office that were more moderate than those controlled by the E. Brooke Lee political machine. The group essentially dissolved by 1940 but was instrumental in initiating the reform movement that in 1948 produced the charter changing to the Mayor-Council-Manager form of municipal government.(GR, pp. 306-309) Also in 1948, mass annexation of over two thousand acres or two-and one-half square miles began and continued into the next year.(CRRD, 5/1/68)

In 1948 and 1949, Lincoln Park and Twinbrook residents petitioned to be annexed into the City. Following approval by the Maryland State Assembly, the Mayor and City Council added the areas. The increased demand on public facilities led to the failure of the water supply in July 1953. This prompted the organization of Citizens for Good Government (CGG). The three-hundred-strong group called public meetings to address the need for change in the local leadership. A non-partisan election allowed federal employees to run for office for the first time. This election replaced all of the incumbent councilmen and mayor with candidates endorsed by the CGG.

Although this action divided the community, the new, more progressive leadership instituted substantive changes. Among them were the right for new residents to vote in City elections after one year rather than three, more water and sewage utilities, an annual audit, and reduced taxes. These changes and the high level of citizen participation were recognized in 1954 in a nation-wide competition for the All-America Cities sponsored by Look magazine, the first of four such awards.

During the 1950s, a major capital improvements program began. The first Capital Improvement Budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program were prepared. (CRRD, 5/1/68) One recipient was the recently annexed area of Lincoln Park. It received paved streets, curbs, and gutters and was attached for the first time to the City's water and sewage system. In 1956,

the City's Housing Authority began construction of its first housing project, Lincoln Terrace. Sixty-five public housing units were constructed in Lincoln Park. The blighted area of Monkey Run was razed. It was completed in 1958.(GR, p. 338)

GLENVIEW, CIVIC CENTER MANSION

Other changes in the City also occurred during the late 1950s. In 1957, after the passage of an advisory referendum, the City acquired Glenview and a 28-acre area around it for a park. This former estate of Judge Bowie provided a location for the City's Civic Center. The 1931 Zoning Ordinance was revised in the same year. In 1958 the City adopted Subdivision Regulations, and the Master Plan process was begun with financing from the federal and state governments. Four years after the water crisis, a new water filtration plant and Cabin John trunk sewer were completed. Social changes also were instituted with open occupancy and public accommodations laws. A sister city was adopted in Pinneburg, Germany in 1957 to foster international understanding, exchange students, and trade visits by City officials. Pinneburg was selected because of its similarities to Rockville: a satellite to a larger city, Hamburg, and population increases that doubled the number of residents in ten years. ("Pinneburg, Germany To Be Rockville Sister-City" Sentinel, April 11, 1957.)

The progressive City government of the 1950s continued to adopt new programs to improve the City. The federal government's urban renewal program, initiated in the Housing Act of 1949, offered hope to blighted, decaying parts of cities. It recommended the public purchase, clearance, and rebuilding of these problematic areas. By 1959, Rockville began to discuss the use of this program for the downtown area.

In 1959 Richard Montgomery High School won its first bicounty football championship. Coach Roy Leslie was given a key to the City by Mayor Alexander Greene.

In 1960 Rockville's population had reached approximately 26,042, covering 4,763 acres and had a tax rate of 72 cents for every $100 of assessed

value. The first Master Plan as completed with maximum expansion limits on the City's growth based on the availability of utilities.(CRRD, 5/1/68) A new form of progressive citizen government had developed over the last decade for which the City received its second All-America City award in 1961. (CRRD, 5/1/68)

Urban Renewal

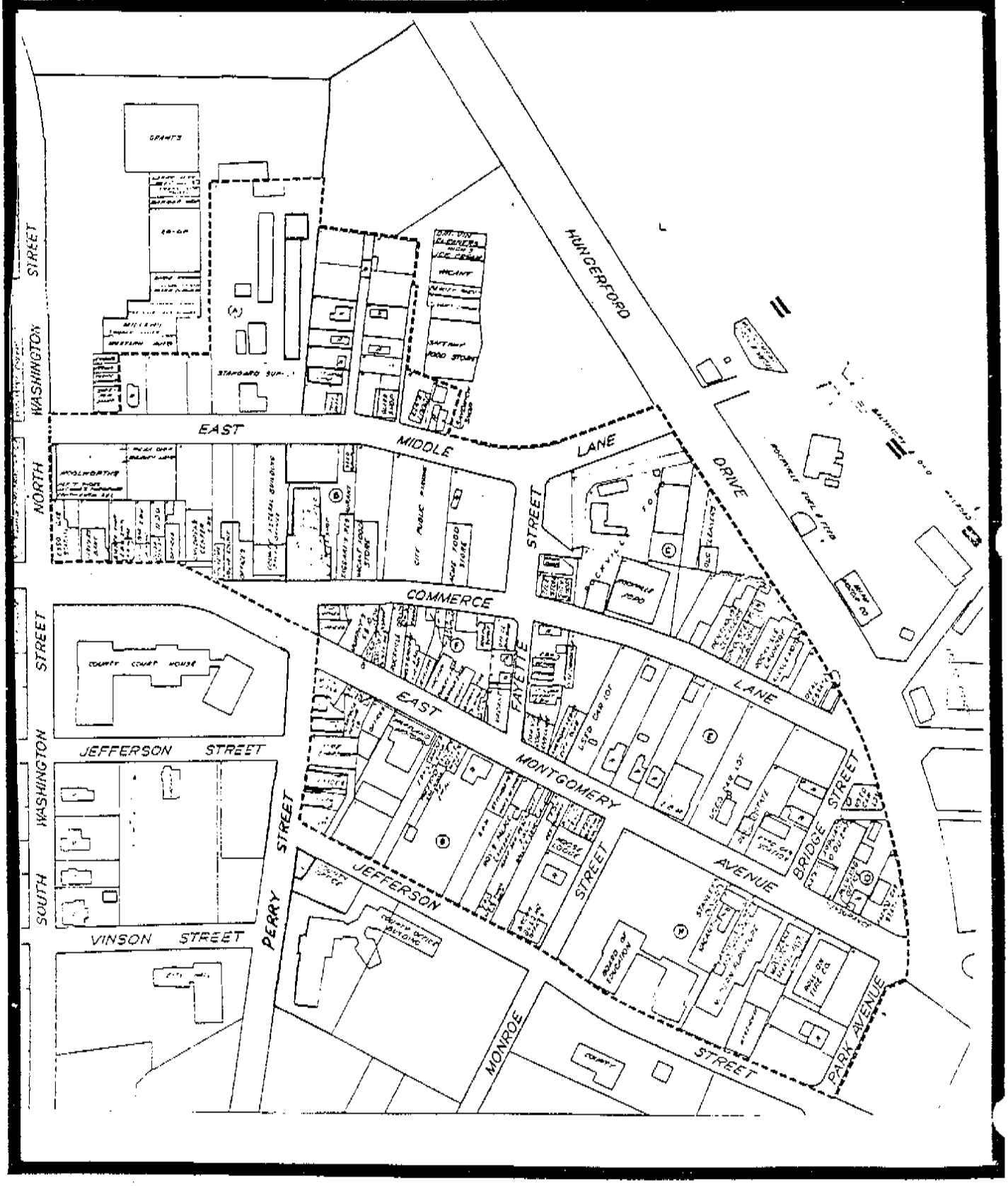
The proposal of the Mid-City Urban Renewal Project came as no surprise when it was initiated in 1961. An advisory committee, the Urban Renewal Advisory Council, was formed to oversee the downtown project for approximately 47 acres. The motto for the program became "Partnership for the Future." Throughout the 1960s, consultants and architects presented several designs for a new downtown. The Real Estate Research Corporation in 1962 conducted a "Land Utilization and Marketability Study" of the Urban Renewal area. The study stated that two options would be feasible: (1) retail facilities anchored by a major department store with office buildings and multi-family units; or, (2) retail facilties with no department store and a larger number of multi-family units, offices, and compatible non-residential uses. Further stated, however, was the opinion that if the department store in option one failed by not attracting shoppers, the entire complex would fail. (Department of Planning, Rockville, Maryland. Background and Report, Town Center, March, 1977.) In 1962, the first urban renewal project was planned and begun, following option one. This project was to have a number of setbacks and problems, but two years later, $2.7 million was received in federal aid and the project was well underway. The Urban Renewal program was halted in 1965 while a plan by Robert L. Geddes from Philadelphia was prepared. The Geddes plan received national attention and an award from the American Institute of Architects.(Figure 22)

Later the program was continued and approximately 120 buildings demolished. The first housing units and the enclosed mall opened in 1972. The Rockville Mall represented an alternative for small towns with increasing numbers of shopping centers on their periphery. In concept, the mall was to house two major department stores as anchors with smaller specialty stores and restaurants. Lansburgh's was the first of the two anchors to open; a number of small stores opened simultaneously or soon followed. The project was hailed as an innovation in design and concept.

By the early 1970s, it became clear that the shopping mall component of the urban renewal project would not live up to its expectations. A new program was launched by the mid-1970s that sought to up-grade the town center. The Town Center Urban Design Plan, completed and approved by the Mayor and Council in 1979, reflected the ideas of a combined citizens and business advisory committee, the Planning Commission, and the community at large. The Planning Department with the assistance of the architectural firm of Arthur Cotton Moore created a new image of the central business district that attempted to recapture some of the old and recast it in a vision of the future. It called for improved downtown assets and better integration with the existing structures. Efforts have continued to upgrade the town center with the completion of County Offices, Ciruit Court, pedestrian amenities, and 810 dwelling units, primarily townhouses. In the 1980s the enclosed mall will be redeveloped as mixed-use retail and office space with a planned hotel adjoining the west end. An enclosed pedestrian overpass across Hungerford Drive to the Metrorail Station was completed in 1984.

FIGURE 24

MID-CITY URBAN RENEWAL AREA



By the mid-1960s, the City had entered a new phase of attracting high quality research and development firms. The first arrived in 1961 at the Rockville Industrial Park. The City received another award from the American Institute of Planners for its achievement in comprehensive community planning and implementation that cited the Mid-City Urban Renewal Project, park acquisition, and substandard housing elimination. (CRRD, 5/68) In 1965, the City purchased the Beall-Dawson House at 103 West Montgomery Avenue and leased it to the Montgomery County Historical Society as the group's new headquarters. The first public swimming pool in Montgomery County was built by the City in 1968.

In 1968, the City created the first Historic District Commission. In 1973, a consultant firm was hired to help identify potential historic districts, draft legislation and secure funding. Three areas were approved as HD zones in April 1974: West Montgomery Avenue, South Washington Street, and the Baltimore Road area. Later, these districts were tightened and the HDC reduced to a five person body which in 1981 issued the first Historic Preservation Action Plan. (See Chapter I, p.1 "Historic Preservation in Rockville.")

Both Rockville and Montgomery County had increased significantly in population between 1930 and 1980. Table 3 indicates the rapidity of the growth.

Table 3

	Rockville		Montgomery County	
Year	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1930	1422	24.2%	49,206	40.0%
1940	2047	44.0%	83,912	70.5%
1950	6934	238.7%	164,401	96.0%
1960	26,090	276.3%	340,928	107.38%
1970	42,739	63.8%	522,809	53.0%
1980	43,811	2.5%	579,053	10.76%

Source: 1930-1980 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

This growth placed increased demands on the County and City governments, requiring expanded services and offices to meet the needs of the citizens. One of the first County actions was to add more space to the 1931 Courthouse. An addition was built in 1958-1961 facing Washington Street. Another County action developed a dentention center on Seven Locks Road that opened in 1961 on the County Poor Farm property replacing the County Jail quarters on the top floor of the 1931 Courthouse. (Sween, p.125) In the late 1960s the County Council allocated funds to demolish the 1891 Courthouse, but the public demand for its preservation and reuse reversed the decision. By 1982, the County had constructed a new County courthouse and office building in the heart of the downtown renewal area.

While the City grew in population and matured in its management, it also provided a better home for its government. The frame house adapted for City Hall use was outgrown. In the 1960s, a new brick City Hall was constructed. This building was enlarged in 1982.

By the 1970s, another party, the Independents for Rockville, was formed to offer an alternative to the CGG candidates. These two local parties competed on the first Monday in May of alternate years for the mayoral and council positions. (In 1984, the elections were rescheduled to occur in November, biannually.)

Rockville again won the All-America City award in 1976-77, noting the Senkevitch study and APA honorable mention, and in 1978-79 noting the Town Center Plan. The last award made Rockville the only city in the thirty-year program to be recognized four times. The City was cited for its community development, senior citizens program, and community arts program. ("Rockville All-America City 1954, 1961, 1977" supplement to the Sentinel, April 28, 1977 and "Rockville All-America For Record Fourth year", Montgomery Journal, Wednesday, April 11, 1979.)

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
City Hall	1	1	0	0
Civic center	1	1	0	0
Courthouse	1	1	0	0
Detention center	1	1	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after full inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

(8) Glenview Estate, Civic Center Mansion (Planning Area 18)
(9) City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Avenues (Planning Area 1)
(10) 1931 Courthouse, Courthouse Square (Planning Area 1)
(11) 1958-61 addition to Courthouse (Planning Area 1)
(12) Detention Center (Planning Area 13)

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps

1. History of City government in the progressive decades, 1940s-present.

2. Information on other City commissions and advisory committees.

3. Sites associated with local governmental leaders or events.

III. Registration

Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(8) Civic Center	None		
(9) City Hall	None		
(10) 1931 Courthouse	Hist. Dist.	M: 26/11	Mo.Co. Courthouse H.D.
(11) 1958-61 Addition to Courthouse	Hist. Dist.	M: 26/11	Mo.Co. Courthouse H.D.
(12) Detention Center	None		

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. The identified and designated resources should be reviewed for condition, integrity, and significance to the themes. This should become part of the permanent inventory file.

B. Encourage public education of these resources to promote preservation and maintenance.

VI. Implementation

A. 2-3 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Consider National Register Nomination of Glenview/Civic Center.

3. Conduct a survey of condition of resources from this theme.

B. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Data gaps should be researched.

Theme 5: Military

The outbreak of World War II brought a number of changes in the lives of local residents. Concerned about Rockville and the County's proximity to the capital, preparations were made for a possible attack. Two companies of Minute Men were formed in Rockville as a "second line of defense." Judge Stedman Prescott and Allison Chapin, World War I veterans, were designated as their Captains. (Sween, p.127) Social activities were curbed, particularly after dark. Even the Montgomery County Fair in Rockville, a well-attended annual affair, was suspended for two years.(Coleman, p.177)

After V-J Day, the City celebrated with a parade down East Montgomery Avenue.(Coleman, p. 186) This signaled the return to many of the pre-WWII activities and life as usual. The December 1948 holiday season brought more of the same with lights extended along "Christmas Tree Lane" from Reed's Garage to the Post Office building, down East Montgomery. (Coleman, p.177)

A three-man selective service board was started during WW II to oversee the drafting of men from upper Montgomery County. This board continued to operate until discontinued in 1960. It was one of two still meeting in 1950.

The Old Post Office continues to house the recruiting offices for the armed forces. An armory on Baltimore Road, recently annexed into the City is used today for reserve training.

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Armory	1	1	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after full inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

(13) Armory, Old Baltimore Road (Planning Area 18)

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps

1. Research on the armory and its associated activities.

III. Registration

	Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(13)	Armory	None		

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. Maintenance of the identified resources.

VI. Implementation

A. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Maintenance of the resource through public agencies.

3. Data gap should be researched.

Theme 6: Religion

The rapid population increase in the 1940s and 1950s brought more church denominations to Rockville as well as increasing the memberships at the older churches. Some of the new denominations include ethnic groups such as the Korean Baptist and Chinese Catholic.

Episcopal

Christ Episcopal Church continued in the this period to grow and build its complex on South Washington Street. In 1956 a building fund was initiated for the construction of a school and addition to the Parish Hall. The project was completed in 1958. Again, in 1965, plans were made for an enlargement of the nave and the restoration and improvement of the existing building. These were completed in 1966 and represent the most recent major building program. (M:26/11/11, "Christ Episcopal Church")

Baptist

The congregation of the Baptist Church at Jefferson and South Washington Streets multiplied many times during the mid-20th century. In 1958 an educational building was added facing Jefferson Street. The church complex was sold in 1971 for the intersection expansion of Jefferson and South Washington. A new structure was built on Adclare Road. The cemetery at the intersection of Falls Road and West Jefferson was deeded to the Montgomery County Historical Society in 1973; Peerless Rockville took title in 1983 and presently maintains the grounds. (MHT Form, "Old Baptist Cemetery")

Mt. Calvary Baptist

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, on its original site, has undergone some changes since built. In 1954 a building program was launched to construct a new sanctuary that was completed in 1961.(Clarke,pp. 88-89)

Catholic

St. Mary's Catholic Church continued to have an influential presence in the City during this period. Its church complex grew accordingly. In 1931 the pastor began a major renovation program for the church that put the building and grounds in better condition. The adjacent school, St. Mary's Institute, also grew. A wing was added in 1951; an auditorium and rear wing in 1954. In 1961 a new church was built adjacent the old one which was renovated in 1981.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, however, was no longer large enough to minister alone to the local Catholic population. In 1956, St Jude's was organized; St. Elizabeth's (1964), St. Raphael's (1966), St. Francis of Assisi (1972) followed. The church continued to host its annual strawberry festival that eventually became a spring carnival which was discontinued in 1960. (Historic Saint Mary's 1813-1963.)

Christian

The Rockville Christian Church also prospered during this period. In the 1950s the church added an education building and made extensive repairs following a fire. By 1963, the congregation could no longer be housed in the Jefferson Street building. A new complex was built on Adclare Road and the old structure sold to John Bell, a local attorney. Before moving, the congregation dedicated a "Garden of Memories". (This was removed at some point during or after the congregation relocated on Adclare.) The old building has been adapted for law offices and received a 1983 award from Peerless Rockville for sensitive reuse of the building. (MHT Form, Rockville Christian Church)

Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion

In 1955 the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church sold its church and grounds at North Washington Street and Beall Avenue to Hill and Kimmel Construction Company for a shopping center. The Church in turn purchased the corner of Elizabeth and Westmore in Lincoln Park and opened its new church in 1956. Its congregation has grown steadily through the 1960s.(Clarke, pp 49-50)

Jerusalem United Methodist

The Jerusalem United Methodist Church, on Wood Lane, remained on its present site. In the 1950s, however, the church was covered in white stucco, front steps added, a furnace installed, and new pews built. The church received its third rededication in 1978. A parsonage adjacent the church continued to be used during this period.(Clarke, pp. 176-179)

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Church Complex:	4	4	0	0
church				
vestry				
parsonage				
parish house				
cemetery				
meeting house				
retreat house				
educational building				
Church	3	3	0	0
Parsonage	1	1	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

(14) Christ Episcopal Church, 109 S. Washington St.(Planning Area 1)
(15) Rockville Baptist Church, Adclare Road (Planning Area 4)
(16) Rockville Christian Church, Adclare Road (Planning Area 4)
(17) Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, North Horners (Planning Area 6)
(18) Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, Elizabeth at Westmore (Planning Area 6)
(19) St. Mary's Catholic Church, Veirs Mill Road (except the Old Church and Cemetery)(Planning Area 1)
(20) Jerusalem M.E. Church, 21 Wood Lane (Planning Area 4)

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps

1. Information on Rockville Presbyterian Church.

2. Information on Rockville Methodist Church.

3. Information on black church buildings of this period.

4. Information on ecclesiastical architecture of this period.

III. Registration

Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(14) Christ Episcopal Church	Hist.Dist.	M: 26/11/1	Mo. Co. Courthouse H.D.
(15) Rockville Baptist Church	None		
(16) Rockville Christian Church	None		
(17) Mt. Calvary Baptist Church	None		
(18) Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church	None		
(19) St. Mary's Catholic Church	None		
(20) Jerusalem United Methodist Church	Hist.Dist.	M: 26/10/9	W. Mont. Ave. H.D.

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. Encourage maintenance of identified resources.

B. Review at 50-year point for significance as historic structure.

VI. Implementation

A. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Data gaps should be researched.

3. Review identified resources for significance, integrity, and contribution to the City's development.

Theme 7: Social, Educational, Cultural

Social

Social life in Rockville was similar to many small towns in the 1930s and 1940s. One popular gathering place was the Milo Theater and its adjoining Open Air Movie complete with benches and outdoor screen. The outdoor theater was replaced with a beer garden after Prohibition was lifted. (Coleman, p. 187)

Three black lodges were organized and lodge halls constructed in the County in the 1940s. Two of these were in Rockville: the Elks and Fishermen. In 1940 the Merry Makers Social Club, Inc., was started.. This organization initiated by a group of black teachers focused on community work. Another national club, Jack & Jill, Inc., formed a chapter in Rockville for black children to provide cultural training and educational programs during the 1940s and 1950s.

A number of other social organizations were popular in the City during this period. Among them were the Rockville Civic Association, bridge groups, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Woman's Club, other women's clubs, and the Homemaker's Group. The City also has active neighborhood associations, PTAs, and church groups.

The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department annually sponsored a carnival at their carnival grounds on Rockville Pike in front of Richard Montgomery High School in the 1960s and 70s.

Education

By the 1930s, schools within the City where operating under the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Public School System. This system operated a segregated educational program similar to many other school districts. In 1936, William B. Gibbs, a black teacher and acting principal of Rockville Colored Elementary School, filed suit against Superintendent Edwin W. Broome for maintaining unequal pay scales for white and black teachers. Although settled out of court, the suit prompted a more equal education for black children and pay for black teachers in the County. (Sween, p. 132)

In 1935, the first black high school, called Lincoln High, was opened in Rockville in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. This was the result of efforts initiated in the 1920s to develop a high school for black children. In 1934, an eight and one-half acre site was purchased and an abandoned building from Takoma Park was moved there and covered in a brick veneer. Other facilities were added until closed in 1959. (Clarke, p 46-47) The larger Carver High School began operation in 1952 replacing Lincoln High as the black high school. Lincoln then became a junior high school. (MHT# M:26/15/3)

An aggressive new school building and adaptation of old buildings campaign continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Rockville Junior High on Park Street, Carver High School, West Rockville Junior High (now Julius West), Richard Montgomery High (replacing the earlier school that burned in 1940), Rockville High School, Frost and Broome Junior Highs and Wootton High and

approximately a dozen elementary schools were opened. (Jewell, "One Rm", pp. 287-290) This work coincided with the integration program of the Montgomery County Public School System that sought to combine the separate schools thereby forcing the closure of a number of elementary schools.

The first branch campus of the Montgomery Junior College system, based in Takoma Park, was discussed in 1956. In 1960, 87 acres off Route 355 outside Rockville were purchased by the Montgomery County Board of Education. This was annexed by the City in 1963. In September 1965 the campus was first occupied. The name was changed in 1969 to Montgomery College.(Sween, p.133)

A number of private elementary schools began to operate during the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. Among them are St. Mary's, St. Anne's, St. Elizabeth's, Christ Church, the Jewish Day School, and several nurseries and day care centers. These complement the well-established public school system.

Cultural

The Rockville post office, completed in 1939, received a Works Progress Administration mural of Sugarloaf Mountain painted by Judson Smith of New York a year later. The mural, depicting a scene from Frederick County, was a subject of controversy at the time of its painting.

In 1939, with the encouragement of Rockville attorney Albert Bouic, Walter Brownley gave the City a clock. Formerly located at 12th and G in the District, the clock created quite stir when it arrived. Nevertheless, it was placed near the Farmer's Bank in the downtown area until struck by an auto in 1957. It was replaced in 1958 with a ten-foot tall, sixty-year-old, double-sided clock bought from a Washington antique dealer. This clock had formerly stood at 9th and F Streets. It was removed during the urban renewal program and returned to the town center in 1976.(Gift of Clock Caused Rockville Furor in 1939" Wash.Star, 1939.; "Town Clock Felled When Auto Hits It" Sentinel, August 23, 1957)

In 1940, F. Scott Fitzgerald was buried near his parents in the Rockville Cemetery on Baltimore Road. Zelda, his wife, was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in 1948. In 1976, F. Scott Fitzgerald's grave was moved to St. Mary's Cemetery. The Fitzgerald graves have become a popular tourist site.

The first Memorial Day parade for Rockville began in 1944 initiated by local black leader, William Wood. This has become an annual event attracting crowds to the downtown streets. An oil and acrylic mural painted by William Woodward depicting the 1982 parade is located in the City Hall atrium.

In 1960 the City celebrated its centennial all summer. The festivities included an outdoor pageant, beard-growing contest, plays and lectures that highlighted the City's history.

In the spring of 1963, Columbia Pictures Corporation was filming a motion picture, "Lilith," starring Jean Seberg and Warren Beatty in Rockville. During the temporary stay, Lucy N. Smith, a long-time resident at 108 Forest, allowed her home to be used in the movie as well as accepting the part of Warren Beatty's grandmother.

The local chapter of the American Legion placed a "flame of freedom" at City Hall in 1969 to commemorate the nation's war heros.

During the 1960s, Montgomery County and the City completed negotiations for the transfer of the Rockville Library (formerly housed in Rockville Academy) to the Montgomery County Library System. The negotiations included the promise to build Twinbrook Library in the City.

By the early 1970s, local preservationists were frustrated over lost historic buildings. The Masonic Lodge was lost because of the lack of money or an organization to oversee its preservation. This event encouraged a group of citizens to form a non-profit organization. Taking the name from the late-19th-century promotional brochure of Henry Copp,"Peerless Rockville", the group, Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. launched its campaign to preserve buildings, objects, and places that contributed to the history of Rockville. This has been an active group involved in the preservation of a number of local landmarks such as the B & O Railroad Station and Rockville Academy.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater, located on the Civic Center Mansion grounds, is the home for the Rockville Civic Ballet and the Rockville Little Theater started in the late 1940s. It is now the location for the City orchestra and chorus performances.

In 1981, artist Gerado Gomez Moreno completed his 3600-square-foot mural on the south wall of the Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan Building. This abstract painting included some of the City's historically significant landmarks such as the B & O Station and town clock. ("Graffetti," Sentinel July 23, 1981) This mural and other public art is part of the City's "Art in Public Places" program that places sculpture and other works, chosen by public involvement, in the community.

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Lodge Hall	0	0	0	0
Mural	3	3	0	0
Theater	1	1	0	0
Library	1	1	0	0
Graves	2	2	0	0
Clock	1	1	0	0
Commemorative feature	1	1	0	0
Junior college	1	1	0	0
School				
black	1	X	0	0

white	0	X	0	0
integrated	0	X	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

C. Currently Identified Resources and Planning Areas

Cultural

(21) WPA Mural in 1939 Post Office (Planning Area 1)
(22) Town Clock, Courthouse Square (Planning Area 1)
(23) Memorial Day Mural, City Hall Building (Planning Area 1)
(24) Flame of Freedom, Vinson Avenue (Planning Area 1)
(25) Mural on Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan, North Washington Street (Planning Area 1)
(26) F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater, Civic Center Mansion Grounds (Planning Area 18)
(27) F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Graves, St. Mary's Cemetery (Planning Area 18)
(28) Smith House, 108 Forest Avenue, Site of Filming "Lilith" (Planning Area 4)

Educational

(29) Lincoln High School, Stonestreet Avenue (Planning Area 6)

D. Planning Areas Expected To Be Represented

All City Planning Areas

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps

1. Social activities of Rockville residents in the 20th century contrasted to the earlier periods.

2. Country clubs, golf courses, sports and recreation facilities.

3. Cultural activities in Rockville.

4. History of the Rockville library.

5. History of school closures and relation to shift in City and County population.

III. Registration

Resource	Local	State #	National Register Listed
(21) WPA Mural	None		
(22) Town Clock	None		

(23)	Memorial Day Mural	None	
(24)	Flame of Freedom	None	
(25)	Mural Metropolitan Federal S&L	None	
(26)	F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater	None	
(27)	F.Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Graves	Hist.Dist. M:26/10/57	B&O/3rd Add./St.Mary's
(28)	Smith House	Hist.Dist. M:26/15/3	West Mont. Ave. H.D.
(29)	Lincoln High School	None	

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

A. Identified resources should be properly maintained through public /private effort.

VI. Implementation

A. 2-3 Year Implementation

1. Detailed list of all schools in the City with dates of construction, builders, and significance.

B. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Data gaps should be researched.

Theme 8: Transportation

Although the Depression slowed rural road construction, Rockville continued to be accessible to most parts of the County. A number of major roads crossed at Rockville, among them Route 240 (U.S. 40 before 1940) Rockville Pike, Route 28, and Great Falls Road. As these roads were absorbed into the State Roads program, they were usually upgraded and given new names and route numbers. By the early 1930s, U.S.40 and Route 28 were heavily used, offering two-lane, concrete and macademized roadbeds. (WPA, p.504 and p. 510) Most other roads were unpaved or one-lane as was Washington Road, Route 586, when it was taken over by the State Roads Commission. It was renamed Viers Mill Road at that time and the "Viers" spelling became official at that time. Efforts were launched in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s to change the spelling to the family spelling "Veirs" as Veirs' Mill. However, the old name persists on some parts of the road.

Following World War II, a renewed road building effort began to connect urban to rural areas, but was inadequate for accelerated development, as evidenced by development along Viers Mill Road in the 1940s and 1950s. Automobile volume on that road increased with the intensive Viers Mill Village development in the 1940s and 1950s increasing to 24,800 vehicles per 24-hour period by 1958. Rockville Pike was second to that with 16,650 vehicles per day. However, by the 1950s, the improved roads allowed farmers to reach the downtown easier and urban labor to reach the rural areas as well. ("Old Georgetown Road, Historical and Geographical Significance," Edward Abbott, July 1962, typed manuscript) (Figure 23)

In the early 1960s, Interstate 70 South (I-70S) was constructed as was the Capital Beltway. I- 70S later became I-270 from the Beltway to Frederick.("I-270", Wash.Post, April 7, 1977)("70S changed to 270," Gaithersburg Gazette August 29, 1974) ("70S A Strip of History and Heritage", Mo. Co. Journal, June 6, 1974)

The Mid-City Urban Renewal Project rerouted some of the downtown streets to accommodate the project. Perry Street, East Montgomery, and Commerce were abandoned. Instead, Courthouse Square was created for access to the courthouses. This change in street configuration effectively removed any signs of the former downtown arrangement of streets and buildings.

Increasing competition from the automobile made the trolley less popular. In 1935, the Rockville-Georgetown electric trolley ceased to operate. (Ibid, Abbott)

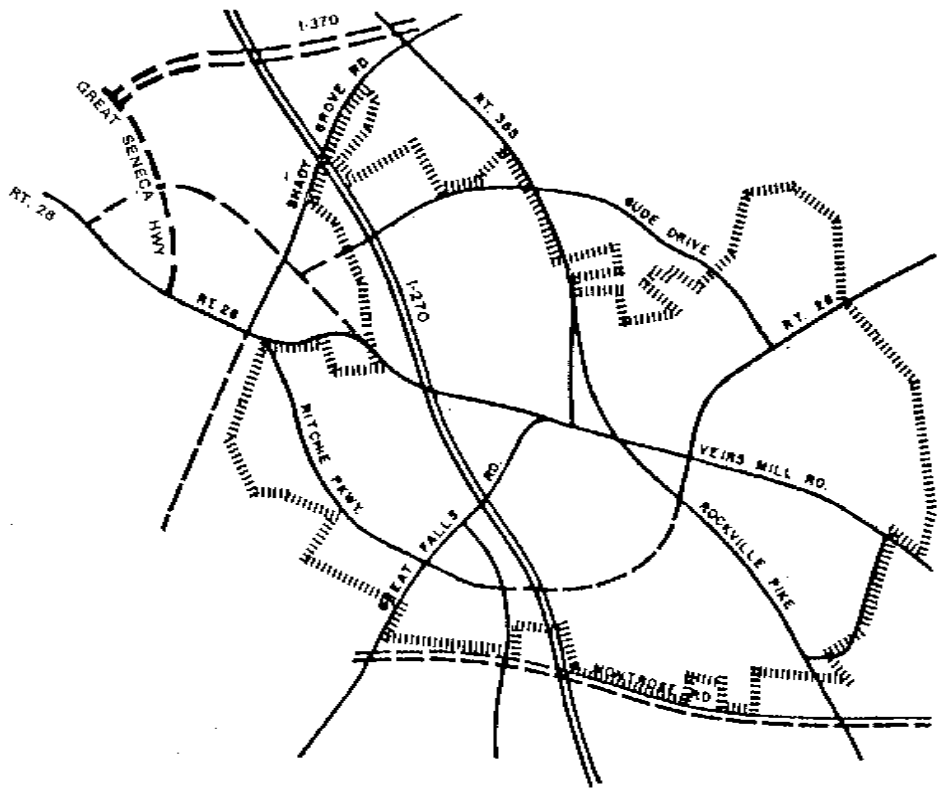
In 1981 the Veirs Mill Road Bridge was replaced by a multi-lane span. The original bridge had been built at the direction of F.D. Roosevelt when a school bus full of children were hit by a train at the location's at-grade crossing.

The rapid transit Metro line was completed to Rockville in 1984. This ended nearly twenty years of planning and construction that linked Rockville to the metropolitan area. The construction of the Rockville Metro station required moving the old B&O Railroad Station. After discussion and debate, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority agreed to move the station, linking the late-19th-century transportation resource

FIGURE 25

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK 1980

REGIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM



EXISTING HIGHWAY
PROPOSED HIGHWAY
CORPORATE LIMITS

FROM: CITY OF ROCKVILLE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

with the 20th-century system. This action was the result of a joint effort of the Mayor and Council, Historic District Commission, and Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Inc.

I. Identification

"0" indicates no examples. "X" indicates presence but unknown quantities. A numeral indicates a known quantity. "NA" is "not applicable".

A. Resource Types

	Above Ground		Archeological	
Possible	Identified	Expected	Identified	Expected
Road	0	X	0	0
Street	0	X	0	0
Rapid Transit Line	1	1	0	0

B. Characteristics

To be completed after inventory.

II. Documentation

A. Data gaps

1. Development of transportation routes and facilities.

2. Changes in the City streets, roads, etc.

3. Impact of Metro and station on town center, Rockville Pike, and neighborhoods.

III. Registration

No resources identified for registration.

IV. Stresses

To be completed after inventory and assessment of resources.

V. Recommendations for Protection

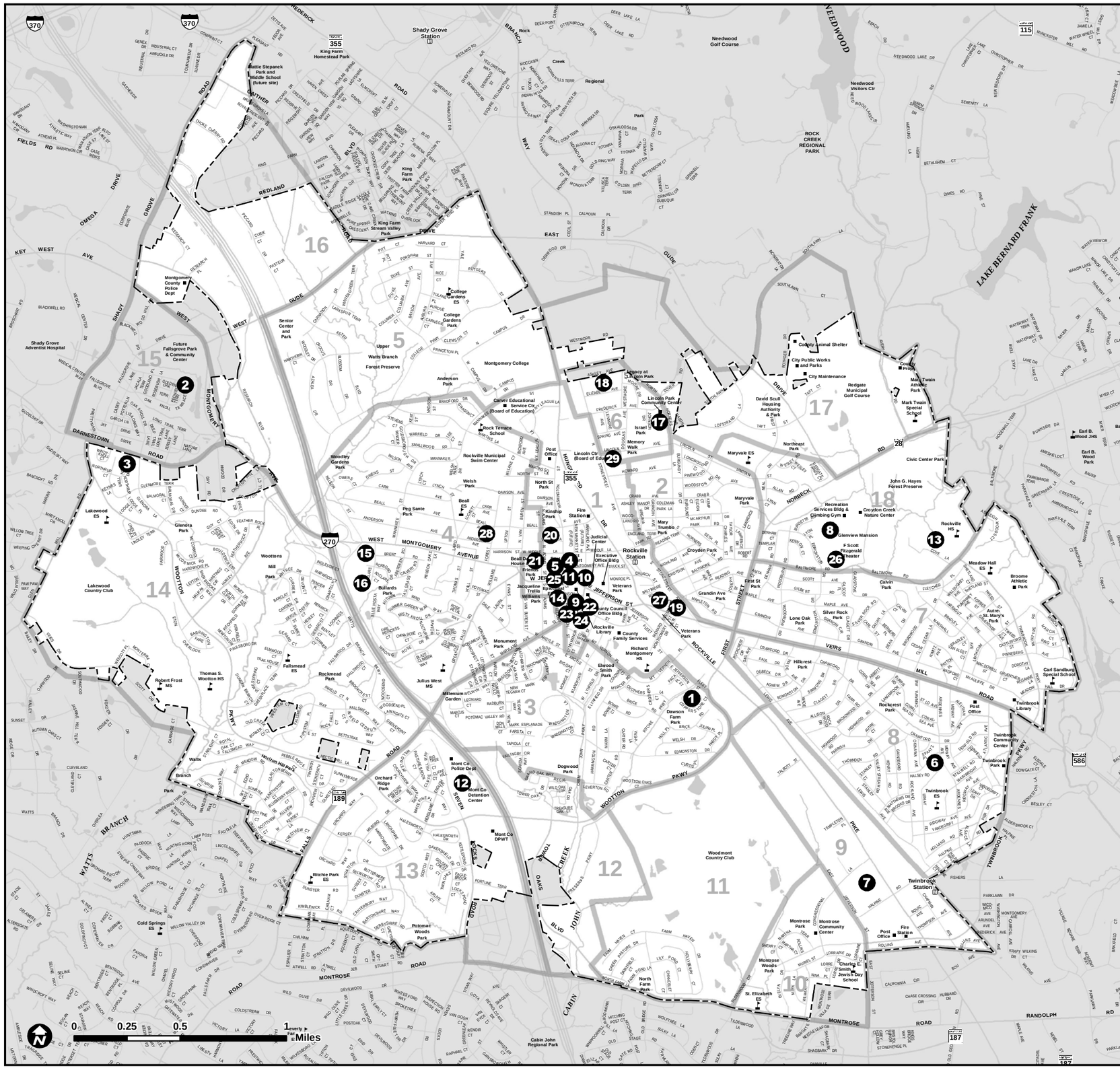
A. Review for significance after 50-year status is reached.

IV. Implementation

A. 5-10 Year Implementation

1. Further develop the context according to MHT/Department of Interior guidelines, considering stresses and serious data gaps.

2. Data gaps should be researched.


0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
Shady Grove Station
King Farm Homestead Park
Needwood Golf Course
Needwood Visitors Ctr
ROCK CREEK REGIONAL PARK
LAKE BERNARD FRANK
Montgomery County Police Dept
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Future Fallsgrove Park & Community Center
Lakewood Country Club
Senior Center and Park
Upper Watts Branch Forest Preserve
Montgomery College
Anderson Park
College Gardens ES
College Gardens Park
Woodley Gardens Park
Rockville Municipal Swim Center
Welsh Park
Peg Sante Park
Glenora Park
Wootton Mill Park
Bullards Park
Lincoln Park Community Center
Israel Park
Memory Walk Park
Carver Educational Service Ctr. (Board of Education)
Rock Terrace School
Post Office
Lincoln Ctr (Board of Ed)
Fire Station
Kinship Park
Judicial Center
Executive Office Bldg
Rockville Station
Mary Trumbo Park
Veterans Park
County Council Office Bldg
County Family Services
Rockville Library
Richard Montgomery HS
Elwood Smith Park
Monument Park
Millennium Garden
Julius West MS
Dawson Farm Park
Mont Co Police Dept
Mont Co Detention Center
Mont Co DPWT
Orchard Ridge Park
Dogwood Park
Woodmont Country Club
Potomac Woods Park
Cabin John Regional Park
North Farm Park
Ritchie Park ES
Cold Springs ES
Lakewood ES
Thomas S. Wootton HS
Robert Frost MS
Fallsmead ES
Rockmead Park
Maryvale ES
Maryvale Park
Croyden Park
Grandin Park
First Street Park
Veterans Park
Lone Oak Park
Silver Rock Park
Hillcrest Park
Rockcrest Park
Twinbrook ES
Twinbrook Park
Twinbrook Community Center
Twinbrook Library
Twinbrook Station
Post Office
Fire Station
Montrose Park
Montrose Community Center
Montrose Woods Park
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
St. Elizabeth ES
Rockville HS
Meadow Hall ES
Broome Athletic Park
Calvin Park
Carl Sandburg Special School
Earl B. Wood JHS
Earl B. Wood Park
Civic Center Park
John G. Hayes Forest Preserve
Northeast Park
Redgate Municipal Golf Course
City Public Works and Parks
City Maintenance
County Animal Shelter
County Prop.
Mark Twain Athletic Park
Mark Twain Special School
David Scull Housing Authority & Park
Recreation Services Bldg & Climbing Gym
Croydon Creek Nature Center
Glenview Mansion
F Scott Fitzgerald Theater
Needwood Rd
Muncaster Mill Rd
Redland Rd
Darnestown Rd
Gude Dr
Veirs Mill Rd
Rockville Pike
Wootton Pkwy
Montrose Rd
Randolph Rd
Twinbrook Pkwy
Frederick Rd
Seven Locks Rd
Falls Rd
Watts Branch
Cabin John Creek
Rock Creek
Needwood Branch
Rock Creek Regional Park
Rock Creek Park
Watts Branch Park
Heritage Park
Needwood Golf Course
Woodmont Country Club
Lakewood Country Club
Rockville
Twinbrook
Montrose
Lakewood
Fallsgrove
Tower Oaks
Fallsmead
Rockmead
Orchard Ridge
Dogwood
Potomac Woods
Cabin John
North Farm
Ritchie Park
Cold Springs
Millennium Garden
Monument
Julius West
Dawson Farm
Mont Co Police Dept
Mont Co Detention Center
Mont Co DPWT
Woodmont Country Club
Twinbrook Station
Post Office
Fire Station
Montrose Park
Montrose Community Center
Montrose Woods Park
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
St. Elizabeth ES
Rockville HS
Meadow Hall ES
Broome Athletic Park
Calvin Park
Carl Sandburg Special School
Earl B. Wood JHS
Earl B. Wood Park
Civic Center Park
John G. Hayes Forest Preserve
Northeast Park
Redgate Municipal Golf Course
City Public Works and Parks
City Maintenance
County Animal Shelter
County Prop.
Mark Twain Athletic Park
Mark Twain Special School
David Scull Housing Authority & Park
Recreation Services Bldg & Climbing Gym
Croydon Creek Nature Center
Glenview Mansion
F Scott Fitzgerald Theater
Twinbrook ES
Twinbrook Park
Twinbrook Community Center
Twinbrook Library
Rockcrest Park
Hillcrest Park
Silver Rock Park
Lone Oak Park
Croydon Park
Grandin Park
First Street Park
Veterans Park
Maryvale ES
Maryvale Park
Welsh Park
Peg Sante Park
Glenora Park
Wootton Mill Park
Bullards Park
Lincoln Park Community Center
Israel Park
Memory Walk Park
Carver Educational Service Ctr. (Board of Education)
Rock Terrace School
Post Office
Lincoln Ctr (Board of Ed)
Fire Station
Kinship Park
Judicial Center
Executive Office Bldg
Rockville Station
Mary Trumbo Park
Veterans Park
County Council Office Bldg
County Family Services
Rockville Library
Richard Montgomery HS
Elwood Smith Park
Monument Park
Millennium Garden
Julius West MS
Dawson Farm Park
Mont Co Police Dept
Mont Co Detention Center
Mont Co DPWT
Orchard Ridge Park
Dogwood Park
Woodmont Country Club
Potomac Woods Park
Cabin John Regional Park
North Farm Park
Ritchie Park ES
Cold Springs ES
Lakewood ES
Thomas S. Wootton HS
Robert Frost MS
Fallsmead ES
Rockmead Park
Maryvale ES
Maryvale Park
Croydon Park
Grandin Park
First Street Park
Veterans Park
Lone Oak Park
Silver Rock Park
Hillcrest Park
Rockcrest Park
Twinbrook ES
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