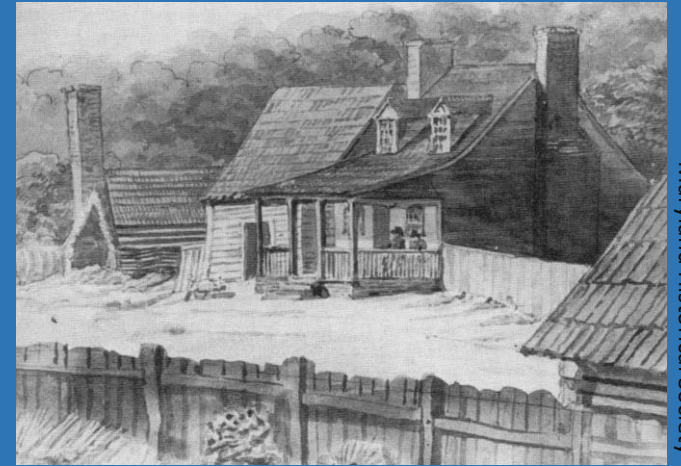


Rockville flag  
[blues waves for three watersheds,  
red crosses botany for Maryland]

# A brief History of Rockville Maryland



Maryland Historical Society

First known image of Rockville, a sketch by  
Benjamin Latrobe [architect of U.S. Capitol]  
of Hungerford Tavern



Celera Genomics in Rockville  
"Home of the Genome"



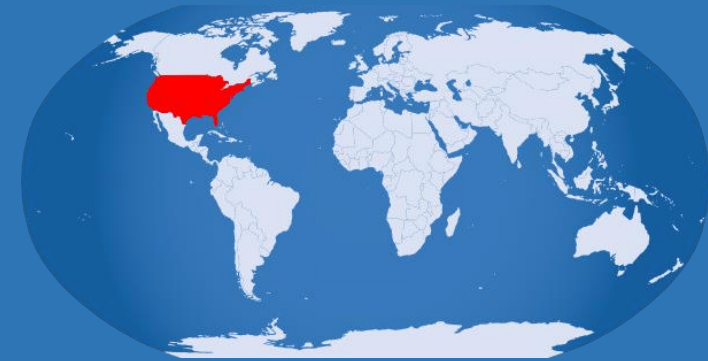
RSCC Emblem  
[city crest in center]



1891 Red Brick Courthouse



# Rockville, Where is it?



In the United States of America



In the State of Maryland, on the eastern coast,  
referred to as the Mid-Atlantic Region



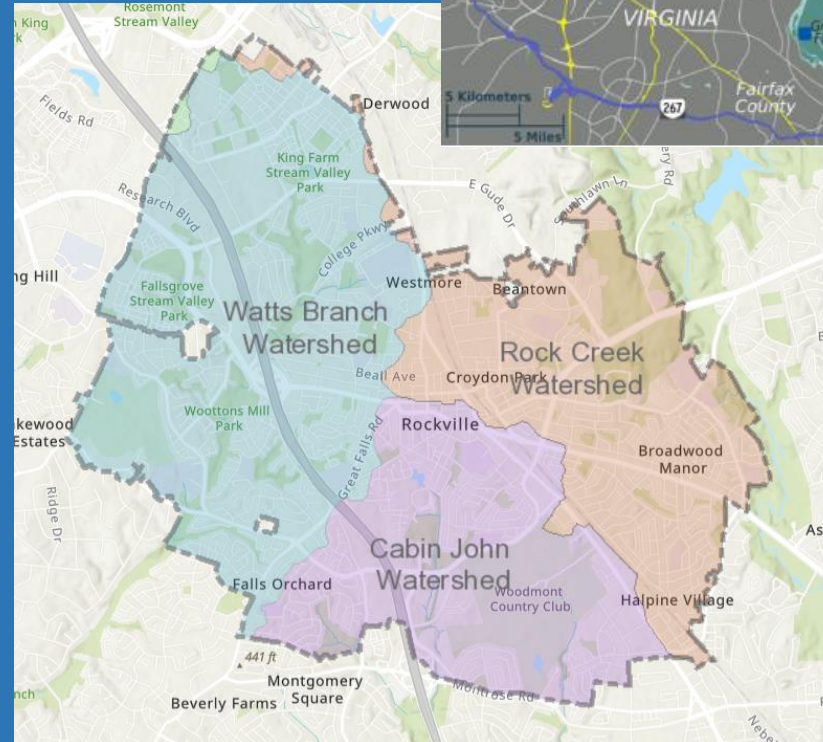
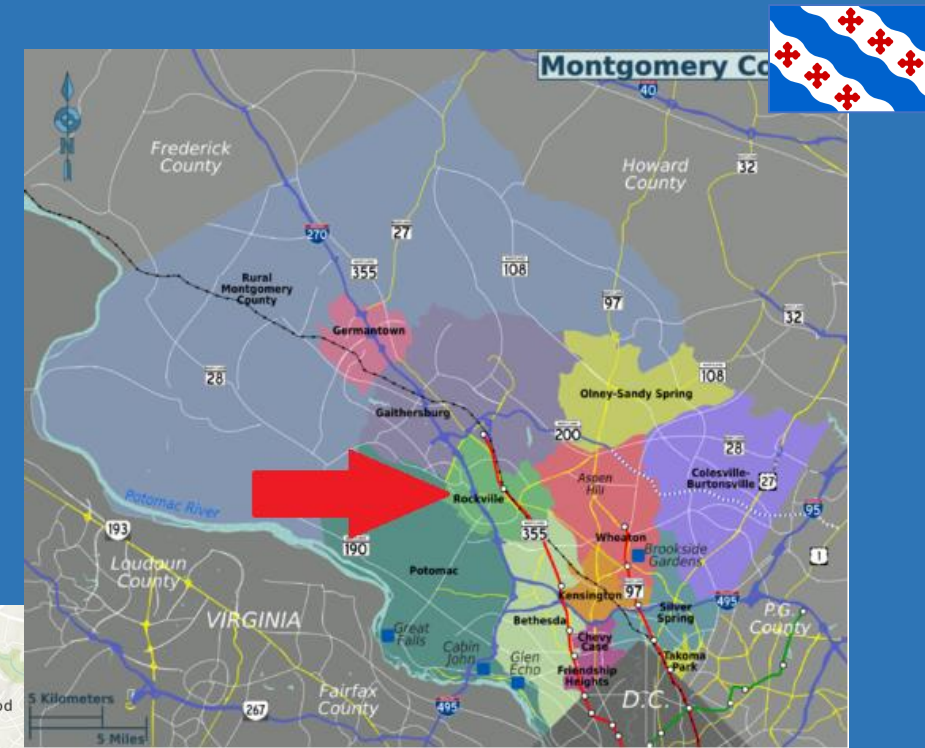
In Montgomery County, which borders the Potomac River to west & south,  
and Washington DC to the southeast.





# Rockville Geography

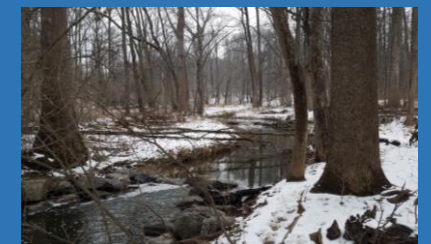
- State of Maryland
- Seat of Montgomery County
  - Western boundary is Potomac River
- 12 miles NW of Washington DC
- Land area = 13.6 sq. mi.
- Population (2020) = 67,177
- On high point of Parr's Ridge
  - Three watersheds flow out of boundaries:
    - Rock Creek
    - Cabin John Creek
    - Watts Branch [Creek]



Watershed map of Rockville



Rock Creek



Watts Branch

City of Rockville,  
Watershed Study

David Hill

City of Rockville, website



# Indigenous History

- Nomadic hunters follow retreating glaciers, 15,000 years ago.
- In Archaic period (8,000 years ago) semi-nomadic tribes become more regular inhabitants of the area.
- In Woodland period (3,000 years ago) tribes make culturally distinct villages, with some agriculture. Natives here are the Piscataways.
- Conflict with Algonquian tribes (Susquehannocks at first) push the Piscataways further south, out of area.
- The Seneca tribe (other Algonquians) then settle this area, and are here at the European contact time.
- European diseases decimate the Senecas, so area seems thinly inhabited frontier to early European settlers in 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- Then expansion pressures from settlement push the Senecas west



Piscataway



Susquehannock



Seneca chief



# Early Agriculture

- Europeans quickly recognized land as good for farming.
- First settlers are farmers on large land-holdings, issued as land patents from the proprietary colonial government of Lord Baltimore.
  - First land patent issued in 1717 for 3000 acres.
- Indentured and slave laborers work large farms
- As cash crops grown (tobacco and grains), getting those to a port, and thus to larger markets, becomes important to economy.
  - Roads to ports of Georgetown and Bladensburg
  - Local mills are started, on the creeks
- A settlement starts at road juncture.



Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore, proprietor of the colony of Maryland

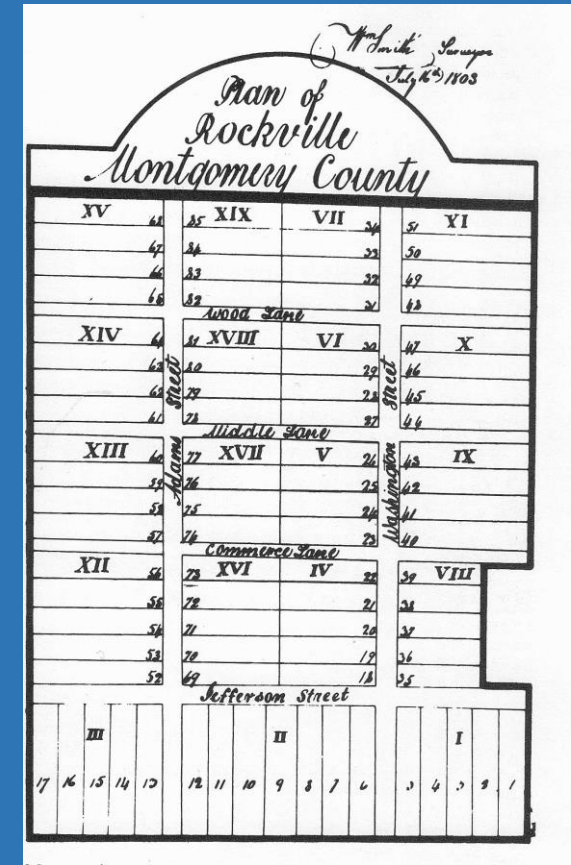


Rolling a tobacco barrel to port for trade



# Colonial History [of future Rockville]

- Central county N-S & E-W roads cross here
- Also overnight stop from Georgetown to/from Frederick
  - Taverns (also serve as inns) are early businesses: Owens Ordinary, Leonard's Tavern, Hungerford Tavern, Davis Tavern
- Braddock Expedition during Seven Years War uses future Rt. 355 road. Camps overnight in future Rockville
  - Reveals that road warrants improving for regional travel
- Named county seat of Montgomery Co. from outset, in 1776, as Montgomery Courthouse
- First court session, 1777, at Leonard's Tavern
- Renamed Rockville (from Rock Creek), with recognition as township by State, in 1803



Rockville town plat of 1803



# “The Middle Colony” and Religion

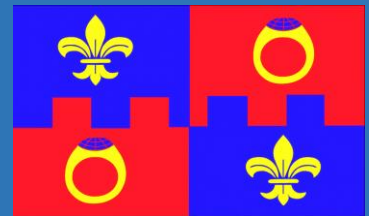


Maryland flag,  
Calvert family crest

- Maryland is unique colony
  - Has characteristics of both more northern and southern colonial groups
    - So in the middle = called “The Middle Colony” This becomes important later.
  - A proprietary colony (only PA same), granted to the Lords Baltimore (Calvert family)
  - Founded as Catholic haven in the New World (as Britain turns Puritanical)
  - Grants religious freedom to all citizens from the outset.
    - Only colony with no established church on founding
    - Maryland Charter (on religion) greatly influences the Founding Fathers to include Freedom of Religion in the Bill of Rights (U.S. Constitution)
    - Maryland attracts diverse religious denomination settlement, co-habiting peacefully (during period of religious warfare back in emigration countries of Europe).
    - Rockville reflects this: First church is Catholic, then gains Protestant denomination churches too: Episcopal (Anglican), Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist

## ➤ Montgomery County named for Genl. Richard Montgomery

- A Revolutionary War hero in American Colonies (Continental Army general)
- Dies heroically at the Battle of Quebec, 1775
- No real connection to this area. He never visits, just named in honor.



Montgomery County flag,  
Montgomery family crest





# Hungerford Resolves, 1774

- Leading to American Revolution, Boston, Massachusetts is roughly treated by British Colonial authorities, port closed, military law declared.
- Local farmers meet at Hungerford Tavern, on own initiative
  - Sign resolution of sympathy for citizens in Boston
  - Send to colonial legislature and ask it become colony policy
  - One of first such actions among the 13 British-Am. colonies
- Important expression of nascent American national identity
  - Prior to this, the North American British colonies saw themselves as first loyal to Britain, not each other.
  - Idea that the colonies are interconnected and should ally with each other, ahead of far away Britain (and others) is beginning of an American national identity
  - The founding of the United States of America arises from this new identity
  - Further, this identity drives the Monroe Doctrine, in U.S. foreign policy, covering all of the Western Hemisphere, throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Hungerford Tavern





# Early Rockville

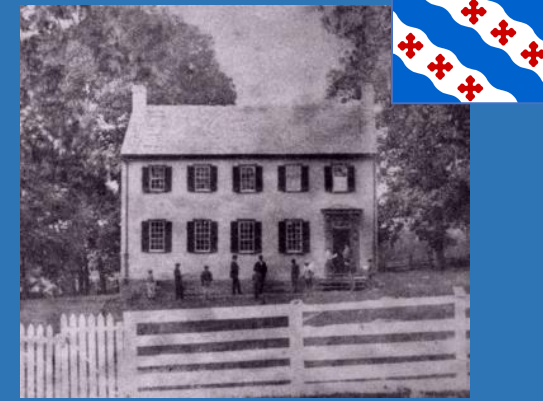
## ➤ Late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, small town grows slowly

- Town little affected by period regional or national events
  - War of 1812 or Mexican War
  - B&O Railroad bypasses Montgomery Co., C&O Canal too far
- The town remains small in population (<300)
- Farming lifestyle carries on in the County
- A few more lawyers and court officers, a few stores
- A newspaper starts: Montgomery County Sentinel (1855)

## ➤ Washington DC is founded (Rockville predates)

- As capital city grows, region becomes more significant
- Washington DC engulfs Georgetown and the Rockville Pike road connection becomes more significant

1793 Adam Robb  
house (circa 1900)



1805 Rockville Academy  
(first school)

St. Mary's  
Church,  
1817



1815 Beall Dawson House

1840 Courthouse



Oldest known picture of Main St. (circa 1872),  
gives feel of early Rockville. (hay scale on left)



# Civil War Rockville, 1861 - 1865

John Dawson, merchant,  
Fed. Draft Comm., arrested  
by Confederate Army



MoCo. Hist. Soc.

- Maryland is a “border state”, not clearly southern or northern
- Strategically important area, while could go either way:
  - Connects Federal capital in Washington DC to northern states
  - Includes important Natl. Road and B&O rail line connecting mid-west to east coast
  - Has resources both sides need in central location
- Rockville reflects in-between dilemma, while mostly southern sentiment.
  - For example, 1860 election returns are mostly for southern natl. candidates, and most local army volunteers fight for the Confederacy (also draftees, without choice, into Union army)
- The Union Army occupies Rockville during the war, under military law
- Armies pass through Rockville multiple times on campaigns
  - Confederate army seizes the town twice
  - Armies of both sides arrest local citizens
  - Battle of Rockville, on town streets, in 1864

Commanders at the  
Battle of Rockville

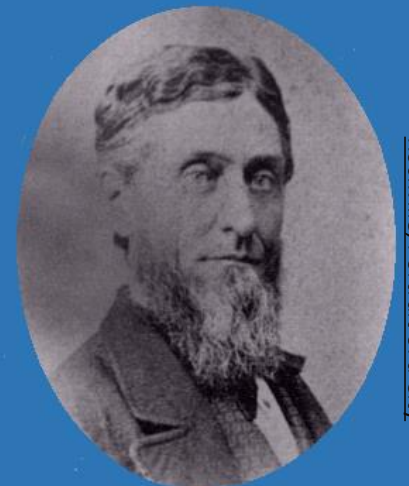


Col. Lowell, USA



Genl. Johnson, CSA

William Viers Bouic Sr.,  
lawyer, cmd. town militia,  
arrested by Union Army



Rockville, Portrait of a City



# Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century



➤ Rockville incorporated as town, 1860. [population: 365]

➤ State of Maryland legally ends slavery, 1864.

- This impacts large farm agriculture, encouraging smaller farms
- Smaller farms a benefit as population growth warranting more land ownership
- Most freed slaves join extant free African-Am. community, remain locally, work as wage laborers.



View of town (circa 1875 image)

➤ As Montgomery County grows, more govt. services and businesses grow in Rockville, as county seat.

➤ The railroad comes to Rockville, 1873.

- Rockville farms and businesses gain better transport access
- Rockville promotes self as pleasant country retreat for urban Washington DC
  - Woodlawn Hotel is example of new business for these visitors
- Commuter working in Washington DC becomes viable by train
- First purposefully residential neighborhoods develop

1873 B&O Train Stn.  
(circa 1883 image)



➤ Town grows [1900 population: 1110]

1889 Woodlawn Hotel



Phillip Reed





# Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- More of same agriculture and (county) govt. services
  - Slow growth trajectory [1930 population: 1422]
- Town suffers typhus outbreak in 1913, spread by contaminated wells
  - Starts municipal water and sewer services in response, still operated by City
- A trolley line added to Rockville Pike, increasing town access
- Advent of automobiles makes the road junction more significant, with Rockville Pike becoming more prominent
- More traffic gives rise to more mercantile businesses at central location in the county and alongside government services
- Rockville grows during 1930s Depression, largely supported by Federal work force and programs [1940 population: 2047]



View of Main St. (circa 1930s)



Lyddane-Bradley barn





# Post-War Growth (WWII)

- Rockville is remote from WWII, while influenced by wartime growth in Washington DC, especially expansion of Federal govt. workforce
- Returning soldiers and strong economy leads to boom in Rockville directly after WWII [population triples to 6934 in 1950]
- Montgomery County also booms influencing its county seat
- Automobile access to DC gives rise to commuter homes and lifestyle
- Residences and businesses surmount agriculture in local economy
- Rockville performs mass annexation of 2,210 acres in 1949, anticipating more growth and first Master Plan and zoning administration follows
- Rockville wins first All-American City award in 1954 (three more later)
- Rockville gains Home Rule Municipality status (City) from State in 1955





# Suburban Rockville

- Full suburbanization occurs in 1950s as Depression and wartime generation now has deferred families and income to spend
- Track suburban neighborhood developments appear
- Rockville population quintuples to 29,090 in 1960.
- Car culture dominates, Rockville Pike becomes regional commercial strip
- Services for families, and schools for children, multiply
- Rockville growth continues, population is 42,739 in 1970
- In the 1960s, Rockville decides it has outgrown small-town center and engages in urban renewal, re-shaping the center of the city thru 1970s
- Metro (Washington subway) service arrives in 1984, and further encourages commuter work-live suburban culture





# Urban Renewal

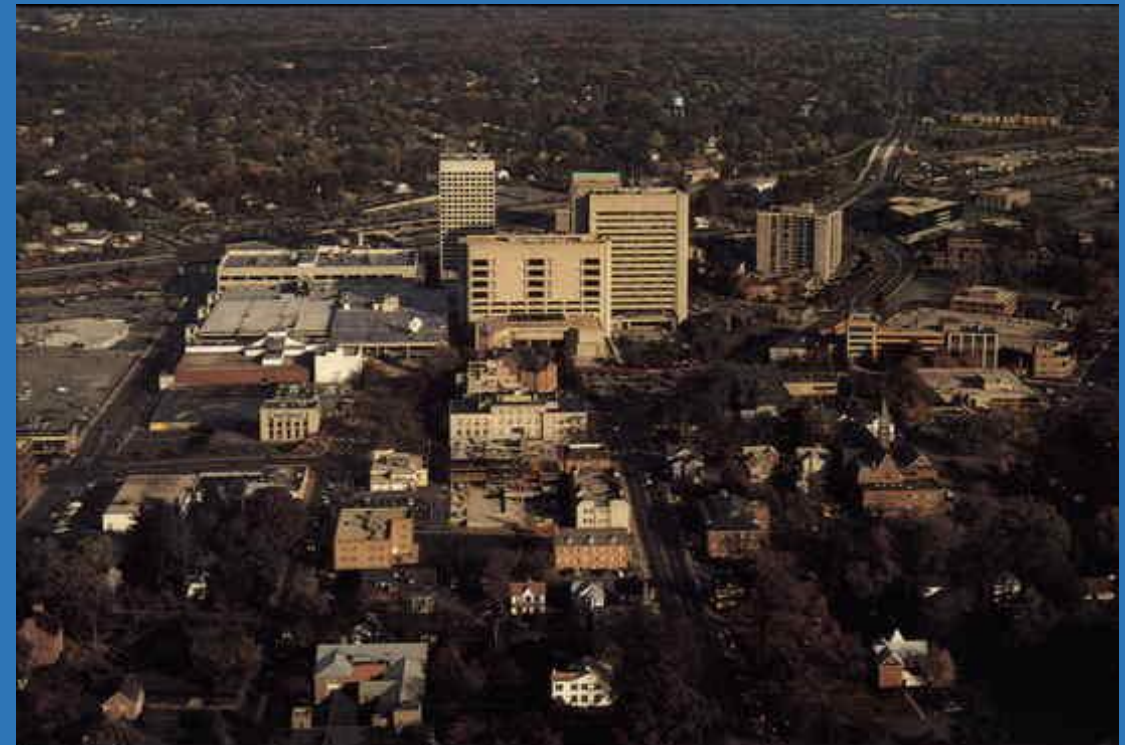
- In 1960s-70s Rockville rebuilds downtown
  - Follows the Urban Renewal movement in the U.S., remake “modern”
  - Redid a street grid, adds bypass route, then set-up higher density, modernist-style buildings
  - Loses historic main street and most related older buildings (111 demolished)
  - Some now question if this was necessary progress or heedless destruction?



Old main st.  
circa 1950s



Rockville downtown, aerial view west, circa 1950  
main st. along left, prior to Urban Renewal



Rockville downtown, aerial view east, circa 1980  
main st. gone, street grid and higher density



# Contemporary Rockville

- In later 20<sup>th</sup> century, Rockville gains significant employment base itself
  - Today Rockville has more jobs than population (of all ages)
- Interstate 270 highway opens making new car culture commuter corridor. While unburdens Rockville Pike, fuels even more mercantile growth
  - At one point, Rockville Pike rated as second largest revenue margin per sq. ft., for retail businesses in all the U.S. [only behind luxury Rodeo Dr., in Los Angeles]
- Spatially, Rockville swallowed by general Washington Metro Area growth, now lacks clear boundaries, while tries to keep distinct identify

Town Sq. Plaza,  
winter ice rink,  
Memorial Library  
[left background]

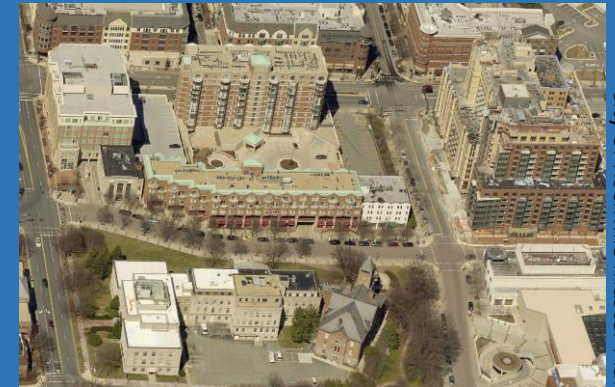


David Hill



Rockville City Hall, artwork and  
Pinneberg roses out front

City of Rockville website



Downtown aerial view [Grey and  
Red Brick Court Houses bottom]

City of Rockville Master Plan







# Rockville Places: Courthouses

Rockville has a number of courthouses:

- First courts, starting 1776, met in taverns
- 1785 First courthouse
- 1840 Courthouse, held all govt. functions
- 1891 Red Brick Courthouse replaced it
  - No longer used as courthouse
  - Iconic building on Courthouse Square
- 1931 Grey Courthouse
  - No longer used as courthouse
- 1980 Judicial Center for MD Circuit Court
- 2014 Judicial Annex expansion
- 2017 new District Court building



1840 Courthouse  
(no longer exists)



David Hill

1891 Red Brick Courthouse



1931 Courthouse, all courts orig., District Court after 1980



1980  
Judicial  
Center,  
houses MD  
Circuit  
Court



2014  
Judicial  
Annex,  
expands  
Circuit  
Court



2017  
new  
District  
Court  
building





# Rockville Places: Glenview Mansion

- Originally a 500 acre farm and home of Richard Johns and Catherine Bowie
  - Judge Bowie is perhaps Rockville's most notable citizen (judge, member of State House and Congress, Gubernatorial candidate, local civic leader/founder).
- Bought by Irene Moore Smith in 1917, then married Dr. James Lyon.
  - Reconstructed the house in 1926 to mostly present form, including gardens and landscaping.
- The City of Rockville purchased the mansion and 28 acres in 1957, after a narrowly passing referendum. The City makes it a public venue facility.
- The City has expanded the grounds to 153 acres. The mansion is a civic center.
- On site are a theater, athletic facilities, nature center, and forest preserve.
- The civic center is used for many public meetings and events, also a popular wedding venue.



Montgomery Co. Historical Society



David Hill





# Rockville Places: Chestnut Lodge

- Chestnut Lodge was a renowned sanitarium in Rockville
- Founded by Dr. Ernest Bullard in 1910
  - Acquires the Woodlawn Hotel and grounds (with chestnut trees)
- Pioneering psychoanalysis to treat psychotic patients
- Dr. Dexter Bullard (son) succeeds his father in 1931
- Recruits Dr. Freida Fromm-Reichman in 1935, continues notable psychiatric work
- The sanitarium closes in 1997. Main building destroyed in fire, 2009



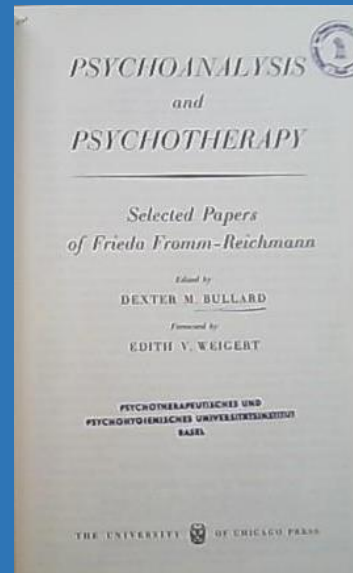
Chestnut Lodge, circa 1940



Dr. Ernest Bullard, founder



Dr. Freida Fromm-Reichman



Cover page, research publication, U of C Press



Chestnut Lodge, circa 1990







# Rockville Places: St. Mary's Church

- Roman Catholic denomination
- Churchyard cemetery and school
- 1817 chapel is oldest church building in city
- 1967 modern sanctuary building



1967 larger modern sanctuary



1817 original church, now called chapel

David Hill

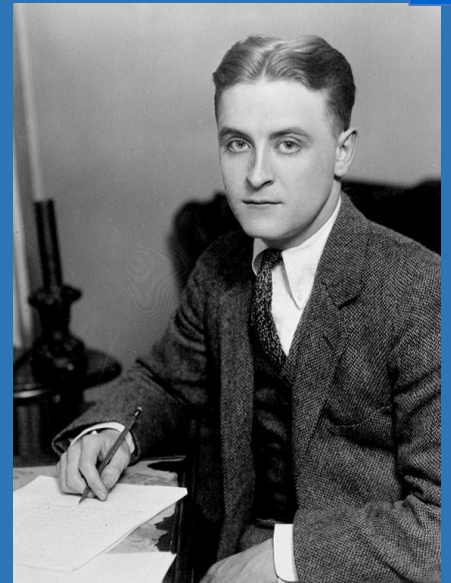






# F. Scott Fitzgerald

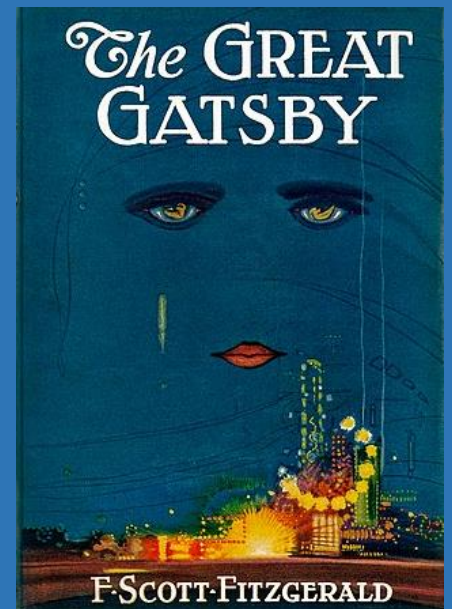
- Famous early 20<sup>th</sup> century American author, best known work: The Great Gatsby
- Paternal family from area, he visits often as youth
  - Named for Francis Scott Key, a relation, MD hero, writer of national anthem
- Buried alongside family members in St. Mary's Churchyard
- Annual literary conference and award in his name



F. Scott Fitzgerald gravesite

Epitaph on gravestone:  
[closing line of The Great Gatsby]

*So we beat on, boats against the  
current, borne back ceaselessly  
into the past.*



1<sup>st</sup> edition cover

# Rockville Places: Train Stations



Historic 1873 Rockville B&O Station



MARC train at Rockville Station  
[regional commuter service]



AMTRAK train at Rockville Station  
[national train service]



Rockville Station platform, DC Metro Red Line



Twinbrook Metro Station, with Metro train on right  
and freight train on left





# Rockville Places: Rockville Pike

## ➤ Rockville Pike is the historic main road south

- Rockville to Wisconsin Ave. in Bethesda
- Continues to Georgetown
  - Last tidewater port on the Potomac River
  - Now part of Washington DC

## ➤ Became major commercial strip in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century



1451 Rockville Pike



Map of  
Rockville Pike  
Planning Area  
(within City  
boundaries)  
from 2014  
development  
plan



Historic trolley, circa 1920s



Country road period, circa 1950s



View south of Rockville Pike, intersection foreground  
is main historic intersection

City of Rockville, Master Plan







# Rockville Places: Congressional Airport

- Rockville had an airport
  - 1928 – 1958 (early aviation era)
  - Now mostly Congressional Shopping Plaza



Aerial view, circa 1957



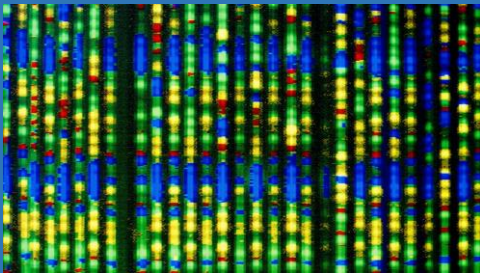
# Rockville Places: “Home of the Genome”

## ➤ Human Genome Project

- Sequence whole human genome (20,000+ genes)
- Runs 1990-2003
- Collaboration among govt., universities and business (primarily Celera Genomics)
- Succeeds (two years early than planned)

## ➤ Celera Genomics did their work in Rockville

## ➤ Part of thriving bio-tech and research industry in area

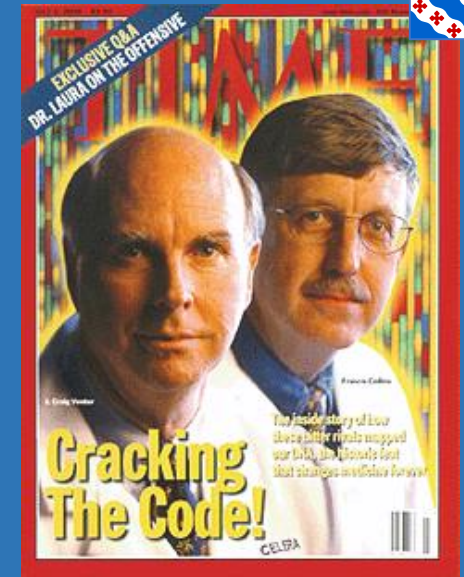
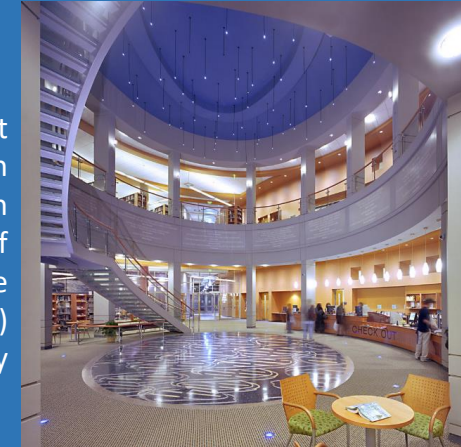


Gene sequence image



Angela Merkel gets tour from J. Craig Ventnor

HGP project represented in artwork in central floor of the Rockville Memorial (main) Library



Time (major U.S. news magazine) cover recognizing the achievement



Celera Genomics building in Rockville





# Goodbye Rockville



Twilight view from tallest building (M51), looking SE. Rockville Pike runs to right with the train tracks parallel (tree corridor), Viers Mill Rd. is center-right. This intersection is the historic road crossing that forms the town, the meeting of the roads to Georgetown and Bladensburg, roughly in the center of Montgomery County.

