

**HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

**ASSEMBLED FOR THE BARCROFT**

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PLAN**

**1988**

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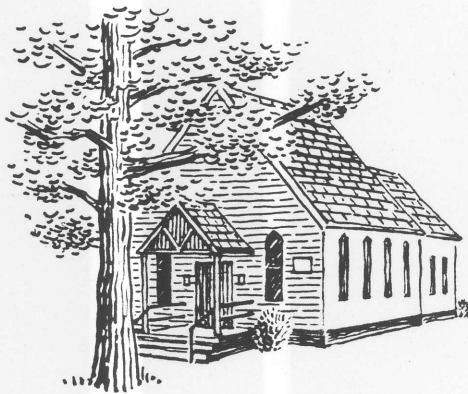
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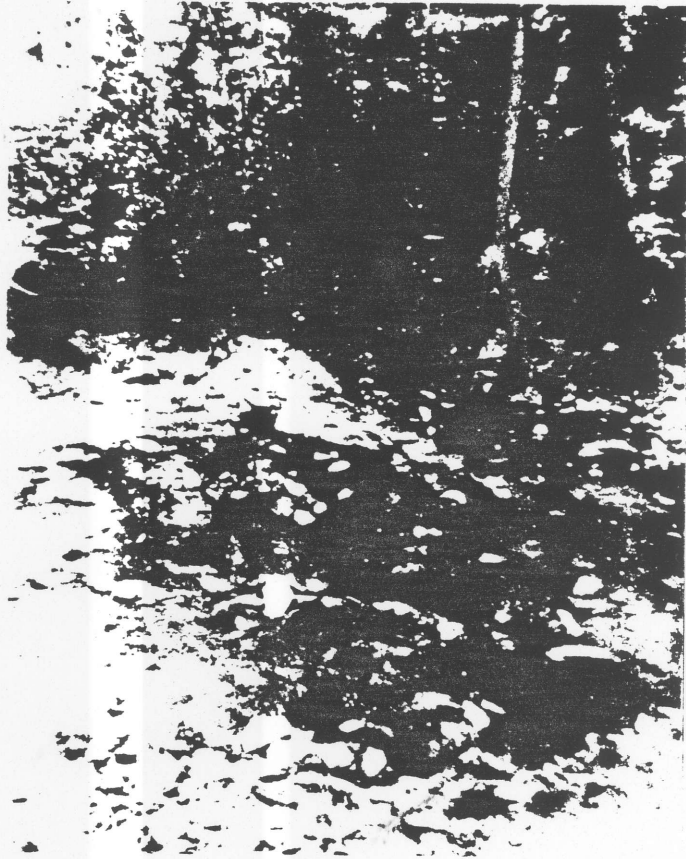
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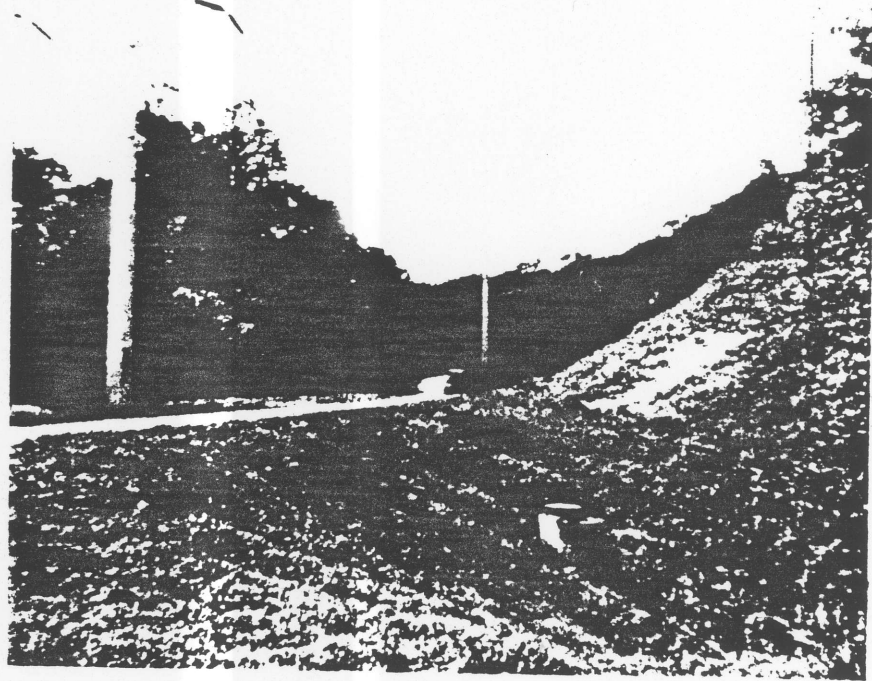
**HISTORY  
OF  
BARCROFT COMMUNITY**

**by  
Jayne McQuade**

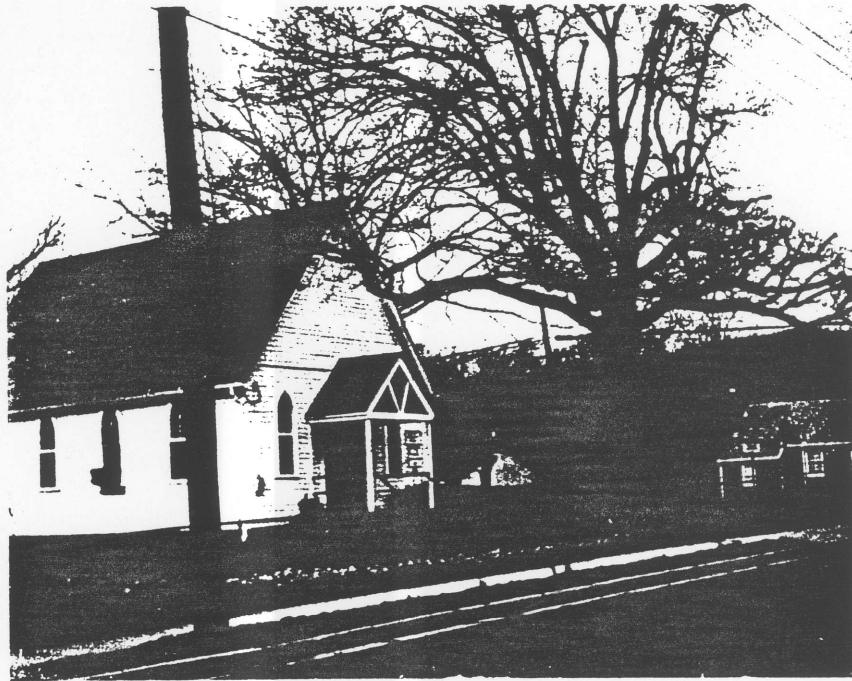




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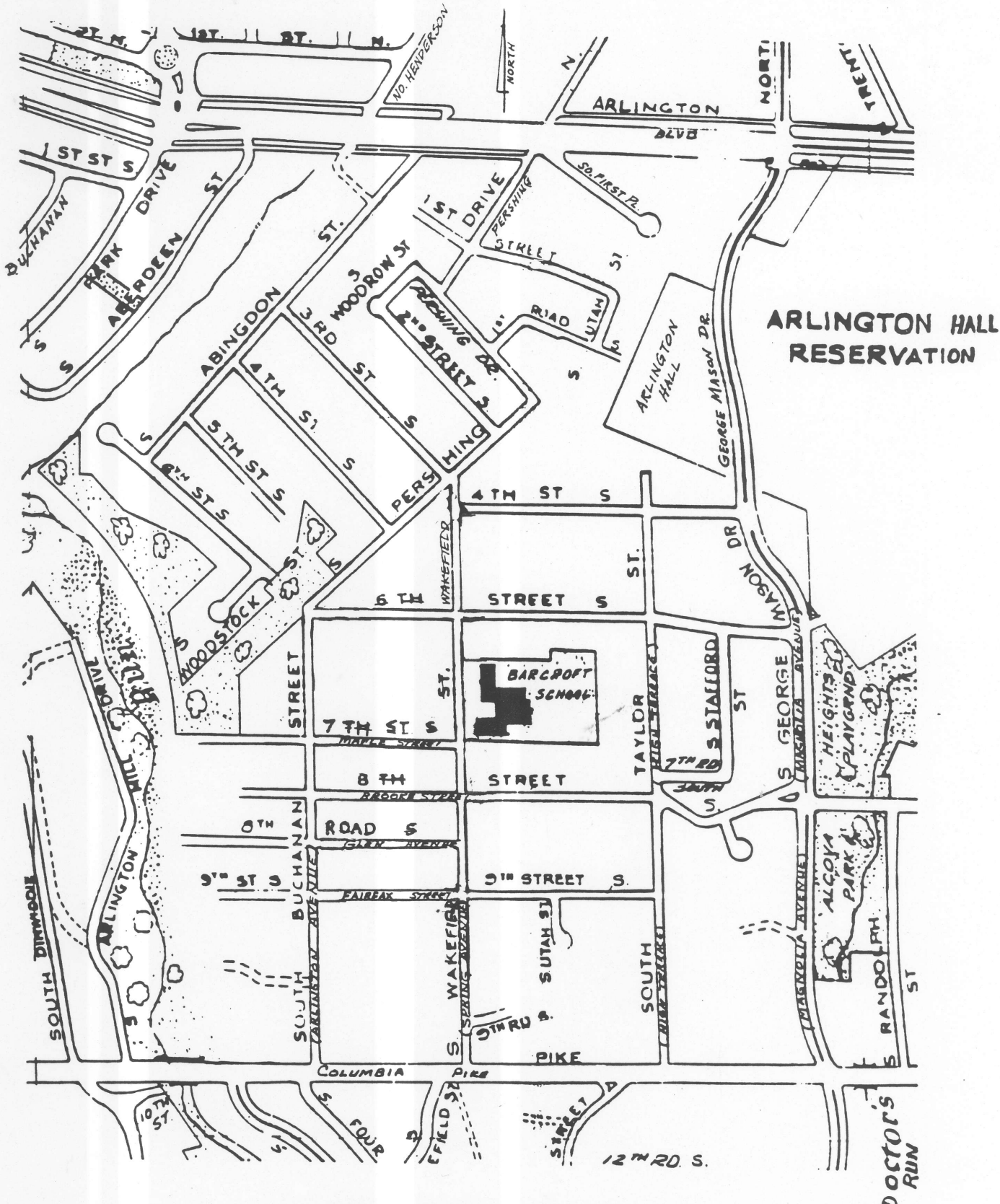


BICYCLE TRAIL



BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE  
800 SOUTH BUCHANAN STREET  
Spring of 1989

The Arlington County Board granted this building and land an  
Historic District designator in 1983.



BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE  
NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

This map was used to identify routes when the NEWSLETTER was hand delivered to each household in the area. The map was provided by Al Copeland, Civil Engineer, and President of BSCL at the time.

(OLD STREET NAME IN PARENTHESIS)

DOCTOR'S RUN

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BARCROFT COMMUNITY

The Barcroft community, located on high ground bordering Four-Mile-Run, traces its earliest existence to the time of George Washington, who may have built a mill here. George Washington Parke Custis and Custis Lee each built mills later in the vicinity. Custis' mill was destroyed during the Civil War. After the war, Dr. John Wolverton Barcroft, who had had a mill about 5 miles further west on Columbia Pike which was also destroyed in the war, bought the site and rebuilt the mill on the foundation of Custis' mill. He built his home on the hill above, and after 1885 the mill was known as Barcroft Mill. It had previously been known as the Arlington Mill, and the area as Arlington Heights. Dr. Barcroft's mill is said to have had the largest mill wheel on the east coast. The millrace was nearly a mile long and almost 8 feet wide.

About 1850, a single-track railroad was built along Four Mile Run. The railroad ran from Alexandria to Bluemont. A station was located at Columbia Pike. Besides passengers and grain for the mill, it hauled many animals to holding pens at Columbia Pike. The animals were then driven on foot down Columbia Pike to an abattoir near the present Pentagon Annex. This continued until 1905 when a new railroad spur was built closer to the river.

closer to the river. The railroad ended operations in August 1968, and since 1979, the right-of-way has been part of the Washington and Old Dominion Trail.

Also in the area prior to 1903 were a 162-acre farm called CEDAR HILL owned by Frank Corbett and, to the north, land owned by the heirs of James T. Ball. In 1893, part of this land was sold to Charles and Lisetta Kolb, who built a home called (cont. on next Page )

PAGE 2 "Woodmeade"



"Woodmeade." In 1892, Corbett, whose land ran along Four Mile Run and Columbia Pike, subdivided the part of his land along the Pike near the railroad station. He named the subdivision "Corbett" and planned 4 north-south streets and one east-west street on the land above the station.

Frank Corbett's estate was sold to Mrs. Abbie G. Fox in 1903, and that marked the real beginnings of the community known as Barcroft. The village of Corbett was re-subdivided, dedicated and renamed Barcroft. The deed was recorded April 22, 1904. It now had 4 east-west streets and 2 north-south streets. These were the present S. 9th St., S. 8th Rd., S. 8th St., S. 7th St. and Buchanan and Wakefield. A "building boom" began in Barcroft, which until then had about 6 homes, the mill, a grocery and the station.

For about 6 months in 1903, O. Edward Haring, son of the owner of the grocery store and nephew of Sidney T. Marye, another early resident, published the fortnightly Barcroft News. Stephen P. Wright, son in law of Mrs. Fox and developer of Barcroft, advertised "own your own home" and "Barcroft lots-- 100 x 250 feet--liberal terms." The paper published news of the bustling little community--marriages, births, deaths, travels and complaints about the irregular and erratic train service. Editorials expressed the hope that the newly-elected Commonwealths Attorney and Sheriff William Palmer, a Barcroft resident, would lead a reform so "Alexandria County and debauchery will no

longer be considered synonymous terms."

By 1907, there were nine small children in the community ready for school. Older children took the train to Washington (a trip of over an hour) or walked to established schools at Columbia (near Walter Reed Dr. and Columbia Pike) or Glen Carlyn. Each was over a mile away, too far for children under 7 to walk, and the route to Glen Carlyn involved walking on the railroad tracks! Stephen Wright, president of "The Citizens' Association of Barcroft" and other citizens petitioned the School Board to establish a school in Barcroft. The School Board declined, citing "a capable teacher at Glen Carlyn." The citizens protested and the Board reconsidered. By November, 1907, Mrs. Amy Fairfax was contracted as teacher for nine school aged and one "almost" school aged children. A room in her house was the schoolroom. She received \$10 rent per month for the room and \$25 per month for serving as teacher and janitor.

In May, 1908, two lots were purchased by the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft, and during that summer church members built a one-room frame chapel, now the Community House. Mrs. Fairfax was unable to teach or provide room for the school in the fall of 1908, so in October the School Board approved an offer from Sidney T. Marye, Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Barcroft, to rent the building for \$10.00 per month.

The school remained in this building until the new brick school opened in 1925. A second small room was added in 1913, and from then on two teachers were employed. In 1908, the

"Citizens Association of Barcroft" became the "Barcroft School and Civic League," which was incorporated in Virginia in 1914. On August 21, 1914, the School and Civic League bought the building from the trustees of the church. In 1983, the Community House was recognized by the Arlington Historical Commission as an historical district.

In 1914, electricity came to Barcroft on the impetus of Mr. Walter Handy. He recruited more than the necessary 12 customers for a hookup, and then wired the houses himself. In 1917, telephone party lines were installed. Volunteer fire departments were organized in the county about 1921, but this did not prevent many tragic fires, some of them caused by sparks from the steam trains. In 1926, the mill burned down.

In 1919, Robert May, who lived near the school, started a busroute serving Barcroft, Alcovia Heights and other communities along the Pike. He had two buses, actually converted trucks, and he drove one while his wife drove the other. This service made commuting to Washington much easier for employees and school children, and encouraged the growth of Barcroft.

Walter O'Hara began building homes in North Barcroft subdivision about 1918, and built several hundred all together. Barcroft has continued to grow over the years until most available land has been built on. The school, whose district expanded to include more than the neighborhood, was enlarged in 1943, 1946, 1953 and 1975. By 1950, most of the large homesteads had been developed for housing. Some areas within Barcroft were Barcroft, North Barcroft, Payne's Addition, George Mason Terrace and "Restabit". New housing in recent years has been mainly apartments and townhouses on the edges of the community. The completion of George Mason Drive from Arlington Boulevard to Columbia Pike in early 1960's made Barcroft even more accessible to Washington and the rest of Arlington.

Jayne McQuade

COMMERCIAL AREA

OF

BARCROFT

Phyllis Kinsey

## TRANSPORTATION

### RAILROAD

To the north of present day Columbia Pike and beside the then W.O.D. Railroad track of the Southern Railroad stood a station building listed on its schedule as CORBETT. After the resubdivision in 1903 the name of the stop became known as BARCROFT. It was called ARLINGTON STATION on the 1892 plat of Corbett.

Early residents rode the train daily to and from work in the District of Columbia. Students attending high school rode the train from Columbia to D.C. because there was no high school in Arlington until Washington-Lee High School was built.

Previously to this, Civil War troops may have used this location to reach Fort Berry, Ft. Barnard, and Ft. Richardson south of Columbia Pike.

During its final days, the Barcroft Railway Station served as a storage place for Civil Defense. Permit #8574 was issued April 1, 1974 to demolish the Freight Station at 4825 Columbia Pike.<sup>1</sup>

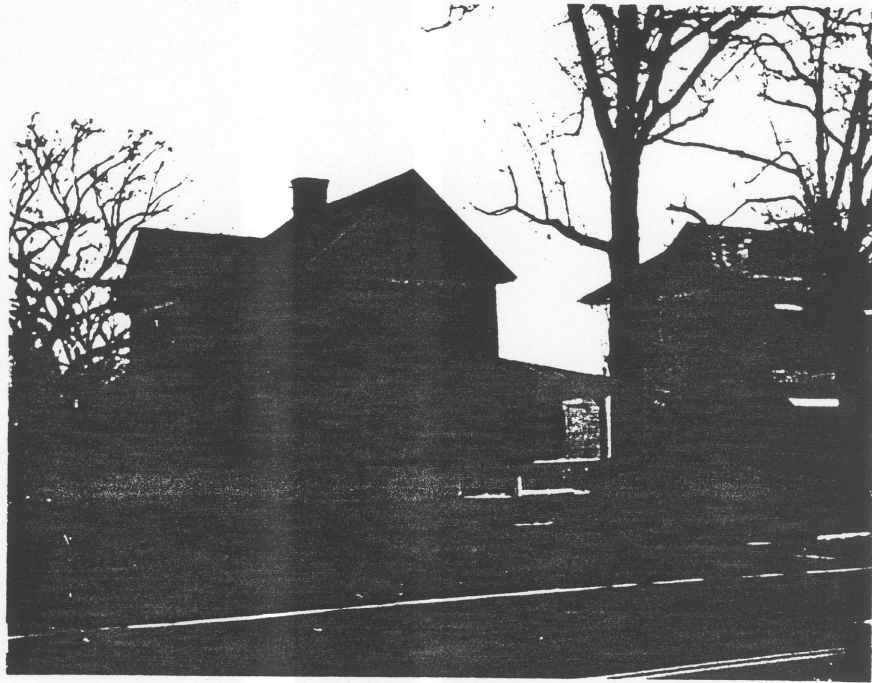
### BUS

Robert L. May, a Barcroft resident residing at what is now known as 805 S. Buchanan Street, started the first bus service on Columbia Pike in 1919, enabling the people of Barcroft to shop and communicate with persons of other villages developing along Columbia Turnpike such as Westmont and Columbia. Dr. Henry Corbett, M.D. lived at Westmont. If the Haring store was out of an item the store at Westmont might have a supply. Students attending sixth, seventh, or eighth grades at Columbia School could continue to walk from Barcroft or ride May's bus for 5¢.<sup>2</sup>

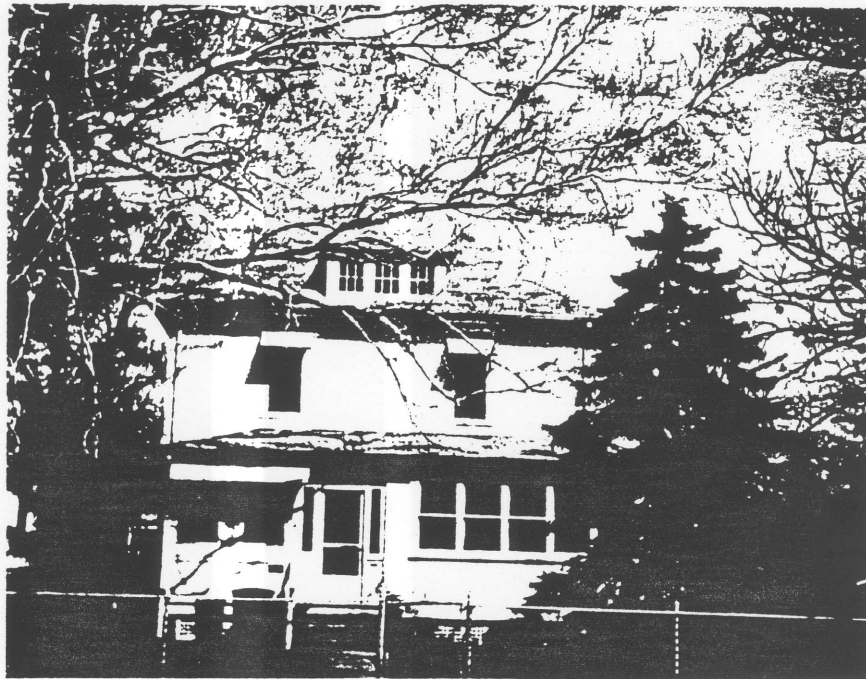
It is uncertain if the first bus was a truck on which Mr. May built two long wooden benches. Passengers ascended and descended by steps built at the rear and they sat facing each other. A tarp overhead was raised or lowered to protect passengers from the weather. He added a second bus by popular demand. This was driven by Mrs. May. Evening runs to D.C. for entertainment could be arranged by request.<sup>3</sup> This enterprise was the beginning of the A.B.&W. bus line that served most of Northern Virginia.

Today, Barcroft is served by Metro bus 16A, 16D, and 16E on Columbia Pike, destination Annandale. During week day rush hours, Metro bus 16W includes a loop from the Pike into the residential area bound by Taylor, 4th, and Wakefield Streets. Buses 22A and 22B operate between Shirlington and Walker Chapel through Barcroft on South George Mason Drive.

- 1 Community Planning, Housing and Development, Arlington County Courthouse
- 2 Ritchie, Mildred Handy. "Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia A Village Metamorphosis" Arlington Historical Magazine, October 1980 Vol.6 No.4 p.36
- 3 Interview: Elizabeth Wright Strother  
Adaline Marye Robertson  
Sallie Wright Simmons



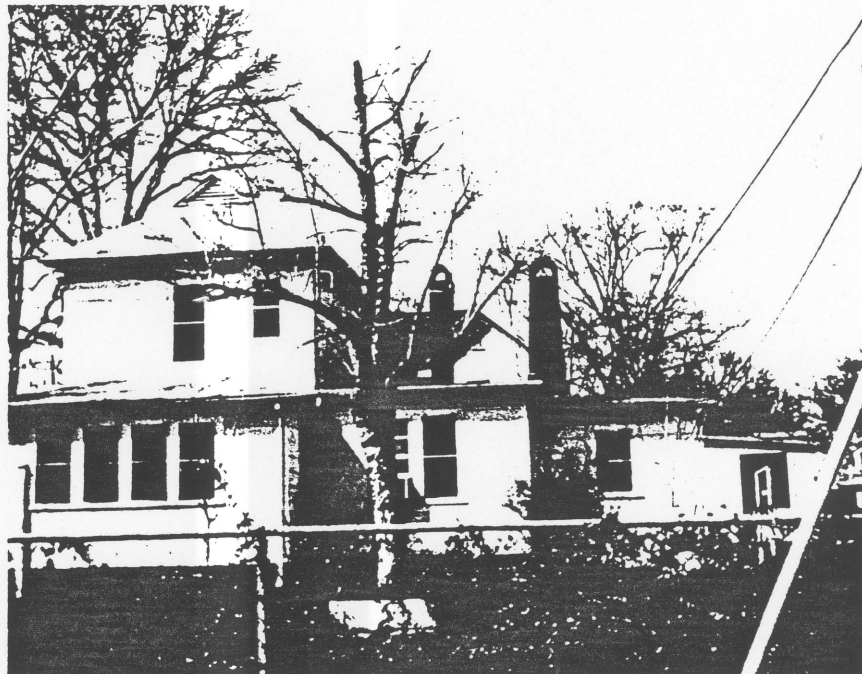
Robert L. May house as it appeared in 1989 before being town down and replaced by two new homes. He and his wife operated the original bus service from this residence, 805 South Buchanan Street.



809 South Buchanan Street

This picture of the Robey house was taken in 1989. It was a favorite after school place for children to gather and purchase ice cream, candy, and soft drinks from the small store located in the front part. The Robeys had two sons, Robert and Henry.

Later, the Sollenbergers bought the residence. It is now owned by Rose Milburn and lived in by her family.



## OSCAR HARING'S STORE

The Store was located on the east side of the railroad tracks and the north side of Columbia Pike.

Oscar Haring, born about 1857, was from Hunters Mill, Virginia. He married Ida Doremus. To determine when he arrived in Barcroft, their son, Oscar Edward Haring was born April 19, 1887, the Bible records show he was born in Barcroft, so it was some time prior to that. Though I do not know when the store was built, there is a possibility that Mr, Haring built it.

The Harings lived in the same building as the store. Some distance from the store on Columbia Pike there was a stable, in it were kept 2 wagon~~s~~, 2 horses and a fringed top buggy.

The store was heated by a pot bellied stove. Early morning deliveries of bread were stored in a large wooden bread container on the porch. A hitching post was located in front of the store. Food items were sold in the old fashioned way. The Barcroft Post Office was located in a corner of the store with Virginia Doremus as postmistress.

There was a large storage building some distance back from the store where among other things, the Barcroft News printing press was located and where Tom Foley had his quarters.

Tom Foley was the delivery boy for the Barcroft store. Mr. Haring took him from an orphanage when he was about 14 years old, he lived with the Haring family until the store was sold. Tom was well known throughout Barcroft as he continued to show up in later years, ~~often under the influence of alcohol.~~

Mr. Haring sold the store about 1910.



## OSCAR HARING'S STORE

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There were 3 Doremus sisters from Hunter's Mill who later moved to Barcroft:

Ida Doremus married Oscar Haring  
Annie Doremus married Sydney Marye  
Virginia Doremus married George Pepper

The Harings lived in the same building as the store. Some distance from the store on Columbia Pike there was a stable, in it ~~was~~ kept 2 wagons, 2 horses and a fringed top buggy.

The store was heated by a pot bellied stove. Early morning deliveries of bread were stored in a large wooden bread container on the porch. A hitching post was located in front of the store. Food items were sold in the old fashioned way, weighed by scale, coffee ground while you wait, cheese by the wedge and candy by the penny. The Barcroft Post Office was located in a corner of the store with Virginia Doremus as postmistress. On the property were many fruit trees and a grape arbor.

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Oscar Edward Haring, the son, moved to Portland, Oregon about 1910 and his parents followed shortly after.

Mr. Oscar Haring died Dec. 24, 1924 in Arlington.

## OSCAR HARING'S STORE

The Store was located on the east side of the railroad tracks and the north side of Columbia Pike.

Oscar Haring was from Hunters Mill, Virginia and moved to Georgetown. On May 4, 1885, he purchased land in Barcroft from Frank and Caroline Corbett. He married Ida Doremus. Their son, Oscar Edward Haring was born April 19, 1887. The Bible records show he was born in Barcroft, so the store was built prior to that. Though I do not know when the store was built, there is a possibility that Mr. Haring built it.

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Mr. Haring sold the store about 1910.

-Adaline Marye Robertson

## PARK

The Map of Corbett, Alexandria, Virginia dated 1892 <sup>1</sup> and the Subdivision of Barcroft 1903 <sup>2</sup> show a park on the northwest corner of today's Buchanan Street and Columbia Pike. This land marked PARK was owned by Frederick Handy. Residents of that time referred to it as THE GROVE because of the many lovely trees. A small portion of this land up hill and close to the Handy house was a pasture for their 2 or 3 cows and the family garden. Neighborhood children played in the shade of the trees. Families picniced in the area and held fund raisers for community projects. Often colorful Japanese lanterns were hung in the trees for a festive atmosphere. <sup>3</sup>

- 1 Deed Book N-4 p.488 Alexandria County, Clerk's Office, Arlington County Courthouse
- 2 Deed Book 100 p.53 Alexandria County, Clerk's Office, Arlington County Courthouse
- 3 Interview: Elizabeth Wright Strother  
Sallie Wright Simmons  
Adaline Marye Robertson

## BARCROFT COMMERCIAL AREA

The business district on the north side of Columbia Pike between Four Mile Run and George Mason Drive is generally considered the southern boundry of BARCROFT for civic association purposes.

BARCROFT SHOPPING CENTER 4801 - 4821 South Columbia Pike<sup>1</sup> was built and owned by Barcroft Shopping Center Inc., Walter Von Herbulis, President, in November 1949.<sup>2</sup> It replaced the Haring General Store and a small open area known as Park Barcroft. Calvin James Arnett and his wife, Pauline Betty Arnett, purchased the shopping center and adjacent land on May 29, 1950.<sup>3</sup>

There have been many tenants. In addition to the Hairloom and George's Inn that today add stability and longevity, the Center is occupied by Carpet Clearance Center, Asian Grocery Market, The Pastry Connection Bakery and Restuarant serving French and Vietnamese food, Betty Bright Cleaners, H.K.H Jewelry, and Pizza Hut Delivery.<sup>1</sup> Former shops include Barcroft Hardware, Acme Foods, High's Inc., Firooz TV, Aristo Cleaners, Our Town Realty, Thai Oriental Market, a Deli, and a Seafood House.

- 1 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987
- 2 Zoning Office, Arlington County
- 3 Deed Book 933 p. 426 Clerk's Office, Arlington County

## GEORGE'S INN

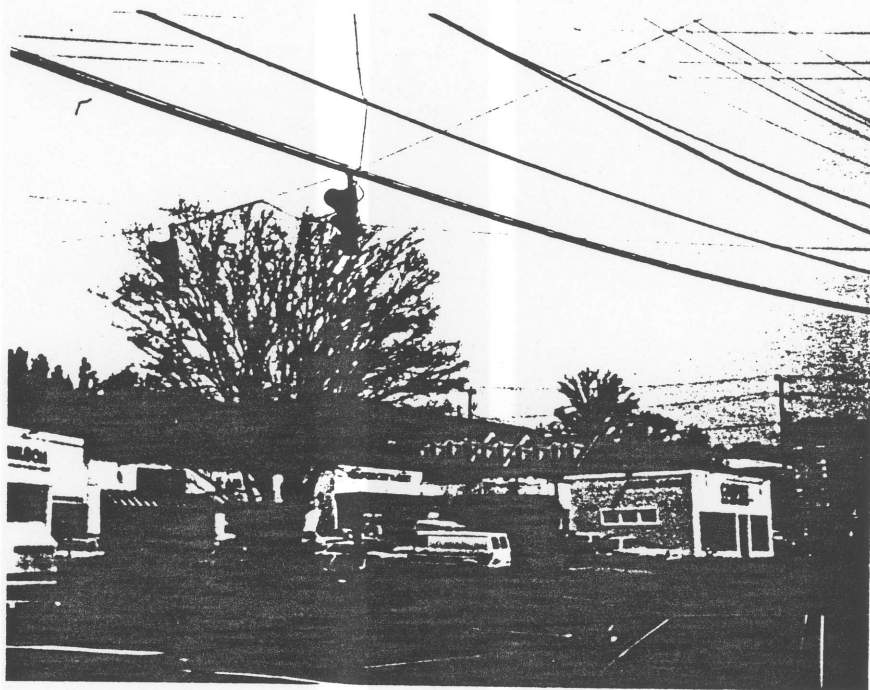
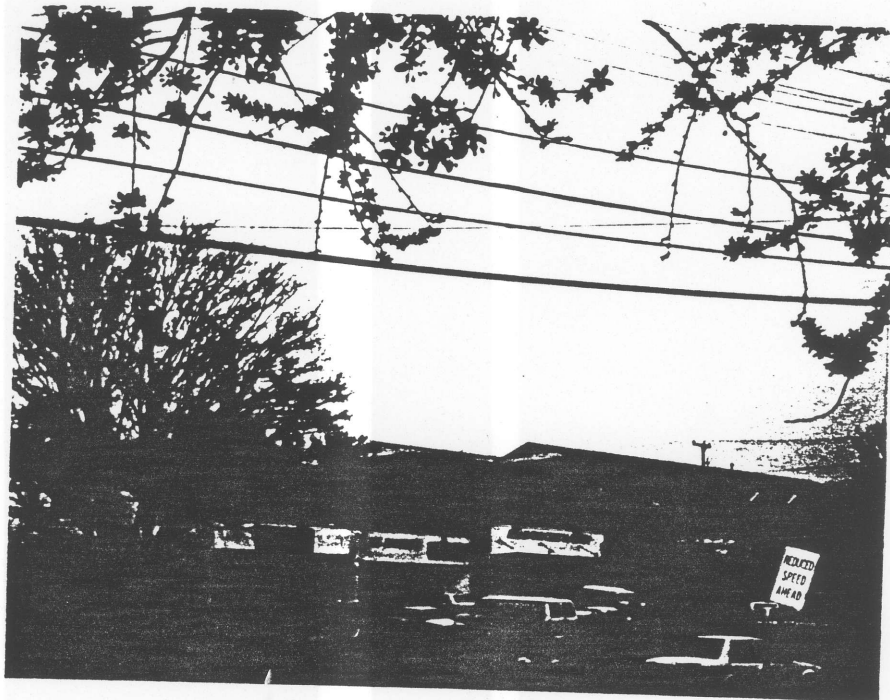
On July 10, 1970, George Mallos opened George's Inn serving steak and seafood. The trophies on display attest to his support of local athletics. Al Smith, a regular customer retouched a wall painting in the dining area. He also painted from a photograph, a picture of the Greek Island of Cornos, George's boyhood home. At present, George's Inn has been in business at the same location the longest of any in the shopping center.

Interview: George Mallos

## BARBER SHOP

The County set off a furor in the shopping center the day it notified Paul he must turn off his electric red and white barber shop sign. An ordinance prohibits moving signs. This sign was a handsome antique, once universally used to identify the service performed within. When activated, the red and white stripes swirled vertically in a delightful pattern.

Interview: Phyllis Kinsey



## BARCROFT HARDWARE

Sam Perry and his brother opened Barcroft Hardware, a friendly family store selling quality merchandise and giving expert advice on how to do-it-yourself if you have to. When Sam's brother left, Sam's wife, "Mrs. Sam", filled in and he hired neighborhood boys to work after school and Saturdays. Mr. Perry passed away in 1978.

Frank Bonevicz purchased the business and reopened Barcroft Hardware January 1, 1979. Frank and his son continued the same friendly, helpful service. Retired gentlemen and men on their days off gathered to chat and swap hunting and fishing stories. Often they chimed in with suggestions on how-to-fix-it and added encouragement to the uninitiated customer to try -- "if you have a problem, call and I'll stop by". It was a sad day in July 1986 when the doors closed for the final time.

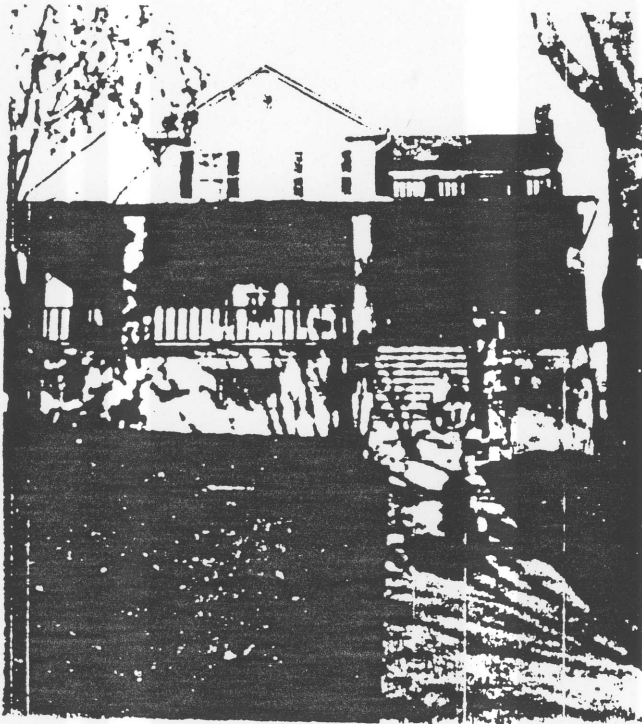
Interview Frank Bonevicz  
Phyllis Kinsey

OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FROM 4707 to 4601 SOUTH COLUMBIA PIKE

ROY ROGERS

As the role of women changed during and especially after World War II, women spent less time at home. Convenient, "eat in or take out", neighborhood fast food came to Barcroft in 1966 when Marriott Corporation built HOT SHOPPES, a family restaurant (now Roy Rogers) at 4707 Columbia Pike. <sup>1</sup>

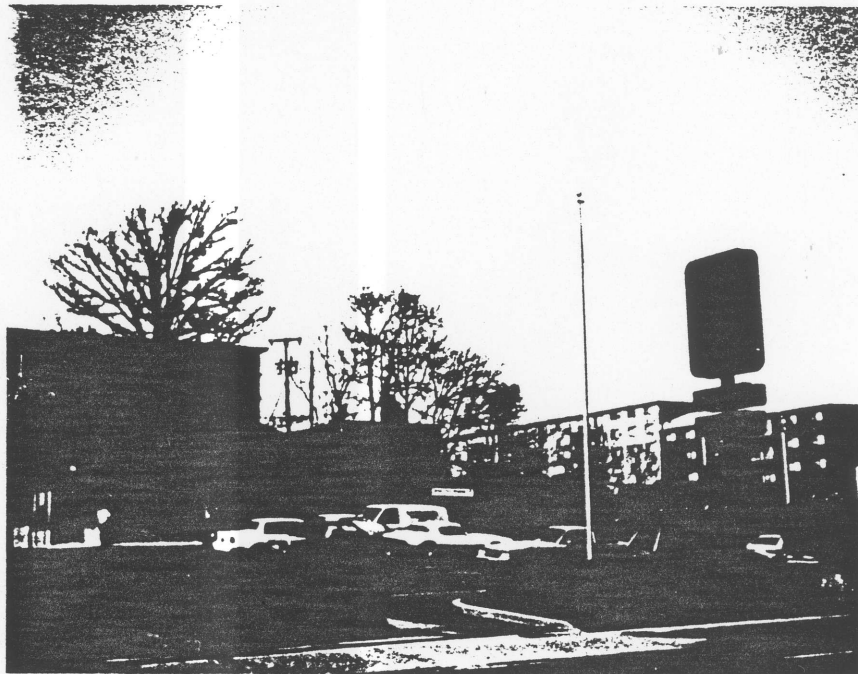
The house belonging to William Wallace Wright and his wife, Lucille, <sup>2</sup> formerly stood on the property next to the Roy Rogers carry out window. (The house was the former home of John Newlon, miller for Dr. Barcroft. <sup>2</sup>) It was a large house with a huge front porch across the entire front. Mr. Wright was a lawyer in D.C. with the Justice Department. During World War I he worked for the F.B.I. because of his ability to read and write German. Just before and after World War II was a period of rapid growth in Northern Virginia. Lucille Wright rented her home at 4713 Columbia Pike to Mrs. Fred A. Blevins <sup>3</sup> to use as a boarding house for construction workers. She built a gasoline station close to the corner of Buchanan Street and Columbia Pike in 1950 and leased it to Gulf Oil Company. <sup>4</sup> Both the house and station were demolished <sup>5</sup> to make way for Hot Shoppes and the parking space for patrons.



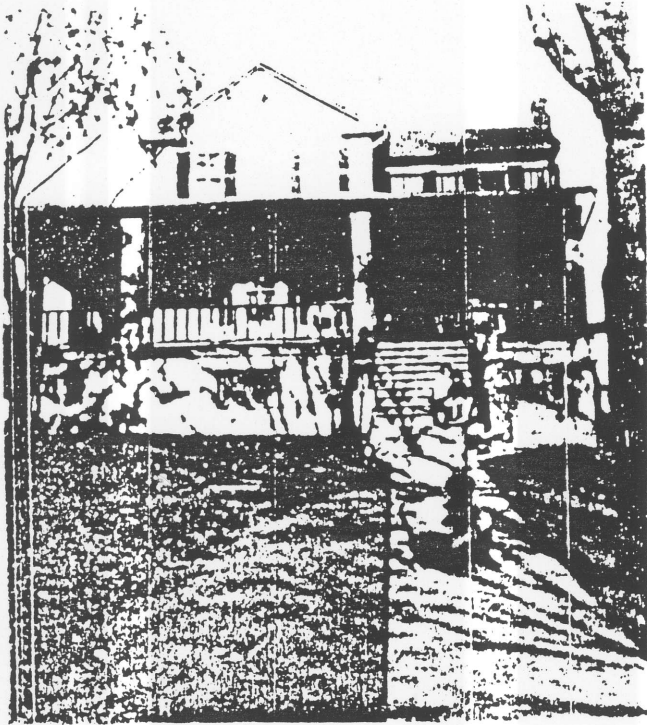
6

William Wallace Wright House (Newlon)  
4713 South Columbia Pike  
W.W. Wright children: L to R: Elizabeth,  
Sallie, William Wilson. Forground:  
Carroll Wright petting the cat.

- 1 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987
- 2 Interview: Adaline Marye Robertson
- 3 Criss-Cross Directory. 1955. Haines Publisher
- 4 Interview: Col. William Wilson Wright, son of William Wallace and Lucille Wright
- 5 Community Planning, Housing & Development, Inspection Services Division of Arlington County
- 6 Photograph: Col. William W. Wright



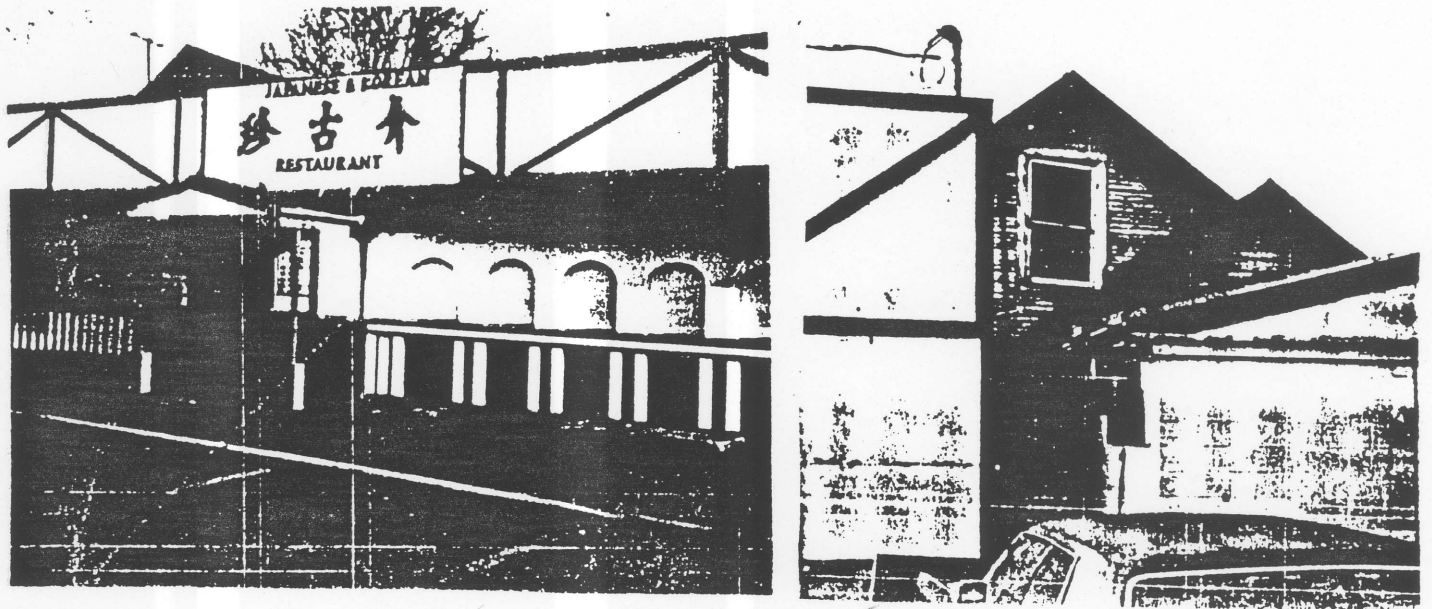




William Wallace Wright House - b. 1911  
4713 South Columbia Pike  
W.W. Wright children: L to R: Elizabeth  
Sallie, William Wilson. Foreground:  
Carroll Wright petting the cat.

- 1 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987
- 2 Interview: Adaline Robertson
- 3 Criss-Cross Directory. 1955. Haines Publisher
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- 5 Community Planning, Housing & Development,  
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## JAPANESE AND KOREAN RESTAURANT SUSHIBAR



The Japanese and Korean Restaurant Sushibar at 4701 South Columbia Pike is one of several ethnic eateries to replace "SAM'S" homestyle cooking of the 50's. Preserved within the walls of the present structure, with additions and modifications, is the Carroll Wright House built in 1919<sup>1</sup> by one of Barcroft's early inhabitants. Mr. Wright was a realtor and an appraiser.

1 Real Estate Data 1987

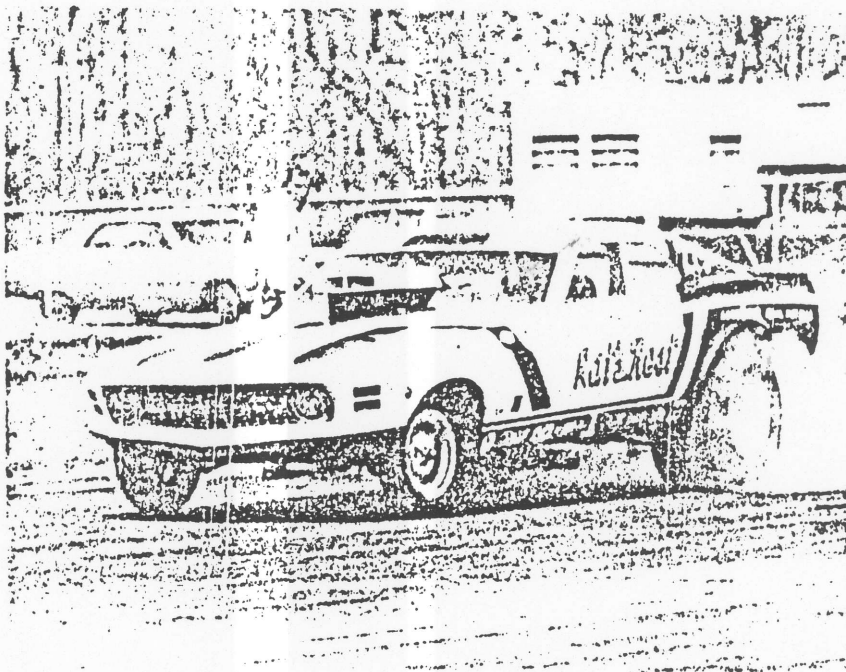
2 Photographs by Barbara Perry, student at George Mason University, 1988.

## AMOCO SERVICE CENTER

"Mr. Kelly" operated a service station slightly west of the present station. In 1967 Ken Carter purchased the station from him and in 1969 rebuilt the AMOCO station we know at 4625 Columbia Pike, giving quality service for 20 years.

Ken and his father were known as the Carter Racing Family. Ken built and raced the A altered (A-B-C-D) car named RAT'S NEST at drag strips locally and nationally.

Mr. Carter also owns an AMOCO service station on Chain Bridge Road in McLean, Va.



Interview: Ken Carter

Picture: Ken Carter

#### 4615 SOUTH COLUMBIA PIKE

F.G.G. Industries Ltd. of Woodbridge rented this 30'x 40' building and its parking area to USED CAR SALES for dealer preparation of cars. They are succeeded by OLD DOMINION AUTO BROKERS. The building was erected in 1962.<sup>1</sup>

- 1 Real Estate Data Inc. 1987

#### DUKE FILM EXPRESS PHOTO SERVICE

Duke Film Express Photo Service at 4611 South Columbia Pike was built in 1954 by Roberta Duke for a wholesale/retail film processing business.<sup>1</sup> In 1972 the photo lab moved to another location. The building remained vacant. Someone wanted to rent it for a GO GO restaurant. Arlington County suggested the applicant for the Use Permit appear before the Barcroft School and Civic League for the reaction of the community. It was an interesting and lively discussion. There really is insufficient parking for this type of establishment and for other reasons, the league and business community recommended denial of the permit.

Roy and Ruby Haskins purchased the property in 1978.<sup>2</sup> Duke Film Express Photo Service returned to its original location in 1979. The lab has served the community and Northern Virginia for approximately 27 years.

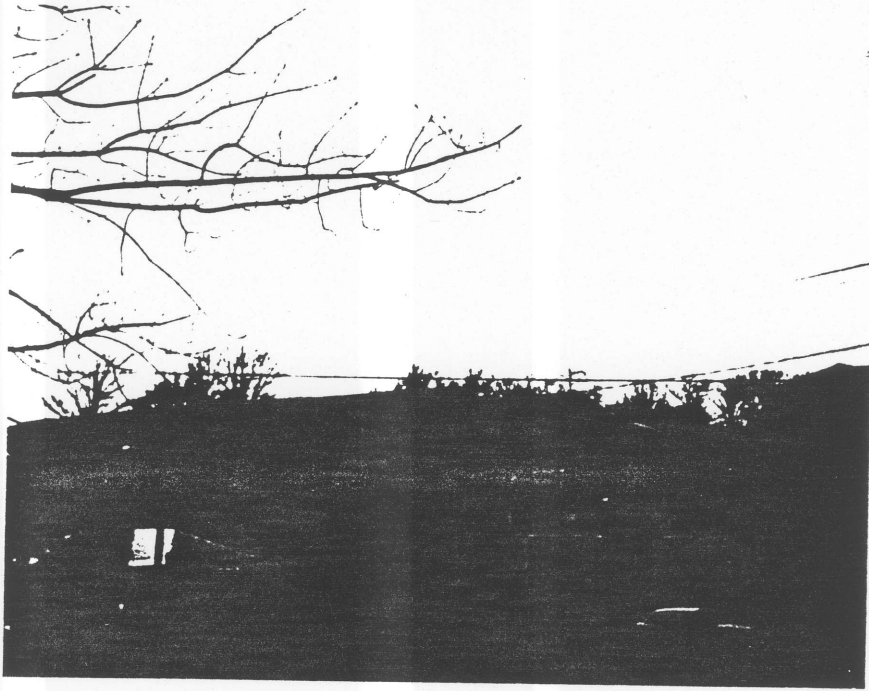
- 1 Community Planning Housing and Development Inspection Services of Arlington County
- 2 Real Estate Data Inc. 1987

#### MALCOLM'S AUTOMOTIVE

Lacey J. and Katherine A. Malcolm built the service station at 4601 South Columbia Pike in 1951.<sup>1</sup> Gasoline and other ESSO products were sold, cars serviced and repaired.

The Malcolm's Manager, Ira (Buddy) Daniels, purchased the station and retained Jim Gibson as Chief Mechanic. Buddy took out the gasoline pumps and added one bay to the building. Malcolm's name remains to indicate the expert service customers have learned to appreciate.

- 1 Real Estate Data Inc. 1987



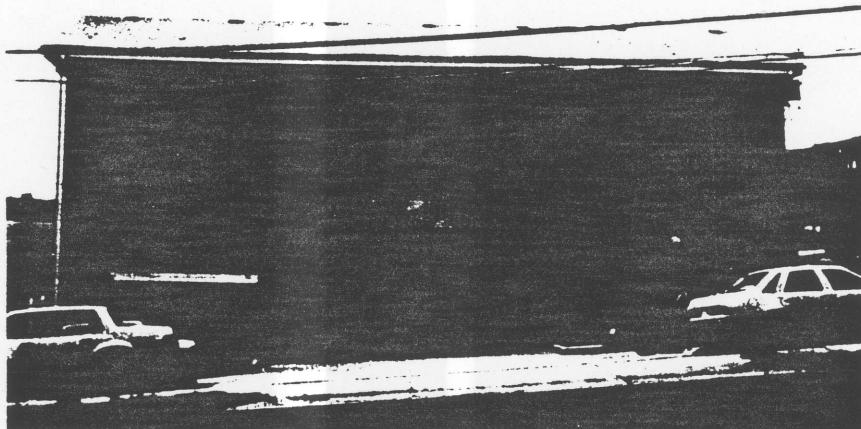
OFFICE BUILDING  
944 S. Wakefield Street

James W. Head, an employee at the Patent Office in D.C. purchased lots 8 - 12 - 13 - 14 in block G with improvements from Abbie Fox on March 21, 1907.<sup>1</sup> The house on lot 14 was commonly referred to as the Head House at 4607 Columbia Pike. In 1951 a permit was issued to move and turn this house to 944 S. Wakefield Street by request of the leasee, Mr. Driscall.<sup>2</sup> Head resubdivided lots 12 - 13 - and 14 and on May 5, 1954, James W. Head and his wife Margaret C. Head sold all of lot 8, 12A and parts of 13 and 14 to Louis J. and Anna T. Carusillo.<sup>3</sup> A portion of lot 14 had been purchased previously by Lacy J. Malcolm for a gasoline station. The house at 944 S. Wakefield Street was demolished in 1962.<sup>2</sup>

The Offutts purchased the property on which this office building was built in 1960. This white brick 2½ story building with parking area for 25 cars was built in 1963 by T.J. Offutt as a general operations office for Dittmar Construction and Property Management. Space was rented to Gibraltar Companies and Arlington Electrolysis.<sup>4</sup>

The Dittmar Company moved to a new location in Vienna during 1988. Typing-Inc. and MYCOR, Inc. became new tenants.

- 1 Deed Book 117 p.163 Alexandria County, Clerk's Office Arlington  
County Court House
- 2 Community Planning, Housing, and Development Inspection  
Services Division. Arlington County Court House
- 3 Deed Book 1150 pp.487-489. Clerk's Office Arlington  
County Court House
- 4 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987



## BARCROFT MEDICAL BUILDING

Dr. Ray Hamilton built the Barcroft Medical Building and practiced dentistry at 939 South Wakefield Street from 1953<sup>1</sup> until his retirement for health reasons. Antonio Scafone, Jr. bought the property August 5, 1980.<sup>2</sup>

The first doctors to occupy the suites were: Dr. Ray Hamilton and Dr. Fred Chandler, both dentists; and physicians Dr. Lawrence M. Pack, MD and Dr. Alice Wolfsohn, MD. Dr. Chandler continues to practice in the same office suite he occupied in 1953.

Dr. Ikars Lans, DDS purchased Dr. Hamilton's practice. Presently, the other offices are occupied by Dr. William Dodson, DDS., Dr. Meyer Rosenbaum, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, and the Children's Speech and Language Service.

- 1 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987. The microfiche of the Deed Book in the Clerks Office of Arlington County is marked unreadable showing Dr. Hamilton's purchase of the land.
  - 2 Deed Book 2020 p. 900 Clerk's Office of Arlington County.
- Interview : Dr. Fred H. Chandler, Jr. DDS

## COMMERCIAL AREA 940-948 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE AND COLUMBIA PIKE

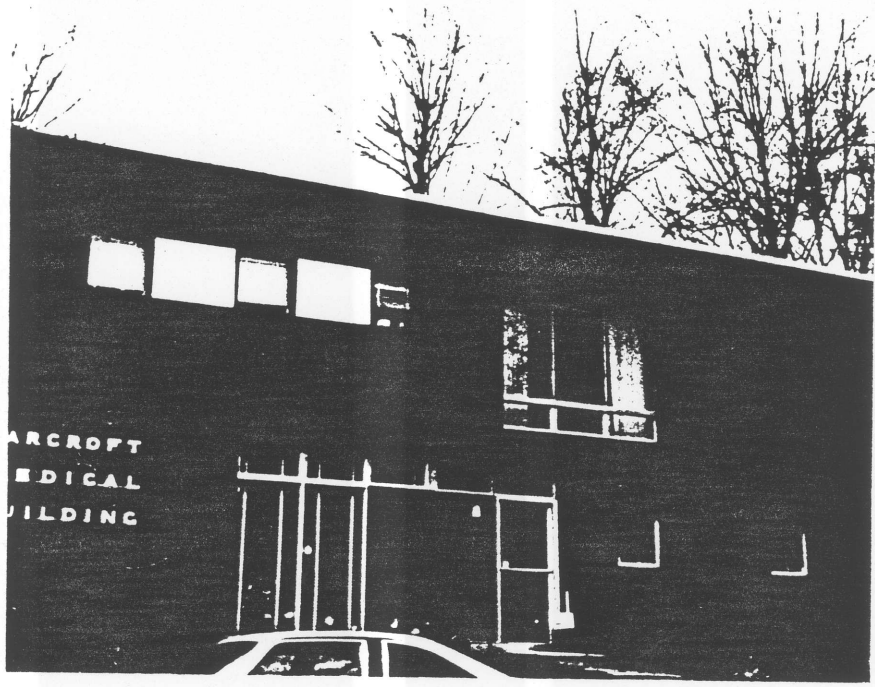
Samuel G. Stoneburner and his wife Gladys Ager Stoneburner sold lots 5-6-7-8- Block M of East Barcroft to Helmar Investment Corporation in April of 1959 for the construction of a supermarket and shopping center.<sup>1</sup>

The work began in 1959 on the first phase which was a supermarket.<sup>2</sup>

March 1962 Sharpe and Hamaker Co., contractors received permission to complete the shopping center at George Mason Drive and Columbia Pike on behalf of the Helmar Investment Corporation, owners.<sup>3</sup>

The names of the stores and managements have changed, but there has always been a grocery store (Food Fair, Grand Union, Food Star) on the Columbia Pike side followed by a laundromat and drycleaning establishment, hairstyling, barber shop and drug store (Drug Fair, Gray Drug, Rite Aid).

- 1 Deed Book 1364 pp 67-68 Clerk's Office Arlington County
- 2 Real Estate Data Inc. 1987
- 3 Community Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Services Division Arlington County





## 18 MINUTE LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING

The coin operated laundromat was owned by John Griffiths until his retirement. He died in February 1988 at the age of 80.

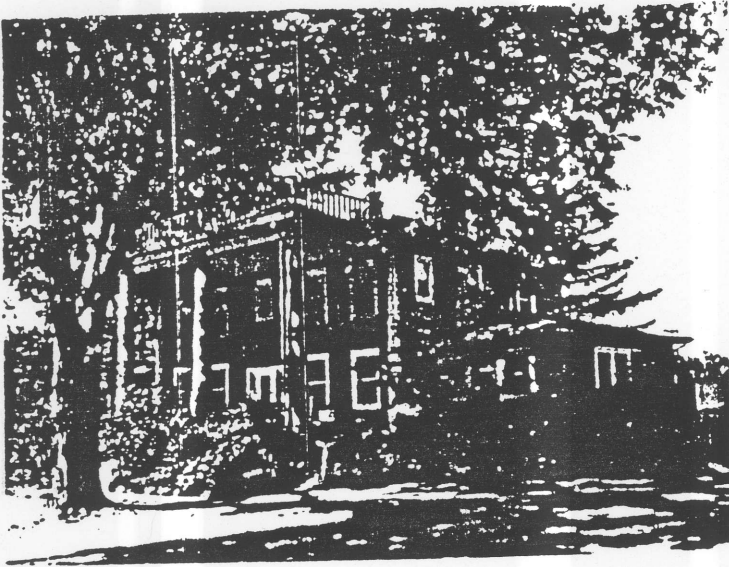
Mr. Khamphout Phanthavong bought the laundry and dry cleaning business in 1976. Mr. Phanthavong came to the United States as a student in 1961 to attend Catawba College in North Carolina. He was a radio announcer and translator for the Voice of America in Washington D.C. prior to settling in Barcroft.

"Mr. Phan" has made a valuable contribution to the country of his choice! His warm smile and pleasant greetings are delightful.

Weight Watchers have noticed his coin scale by the door.

## DRUG FAIR

When it opened, Drug Fair included a popular soda fountain and snack bar section serving breakfasts and lunches only. It was a great place for young families with children to drop in for breakfast Sunday before or after church. Everyone in the family selected their favorites from the menu and Mom was not the short order cook! Dad, with luck, could buy the New York Times before the papers were sold out!



SMITH'S TOURIST HOME  
22 South Pershing Drive

In the early 1930's, Goldie Smith and her husband Herbert came to the Washington area from Front Royal, Virginia looking for a business and job opportunities for their young adult children. They rented a tourist home on Westmoreland Street in Rosslyn and shortly thereafter found a better location on Wilson Blvd. near Colonial Village.

Goldie was a very capable energetic person with a keen sense of business. She had a license to sell real estate and was soon engaged in buying and selling real estate as well as managing the tourist home. She saved the money from her real estate sales for the down payment on a house and then proposed to her husband that they buy a house instead of renting. The large house at Route 50 and Pershing Drive<sup>1</sup> in the subdivision of Sarah C. Ball was purchased and converted to a tourist home.<sup>2</sup>

Several years later, October 1, 1957, Goldie bought the land across the street in North Barcroft at 21 South Pershing Drive and built a beautiful home in 1960 that she called "Sunset Haven" for her retirement when she could pursue her hobby, decorating lovely egg shells. Goldie never retired - tourists filled "Sunset Haven" too!<sup>3</sup>

Among her guests were men who erected the Iwo Jima Memorial and Mrs. Phillips who invented the game Monopoly. Parker Brothers credit Charles B. Darrow with the present form of Monopoly.<sup>4</sup> Jurors were frequently sequestered at Smith's too.<sup>5</sup>

October 1, 1978 the Smith Tourist Home was sold to Creative Environments, Inc. The beautiful big stone house and its flower gardens were demolished January 18, 1979.<sup>2</sup> The construction of the Towne Pershing townhouses by builder James Reed<sup>5</sup> began. The new homes are attractive and the common area well landscaped and maintained.

Today Goldie's daughter and her husband, Renice P. Myers make "Sunset Haven" their home.

- 1 Interview with Goldie Smith by Grace Jewett, November 21, 1974. Oral History Program, Arlington County Library and Zonta Club of Arlington.
- 2 Community Planning, Housing and Development Services Division of Arlington County Virginia
- 3 Arlington News, April 11, 1974
- 4 Washington Star, November 24, 1975
- 5 Interview with Betty Jane Myers, Goldie's daughter
- 6 Picture of the Smith Tourist Home, Betty Jane Myers

RESIDENTIAL AREA

OF

BARCROFT

Susan Sarcone  
Phyllis Kinsey

Neighborhood Conservation Plan - Neighborhood History Committee  
O'Hara Houses

While small scale home building in Barcroft began as the community was settled in the last years of the 19th century, no builder name is more associated with the Barcroft area than O'Hara. The O'Hara family, Walter and his son, Robert, have built more homes in the neighborhood over a longer period of time than any other builder.

Walter O'Hara

The O'Hara story begins near the present Barcroft school; in 1922 Walter O'Hara constructed a small frame cottage style home for the Miller family on what is now 6th Street South, just east of Wakefield Street. It still stands at 4508 6th Street South.

During the 1920's and 1930's Walter O'Hara constructed homes primarily in central Barcroft, bounded by Taylor Street on the east, 8th Road on the south, Four Mile Run and Pershing/Buchanan Streets on the west and 4th Street on the north. Frame cottage style homes (like those in the 400 block of Wakefield Street on the west side), larger frame bungalows (three of the corners of 6th and Wakefield Streets), modified Cape Cod style homes (4600 block of 6th Street, 600 block of Buchanan Street) and the brick colonials (600 block of Taylor Street) were the predominant styles Walter O'Hara constructed in this area.

Construction in North Barcroft

O'Hara purchased land northwest of Pershing Drive and began building in this area in the late 1930's through the 1950's. This area is bounded by Arlington Boulevard on the north, Pershing Drive and Four Mile Run Park on the south and east, and includes the houses on both sides of Abingdon Street. These homes, primarily in modified cape cod and colonial styles, are mostly of brick construction; although some stone houses were also built during this time.

O'Hara house styles are similar to designs in other parts of Arlington. Walter O'Hara used the architectural plan books of the time, however he adapted the house plans for his own use. O'Hara construction crews included many workers from nearby neighborhoods, particularly the black communities near Bailey's Crossroads and the Freedman's Village area (now Arlington View.)

The O'Hara homes were marketed directly by Walter O'Hara and later, his son Robert. The family operated a real estate agency that was located on Arlington Boulevard near the Henderson Street



HOME OF WALTER AND ANNA O'HARA  
4705 SOUTH 8th STREET

Presently resided in by Grandson Waldo and Janet O'Hara and their sons  
Warren and Walter.

The exterior of the house was originally stucco. Waldo  
added the shingle exterior.

Intersection.

#### Robert O'Hara homes

In the late 1940's, Robert O'Hara began building houses in Bancroft. His first houses were built on 7th Street South, just west of Wakefield Street; these were brick cape cod style homes. Robert continued building through the 1950's and 1960's, with most of these newer homes located on 8th Street South near Abingdon and on the Woodstock Street cul-de-sac. Brick cape cod, split level and rambler style homes were the predominant styles on those streets. This area is surrounded on three sides by parkland and adjacent to the streets on which Walter O'Hara was building in the 1930's and 1940's.

#### Earlier Builders

Walter O'Hara himself lived at 4705 8th Street South in a B.F. Ferrow designed and built house. Ferrow constructed several frame farmhouse style homes in Bancroft during the first fifteen years on this century. Several Ferrow homes still exist including the Nay family (the original owners) home directly across Buchanan Street from the Bancroft Community House.

*Lucas Income*  
*1966*



## THE HOUSES ON 9th STREET BETWEEN WAKEFIELD AND BUCHANAN STREETS

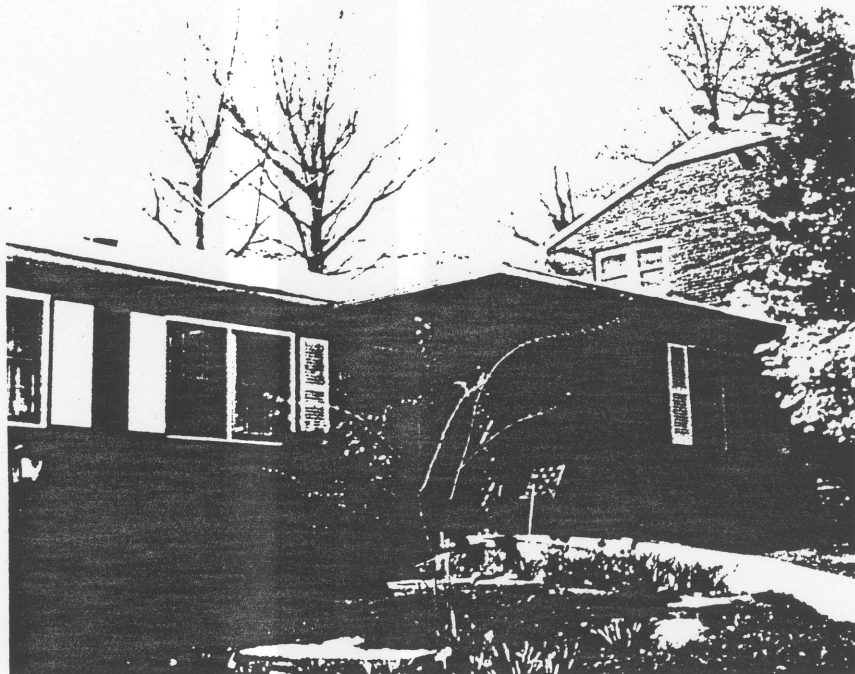
Thomas J. Offutt and his wife, Evelyn S. Offutt submitted plans to Arlington County for approval to build Columbia Park Apartments. During the planning process, the citizens of Barcroft through the Barcroft School and Civic League expressed their concern that the commercial area along Columbia Pike would eventually encroach upon their single family residential neighborhood. The Offutts agreed to build a variety of single family homes along both sides of the street between Wakefield and Buchanan Streets which they would offer for sale. The remaining section of 9th Street was cut through the marsh-like area so the houses could be built.

Lots on the South side of 9th Street were purchased from Sidney Wilcox and his wife Jeanne. The lots on the north side were owned by Algernon and Howard Handy, Jr. and sold to the Offutts<sup>1</sup>- Dittmar Co.<sup>2</sup> Inc. on October 4, 1961.

The Columbia Park Apartments and homes on 9th Street were constructed. Among the families who purchased the homes are: Marsolais, Reilly, Kassell, Nash, Fagen and Ronigen.

1 Deed Book 1452 p.498 Clerk's Office Arlington County

2 Community Planning, Housing and Development Services  
Division of Arlington County







HOUSES - SOUTH PERSHING DRIVE

Builder, Cooley built the red brick colonial homes on J.C.Forrest's Addition to North Barcroft, in 1947. The addresses are #110 -<sup>\*</sup>114 ~~#~~118 # 122 - # 126 - # 130 South Pershing Drive.

In 1950 Crestwood Construction Corporation built the red brick ramblers and split level single family homes on Payne's Addition to Barcroft opposite the homes built by Cooley. The addresses are #101 - #105 - # 111 - # 117 - # 121 # 125 South Pershing Drive.



PARK RIDGE

800-819 South Stafford Street & 806-824 George Mason Drive

Creative Environments Inc. in February of 1975 purchased the house and land at 811 South Stafford Street.<sup>1</sup> The grey stone house, commonly known as the Houseknecht-Winter house, was built by William Houseknecht in 1912<sup>2</sup> on the hill overlooking Doctor's Run. The brick single family homes with mansard roofs built by James Reed in 1977<sup>3</sup> on the subdivision called Park Ridge, are an excellent example of the preservation and restoration of an old house and surrounding it with new homes that are architecturally compatible.

- 1 Deed Book 1878 p. 344 Clerk's Office Arlington County
- 2 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987
- 3 Deed Book 1878 p.354 Clerk's Office Arlington County



## SEARS & ROEBUCK HOUSES

Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago offered, "houses by mail, shipped by rail" from 1908 until 1940. Homes were purchased from catalogues entitled, "BOOK OF MODERN HOMES AND BUILDING PLANS" or at sales offices in large cities scattered throughout the United States. The closest sales office to Arlington residents was in Washington, D.C.. Approximately 100,000 Sears homes were built nationally from about 450 models. There were three categories, HONOR BILT were the finest quality, STANDARD BUILT, and SIMPLE SECTIONAL COTTAGES. A Sears finest home came complete with precut numbered pieces of lumber and millwork, electricity, paint, nails and screws, siding, flooring, roofing, gutters, downspouts cabinetry, etc.. The Standard and Cottage models had less millwork and the materials were of lesser quality. Plumbing, electrical, and heating fixtures were extra and selected from the catalog individually.

Owners could assemble their own homes following the detailed manual and floor plans coming with the kit, or have Sears engage local contractors and supervise the construction. Very flexible arrangements could be worked out.

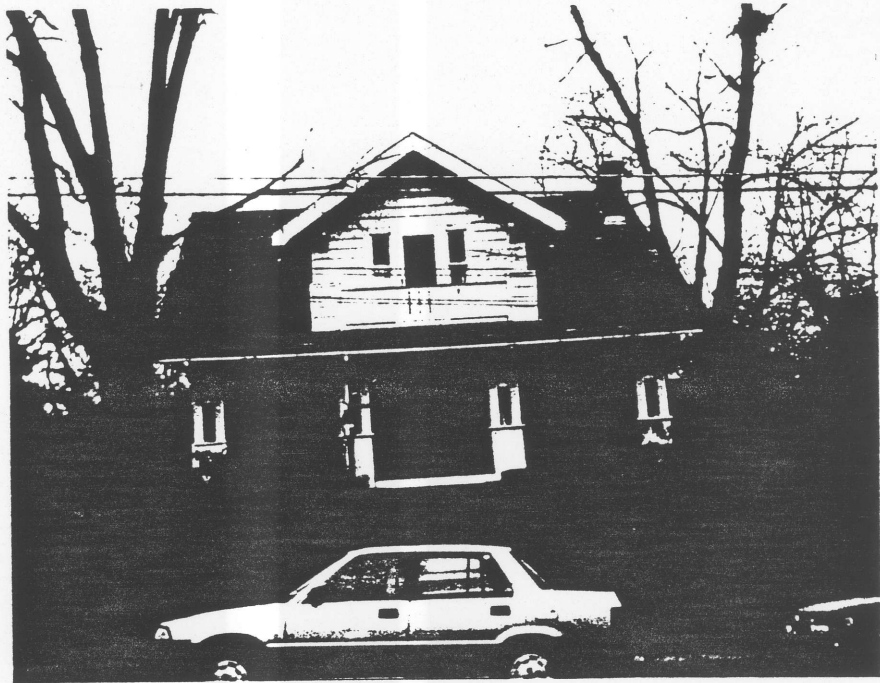
Financing was arranged through local banks, F.H.A., and for a period of time, Sears and Roebuck offered customers attractive loans.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and Jandl, H. Ward: HOUSES BY MAIL, A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company. Preservation Press, Washington, D.C.: 1986  
National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States.

Charles W. Rightmyer, and his wife Virginia purchased the WESTLY style Sears House (shown on page 123 of HOUSES BY MAIL by Stevenson and Jandl.) The house is located at 812 South Taylor Street.

As of this writing, we have not been able to authenticate what is believed to be another Sears House existing in Barcroft known as the CRESCENT style.

SEARS HOUSES



812 South Taylor Street



MODULAR HOMES

RYLAND

Ryland advertises as the "builder's builder". Ryland Modular homes began operations in 1983 in Columbia, Maryland. There are two factories producing Ryland modular homes in Maryland and one in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The homes are built as modules in an environmentally controlled factory and tested and inspected by accredited agencies. The house is 90% complete when it leaves the factory and is trucked to the site where a work crew with a crane secures each module in place and makes it watertight.

The builder's responsibility is to build the foundation before delivery, make the mechanical and electrical connections at the location and provide any necessary interior and exterior work needed.

Presently, there are approximately 20 single family styles with 40 variations, and 10 different multifamily designs available. <sup>1</sup>

Ryland homes presently in Barcroft:

628 South Taylor Street: constructed by AMCOL Development Group Incorporated in 1985. The present owners are Jerry and Margaret Baker. The lot at 628 Taylor was purchased May 6, 1931 by Guy and Lillie Spence from Albert and Clara Crouch.

Deed Book 0322 p. 0130 Clerk's Office Arlington County

4832 South 7th Street: built in 1987 by Daniel Schulz for sale on a lot purchased from Bertha Fox

Deed Book 2231 P. 0250 Clerk's Office Arlington County

<sup>1</sup> Ryland Modular Homes promotional material: Corporate Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, Maryland, 21044.

## LUSTRON HOUSES

The Lustron houses of the 1940's and 1950's were not prefabricated in the usual sense. They were mass produced in factories. The exterior surface is a very durable baked on enamel on steel. During peak periods, a factory could turn out 150 two or three bedroom houses a week priced from \$6,500.00 to \$9,000.00 in 1950. There were a limited number of models to choose from.

The Barcroft home of L.M. David at 4647 South 3rd Street, was trucked from Ohio to its present location and the dealer's contractor assembled it piece by piece, section by section on a concrete slab previously poured and cured on the site. The original floor plans exist.<sup>1</sup>

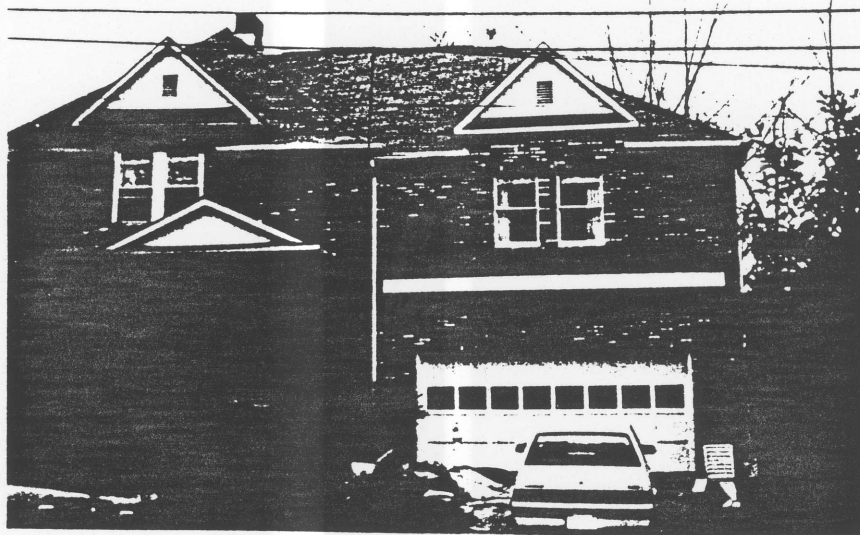
1 Interview: L.M. David

## REHABILITATED BY MARKETING EDUCATION AND BUILDING TRADES

The Board of Northern Virginia Realtor's Committee named PRIDE, approached and received the approval of the Arlington School Board to rehabilitate a house in Arlington similar to projects undertaken by schools in Alexandria and Fairfax County.<sup>1</sup>

The house at 912 South Taylor Street was selected. in 1975. The work was carried out by students using the latest energy-wise techniques.

1. Interview: Linda Halderman, Sec'y. to the Director of The Career Center, Mr. Smolinski



GARAGE ADDITION  
ADDED 1988/89

BUCHANAN GARDEN APARTMENTS  
914 - 934 S. Buchanan Street

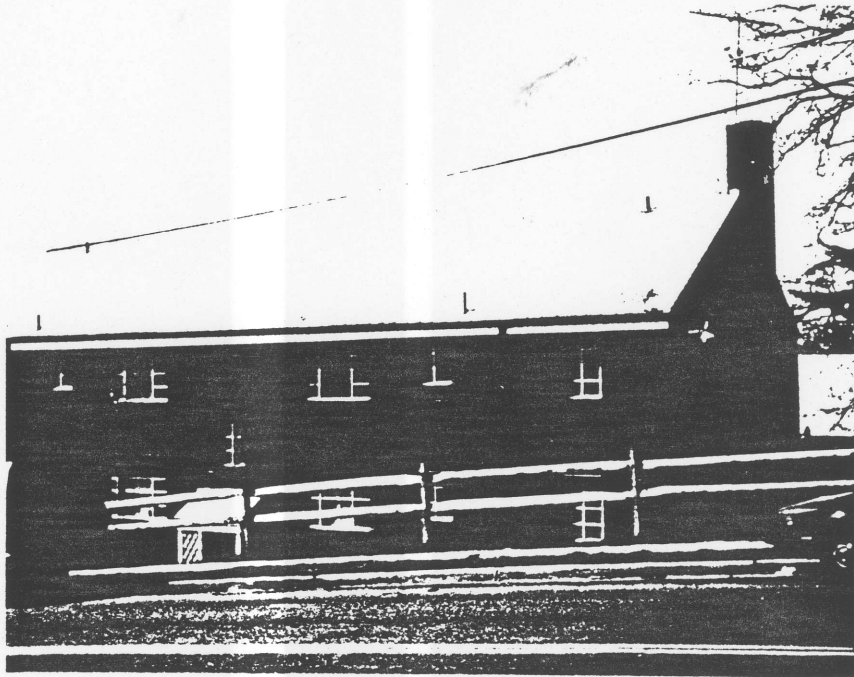
Buchanan Garden Apartments were the first apartments to be built in Barcroft community. They were built in 1949<sup>1</sup> during the post World War II period to provide housing for the young professionals attracted to the Washington area by government expansion and the wide range of jobs available, but little housing existed then.

There are 11 red brick buildings, 2 and 2½ stories high containing a total of 111 one and two bedroom apartments.<sup>2</sup> The apartments are only a short walk to shopping and transportation.

The apartments are presently owned by Roswitha S. Agusta. Agusta Properties manages these garden apartments.

1 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1988

2 Interview: Agusta Properties





WAKEFIELD TOWERS APARTMENTS  
4301 Columbia Pike

A permit was granted to Landlow and Brandt March 9, 1961 to build a 209 unit apartment building on property once owned by the Head family, early inhabitants of Barcroft.<sup>1</sup> More immediately, the following homes were demolished or moved in 1960 before construction of the apartment could proceed:

4311 Columbia Pike. owner: C.W. Jones - demolished

4405 Columbia Pike. owner: M Richmond - This home was built in 1935 and moved to 920 Taylor Street at this time.

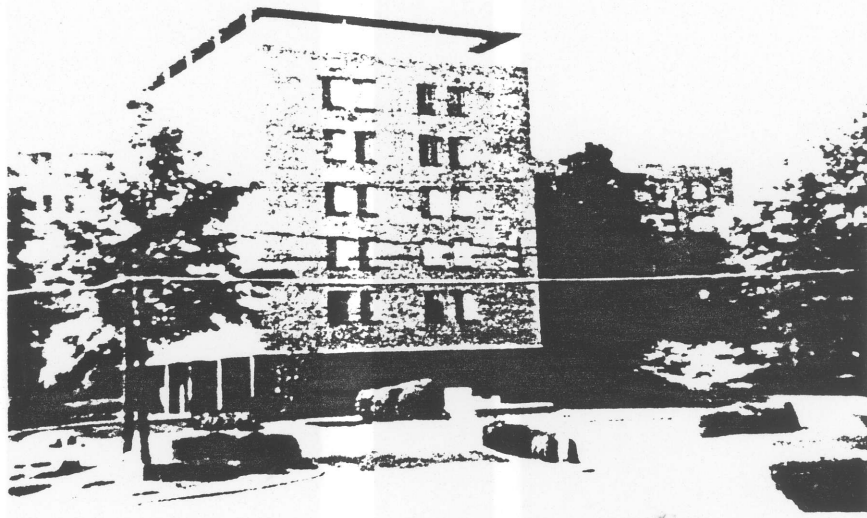
4411 Columbia Pike. owner: George Bicknel - demolished

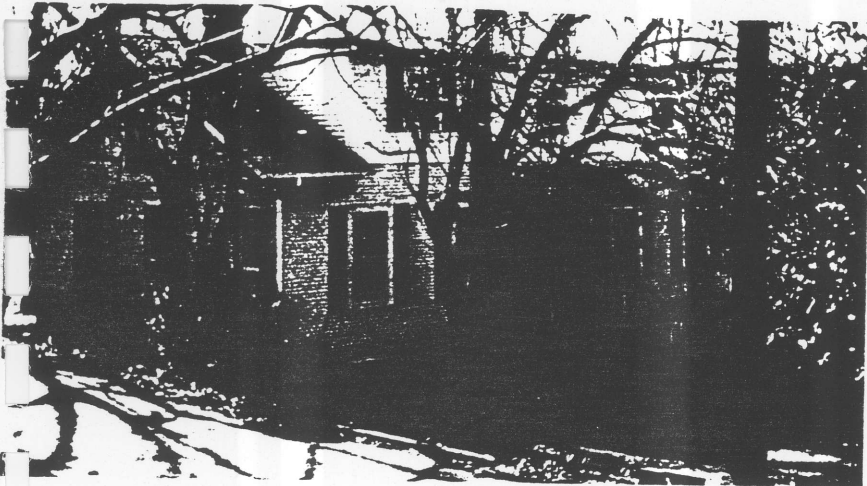
4419 Columbia Pike. owner: D.A. Watson - demolished <sup>2</sup>

By 1962, the 8-story white brick mid-rise apartment building was under construction. Each apartment has hardwood floors through out. There are efficiencies, 1 - 2 - 3 bedroom apartments to accomodate a variety of tenant needs. The building is served by 2 elevators and a freight elevator. There is a party room, a pool, a lobby with an attendant, laundry room and a canopy over the two lane circular driveway for the convenience of passengers arriving or leaving the building.

The apartment is managed by Wakefield Associates.<sup>3</sup> It has an active tenants association.

- 1 Interview with Elizabeth Head Cooper. Oral History Program, Arlington County Library and Zonta Club of Arlington.
- 2 Community Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Service Division, Arlington County Court House
- 3 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987





FRANK HALE HOUSE  
IN 1958



COLUMBIA PARK APARTMENTS  
900 Block Between Wakefield and Buchanan Streets

Columbia Park Apartments were built in 1962 by T.J. Offutt and are managed by the Dittmar Company. There are seven 3-story red brick buildings containing a total of 171 apartments. Units consist of 1-2-3 bedroom apartments, of these 54 have balconies, 18 have patios and a limited number of carports are available for sheltered parking. Open parking is provided on the site for the residents.<sup>1</sup> A swimming pool and a small playground for children are included for tenant recreation.

The apartments are well managed. A tenant reports there is a low "turn over" rate. The location is convenient to transportation and shopping.

(See also: "Houses on 9th Street Between Wakefield & Buchanan Streets")

Early Barcroft residents whose houses formerly occupied this land:

Edgar Klemroth, his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. Schick built a lovely home at 909 Arlington Avenue (Buchanan Street) in 1899.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Klemroth frequently drew portraits of his neighbors and their children. He was an architect by profession. The house was destroyed.<sup>3</sup>

Frank Hale lived in a large house built by Lucille M. Wright just down the hill from the Klemroths at 923 Arlington Avenue (Buchanan Street). On May 3, 1961 a permit #20779 was issued to move this house to its present location at 4838 South 9th Street.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Hale was a carpenter.

1 Real Estate Data, Inc., 1987

2 Ritchie, Mildred Handy. "Barcroft, Arlington County Virginia a Village Metamorphosis" The Arlington Historical Magazine. October 1960. Vol.6 No. 4

3 Community Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Services Division. Arlington County Court House

TANGLEWOOD CONDOMINIUM  
4241 Columbia Pike

Stephen P. Wright and his wife Louise sold the East Barcroft property, on which the Tanglewood Apartment building was later built, to Virginia Pepper and Lucy Payne on March 2, 1913.<sup>1</sup> J.C. Pepper moved the home from 4239 Columbia Pike to 949 South Taylor Street<sup>2</sup> perhaps as a result of improvements made to Route 244 (Columbia Pike).<sup>3</sup>

The house and land remained in the Pepper family until Zane Mason, his wife Ramona, and brother Earl T. Mason, Jr. acquired it from William B. and Ida Pepper Moore.<sup>4</sup> The house was demolished by permit issued on Feb. 1. 1965.<sup>5</sup>

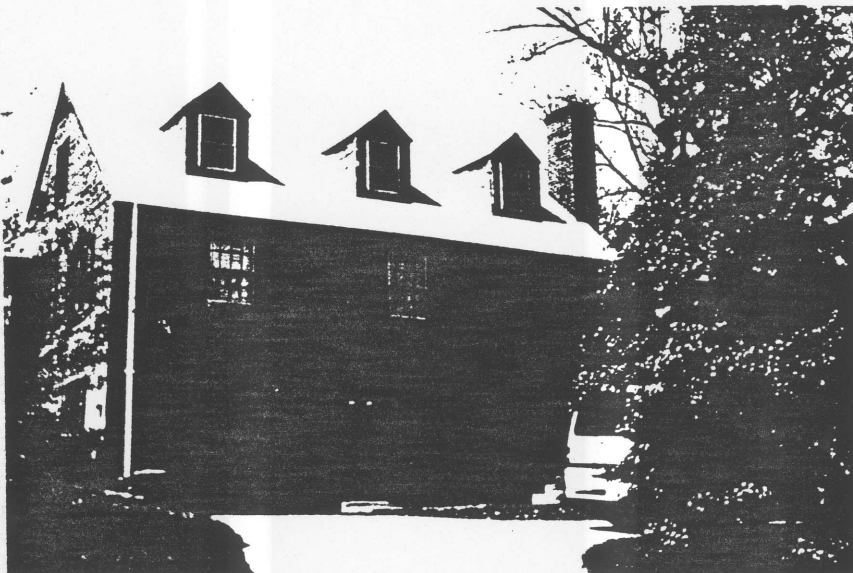
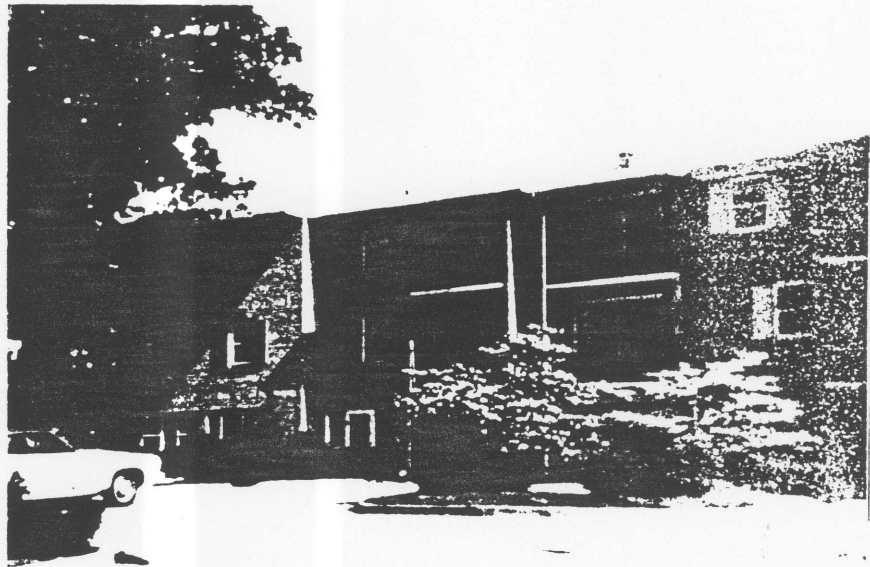
Tanglewood Apartments consisting of 44 units were constructed in 1966. There are 1 - 2 - 3 - bedroom apartments, cable for TV hookups, extra storage, elevator and assigned outside parking spaces.<sup>5</sup>

Ben Mar Construction Company, Inc. acquired the building from Zane and Earl Mason; then declared and created Tanglewood Condominium. The conversion took place in 1981. The Unit Owners Association of Tanglewood Condominium engages Ben Mar Management as their Agent.<sup>6</sup>

- 1 Deed Book 137 p. 562 Alexandria County Clerks Office  
Arlington County Court House
- 2 Community Planing, Housing and Development, Inspection  
Services Division. Arlington County Court House
- 3 Deed Book 537 p.379 Clerks Office Arlington County Court  
House
- 4 Deed Book 1507 p.239 and Deed Book 1983 p.1243 Clerks Office  
Arlington County Court House
- 5 Reference Section Arlington Central Library
- 6 Condominium records in the Virginia Room Arlington County  
Central Library



EAST BARCROFT  
TOWNHOUSES



FORMER OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH PARSONAGE  
AS IT APPEARS IN 1988  
AT 902 GEORGE WILSON DRIVE

EAST BARCROFT TOWN HOUSES  
906 - 936 George Mason Drive

East Barcroft Town Houses are the first town houses to be built in Barcroft. They were built by the Dittmar Company in 1967. These are 3-story brick veneer row houses with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, 2 half baths, plus a fireplace. There are a variety of outside features to create a pleasing appearance. Some houses have garages, some have a second floor balcony, others have one on third floor, and a few have balconies on both second and third floors.

East Barcroft Town House Association is the name of the property owners organization. Currently Ron Gimmel is president, the secretary is Dennis Morgan and Carl Costanzo is treasurer and Agent.

The house at 902 George Mason Drive is the former parsonage of Our Savior Lutheran Church moved down the hill from 901 South Taylor Street in 1982. The Ownem W.P. Koch house was ~~to~~ down.

Harry Bullen owned a frame house at 912 Magnolia Avenue (George Mason Drive) which was ~~to~~ down in 1967 for the town houses.





LAUREL GREEN TOWN HOUSE CONDOMINIUMS  
927 -975 South Taylor Street

Laurel Properties received permits to build 20 town house condominiums in 1976 in East Barcroft. <sup>1</sup> There are four major sets of town houses with a varying number of attached homes in each section. The 2-story 6 room units are brick veneer and vinyl siding. <sup>2</sup> Except for water hook ups, all units have separate meters. The homes were completed and ready for occupancy in 1977 - 1978.

Members of the Laurel Green Town House Condominium Association have regular meetings.

Formerly there were three houses on this site.

The home of Nora and George Gemmel was at 929 South Taylor Street. They sold it in 1921 to Robert J. and Sophie P. Bullen. <sup>3</sup> The house was commonly referred to hereafter by the neighborhood as the Bullen House until in April of 1975 when Robert Bullen applied for a permit for its destruction. <sup>1</sup>

Blanche H. Robberts, M.L.Wilson and Myrtle Plaughter are former owners of 935 South Taylor Street that was destroyed also in 1975. <sup>1</sup>

In 1926 Blanche Roberts (Robberts) deeded the property at 939 South Taylor Street to John and Sofia Martin. It was returned to her and in 1927 she resold it this time to Mathew and Ruth Culbert. <sup>4</sup>

The Culberts were a musical family remembered for sharing their talents with members of the Barcroft Bible Church and giving piano lessons to children of Barcroft community.

The Culberts sold lots 9-10-11 to Zane S. and Louise R. Mason October 8, 1974 <sup>5</sup> and applied for permit #9794 to demolish the house April 8, 1975. <sup>1</sup>

1 Planning, Housing and Development, Inspection Services  
Division. Arlington County Court House

2 Real Estate Data, Inc. 1987

3 Deed Book 174 p. 217 Clerk's Office Arlington County Court House

4 Deed Book 264 p.29 Clerk's Office Arlington County Court House

5 Deed Book 1872 p. 466 Clerk's Office Arlington County Court House

HIDDEN OAKS  
TOWNHOUSES OF PERSHING COURT  
4400 - 4418

"Woodmeade" the two story wood frame house with a porch across the front, later commonly known as the "Payne House", was built about 1893 by Charles Kolb and his wife Lisetta on land they purchased just north of the Corbett farm. <sup>1</sup>

In 1913, Mrs. L.L. Bridges, wife of Captain Bridges <sup>and</sup> a D.C. school teacher, bought this property as a summer home and a place where their daughter, Louise could keep a horse and have a place to ride it.

Louise Bridges married Milton Barcroft Payne, a grandson of Dr. Barcroft. They made the property her mother purchased in Arlington their home. Mr. Payne worked for Postal Telegraph and then G.S.A. Louise taught school, was active in civic affairs, the Women's Club, judged flower shows, was President of the National Capital Dahlia Society. She was a Suffragette and rode her horse in a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue waving a banner for the cause. Residents today remember her as a lady of boundless energy still riding her lawn mower and keeping her yard within a week of her death at 79 years. She wrote a history of Barcroft that was published April 13, 1955 in the Daily Sun.

Louise and Milton Payne's son Leverett and his wife Susie bought the brick rambler next door to his mother at 151 South Pershing Drive. Leverett served with the Rangers in World War II, worked at G.S.A. and also the C.I.A. until his retirement. After his mother's death, he and Susie moved into the home where he was born and spent his boyhood - 133 South Pershing Drive.

Mrs. Leverett Payne always had flowers blooming on each side of the sidewalk next to the street. Spring jonquils were followed by multi-colors of irises. Each summer and fall brought a display of California poppies, zinnias and marigolds. Susan Payne continued to live in the house after her husband's death until she sold it to Levin Construction Company <sup>2</sup> that in turn resold the property to Samir Succar and Hidden Oaks Partnership for the construction of 5 units of rowhouses for a total of 18 townhouses by Landmark Communities.

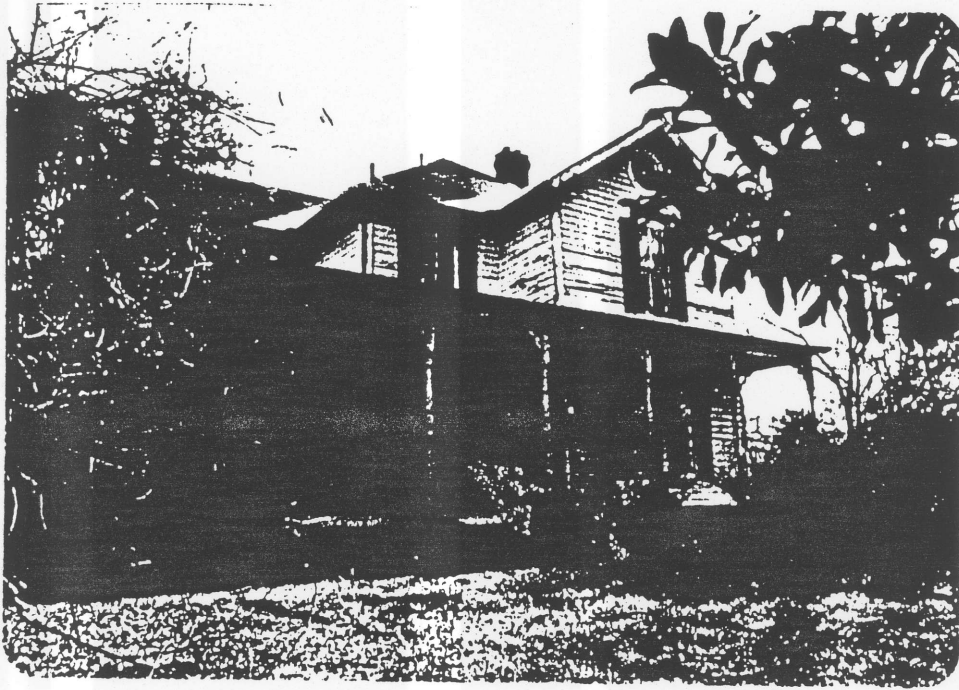
The three story brick veneer townhouses were built in 1986 facing a circle called Pershing Court. The beautiful homes and well landscaped yards are a welcomed addition to Barcroft.

The first elected officers of Hidden Oaks Home Owners are:  
John Miller, President  
Jud Walton, Secretary  
Hugh Quinn, Treasurer

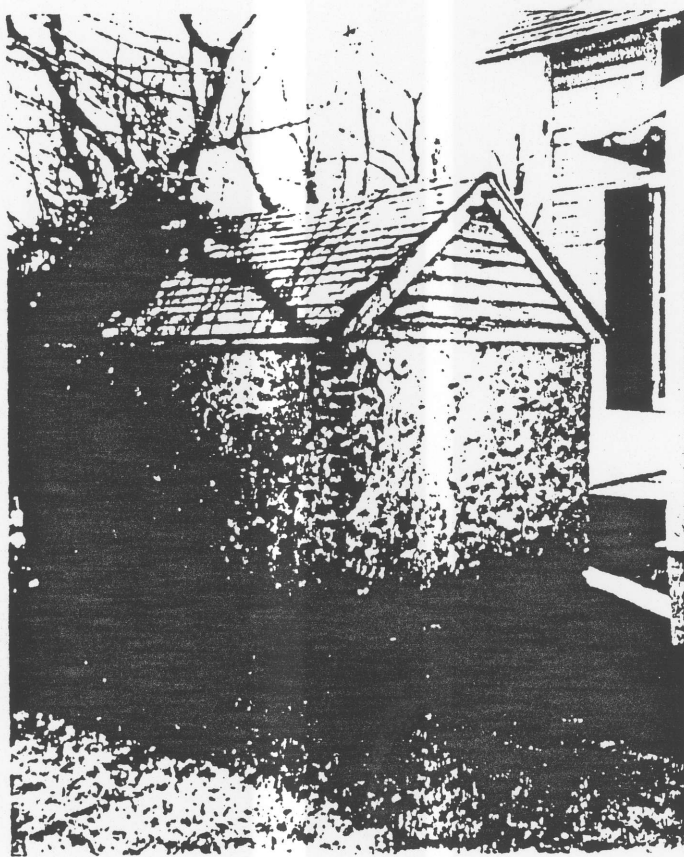
It is with a bit of nostalgia that we look back to the beautiful large oak trees, lovely flowers, and Leverett's bountiful vegetable garden. The razed stone spring house that fell with the house in Dec. 3, 1985, was probably one of the last left in Arlington County.

1 Ritchie, Mildred Handy. "Barcroft, Arlington County Virginia A Village Metamorphosis" The Arlington Historical Magazine. October 1960. Vol.6 No.4

2 Interview: Susie Wooten Payne



Kolb - Payne House  
133 S. Pershing Drive



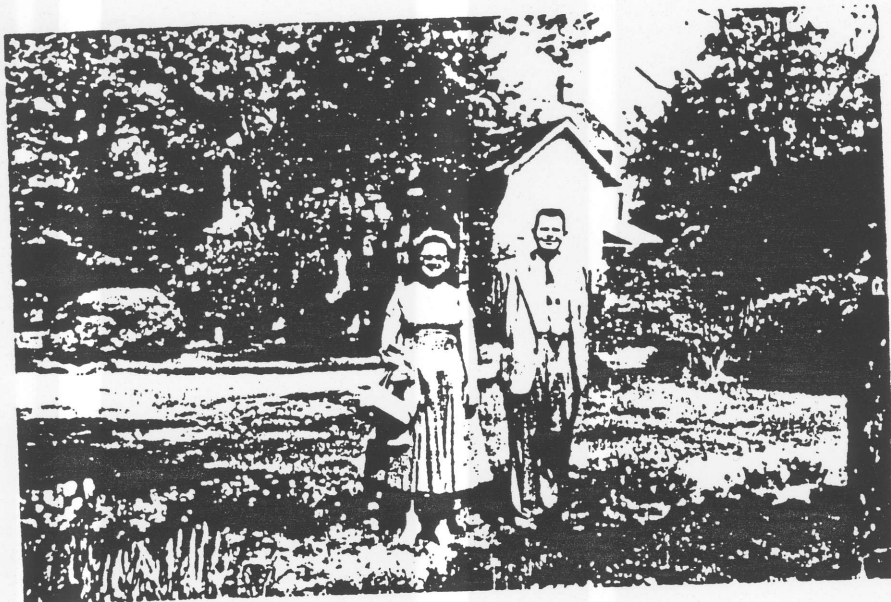
Dairy House  
133 S. Pershing Drive



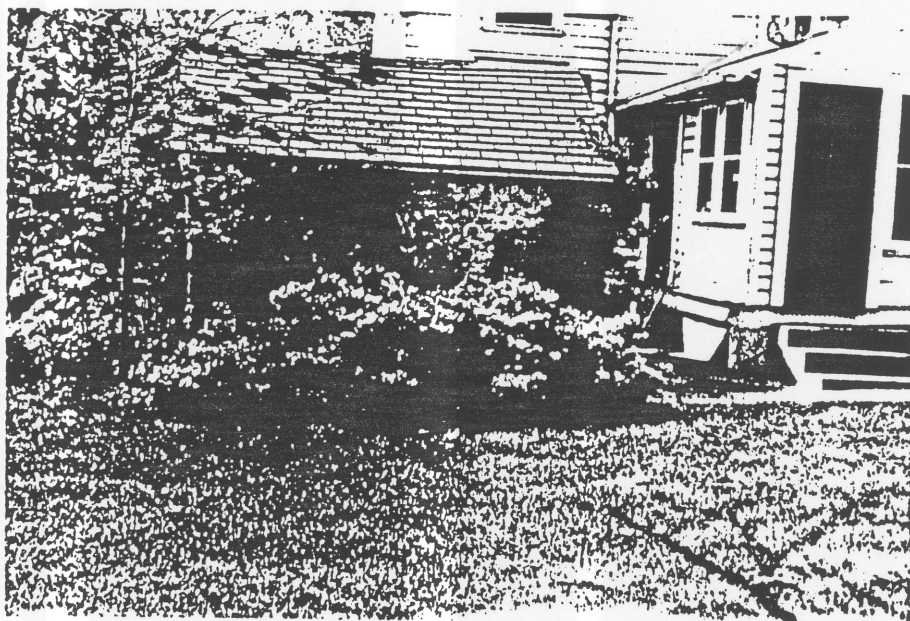
Back View Kolb-Bridges-Payne House  
133 S. Pershing Drive      Called "Woodmeade" by the Kolbs  
and "Mocking Bird Hill" by Mrs. M.B. Payne



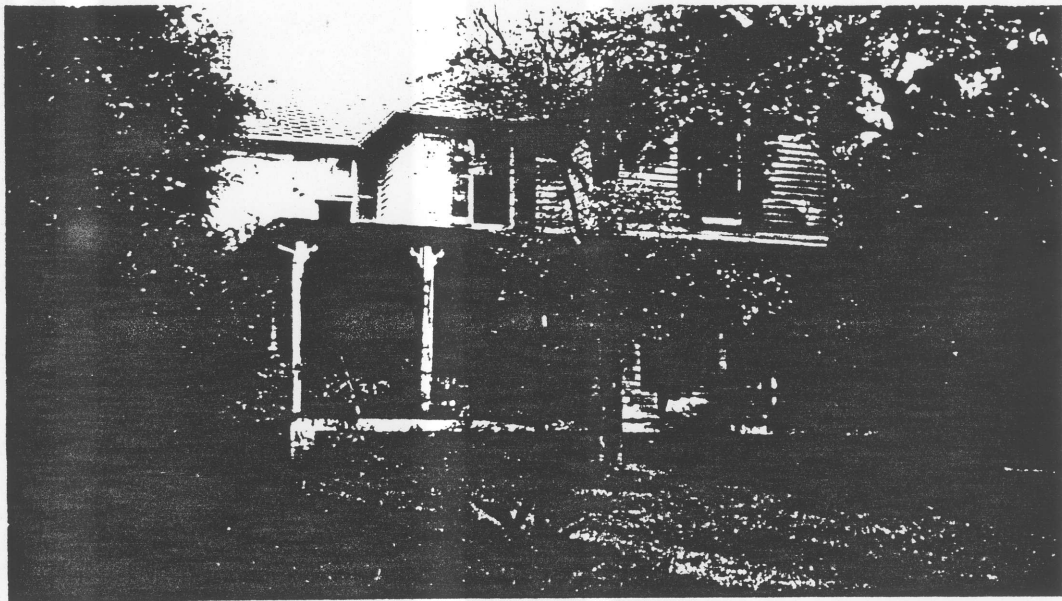
Front View Kolb-Bridges-Payne House  
133 S. Pershing Drive



133 S. Pershing Drive  
Leverett & Susie Payne May 1957



133 S. Pershing Drive  
Dairy House Spring of 1956



133 South ... Drive ... of ... B.



Louise Payne

BUCHANAN COURT TOWN HOUSES  
965 - 973 South Buchanan Street

(2 in the front + 1 in the rear)  
Alls and Company, Inc. built these five 3-story ~~brick~~ <sup>vener</sup> row houses with 3 dormers each in 1987-1988. Each house has 3 bedrooms and 2½ bathrooms, a fireplace and rear deck. The rooms on first floor have hardwood flooring. There are no basements. There is off street parking. Occupants meet informally to discuss mutual problems and concerns.

SCHOOLS  
OF  
BARCROFT

Elizabeth DeMik





## HISTORY OF BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Originally opened in 1925, Barcroft Elementary School has had longer, continuous service to the community as an elementary facility than any other public school in Arlington. The school has a proud heritage of graduates who return with families to share in its ties to another era in Arlington's past. It has served students through the ravages of the Depression, World War II, the Baby Boom, Desegregation, the unrest of the Sixties, the redefinition of power and patriotism of the Seventies, and the redistricting of the Eighties. Currently, the school is in the planning stages for meeting the millennium as teachers and students become computer literate and as we prepare another generation of Americans of diverse background to be contributing members of society.

The community and the school are named for Dr. John Woolverton Barcroft. Dr. Barcroft came to Virginia in 1848 and first settled on Columbia Pike beyond our County line at Homes Run. This area is presently the Lake Barcroft community in Fairfax County. Federal Troops returning from the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) damaged Dr. Barcroft's mill and home so badly that Dr. Barcroft returned to New Jersey until after the war between the states.

Dr. Barcroft returned to Virginia in 1880 and rebuilt the flour mill and a number of other homes which became a small community. He was not only a physician, but also invented a ditching and dredging machine, the principles of which are incorporated in some of our present day equipment.

The community, with 10 young children ready for school but too small to walk through Arlington Forest to get to Glencarlyn School, decided to start its own school. This was established in the home of Mrs. Edith Fairfax, their teacher, in 1906. The first year, enrollment swelled, and in 1908 the community erected a building at 800 South Buchanan Street to serve as church, community center and school. The Barcroft School and Civic League, as it was called, held many fund raisers, and the School Board rented space there until a separate four-room school building was completed.

The new building, named after Dr. Barcroft, opened in 1925 with an enrollment of 65 children. Dr. Barcroft's picture was installed in 1927. In 1945, as the community grew, nine more rooms were added. A library and a new wing with six classrooms, cafeteria and a multipurpose room were added later in 1945, as were 5 acres of playground. Yet another change came in 1975 with a gymnasium and open space and access. Reflecting the changing needs of the times, 1985 brought closed instructional spaces for the needs of an ever-changing student profile. The spurt in population growth in the fall of 1987, brought the addition of two portable classrooms. Currently, Barcroft serves over 420 students.

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Our Savior Lutheran School is a part of a system of 1400 Lutheran Schools and 160,000 pupils located throughout the country. Lutheran schools have been in operation since mid 1800's and most are established and supported by the local congregation.

Our Savior Lutheran School, located at 825 So. Taylor Street, was organized in September of 1952 with the establishment of a Kindergarten. This class was taught in the lower level of the church building which had been built in 1943. In 1953 the present school building, which is made up of four large classrooms, was constructed and dedicated, making expansion of the school possible. By September of 1957, the school had grown to include grades K - 6. In 1980 a portable classroom was added to accomodate the need for another class. In October, 1984 Our Savior Lutheran Church dedicated a new worship-education-fellowship building, adding even more facilities for use by the school.

Today Our Savior Lutheran School educates over 100 ppils in grades K-6. The school offers a traditional approach to education with stress on the three R's-plus one, Religion. A morning and afternoon extended day care program is available for children who are enrolled in the school.

Our Savior Lutheran is an important part of our Barcroft community in that it offers an alternative choice to public educatin on the elementary level.

Elizabeth DeMik  
920-8092

## The Arlington Unitarian Cooperative Preschool (AUCP)

The Arlington Unitarian Cooperative Preschool (AUCP) is a non-profit preschool administered and maintained by parents. The school operates two classes of 2-3 year olds, two classes of 3 1/2-5 year olds, a pre-kindergarten enrichment class, and a children's cooking class. The school is located in the Arlington Unitarian Church, and although it is an independent organization, it has always enjoyed close relations with the Church through the participation of Church families in the preschool.

The preschool originally was founded in 1969 by Church families active in the Sunday nursery program. It began as a one day per week program for 2 year olds taught by parent volunteers. Over the years the program flourished and expanded to its current size of 50 students with three salaried teachers. Dr. Edward M. Bridge, a retired pediatrician and Church member, participated actively in the development of the program until his death in 1984. The playground, which was built by AUCP parents in the early 1980's, is dedicated to him.

The school follows the "modified Montessori" educational philosophy. This means that the classrooms contain a large amount of Montessori-type equipment, and that the program emphasizes the individual child's choice of activity. To this basic Montessori approach, AUCP has added extras such as housekeeping corner, block corner, water table, circle activities, crafts and other creative arts, and music. AUCP is a cooperative in that it is governed by a board of parent volunteers. Mothers and fathers act as "teachers' aids" in the classroom, enabling them to participate in their children's early education. Parents also contribute some 200 hours annually to clean and maintain the classrooms and playground.

The school offers priority enrollment for Church families. The priority application period is Feb. 15th through March 1st, after which outside applications are accepted. Anyone who is interested should contact Leilani Henderson (536-4675).

Barbara McClure

## CHILD ENRICHMENT DAY CARE CENTER

The Child Enrichment Day Care Center, located at 917 So. Wakefield Street, is a private non-profit day care center serving 50 children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years. It is sponsored by the Blessed Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church which took over the facilities formerly owned by Barcroft Bible Church. The Day Care program was established in the fall of 1986 and received its license to operate in October, 1986. Facilities include rooms for three groups of children (4 and 5 year olds, 3 and 4 year olds, and 2 1/2 and 3 year olds), each with their own staff, and a large multipurpose room for group activities. Outside there are several fenced-in play areas with nice equipment.

The Child Enrichment Center provides an important service to the Barcroft community by offering badly needed quality day care for pre-school age children.

Elizabeth DeMik  
920-8092

CHURCHES

OF

BARCROFT

Adaline Marye Robertson  
Cathy Goldschmidt

FIRST CHURCH OF BARCROFT  
1907

The building at 800 South Buchanan Street was erected in 1907 through the efforts of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Columbia (located on the north side of Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike), with its pastor, Rev. William Pierpont assisting the carpenters, almost daily, in its construction. Mr. Pierpont stayed with the Marye family while this work went on.

The first church was a branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church, however, it wasn't long before it became just a Sunday School and later the church of many different denominations. It is now rented to the St. George's Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church.

The church is owned by the Barcroft School and Civic League, its meetings held monthly except in the summer. The building was used as a school from 1908 until Barcroft Elementary School opened in 1925.

Early church members or visitors, possibly were:

Ida & Oscar Haring  
Virginia Doremus  
Annie Marye  
Mr. & Mrs. Kolb  
Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax  
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Ham  
Mr. & Mrs. Klemroth  
Mr. & Mrs. Wright

- Adaline Marye Robertson

## THE BARCROFT BIBLE CHURCH

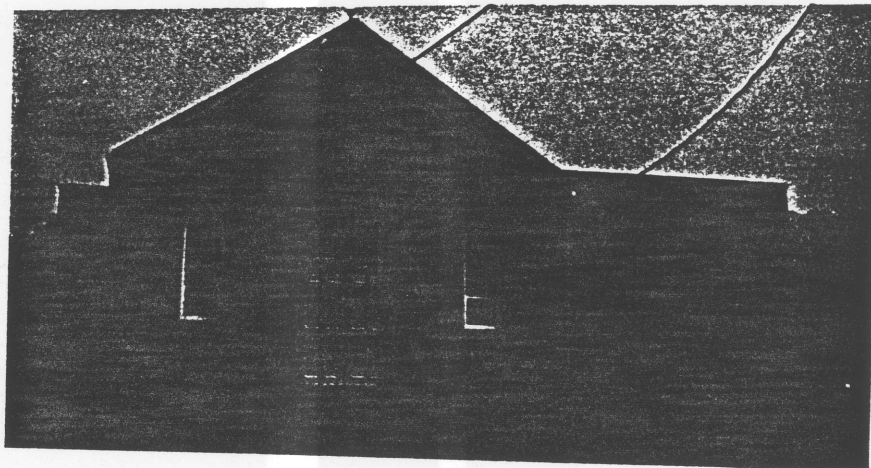
The Barcroft Bible Church is an independent, denominationally unaffiliated church with strong roots in the Barcroft community. Of the twenty-two founding members of 1932, three survive and continue to reside in Barcroft.

It grew out of services held by the Wolverton Bible Class, which met at the Wolverton's home and later at the Barcroft Community House. In April, 1947 the old Arlington Methodist Church on Columbia Pike was purchased, dismantled and moved to 915 South Wakefield Street for use in building the Barcroft Community Church. The church was dedicated on January 23, 1949.

In 1956 the Education wing was added. By 1970 the Barcroft Community Church had become the Barcroft Bible Church, a name which, the members felt, better described its beliefs and purpose. The membership had grown so much that the church could barely accommodate everyone, even with two Sunday services. The new church, behind the old one, was dedicated in 1970.

It was not long before the membership again outgrew the facility. In 1984 land was purchased in Fairfax County and the congregation now meets in temporary quarters until a new church can be built.

The original buildings now belong to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arlington which operates an Hispanic Apostolate and day care center in the old building. The 1970 church now houses the Church of the Blessed Vietnamese Martyrs.





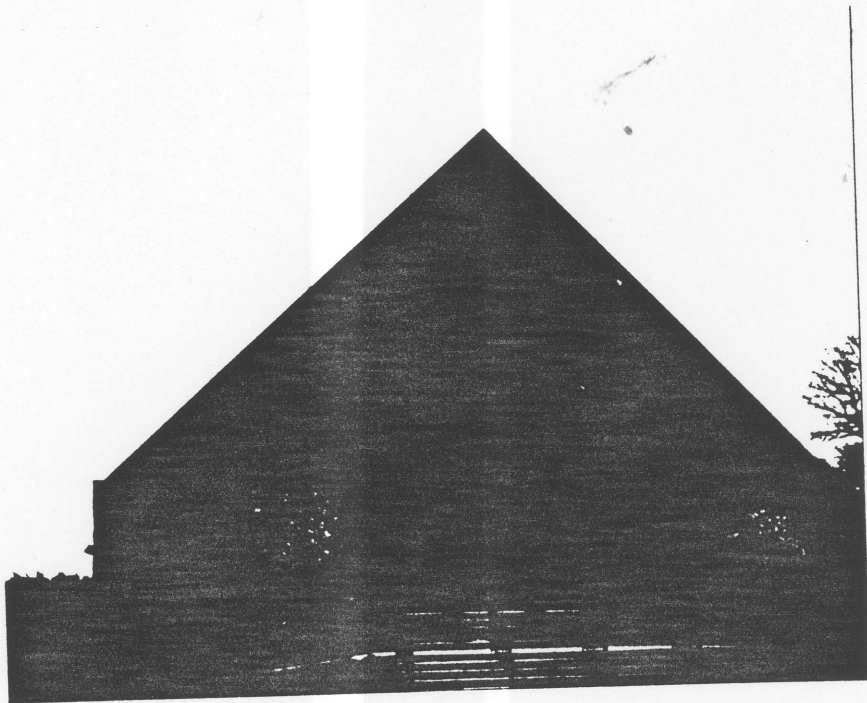
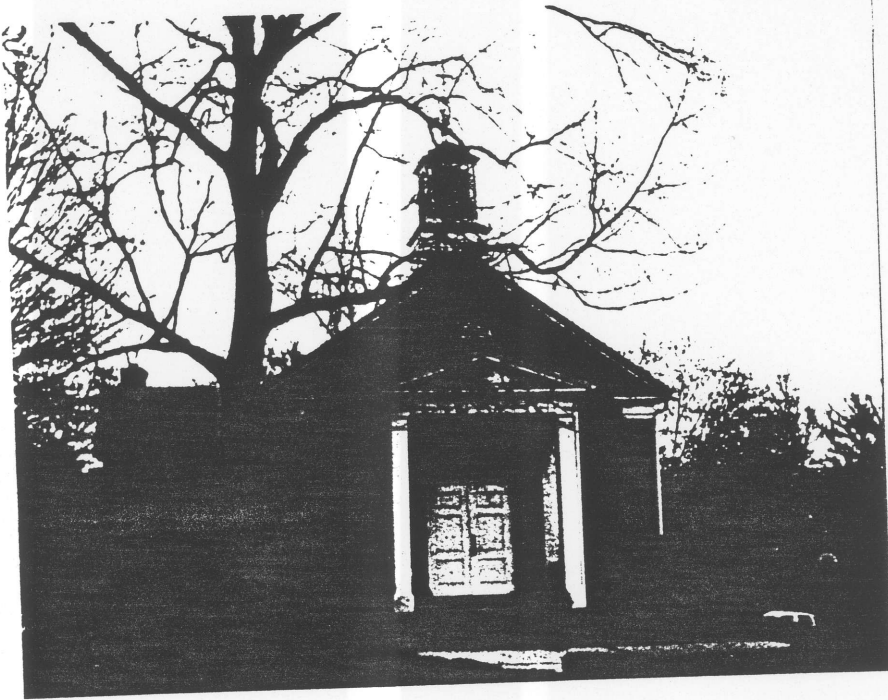
## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

AS ARLINGTON grew, so did the need for its people to worship near home, rather than travel into the District. Our Savior Lutheran Church was sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church in Washington, D. C. Its first service was held on October 26, 1941 in the lobby of the Arlington Theatre on Columbia Pike, using chairs borrowed from the fire station. Chaplain Ernest Heuer of Fort Belvoir, who officiated, brought an Army field organ. The church was formally organized in January, 1942, with 41 communicants.

In spite of the difficulties obtaining building supplies during wartime, ground was broken in November, 1942 and the church dedicated August 8, 1943. The parsonage was built in 1947. As Arlington grew, so did Our Savior's congregation. In 1952 the sanctuary was enlarged and the school begun. Mission congregations were started; St. Paul's in Falls Church and later St. John's in Franconia.

In December, 1982 the parsonage was moved from 901 South Taylor Street in preparation for the new church which now occupies that site. The parsonage was moved across the school playground and down the steep hill to 902 George Mason Drive, where a basement had been built for it. The new church was dedicated on October 21, 1984. To passersby in Barcroft the most striking feature of this church is the large narthex window which incorporates important symbols of Christ's life. This, like all of the windows in the church, was designed by members of the congregation and made of faceted glass by the Statesville Glass Company of North Carolina.

Our Savior is a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, and now has over 500 members.



35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Jan 9, 1977

MUSINGS BY OUR SAVIOR'S FIRST PRESIDENT,  
CARL SCHEFFEL

The first Lenten Services were held at the Carl Scheffel home on South 12th Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Chaplain Herman Heuer, being in the military service, was able to obtain a field organ from the military services for our use at church services. It was also used at the Theatre service.

The folding chairs were loaned to us from the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department for use at the services.

The Cotta Guild was organized at the Scheffel's home, and Mrs. Mahela Hays was elected first president. Regular meetings were held at the home of the Heuer's and the Hays'.

The Scheffel's home was used for Voter's and Committee meetings and any special services.

We had a number of organists to play for the services; Mrs. Teates, Mr. Gayle, Mr. Kaylor and Ruth Boletchek who is still with us. She plays for the closing of Sunday School and for Church services when called on.

We have a wonderful organist and Choir Master, Mr. William Shafer, who has been with us since June 1955.

The first one confirmed in the church was Leon Page, the son of Elsie Jackson.

## THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ARLINGTON

The Unitarian Church of Arlington began as a fellowship of All Souls Church in Washington. During World War II, gasoline rationing forced Virginia members to meet closer to home. First they gathered in members' homes, later in a church auditorium. In 1948 the fellowship became the Unitarian Church of Arlington and its 99 members met in the auditorium of Barrett School. By June 1949 they were able to celebrate in their own church, designed by architect member Earl B. Bailey. This building is the current Reeb Hall.

In 1952 the growing congregation added the Education wing, also designed by Mr. Bailey. As membership increased, it was decided to purchase adjacent land at Arlington Boulevard and George Mason Drive for a new church. This was designed by Charles M. Goodman and completed in 1963. The new church building has won several awards, including the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade's Award for Architectural Excellence, and recognition in the American Institute of Architects' Guide to Architecture in Washington, D. C. Most recently, in 1984, it received the A.I.A.'s Test of Time Award.

The Unitarian Church of Arlington is important for the many ways it has enriched life in our community. As early as 1951 its members were active in the fight against Virginia's segregation laws. Since 1956 they have been helping refugees. They sponsored Culpepper Gardens, a retirement complex built on land made available for the purpose by member Dr. Charles Culpepper. Today's members continue this tradition of social justice.

The Unitarian Church of Arlington is perhaps best known in Barcroft for sharing with us its Edward Bridge playground and excellent music programs.

CLUBHOUSE  
700 S. Buchanan Street  
THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ARLINGTON

Ladies interested in civic affairs, the arts, education, and worthy projects met at the home of Mrs. C.E. Miles in October of 1931. The following month, the Women's Club of Arlington elected its first officers. Mrs. M.B. (Louise) Payne of Barcroft was one of the Charter Members. As the membership increased, a regular clubroom was obtained in a former school building.

The dream of a clubhouse became a reality with the dedication of the facility at 700 S. Buchanan Street on October 6, 1957.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. M.B. (Louise) Payne and Mrs. R.G. O'Hara, daughter-in-law of Walter O'Hara an early Barcroft developer, served with others on the Building Committee chaired by Mrs.G.H. (Goldie) Hieronymus.<sup>2</sup>

The Women's Club of Arlington has consistently supported worthy organizations such as the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, Arlington Hospital, Virginia Mental Health Foundation, New Radiation Therapy Center, Camp Easter Seal East, F.I.S.H., Meals-On-Wheels, Cerebral Palsy, Lung Association, Salvation Army, Hot-Line, O.A.R.A., T.A.C.T.S., Special Olympics, Justice for Juveniles, Arlington Symphony, Arlington Metropolitan Chorus, Culpepper Gardens, Cheshire Homes of Arlington (homes for the physically disabled), the Sheltered Occupation Center and "Crusade for Seat Belts" and "Morality in Mass Media".

The Club helped establish the Columbia Pike Branch Library in the 1930's at the former location of Glebe Road and Columbia Pike in the Westmont Shopping Center.

The activities of the Club in the 40's were dominated by the war effort. It established an Arlington Recreation Center for Servicemen, arranged displays from Victory Gardens. With the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, gave 2 equipped ambulances to the Red Cross and sold enough bonds to purchase 2 bombers and 2 pursuit planes. Locally the ladies established a Teen Club for children of service families which the Department of Recreation later took over and managed the program until the mid-fifties.

The Clubhouse has given the Club opportunity to serve the community in special ways such as forming the Cotillion for area young people, catering wedding receptions, group workshops, the Annual Teacher's Tea, the Christmas Bazaar, and Welcome to New Citizens Tea.

Other projects sponsored or given support by the Women's Club of Arlington include both Gulf Branch and Long Branch Nature Centers, Get-Out-The Vote Campaign, Care Program for Korean Victims, the Dorthea Buck Fellowship, AND THE Annual College and Art Awards for Wakefield High School students.

The Women's Club of Arlington celebrated its 50th Anniversary October 19, 1981. The ladies continue to develop and use their talents to

serve the needs of Arlington. Their motto is, "UNITY IN DIVERSITY".<sup>1</sup>

- 1 Women's Club of Arlington. Highlights of Our First Fifty Years.
- 2 Interview: Susan Christopher, daughter of R.G. O'Hara and granddaughter of Walter O'Hara.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

OF

BARCROFT

Based on the 1980 Census

BARCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AREA  
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Total Population	2,699 persons	
Whites	2,401	89%
Blacks	133	5%
Asian-Pacific Islanders	64	2%
Other Races	101	4%
Spanish Origin*	116	4%
(*Note - Spanish Origin is not a separate race.)		
Males	1,220	45%
Females	1,479	55%
0 - 4 years of age	155	6%
5 - 17 years of age	350	13%
18 - 24 years of age	304	12%
25 - 34 years of age	620	23%
35 - 64 years of age	894	34%
65 years of age and over	375	14%
Total Households	1,229	
Total Families	711	58%
Average Household Size	2.20 persons per household	
Total Housing Units	1,254	
Owner Occupied Units	623	50%
Renter Occupied Units	627	50%
Median Family Income, Census Tract 23**	\$52,183	
Median Household Income, Census Tract 23**	\$40,912	

\*\* Income estimates based on estimates for Arlington prepared by the Tayloe Murphy Institute.

Source: 1980 U. S. Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape Files 1 and 3. Prepared by the Arlington County Planning Division, Comprehensive Planning Section, March 1988.

PLANNING DIVISION  
2100 14TH ST., N.  
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

TELEPHONE  
(703) 558-2291

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING,  
HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

SUSAN A. INGRAHAM  
PLANNER III

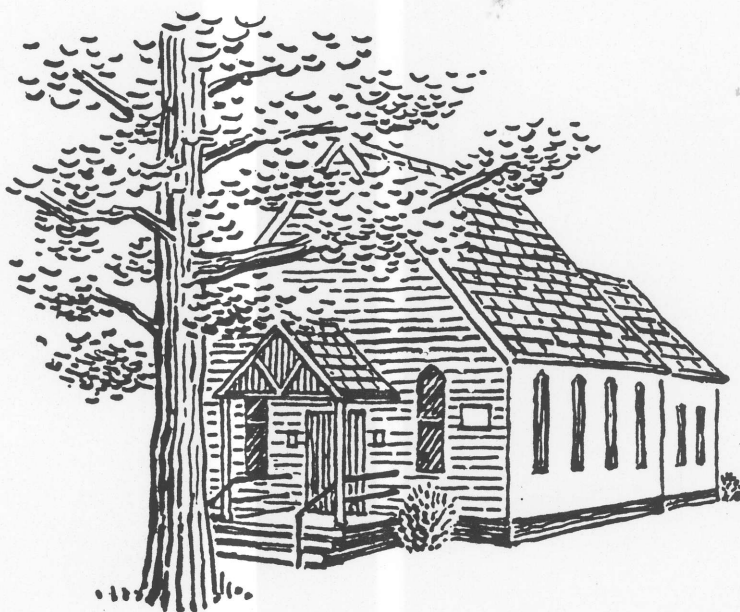
*Susan Ingraham*

*This listing - there are the correct numbers, please contact.*



HISTORY  
OF  
BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE

by  
Mildred Handy Ritchie



January 10, 1983

1. Building Name: The Barcroft Community House
2. Address: 800 South Buchanan Street  
Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia
3. Original Owner: Trustees, Methodist Episcopal  
Church of Barcroft
4. Original Use: Church
5. Present Owner: The Barcroft School and Civic  
League
6. Present Use: The Barcroft School and Civic  
League Meetings: rentals by that  
Organization for use as a Church  
and for various Community affairs
7. Legal Description: Lots 3, 4, Block D, in the Subdi-  
vision of Barcroft as per plat of  
same duly of record in the Clerk's  
Office of Alexandria County, Vir-  
ginia, in Deed Book Number 110,  
page 53 one of the Land Records of  
the County, save and except the  
rear 15 feet of each lot, the  
amount of ground hereby conveyed  
being 14,500 square feet, May 23,  
1908 (Vol. 118, page 187). Also  
described August 21, 1914 (Vol. 44,  
page 159)

8. Description and History:

The Village which became Barcroft was first established as a subdivision of a small portion of "Cedar Hill Farm" on Columbia Pike at Four Mile Run in 1892. At that early date it had, within its boundary, two residences. One was the home of the Mill operator, John Newlon, erected about 1886

a block East of the Railroad. The other, erected in 1890 on a six-acre tract beside the Railroad, was the home of Oscar Haring. In a large front room planned for the purpose he opened a general store. Both of these residences faced South along Columbia Pike. A station, first known as "Arlington", then "Corbett", then "Barcroft, stood on the Southwest corner of the crossing of the Pike and the Railroad (later the W&OD Ry.) which ran from Alexandria to Bluemont. Beyond his Subdivision Frank E. Corbett lived in the old farmhouse on the Northeast corner of his "Cedar Hill Farm" of 262 Acres.

In 1892, Annie Doremus, sister-in-law of Oscar Haring, purchased the first two lots in the Subdivision of "Barcroft" on top of the hill on Arlington Avenue, and by 1894 had erected the first house. This was rented until she and Sidney T. Marye married in 1901, when they made it their home.

Frank E. Corbett died in 1898 and his executors sold two lots across from the Doremus house to Edgar Klemroth who erected his imposing home in 1900.

The farm estate and remaining unsold lots of the subdivision were sold in 1903. The subdivision was resurveyed, resubdivided, and named "Barcroft" in 1904. The new owner,

Mrs. Abigail Fox, with her son-in-law, Stephen P. Wright, as developer, laid plans for erecting homes on their new lots to attract city dwellers "to the fresh country air". Stephen erected and occupied a home East of the Newlon house.

After the establishment of the Barcroft Post Office in the general store, people living in the area surrounding the subdivision and using it as a mailing address began to consider themselves as living at Barcroft. Among these was William Palmer, Sheriff of Alexandria County. His home stood on a hill on the Pike, opposite the Southeast corner of Corbett's farm. Several railroad workers occupied small homes between the railroad track and the Creek. To the West, beyond the Mill and Dr. Barcroft's home at Four Mile Run, there were six or seven more homes in the County to the Fairfax County line. Then, North of the boundary of Cedar Hill Farm, on a six-acre parcel of the estate of James Ball, lived Charles Kolb at "Woodmeade".

Stephen P. Wright sold his new home to James W. Head in 1906. He then brought in a builder, B. F. Perrow, and carpenters. His brother, W. W. Wright, purchased the Newlon home in 1907.

By 1907, construction of new houses in the subdivision of Barcroft was proceeding well. Milton and Amy Fairfax, with three little girls, bought the first of these on lots 1 and 2, Block D, at Arlington and Glen Avenues (Buchanan Street and Eighth Road, South), on April 20, 1907. Other families taking up residence were those of Martin, Hamm and Grigg.

The nearest schools and churches were at Columbia and Glen Carlyn, over a mile away. With no transportation in either direction the need for both had grown with the increase in population. Older children walked the long distance or took the steam train to the city for education. But small children of many families moving in were too young to go so far alone. The need for action grew more apparent during the summer.

Alexandria County School Board Minutes record that at a regular meeting of the Board on October 7, 1907, the Clerk read a Petition from the Citizens of Barcroft, requesting that a school be established in Barcroft. It was ordered that the Clerk write a letter (as contained in the minutes) to The Citizens Association of Barcroft:

"Rosslyn, October 10, 1907  
Mr. Stephen P. Wright, President  
Citizen's Association of Barcroft, Virginia

It is inexpedient at this time to open a school at Barcroft as we have a capable teacher at Glen Carlyn, Virginia."

Most of the children in need of schooling were under the age of seven and to reach the Glen Carlyn School it would require that they walk along the railroad track, a distance of over a mile, or three miles over dirt roads. There was no transportation. The Board's action was immediately protested by the Barcroft residents. On October 19, 1907, the Board instructed Mr. C. B. Munson, Chairman of Arlington District of the Board, to look into the matter and see what the expenses would be to maintain a school at Barcroft.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board on November 30, 1907, it was reported that those present were Chairman, C. B. Munson, Ralph Baldwin, William A. B. McPhea, Clerk, Mr. S. P. Wright, Mrs. Amy Fairfax and Miss Lucy Lynn. A letter had been filed from the Barcroft citizens stating that Mrs. Amy Fairfax had been contacted and had consented to rent a room in her home for \$10.00 per month for a school. She further agreed to accept employment as a teacher and to provide janitor service for \$25.00 per month until January 30, 1908. On the same date Mrs. Fairfax was entered on the payroll. On January 25, 1908, the minutes note the following:

"Mrs. Amy Fairfax is elected to teach at Barcroft as Teacher the balance of the school year, 1907-08."

Pupils in that first class taught by Mrs. Amy Fairfax were Carol, son of W. W. Wright; Paul and Adalyne, children of Sidney T. Marye; and Edith, daughter of Amy Fairfax, all of the Barcroft Subdivision. A group of at least ten was required for approval as a school. Thus, to these were added Pauline, daughter of Sheriff Palmer; Percy and Charles Tillett, children of a Mill worker; Beulah and Damon Loveless, children of a railroad worker; and Dorothy Payne, related to the Barcrofts.

On May 23, 1908, Lots 3 and 4, Block D, adjoining the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fairfax, were purchased by Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft. During the summer months, residents of Barcroft affiliated with the Arlington Methodist Church and others interested, joined in erecting a small one-room frame Church on a stone foundation. Work on the structure was done lovingly and reverently, even to equipping the little building with mullioned windows, rounded at the top like those of a church. Plans for such a project had begun about 1904 and many fund-raising affairs had been held in the community toward that end. Much more would be needed to keep the church a going concern.

Sales of new homes increased in 1908. During the summer, while the Church was under construction, parents and the School Board learned that Mrs. Fairfax would be unable to teach during the next term and that her home would not be available. Among applications received to teach was

that of Miss Beulah Adams of Hunter Station in Fairfax County. On October 3, 1908, a letter was read at the School Board Meeting from Mr. Sidney T. Marye, Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft, accepting the terms of the School Board for rent of the Church Building for school purposes at \$10.00 per month. This agreement was approved by the Board and it was ordered that Mr. Marye be notified. On November 8, 1908, Miss Beulah Adams was accepted by the Board as Substitute Teacher at Barcroft. She remained to teach for the full term, the first in the new building.

On September 17, 1909, although contracts had not been made, Miss Adams was ordered to teach at Clarendon, and a new applicant, Miss Margaret P. Handy, was ordered to report as teacher at Barcroft, and their names were placed on the payroll.

Miss Handy, living with her parents, Major and Mrs. F. A. G. Handy, who purchased their home on Arlington Avenue at Fairfax Street in April 1908, thus became the second to teach in the Barcroft School. Her brother, Frederick C. Handy, had purchased a home the same month, adjoining Mr. Marye, and her brother, Walter K. Handy, purchased the home adjoining his father, but facing on Glen Avenue, in July of that year. Pupils and teacher of that term recall a disastrous storm which ripped off a goodly portion of the School roof.



Until repairs could be made, school was held for some time in a nearby home.

The school which began with ten First and Second Graders grew gradually with, eventually, seven Grades in one room. More space and the assistance of a second teacher became necessary. By 1913 a small second room was added in the rear of the original structure. School Board records show that two teachers were regularly employed to teach at Barcroft from December 1913 to 1925, when the School was closed in June.

Oil lamps, hung from the beams, were first used in the Community House, as they were in private homes. In 1912, spurred by efforts of Walter K. Handy, a Petition of fourteen residents was presented requesting that poles be added to extend electric lines from Columbia to Barcroft. In 1913, he with the help of his brothers and neighbors wired those first fourteen homes as well as The Community House.

The "Citizens Association of Barcroft" of 1907 evolved into "The Barcroft School and Civic League" in 1908 at the time the new Church Building was occupied and known as "The Barcroft School House". Untranscribed Minutes of early meetings exist, taken in Pittman Shorthand by Major Handy, a Congressional Correspondent, prior to his death in 1912. In 1914, The Barcroft School and Civic League

obtained State Certification of Incorporation. On August 21, 1914, the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft sold the building on Lots 3 and 4, Block D, Barcroft, Virginia, to The Barcroft School and Civic League.

The original roof with its wooden shingles, a dangerous fire hazzard, was replaced in 1926. At that time, too, the front stoop, or small porch, was repaired and a small, protective porch roof was added. Excavating under the original room provided space to install a furnace, replacing the pot-bellied stoves that had provided heat up to that time. Plumbing was installed in 1937 when facilities were added in the basement to replace the cold little "Chick-Sale" house that had long occupied a corner of the back yard. At that time, also, a new ceiling was installed, adding to summer and winter comfort. Originally, the space above the huge cross-beams rose to a peak under the roof, the underside of which was covered with grooved panelling, matching the chair-rail height panelling around the lower part of the room.

The small room has lost some of its space since the stairway to the basement was installed there, and some furnace ducts were also run through it. The original larger room remains essentially the same.

Although originally planned as a Church, the Barcroft Congregation was not large enough to support a regular Minister. Reverend Pierpoint, Minister of the Arlington Methodist Church, assisted in the construction and served as Minister when he could spare the time. Over the years Bible Study groups met there, and many young students of the Episcopal Theological Seminary gained preaching experience and helped with young people's groups. Other Ministers who gave time and service were Maurice E. Derr and Lionel Capers, Episcopal; W. L. Purier, Baptist; D. E. Day, Methodist; and David Hicks, Congregationalist.

In addition to religious groups the Building has served as a meeting place for various organizations, among them:

- Boys Club
- Kiwanis Boys Band
- Camp Fire Girls
- Girl Scouts
- Rod and Reel Club
- South Arlington A.A.'s
- American Legion

Sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League, Community groups helped to raise funds for care of the Building by presenting home talent plays, card parties, social evenings, square dances, and lectures on subjects of interest. Young people had dances for which High School and College Bands played.

Through the years, The Barcroft School and Civic League has held its meetings at The Community House. Guest speakers are frequent visitors, coming from various Departments of the County or State Governments or from one of the many Organizations eager to offer information in our diversified area.

At least three members of the first class, held in the home of Mrs. Fairfax, still survive. Many present residents of Arlington and the nearby area attended school in the little building rented by the County from 1908 for seventeen years for use as a School.

The Barcroft Community House has served Barcroft and Arlington County well for Seventy-five years as a Church, a School, a Community gathering place, and as headquarters for The Barcroft School and Civic League. It is probably best and most lovingly remembered, however, by the many pupils who attended it as "The Barcroft School" where its dedicated teachers guided many young feet on the paths to education. It is believed to be the only original little one-room wooden School Building remaining in Arlington County.

References:

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Mildred Handy Ritchie, "Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia - A Village Metamorphosis", The Arlington Historical Magazine, October 1980, Vol 6 (corrected to 7), No. 4.

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# BARCROFT, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA A VILLAGE METAMORPHOSIS

By  
Mildred Handy Ritchie

A twenty-year old Water Grist Mill; a Grocery-drygoods store; a twelve foot square yellow Station on a single-track railroad line; a large cattle pen nearby; and, perhaps, six houses scattered about within a half mile of the station on Columbia Turnpike — this was Barcroft in 1903! In an area of small farms, the railroad with a struggling existence since 1850, supplied a sporadic means of transportation for people, produce and cattle between Alexandria and Bluemont at the foot of the Blue Ridge. The line through Alexandria County ran, generally, north, through the valley of Four Mile Run, overlooking or within a few yards of the creek.

Columbia Turnpike, running east-west through the Counties of Alexandria and Fairfax, connected the Lower Road from Washington to Alexandria with the Little River Turnpike at Annandale. A large abattoir had been erected on the lower end of the Pike, and to this cattle were brought for processing from all parts of Northern Virginia. Farms along the railroad shipped cattle to Barcroft where they were held at the pens until they could be driven in herds down the Pike to the plant. This practice was discontinued about 1905 when a new spur route was available near the river.

The Pike, as it became known, a major thoroughfare, was a narrow two-lane dirt road — rocky, rough and dusty, and in rainy weather, a quagmire of mud with deep ruts. It was travelled by draymen, drovers, buggies and walkers. The road wound through the sleepy countryside with many twists and turns and over many hills. The first area which became Barcroft was situated between two of these hills on the Pike, each having turns in an "S" shape to reach the top. The village grew to the north of the Pike on higher ground.

The Mill, rebuilt after its destruction during the Civil War on the foundation of an earlier one erected by George Washington Parke Custis (and another by Custis Lee), stood to the west of the railroad and creek, and on the north side of the Pike. An even earlier mill may have been built here by George Washington who owned the Washington Forest lands. To turn the immense mill wheel, said to have been the largest on the Eastern Seaboard, which operated the heavy machinery for grinding, a dam had been constructed on the creek, almost a mile upstream. From this water was diverted by an earthen mill race, almost eight feet wide, flowing down to the mill. From the race to the top of the wheel, the water was led, first by great troughs of wood, later, of metal.

Returning from New Jersey after the War, Dr. John Wolverton Barcroft (who had formerly owned a mill on the Pike some five miles beyond, also



"Subdivision of Barcroft" — 1903, formerly the "Subdivision of Corbett"; a part of "Cedar Hill" Farm, Alexandria County, Virginia.

Many of those early records are incomplete or unavailable. The following list has been compiled from School Board Books, supplemented by personal knowledge of former pupils and of some of the teachers themselves.

Teacher-Principal	Teacher	School	Year
Mrs. Amy Fairfax		Fairfax Home	1907-1908
Miss Beulah Adams		1 Room	1908-1909
Miss Margaret Handy		1 Room	1909-1910
Miss Annie Beattie		1 Room	1910-1911
Miss Annie Beattie		1 Room	1911-1912
Miss Annie Beattie		1 Room	1912-1913
Miss Annie Beattie	Miss Grace Crosswell	2 Room	1913-1914
Miss Grace Crosswell	Miss Mary Eastlack	2 Room	1914-1915
Miss Grace Crosswell	Miss Mary Eastlack	2 Room	1915-1916
Miss Grace Crosswell	Miss Mary Eastlack	2 Room	1916-1917
Miss Elizabeth Hancock	Miss Mary Eastlack	2 Room	1917-1918
Miss Elizabeth Hancock	Miss Minnie Dunavant	2 Room	1918-1919
Miss Alma Barefoot	Miss Minnie Dunavant	2 Room	1919-1920
Miss Julia Banks	Miss Minnie Dunavant	2 Room	1920-1921
Mrs. Eppa Tracey	Miss Minnie Dunavant	2 Room	1921-1922
Mrs. Eppa Tracey	Miss Alice Snyder	2 Room	1922-1923
Mrs. Susie Hunter	Miss Elizabeth Butts	2 Room	1923-1924
Mrs. Susie Hunter	Miss Elizabeth Butts	2 Room	1924-1925

These dedicated women taught in the period from 1907 to 1925, in a home and in "the Barcroft Community House" from the time a school was first authorized in Barcroft until the opening of the new brick school in 1925.\*



The Barcroft School, 1921. Callisthenics for Pupils.

It is known that five of these teachers, Mrs. Fairfax, Miss Handy, Eastlack, Miss Hancock and Mrs. Hunter, are now deceased. With the exception of Miss Dunavant, nothing has been learned of the remaining teachers after their service at Barcroft.

The Community House at Barcroft was never under county operation and was rented for use as a school. The School Board contracted for and appointed teachers, prescribing duties and curriculum and supervising educational procedures to be followed.

A large pot-bellied stove supplied warmth for the one big room of the school. It occupied the center of the room, its long pipe held by wires to the chimney at the back. Cut wood, paid for by the County, was supplied to the residents, but it was the teacher's job, in addition to teaching, to build the fire the morning and keep it going during the day. She was to see that the room kept clean and that the water-cooler was filled with fresh water from the well nearby house. She was also the policeman of the "Chick-Sale" outhouse, long, narrow, unheated building about 40 feet from the back door. It was divided in half, each side a three-holer, with a high board fence shielded doors from view. West end was for boys, east end for girls.

In periods of heavy snows, there were times when the teacher could not make it from home, so school did not open. There were stormy times when she could not go home. Then she was always a welcome guest in the family of one of her pupils.

The telephone came to Barcroft in 1917, with six customers on a line. That line was 819 F (2-3-4-5-6-7). The last numbers represent the number assigned to a customer and indicate the number of turns of the crank of the hanging phone, or bells to be heard for an individual family. One ring was "Central" for help in calling other lines. All parties on a line knew each other. #3 wanted #2 he simply rang twice and the rings would be heard by all parties on the line. Anyone on the line could pick up the receiver and join in conversation (or be told to get off!).

Fires were the most dreaded scourge of the rural area. The County had a system of control until volunteer groups were begun about 1921. In 1911 the community was most distressed when a large home beyond the Corbett was completely destroyed. So quickly did the old house burn that the fire lost everything. Clothing for adults and children, furniture and food assembled and the family remained in a small building beside the ruins. A beautiful stone-faced home of the Jeffersons was erected about 1921 on the site of the ruined home of the Shreve family. It later was known as the To Home of Mrs. Goldie Smith, which was recently demolished for the erection of townhouses on South Pershing Drive at Arlington Boulevard.

Early one morning in 1917 the young son of the new storekeeper Gemmel, arrived at the Handy home with a delivery, just as the phone rang with an urgent alarm! The old steam train had gone down about an hour before