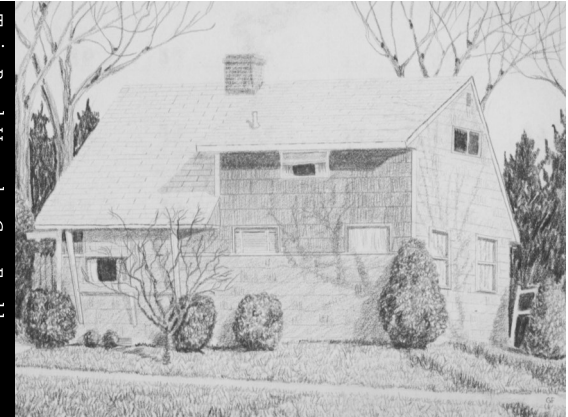


1954 Rockville City Map

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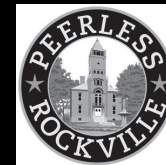
Twin-Brook Home by Gary Funkhouser



Tour of Early Twin-Brook

Highlights of Early Twin-Brook:

1. Section One of Twin-Brook, Model Home at 13209 Ardennes Avenue
2. "Famous Five" Twin-Brook Designs on Midway Avenue and Aleutian Avenue
3. Twin-Brook Elementary School
4. Twin-Brook Recreation Area
5. Twin-Brook Community Pool
6. Twin-Brook Shopping Mart



Preserving
Rockville's
Heritage

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A Community Grows at Twin-Brook

Twin-Brook exemplifies a typical post-WWII neighborhood developed in response to the unprecedented demand for housing after the war. Designed to appeal to returning war veterans and their families, the small homes were nestled on streets named to recall prominent military leaders and historic WWII battles. The affordable home designs adhered closely to the newly established VA loan regulations making home ownership possible for veterans. This formula was a huge success and homes were purchased as quickly as they were built. The development, originally named for the twin streams running through the property, was also popular with relocated federal office workers and the “Twin-Brook” home became an iconic example of modern suburban living.



From its start Twin-Brook was designed with community in mind and shortly after the first homes appeared plans began for neighborhood amenities such as a school, library, and shopping center. In 1953, Twin-Brook residents cooked, showered and watered their new lawns with water supplied from one of Rockville’s many wells. Water supply, a recurring concern in Rockville, created significant challenges for the residents of Twin-Brook and the existing city government. Consequently, water became a central issue. The community-minded citizens of Twin-Brook responded to this challenge by forming neighborhood groups and fighting for a more modern city government.

#1 Section One of Twin-Brook

The first Twin-Brook homes were built close to Veirs Mill Road, along streets honoring the battles of Okinawa, Coral Sea, St. Lo and Ardennes. By December 1948, the first 17 families had moved into Twin-Brook. The tract home pattern of Twin-Brook is most apparent in this initial section where all the homes were constructed from a singular Cape Cod design and were situated in tidy rows fronting the street. These two bedroom houses were marketed as “expandable” claiming to be “easily and economically made into three or four bedroom homes.”

#2 “Famous Five” Twin-Brook Homes

The iconic Twin-Brook style first appeared in section two, on the streets of Midway and Aleutian avenues. As early as August 1949, advertisements displayed five new models for buyers to choose from. Comparable in size to earlier Twin-Brook homes, each offered one and one half stories to be expanded as the family grew. The five asymmetrical designs featured large picture windows and low overhanging rooflines, but each home offered individual style with varying exterior colors and treatments.



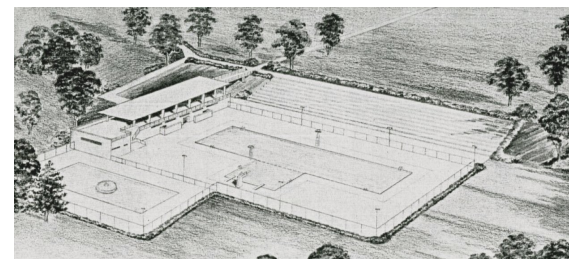
#3 Twin-Brook Elementary School

Growth of the original Twin-Brook development continued south and east, each section selling rapidly one after another and soon the neighborhood filled with young children. Section five was placed on the market in spring 1951.

This section contained 63 homes built to border the ten acres reserved for the new Twin-Brook Elementary School. The modern eight-room school opened in September 1952 for children in grades one to six. The following year a twelve-room addition was needed to accommodate the exploding population of school-aged children.

#4 Twin-Brook Recreation Area

The last two sections of Twin-Brook were constructed to the east near what is now Twin-Brook Parkway. In 1953, Twin-Brook Park was the only city-owned recreation area. A few years later, a pavilion and tennis courts were added.



#5 Twin-Brook Community Pool

Twin-Brook residents seeking to build a community pool shifted into high gear in spring 1955 when land originally planned for a church was purchased from the Washington Archdiocese. Committee members undertook a highly successful membership drive, raising enough funds to build an Olympic-sized pool. The highly anticipated pool opened September 1955.

#6 Twin-Brook Shopping Mart

Much to the delight of residents, a new A&P supermarket opened its doors at the Twin-Brook Shopping Mart in November 1955. Residents applauded the convenience of the new shopping center located within walking distance of their homes. Within a few years, the Shopping Mart also became home to the Twin-Brook Post Office, a drug store and the first Twin-Brook library.