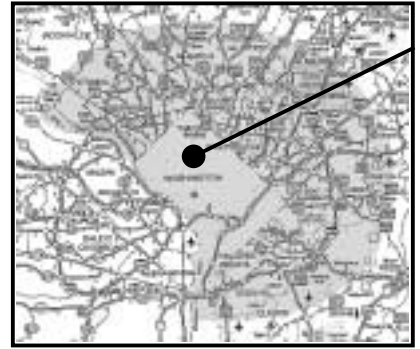


# COMMUNITY SUMMARY SHEET

**Community Name:** Colonial Village  
**City/County:** Washington D.C.  
**Transportation Association:** Automobile: Georgia Avenue



## Chronological/Development Periods:

- A.D. 1680-1815
  - A.D. 1815-1870
  - A.D. 1870-1930
  - A.D. 1930-Present
- specific dates (if known): 1931

## Residential Property Types:

- Unplanned Suburban Neighborhoods
- Planned Suburban Neighborhoods  
(developer planned / owner built)
- Planned Suburban Development  
(developer planned and built)

## Non-residential Property Types:

- Commercial and Industrial Properties
- Community Buildings
- Recreation/Conservation Areas
- Not Applicable

## Associated International/National Trends:

- early suburbs/Picturesque Movement
- Elite suburb planning
- Industrial town planning
- post-World War I
- WPA housing
- post-World War II

## Associated Local/Regional Trends:

- retreat for wealthy
- expanding industry
- returning veterans
- expanding government (post-Civil War)
- expanding government (post-WW II)
- expansion of existing communities
- association with transportation mode

## Narrative:

Colonial Village was developed in 1931 in the northern tip of the District of Columbia. The original housing stock (80 structures) imitated colonial-era homes, including George Washington's boyhood home. The developers like others of the time attached covenants to the deeds which limited the pool of potential residents. The covenants and the expense of these large houses kept the development homogeneously affluent and Caucasian until the enforcement of the 1948 Supreme Court decision against racially exclusive covenants (Smith 1988, 265). Colonial Village remains an affluent neighborhood with detached houses on large lots. The natural barrier of Rock Creek Park to the west combines with the curved street patterns and lack of thru streets to assure quiet and limited traffic (Ward 4 Notebook, 6).

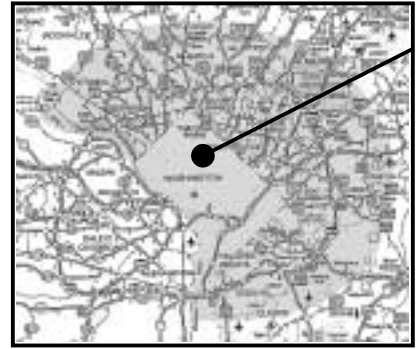
## Bibliography:

Government of the District of Columbia. 1981. "Ward 4 Notebook." Washington, D.C.: Comprehensive Plan Publications.

Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed. 1988. *Washington at Home. An Illustrated History of the Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital.* Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications.

# COMMUNITY SUMMARY SHEET

**Community Name:** Shepherd Park  
**City/County:** Washington, D.C.  
**Transportation Association:** Turnpike and Automobile:  
7th Street Road (Georgia Avenue)



## Chronological/Development Periods:

- A.D. 1680-1815
  - A.D. 1815-1870
  - A.D. 1870-1930
  - A.D. 1930-Present
- specific dates (if known): 1911

## Residential Property Types:

- Unplanned Suburban Neighborhoods
- Planned Suburban Neighborhoods  
developer planned / owner built)
- Planned Suburban Development  
(developer planned and built)

## Non-residential Property Types:

- Commercial and Industrial Properties
- Community Buildings
- Recreation/Conservation Areas

## Associated International/National Trends:

- early suburbs/Picturesque Movement
- Elite suburb planning
- Industrial town planning
- post-World War I
- WPA housing
- post-World War II

## Associated Local/Regional Trends:

- retreat for wealthy
- expanding industry
- returning veterans
- expanding government (post-Civil War)
- expanding government (post-WW II)
- expansion of existing communities
- association with transportation mode

## Narrative:

The neighborhood of Shepherd Park in the northern corner of the District of Columbia is bounded on the south by Aspen Street and includes the Walter Reed Army Hospital. The exact boundaries to the west and northwest, though, have been in contention from at least the 1930s (Smith, 265). Around 1924, 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Kalmia were described as part of Rock Creek Park Estates, which was one of the three major subdivisions in the area together with Shepherd Park proper (L. E. Breuninger's development) and Sixteenth Street Heights. In the 1980s the Shepherd Park Citizens' Association claimed the Census Tract 16 boundaries which included the subdivisions of Colonial Village and North Portal Estates which are west of 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

Settlement in the area began in 1730 with Crystal Springs (now Brightwood) which became a horse racing center from the early 1800s to the 1880s (Ward 4 Notebook, 2). When opened in 1819, the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Turnpike (now Georgia Avenue) became the main artery for race traffic, agricultural produce and other business between Washington, D.C. and Maryland through the nineteenth century. Starting in 1873 streetcars began traversing 7<sup>th</sup> Street Road from downtown Washington, but extended only to south of Brightwood. B & O's Metropolitan Line was too far east to be convenient to the area of Shepherd Park and did not contribute significantly to development there. The rural character of the area predominated until the early twentieth century. Gradually development followed 7<sup>th</sup> Street Road northward as the well-to-do from Washington established summer homes. One such politician was Alexander Robey Shepherd who built a summer home on a tract of land just west of Georgia Avenue in 1868. Shepherd was involved in the District's government, serving as governor of the Territory in 1873-74.

# COMMUNITY SUMMARY SHEET

Community Name: Shepherd Park

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## Narrative: (continued)

In 1911 investors bought much of the former Shepherd estate and L.E. Breuninger laid out the grid for Shepherd Park. Just to the southeast of this neighborhood, the U.S. Army had purchased land in 1909 and built a hospital, now known as the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The streets of the new development were named for various trees and flowers. The new houses of Shepherd Park were set within spacious lawns and featured Colonial and Tudor styles using red brick, stone or stucco. Lots were developed as they were purchased. The developers attached covenants to the deeds which sought to exclude African-Americans and Jews from settling in the neighborhood. For many years Shepherd Park was comprised only of middle class, Anglo-Saxon protestants. In 1917 the residents formed the Sixteenth Street Heights Citizens' Association (changed in the 1940s to the Shepherd Park Citizens' Association) to address road improvements and educational needs. However the population was inadequate to receive a school of its own until a temporary structure was built in 1928. The Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary School replaced the original temporary rooms four years later. In the same year the Marjorie Webster Junior College for women opened at 17<sup>th</sup> and Kalmia Streets. After this college closed in 1971, it was acquired by Gallaudet University and serves as a branch campus.

Not until the early 1940s did Shepherd Park experience much change in its demographics. German Jews first began moving up from the city into non-covenanted areas west of Rock Creek. Eastern European Jews who had also been moving out of the city since the early twentieth century began entering covenanted areas by living above their shops. After 1948 when the Supreme Court struck down the use of racially exclusive covenants, the Jewish population in Shepherd Park increased to about 80% by the 1960s. The businesses and religious buildings reflected the Jewish presence with kosher meat markets, delicatessens and synagogues (two Orthodox, one Conservative). Wealthy families in the area tended to move out of Shepherd Park's more modest housing stock into the larger, stylish houses of Colonial Village (1931) and North Portal Estates (developed by Jews in the early 1950s). The next demographic shift occurred as African-American families sought housing in the area. While they were excluded at first from western divisions such as Colonial Village, these families found that Shepherd Park residents tended to be more open to an integrated neighborhood. With the help of Neighbors, Inc., the Shepherd Park Citizens' Association resisted real estate speculators' attempts to manipulate housing value through racially-tinged scare tactics. Shepherd Park continues to enjoy a reputation for being a stable, integrated, and well-maintained neighborhood of single family detached and semi-detached houses.

## Bibliography:

Government of the District of Columbia. 1981. "Ward 4 Notebook." Washington, D.C.: Comprehensive Plan Publications.

Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed. 1988. *Washington at Home. An Illustrated History of the Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital.* Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications.