



The changing face of Takoma's "Main Street"

Last month the two vacant buildings on the 200 block of Carroll Street NW were finally demolished to make way for the new Ecco Park condominium development on Carroll at Maple. Their disappearance is a reminder of the changing face of the Carroll streetscape.

In the early days, sprawling homes shared Carroll with pharmacies and general stores. Gradually the houses fell victim to an expanding commercial district. Colonel Kniffin and Dr. Parsons, whose homes originally sat on the same 200 block of Carroll would be surprised to see their lots returned to residential living, albeit condos.



A few residents still remember when Fred Dudley's house (above) graced the land now given over to CVS. Fred was one of the early builders responsible for many of the Takoma Park houses. His home was leveled for a parking lot in 1970. CVS came 30 years later.



The storefronts along Carroll and Laurel may not have changed much over the years, but many residents have fond memories of Park Pharmacy, which closed when Doc. Fishbein retired in 1998.



This photo (above), taken from the fourth floor of the Herald and Review building, looks out on Eastern and Carroll in the 1940s. The bank in the center still stands (now Bank of America) but little else remains the same. Sligo Church now occupies the grassy triangle. The two buildings to the left are shown in the closeup below.



The Takoma Park Bank on Carroll Avenue near Maple (above) as it appeared in 1918. It was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the 10-story General Conference Building. This picture illustrates how residential and commercial existed side by side.

These photos are part of Historic Takoma's archives. We continue to collect photographs, particularly from more recent decades for inclusion in a history of Takoma Park, part of Arcadia Press' "Images of America" series. If you have photos to share, please contact us at www.historictakoma.com or 301-270-2831.