

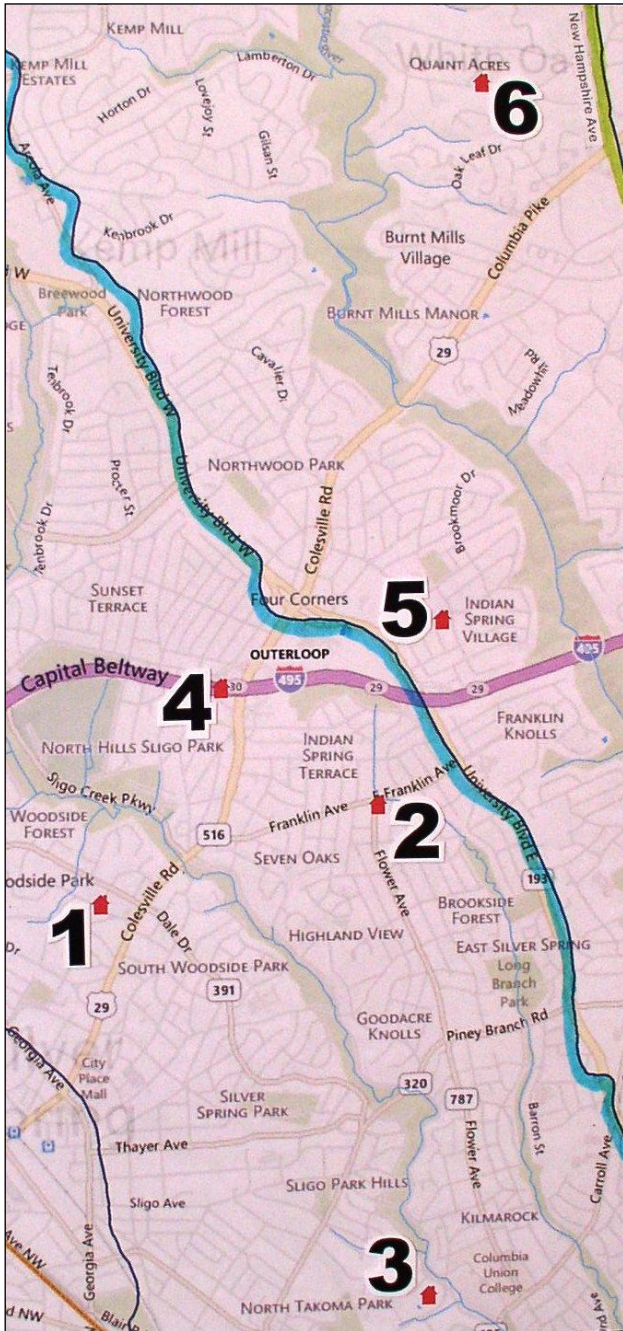
Rachel Carson Lived Here



4 March 2014:
the 50th anniversary-year of Carson's death

Friends of Sligo Creek remembers and honors a woman who lived here where we live; who watched and enjoyed nature here, as we do; who supported a household, commuting to a federal job until she was financially able to devote herself full-time to writing.

She was a lyric (and best-selling) nature writer who also became the pioneering author of ***Silent Spring*** (1962) and thereby a legendary forerunner of the environmental movement.



Rachel Carson lived here:

for about ten years
in the Sligo Creek watershed—

locations # 1 - 4

and then for about fifteen years
in the watershed of
the Northwest Branch
(of which Sligo is a tributary) —

locations # 5 - 6



Sligo Creek

*flows into the Northwest Branch,
which flows into the Anacostia River,
which flows into the Potomac River,
which flows into the Chesapeake Bay.*



1

904 Highland Drive
Silver Spring

Rachel Carson's first home
in the Sligo Creek watershed
1937-1939

*In the Woodside Park neighborhood
near Colesville Road (then just two lanes),
a rental home that gave good access to
workplaces in Baltimore, College Park,
and downtown Washington*



2014 PHOTO

2

9409 Flower Avenue
Silver Spring

Rachel Carson's second home
in the Sligo Creek watershed
1939-1942

*In the Seven Oaks neighborhood, across
University Blvd ~5 blocks from the current
Eastern Middle School—“a quieter house”
to rent, where her mother could garden
and she have a room apart for writing.*



2013 PHOTO

3

7724 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park

The *location* of Rachel Carson's
third home in the Sligo Creek
watershed: 1943-1945

*Now a 3-story condominium, this location at
the corner of Maple and Hilltop has the address
of the house Rachel Carson found to rent when
returning from a brief work-transfer to Chicago.*



2014 PHOTO

4

9713 Sutherland Road
Silver Spring

The *location* of Rachel Carson's
fourth home in the Sligo Creek
watershed: 1945-1949

*Wiped out by the construction of the Beltway,
the larger size of the rental home at this location
was near the upper edge of the North Hills
neighborhood (near Forest Glen Road).*



2014 PHOTOS

5

204 Williamsburg Drive
Silver Spring

Rachel Carson's first home
in the watershed of the
Northwest Branch mainstem
1949-1957

*In the Woodmoor neighborhood (across University
Blvd from the current Blair High School), this
rental home is located behind the Woodmoor
Shopping Center, which opened about
the time that the Carsons moved in.*



2013 PHOTO

6

11701 Berwick Road
Silver Spring

Rachel Carson's
own and
final home
1957-1964



2014 PHOTO

In the Quaint Acres neighborhood (across New Hampshire Avenue from the White Oak Library) and located just a short walk from the Northwest Branch, this is the home that Rachel Carson planned, had built on a 1.1-acre lot, and in which she lived until her death.

And summers in Maine



Her heart's best home was coastal Maine, particularly around Boothbay Harbor, where she went for as much of each summer as she could arrange, beginning in 1946.

In 1952, she bought land along the Sheepscot River and had built a cottage, "Silverledges."

Rachel Carson in Maine, 1960

from a photo by Erich Hartmann

Rachel Carson Lived Here

Sources

- The initial resource for street names and much other contextual material:

Lear, Linda. *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* (1997, 634 pp.; 2009, 2nd ed.)

- Additional detail was found via:

Beinecke Library [Yale University], Digital Collections. Accessed 10-23-2013

< <http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3535903> >

House number for Williamsburg Drive rental

Brooks, Paul. *The House of Life: Rachel Carson at Work* (1972, 350 pp.)

Gagné, Sally. *North Hills of Sligo Creek: History, People and Surroundings* (2003, 193 pp.)

Neighborhood of Sutherland Road

Oshel, Robert E. *Home Sites of Distinction: the History of Woodside Park* (1998, 308 pp.)

House number for Highland Drive rental

Pennsylvania College for Women, Alumnae Association. "The Alumnae Recorder," Fall 1946,
digitized by the Internet Archive, accessed 10-23-2013

< http://archive.org/stream/alumnaerec19461950penn/alumnaerec19461950penn_djvu.txt >

House numbers for Flower Avenue and Sutherland Road rentals

Bruce A. Sidwell, Takoma Park resident, with Rachel Carson Council and Historic Takoma

House number for Maple Avenue rental (724 originally; Takoma Park numeration later became four-digit)

- The map of portions of the Sligo Creek and Northwest Branch watersheds, showing the six locations where Rachel Carson lived, is kindness of Aubin Maynard of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).