

**Fairfax County History Commission
Monthly Meeting**

December 4, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Room 2/3
12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

The Fairfax County History Commission conducted a conducted an in-person meeting with some remote attendees on December 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:54 p.m.

Call to Order

1. Audibility of Members' Voices

Before proceeding, Chairperson Garvey-Hodge ensured mutual audibility for the Commission members attending online. Commission members joining virtually confirmed their audibility and location accordingly.

Attendance

Commissioners Present per Districts:

Lynne Garvey-Hodge, *Chair*
Esther McCullough, *Vice Chair*
Anne Stuntz, *Secretary*
Tammy Mannarino
Sue Kovach Shuman* **
Brian Heintz
Jordan Tannenbaum
Margo Coleman
Anne Barnes
Subhi Mehdi
Sallie Lyons

District:

At-Large
Sully
Hunter Mill
Mount Vernon
Providence
Braddock
Springfield
Mason
Mount Vernon
Dranesville
Mount Vernon

Commissioners Excused:

Gretchen Bulova
David Meyer

Commissioners Absent:

Elise Murray, Treasurer
Jenee Lindner
Cheryl-Ann Repetti

County Liaisons Present:

Stephanie Newman, Heritage Resources Branch, Department of Planning and Development;
Jenna Gilbert, Heritage Conservation Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority
Christopher Barbuschak, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library;

Staff Present:

Keisha Strand, History Commission Clerk

Special Guests Present:

None

**Joined virtually or by phone (voice-only)*

***Joined after roll call*

Welcome, Announcements, and Opening Business

Chair Announcements, Lynne Garvey-Hodge:

Chairperson Garvey-Hodge began the meeting with the following announcements:

- National Universal Rights Month,
 - 12/2-International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
 - 12/3-International Day for People with Disabilities
 - 12/10-International Human Rights Day
 - 12/20-International Human Solidarity Day
- “Fun Fact” from Commission Member, Tammy Mannarino, Jackson Miles Abbott
- Thank You’s & Summary of 2024/ELT Commitments, On-boarding & Future Vision
- Slate of proposed Officers, 2025
 - Chair - Gretchen Bulova
 - Vice Chair – Subhi Mehdi
 - Secretary – Tammy Mannarino
 - Treasure - Brian Heintz

Jordan Tannenbaum moved, and was seconded by Esther McCullough, that the History Commission approve the 2025 proposed officers slate. The motion passed unanimously.

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Minutes

The September 2024, October 2024 and November 2024 minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

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Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s report will be deferred until the next meeting.

There was a discussion among the commission regarding the significance of the minutes and treasurer reports being completed and approved in a timely manner for reporting and record keeping purposes.

Staff Reports

Heritage Resources Branch, Stephanie Newman:

- Stephanie Newman, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development, gave projects, program, and staff updates. See **Attachment 1** for the staff report. Dunn Loring School was discussed and Sue Kovach Shuman arrived virtually to the meeting having just attended an in-person community meeting regarding the replacement of the school. The Commission is interested to learn the Architecture Review Board's position on December 12.
- She reviewed VFOIA updates and submission of event notices, and the IF/THEN responses from the Office of the County Attorney, OCA.

There was a discussion between the commission on the IF/THEN responses. Commission members asked where they could appeal these interpretations of the law.

- ADA requirements for items needed on FCHC website; staff will assist with ensuring that documents posted will be in compliance if provided to staff in a timely manner.

Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB):

There was no update for the Archaeology and Collections Branch (ACB)

Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) and Resident Curator Program, Jenna Gilbert:

- Jenna Gilbert provided HCB project and program updates to the Commission on behalf of HCB staff. See **Attachment 2** for the staff report.
- Historic Sites Volunteer Corps is currently on winter break, will resume events in early spring of 2025.
- Resident Curator Program evaluation committee has selected the curator for the historic Ash Grove house. They are also accepting applications for Lahey Lost Valley, the deadline will be 30 days after the first application is submitted.
- Roof replacement is ongoing at Mount Gilead house, and preparations are in process for the demolition of the carriage house. **See Attachment 3**

Virginia Room, Christopher Barbuschak

- Christopher Barbuschak, Fairfax County Public Library, provided staffing, program, collection, and archive updates. See **Attachment 4** for the Virginia Room staff report.
- Officially launched the Family History Backpacks, they contain prompt cards, questions, a guide on how to do oral histories, and a recorder. The bags are in available in multiple languages, and there are already some on hold.
- Paul McCray will be giving a lecture on December 15, 2024, from 2pm – 3:30pm,

on the history of the W&OD Railroad.

- New photograph collection, courtesy of Carole L. Herrick, is available online.

Committee Reports

Budget and Inventory Committees

There was no update for the Budget or Inventory Committee

History Conference Committee:

There was no update for the History Conference Committee

Awards Committee:

There was no update for the Awards Committee

Advocacy Committee, Annual Report, and County Children's Project, Anne Stuntz:

- Anne Stuntz reviewed the draft of the children's project and coloring book with the Commission. **See Attachment 5.**

Ethnic and Oral History Committee, Esther McCullough:

- Esther McCullough updated the Commission that the Ethnic and Oral History Committee will be meeting will be December 17th at 7pm, at the Freeman Store and Museum in Vienna. The meeting will last about an hour the committee will be discussing the transitioning process of the committee in Esther's retirement from the commission.

There was a discussion among the commission about the Rosenwald School history.

Ft. Belvoir Committee, Tammy Mannarino:

- Tammy Mannarino updated the Commission that she was able to visit the Fort Belvoir archives and is still in the research process. They are going to have to approach Youngs Village without that information, but they are still moving forward with the naming of that housing project.

250th Commission, Tammy Mannarino:

- Tammy Mannarino shared about the Semi-Quincentennial event. See **Attachment 6** for report.
- State-wide commemoration of Lafayette's 2024 and 2025 visit.
- Upcoming conference in Williamsburg, VA in March 2025, for the 250th, called convening. The conference itself is free. Conference registration is open, but the lodge is

not yet open for reservations.

Architecture Review Board (ARB) Liaison:

There was no update for the Architecture Review Board (ARB)

Markers Committee:

There was no update for the Budget or Markers Committee

Onboarding Commission

- Chairperson Lynne Garvey-Hodge completed the flyers from the feedback provided by the commissioners. **See Attachment 7**

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Old/Unfinished Business

Update on AAHI Project, Updates from Mary Lipsey:

There was no update for the AAHI

New Business

- Chairperson Lynne Garvey-Hodge comments on the end of year updates and suggestions for continuing the work of the committee.
 - Ongoing communication with key stakeholders.
 - Experience attending the Board of Zoning Appeals public hearings. **See Attachment 8**
 - Increasing visibility in the community .
 - Conference planning.
 - Keeping up and continuing the Markers Committee.
 - Review of the Resolution in the Commission Member Book.

Announcements

- Chairperson Lynne Garvey-Hodge, this time on the commission has been the highlight of her life. She shared gratitude and thanks to the commission members and the staff over the years. In addition, she shared cowrie shells with the commission members as a token of remembrance of the purpose and mission of the commission. The cowrie shell was worn by Phylis Wheatley, an American poet who was a freed slave. It is a symbol of luck and prosperity.
- Sally Lyons is resigning from the History Commission and has enjoyed the past 20


years. Thanks to Lynne for running several things for so many years. In the next years or two things will be moving fast and so the commission members will need to stay on top of things.

- Esther McCullough, Thank you to everyone. The experience has been rewarding because she did not expect to be on the committee this long. She learned very quickly to get out there and get involved, and sought to find out where all the African American churches were. The research resulted in a brochure being created and distributed across the county. Teamwork is how things come together to make big impacts. It's important to always remember the purpose of this commission, which is history.
- Subhi Mehdi, thank you to Lynne, Sally, and Esther for all of their work and for the work they have done to leave the commission in good standing.

Lynne Garvey-Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Keisha Strand
Clerk, Fairfax County History Commission

_____  _____ Date: 4/17/2025

Anne Stuntz, Corresponding Secretary
Fairfax County History Commission

Attachments

- Attachment 1: DPD Branch Report December 2024
- Attachment 2: Heritage Conservation Branch Staff Report
- Attachment 3: Proposal for Mount Gilead Carriage House
- Attachment 4: Virginia Room Staff Report
- Attachment 5: Family Fun Activity Book Draft
- Attachment 6: 250th Semi-Quincentennial Report
- Attachment 7: Draft Onboarding Flyer
- Attachment 8: Letter to Board of Zoning Appeals for Sunnyside
- Attachment 9: VFOIA Guidance: If/Then

Attachment 1

December 04, 2024, History Commission Meeting
Department of Planning and Development/Heritage Resources Branch (DPD-HRB) Update
Stephanie Newman, History Commission Support Staff
Page 1 of 3

Ongoing Projects:

- **Black/African American Historical Marker Project:** The next marker installation is scheduled for April 5, 2025, at West Springfield High School, for the West Springfield 16. The marker was nominated by students from the Applied History Class taught by History Commissioner Brian Heintz! For more information visit: [Black/African American Historical Marker Project](#), or contact Stephanie Newman, Stephanie.Newman@fairfaxcounty.gov. Stay tuned for future updates.
- **Mid-Century Modern Countywide Survey:** A final draft of the survey report was distributed to History Commission members earlier in November, comments were due on Monday, Dec. 2. DPD-HRB staff are compiling comments for submission to VDHR; a final draft is anticipated in Spring 2025. For more information visit: [Midcentury Modern Historic Resource Survey | Planning Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#), or contact Laura Kviklys, laura.kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Gum Springs Heritage Resource Study:** Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG) is completing archival research and transcribing the oral histories conducted on October 16-17, to be included in the development of a draft historic context and survey report to be published in early 2025. CPG will begin a feasibility study of preservation planning tools for inclusion in the final management document. These tools will be presented to the community in October 2025. For more information on the project, or to sign up for newsletter updates, visit: [Gum Springs Heritage Resources Study | Planning Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#), or contact Laura Kviklys, laura.kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions.
- **Centreville Suburban Area Study, Historic Resource Survey and Outreach Project:** The architectural survey and data entry have been completed. Draft plan text for the Heritage Resources subsection is currently in development. The Architectural Review Board will be briefed on the study at its December 12, 2024, meeting. For more information on the study, please visit: [Plan Amendment 2022-III-BR1 | Planning Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#), or contact Laura Kviklys, laura.kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Updated Historic Overlay District (HOD) Design Guidelines:** Staff are compiling and reviewing the comments received over the summer through the public input process, in preparation to send requested revisions to the consultants for finalization of the documents. As a reminder, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) is preparing to adopt updated district-specific design guidelines documents for thirteen HODs, as well as a new county-wide General Design Guidelines document which will apply to all current

December 04, 2024, History Commission Meeting
Department of Planning and Development/Heritage Resources Branch (DPD-HRB) Update
Stephanie Newman, History Commission Support Staff
Page 2 of 3

and future HODs. For more information on the project and to view the documents, please visit: [Rewrite of the Historic Overlay District Design Guidelines | Planning Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). Any questions about the revised or new design guidelines documents should be sent to the ARB Administrator, Daniel White, at Daniel.white2@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- **Mount Gilead Carriage House:** FCPA has committed \$11,650 to contract Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. for professional services for the Mount Gilead Carriage House. The services include Historic American Building Survey (HABS) with photographs. All HABS work and documentation will follow the National Park Service (NPS) HABS documentation guidelines and standards to obtain archival photographs and history short form for submission to NPS for inclusion in the HABS database, which is hosted and maintained by the Library of Congress.

Current Development Cases:

- **Misión Evangélica, Sunnyside/DeBell House, (SP 2022-SU-00144, 6321 Old Centreville Road, Centreville), Sully District:** The BZA hearing is scheduled for December 4, 2024, at 9am in the Government Center Board Auditorium. Staff received Phase II level documentation which will be submitted to the Virginia Room. The applicant is proposing demolition of the house and has agreed to provide \$5,000 for a historical marker. The marker location will be determined and text developed in consultation with DPD-HRB and the History Commission. Contact Stephanie Newman, Stephanie.Newman@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions.
- **Dunn Loring Elementary School (RZ-2023-PR-00018), Providence District:** The application was presented to the Planning Commission at a public hearing on October 30, 2024 and was deferred for decision only until November 13, 2024. At the November 13 meeting, the Planning Commission deferred the case to allow the Fairfax County Public Schools to present the project to the Architectural Review Board on **December 12, 2024**. The case will be presented to the Planning Commission on January 15, 2025, for decision only. DPD-HRB Staff are requesting HABS large format photo documentation and a Phase II Intensive Level Documentation Report be completed prior to the demolition of the historic building; an interpretive exhibit about the Dunn Loring School to be installed inside the new school building prior to the opening of the new school, in collaboration with staff and the FCHC; and a wayside or historic marker be installed on the site, in collaboration with staff and the FCHC; and the preservation and conveyance of the PWA period plaque to the Virginia Room, prior to the demolition of the building. Contact Laura Kviklys, laura.kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions.

December 04, 2024, History Commission Meeting
Department of Planning and Development/Heritage Resources Branch (DPD-HRB) Update
Stephanie Newman, History Commission Support Staff
Page 3 of 3

Other Items

- **DPD-HRB Staff Work Request Forms:** In partnership with the Executive Leadership Team, DPD-HRB staff have developed a *Work Request Form* for requesting professional, non-administrative assistance from County staff. This form is intended to streamline the work request process from Committees. Please contact the FCHC Chair or reach out to [Laura Kviklys](#) or [Stephanie Newman](#) with any questions.
 - **DHR Cost Share Grant for Post-Modern Historic Context and Directed Survey:** DPD-HRB Staff were notified in mid-July that the Post-Modern Historic Context and Directed Survey has been funded through the DHR Cost Share Program. The project will include the development of a historic context for Post-Modern era resources in Fairfax County, a directed survey of pre-selected buildings, and the creation of a matrix to classify and rank the identified properties according to their historical and architectural significance. The Post-Modern Historic Context and Directed Survey will include resources constructed between 1970 and 1995. Contact Laura Kviklys, laura.kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions.
 - **DHR Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant - National Register Nomination and Historical Marker for Randall Estates Subdivision:** The consultants WJE, Inc, conducted the architectural survey fieldwork the week of November 11, 2024. In December 2024, WJE will complete VCRIS data entry and begin research and drafting text for the National Register nomination. Contact Stephanie Newman, Stephanie.Newman@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions.
 - **January History Commission Monthly Meeting:** To accommodate for the New Years Day holiday, the January History Commission meeting will be held on January 8th at 7:30pm.
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Attachment 2

**Heritage Conservation Branch
Resource Manage Division
History Commission Updates
December 4, 2024**

Historic Sites Volunteer Corps

- HSVC is currently on their winter recess and will resume events in early spring of 2025

Resident Curator Program Updates

- On November 19th, the RCP evaluation committee selected the curator for the historic Ash Grove house. For a meeting recording and additional information, including the curator's application package, please visit: engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/ash-grove. Next steps will be the preparation of the lease in accordance with the program's process.
- The RCP is accepting applications for Lahey Lost Valley. Once staff receives an application, a deadline for additional applications will be set for 30 calendar days following the date the initial application was received.
- Roof replacement work is ongoing at Mt. Gilead house. Preparations are in process for the demolition of the carriage house. A resident curator lease signing will be coordinated with the completion of these projects.

Attachment 3



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

November 8, 2024

Department of Planning and Zoning
Planning Division
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Re: Mount Gilead Carriage House

Dear Mr. White-

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) would like to advise the Architectural Review Board that FCPA is committing \$11,650 to contract Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. for professional services for the Mount Gilead Carriage House located at 5634 Mount Gilead Road in Centreville, Virginia. The services are including Historic American Building Survey (HABS) with photographs. All HABS work and documentation will follow the National Park Services (NPS) HABS documentation guidelines and standards to obtain archival photographs and history short form for submission to NPS for inclusion in the HABS database, which is hosted and maintained by the Library of Congress.

In addition, FCPA will forward a copy of the documentation with photos for your archives.

Please feel free to forward any questions to heather.lynych@fairfaxcounty.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Lynch'.

Heather Lynch, CCM
Project Coordinator
Park Development Division

CC: David Buchta, Branch Manager, Planning & Stewardship Division
Sarah Petroff, Heritage Conversationalist, Planning & Stewardship Division
Som Govender, Project Manager, Park Development Division



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY VA Relay 711.



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 300
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
703.641.4601 tel
www.wje.com

October 24, 2024

Sarah Petroff
Heritage Conservation Technician
Fairfax County Park Authority
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Proposal for Professional Services

Mount Gilead Carriage House HABS Documentation Rev 1
WJE No. 2024.1148

Dear Sarah:

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) is pleased to submit this proposal for Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation of the Mount Gilead Carriage House, located at 5634 Mount Gilead Road in Centreville, Virginia. Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has implemented a Resident Curator program, and the Mount Gilead House is one of its assets. The program allows for historic sites under the purview of the County to be occupied by individuals who qualify under this program and who agree to maintain and repair the property as needed within the guidance of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND BACKGROUND

WJE previously authored a historic structures report (HSR) of the main house, dated June 7, 2021. The Carriage House was not documented as part of that effort and was fenced off during our site visits and in a state of disrepair. From recent photographs provided by you, the condition has continued to deteriorate.

The Carriage House was constructed by Alvin Detwiler, who owned Mount Gilead from 1935 to 1937. During his ownership, Mr. Detwiler performed extensive restoration work at the Mount Gilead house and constructed the Carriage House. There is no current plan to repair the Carriage House. Based on the conditions, the FCPA would like the Carriage House documented prior to continued loss or eventual demolition. This proposal is being revised to remove the originally planned drawing portion of this proposal. The condition of the Carriage House is unsafe to allow for up-close measurements typically required to provide scaled drawings. This proposal now reflects photography and short form history only.



SCOPE OF SERVICES

Based on our review of documents received to date and our understanding of the projects, WJE will perform the following services related to the Mount Gilead Carriage House. All HABS work and documentation will follow the National Park Services HABS¹ documentation guidelines and standards to obtain archival photographs and history short form for submission to NPS for inclusion in the HABS database, which is hosted and maintained by the Library of Congress (LOC).

- **Task 1: HABS Photographs Site Work:** Leslie Schwartz, our subconsultant, will be on site for one day to photograph six (6) views of the Carriage House for the archival photograph documentation required by the HABS program. WJE will coordinate her site access with you to ensure the current tenant is aware of the work and Ms. Schwartz is apprised of the Carriage House's current condition.
- **Task 2: Short Form History and Photographs:** Information gathered from WJE's HSR on the Mount Gilead house will be utilized for context to author the short form history of the Carriage House. No additional research is anticipated. WJE will contact NPS to obtain a HABS number for the Carriage House to be utilized for submission and photograph labeling. WJE will provide the Park Authority with the HABS documentation as required by NPS for transmittal to the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP), who administers the program. This will include six (6) negatives of the HABS photographs. If desired, WJE can submit the documentation to the NPS HDP on Park Authority's behalf. All work performed for this project will be in accordance with the NPS's HABS Standards and Guidelines.

COMPENSATION

WJE proposes to perform the above-listed services for a lump sum fee of \$11,650. A full breakout by personnel and hours is noted in Table 1. Any additional services requested by Fairfax County will be performed in accordance with the fee schedule established by our contract with Fairfax County for Historic Preservation Consultation Services (Contract Number 4400012583).

Table 1. Lump Sum Fee Breakout

Personnel / Service	Rate	Hours	Total
Salary Costs			
Principal and Senior Project Manager	\$260	7	\$1,820
Deputy Project Manager and Senior Architectural Historian	\$223	26	\$5,798
Non-Salary Costs			
Architectural Photography			\$3,532
Printing Final Submission, Electronic Copies, and Delivery			\$500
	TOTAL		\$11,650

¹ This program has explicit requirements for the drawings and photographs documenting a structure. HABS standards require photographs on large sized negatives (4 inch x 5 inch or larger), in black and white archival format, and does not allow digital photography. Large-format photography requires a specialized camera to allow for large and high-resolution photographs to produce negatives with prints being on archival quality paper. HABS, enacted in 1933, was the first federal preservation program.



Sarah Petroff
Fairfax County Park Authority
October 24, 2024
Page 3

CLOSING

WJE is a comprehensive, technically focused firm of architects, conservators, engineers, and material scientists with expertise in the areas that will be serviced by this contract. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Reynolds".

Christine Reynolds, PE
Principal and Senior Project Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Wong".

Rebecca Wong, PMP
Deputy Project Manager and Senior Architectural
Historian

Attachment 4



**Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room
Staff Report to the Fairfax County History Commission**

December 2024

Family History Kit Backpacks

We have officially launched the Family History Backpacks as part of the Library of Things. Eight kits are now available (6 in English, 1 bilingual Spanish kit, and 1 bilingual Korean kit). Each kit contains a deck of cards with 70 question prompts designed to foster meaningful connections with family members; an instructional guide that will help you through each step of the interview, and a digital voice recorder.

Programs

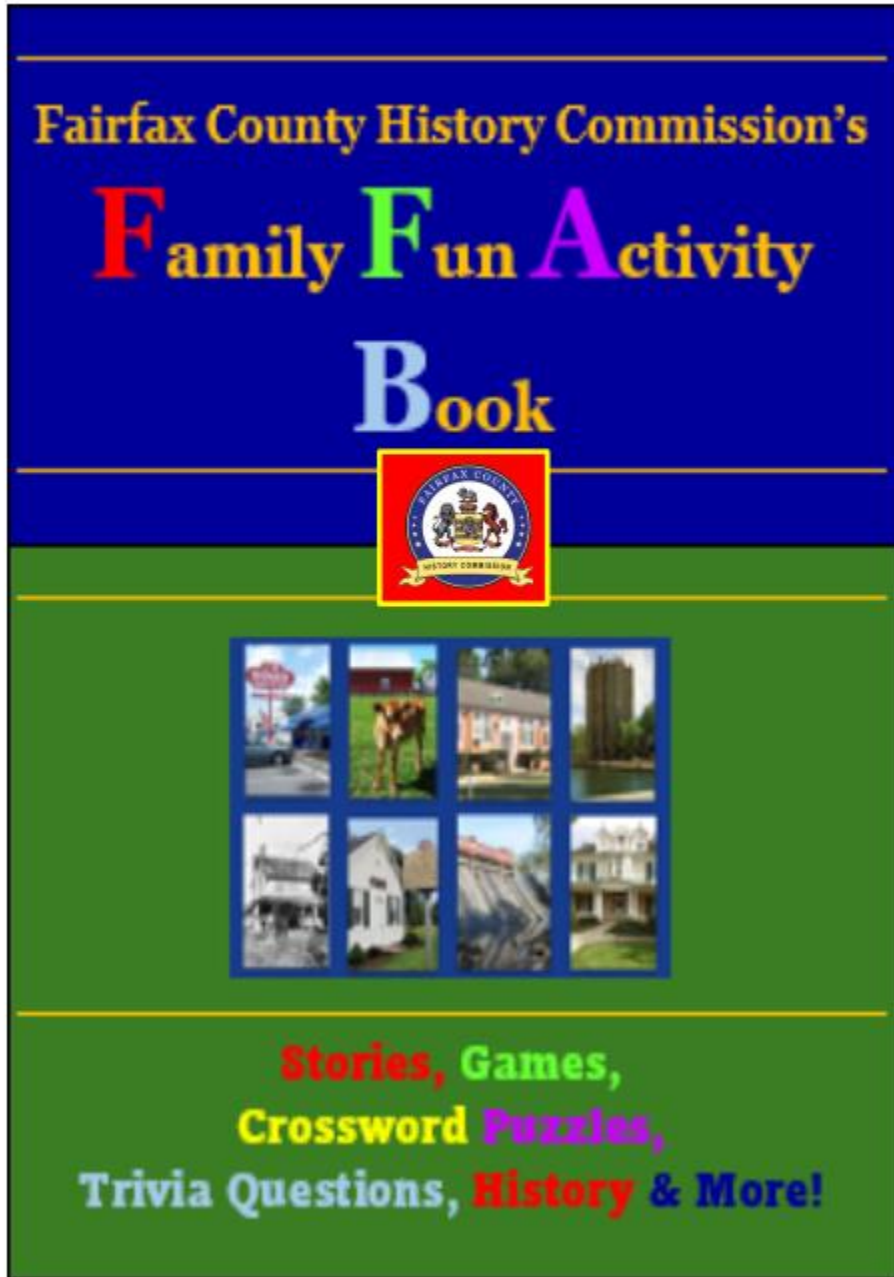
On December 15, Paul McCray of NOVA Parks will be giving a lecture on the history of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad. It will be from 2-3:30 p.m. in the library.

New Finding Aids Published

[Carole L. Herrick Photograph Collection](#)

This collection consists of 302 photographs spanning the years 2006-2012 featuring various historical sites and buildings in McLean and Great Falls, Virginia.

Attachment 5



Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Fairfax County, Virginia has a rich history, including the following events:

HISTORY & LOCATION.

In 1649, King Charles II granted the land that has become Fairfax County to Thomas Fairfax, the 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron. In 1742, the county was officially designated. Fairfax County is home to approximately 1.2 million residents, stretching over 406 square miles of land.

Foundation

In 1742, Fairfax County was established and named after Thomas, the Sixth Lord Fairfax, who received a land grant of five million acres from King Charles II. The county originally included what is now Loudoun County, Arlington County, and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church.

Early development

In the 1700s, the area was settled by farmers from eastern Virginia and Maryland. The county was home to tobacco plantations, and the church parish and county court controlled politics and daily life.

Revolutionary War

Fairfax County was in the middle of the Revolutionary War, and George Washington and George Mason, the father of the Bill of Rights, were among the county's most prominent citizens.

Civil War

The Battle of Fairfax County Courthouse was the first land battle of the Civil War, taking place in June 1861. Both Union and Confederate troops damaged the courthouse during the war.

Post-Civil War

The county began to rebuild its economy after the war and recovered substantially by the time Virginia was readmitted to the Union in 1870.

City of Fairfax

The Town of Providence was established in 1805 on land surrounding the new courthouse. In 1874, the town was officially renamed the Town of Fairfax, and in 1961, it was incorporated as the independent City of Fairfax.

Fairfax and Washington, D.C.

In 1904, a trolley line connected Fairfax County to Washington, D.C. Fairfax is now part of the Washington metropolitan area and Northern Virginia regions.

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Online Links to read more about Fairfax County's rich history:

- [1] <https://www.cfcc.org/fairfax/history/>
- [2] <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/historic-resources/city-history>
- [3] <https://www.historicfairfax.org/history/>
- [4] <https://www.kaleslaw.com/interesting-facts-about-fairfax-county-virginia/>
- [5] <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/historic-records-center/courthouse-history>
- [6] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax,_Virginia

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book



On the next three pages you will find pictures to color, paint or fill in with colored pencils!

You will also find is information about each picture:

*** Colvin Run Mill**

*** Pohick Church**

*** The Pope-Leighey House**

All ink sketches were completed by

Manuel Guerra Zdeinert, Artist

Mr. Zdeinert is an Illustrator and Digital Artist based out of Northern Virginia. His work is primarily devoted to backgrounds and cover art. His work has been in museums, advertisements, and books. Mr. Zdeinert currently works at a professional art supply store. Someday he would like to work on his own animations, music and murals on commission.

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Colvin Run Mill



Pen & Ink Sketch, Manuel Guerro Zdeinert

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORY

The path from the parking lot at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site leads to the porch of the General Store. This late 19th century building once stood across Colvin Run Road from the mill. Storekeeper Mark Cockrill stocked general merchandise for the Colvin Run farming community and mill patrons.

Examples of merchandise sold in the store from the 1890s to the 1940s are displayed on the tops of shelves and hang from the ceiling. The general store remains a mercantile establishment, selling grain ground at the mill, "penny" candy and sundries.

EXPLORE THE PARK'S BUILDINGS AND GARDEN

Near the general store are the barn and blacksmith shop, built in 1970 during a restoration. Inside the barn is a model of Colvin Run Mill, faithfully reproduced to 1/24 scale by a dedicated volunteer. Barn exhibits include the tools of farmers and tradespeople who lived in the area at the turn of the 20th century. Children love the hands-on history trunk with reproductions of items used at home, school and work.



Down a gravel path is the c. 1809 miller's house, home to the families who ran the mill. In 1883, Addison Millard moved his family here when he bought the old mill. Addison, his wife Emma, and some of their 20 children lived here. When Addison died, the family stayed and operated the mill until 1934.

There is a garden on the east side of the house. It's a nice place to sit, relax, and enjoy the calm of flowers for a few minutes.

Further down the gravel path is the mill. Nearby are the remains of a great white oak tree that fell during a summer storm. White oak was used for the framework of the mill, its axles, and the gear faces.

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book



The path to the mill parallels the mill race that carries water to the mill. Standing on the bridge that crosses the race, visitors can see the path of the water as it flows from the upper side of the flume and tumbles over the water wheel. The water emerges from Colvin

Run on the other side of Route 7 and flows through a tunnel beneath the road and into the park.

Burr stones line a hillside along the path near the mill. These premium grinding stones were imported from France and were a major investment for the miller. A good set of burr stones would last up to 100 years, sometimes outlasting the mill. These stones displayed at Colvin Run came from various sites.

ARCHAEOLOGY SUPPORTS FAITHFUL SITE INTERPRETATION

The walls of the c. 1811 mill are a combination of original and replacement brick. When the Park Authority acquired the mill, the wall on the waterwheel side was made of wood. Archeological investigation found that the original wall was made of brick and had collapsed. A new brick wall was built to replicate the original. Putlog holes in the mill's walls served as scaffolding supports during the original construction of the old mill and were recreated in the new wall as they occur in the other walls.

The overshot waterwheel was built of oak in 1970. It reproduces as faithfully as possible the original waterwheel that powered the machinery. The axle, made from a single white oak log, transmits power from the turning waterwheel into the mill. The greater face gear attached to the axle in the mill basement turns the wood gears that operate three sets of grinding stones, grain elevators and sifting machinery.

The nearby mill pond is home to ducks, geese and the occasional heron. At the farthest end of the pond, the mill race flows through a tunnel under Colvin Run Road and returns to Difficult Run.

See also: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/site-history>

10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Pohick Church



Pen & Ink Sketch, Manuel Guerro Zdeinert

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Pohick Church History

Colonial Origins



Rightly called “the Mother Church of Northern Virginia,” Pohick was the first permanent church in the colony to be established north of the Occoquan River, sometime prior to 1724. Originally called “**the Occoquan Church,**” it was soon referred to as “**Pohick Church**” because of its proximity to Pohick Creek. George Washington’s map of the area locates this long-lost wooden edifice near a site now occupied by [Cranford Methodist Church](#).



Baptismal font

The only artifact surviving from this period is the **baptismal font**, which experts from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford identified as a large Medieval mortar. Likely dating from the eleventh or twelfth centuries, its large size suggests that it was taken from a monastery kitchen in England. After the closure of the monasteries during the Reformation, many such articles were shipped to the colonies for liturgical use. This pattern probably explains how this ancient artifact came to be used as a baptismal font at the earlier Pohick Church.

Since its restoration in 1890, the font has continued to be used for baptisms to this very day.

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book



In 1732, the Virginia General Assembly established **Truro Parish**, defining it as all the lands in the colony above the Occoquan River, extending to the western frontier. As the only church within these boundaries, Pohick became the **Parish Church** of the newly formed district. Colonists residing within the parish soon elected twelve men to serve on the governing board known as the **Vestry**.

Shortly thereafter, vestryman **Augustine Washington** (father of George Washington) successfully sponsored the nomination of **Dr. Charles Green** to serve as the parish's first permanent minister, known as the **Rector**. The preserved **colonial Vestry Book** records this and other vestry deeds during this period.

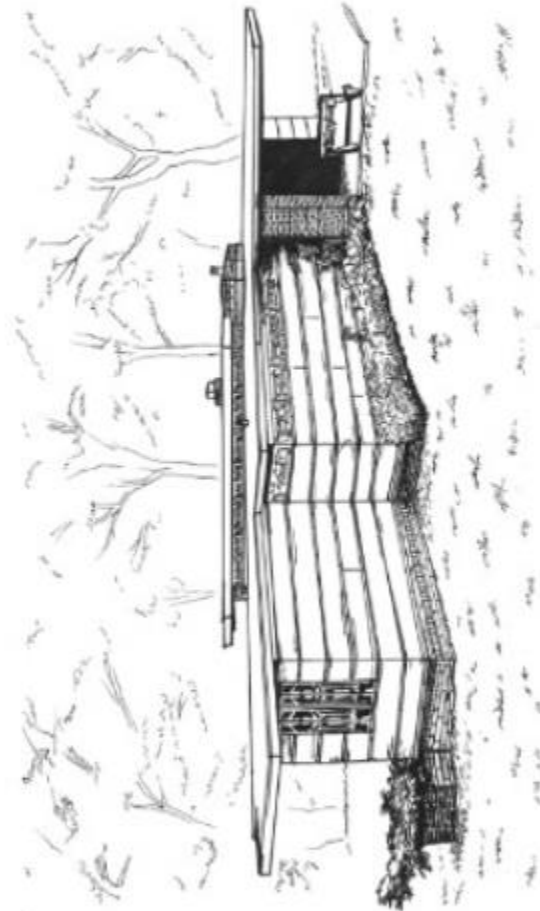
Over the next several decades, the Vestry and Rector provided for the spiritual welfare of not only those attending Pohick Church, but also colonists who were moving into the northern and western reaches of the parish. During this period, they built chapels and/or provided nearby worship services for these parishioners. These congregations and their houses of worship would eventually become known as **The Falls Church** (1733 & 1763, in the present-day city named after it), **Goose Creek Chapel** (1733/34, near present-day Leesburg; lost), **Rocky Run Church** (1745/46, in present-day Centreville; lost), **Christ Church** (1751, Alexandria; built by residents of Alexandria, serviced by Dr. Green) and **Payne's Church** (1766, in present-day Fairfax Station at the site of Jerusalem Baptist Church; destroyed in 1863).

See also: <https://pohick.org/the-history-of-pohick-church/#:~:text=Rightly%20called%20%E2%80%9Cthe%20Mother%20Church,its%20proximity%20to%20Pohick%20Creek.>

9301 Richmond Hwy, Lorton, VA 22079

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

The Pope-Leighey House



Pen & Ink Sketch, Manuel Guerra Zdeinert

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

The Pope-Leighey House History

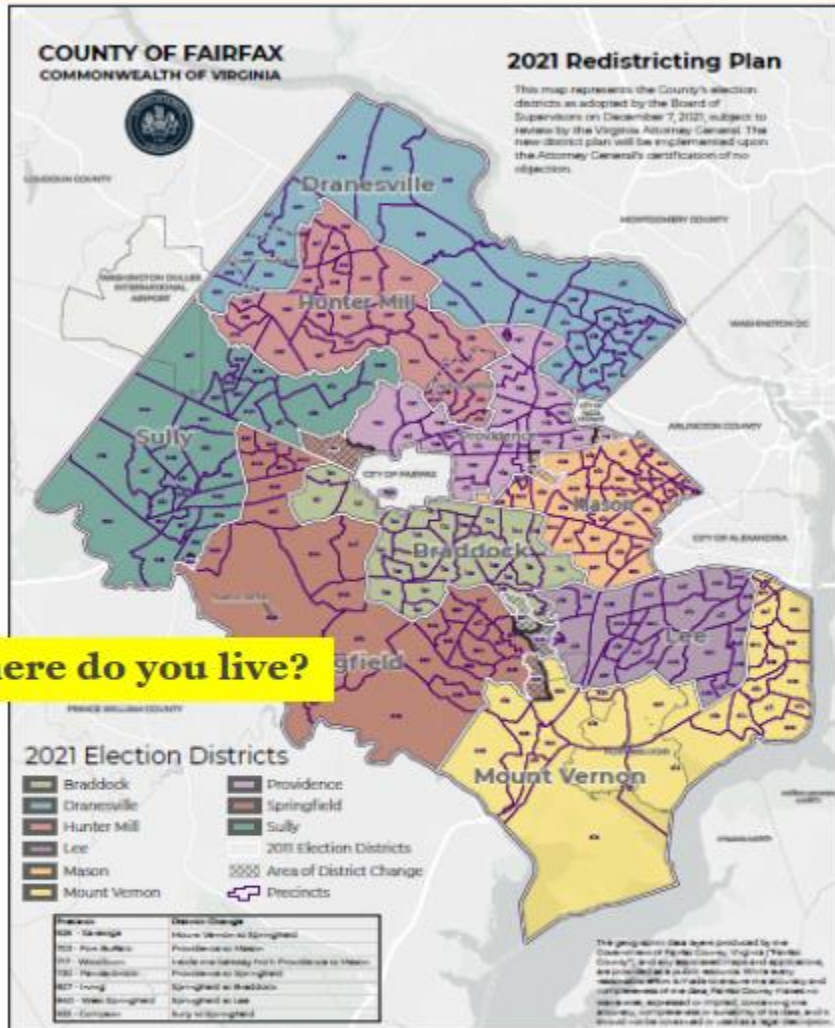
The **Pope-Leighey House**, is a Frank Lloyd Wright designed Usonian home. Built for the Pope family in 1940, the house artfully blends into the landscape. Its innovative design and natural materials create a unique space. The home expresses Wright's vision for beautiful, affordable housing. To save the house from demolition in 1965, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the home's second owner, Marjorie Leighey, moved it to Woodlawn. It is the only Wright house open to the public in the Washington, D.C. area

Pope-Leighey House The house built for journalist Loren Pope and his family. It is in the shape of the letter L. American architect Frank Loyd Wright designed the house and completed it in 1941. It has a flat roof, natural building materials cantilevered structure, and an integration of the outdoors with the indoors by using many glass features. It is one of the first Usonian houses that were small, single-story dwellings without a garage. The Pope family lived there for five years. They sold it to Robert and Marjorie Leighey. After the death of Mr. Leighey, it was moved because of the route of Interstate 66. It was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Today it is located at the Woodlawn Plantation in Alexandria, Virginia which was once part of George Washington's estate.

See Also: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/historic-overview>

9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book



Where do you live?

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/adopted-2021-redistricting-map>

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

**Can You Match the
Picture of Your District Supervisor with His/Her Name?
(see page 16 for their names)**



Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

**Can You Match the
Picture of Your District Supervisor with His/Her Name?**



Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

2024-2027 Board Members



- Chairman, At-Large - Jeffrey C. McKay
- Vice-Chairman, Sully - Kathy L. Smith
- Braddock - James R. Walkinshaw
- Dranesville - James N. Bierman, Jr.
- Franconia - Rodney L. Lusk
- Hunter Mill - Walter L. Alcorn
- Mason - Andres F. Jimenez
- Mount Vernon - Daniel G. Storck
- Providence - Dalia A. Palchik
- Springfield - Pat Herrity

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY?

Circle the correct answer.

When was Fairfax County created?

In 1742 In 1860 After the American Revolution

How many magisterial districts does the county have?

10 13 9

Lee District was renamed in 2022. What is the new name?

Sully Franconia Centreville

Which is NOT on the Fairfax County History Commission Inventory of Historic Sites?

Archaeological places Churches and bridges Vehicles and firetrucks

Which road served as a key passageway for both Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War?

Hunter Mill Lee Highway Old Courthouse Road

A Fairfax County History Commission roadside marker must include which of these?

Letters too small to read About 200 words Permission from VDOT

The Orange and Alexandria Railroad Trestle was built over which body of water?

Potomac River near Alexandria Accotink Creek Holmes Run

Which of these is oldest building?

Mount Vernon Gunston Hall Fairfax Courthouse

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Fairfax County Word Search

C	A	W	M	C	L	E	A	N	L	G
E	N	A	R	A	I	L	R	O	A	D
V	A	L	E	R	S	S	A	P	N	O
O	C	S	B	T	M	O	N	D	D	A
R	T	A	V	E	R	N	C	O	D	K
G	I	L	G	R	E	A	T	L	O	H
L	N	O	O	S	D	P	I	O	M	I
E	N	N	L	V	A	E	T	R	O	L
R	E	A	S	I	T	E	P	T	U	L
U	R	L	L	L	I	M	B	O	N	A
A	B	A	I	L	E	Y	S	N	T	H
L	U	T	H	E	R	S	E	N	I	P

FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY WORD SEARCH

How many words can you find? They can be up, down, backwards, across or diagonal.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| Cartersville | Luther | Railroad | LaurelGrove | Tavern |
| Baileys | Salona | OakHill | Ilda | Lorton |
| Mason | McLean | Log | Tinner | Mill |
| Depot | Mount | Great | Vale | Pines |
| Road | Gap | Site | Land | Law |

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Fairfax County, Virginia

Fairfax County, officially the **County of Fairfax**, is a county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. With a population of 1,150,309 as of the 2020 census,^[1] it is the most populous county in Virginia, the most populous jurisdiction in the Washington metropolitan area, and the most populous location in the Washington–Baltimore combined statistical area. The county seat is Fairfax; however, because it is an independent city under Virginia law, the city of Fairfax is not part of the county.^[2]

The county is part of the Northern Virginia region and forms part of the suburban ring of Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. The county is predominantly suburban with some urban and rural pockets. It borders Montgomery County, Maryland to its north, Falls Church, Alexandria, Arlington County, and Prince George's County, Maryland to its east, Charles County, Maryland to its southeast, Prince William County to its southwest, and Loudoun County to its northwest.

The county is home to the offices of the director of national intelligence in McLean and the headquarters of four U.S. intelligence agencies: the Central Intelligence Agency at the George Bush Center for Intelligence in Langley, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Springfield, the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, and the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean.

In academia, the county is home to the flagship campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, CIA University in Chantilly, Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis in Reston, and several Northern Virginia Community College campuses. In the private sector, ten of the *Fortune* 500 companies are headquartered in the county as of 2023.^[3]

As of 2020, Fairfax County's median household income of \$127,866 is the fifth-highest in the nation.

Excerpted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax_County,_Virginia

Fairfax County History Commission Family Fun Book

Please visit The Fairfax County History Commission at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/>



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Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Esther McCullough, Sue Kovatch Shuman, Advocacy Committee members

Attachment 6

History Commission
Semi quincentennial Report
December 4, 2024

Submitted by Gretchen Bulova, Committee Chair

State Commission

1. State-wide commemoration of Lafayette's 2024 and 2025 visit.

Fairfax County 250 Commission

1. The Commission still working on an "opt-in" list serve and newsletter.
2. Submitted a budget request to the County to support a "Signature Experience" vehicle that would travel to county festivals, events, and schools between September 2025 and July 2026.
3. Fairfax250 brochure is in process, for distribution in the county's libraries, rec centers, and related offices.

History Commission Committee

1. Have begun meeting regularly to support the Fairfax250 commemoration.
2. Met with Channel 16 to determine content, the collaboration process, and timeline for the series.
3. Will provide historical content for the "Signature Experience" as well as the FX250 newsletters.
4. The next meeting is planned for Dec 10 at 7 p.m. at the Government Center (Room 8).

Fairfax Resolves Distribution:

- Virginia Room – 10 copies (for archive and a few to hand out)
- Freeman Store & Museum – 10 copies to go with exhibit
- Sons of the American Revolution – 150 copies for registered participants
- Allison Wickens, Mount Vernon - 25 copies - for tour in Alexandria last night
- General Public at Market Square – approximately 300 copies
- Gadsby's Tavern for Fairfax Resolves Tour - 50
- Pohick Church - 25
- Fairfax 250 Commission Members - 10
- Fairfax Museum - 8
- Gunston Hall & Mount Vernon for Symposium – 150
- FCHC for August Meeting – 12
- Fairfax Museum – 25
- Historic Alexandria - 100
- FCPS, via Brian Heinz - 100
- HC History Conference - 150
- Supervisor offices – to be distributed

Attachment 7

Fairfax County History Commission's On-Boarding Program for new Commission Members

(Draft.12.2024)



The Fairfax County History Commission's 3-Phase Guidelines for an On-Boarding Program* Draft.12.2024

*As a new Commission member, you will be assigned a "Buddy";
 Please meet with your Buddy to review the History Commission's website,
 ask questions and become familiar with what we do within the first month of joining the Commission.
 Plan on meeting periodically with your "Buddy" when you have questions, concerns or have a new idea!

Phase I "Know Your World"	Phase II "Maneuver in Your World"	Phase III "Be in Your World"
<p>This introductory phase will provide you with Onboarding activity suggestions to help you better understand both your Magisterial District and aspects of the Commission's History, By-Laws, Processes & Procedures</p> <p><i>Within the first six months of your Commission Appointment, please complete any 4 - 5 of the following activities: (approx. 1 per month)</i></p> <p>(1) View "The Quilt Project, Celebration of the African American Experience" in Fairfax County, Virginia; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKjtrhEU_c</p> <p>(2) Read or Watch 1 - 2 recordings of past Annual History Conferences & or recorded meetings</p> <p>(3) Identify and review the FCHC Historic Markers within your Magisterial District</p> <p>(4) Research the names of early influential families and historic events within your Magisterial District (MD) [using Google is fine]</p> <p>(5) Research the names and history of the Historic properties within your Magisterial District</p> <p>(6) To better understand the late 19th - 20th c. farming communities that dotted our land, please watch "The Road to Happiness" c. 1924 - filmed in Fairfax County https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZnuoZftAc</p> <p>(7) Identify, understand & recognize the names of employees, functions & associated employees of the various Departments the FCHC interacts with. (ex: Heritage Resources, Heritage Conservation, Department of Planning and Development, Architectural Review Board, etc.)</p>	<p>Here are the tools, activities and resources that will deepen your understanding of serving successfully as a new Commission Member.</p> <p><i>Complete any 3 of the following within the first 6-12 months of joining the Commission: (approx. 1 every other month)</i></p> <p>(1) Review the By-Laws of the Commission & how we work: events throughout the year and how the DPD (Department of Planning & Development) supports us</p> <p>(2) Become aware of at least 3-5 focus areas with which the Commission involves itself (ex.: Inventory, Markers, Section 106, African American History Index, etc.)</p> <p>(3) Know the organizations with which the Commission relies in terms of Subject Matter Expertise; for instance: AAM (American Alliance of Museums), The National Register, NAPC (the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions), VDHR (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), etc.</p> <p>(4) Attend at least one webinar that any of these organizations offers that has appeal to you or applies to an event or project within your MD</p> <p>(5) Participate and ask questions during meetings &/or of your Buddy</p> <p>(6) Attend the Annual History Conference</p> <p>(7) Support the Advocacy Committee by working a table when we are present/participate at a county-sponsored gathering</p> <p>(8) Review the Commission's Policies and Procedures and understand how they work for you</p>	<p>To fully immerse you as a Commission member, continue to attend meetings, meet with your MD Supervisor and if possible meet with the prior History Commissioner. Become familiar with what they offered the community (that may include having conducted oral histories, wrote articles, books, gave lectures) and know what your constituents have become accustomed to.</p> <p><i>By the end of 9 mos. - 2 years find your comfort zone in terms of what is your most meaningful contribution to the Commission and your community by completing 3-4 of any of the following activities at your convenience.</i></p> <p>(1) Visit with your neighbors and friends to determine how you can best support their interests in history, preservation & education,</p> <p>(2) Attend the Annual Conference and consider being a presenter on a topic of your choice!</p> <p>(3) Pay attention to the projects supporting the 250th of our country and join in as you can/like.</p> <p>(4) Consider writing an article, book or provide a lecture on a topic of historic relevancy and interest</p> <p>(5) Offer assistance in the creation of the Annual Report</p> <p>(6) Ready yourself to be a "Buddy" to someone new to the Commission &/or be willing to take on the role of Chairing a Committee</p> <p>*These suggestions do not necessarily need to be completed in the order in which they are presented.</p>
<p>Consider which Committee you would like to join and visit at least 2 - 3 to see which most appeal to you</p>	<p>Have Fun!!</p>	<p>Have Fun!!</p>

Designed by Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Chairperson & Esther McCullough, Vice Chairperson, Fairfax County History Commission, 12.2024

Attachment 8



Fairfax County History Commission

10360 North Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2514
fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/



November 30, 2024

Karen L. Day, Chairman, Board of Zoning Appeals
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 801
Fairfax, VA 22035
RE: SP-2022-SU-00144

IN RE: Sunnyside, Centreville, Virginia

Dear Chairman Day:

On February 7, 2024, the Fairfax County History Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Zoning Appeals that the house known as Sunnyside be preserved in its present setting. We ask this for the following reasons:

- **Sunnyside is potentially eligible for the National Register despite being relocated.** In a HABS Phase II architectural review, Sunnyside was evaluated by Iron Dog Preservation to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture (Criterion C) and as an example of broad patterns in community planning and development in Fairfax County (Criterion A). Sunnyside is, in itself, a museum of architectural change and of the transformation of Fairfax County from a rural community built by hand to a suburban bedroom community defined by the automobile. Part of the lore of Sunnyside was that it was originally built as a log cabin, and the survey did indeed find evidence of a log structure in the house. What is surprising is that this “log pen” was an addition to the original timber-frame structure. Other buildings in the Centreville area constructed with pegged mortise and tenon timbers include Royal Oaks (now demolished), built sometime between 1765 and 1800. While the documentary history to date shows Sunnyside was built by the 1850s, it may in fact be much older.

It needs to be mentioned that relocating a property from its original location is usually a disqualifier for the Register. The architectural historian who conducted the survey found that Sunnyside merits inclusion both despite the relocation and because the relocation story is part of the broad patterns of the county history. This extraordinary finding further points to the significance of the Sunnyside house. The Comprehensive Plan recognizes “avoidance” is the best approach for properties that are eligible for the Register.

- **Sunnyside is locally significant as a focus of community identity and pride for Centreville.** It was surprising to discover that Sunnyside was not on the County Inventory of Historic Sites. The Inventory’s criteria for evaluating historical significance are very similar to those of the National Register but there is an additional criterion that is recognized by the Inventory and not the Register. Specifically, a site may be found to “represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the county that serves as a focus of community identity and pride.” Sunnyside is a local landmark in Centreville. It was the home of the DeBell family, most recently of Mildred DeBell. Mildred arrived in Centreville in 1938 and married Stuart DeBell in 1940. The DeBell family has lived in and around the Centreville area since the late 1700s and in Sunnyside since the 1870s. Mildred became the family archivist, organizing and expanding their collection of items that reflect the county’s history as well as the DeBell family. Mildred was a Centreville civic celebrity, she helped to establish local businesses and organizations, supported the Historic Centreville Society, and regularly exhibited her collection of memorabilia at Centreville Day. Mildred’s

sense of pride in her community and family made her and her home, famously moved in 1968 to its present location, a focus of community identity and pride.

- **The History Commission's Historic Marker program is not a substitute for physical preservation.** The History Commission recognizes and appreciates the HABS survey report that was produced for Sunnyside. The report however, had a limited purpose to determine eligibility for the Register. It is not a comprehensive record of the history of Sunnyside, as the author notes: "Some questions remain unanswered, and more research could be done by further studying the building itself, particularly the framing that currently remains out of view, and doing additional documentary research." The Commission similarly appreciates the stipulation that a historical marker be placed at the site. But we are alarmed at the extent to which the Commission's marker program has become a sad substitute for physical historical preservation in this and so many other cases. The Commission did not establish the marker program to be a consolation prize when we lose historic buildings. To posit that reports and markers are appropriate substitutions for the preservation of historic buildings and sites is analogous to giving a cookbook and photograph of a meal to a starving man.

In their report, Iron Dog Preservation observes that, "County staff need to weigh any historic value of the property against the desire of the new owners and other land use and zoning concerns." The Commission appreciates the effort the Heritage staff made to arrange the HABS survey, to investigate relocation, and to develop mitigation, but staff does not have the power to weigh the competing desires of private owners against the historic value of Sunnyside to the larger community. The Board of Zoning Appeals does, however, at least in this case. The Commission urges that the Board to follow staff's ideal recommendation and the treatment consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, that Sunnyside be preserved in situ.

Thank you.

All good things,

Lynne Garvey-Hodge

Chairperson, Fairfax County History Commission
Historian I, At-Large Commissioner &
Annual Conference & Awards Chairperson
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/events>
PO Box 110, Clifton, Virginia 20124, cp - (703) 862-5154

*"We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will perish together as fools."
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Cc:
Clerk of the Board of Zoning Appeals
Jeff McKay, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Kathy Smith, Sully District Supervisor
Denice Dressel, Chief, Heritage Resources Branch, DPD
Laura Kviklys, FCHC Liaison, DPD
Stephanie Newman, FCHC Liaison, DPD
Branden McCadden

Attachment 9

General Guidance: Avoid discussing or mentioning the History Commission in any capacity whenever more than two History Commission members are present unless the meeting has been noticed per VFOIA requirements.

If all the following are true:

- The purpose of the event is not to transact public business of the History Commission
- Attendees of the event are not attending as History Commission members
- Attendees do not discuss public business amongst themselves or in the presence of each other

Then the event is not a public meeting, and it does not need to be noticed. If at any time one or more of these qualifiers change, the event becomes a public meeting and is a violation of VFOIA if not noticed.

Examples situations:

Example 1: Three members of the History Commission attend a Board of Supervisors meeting to present the History Commission Annual Report. The meeting has been noticed by Board of Supervisors' staff but has not been noticed as a History Commission meeting.

Is this a VFOIA violation? Yes

Why: Any time more than two members of the History Commission convene in an official capacity and discuss History Commission business, the meeting must be noticed as a History Commission meeting.

Example 2: Three members of the History Commission attend a Supervisor's annual dinner. Each member is attending as a member of the public and they do not discuss History Commission business among themselves. The meeting has not been noticed as a public meeting.

Is this a VFOIA violation? No

Why: The individuals are members of the History Commission but are not attending the event in that capacity and they are not discussing History Commission business.

Example 3: Two members of the History Commission are attending a wedding, at which the bride is also a History Commission member. The two attendees are attending as friends of the bride. At some point, one of the Commissioners gives a toast and thanks the bride for her help on a matter that had previously come before the History Commission. Since the event is private, it has not been noticed as a public meeting.

Is this a VFOIA violation? Yes

Why: While the purpose of the event was not to transact public business and attendees acted in the capacity of friends/members of the public, one of the History Commission members introduced public business in the presence of two other History Commission members.

Example 4: Three History Commission members attend a Supervisor's annual dinner at which each member is expected to stand and give a report of their work on the History Commission. The dinner is invitation-only and had not been noticed as a public meeting. The History Commission members do not discuss History Commission business further amongst themselves.

Is this a VFOIA violation? Yes

Why: A History Commission member is reporting on past History Commission business to an audience that includes two other History Commission members.

Example 5: Two History Commission members represent the History Commission on the Fairfax County 250th Committee. A third History Commission member is also on the 250th Committee but is there in the capacity of a community representative, not a History Commission member. The 250th Committee holds a meeting and all three History Commission members are in attendance. One of the members representing the History Commission reports out to the group on History Commission business. The meeting has been noticed as a 250th Committee meeting but not as a History Commission meeting.

Is this a VFOIA violation? Yes

Why? There are three History Commission members at the meeting and one is reporting out to an audience that includes two other History Commission members. It does not matter whether the third commission member is representing the History Commission.