

# Historic Contexts

Gum Springs  
Heritage  
Resource Study  
2024

## Historic Preservation Information Series



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

## Department of Planning and Development, Heritage Resources Branch

### Historic Contexts

Historic contexts describe themes in the history of a geographic area, within a certain time period, through which a property's importance can be evaluated. For a property to be considered significant, it must be identified with an important theme of the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture of an area.

### Historic Themes

Historic themes are a way of organizing events based on common elements such as environment, social or ethnic communities, or technological developments, that have influenced a geographical area's development during a specific period. At a national level, historical themes are typically broad, such as aviation, Civil Rights, or labor history. At the local level, historic themes are more specific.

### Local Historic Contexts

Local historic contexts represent an aspect of the history of a town, city, county, region, or cultural area. In Fairfax County, for example, Post-WWII Suburban Development, and African American Churches are two themes that properties could be evaluated under. Regardless of the scale, historic contexts establish the framework through which decisions about the significance of a property can be made.



Post- WWII Suburban House  
Holmes Run Acres Historic District



Bethlehem Baptist Church, Historic Site

Questions? Please contact Laura  
Kviklys, Senior Preservation Planner,  
Laura.Kviklys@fairfaxcounty.gov,  
703-324-6321, for more information

Scan the QR code or visit,  
<https://bit.ly/44EiXli> to learn  
more.

