



Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
*"Fare Fac - Say Do"*

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# The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2003

## Why Plan for Historic Preservation?

Excerpted from  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
[www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/toolbox/planning.html](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/toolbox/planning.html)

Historic properties have a way of disappearing. They quietly fall prey to demolition, neglect, or renovations that alter them beyond recognition. Building by building, site by site, the evidence of a community's heritage can gradually be lost through private and public action or inaction, taking with it much of the community's character, individuality, and vitality.

Like any limited resource, historic properties need careful planning and management to ensure their survival for current and future generations. They are subject to the complex pressures and issues of modern society, and often their preservation appears to be at odds with the immediate needs for affordable housing, economic revitalization, employment, education, and so on.

Remarkably, though, the preservation of our heritage is not a mere luxury. It actually helps combat the very problems that plague our communities by stabilizing neighborhoods, providing affordable housing,

lowering crime, stimulating private investment, bringing people and businesses back downtown, attracting tourists, and strengthening community pride.

There are numerous ways a community can work to preserve its historic properties. A few include: a historic preservation ordinance or resolution, zoning, demolition moratoria, downtown revitalization programs, local economic incentives, promoting the federal rehabilitation tax credit (especially in combination with the low-income housing tax credit), and public education programs. The best approach is to use a combination of tools, specially chosen and integrated to suit local needs.

Again, this means planning.

### What is a Historic Preservation Plan?

A historic preservation plan is a statement of the community's goals for its historic properties and the actions it will take to reach those goals. It is most effective when it is a component of a community's master plan and is coordinated with other policies for housing, economic development, transportation, et cetera. Communities that do not have a master plan, or that will not be revising it soon, can create a separate historic preservation plan to serve in the interim.

The plan at its best, however, is more than a written document. It should be a continuous process that brings together citizens and interest groups and helps them identify where their diverse goals complement



**Why Plan... - continued from pg. 1**

historic preservation and how they can work together to preserve their local heritage.

Historic preservation planning should include these factors:

- **The history and historic properties of the community.** In order to plan for historic properties, a community must identify them first. A thorough and up-to-date survey of historic properties is critical. Keep in mind that your community's history is found not only in architectural centerpieces, but in middle and working class neighborhoods, modest commercial rows, industrial structures, farm buildings, bridges, landscapes, and in the often-hidden archaeological value of unassuming structures and vacant land.
- **A map and address list** should be developed of known historic properties from surveys, local historic districts and landmarks, and the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Rehabilitation Tax Credit** computerized log: This log lists all the development projects in Ohio which successfully used the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit. It contains property names, addresses, developers, owners, project costs, and the use of the property before and after rehabilitation—all of which can be searched by county, region, or the entire state and used for marketing local historic properties.

**What Can I Do?**

- **Work with your local government to plan carefully for the future of the places which are evidence of your community's heritage.** If you have a historic preservation plan, make sure it is up-to-date and is being implemented.
- **Establish local historic preservation legislation.** Protect your historic resources

through an ordinance or resolution, or make sure the existing legislation is adequate and that the properties that need protection have indeed been designated as historic.

- **Examine local zoning.** Make sure the zoning for historic areas encourages their survival, rather than their replacement with parking lots or commercial strips.
- **Document your community's historic properties.** Work with your local historical society, preservation organization, or other citizen groups to conduct surveys or develop National Register nominations.
- **Encourage your local government to participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.** As a Certified Local Government, your community will be eligible to apply for federal matching grant funds for planning and other preservation activities.



## **FAIRFAX FAST FACT:**

Did know that the original main airport in Dallas, Texas, Love Field, was named in honor of 1st Lt. Moss Lee Love of the Town of Fairfax. Lt. Love was killed September 4, 1913 in a "Wright" bi-plane aircraft accident in San Diego, California. It was once the custom of the US Army Air Service to name their airfields in honor of pilots who were killed in the line of duty.

Moss Love was the son of James Monroe and Maria Weaver Love. The Love home stood in the vicinity of where Courthouse Plaza Shopping Center stands today.



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## From the Desk of the President-

Fairfax, Virginia, January 2003-

Dear Friends,

As the President of Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (HFCI) I'd like to welcome you all to the first issue of our newsletter this year. And that's exactly what we would like this to be – a letter full of news for your information and enjoyment. Many thanks to our Editor, Page Johnson who has worked very hard to put it together.

This is an exciting time for HFCI. Our Board is working on several projects which will further our mission of preservation in the City of Fairfax. It seems like our historical researchers are uncovering new (old) information about our founding fathers every day.

Our latest "find" is the Ratcliffe Cemetery located on Moore Street in Fairfax. There is good evidence that Richard Ratcliffe, the founding Father of Fairfax, may be buried there along with many of his ancestors. The Museum and Visitors Center will be opening its doors on April 5<sup>th</sup> to a wonderful renovation and new exhibit thanks to the efforts of all of you who contributed so generously over the years to make this happen. A wonderful master plan for the Blenheim Estate has been submitted for approval and we are looking forward to beginning the work on the first stage so that the rich history of the civil war can be experienced by people all over the United States. I'm hoping all of you will come to the Civil War Days event on May 3-4 at Blenheim. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historic Homes Tour on April 26<sup>th</sup> will feature 5 privately owned historic homes and two historic homes in Fairfax City.

Our Board is always interested in hearing from our members, as it's your support and input that keeps HFCI going. Please feel free to call me or any of our Board members if you have any questions or suggestions. If you're not already a member, I hope you will take the opportunity to fill out the membership form and join us in our efforts. Join us at our regular Board meetings, which are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at City Hall.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be involved with historic preservation and heritage tourism. Your support in 2003 will help us preserve and promote the City's rich history for future generations. We welcome citizen input and I encourage you to share with us your vision and ideas for future projects. Feel free to call or e-mail me at 703 591 5305 or [hilcarn31@aol.com](mailto:hilcarn31@aol.com).

Thank you again for your support and hope to see you at the events around the City.

Best regards,

Hildie Carney,  
President, HFCI

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## KEY DATES

March 23, 2003 Fairfax County Historical Society  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
Cabell's Mill  
Centreville, VA

April 5, 2003 Re-opening of Renovated Museum  
Fairfax, VA

April 26, 2003 Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
Historic Homes Tour

May 3-4, 2003 Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
Civil War Days  
*Blenheim*, Fairfax, VA

May 22, 2003 HFCI General Meeting  
Old Town Hall  
Fairfax, VA

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**Visit us on the web:**

<http://www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Host/hfci/index.htm>



## THE HISTORY OF THE POWELL-KRASNOW & FULLER-MACKALL HOUSES

by William Page Johnson, II

The land occupied by the two dwellings now known as the *Powell-Krasnow* and *Fuller-Mackall* houses was originally patented more than 250 years ago. In 1742 John Gladdin received a grant of 300 acres from Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax. Although this parcel would remain undivided for the next one hundred years, the deed record suggest that there were two farms in operation here from the beginning. On his death in 1749 John Gladdin made the following bequest:

*"I give and bequeath unto Sarah Nelson, my God daughter, three hundred acres being two plantations on it lying upon the Attinct[sic]."*

Sarah Nelson, daughter of Ann Nelson, was a minor when she died without an heir sometime before 1762. On her death the property "escheated" or reverted to the crown. In 1762, William Gladdin, the brother of John Gladdin, applied for and received a *deed of escheat* from the state for 355 acres. He immediately sold the land that same year to John Askins. Over the next four decades the property changed hands several times. Most notably to Augustine J. Smith, a contemporary and friend of George Washington. Smith in turn sold the land to Joseph Powell, Sr. about 1790.

Until Joseph Powell, Sr. acquired the land all previous owners of the property, with the possible exception of John Askins, were thought to be absentee owners. William and John Gladdin had patent lands elsewhere in Fairfax County and the Colony of North Carolina as well. Augustine J. Smith was a resident of Westmoreland County, Virginia and had extensive land holdings all over Virginia. Joseph Powell, Sr. was the first owner to have significant local ties. He was a Fairfax County Deputy Sheriff from 1783 to 1787. He regularly conducted business at the Fairfax County Courthouse. Serving as a Juror, witnessing documents, appraising estates, etc.... The architectural details of the *Powell-Krasnow* indicate the house was constructed c. 1790. This date correlates with the ownership of Joseph Powell and suggests that he was the builder of the house.

When Joseph Powell died in 1803 the land passed to his son Joseph Powell, Jr. The younger Powell was also active locally. He was a Lt. in the local Virginia Militia. He served as Commissioner of the Revenue for Fairfax County from 1809 until his death in 1815. On his death the property passed to his children with the reservation of a life estate for his wife Susannah. When Susannah Powell died in 1825 her daughter and son-in-law, Lucinda O. & Albourn A. Saunders began to reassemble the original homestead from the various Powell heirs. Over the next several decades Albourn and Lucinda Saunders resided on the farm.

In the spring of 1844 two men, Hiram Fuller, age 24 and Jared Mead, age 32, moved to Fairfax County from Greenwich, Connecticut with their families. Their arrival coincided with a great migration of northern families, primarily from New York, into Fairfax County. Fuller and Mead were first cousins. Hiram and his wife Lydia (Hall) Fuller had just one child. Jared and his wife Hannah (Gilbert) Mead had four children. In January 1844 they had purchased the *Powell Farm* from Albourn & Lucinda (Powell) Saunders. On arriving in Virginia the two men immediately established a Grist and Saw Mill, presumably along the banks of either Daniel's Run or Accotink Creek. They were very successful in this venture selling milled lumber locally and planking to Fairfax County for use on the public road. The growth of the Fuller and Mead families probably prompted them to divide the farm. This was done in 1845. Hiram Fuller received 167 acres, the land on which the *Fuller-Mackall House* now stands, while Jared Mead received 167 acres, land where the *Powell/Krasnow House* stood.

The architecture of the *Fuller-Mackall House* seems to suggest that it was constructed at about this time (c. 1850) and there is evidence from the deed record to substantiate an earlier date. It is possible that Hiram Fuller is responsible for the construction of this rather substantial house. It is equally possible that the present home rests on the foundations of an earlier structure.

In his brief time in Fairfax County, Hiram Fuller accomplished much. He rapidly became a wealthy man and a pillar of the community. As an educated man he was, in 1846, appointed a Fairfax County School Commissioner, precursor of our modern School Board. He was a member of the Providence Literary Society.





Aside from the Mill operation with his cousin, Hiram also established the first newspaper in Fairfax County in 1849. He named his paper simply *The Fairfax County News*. The paper was located in a building on Main Street in downtown Fairfax. The early issues of this paper do not survive as the building and most of the contents were consumed by a tremendous fire in 1850. The printing press survived however and Hiram continued to publish his paper until his untimely death in 1851 at the age of 31. Hiram Fuller's Will indicates a substantial estate with many, many books and magazines. Interestingly, the paper started by Fuller not only survived him, it thrived. Eventually, the name was changed to the *Fairfax Herald*, which continued in publication until 1973.

In his Will Hiram Fuller ordered that his property be sold and the proceed used for the benefit of his widow and children. Accordingly, in 1852, Lydia Fuller sold their farm to a John Magee. However, with this sale the deed record now included, for the first time, a 1/8 acre reservation for a graveyard. From this I draw the conclusion that Hiram Fuller was buried in this graveyard. This small-unmarked cemetery still stands along Pickett Road opposite the *Fuller-Mackall House*.

Jared and Hannah Mead also sold their farm in 1852 after the tragedy of Hiram's death. The two parcels then had a succession of speculative owners until the end of the Civil War. In 1866 the *Fuller-Mackall House* and 167 acres were sold to a German immigrant, Charles W. Schuerman, then residing in Washington, D.C. That same year the *Powell-Krasnow House* and 167 acres were sold to Elizabeth R. Posey "formerly of Jefferson County, Illinois and temporarily of Washington City." Elizabeth was married to Middleton Posey. The Posey Farm, as it came to be known, was clearly listed on the 1874 Hopkins Map of Providence District, Fairfax County. The Posey's most likely used the farm as a temporary summer residence as they continued to maintain residence in Washington. By 1883 Middleton & Elizabeth Posey were both dead. Their estate was settled in a lawsuit brought on behalf of their two minor daughters. A Trustee was appointed by the Fairfax County Court who determined that it would not be possible or practical for the estate to continue to be maintained until the girls came of age. Consequently, and estate sale was ordered by the Court. The only

willing buyer was Martha M. (Donohoe) Schuerman, widow of Charles W. Schuerman. She purchased the entire parcel in August 1883. Thus, nearly all of the original 300 acre land patent was reassembled.

The Schuerman family continued to occupy the farm until 1920 when the *Fuller-Krasnow House* and approximately 40 acres were sold to Archie & Elizabeth Donohoe. The Donohoe's in turn sold this property to Shelly Krasnow in 1943. The Schuerman family eventually sold to Charles Pickett, a Fairfax Attorney, the *Fuller-Mackall House* and an unspecified amount of land. Charles Pickett was President of the Fairfax County Historical Society in 1959. He was the stepfather of the recent owners, brothers Henry & Douglas Mackall.

Present day Pickett Road is an extremely old route joining Little River Turnpike (Main Street) and the Falls Church Road (Lee Highway). It bisected the original grant and serviced the two farms. Early in the 20th century it was known as Schuerman Lane. The name was changed in the 1950's to Pickett Road.

The two parcels were recently sold to the Stanley Martin Company who plans to build 90+ homes valued at \$750K. The good news is *The Fuller-Mackall House* is to be preserved and is presently undergoing restoration. Unfortunately, *The Powell-Krasnow House* was demolished due to the considerable alterations made to the original structure over time. However, the timber frame skeleton was disassembled and is stored in the City property yard for later use.



The Fuller-Mackall House December 2002



## WHAT'S NEW IN OLD FAIRFAX

The Fuller-Mackall House (aka Mackall House) c. 1850 located on knoll overlooking Pickett Road is currently undergoing renovation. The house, which was threatened by development, is now being preserved by the developer. This tangible piece of Fairfax history has been saved largely through the efforts of a small group concerned HFCI board members and private citizens who successfully lobbied the City of Fairfax Council during the summer of 2001. Another historic structure on the site, the Powell-Krasnow House c. 1790, was documented but demolished due to the considerable alteration made to the original structure. Its timber frame skeleton, however, was disassembled and is stored in the City property yard for later use. The preservation efforts in this new neighborhood appear to have been so successful that one of the main streets within the new community will be called Preservation Drive.

A remnant of the unfinished Manassas Gap Railroad Right of Way located at 10649 Main Street (Higginbotham Property) is currently under potential threat from a proposed condominium development. The Manassas Gap Railway was organized in 1850 and was to have run from Alexandria to Gainesville. Construction of the line began in 1853. With an original right-of-way width of 120 ft., the line entered the City of Fairfax from the present day Mantua neighborhood, running parallel to Little River Turnpike (Main Street) just to the north. It continued into downtown Fairfax with North Street being the right-of-way. From North Street the MGRR passed behind the Court House and continued out of the City in a southwesterly direction. In addition to the Higginbotham site, remnants of the old railroad bed and embankment can be seen clearly seen in the City cemetery and throughout the Westmore neighborhood. It is hoped that the entire original right of way can be preserved. During preliminary discussions with City Planner David Hudson, the builder has expressed a willingness to preserve the embankment.

The Ratcliffe Cemetery is possibly to be acquired by the City of Fairfax through condemnation proceedings. Located on Moore Street in Fairfax, the Ratcliffe Cemetery is the probable burial location of the founding father of Fairfax, Richard Ratcliffe.

### Advertisements

**NOTICE.**  
—o—  
**JAMES W. TAYLOR,**  
**UNDERTAKER**  
FAIRFAX, VA.  
—o—  
Having an up-to-date Hearse and a first-class ICE-BOX, am prepared to fill all orders at shortest notice and reasonable rates.  
—o—  
Also Superintendent of Fairfax Cemetery.  
Sep 4

**R. R. FARR,**  
**Attorney at Law,**  
**AND SURVEYOR OF LAND,**  
FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, VA.  
Office over Hawxhurst's Store.

**ELISHA E. MEREDITH,**  
**Attorney at Law,**  
**AND NOTARY PUBLIC,**  
Will practice in the Courts of PRINCE WILLIAM, and the adjoining counties.  
Residence, Brentsville.

**Editor Notes:** James W. Taylor operated his business out of the Sisson House now owned by the City of Fairfax. Taylor was Town Councilman (1900-1904).

Richard Ratcliffe Farr operated his business out of Job Hawxhurst's Store which was located on the SE cor. of Main St. and Chain Bridge Road. R.R. Farr built Five Chimney's (Main St.). He was a confederate soldier; Mbr. Va. Hse. Delegates (1879-1882); State Superintendent of Schools (1882-1885); US Marshall (1886). Farrcroft subdivision is named for his family.

E.E. Meredith was a Virginia State Senator (1883-1887). Meredith Drive (Christ Lutheran Church) was named in his honor.



### 1860 Population Statistics Town of Fairfax

	Count	%	AvgAge	Oldest
Males	198	50.51%	21.75	71
Females	<u>194</u>	49.49%	23.68	77
	392		22.71	
Adults (21+)	178	45.41%	37.98	
Children (21-)	<u>214</u>	54.59%	10.00	
	392			
Males Adults	88	22.45%	35.35	
Female Adults	<u>98</u>	25.00%	37.23	
	186			
Male Children	110	28.06%	10.86	
Female Children	<u>96</u>	24.49%	9.84	
	206			
Free White	384	97.97%	22.83	
Free Black	5	1.27%	10.00	
Free Mulatto	<u>3</u>	.76%	28.67	
	392			

### Birth Locations of Residents

Location	Count	%
District of Columbia	13	3.32%
Georgia	1	.26%
Kentucky	1	.26%
Maryland	8	2.04%
Massachusetts	5	1.27%
Mississippi	1	.26%
New Hampshire	1	.26%
New York	26	6.63%
Pennsylvania	8	2.04%
Vermont	3	.76%
Virginia	314	80.10%
England	2	.51%
Germany	1	.26%
Ireland	<u>8</u>	2.04%
Total	392	100.00%
North	64	16.33%
South	317	80.87%
Foreign	<u>11</u>	2.80%
Total	392	100.00%

### HFCI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL

*HISTORIC FAIRFAX CITY, INC. is a non-profit  
corporation (501©(3) organization)*

#### Membership Classifications:

- Class A Individual .....\$25.00
- Class A-1 Additional Household Member .....\$10.00
- Class B-1 Non-profit Organizations .....\$35.00
- Class B-2 For profit Organizations .....\$50.00

Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership application  
and check made out to Historic Fairfax City Inc. for:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Historic Fairfax City, Inc.,  
Attention: Membership Committee  
10209 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030

### Quote-worthy

**"You can fool all the people some of the time, and  
some of the people all the time, but you cannot  
fool all the people all the time!"**

**- A. Lincoln**

*"Committed to Excellence"*

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.  
Hildie Carney, President  
10209 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030



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Editor: William Page Johnson, II

**E-mail:** [historicfairfax@aol.com](mailto:historicfairfax@aol.com)  
**Website:** [www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Host/hfci/index.htm](http://www.ci.fairfax.va.us/Host/hfci/index.htm)



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