



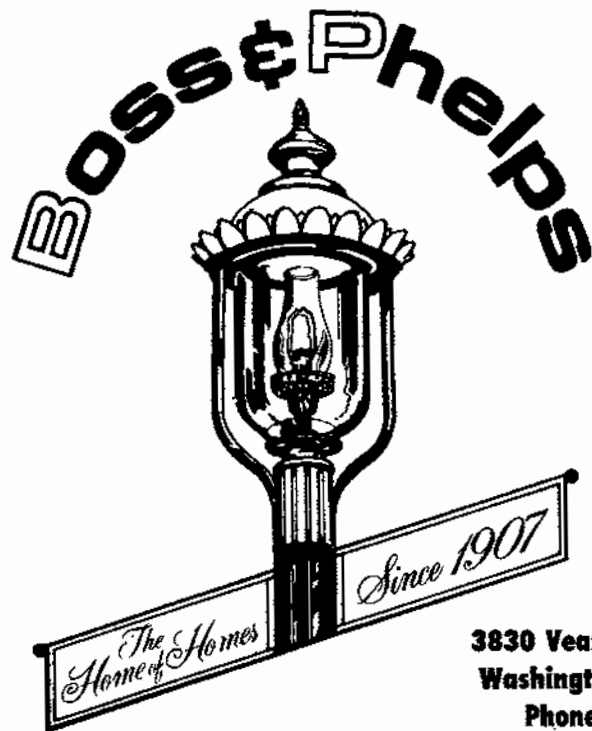
Foxhall Community at Half Century

A Fond Look Backwards

by Richard Conn

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of

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Introduction

The following pages contain a record of our past as a neighborhood and an Association. We have invested considerable effort in this publication with the hope that it will be a constant reminder of our heritage, and an encouragement to our continued work at making our community a better place in which to live.

This historical booklet is dedicated to all those who have cared enough to give freely of their time and talents over the past fifty years. Their collective efforts have shaped the Association, and set a foundation on which we can continue to build.

This booklet is our way of saying "thank you" to the founders, and those constant supporters of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association.

A final word of appreciation is due to all those who have helped with the 50th Anniversary Celebration on September 23, 1979—the House Tour, the Block Party and this Historical Booklet. Without the financial help of our advertisers, and without the tireless efforts of Dick Conn who wrote and managed the production of this booklet, the celebrations would have been much less significant.

I trust you will find the following pages of interest and value, and that when the third Wednesday of each month rolls around you will join your neighbors at the Hardy Recreation Center for our regular meeting of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association as it enters its second half-century of service.

Paul E. Smith, President

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Q Street
Foxhall Village
Winter, 1979

Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

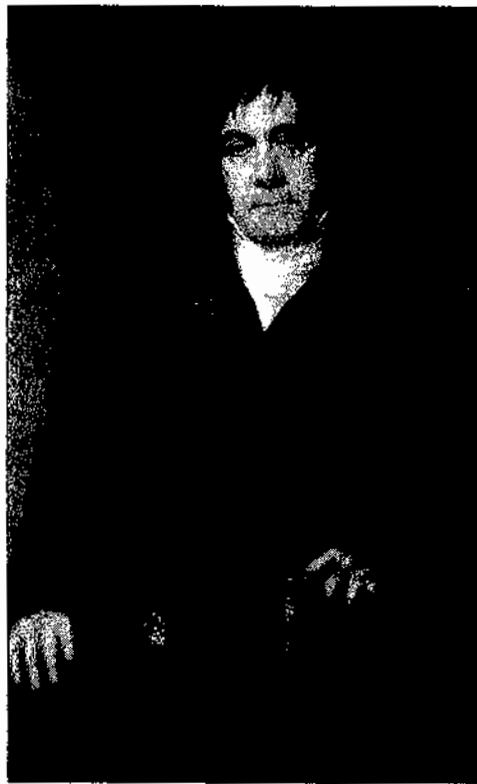
From the Mists of the Past

It was in the mid-1920's that local builder Harry K. Boss returned to Washington, D.C. from a visit to England, filled with bright ideas for a new and different grouping of homes based on the English Tudor style which had so caught his fancy.

Mr. Boss, of the construction firm of Boss and Phelps, was determined that the stucco houses he envisioned would be as English as those in the ancient British town of Bath, and that his homes' brick and half timbers would be architectural kinsmen of their ancestors in the English town of Tewkesbury.

Together with Washington architect James E. Cooper, Boss came up with designs for a whole group of homes of Tudor architecture which were different from one another, yet managed to blend together harmoniously.

The first homes were constructed along Reservoir Road and Greenwich Parkway. By the end of December, 1927, some 150 homes had been erected, and the community given the name of Foxhall Village.



Columbia Historical Society

Henry Foxall

In a sense, the origins of Foxhall Village may be traced back nearly two centuries when an English gentleman by the name of Henry Foxall established an iron foundry and private home in the area where the Village is now located. (Somewhere in the mists of history an "h" was added to Mr. Foxall's name—obviously after his death in 1824.)

Henry Foxall was a prosperous citizen of Philadelphia when he was prevailed upon to move to the new Federal City by his good friend, Thomas Jefferson. Thus it was in 1799 that Foxall built a cannon factory at the mouth of Deep Branch, afterward known as Foundry Branch, in what we now call Glover-Archbold Park, opposite the Three Sisters islands in the Potomac River. A few years later, Foxall purchased Spring Hill Farm from General James Lingan who, in turn, had inherited it from his father-in-law, Richard Henderson.

The Spring Hill Farm home was located in the area now bounded by P Street, 44th Street and Foxhall Road. It remained the country home of the Foxall descendants until about 1910, and was torn down sometime before 1920. The

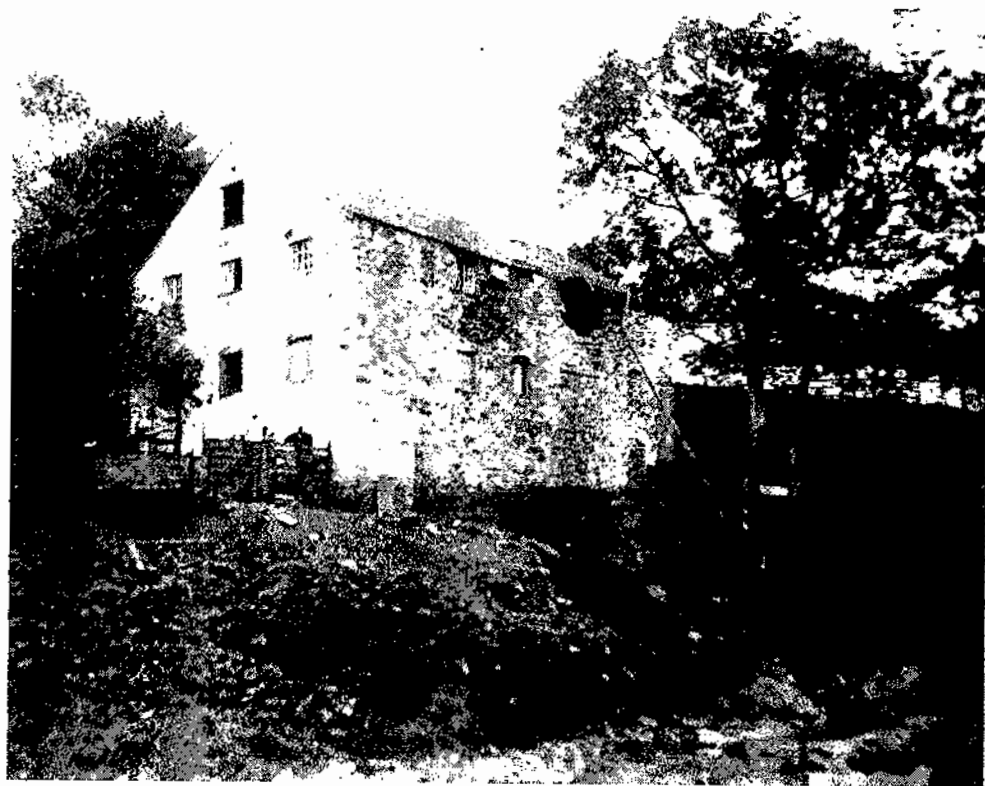
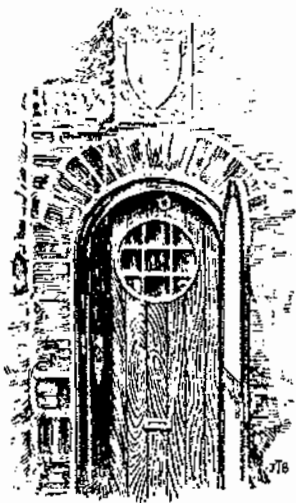


The Spring Hill Farm home of Henry Foxall.

house at 4435 P Street contains foundation stones and floor joists from the ruins of the original Foxall home.

It is said that Presidents Jefferson, Madison and Monroe took pleasure in frequently escaping the muggy Washington summers by riding out to the country for long, lazy visits with Henry Foxall. Over cooling drinks, they would sit on the upper porch of the house and enjoy the grand spectacle of the pallsades of the Potomac.

It was from the porch of Spring Hill



Columbia Historical Society

The Foxall Foundry, later known as the Columbian Foundry, was located on the banks of the Potomac, opposite the Three Sisters islands. Some of its ruins were still visible in 1910.

in 1814 that young Elbridge Gerry, son of James Monroe's Vice President, stood and gazed at the river and later wrote:

"We had a most elegant prospect, the most elegant I ever beheld. The Potomac was seen with all its windings for some distance. In the center of one part, an island owned by Mr. Mason, on which a handsome house was seen, diversified the view."

It was in Henry Foxall's nearby foundry that the great cannon were man-

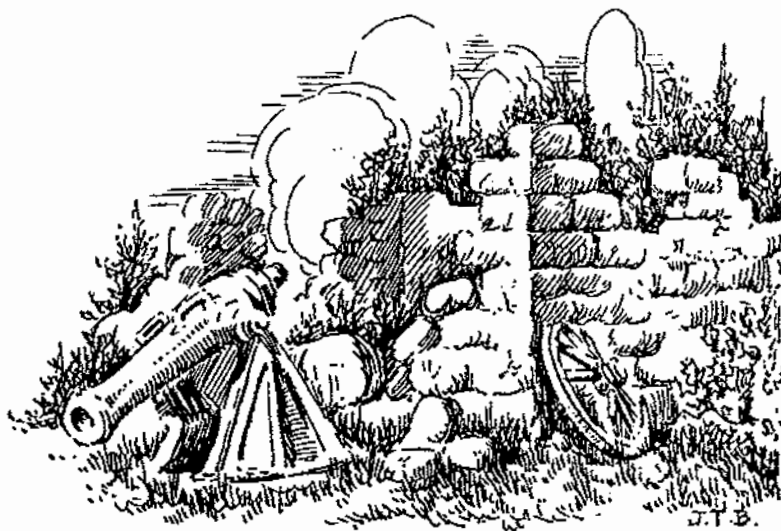
ufactured which were laboriously hauled by oxen over the hills to Lake Erie where they were successfully employed by Commodore Perry in the famous battle of Lake Erie in September, 1813.

Around a year later, after the British had burned the Capitol and the White House, they next headed for the Foxall foundry which they knew had been supplying arms to the American forces, intending to destroy it. A sudden violent thunderstorm, however, deflected the

British from their target.

In a gesture of thanksgiving, Henry Foxall erected a church at 14th and G Streets in the Federal City. Later the congregation established a handsome gray stone edifice at 1500 16th Street, N.W.—known today as the Foundry Methodist Church.

It is a little ironic, then, that Harry K. Boss chose the English Tudor style for the homes to be built on land that once nearly felt the boots of English invaders.



In the Beginning

The first residences completed on Reservoir Road were offered for sale in October, 1925. Construction of homes on Greenwich Parkway began about the same time, then continued down the street to 4405 which was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Hall. Mrs. Hall still resides there. Another one of the first owners was the architect, himself, James S. Cooper. He lived at 4447 Greenwich Parkway.

The next area of construction was Surrey Lane, running north and south between Greenwich Parkway and Q Street. The houses on Q Street were built in 1928, and in the fall of that year construction began on the first group of homes on 44th Street. These were the five homes stretching north on 44th from Greenwich Parkway to Reservoir.

In 1929, at the request of the burgeoning community citizens association, Boss and Phelps set aside an area facing on Foxhall Road, between Greenwich Parkway and Q Street, for several businesses. The architecture and site were approved by the Architect's Advisory Council,



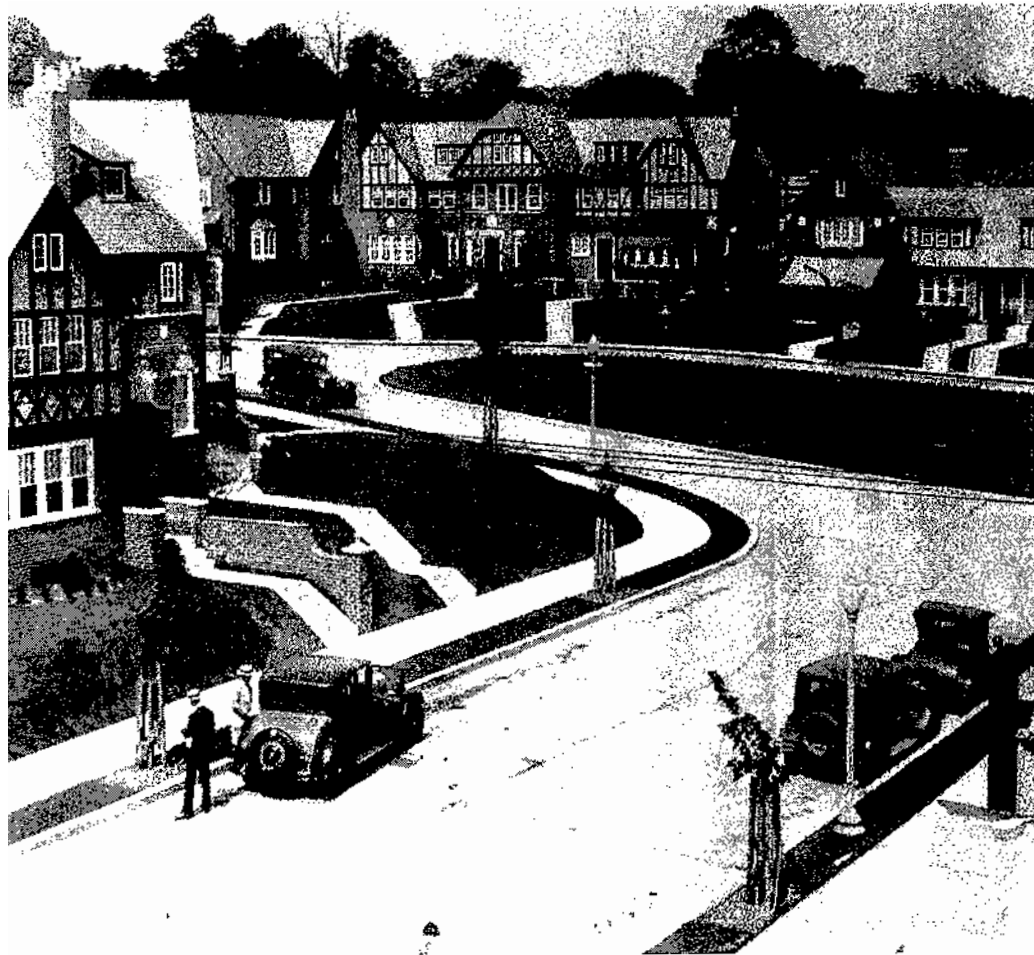
The houses on 44th Street at Greenwich Parkway are pictured under construction.

composed of members of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The area was soon occupied by the Sanitary Grocery Company, the Foxhall Drug Store and the Foxhall Cleaners and Dyers. Today, of course, the stores are occupied by a High's Store and Panorama Real Estate Company.

During 1930 and 1931, Boss and Phelps constructed the homes along 44th Street running from Greenwich Parkway to Volta on the west side of the street. And by 1932, a rival builder, Waverly Taylor, had constructed homes along the east side of 44th down to P Street, along the west side of 44th from Volta to P, and along Volta almost to Foxhall Road.

One of the early brochures published by the firm of Boss and Phelps drew the following picture of the new development:

"Rarely, if ever, have such distinctive architecture, practical designing, high quality construction and close attention to detail been incorporated in homes priced below \$10,000. . . ."



Surrey Lane and Greenwich Parkway photographed around 1929.

"The walls (are) composed of stone, brick and stucco, with every exterior foundation wall at least thirteen inches thick. . . . Ketcham's Star Colonial Brick is used, laid in Portland cement, and variegated stone from the Stonehurst Quarries of Maryland.

"The inside of every exterior wall is thoroughly coated with old-fashioned pitch. Steel columns are run from the cellar clear through to the second floor, the first and second floor joists being framed into 'I' beams for greater strength.

"The roofs are surfaced with four-ply slag manufactured by Rose Brothers Company and guaranteed by them for ten years, while the steep pitch sections are covered with Bangor dark blue slate over a heavy felt underlay. Steel sashes and frames are used for all cellar windows, and the cellars themselves carefully whitecoated and equipped with stationary laundry trays, maid's lavatory and roomy coal bins.

"All floors are of seven-eighths inch clear oak flooring over a seven-eighths inch sub-floor, laid diagonally. . . . American Hardwall plaster is used throughout the interiors, smoothly whitecoated and all exposed corners metal beaded. . . ."

(It is worth noting that most Village homes still retain their original slate and slag roofs.)

The first Foxhall Village homes were

described by Boss and Phelps as being "situated on a high, gently rolling tract of land, desirably removed from the noise and bustle of the City proper—yet within

three miles of Washington's main business districts."

In those days, MacArthur Boulevard was known as Conduit Road—not to be named for the World War II hero until 1942. And for the record, in the 19th century Foxhall Road was known as Ridge Road and Reservoir was called New Cut Road.

An article in the January, 1928, magazine, *Building Developer*, described the Foxhall development as being built "on a high point in the foothills within the environs of the capital city," and com-



The Foxhall Village bus was subsidized for several years by Boss and Phelps, transported Villagers between 35th and Reservoir and the community.



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Heraldic shield from Village home.



Home at 4409 Q was the end house near 44th Street. Photographed around 1929.

manding a beautiful view of the surrounding country.

"Broad parkways, appropriately named, sweep through the village and so perfect is the semblance to an English community that the visitor expects such a street as Surrey Lane, for example, to lead out onto the downs where graze the sheep."

The article went on to say:

"The streets follow the natural contour of the land. As in England, the homes were built on terraces which gave the opportunity of using many interesting varieties of retaining walls. Roof lines do not stretch in one line in drab monotony but pleasingly break in a series of beautiful angles down the lanes and parkways."

"The byways of the Village of Foxhall are modern enough in that they are of solidly laid concrete from curb to curb. The roadways have been made wide and the curves of generous proportions. Greens and parkways have been placed in the roadways and these are perfectly kept. Greenwich Parkway, which has been called 'the most beautiful group of English homes in America,' contains the 'village green' where, on Christmas Eve, the villagers gather to sing carols, as is



Greenwich Parkway houses — 4459 to 4453 — photographed around 1930.



Houses at the north-west corner of 44th Street and Greenwich Parkway are pictured under construction around 1930.

the custom in the land of joyous Yuletide'."

The publication went on to point out that "eminent architects, landscape architects, and town planners who have visited and studied Foxhall Village have been unanimous in their unstinting praise."

In discussing the geographic location of the community, the magazine said that "although the Village is just seven minutes drive (about two miles) from Dupont Circle in Washington, it is well away from the main avenue of noisy traffic. To afford an easy means of trans-

portation for residents and prospects, Boss and Phelps have found it advisable to subsidize a bus line which runs from a nearby car and bus line to the Village to which transfers can be had. The bus is marked 'Foxhall Village' and makes trips at frequent intervals."

One bit of local color unabashedly mentioned by Boss and Phelps as a selling point was the proximity to the new homes of the site of the historic Dolly Barber tree. This ancient tulip poplar had been located at the southeast corner of Reservoir and 44th, and had appeared as a landmark and boundry point in a

title deed as early as 1780.

Tradition suggests that the tree was named for the sweetheart of a young man by the name of Murdock who lived in the vicinity. An 1899 article in the *Washington Evening Star* opines that George Washington may have often rested under its generous shade. The tree was undoubtedly familiar to Thomas Jefferson, as well, says the article, for he frequently visited the Spring Hill Farm on whose tract the Dolly Barber tree was located.

It was in 1899 that the mammoth tulip poplar surrendered to the elements, and was blown down in a windstorm.

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The Gloucestershire Group

When Harry K. Boss began construction on what he called his "Gloucestershire Group" of houses on the west side of 44th Street between Q and Greenwich Parkway, a number of homeowners further west of 44th became quite upset.

"When we moved into our home on Greenwich Parkway at 44th, we could see the Potomac River from our second floor," says Mrs. Marie Hall. "In fact, that was the chief reason we bought the house. We were very unhappy, then, when Mr. Boss began building those houses on 44th Street and our view became obstructed."

Similar complaints were filed by homeowners on Q, just up the street from 44th, who had been enjoying the pleasures of a tennis court on the southwest corner of 44th and Q. Soon this area, too, gave way to Boss-built homes.

But Boss and Phelps, in glowing terms, described the new homes on 44th Street as follows:



The Gloucestershire group of homes at completion around 1930. They are on the west side of 44th between Q and Greenwich Parkway.

"The heavy steel beams and columns in these houses run from the basement to the ceiling of the third story, and the bathroom floors are reinforced steel.

"The windows are of plate glass, and every door and window sill is of natural stone. The stone in the fronts of the houses is hand carved. Every window and door frame is caulked, and all case-ment windows have copper weather strips.

"The houses of the new group now being completed on 44th Street between Q and Greenwich Parkway, and known as the Gloucestershire Group, contain five and six bedrooms, three tiled baths, each with shower.

"Bathroom and kitchen walls are covered with Sanitas, which gives them a permanent lifetime finish. Other features are Nokol oil burning furnaces, Frigidaire, single and double garages built of faced brick. . . .

"The front doors are specially made, are two and one-quarter inches thick, and the rest of the doors in the houses are all birch, six-panel, Colonial. All the hardware is solid polished brass. Each clothes closet contains a shoe rack and



Photo by Linda S. Mendel

One of the unique features of the Gloucestershire houses is the picturesque archway between two of the homes.

clothes pole. Imported English paper is used.

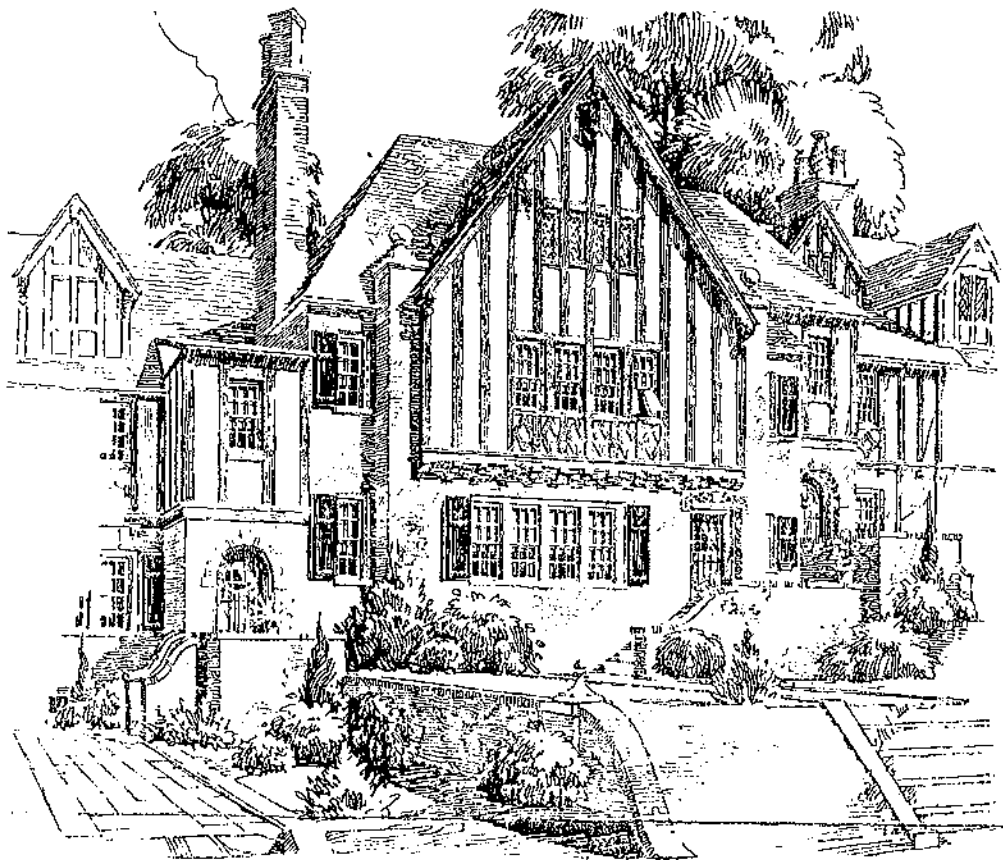
"The fireplaces are faced, and the hearths are of genuine Sienna marble; the wood mantels are of an original design. All the woodwork in the houses is white pine; all joints are Oregon fir. All floors are double; the finished flooring being $\frac{3}{8}$ " clear white oak.

"The dressers in the kitchens are probably the finest in Washington, being specially designed to fit in the available space. Kitchens have Armstrong inlaid linoleum on the floor, and all enamel, green ranges.

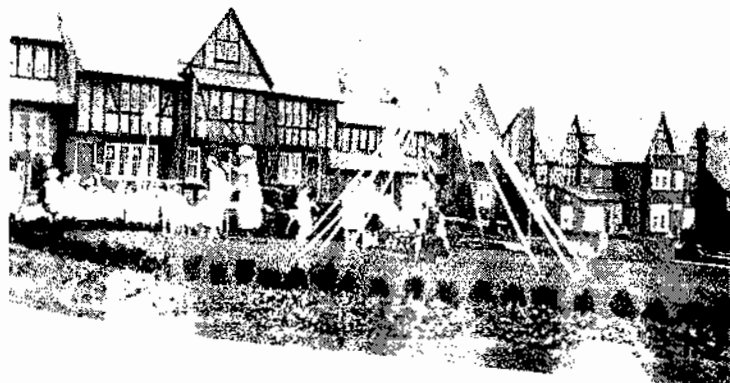
"Bathrooms contain lavatory, tub and toilet of Vitras ware, black-enamel medicine cabinet, green sateen shower curtains, and are fully equipped with fixtures, including towel bars, etc.

"Copper door and window screens are used throughout, and on the back porches. Cambric window shades on Hartshorn rollers at all windows. Vestibules are quite large and completely finished in an attractive way; floors of glazed tile. Bangor certificate slate on all roofs. Iron fences divide the gardens."

The prices on the Gloucestershire Group? They ranged from \$17,750 to \$24,500—pretty expensive for 1930.



Artist's rendering of house at 4422 Q Street highlights classic Tudor design.



Village children danced around the Maypole in the circle on Greenwich Parkway. Photographed around 1929.

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Enter Waverly Taylor

It was around 1930 that a rival builder, Waverly Taylor, entered the Foxhall Village picture, bidding successfully against Boss and Phelps for property on the east, or Georgetown University side of 44th Street, and along Volta Street.

An architect in his own right, Waverly Taylor first distinguished himself in 1923 when he developed and sold around three hundred uniquely designed row houses in the Burleith section of Washington.

There was quite a wave of indignation on the part of owners of the Boss and Phelps homes on the west side of 44th Street when Waverly Taylor began constructing his homes along the east side. Boss had promised his "west-siders" an unobstructed view of Foundry Park.

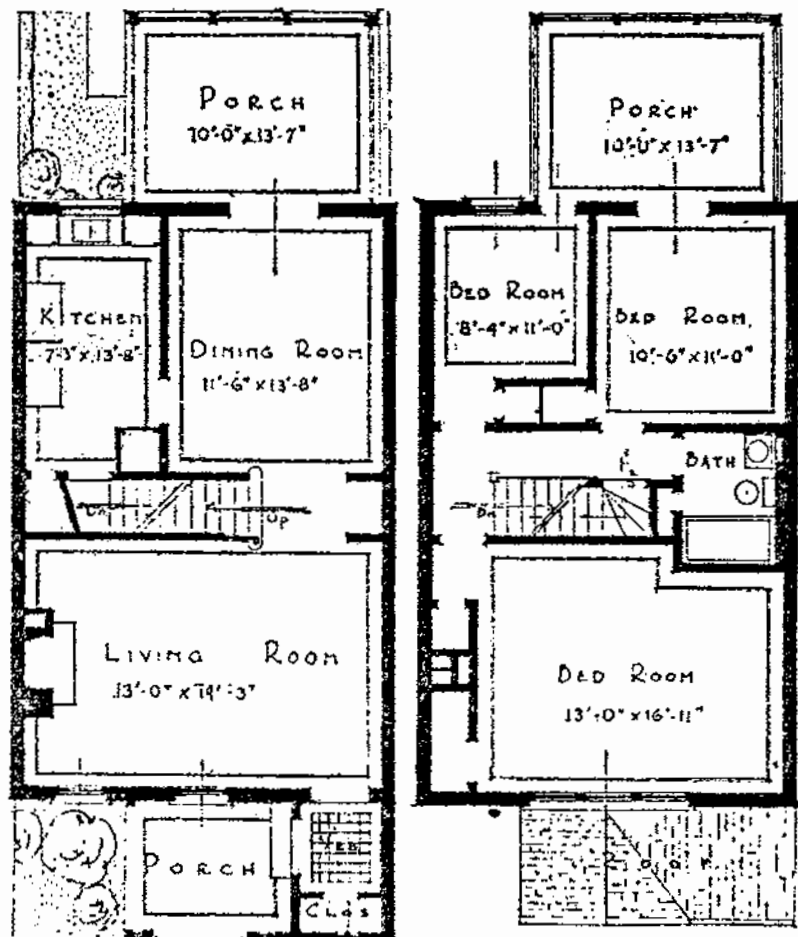
Waverly Taylor proceeded blithely ahead, however, and christened his section of the Village, *Foxall*—obliquely suggesting, of course, that this was the correct spelling of Henry Foxall's name.

No slouch at holding a grudge, Harry K. Boss refused to allow the Foxall residents in the Foxhall Village Citizens



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Waverly Taylor's Foxall homes, looking north from 44th and P Street.



Association, and even denied the lady residents of the east side entrance to the Village garden club.

It was not until 1932 that Boss relented, and the Foxallers were finally admitted to the Association and garden club.

A January, 1937, article on Foxhall Village in *Good Housekeeping* describes the 125 houses built by Taylor as "following the general architectural style established in the adjoining development"—meaning the Boss and Phelps homes.

"They have from six to eight rooms with one to three baths. Compact entrance foyers with coat closets were designed as part of a small entrance porch on the front, and living porches were added to the rear garden side, with garages built under them extending into the basement of the house. Where grade conditions did not permit built-in garages, they were built of brick on the rear of the lots and screened from the view of the living porch by a continuous high brick wall, which formed an attractive terminus to the garden. The houses ranged in sales price from \$10,750 to \$14,500."

Floor plans for the Waverly Taylor model home located at 1573 44th Street.

One of the selling points of the 44th Street Taylor homes was that they bordered Foundry Park and boasted double glass casement doors opening onto a screened living porch which overlooked the park.

Both builders had model homes in the Village. The Boss and Phelps model home was located at 1705 Surrey Lane

while the Waverly Taylor model homes were located at 1573 44th Street and 4410 Volta.

Not to be outdone by his rival, Harry K. Boss in 1932 was well into the construction of a series of early American and Georgian homes on Hoban Road, off Reservoir and Foxhall Roads, opposite the Village. This new development was

called Colony Hill, and Boss took up residence in the first house on the right on Hoban at Reservoir. From this vantage point, he was able to maintain an eagle-eyed vigilance with respect to all activities in the Village.

About seven years later, Waverly Taylor countered with the construction of some homes on Reservoir, south of Foxhall Road, and this section became known as Indian Rock Terrace. In the fifties, another section was added on by some other builders, causing the first section to assume the prefix: upper, while the newer development became known as Lower Indian Rock Terrace.

The oldest residence in the Foxhall community is the house at Foxhall and Reservoir known as Uplands, which dates back at least to 1791 when it was purchased by one Amos Cloud. The house underwent a series of enlargements and owners—including Averill Harriman, Nelson Rockefeller and Eisenhower's Treasury Secretary, George Humphrey.

The next oldest house is the Archbold home, located off Reservoir, near Hoban Road, dating from the early 1800's and originally occupied by one of Henry Foxall's foundry assistants.



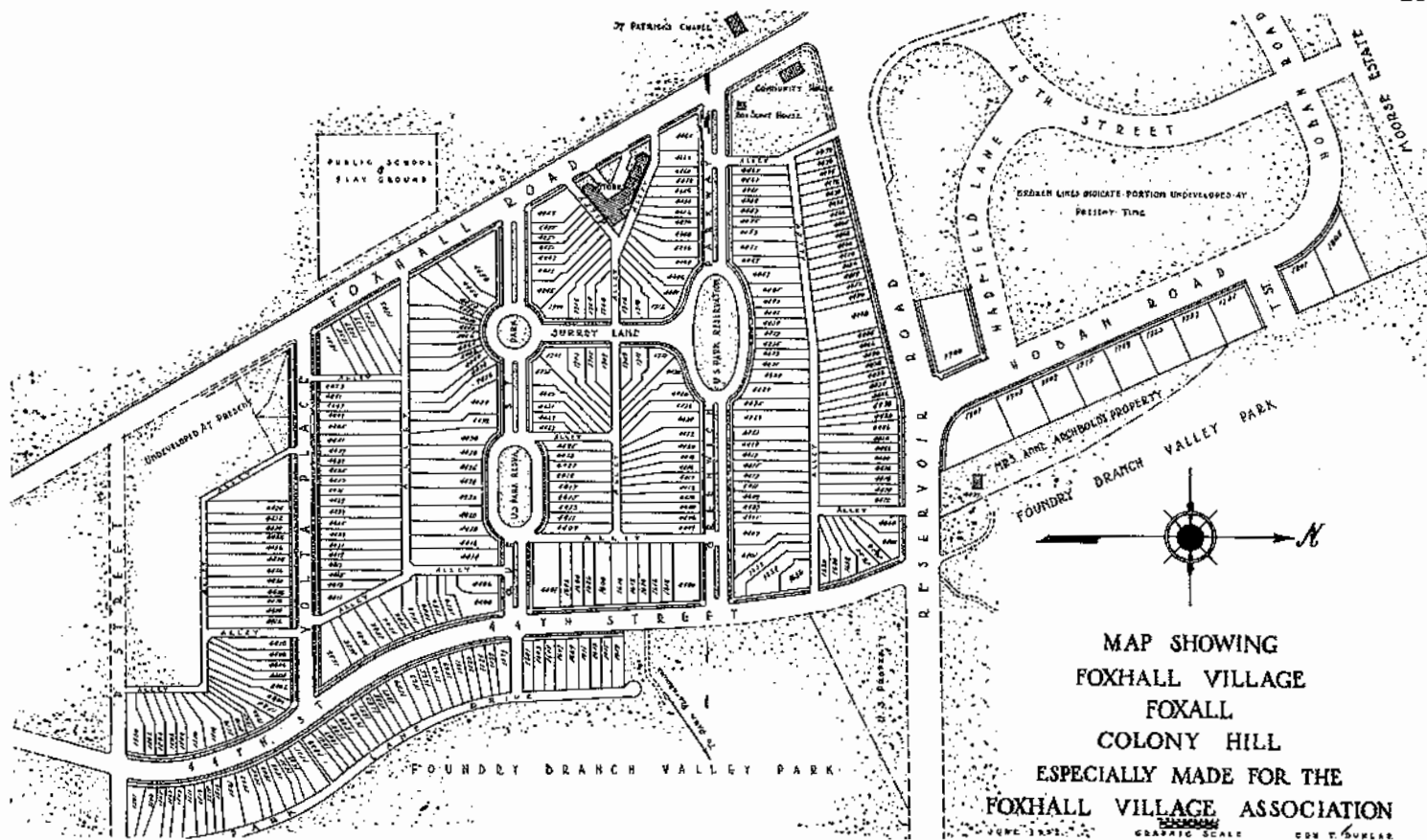
Photo by Linda B. Mandelson

View from the rear, or parkside, of the Foxall homes along 44th Street.

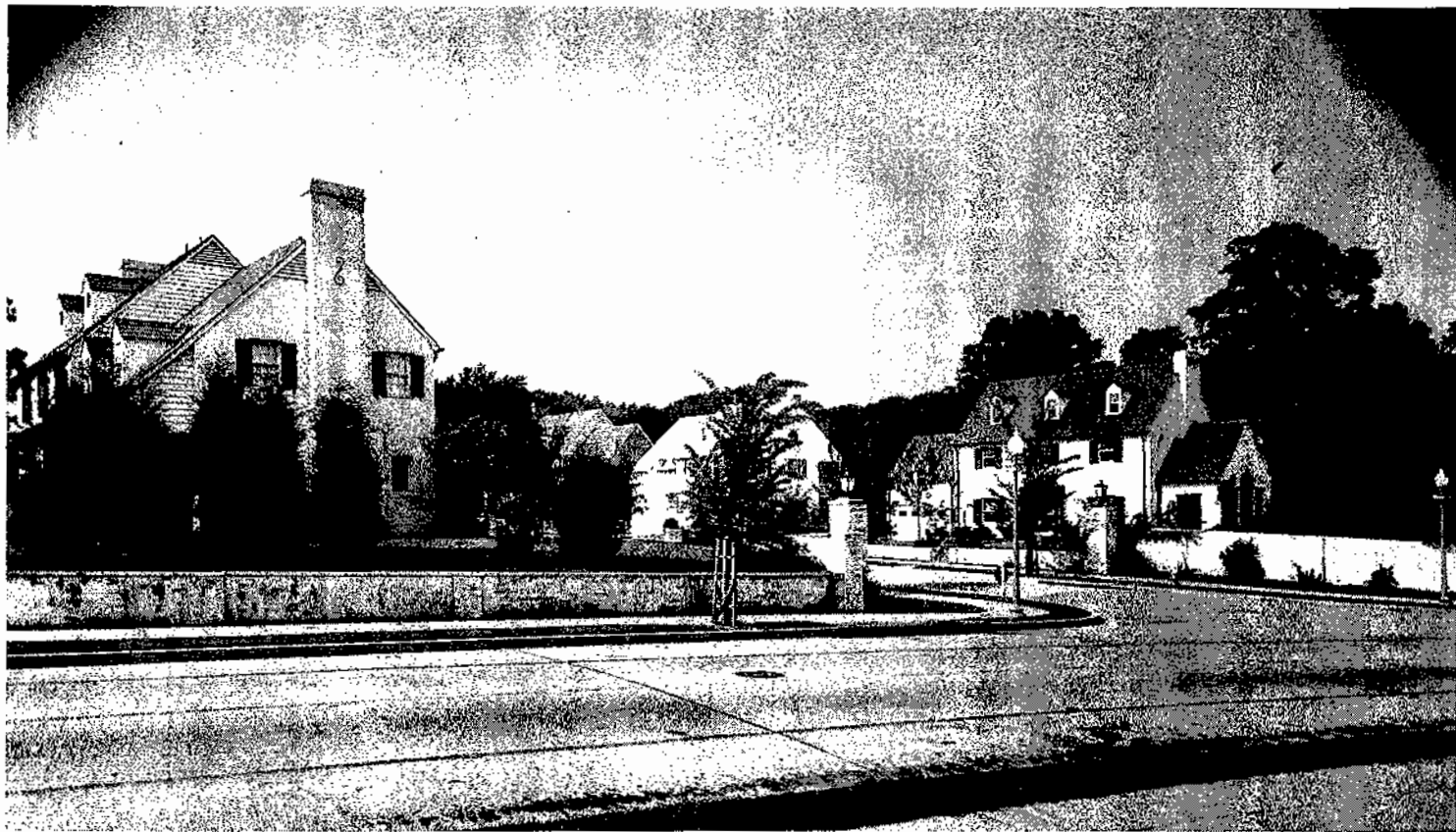


Photo by Richard Conn

The Reservoir Road homes constructed by Boss and Phelps in 1926 were the beginning of Foxhall Village. Pictured today, they are among the houses between St. Patrick's Church and 44th Street.



Map of the Foxhall Village area drawn for the Citizens Association in 1932. Waverly Taylor homes are on the east side of 44th, the west side of 44th from P to Volta, and along both sides of Volta. The rest were built by Boss and Phelps.



Colony Hill, across from Foxhall Village on Reservoir Road, was developed by Boss and Phelps in the early thirties. The houses were Georgian and Colonial in style.

A Citizens Association is Formed

February 22, 1928, was an auspicious date in the history of the Foxhall community—the first organizational meeting of the Foxhall Village Citizens Association.

The meeting was held at the Parish Hall of St. Patrick's Church, Reservoir and Foxhall Road. The first two temporary officers elected were Clarence A. Miller, chairman, and William A. Wells, secretary. A constitution was adopted and membership dues were set at \$2.00 per person, annually. (This makes today's dues a pretty good buy: \$3.00 per person, \$6.00 per family, annually.)

Additional officers elected at the next meeting were Edwin C. Reed, first vice president; J. M. Mason, second vice president; Mrs. Philip Groggins, financial secretary; and Fred W. Bishop, treasurer.

During the next few meetings, standing committees were organized such as Buildings and Zones; Education; Entertainment; Membership, etc. The minutes of the Association note rather cryptically that a committee was also named on Rivers and Harbors—but it was soon proposed that the name be changed to Municipal Finance!

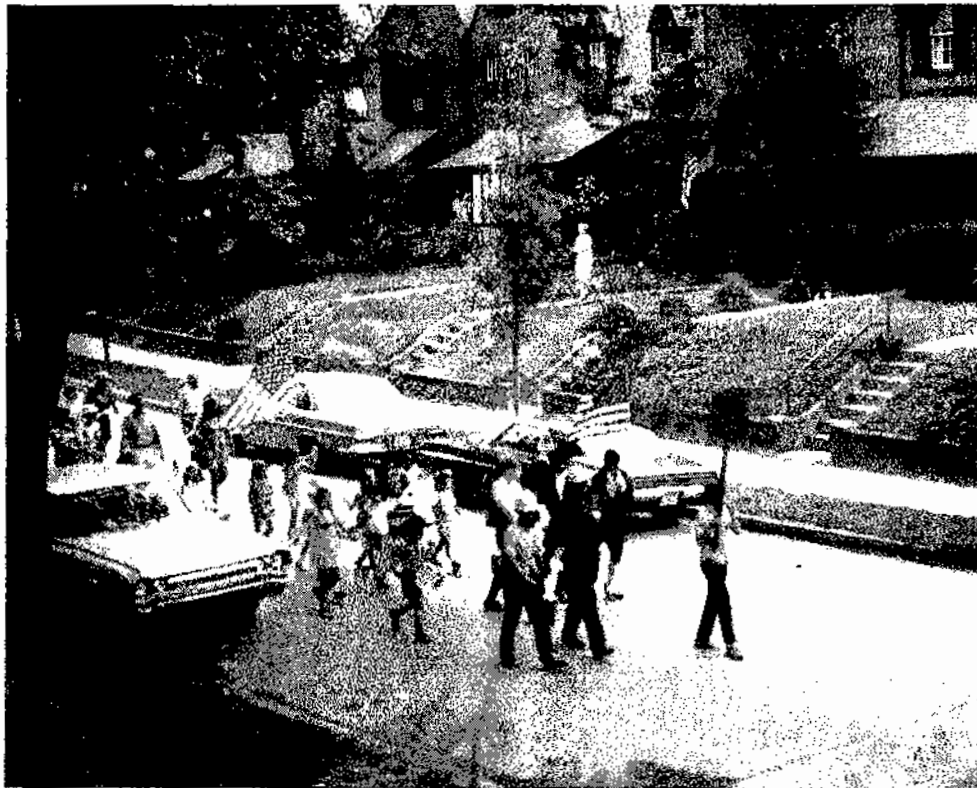


Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Fourth of July parade by Village youngsters along 44th Street.

While most of the Association's deliberations dealt with Foxhall Village and

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environs, it is worth noting that the group's interests occasionally found wider expression. For example, at the April 3, 1929 meeting, the Association went on record as opposing "the locating of (an) abbatoir within smelling distance of Washington and within sight of the Tomb

of the Unknown Soldier."

Also, in 1929, the Association first dealt with an issue which has continued to this day: aircraft. On February 2nd of that year, there was a lively discussion concerning the locating of an airport at Gravelly Point—now National Airport.



Chapel of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church photographed in 1911.

From the mid-forties on, the noise from low flying aircraft over the Village has provided a veritable litany of complaints at Association meetings. As present Villagers will attest, the problem continues worse than ever.

Down through the years, the subjects

dealt with at Association meetings have mirrored the concerns and frustrations, the hopes and desires of area residents: street widening, bus stops, traffic lights, dog bites, speeding on Village streets, playgrounds, Village directories, births, deaths, Christmas parties, trash problems,

campaigns against liquor sales in nearby stores, support for scout troops, street lighting, civil defense and of course, aircraft noise.

World War II found Foxhall Village organized and ready for all eventualities. The Citizens Association sponsored lectures on home defense and air raid wardens were named and duly performed their tasks with serious intent.

However, not all Villagers were able to pursue the war effort as effectively as General Alexander A. Vandergrift, Pacific theater hero of the Marine Corps. (He had lived at both 4431 Greenwich Parkway and 1607 44th Street.) But numbers of Village residents also served in constructive ways on the home front.

One of the most useful wartime services performed by many Villagers was to plant and cultivate Victory Gardens. The site was a section of ground adjacent to Hardy School which now serves as the playground. The area was divided into sixty plots of about 600 square feet each, and the Villagers who turned to did a highly creditable job of providing themselves and their neighbors with fresh produce for immediate eating and canning.

For some, this came quite naturally,



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

St. Patrick's Church as it is today—Greenwich Parkway and Foxhall Road.

for shortly after the first homes in the Village were completed and occupied, Harry K. Boss organized a garden club. It was known by the quaint title: The Society of Little Gardens, and it was the desire of Mr. Boss to see the front yards planted in grass and shrubbery, and the back yards in flowers—"to give a dignified, uniform appearance," as one garden club veteran puts it.

With the watchful eye of Mr. Boss upon them, the members of The Society of Little Gardens embarked on an ambitious program which included the installation of plantings at Hardy School and St. Patrick's Church, the placing of bulbs all around the Village, cleaning the alleys (and naming them), tending the grass circles on Greenwich Parkway and Q Street, battling rodents and wayward dogs and cats, and the conduct of various social events such as house tours, art shows and visits to historical sites and scenic areas.

By the mid-1970's, however, interest in the club waned, and it was finally dissolved. The remainder of its bank account was turned over to the Citizens Association.

One project dear to the hearts of the Garden Club, as well as the entire area,



Photo by Linda S. Mendelson

Rose Lees Hardy School

was the establishment of the Rose Lees Hardy School on Q Street at Foxhall Road. The Citizens Association had spearheaded the drive for the school, and the building was dedicated in April, 1934.

Rose Lees Hardy, for whom the school was named, had been an official of the District of Columbia school system, and she was allowed to select the teachers for the school named in her honor. Established to serve the Foxhall commu-

nity, the Hardy School has been widely known for its excellence. One of the better known pupils currently attending the school is Amy Carter, daughter of the President.

The Citizens Association played a major role in the development of the Hardy School playground. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior in the mid-sixties, the Association was successful in seeing the playground tripled in size, plus the addition of tennis courts and a building for community events—such as Citizens Association meetings.

Generally, meetings of the Citizens Association were rather serious affairs, but they were not without their periods of uplift and even entertainment. At the October, 1951, meeting, for instance, the minutes note that "a technological motion picture was shown of Fishlife off the Bahamas, the courtesy of Mr. Gibbs."

At the February, 1952 meeting, aging Michigan Congressman George A. Dondero gave a talk on "The Personal Life of Abraham Lincoln and his Family." The minutes note that Rep. Dondero was a "close personal friend of Lincoln's son, Robert, and others in the Lincoln and Todd families."

Occasionally a Volatile Issue

From time to time a particularly volatile issue would arise to pack the Citizens Association meetings, some still vividly recalled by longtime residents. One such incident back in 1966 concerned plans to construct the German Embassy complex along Reservoir Road. While the Association failed in its attempt to stop the project, it did result in the addition to the Association of the Indian Rock Terrace area, situated directly opposite the Embassy complex.

Today, the German Embassy remains a good friend and neighbor of the Foxhall community—and has even hosted a reception in conjunction with the Association.

One of the most successful of the major battles waged by the Association was in 1962 when plans were announced for a four-lane highway through the Foundry Branch park.

The Association launched a petition-signing campaign in opposition to the proposed highway. The drive was so suc-



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Foxhall community residents and supporters march in protest against construction of the Three Sisters Bridge in 1969.



Citizens Association President Bob Robinson (center) and Vice President Ann Free, present 35-foot long petition to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall in 1962. Over a thousand signatures were collected protesting proposed four-lane highway for Glover-Archbold Park. The highway was not built.

cessful that the then President of the Association, Bob Robinson, and then Vice President, Ann Free, were able to present a 35 foot long petition, bearing over a thousand signatures, to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. Soon afterwards, plans for the highway were cancelled.

One of the most divisive Village confrontations took place in 1969 and involved the Association and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. The church planned to construct a new day school building across the street on Foxhall Road. The Association strongly protested the planned construction, and appeared at several meetings of the D.C. Planning and Zoning Commission to cite what it felt would be the traffic congestion and other harmful changes to the residential nature of the Village were the church to be permitted to proceed with its plans.

The Association was successful in preventing the school building from being constructed, but the confrontation between the Association and the church ended in a residue of bitterness for some time afterwards, for many Villagers are members of St. Patrick's and the church building had long served as an integral part of Village life.



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Greenwich Parkway residents are pictured in 1972 re-seeding the Parkway island. Leslie C. Dirks, of 4451 Greenwich, is facing the camera.



Photo by Richard Conn

Shrubbery before Boss and Phelps house at 4428 Reservoir sets off the home's classic Tudor architecture. This was among the first houses built in the Village.

Occasionally the Association would erupt over an issue involving its neighbor, Georgetown University. The most serious of these concerned the University's intention to construct a power plant on the edge of Foundry Park—practically in the lap of the Village. But the Association successfully rose to the occasion, and convinced the University to build its power plant well within its own grounds.

From time to time there would be contention between the Georgetown University students and Villagers—particularly over the problem of parking. This was finally resolved when the city agreed to limit parking to two hours during the daytime to all cars without Zone 3 stickers—the zone incorporating Foxhall Village and environs. The Association strongly supported this move.

It is well to note that the Association was not compelled to fight its battles completely alone. Once or twice, as in the struggle against construction of the Three Sisters Bridge and in the later squabble over parking, the Association joined with other Associations to retain the Covington and Burling law firm at a modest fee.

The Three Sisters Bridge

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Membership in the Association rose and fell with the seriousness of the issues prevalent at the time. A low point was reached in November, 1961, when only 39 members were recorded out of a potential of 550 families. A vigorous membership drive was launched during the next two months, however, and in February, 1962, the Association could boast a total of 180 members.

By the end of 1966, however, the membership had dropped back to 54 paid members. But at that time an issue was roiling around which, during the next four or five years, would come to dominate the deliberations of the Association, and serve as a catalyst for the entire area. That issue was known as the Three Sisters Bridge controversy.

It all began with the Federal Highway Act of 1968 which called for, among other things, construction of a bridge across the Potomac at the islands known as the Three Sisters—which would place the bridge in a direct line with Foxhall Village. The bridge was intended to connect with Interstate 66 from Virginia, and would continue into a freeway down the Washington side of the Potomac,



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

The slogan, Stop the Bridge, signaled the most difficult battle waged by the Foxhall Community Citizens Association.

gouging out a large section of the southern end of the Village and swallowing huge areas of Foundry Park.

In addition, the freeway continuation would have required construction of a north leg into the heart of Washington. One possible route, according to then Mayor Walter Washington, would destroy around 2,300 homes in the area around Florida Avenue and U Street, N.W.

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on the District of Columbia at that time was Kentucky Congressman William H. Natcher. He was not above using his power over the city's budget to force the city to begin construction of the controversial bridge.

The residents of Foxhall Village were incensed—but no more so than the residents of the Florida and U Street section of Washington. And both groups were supported by numbers of irate students from Georgetown University who felt their historic campus was equally threatened by the proposed bridge and freeway. Thus, the battle was joined.

For most Villagers, the protest against the building of the Three Sisters Bridge began on a mellow autumn day in 1969, a few days after the public announce-



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Residents of the Foxhall community and their supporters gather along the Potomac River in a 1969 protest demonstration against construction of the Three Sisters Bridge.

ment that construction was about to begin.

It started with a canoe trip by some Villagers to the three islands in the Potomac where a dozen or so Georgetown University students were encamped. They were determined to dramatize their opposition to the bridge and all it represented: an intrusion into public parklands, a violation of the rights of those affected, and the exercise of what they felt was an irresponsible power by the highway lobby and related interest groups.

Thus was formed an amalgam of Foxhall Village residents, concerned for their property; Georgetown University students, mobilizing to protest for their ideals; and inner city citizens, long upset with being the "Last Colony" and frustrated with their past inability to protect their own interests.

In this atmosphere, a massive "Stop the Bridge" effort was launched, culminating in protest demonstrations which succeeded in delaying the bridge construction. It was also aided a year or so later by Hurricane Agnes which swept away the bridge pilings, bringing all construction to a halt.

Finally, the combination of legal action in opposition to the bridge, together with

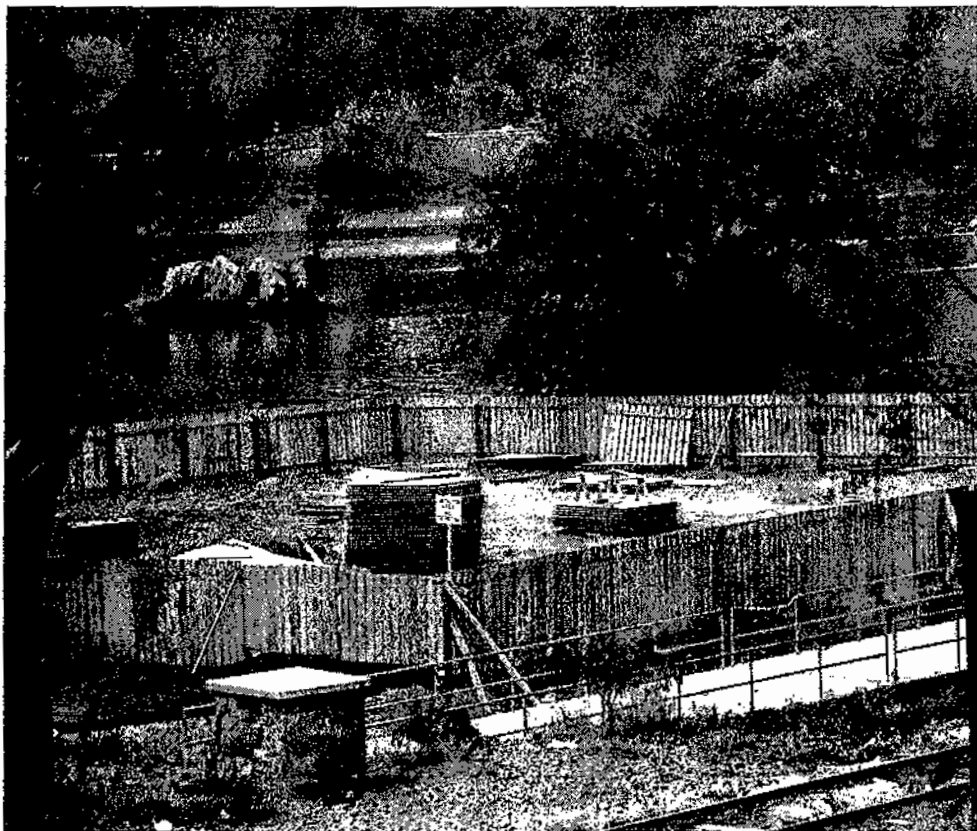


Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

The building site for one of the bridge pilings was well along when this picture was taken in 1969. The Three Sisters islands are in the background.

all the joint protests against the project, resulted in victory for the Villagers and their compatriots. Construction of the Three Sisters Bridge was permanently halted.

Long time 44th Street resident Linda Mendelson, one of the leading activists in the bridge fight, summed it up this way:

"The men, women and children of Foxhall Village, backed by the Association, played key roles in the fight against the bridge. We were known as responsible, concerned citizens, and we had credibility. In addition, we were the closest to the scene, and could easily get to the site with coffee and other refreshments to help the many people who came from further away to join our efforts to halt the building machinery from operating. In addition to being a cause we believed in, it was also a high adventure."



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Standing where the Three Sisters Bridge would be built, three protesters demonstrate along the banks of the Potomac. The fight was successful; the bridge was not built.

Memories of the Past

The successful struggle against neighborhood disruption as represented by the Three Sisters Bridge was probably the most memorable event unifying the Foxhall community. But there were other occasions as well which certain longtime residents recall with great warmth and nostalgia.

Village Yuletide celebrations during the thirties have left an indelible imprint on the memory of Mrs. Gertrude S. Bruckart who moved into her home at 4453 Greenwich Parkway in 1926 with her husband and two sons. She recalls each year's lovely Christmas tree in the circle on Greenwich, and the beautiful carols sung around it on Christmas Eve.

"We had a major in the Marine band who used to bring some of the Marine musicians out to play for us," remembers Mrs. Bruckart. "We made stockings and filled them with oranges, nuts and candies for the children. And we made caps and different colored jackets with bells on them, and the children would dress up in them and carry lighted candles in tin cans all around the Village singing carols."

Then Mr. R. D. Allison of 4463 Greenwich Parkway would play Santa



Reservoir Road in 1928 was not exactly the auto-congested highway it is today.

Claus—he enjoyed a generous girth—and gifts were distributed to the Village children gathered around the tree. This was followed by lavish spreads at two or more Village houses, and all were welcome. And most attended Christmas services at St. Patrick's at midnight.

Mrs. Alice A. Bisselle, who now lives on Surrey Lane but who also lived two other places in the Village, has interesting memories of Harry K. Boss. She first met him in 1925 when she and her husband, later President of Riggs Bank, purchased their first house on Reservoir Road.

"I can remember how persnickity he was," says Mrs. Bisselle. "He sort of cracked the whip on our doing just the right thing. He'd come into your house and if a picture wasn't hanging just right, he's gently straighten it!"

Mrs. R. B. Teachout, of 4410 Volta, who moved into her Waverly Taylor home with her husband in 1931, recalls fondly the care everyone took with each other's children. And she remembers also the planting of the "glorious dogwood trees in Foundry Park" by Dr. Sears P. Doolittle, of 1519 44th Street—a Senior

Plant Pathologist with the Department of Agriculture.

Other older residents like to recall some of their more illustrious neighbors such as the many military leaders who lived in the Village; members of Congress such as Representative Dennis Chavez—later Senator from New Mexico; radio commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr.—an early officer of the Association; and Nelson Rockefeller who was an Association member in the thirties when he lived at Uplands, the ancient house at Foxhall and Reservoir.



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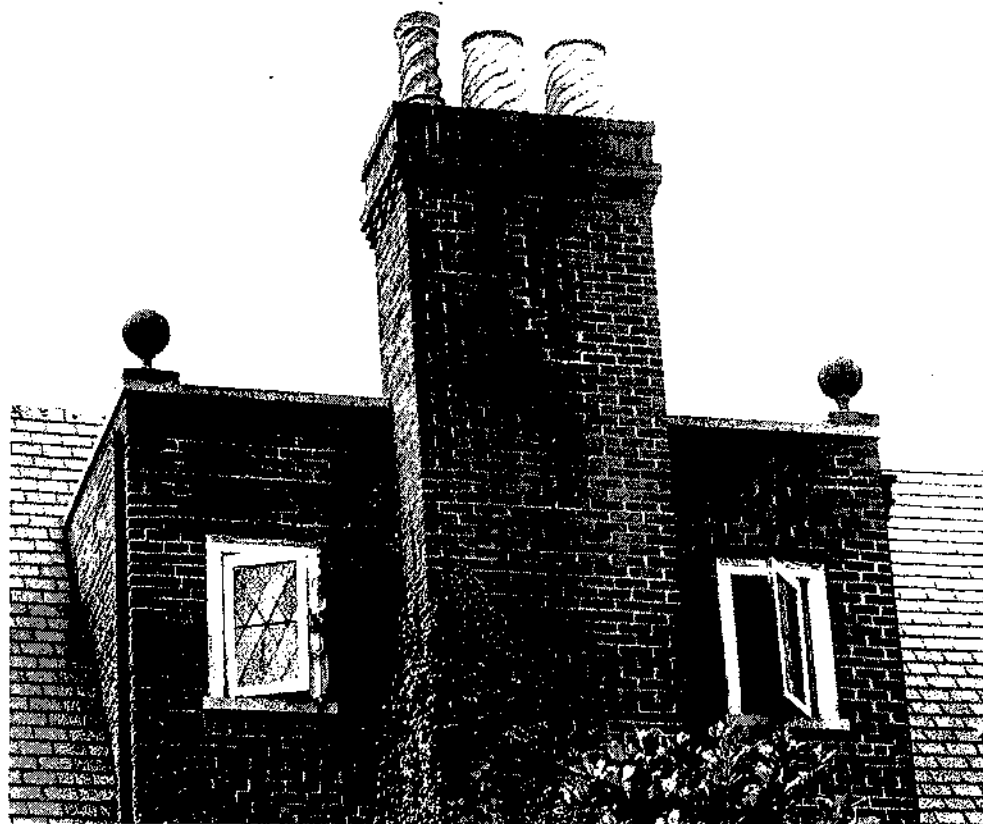


Photo by Linda B. Mandelson

Home at 4400 Q Street presents typical Foxhall Village features: stone globes on pediments; chimney pots; leaded-style windows and climbing ivy.

Onward and Upward

As the Association incorporated more areas outside Foxhall Village into its membership, it became apparent that its title should be broadened, as well. Thus, in 1944 the Foxhall Village Citizens Association became the Foxhall Community Citizens Association, and so it has remained until today.

At half century, the Association encompasses the area bounded by Glover-Archbold Park on the east, the northern boundary of Colony Hill along both sides of Hoban Road to the junction of Foxhall and Hoban, west along both sides of Reservoir, then east along MacArthur Boulevard to the edge of Glover-Archbold Park.

The communities comprising the Foxhall Community Citizens Association are Colony Hill, Dumbarton, Foxhall Village and Indian Rock Terrace. Approximately 750 homes are within the jurisdiction of the Association.

Today, the Foxhall Village area is a vibrant community of concerned people of all ages and occupations—in love with the neighborhood and determined to pur-



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Distinctive Foxhall Village architecture, featuring unique chimney pots, is pictured at 4401 Q Street.



Photo by Linda B. Mendelson

Sculptured gryphon from the lintel of a house on 44th Street.



Winter scene on Volta, photographed around 1933.

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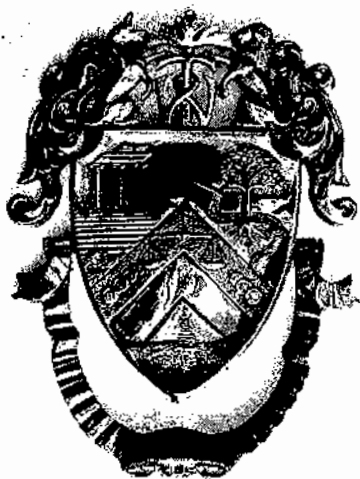
sue and enjoy the good life. The battles of the past are, for the most part, behind and the community enjoys good relations with all its neighbors.

Nevertheless, an attitude of watchful alertness is always present, for residents know that, like the maintenance of liberty, constant vigilance is required to assure the continuance of the high quality of neighborhood life that has long been the hallmark of the Foxhall community.

In the future, as in the past, the challenges will be there—rising property taxes, unsightly development, traffic congestion and neighborhood security. And as before, those challenges will be met and dealt with through the vehicle of the Citizens Association. One of the most effective such community organizations in the Washington area, the Association today accurately reflects the positive, caring characteristics of the Foxhall community.

munity.

Representing, as it does, the aspirations and determination of its members, the Association is ever changing, ever growing, and always seeking new members—additional participants—to aid in assuring that the community will remain what it has always been: a haven of civility, warmth and comfort for all who are fortunate enough to reside there . . . today and tomorrow.



Door knocker from 44th Street house
by Waverly Taylor.