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September 24, 2002

Ruth Kerns
3048 S. Abingdon
Apt. C2
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Ruth,

I have enclosed a photocopy of the finding aid for the Fairlington Historic District and Fairlington Historical Society collections. Thank you for all your help in getting this material to the library and in figuring out what to call each collection. I look forward to continued donations of Fairlington material.

Sincerely,


Jennifer King
Archivist

Record Group 120 A and B

Fairlington

120A: Fairlington Historic District
120B: Fairlington Historical Society

Arlington County Public Library
Virginia Room
1015 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, VA 22201

703-228-5966

August 2002

Record Group 120 A and B

History

Fairlington is a community of townhouses built as rental units during World War II. The houses were built to accommodate the large influx of Federal workers associated with booming wartime Washington activities. At that time, there was an acute shortage of rental housing for the growing population in the area. After the war, many workers stayed in the area to support expanded Federal departments and activities associated with the defense industry.

Up until 1975, the FairMac Corporation continued to operate Fairlington Village as moderately priced rental units. In 1975, however, the company began to renovate and convert the rental townhouses into condominiums. Presently, Fairlington Village is a community of condominiums and considered one of the most desirable areas of Arlington for retired and young working couples.

The plan to obtain recognition of Fairlington's significance as an historic landmark began in 1989. The initial historic recognition objective was for Arlington County to recognize Fairlington as an historic designation. In 1989, neighborhoods could not receive this designation, so Fairlington worked with the Maywood neighborhood and the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) to have the County Board adopt new criteria. While this effort continued, residents of Fairlington decided to work toward gaining recognition as an historic landmark by both the State of Virginia and the Federal Government.

By 1996, following much initial work, the Fairlington Historical Designation Committee began a large-scale volunteer effort to have their condominium and townhouse community designated as an historic landmark. In July of 1997, the State Board found Fairlington eligible for consideration. This first success prompted a call for volunteers to complete the application process. The volunteers were divided into six teams including survey, photograph, data input, finance, communications, and volunteers. All the teams worked together toward the goal of surveying all the buildings in North and South Fairlington gathering information about the architecture and taking photographs. By May of 1998, the survey team had completed their work of recording information about the 1064 buildings in North and South Fairlington. It was the input team's turn to enter all that information into the State's Integrated Preservation Software. The Historic Designation Committee submitted the final application in September 1998. In December 1998, the State of Virginia listed Fairlington in the Virginia Landmarks Register and in March 1999, the Federal Government added Fairlington to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Fairlington Historical Society was created on July 6, 2000. It is an outgrowth of the Fairlington Historical Designation Committee. The Society's purpose is to encourage historic preservation by educating the public and working to preserve the unique character of Fairlington.

Record Group 120 A and B

Scope and Content

This collection covers the time period of 1942 through 1999, although the bulk of the collection covers 1989 through 1999. The collection includes all the material gathered and produced during the historic designation effort including newsletters, research material about Fairlington's history, volunteer information, and the survey forms for the buildings. The collection measures four linear feet.

Provenance

The historic designation material was donated by Lorraine Drolet in 2002 and the Fairlington Historical Society material was donated by Ronald Patterson in 2002.

Restrictions

This collection has no restrictions regarding usage.

Arrangement and Description

The collection is first divided into the Historic Designation material and the Fairlington Historical Society material. Within Historic Designation, the material is first divided into subgroups based on broad subjects and then some subgroups are further divided as needed.

Record Group 120 A and B

Box List

RG 120A: Historic Designation

Box 1

Subgroup 1: Application

File 1: Application for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places submitted September 16, 1998 and listed March 29, 1999

File 2: Application preliminary

File 3: Historic American Buildings Survey Standards 1990, 1999

Subgroup 2: Committees

File 1: Committees various 1989-2000, n.d. (not inclusive)

Subgroup 3: Correspondence

File 1: 1989, 1992-1993, 1995-1999, n.d.

Subgroup 4: Financial

File 1: Budget 1997-2000

File 2: Donation and solicitations 1998

File 3: Payments 1998-1999

Subgroup 5: History

File 1: Boundaries and maps

File 2: Fairlington history

File 3: Historic designation process

File 4: Research Defense Homes Corporation 1942-1943

Box 2

File 5: Research various documents 1940-1945, 1997, n.d.

File 6: Research various documents

Subgroup 6: Newsletters

File 1: *All Fairlington Bulletin* Fairlington Citizens Association Jan. 1998-Oct. 1999 (n.i)

File 2: *Fairlington Arbor Memo* Aug/Sept, Sept/Oct 1997 and Jan/Feb 1998

File 3: *North Fairlington News* April 1997-October 1999 (not inclusive)

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Subgroup 7: Photographs

- File 1: General
- File 2: Buildings
- File 3: Celebration Fairlington Historic District Volunteer Recognition and Historic Designation Celebration October 20, 1999
- File 4: Entrance signs

Box 3

- File 5: Exhibit case summer 2000 Fairlington Community Center Ruth Kerns and Jeanne Muller
- File 6: Historic markers
- File 7: Notebook (images from a notebook)
- File 8: Parkfairfax entrance sign
- File 9: Survey
- File 10: Volunteer kickoff meeting
- Oversize file in Box 8: Signs and markers

Subgroup 8: Plat maps (map drawer #5)

- File 1:
 - Section 1 of Subdivision of Fairlington 1947 (4 sheets)
 - Section 2 of Subdivision of Fairlington 1943
- Fairlington Historic District

Subgroup 9: Publicity

- File 1: Publicity

Subgroup 10: Subjects

- File 1: Certificate Virginia Landmarks Register December 2, 1998
- File 2: Condominium information and policies 1999, n.d.
- File 3: Draft of Charter for Fairlington Historic District Association
- File 4: Guest book n.d. event unidentified
- File 5: Presentation material and speeches
- File 6: Plaque 1997-1999, n.d.
- File 7: Playground equipment 1946
- File 8: Ronald E. Patterson file Chair, Communications team
- File 9: Writings of Lorraine Drolet, Chair of the Historic Designation Committee

Record Group 120 A and B

Subgroup 11: Survey

Series 1: North Fairlington

File 1: Building VHDR ID numbers

File 2: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Box 4

Files 3-7: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Series 2: South Fairlington

Subseries 1: Fairlington Arbor

File 1: Building types 1998

Files 2-3: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Box 5

Subseries 2: Fairlington Commons

File 1: Building types

File 2: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Subseries 3: Fairlington Glen

File 1: Building types

Files 2-3: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Subseries 4: Fairlington Green

File 1: Building types

File 2: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Subseries 5: Fairlington Meadows

File 1: Building types

Files 2-3: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Box 6

Subseries 6: Fairlington Mews

File 1: Building types

File 2: Volunteer Reconnaissance Survey

Subseries 7: Buildings

File 1: Various buildings surveyed

File 2: Building types

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Subseries 8: 1997 annual property inspection Fall follow-up of Spring inspection

File 1: Building types 1-8

File 2: Building types 9-20

File 3: Building types 21-27

File 4: Building types 28-30

Subseries 9: Survey Miscellaneous Subjects

File 1: Correspondence 1997-1998, n.d.

File 2: Integrated Preservation Software (IPS) data

File 3: IPS sample forms

File 4: Miscellaneous

Box 7

Subgroup 12: Volunteers

File 1: Celebration Volunteer Recognition and Historic Designation Program
October 30, 1999

File 2: Correspondence 1997-1999

File 3: Lists of volunteers 1997, 1999, n.d.

File 4: Preference sheets (completed by potential volunteers)

Box 8: Oversize

Subgroup 9: Signs and markers

Banner reads: Volunteer Kickoff Meeting Fairlington Historic Designation

RG 120B Fairlington Historical Society

File 1: Fairlington Historical Society