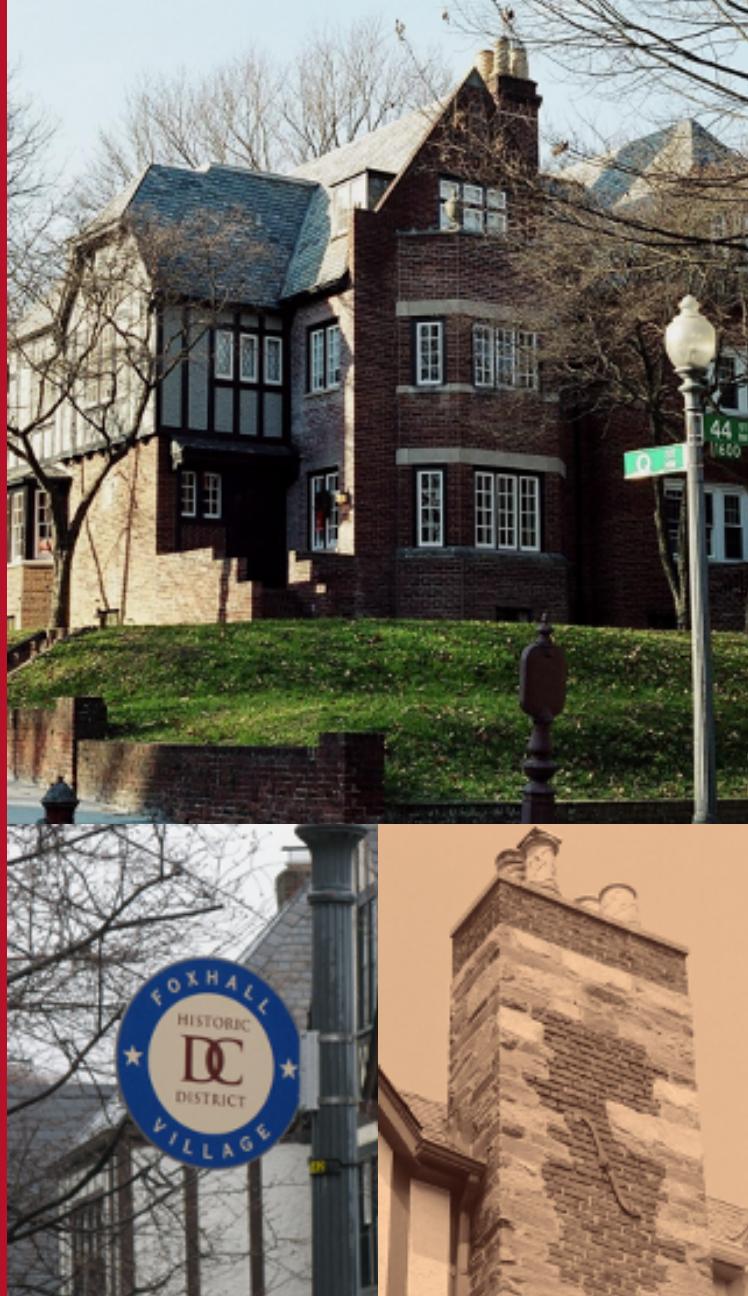


## RESPECT FOR THE PAST



## LIVING IN THE PRESENT

### A Guide to Preservation Work in the Foxhall Village Historic District

# Foxhall Village



The Foxhall Village Historic District was created in 2007 with the support of local residents in recognition of the architectural heritage of one of the District's first planned communities. Designed in the Tudor Revival style and constructed in the 1920s and '30s, Foxhall Village recreated the charm of an English village.

Builders Boss & Phelps and Waverly Taylor employed a variety of architectural elements in a number of combinations. Yet while our homes may have differing roof styles, windows and entrances, all share the same basic style: brick and stucco with decorative brick and half-timbering, slate roofs, gables and dormers, decorative chimney pots and heavy wooden front doors. These elements create the consistent look and feel of the neighborhood, something we strive to maintain.

Generations of Foxhall Village residents have worked, through historic preservation legislation, civic involvement and hands-on effort, to protect the special character of our neighborhood. Continuing that effort, we are providing this brochure as an overview of the city's permitting process. In DC virtually every alteration, most new construction and permanent landscape elements such as retaining walls and front walkways all require building permits. In our historic district permit applications for work on the exterior are also subject to historic preservation review.

# Practical Guidance

## The following are general guidelines:

- Review the Foxhall Village Design Guidelines: The DC Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) has compiled a set of guidelines tailored to our historic district. It can answer many of your basic questions. The document can be found on the DCHPO website or the FCCA website. DCHPO and FCCA contact information on back page.
- Contact the Historic Preservation Office: As one of nearly 30 residential historic districts in our nation's capital, we benefit from having a dedicated DC Historic Preservation Office neighborhood liaison. Reaching out to them to discuss your project is highly recommended. DCHPO contact information on back page.
- Contact the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee: The FCCA Historic Preservation Committee works closely both with our neighbors and the DCHPO to review proposed changes and works closely with DCHPO to monitor alterations. FCCA Historic Preservation Committee contact information on back page.
- Alterations Visible from the Street are of Primary Concern: While both DCHPO and the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee monitor all exterior changes to our homes, the primary concern is for alterations on elevations that can be seen from a public street.



- Hire Architects and Contractors Familiar with DC Historic Districts: Successfully altering historic buildings requires certain specialized skills and resources. It is highly recommended that even when making seemingly simple changes to your homes, such as new windows or doors, that you work with architects, craftsmen and contractors who are familiar with the requirements specific to the Foxhall Village Historic District.
- Permits: Apply for proper permits for both interior and exterior work. Following building codes protects not only the architecture of our homes, but also the health and safety of you and your family.
- Transparency: Discuss larger plans, such as additions or other large proposed changes, with your immediate neighbors. Securing their support can be helpful in the review process.
- Preservation Easements: If your home has a preservation easement, be aware that all proposed changes and alterations must be approved by the easement holder as well as the DCHPO.

## Alterations that require a building permit and DCHPO Review:

- Front Windows and Front Doors: Inappropriate windows and doors can destroy the character of a historic home. Replacements should match the originals in design and materials. Vinyl windows and non-wood front doors do not meet that requirement.
- Roofs: The vast majority of original roofs visible to the street in Foxhall Village are slate. New roofs must be real, not artificial, slate. The correct type of slate for your home varies by original builder: Typically, Boss & Phelps homes require uniformly placed rectangular Bangor slate while Waverly Taylor homes require an installation called "staggered butt" - random widths and random lengths.
- Retaining Walls, Walkways and Steps: While plantings and other temporary landscaping do not require permits, hardscape such as retaining

walls, steps and walkways must be reviewed and permitted and be constructed of historically appropriate materials as well as be modest in scale.

- **Mechanical Equipment:** Mechanical equipment such as AC compressors, satellite dishes, antennae, etc. should not be visible from a public street nor be obtrusive to immediate neighbors. Gas and electric meters should also be as unobtrusive as possible, and be shielded from view by shrubbery if possible.
- **Solar Panels:** While we support environmentally friendly energy saving features, solar panels and their associated equipment should not be visible from a public street and may not be appropriate in all situations.
- **Basement Window Expansion:** Enlarging front basement windows and adding window wells may not always be appropriate and creating code-compliant safety exits in the rear is usually architecturally preferable. In every case, maintaining existing width and height is required. Typically only expansion downward, rather than widening, is acceptable to DCHPO. Masonry window wells of minimum size are preferred.
- **Additions:** Any expansion of your home requires design review by DCHPO in consultation with the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee. Additions may also require review by the DC Historic Preservation Review Board. Proposed additions should respect the modest scale of Foxhall Village residences, should take into consideration any effect on neighboring properties, and in most cases, should not be visible from a public street. They are typically only appropriate at the rear of our homes.
- **Other Exterior Work Requiring Permits:** New or reconstructed garages, fences, both front (rarely considered appropriate) and rear, new shutters, brick repointing, just to name a few, require permits and DCHPO review. Remember, in DC it's always safest to assume that alterations require permits.

## Other things to consider:

- **Consider the Removal and Replacement of Inappropriate Elements:** Returning your home's exterior appearance to its original architectural integrity by the removal of inappropriate elements can add beauty and value. When considering replacing elements such as incorrect windows or doors, look to other homes in the neighborhood for guidance as many still retain virtually all their original features. Or if you live in a Boss and Phelps home (Reservoir Road, Greenwich Parkway, Surrey Lane, Q Street, Foxhall Road, west side of 44th Street) the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee most likely has original 1920s photos of your home for reference.

## Be a good neighbor:

- **During Construction be Considerate:** When doing work to your home, be considerate of neighbors: remove construction debris regularly, keep sidewalks and alleyways clear. Also, insure that your contractors limit their work to the hours allowed by the DC Regulatory Agency (DCRA) Monday through Saturday from 7am to 7pm.
- **If You See Questionable Construction:** If you see construction that appears to be inappropriate or is being done without proper permits displayed please report the activity to DCHPO and/or the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee.
- **You are Responsible:** Finally, remember that you, as the property owner, not your contractor, are ultimately responsible for insuring that proper permits are obtained and that work is done according to approved plan and permits.
- **Maintain your home:** Good basic maintenance, such as brick repointing, stucco repair, slate roof repair, gutter cleaning, ensuring proper drainage and, of course, paint (except on originally unpainted brick and stone) will greatly increase the longevity of both original and replicated elements. With proper care and maintenance our homes were built to last.

# How to Apply for a Permit

**Step 1:** Apply for a building permit online on the DCRA website. While in a historic district you cannot complete the entire permit process on-line, you can expedite the process by starting on-line. On smaller projects you will typically be applying for an “alteration and repair” permit.

**Step 2:** If you have questions please reach out to the Foxhall Village Historic District liaison at the DC Historic Preservation Office. Be prepared to describe your project accurately, to provide information about proposed alterations, such as photos of existing conditions, window or front door drawings or manufacturers information, etc. If you have general questions about the permitting process please contact DCRA directly.

**Step 3:** While not required, we recommend that you reach out to the FCCA Historic Preservation Committee. They have worked with DCHPO for more than a decade and can help you save time, understand the DCHPO process and can provide guidance as to how to achieve your goals while maintaining historic integrity.

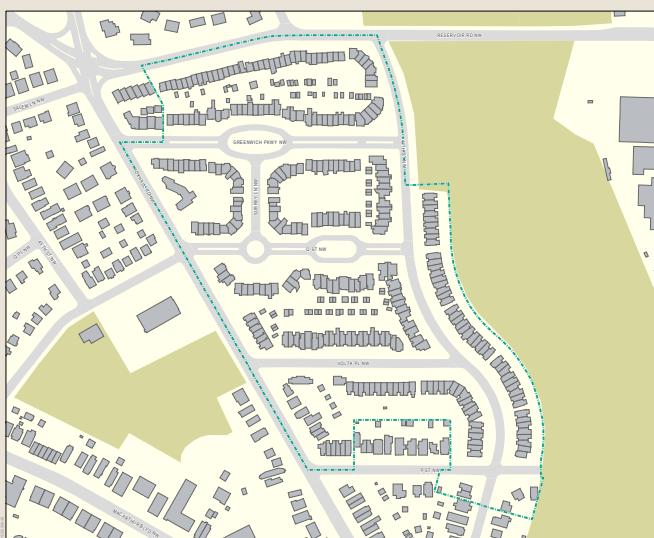
**Step 4:** Visit the DCRA Permit Center at 1100 4th St, SW, 2nd Floor. Please bring all necessary applications materials as well as photographs of existing conditions, architect’s drawings, your contractor’s

proposals, etc. For expedited service you can ask to be directed to the Homeowner Center. As part of the process you will be asked to visit the DCHPO office for preservation review. Once that review is complete you will be able to complete the process and receive your permit.

*This brochure is for guidance only. Building permits for alterations are governed by The DC Historic Preservation Office and DCRA.*

*For more information on the historic review process contact:*

1. **DC Historic Preservation Office**  
[www.planning.dc.gov/page/historic-preservation-office](http://www.planning.dc.gov/page/historic-preservation-office)
2. **DC Historic Preservation Office FV liaison**  
Call 202.442.7600, the main DCHPO number. Please ask for the current Foxhall Village Historic District specialist.
3. **The FCCA Historic Preservation Committee**  
Chair, Paul DonVito, [pauldonvitodc@gmail.com](mailto:pauldonvitodc@gmail.com) or 202.375.4662
4. **The Foxhall Community Citizens Association**  
[www.foxhall.org](http://www.foxhall.org)
5. **Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Permitting Center**  
DCRA online at [www.dcrdc.gov](http://www.dcrdc.gov) or visit in person at 1100 4th Street, SW or 202.442.4400
6. **DC Zoning Office**  
[www.dcoz.dc.gov](http://www.dcoz.dc.gov)



Foxhall Village Historic District Map



*This brochure was prepared by the Historic Preservation Committee of the Foxhall Community Citizens Association*

*Originally compiled and edited in 2020 by Paul DonVito (Chair) and Robert Siciliano, Scott Polk and MaryAnn Griffin (members.)*

*Photos by Paul DonVito*