

We invite you to join a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving the historic and predominantly single-family village character of the city.

VPIS members:

Speak out on city zoning and planning issues that dramatically affect the quality of life...

Anticipate and address future threats such as the increasing urbanization on the city's borders and growing traffic congestion within the city...

Support a city landscape plan to restore the canopies of trees along our main streets that once were the city's trademark...

Sponsor annual Arbor Day celebrations, helping Falls Church win repeated national recognition as "Tree City, U.S.A."...

Honor the efforts of home and business owners and government officials to beautify the city...

And we organize public festivals and forums that nourish a feeling of community in Falls Church.

You can touch the past and help shape the future, by joining the Village Preservation and Improvement Society.

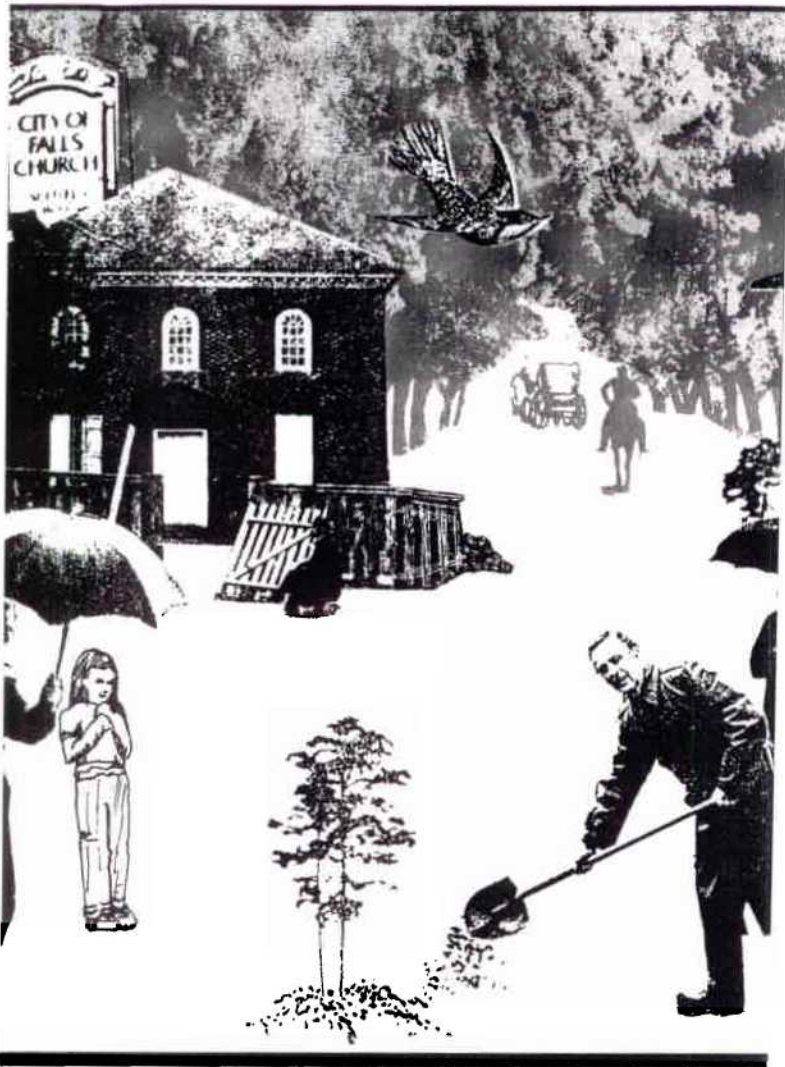
1885-1985



A

Look around our small community of Falls Church. Its monuments are not lonely high-rise office buildings of brick and glass. They are its oaks, maples and spruces that tower over sheltered neighborhoods and attractive business establishments, enhancing them.

Its historic landmarks include the Birch House, saved from demolition by concerned citizens, and the Crossman House, moved to "The Shadows"

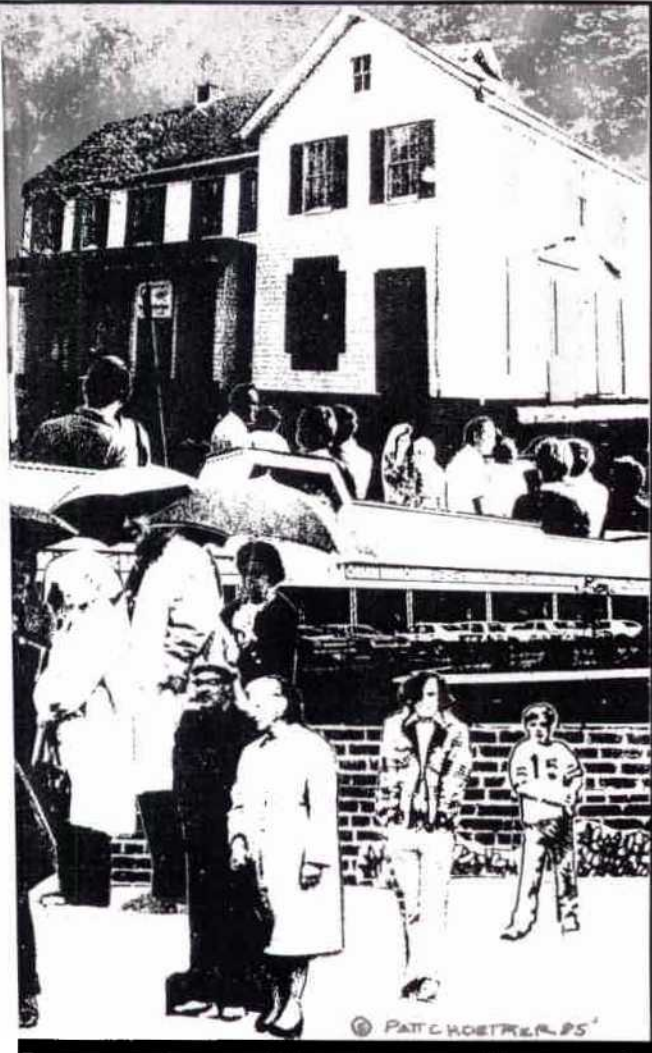


A VPIS Gallery of Falls Chu

subdivision to also escape the same fate. Outstanding are The Falls Church with its ties to our colonial heritage, and Cherry Hill, a restored farm dating to 1840. The list includes many more.

The Society's mission is to preserve and protect this legacy others have created by encouraging all citizens to do the many things, large and small, that will continually renew the village environment.

1885-1985



ch

It is a simple thing to plant a tree, but the roots of its meaning run deep. It is a bequest for the future.

Just as the saplings planted today will grow to grace the lives of generations to come, so our efforts today will keep alive the tradition and identity, smallness of scale, kinship and concern that make Falls Church the unique place it is.

What We Do

We are concerned with the actions of city government that affect building heights, density, land use, open space and transportation planning. We lobbied successfully for the creation of an Architectural Advisory Board. To help keep our members informed on critical issues we have published a newsletter, "The Village Way," since 1967.

The Society reinstated the celebration of Arbor Day in 1974 and each year since then has donated memorial trees that have been planted to the bike trail, at Cherry Hill, at city schools and parks and other public areas throughout the city.

We urged the adoption of a tree ordinance and the appointment of a professional arborist. Noteworthy trees have been identified and marked by the Society. Since 1978 Falls Church has received the "Tree City, U.S.A." award each year from the National Arbor Day Foundation.



Each spring, the Society presents awards for "Excellence in Design" to homeowners, business owners and government officials who have added in special ways to the city's beauty.

The Society became the first patron of Historic Falls Church Inc., supporting its restoration of the Birch House on East Broad Street under the direction of an historical architect.

To enhance the Council Chambers with reminders of our historic legacy, we commissioned and gave portraits of George Washington and George Mason.

The attractive signs that mark the entrance to the city on its major arteries are a gift of the Society—an example of the small, vital details that enhance the city's charm.



Join in the Centennial Celebration

A Sampling:

Arbor Day, April 21—VPIS pledged a donation of 100 trees to the city in 1985 to mark the Society's centennial. The Historical Commission donated a plaque on West Broad Street at the site of the hangman's tree," famed in Civil War lore, but cut down in 1968. A new tree was planted on the site.

May 4—the annual Attic Treasures sale at the Community Center, featured antiques and other wonders from our members' homes, with the proceeds to buy still more trees.

June 2, Council Chambers, 2:00 p.m. — VPIS Spring Meeting. Ambassador J. Graham Parsons of the Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge, Mass. speaks on The Spirit of Village Preservation.

July 4th - 12:00 p.m. — A reading by assembled citizens of The Fairfax Resolves, The Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, in City Council Chambers, in remembrance of George Washington, George Mason and Thomas Jefferson.

Sept. 22, Council Chambers, 2:00 p.m. —Governor Charles Robb addresses the VPIS Fall Meeting.

Special Centennial Items For Sale

Special items to commemorate the Centennial are for sale with all proceeds going for beautification and fostering of community spirit in Falls Church. They include a handsome tie, scarf and tote bag designed by Frankie Welch, replication of the 1904 collectors item book about Falls Church, A Virginia Village, and a book of hors d'oeuvres recipes from Falls Church families, all sure to become collectors items. The items may be purchased from Design Frames and Gifts, 806 West Broad Street. Phone 532-2660. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Evenings phone June Douglas at 533-1492.

In 1985

A Centennial Celebration

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society is commemorating a century-old tradition of community service this year and hopes you will take part in the celebration.

Founded in 1699 along an Indian trail leading to the Little Falls of the Potomac, the city of Falls Church has a rich history. George Washington and George Mason were vestrymen at the original Falls Church that gave the village its name.

A century ago, Falls Church residents formed the Village Improvement Society, modeled after the Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, that had led to the creation of a nationwide movement of such societies.

The goals of VIS then were to "improve and ornament the streets of Falls Church," by planting and cultivating trees, cleaning and repairing sidewalks, and caring for the overall appearance of the village. In 1892, it instituted the first observance of Arbor Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its dues of \$1.00 remain to this day.

The Society was revived 20 years ago as the VPIS in an atmosphere of crisis over the preservation of one of the city's most historic properties and the defense of a low skyline against the threat of high-rise construction. Those battles were won and today, more than 750 members of VPIS follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, working together to preserve the village quality of life in Falls Church.



Membership Application

If you are not a member, won't you join VPIS and help us see that Falls Church develops in a manner which will sustain the village atmosphere that probably attracted you here in the first place?

We welcome your support.

Please enroll me as a member of VPIS. I am enclosing:

- \$1 for my regular membership
- \$1 for my spouse's regular membership
- \$5 or more for my contributing membership
- \$5 or more for my spouse's contributing membership
- \$100 for a Life Membership (with the proceeds going to a donation of 100 trees to the city to mark the VPIS Centennial).

Make checks payable to VPIS and send to:

VPIS Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 6824
Falls Church, VA 22046

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

