

Foxhall Village

h i s t o r i c d i s t r i c t





Above: Artist rendering of Gloucestershire Group at Foxhall Village, n.d.

Foxhall Community Citizen's Association

Cover: House at lower Q Street, NW

Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012

Back Cover: Lower Greenwich Parkway, NW

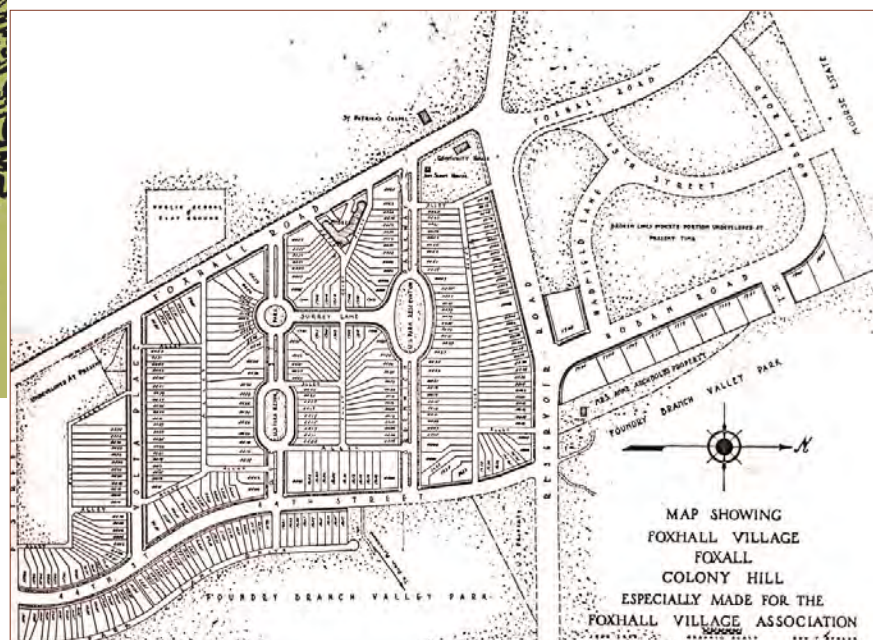
Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012

Foxhall Village

h i s t o r i c d i s t r i c t

Modeled after an old English village,

Foxhall Village is a Tudor Revival-style rowhouse neighborhood located in northwest Washington, D.C. Foxhall Village is one of the city's only large-scale residential developments to have been conceived and realized in such a stylistically cohesive and holistic manner. It was recognized for its architectural and planning significance with historic designation in 2007. The neighborhood was developed by three developer/builder teams who worked separately, but harmoniously, to create a cohesive collection of rowhouses enhanced by lush gardens and planted terraces. The neighborhood is laid out in a picturesque manner with winding lanes, circles, and crescent-shaped open spaces that were inspired by historic precedents. The overwhelming majority of the 310 buildings in the historic district reflect the Tudor Revival style, while offering a variety of forms, roof treatments, fenestration patterns, and entryways that make each rowhouse distinctive.



Foxhall Village as drawn for the Citizen's Association, c.1932
Foxhall Community Citizen's Association



Library of Congress

Foxhall Village (with an

known as Foxhall Village.

Henry Foxall and Spring Hill Farm

George Washington, with whom he founded the Socie-

to their injuries later in life.

the foundry trade. As a young

man, he immigrated to the

At the urging



Historical Society of Washington, DC



Country home of Henry Foxall at Spring Hill Farm c.1900, demolished c. 1907 and current site of Foxhall Village
Historical Society of Washington, DC

was sited almost directly opposite Three Sisters Islands and at the mouth of the Deep Branch River—now known as Foundry Branch.

Foxall used Spring Hill Farm as a country and summer retreat, occupying the house Lingan had erected on the site. Several decades after the demolition of the building circa 1907, the *Washington Post* printed an image of the two-story, five-bay I-house. The house had a two-story porch overlooking the Potomac River and Chippendale-style balustrade running along the façade of the side-gabled roof. Spring Hill Farm, a bucolic location with its varied topography and vistas of the Potomac River, was frequently visited by Presidents Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, with whom Foxall was well acquainted because of the exclusive munitions contracts he held with the federal government.

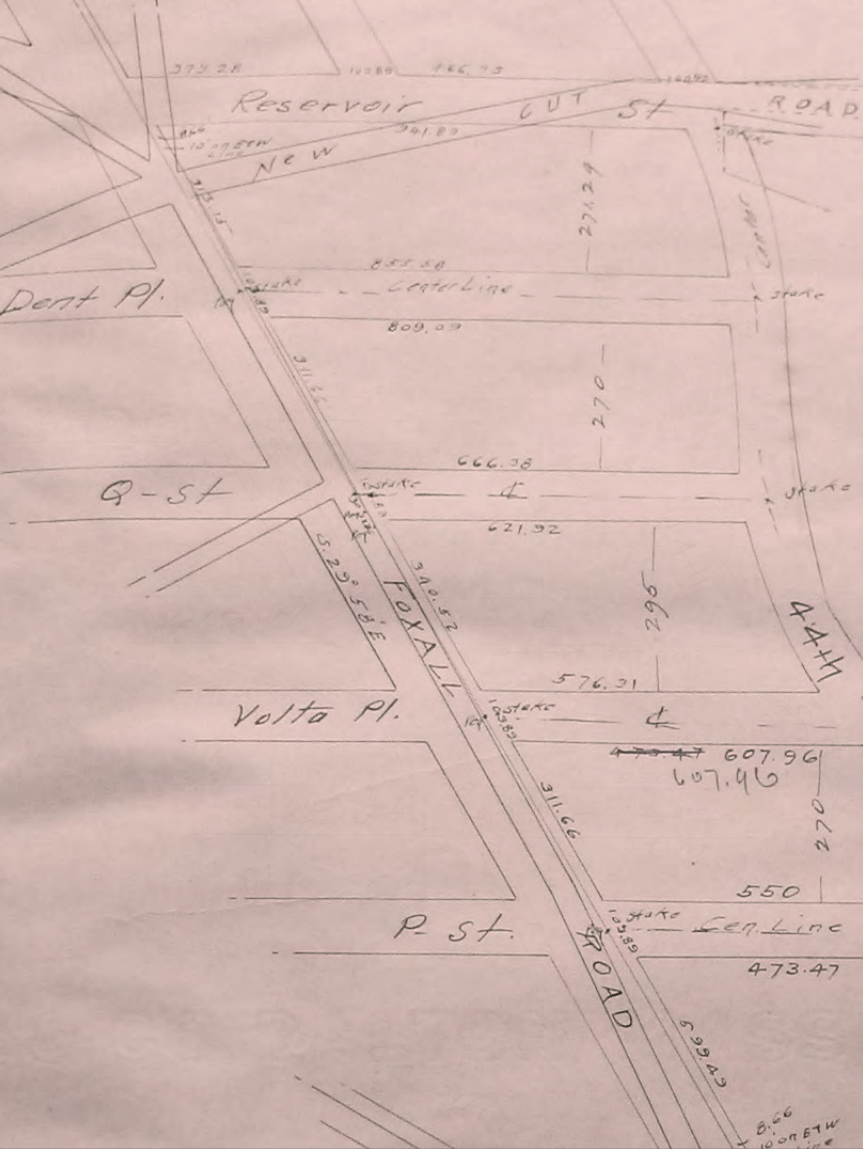
Henry Foxall's foundry was not only successful but pivotal in providing munitions during the War of 1812. Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry employed Foxall's cannonballs in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio to a successful outcome. Columbia Foundry was a prime target for the British during its siege on the City of Washington in 1814. Fortunately, a ter-

rible storm forced the British troops to retreat, which prevented an attack on the foundry. In gratitude for his spared foundry, Henry Foxall donated land to establish the Foundry Methodist Church at the intersection 14th and G streets, NW.

In March 1816, Foxall sold Columbia Foundry to Colonel John Mason, who was the son of founding father George Mason. After a short junket to England, Foxall resumed residence at his home on the east side of 34th Street, south of the canal in Georgetown.

General view of Foxall Foundry, from hill above Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, c.1907
Historical Society of Washington, DC





Thomas Pickford's Survey, Survey Book 8, 1908
Washington DC Surveyor's Office

The family also maintained the house at Spring Hill Farm for seasonal use. Foxall served as mayor of Georgetown from 1819 to 1820 while overseeing a bakery and several other properties he owned in the city. In 1823, Henry Foxall returned to England, where he died shortly after his arrival.

Development of Henry Foxall Tract

In 1908, valued at \$85,000, the Spring Hill farm tract was sold by the Foxall family to Thomas H. Pickford, a local real estate broker. Within days of the sale, the 60-acre tract was surveyed by the District of Columbia Surveyor's Office. New roads platted for the subdivision included Reservoir Street (present-day Reservoir

Road), Dent Place (present-day Greenwich Parkway), Q Street, Volta Place, P Street, and 44th Street. The survey made the name change of New Cut Road to Reservoir Street official. At the time of survey, the direction of Reservoir Street was altered slightly to run directly east and west between 44th Street and Foxall Road, rather than running southwest between the two streets.

The *Washington Post* announced on March 1, 1908, the \$100,000 sale of the Foxall tract to Congressman Everis Anson Hayes. Hayes served California's 5th District from 1905 to 1913 and the 8th District from 1913 to 1919; he also worked as a lawyer and newspaper publisher. Within months of the purchase, Hayes filed the subdivision plat for "Foxall Heights." The Washington, D.C. firm of Liebermann and Hawn, sales and financial agents for the United States Trust Company, acted as agents for Congressman Hayes, selling the newly subdivided lots while the United States Trust Company handled the financing. The advertised lots were 25 feet by 142 feet and on sale for \$350. Typical of real estate investors and land improvement companies who subdivided and marketed buildable lots, Hayes sold a majority of his vacant lots to a development company created specifically to sell the lots in the neighborhood. The Foxall Heights Company, with Charles C. Lacey acting as the agent, set up an auction in 1910 in order to sell the 125 vacant residential lots they owned in Foxall Heights. The auction took place on-site and allowed purchasers to see the property and name their own price. The notices for the sale stated that although it was "comparatively a new subdivision, the class of lots already placed on the market by the agents has attracted much attention." The lots, while separated from the city proper, benefited from the advantages of city improvements such as road maintenance, water service, and sewer lines. Despite these amenities, by December 1923, only 35 acres were actively under development and only 30 freestanding dwellings had been completed.

Foxhall Village: Boss & Phelps

Prior to the involvement of Boss and Phelps, Inc., construction in the Foxall Heights subdivision was confined to the lots along and south of P Street. Boss and Phelps thus purchased the undeveloped land to the north, bounded by Reservoir Road, 44th Street, Q Street, and Foxhall Road from Congressman Hayes and other individuals who had acquired lots in the early 1920s.

Boss and Phelps, with Harry K. Boss as president and H. Glenn Phelps as vice president, had announced the opening of their firm in the *Washington Post* on September 1, 1907. Boss, a native of Washington, D.C., was a prominent real estate developer who began his career at the age of seventeen. Active in the industry, Boss was director of the American Security and Trust Company, chairman of the Convention Committee of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, president of

the Washington Real Estate Board and member of the Washington Board of Trade. Glenn Phelps was born in 1879 in Erie County, Pennsylvania, and became actively involved in real estate in 1896, having moved to Washington, D.C. at the age of ten. It was during his tenure as head of the legal department at Moore & Hill that Phelps met Harry Boss.



**H. K. Boss (Top) &
H. G. Phelps (Bottom)**
The Washington Post,
August 28, 1927



and selling of real estate. Their clientele consisted of middle- and upper-middle-class homebuyers as well as speculative residential and commercial builders. The company's slogan "Boss and Phelps, the home of homes since 1907," appropriately reflects the volume of their dealings and sales. An article in the *Washington Post* commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the firm stated that over the years Boss and Phelps, Inc. marketed an estimated \$200 million in real property.

In developing Foxhall Village, Boss and Phelps hoped to capitalize on the appeal of houses "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." Although constructed on the tract of land historically associated with Henry Foxall, the development was named Foxhall Village—adding an 'H' to Foxall. For nearly a century, there had been little consistency to the spelling of Foxall, particularly on maps that noted the location of Foxall Road running from Columbia Foundry to Spring Hill Farm.



Boss & Phelps Ad
Foxhall Community Citizen's
Association

Rowhouse Designs

Inspired by a trip to England in the mid-1920s, Harry K. Boss envisioned Foxhall Village as a rowhouse neighborhood. The rowhouses would each employ varying Tudor Revival style elements that would blend harmoniously but provide individuality. The plan and layout of Foxhall Village, while basically following the rowhouse

model, introduced a “distinct innovation in group home construction” with clusters of houses arranged with staggered setbacks. The use of stone, brick, half-timbering, and stucco created an “old-world” feel in the neighborhood.

James Cooper, local architect and designer of Foxhall Village, realized the real estate company’s vision of a medieval English village. Cooper, a native of the Washington metropolitan area, studied architecture at the Maryland Institute of Design in Baltimore and continued his architectural education at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts Atelier in New York. Even before his acclaimed efforts in Foxhall Village, he was widely known for his mastery of Tudor and other historical English revival styles, having specialized in the designs of large country estates before focusing his career on rowhouse and apartment buildings. Over an eight year period, Cooper was responsible for the designs of about 330 buildings in Washington, D.C., purchasing 4447 Greenwich Park-

James Cooper, architect of Foxhall Village, lived at 4447 Greenwich Parkway, NW
Photo, EHT Traceries, 2006



AMERICA'S SMARTEST COLONY OF ENGLISH GROUP HOMES.

FOXHALL VILLAGE

Seven Minutes from Dupont Circle.

A VILLAGE IN THE CITY

A PREDETERMINED NON-COMPETITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

3 Bedrooms and Bath to 6 Bedrooms and 3 Baths.

The view from Foxhall Village is one of its many charming features. The spires of old Georgetown College, the Lincoln Memorial, the long bridge spanning the silvery thread of the Potomac, and the distant foothills of Virginia. It was here that Presidents Jefferson, Madison and Monroe were wont to spend many pleasant evenings with Henry Foxall, owner of Spring Hill Farm, upon which the Village is built. And yet the Village is only seven minutes ride from Dupont Circle.

FROM ACTUAL PHOTO.
A NEW HOME
4420 QUE ST.
(Northwest.)
Price, \$15,500
OPEN FOR INSPECTION.

\$10,500 to \$18,500

BOSS & PHELPS
CREATORS AND DEVELOPERS OF FOXHALL VILLAGE.
1417 K St. Main 9300.

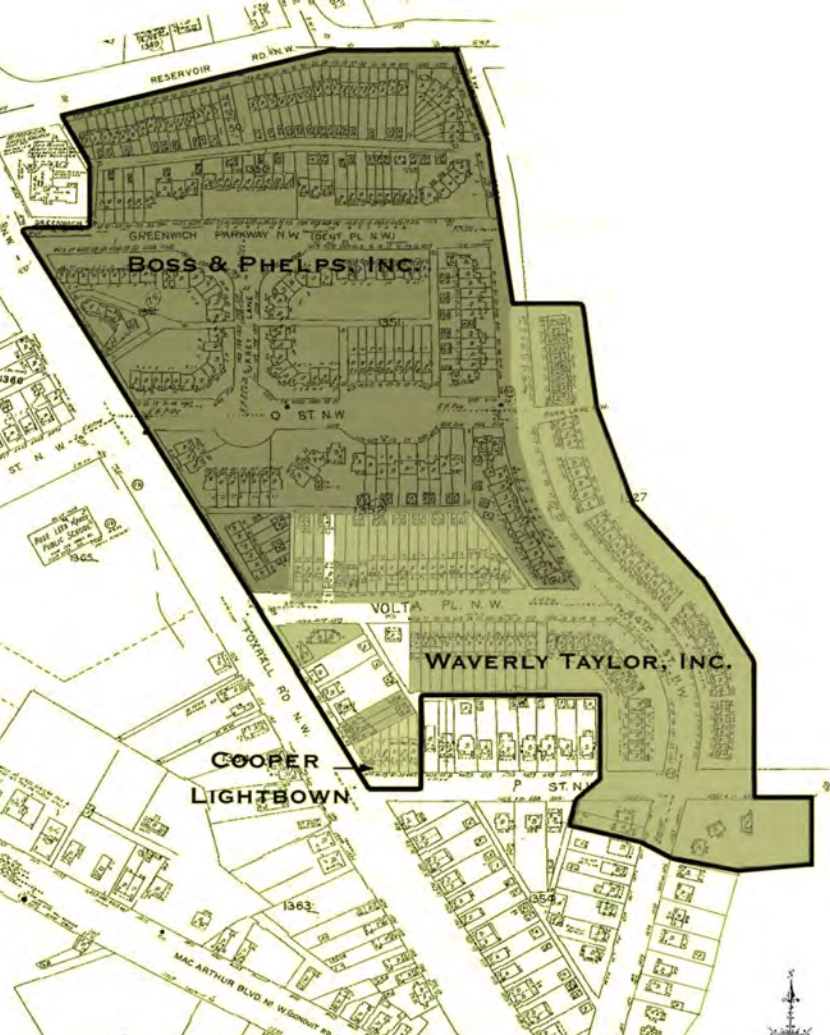
Foxhall Village Ad

The Washington Post, April 14, 1929

way as his own home. He died in January 1930, before all of his designs in Foxhall Village had been completed.

Working with Cooper, Boss and Phelps designed their residential subdivision to conform with the natural topography of the site. The sloping, wooded terrain greatly influenced the street plan, which was curvilinear and ensured that the picturesque setting remained intact. Some rowhouses were sited in a semi-circular arc, with staggered front and rear yards, to create a “horseshoe curve” that was inspired by the famous Royal Crescent in Bath, England. The curving streets created visual interest while at the same time reducing driving speeds in the residential neighborhood. This sequence of spaces provided formality, variety, and a scenic, park-like setting overlooking the newly established Glover-Archbold Park.

In May 1925, work began on the first of six construction phases, with the first dwellings completed by October.



1999 Sanborn map with overlay illustrating boundaries of the three independent developments making up Foxhall Village Historic District today

(Map) Library of Congress (Overlay) EHT Traceries

The *Washington Post* reported “grave consideration, honest endeavor, high ideals, a vision kept alight by the memory of the fine old first owner of the land... were in the making of Foxhall Village.” The development also received praise from other Washington, D.C. real estate men who believed Boss and Phelps had “achieved the ultimate in residential perfection.” By November 8, 1925, only a month after the rowhouses were completed, the first fifteen dwellings had sold for \$8,500 each and the developers immediately began a second phase of construction with an additional seventeen dwellings on Reservoir Road marketed at \$9,100 and up.

Advertisements through the year 1925 referred to Foxhall Village as the “finest community of group homes.”

In January 1926, the publicity focus changed to pricing and investing. On January 9, 1926, an advertisement declared, “When my ship comes in – then I’ll buy that home I’ve been wanting so long. But why wait? You can easily meet right now the moderate prices and terms that prevail in Foxhall Village.”

In January 1926, Boss and Phelps announced the construction of several hundred additional rowhouses, making Foxhall Village one of the largest developments undertaken in Washington, D.C. at the time. As the neighborhood developed, the houses became larger, more stylized, and employed more modern materials and conveniences, which increased sale prices. By using a variety of architectural elements in various combinations and configurations, Cooper provided each rowhouse with a sense of individuality, which suggested the freestanding single dwelling ideal that most homebuyers desired.

All of the dwellings were of masonry construction, some featuring decorative herringbone brickwork



Gloucestershire Group under construction, c.1925

Harry K. Boss Foxhall Village Scrap Book

Courtesy of Daphne & Malcolm Ross



Houses under construction in Foxhall Village, c.1925

Harry K. Boss Foxhall Village Scrap Book

Courtesy of Daphne & Malcolm Ross

and stone cornice brackets and/or decorative concrete heraldic shields above their recessed entry bays. Half-timbering with stucco was applied to various second stories, dormers, and projecting bays to increase the variety and individuality of each dwelling. Roof forms varied from side gables, cross gables, flat roofs with shed parapets, and flat roofs with side-gabled parapets; all were covered in square-butt slate tiles. Chimneys of brick featured corbelled caps with decorative clay pots. Interior illumination was supplied by ribbons of double-hung wood-sash and casement windows. Entrances were often square and recessed, but the rowhouses, in keeping with the post-war trend and the Tudor Revival style, did not have large, projecting, and

costly porches. Architectural Design Guidelines have been established to ensure preservation of these character-defining features.

Foxhall Village received acclaim in the local newspapers as indicated in the *Washington Post* quote:

Nowhere in the United States has the idea of original and beautiful architecture been expressed more feelingly than in Foxhall Village. The houses have been built with a real desire to do something worthwhile—to make homes that are not only intelligently planned, but are distinctive and unique as well.

The materials and mode of construction employed for the cluster known as the Gloucestershire Group received much publicity in 1928. The Architect's Advisory Council of the District of Columbia honored these dwellings with the Class One Award for distinguished architecture. The Gloucestershire Group houses were priced between \$17,750 and \$24,500, making them twice as expensive as those in the earlier phases. Boss and Phelps distributed a brochure publicizing the benefits of the all-brick, steel-framed construction, which included waterproof exterior walls that were excellent in both the

heat and cold. The houses employed the finest fixtures with polished brass hardware, built-in shoe racks, imported English wallpapers, marble-faced fireplaces, enameled



Ornate chimney pots at 4401 Q Street, NW, c.1970

Foxhall Community Citizen's Association

kitchen appliances, copper door and window screens, and glazed tile vestibule floors. Iron fences separated the backyards, which included garages designed in the Tudor Revival style. A thirteen-inch brick wall topped with barberry bushes surrounded this group of dwellings. Each rowhouse featured a distinctive garden and landscaping.

At the request of the Foxhall Village Citizens Association, Boss and Phelps set aside an area of land between Greenwich Parkway and Q Street for commercial use. Fronting the highly traveled Foxhall Road, the resulting commercial new building originally held three tenants, the Sanitary Grocery Company, the Foxhall Drug Store, and the Foxhall Cleaners and Dryers. Set substantially back from the road, the new building featured green space with mature trees, shrubs, and picnic tables for customers. The only non-residential structure in the neighborhood, the commercial building successfully

Commercial building on Foxhall Road, NW
Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012



employed the Tudor Revival style to make it compatible with the surrounding rowhouse development. Constructed of brick with arched lintel and concrete detailing, the crescent-shaped building has multiple gables with half-timbering and stucco, and an octagon-shaped tower indicative of medieval English buildings. The multi-light casements, reminiscent of those on the rowhouses, compliment the metal-frame storefront windows necessary for a commercial building.



4401 Q Street, NW
Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012

Foxall Village: Waverly Taylor, Inc.

In 1928, William Waverly Taylor, former vice president of the Shannon and Luchs real estate firm as well as the general manager and architect for their construction company, started his own real estate firm known as Waverly Taylor, Inc. Taylor, born in Washington in 1896, studied architecture at the George Washington University. He became well-versed in the design of rowhouse architecture, having worked in neighboring Burleith while at Shannon and Luchs. Taylor was actively involved in the field, serving on many of the local and national boards including the Washington Real Estate Board, Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Washington, National Association of Real Estate Boards, and National Association of Home Builders. In 1937, he received the Shield of Merit from *Good Housekeeping* magazine for better standards in building.

During 1928, Waverly Taylor, Inc. purchased an unde-

veloped tract of land east of Foxhall Village as its first development site, intending to meet the need for better housing in the District of Columbia. This tract ran along the entire eastern side and part of the western side of 44th Street and overlooked the newly established Glover-Archbold Park. Waverly Taylor declared the development would be both beautiful and affordable while complementing the adjacent Boss and Phelps rowhouses. The *Washington Post* reported in October 1928, that Taylor's property "lends itself to unusually interesting planning" and the rowhouses "are to be of English design, harmonizing with the present Foxhall Village development." The developer pointed out that his property "between such outstanding examples of this trend, as Burleith and Foxhall Village, presents the ideal location in which to satisfy this new era of home ownership." Like that of Boss and Phelps, the Waverly Taylor development sought to build moderately priced, modern, and efficient houses in a historicist architectural style.

W. Taylor designs at 1500 block of 44th Street, NW
Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012



Taylor differentiated his development of 106 rowhouses, twin dwellings, and freestanding single dwellings by using the correct spelling of Henry Foxall's name, christening his subdivision Foxall Village. The architectural firm of Porter and Lockie was retained to prepare specifications and working drawings, but Waverly Taylor is credited with the actual designs.

Although the architectural details varied, the Waverly Taylor and Boss and Phelps rowhouses were remarkably compatible. Both rowhouse developments employed similar planning and siting as well as large-scale construction techniques to bring costs down for homebuyers.

By 1932, Waverly Taylor's firm had constructed a number of rowhouses along 44th Street and Volta Place. The rowhouses were described as "double-front homes," because Taylor focused on creating a harmonious design on both the front and rear elevations. The masonry dwellings utilized a full-range of colored bricks to increase variety. Staggered massing, shed- and gable-roofed dormers, concrete cornice brackets, and herringbone brickwork further enhanced the individuality. Roofs, highlighted as one of the most important parts of the design by the *Washington Post*, were covered in variegated green and purple slate of random width, thickness, and length to invoke a sturdy and rugged feeling typical of "old world" England. The two- and two-and-a-half-story rowhouses used stone and sand-finished English brick on the facades. The Waver-

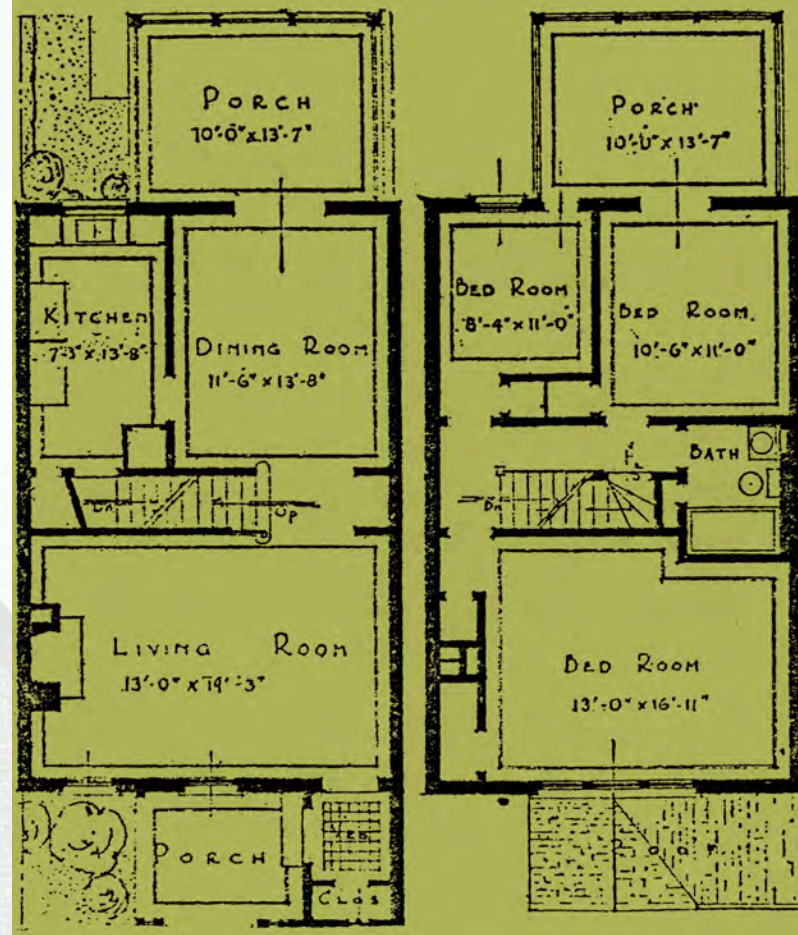


Waverly Taylor
The Washington Post, August 5, 1928

ly Taylor rowhouses had small porches, which was one distinguishing feature between the Foxhall Village development and the Boss and Phelps development. Each porch had one enclosed bay, clad either in half-timbering and stucco or brick. The kitchens, located off the dining rooms, featured modern conveniences such as inlaid tile linoleum, painted cloth covering the walls, an enameled iron sink, built-in cupboards, a gas range, and an electric refrigerator. In assessing the houses, the *Washington Post* declared, "it has never been the policy of Waverly Taylor, Inc. to substitute useless 'gadgets' and transient novelties for substantial fundamentals of enduring character, but at all times their homes have been characterized by every modern improvement to make home owning a delight and not a burden."

In 1933, the firm of Cooper Lightbown and Son oversaw the final improvements to the Foxhall Village subdivision as Boss and Phelps had envisioned it. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1886, Cooper C. Lightbown began his career in Palm Beach, Florida, where he was responsible for the design and construction of palatial mansions. He also served as mayor of that city from 1922 until 1928. Lightbown returned to Washington, D.C., where he resumed his construction business, working in Foxhall Village until his death in 1941.

On the north side of P Street at its intersection with Foxhall Road, Lightbown designed and constructed a group of six rowhouses. The Tudor Revival-style dwellings, offered for sale after their completion in October, featured deep concrete porches with iron railings and Douglas fir porch posts, cream-colored stucco, green shutters, copper gutters, downspouts, and flashing. The roofs had slate shingles in a variety of sizes and colors, while the facades employed sand-finished red brick. The kitchens featured flower and lattice designs on the walls, which were constructed of a new washable material. The kitchens also had grade A Armstrong linoleum cemented to felt-covered floors. Each kitchen had an Oxford cabinet unit and six-foot double drain



Plan of Waverly Taylor home at 1573 44th Street, NW, c.1931
Foxhall Community Citizen's Association

Watermark: 1573 44th Street, NW
Photo, EHT Tracerics, 2006

board sink. General Electric supplied the appliances, including an electric ventilating fan, for all six dwellings. Particular attention was paid to creating large rooms with ample wall space and decorative woodwork. The dwellings had finished recreation rooms, heating plants, laundry, servant's toilets, and some had built-in garages in the basements. The price range for the Lightbown rowhouses was \$7,650 to \$9,450.

Residents of Foxhall Village

Foxhall Village remained the home of many early residents for a number of years, whether owning as most did or renting. The neighborhood was initially white and middle-class, with only a few African Americans working as live-in household servants. Not surprisingly, approximately half were employees of the federal government, employed as lawyers, secretaries, clerks, typists, tax agents, pathologists, stenographers, chemists, economists, bookkeepers, editors, accountants, machine operators, photographers, prohibition agents, and proofreaders. The government branches included the departments of Treasury, War, Interior, Labor, State, Agriculture, and Commerce, and with the Government Printing Office, Interstate Commerce Commission, Veterans Administration, Social Security, and Internal Revenue.

Government employed residents included Robert Brown Teachout, who served for 25 years on the Rating Schedule Board of the Veterans Administration and co-authored the manual of vocational guidance used in the rehabilitation of disabled servicemen. A trained psychologist and avid boat

builder, Teachout purchased 4410 Volta Place upon its completion in 1930 and lived there with his wife and sons until his death in 1965. Delbert D. Hiller, a neighbor at 1520 44th Street, and Minerva Snell at 1575 44th Street also worked at the Veterans Administration. Two architects, Karl J. Schmidt, who bought 4406 Volta Place, and Henry S. See, who lived with his family at 1507 Foxhall Road, both worked at the Department of the Treasury in the Procurement Division.

A number of high ranking officers with the Army, Air Force, and Navy lived in the neighborhood just prior to, and in some cases throughout, World War II. One such resident was Haywood S. Hansell, Jr., who lived with his family at 4457 Greenwich Parkway in 1940. Hansell, retiring as a Major General, served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. An advocate for strategic bombardment, he was one of the chief architects of daylight precision bombing and played a primary role in the air war plans, including the plan for the Combined Bomber Offensive in Europe in 1944.

Another notable resident was Stonewall Jackson of Kentucky, a former Major General in the army. Born in 1891, Jackson was the son of a cavalry officer who served under Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson during the Civil War. He lived with his wife, Dorothy, at 4447 Greenwich Parkway in Foxhall Village, while also teaching Military Science and Tactics at Georgetown University. Major General Jackson died just three years later on October 14, 1943 from injuries received in a plane crash at the 3rd Army Manoeuvre Headquarters in Louisiana.

Edmund B. Gregory served in the Office of the Quartermaster General from 1937 to 1940 while living at 4401 Greenwich Parkway with his wife Verna. Promoted to Major General, he was appointed as the Army's Quartermaster General, overseeing the development, procurement, and distribution of equipment and supplies during World War II. In addition, he had responsibility

Residents at Parkway Island in Foxhall Village, 1972

Foxhall Community Citizen's Association





Fulton R. Lewis, Jr., former president of the Radio Correspondents Association, c.1939
Library of Congress

for over 900,000 civilian personnel employed by contractors to produce supplies, equipment, ammunition and vehicles for the war effort. He remained in Washington, D.C. after the war, assigned as chairman of the War Assets Corporation; Gregory retired in 1946.

Those residents employed in the private sector held jobs such as teachers, physicians, lawyers, industrial engineers, salespersons, bank tellers, office managers, architects, secretaries, social workers, mechanics, and filing clerks. For example, Dr. Lyle M. Manson, who maintained a private practice, lived with his wife Evlyne, at 4422 Volta Place. Edward S. and Mildred Dodds rented the house at 1518 44th Street for a number of years after its completion in 1930 by Waverly Taylor, Inc. Dodds, born in Nebraska, was a private practice attorney. Richard W. Westwood, while living at 4450 Greenwich Parkway for over thirty years, was a

president of the American Nature Association and editor of *Nature Magazine*.

Fulton Lewis, Jr., buying the newly completed house at 4402 Volta Place in 1930, resided here with his wife, two children, and two African American maids, both of whom were from South Carolina. Lewis, a native of Washington, D.C. born in 1904, was a well-known conservative radio personality with a commentary program that ran daily on more than 500 stations nationwide and boasted a weekly audience of 16 million listeners. He was one of the first broadcasters to expose Julius and Ethel Rosenberg as communist spies and was influential in persuading the U.S. Congress to allow radio broadcasting of congressional activities.

Foxhall Village Community

Several factors aided the neighborhood in continuing to maintain a sense of community: the formation of the Society of Little Gardens in 1927, the admittance of Foxall Village residents into the Foxhall Community



Corner of Greenwich Parkway and 44th Street, NW
Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012

Citizens Association in 1932, and the construction of nearby Hardy School in 1933 that served all three subdivisions.

In 1927, a group of homeowners met at the offices of Boss and Phelps to form the Society of Little Gardens. The organization appointed Mrs. Earl C. Lane, whose husband worked as a real estate salesman for Boss and Phelps, as the first president, with Mrs. Frank C. Duncan and Mrs. H.T. Dunbar sharing the duties of vice president. The society was instrumental in the development of landscaped gardens within the neighborhood, thus assuring continuity between the foliage and landscaping designs. The work of the Society of Little Gardens is evident through Foxhall Village today although the organization is no longer in operation.

The Foxhall Village Citizen's Association officially formed on February 22, 1928. With half of the households in the community represented, the group adopted a constitution. Clarence A. Miller of 4416 Greenwich

Parkway was elected president with Edwin G. Reed and J.M. Mason both serving as vice presidents. The annual membership dues were \$2.00 a person. Committees were formed to ensure maintenance and preservation of Foxhall Village, as well as address the concerns of residents. Such committees included Buildings and Zones, Education, Entertainment, Membership, and Municipal Finance. Because the citizens association incorporated more areas outside Foxhall Village by 1944, the name was changed to the Foxhall Community Citizens Association (FCCA). The FCCA encompasses the neighborhoods of Foxhall Village, Colony Hill, Dumbarton, and Indian Rock Terrace.

In 1932, the school board announced that the new elementary school would be constructed to serve Foxhall Village and would be named Hardy School in honor of Miss Rose Lees Hardy, who served as the assistant superintendent of elementary schools. The classically designed school, located to the immediate west of Foxhall Village outside the historic district, opened in 1934. During World War II, the FCCA used the playing fields to the south of the school to plant victory gardens. In

Northwest corner of Q and 44th Streets, NW

Photo, Paul DonVito, 2012



1966, students from across the city were bused to Hardy School due to overcrowding at the Morgan and Key Elementary schools. Hardy School received much attention when President Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy, transferred there in 1978. Amy Carter was the first child of a United States president since Theodore Roosevelt to attend a public school in Washington, D.C. By 1978, the school had transformed from an elementary school to a middle school. Since 1988, the building has been occupied by the Lab School but continues to be actively utilized by the Foxhall Village community.

Foxhall Village Today

Although the initial development of the Foxall Heights subdivision consisted of single and twin dwellings constructed individually as speculative housing, the involvement of developers Boss and Phelps, Inc. and Waverly Taylor, Inc., along with Cooper Lightbown and Son, between 1925 and 1935 shaped the present-day character of Foxhall Village as a planned residential development. The firms constructed rowhouses in the Tudor Revival style, which continue to distinguish Foxhall Village from other early-twentieth-century rowhouse neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. Although planned independently the harmonious nature of the Tudor-Revival-style rowhouses blurs the distinction between the Boss and Phelps, Waverly Taylor, Inc., and Cooper Lightbown subdivisions. Today, Foxhall Village remains one of D.C.'s most charming and sought after neighborhoods.



historic district boundary map

Foxhall Village

This brochure has been financed with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service awarded to the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office.

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Watermark: Surrey Lane and Q Street, NW, c.1930

Harry K. Boss Foxhall Village Scrap Book
Courtesy of Daphne & Malcolm Ross



District of Columbia
Office of Planning



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