Government
Community
Herndon has over 200 historic resources and is both a National Register of Historic Places and a Virginia Department of Historic Resources Certified Local Government.

The Town’s Historic District is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and a Virginia Department of Historic Resources Certified Local Government. The Town’s Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Herndon Train Depot is also on the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Benefits of a Heritage District

- DEFINES COMMUNITY: provides a living record of the past and fuels the uniqueness and small town charm of Herndon
- INVESTMENT PROTECTION: higher property values, faster appreciation, less vulnerability to market fluctuations.
- QUALITY DESIGN ASSURANCE: Architectural controls ensure compatibility and cohesion across the district.
- ECONOMIC GENERATOR: can be a small business incubator and generator of economic activity and cohesion across the district.
- INVESTMENT PROTECTION: higher property values, faster appreciation, less vulnerability to market fluctuations.
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Access to Federal and State Tax Credits for renovation and improvements.

- The train comes to Herndon and a rural village center is built up around the train depot.
- The train comes to Herndon.
- Union picket lines extend through Herndon during the Civil War and are attacked by Mosby’s Confederate Raiders in 1863.
- Following the Civil War Railroad service returns to Herndon and the town is incorporated.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Important decades in Herndon
  - 1850s: Construction of the Herndon Post Office
  - 1860s: The Civil War
  - 1870s: The town begins efforts to preserve its historic fabric with the designation of Heritage Districts
  - 1880s: The town becomes a railroad town
  - 1890s: The town’s Historic District is designated on the National Register of Historic Places

- Many property changes may be approved by staff instead of the review board. Some signs require review board approval while others can be approved by staff.
- Operating a Business in the District?

- Business signs: The town encourages creativity in sign design and the use of several sign types. Sidewalk signs, projecting signs, wall and window signs are some of signs allowed. Some signs require review board approval while others can be approved by staff.
- Business alterations: Businesses often take up-to-date façades and storefronts. These types of improvements can increase business activity and attract the street!
- Town staff can be a good resource in assisting businesses develop plans for signs & alterations.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Heritage District Info

- Preservation Info

- Preservation Basic Principles & Best Practices
  - Retain rather than replace
  - Do no remove character-defining features and materials
  - Take design cues from existing historic buildings
  - Pay attention to scale , massing, and proportions
  - Differentiate between new and old
  - New materials shall match the natural material being replaced in profile, texture, and finish.

- Historic Preservation IS Sustainable Development

- Preservation is the ultimate form of recycling.
- Preservation reduces waste, the energy used to handle waste, and the resources required for landfills.
- Preservation saves energy costs. Embodied energy or the total energy used in the creation of a building and its materials is completely lost when demolished or thrown away.
- Historic materials like wood, brick, and concrete have very little embodied energy.
- Preservation is Smart Growth. Every principle of Smart Growth including preserved open space, creating walkable neighborhoods, mixed land uses, and fostering a sense of place, are met simply by preserving historic neighborhoods.
- Historic structures have a much longer life expectancy than new buildings given their higher quality materials and sturdier construction.

- Herndon is a great place for living, dining, and entertainment options, promoting the downtown vibrancy and activity. For more info, visit the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project page on the Town’s website.

- Enhancing Our Streets

- Get ready for a fresh look downtown with enhancements to the streetscape! To improve pedestrian safety and overall walkability, beginning in 2017, Elden and Spring Streets will be retrofitted with wider sidewalks, street trees, planters, decorative street furniture and lighting. In addition several intersections will be improved with brick crosswalks and accessible pedestrian signals.

- Redevelopment Underway

- Dump trucks and bulldozers have become a common site in downtown Herndon lately. Multiple projects are under construction including Vinehaven, a residential community on Center Street, the new Herndon Fire Station on Spring Street, and Junction Square, a mixed use development on Monroe and Elden Streets. The Town is excited for the delivery of this development and for the benefits each will bring to the image and fabric of the Herndon community.

- Celebrating Our History

- In September 2016, the Town will unveil a Local Historic Marker Program that will memorialize sites of local historic significance. Keep an eye out for these road side cast metal markers which will be installed in phases within the next 12 months.

- A Public-Private Partnership

- Did you know that the largest area of underdeveloped land downtown is owned by the Town and that the Town is expected to have an agreement in place with a developer by the end of the year for a mixed use project? This new development will create more living, dining, and entertainment options, boosting the downtown vibrancy and activity. For more info, visit the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project page on the Town’s website.

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**District Resident FAQs**

**Who does the town have a Heritage District?**

The designation provides a mechanism to ensure conservation of the town’s traditional neighborhoods and older commercial structures, providing a community identify apart from the suburban growth of the urbanizing region. The town’s heritage resources tell the story of the community’s people and way of life that made the town what it once was and formed the foundation for what it is today and will be in the future. These structures are a draw for families and businesses looking for a community with a sense of place and unique appeal.

**What does the Heritage Preservation Review Board (HPRB) do and where does it meet?**

The HPRB, which is comprised of town residents and architectural and historic preservation experts, meets monthly at a work session and a public hearing to review applications for exterior changes to properties within the district.

**Is my house contributing or non-contributing?**

To find out the status of your building, consult with the Heritage Preservation experts, or non-contributing. Non-contributing structures were generally built after the District’s period of significance. To determine if your property is contributing or non-contributing, you may consult with the Heritage Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to review the application. 

**How can I get approval for exterior work on my property?**

- Most exterior changes to buildings and structures within the Heritage districts require a Certificate of Appropriateness approved by the HPRB before the work has begun.
- Common applications to the HPRB include window replacement, siding replacement, roof replacement, additions, new accessory buildings, and new houses.
- Application deadlines are typically 30 days prior to the HPRB public hearing to allow for advertising of the application.

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**Are there district design guidelines?**

Yes, the Herndon Heritage Preservation Handbook and the Downtown Herndon Pattern Book provide design guidelines for the district. Both documents are on the Town’s website.

**What exterior changes do not require HPRB approval?**

Pre-approved features such as paint colors and fences only require staff approval. Other work, minor in nature as determined by town staff, may also not warrant HPRB review.

**What resources are available for technical assistance?**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Technical Preservation Services division of the National Park Service offers specific information on maintaining historic buildings. Town staff and the HPRB can provide some design and renovation guidance and homeowners are encouraged to consult design professionals with expertise in historic architecture.

**Are there any financial incentives for home improvements?**

For contributing buildings in the District, Federal and State tax credits are available for renovation work. Town staff can provide more information on either program upon request.

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**District Property Map:** [www.herndon.va.gov/departments/community-development/development-services/map-resources](http://www.herndon.va.gov/departments/community-development/development-services/map-resources)

**Design Guidelines:** [www.herndon.va.gov/heritagepreservation](http://www.herndon.va.gov/heritagepreservation)

**Zoning Ordinance:** [www.municode.com/library/va/herndon/codes/](http://www.municode.com/library/va/herndon/codes/)

code_of_ordinances

**HPRB Schedule:** [www.herndon.va.gov/departments/community-development/boards-commissions/heritage-preservation-review-board](http://www.herndon.va.gov/departments/community-development/boards-commissions/heritage-preservation-review-board)

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**Herndon Heritage Preservation Workshop**

**Thursday, September 15th at 7pm**

**Town of Herndon Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street**

This free workshop will include discussions on:

- The Town’s Preservation Program
- The current and planned District developments
- Maintaining & Improving District homes & businesses
- Incentives for owning property in the Heritage District
- The use of substitute and modern materials
- Question & answer session with preservation experts

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**HPRB Schedule**

http://www.herndon.va.gov/heritagepreservation
http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/
Herndon Historical Society
http://www.herndonhistoricalsociety.org/
National Park Service Technical Preservation Briefs
https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm
Town of Herndon Building Official
http://www.herndon.va.gov/town-services/building-inspection

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**Other Resources**

- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- National Park Service Technical Preservation Briefs
- Other resources

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**Herndon Historical Society**


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**Questions?**

For more information on the review board application process, design guidelines for exterior changes to buildings in the heritage district, or any other questions regarding Herndon’s Heritage Preservation Program, please contact:

heritage.preservation@herndon.va.gov

703.787.7380

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**Attention District Residents and Business Owners!**

This pamphlet, produced as a companion to the public meeting announced above, provides you with important information you may need as a resident or business owner in the Herndon Heritage District. Keep it as a resource for when you have questions or are thinking or pursuing some home or business repairs or improvements. You’ll find resident FAQs, current district news, a summary of Herndon history, links to town and other preservation resources, and guidance for maintaining and improving district properties.

Want More Information on the Heritage District?

[www.herndon.va.gov - 703.787.7380 - heritage.preservation@herndon.va.gov](http://www.herndon.va.gov - 703.787.7380 - heritage.preservation@herndon.va.gov)