

INTRODUCTION TO FAIRLINGTON

Fairlington is a historic community with a unique place in U.S. history. As Washington DC's population grew during the beginning years of World War II, the area faced a severe housing shortage. President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the War Department to build housing for defense workers coming into the region. The department established the Defense Homes Corporation, which built Fairlington (named for Fairfax and Arlington counties).

Though wartime resources were scarce, the government made Fairlington's construction a priority, and builder Thompson-Starrett obtained quality materials. Architect Kenneth Franzheim served as lead designer, and construction began in 1942. Military and civilian families moved at the beginning of May 1943. By 1945, when the project was completed, 3,400 homes were available in the country's largest permanent housing development. The Defense Homes Corporation managed Fairlington until 1947, when it sold the property to two Texas businessmen. Their firm, Fairmac, operated Fairlington as a rental community for the next thirty years.

In the mid-1970s, Fairmac converted the community into seven legal entities under the Virginia Condominium Act. Six of the condominiums lie on the southeast side of I-395, including the Arbor, the Glen, the Commons, the Green, the Meadows, and the Mews. Fairlington Villages (or North Fairlington) is a single association with 1,703 units, all to the north of I-395. Each of these seven communities is governed independently through their own Board of Directors.

During the conversion to condominiums in the 1970s, all units underwent extensive interior and exterior renovation. The original steam heating system was replaced with electric heating and air conditioning; communal basements were made into private, finished basements; and each ground floor unit gained a fenced patio. Extensive landscaping was completed, and each association was provided with tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Fairlington Arbor is the largest of the Fairlington associations south of I-395, with 367 units covering 25 acres, with units ranging from 1-bedroom apartments to 3-bedroom townhouses.