



## Local Historic District Application submission

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| Property Name (Current)  | Fellows-McGrath House                 |
| Property Name (Historic, if known)   | Fellows-McGrath House, "Memory House" |
| Property Street Address  | 6404 Washington Boulevard             |
| Property Neighborhood (e.g. Nauck)   | Arlington-East Falls Church           |
| Property ZIP / Postal Code   | 22205                                 |
| Is nomination for multiple properties?<br>If yes, please attach required petition<br>(see above instructions). | No                                    |
| Owner Name(s)  |                                       |
| Does the property have multiple<br>owners?   | No                                    |
| If yes, please list names of additional<br>owners below.   |                                       |
| Owner Street Address   |                                       |
| Owner Apt. #   |                                       |
| Owner City   |                                       |
| Owner State  |                                       |
| Owner ZIP / Postal Code  |                                       |
| Owner Email  |                                       |
| Owner Phone (Cell, Home or Work)   |                                       |
| Applicant Name(s)  |                                       |
| Applicant Street Address   |                                       |
| Applicant Apt. #   |                                       |
| Applicant City   |                                       |
| Applicant State  |                                       |
| Applicant ZIP / Postal Code  |                                       |
| Applicant Email  |                                       |
| Applicant Phone (Cell, Home or Work)   |                                       |
| Today's Date   |                                       |
| Is the nomination for multiple<br>properties? If so, please attach the<br>petition here.                       |                                       |

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| <p>In the space below (and in attached pages if necessary), summarize the general characteristics of the entire property. Describe its current use (and historic use if different) and the primary buildings and/or structures on the property (e.g., house, store, commercial building, bridge, etc.). Include information on the architectural style, materials and/or method(s) of construction, and exterior physical appearance and condition.</p> | <p>Known as the Memory House, the McGrath-Fellows home is a landmark in Arlington, VA. Built in 1899, (official County records indicating 1889 are likely in error) the house is a Victorian Queen Anne, ("Painted Lady"), and has been featured in Bed and Breakfast magazine as well as Unique Inns of Virginia. The home is unique in Arlington, both historically and architecturally. It sits high off of Washington Boulevard on a double lot that is two blocks from the East Falls Church Metro. The home has 3221 sq ft. and been restored over the years to maintain the authenticity of 19th-century architecture. The home retains much of its original architecture including built-in china cabinets; lighting fixtures both original and reproduction; historic style wallpaper from Bradbury &amp; Bradbury; reproduction Wilton carpet; heart pine flooring; steam heat with original 1889 ornate radiators; working transoms over the doors; and 10-foot ceilings throughout the home. The house, as formerly used, provided for 2 bedrooms and 2 bath master suites on the main level, 3 bedrooms and 1 bath on the upper level ( 2 of the upper bedrooms have individual sinks in the rooms), and 2 kitchens one on each level, which has proven ideal for entertaining or to accommodate guests. The basement is unfinished but is a very usable workspace and features a French drain system. The .29 acre property was open for the Virginia House and Garden Tour in 2006 to showcase the home and the meticulously landscaped yard and to see one of Arlington's notable trees, a beautiful flowering Horse-chestnut tree. There is an amazing feature that is truly unbelievable and one of a kind that has been preserved in the home that shows the original, pencil caricature pictures from the original builders.</p> <p>This house and property is another extremely rare, even unique, historically significant site in Arlington (not unlike the late lamented Febrey-Lothrop-Rouse Estate). It demands preservation not just because of it's age and almost immaculate condition, it's truly unique (in Arlington) style and architecture, but also because of the people who owned and lived in this property, and it's prominent location on Washington Blvd.</p> |
| <p>Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (e.g., garages, sheds, barns, storage tanks, walls, etc.), including their condition and estimated age. Also describe any</p>   | <p>A 108-year-old European Horse Chestnut tree graces the front yard of the Victorian. It's called a juvenile tree because this kind of tree can survive for over 300 years. Arlington Tree Action Group joins others in urging that the tree and its history be preserved. Luckily, it's located</p>  |

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| notable natural and/or landscape features (e.g., mature trees, planned circulation paths, rock formations, creeks, etc.).                            | at the Wash Blvd edge of the property; with a little attention, it can be protected.   |
| Are there any known threats to the property? If so, briefly describe.  | Yes, the owner has already had the sewers capped and gas lines sealed in advance of anticipated demolition of the house. Word on the street from various sources is that the owner intends to demolish the home. Efforts to reach the owner to ascertain status not successful.  |
| Construction Dates   | ca. 1899 (or 1889...sources differ, but 1899 is the most likely accurate date)   |
| Architect and/or builder   | John Wells   |
| Specific dates of importance (if known)  | Late 19th, early 20th Centuries  |
| Provide a summary (four-paragraph maximum) of the property's overall history and significance. Please be sure to include all sources of information. | <p>The unique 1899 Queen Anne-style home a couple of hundred yards from the East Falls Church Metro may soon meet the wrecking ball.</p> <p>What for decades has been called the Fellows-McGrath House (6404 Washington Blvd.) was sold by owner Pam Jones this February for \$1,088,295. The purchaser, Manassas-based FNM Investments LLC, led Jones to suspect her cherished home of 17 years — a one time bed and breakfast known as Memory House — will be torn down. That would be a shame. The green with red trim home (3221 square feet, with built-in china cabinets) is not only a landmark, it was for 43 years home to the only man to be chief executive for both Falls Church and Arlington County.</p> <p>Harry Andrew Fellows, according to clippings and Falls Church histories played a major role in seminal events in both jurisdictions. A native of Livingston, Alabama, Fellows (1866-1943) moved to the Washington area for law school at Georgetown University. He spent 22 years at the Treasury Department's Income Tax Bureau. But one senses from his outside activities that his heart lay in civic activism.</p> <p>After buying the Washington Blvd. house in 1900 with his wife Alice, Fellows became president of the Falls Church Citizens Association and the new Arlington County Civic Federation. This joiner and father of two was a parishioner at the Falls Church and served in the D.C. National Guard, the Odd Fellows and the French Lodge of Washington.</p> |

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|  | <p>Alice made her mark as a luncheon hostess of bridge tournaments — covered by the Washington Post — and, before her death at 105 in 1971, built a reputation as a font of Falls Church history. Her home was bought by John and Marlys McGrath. Harry Fellows became mayor of Falls Church in 1920. A 1926 Evening Star article records his role selling bonds that financed construction of the Madison Elementary School in the heart of the Little City. His January 1927 decision not to seek reelection was reported by the Post, and soon his attention shifted to Arlington; he ran for county supervisor from its Washington district. In 1932, Fellows was sworn in as chairman of the Arlington County Board. He had helped with creation of the nation’s first county manager system in 1930, and was in on planning the committee that renamed Arlington’s streets. He was active in the effort, first broached in the 1920s, to separate his East Falls Church neighborhood from the City of Falls Church.</p> <p>The reasons were complex. There was an untidy border and confusing government jurisdictions complicated by a railway station. Petitioners among residents envied Arlington’s progress in providing water and sewer lines, and they felt they would be taxed less in Arlington. Falls Church resisted because it would lose businesses. The proposal to shift to Arlington was filed in 1932, and was approved by a court in April 1936.</p> <p>By then Fellows had left the county board. He died in 1943 at the Crestdale Sanatorium on Lee Highway (now the Overlee Community Association).</p> <p>Portraits of Harry and Alice Fellows from the house are now with the Arlington Historical Society, whose leaders are not eager to see the home demolished.</p> <p>Source/Author: Charlie Clark, Falls Church News-Press, May 28, 2021</p> |
| <p>Please attach at least six (6) current images of the property, including visible exterior elevations/views, any relevant architectural details, any outbuildings, and the overall setting. Each photograph should be labeled with a description (e.g., “View of the</p> | <p><a href="#">Floor plan attic.jpeg</a><br/> <a href="#">Floor plan basement.jpeg</a><br/> <a href="#">Floor plan diagram main floor.jpeg</a><br/> <a href="#">main photo.jpg</a><br/> <a href="#">Photo.jpg</a><br/> <a href="#">unnamed.jpg</a></p>  |

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| north (front) elevation of the dwelling"). Historical maps and images also may be included, if available. Please indicate sources of all images provided.                                      |   |
| Please include any primary or secondary sources that may be helpful in continued research of this property, as well as any sources that are referenced in the narrative sections of this form. | 96 images of the interior and exterior of the house, including interior floor plans, can be found at this website:<br><a href="https://www.movoto.com/arlington-va/6404-washington-blvd-arlington-va-22205/pid_ez5t1it1oh/">https://www.movoto.com/arlington-va/6404-washington-blvd-arlington-va-22205/pid_ez5t1it1oh/</a> |
| The submitter of this form agrees all the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge.   | Yes   |