



The major historic context of Herndon is transportation; specifically, the role that Washington & Old Dominion Railroad exerted over the community from its founding in the mid-nineteenth century until 1968 when the railroad terminated operations. The railroad was responsible for the development of the village of Herndon into one of Fairfax County's residential communities. In the post-Civil War years the railroad helped influence settlement patterns of northern Virginians with its direct link to Washington, D.C. In the early twentieth century until after World War II the railroad helped turn Herndon into a bedroom community for Washington, D.C. and many residents used the passenger service to commute to government jobs in the nation's capital.

A secondary historic context of Herndon is architecture. The architectural vocabulary reflects the various popular styles of that period as well as the early twentieth century. With the rapid growth and development of Fairfax County, Herndon represents one of the few communities in the region that has retained much of its original building fabric and small town character that date from the turn of the century.



## Herndon Historic District

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places January 11, 1991

