



HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://meet.lync.com/fallschurch-fallschurchva/cgahres/0697GBM9>
Thursday, September 24, 2020 ❖ 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE: The meeting for which this agenda has been posted will be held pursuant to and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3708.2 and state and local legislation adopted to allow for continued government operation during the COVID-19 declared emergency.

All participating members of the Historical Commission will be present at this meeting through electronic means. All members of the public may view this electronic meeting via this Skype meeting link: <https://meet.lync.com/fallschurch-fallschurchva/cgahres/0697GBM9>

Public comments may be submitted to cgahres@fallschurchva.gov until 8:00 p.m. on September 23, 2020. All comments will be provided to Historical Commission members and comments received by the deadline will be read during the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be conducted via Skype. If you do not already use Skype, you will be prompted to install it when clicking the meeting link, so please take some time ahead of the meeting to do so. **If needed, there are short instructions to download Skype following the meeting agenda.** Please email cgahres@fallschurchva.gov if you need assistance with installation. During the meeting, staff will likely not be available to assist with installation

.....

1. Call to Order

2. Greetings

- a. Welcome New Historic Commission member *Andy Rama*
- b. Welcome new CBC Youth Representative *Sarah Lambert*

3. Old Business

- a. Hangman's Tree Plaque: Next steps with City Council, City Manager, and Planning Commission regarding the recommendation to remove the Hangman's Tree plaque.
- b. Big Chimney's Park: Final review of the proposed replacement marker for Big Chimney, to be installed at Big Chimneys Park
- c. Falls Church High School Historical Marker: Finalize the installation date of the marker.
- d. FC History Group: Ad hoc working group, including sources.

4. New Business

- a. Bus Stop Wayfinding "Fun Facts": staff project by Mr. Gahres

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 571-419-7366, TTY711.

- b. Historical Naming: internal discussion regarding the naming of historical places and the execution of naming policy in the City, including the role of the Historical Commission.
- c. Broad & Washington: Possible upcoming joint referral in October following City Council recommendation.

5. Public Comments

6. Adjourn

Skype Download Instructions

Accessing Skype – New Users

Smartphone: If you plan to view the meeting on a smartphone, access your preferred app store to download the “**Skype**” app. You will have to allow Skype access to some features on your phone and accept their terms and conditions.

PC/Windows: If you plan to view the meeting on a personal computer, visit www.skype.com to download and install the program. You will have to allow Skype access to some features on your computer and accept their terms and conditions.

After downloading Skype:

- Click the advertised meeting link to join the Skype meeting.
- When the app opens, click ‘Join as Guest’ and enter your name. Click the blue arrow to continue.
- The meeting will start with your microphone and video features turned off. As an observer, you can view or listen to the meeting without these features. If you are a meeting participant, you should enable at least the microphone feature. Video is not required but may be useful. Depending on your role in the meeting, there may be restrictions on whether you can speak during the meeting.

THE STORY OF BIG CHIMNEYS

circa 1699

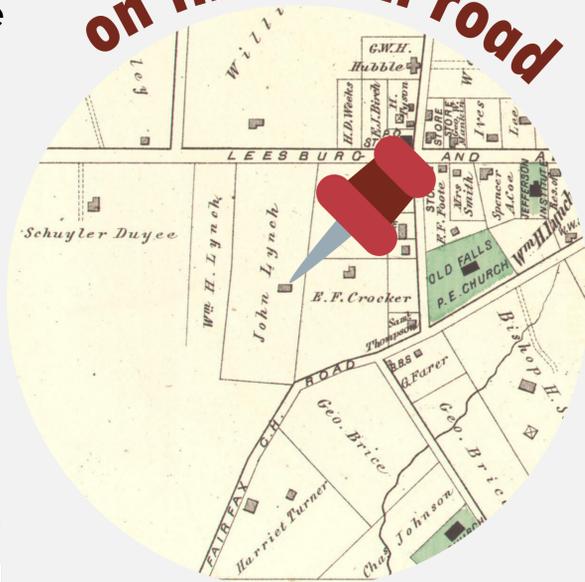


“**BIG CHIMNEYS**” is thought to be the first permanent structure built on land that is currently within the Falls Church City limits. The building was named for its two prominent brick chimneys. Placed inside one of the chimneys was a stone engraved with “1699”, which could represent the cabin’s original construction date. The City of Falls Church recognizes this year as the community’s establishment, predating the building of a 1734 wood church that became The Falls Church (Episcopal) and subsequent origin of the community’s name.

The only extant photo of the Big Chimneys structure was taken around 1908, and the building was demolished by 1914.

Originally a simple log farm house, the cabin was built near the intersection of early Native American trails which became busy farm and market roads. Its central location was a day’s horseback ride from regional river crossings as well as other colonial settlements. In about 1803, the building was enlarged and used as an “ordinary” or inn for the next 35 years to accommodate travelers **on the main road between Alexandria and Leesburg** (now S.R. 7/Broad Street).

on the main road



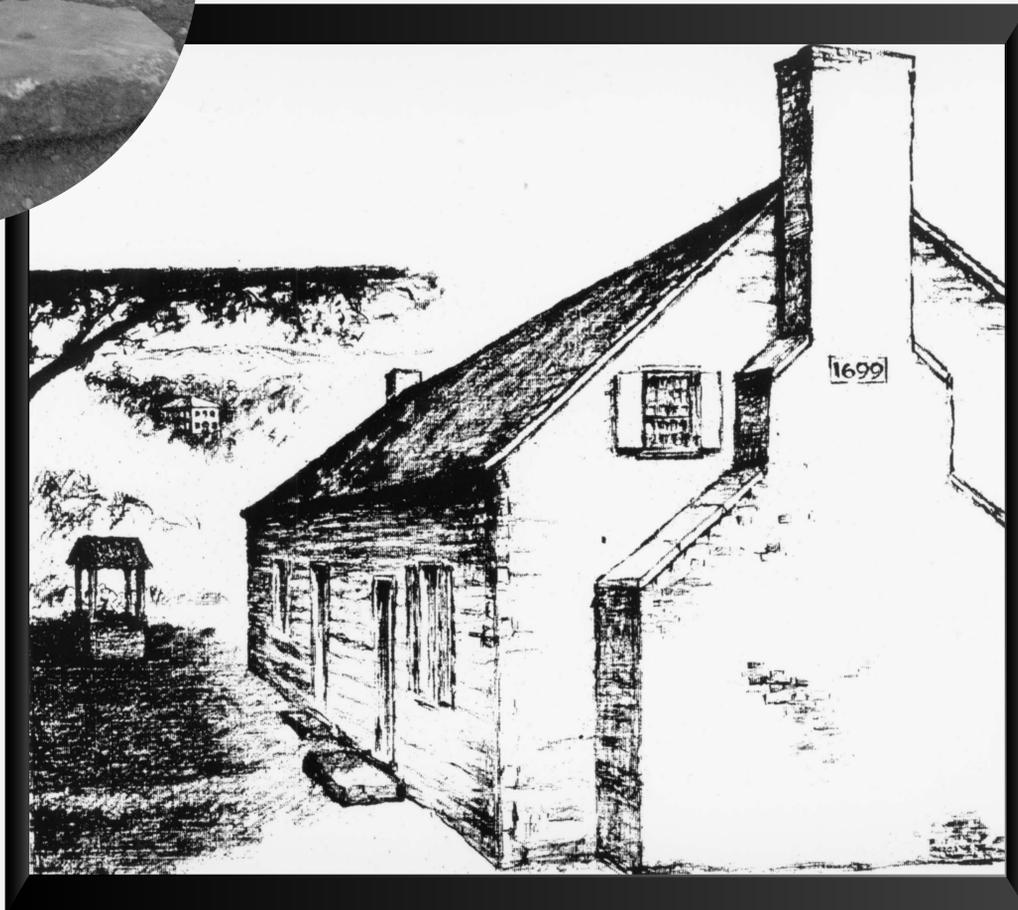
near the park



The original cabin site is believed to have been near the intersection of present day Annandale Road and Maple Avenue.

Large stone slabs, possibly the structure’s original door thresholds, were found here in the 1960s during road construction.

For more history, read the brochure “The Story of Big Chimneys Since 1699” and find related information in the Local History Collection of the Mary Riley Styles Public Library, City of Falls Church.



CITY OF **FALLS CHURCH**

Photos and graphics courtesy of the Mary Riley Styles Public Library Local History Collection. “Big Chimneys” sketching from Melvin Lee Steadman’s *Falls Church By Fence and Fireside* (1964). Artwork by Clare Casey (2020).