

The Mary Washington Monument



Honoring our Nation's First Mother

Who was Mary Washington?

- Born in 1708 in Lancaster Co, VA
- Fatherless at 3, orphaned at 12
- Married Augustine Washington in 1731
- Gave birth to George in 1732
- Her spouse, Augustine, died in 1743
- Raised five children and managed the family farm for nearly thirty years
- Moved to Fredericksburg in 1772



Mary Washington did not remarry following the death of her spouse, Augustine.



- 1789 - Mary Washington died
- 1825 - Congress authorized monument
- 1833 - Cornerstone of first monument is laid
- 1889 - property for sale
- 1890 - (Local) Mary Washington Monument Association formed
- 1891 - National Mary Washington Memorial Association formed



THOMAS DOWLING, AUCTIONEER.

**THE
GRAVE OF MARY,**
The Mother of General George Washington,
TO BE SOLD AT
PUBLIC AUCTION

To the Ladies attending the Inauguration of President-Elect Harrison:
On TUESDAY,
MARCH 5, 1889,
at 12 o'clock M., we will offer at Public Outcry, at
THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
12 Acres of Land, embracing
The Grave and the Material of the Unfinished Monument
of MARY, the Mother of General Washington.
COLBERT & KIRTLY,
Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers,
Fredericksburg, Va.

The sale of the above-mentioned property will take place at
the hour named, in my Auction Rooms, corner Pennsylvania Ave.
and Eleventh St. Terms will be made known at time of sale.
THOMAS DOWLING.

Over 100 years pass before final monument completion

Important Dates in Monument Site History

1891

Site turned over to
nat'l organization -
for suitable
monument

1896

Lodge completed

2011

Returns to City
stewardship

1893

Organizations
disagree on
fundraising

1897

“Connecticut Room”
furnished by CT
branch

2011

City gives Memorials
Advisory Commission
responsibility

1894

Monument
dedicated,
President Grover
Cleveland attends

1964-66

Groups disagree on
site care, deed site
to City

2019

City Council votes to
sell Lodge

1895

Construction begins
on Lodge

1979-2011

Kenmore leases the
property

2020

City considers
renting property to
tenant

Creation & Actions of Task Force

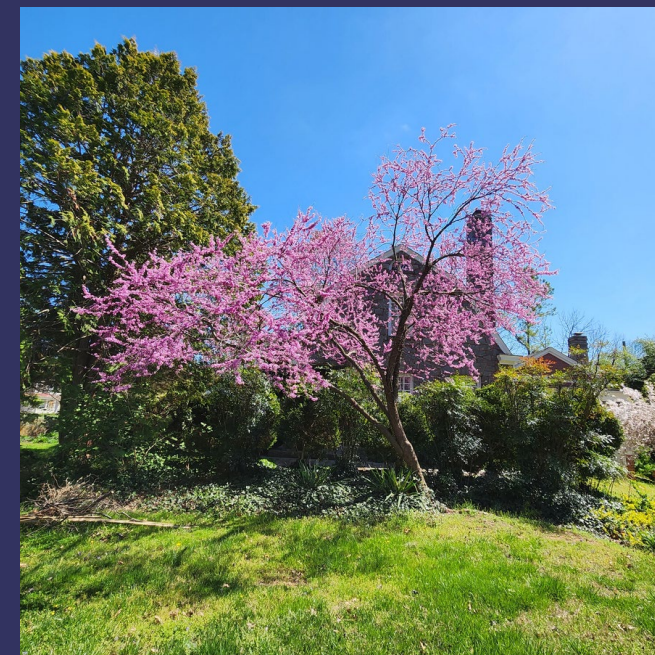
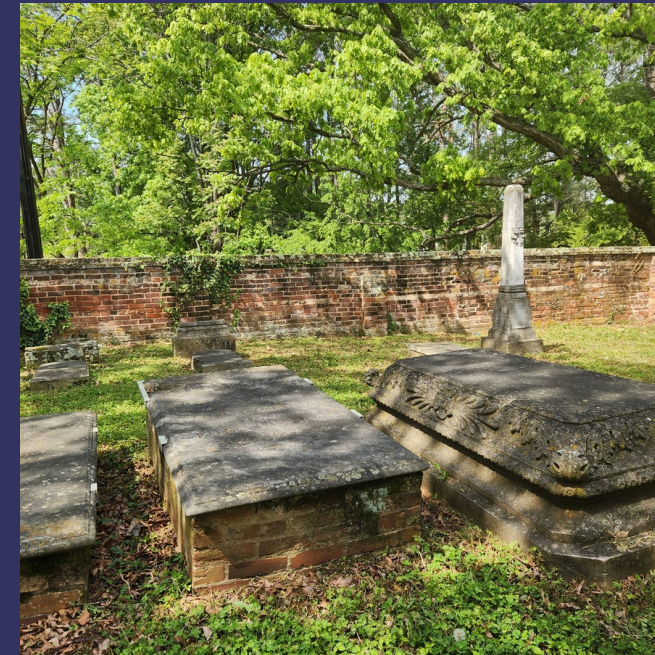
- Monument Task Force formed - *November 2021*
 - Diverse group of people from varied backgrounds
- Task Force charge established
 - Determine feasibility of acquiring Monument and Lodge
 - Determine alignment with WHM mission
- Implemented biweekly meeting schedule
- Explored financial impact & future use of the property
 - Contracted for home inspection on the Lodge
- Provided regular updates to the BoD
- WHM BoD unanimously recommended acquiring the monument property from the City – *April 2022*

Negotiations with City

- Held initial meeting with City officials - *July 2022*
- Focused negotiations on Deed of Gift for Monument and property
- Letter of Intent signed - *August 2022*
- City tasked WHM with creating a Development Plan for the site
 - Financial, Landscape, Fundraising
- Held neighborhood meetings to inform the community of our plans
- Multiple level of reviews throughout the negotiation process
 - Memorials Advisory Commission, City Council, Technical Review Committee, Planning Commission
- City Council unanimously voted to grant a Deed of Gift for the Monument, Caretakers Lodge, Gordon Cemetery, Eskridge Oak and Meditation Rock to WHM - *December 13, 2022*

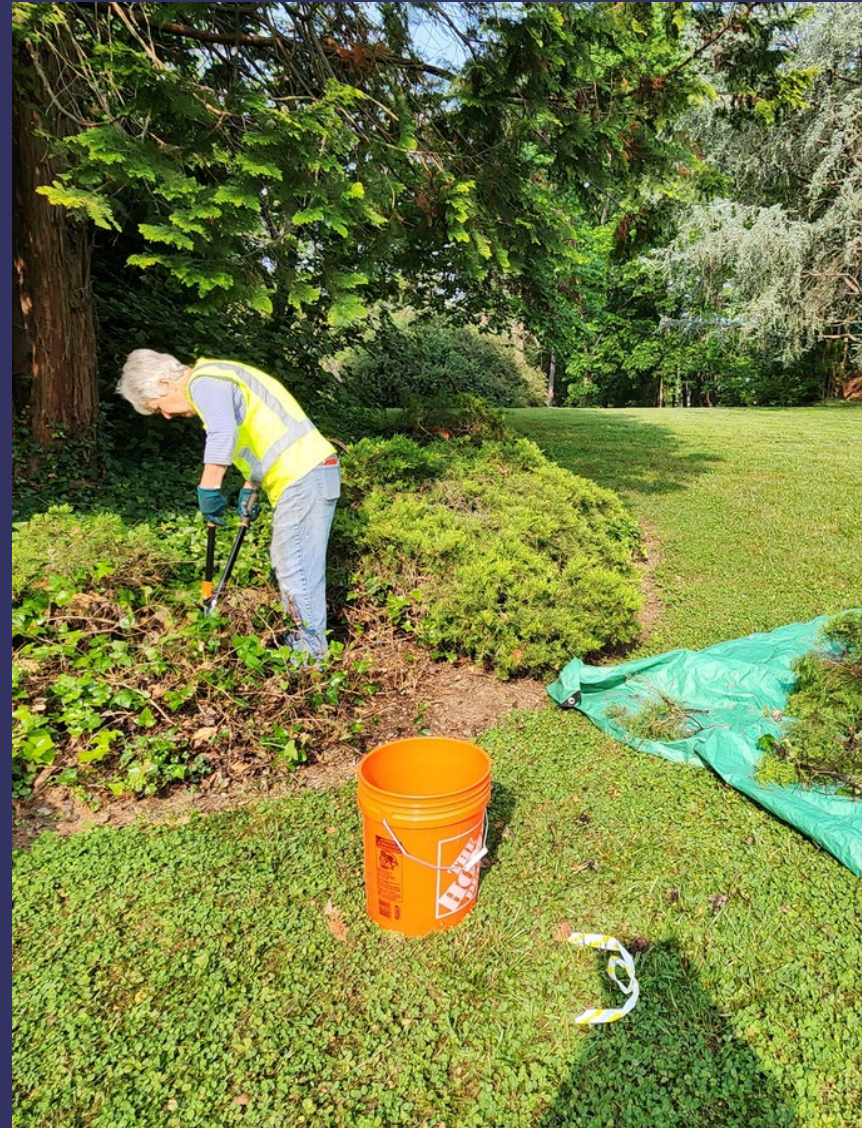
WHM Plans

- Landscape cleanup
- New HVAC & mechanical
- Slope stabilization
- Improved access
- Interior and exterior interpretation of site
- Safety & security
- Functional office space



Progress to date

- An Evening at the Monument
- Mechanical updates
- Cleanup days
- School Tours
- Teacher workshops
- Community support



Volunteer
cleanup days

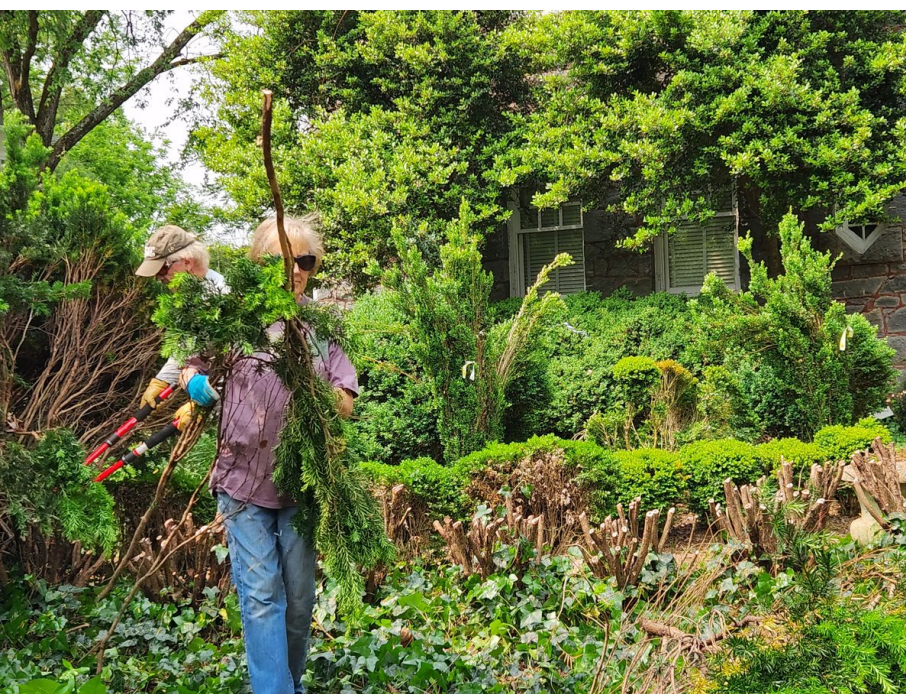
Introductory Event *An Evening at the Monument*





Ways to support WHM progress at the Monument and Lodge

- Make a gift – *matching opportunities are currently available!*
- Become a member
- Volunteer
 - In the gardens
 - For interior painting
 - For small repairs
- Invite WHM to speak to a group



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Donate online

WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org

Or speak with your presenter

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