

CRBIB#403917
GEWA.008 c.2
332/131663



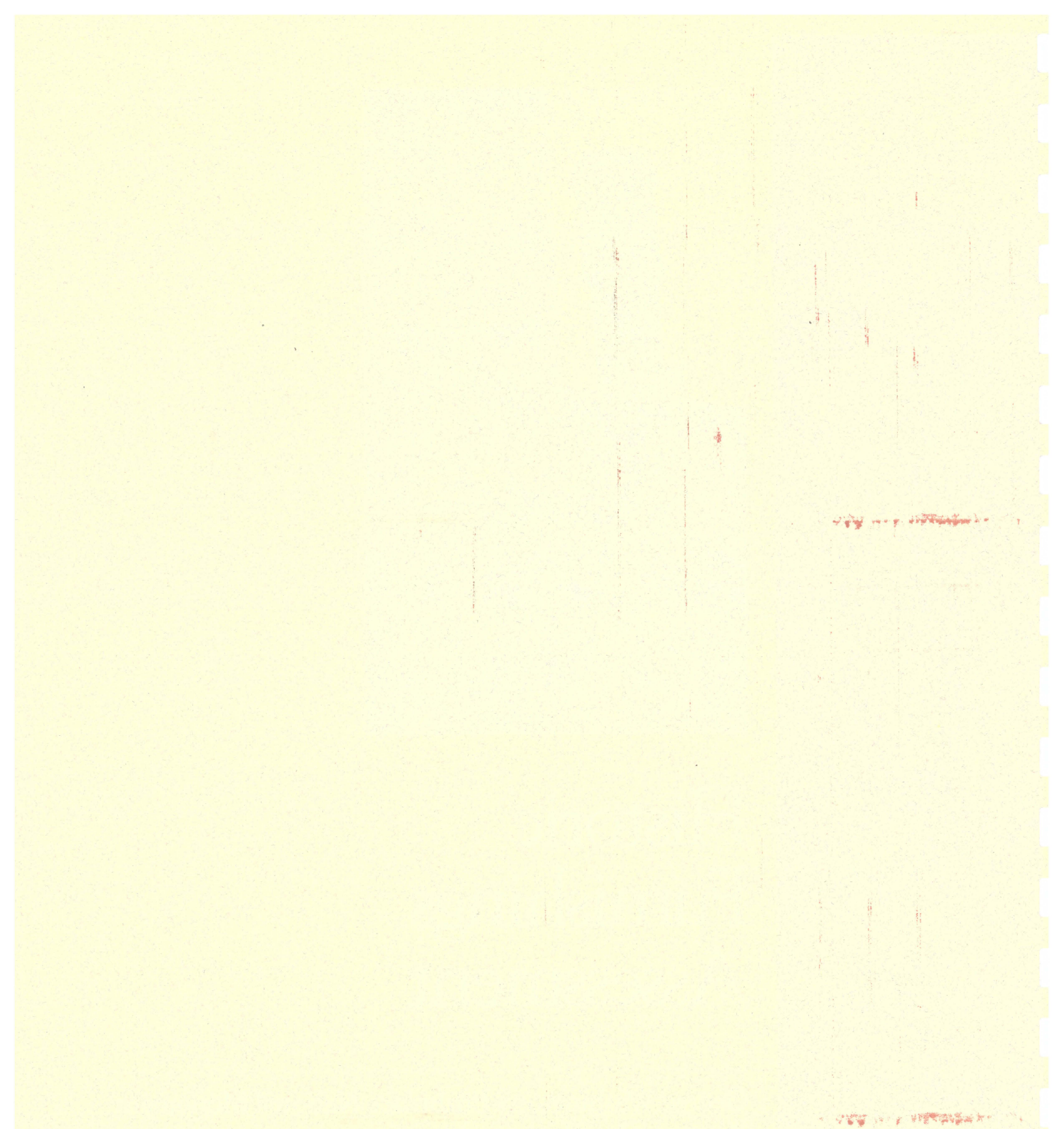
Historic Furnishings Assessment

George Washington's Birthplace National Monument
Westmoreland County, Virginia

NORTHEAST
**MUSEUM
SERVICES**
CENTER

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior



The photograph shows a room with a large, dark wooden table in the center. Several chairs are arranged around the table. The room has high ceilings and large windows. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is historical. The table is a large, rectangular wooden table with a dark finish. It has several chairs around it, some of which are upholstered. The room appears to be a parlor or a formal dining area. The walls are light-colored, and there are some decorative elements on the walls. The floor is made of wood. The overall impression is of a well-preserved historical interior.

Cover Illustration: Grouping of furnishings in west corner of parlor in Memorial House. Table is Washington family object attributed to being in George Washington's original birth home. Photograph taken by author during October 2000 site visit.

HISTORIC FURNISHINGS ASSESSMENT

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
Westmoreland County, Virginia

by
Laurel A. Racine
Senior Curator

Northeast Museum Services Center
National Park Service
July 2002

Introduction

The following report is a Historic Furnishings Assessment based on a one-week site visit (October 2000) to George Washington Birthplace National Monument (GEWA) and a review of the available resources including National Park Service reports, manuscript collections, photographs, relevant secondary sources, and other paper-based materials. The goal of the assessment is to identify avenues for making the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen better support the mission of George Washington Birthplace National Monument. GEWA's major interpretive theme is "George Washington was the transcendent leader of the American Revolutionary era whose actions were crucial to the establishment of the United States as an independent nation founded on principles of universal liberty."¹

The assessment begins with overall issues at the park including staffing, interpretation, museum environment, maintenance, and research. The assessment then briefly outlines the history of the site, discusses previous research and planning efforts, addresses National Park Service furnishings inventories, describes current use and conditions, indicates extant research materials, considers the park's research questions, outlines treatment options, lists the sources consulted, and recommends sources for future consultation. By necessity, the brief history section relies heavily on information in previously written reports and accounts including Rodnick, Hatch, Hosmer, and OCULUS' *Cultural Landscape Report* (CLR). Treatment options may include historic furnished interiors, historic furnished vignettes, formal interpretive exhibitions, audiovisual presentations, and other viable alternatives. Following the treatment options is a chart detailing recommended future park projects, funding sources, and sources of assistance.

The assessment will consider the current state of the furnished interiors at the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen, structures built and furnished by the Wakefield National Memorial Association (WNMA) in the 1930s. Issues to address include the amount of the 1930s interiors that remain intact, the significance of the Colonial Revival interiors at GEWA, how typical the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen are of eighteenth-century Virginia housing, and the types of interpretive opportunities offered by the structures as they currently stand. The assessment will consider the need for updated historic furnishings reports or other research reports for the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. The assessment also will identify specific opportunities to enrich current interpretation by including untold stories about the lives and spaces of previously forgotten individuals.

The park asked that additional issues be addressed as time allowed. The first issue is the current and future use of outbuildings (see "Spinning and Weaving Shop" and "Craft Shop" sections under "Current Use and Condition"). Are the current uses appropriate and/or accurate? The second issue is the continued use of the early furnishings at the Log House which was used as a tea room in the 1930s (see "Log House" section under "Current Use and Condition"). Should these objects continue to be used in the Log House, which is now a conference center, and in the park's book store? A third issue is the interpretation of slavery at the park. Is there an appropriate location

¹ *Long Range Interpretive Plan: George Washington Birthplace National Monument* (Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999), p. 7.

for the interpretation of a field slave living quarters (see "Field Slave Quarters" section under "Analysis of Issues")?

The park provided the researcher with updated information regarding actions taken after the October 2000 site visit and before the printing of the May 2002 final report. The updates are provided alongside recommendations, in the text, or in footnotes as appropriate. The park is to be commended on its renewed focus on cultural resources including hiring a part-time museum technician, supporting her training, and allowing her the time to care for the cultural collections. Therefore, this assessment is both a record of the issues the researcher encountered at the park during the site visit and of the park's recent marked progress in improving the condition of its cultural collections.

Overall Issues

Staffing

Currently there is one part-time GS-4 museum technician with responsibility for the park's museum collection. This level of staffing is not sufficient to support the park's current level of cultural resource operations and will certainly not support any future additions to the cultural resources program. In order to make any significant improvements to or changes in the cultural resource program, the park will need to increase the number of paid staff members devoted to cultural resources and/or aggressively seek help from National Park Service (NPS) centers such as the Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC), Harpers Ferry Center (HFC), and others.²

The park should hire a GS-9 museum specialist focused on cultural resources full-time. This staff member would attend to collections-related tasks including cataloguing, marking period and reproduction objects, overseeing contract cataloguing projects, maintaining computerized collections records, monitoring the museum environment, conducting regular inspections to prevent theft and monitor object condition, performing yearly inventories, and running annual reports.³ Housekeeping tasks would include updating and implementing the housekeeping plan, cleaning the interiors of the structures, and inspecting the condition of the structures regularly.⁴ The museum

² In October 2001, the park's Natural Resource Manager was converted to the Integrated Resource Manager. This position manages both natural and cultural resources for the park. The museum technician who was formerly in the interpretation division moved to the resource management division to dedicate all available time to care of collections. The museum technician currently works three days per week [Vickie Stanley, electronic communication to author, 13 May 2002, p. (1)].

³ According to park staff, about 1,500 objects are catalogued on paper cards. Some of the more recently excavated archeological material was catalogued using ANCS, the precursor of the current ANCS+. There are about 10,000 uncatalogued archeological artifacts. (In January 2001 these objects were delivered to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for cataloguing with fiscal year 1998 backlog cataloguing funds. The catalogued objects are due back at the park by December 2002 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (1).]) A recent archeological cataloguing project resulted in the duplication of catalogue numbers, a costly mistake. A GS-9 museum specialist could make strides in computerizing the park's records, submit proposals for backlog cataloguing money, and manage the list of catalogue numbers so future duplications do not occur.

⁴ The housekeeping plan was written by Harpers Ferry Center after 1996. The plan was partially implemented on an intermittent basis until October 2001 when it was fully implemented [Vickie Stanley, telephone conversation with author, 21 May 2002].

specialist would update the park's Scope of Collection Statement (SOCS) and write Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for collections-related matters such as the opening and closing of curtains at the Memorial House. The museum specialist also would write project statements to request funding for cataloguing objects, upgrading the museum environment, research reports, exhibit plans, and treatment of objects. In addition, the museum specialist would make research materials and facilities available for researchers working on archeology projects, historic structures reports, historic furnishings reports, and special history studies.

Interpretation

GEWA's major interpretive theme is "George Washington was the transcendent leader of the American Revolutionary era whose actions were crucial to the establishment of the United States as an independent nation founded on principles of universal liberty."⁵ The park's subthemes are as follows

- George Washington was born on the periphery of the English-speaking world, into a colonial society which helped shape his character and equipped him for successful careers as surveyor, planter, soldier and statesman.
- Efforts to memorialize Washington's life and achievements began before his death and have continued for more than 200 years.
- George Washington led a revolution that asserted principles of universal freedom, but in the new nation full personal liberty and civic participation were limited to free white men.⁶

There is currently a major disconnect between the information the park wishes to convey to the visitor and the content of the exhibits the park displays. The park wants to tell the story of George Washington, his childhood, and his achievements. The park does not want to highlight the commemorative story represented by its 1930s Colonial Revival structures at the expense of its main theme. However, the park's main exhibit building, the Memorial House, best tells the Colonial Revival story. This imposing structure overshadows the more significant location, outlined as a "footprint," of George Washington's true birthplace next door. The park's Colonial Revival nature should not be ignored and should not be interpreted as "representative" of how the Washington-era Popes Creek Plantation appeared. It is instead a commemorative layer complete with landscape, buildings, and furnishings. This commemorative layer supplies more information about its creators and their time than it does about George Washington and his. Therefore, the commemorative story must be addressed.⁷

⁵ LRIP, p. 7.

⁶ LRIP, pp. 7-9.

⁷ The park's 1999 LRIP supports this idea: "Visitors do not understand that GEWA's landscape represents a generic colonial plantation commemorating Washington's birth and not a recreation of the Washington plantation. The interpretive program only barely addresses commemorating Washington so visitors quickly lose this focus The generic colonial setting is so pleasant as to be misleading about how a colonial plantation really looked and what plantation life was really like" [LRIP, p. 14].

Therefore, the park must devise methods by which the George Washington story is effectively conveyed alongside the commemorative story. The George Washington story told at GEWA should represent what is unique and most significant about Washington's relationship to Popes Creek Plantation. While his later accomplishments should certainly be addressed, the telling of Washington's mature life story should be left to Mount Vernon and other later Washington-related sites. The telling of the Popes Creek Plantation story should also take into account the interpretations at other Virginia plantations of the same period such as nearby Stratford Hall and Gunston Hall in Mason Neck, Virginia.

The George Washington story should be told through the park's extensive collection of archeological artifacts. These are the genuine, extant, Washington-era objects that are unique to this site. Archeology is the centerpiece of the museum collection and should be exhibited as such. The telling of the Washington story through archeology can be supplemented with interpretive media such as computer-generated images of Washington's birth house, an audio program that leads visitors on a tour of the grounds including missing architectural and landscape features, and Waysides.

Increased personal services can also better convey the Washington story. According to a park ranger, the ideal interpretive scenario would be to have a permanent ranger greet visitors at the birth house foundation and orient them to the site. This ranger would emphasize the true birth site and explain the presence of the Colonial Revival structures. According to the park's LRIP, "This [the birth site] is the most important and significant resource of the park, yet the overall visitor experience is underwhelming. . . . Without the boost of an interpreter, the place could easily be glanced over or missed altogether. Many other items in the landscape, especially the Memorial House, compete for the visitor's attention at this spot and quickly draw them away from the birth place."⁸ In the ideal scenario, seasonal rangers would be stationed in the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. Volunteers would staff the spinning and weaving room and the craft shop. However, the reality is that the birth house site is only interpreted in the summer and for tour groups and the park does not have a steady supply of volunteers to staff the outbuildings. The Memorial House is always staffed and the Colonial Kitchen is often staffed.

One interim measure GEWA was considering taking at the time of the October 2000 site visit, was installing exhibit panels the park received from the Washington Monument. The intent was to install them outside in the vicinity of the visitors' center. During the site visit, the actual panels were in storage at a maintenance facility, but the researcher examined the final draft of "The National Park Service Washington Monument Interpretive Center Graphics Package" dated December 1998. The original exhibition was sponsored by the Discovery Channel and installed at the Washington Monument during the period of its late 1990s structural treatment. The exhibition included interior and exterior exhibit panels. GEWA has only the panels related to George Washington, not those interpreting the Washington Monument.

The six exterior panels originally stood back-to-back. These panels each interpret an aspect of Washington's life including "Family Man," "Surveyor," "Virginia Planter," "Soldier," "Statesman," and "Public Servant." The researcher questioned the accuracy of the Popes Creek Plantation image on the "Family Man" panel. It is unclear whether this

⁸ LRIP, p. 14.

image is a nineteenth-century interpretation of Washington's birthplace or a later interpretation based on archeological information. Otherwise, the researcher was impressed with the panel's appearance and informational value. However, while the panels present good information related to the later life of George Washington, they do not aid in the telling of the young George Washington story.

There are four interior exhibits interpreting "Washington: The Man," "Washington: The Soldier," "Washington: The Statesman," and "Washington: The Legacy." Each exhibit displays a timeline indicating Washington's accomplishments in each aspect of his life. "The Man" exhibit explores 1732 to 1799, "The Soldier" spans 1753 to 1799, and "The Statesman" addresses 1758 to 1799. The exhibits include illustrations, interactive opportunities, and "artifact boxes" (small spaces for the display of objects). The interactive exhibit for "The Man" is a "periactoid," six figures (including George and Martha Washington) cut in thirds whose pieces can be mixed and matched, through which visitors can explore roles and costumes. The interactive exhibit for "The Soldier" presents two military situations (army in the midst of a terrible defeat and troops disobedient and demoralized) in which George Washington found himself. There are four choices from which the visitor can choose. In this way the visitor can compare his or her choice with Washington's actual decision. Two issues arise when considering using the interior exhibits at GEWA. First, will they be displayed inside or outside? If they are to be displayed outside, it must be determined if they are weatherproof. Also, two of the exhibits have spaces for the display of objects. GEWA needs to determine how to fill these spaces with appropriate reproduction objects. Issues to consider are the objects' sensitivity to light, environmental conditions, and theft.⁹

Museum Environment

The museum collections at GEWA are threatened by humidity, water leaks, light damage, and pests.

The park has four dehumidifiers for the Memorial House. Yet, due to the structure's aged wiring, only two can be operated at once. The wiring must be upgraded before all of the dehumidifiers can be used. As evidenced by a past accident, staff members need to monitor the water levels in the dehumidifiers. If left unchecked, the water collection reservoirs will fill, spill, and cause water damage. The ceiling in the Memorial House's dining room had just been repaired after an incident with the dehumidifier in the west chamber.¹⁰ In addition to leaks from the dehumidifier, GEWA's undated housekeeping plan written by Harpers Ferry Center describes a history of roof leaks around the dormers and water entering the house through the front and rear doors.

According to the former park ranger with collateral duty for cultural resources, James Laray, the park owns Hanwell dataloggers and software that will record the

⁹ The park installed the interior exhibits in the visitors' center for the 2001 season. The panels feature newly developed text and the artifact boxes contain suitable reproduction or easily replaceable objects. The added panels integrate well visually and thematically with the existing visitors' center exhibits. This is a very satisfactory interim solution.

¹⁰ The park removed the dehumidifiers in July 2001 upon recommendation of the Collection Management Plan team which visited the site in June 2001. Their removal eliminates the possibility of future water damage and additional stress on the structure's electrical system [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].

temperature, relative humidity, and light conditions in the Memorial House. For this equipment to be useful, the dataloggers must be properly installed in the house and the software must be installed on a computer. On a regular basis, the museum specialist should download the information from the dataloggers onto the computer. The software will allow for the storage and printing of the data collected. This data will inform decisions regarding future dehumidification and temperature control efforts.¹¹

The windows at the Memorial House are protected with ultraviolet filtering panels, while those at the Colonial Kitchen are not. The panels at the Memorial House were installed within the last two years, but should be checked using a light monitor to ensure that they are still effective.¹² The park should consider installing ultraviolet film or panels at the Colonial Kitchen to prolong the life of objects there. Weigh the cost of the film/panels versus the replacement of vulnerable period replacement objects and reproductions such as textiles, leather, and paper. Ultraviolet filtering sleeves are needed for the fluorescent lights in the collections storage room at the visitors' center.

The park has no formal Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, but it has been monitoring for pests continuously since February 2000. The monitoring and treatment of pests should be codified in an IPM plan. The park employs "sticky" pest traps and mouse traps for monitoring only. These traps are monitored weekly and changed on a monthly basis.¹³ Recording weekly pest activity is a goal of the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA). Past pest activity at GEWA includes mice, carpet beetles, and silverfish. If there continue to be pest problems, they should be addressed in consultation with the Natural/ Cultural Resource Manager who is familiar with IPM issues. Should the park require further assistance, contact Wayne Millington, Northeast Region IPM Coordinator.¹⁴

*Maintenance*¹⁵

Interpretive staff members clean exhibit buildings on an irregular basis. In the future, it is recommended that the museum specialist or a staff member trained by the museum specialist implement the housekeeping plan. Time should be set aside each week to execute weekly maintenance tasks and address other less-frequent tasks in a

¹¹ According to the current museum technician, the dataloggers record temperature and relative humidity, not light conditions. Since June 2001, the park installed dataloggers on three levels of the Memorial House and in the collection storage area of the visitors' center basement. The software for downloading the information gathered by these devices is installed on the computer in the visitors' center library [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].

¹² The funding for the purchase of the ultraviolet filtering panels at the Memorial House was provided by the George Washington Birthplace National Monument Association [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].

¹³ Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [2].

¹⁴ Contact information for Wayne Millington is National Park Service, 209A Ferguson Building, University Park, Pennsylvania, 16802, 814-863-8352.

¹⁵ This section draws on a brief memorandum containing cultural resources recommendations written by James Laray, former park ranger with collateral duty for cultural resources [James Laray to Chief Ranger and Superintendent, George Washington's Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National Historic Site, memorandum, undated 2000].

timely manner. Housekeeping concerns at GEWA include dust, mice, carpet beetles, and silverfish.¹⁶

In order for cultural resource and maintenance personnel to properly maintain the exhibit buildings, they need the appropriate equipment and a power source with which to run it. According to Laray, the current wiring in the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen is dangerous and inadequate for current needs.

Laray states that maintenance staff members during his tenure were required to leave the historic core (area around the exhibit and farm buildings) by 9:00 AM, allowing them only five hours per week to clean this public area of the park. As a result, the upkeep of the exhibit buildings, farm buildings, outbuildings, landscaping, and walkways suffers. It is recommended that concessions be made so that the historic core receives the maintenance it deserves. With some care and planning, maintenance personnel can likely perform tasks when there are no scheduled groups at the park, during known slow times during the day, and without parking maintenance equipment in conspicuous locations.¹⁷

The museum specialist should perform weekly inspections of the exhibit buildings to monitor the condition of the structures. At GEWA there are issues with water damage to interior plaster, rotting timbers in the Memorial House foundation, exterior paint on the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen, and interior paint in the spinning room. These conditions should be addressed in projects funded as appropriate with park base funding, cultural cyclic funding, and repair/rehabilitation funding. The park should consult the Buildings Conservation Branch in Lowell to determine the work necessary to correct conditions and its cost.

Research

The park's most up-to-date documents are its 1997 National Register Nomination, a 1999 Cultural Landscape Report, and reports on recent archeological investigations. These are solid, detailed documents reflecting current scholarly practice and content.

GEWA lacks Historic Structure Reports for the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. Historic Structure Reports are essential to the documentation and future preservation of these two arguably significant Colonial Revival buildings. These reports are important preliminary steps in considering potential future changes to the installation and interpretation of these structures.

Documents that need to be updated are Paul Carson's 1991 Scope of Collections Statement and Sarah Olson's 1974 Historic Furnishing Study for the Colonial Kitchen. The Scope of Collections Statement is a continuously evolving document that should be revised every two years. A generation of material culture scholarship has occurred since Olson wrote her report for the Colonial Kitchen. Also, there are comparative inventories

¹⁶ The housekeeping plan was written by Harpers Ferry Center after 1996. The plan was partially implemented on an intermittent basis until October 2001 when it was fully implemented [Vickie Stanley, telephone conversation with author, 21 May 2002].

¹⁷ According to the current museum technician, cleaning and/or maintenance of the park's structures is completed by 10:00 AM. Landscape work is carried out throughout the day either before or after scheduled group tours [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].

beyond those considered in Olson's report which could further inform and refine the current installation in the Colonial Kitchen.¹⁸

William Jedlick's 1977 "Interim Historic Furnishing Study and Plan" for the Memorial House was not intended to serve as a long-term, definitive planning document, yet the subsequent installation has stood for almost twenty-five years. A Historic Furnishings Report historical data section should be compiled for the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. This section will document the history of the installations in the two buildings and inform decisions regarding their future installation and interpretation. An implementation plan consisting of either historic furnishings plans or interpretive exhibition plans should then be written based on the findings of the Historic Furnishings Report historical data.

Paul Carson's 1991 "Exhibit Plan: Household Slave Quarters Room, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia" also needs to be revisited. Recent scholarship on slave quarters and recent slave quarter installations at other historic sites including Colonial Williamsburg's Wythe House and Carter's Grove should be taken into consideration when assessing the accuracy and interpretive value of the current exhibit.

An additional report the park is encouraged to consider is a Historic Resource Study focusing on the history of the park as a commemorative site from 1815 to the present. This study would place GEWA within the larger context of American commemoration and pave the way for interpreting the early Colonial Revival story of the park's origins.

Overall Recommendations

1. Monitor water levels in dehumidifiers to ensure water damage to the Memorial House does not occur. (The park removed the dehumidifiers in July 2001 upon recommendation of the Collection Management Plan team which visited the site in June 2001. Their removal eliminates the possibility of future water damage [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].)
2. Continue to monitor and record information regarding "sticky" traps, mouse traps, and structures.
3. Obtain a copy of the video *Housekeeping for Historic Houses* from Northeast Museum Services Center. (Park located its copy of this video and has entered the video's location into its library cataloging software [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].)
4. Train staff members and/or volunteers who clean historic structures. (The museum technician attended "Basic Collections Care" in May 2001. She in turn trained a

¹⁸ One source the park should investigate is the Gunston Hall Probate Inventory Database which is available on-line at www.gunstonhall.org and on CD-ROM for a nominal fee. This database contains transcriptions of 325 probate inventories for Virginia and Maryland property owners deceased between 1760 and 1810. This database does not focus on inventories from Westmoreland County, but contains room-by-room inventories from this county. The time period is later than the Augustine Washington I period at Popes Creek Plantation, but the kitchen is one area which likely saw little change between 1725 and 1810 (see Appendix A).

volunteer from The George Washington Birthplace National Memorial Association to assist with housekeeping duties [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].)

5. Update the Housekeeping Plan.

6. Install Hanwell dataloggers and software to monitor and record environmental conditions. (Since June 2001, the park installed dataloggers on three levels of the Memorial House and in the collection storage area of the visitors' center basement. The software for downloading the information gathered by these devices is installed on the computer in the visitors' center library [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].)

7. Reconsider the schedule that requires maintenance personnel to leave the historic core by 9:00 AM. With some care and planning, maintenance personnel can likely perform tasks when there are no scheduled groups at the park, during known slow times during the day, and without parking maintenance equipment in conspicuous locations. (This schedule no longer applies. According to the current museum technician, cleaning and/or maintenance of the park's structures is completed by 10:00 AM. Landscape work is carried out throughout the day either before or after scheduled group tours [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].)

8. Monitor light levels with light meter. (The park has a light meter and is beginning to document the readings [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].)

9. Prepare Integrated Pest Management plan.

10. While staffing the Memorial House is important for security reasons, consider making the staffing of the birth house site a priority as well. It is essential that visitors are properly oriented to the site so that they understand the commemorative nature of the structures. The Waysides do a good job, but it is not guaranteed that visitors will read them.¹⁹

11. Consider installing the exhibit panels obtained from the Washington Monument as an interim measure. These panels do not address Washington's early life, but provide good information and fill a need for a Washington presence at the park. Issues to consider with the interior exhibits are their suitability for outdoor display and objects to fill the empty objects boxes. (The park installed the interior exhibits in the visitors' center for the 2001 season. This is a very satisfactory interim solution.)

12. Purchase and install ultraviolet filters for fluorescent light fixtures in museum storage rooms.

¹⁹ The researcher's experience reflects the time of year she visited the park. According to the park, rangers provide presentations at the birth site from May through September at designated times of the day seven days per week. During this season there are three to four presentations per day [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].

13. Hire a GS-9 museum specialist to manage and expand the park's current cultural resources program. (The park hired a GS-4 museum technician in January 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (3)].)
14. Upgrade the electrical service at the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. (The park's maintenance division discussed this upgrade with a member of the Collection Management Plan team who visited the park in June 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (4)].)
15. Determine ways to effectively tell the early George Washington story and the commemorative/Colonial Revival stories side-by-side.
16. Fill gaps in research and revisit outdated reports.

Brief History

In 1717 or 1718, Augustine Washington I, the future father of George Washington, purchased the first portion of Popes Creek Plantation in Westmoreland County, VA, from Joseph Abbington. Washington's adjoining landholdings would eventually reach 1,300 acres.²⁰ It is believed that Washington lived in an extant building on the tract before moving to the house that would be George Washington's birthplace. Between 1722 and 1726, Augustine Washington I either built the birthplace house or enlarged an extant structure.²¹ Washington, his first wife Jane Butler Washington, and their children moved into the house shortly thereafter. Jane Butler Washington died in 1728 and Washington remarried Mary Ball in 1730. Their first son, George, was born on 11 February 1731 (Old Style)/ 22 February 1732 (New Style). George Washington had three older half-brothers and one half-sister from his father's first marriage. He also had three full brothers and two full sisters.

In 1735, the Washingtons moved from George Washington's birthplace about forty miles away to Little Hunting Creek Plantation, later called Mount Vernon. Three years later, the family moved to Ferry Farm (also now known as "George Washington's Boyhood Home") located about thirty miles from Popes Creek Plantation. Augustine Washington I died in 1743. A partial probate inventory of Popes Creek Plantation survives, but focuses mainly on slave and livestock holdings. Augustine Washington II inherited Popes Creek Plantation which he may have been managing on his father's behalf since 1735. George Washington moved among his mother and older half-brothers during his youth. It is believed that he lived at Popes Creek Plantation with Augustine Washington II from 1743 to 1745, then went to live with his mother in Fredericksburg, VA. He moved to Little Hunting Creek Plantation, then home of his half-brother Lawrence, in 1748. He visited Popes Creek Plantation several times in 1742, 1747, 1768,

²⁰ Today George Washington Birthplace National Monument owns over 550 acres of the original 1,300.

²¹ The current understanding of the remains of the birthplace house is that it was built in at least four phases. The first phase was built prior to Washington's purchase in 1718, Augustine Washington I built the second phase (nearly doubling its size) between 1722 and 1726. Augustine Washington II likely built the third phase between 1743 and 1762. The small final phase was built after 1762.

and 1771. During the 1747 visit, in his mid-teens, he completed a survey of the Popes Creek grounds.

Augustine Washington II died in 1762 leaving an extensive inventory of possessions. The archeological foundation now believed to be that of George Washington's birthplace shows evidence of several building campaigns including one likely executed by Augustine Washington II between 1743 and 1762.

Upon Augustine Washington II's death, his son William Augustine Washington inherited the plantation. It was during his ownership that the property became known as "Wakefield," the name favored by 1920s preservationists. Washington continued to occupy George Washington's birthplace until the house burned down in 1779. It is believed that many of the furnishings were saved, but the house was never rebuilt and the outbuildings were allowed to deteriorate. William Augustine Washington continued to own Wakefield until his 1810 death when the property passed to his son George Corbin Washington.

In 1815, George Washington's adopted grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, visited the birth site and placed a commemorative stone marker on what was believed to have been the former site of the birth house. George Corbin Washington sold Wakefield to John Gray in 1813. Reserved from the sale were the family burial plot and a sixty-square-foot plot around the Custis marker (the birth house site was likely not within this area). The Custis marker was moved, broken, and finally disappeared during the nineteenth century. Despite its disappearance, the location of this marker was passed down through local and family tradition. Later archeological excavations would prove that this marker was placed over the remains of an outbuilding, not Washington's birthplace.

In 1858, George Corbin Washington's son Lewis W. Washington donated the burial plot and birthplace site to the Commonwealth of Virginia with the understanding that the state would erect a monument. The kitchen chimney, the last standing vestige of the former Washington buildings, is known to have been standing in 1872, but had crumbled by 1878.

Unable to fulfill its obligation to build a monument, Virginia deeded the property to the United States government in 1882. During the 1880s, the Federal government acquired additional land, authorized the building of a monument, and conducted a limited archeological excavation of the site. During the 1896 building of the monument, an obelisk about one-tenth the size of the Washington monument in Washington, DC, a foundation was excavated and recorded in drawings.

The birthplace site was quiet until 1923 when Josephine Wheelwright Rust spearheaded the founding of the Wakefield National Memorial Association (WNMA), an organization dedicated to commemorating George Washington at the site of his birth. By 1926, Congress granted the WNMA permission to construct a "replica" of George Washington's birthplace with the stipulation that the association's plans be approved by the National Fine Arts Commission and the Secretary of War. The same year further archeological investigations were conducted in an effort to uncover additional information. The WNMA's goal was to construct and furnish the proposed replica in time for the bicentennial of George Washington's birth in 1932.

Unfortunately, there was little evidence upon which to base the reconstructed building, thus it is not a replica. The WNMA intended to build a typical eighteenth-

century plantation house of a size and style appropriate for the Washingtons. The symmetrical, center-hall, brick house was based on nearby Gunston Hall and Twiford, the childhood home of Josephine Wheelwright Rust, because tradition held that these later houses were based on the George Washington birthplace. The number of rooms was based on the number and type of furnishings recorded in the 1762 probate inventory of George Washington's half-brother, Augustine Washington II. After architect Edward Donn drew up plans for the Memorial House, researcher Charles Hoppin consulted with descendants of the Washington family who had never seen the house to verify the plans' accuracy. Despite the fact that the resulting plans were not for the specified "replica" due to a lack of information, the National Fine Arts Committee and the Secretary of War approved the WNMA's plans in 1927. The following year the plans were made public.

In early 1930, President Hoover signed the bill establishing George Washington Birthplace National Monument (GEWA). The same year responsibility for the site transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. According to plan, the 1896 obelisk monument was moved to another site within the park. Construction of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen took place from 1930 into 1931. During construction of the kitchen, the original kitchen foundations were excavated and the archeological artifacts formed the nucleus of the park's early museum collection.

A new foundation also came to light in 1930 and was called "Building X." At the time, some suspected that this large, partially excavated foundation was the true location of George Washington's birthplace. Despite this discovery, the WNMA proceeded with building a conjectural building over what later turned out to be the wrong foundation. Further excavation of "Building X" in 1936 confirmed early suspicions. It is now believed that this structure was Washington's true birthplace which was built in four phases: one prior to 1718, one (1722-1726) during Augustine Washington I's tenure, one (1743-1762) during Augustine Washington II's tenure, and one after 1762.

In June 1931, the WNMA voted to turn its landholdings over to the United States government. The WNMA maintained control of the furnishings and interpretation of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen until 1946. The new buildings were formally opened to the public in July of 1931. Shortly thereafter, the WNMA's founder Rust died.

The Memorial House is a one-and-one-half story rectangular brick building with a gable roof and brick basement. The structure is five bays wide with five dormer windows on the river (northeast) façade and four on the land (southwest) façade. Double chimneys flank the two sides. The first floor has a central hall flanked by two large rooms. The upper floor contains a stairhall and four chambers. The Colonial Kitchen is a small one-and-one-half story, wood-frame building with a gable roof, dormers, and two brick chimneys. One chimney is functional while the other is non-functional and included for aesthetic reasons.

The interior of the Memorial House was to be furnished as a typical Virginia planter's home. The early furnishings were mainly reproduction objects which were later replaced with period objects. Until the 1940s, there was an exhibition of archeological artifacts in the basement. The Memorial House was dedicated and the park's first superintendent, Philip Hough, was appointed in 1932. The same year, the WNMA opened the newly constructed "Log House," accessed via a footbridge across Dancing Marsh, as a tea room.

In 1936, noted preservationist Louise duPont Crowninshield became president of the WNMA and supervised the furnishing of several of the rooms in the house. DuPont was involved with several other furnishings projects at about the same time including the Derby House at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, the Jeremiah Lee Mansion in Marblehead, MA, and the iron master's house at Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site.

In 1941, David Rodnick wrote *Orientation Report on the George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Westmoreland County), Virginia*. This report sharply criticizes the WNMA and the NPS for constructing the conjectural structures over archeological sites and ignoring the evidence offered by the 1930 discovery of Building X. According to Charles B. Hosmer Jr., author of *Preservation Comes of Age*, Rodnick's report was written in response to plans for building an administration building over the remains of George Washington's true birthplace.²² Leading preservationist and architectural scholar Fiske Kimball responded negatively after reading Rodnick's report. He wrote, "I even go so far as to say that, when those whose feelings would be most outraged . . . have passed from the scene, it might be good to pull down the memorial mansion."²³

In the late 1930s, the park began to use the Colonial Kitchen as exhibition space. The park moved the display of archeological artifacts from the Memorial House basement to the Colonial Kitchen. This exhibit was first in the east room while the west room was used as an administration area. In the 1940s, the east room of the kitchen was furnished to indicate the appearance of a kitchen of the period 1700 to 1750 while the west room housed the exhibit of archeological artifacts. In late 1945 to early 1946, the WNMA transferred to the NPS responsibility for the Memorial House, Colonial Kitchen, their furnishings, and their interpretation. National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury acknowledged the donated furnishings in a letter with attached inventory dated 25 January 1946. The next significant inventory was taken in 1963 by Park Guide Carl Flemer who composed a "Picture Inventory" of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen complete with floor plans and numbered furnishings lists.

In 1968, a *Master Plan* was written for the park. This plan recommended the further development of the park's eighteenth-century farming operation, the inception of a Morgan horse operation, and the demonstration of eighteenth-century crafts. Two 1930s buildings were converted to new uses for this purpose: the earlier restrooms were converted into the spinning and weaving room and the former maintenance building was converted into a craft demonstration area.

In the 1970s, several research efforts and changes took place at the park. In 1972, the park added Wayside exhibits to its interpretation of the landscape. The park's first professional archeological excavations took place in the mid-1970s. In 1974 Sarah Olson researched and wrote *Historic Furnishing Study: The Ancient Kitchen and Colonial Garden, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia*, which made recommendations for improving the kitchen installation. Mid-Atlantic Regional Curator William Jedlick wrote in 1977 "Interim Furnishing Study and Plan for the Memorial

²² Charles B. Hosmer, *Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949*, vol. 2 (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia for the Preservation Press, 1981), p. 608.

²³ Fiske Kimball to Ronald F. Lee, 28 December 1941, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Reports General, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives, Records Group 79. Quoted in Hosmer, p. 609.

House - George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." This interim plan still stands as the furnishings plan for the Memorial House. Jedlick's intention was to correct the historical inaccuracies presented by the Colonial Revival interiors installed by the WNMA. However, the piecemeal approach created an interior that is not wholly Colonial Revival nor historically accurate. An illustrated furnishings plan based on Jedlick's study was completed around 1982.

The greatest change at the park was the removal of parking and visitor services from what is now termed the "historic core." A new parking lot and visitors' center were constructed and opened for the 1976 bicentennial. At that time the archeological exhibition was moved from the Colonial Kitchen to the new visitors' center.

The 1990s saw another series of research and reporting efforts including Paul Carson's 1991 "Exhibit Plan: Household Slave Quarters Room, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia" which recommends that a household slave quarters exhibit be established in the west room of the Colonial Kitchen. Carson also wrote the park's most recent Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) which is dated November 1991. The park's National Register documentation was finalized and submitted in 1997. OCULUS completed a two-volume Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) in 1999 recommending the park be a rehabilitated landscape. "*Rehabilitation* is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical cultural, or architectural values."²⁴

GEWA's archeological program continues. In 1999, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary completed a *Comprehensive Archaeological Survey of George Washington Birthplace National Monument*. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation also wrote a 2000 draft "Archaeological Testing of Four Sties (44wm89, 44wm218, 44wm259, and 44wm272), George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia." The latter report describes the phase II survey results of four sites including one in the historic core. The investigation identified three seventeenth-century farmsteads, three field slave quarters, and two house slave quarters.

GEWA was the National Park Service's first endeavor in the field of historic preservation, but the agency lacked control of the land and resources until after the Memorial House was built. Whether by necessity or design, the National Park Service did not take responsibility for the memorial structures and allowed the WNMA to make all of the decisions which contribute to the National Park Service's current challenges in interpreting the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen.

The Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen were products of the Colonial Revival movement. The structures and their furnishings evoked the atmosphere of the past without adhering to the constraints of historical accuracy. In the 1970s and 1980s, the National Park Service attempted to make the installations more historically accurate by removing or replacing furnishings on a piecemeal basis. The unsatisfactory result is

²⁴ Charles A. Birnbaum with Christine Capella Peters, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996), p. 48.

interiors that are neither wholly Colonial Revival nor accurate portrayals of eighteenth-century life and material culture.

The current assessment is an attempt to reconcile the furnished exhibits at GEWA with the park's goal of educating the public about George Washington. The section "Treatment Options" will explore the potential ways in which the exhibits can better support GEWA's mission and interpretive themes.

Previous Research and Planning

Ca. 1929: Charles Arthur Hoppin. "How the Size and Character of Washington's Birthplace were Ascertained by the Wakefield National Memorial Association, Inc." Pamphlet, ca. 1929, File D34 Memorial Mansion, Park Files, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

Hoppin's tract defends the methods employed and decisions made by the WNMA in designing the Memorial House. The first paragraph states that the house would be rebuilt in accordance with the 1926 Act of Congress authorizing it and that the Fine Arts Commission and Secretary of War had approved the plans.

He describes the WNMA's research efforts including collecting oral testimony of Washington family descendants, consultation with Virginia historians, examining public records, analysis of the 1762 inventory of Augustine Washington II, and the investigation of the foundation of the house (now understood to be an outbuilding foundation). During the course of its research, the WNMA debunked traditional stories regarding the accuracy of extant pictures of George Washington's birthplace, assertions regarding past inhabitants of the house, and other unsupportable oral traditions.

Hoppin's tract is a good summary of the research methods used by the WNMA in designing the Memorial House. It reveals the WNMA's unwillingness to accept unconfirmed local traditions and its inability to see the flaws in its own reliance on the oral testimony of Washington family descendants. It also indicates that there were contemporary critics of the WNMA's design for the Memorial House.

1941: Rodnick, David. *Orientation Report on the George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Westmoreland County), Virginia*. National Park Service Report, 1941, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

According to Charles B. Hosmer Jr., author of *Preservation Comes of Age*, Rodnick's report was written in response to plans for building an administration building over the remains of George Washington's true birthplace. This motive is not made clear in the report, but Rodnick's criticism of the decisions made by the WNMA and the NPS ten to fifteen years before is apparent.

Rodnick casts doubts on the evidence upon which the two institutions based decisions. The faulty evidence includes the location of the 1815 commemorative marker, misguided archeological work, extant late-eighteenth-century houses, and oral testimony by Washington descendants. He also criticizes the organizations for not properly evaluating the archeological foundations. The Memorial House was designed to be twice

as large as the historic foundation over which it was built. The discovery of "Building X" and the doubts it raised went unheeded.

Rodnick provides a numbered series of conclusions which debunk past assumptions about George Washington's birthplace and argue that "Building X" is the true foundation of the birthplace house.

While critical, Rodnick's report is a good summary and analysis of the evidence available to researchers and decision-makers from the inception of the Memorial House project to 1941. It is in sharp contrast to the tracts written by Charles Hoppin defending the methods and decisions of the WNMA.

1974: Olson, Sarah. *Historic Furnishing Study: The Ancient Kitchen and Colonial Garden, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia*. Denver, CO: Denver Service Center, Historic Preservation Team, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1974.

In 1974, Sarah Olson wrote a furnishings report for the "Ancient Kitchen." Since at least the 1950s, the east room of the kitchen has been displayed as a kitchen space representing the period 1700 to 1750. However, this installation was not based on systematic research. Olson's was the first research conducted focusing on the kitchen's furnishings. The intent of the report was to recreate a kitchen and garden of the 1732 to 1735 period when Washington lived on the property.

The report includes a brief history of the park's Colonial Kitchen. The WNMA based the kitchen's structure on archeological evidence (upon which it was then built) and nineteenth-century descriptions of the extant sections of the kitchen. However, according to Olson, later archeological investigations indicated that the fireplace was twice as large as the original kitchen's fireplace.

Olson makes use of a variety of research materials. She found information on foods available and dishes prepared during the period through travelers' accounts, histories, diaries, and cookery and gardening books. The best source for kitchen furnishings were period probate inventories. Augustine Washington I's 1743 probate inventory for Popes Creek Plantation is incomplete and focuses on slave and livestock holdings. Thus, the use of comparative inventories is necessary. Olson consulted the probate inventories for Washington's other plantations, Augustine Washington II's 1762 inventory for Popes Creek Plantation, Augustine Washington II's wife Ann's 1774 inventory, George Washington's mother Mary Ball Washington's 1789 inventory, and inventories of other relatives and acquaintances.

Based on these sources, Olson wrote sections on food, kitchen furnishings, and the kitchen garden. Within the kitchen furnishings section she addresses the structure of the typical eighteenth-century kitchen including size, materials, and ventilation. Typical kitchen furnishings include tables/flat surfaces, built-in or free-standing shelving, and lighting. In addressing "Articles for Food Preparation," Olson describes fireplace equipment, typical materials, items for food preparation, items for cooking food, and serving pieces. Olson also includes information on other functions potentially housed within the kitchen structure including laundry, slave housing, and storage. The remainder of the report pertains to the kitchen garden.

Olson's report makes good use of available sources. However, some items are mentioned in only one inventory and it is difficult to know what truly "typical" kitchen furnishings were. Also, she used some inventories based on family connections, rather than their truly comparative merit. It is likely that there are comparative inventories beyond those considered in this report which could be consulted to further inform and hone the current installation in the Colonial Kitchen.²⁵

There does not seem to have been a historic furnishings plan, a list of furnishings and their locations, generated from Olson's report.

1977: Jedlick, William. "Interim Furnishing Study and Plan for the Memorial House - George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." National Park Service report, 1977, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

This interim plan still stands as the furnishings plan for the Memorial House. The report provides context for how the Washington family lived and furnished their home. Jedlick planned to recommend revisions for the current installations using the available objects where possible and storing inappropriate objects. This indicates that rather than completely rethinking the exhibits, this report recommends the removal of objects later than 1750 and the rearrangement of the remaining objects to reflect a typical planter's home.

The contextual section describes the influences on the lives of Virginia planters including the lifestyles of wealthy Englishmen, tobacco cultivation, and the use of slaves and indentured servants. It goes on to address the typical house of the Virginia planter, the necessity of hospitality in eighteenth-century Virginia, and the fact that many wealthy planters purchased furnishings from England instead of local craftsmen.

Jedlick addresses the topic of probate inventories, but does not fully analyze the types of information they can provide. He discusses the typical floor plan and rooms in a planter's home, but when describing typical furnishings he relies on information provided by Abbott Lowell Cummings in his *Rural Household Inventories* and Nina Fletcher Little in her "Historic Houses, An Approach to Furnishing." Cummings' book is specific to Massachusetts inventories while Little was a collector/scholar of New England furnishings. This section is followed by transcriptions of Augustine II's 1762 inventory, Anne Washington's 1774 inventory, and Augustine Washington I's 1743 King George County inventory.

Jedlick's discussion of recommended furnishings and furniture designs is based solely on secondary sources. According to date, he deems three periods of furniture design acceptable: Jacobean (1603-1688), William and Mary (1688-1702), and Queen

²⁵ One source the park should investigate is the Gunston Hall Probate Inventory Database which is available on-line at www.gunstonhall.org and on CD-ROM for a nominal fee. This database contains transcriptions of 325 probate inventories for Virginia and Maryland property owners deceased between 1760 and 1810. This database does not focus on inventories from Westmoreland County, but contains room-by-room inventories from this county. The time period is later than the Augustine Washington I period at Popes Creek Plantation, but the kitchen is one area which likely saw little change between 1725 and 1810.

Anne (1702-1750).²⁶ Despite his earlier assertion that Virginia planters often purchased furnishings from England, Jedlick briefly addresses Virginia craftsmen and their time lag behind the styles of England. The report continues with generalized information on the characteristics of the three recommended styles, oriental carpets, tables and dining, beds, libraries, lighting, and wall treatment.

Although not labeled as such, there is a detailed furnishings plan that was generated during the course of this report. There are drawings of each room with the labeled furnishings in their recommended locations. The accompanying inventory lists contain object names, descriptions, dimensions, provenance, and accession and catalogue numbers.

1991: Carson, Paul. "Exhibit Plan for a Household Slave Quarter Room." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1991.

The intent of Carson's report is to make recommendations for the installation of an accurate exhibition on household slave quarters. Carson makes clear that the best source of information on slave life is archeology. He describes the numerous outbuilding foundations discovered during archeological investigations from the 1930s through the 1970s. There are about ten such foundations, however, these buildings' functions, or multiple functions are not known. Carson states that any or all of these buildings could have housed slaves. He feels that the most likely location of slave housing in the group is an earthfast building, remains of which were found during the mid-1970s in the current Colonial Garden. Carson stresses that more archeological investigation is necessary for a better understanding of these sites.²⁷

The section "Historical Background and Review" includes analyses of spatial relationships, architecture, and furnishings. The treatment of spatial relationships should be considered carefully because Carson considers Popes Creek Plantation in the context of Georgian design and the layout of African villages. Popes Creek may have later achieved a Georgian sensibility, but it is unlikely that the plantation complex was symmetrically planned during George Washington's childhood. Also, it seems unlikely that the African slaves were free to configure their dwellings as they had in Africa. Based on secondary sources, Carson asserts that there was little overlap between the space occupied by the white plantation owners and the African slaves.

Carson states that the architecture of slave quarters is the architecture of outbuildings. While there was wide variation in materials, construction, and location;

²⁶ While not wholly incorrect, Jedlick's date ranges are literal references to the reigns of English monarchs. The current, widely accepted names and rough dates for these American styles are seventeenth-century (1620-1690), William and Mary (1690-1720), and Queen Anne (1720-1750).

²⁷ GEWA's archeological program has proceeded since 1991. In 1999, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary completed a *Comprehensive Archaeological Survey of George Washington Birthplace National Monument*. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation also wrote a 2000 draft "Archaeological Testing of Four Sties (44wm89, 44wm218, 44wm259, and 44wm272), George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia." The latter report describes the phase II survey results of four sites including one in the historic core. The investigation identified three seventeenth-century farmsteads, three field slave quarters, and two house slave quarters.

Carson feels it is possible to propose a generic type of slave dwelling. Such a dwelling would likely be earthfast and multifunctional.

Carson believes that the lack of bedsteads in slave quarters in probate inventories indicates that slaves slept on simpler bedding. He also argues that slave quarters contained little besides bedding and a few pieces of clothing. There was no space for chairs, tables, or storage furniture. Due to this lack of material culture, slave quarters were functional for sleeping and changing clothes, but provided little in the way of home life. On the basis of an archeological study conducted at Mount Vernon, Carson states that household slaves had more material possessions than field slaves.²⁸

Carson recommends that an exhibition depicting the material culture of house slaves be installed in the west room of the Colonial Kitchen. One side of the room would serve as storage while the other would house two adult slaves. The goal would be to compare the lives of the household slave to those of the planter's family represented by the Memorial House. In the future, a field slave quarter could be set up elsewhere for further comparison. No drawings or furnishings lists are provided for this exhibition.

NPS Furnishings Inventories

The WNMA retained control of the Memorial House, its furnishings, and its interpretation until late 1945 to early 1946.²⁹ NPS Director Newton B. Drury acknowledged the donated furnishings in a letter with attached inventory dated 25 January 1946. A later, more detailed version of this list accompanies a 1 July 1949 memorandum from Associate Regional Director Elbert Cox to the NPS Director.³⁰ This list includes the object name, date the object was received, its location, and a description and/or remarks. The description and/or remarks column contains measurements, very brief physical descriptions, whether the object is a reproduction, and maker information.

According to the 1949 inventory, the WNMA furnished all of the rooms in the Memorial House and the east room of the Colonial Kitchen. On the first floor of the Memorial House were the hall, dining room, parlor, "Birth Room," and "East Bedroom."³¹ The second floor also had a hall and four bed chambers denoted by the cardinal directions. The rooms are predictably furnished with the exception of the east

²⁸ This assertion is not supported by Colonial Williamsburg's 2000 archeological testing. The March 2000 draft report compares archeological artifacts found at field and house slave quarters and found that the field slave quarters had greater material wealth. This determination came from the fact that field slave quarters yielded more refined earthenware shards than coarse earthenware or stoneware and the only table glass and porcelain was found at a field slave quarters site [R. Grant Gilmore III et al, "Archaeological Testing of Four Sties (44wm89, 44wm218, 44wm259, and 44wm272), George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia" (Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Department of Archaeological Research, DRAFT, March 2000), pp. 61-62].

²⁹ Newton B. Drury to Francis B. Crowninshield, 25 January 1946, "Mansion - Upholstering etc. Furnishing," Box 1, Wakefield National Memorial Association Collection, George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

³⁰ Associate Regional Director Elbert Cox to National Park Service Director, 1 July 1949, "D34 Memorial Mansion Furnishings," Museum Collection Records, George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

³¹ At the request of the park, hereafter unless referring to this inventory the "Birth Room" is called the "Master Bedroom," the "East Bedroom" is called the "Guest Bedroom," and the "Parlor" is called the "Withdrawing Room."

chamber which is furnished as a child's bedroom. Interestingly, some very large objects are missing from this inventory including a dining room table and a bed for the birth room. The inventory lists approximately 350 objects. Only a small percentage (4%) of these objects were reproductions.³²

The next significant inventory was composed by Park Guide Carl F. Flemer in 1963. Flemer drew floor plans of each room complete with numbered objects. Corresponding numbered lists contain object names, very brief descriptions, dollar values, and some notes. The notes indicate condition, treatment, stolen objects, extra provenance information, and changes in location for treatment or new installation in another area (e.g., kitchen). Flemer's inventory is useful as a record of the state of the furnishings in 1963.

In general, the objects on Flemer's inventory correspond closely with those on the 1946 inventory. The most common changes made were the addition or replacement of textiles, particularly window coverings. In several rooms, framed prints were added to the walls. Small objects and accessories were added to many rooms, but these objects generally did not change the function or theme of the room. Significant objects including chairs, tables, and hunting equipment were added to the first-floor hall, but did not change the interpretation of the room. Fiber processing equipment including a spinning wheel and wool carders were added to the north chamber, thus adding an interpretive dimension there. A significant addition to the dining room was a 1740 to 1750 tilt-top table believed to be the only object surviving from the burned birth house. The room that underwent the most changes was the master bedroom (formerly called "birth room"). Of the over thirty objects in the room, only eight can be identified on the 1940s list. Chief among the additions are a cradle with a Washington provenance and a nineteenth-century bed given by Washington descendants.³³

Jedlick's changes to the furnishings of the Memorial House and Colonial kitchen are captured in furnishings plans created after his 1977 "Interim Furnishings Study."³⁴ Unfortunately, there is no narrative detailing the rationale for Jedlick's plan. Jedlick's plan has floor plans complete with numbered objects in their recommended locations. The accompanying numbered lists contain object names, brief descriptions, and accession and catalogue numbers. Newly purchased reproduction objects are designated with numbers preceded by the letter "R," e.g., "R-8." The reproduction numbers begin at the number one for each room, thus they are not unique. Jedlick's inventory indicates the extent to which he changed or retained the earlier furnishings. There is an inventory of the objects to be stored in the basement, but it does not appear that this accounts for all objects removed from the rooms.

³² Cox to NPS Director, 1 July 1949, "D34 Memorial Mansion Furnishings."

³³ Carl Flemer, "Inventory of Furnishings at Wakefield," Inventory, 1963, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

³⁴ The furnishings plans contain objects acquired as late as 1982 indicating that these plans were written that year or shortly thereafter. These plans are closely identified with Jedlick's study because a sketch drawing in Jedlick's regional curator files matches that in the furnishing plan and the plan was typed with the same typewriter [William Jedlick, "Interim Furnishing Study and Plan for the Memorial House - George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia," National Park Service report, 1977, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA. William Jedlick. Files of Former Mid-Atlantic Regional Curator. Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA].

In general, Jedlick made few changes to the large pieces of furniture in each room. More often it was the small objects that were removed, exchanged among rooms, or replaced. Several rooms received replacement window and bed curtains. Jedlick's plan impacted the first- and second-floor halls very little. Again, the room most highly impacted by the plan was the master bedroom. This room retained a handful of the large objects that were present in 1963. Small objects from every other room in the house were added to or replaced earlier objects. The addition of objects such as a wash stand and eyeglasses is likely an attempt to personalize the room. While the objects in the room changed dramatically, it does not appear that the interpretation changed significantly.

The withdrawing room retains fewer than one-half of the objects that were there in 1963. A major addition to this room is the tilt-top table, formerly in the dining room, believed to have been in the birth home in the eighteenth century. Tablewares from the dining room and small objects from several other rooms replaced many of the smalls that were formerly in this room. Like the master bedroom, small personal objects such as a pipe, man's purse, and playing cards were added to humanize and activate the room. Other major changes to the room include the removal of the two easy chairs beside the fireplace, the addition of a musical instrument, and the addition of a furnished gaming table.

The first-floor guest bedroom and the second-floor bed chambers all retain about one-third of the objects that were there in 1963. In many cases, small objects were moved to different bedrooms, textiles were replaced, and reproduction utilitarian objects such as chamber pots were added. The north chamber lost some major pieces of furniture including a dressing table, trundle bed, and chairs. In both the north and west chambers, objects representing activities, fiber processing in the north chamber and music in the west chamber, were moved closer to the visitor viewing area. In the east chamber, or "Children's Room," clothes formerly hung on pegs were moved to lie on the bed; the childsize table, chairs, and tableware were removed; and clay marbles and a clay doll were added. The clothes were reproduced from the ones previously on display.

Due to the sheer number of objects in the dining room, it is not possible during this project to quantify the number of objects that changed between 1963 and the Jedlick plan. Some small objects were added from other rooms, several objects were transferred to the kitchen, and the tilt-top table was moved to the withdrawing room. The tilt-top table was replaced with a drop leaf table displaying newer acquisitions such as a spice chest and pewter objects. Another addition to the dining room was a wine bottle with Augustine Washington I's seal on it found during a 1970s archeological excavation.

Although the layout of the kitchen changed more than any other room, it retained about two-thirds of its 1963 objects. The major change in plan was the removal of the archeological artifacts from the west room to the visitors' center in about 1976. Jedlick's plan recommends that the west room be used as a storage area containing objects from the east room, the dining room, and the withdrawing room. This room would not contain furnishings indicating slave habitation until after Paul Carson's 1991 exhibit plan.

Small objects from several rooms in the house were transferred to the east room of the kitchen. In addition, reproduction objects were purchased for the use of a living history interpreter. The reproduction objects include butter churns, brooms, cooking vessels, cooking utensils, lamps, pot hooks, and fireplace equipment. One major change to the east room's layout was the addition of a work table filled with utensils next to the

visitor viewing area. However, the greatest change was the removal of a large table set for a meal from the center of the kitchen.

Three inventories have taken place since the implementation of the Jedlick plan. There is a reference copy of Jedlick's plan which includes check-marks and notes from the 1987-1988 inventory and the most recent inventory taken in 2000. These were thorough inventories in which every object was accounted for using the Jedlick plan as a guide. An interim inventory was taken in 1997, but, according to the current museum technician, this was a very cursory effort.

The park's 2000 inventory was still underway during the October 2000 site visit. The inventory of the Memorial House was complete, but the Colonial Kitchen was only partially completed. According to Stanley, the contents of the house were quite close to those recommended in Jedlick's plan. Over the years, objects such as clothing and blankets had been added while the towels on the wash stands had disappeared. Also, some objects had moved within or among rooms. During the course of the 2000 inventory, added objects were removed from display and objects were moved back to their locations recorded in the furnishings plan.

Some of the objects in the Colonial Kitchen were displaced during the course of the 2000 inventory, so it was difficult to know where objects were typically displayed. Based on the disarrangement of the kitchen and the notes made during the 1987 to 1988 inventory, it seems that the items in the kitchen are moved more often than those in the house. The Colonial Kitchen supports living history demonstrations, so it is expected that the objects in the east room are moved. However, difficulties arise when the historic artifacts and the reproduction objects are not clearly labeled. The lack of object numbers makes taking an inventory difficult and likely leads to the inadvertent use of historic artifacts during living history demonstrations.

The researcher agrees that the contents of the Memorial House adhere closely to the Jedlick plan. Aside from the displaced objects in one area, the kitchen adheres closely to Jedlick's plan except for one major addition to each room. In the west room, according to Carson's 1991 exhibit plan, slave bedding has been added to the western half of the room. In the east room, a large work table has been added which supports a wooden bowl of imitation apples and is surrounded by reproduction stoneware crocks and barrels.

Current Use and Condition

GEWA is open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Daily activities include ranger-led programs, self-guided tours of the Memorial House, Colonial Kitchen, spinning and weaving shop, craft shop, farm, and a fourteen-minute film in the visitors' center. From spring through fall there are costumed interpreters and in the summer there are farm and craft demonstrations as staffing permits.³⁵

In 2000, GEWA scheduled fourteen special event days including George Washington's birthday (four days, February), "Spring on the Plantation" (two days, April), "First Inauguration" (one day, April), African American Heritage Day (one day,

³⁵ "George Washington Birthplace 2000 Calendar of Events." Informational Broadside, 2000, George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

June), Revolutionary War Encampment (two days, July), Independence Day (one day, July), NPS Founder's Day (one day, August), Constitution Commemoration (one day, September), and Christmas on Popes Creek (one day, December). These days are marked with minor extra offerings including special ranger programs, refreshments, craft and cooking demonstrations, garden tours, costumed interpretation, and visitors participating by taking the oath of office on the First Inauguration or signing a replica of the United States Constitution on Constitution Commemoration.

Visitors' Center

GEWA's visitors' center opened in 1976. The visitors' center houses an information and fee desk, a small interpretive exhibition, a theater for the introductory film, restrooms, and storage and administrative facilities. The exhibits in the main entry area are incidental and seem to have been installed over a period of time. In the right corner beside the front door is a display of items from the gift shop.³⁶ On the wall behind the display is a map entitled "Colony of Virginia" on which GEWA's location is highlighted. On the wall beside the restrooms is a plaque of "George Washington's Virginia Ancestors" and a small print of George Washington after Gilbert Stuart's oil painting.³⁷

Behind the information desk is a ramp leading down to the building's main exhibit area. The park has funds to rehabilitate or replace the current exhibition.³⁸ At the head of the ramp is a large wall panel collage created by Harpers Ferry Center in 1976. The collage is composed of photographs, silk-screened images, and hand-carved wooden blocks. The carved blocks depict wheat, fish, flowers, and a fork and knife. Park staff is concerned that unique elements of the 1976 Harpers Ferry Center exhibit be preserved as part of the museum collection, but not create a storage problem. In this case, it would be desirable to photograph the entire exhibit panel *in situ* and then remove and keep the carved wooden blocks.³⁹

The main exhibition focuses on the generations of the Washington family that lived on the land now owned by the NPS. There are two freestanding kiosks, two exhibit cases, and three two-dimensional exhibit panels. The researcher agrees with the park's

³⁶ This display of gift shop items was removed following a renovation of the gift shop [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (4)].

³⁷ The plaque and print were removed and replaced with one of the exhibit panels obtained from the Washington Monument [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (4)].

³⁸ The park did not receive funds to replace the visitors' center exhibits. There was an indication that the park would receive funding in fiscal year 2001 but this did not occur. Instead, the park installed in the visitors' center for the 2001 season the interior exhibits from the Washington Monument (see "Interpretation" section under "Overall Issues" above). The panels feature newly developed text. The added panels integrate well visually and thematically with the existing visitors' center exhibits. This is a very satisfactory interim solution.

³⁹ The wooden blocks should be stored together in a box labeled as containing components of the 1976 Harpers Ferry Center exhibit. Place a copy of the documentation stating what the blocks are and who made them in the box with the blocks, in the Cultural Resource Management records, and in the Interpretation records. Also place photographs of the blocks *in situ* in these three locations. Do not accession or catalogue these former exhibit components.

LRIP which states "The displays [in the visitors' center] do not meet current standards for exhibits and do not provide a positive contribution to a visitor's experience."⁴⁰

The first kiosk the visitor reaches features four telephones and is entitled "The Washington Home Sites, 1658-1735." This station is very weak. The George Washington story skips from his birth straight to his later accomplishments with no reference to his childhood. The main thrust is a description of Washington's ancestors and their land acquisitions. There is a map available showing the locations for Mattox Creek Plantation, Bridges Creek Plantation, and Popes Creek Plantation.

The other kiosk is a four-sided display, each side of which is devoted to a generation of the Washington men including John Washington, Lawrence Washington, Augustine Washington I, and George Washington. Information about the men's lives are conveyed through ink and gouache paintings. The Augustine Washington I panel contains a conceptual drawing of George Washington's birth home. The George Washington panel contains a brief description of his early life including the survey of Popes Creek Plantation he performed in this mid-teens.

The two display cases contain archeological artifacts. One is devoted to Bridges Creek Plantation, the other to Popes Creek Plantation. These two small displays highlight some of the outstanding objects in GEWA's archeological collection. The Bridges Creek Plantation case is arranged by themes including furnishings, farming, food preparation, food remains, drinking and eating, role in society, signs of status, and personal gear. Didactic panels over the case show site plans with schematics of the structures including a house, outbuildings, and fences.

The Popes Creek Plantation case also is arranged thematically, but features additional themes including signs of wealth, toys, and "The House Destroyed." This case contains glass seals stamped "AW" for "Augustine Washington" from his wine bottles. In "The House Destroyed" section are pieces of charred wood and twisted glass. Both archeology cases have debris on and in them, possibly as the result of their recent move and the roof work taking place above them.

The three two-dimensional panels addressing Washington's ancestors provide very little additional information.

The introductory film "A Childhood Place" also contains little substantive information. It is more of an evocative visual experience. The opening scenes are of the landscape and Memorial House with a narrative discussing the generations of the Washington family that lived on the surrounding land. The remaining narrative is a "first-person" account of George Washington's life. The film shows re-enacted eighteenth-century activities and images including candle dipping, mending a fence, oxen, working a garden, blacksmithing, haystacks and rakes, spinning, feeding geese, dining, and a tobacco barn. There is a focus on seasons and the passage of time.

Waysides

GEWA has five Wayside exhibits situated in the landscape. The first Wayside serves as an orientation, but is no longer accurate because it refers to the park as a working farm. Now farm activities are only demonstrated as staffing allows on summer weekends. The second Wayside addresses the working of Popes Creek Plantation. The

⁴⁰ LRIP, p. 15.

image is an aerial view of the landscape. The river is described as the "lifeline" of the plantation. There is also a brief description of the functions and operations of the plantation. The third Wayside overlooks the foundation site of George Washington's birth house. The foundation is subterranean, but outlined above ground with white oyster shells. The Wayside shows a plan of the excavated foundation and describes the different phases in which it is believed the house was built.

The fourth Wayside addresses archeology at Popes Creek Plantation. It explains how most of what is known about Washington's birthplace is from archeological evidence. It describes the phases in which the birth house was built and the thousands of artifacts (mostly English, many scorched) that have been recovered from the site. There are photographs of archeological artifacts including a candle snuffer, brass spoon, belt buckles, and buttons.

The fifth Wayside addresses the Memorial area. It states "This Park is the cumulative result of a century of memorial efforts." The Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen are described as "a best guess at the historic appearance of Popes Creek Plantation. We know that they bear little resemblance to the structures that stood here in 1732." It continues, "Builders of the Memorial House thought its location marked the site of the birth house. Six years later, archeologists confirmed the location of the birth house foundations, 100 feet away." It goes on to explain that the workshop and farm buildings are later additions. Visitors are encouraged to start their tour in the Colonial Kitchen.

Across from the Colonial Kitchen is a small sign denoting the former location of an eighteenth-century dairy structure. The sign describes the function of a dairy and the fact that the dairy's original brick floor was located during an archeological investigation. Today the footprint of the now-subterranean dairy is outlined with oyster shells.

Colonial Kitchen

The Colonial Kitchen is a small one-and-one-half story, wood-frame building with a gable roof, dormers, and two brick chimneys. One chimney is functional while the other is non-functional and included for aesthetic reasons.

The early use of the Colonial Kitchen is unclear, but it likely served as administrative space for the first several years of the park's history. Between October 1936 and June 1937, Assistant Museum Curator J. Paul Hudson installed "The Temporary Museum" in the east room of the Colonial Kitchen. This formal exhibition contained four display cases. Two cases contained archeological artifacts excavated from Popes Creek Plantation. A third case contained seventeenth-century archeological artifacts excavated from the John Washington site and a fourth contained prehistoric Native American artifacts.

By the early 1940s, the park wished to install an eighteenth-century kitchen display in the Colonial Kitchen. Such a display was likely installed in the east room during the 1940s. The kitchen building was renovated in 1954. At that time, a new barrier was designed for the east room and a bathroom was removed from the west room to expand the space as an exhibit area. The new exhibition in the west room was created by Sidney King. This exhibit consisted of three wall cases, a table case, and four "special units." The themes of the wall cases were John and Lawrence Washington, Archeology,

Augustine and George Washington, and Indian Artifacts. The special units were framed items including land patents, land owners, the ancestry of George Washington, and Building X. At least a portion of the Sidney King exhibition remains in the park's museum storage area labeled "Sidney King Exhibit from Colonial Kitchen Museum, Used c. 1963-1975."

The kitchen changed again in the mid-1970s. The formal exhibit function of the Colonial Kitchen moved to the new visitors' center around 1976. Sarah Olson wrote a Historic Furnishing Study for the kitchen and garden in 1974. It is unclear whether the west room was furnished at this time. The furnishings plan generated from William Jedlick's 1977 "Interim Furnishing Study" shows the changes Jedlick made to the earlier kitchen installation. These changes include removing a central dining area from the east room, moving several objects to the west room, changing but not necessarily reducing the equipment at the fireplace, and adding more decorative objects to the exhibit. In the early 1990s, Paul Carson's Exhibit Plan introduced the slave quarters objects to the west room.

Today, the east room of the Colonial Kitchen is used as a living history cooking demonstration area. The cooking demonstrations used to occur daily, but now they occur less frequently depending on staffing. Staffing is most regular during the summer and on weekends.

The objects in the kitchen are a mixture of period and reproduction items. Only reproduction objects are supposed to be used for the living history demonstrations. Common demonstrations include use of the Dutch oven, making candles, sewing, and stringing red peppers. During the site visit for the 1996 Collections Management Plan, it was found that a handful of period objects were being used as part of the demonstrations and this practice was stopped. This differentiation is complicated by the fact that not all period objects are marked with a catalogue number. It was the intent of the 2000 inventory to identify period and reproduction objects that needed numbering and number them.⁴¹

The west room is Jedlick's installation with Carson's house slave quarters exhibit overlaid onto it. Carson's report indicates that house slave quarters were found in kitchen lofts.⁴² Park staff explained that while the slave quarter is displayed on the first floor, it actually represents a second floor space. However, there is no signage in the room, so when there is not a staff member present, this information is lost entirely. The items in the room suggesting a slave quarter are a pallet and bedding in a corner, blankets, and clothing on hooks.

The display of furnishings in the east room is challenging because it is a living history space. Thus, objects are handled and moved, products are made, and staff members take ownership of the space and request that items be added to the display. The recent inventory suggests that kitchen objects do not just move about the kitchen, but may be moving to second-floor staff areas and the spinning and weaving shop. This movement is undesirable both for inventory purposes and adherence to the current approved furnishings plan. Until the Jedlick Furnishings Study is amended or

⁴¹ The objects in need of numbers have been identified but the assignment of numbers is on hold pending the correction of a current issue with duplicate catalogue numbers [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (5)].

⁴² Paul Carson, "Exhibit Plan for a Household Slave Quarter Room" (Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1991), p. [17].

superseded, the park should continue to display the objects he recommends in their correct locations.

Likely, a majority of the products made in the kitchen are perishable and thrown away. However, the red-pepper stringing demonstration has produced an abundance of strung red peppers hanging in the kitchen.⁴³ It is questionable whether red peppers were a common food in the eighteenth century. They are not mentioned in Olson's discussion of colonial foods and gardens. Kitchen interpreters requested the purchase and display of barrels and stoneware crocks. Barrels and stoneware crocks are appropriate eighteenth-century storage vessels, but the kitchen is a work space, not a storage area. The crocks and barrels would more likely have been kept in a root cellar, thus, the current display featuring several of each is inaccurate.⁴⁴

Jedlick's "Interim Furnishings Plan" recommended moving a number of pewter and ceramic tablewares from the dining room and withdrawing room to the kitchen. Moving these objects is questionable because tablewares would have been used in the dining room, not the kitchen. Objects of any value such as ceramics and metals would likely have been kept in the more secure house where slaves and indentured servants would not be left alone with them. The number and types of cooking utensils around the fireplace should be reconsidered in light of current comparative inventory studies and other similar museum displays. Other items to reconsider in the kitchen display are the vine wreath and powder horn hung near the stairs, the clock and spoon rack on the east wall, and the surveyor's equipment in the west room.

The Colonial Kitchen is a more accurate historic furnished interior than the Memorial House. If the park wishes to continue to have an eighteenth-century display staffed by a costumed interpreter, the Colonial Kitchen is the best candidate. With future research and planning informed by current comparative inventory studies, the kitchen can be installed as an accurate historic furnished interior. Therefore, it is recommended that the park request a Historic Furnishings Report for the Colonial Kitchen.

At the time of the site visit, the kitchen suffered from a few modern intrusions, two of which were temporary. The Colonial Kitchen was the last area to be addressed during the 2000 inventory. The kitchen was the most altered and difficult space for those taking the inventory, so objects were still in disarray during the site visit.⁴⁵ In the future, the park should consider a less disruptive system for taking inventory such as tying temporary paper tags to items, taking notes and making necessary changes all at once when the situation is fully understood, or closing the kitchen for a day and completing the task during that day. If it is necessary to disrupt an exhibit, a sign stating "Please Pardon Our Appearance, We Are Taking an Annual Inventory" would explain the disarray. Lastly, the high metal and wooden barrier is visually obtrusive and rendered useless by the easily broached rope at the back door. The park should consider a less obtrusive front barrier and a more secure solution for the back door.

The Colonial Kitchen presents several challenges as far as ideal museum practice. Doors on two sides of the Colonial Kitchen are kept open allowing in rain, leaves, and

⁴³ According to park staff, the red peppers were hung to dry for use as outdoor Christmas decorations during an Open House held in December [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (5)].

⁴⁴ Park staff removed the crocks on display in the Colonial Kitchen during the fall 2000 inventory. The crocks are now in the basement of the Memorial House [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (5)].

⁴⁵ Park staff completed the inventory for the Colonial Kitchen in October 2000 and reorganized the objects according to Jedlick's plan [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (5)].

pests. Doors should be closed when it rains; signs can be placed on the two public doors inviting visitors inside. Leaves should be swept out and pests should be mitigated as part of an IPM plan. When objects of incompatible materials are displayed together, they should be interleaved with inert materials such as acid free tissue and/or Mylar. Examples of materials that react with each other are textiles and wood (the acidic wood causes textiles to deteriorate), metal and wood (wood tarnishes metal), and textiles and metal (metal will tarnish and soil textiles). Currently there is no control of the ultraviolet light entering the exhibit area. The park should consider installing ultraviolet filtering window panels or film to prolong the life of objects. Weigh the cost of the panels/film versus the replacement of sensitive period replacement objects and reproductions such as textiles, leather, and paper. Due to the open nature and uncontrolled environment of the Colonial Kitchen, it is recommended that only reproduction or easily replaceable period objects be displayed there. The park should continue its practice of displaying only imitation food and food freshly made that day. Food should not be left on display beyond one day.

Lastly, the park should continue its policy of regularly cleaning the fireplace to keep down the level of dust in the building.

Colonial Kitchen Recommendations

1. Due to the lack of environmental controls and open nature of the Colonial Kitchen, place only reproduction objects and easily replaceable period objects in this building.
2. Do not remove objects from the rooms in which they belong according to the approved Historic Furnishings Study.
3. Do not add objects to the room display unless they are added to an approved Historic Furnishings Report.
4. Continue to use imitation food and display real food for only one day, when fresh.
5. Consider removing the crocks and barrels to a cellar storage space or an area representing one. (The crocks on display in the Colonial Kitchen were removed during the park's fall 2000 inventory. They are now in the basement of the Memorial House (Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [5]).
6. Ensure that only reproduction objects are used during living history demonstrations.
7. Continue to regularly clean out fireplace to reduce the amount of dust in the building.
8. Continue to regularly sweep and/ or vacuum leaves out of building.
9. Close doors when it rains. Consider adding signs to doors welcoming visitors inside when doors are closed.

10. When objects of incompatible materials are displayed together, interleave them with inert materials such as acid free tissue and/or Mylar. Examples of materials that react with each other are textiles and wood (the acidic wood causes textiles to deteriorate), metal and wood (wood tarnishes metal), and textiles and metal (metal will tarnish and soil textiles).

11. Mitigate the pests in the Colonial Kitchen through an IPM plan.

12. Mark all objects with their catalogue numbers or reproduction numbers. (The objects in need of numbers have been identified but the assignment of numbers is on hold pending the correction of the current duplicate catalogue numbers [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (5)].

13. Consider installing ultraviolet filtering window panels or film to prolong the life of objects. Weigh the cost of the panels/film versus the replacement of sensitive period replacement objects and reproductions such as textiles, leather, and paper.

14. Request an updated Historic Furnishings Report. A future Historic Furnishings Report should

reconsider the house slave quarters exhibit. Are these objects accurate based on current scholarship and other museum displays? Should there be a sign stating that this is intended to represent a second floor space?

reconsider the pewter and ceramics moved from the Memorial House to the Colonial Kitchen as per Jedlick's recommendations. The inclusion of decorative objects in this utilitarian space is likely inaccurate.

reconsider the number and types of implements displayed at the fireplace. Other items to reconsider in the kitchen display are the vine wreath and powder horn hung near the stairs, the clock and spoon rack on the east wall, and the surveyor's equipment in the west room.

consideration of kitchen products in the installation.

15. Consider a less obtrusive public barrier in the exhibit area and a more secure method for preventing access through the back door.

Memorial House

Since its construction in 1930/1931 the Memorial House has been the major exhibition area for the park. In 1932, the WNMA installed wire-mesh barriers to bar entrance into the museum rooms. By the printing of the WNMA's 1936 Annual Report, all of the rooms were furnished with period and reproduction objects. The last rooms to be furnished were the south, east, and west chambers. The room with the best early documentation is the master bedroom, called the Mary Ball Washington room in the early

1930s and the "birth room" in the 1949 inventory. Another named room with early support was the "Connecticut room," now known as the north chamber, funded by residents of that state. As early as the mid-1940s, these rooms had already lost their early names. Until the 1940s, there was an exhibition of archeological artifacts in the basement.

The WNMA intended to furnish the Memorial House with objects that would reflect the furnishings of a typical eighteenth-century Virginia plantation house. For the most part, the house is currently furnished with objects that predate 1750 and are in the seventeenth-century, William and Mary, or Queen Anne styles. Despite Jedlick's plan to furnish with only these three styles, there are objects still on view which post-date 1750 including the metal basins and ewers on the wash stands (these should be ceramic), many ceramics in the dining room, rococo style (or Chippendale style) furnishings, and later textiles such as the copperplate printed bed hangings on the bed in the north chamber. Many of these objects are identified as post-dating 1750 in Jedlick's furnishings plan.

The Memorial House furnishings are a mixture of objects dating from the mid-seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. They do not represent the "typical" eighteenth-century plantation house of a wealthy planter. When Augustine Washington I built or renovated the birth home, he likely purchased new furnishings in the latest style (Queen Anne) from England or an American maker. At the very least, the withdrawing room and dining room would have been furnished in the most up-to-date fashion. While the earlier furnishings GEWA owns are not incorrect for the mid-eighteenth century, they are incorrect for the social standing of the Washington family. When Augustine Washington II expanded the birth home during his tenure, he likely purchased new furniture reflecting his own taste and the latest style available to him. Therefore, it is difficult to present an accurate picture of either owner's tenure while trying to span the entire eighteenth century. A more effective plan is to represent one, most significant twenty-year (or less) time period.

If the park were to choose a most significant, George-Washington-related time period to "reconstruct" at the Memorial House, it should choose the 1726 to 1735 tenure of Augustine Washington I when George Washington was born on the site. Accurate furnishings for that time period would include Queen Anne furnishings in all (with the possible exception of the guest bedroom) of the first-floor rooms. The architecture of the Memorial House presents problems in interpreting the second quarter of the eighteenth century because symmetrical, center-hall plan American houses did not come into being until after 1750. Therefore, the center hall and the uses of other rooms such as the guest bedroom on the first floor are likely inaccurate to the earlier, most significant time period.

The furnishings in the Memorial House indicate its Colonial Revival period roots. Colonial Revivalists commonly viewed furnishings pre-dating 1840 as appropriate to historic furnished interiors regardless of their target dates for interpretation. Louise DuPont Crowninshield was a well-regarded decorative arts connoisseur of her time who was able to identify eighteenth-century furniture. However, mixing furniture from the entire eighteenth century produces an imprecise and inaccurate picture of the past. The 1932 WNMA room barriers survive from the early Colonial Revival museum interior.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ The 1932 room barriers are actually quite successful in that they allow people to walk a short way into each room and they are relatively tasteful and unobtrusive.

Today, a park ranger is stationed in the Memorial House to greet and orient visitors who enter through either the land entrance (the southwest façade) or the water entrance (the northeast façade). Either way, visitors first enter the center hall on the first floor. If there is not a staff member at the birth home foundation, the orientation begins with a reference back to the original foundation and an explanation of the commemorative nature of the Memorial House. After the orientation, visitors explore the house in a self-guided way and the ranger is available for questions.

The Memorial House has four dehumidifiers and a central, forced-hot-air heating system powered by propane. However, the aged wiring in the house allows the use of only two of the dehumidifiers.⁴⁷ At the time of the site visit, the park was considering the pros and cons of adding an air conditioning system. Brian Ramer, author of the 1996 Collections Management Plan (CMP), and Giles Parker, author of the October 2000 draft Collections Storage Plan, feel air conditioning would compromise the fabric of the historic structure. The park plans to consult with the Buildings Conservation Branch for further information.⁴⁸

The Memorial House has ultraviolet filtering panels on the windows which was installed within the past two years. The cultural resources specialist should take visible and ultraviolet light meter readings to ensure that this panels continue to be effective. The park's current practice is to close curtains to reduce the amount of light entering the museum rooms. However, the staff is concerned with how dark the rooms are with the curtains closed. Based on the light meter readings, the park may be able to open the curtains for all or portions of the day. If it is determined that the curtains can only be open for portions of the day in different rooms, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for this practice must be drawn up and implemented for it to be effective in protecting the objects.

A second light-related concern are the fluorescent light fixtures in the museum rooms. The interpretive effect of this type of light on the interiors must be considered. If the park wishes to interpret the eighteenth-century, this type of light is inappropriate. If the park wishes to interpret the Colonial Revival and if the WNMA installed these fixtures, they should remain in use. Should the park decide to change the lighting, it should hire a lighting consultant to recommend alternative lighting strategies.

General Recommendations for Memorial House

1. With a light meter, check the amounts of visible and ultraviolet light entering the museum rooms. Be sure to measure at different times of day to see when sun is strongest in each room. If it is determined that light levels are within a safe range, consider implementing a plan in which the curtains in the rooms are opened and closed on a schedule. Write, distribute, and implement an SOP for this curtain schedule.

⁴⁷ The park removed the dehumidifiers in July 2001 upon recommendation of the Collection Management Plan team which visited the site in June 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2)].

⁴⁸ The park was awarded fiscal year 2002 money to conduct an engineering study for a new environmental control system. The project is PMIS number 75208, "Conduct Engineering Study to Assess Appropriate Environmental Controls for Memorial House."

2. Consult the Buildings Conservation Branch regarding the air conditioning system. (The park was awarded fiscal year 2002 money to conduct an engineering study for a new environmental control system. The project is PMIS number 75208, "Conduct Engineering Study to Assess Appropriate Environmental Controls for Memorial House.")

3. Upgrade the wiring in the building so dehumidifiers and other electrical devices can be used at the house. (The park's maintenance division discussed this upgrade with a member of the Collection Management Plan team who visited the park in June 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (4)].)

4. Choose a treatment option and request the necessary documents to plan and implement it (see "Treatment Options" section below).

5. In conjunction with choosing a treatment option, reconsider the use of fluorescent lights in the museum rooms. Fluorescent lighting does not give the appropriate feeling for the eighteenth century, but may be appropriate to the Colonial Revival period if the WNMA installed it. Should the park decide to change the lighting, it should hire a lighting consultant to recommend alternative lighting strategies.

First Floor Hall

The center hall is flanked by the four other first floor rooms and provides equal access from the land and water facades of the house. On pleasant days, both hall doors are open to the outside. The water façade door has a glass outer door which can be closed during inclement weather.

Aside from the rug, the furnishings are arranged around the hall's walls. On the walls are mounted framed, paper-based items, antlers, and a flintlock musket. Three-dimensional furnishings on the floor include seventeenth-century-style seating furniture, a table, and a seventeenth-century-style chest on stand. The predominant piece of seating furniture is a seventeenth-century-style settee.

The center hall is a problematic room if the park were to interpret the Memorial House to the 1730 to 1750 time period because at that early date, houses did not have center halls. The map of Virginia and Maryland and the seating furniture predate the 1730 to 1750 period. The musket post-dates the 1730 to 1750 period slightly.

The seating furniture in the hall is reproduction furniture intended for visitor use. The newly purchased fiber rug on the floor is likewise intended for visitor use.⁴⁹ Jedlick's furnishings plan makes a great distinction between reproduction objects which can be used consumptively and period objects which are not to be used. However, the reproduction objects were made in the early 1930s and are now historic objects with significant associative value for the park. For this reason, the park should monitor the wear the seating furniture receives. Should the objects start to show signs of significant wear or deterioration, they should be replaced with new reproduction copies. Despite

⁴⁹ According to park staff, the fiber rug was purchased to prevent rocks, oyster shells, and other debris from further damaging the wood floor. The amount of foot traffic has caused irreversible damage to the floor [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (6)]. The researcher agrees with the park's reasoning and neutral choice of rug.

their lack of handling, the paper-based materials are of even greater concern. Two items, a print (GEWA 32) and a land deed (GEWA 3) are eighteenth-century objects. These objects should be replaced with color photocopies and placed in storage.⁵⁰ The early-1930s reproduction maps and coat of arms should also be replaced with color photocopies. When framing the color photocopies, the park should reconsider the type of framing and matting appropriate for the eighteenth-century. The current frames and mats appear to be of a twentieth-century style.

Recommendations for the First Floor Hall

1. Continue to close the glass door on the river façade during inclement weather.
2. Monitor the amount of wear on the early-1930s reproduction furniture. If significant wear is shown, replace with new reproduction furniture.
3. Make color photocopies of all eighteenth-century and 1930s paper-based materials. House the copies in appropriate period or reproduction frames.

Guest bedroom

The guest bedroom is furnished as such and interpreted as a "guest room." Visitors view this room from behind a wire-mesh barrier installed by the WNMA in 1932. The most prominent items in the room are the Federal-style, high-post bed and its blue and white crewel work bed covering. This coverlet is a 1974 reproduction of an original marked "S.W. Norwich, 1789."

There are objects of poor quality in the guest bedroom including the pincushion and the reproduction chamber pot. The pincushion is badly made and the plain earthenware chamber pot is too simple in style to suit this interior.⁵¹ Objects that predate the 1730-1750 time period include the William and Mary seating furniture and table. Objects that postdate 1750 include the 1789 coverlet, looking glass, bed, trunk, candlesticks, porringer, and pewter basin. It is also questionable whether the crewel coverlet from Norwich, Connecticut is appropriate to this Virginia location.

When objects of incompatible materials are displayed together, they should be interleaved with inert materials such as acid free tissue and/or Mylar. Objects in need of inert barriers are the candles in the candlesticks and the iron candle snuffers on a historic textile.

Like in the hall, eighteenth-century and aging reproduction prints should be reproduced using a color copier and rehoused in appropriate period or reproduction frames.

The towel at the wash stand indicated in Jedlick's plan is missing.

⁵⁰ Park staff has since removed the land deed (GEWA 3) [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (6)].

⁵¹ Jedlick's plan states that the reproduction chamber pots are based on a chamber pot found during an archeological excavation [William Jedlick, "Interim Furnishing Study and Plan for the Memorial House - George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." National Park Service report, 1977, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA, p. 11]. However, the chamber pot displayed in the Bridges Creek Plantation case at the visitors' center is much more ornamental than these reproductions are.

There is cleaning equipment including a vacuum cleaner and a step ladder hidden out of view behind the bed.⁵²

Guest bedroom Recommendations

1. Move the vacuum cleaner and step ladder to a closet or the basement. (The vacuum and step ladder were removed during the 2000 inventory [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [6].])
2. Place Mylar barriers between the candles and candlesticks and the iron snuffers and the textile. (Park staff placed Mylar between objects in December 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [6].])
3. Replace the missing washstand towel.
4. Make color photocopies of all eighteenth-century and 1930s paper-based materials. Rehouse the copies in appropriate period or reproduction frames.
5. Replace objects of poor or inappropriate quality such as the pincushion and chamber pot.

Master Bedroom

The master bedroom is furnished as such. Visitors view this room from behind a wire-mesh barrier installed by the WNMA in 1932. Major objects in the room include the Federal-style, high-post bed, Federal-style crib, William and Mary chest of drawers, and Queen Anne dressing table.

The master bedroom was first called the "Mary Ball Washington Room" and sponsored by the Wakefield Committee of the Northern Neck of Virginia. There is documentation of the early furnishings in the room including a 1931 list of proposed furnishings for the room. Proposed objects are based on illustrations in volumes on historic furnishings by authors such as Wallace Nutting. A 1933 letter from Mrs. John Morrison Kerr, chairman of the Wakefield Committee of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), to Mr. A.M. Nevius, treasurer for the WNMA specifies the costs of purchasing and treating objects for the Mary Ball Room. A letter from Kerr to Mrs. C. C. Worthington, president of the WNMA provides a more detailed list of the furnishings in the room including donated objects. The bed and crib are listed with Washington family provenances. The silver plaque installed by the CAR boldly states in the "replica" house, "On this spot George Washington was born."⁵³

Flemer later referred to this room as the "Master Bed Room" in his 1963 inventory.

⁵² Park staff removed the vacuum and step ladder during the 2000 inventory [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (6)].

⁵³ Superintendent Philip R. Hough to NPS Director, May 24 1932, "Mansion Furnishings File 123, Museum Collection Records, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

There are several objects in the master bedroom which should be removed or reconsidered. The wreath on the overmantel and the dried flower arrangement visible on the floor just behind the bed should be removed. Decorations of this kind should be considered as part of a furnishings plan before they are installed. The crude earthenware chamber pot should be replaced with one of an appropriate style. Another item to reconsider is the high bedding in the crib. Practically speaking, a child would not be safe with bedding piled so close to the top of the crib. There are likely historic print sources that can inform the outfitting of the crib.

Objects in the room that predate the 1730 to 1750 period are the seventeenth-century arm chair and William and Mary high chest. Objects that postdate this period include the tin wash set, the crib, bed, dressing table stool, mirror, candlestick, and book *Lyric Works of Horace* dated 1786.

Collections care issues include the logs in the fireplace which may harbor pests, the spider webs behind the curtains indicating pests, the crumbling wax candle which should be replaced and requires a Mylar barrier.⁵⁴ The sticky traps and fire extinguisher are within view of the door.

Master bedroom Recommendations

1. Move the sticky traps and fire extinguisher farther out of view. (Park staff moved items out of view [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
2. Regularly monitor the logs in the fireplace and clean the spider webs out from behind the curtains. Include pest mitigation as part of an IPM plan. (Park staff removed the logs from the fireplace and implemented the housekeeping plan to alleviate spider webs, dust, and other debris. IPM monitoring is also underway [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
3. Replace the old candle in the candlestick. Place a Mylar barrier between the candle and the candlestick.
4. Remove the wreath and partially hidden dried flower arrangement. Consideration of such decorations should be a part of a future Historic Furnishings Report. Do not install decorations unless they are part of an approved Historic Furnishings Report. (Park staff removed wreath and dried flowers [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
5. Reconsider the high bedding in the crib.
6. Replace the simple chamber pot with a more appropriate example.

Dining Room

The dining room is furnished with a large gateleg table, several Queen-Anne-style chairs, a seventeenth-century press cupboard, and a drop-leaf, Queen-Anne-style table.

⁵⁴ Park staff removed the logs from the fireplace and implemented a housekeeping schedule to alleviate spider webs, dust, and other debris [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].

The fireplace is flanked by open shelves displaying ceramic objects. Visitors view this room from behind a wire-mesh barrier installed by the WNMA in 1932.

While the Queen-Anne-style chair frames are accurate, the gateleg table, press cupboard, and spice chest are backward-looking forms. Items that postdate 1750 include several ceramic objects including the cauliflower ware and willowware, the pewter, and the brass candlesticks. The presentation of the table should be reconsidered. Print sources may better inform the proper setting of the mid-eighteenth-century table. The textiles in the room also need to be reconsidered. The flame-stitched seat covers seem an unlikely choice for chair bottoms because they would not have worn well. Also, textiles in eighteenth-century rooms, particularly high-style rooms, usually matched. Therefore, it is more likely that the window curtains and the seat covers would have been a matching worsted wool fabric.

Collections care issues noted during the site visit include cleaning equipment in the room and changes to the furnishings plan. There was a floor polisher in full view behind a door and a cloth and cardboard box behind the press cupboard. Also, there were notes on the Jedlick inventory indicating that objects are sticking to the wooden surfaces. For the most part, the dining room adheres to the Jedlick furnishings plan, however, some changes have been made to the display shelves.⁵⁵

Dining Room Recommendations

1. Move cleaning equipment to a closet or the basement. (During the 2000 inventory, park staff moved the cleaning equipment and rearranged objects to match Jedlick furnishings plan [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
2. Place neutral barriers such as Mylar between objects on table and table surface. This will separate incompatible materials and prevent objects from sticking to polished or waxed surfaces. (Park staff has placed Mylar between table surfaces and museum objects [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
3. Record the changes made to the Jedlick furnishings plan. If possible, locate and account for any objects which may have been removed from display.
4. Reconsider as part of a historic furnishings plan the textiles and table setting.

Withdrawing Room

The withdrawing room is shown as a multifunctional room containing four separate activity areas. In the east corner is a card table with a card game in progress. In the south corner is a desk with reading material on it. In the west corner is a tea table complete with tea things. Along the northeast wall is a table displaying a reproduction cittern (instrument similar to a guitar popular in England in the seventeenth century) and

⁵⁵ During the 2000 inventory, park staff moved the cleaning equipment and rearranged objects to match the Jedlick furnishings plan [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].

a Bible.⁵⁶ The tallcase clock in the west corner was in working order at the time of the site visit.

There are several furnishings issues to consider in the withdrawing room. First, is it accurate to have items for several activities all laid out at once? How accurate are the card playing and tea taking vignettes? Is the cittern, a popular seventeenth-century instrument and later addition, appropriate for an eighteenth-century interior? Should there be a chair at the desk instead of the stool? Colonial Williamsburg likely has studied these types of social history questions and could inform a consideration of these issues in a Historic Furnishings Report.

Items that predate the 1730 to 1750 period are the William and Mary side chairs, desk, and stool. Objects that postdate 1750 are the 1783 Washington family Bible, the rococo looking glass, and some of the ceramics.

There are several collections care issues in the withdrawing room. The surveying equipment used for interpretive programs should be removed. This equipment is not appropriate to the room's function and should not be demonstrated there. Surveying equipment should be demonstrated outside.⁵⁷ Consider moving the boxed books from the cupboards to museum storage. The books are not performing any practical or interpretive function in the house and would benefit from climate control.⁵⁸ Replace the Washington Bible and Daybook with reproduction copies. While the original objects remain on view, turn the pages regularly to prevent damage to specific exhibited pages.⁵⁹ Also replace the eighteenth-century map with a color copy. Frame the copy in an appropriate period or reproduction frame. The nineteenth-century painting (GEWA 26) is very dark and should be examined by a conservator for possible treatment. Areas that need more care in housekeeping are the window sills behind the curtains where there are large spider webs and the rug on the table.⁶⁰ Be sure the rug is gently cleaned with a screened vacuum cleaner tool (vacuum on low) on a regular basis. Monitor the folds of the rug to ensure it does not suffer undue wear on the table. Also, there were notes on the Jedlick inventory indicating the objects were sticking to the wooden surfaces.

Withdrawing Room Recommendations

1. Remove surveying equipment from withdrawing room. Demonstrate surveying outside. (Park staff removed the surveying equipment in November 2000 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)
2. Clean window sills and table rug regularly. Monitor folds of table rug to prevent wear. (Park staff removed rug to prevent further deterioration of the textile [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)

⁵⁶ Jedlick, "Interim Furnishings Plan," p. 19.

⁵⁷ Park staff removed the surveying equipment in November 2000 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].

⁵⁸ According to park staff, the books will be removed after a new collections storage facility is built. At this time there is no alternative for storage [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].

⁵⁹ Park staff removed the Washington Bible and Daybook. The park plans to reproduce the books for display at a future date [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].

⁶⁰ The park's Housekeeping Plan was partially implemented on an intermittent basis until October 2001 when it was fully implemented [Vickie Stanley, telephone conversation with author, 21 May 2002].

3. Consider moving the boxed books to storage. (According to park staff, the books will be removed after a new collections storage facility is built. At this time there is no alternative for storage [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (7)].)

4. Place neutral barriers such as Mylar between objects on table and table surface. This will separate incompatible materials and prevent objects from sticking to polished or waxed surfaces. Also place Mylar between candles and candlesticks. (Park staff placed Mylar between table surfaces and museum objects December 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)

5. Replace Washington Bible and Daybook with reproduction objects. In the meantime, turn the pages of the books on display to prevent damage to displayed pages. (Park staff removed the Washington Bible and Daybook. The park plans to reproduce the books for display [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)

6. Replace the eighteenth-century map with a color copy. Frame the reproduction map in an appropriate period or reproduction frame.

7. Consult a conservator regarding the condition of painting GEWA 26. Possibly treat the darkened varnish layer.

8. During the course of a Historic Furnishings Report consider

the accuracy of having items for several activities laid out at once.

the accuracy of the card playing and tea taking vignettes.

the accuracy of the cittern in an eighteenth-century scene.

the accuracy of the stool at the desk.

Colonial Williamsburg likely has studied these types of social history questions and could inform a consideration of these issues in a historic furnishings report.

Second Floor Hall

The second floor hall is mainly a passageway and contains only a handful of objects. Even in this sparsely furnished room, the furnishings are of a variety of styles. There is a seventeenth-century side chair, a William and Mary table, and what Jedlick calls a "Transition Dutch style" day bed purported to date to circa 1740. The daybed needs a cushion on the back rest and the side chair may also need a cushion.

Visitors view the four second floor chambers from this hallway. The wire-mesh barriers appear intrusive from the hall, but have a neat, uniform look.

There is no ultraviolet filtering panel on the second floor hall window because park staff uses this window to ventilate the house in spring and summer.⁶¹

Second Floor Hall Recommendations

1. Consider installing ultraviolet film on the second floor hall window so that the window can provide some protection for collections objects but also can be opened when necessary.
2. Consider placing a custom-made cushion on the back rest of the day bed and placing a custom-made cushion on the side chair.

East Chamber

From the first time it was furnished, the east chamber has always been interpreted as a child's room. This room is viewed over a wire-mesh barrier from the second floor hall. There is a low bed, a small fall-front desk and chair, a child-sized suit of clothes, and toys. The toys include a wooden horse, clay marbles, a clay doll, a wooden doll, and a doll-size cradle. The marbles and clay doll were reproduced based on objects found during an archeological excavation in the herb garden.⁶² Until it was stolen, there was also a small hatchet on the desk. The center of the floor is covered with a deer hide. There are empty pegs along the northeast wall. The plain, earthenware chamber pot is appropriate for this private space intended for children.

One item that predates the 1730 to 1750 period is the seventeenth-century style stool. However, a child's room is an appropriate place to display early objects. The quantity of toys is very likely inaccurate for the eighteenth century.

The logs in the fireplace may harbor pests.⁶³

East Chamber Recommendations

1. Dust all horizontal surfaces. The open surface of the fall-front desk was thick with dust the week of the site visit. (Park staff fully implemented Housekeeping Plan to maintain the Memorial House in October 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)
2. Regularly monitor the logs in the fireplace. Include pest mitigation as part of an IPM plan. (Park staff removed the logs from the fireplace [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)
3. Request an updated Historic Furnishings Report. A future Historic Furnishings Report should

⁶¹ Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [8].

⁶² Jedlick, "Interim Furnishings Plan," p. 59.

⁶³ Park staff removed the logs from the fireplace [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].

consider whether there should be reproduction clothing hanging from the pegs. (Park staff removed reproduction clothing after the 2000 inventory [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)

consider the eighteenth-century notion of childhood. From this researcher's understanding, there was not a proliferation of childhood toys until the nineteenth century.

consider the message this room is conveying. If toys are to be displayed, should they indicate that boys and girls occupied this room as is currently indicated with the boy's suit and the dolls?

South Chamber

The south chamber is furnished as a bedroom complete with high-post bed, bed hangings, and a trundle bed. Other large objects in the room include two early tables, and a chest. This room is viewed over a wire-mesh barrier from the second floor hall. There is very little of interest in the room aside from the trundle bed. A small table and two chairs seem to carry over the childhood theme more completely expressed in the east chamber. However, these are later additions not on Jedlick's approved furnishings plan.

There are three objects in the room that predate the 1730 to 1750 period, however, a second floor bedroom is an appropriate place to display early furnishings. There is a seventeenth-century turned armchair, a seventeenth-century table, and a William and Mary table. Items that postdate 1750 include the basin, ewer, desk, and chest. The fabric of the curtains is a textured, likely machine-made, textile inappropriate for the eighteenth-century. The gathered dust ruffle hanging below the bed was known during the Revolutionary War, but more common in the nineteenth century.⁶⁴ The mattress on the trundle bed appears to have a modern profile. Therefore, it is too late for the 1730 to 1750 period of interpretation. The 1844 book signed "L. Washington, 1853" on the flyleaf appears to have a Washington provenance, but is not appropriate to the eighteenth century.

The recent inventory indicated that a bedhanging is missing from the bed in this room. During the site visit, there were a variety of extraneous objects in the room including costumes and props (hats and knitting) on a window sill, extra rope under the bed, and metal hooks and rods in a far corner.⁶⁵

South Chamber Recommendations

1. Remove the nineteenth-century book to storage.

⁶⁴ Abbott Lowell Cummings, *Bed Hangings: A Treatise on Fabrics and Styles in the Curtaining of Beds, 1650-1850* (1961. Reprint. Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1994), p. 54.

⁶⁵ Park staff removed extra objects from room during 2000 inventory [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].

2. Remove extra objects from the room including costumes, props, and equipment not in use. (Park staff moved extra objects from room during 2000 inventory [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)
3. Remove the children's furniture because it is not part of the approved historic furnishings plan. (Park staff removed these items [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)
4. Regularly monitor the logs in the fireplace. Include pest mitigation as part of an IPM plan. (Park staff removed the logs from the fireplace [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (8)].)
5. Locate or consider replacing the missing bedhanging.
6. Request an updated Historic Furnishings Report. A future Historic Furnishings Report should

consider whether the children's furniture is appropriate to this room.

recommend the removal of meaningless objects such as the empty candlestand on the far side of the room. Objects should only be in rooms if they are placed in historically accurate locations and add to the interpretive story.

consider whether reading material on a bedside stand is appropriate for an eighteenth-century interior.

North Chamber

In its early incarnation, the north chamber was called the "Connecticut Room" as indicated by the silver plaque still in the room. The north chamber is furnished as a bed chamber, but also contains (at one time it contained more) fiber processing equipment. Major items in the room are a high-post bed with bed hangings, flax wheel, table covered with toilet articles, and a petticoat on a form. While the bed hangings convey the sense that this is a high-style room, other furnishings such as the work tools, earthenware chamber pot, and crude candlestand do not bear this out.

The most striking items in the room, the polychrome bed hangings, postdate 1750. Also, mid-eighteenth-century bed hangings should match the coverlet on the bed and be unlined. Other items that postdate 1750 are the trestle table, leather overshoe, bed, and flax wheel.

North Chamber Recommendations

1. Monitor the condition of the petticoat. Historic textiles should be exhibited for only limited periods of time (three to four months) and should be exposed to minimal light. Check the light levels produced by the nearby fluorescent light. Consider removing the petticoat if it does not serve a legitimate interpretive purpose. It does make sense as the

end product of fiber and textile processing. (Park staff removed petticoat due to lack of proper climate control [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (9)].)

2. Locate and re-install the missing objects (wool carders, weaving bobbin, wheel finger).
3. Make a color photocopy of the eighteenth-century botanical print. Rehouse the copy in an appropriate period or reproduction frame.
4. Request an updated Historic Furnishings Report. A future Historic Furnishings Report should

reconsider the overall presentation of this room: is it high-style or is it a utilitarian work space?

if fiber processing and textile manufacture are the main interpretive focus in this room, determine what range of objects should be here and how they should be displayed. The current display is spotty and haphazard.

revise the display of toilet articles. The tankard and basin are not convincing items for either dining or washing.

consider removing objects with no clear interpretive purpose such as the shoe.

West Chamber

The west chamber is furnished as a bed chamber. The room is viewed over a wire-mesh barrier from the second floor hall. Major objects in the room include a bed with octagonal posts, Chippendale style chest of drawers, and Scottish "obituary" wainscot chair. In the corner closest to the viewing area are positioned a violin and music stand with music. The sheet music is in poor condition. Items missing from the current installation are cushions on the side chair and armchair. A window curtain opposite the viewing area was lying on the sill during the site visit.

Items that predate the 1730 to 1750 period are the William and Mary side chair and possibly the wainscot obituary chair. However, a second floor chamber is an appropriate place to display older furnishings. Items that postdate 1750 include a Chippendale style mirror, nineteenth-century pewter tankard/pitcher, Staffordshire bowl, brass basin, and trunk.

The room is equipped with sticky traps for insects and a mouse trap. The room also contains two dehumidifiers in the far corner behind the bed. Only one is plugged in, but was not running the day of the site visit. This unit sits in a plastic tray to prevent future flooding accidents like the one that previously damaged the ceiling in the dining room below.⁶⁶

⁶⁶ According to park staff, dehumidifiers were only used May through September. The park removed the dehumidifiers in July 2001 upon recommendation of the Collection Management Plan team

West Chamber Recommendations

1. Rehang curtain. When items are taken off-line, remove them from room but replace as soon as possible. (Park staff rehung curtain [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (9).])
2. Place Mylar under metal objects such as tankard/pitcher and basin on wooden surfaces. (Park staff placed Mylar between objects in December 2001 [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. [9].])
3. Replace sheet music in poor condition with period object or reproduction. Place sheet music in storage.
4. Request an updated Historic Furnishings Report. A future Historic Furnishings Report should

reconsider music theme in room. Presumably this is a practice space, not a performance space.

consider placing custom made cushions on side chair and armchair if they are to remain in room.

Spinning and Weaving Shop

The structure that now houses the spinning and weaving shop was first built in the 1930s to house restrooms. It is a small, one-story, white-clapboarded structure with a herringbone-patterned brick floor. When the visitors' center was built in 1976, the former restrooms were converted to an exhibit building. The building is open daily, but only staffed on special occasions (about six to eight times per year) when there are trained volunteers available. In the past, there were staff members and volunteers who knew how to use and enjoyed using the spinning and weaving equipment. Now there are few knowledgeable people available, so the shop is usually idle.

All the tools and materials in the shop are reproductions. Lacking staff, the shop's sole interpretative device is a plywood sign displaying decoupaged words and images. This didactic panel states, "Spinning and weaving shops . . . were rare on small tobacco plantations of this size in eighteenth-century Virginia." It goes on to state that usually a room was set aside in the house for these activities.

The arrangement of the equipment in the shop does not appear to approximate a historic shop or the historic processes of spinning and weaving. The equipment is not laid out in a usable, efficient way and the object on the loom is much too crude to suggest an eighteenth-century project. The little room contains a loom, wool wheel, flax wheel, stool, chairs, buckets and baskets of materials, shelves of equipment, bottled dye stuffs, and peg racks filled with labeled, died yarns.

which visited the site in June 2001. Their removal eliminates the possibility of future water damage and additional stress on the structure's electrical system [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (2, 9)].

Aspects of the shop that detract from the visitor's experience include cleaning equipment in the room (brooms and a container of oil), the view into the backyard which does not appear to be set up as an exhibit area, and the inconsistent use of visitor barriers. Each exhibit building has a different kind of obtrusive barrier.

Spinning and Weaving Shop Recommendations

1. Consider closing the spinning and weaving shop to the public except on special event days when the building is put in order and staffed.
2. To improve the interpretive content and historical accuracy of this shop, the park should request a Special History Study on eighteenth-century spinning and weaving. Who performed these activities (men? women? slaves?)? Where were these activities carried out? Were they carried out in the same location? Were these activities performed in one area by the same people, or were spinning and weaving separate activities conducted by different individuals? How was spinning and weaving equipment and supplies arranged? Was equipment broken down and stored when not in use? Were supplies such as yarn stored in covered containers so they would not get dirty and attract pests?

Craft Shop

The craft shop is a one-story wooden structure covered with white clapboards and punctuated with louvered windows. In the 1930s, this structure served as a maintenance building. Later, when eighteenth-century plantation life became a focus for the park, the building was transformed into the craft shop.

One large room is designated as the craft shop while a separate area serves as staff offices. When the shop is open to the public, three doors are open to the outside. Even so, the large room is dim on a cloudy day making it difficult to see the displays inside. There is a railing stretching from one door to another indicating the public area of the shop.

The craft shop houses a variety of activities that likely took place on a plantation, but never in one large "shop" like this. More likely, these activities were performed in separate, smaller structures. Different areas of the room appear to be designated for different activities: a lathe for turning wood; a bench for drawing shingles; a stone for sharpening tools; a blacksmithing area with an anvil, fireplace, bellows, and rods of iron; and a brake for processing flax. Individual areas are messily kept, indicating a lack of use. There is one area near the middle of the visitor rail that appears to be used for interpretation because there are raw materials (horn), objects in process (thin horn, shoes), and finished products (lantern, candleholder). The floor is covered with wood shavings, flax, hay, and outdoor debris.

At one time the park employed interpreters to demonstrate crafts year-round. Until 1986, there was a full-time craftsman on staff to interpret the craft shop. Now, the craft shop is open daily, but crafts are only demonstrated on weekends in the summer if there are volunteers available.

The craft shop is not a successful exhibit building without a live interpreter. There is not enough didactic information to explain to visitors what they are seeing and the stations in the craft shop are not intended to be viewed in a static way. The grouping of these disparate activities in one building does not accurately reflect the arrangement of plantation activities which likely were housed in separate, smaller buildings. The disarray of and debris in the shop give this space a disused and derelict look, not typical of working eighteenth-century shops. It is recommended that unless the display is vastly changed or staffing levels increased, the craft shop be closed to the public except on special event days.

Recommendations for Craft Shop

1. Consider closing the craft shop to the public except on special event days when the building is put in order and staffed.
2. Be sure the interpretation of the craft shop includes the fact that the disparate activities represented in this one building were never housed together in the eighteenth century. Perhaps use a visual aid showing the layout and use of typical period plantation buildings.

Log House

The Log House was designed by architect Edward Donn for the WNMA in the early 1930s. In 1932, the WNMA donated the Log House and its furnishings to the NPS. Initially, the Log House served as a restaurant and sales area. The log structure served as a dining room while the rear ell was the kitchen. Until the 1950s or 1960s, visitors generally approached the Log House from the river side via a bridge across Dancing Marsh.

While the structure gives the impression of having evolved over time, it was actually built in one campaign. The front of the building which faces the river is a one-and-a-half story log structure painted white with black asphalt shingles. The façade is five bays wide. The roof dips low and spreads into a porch over the first-floor windows and door. The structure is flanked by chimneys. Inside, the one-room log building is open to the roof with a vaulted ceiling. The interior is more elegant than the exterior would suggest. The walls and vaulted ceiling are wood-paneled and the floor is pegged. Now, the former dining room is used as a meeting space. The room appears to retain its 1930s architectural features and finishes.

The rear ell of the building is a one-and-a-half story clapboarded structure. The side facing the parking lot has four dormers and a low porch. The rear of this ell is utilitarian and asymmetrical. The ell has its own chimney near the intersection with the log structure. When the Log House ceased to operate as a restaurant, the rear ell was renovated. At one time, it housed lodging rooms guests could rent. At another, there were two apartments, one on the second floor and one on the first. Now the ell has an apartment on the first floor and office space on the second.

The park maintains possession of some of the early furnishings for the Log House dining room including two hardwood trestle tables; three upholstered easy chairs; fire screens

and tools; a chandelier; two hardwood benches; a high-backed settle; and twenty-five or more rush-bottom side chairs. There are three pine trestle tables that appear to be reproductions of the earlier tables. The three easy chairs are upholstered in different colors: green, red, and orange. The orange chair does not match the other two in upholstery technique or construction.

There are also Log House furnishings at GEWA's bookstore. Furnishings that match those currently at the Log House are a rush-bottom side chair and a high-backed settle. There are six tables traditionally known to have come from the Log House, four square and two round. These four-legged tables appear to be Queen-Anne-style inspired Colonial Revival creations. Another object which likely came from the Log House is a small, simple, three-drawer sideboard.

According to park staff, the WNMA still has "old china" which it uses to serve refreshments to visitors during special events at the Log House. There was a note in the 1935 to 1939 WNMA minutes suggesting that the Association sell the china, glassware, linen, and silver. It does not appear this occurred, because in 1947 an inventory was taken of the Log House's tablewares including silverware and Bristol Pink china. The inventory did not include glassware and kitchen utensils. The researcher did not examine the WNMA tableware, so it is unknown whether it dates to the 1930s.

The current park superintendent expressed concern over the continued use of the Log House furnishings in the Log House and in the bookstore. The furniture at the Log House is sturdy and unlikely to be harmed by the light use it receives during meetings. In fact, the objects in the meeting room are in better environmental conditions than the side chairs stored in the Log House basement. If the park continues to store the side chairs in the basement, it is recommended that they be raised on pallets and stacked more carefully. The furniture in the bookstore receives heavy use and will likely suffer from that use over time. The tables have long, thin, splayed legs and are not intended to support stacks of books for extended periods of time. Also, Lucite display stands are scratching the wooden surfaces.

Before the park decides to remove Log House objects from use, the objects' period of use in the Log House should be determined through pictorial evidence (if it exists). If it is determined that these objects date back to the park's early beginning, GEWA should accession at least some of the objects into the museum collection. These objects should be removed from use in the Log House and bookstore. In the case of multiple examples of objects (tables at the bookstore or side chairs at the Log House), the park may choose to accession only representative samples of the Log House furnishings. This approach would allow the park to continue using the other examples and reduce the amount of museum storage space necessary to house Log House objects.

Log House Recommendations

1. Store the side chairs in the Log House basement on pallets and with more care.
2. Determine the period of use of the extant Log House objects. If these objects date back to the 1930s, at least representative samples should be removed from use and accessioned into the museum collection.

3. Objects not accessioned into the museum collection may continue to be used for meetings at the Log House, but the heavy use the furnishings at the bookstore receive must be considered consumptive. (Park staff moved furnishings from the recently renovated bookstore/ gift shop and replaced them in the Log House [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (9)].)

Extant Research Materials

The majority of research materials available for GEWA are archival sources. GEWA has the Wakefield National Memorial Association (WNMA) records, the park's collection records, and the park's archives. None of the archives held by the park are processed at this time. Due to time constraints and the unprocessed nature of the collections, the researcher was unable to survey each folder of material. The following information is intended to provide a general indication of potentially fruitful sources for future historic furnishings research. All of the park's archives are located in the "cage" in the park library in the basement of the visitors' center.

The WNMA records are currently housed in a three-ring binder and in three boxes. Box 1 labeled "History/ Research Files, 1920s to 1950s" contains the most promising information. Folders of interest in this box include "Deeds and Records," "Mansion - Upholstering etc. Furnishings," "Log House," "Edward Washington," and "The Origins of Wakefield - CAH." The deeds and records folder contains negative copies of Washington-family genealogical records and deeds. The folder "Mansion - Upholstering etc. Furnishings" contains correspondence regarding furnishings. Some of the letters are addressed to former Superintendent Philip Hough and some regard the furnishing of the "Mary Ball Room" (later called the "birth room" or "master bedroom"). The references to objects are underlined in red ink. Accompanying a letter from Newton B. Drury to Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield dated 25 January 1946 is an inventory listing object names and brief descriptions. This inventory matches the objects on inventories that accompany NPS letters dated 1949 (see below). There are also cancelled checks drawn on the Bank of Montross for the purchase of objects.

Records in the "Log House" folder provide information about quantities of silver and china, purchasing new silverware, "Bristol Pink" dishes, and early 1950s considerations about new uses for the Log House. The envelope labeled "Edward Washington" contains an unsigned letter to Josephine Wheelwright Rust dated 8 October 1930 describing the recent excavation of the foundation of George Washington's actual birth home. This envelope also contains a short, undated newspaper clipping entitled "Wakefield China to be Reproduced." The folder called "The Origin of Wakefield - CAH" contains a letter from Gerlach Barklow to Edward Donn dated 30 April 1930 expressing doubts about the basis for the WNMA's reconstructed birth house. Also in this folder is a small early floor plan and exterior sketch of the proposed reconstructed birth house. The first-floor sketch shows a center hall, study, withdrawing room, dining room, and sitting or bedroom. A porch on the north façade covers three of its five bays giving it an asymmetrical appearance.

Folders and binders of interest in Box 2 include "Treasurer Reports Nevius, 1923-1932," "WNMA Minutes 1935 thru 1939" (loose-leaf notebook), "WNMA Sale Items," and "Hopkin Articles." The treasurer's reports and minutes provide some information

about objects obtained in the 1930s. The 1935 to 1939 loose-leaf minutes notebook features the highlights on the front cover. The folder on sale items is thick with information about the buying and selling of souvenirs. The folder "Hoppin Articles" contains draft and finished articles pertaining to the WNMA reconstruction. There is nothing of interest in Box 3.

Categories of interest in the park's collection records include "D34 Memorial Mansion," "D34 Memorial Mansion Furnishings," "D6223 Museum Acquisitions, Gifts, and Loans," "D6215 Planning, Preparation, Maintenance, and Preservation of Museum Exhibits," "Notes on Furnishings Correspondence," "S4215 Museum Inventory/ Museum Inventory Reports," "Mansion Furnishings File No. 123," and "Museums File Code 833." The majority of the park's object catalogue records are not computerized at this time. The exceptions are recently catalogued archeological collections. The researcher did not examine the park's accession book or objects catalogue records.

File "D34 Memorial Mansion" contains correspondence from 1930 to 1959 regarding the furnishing of the Colonial Kitchen as a kitchen, the duplication of the Memorial House by other groups in other locations, and signage. This file also contains a drawing and description of the 1896 excavation of the foundation under the Memorial House and a September 1930 building contract for the Memorial House. The file "D34 Memorial Mansion Furnishings" contains early inventories of the objects donated by the WNMA donated to the NPS (see "NPS Furnishings Inventories" section for discussion of the 25 January and 1 July 1949 inventories) and an inventory and appraisal taken by P.L. Griffith and Carl F. Flemer in 1967.⁶⁷ One 1934 letter from Mrs. John Morrison Kerr to Mrs. C.C. Washington, president of WNMA includes a list of furnishings for the Mary Ball room (later called the "birth room" or "master bedroom"). There is also NPS correspondence related to obtaining furnishings for the house in the 1930s. The file "D6223 Museum Acquisitions, Gifts, and Loans" contains information regarding donations including the WNMA donations of the Log House in 1932, barriers in the Memorial House in 1932, money for the conservation of books in 1949, and a greenhouse in 1952. A Washington family Bible was acquired in 1948. There are many acknowledgements of gifts that the researcher did not examine.

The file "D6215 Planning, Preparation, Maintenance, and Preservation of Museum Exhibits" contains information about object cataloguing, the purchase of a display case, and 1954 correspondence about a formal exhibition intended for the "Colonial Kitchen Exhibit Room" (west room). The records entitled "Notes on Furnishings Correspondence" are a series of sheets which appear to be a crude index for references to objects in the WNMA correspondence files. The file "S4215 Museum Inventory/ Museum Inventory Reports" contains a series of inventories dated 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976. In 1964, some items were noted as missing. In 1973, some bed hangings were changed and some objects removed. In 1976, there were perceptible differences from the 1971 inventory. This file also

⁶⁷ This inventory notes that the last inventory was taken in 1955 and an appraisal was performed in 1958. However, it is clear that Flemer sent his "Inventory of Furnishings at Wakefield" to a Miss Albro in 1963. These two inventories should be compared to see if they are indeed different documents created four years apart. The researcher did not copy the 1967 inventory because it appeared to be the same as the 1963 inventory.

contains a record describing the contents and costs for the 1950s formal exhibit in the west room of the Colonial Kitchen.

The file "Mansion Furnishings File No. 123" contains correspondence related to the receipt and acknowledgement of objects, the authentication of objects, the sterling silver memorial/ honorary wall plaques for the Memorial House rooms, and the donation of the "Wakefield table" by Mr. H.L. Rust, Sr., in 1933. There are also photographs of objects and early photostat copies of Augustine Washington I's inventory. The file "Museums File Code 833" contains correspondence regarding early ideas for a museum building to house the archeology collection and formal exhibits. One letter dated 20 April 1933 from Superintendent Hough to the NPS director indicates that the park was considering building over a portion of the original birth house foundation.

The park's historic archives are located in a series of record center boxes and solander boxes. The photographic images in the park archives are sufficient for a small exhibition on the early appearance of the exhibit buildings and their interiors. The box labeled "Wakefield 3" contains two items of interest. The first is a makeshift cardboard photograph album labeled "For those who cannot or do not wish to/ Go Upstairs to the second floor/ ALSO Pictures - of - the - Monument - Before it/ was moved to its present location." This album contains postcard views of the children's room (east chamber), west chamber, and Connecticut Room (north chamber). There are also black and white photographs of the children's room, west chamber, south chamber, Connecticut Room, kitchen, the print showing the nineteenth-century standing ruins of the kitchen chimney, turkeys in front of the Memorial House, brick kiln, and two aerial views of the 1896 monument on its former site. A three-ring notebook labeled "Wakefield 3" contains exterior photographs of the 1896 monument, early dock, and burial wall. There are also examples of nineteenth-century, erroneous renderings of the birth house's appearance and a copy of the 1929 Army Corps of Engineers survey.

The box labeled "Archival Material" contains two other albums of interest. The first contains 1932 exterior photographs of the park buildings. This album also includes photographs of other Washington-related sites with captions. The second album is entitled "Official Photographs." The first series of photographs is dated 14 May 1932. This series contains exterior views of the Memorial House, Colonial Kitchen, herb garden, trails, and a ceremony. There are photographs of the ceremony and groupings of people including members of the NPS staff, WNMA, and a military band. A second series of photographs shows the 1930s appearance of the burial ground, exterior of the Memorial House, dining room, and withdrawing room. There are pictures showing the barometer and tea table outside the house. A series of 1936 photographs show a vignette in the children's room, the south chamber, and an outdoor fee station. There are also later views of the withdrawing room, dining room, hall, master bedroom, and horses on the farm.

Photographs are also located in a box labeled "from Cab. I drawer 4/ 4 Photo albums 1930s/ from top of map cabinet G/ loose photographs." The album entitled "Pictures - Maintenance" contains 1950s photographs of repair work on the Memorial House, fences, walkways, withdrawing room fireplace tiles, and erecting a monument. A second album is labeled "Wakefield Exhibits/ From C.A. Hoppin." This album contains early construction photographs; promotional material printed by the WNMA; photographs of floor plans and conceptual drawings (drawing room and bedroom) made

by Donn in 1929; photographs of objects including a tea table, nineteenth-century pitchers, and a shield-back chair; photographs of objects related to later Washington occupation; exterior photographs; preprints and reprints of Hoppin articles; plans for the Log House; a plan for the Colonial Kitchen; and newspaper clippings. A third set of photographs entitled "Pictures and Photography File No. 513" contains interior photographs of the withdrawing room and a very brittle, illustrated newspaper article which the researcher did not unfold due to its condition. Loose photographs include photographs of the excavated foundation now under the Memorial House, the excavated dairy, and the former GEWA post office which appears to have been in the Memorial House cellar.

Box fourteen contains a series of history files organized by topic. This box contains a file on "A Short History of George Washington Birthplace National Monument" bound in a green NPS cover. File 1.22 "Hunter (Thomas) Survey of 1883" contains a tracing paper map entitled "Sketch of 'Burnt House Point'" showing the "old chimney." File O15 "American Historic Sites Survey" is bound in a green NPS cover and spans the years 1935 to 1942. This file contains policy information, a copy of the 1937 "Historic Sites Survey" by O.F. Northington, Jr., and a memorandum dated February 1937 entitled "First Steps in Historic Sites Survey." In Northington's report, GEWA appears under Theme VII: The Development of the English Colonies to 1763, Theme IX: The War for American Independence, Theme X: Domestic Affairs from 1789-1830, and Theme XI: Foreign Affairs. File 4.21 contains pamphlets related to GEWA including a historic handbook submittal by Superintendent Hough. File 4.31 contains rotogravure publicity including a section of the *Washington Post* dated 26 May 1935. In this section there is a whole page dedicated to GEWA including images of the dining room, Connecticut Room, Mary Washington Room (master bedroom), and another first-floor room. There is also a clippings file containing articles about GEWA. One article of interest is "Where Washington was Born" published by *Builders* magazine in February 1956. This article contains pictures of the dining room and children's room.

One last box is labeled "NPS File Folder 'Old References to Wakefield' Wakefield National Memorial Association." This box contains the book *Wakefield: Birthplace of George Washington* by Charles Moore (1932), the booklet "The Restoration of George Washington's Birthplace Report, 1923-1935" (1935), and files of newspaper clippings. The booklet contains interior photographs of the withdrawing room and dining room. The files entitled "Hoppin - W.L.W.," "Rockefeller Gift," and "Plans to Restore Wakefield" contain early (1928-1929) newspaper clippings regarding the WNMA reconstruction.

In addition to park archives, the park also has an undated compilation called the "Flemer Notebooks" which Flemer apparently compiled during his tenure as a park guide. In 1986, Flemer's compilation was reproduced and bound (but not edited) into five volumes for the use of interpreters and researchers. There is an index to the five volumes in the last volume. Volume 1 contains information on the Northern Neck of Virginia, the Washington Family, the "Birthplace Area," the research conducted by the WNMA, and the WNMA. Volume 2 contains information on the construction of the Memorial House, the furnishings of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen, and general information about the grounds. Volume 3 contains a genealogy of contemporary families and volume 4 contains the genealogy of Washington families. These volumes

may prove useful in a comparative inventory study. Volume 5 contains information on "Old homes and Churches."

Volume 2 is the most useful of the set. It contains information about the various early archeological investigations and nineteenth-century images of the kitchen fireplace. Of particular interest is "A 'PICTURE' TOUR OF WAKEFIELD/ GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHPLACE" which provides a narrative tour of the park's interior and exterior spaces. The volume contains what appears to be an earlier, cruder version of Flemer's 1963 illustrated inventory. There is also additional information regarding specific objects, transcribed entries from the 1783 Washington Bible, information about the portraits and manuscripts displayed in the Memorial Mansion, and the text that appeared on the early exterior signs at the park.

The park has transcribed copies of Washington family wills, the most relevant of which are Augustine Washington I's 1743 King George and Westmoreland County probate inventories and Augustine Washington II's 1758 will and 1762 inventory. Future research should include making new photocopies and transcriptions of these documents. Augustine Washington I's 1743 probate inventory for Popes Creek Plantation is incomplete and focuses on slave and livestock holdings. Thus, the use of comparative inventories is necessary. Other documents that may be useful are those consulted by Olson for her 1974 Historic Furnishings Study including Augustine Washington II's wife Ann's 1774 inventory, George Washington's mother Mary Ball Washington's 1789 inventory, and inventories of other relatives and acquaintances.

Early park planning documents and promotional literature provide insight into the early appearance and operation of the park. Very early items include Hoppin's articles "The House in Which George Washington Was Born" (1926), "How the Size and Character of Washington's Birthplace were Ascertained" (ca. 1929), and "The Origin of Wakefield, Washington's Birthplace" (1927). Other early items are Charles Moore's *Wakefield: Birthplace of George Washington* (1932) and *The Restoration of George Washington's Birthplace* (1935).

In addition to paper-based items, the park also has historical and archeological objects in its collections which are not on display. The historical objects relate mainly to the commemorative/ Colonial Revival period and the archeological collections provide information from prehistoric times through the early-twentieth century. Due to time constraints, the researcher did not examine these objects, but is able to categorize the historical objects based on the surveys and technical assistance projects conducted by the Northeast Museum Services Center in 1996 and 1997. A survey of the archeological material is necessary to determine which objects are most suitable for inclusion in future interpretive exhibits.

The majority of GEWA's historic objects not on display appear to have been retired due to wear. Aged window curtains, bed hangings, bed coverings, table runners, and children's clothing are stored in boxes in the library cage. These are catalogued and can be matched to the numbers on inventories to show which objects appeared in which rooms and when. GEWA also has about a dozen 1932 "eighteenth-century" costumes worn by WNMA members at GEWA's opening ceremony. It should be determined whether the WNMA guides continued to wear period costumes during their tours until 1945. These costumes are currently uncatalogued. It is recommended that these be catalogued as part of the museum collection for their significance during the

commemorative period. Other commemorative objects in the collection include a painting of the remains of Popes Creek Plantation in 1872 by Sarah Pierrpont Barnard (GEWA 912), a US George Washington Bicentennial Commission medal (GEWA 1026), a George Washington coin (GEWA 1025), the pen used by President Hoover to sign GEWA's legislation (GEWA 846), and George Washington Bicentennial medals (uncatalogued). Also of interest are the early 1930s maps and drawings in the park's collection including maps of the grounds, planting plans, architectural drawings, and archeological site maps. On the second floor of the Colonial Kitchen is a large box containing white Spode dinnerware, formerly used by the WNMA in the Log House. The researcher did not examine this set, but they should be assessed for inclusion or representation in the park's museum collection.

The Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware, has archival and manuscript materials from the collection of Louise DuPont Crowninshield. According to Lynn Cantanese of the Manuscripts and Archives Department, there are a limited number of items in Hagley's collection that relate specifically to Crowninshield's work at GEWA. She believes the majority of the relevant documents are in GEWA's collection. There is one draft letter from Crowninshield to Arno B. Cammerer of the NPS dated 18 April 1940. Crowninshield expresses interest in renovating the basement of the Memorial Mansion in order to install an exhibition there. There are about ten receipts and invoices that can be directly linked to GEWA. These documents span the years 1937 to 1949 and include dealings with companies in New York and Washington, DC. Objects mentioned in the receipts include a pair of hand-colored prints dated 1790, a cauliflower tea caddy, George III silver, Lowestoft bottles, pewter mugs, bed hangings for several beds, and a Ghiordes carpet. Also of interest is an annual report from 1936 which discusses Memorial Mansion furnishings and contains photographs. The report states that three chambers which had been unfurnished were now furnished. The objects in the east, south, and west chambers are listed (the north chamber had been furnished before). The photographs show the south chamber, east chamber, and the west corner of the withdrawing room.

The National Archives may also contain information regarding the early furnishing of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen. Hosmer makes great use of Record Groups 66 and 77 at the National Archives for his two-volume *Preservation Comes of Age*. This material was very rich for Hosmer's purposes of documenting the history of historic preservation, but it is unclear how useful it will be for documenting historic furnishings.

Another fruitful source of information are the exhibits, programs, research, and planning of other Virginia museums. Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Stratford Hall, and others should be consulted for information on eighteenth-century life, material culture, foodways, and slavery. Colonial Williamsburg's furnished slavery exhibits at the Wythe House and Carter's Grove would be particularly useful to GEWA. Another resource the park should investigate is the Gunston Hall Probate Inventory Database which is available on-line at www.gunstonhall.org and on CD-ROM for a nominal fee. This database contains transcriptions of 325 probate inventories for Virginia and Maryland property owners deceased between 1760 and 1810. This database does not focus on inventories from Westmoreland County, but contains room-by-room inventories from this county. The time period is later than the Augustine

Washington I period at Popes Creek Plantation, but the kitchen is one area which likely saw little change between 1725 and 1810 (see Appendix A). It is important to be informed of the activities at these institutions so that GEWA stays abreast of current scholarship and museum practice and avoids duplicating exhibits and research efforts.

Aside from archeological information, there is little information at GEWA about eighteenth-century slave life, material culture, and foodways. Therefore, GEWA needs to look to the resources of other sites such as Prestwold Plantation in Clarksville, Virginia, which has surviving slave housing. Recent historical and archeological scholarship should also inform GEWA's interpretation of and exhibits on slavery. Recommended sources to consult include, but certainly are not limited to, Cary Carson's "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies" in *Winterthur Portfolio*, Leland Ferguson's *Uncommon Ground*, and Dell Upton's "White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia" in *Material Life in America, 1600-1860*.

As is readily evident in the discussion of extant research materials above, that the commemorative period from the mid-1920s to the present is the best documented era of GEWA's past. The extant buildings, landscape, and furnishings are all products of the Colonial Revival. The photographs, correspondence, inventories, files, and catalogue records tell the detailed story of how the Colonial Revival interiors were developed. There is enough information with which to very accurately reproduce the WNMA appearance of the park. There is also enough material to create a small exhibition on the early decades of the park. The costumes, photographs, correspondence, and retired textiles could tell the story of how a museum is founded and how it can change over time.

There is far less information to support the eighteenth-century George Washington and slavery stories. Information about the life of the Washington family at Popes Creek Plantation is limited to the probate inventories of a different plantation house (Augustine Washington I's) or a different period (Augustine Washington II's), comparative inventories, archeological materials such as foundations and objects like the "AW" wine bottle, the extant tilt-top tea table with a Popes Creek provenance, information available at other eighteenth-century museums, and secondary sources. The sources for eighteenth-century slavery are even thinner, consisting of archeology, other museums, and secondary sources.

Analysis of Issues

How Much of the WNMA Interior Is Intact?

It is possible to assess the extent to which the WNMA interior survives by examining existing inventories and furnishings diagrams. A modest number of photographs of the interiors have been located to date (see "Extant Research Materials").

The WNMA transferred possession of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen and their furnishings to the NPS in early 1946. An inventory taken around that time documents the objects in the rooms then. The inventory taken by Flemer in 1963 corresponds closely with the 1946 inventory. Changes made in the interim include replacing window coverings and adding interpretive accessories such as hunting equipment and fiber processing equipment to some rooms. Major changes included the addition of the tilt-top table thought to have survived from the original birth house and

the revamping of over two-thirds of the objects in the master bedroom. Thus, aside from one room, the WNMA interiors remained largely intact until the late 1970s when Jedlick wrote his "Interim Furnishings Plan."

Jedlick made some changes to the large pieces of furniture in each room. More often it was the small objects that were removed, exchanged among rooms, or replaced. A rough survey of the objects that could be matched between Jedlick's list and the 1946 inventory indicated that on average, only about thirty-three percent of the objects present in the rooms in 1946 are still in those rooms on the Jedlick plan (the plan on which the current interiors are very closely based). Even in rooms with a high percentage of original WNMA objects in them, there are so many additional objects that the rooms do not retain their early appearances.⁶⁸

The current interiors may not retain a high percentage of the WNMA furnishings in their early locations, but the vast majority of the furnishings are still in the GEWA collection and could be relocated to reflect the early Colonial Revival appearance.

How Significant are the WNMA Interiors?

GEWA's National Register documentation was updated in 1997. At that time, the site was determined to be nationally significant under Criteria A Event, B Person, D Information Potential, and Criteria Consideration F Commemorative Properties. GEWA is considered significant under Criterion A for its association with the settlement, social development, and agricultural development of the Chesapeake. It is considered significant under Criterion A and Criteria Consideration F for its association with commemoration and historic preservation efforts. The period of significance for this association extends from 1815, the date of George Washington Parke Custis' visit, to 1941. GEWA is significant under Criterion B as the site of George Washington's birth. The site is also considered significant under Criterion D for its archeological resources which include pre-historic and historic aboriginal objects as well as historic non-aboriginal (i.e., Washington-family-related) objects.

Because they are not associated with George Washington and provide no information potential, the interiors of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen may only be considered for significance under Criterion A and Criteria Consideration F for their association with commemoration and historic preservation efforts. The question with the interiors is what are their integrity to the early commemorative period after Jedlick's late-1970s to early-1980s revision? The architectural features, finishes, and roughly one-third of the furnishings retain integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Due to the NPS intervention, they lack integrity of design and association and two-thirds of the objects lack integrity of location. However, the integrity of design and location could be partially restored using the 1946 inventory and the few early photographs as a guide to refurnishing the spaces as they were during the WNMA period.

While the interiors of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen are significant as early commemorative efforts, they are not so significant that they should sabotage the

⁶⁸ For example, the birth room retains seven of the ten WNMA objects (or seventy percent) listed in that room in the 1946 inventory. However, the Jedlick plan contains forty objects, thirty-three of which were not there in the 1930s to 1940s.

park's main theme and the object of the WNMA's commemoration: George Washington. The WNMA did not intend for its installation to detract from the Washington story. The installation was an early effort to fulfill visitor expectation by building and furnishing a "typical" eighteenth-century home to represent the house in which Washington was born. While noted preservationist Louise DuPont Crowninshield directed the later phases of the project, the Memorial House is not her earliest, best, or best-preserved work. Eleutherian Mills at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware, is the site for commemorating Crowninshield.

The Colonial Revival story at George Washington's Birthplace is significant due to the extent to which the WNMA went in their commemorative efforts and the fact that GEWA was the NPS' first historic site. The WNMA designed, built, and furnished a whole house to commemorate Washington. The Memorial House was admired in its day by other groups wished to copy it. The Daughters of the American Revolution wanted to build the same house as a memorial library at a college in Wisconsin. However, the WNMA's reconstructions are overshadowed by the size and greater accuracy of John D. Rockefeller's reconstructed town at Colonial Williamsburg. Perhaps the most important story the Memorial House conveys is the cautionary tale of being sure to conduct objective research, not rushing to meet unrealistic deadlines, and not letting personalities and egos get in the way of historic preservation efforts.

Are the Interiors of the Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen Typical of Eighteenth-century Housing and Furnishings?

The eighteenth century was a time of social change in the Western world. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on a period of greatest significance when interpreting an eighteenth-century story in order to make a meaningful statement. Arguably the period of greatest significance at George Washington's birthplace were the years 1726 when Augustine Washington first built the birth home to 1735 when the Augustine Washingtons moved out.

Unfortunately, no matter what period the park chooses, the current installation at the Memorial House does not work. The architecture is a forward-thinking, symmetrical center-hall-plan house based on the 1755 Gunston Hall. Many of the furnishings are backward-looking including many seventeenth-century English objects. If the park's intent is to convey that the Virginia gentry-class planters were in communication with England to get the latest styles, the current installation fails. Furthermore, if Augustine Washington could afford to build himself a new or expanded house, he likely could afford to purchase all new furnishings with which to furnish at least the first floor. The current installation is also unsuccessful because the date range for the furnishings extends into the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Thus, the house feels less like a distilled time period and more like a Colonial Revival interior in which historic furnishings from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries are installed alongside one another with little regard for accuracy.

The installation at the Colonial Kitchen is less troublesome because its contents are utilitarian and less stylish. With closer examination, the kitchen could be made very believable as an eighteenth-century kitchen.

What are the Untold Stories at George Washington's Birthplace National Monument?

Do not lose sight of the fact that currently the commemorative story overwhelms the telling of the George Washington and Washington family stories. Address improving the presentation of the park's main theme before tackling subthemes.

The staff at GEWA is aware of the potential for and its obligation to tell the story of enslaved African American house and field slaves at the site. After all, the enslavement of African Americans enabled the Washingtons to attain the gentry planter status they occupied. This is an important story to tell, but it should be told in the most accurate and responsible ways possible. Further research into the specific facts of African American life at GEWA and in Tidewater Virginia should be conducted by a material culture scholar for whom African American history is a specialty. This is not a summer research project for interns, students, or interpretive staff. It is recommended that GEWA request a special history study on the lives and material culture of slaves at GEWA. An exhibit plan then can be formed based on the information in the special history study.

Where and How Should the Park Interpret a Field Slave Quarters?

During the site visit park staff showed the researcher two potential locations for the interpretation of field slave quarters.⁶⁹ One is the white-clapboarded spinning and weaving shop (see above) and the other is a small corn crib. Neither of these locations is suitable for a furnished installation. There is not conclusive data for the appearance of field slave quarters at the site, so it is inadvisable to erect another conjectural building to house this interpretation. Sites such as Prestwoud and Hampton have surviving slave quarters, so they are better interpreted at those sites. Gunston Hall displays a footprint of the Prestwoud slave quarters on a known slave quarter location. However, this exhibit should not be replicated at GEWA unless there is solid evidence for a slave quarter location and such an installation will not impede future archeology.

If the park ever chose to remove the spinning and weaving shop from its current location, a small formal exhibit on slave life could be installed there. However, it should be made abundantly clear to visitors that the structure does not represent slave housing, it is only a shelter for a formal exhibit. Another option is to de-install the furnished exhibit in the west room of the Colonial Kitchen and install a formal exhibit on slavery at Popes Creek Plantation.

The 2000 archeological investigation identified the sites of three field slave quarters within park boundaries. It is recommended that the park develop a formal exhibit interpreting the park's archeological program and its findings regarding slave quarters. Maps can show the locations of identified house and field slave quarters. This exhibit should interpret earthfast building, the material life of the Washington slaves based on available archeological evidence, and how the landscape functioned when masters and slaves lived on the plantation. Provisions should be made so that this exhibit (or at least components of it) can be updated each year with new archeological findings.

⁶⁹ There is a third location under current consideration for the location of a slave quarters in a field adjacent to the tobacco demonstration field [Stanley to author, 13 May 2002, p. (9)].

Treatment Options

The treatment options contain phrases which require some clarification. For the purposes of this report, a *formal exhibit* is a designed display of objects, text, images, and audiovisual components intended to interpret one or more themes. A *historic furnished interior* is a fully furnished room or series of rooms in a historic structure interpreted to one most significant time period based on sufficient supporting historical evidence. *Historic furnished vignettes* are fully furnished *portions* of rooms. They are based on sufficient supporting evidence, but allow for gaps in knowledge of furnishings and do not deceive visitors into thinking they are seeing a completely treated room when they are not. They also allow for a more flexible use of space because they do not occupy entire rooms. *Waysides* are designed, weatherproof exterior displays incorporating text, images, and audio components intended to interpret one or more themes.

Memorial House

THE MOST RECOMMENDED TREATMENT OPTION IS #6 BELOW.

1A. Continue to exhibit Memorial House as a furnished interior based on research conducted by WNMA and containing a mixture of seventeenth- to nineteenth-century objects. No action. NOT RECOMMENDED

No action is not a recommended option. The current exhibits depict an inaccurate view of history to visitors and do not sufficiently support park themes.

1B. Continue to exhibit Memorial House as a furnished interior based on research conducted by WNMA and containing a mixture of seventeenth- to nineteenth-century objects. Dedicate one room to an exhibition on commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace. NOT RECOMMENDED

The current exhibits depict an inaccurate view of history to visitors and do not sufficiently support park themes. Adding an exhibition on commemoration will not correct these challenges.

2A. Continue to exhibit Memorial House as a furnished interior. Update research and replace objects when necessary to increase accuracy of exhibit. Use extant Washington family primary documents and comparative inventories.

The current broad range of seventeenth- to nineteenth-century furnishings presents an inaccurate view of history to the visitor. It is possible to choose a period of significance for the birthplace site and furnish the house to that period. The years 1726 to 1735 represent the Augustine Washington period when George Washington was born. Therefore, the park should choose the period 1725 to 1750 to which to furnish the house. Some earlier furnishings could appear on the second floor, but the majority of the

furnishings on the first floor should reflect the current Queen Anne style of this period. Because there is no Augustine Washington-era inventory for Popes Creek Plantation and the Memorial House is a highly inaccurate reconstruction, this interior will be conjectural and generic.** (This paragraph refers to option #2B below, also.)⁷⁰

This treatment option is not most recommended because it requires a significant expenditure of resources, it does not sufficiently tell the George Washington story, and the commemorative nature of the site is not addressed. The rehabilitation of the current exhibit would require researching and writing a historic furnishings report, purchasing appropriate objects, and de-installing and storing inappropriate objects.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 would be necessary to complete the project.

2B. Continue to exhibit Memorial House as a furnished interior. Update research and replace objects when necessary to increase accuracy of exhibit. Use extant Washington family primary documents and comparative inventories. Dedicate one room to an exhibition on commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace.

** See paragraph in above option #2A.

This treatment option is preferred to option 2A above because it addresses the commemorative nature of the site.⁷¹ However, this treatment option is not most recommended because it requires a significant expenditure of resources and does not sufficiently tell the George Washington story.

Formal exhibits should harmonize as well as possible with the Colonial Revival structure. Exhibit cases, panels, lighting, and other equipment should be planned and installed with the well-being of the historic structure in mind. Intrusive methods should be avoided.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 and an Interpretive Exhibition Plan for the commemorative exhibit would be necessary to complete the project.

3A. Install historic furnished vignettes based on extant Washington documents and comparative inventories.

The current broad range of seventeenth- to nineteenth-century furnishings presents an inaccurate view of history to the visitor. It is possible to choose a period of significance for the birthplace site and furnish the house to that period. The years 1726 to 1735 represent the Augustine Washington period when George Washington was born. Therefore, the park should choose the period 1725 to 1750 to which to furnish the house. Some earlier furnishings could appear on the second floor, but the majority of the

⁷⁰ At the request of the park, researcher omitted repetitious paragraphs from treatment options.

⁷¹ The park's LRIP supports this approach: "Consider dedicating a room in the house for visitors to further explore the evolution of the designed commemorative landscape and the significant commemorative activities that have taken place over the years" [LRIP, p. 25].

furnishings on the first floor should reflect the current Queen Anne style of this period. Because there is no Augustine Washington-era inventory for Popes Creek Plantation and the Memorial House is a highly inaccurate reconstruction, this interior will be conjectural and generic.** (This paragraph refers to option #3B below, also.)

Furnished vignettes are fully furnished *portions* of rooms. They are preferable to the fully furnished interiors described in options 2A and 2B because they allow for gaps in knowledge of furnishings and do not deceive visitors into thinking they are seeing a completely treated room when they are not. Also, the expense in furnishing portions of rooms is less than furnishing whole rooms. However, this treatment option is not most recommended because it still requires a significant expenditure of resources and does not sufficiently tell the George Washington story.** (This paragraph refers to option #3B below, also.)

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 would be necessary to complete the project.

3B. Install historic furnished vignettes based on extant Washington documents and comparative inventories. Dedicate one room to an exhibition on commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace.

** See paragraphs in above option #3A.

This treatment option is preferred to option 3A above because it addresses the commemorative nature of the site.

Formal exhibits should harmonize as well as possible with the Colonial Revival structure. Exhibit cases, panels, lighting, and other equipment should be planned and installed with the well-being of the historic structure in mind. Intrusive methods should be avoided.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 and an Interpretive Exhibition Plan for the commemorative exhibit would be necessary to complete the project.

4A. Reconstruct the WNMA Colonial Revival interior based on extant inventories and photographs.

It is possible to reconstruct the WNMA Colonial Revival interior based on extant inventories and photographs. This interior is arguably significant as a commemorative installation. This reconstruction would remove the later NPS layers of installation and return the house to its mid-1940s state.** (This paragraph refers to option #4B below, also.)

This treatment option is not most recommended because a Colonial Revival interior, while a legitimate installation unto itself, can easily be misunderstood by the public as a representation of colonial material life. The interpretation of the house would have to be constant and careful. However, visitors to GEWA are likely not prepared for or

expecting an interpretation of the 1930s to 1940s Colonial Revival movement. Thus, dedicating the Memorial House, the most imposing structure in the "Historic Core," solely to the Colonial Revival excludes the George Washington story visitors came to hear.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 would be necessary to complete the project.

4B. Reconstruct the WNMA Colonial Revival interior based on extant inventories and photographs. Dedicate one room to a formal exhibition on commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace.

** See paragraph in above option #4A.

This treatment option is preferred to option 4A. The addition of a formal exhibit on commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace could handle some of the interpretive burden presented by the reconstruction of the WNMA interior. However, it is not most recommended because dedicating the Memorial House, the most imposing structure in the "Historic Core," solely to the Colonial Revival excludes the George Washington story visitors came to hear.

Formal exhibits should harmonize as well as possible with the Colonial Revival structure. Exhibit cases, panels, lighting, and other equipment should be planned and installed with the well-being of the historic structure in mind. Intrusive methods should be avoided.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 and an Interpretive Exhibition Plan for the commemorative exhibit would be necessary to complete the project.

5. De-install furnished interior and replace with formal exhibits. NOT RECOMMENDED

It is not recommended that the park completely replace its furnished interiors with formal exhibits. While the Memorial House is not an eighteenth-century structure, visitors still expect to see at least part of a domestic furnished interior inside. Also, the size of the rooms, the paneling on the walls, and the height of the ceilings on the second floor would thwart any attempt to convert this structure into a state-of-the-art exhibit facility.

Any formal exhibits inserted into the structure should harmonize as well as possible with the Colonial Revival structure. Exhibit cases, panels, lighting, and other equipment should be planned and installed with the well-being of the historic structure in mind. Intrusive methods should be avoided.

6. Install a combination of furnished and formal exhibits. MOST RECOMMENDED

The Memorial House should continue to contain furnished exhibits, but these exhibits should convey specific park-related themes. For instance, one or two of the first-floor rooms could be furnished to the period 1725 to 1750. These rooms would contain key objects from which meaningful stories could be told about George Washington, the Washington family, planter life in southern Virginia, and material culture in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. It would be helpful if these rooms were adjacent so that the inaccurate center hall could be avoided.

One room should be dedicated to the Memorial House's WNMA Colonial Revival era. This room should combine a vignette furnished to the WNMA period and formal exhibits addressing commemoration, the Colonial Revival movement, and how these themes played out at George Washington's birthplace.

After thoroughly documenting the rooms, consider de-installing some rooms to make way for some formal exhibits and/or multimedia exhibits related to George Washington and the world in which he lived. These exhibits should be firmly grounded in the latest Washington scholarship and should rely heavily on the archeological evidence unearthed at the site. Archeology is the main strength of this site and should be highlighted as such. Video and computer imagery could be used to visually reconstruct the actual birthplace (or variations on it) for visitors. This type of computerized reconstruction was used to great advantage by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in its "Pharaohs of the Sun" exhibition (November 1999 to February 2000).

Formal exhibits should harmonize as well as possible with the Colonial Revival structure. Exhibit cases, panels, lighting, and other equipment should be planned and installed with the well-being of the historic structure in mind. Intrusive methods should be avoided.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 and an Interpretive Exhibition Plan for the commemorative exhibit would be necessary to complete the project.

Colonial Kitchen

THE MOST RECOMMENDED TREATMENT OPTION IS #2 BELOW.

1. Continue to exhibit Colonial Kitchen as a furnished interior based on outdated research as set forth in the most current furnishing plan. No action. NOT RECOMMENDED

No action is not a recommended option because the Furnishing Study on which the installation is based is over twenty-five years old. It is likely that there are comparative inventories beyond those considered in this report and more recent projects which could be consulted to further inform and hone the current installation in the Colonial Kitchen. Jedlick's "Interim Furnishing Plan" did not entail new research. Particularly problematic

is the house slave exhibit inserted into the kitchen's west room based on Carson's 1991 Exhibit Plan. The current installation, particularly the west room, contains inaccuracies that should be corrected through the research and writing of an updated Historic Furnishings Report.

2. Continue to exhibit Colonial Kitchen as a furnished interior. Update research and replace objects when necessary to increase accuracy of exhibit. Use Washington family primary documents and comparative inventories. MOST RECOMMENDED

The Furnishing Study on which the installation is based is over twenty-five years old. It is likely that there are comparative inventories beyond those considered in this report and more recent projects which could be consulted to further inform and hone the current installation in the Colonial Kitchen. Jedlick's "Interim Furnishings Plan" did not entail new research. Particularly problematic is the house slave exhibit inserted into the kitchen's west room based on Carson's 1991 Exhibit Plan. The current installation, particularly the west room, contains inaccuracies that should be corrected through the research and writing of an updated historic furnishings report.

It is possible for the kitchen to be installed with accurate furnishings, the majority of which are likely already in the park's museum or reproduction collection. Furnished correctly and staffed by a costumed interpreter, the Colonial Kitchen will be a very evocative experience for visitors.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 would be necessary to complete the project.

3. Install historic furnished vignettes based on extant Washington documents and comparative inventories.

It is not necessary to scale back the Colonial Kitchen display to vignettes because there is likely enough extant information to inform a fully furnished exhibits and the park likely owns the majority of the objects needed for them. However, if sufficient information and objects are not available to fully furnish both rooms, furnishing just the hearth and a work table may be a viable substitute.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 would be necessary to complete the project.

4. Reconstruct the WNMA Colonial Revival interior based on extant inventories. NOT RECOMMENDED

It is possible to reconstruct the WNMA Colonial Revival interior based on extant inventories. However, the researcher did not locate any WNMA-era photographs of the kitchen installation. Also, for much of the WNMA period, portions of the kitchen were used for administrative and exhibition space.

It is not recommended that the Colonial Revival interior be reconstructed in the Colonial Kitchen because a reconstructed interior in the Memorial House would have a greater impact and the kitchen has greater interpretive potential as an eighteenth-century furnished interior. Furnished correctly and staffed by a costumed interpreter, the Colonial Kitchen would be a very evocative experience for visitors.

5. De-install furnished interior and replace with formal exhibits. NOT RECOMMENDED

It is not recommended that the Colonial Kitchen furnishings be de-installed and replaced with formal exhibits because the kitchen has greater interpretive potential as an eighteenth-century furnished interior. Furnished correctly and staffed by a costumed interpreter, the Colonial Kitchen would be a very evocative experience for visitors.

6. Install a combination of furnished and formal exhibits. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

It is possible for the kitchen to be installed with accurate furnishings, the majority of which are likely already in the park's museum or reproduction collection. Furnished correctly and staffed by a costumed interpreter, the Colonial Kitchen will be a very evocative experience for visitors.

If there is not enough evidence to accurately furnish the west room or if the park is seeking formal exhibition space for a slavery exhibit, it is possible to install an exhibit in the west room. Due to the hearth cooking demonstrations in the east room and lack of museum-quality climate control, exhibit objects should be limited to reproductions or easily replaceable period objects.

A Historic Furnishings Report, volumes 1-2 and an Interpretive Exhibition Plan for the formal exhibit would be necessary to complete the project.

**Recommended Fundable Future Cultural Resources Actions and Projects
for George Washington's Birthplace National Monument**

BCB: Steve Spaulding, Chief, Building Conservation Branch, Lowell, MA, 978-970-5127
 HFC1: John Brucksch, Chief, Historic Furnishings Division, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV, 304-535-6119
 HFC2: David Guiney, Senior Exhibits Planner, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV, 304-535-6448
 HFC3: Martin Burke, Chief Conservator, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV, 304-535-6228
 IPM: Wayne Millington, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Northeast Region, University Park, PA, 814-863-8352
 NMSC1: Laurel Racine, Senior Curator, Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA, 617-242-5613 x 15
 NMSC2: Nancy Waters, Senior Curator, Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA, 617-242-5613 x 12
 NMSC3: Mark Isaksen, Senior Curator, Northeast Museum Services Center, Philadelphia, PA, 215-597-1953
 NMSC4: Louis Hutchins, Senior Curator, Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA, 617-242-5613 x 17
 PHSO: Cliff Tobias, Park History Program Leader, Philadelphia Support Office, 215-597-9970

Recommended Future Project	Recommended Funding Sources	Sources of Assistance
Hire GS-9 Museum Specialist	Base Increase	
Update Housekeeping Plan	GS-9 Base Increase	NMSC2
Prepare Integrated Pest Management Plan	MCP	IPM or NMSC3
Purchase UV Filters for Fluorescent Lights in Museum Storage Areas	MCP	NMSC3
Upgrade Electrical Service in Memorial House and Colonial Kitchen	Repair/Rehab	BCB
Mark Period and Reproduction Objects with Catalogue or Repro Numbers for Inventory Purposes	GS-9 Base Increase	
After Taking Appropriate Light Readings, Write Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Opening and Closing Memorial House Curtains	GS-9 Base Increase	NMSC1 or 2
Update Scope of Collection Statement (SOCS) Biannually	GS-9 Base Increase	NMSC1 or NMSC2

Recommended Future Project	Recommended Funding Sources	Sources of Assistance
Replace Vulnerable Period Objects with Reproduction Objects (e.g., books, maps, prints)	Fee Demo, Exhibit Rehab	NMSC1, IIFC1
Replace Vulnerable Period Objects with Reproduction Objects (e.g., books, maps, prints)	Fee Demo, Exhibit Rehab	NMSC1, IIFC1
After Object is Surveyed by Qualified Conservator, Possibly Treat Oil Painting GEWA 26	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, HFC Treatment Services, Exhibit Rehab	HFC3
Request Historic Structures Report for Colonial Kitchen and Memorial House	CRPP Base	BCB
Request Historic Furnishings Report for Memorial House	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, Exhibit Rehab	NMSC1, IIFC1
Request Updated Historic Furnishings Report for Colonial Kitchen	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, Exhibit Rehab	NMSC1, IIFC1
Request Historic Resource Study on Site's Commemorative Period, 1815 to Present	Fee Demo, CRPP Base	NMSC2 or NMSC4
Request Exhibit Plan for Commemorative Exhibition in Memorial House	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, Exhibit Rehab	HFC2
Redesign Barrier in Colonial Kitchen	Exhibit Rehab	HFC2
Request Special History Study for Topic of Slavery at GEWA	Fee Demo, CRPP Base	PHSO
Request Exhibit Plan Based on Slavery Special History Study	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, Exhibit Rehab	HFC2
Request Special History Study for Topic of Spinning and Weaving at GEWA	Fee Demo, CRPP Base	PHSO
Request Exhibit Plan Based on Spinning and Weaving Special History Study	Fee Demo, CRPP Base, Exhibit Rehab	HFC2
Install UV filters on Colonial Kitchen Windows	MCP	NMSC3
Purchase Cushions for Day Bed and Chairs Inaccurately Displayed without Them	Fee Demo, Exhibit Rehab	NMSC1, IIFC1

Bibliography

Sources Consulted

"Arrangement of Colonial Artifacts in Basement of Mansion, George Washington Birthplace." Inventory, undated, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

Birnbaum, Charles A. with Christine Capella Peters. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996.

Boyle, Susan Calafate. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Denver, CO: Denver Service Center, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1997. (No approval information.)

Carson, Paul. "Exhibit Plan for a Household Slave Quarter Room." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1991.

_____. "George Washington Birthplace National Monument Scope of Collection Statement." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1991.

_____. "Slave Life in Eighteenth Century Virginia and the Washington Slaves: An Independent Study Packet. Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, ca. 1991.

"The Chesapeake Timeline." Pamphlet/map, 1990s, printed by National Park Service and Chesapeake Bay Program. Distributed at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

Collection Records, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA:⁷²

"Museums File Code 833," 1930-1954

"Mansion Furnishings File No. 123," 1932-1938

"D 34 Memorial Mansion Furnishings," 1931-1968 (contains inventory of WNMA gift of Memorial House furnishings to NPS in 1946)

⁷² The park's collection records and archival records and those of the Wakefield National Memorial Association are currently uncatalogued. The WNMA records are currently being catalogued at the Northeast Museum Services Center and should be returned to the park by fall 2002.

"D 6215 Planning, Preparation, Maintenance, and Preservation of Museum Exhibits, 1954-1959"
"D 6223 Museum Acquisitions, Gifts, and Loans," 1937-1951, 1954-1959, (labeled "Donations File No. 805")
"Notes on Furnishings - Correspondence," 1937-1951
"S 4215 Museum Inventory/ Museum Inventory Reports," 1955-1976
"D 34 Memorial Mansion," 1930-1959 (includes building specifications)

Crowninshield, Louise duPont. Archival and Manuscript Material, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE.

Cummings, Abbott Lowell. *Bed Hangings: A Treatise on Fabrics and Styles in the Curtaining of Beds, 1650-1850*. 1961. Reprint. Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 1994.

Flemer, Carl. "Inventory of Furnishings at Wakefield." Inventory, 1963, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

_____. Notebooks and Copies, 5 volumes, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

"George Washington Birthplace Calendar of Events, 2000." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 2000.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument. *Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1936*. Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1936.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument Archives. George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA:

Box "NPS File Folder 'Old References to Wakefield' WNMA"

File "Hoppin-Wheelwright-Rust"

File "Hoppin-W.L.W."

File "Rockefeller's Gift"

File "Plans to Restore Wakefield"

Box "Wakefield 3 Notebook": contains makeshift cardboard photo album and three-ring binder of photographs

Box "Archival Material": contains 2 photograph albums

Box "from Cab. I drawer 4/ 4 Photo albums 1930s/ from top of map cabinet G/ loose photographs": contains "Pictures - Maintenance," "Wakefield Exhibits/ From C.A. Hoppin," "Pictures and Photography File No. 513," and loose photographs

Box 14, "History" Files Organized by Topic

File "A Short History of George Washington Birthplace National Monument"

File 1.122, "Hunter (Thomas) Survey of 1883"
File O15, "American Historic Sites Survey"
File "Articles on George Washington National Monument"
File 4.21 "Washington's Birthplace - Pamphlets"
File 4.31 Rotogravure Publicity

"George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." In *Booklets Relating to National Historical Areas, 1940-1942*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, ca. 1942.

Gilmore, R. Grant, III et al. "Archaeological Testing of Four Sties (44wm89, 44wm218, 44wm259, and 44wm272), George Washington's Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia." Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Department of Archaeological Research, DRAFT, March 2000.

Griffith, P.L. and Carl F. Flemer. *Furnishings Inventory, 1967, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.*

Gunston Hall. *Gunston Hall, Return to Splendor: The Colonial Plantation Home of George Mason, Father of America's Bill of Rights*. Richmond, VA: Carter Printing Company for Gunston Hall, 1991.

Harrison, Thomas J. *Interpretive Prospectus: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Washington's Birthplace, Virginia*. Westmoreland County, VA: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1966.

Hatch, Charles E., Jr. *Popes Creek Plantation, Birthplace of George Washington*. Edited by George C. Mackenzie. 2d ed. Westmoreland County, VA: The Wakefield National Memorial Association and National Park Service, 1979.

Hoppin, Charles Arthur. "The House in Which George Washington Was Born." *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 8 (4), 1926. Reprinted in *Ancestry of George Washington and Records of His Birthplace Contributed to Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine by Charles Arthur Hoppin, 1923-1933*.

_____. "How the Size and Character of Washington's Birthplace were Ascertained by the Wakefield National Memorial Association, Inc." Pamphlet, ca. 1929, File D34 Memorial Mansion, Park Files, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

_____. "The Origin of Wakefield, Washington's Birthplace." *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 8, April 1927. Reprinted in *Ancestry of George Washington and Records of His Birthplace Contributed to Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine by Charles Arthur Hoppin, 1923-1933*.

Hosmer, Charles B. *Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949*. 2 vols. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia for the Preservation Press, 1981.

"Housekeeping for Museum Collections: Frontline Preventive Conservation at George Washington Birthplace National Monument." Harpers Ferry, WV: Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, post 1996.

Hudson, J. Paul. *George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia*. National Park Service Historical Handbook Series, no. 26. 1956. Reprint. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1961.

Jedlick, William. Files of Former Mid-Atlantic Regional Curator. Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA

_____. "Interim Furnishing Study and Plan for the Memorial House - George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." National Park Service report, 1977, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

Jones, Joe B. et al. *Comprehensive Archaeological Survey of George Washington Birthplace National Monument*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and College of William and Mary, 1999.

Laray, James to Chief Ranger and Superintendent, George Washington Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National Historic Site, memorandum, undated 2000.

Long Range Interpretive Plan: George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999.

Master Plan: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia. Westmoreland County, VA: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1968.

Moore, Charles. *Wakefield: Birthplace of George Washington*. Washington, DC: Wakefield National Memorial Association, 1932.

Nash, Robert. *Interpretive Prospectus for George Washington Birthplace National Monument*. Westmoreland County, VA: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1969.

OCULUS, et al. *George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia: Cultural Landscape Report*. 2 vols. Charlottesville, VA: OCULUS, 1999.

Olson, Sarah. *Historic Furnishing Study: The Ancient Kitchen and Colonial Garden, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia*. Denver, CO: Denver Service Center, Historic Preservation Team, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1974.

Resource Management Plan: George Washington Birthplace National Monument. National Park Service Report, 1994, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

The Restoration of George Washington's Birthplace. Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1935.

Ramer, Brian. "George Washington National Monument: Collection Management Plan." Second draft of report, 1996, Collection Management Files, Northeast Museum Services Center, Charlestown, MA.

Rodnick, David. *Orientation Report on the George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Westmoreland County), Virginia*. National Park Service Report, 1941, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

"A Short History of George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia." National Park Service Report, 1955, Cultural Resources Library, Philadelphia Support Office, Philadelphia, PA.

Stanley, Vickie. Electronic communication to author, 13 May 2002.

_____. Telephone conversation with author, 21 May 2002

Stratford Hall Plantation. "Stratford Hall Plantation: Birthplace of Robert E. Lee." Stratford, VA: Stratford Hall Plantation, 1995.

Tilden, Freeman. *Interpreting Our Heritage: Principles and Practices for Visitor Services in Parks, Museums and Historic Places*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1957.

Typed Transcripts of Washington Family Wills and Inventories. Typescripts, undated, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA. Transcripts include, in order as they appear:

Captain John Washington, Division of Estate from Thomas Weleford and Richard Watts, 23 February 1697/8, Westmoreland County Deeds and Wills, no. 2, 1691-1699, p. 149.

Captain Augustine Washington, Inventory, 1 July 1743, King George County Inventory Book, Liber I, July 1721-1744, p. 285.

Augustine Washington, Will, 6 May 1743, *Tyler's Quarterly* 49, p. 55.

Lawrence Washington, Will, no date, no source.

Augustine Washington, Jr., Will, 18 September 1758, Westmoreland County Records.

William Augustine Washington, Will, 12 July 1810, no source.

Augustine Washington, Jr., Inventory, 30 November 1762, no source.

Wakefield National Memorial Association Files (3 Boxes), George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA:

Box 1: "Mansion - Upholstering etc. furnishings"

"Log House"

"Edward Washington" Envelope

"Notes on Early Washingtons etc."

"Ferry Farm"

"The Origin of Wakefield - CAH"

Box 2: "Hoppin Articles"

"Treasurer Reports Nevius, 1923-1932"

WNMA Minutes, Loose-leaf Notebook

"Where Washington Was Born," *Builders* 63 (7), 18 February 1956.

Whitehill, Walter Muir. *Louise duPont Crowninshield, 1877-1958*. Winterthur, DE: n.p., 1960.

*Sources for Future Consultation*⁷³

Carson, Cary et al. "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies." *Winterthur Portfolio* 16 (2-3): 135-196 (1981).

Ferguson, Leland. *Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.

Fine Arts Commission Records, National Archives I, Washington, DC.

George Washington Birthplace, "620 - Buildings," Records of National Park Service, National Archives, Record Group 79. See Hosmer, *Preservation Comes of Age*.

Hatch, Charles E., Jr. *Chapters in the History of Popes Creek Plantation*. Washington, DC: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1968.

⁷³ The majority of the "sources for future consultation" were gleaned from secondary sources and through conversations. Due to the short duration of this assessment project, the author was unable to follow up on these leads. The amount of information provided reflects the author's current state of knowledge regarding the location of the source. In some cases, there are references to extensive lists of sources located in previous studies.

Hough, Philip R. "Special Report." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 11 February 1932.

Kulikoff, Alan. *Tobacco & Slaves: The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press for Institute of Early American Culture and History, 1986.

Northington, Oscar F., Jr. *Research Report on Wakefield, George Washington Birthplace, Westmoreland County, Virginia*. Report, 1938, Branch of Historic Sites Files. See Rodnick, *Orientation Report*.

Photographic collection, National Park Service Archives, Harpers Ferry, WV. (According to OCULUS, CLR, many of these are also likely at park.)

Record Group 66, National Archives I, Washington, DC.

Record Group 77, National Archives II, Washington, DC.

Scrapbook of Wakefield Association in Mr. H.P. Cammerer's possession, 1924-1937.

"Spares Furniture Picture Inventory, Mansion & Kitchen," vol. 1. George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, VA.

Statement of Interpretation, George Washington Birthplace National Monument. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1994.

Statement of Management, George Washington Birthplace National Monument. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1986.

Sweeney, Kevin M. "High-Style Vernacular: Lifestyles of the Colonial Elite." In *Of Consuming Interests: The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century*. Edited by Cary Carson et al. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1994.

Upton, Dell. "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." *Winterthur Portfolio* 17: 95-119 (1982).

———. "White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." In *Material Life in America, 1600-1860*. Edited by Robert Blair St. George. Boston: Northeastern University, 1988.

Wells, Camille. "Social and Economic Aspects of Eighteenth-Century Housing on the Northern Neck of Virginia." Ph.D. diss., The College of William and Mary, 1994.

White, Robert P. "Special Report." Westmoreland County, VA: George Washington Birthplace National Monument, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 22 February 1932.

Worthington, Maude R. "The Restoration of George Washington's Birthplace, Report 1923-1935." Westmoreland County, VA: Wakefield National Memorial Association, 1935.

See OCULUS, *CLR* for additional general references on the topics of slavery, tobacco culture, and early Chesapeake society

See Olson, *Historic Furnishing Study* for other possible primary sources. However, the repositories listed may contain only comparable inventories and other archival materials.

Appendix A

GUNSTON HALL PROBATE INVENTORY DATABASE

As part of the process of settling an estate after the death of an individual, in many cases, a probate inventory was taken. The inventory listed the personal and chattel property in the possession of the deceased at the time of death. No probate inventory appears in court records for George Mason of Gunston Hall (1725-1792). An unofficial inventory has not surfaced which might have been taken as part of the apparently amicable settlement of his estate by his heirs. This lack of documentation of Mason's possessions has proven a challenge to understanding Gunston Hall as the home of George Mason.

The ongoing process of research at Gunston Hall fueled, in part, by this specific lack of personal documentation, has led to the examination of a variety of sources, both documentary and object based, for Mason's time period. It is through this research process that the presentation of Gunston Hall, as Mason would have known it, is continually being strengthened. Integral to this process, staff at Gunston Hall Plantation has collected specific probate inventories, recorded between 1750 and 1810 in Maryland and Virginia.

Using microfilm of original court records from Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties in Virginia and Charles and Prince George's counties in Maryland, probate inventories were selected according to predetermined criteria. Considered to be of particular importance, these counties reflect jurisdictions in which George Mason owned land and/or was known to have transacted business. In addition to the counties cited, a number of room-by-room inventories are included from the following jurisdictions:

In Virginia: the cities of Norfolk and Fredericksburg and the counties of James City, Elizabeth City, Lancaster, Surrey, Richmond, Frederick, Charles City, Spotsylvania, Middlesex, Westmoreland and York.

In Maryland: Anne Arundel County and Annapolis.

All the collected probate inventories were transcribed. Both the photocopies of the microfilm and the transcriptions are on file at Gunston Hall.

Household furnishings listed in these inventories form the basis for an extensive database used to identify the items and evaluate their commonality in eighteenth-century Chesapeake homes. Items included are: furniture, textiles, house wares, personal items, textile production tools, transportation vehicles, and clothing. Resulting from this study, patterns have emerged, not only of household consumption, but also related to social class, change over time, and urban versus rural distinctions.

As part of its efforts to promote research in the field of eighteenth-century life, the staff of Gunston Hall Plantation has chosen to make the information contained in the inventory study, both transcriptions and database, accessible to the public. A generous grant from The Chipstone Foundation permits access to information from the Main Inventory Table of the database from Gunston Hall's website. The grant also will enable the development of a CD-ROM containing the entire database, which was funded by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall Plantation. The website provides pointers and links to the inventories. By Summer 2000 the entire database, including the

search structure and contents of over 325 inventories will be placed onto a CD-ROM and made available at a nominal fee.

CLASS DESIGNATION

The inventories included in the database have been selected using specific criteria, primarily for individuals with an economic status approximating that of George Mason, the builder of Gunston Hall. While the bottom value line of the inventory was important, more meaningful to the study was evidence reflecting choices made about spending disposable income. The accumulation of items used to present and serve food, as well as items used to entertain at dinner parties, became the prime yardstick for social classifications. This ability reflected not only wealth, but also a knowledge of correct behavior in the presentation of self through the ritual of dining. Inventories which contained sufficient dining accouterments and furniture to serve dinner to at least ten people at one time with accompanying linen and glassware were the basis for the study. Each inventory in the database has been assigned a social/economic classification.

The use of dining utensils as criteria for wealth and the classification of inventories by the number of utensils was devised by scholar Barbara Carson in her study, Ambitious Appetites: Dining, Behavior, and Patterns of Consumption in Federal Washington (Washington, D.C.: American Institute of Architects Press, 1990). The assigned classification for each inventory is based on Carson's work. The *classifications* are:

Elite - Inventories of the wealthiest decedents which exceed in quantity and quality all the criteria of the "Aspiring" classification. These persons would have been able to serve a seated dinner to approximately twenty or more guests.

Aspiring - Fairly extensive households which have spoons, knives and forks, as well as enough equipage to entertain and give dinners for ten or more people.

Decent - Inventories which include spoons, knives and forks, but do not have enough equipage to seat a dinner for ten persons. Hospitality appears to have been extended over tea rather than dinner.

Old-Fashioned - Inventories which do not contain forks fall into this classification. Some of these might otherwise have been considered Aspiring or even Elite.

In some cases, where the criteria for class is ambiguous, a "-" or "+" has been added to the designation. This is an indication that the inventory is almost, but not quite, good enough for the class or slightly better than one would expect for a class, but not good enough for the next level.

The focus of the database is on those inventories that are considered Elite or Aspiring. For this reason the numbers of these inventories significantly exceed their appearance among probate inventory records. Some Decent and Old Fashioned inventories are included which were recorded with a room by room breakdown of item placement, or contain particularly descriptive listings of furniture, or lists of books by title. The selected group of inventories comprises less than five percent of all inventories recorded for the period examined.

TRANSCRIPTIONS:

All collected inventories were transcribed in their entirety. Where words in the original are illegible

or questionable, they have been identified by [] or noted as [*illegible*]. Spelling errors are evident, but the use of [*sic*] has been restrained, only appearing in truly questionable places, as in a double entry by a court clerk. Attempts have been made to preserve the original structure of sentences. Therefore, when a sentence or entry extends beyond modern margins, it continues on the following line, indented by three spaces.

Each inventory has been identified by county, colony-state, and source, and when available the date ordered by court, and/or the date taken by appraisers, and/or the date recorded in probate records. Only the microfilm copies have been examined; the original documents have not been consulted. All Maryland inventories are in the microfilm collection of county records held by the MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES, Annapolis, Maryland. The microfilmed county court records of the LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA in Richmond, are the source of all Virginia entries.

Although every effort has been made to provide a true transcription, it is advised that if questions arise or before publication of any of this material, the original be consulted.

THE DATABASE

The information found in the inventories has been entered into a database, comprised of two tables, the combination of which, provide a general register of the inventory contents. A comprehensive picture of each inventory is designated as "*Main Inventory Table*," while a "*Detail Inventory Table*" lists each item in the inventory pertaining to household usage, personal items, textile production, apparel, and vehicular transportation. These linked tables provide an invaluable resource not only for students of history and material culture, but also for genealogists.

Not included in the database, although contained in the complete transcription of the probate inventories, are the names and ages of slaves, agricultural tools and stores, livestock, book titles, sewing notions, and the contents of mercantile establishments.

THE WEBSITE:

Information taken from the Main Inventory Table can be accessed through a **matrix** containing selection filters on Gunston Hall's website. Selections within the matrix will lead, by class and/or colony-state, to the list of available inventories. One additional filter to search the list of inventories can be used. Those primary filters are:

State: choose All for the entire database or Virginia or Maryland.

Class: social/economic status based on food service items. Classifications, based on the work of Barbara Carson, are: elite, aspiring, decent, & old-fashioned.

OR any ONE of the following filters of particular interest for further selection:

Urban: Inventories without agricultural tools, or with a separate agricultural operation, or with minimal livestock.

Rural: Inventories which contain agricultural tools and livestock.

Books noted: Inventories which list "books" or "library" but no specific titles.

Books titled: Inventories which list at least one book by title.

Cellar: Inventories listing contents of a named cellar.

Closets: Inventories listing contents of at least one named closet.

Dairy: A dairy or milk house listed by name with contents.

Female: The probate inventory of a woman.

Kitchen: A kitchen defined by name or assumed by placement of kitchen tools distinct from other household items.

Livestock: Inventories listing cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, or other livestock.

Merchant: The inventory of a shopkeeper, with store items designated by the inventory appraiser. While the deceased's household items have been entered into the Detail Inventory Table, obvious mercantile goods have not.

Out-buildings: Out-buildings, other than a kitchen, dairy, or wash house listed by name.

Potomac: An inventory recorded in a county which borders the Potomac River.

Quarters: A specific location, defined as "quarter," or "plantation" listed in the probate inventory.

Room by Room: The inventory contains at least one room designation.

Slaves: Slaves listed by name in the probate inventory.

Tools: Lists of agricultural or craft tools included in the probate inventory. Only textile production tools have been included in the Detail Inventory Table.

Wash house: A wash house or laundry is listed by name.

HELP -- TO ACCESS:

Through this website, lists of inventories in the database, as well as, complete transcriptions of user selected inventories, may be viewed, printed, or saved on the viewer's machine.

1- First select a MATRIX:

First Matrix - selects either all inventories, or a combination of state and/or class.

Second Matrix - allows the selection of all inventories or a combination of state and/or class with ONE additional filter which will appear on the next screen.

Choose from one of the filters.

2- A list of selected inventories will appear. Each listing includes the deceased's name, county and colony-state, date ordered, taken, or entered, and class.

For example:

Downman, Rawleigh of Lancaster, VA 7/19/1781 -- Elite.

3- The option is presented at the top of the screen to choose a more comprehensive listing of the selected inventories. This list provides an extensive register of information for each decedent which includes: a memo line of information about each inventory as well as a register of important features in each inventory. In some cases, when known, the name of the decedent's plantation is identified in upper case letters. This comprehensive list includes the various filters from which the inventory may be accessed.

Note: This list will take considerably longer to load.

For example:

Downman, Rawleigh, of Lancaster, VA 7/19/1781 -- Elite.

MORATICO Store rooms, tools & lumber not detailed. Tobacco house includes ceramics. Items from quarter moved "fear of the enemy" are included in detail report.

Important features are: Rural, Room by Room, Closets, Livestock, Tools, Out Buildings, Quarters, Slaves, Kitchen.

5- Complete inventory transcriptions may be obtained from either of the report screens listing the selected inventories by clicking on the deceased's name. You may, however, view, print, or save to your machine, only one inventory at a time.

PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT (PDF)

The transcriptions are provided in Portable Document Format (PDF). In order to read or print the transcriptions, you must have the free "Adobe Acrobat Reader" program, which may be obtained by clicking on "Get Acrobat Reader" on any of the inventory lists. The Acrobat Reader permits the researcher to:

1- do character searches, using the first 2 or 3 letters of a word, ie: "cha" for chairs.

2- enlarge the screen for easier reading.

3- copy and paste information.

For help on using the Reader: open Adobe Reader and click on "help."

THE CD-ROM

The CD-ROM contains

- complete Gunston Hall Probate Inventory Database including:
Main and Detail Inventory Tables, built-in forms and reports with the Microsoft ACCESS™ run time application.
- complete collection of inventory transcriptions in PDF format, which can be viewed, searched and/or printed
- full database documentation - both as part of Help and as a printable resource, including sample queries and reports.
- the Nomenclature: used to organize the data
- Gunston Hall Plantation Furnishings Plan
- Names index
- Adobe Acrobat Reader.

FURNISHINGS PLAN

The Gunston Hall Room Use Study is the culmination of several years of effort. This section presents the methodology and process of reaching the recommendations for furnishing Gunston Hall.

It consists of:

Acknowledgment of the support and assistance of the many individuals who generously shared their knowledge, insights, and enthusiasm for the material culture of the 18th-century.

Discussion of the Methodology and Process of bringing all of the research threads together to formulate a Furnishings Plan for Gunston Hall.

The Furnishing Recommendations result from the careful consideration of the multitude of factors involved in the Gunston Hall Room Use Study. They reflect a combination of statistical information, gleaned from the elite inventories of the database, architectural evidence found at Gunston Hall, documentation on Mason household belongings, surviving Mason objects, and contextual information about elite consumer patterns in the Chesapeake region.

The recommendations are presented in an outline form reflecting the categories listed in the database.

NAMES INDEX

The names index lists all the names recorded in the inventories and cites the reason for their inclusion in the inventory, i.e., appraiser, creditor, executor or administrator, kin, trustee, register of wills, or court clerk. This list gives clues to patterns of kinship and mercantile credit.

THE MAIN INVENTORY TABLE

The Main Inventory Table, available on CD-ROM, consists of the twenty filters listed on the website as well as the name, date taken, file name and a memo field. Each filter is searchable singly or in combination with any of the others as well as words within the memo field. This allows the researcher to find, for example, all the Addison inventories or just those inventories dated between 1770 and 1790 in Charles County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia..

THE DETAIL INVENTORY TABLE

The Detail Inventory Table will be available on CD-ROM. As part of the database development a *nomenclature* was produced to organize the information found within the inventories. Since the goal was to retrieve information in ways that would help direct the refurnishing of Gunston Hall, the nomenclature combines decorative arts, material culture, and anthropological approaches. The intent was to create a system which would arrange information in ways that would not only be useful for the immediate project, but which would be relatively self-explanatory to others who use the database. This system identifies items by *Category*, *Sub-Category*, and *Type*. For example, a dining table is entered as: category: furniture, sub-category: table, and type: dining.

All items entered into the database have been described by the following criteria, if available: *Category*, *Sub-Category*, *Type*, *Page*, *Location*, *Material*, *Quantity*, and *Color*. *Description* and *Memo* fields offer additional information which may be searched by word, such as "little," "neat," or "square."

Category: The highest order in which an item has been classified: Furniture, Textiles, Food Prep (aration), etc.

Sub-Category: The second level of importance in the categorization of an item: Furniture-Table, Textiles-Bed linen, Food Prep-Cooking.

Type: The actual item listed in the inventory: Furniture-Table-Dining; Textiles-Bed Linen-Sheets; Food Prep-Cooking-Skillet.

Page: The page on which the item is found in the original probate record. These page numbers are listed on the transcription in parenthesis in italics, (*Page 275*).

Location: The room where an item is listed in a probate inventory. This appears only in inventories that were recorded in a room-by-room fashion. In all cases the term "parlour" has been standardized to "parlor." All rooms that contain a bed or bedstead and have not been designated as a chamber are assumed to be a chamber and appear as Chamber=, or to save space: Cham=. The "=" denotes an assumption by the transcriber. For sake of brevity, in many cases the room designation has been shortened to Cham, Rm, (room), or Clo (closet). In some cases, as in a closet in the chamber, both designations are included, enabling the researcher to search on either term. It is advised that only the first two or three letters be used when searching.

Material: Whatever the appraiser has noted that the item is made of: wood, china, qu china(queens china), horn, ivory. A list of abbreviations will be included in the documentation for the CD-ROM.'

Quantity: The number of items listed for each entry by the appraiser.

Color: Color if listed by the appraiser.

Description: a short field in which specific descriptors are placed, such as: short, square, large, old, round, oval, etc.

Memo: a longer field which contains more complete descriptors, "listed as:" entries, or specific notes for the researcher.

Additionally, a *qualifier* such as doz, set, or pair and a numerical *amount* field are part of the Detail Inventory Table. The amount field can be totaled. In this field, "a dozen knives and forks" are entered as 24, (12 knives & 12 forks). This field, while based on the inventory, is supplied by the transcriber.

SPELLING:

Due to the somewhat erratic freeform spelling of the eighteenth century, judgement calls were made to enter the data consistently enough to be computer retrievable. All entries use American spelling, based on Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, 1989 as the standard. When an entry reflects an assumption, on the part of the transcriber, the specific entry is followed by an "=" sign. For example, "chares" is entered into the database as "chair=," as are items which were originally listed as "do" or "ditto." The original listing then appears verbatim either in the description or memo field and is designated with an asterisk "*."

When a list of various items are recorded by the appraiser under one value, each item is entered separately, followed by a "-". Consequently, an entry for "table, mirror & bason £1.0.0" is entered three times:

- first as "table-"
- second as "mirror-"
- third as "basin-=".

For each item the full appraiser's entry appears in the **memo** field. The spelling for the word bason has been changed to the standard "basin." The = denotes a spelling change. In the memo field, bason will be followed by an "*" to note the original spelling - thus: listed as: table, mirror, & bason.*" The value for each item is listed as £1.0.0. The reader will notice that there are links by seeing the "-", and spelling changes or assumptions by noting the "=".

CD-ROM SEARCHES:

With the entire database available on CD-ROM, researchers are able to do extensive searches using a variety of filters.

Categories and Sub Categories are:

Art: drawings, engraving, frame, heads, images, likeness, maps, miscellaneous (misc), painting, pictures, portraits, prints, profiles, & sculptural.

Beverage: alcohol, chocolate, coffee, general, misc., serving, storage, & tea.

Clothing (subdivided by men, women, children, and servant/slave): accessories, body, feet, hand, & head.

Food Prep: cooking, measure, misc., processing, storage, & utensils.

Food Service: breakfast, condiments, cutlery, dessert, dishes, misc., serving, & storage.

Furniture: desk, hygiene, looking glasses, misc., recreation, seating, sleeping, storage, tables, & time

keeping.

Heating: andirons, fenders, misc., stoves, & tools.

Household Decor: misc., ornament, paint, wall cover, & window.

Household Stores: beverage, food, hardware, heating, hygiene, laundry, lighting, misc., paint, textiles & writing.

Household Utensils: cleaning, dairy, fire fighting, garden, hygiene, laundry, misc., & storage.

Instruments: measure, misc., optical, scientific, survey, & time keeping.

Lighting: candle, lamp, lantern, sconces, & snuffers.

Personal: aids, hair, hygiene, jewelry, medicine, misc., money, recreation, religious, time keeping, tobacco, & writing.

Recreation: games, misc., & musical instruments.

Sundry: a variety of assorted items.

Textiles: bed linens, bed over (bed coverings), bed upholstery, bedding, fibers, floor, hygiene, misc., production, stores, table, upholstery, & window.

Travel: boats, misc., tack, & vehicles.

Ware: (listed in inventories as "ware") ceramics, glass, metal, pewter, silver, & wooden.

Weapons: edge, fire, & misc.

EXAMPLES OF CD-ROM DATABASE REPORTS:

Any combination of filters from the Main Inventory Table and the Detail Inventory Table may be used to search. Additionally, any word or portion of a word within the memo or description field may be retrieved. The possibilities for filter combination searches are myriad.

Examples of searches using the filters in the database included in the CD-ROM are:

1- *Rural elite inventories from all counties bordering the Potomac River, which contain green ivory knives and forks.*

2- *Aspiring or elite inventories from Prince George's County Maryland and Stafford County, Virginia, with old silk bed rugs or calico counterpanes.*

3- *The word "truckle" or "trundle" listed with sleeping furniture in non-Potomac River counties.*

4- *All gold watches or any type of clock in Charles County, Maryland.*

5- *The earliest entry for couches.*