IN THAT YEAR, South Carolinian Ann Pamela Cunningham founded the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, and began an unprecedented national campaign to purchase Mount Vernon and preserve it as an icon of American history. The effort came to be regarded as the birth of the historic preservation movement in America. The Association garnered the support of important political, financial, and intellectual leaders, and was able to acquire Washington’s home in 1858.

WITH THE ESTATE IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION and nearly devoid of Washington family possessions, the Ladies organized themselves into committees to restore the mansion and grounds. The result was efficient grassroots fundraising, effective public relations, and a heightened awareness of the importance of historic preservation. The Ladies’ ability to raise an astonishing amount of money to buy and restore Washington’s home inspired women across the country, and the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association became a model for other organizations that came into existence in the 19th century as the historic preservation movement gained momentum.
OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY, THE Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association has made great strides in restoring Washington’s home to its actual appearance in 1799. Based on a groundbreaking analysis of the surviving layers of paint throughout the Mansion, the interior colors now are similar to the original hues chosen by Washington. In addition, new draperies and carpets have been reproduced based on descriptions and 18th-century fragments. Gradually, original pieces of furniture have been obtained and returned to their original rooms as indicated by historical documents. Through the use of new restoration techniques and careful historical research, Mount Vernon has been authentically restored to appear much as it did more than 200 years ago.

**Saving Mount Vernon: The Birth of Preservation in America**

is co-organized by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association.

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**Public Programs**

**150 Years of Restoring George Washington’s Home**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2003**

**6:30–8:00 PM**

Mount Vernon’s associate director for preservation, Dennis J. Pogue, will speak on past and current restoration projects at the home. Joining him will be other experts from Mount Vernon to discuss the many facets of restoration that are ongoing, including archaeology and landscape preservation.

**George Washington, Architect**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2003**

**6:30–8:00 PM**

Washington, D.C. architect Allan Greenberg will explore the first president’s innovations as a designer of buildings and landscapes. In addition to Washington’s work at Mount Vernon, Greenberg will discuss his role in the design of the District of Columbia and his thoughts on the role architecture should play in developing the republican spirit of the young nation.

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

**Washington’s Gardens at Mount Vernon**

Mac Griswold

**MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003**

**Architectural Tour of Mount Vernon**

**Teacher Workshops: Mount Vernon in Miniature**

Programs are subject to change. To register for a program or for more information about programs, please visit [www.nbm.org](http://www.nbm.org).
This exhibition is made possible by Ford Motor Company, which marks its Centennial in 2003.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AT NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM:
Curator: Pamela Scott
Director of Exhibitions: Catherine Crane Frankel
Curatorial Associate: Alisa Goetz
Exhibition Designer: Elizabeth Kaleida

AT MOUNT VERNON:
Associate Director and Director of Collections: Linda Ayres
Associate Director of Preservation: Dennis J. Pogue, Ph.D.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Mount Vernon Collection of Wood Mouldings donated by Smoot Lumber Company, manufactured by Rex Lumber Company.

Museum Hours
Monday–Saturday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Sunday, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM

Admission
Admission is free.

Location
401 F Street NW, between 4th and 5th at the Judiciary Square Metro Station (Red Line Metro). Wheelchair access at 4th and G Street entrances.

Museum Shop
The Museum Shop, located on the ground floor, is Washington's finest source of design and building-related books and gifts, including jewelry, home furnishings, toys, and games. Museum members receive a discount on all purchases.

Membership
Museum membership offers such privileges as invitations to exhibition openings and special events; discounts on Museum Shop purchases, programs, workshops, and tours; and subscriptions to Blueprints and the Museum Calendar. To become a member, call 202 272.2448, ext. 3200.

The National Building Museum, a nonprofit educational institution, was created by Congress in 1980 to explore American achievements in architecture, urban planning, construction, engineering, and design. It presents exhibitions and public programs, and publishes books and a quarterly journal.

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