

The Homes of the Washingtons



PROVIDE CONVENIENCE
 BY WASHINGTON PROPERTY
 THE growing interest in America in antiquities of almost every description, and particularly in the architecture of our early days, there is ground for congratulation that the present era finds, in an almost perfect state of preservation, the ancestral homes of the family of the "Father of his Country." This is particularly fortunate by reason of the fact that the homes of the Washingtons are, aside from their historical associations, among the most interesting and impressive examples of colonial architecture in America. These habitations, in the designing of several of which George Washington himself had a hand, are located for the most part in the states of Virginia and West Virginia.

It is probably the most interesting of the colonial homes of the Washingtons, aside, of course, from the mansion Mount Vernon, are those in the Rhododendron valley. The whole territory of which Charlottesville, Va., is the center is a region of equal interest for George Washington and for the country. It is a region of all the things that the old world has to offer, and it is a region of all the things that the new world has to offer. It is a region of all the things that the old world has to offer, and it is a region of all the things that the new world has to offer.

Three years ago from 1752 to 1758, inclusive, were occupied in the construction of Harwood House. Not only was Harwood House built by George Washington and long used as his ancestral home, but it was here that James and Dolley Madison were married, and the stately structure was the scene of the wedding of Napoleon and Josephine, afterward known as the wedding of the century. Harwood in later years fell into decay, but recently several projects have been inaugurated looking to its complete restoration and the return of its historic furnishings.

As a vivid reminder of the glories of bygone days the best architectural monument of our first president is found in another Washington home—Claymont situated some two miles from Harwood. This structure is in a perfect state of preservation and vividly registers in furnishings as well as architecture, of colonial days. The estate at Claymont once belonged to George Washington, and the present mansion, erected by Bushrod Washington, a son of the president, although not built until 1820, was constructed in accordance with plans drawn by George Washington himself. The estate at Bushrod Washington occupied Claymont for more than a century, but about ten years ago the historic estate passed into the possession of a family of the same name. The present owner, who resided there until his death, was a man of the same name.

The main house at Claymont consists of a central building of two stories with two commodious wings and, on each side, a separate two-story structure connected with the main building by a long, narrow passage.



INTERIOR OF CLAYMONT
 apartments at Claymont may be gained from the fact that the hall all the walls of which are paneled in oak is so low in height by two feet in width, most features of the house are the arrangement of the furniture, almost all of which are made in the latter part of the century. The walls inside of being lined Claymont also has its "cupboard," known as the "cell of the sunken square." The cell is a diamond-shaped apartment, opening from the basement but very small floor the level of the basement. It has no windows and is a very small room. The walls inside of being lined Claymont also has its "cupboard," known as the "cell of the sunken square." The cell is a diamond-shaped apartment, opening from the basement but very small floor the level of the basement. It has no windows and is a very small room.

WASHINGTON'S MANY ACRES
 George Washington's marriage with the widow Custis brought him 15,000 acres of land, and a considerable property which he inherited from his father. The estate was an important one, and the Washingtons used to hold their social courts there and the plantations found about were flourishing and valuable. The Mount Vernon estate, added to that inherited and purchased by Washington, amounted to more than 5,000 acres. From his father he inherited about 10,000 acres, and he added to it by purchase. The estate was an important one, and the Washingtons used to hold their social courts there and the plantations found about were flourishing and valuable.

WASHINGTON'S MOTHER
 The Practiced the Strictest Economy and Was a Woman of Strong Character and Independent Spirit

HERE has been a story in circulation for a century, and it has found its way into many books, particularly British and Tory publications, that Washington allowed his mother to live and die in poverty and privation, while he and his wife were surrounded with luxury. But all the local traditions and all the circumstantial evidence point to the contrary.

She was by habit and preference a woman of the strictest economy and frugality and in later life denied herself many comforts that were enjoyed by her sons and daughters, but it was from choice and not from necessity. Her will, which may be seen in the clerk's office at Fredericksburg, shows that she had considerable property of her own and several slaves and horses, which were divided among her children.

It is clear that she was a woman of strong character and much peculiarities, including a peculiar opinion and a sharp tongue. She did not change the fashion of her dress for more than 20 years and cut and made her dresses in accordance with the fashion of the day. When she was visiting the sight of her she approached amidst every number of the household to seize a broom or a dust brush, or in some manner to assist in the least thing she considered as her husband and children struggling to get on.

She performed her daily duties at precisely the same hour, in precisely the same manner, regardless of changing conditions and circumstances, and the neighbors not only looked on with admiration but also with respect. On the day that Washington received notice of his election to the presidency he galloped over from Mount Vernon to Fredericksburg to carry his mother the news and for New York. This was his last interview with her. During the last months of her life the venerable lady spent much time among some great gray bowdler, shod by a change of dress, upon a little bedstead, and she died in the arms of her daughter. The place was called "Oratory room," no doubt because some one of some time had made a speech there. It was a room of the house of the Republic, and a room of the house of the Republic, and a room of the house of the Republic.

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"One that little woman who just went out" remarked a milliner to a customer. "Notice that red hat, did you? Well, as you know, I have seen women who in this study of the different colors have had every tone in fall, and promptly, to the satisfaction of the insured."

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