

Washington Lived Here



Mount Vernon still stands today as a fine example of stately Colonial beauty. It incorporates several architectural firsts.

FEW MOMENTS in George Washington's crowded and honored life gave him as much pleasure as those spent at his home, Mount Vernon.

The first President, born 226 years ago next Saturday, believed in sharing his deeply gratifying home life and, as a proud host, he once wrote, "Scarcely any strangers from north to south or south to north do not spend a day or two in Mount Vernon." In the decades after his death, however, the stately house fell into disrepair. When neither local nor national governments showed interest, Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina undertook a campaign in which the American people themselves would preserve the estate. In 1860 her association acquired the 200-acre tract on behalf of future generations. Today free people from north, south, east, and west pause to enjoy the graciousness and tranquillity of Washington's home—as its owner intended.

Photos: Pickow from Three Lions



Many originals remain. World globe, on display in library, was made in London on Washington's order.



Letter press was mimeograph machine of Washington's time. Young visitors test its simple mechanism.



At close of his first term as President, Washington purchased secretary-desk. Chair is also an original.



"My manner of living is plain," Washington once wrote. Simple kitchen bears him out.



Model of French Bastille was presented to Washington by another general and comrade-in-arms in Revolutionary War, Lafayette.



In this room and on this bed, the nation's first President died on December 14, 1799.