

ST. JAMES' HOUSE  
1300 CHARLES STREET



This splendid example of an 18th century frame home is filled with an outstanding collection of antiques and decorative arts. The house was built around 1760 by James Mercer, Mary Washington's attorney. Mercer wrote and witnessed the will of Mary Ball Washington. Open Garden Week, the first week in October, and by appointment for groups.

IN 1890,  
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 1893  
COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION VISITED  
FREDERICKSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF PURCHASING, DISMANTLING, AND  
SHIPPING THE HOME OF GEORGE  
WASHINGTON'S MOTHER, MARY, TO  
CHICAGO. ALARMED BY THE NEWS,  
WOMEN OF THE NEWLY FORMED  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES POOLED  
RESOURCES AND ACQUIRED THE HOUSE.

TODAY,  
THE MARY WASHINGTON HOUSE AND  
THREE OTHER SITES COMPRISE THE  
WASHINGTON HERITAGE MUSEUMS  
(WHM). LOCATED SHORT BLOCKS APART  
IN THE HEART OF FREDERICKSBURG'S  
VISITOR-FRIENDLY HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
THE MUSEUMS OFFER LIVELY TOURS AND  
INTERPRETATIONS, CHARMING GARDENS,  
AND SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES.



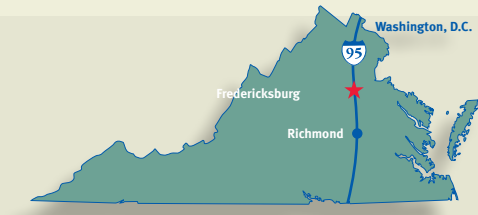
WASHINGTON  
HERITAGE  
MUSEUMS

WASHINGTON HERITAGE MUSEUMS  
1300 Charles Street  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401  
Phone: 540-373-5630  
[WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org](http://WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org)

Visitors are welcome year-round, with scheduled closures on Thanksgiving, December 24, 25, and 31, and January 1. Hours vary seasonally and by site. For more information please visit our website or call our office.

ADMISSION CHARGED  
For group tours, please contact the  
Fredericksburg Visitor Center.  
FREDERICKSBURG VISITOR CENTER  
706 Caroline Street  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401  
Phone: 540-373-1776  
[FXBG.com](http://FXBG.com)

The Visitor Center offers an orientation film, local maps, and helpful information on a wide variety of visitor services.



To learn more about supporting the museum please visit:  
[WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org/membership-support](http://WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org/membership-support)



FXBG  
City of Fredericksburg, Virginia

FREDERICKSBURG, VA  
DISCOVER VIRGINIA'S  
REVOLUTIONARY PAST



MARY WASHINGTON HOUSE  
RISING SUN TAVERN  
HUGH MERCER APOTHECARY SHOP  
ST. JAMES' HOUSE



## MARY WASHINGTON HOUSE

1200 CHARLES STREET



**G**eorge Washington bought this frame dwelling for his mother in 1772.

Mary soon moved from the family farm across the river and lived here the last 17 years of her life.

In March of 1789, just before his election to the Presidency, George visited his mother for the final time. After receiving her blessing, the son departed to face duties of leadership, and Mary died of breast cancer before summer's end.

Among the period furnishings are several of Mary's personal possessions, including the "best dressing glass" she willed to George.

Mary is known to have enjoyed gardening. Her kitchen garden produced vegetables and herbs, while a path from the boxwood-lined garden led to the nearby plantation home of her daughter Betty. Reconstructed by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1969, the quiet, manicured grounds are a welcome retreat for tourists, an intimate venue for small weddings, and a teaching lab for schoolchildren.



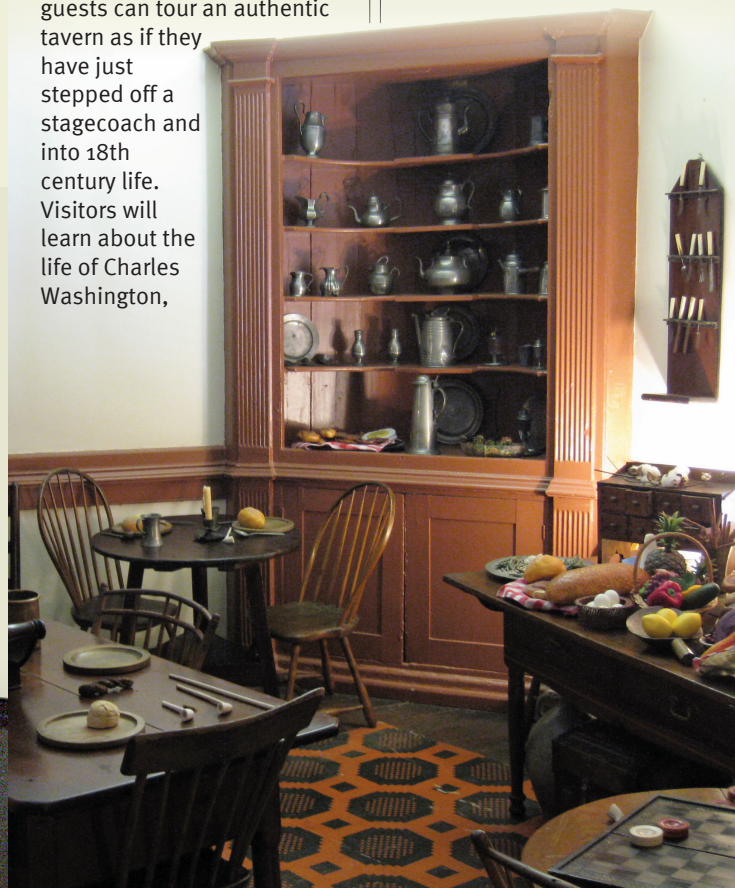
## RISING SUN TAVERN

1304 CAROLINE STREET



**B**uilt as his residence around 1760 by Charles Washington, George Washington's youngest brother, this frame building later became a tavern in 1792. Today it operates as a museum where guests can tour an authentic tavern as if they have just stepped off a stagecoach and into 18th century life. Visitors will learn about the life of Charles Washington,

and about how the Rising Sun Tavern entertained, served, and provided accommodations for travelers and townspeople in the 18th and early 19th centuries.



## HUGH MERCER APOTHECARY SHOP

1020 CAROLINE STREET



**T**his restored 18th century building portrays the colonial medical practice of Washington family friend, Dr. Hugh Mercer. A native of Scotland, Mercer served in the French and Indian War before moving to Fredericksburg. He soon married, established an apothecary, and provided medical treatment for local citizens, including Mary Washington. A Brigadier General in the Revolution, the physician was at the

Crossing of the Delaware and Battle of Trenton. Upon learning his friend had died from wounds suffered in the Battle of Princeton, a saddened George Washington called him "the brave and worthy Hugh Mercer."

Captivating visitors of all ages, our guides use herbal remedies, crab claws, lancets, and live leeches to tell the stories of colonial medicine. Vivid descriptions of surgical practices are also provided.

