By the conclusion of the evening it is our hope that you will understand why Washington loved his country seat so much that he wrote a friend, "I can truly say I had rather be in Virginia with a friend or two than to be attended by the politicians of the state and representatives of every power in Europe."

8:00  Dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn. A dinner consisting of hearty hors d'oeuvres will be served just a short walk from the mansion.


Sunday, May 20
Optional Tour
Breakfast is on your own.

8:30  vans depart the Holiday Inn for a day of touring some of the finest gardens in Washington.

9:00  Tour of the White House Grounds. The expansive grounds surrounding the White House have played a key role in the history of the nation and in many of the President and First Ladies.

10:30  Tours of the Gardens of Evermay and Tudor Place. The group will split in half to visit these sites.

On a commanding level, yet almost hidden from the street by a glistening lawn, a beautiful brick wall, Evermay in Georgetown is a restored beauty that fulfills the promise of its name and gracefully coordinates the treatments past with the present. The magnificent manor house, in the late Georgian tradition, at the home of Mrs. Peter Bellin. With the use of graduated terraces, the lush gardens conform nicely to the landscape, displaying a sunken garden, beautiful statuary, and unspoiled views of the city below.

Tudor Place stands alone in the nation's capital as a house of architectural distinction and was lived in by succeeding generations of the same family, 1815-1980. The Peter family was closely tied to George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, Robert E. Lee, and others who shaped America's history. The large neoclassical house is surrounded by extensive gardens complete with lawns, groves, patios, and delightful walks through the woodland developed by the Peters in the Federal period.

12:00  Lunch at the Anderson House, a superior example of the Washington "Grove House," including a tour of both house and garden. A career diplomat, Larz Anderson served as American Ambassador to the courts of Belgium and Japan. Upon his death in 1972, the house and its contents were given to the Society of the Cincinnati, the oldest patriotic organization in the United States, for a headquarters. Founded in 1783 by the officers of the Continental Army, the Society today is composed of their descendants.

2:00  Groups will visit the gardens of the homes they did not see in the morning, either Evermay or Tudor Place.

3:00  Dumbarton Oaks Tour—a must for landscape architects, landscape designers, and gardeners alike! In cooperation with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, who purchased Dumbarton Oaks in 1920, these magnificent gardens were designed by the noted landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand. Dumbarton Oaks is a restored beauty that fulfills the promise of its name and gracefully coordinates the treatments past with the present. The magnificent manor house, in the late Georgian tradition, at the home of Mrs. Peter Bellin. With the use of graduated terraces, the lush gardens conform nicely to the landscape, displaying a sunken garden, beautiful statuary, and unspoiled views of the city below.

The registration fee of $25 covers activities on Friday and Saturday, including lectures, transportation, tours, receptions, refreshments. Friday dinner at Gunston Hall, Saturday lunch at Woodlawn Plantation, and Saturday dinner at Mount Vernon. An additional $40 covers Sunday's optional tours.

Accommodations
Rooms have been set aside at the Old Town Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, at a cost of $25 for single or double occupancy. Reservations must be called in or mailed and received by April 19th; beyond that date, room rates will increase. Call 800-368-1047 (in Virginia, 703-549-6690).

Mailing address of Holiday Inn is 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Transportation
Washington, D.C. is serviced by three major airports: Dulles International in Virginia, Baltimore-Washington International in Maryland, and Washington National in Washington. By far the most convenient of these is Washington National Airport. It handles almost all airliners, and is located only 10 minutes from the headquarters hotel. The Old Town Holiday Inn offers free shuttle service to and from Washington National Airport.

The Southern Garden History Society
The Southern Garden History Society was founded in 1982 as an outgrowth of a continuing series of conferences on "Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes" held at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and other historic sites in the South. The annual meeting of the membership is held every spring to hear reports of research projects and to discuss the history of historic importance in the vicinity. The annual meeting in 1991 will be held in New Orleans. A quarterly bulletin, "Agendia," is also published by the Society, and includes research papers, news of landscape restoration projects, and related member activities.

Annual Meeting
Southern Garden History Society
May 18-20, 1990
Alexandria, Virginia

Hosted by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association
Welcome to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Southern Garden History Society, featuring lectures, tours, and special evening activities that will surely transport you back to the 18th century. We trust you will enjoy Virginia’s gracious Southern hospitality in the company of genial colleagues, spirited conversation, and fine food and drink.

Our base of operations will be the Old Town Holiday Inn in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Established in 1749, Alexandria was for many years one of the busiest seaports on the Atlantic coast. It is a city rich in history, with a distinguished heritage. George Mason and Robert E. Lee were native sons. George Washington owned property here and selected land across the Potomac River as the site of the new Federal city known today as Washington, D.C. Alexandria’s charm and beauty continue to attract visitors today.

The annual meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, but members who are in town on Friday morning will be granted free admission to the Carlyle House if they wear their nametags. Built in 1752 by John Carlyle, a prominent merchant, this wonderfully restored house/museum is located just three blocks from the Holiday Inn. Try to take advantage of this special opportunity!

From 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, for those early birds among us, an excellent Farmers Market is open in Market Square, adjacent to the Holiday Inn. Vendors offer excellent food, beverages, flowers, vegetables, and much more. This Farmers Market is well worth rising with the rooster’s crow!

SATURDAY, MAY 19

8:00 Vans depart from Old Town Holiday Inn to Pier 4 in the heart of Washington’s waterfront district.

8:45 Cruise on the Potomac, including continental breakfast, on board the Spirit of Washington. We will enjoy a pleasant ride down the Potomac River, viewing Old Town Alexandria, Fort McNair, and Fort Washington, docking at Mount Vernon, where the day’s program begins.


11:30 “Efficient and Effective Use of 18th Century Bulbs,” by Brent Heath, co-owner (with his wife Becky) of the Daffodil Mart in Gloucester, Virginia.

12:30 Box Lunch and Tour of Woodlawn Plantation House, Gardens, and Grounds. This plot of land, described by George Washington as “a most beautiful site for a gentleman’s seat,” was given to his nephew Major Lawrence Lewis and Martha Washington’s granddaughter Eleanor Parke Custis following their marriage. Now a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Woodlawn was built between 1801 and 1805, and was designed by Dr. William Thornton, the first architect of the U.S. Capitol.

2:45 Masonic Influences on Garden Design,” by C. Allan Brown, landscape architect/historian


5:00 Tour of George Washington’s Gardens and Grounds, by J. Dean Norton. The tour concludes at the mansion’s forecourt, at which time the mansion and grounds will be open to the Society for two hours to be enjoyed as they would have on a spring evening in 1799. Cocktails will be served on the piazza, with a magnificent view of the Potomac River and the Maryland shoreline. Washington said of this view, “No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this.” Members may tour the mansion or enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides along the serpentine avenues surrounding the bowling green. Throughout the evening there will be entertainment by a strolling soloist, as well as harpsichord and flute music on the piazza.

7:00 Opera America presents the special program of opera and parlor music known and beloved by George Washington.