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## Museum Properties

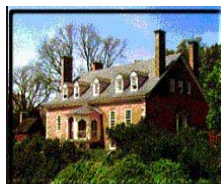
In November 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation presented its *Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites* to The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America “for acquiring, restoring, and interpreting a collection of historic properties that offer invaluable opportunities to experience the rich variety of America’s heritage.”

More than 70 properties are affiliated with the Corporate Societies nationwide. 42 of these are wholly-owned and/or completely managed by the Corporate Societies. With respect to the other properties, Dames provide various types of support including financial, volunteer services, donations of furnishings and other objects. Dames are involved with state and municipal governments, local historical groups and private preservation entities in the management of historic properties.

In addition to the houses that the 44 Corporate Societies own and operate, the NSCDA maintains three houses:

**Dumbarton House**—home of Joseph Nourse, first Register of the Treasury. Built circa 1800 in Washington, DC, it serves as the National Headquarters of the NSCDA.

**Gunston Hall**—home of George Mason, father of the Bill of Rights. Built in 1755 in Mason’s Neck, Virginia.



**Sulgrave Manor**—home of Lawrence Washington, direct ancestor of George Washington, our first President. Built in 1539 in Northamptonshire, England.

## Historical Activities

Historical Activities projects include research, preservation and publications. They include:

- Ancestor Bibliography Register  
[www.ancestorbibliography.org](http://www.ancestorbibliography.org)
- Ancestor Profiles
- Colonial and Pioneer History Videos
- Decorative Arts and Historic Textiles Surveys
- Historic Trips
- Inventory of American Painting and Sculpture
- Oral History
- Plaques and Historic Markers
- Publications

Among other significant projects of the NSCDA are the following:

- Restoration of the early church at Jamestown to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the first English settlers on Jamestown Island in 1607.
- Building of a peristyle over Plymouth Rock to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620.
- Building of the Spanish American War Monument in Arlington National Cemetery, the first monument to be ever initiated by a society of women.



## Patriotic Service

The National Patriotic Service Committee works primarily in the field of education to stimulate a spirit of true patriotism and a knowledge of the American heritage in citizens and others. The projects are designed to promote citizenship and the study of American history with particular emphasis on the fundamental documents, traditions, and workings of our country and its government.

- Citizenship and welcoming ceremonies for new citizens.
- Educational programs in elementary schools including subjects such as the Bill of Rights, the Great Seal, and early statehood history.
- Respect for the United States flag taught and other programs to promote love of country, knowledge of the nation’s history, and patriotism.
- Scholarship grants to Native Americans to study nursing.
- Scholarship awards to elementary, high school and college students taking courses in American History.
- Sponsorship of high school essay contests on American History subjects. Winners are sent to Washington, D.C. to attend the Washington Workshop Congressional Seminars sponsored by the Washington Workshop Foundation.
- Service to honor veterans of our military, and projects for the benefit of American servicemen and women during wartime.

To meet the interest and needs of different segments of our country, the activities of the National Patriotic Service Committee are many and varied.

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# Dumbarton House

A Federal Period  
Historic House Museum circa 1800



## Headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America

The NSCDA purchased Dumbarton House in 1928, and restored it to its early 19th century character. Dumbarton House opened its doors to the public in 1932 on George Washington's 200th birthday. To celebrate its centennial in 1991, the NSCDA renovated Dumbarton House, adding a park and a large Palladian-inspired room. The Belle Vue Room hosts Society programs, educational presentations, and concerts. Dumbarton House is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

# The National Society Of The Colonial Dames of America



## Mission

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is dedicated to furthering an appreciation of our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects.

## History

The NSCDA was founded in 1891 as an unincorporated association of Corporate Societies. Today, these non-profit Societies are in 44 states and include almost 16,000 members nationwide.

Since its inception, the NSCDA has been devoted to the preservation of the values that inspired the founders of our country in the Colonial period. Members of the NSCDA volunteer their time and are involved in projects that emphasize patriotism; honor our soldiers and veterans; educate our fellow citizens about our country's heritage; give scholarships in American History; restore historic buildings connected with the founding of our country; collect valuable examples of portraits, silver, samplers and documents as well as items and stories relating to our early history and traditions. The NSCDA national headquarters is Dumbarton House in Washington, DC.