



**Press Release**  
**April 15, 2024**

**Contact**

Elizabeth Reese  
Associate Manager of Marketing  
(703) 570-6920 | [ereese@savingsplaces.org](mailto:ereese@savingsplaces.org)



**New Exhibits at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House Tell the Fuller Story of Woodlawn’s Past and Honor the Local Indigenous Legacy**

**WHAT:** On April 25, [Woodlawn](#), a historic house in Fairfax County, Virginia, which was originally part of George Washington’s Mount Vernon, will open two new exhibits: *Woodlawn: People and Perspectives* and *Offerings for Tauxenent: Acknowledging Indigenous Place*. Both exhibits are the work of research and collaboration with community partners, including descendants, to meaningfully reinterpret the site.

“We are in a new phase at Woodlawn where we are expanding the narrative, so that every person who comes through our doors feels welcome and sees themselves reflected in the stories explored here,” said Interim Director Heather Johnson.

“These exhibits are based on extensive research and collaboration with site descendants, community members, and scholars,” Senior Manager of Public Programs and Interpretation Amanda Roper said, “We are honored to share the contributions of people who have been traditionally excluded from the historical



narrative and explore how Woodlawn’s past continues to impact us in the present.”

**Woodlawn: People and Perspectives**

April 25, 2024 – through 2024

*Included with regular tour admission*

Through text, images, and objects displayed throughout the house, visitors discover the contributions of the many people who shaped Woodlawn’s past and present. Histories include the Lewis family and the people they enslaved and highlight free Black families such as the Hollands who purchased land and built communities alongside Quaker families like the Troths. The preservation of Woodlawn in the 20th century will also be explored.

**Offerings for Tauxenent: Acknowledging Indigenous Place**

Open April 25, 2024 – August 30, 2024

*Free with suggested donation*

This exhibit, created by public history students at George Mason University, brings attention to the Doeg people and their absence. The Doeg, for whom Dogue Creek and Dogue Run Farm are named, lived on the land that is now Woodlawn at the time that Europeans arrived in Virginia. Students worked with contemporary local tribal, intertribal, and immigrant Indigenous communities, who created objects, remembrances, and offerings for the Doeg people.

Members of the public are invited to an Opening Reception on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. RSVP [here](#).

**WHEN:** Opening April 25, 2024, Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House are open Thursday-Monday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House are located at 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

**WHY:** [Woodlawn](#) is a historic 126-acre plantation that was originally part of George Washington’s Mount Vernon. The main Federal-style mansion was designed by the architect of the U.S. Capitol, Dr. William Thornton. It is believed that enslaved people completed construction of Woodlawn by 1805 for Lawrence Lewis, and his wife, Eleanor “Nelly” Custis Lewis, Washington’s nephew and step-granddaughter. In 1846, the Lewis’ son sold the property to Northern Quakers who subdivided it into small farms lots for free Black and other anti-slavery families to purchase. The house was preserved in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and became the first public historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

*Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House are two sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is the mission of Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House to engage with the community to preserve history and care for nature at this former site of enslavement.*



WOODLAWN  
AND  
POPE-LEIGHEY HOUSE

*For additional information please visit: [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org);  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/woodlawnandpopeleigheyhouse](http://www.facebook.com/woodlawnandpopeleigheyhouse); Instagram:  
[www.instagram.com/woodlawnandpopeleighey](http://www.instagram.com/woodlawnandpopeleighey) and Twitter: [www.twitter.com/WoodlawnPopeL](http://www.twitter.com/WoodlawnPopeL).*

###