

# SULGRAVE MANOR

Near Banbury, Oxon (56 miles on the M40)

Sulgrave Manor was built by Lawrence Washington, George Washington's five times great grandfather, in the mid-1500s.

The original Tudor features can be visited on one of our house tours including the Great Hall that was the heart of the house where Lawrence Washington, his wife and eleven children lived. Other original elements of the Washington's Tudor house are made up of the entrance porch, the Great Chamber and two smaller rooms on the first floor.

In 1700 the North Wing was added. This sits at right angles to the Tudor section and contains the Oak Parlour and Great Kitchen at ground level and bedrooms above.

The western section of the house had been destroyed when the house was purchased in 1914 and today this has been replaced by the Director's quarters that were built in the 1920s, with the porch once again taking its central position at the front of the building.

When the house was to be opened to the public in the 1920s the garden was re-designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield. The garden remains largely unaltered since this time and today visitors can see formal hedges and topiary, an orchard, herb garden and beautiful borders for all seasons.

In 1914 some of the most influential people of the day funded the purchase and restoration of the home of George Washington's English ancestors.

The initiative for the purchase of Sulgrave Manor came from the Peace Centenary Committees set up in 1911 to determine how to commemorate the centenary of the Treaty of Ghent, which established peace between Britain and the USA in 1814.

Sulgrave Manor Trust was established in 1921 to care for Sulgrave Manor and today has specific responsibilities:

1. To preserve Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the family of George Washington, the First President of the United States of America, for the public benefit
2. To provide and support education in subject areas relevant to Sulgrave Manor and its historic role in the history of Anglo-American relations and to the history, literature and institutions of the United States.

Alongside these aims it exists to promote friendship and goodwill between the British and American peoples and Sulgrave Manor's historic and symbolic role as a centre for such sentiments.

Sulgrave Manor is an accredited Museum and an independent charitable trust and exists entirely through the generosity of donors and visitors.











