

# Design a Fireplace Mantle

**Background Information:** George Washington's fireplace mantle in the New Room is decorated with carvings of farming scenes and livestock. He filled the New Room with these symbols to show his interest in agriculture to his visitors. Throughout his life, Washington experimented with farming; he saw agriculture as the key to America's future.

## Main Ideas:

- George Washington had the New Room filled with art that communicated what was important to him.
- Washington believed agriculture was the key to America's success, so the room included decorative elements related to farming.

## Skills:

- Fine motor skills
- Primary source analysis

## Questions to Consider:

1. Why do you think George Washington wanted the fireplace mantle designed in this way?
2. What would you want visitors in your home to learn about you?

## Instructions:

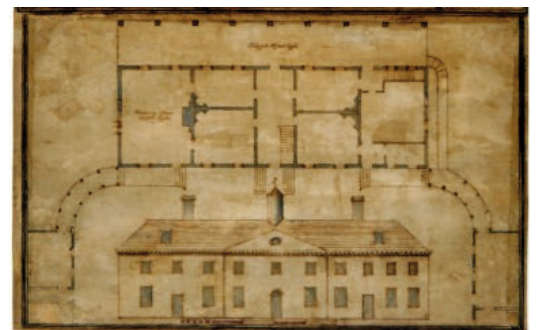
Use these primary sources to learn more about the New Room and Washington's vision. Then, use the template on the following page to design your own fireplace mantle.



**The New Room**



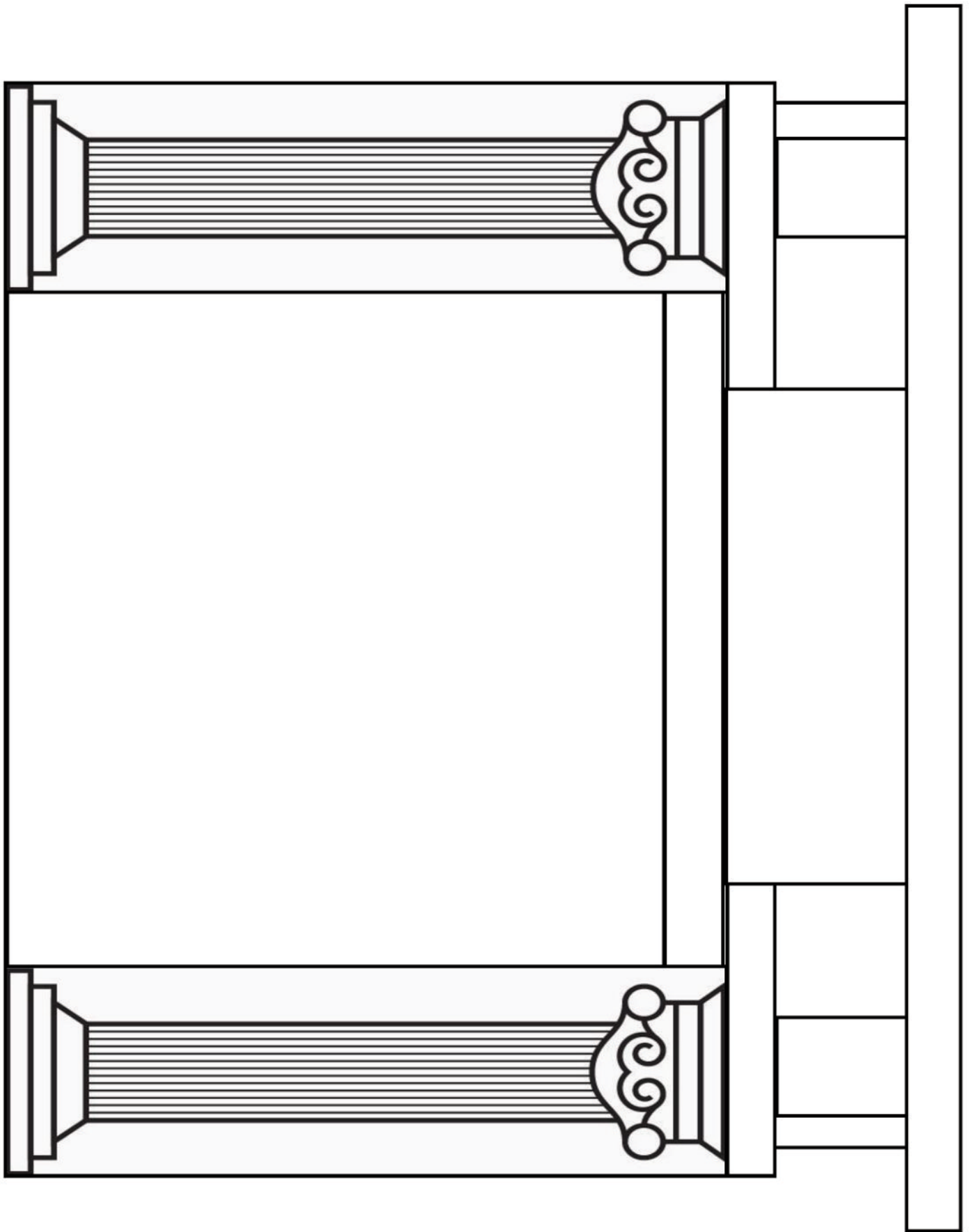
**Great Falls of the Potomac**



**Samuel Vaughan's plan of Mount Vernon**

## Explore further!

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GEORGE WASHINGTON'S  
**MOUNT ★ VERNON**

THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION