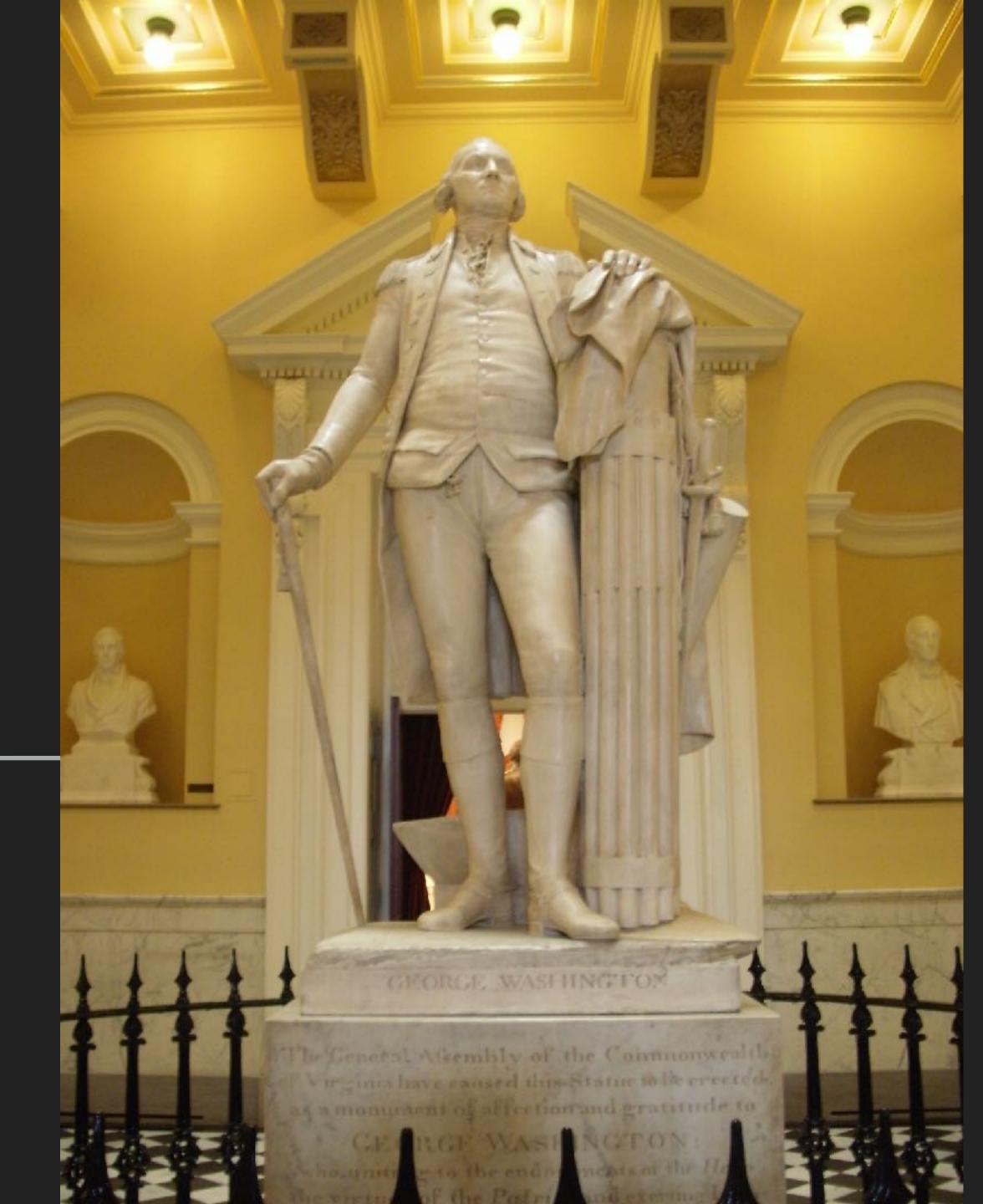
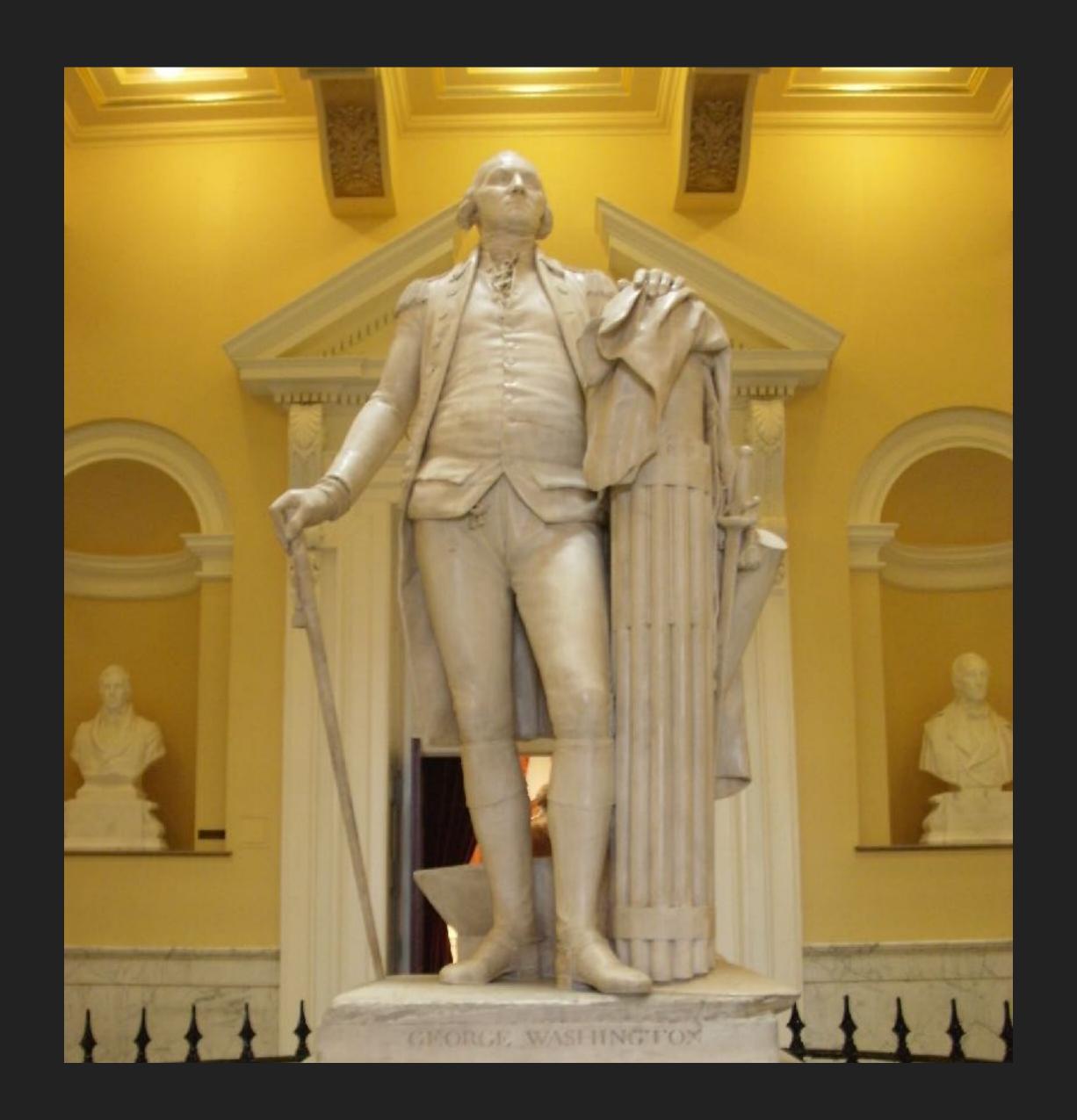
104. GEORGE WASHINGTON. JEAN-ANTOINE HOUDON. 1788–1792 C.E. MARBLE.

JEAN-ANTOINE HOUDON



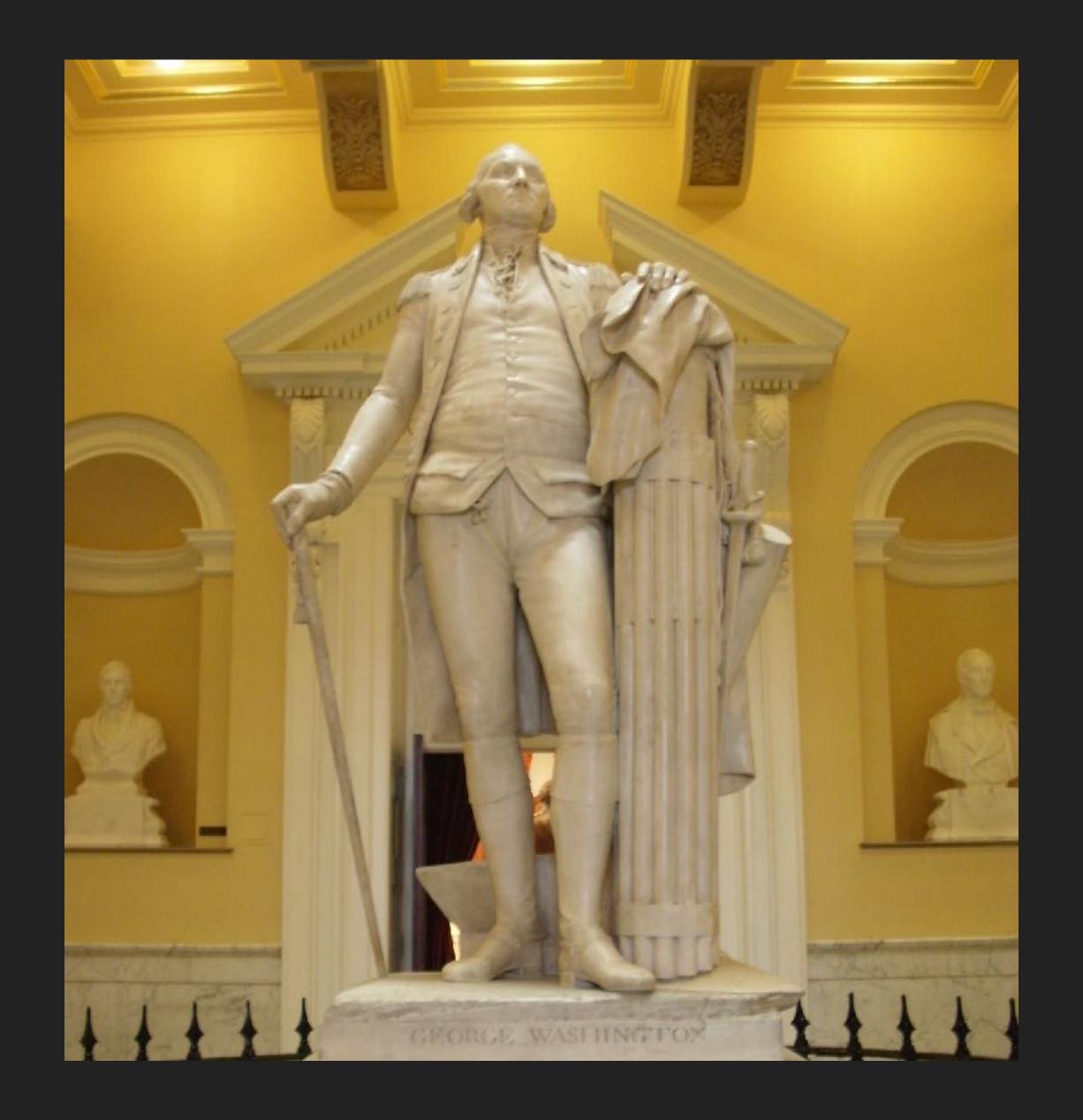
FORM

- NEOCLASSICAL
- White marble
- full of symbolism
- classicizing elements



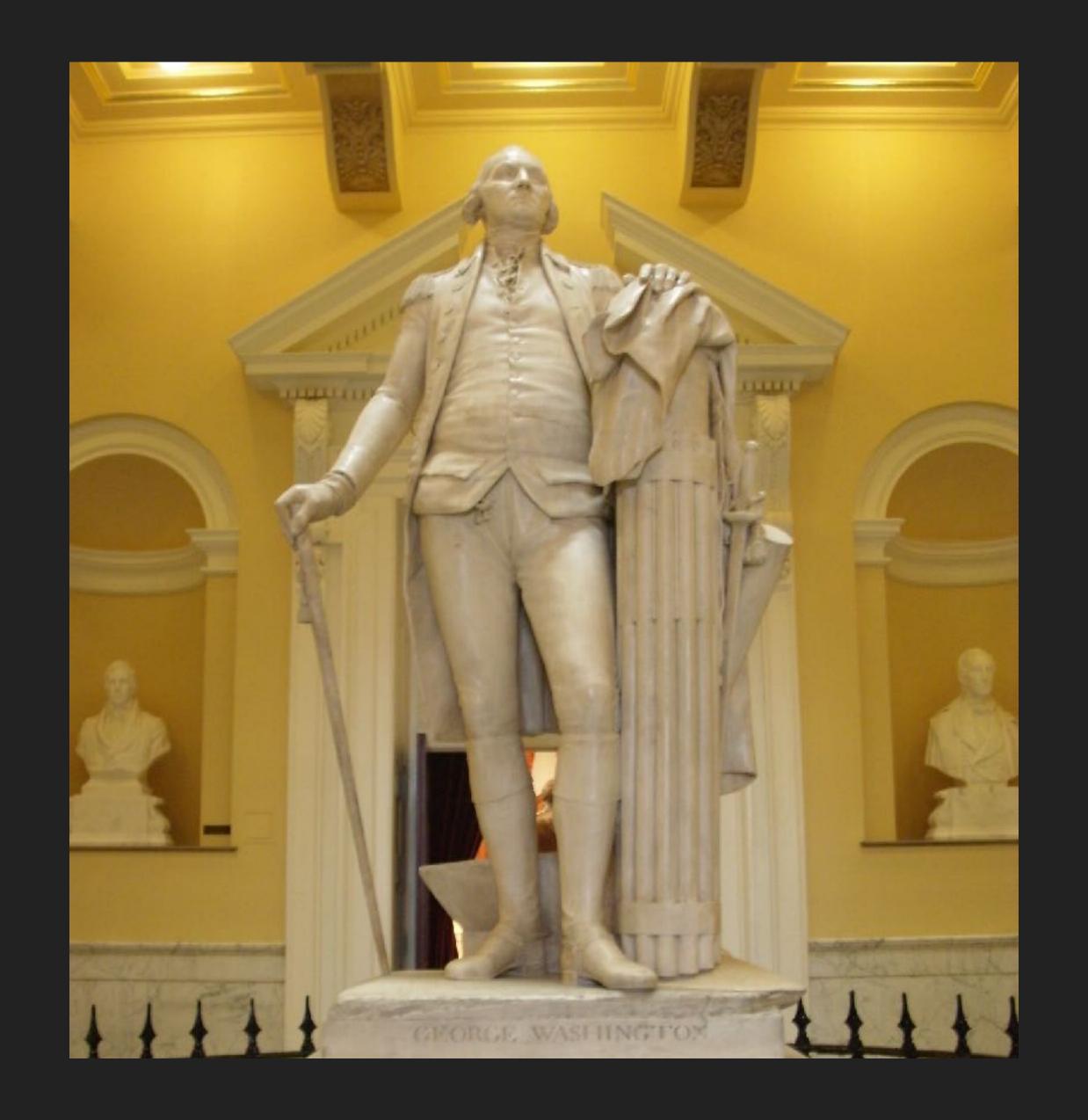
FUNCTION

sculpture to honor George Washington in a way that he desired



CONTEXT

Commissioned by Thomas Jefferson to be displayed in the Virginia Capitol. Jefferson (a Francophile) got Houdon to do it. Houdon originally was going to sculpt it in France from a drawing of GW but decided to come to the US to see GW in person.

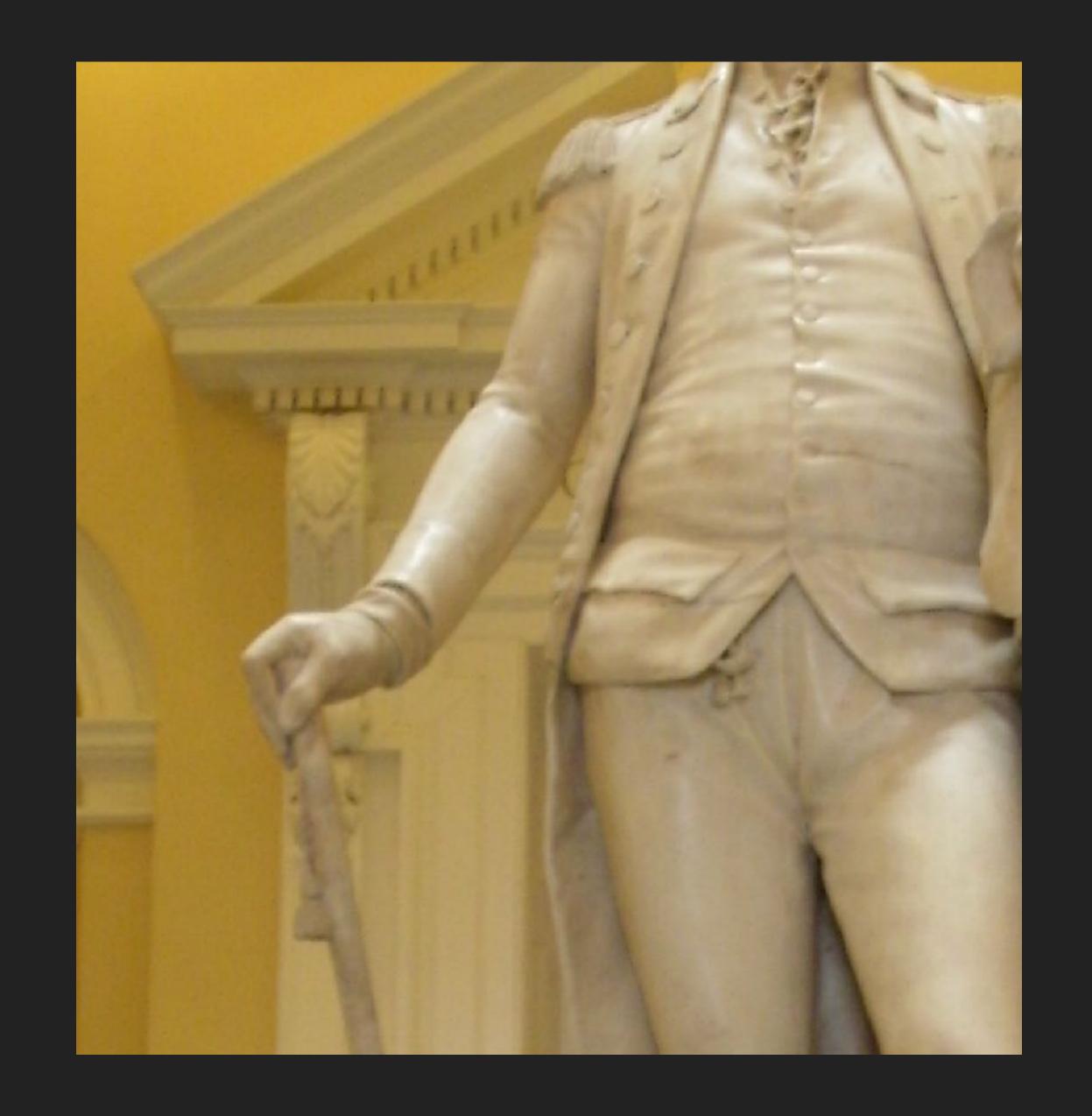


CONTEXT

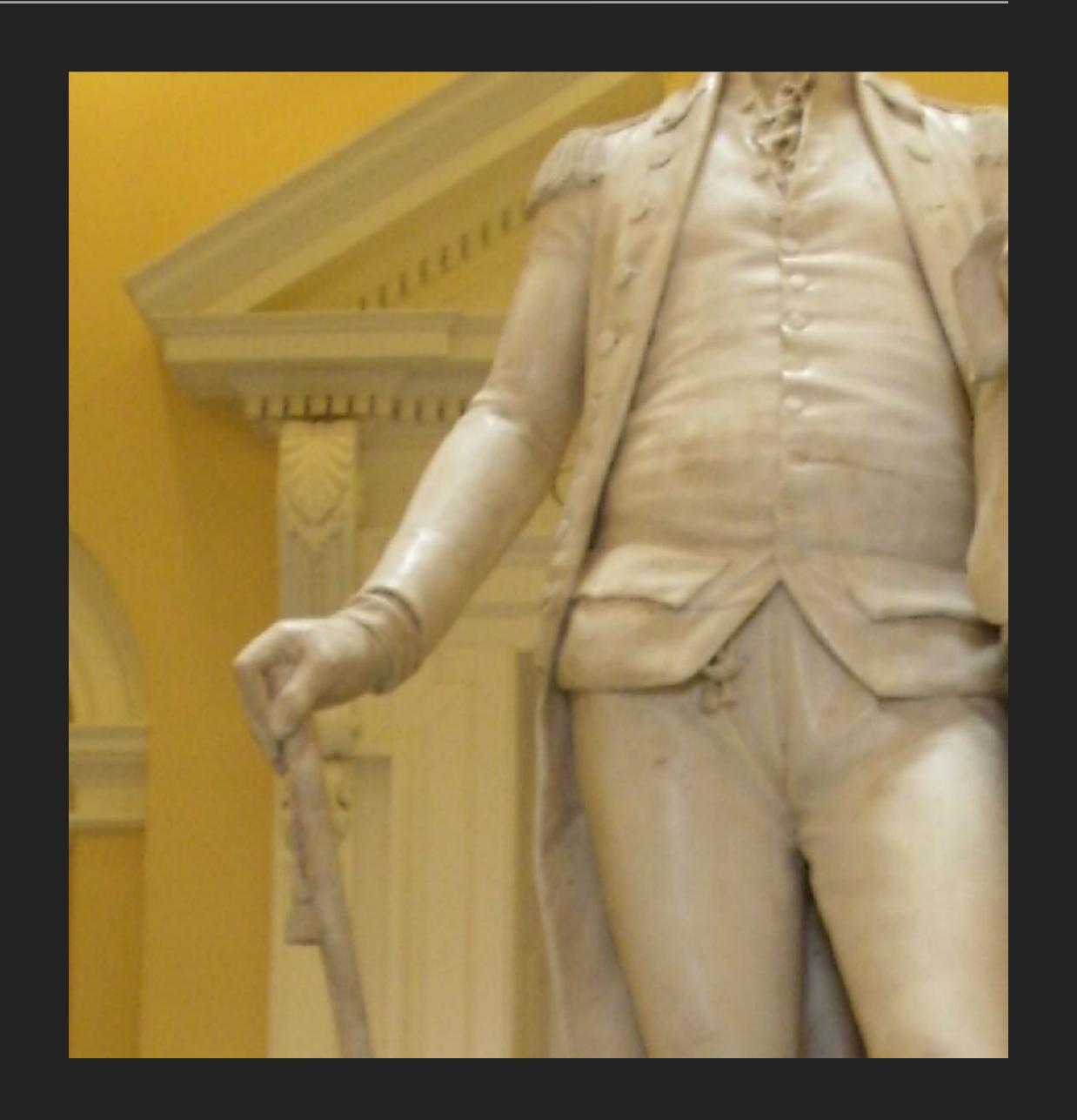
- Original ideas were to depict GW in a Classical aesthetic (i.e. in a toga or potrayed as a Roman hero or god) or with an Equestrian statue. GW disliked the Classical aesthetic and insisted on being show with contemporary attire.
- Houdon captured the duality of GW: Private citizen and public soldier.



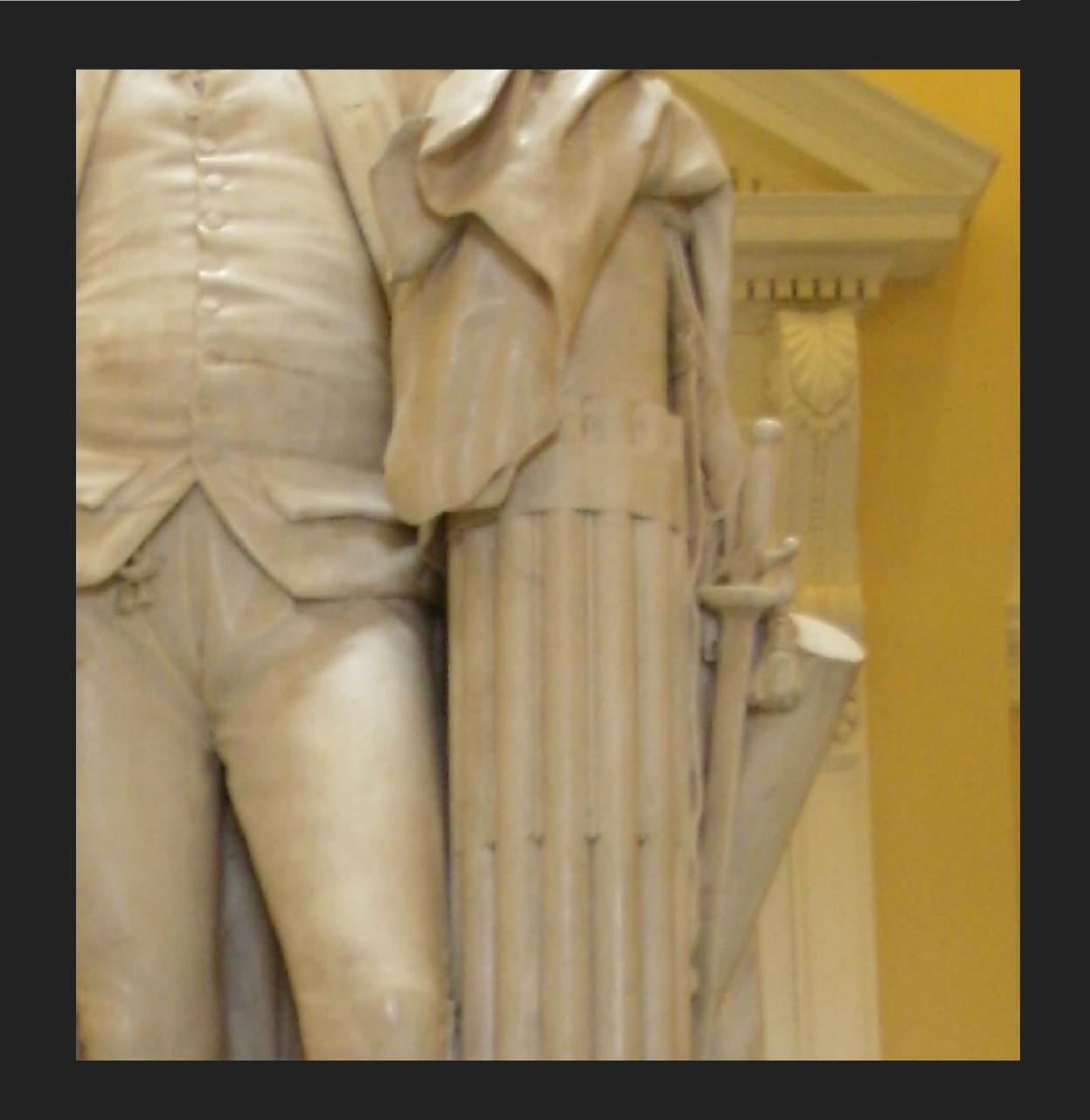
- military uniform
- cane = sign of a gentleman and private citizen



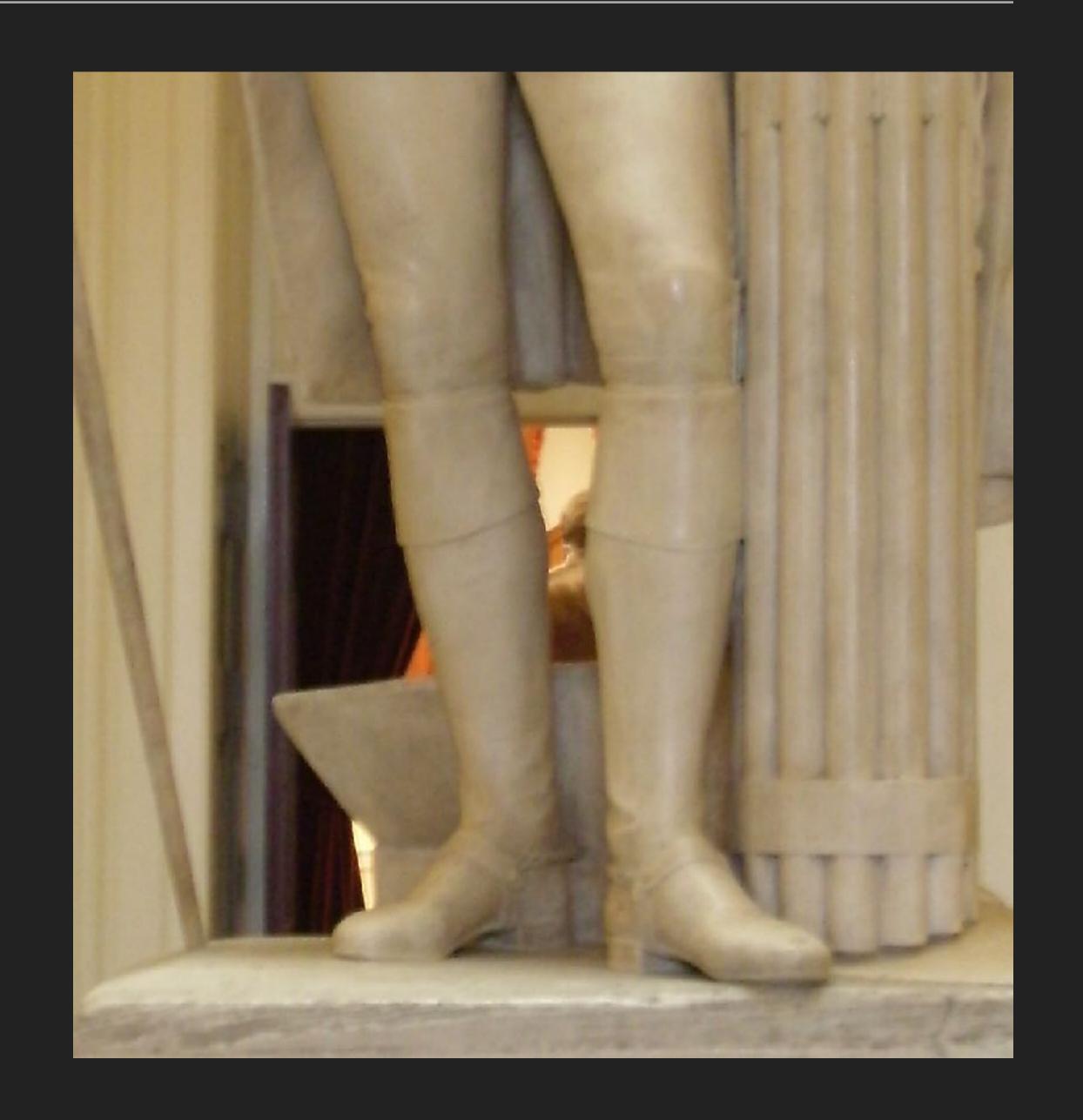
Under his shirt is a Bagde of the Society of Cincinnatus for officers you went back to their peacetime jobs. Cincinnatus was a Roman who was elected dictator in a time of crisis, but willing left power after it was over and returned to his farm



- Sword hung not held, showing he has set aside war
- Fasces with 13 rods. A fasces was a Roman symbol of power and unity. the 13 rods symbolize the 13 original colonies

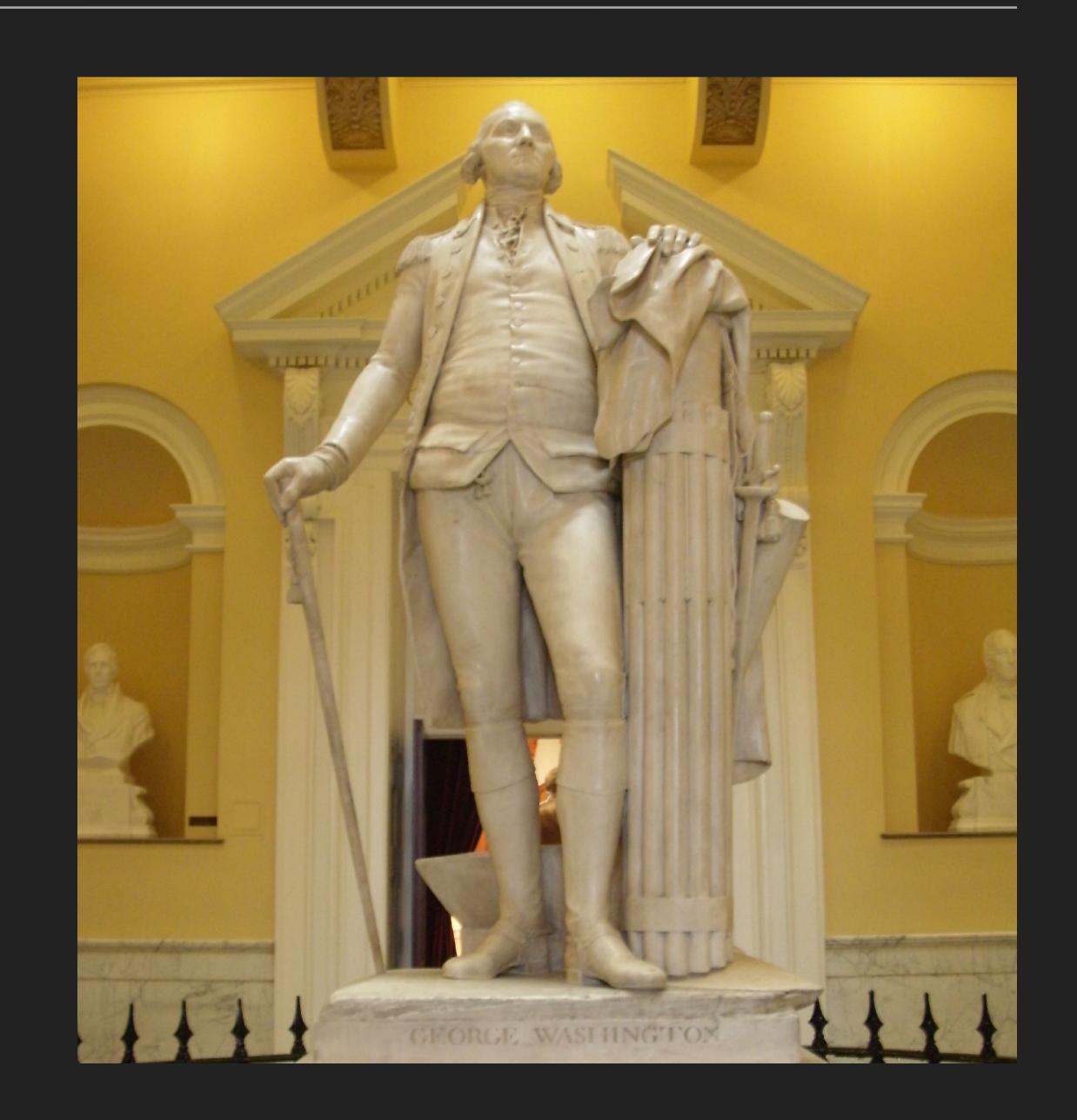


- classicizing Contrapposto stance
- Plow behind him. Reminds us of Cincinnatus, who left power to return to farming



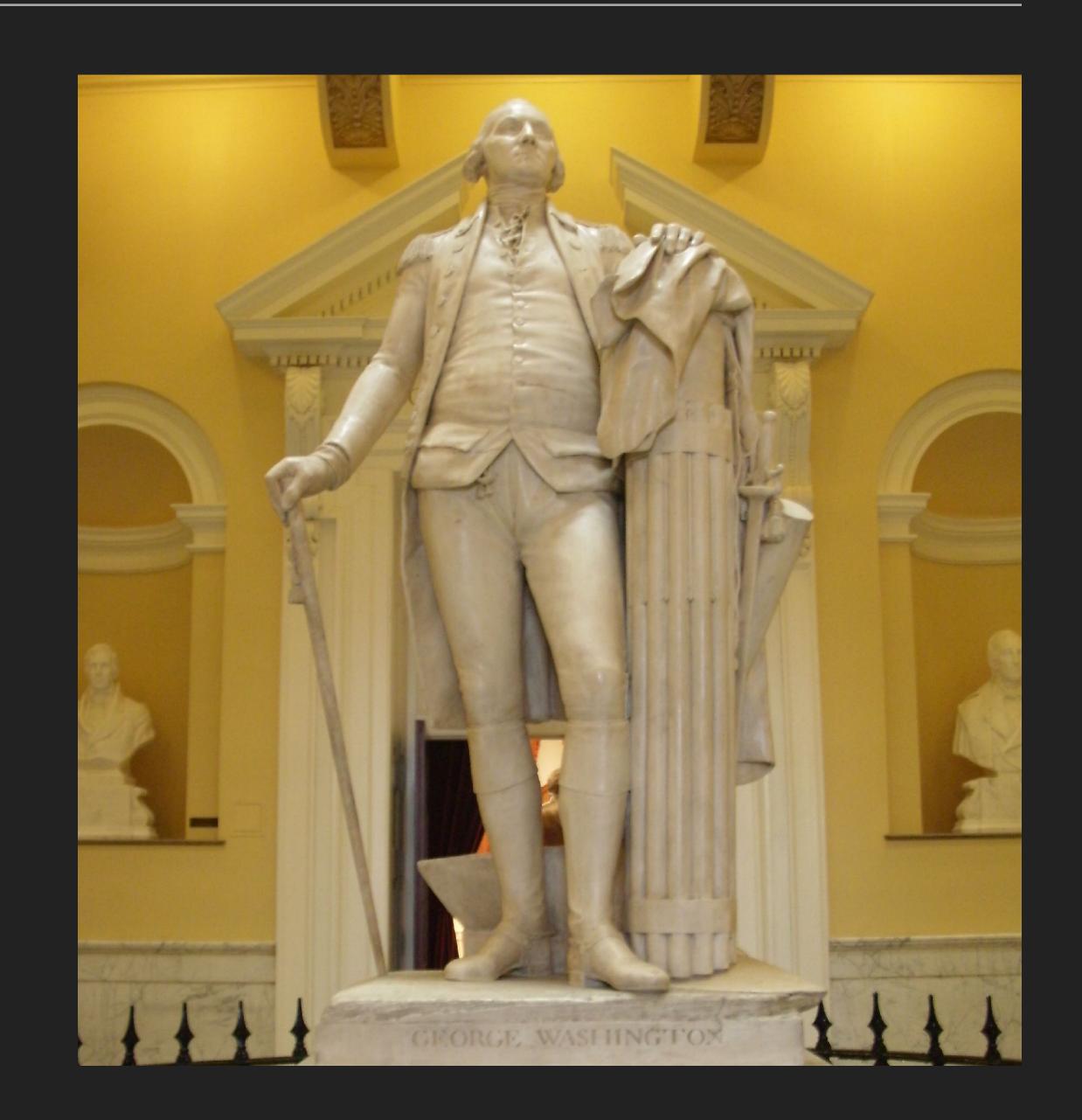
THEME: BLENDING CLASSICISM AND REALISM

- Classicism
 - Contrapposto
 - Use of white marble
 - Calm expression and sense of dignity
 - Symbolism of the fasces and Cincinnatus



THEME: BLENDING CLASSICISM AND REALISM

- Realism
 - Contemporary clothes
 - Based on a plaster mask of GW
 - Shows him as he was in his 50's, not idealized
 - Life sized rather than monumental
 - Just standing, not tower over us or on horseback



COMPARE WITH

- Doryphoros
- Augustus Prima Porta

