

Guided House & Garden Tours

Guided tours of the mansion and gardens are conducted daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of October.

Tours are offered on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The guided tour brings the visitor through the restored museum spaces of the first floor of the mansion and through the historic gardens, which includes the Fingerbowl, the Pinchot's unique outdoor dining table.

The grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset; vehicles can enter from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There are a number of trails for you to enjoy at Grey Towers.

There is no charge to enjoy our beautiful landscape; however there is an admission fee to tour the mansion. Entrance to the house is with a tour guide only.



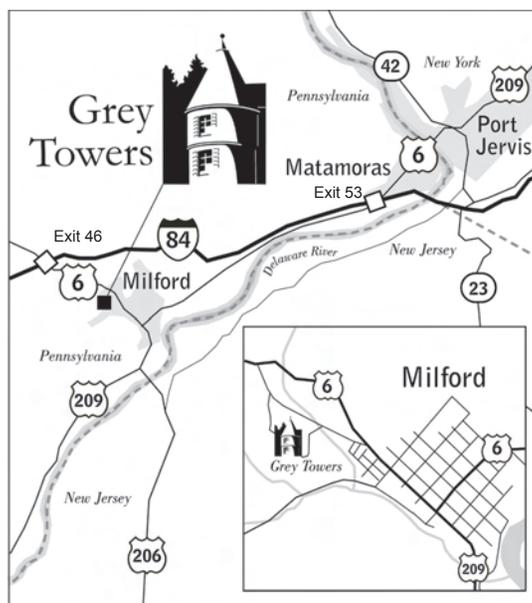
Conservation Education

Visitors of all ages participate in a wide variety of creative conservation education programs. Programs are held at Grey Towers and at off-site locations and area schools. Please check our website for a current calendar of events, or for more details.

Grey Towers also facilitates educator workshops. Public workshops and programs explore a number of conservation-related topics.

Conference Center

The upper floors of the mansion and small outbuildings are used by natural resource conservation groups, agencies and organizations for conferences, meetings and programs.



Directions

FROM THE NORTH - NEW ENGLAND - (Driving time is 3 hours from Hartford, CT) Take I-84 to Exit 46 (Milford). Turn left toward Milford. At the base of the hill, make a sharp right just after Apple Valley Shops Complex. The entrance to Grey Towers entrance is on your left.

FROM THE EAST - NEW YORK CITY/NEWARK, NJ - (Driving time is 1.5-2 hours from Newark, NJ) If exiting Newark Airport follow signs to I-78 West. Continue to Route 24-West to I-287 - North to I-80 - West to Routes 15/206 North (Dover/Sparta). Continue north on Route 206 crossing the toll bridge over the Delaware River. Turn right and proceed straight through the traffic light and drive .75 miles bear left at Grey Towers sign at the fork in the road; Grey Towers entrance is on your left.

FROM THE WEST - (Driving time from Scranton, PA is 1 hour) Take I-81 North to I-380/84. Take I-84 East toward Milford at I-380/I-84 split. Take Exit 46 (Milford) and bear right toward Milford. At the base of the hill, make a sharp right just after the Apple Valley Shops. Grey Towers entrance is on your left.

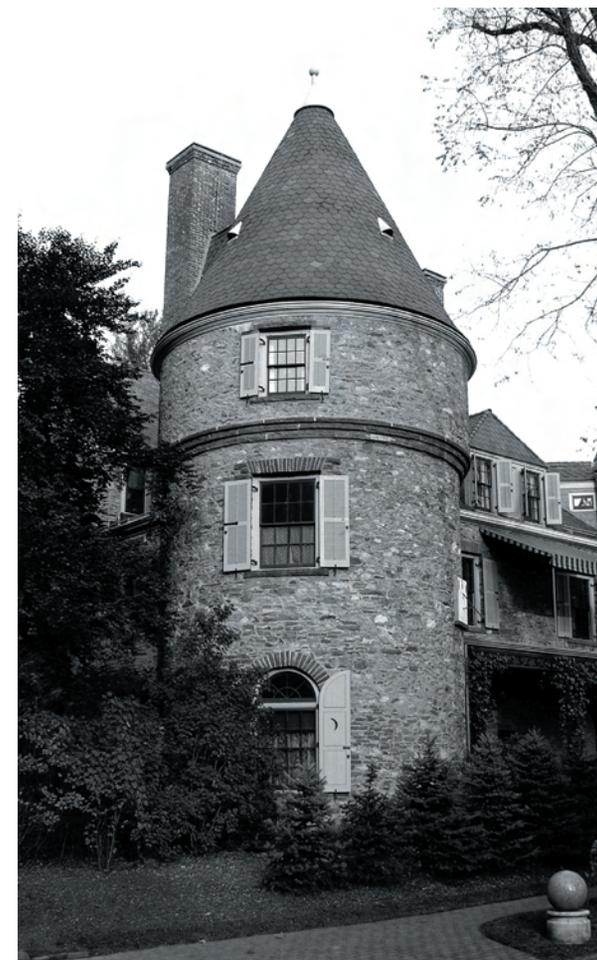
FROM THE SOUTH - PHILADELPHIA, PA - (Driving time from Philadelphia is 2.5-3 hours) From the Northeastern Extension I-476 travel North to Exit 56 (Allentown). Take Route 22 East to Route 33 North. Route 33 merges with Route 209 North. Stay on Route 209 to I-80 (Stroudsburg). Head East on I-80 to Route 209 North (Marshall's Creek). Travel north on Route 209 through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. In Milford proceed straight through the traffic light and drive .75 miles bear left at the Grey Towers sign at the fork in the road; Grey Towers is on your left.

AIRPORTS - Newark International (NJ), Scranton/Wilkes Barre (PA), Stewart International (NY).

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO

Grey Towers National Historic Site and Pinchot Institute for Conservation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

PREPARED BY
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Newtown Square, PA

Northeastern
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Grey Towers

National Historic Site



Beginnings

Grey Towers was completed in 1886 by James Pinchot, a wealthy wallpaper merchant, who was born and raised in Milford. At nineteen James left Milford to seek other opportunities in New York City, acquiring enough fortune to retire at age forty-four. Civic minded and a supporter of the arts, James and his wife, Mary, associated with many influential people, including Richard Morris Hunt, a leading architect of the era. Hunt designed their summer home to utilize local materials and reflect the French heritage of the Pinchot family, who first settled in Milford in 1818. The Pinchots and their children enjoyed summers at Grey Towers, entertaining guests for afternoon teas and dinner parties. Here James, disturbed by destructive logging practices then prevalent in the country, encouraged his eldest son, Gifford Pinchot, to consider a career in forestry.

Forestry and Conservation

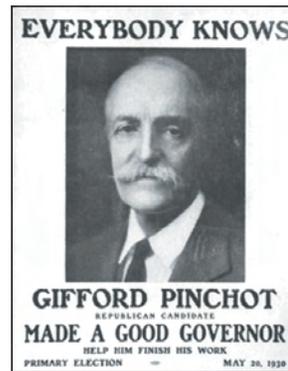
Heeding his father's advice, and born with a love of nature, Gifford Pinchot went to Yale in 1885. Though forestry schools did not yet exist in the United States, he took what few related courses he could. After graduating in 1889, and already fluent in French, Gifford went abroad to study at the French Forestry School in Nancy, France. A year later, impatient to return home, he cut short his studies to confront the forest devastation then sweeping across America.

In the next two decades, Pinchot raised scientific forestry and natural resource conservation from a radical experiment to a nationwide movement. He became

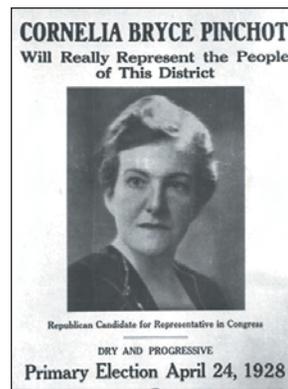
head of the Division of Forestry in 1898. His good friend, President Theodore Roosevelt, later named him Chief Forester of the newly created United States Forest Service, an organization guided by Pinchot's principle, "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." His magnetic personality and leadership style ignited the new organization. During his tenure, national forests tripled in size to 172 million acres. Roosevelt, with Pinchot as his strategist, considered conservation his greatest contribution to American domestic policy.

Politics

In 1914, with Theodore Roosevelt in attendance, Gifford Pinchot married Cornelia Bryce, daughter of journalist and politician, Lloyd Bryce, and granddaughter of inventor and philanthropist, Peter Cooper. Failing in bids for the United States Senate, Pinchot eventually was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1922. Cornelia's influence over women voters was essential to his election.



Gifford Pinchot is widely regarded as one of Pennsylvania's most popular and effective governors. During his two terms, the second beginning in 1931, he wiped out the state's \$30 million deficit, battled to regulate public utilities, sought relief for the unemployed, and paved rural roads to "get the farmer out of the mud."



During the 1920's and 1930's, Cornelia ran unsuccessfully for Congress three times. Her campaigns focused on education and the labor rights of women and children. Someone commented that she "was equally at home on the picket line with striking workers as she was a gracious hostess at a formal reception."



The Forest Service and The Pinchot Institute for Conservation

In 1963, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, the son of Gifford and Cornelia, donated Grey Towers and 102 acres to the USDA Forest Service, the federal agency founded by his father and which now administers the site cooperatively with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. The institute, dedicated by President Kennedy at Grey Towers on September 24, 1963, seeks to further evolve and apply the conservation values and philosophies initially prescribed by Gifford Pinchot. Today, conferences and seminars at the estate bring together a diversity of leading conservation and environmental thinkers to help guide the future of natural resource conservation.

More Information

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