



MEDIA CONTACT: Thom Roach
781-894-2798 x12
events@goreplace.org
[Gore Place's website](#)

GORE PLACE FACT SHEET

About Gore Place

Gore Place is a 50-acre country estate on the Waltham/Watertown line in Eastern Massachusetts, nine miles west of downtown Boston. The historic estate is owned and operated by Gore Place Society, a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 1935 and dedicated to preserving and restoring the estate as a cultural resource for the community. Gore Place was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior in 1970 and has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 2003, two of the museum field's highest marks of distinction. Gore Place receives funding from many generous supporters, including individuals and businesses, and from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

What is Gore Place's mission?

The mission of Gore Place is to preserve and promote the 1806 country estate of Christopher and Rebecca Gore as a unique community resource that tells the story of early 19th century American life.

Who Were the Gores?

Christopher and Rebecca Gore were prominent members of Boston society in the late 18th- and early 19th-century. Christopher was a sought-after Boston lawyer, a savvy investor, a diplomat, a Massachusetts governor (1809-1810), and a U.S. senator (1813-1816). His wife, Rebecca Amory Payne Gore, was the daughter of a wealthy Boston family and married Christopher in 1785. She was instrumental in the design of the Gores' Mansion, and among the first women inducted into the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The Mansion at Gore Place

The grand, Federal-style Mansion originally owned by Christopher and Rebecca Gore was built in 1806. The building reflects the lifestyle of a wealthy Boston couple of the Federal Era, with impressive amenities like flushable water closets, a hot-water shower, central heat, and

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a sophisticated, Rumford kitchen. The Mansion is open to the public by guided tour year-round.

The Historical Collection

Gore Place maintains one of the finest collections of Federal-era decorative arts and material culture in a history museum in the United States. The collection includes over 6,000 objects of artwork, furniture, textiles, porcelain, and glassware from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. Most notably, Gore Place owns the world's largest and finest collection of Boston-made furniture in an original historic home, including a Thomas Seymour secretary and bookcase and a rare billiards table, both of which belonged to the Gores (about 10% of the collection belonged to the Gores.) Much of the collection is on display in the Gore Mansion, which visitors may view by guided tour year-round.

The Estate Grounds and Farm

The Gores' estate grounds follow the European fashion of the time: instead of neat, symmetrical gardens, the landscape is an idealized version of nature featuring broad lawns, groves of trees, and inconspicuous gardens. The grounds are open to the community for free, year-round. As in Christopher and Rebecca's time, Gore Place is home to a working farm that features 19th-century reproduction barns that house a flock of Leicester Longwool sheep, a heritage breed. We are also home to a flock of Dominique chickens, America's first domesticated chicken, first bred in the 18th century in the United States. In fact, the entire property is considered a farm, the last remaining farm in Watertown and one of the last remaining in Waltham.

Public Programs

Gore Place offers a year-round calendar of programs, including our annual Sheepshearing Festival, Farmer Scott's Heirloom Tomato Plant Sale, Tot Times, thematic Mansion tours (including Jane Austen), farm and landscape tours, concerts, wagon rides, snowshoeing, book sales, handmade craft fairs, and holiday teas and events. For a listing of all that's on offer, visit goreplace.org.

1806

Year Gore Mansion built

50

Total acreage of the estate and farmland



9

Location in miles west of downtown Boston

1987

First year of annual Sheepshearing Festival, Gore Place's signature event

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