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# **STORY ANGLES AND IDEAS**

### Making history accessible

Gore Place is committed to making its historic mansion and country estate accessible for all. Achieving full accessibility at a centuries-old site while maintaining preservation goals comes with a lot of interesting challenges — and creative solutions. Gore Place received Universal Participation (UP) designation from the Mass Cultural Council in 2019 and two UP grants in 2020 and 2023, recognizing our ongoing work to improve accessibility of the museum for people with disabilities and their families.

#### The lost art of sheep shearing

In 19th-century New England, lots of people knew how to shear a sheep. But as society modernized, shearing has become something of a lost art. Experienced shearers are now in high demand, traveling to farms all over the region — including Gore Place — during shearing season.

## A real old-fashioned barn raising

Gore Place has built a new barn using old techniques. As part of our efforts to create an authentic, agrarian farm site, we recently constructed a threshing barn in an early 19th-century style for the Farm at Gore Place. The framing timbers and boards were prepared at Hardwick Post and Beam, a multigenerational Massachusetts company of craftspeople specializing in traditional construction techniques. The new barn houses Gore Place's flock of Leicester Longwool sheep, a rare heritage breed. Visitors can visit the Farm to see the new barn buildings and meet the sheep year-round.



## Grown-up activities for you and your baby

Gore Place offers babywearing tours of our 1806 mansion, so parents can get out of the house and explore this hidden gem of New England history. Our family educators don't mind if babies sleep (or cry!) through the tour.

#### Best picnic spots you can reach by T

There's nothing better than a picnic lunch or dinner in a beautiful spot. Gore Place is a bucolic 50-acre country estate that's only nine miles (or an easy T ride) from downtown Boston. Our grounds are open to the public (including picnickers!) dawn to dusk, free of charge.

# Hidden gems of Greater Boston and New England

Combining fascinating history, 50 acres of natural beauty, and surprising proximity to Boston, Gore Place was called "a hidden gem" by CBS News.

#### Robert Roberts: A little-known figure in Boston's Black history

Robert Roberts, a domestic servant who worked for Christopher and Rebecca Gore, was the author of *The House Servant's Directory*, published in 1827, making Roberts one of the first Black authors to be commercially published in America. Gore Place has undertaken a multi-year project to research and reinterpret Roberts' life and work, taking advantage of our unique access to the spaces where he lived and the documents he wrote.

### Putting bird and plant identification apps to the test

Gore Place is home to a wide variety of birds, plants, and critters! What better place to test out which of the slew of popular birding apps and plant identification apps are the most accurate?