

Day: Friday	Start Time: 11:30 am	End Time: 4:00 pm
Co-Leader:	Co-Leader:	Limit: 12 people
Transportation: Van or Personal Car	Driver:	Bus Captain: n/a
Fees: \$14 Transportation Fee + \$10 Entrance Fee at Grey Towers + Administration Fees= \$27	Travel Distance: 13 Miles Round Trip	Travel Time: 35 Min Round Trip

Grey Towers National Historic Site and Milford Town Tour

Grey Towers, the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot—the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service and a two-time Governor of Pennsylvania—is celebrated as the birthplace of conservation in America. It now serves as a conservation education center, offering programs highlighting the Pinchot family's legacy. We will enjoy a one-hour private tour of the mansion and its grounds, plus some time to explore further and possibly hike in the woods.

Afterward, we will head to Milford, PA, where you can shop at local stores or take a self-guided tour of the historic district dating back to 1733. Milford is the northern gateway to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This significant village is known for its conservation history, with a 75% designated National Historic District featuring boutiques, shops, art galleries, and antiques.

Incorporated on December 25, 1874, Milford's history dates to 1733 when Tom Quick settled here. The village layout, designed by John Biddis in 1796, includes streets named after his children. Notable historic buildings include Forest Hall, Hotel Fauchere, the Courthouse, Grey Towers, The Columns (which display The Lincoln Flag), the Upper Mill, Community House, Callahan House, Dimmick Inn, and Tom Quick Inn. Strolling along these tree-lined streets evokes feelings of peace and nostalgia. A section of Broad and Harford Streets was designated as a National Historic District in 1999.

Milford is perched on an escarpment above the Delaware River, where waterways create a fluviarchy—an interconnected series of waterfalls that powered the mills crucial to Milford's 19th-century economy.

- Bring: Comfortable walking shoes, water, food, Cash/Credit card for purchases
- Pack lunch at breakfast to bring with you
- Cost: \$14 Transportation Fee + \$11 Entrance Fee at Grey Towers + Administration Fees= \$28
- Time: 11:30 am ~ 4 pm
- Limit: 12 people
- Distance from camp: 13 Miles / 35 Min. Round Trip
- [US Forest Service of Grey Towers](#) / [Heritage Association of Grey Towers](#) / [YouTube of Grey Towers](#)
- [Map of Milford](#) / [Touring Milford](#) / [YouTube of Milford](#)

Leaders' Notes:

- You will be in your own van.
- Budget your time so you are back at the camp by 4 p.m., leaving time in the afternoon for other activities.
- You are scheduled for a private tour at **10 a.m. BE ON TIME**. We are scheduled before the public is allowed in, and we need to finish the tour on time. If you are late, they will shorten the tour.
- Vehicle gates and restrooms may be closed due to weather or federal holidays. Please check their website, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/GreyTowersNHS>, x account Grey Towers NHS (@GreytowersNHS) / X (twitter.com), or our weather line at 570-296-9638 for weather-related site delays or closures.
- Large bags and backpacks are not allowed in the mansion. For more information about what is permitted on our mansion tours, please see our [Mansion Admission Policy](#) or call 570-296-9630.
- Bring plenty of water. Borrow a 5-gallon water jug from the camp kitchen and fill it with ice water. Please leave it in the van for refills.

JOE 2025 Information Packet for **Grey Towers National Historic Site and Milford Town Tour**

- The tour is prepaid unless there is a difference between those who signed up and those who go on with the activity. Please note the names of anyone who did not pay in advance, and let Mindy know about these people when you return to camp.

Logistics:

- 11:30 am Depart from Camp
- 11:30 am – 11:45 am Travel from Camp Nah-Jee-Wah to Grey Towers National Historic Site
- 11:45 am – 12:00 pm Check in at the front desk, pick up tickets, and take a last-minute bathroom break.
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Tour the grounds of Grey Towers (self-guided), have lunch on the grounds.
- 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Travel from Grey Towers to Downton Milford
Near the intersection of Pear Alley and Gooseberry Alley, Milford, PA ([41.322713, -74.803514](tel:41.322713,-74.803514))
- 2:15 pm – 3:45 pm Self-Guided Tour of Milford (either historical tour or shopping)
- 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm Travel from Milford to Camp Nah-Jee-Wah

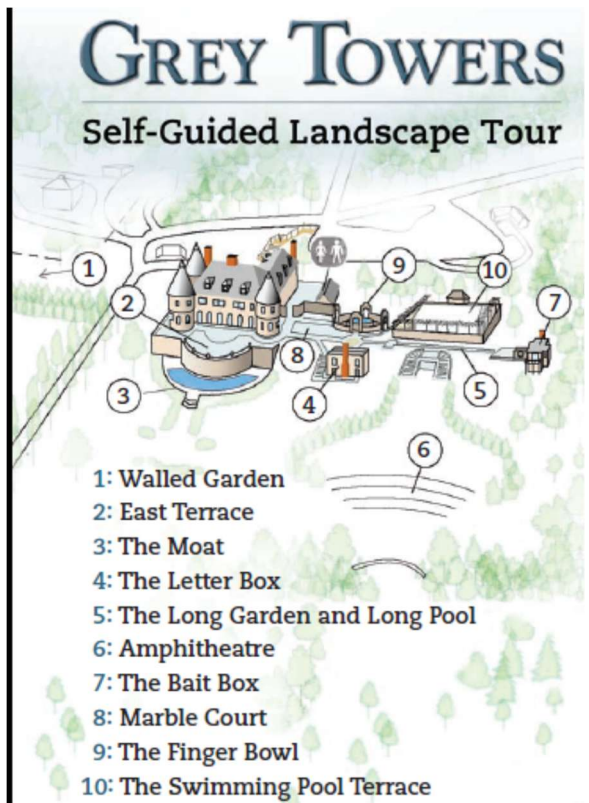
Grey Towers National Historic Site

VISITOR PARKING The Visitor Parking Lot is about six hundred yards from the mansion. The walkway is designed to mimic the original carriageway, and visitors are encouraged to enjoy the meandering walk approaching the mansion. There is a slight incline, and benches are intended to provide rest stops along the way. Allow about 10 minutes from the parking lot to the mansion, and please do not rush.

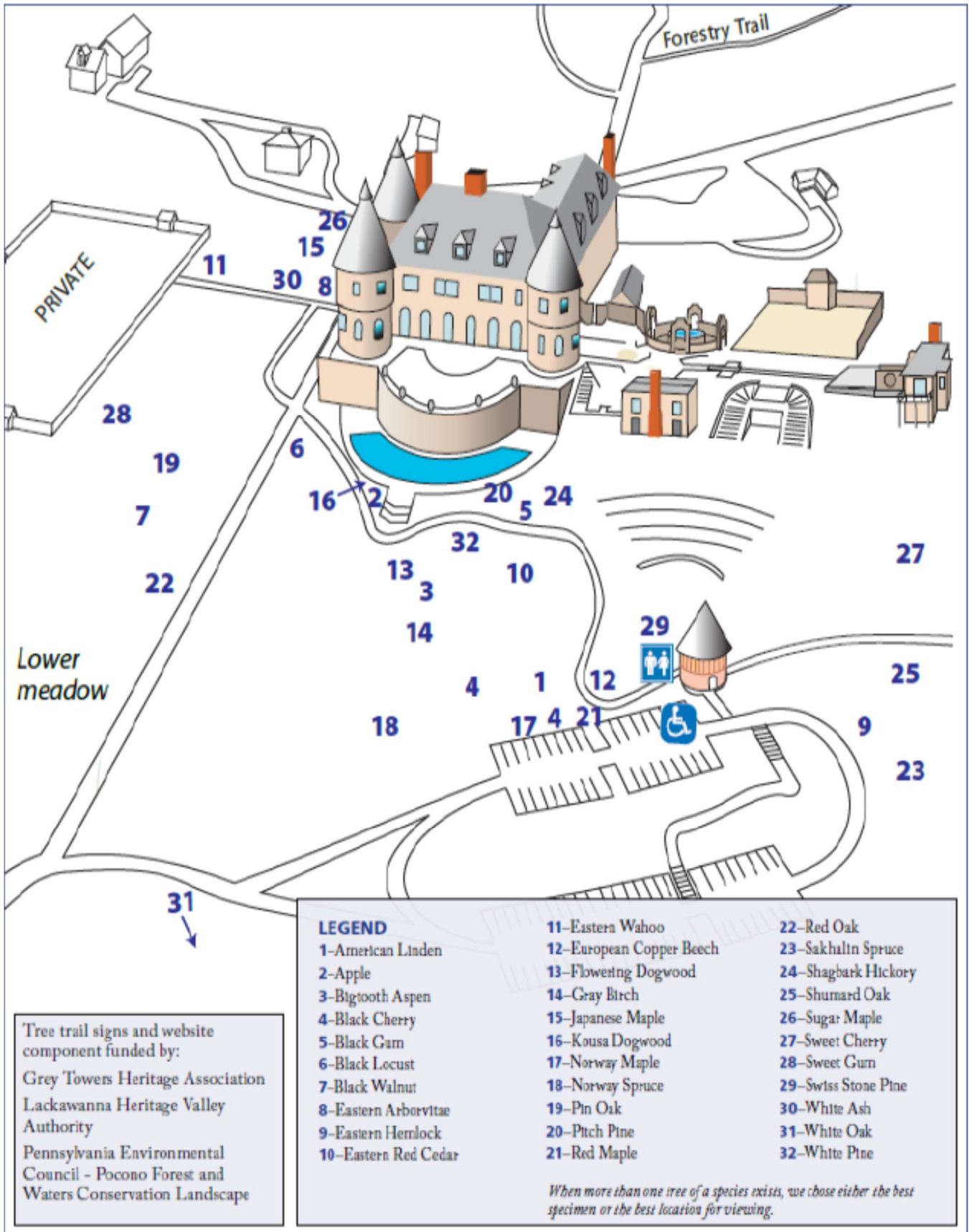
Handicap Parking & Drop-Off Option: Two accessible parking spots are beside the mansion for vehicles with proper identification. Follow the signs on the driveway. For limited mobility, consider dropping off at the accessible area. Have your driver park in the lot to keep spaces free. You can be picked up at the accessible area after your visit.

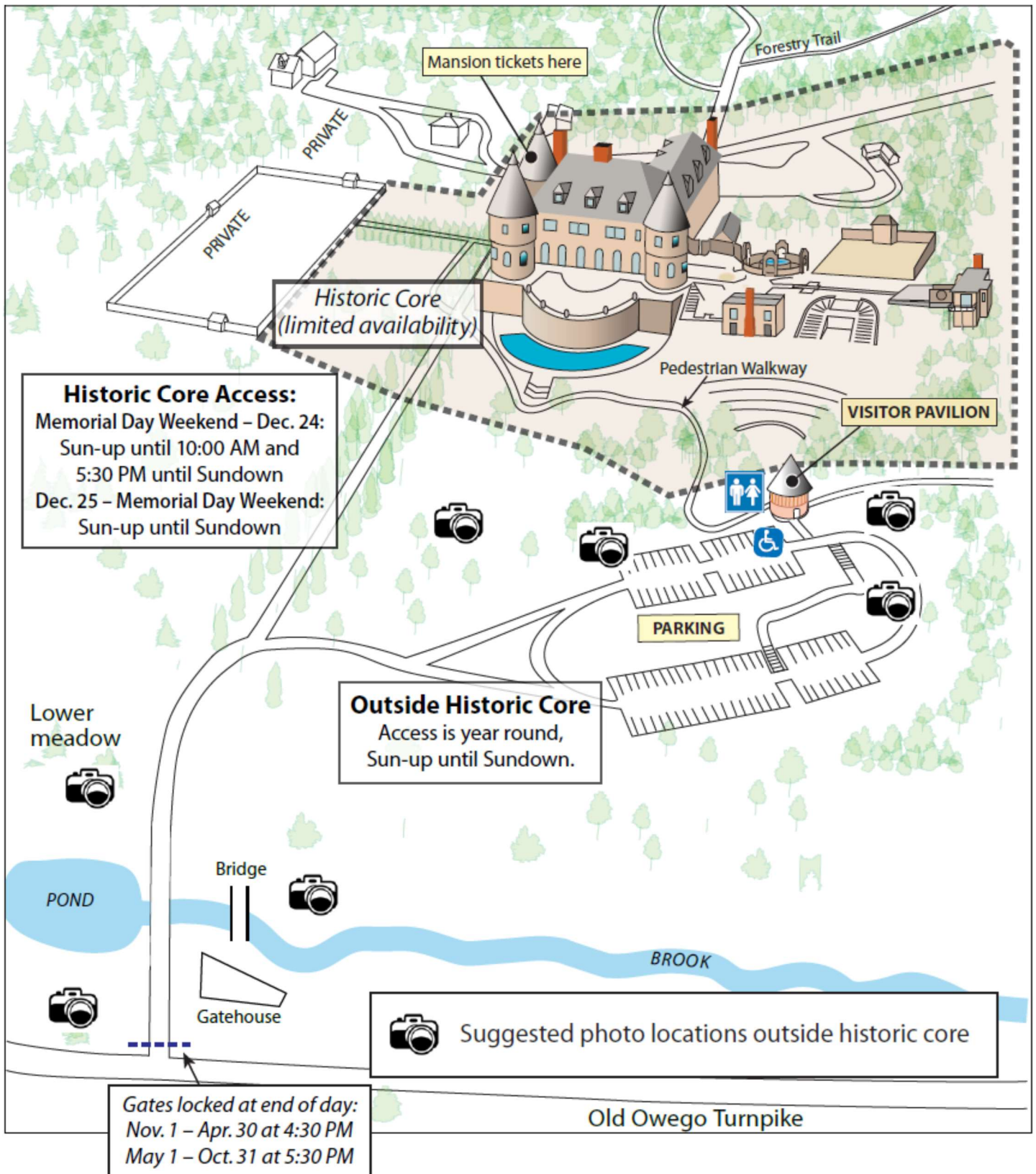
The Mansion was built in 1886 for James and Mary Pinchot. Famed architect Richard Morris Hunt designed the 19,000+ square foot French chateau-style mansion. With 44 rooms and 23 fireplaces, the home played a significant role in the success of the Pinchots' oldest son, Gifford Pinchot, who founded and served as the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service and was a two-term Governor of Pennsylvania. Gifford's wife, Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, added many of the exterior design elements and features after they married and moved to Grey Towers in 1914.

1. **Walled Garden:** James built a stone wall south of the mansion to enclose his rose and vegetable gardens. The two stone houses to the west are private residences for descendants of James and Mary's son, Amos. One housed professors at the Yale School of Forestry (1901-1926), and the other served as a carriage house. Today, the family uses half of the Walled Garden, while the US Forest Service uses the other half, including the greenhouse and acid rain monitoring station. Cornelia Pinchot added the Black Locust-lined alley for a more fitting entryway to the Governor's mansion, changing the alignment of the original carriageway, which is now a pedestrian path from the parking lot.
2. **East Terrace:** From the East Terrace, imagine the family opening the library's French doors to let fresh air into the house. They often brought furniture onto the lawn, beneath the awnings, to enjoy the outdoors. The Marquis de Lafayette bust in the niche reflects James's pride in his French heritage. Turn around to see why James chose this site for his family's home. Enjoy views of the Delaware Valley and Kittatinny Mountains in New Jersey. The treeless land below provided an unobstructed view of the town and the Delaware River. The large trees on the Terrace are European Copper Beeches, Gifford Pinchot's favorite, demonstrating the conservation principle of planting for the future.
3. **The Moat:** Below the Terrace wall lies a half moat added by Cornelia Pinchot.
4. **The Letter Box:** Architect Chester Aldrich designed the Letter Box to store Governor Gifford Pinchot's papers and provide office space for his secretaries during his residence. It features large, commanding windows on the sides and rear, allowing natural light to enter while maintaining privacy from the front. Additionally, the Letter Box served as Governor Pinchot's campaign headquarters and a meeting place for constituents. Today, it functions as an exhibit and educational space.



5. The Long Garden and Long Pool: Added in 1924, the Long Garden and Long Pool further extend along the East Terrace and the expanse of a sculpted landscape. The pool is narrower and deeper at the far end, creating the illusion that it is longer than seventy-four feet. The Long Pool was filled with lilies and grass. The Long Garden created a natural hallway effect, drawing the eye to the building at the Bait Box's far end. Boxwood and hemlocks initially framed the colorful plantings, which are re-created in the same space today.
6. Amphitheater: The grassy slope east culminates in a stage where Gifford and Cornelia entertain the community with music, animal acts, and ice cream socials. On September 24, 1963, President John F. Kennedy dedicated Grey Towers before an estimated crowd of 10,000 in the Amphitheatre.
7. The Bait Box, designed by Chester Aldrich, was initially a playhouse for Gifford and Cornelia's son, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, allowing him to entertain friends away from the mansion guests. Named for the family's love of fishing, it featured a blacksmith forge for honing ironworking skills. Today, it has several artifacts and serves as a meeting space for conservation groups seeking a retreat from the mansion's activity. Enjoy the view of the historic sweet cherry tree through the elliptical stone wall opening in the small courtyard.
8. The Finger Bowl: The most popular feature in the Grey Towers landscape, the Finger Bowl served as Pinchot's outdoor dining room. Added in 1934, the unique water-filled table was the site of many lively discussions about politics, social issues, and conservation efforts. The food floated on the water in wooden bowls and balsa rafts. The opening in the wisteria-covered pergola permitted moonlight to radiate across the water.
9. Marble Court: This area connects the mansion to the outdoor dining room. Originally paved with marble, the granite wave design and stone etching of "The Mary Pinchot," Gifford's 148-foot schooner, recall the family's nine-month voyage to the South Seas. Initially planted with mountain laurel, the courtyard was a natural passage to the next area, the Finger Bowl.
10. The Swimming Pool Terrace: The hydrangea-covered stone wall and grape arbor once surrounded the family swimming pool, an early addition to Cornelia's landscape. Sawkill Creek provided water, and the terrace featured numerous flowers to enhance the stonework. Now, the tented area hosts outdoor public programs, meetings, and conservation education.
11. Forest Discovery Trail: This easy ½ mile hike winds through mixed white pine and hemlock behind the mansion. The trailhead is near the parking area. Along the way, learn about forest ecosystems and health. Visit a re-created Yale School of Forestry tent site to see what life was like for students a century ago and enjoy old songs and stories from the EcoBox.



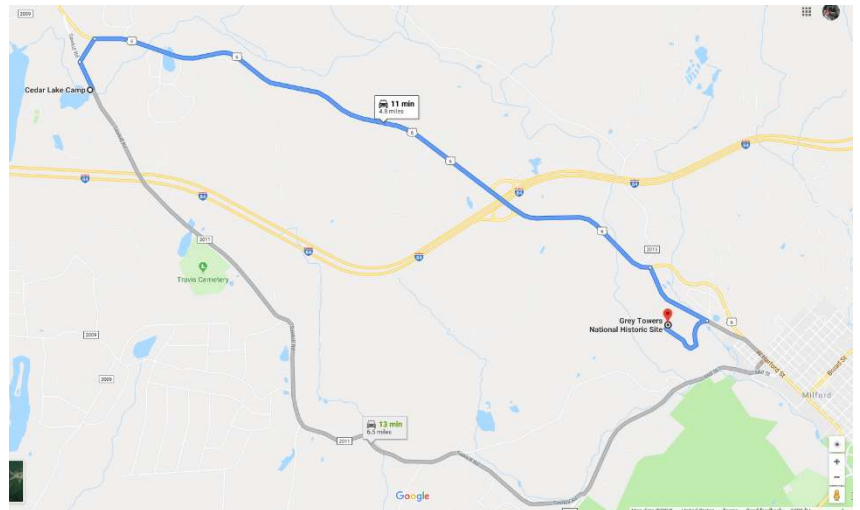
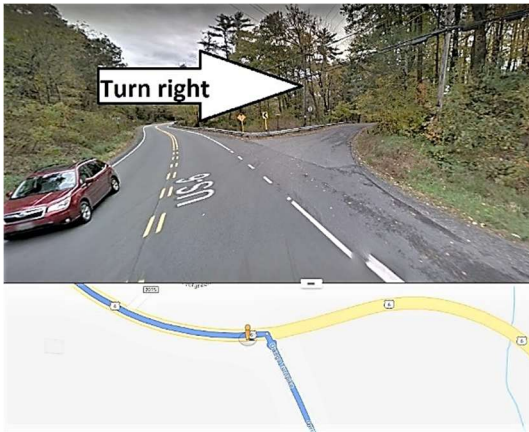


Directions: Gray Towers National Historic Site (151 Grey Towers, Milford, PA 18337)

8MIN 5.3MI

<https://goo.gl/maps/hqa84pqh8e6eAGSQ7>

1. Head out of the camp driveway and turn left, going northwest on Sawkill Rd and moving toward Bridge Rd.
 - a. Then 0.21 miles, 0.21 total miles
2. Take the 1st right onto Bridge Rd.
 - a. If you reach Rt. 6, you have gone about 0.2 miles too far (This is a dangerous turn. Do not use it).
 - b. Then 0.16 miles, 0.37 total miles
3. Turn right onto US-6 E. Continue to follow US-6 E.
 - a. You will cross over Rt. 84
 - b. Then 3.6 miles, 4.18 total miles
4. Turn right onto Owega Rd.
 - a. If you reach 8th St, you have gone too far.
 - b. Then 0.50 miles, 4.68 total miles



5. Turn right onto Grey Towers Drive.
 - a. Then 0.26 miles, 5.28 total miles



6. Follow Grey Towers Drive to the parking lot beyond the main building.

Directions from Grey Towers to Downtown Milford, PA

4MIN 1.0MI

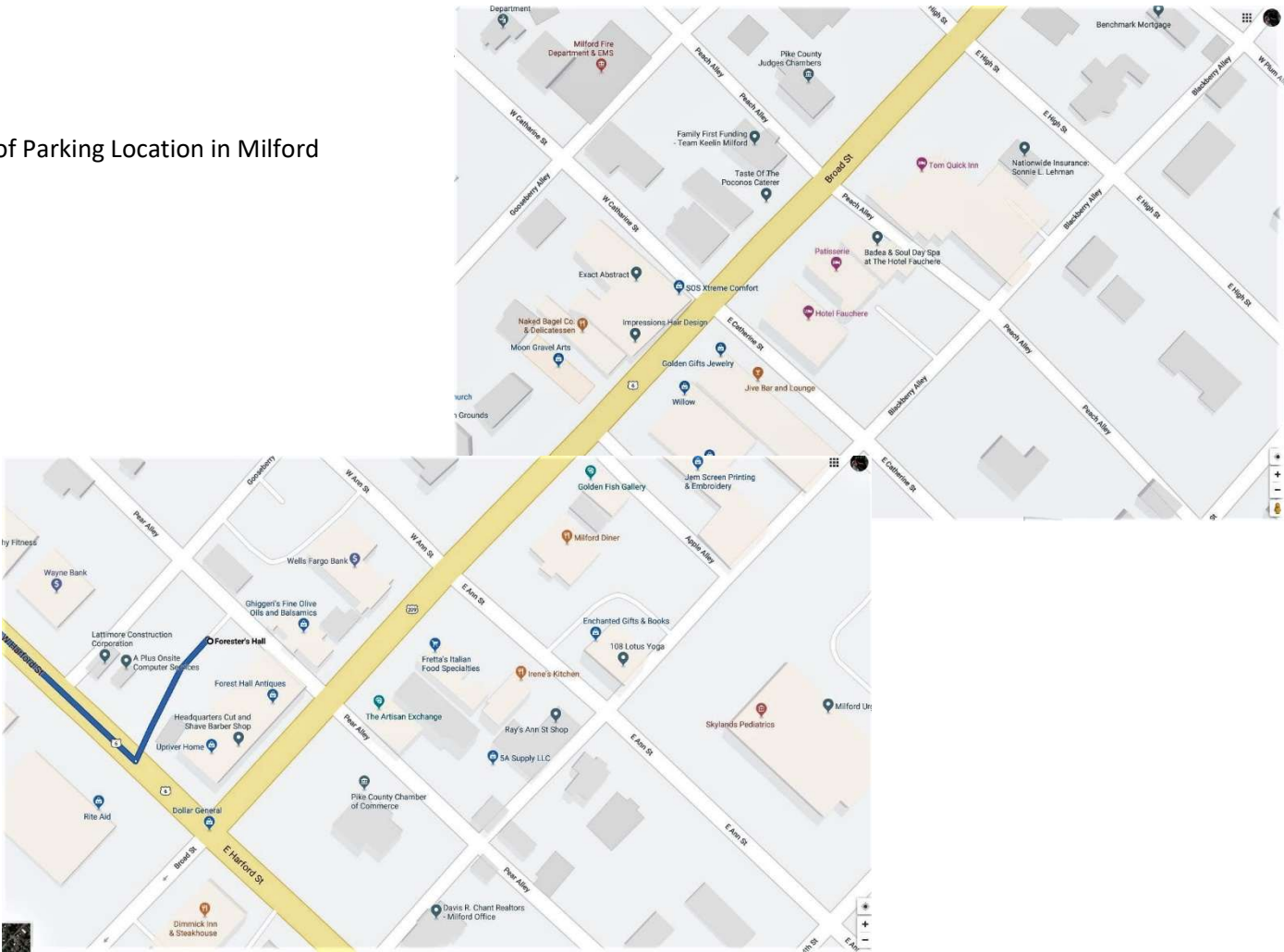
<https://goo.gl/maps/ijjF3f6wEBoZ9QmX6>

Start at Grey Towers National Historic Site to the Parking Lot near the intersection of Pear Alley and Gooseberry Alley, Milford, PA (41.322713, -74.803514)

1. Head out of the Grey Towers driveway, going northeast on Grey Towers Drive toward Owega Road.
 - a. Then 0.26 miles, 0.26 total miles
2. Turn slightly right onto Owega Rd.
 - a. Then 0.25 miles, 0.51 total miles
3. At the stop sign, turn slightly right onto US-6 E. Continue to follow US-6 E.
 - a. US-6 E is just past Pine Aly
 - b. Then 0.32 miles, 0.82 total miles
4. Just past the Post Office, turn left onto Fifth Ave.
 - a. Then 0.04 miles, 0.86 total miles
5. Take the first left onto Pear Alley.
 - a. If you reach W Ann St, you have gone too far.
 - b. Then 0.10 miles, 0.96 total miles
6. Go through the next intersection for Gooseberry Alley. There will be a parking lot on your right.
7. Park in this parking lot.



Close-up of Parking Location in Milford



Directions from downtown Milford, PA, to Camp Nah-Jee-Wah



8MIN 5.3MI (<https://goo.gl/maps/PXDm9xPmWGHv1oVi8>)

1. Head out of the parking lot and turn left southeast on Pear Aly toward Gooseberry Aly.
 - a. Then 0.02 miles, 0.02 total miles
2. Take the first left onto Gooseberry Alley.
 - a. Then 0.04 miles, 0.06 total miles
3. Turn right onto W Harford St/US-6 W. Continue to follow US-6 W. Heading north through town.
 - a. Rite Aid is on the corner.
 - b. Then 4.83 miles, 4.89 total miles
4. Turn left onto Bridge Rd.
 - a. Bridge Rd is 0.1 miles past Senate Rd.
 - b. If you reach Sawkill Rd., you have gone about 0.2 miles too far.
 - c. Then 0.16 miles, 5.05 total miles
5. Turn left onto Sawkill Rd.
 - a. Then 0.21 miles, 5.26 total miles
6. The NJY Camp entrance is on the right.
 - a. If you reach Honeywell Rd, you have gone about 0.4 miles too far.

Milford History

Milford Borough was incorporated on December 5, 1874, having been previously part of Milford Township. Settlers and Native Americans who lived here enjoyed the blessings of rich forests, beautiful lakes, the fresh waters of the Delaware River, and the streams that feed into it. We invite you to do the same.

The village was laid out by John Biddis in 1796, naming the streets after his children and family and the lanes after his favorite fruits and berries. Judge Biddis took his inspiration from the design of Philadelphia, the nation's first capital. Some say the name Milford came from Milford Haven in Wales, where John Biddis' father, William, was born. Others say the Wells' mill and the spot where Delaware was forded resulted in the name Mill-Ford.

Judge John Biddis brought his family from the plague-stricken city of Philadelphia in 1793 to Wells Ferry (as Milford was then called), where he bought a vast tract of land and built a cottage. Immediately, Biddis divided this land into 530 lots on streets and service alleys and devised a scheme to market them. He called the village he laid out "Milford." As an enticement to be an investor, he offered two acres outside of town for every lot purchased in town. Also, he proposed to erect in his envisioned "future seat of justice" an extensive manufactory for paper and pasteboard on the Sawkill. This plant (located on the site of the current Upper Mill) would become the first in the United States to use wood pulp in paper manufacturing.

In 1795, Biddis returned to Philadelphia, continued inventing, and continued to be connected to Milford for business, government, and family reasons. Although he had no legal education, he was appointed by the governor to be an Associate Judge of the first courts to be held in these parts. Many of his children took up residence here, and their names – Ann, Catharine, Elizabeth, Sarah, George, and John – live in the names of our streets.

The Milford Enhancement Committee is the present-day embodiment of the historic Village Improvement Association. The MEC has improved street trees, landscaping, streetlights, bluestone sidewalks, benches, and overall aesthetics in the town. \$5.5 million has been invested in enhancing and restoring the street environment of our historic county seat. Also, individuals, businesses, and Milford Borough employees have donated thousands of hours of time and effort. Milford is a national model for civic improvement.

The Columns Museum

This magnificent building in the Historic District of Milford was initially built for Dennis McLaughlin, a Jersey City business mogul. The Columns is a 22-room mansion built in the neoclassical style. It is home to the Pike County Historical Society, the Columns Museum, and the Lincoln Flag.

The Lincoln Flag

In 1996, Joseph E. Garrera, current president of the Lincoln Group of New York, an organization dedicated to studying Abraham Lincoln's life and times, concluded an independent year-long study regarding the authenticity of a bloodstained, 36-star American flag that played an essential role in the events at Ford's Theatre on the night President Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. His findings and conclusions, subsequently published in a 125-page research document, *THE LINCOLN FLAG OF THE PIKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY*, declare the flag "authentic."

Mr. Garrera's research traces events from that fateful night in 1865 to the present. On April 14, 1865, Thomas Gourlay was the part-time stage manager and an actor at Ford's Theatre in Washington. He was also the father of Jeannie Gourlay, who had a lead part in the play, "Our American Cousin," which was presented on stage that night.

After President Lincoln was shot in the back of the head by John Wilkes Booth, those ministering to him noted that Gourlay was present with them in the presidential box. Laura Keane, the star of the evening performance, was also in the box and cradled Lincoln's head in her lap as he lay on the floor, mortally wounded. When doctors laid Lincoln on the floor so that he could rest more comfortably, Gourlay, according to Garrera's research, "pulled the large flag which had been draped over the balustrade and placed it partially under Lincoln's head."

After Lincoln was moved to the Petersen House across the street from the theatre, Gourlay took the flag and kept it. Before he died in the 1880s, he gave it to his daughter, Jeannie Gourlay Struthers. She moved to Milford in Pike County, Pennsylvania, in 1888. Jeannie Gourlay Struthers then passed on the flag to her only son, V. Paul Struthers. In 1954, Struthers donated the flag to the Pike County Historical Society. He also donated other artifacts from the Civil War era, including clothing that belonged to his famous mother and oral history, which provided details of an unbroken chain of family ownership of the flag dating back to April 14, 1865.

Subsequently, the Society has had the blood stains on the flag tested twice. Both times, the tests confirmed that the stains on the flag were human blood. Garrera's research into forensic issues documented the fact that the blood stains are "contact stains," consistent with a bleeding wound coming into direct contact with the flag. His research into other areas – such as the materials used in the manufacture of the flag, the chain of custody of the flag, government policies on the use of American flags for ceremonial purposes, the disposition of all of the flags that were in Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865 – all serve to confirm the authenticity of the "Lincoln flag."

George F. Cahill, CAE, Founder of the Pittsburgh-based National Flag Foundation, stated, "Pike County's flag could become the most revered single flag of our day, similar in importance to Francis Scott Key's 'Star Spangled Banner,' Betsy Ross' creation and the ensign raised atop Iwo Jima in World War II."

Today, Jeannie Gourlay Struthers rests peacefully in Milford Cemetery. Her place in American history as an eyewitness to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is indelibly etched on the Ford's Theatre playbill for April 14, 1865. The flag she protected and preserved is permanently displayed at The Columns, the Pike County Historical Society Museum.

[Google Map Link of Milford](#)

Art & Antiques

[The Artery-Fine Art and Fine Craft Gallery](#) - 210 Broad Street, Forest Hall / 570-409-1234 - Original work from over twenty artists, from traditional to contemporary. Painting, jewelry, enamels, pottery, photography, glass, sculpture, collage, wood, fabrics, brush writing, and more are on display year-round; shows have changed every four weeks since 1999.

[Golden Fish Gallery Fine Art & Crafts](#) - 307 Broad Street / 570-296-0413 - Welcome to our eclectic gallery of fine art and unusual crafts. We feature some of Milford's finest artists with a new show every month. Our exclusive collection of locally handcrafted furniture & custom-built lamps is a specialty of our gallery. We also carry pewter, sterling jewelry, metalwork, glass, and pottery.

[Hudson River School Collection at the Hotel Fauchere](#) - 401 Broad Street, Forest Hall / 570-409-1212 - Listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the Hotel Fauchère underwent a remarkable restoration and reopened in 2006. The reception parlor and hallways of the hotel feature a collection of 19th-century Hudson River School pictures. Mon-Sun 10-6.

[Karenina's Antiques](#) - 320 Broad Street / 570-832-4420 - A wide and ever-changing selection of antiques for all needs.

[Makos Photography, Bar Louis, Hotel Fauchere](#) - 401 Broad Street / 570-409-1212 - Bar Louis features striking contemporary photography by Christopher Makos and Paul Solberg. Above the bar is a large Makos photograph of Andy Warhol kissing John Lennon on the cheek; throughout the restaurant is the work of the Hilton Brothers, a collaboration between Makos and Solbert.

Specialty Eats

[Apple Valley Restaurant](#) - 104 Route 6 / 570-296-6831 - Burgers, Grilled Sandwiches, Fajitas, Specialty Salads & More!

[Breathless Beauty, Organic, Vegan, & Natural Market](#) - 108 Route 6, Apple Valley, Bldg. 2 / 570-296-2849

[Irene's Kitchen](#) is at 103 E. Ann St., Milford, 570-296-6232. It is a bright pink building with quaint seating for ice cream, coffee, homemade fudge, chocolate, butter crunch, old-time candies, egg creams, shakes, sodas, cakes, and candy-making supplies.

[Candy & Gift Cottage](#)- Apple Valley Stores-108 US-6, Milford / 570-296-4691. An extensive selection of tin signs, candles, jewelry, gifts, candy, and chocolates.

[The Milford Dairy Bar](#) - 307 West Harford Street / 570-296-6337 - Ice Cream

Balsamic - 220 Broad Street #2/ 570-409-4744 - Huge variety of olive oils, balsamic vinegar, pasta, honey, and chocolate. New items are always arriving. The store is right next to where you park.

[Log Tavern Brewing Company](#) - 309 East Harford Street, Bldg. 2, Milford - Dedicated to high-quality craft beer brewed with pride in Milford, Pennsylvania. You can catch live music acts during your visit if you are lucky.

Clothes

[Jem Screen Printing & Embroidery](#) is at 315 Broad Street, 570-409-3900. They offer Custom embellished apparel at affordable prices, including Milford's Lakebum brand. You can add logos and designs in-store or online at the Design Studio.

Jewelry/Gifts

[Earthly Treasures](#) - 149 Sawkill Avenue / 570-851-0070

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- A metaphysical shop sells meaningful gifts – jewelry, oils, crystals, and statuary.

Golden Gifts Jewelry - 319 Broad Street / 570-296-5388, goldengiftsjewelry@gmail.com, A full-service jewelry store with a showroom featuring fine jewelry, engagement rings, silver, and costume fashion jewelry. Authorized retailer of Citizen, Seiko, and Pulsar watches. Repairs, custom pieces, and watch batteries are all done on-premises. Also, purchase gold, silver, platinum, and diamonds.

Websites of interest:

<https://milfordpa.us/about-milford/milford-borough-historic-places/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelalpiner/2018/01/05/small-town-travel-find-simplicity-and-surprise-in-milford-pa/#79c2a9d35c5f>

<https://www.greytowers.org>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/greytowers>