



FACT SHEET

The Site

- Hancock Shaker Village is an outdoor-history museum comprised of twenty authentic historic buildings, a working farm with barnyard animals and extensive gardens of herbs, flowers and vegetables.
- While HSV has more than 750 acres of farmland, meadow and woodland, all of its buildings, some dating from 1790, are located in a picturesque and walkable setting of roughly 10 acres.
- The Village is open to the public seasonally from mid-April through the end of October.
- Many buildings are staffed with interpreters who demonstrate Shaker trade crafts and who educate visitors about Shaker life, practices and beliefs.
- Significant buildings include the Round Stone Barn, a marvel of engineering and design, and the Brick Dwelling, a 6-story dormitory where Shakers dined and slept.

History

- The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing (a Protestant sect from Manchester, England, commonly referred to as the Shakers) established the Village at Hancock in 1783, calling it the City of Peace. It was the third of 19 Shaker

communities that stretched from Maine to Kentucky.

- Converts to the Shakers joined their land together to form the City of Peace (now Hancock Shaker Village), which was once more than 3,000 acres in size and included tracts from the present-day towns of Richmond, Hancock and Pittsfield.
- At the height of the community in the 1830s, approximately 300 Shakers lived, worked and worshipped at Hancock. The last Shakers left the Village in 1959. The Village re-opened as a museum in 1960. Today, there are only 3 Shakers and one novitiate, all of whom live at the Shaker community at Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

The Collections

- There are 22,000 objects (furniture, textiles, tools, gift drawings and other artifacts) in the museum collections at Hancock Shaker Village, making it the premier Shaker collection in the world.
- The core of the Hancock Shaker Village holdings is from the collections of Amy Bess Miller and Faith and Edward D. Andrews.
- The Village's collection of twenty-five gift drawings -- the most-significant collection of Shaker inspirational art in the world -- includes *Tree of Life* by Hannah Cohoon.
- The library at Hancock Shaker Village houses 10,000 primary and secondary materials.

Visitor Services

- Hancock Shaker Village is located on the outskirts of Pittsfield, MA (with land in Hancock, Richmond and Pittsfield) in Berkshire County, roughly 3 hours west of Boston and 3 hours north of New York City.
- **The Center for Shaker Studies**, just outside the historic Village, houses a ticket area, theatre, large meeting room (Community Hall), two exhibition galleries and modern restrooms.

- To accommodate non-English-speaking visitors, the orientation video is captioned.
- Maps are offered in French, German, Spanish and Japanese. The audio tour is available in French, German and Italian.
- The museum Store offers a variety of reproduction Shaker craft items, books, food, clothing and toys, as well as oval boxes made in the historic Village by trained craftspeople.
- The Village Harvest Café is open daily for lunch and snacks. It is located outside the historic Village and no entrance fee is required to dine there.
- Children 12 and under are admitted to Hancock Shaker Village free, courtesy of Berkshire Bank.
- The Village has 6 miles of hiking trails, including the interpreted mile-long Farm & Forest Trail, which is handicapped-accessible.

Honors and Recognition

- Accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) since 1980
- Rated three stars by the Michelin Guide
- Consistently chosen an “Editors Pick” by *Yankee* magazine’s *Travel Guide to New England*
- Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968

For more information, visit www.hancockshakervillage.org

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