

## Highfield Hall & Gardens

### 350 Word Description

Historic Highfield was founded in 1994 to save, acquire, and restore Highfield Hall, one of the first large summer estates to be developed on Cape Cod. Built in 1878, the home was the center of a 700 acre woodland estate owned by the Beebe family of Boston, great enthusiasts of art, music, theater, gardening, animals and the natural environment. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the estate buildings were abandoned and left to decay and, by 1994, the owners had applied for a demolition permit for Highfield Hall. Community volunteers formed Historic Highfield, Inc. and for years worked fervently to save the building. With impassioned pleas, and against all odds, Historic Highfield convinced Town Meeting members to take the property by eminent domain. The building was entrusted to Historic Highfield and five years of restoration, construction and intense fundraising ensued. In late 2006, the grand opening of Highfield Hall was celebrated, and its new life as a historic site and cultural center began.

In 2011, Historic Highfield began an effort to restore the gardens and landscape surrounding the mansion. The Sunken Garden, just across the street from the entrance circle, and the West Garden, to the rear of the building, have now been recreated and planted. Walkways have been added through two additional landscape features on the property to create the Beech Tree and Rhododendron Dell Paths. Many miles of walking trails, which meander through the surrounding 400 acre nature preserve, Beebe Woods, are also available for public enjoyment. In 2013, the name of the site was changed to Highfield Hall & Gardens to reflect the expansion of mission and programs to embrace the entire property.

The mission of Highfield Hall & Gardens is to preserve Cape Cod's preeminent historic estate by offering an engaging environment to experience the arts, explore nature, and appreciate history. Today the estate is bustling with activity including art exhibitions, a wide variety of programs and classes for all ages, music concerts, unique special events, community meetings and private celebrations.

Highfield Hall & Gardens relies on membership and philanthropy to support the grand community vision that is Highfield Hall. To become a member, sign-up for e-blasts, and see the full schedule of events and programs, visit Highfield Hall on the web at [highfieldhall.org](http://highfieldhall.org) and on Facebook.

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