

LET'S VISIT THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES

Campus Overview



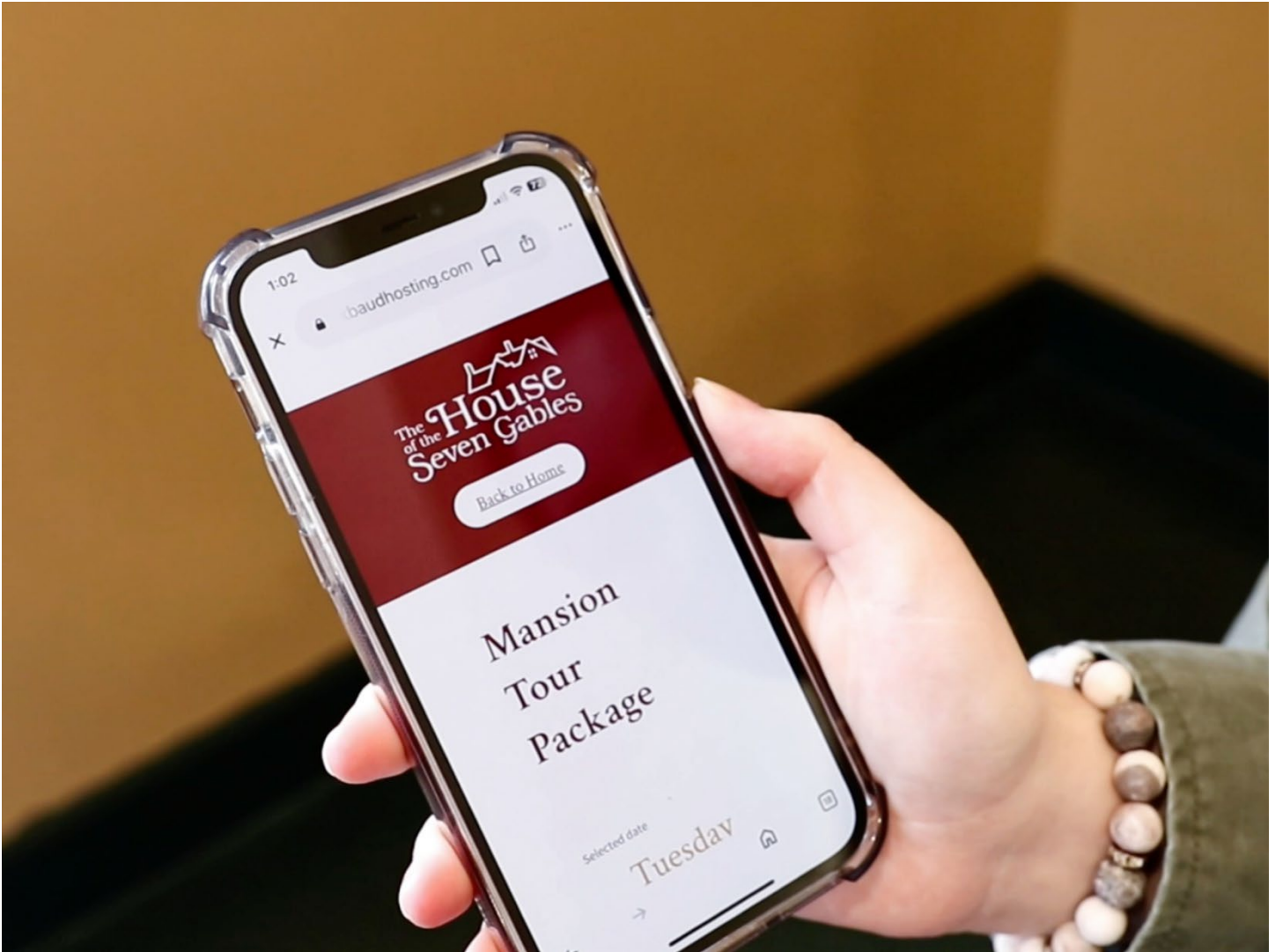
My Visit at a Glance



Today, I am visiting The House of the Seven Gables in Salem, Massachusetts. This historic house museum tells 350 years of stories about Salem's maritime history, Nathaniel Hawthorne's life, the inspiration of one of Hawthorne's famous novels, and settlement work with local immigrant communities.

My visit may be busy or quiet depending on the time of year. It is recommended that I purchase my tickets ahead of time at **7Gables.org/tickets** to ensure I get the day and time that I want.

Pre-Purchased Tickets



For my visit, there are two different ticket options:

Mansion Tour Package: *This ticket is a timed entry for a 45 minute guided tour of The House of the Seven Gables. My tour will cover nine rooms of the house, which may have low ceilings, narrow hallways, and two flights of stairs. If I need to sit down, there are stools in every room. There are also no bathrooms inside the mansion. Unless there is an emergency, re-entry is not guaranteed. I may want to use the bathroom in the Visitor Center before going on my tour.*

Grounds Pass: *If I choose not to go into the house, I can still access the gardens with a self-guided experience through the property outside. This ticket does not give me access inside The House of the Seven Gables, but I can go in some of the other houses and listen to an audio tour about the history of the site.*

Parking



I will know that I've arrived when I see the yellow Ye Old Pepper Company candy store on my left. On my right, there is a big entrance sign for The Gables' parking lot. If I am driving, there are plenty of parking spaces available in the off-season.

If I need a handicapped space, there are two spaces available next to the Visitor Center.

Entering the Visitor Center



When entering the Visitor Center, I will follow the brick path through the parking lot to the cranberry-red building. I will see a sign in front of the building with ticket options. There are no steps up into the building, but there are two sets of doors to enter the Visitor Center that are not automatic.

If I'm coming from the handicapped parking, I will follow the small brick path parallel to the parking spots to get into the Visitor Center.

Visitor Center First Impressions



When I walk into the Visitor Center, I see bright overhead lights. It might be noisy if there are lots of people inside. To my right is a TV screen explaining the ticket options. There are benches along the window to my left if I need to sit down.

To access the property, I will need to check in at the Admissions desk to my right. There may be a line ahead of me.

Checking in at Admissions



If I have already purchased my tickets, I will show the Admissions Associate the barcode in the email I received. I can print out the page with the barcodes, or I can load them on my phone. If I can't find my tickets, the Admissions Associate can look me up using my full name. Due to parking and checking in, I should arrive early.

If I have not purchased tickets yet, the Admissions Associate will explain the options, answer any questions, and help me pay.

Once I have my tickets, the Admissions Associate will give me a sticker with either my tour time, a G for Grounds Pass, or MS for the Museum Store. I must wear the sticker at all times, so the staff knows I checked in. They will also offer me a map of the site.

Bathrooms



When I pass the Admissions desk, the bathrooms are down the hall on my right. There are two gendered bathrooms on the left side of the hallway: first is the women's, second is the men's.

Inside the bathroom, the light can be very bright. In the women's bathroom, there are three stall on my left and one handicap stall straight ahead. Right in front of me is a baby changing station.

In the men's bathroom, there are two urinals on my left and one accessible stall straight ahead. On my right are the sinks.

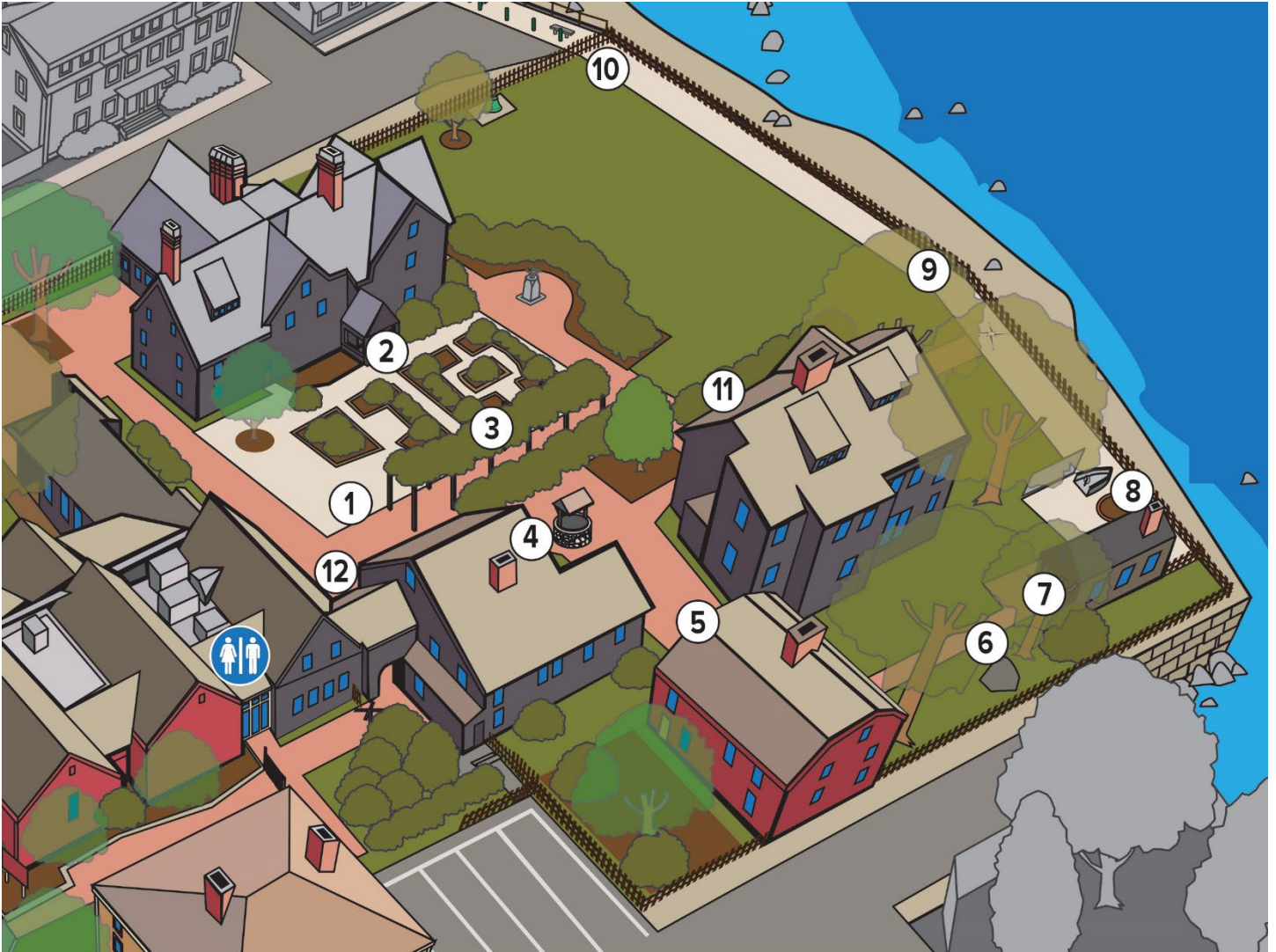
If I am taking a Mansion Tour today, I should use the bathroom before or after the tour.

Accessing the Audio Tour of the Grounds



As I leave the Admissions Desk, there will be a sign directly in the middle of the room with a QR code. This code will give me access to a 30-minute self-guided audio tour of the grounds. When I am ready to take this tour, I will need to scan the QR code with the photo app on my smartphone.

Audio Tour Map and Details



After clicking on the link, I will see the button that says, “Narrated Tour.” There are red buttons with numbers that take me to different areas of the campus with numbered plaques on them, as noted on the map above.

The Gables does not provide headphones for the audio tour, but I can play it out loud on my phone or bring my own headphones.

Entering the Gardens and Grounds



When I'm ready to explore the site, I will leave out the double doors at the back of the Visitor Center, directly opposite the entry doors. The House of the Seven Gables is the black mansion on my left. I can only enter this building with a Historical Interpreter (tour guide).

The Colonial Revival Gardens are straight ahead, with a wisteria arbor to the right. There are plenty of tables and chairs if I need to sit down.

If I am taking a Mansion Tour today, I can explore the grounds before or after depending on how much time I have. I should plan at least 30 minutes to explore the grounds.

I can find more information about the interior of the mansion by visiting 7Gables.org/accessibility

Exploring the Gardens and Grounds



To my right is the Museum Store in the Retire Beckett house. If I walk down the brick path between the store and the wisteria arbor, I will be able to see three more historic buildings. With my ticket, I can enter the red house (the Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace) and the small house by the water (the Counting House). The large black house by the water, Hooper Hathaway, is not open for visitation.

The grounds are wheelchair accessible. I will travel on brick pathways and gravel while I'm on the grounds.

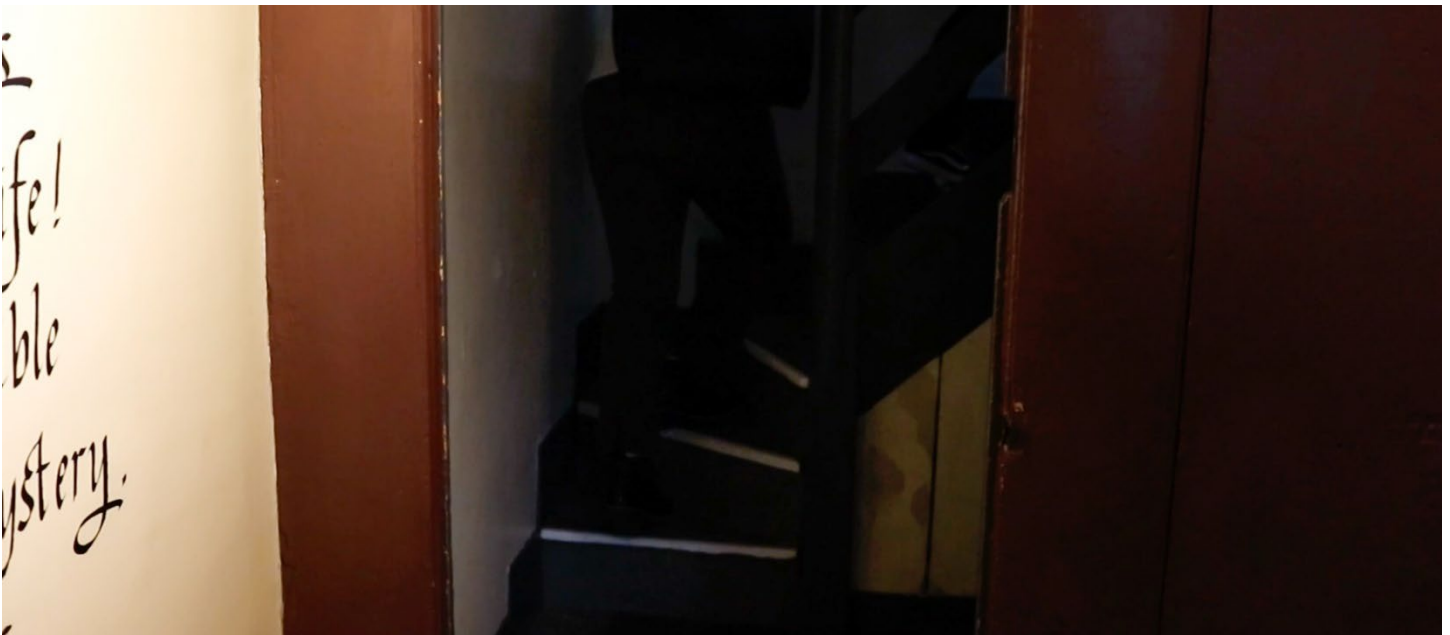
Hawthorne Birthplace



The Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace is the red house opposite The House of the Seven Gables. The Hawthorne Birthplace is self-guided, and I can take as much time inside as I need. It is usually relatively quiet, and there is always a Historical Interpreter in the house if I have any questions.

There are two steps to get into the house, and one large step out the back door. Currently, the Birthplace is not wheelchair accessible.

Hawthorne Birthplace – Interior



After entering the Birthplace, I will start with the room on my left. After the second room of the house, I have the option of climbing a staircase up to the second floor. There is a chair by the entrance if I need to sit down or wait for my group to finish exploring the house.

Hawthorne Birthplace – Second Floor



At the top of the stairs, there are two rooms to explore back-to-back. After these rooms, there is a narrow hallway where I can either continue straight or go down the stairs.

If I continue straight, there is one more room on the second floor to explore. After I am done looking around, I will head back into the hallway and down the stairs. The stairs are steep, but there is a railing.

Hawthorne Birthplace - Exiting



As I walk down the stairs, I need to be mindful that the front door may swing open.

At the bottom of the stairs, I can enter the room on my left. This is the final room of the house and where the Historical Interpreter will be waiting and ready to answer any questions.

I will exit out the back door. It has a large step down to the brick path outside.

Entering the Museum Store



As I exit the Birthplace, I will see the Retire Beckett house on my right. This house is where the Museum Store is located. There are two entrances to the store; the back entrance by the Birthplace is accessible for mobility devices, but the front entrance requires two steps up.

Inside the Museum Store



Depending on the time of year, the Museum Store may be busy. I can hear quiet music playing and the building smells of tea and soap. They have lots of books in the front room, and trinket and Gables-themed merchandise in the back room. I will pay for my items at the register up front. The Museum Store Associate will ask me if I want my items in a bag and if I want a receipt.

The Counting House and Kids' Cove



In the corner of the property, across from the Birthplace, is the Kids' Cove. The Kids' Cove includes the Counting House, a small, one-room building where family-friendly activities can be found, and the Sukey & Betsey, a small boat to play on. All ages are welcome to use the hands-on activities. Sometimes, the space can be loud and crowded with children.

There are two entrances into the Counting House, both requiring two steps up.

Quiet Areas



If I need to take a break during my visit, there are some great spots on the grounds that are relatively quiet. Areas with stars on the map see little foot traffic. Areas with a red X should be avoided, as they are where groups gather before and after their tours.

There are plenty of benches close to the Visitor Center and by the water. There is a wisteria arbor with tables and chairs to sit at. There is also a big lawn at the end of the property with seating by the water.

Exiting the Property



After I have completed my visit, I will return to the area right outside of the Visitor Center. I will see a sign that tells me which way to exit; past the archway to my left and through the turnstile, or back through the Visitor Center if I need a more accessible exit.

If I'm going under the archway, there is a whiteboard with other stickers like mine. I can leave my sticker here if I want. After the archway, there is a turnstile on my right to exit through and head straight to the parking lot.

We hope that you enjoy your visit!