

## **Grumblethorpe Historic Museum and Gardens**

**5267-69 Germantown Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19144**

Please Contact Jonathan Burton [JBurton@PhilaLandmarks.org](mailto:JBurton@PhilaLandmarks.org)

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in Grumblethorpe! Here are a few facts about site rental requirements and information about what makes us a special and very unique venue in Philadelphia.

### **A Little History**

Grumblethorpe is an historic house museum and gardens in the heart of “Germantown”, the original settlement village established by Pennsylvania founder, William Penn for German emigrants seeking religious freedom from the Rhine Valley. The summer home of German emigrant Johanne Wuster, soon to be known upon arrival in America, as John Wister.

John made his first trip across the sea to America at age 19 in 1727 at the request of his older brother Caspar. Within 13 years he became a very successful wine merchant, purchasing the land in Germantown in 1741. An avid gardener, John *first* built the gardens, then the Tenant Farm House in 1742, followed by “The Big House” in 1744. The home has only ever been owned and lived in by the Wister family. Of particular note, the most famous of John Wister’s center city tenants on record is Benjamin Franklin.

*For history lovers, small group tours may be arranged for your guests during your event for an additional discounted fee. Please ask, as we are more than happy to accommodate this request.*

We have what is believed to be the oldest flowering, fruiting Ginko tree in the country, over 250 years old. The name Grumblethorpe comes from a humorous, early 19<sup>th</sup> century English novel titled Thinks I to Myself, favored by Charles Wister Jr.

## **VENUE RENTAL**

- The site rental fee is \$2,000 per 8 hour rental period (this consists of a 2 hour set-up, 4 hour event, 2 hour break-down). If you think you will need more than 8 hours, there is an additional charge of \$250 per hour. Rental time needed can change with the size of each wedding party size. For example, an on-site wedding ceremony, sit down dinner reception of 80 guests with ample catering staff will find it easy to meet this time frame. A wedding party of 150 can require approximately 2 additional hours to accomplish the same set up, service, and break down. Each event is unique. You may ask Executive Director Jonathan Burton about what helps an event fit your time frame.
- There is a city noise ordinance requiring all amplified/loud noise to end by 10pm.
- Because of the fragile nature of our museum collections, we are an outdoor rental venue only.
- To protect the collections, there is no food or drink allowed in the museum, including bottled water. Certain rooms in the museum are available for limited use by the bride and groom to use for changing, as well as a separate classroom area in the Tenant house.

## **TENTING**

- Since Grumblethorpe is an outdoor venue, a tent MUST be reserved at the time of booking the venue. If the weather cooperates and you do not need a tent, you do not have to use it, but the tent company still keeps your tent reservation fee (33% of the cost of the tent). I would also highly recommend that you either get a lighting package from the tent company or somehow get a substantial amount of additional lighting. Below is the contact info for the exclusive tent provider, Ocean Tents. They are the only company allowed to tent in the garden at Grumblethorpe.

- Ocean Tents & Party Rentals 1647 Route 38 Mt Holly, NJ 08060 Phone: 609-914-0600 Email: [jr@oceantents.com](mailto:jr@oceantents.com)

## **CATERING**

- As we do not have an exclusive caterer at Grumblethorpe, you may choose one that suits you. The caterer must speak with director, Jonathan Burton to ensure certain facility usage policies are understood and liability insurance items are in order. Your caterer will be in charge of obtaining tables, chairs, linens, lighting, decorations, alcohol (if needed), ice, cups, plates, setting up/breaking down, trash cans, taking the trash with you when you leave, setting up and breaking down those tables and chairs, absolutely everything.
- Your caterer must have a liquor license in order to serve alcohol at the event.
- *Ocean Tents Co. can provide most of these items (ie. tables, chairs, linens, utensils etc.) and catering companies can usually handle the rest, so you don't have to lift a finger.*

## **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

- You are required to obtain event liability insurance. Coverage can be obtained by obtaining a rider to the client's homeowner's insurance policy.
- **Here is some info:**  
The licensee shall insure that the Licensee provides Lessor proof of personal liability insurance including host liquor liability (listing the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks as additional insured) in an amount of no less than \$1,000,000.00 covering the use of Grumblethorpe in the form of a Certificate of Insurance or a letter from Licensee's insurer advising of such coverage thirty (30) days before the event. or [www.wedsafe.com](http://www.wedsafe.com).  
*(Any questions should be directed to Director Jonathan Burton)*

## **PARKING**

- There is general street parking available. Peak parking hours on Saturdays generally fall between 10a-2p.
- There is also a parking lot 1 block south owned by Germantown Friends School & St. Luke's church. We used the lot for a Saturday event free of charge in October 2014. Capacity is approximately 40 + cars. Usage is at their discretion.
- There is an additional parking lot with approximately 25+ car capacity 1 block West of Germantown Ave. on Queen Lane, owned by the Trinity Lutheran Church. They charge \$100 rental fee for its use, payable to their organization.

## **ON SITE DELIVERIES**

- There is an 8 ft. width 9 ft. height limit that applies to delivering anything by truck through the main gates in between the historic buildings. For example, a multiple stall port-a-potty trailer suite may not fit, while placing singles is very easy.
- ***As site Managers, Kathryn and I are the main “gatekeepers”. Any and all arrangements for deliveries and or site visits must be arranged through us.***
- ***This means we need to know names, telephone #s dates/times of all deliveries well in advance.***
- ***In general, Ocean Tents delivers all rental equipment 1-2 days before an event. They will set up tents, lighting and dance floor upon delivery, however will only drop off items like tables, chairs, etc. unless you specifically hire them to provide set up. See catering staff service above.***
- ***All other nonperishable type deliveries can be coordinated to coincide with the delivery-set up timing of Ocean Tents.***

**Any questions, concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to helping create a wonderful event.**