

Suggested Locations for Your Special Event

The panoramic views, historic terraces, hydrangea walk, perennial gardens and sweeping lawns make gracious settings for your wedding and photographs. Chesterwood staff will work with you (and your wedding coordinator and vendors) to plan an easy to manage and memorable wedding.

RECEPTIONS AND DINNER PARTIES

Note: Capacity estimates give a low and a high number to reflect whether or not there is a dance floor.

Studio Field

This site boasts beautiful views of Monument Mountain, and on clear days Mount Everett can be seen of in the distance to the south. This area will accommodate tents up to 80'x150'. Capacity for this area is 450-560 people.

North Lawn of Barn Gallery

This lush, 80'x110' lawn area is nestled in an area bordered with birch and hemlock trees, and the French family Woodshed (1919), now a functions facility. French's standing *Abraham Lincoln*, a heroic size bronze for the Nebraska State Capitol, dominates the northeast corner of the lawn.

The area will accommodate a 60'x80' tent (east-west) or 40'x100' (north-south). Capacity: approximately 200-260 people. The adjacent Woodshed has a large covered wooden deck. The deck can be used as a dance floor, catering venue, or for band or entertainment functions.

Woodshed

The Woodshed is a rustic 18'x40' structure built in 1919 from Chestnut lumber cut on the estate. The renovated Woodshed provides both indoor and outdoor space (the deck is 12'x40'). The Woodshed has a movie screen, sound system, ceiling fans, air conditioning, heating and a kitchenette. Chesterwood will provide tables, chairs, lectern for an additional fee. The structure can be used for a small party and reception or, as a service facility when a function is being held in an adjacent tent. A marquee is frequently used to connect the Woodshed and tent. Capacity: Seats 50 to 60, auditorium style, 6 tables/48 people, or will accommodate 75 standing.

Residence Terrace and Lawn

The beautiful terrace is a graveled area, 17'x75' that stretches across the south face of French's elegant Italianate Residence. It is enclosed by a barberry hedge punctuated with boxwood trees in terra cotta jardinières resting on stone piers. Like the Studio Piazza, the terrace provides a beautiful vista of Monument Mountain and Mount Everett to the south. A 20'x60' frame tent can be erected on the terrace. Capacity: 60-100 people. Adjacent to the terrace on the south lawn a 40'x60' tent can be installed. Capacity: 120-160 people. The terrace and south lawn can be used together or separately, depending on number of guests or event functions.

WEDDING CEREMONIES and Cocktail Receptions

There are several lovely areas that are very fitting for wedding ceremonies at Chesterwood. While the following four locations are the most often used, the client is welcome to explore the use of other areas of the property that may suit their needs (although Chesterwood reserves the right to deny the use of an area you may choose).

Studio Garden Straight Walk

This Straight Walk, bordered by standard hydrangeas, peonies, and annuals in season, provides a natural procession aisle. The ceremony may be held beneath a wrought iron arch at the north end with the forest and nature trail as a backdrop. Florists may decorate the archway with fresh flowers. The archway can serve as a chuppah or a florist can install one for the ceremony.

Studio Fountain and Exedra

At the other end of the Straight Walk is the Studio. This area designed by Daniel Chester French, features a sculpted fountain bordered by an Italian marble bench and formal English long border perennial gardens. Florists may float flower petals in the fountain.

Studio Garden Pergola

This handsome landscape architectural feature was used by Daniel Chester French to grow grapes for use at the table or making wine. It also served as a bower for garden parties. Situated along the south edge of the garden, it affords a breathtaking view of historic Monument Mountain. Wedding ceremonies are performed in front of the pergola with guests seated on the fish pond lawn that stretches from the Studio wall garden. This area will accommodate a 30'x80' tent. Capacity: 125-150 people.

Residence Terrace and South Lawn

This area, designed by Daniel Chester French, features a manicured lawn, bordered with trees and shrubs, that gently slopes to a broad vista of Monument Mountain and Mount Everett to the south. This quintessential Berkshire view provides a majestic backdrop for a wedding ceremony.

VERY SPECIAL SITES

Studio Piazza - Wedding Ceremonies Only

This broad, 13'x50' porch extends along the full south side of the historic Chesterwood Studio and affords a breathtaking vista of historic Monument Mountain. The Piazza can be used for small, intimate parties, receptions and hors d'oeuvres. Maximum Capacity: 50 people standing or 25 people seated. Please inquire for availability.

Upper Studio Garden Lawn for Seated Dinner

Formerly a tennis court for Daniel Chester French's daughter, this lawn provides a flat, rectangular area surrounded by the English long border gardens and the straight walk boasting hydrangea trees and peonies. This area will accommodate tents of up to 60'x100". Capacity: 300-400 people. Due to the fragility of this historic landscape, this location is available for only one rental per season, June to September, weather permitting.

Studio Garden Fish Pond Lawn for Seated Dinner

This lawn measures 40'x80' and can accommodate a 30'x80' tent, capacity 125-150 people. Generally used for ceremonies, this area can be rented for sit down receptions as well. Use of this area for receptions is limited to 4 times per season, June to September, weather permitting.