

REYNOLDA

OVERVIEW

Reynolda is a rare gem among the nation's museums, botanical gardens, and historic sites nestled within 170 landscaped and wooded acres, part of Wake Forest University. It is an inviting destination for discovery and escape through art, learning, entertainment, and nature. Reynolda offers visitors a renowned collection of American art on view in the welcoming interiors of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds's 1917 historic home, lush formal gardens and wooded nature trails that beckon explorers, and carefully conserved farm buildings now filled with boutique shops, restaurants, and unique event spaces. For more than 100 years, Reynolda has delivered experiences that connect people in a setting that inspires. Take your time, there's a lot to discover at Reynolda.

BACKGROUNDER

Completed in 1917, Reynolda House Museum of American Art was originally the home of Katharine Smith and R.J. Reynolds, founder of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Promising a healthier lifestyle, the more than 34,000-square-foot historic home was the centerpiece of a 1,067-acre estate and model farm. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Reynolds family's 64-room historic house stands as one of the few well-preserved, surviving examples of the American Country House movement. Reynolda's Gardens and grounds were part of the original 1917 footprint for the Reynolda estate, which included a 16-acre, man-made lake, golf course, formal gardens, greenhouses, and woods. Although the landscape has changed over the years, many of its original structures and plans remain intact.

Katharine Smith Reynolds was the estate's guiding force, and in 1912, she commissioned noted Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen to design a residence and 40 support buildings. Keen's architecture expressed a blend of Arts and Crafts and Colonial Revival ideals. The long, low proportions of Reynolda House and its white stucco walls and green tile roof presented a welcoming façade. Interior details featured the era's finest craftsmen and designers, displaying wrought iron by Samuel Yellin, woodwork by Irving & Casson-A.H. Davenport, and metalwork by E.F. Caldwell & Co.

Music still fills the large two-story reception hall, flowing from the Aeolian organ's 2566 pipes. Organ historians consider the Reynolda House organ an exceptional piece of musical history because of its successful installation, excellent condition, and rarity. (Of the 899 organs built by the Aeolian Co. between 1894 and 1932, only three survive.) The organ plays daily at 2:45 p.m.

John Wanamaker's—Philadelphia's top department store, if not the country's leading department store in early 20th century America—collaborated with Keen on the original interior decoration. The historic revival furnishings show preferences for Italian Renaissance, English Tudor and Adam styles, and French eighteenth century. The original interiors survive in excellent condition, offering the public one of the most authentic examples of upper middle-class taste of the times.

In 1946, the Babcocks gave 300 acres of the Reynolda estate to Wake Forest College as the site for its relocation to Winston-Salem. In 1951, President Harry S. Truman visited Winston-Salem to break ground on Wake Forest's new campus. After Mary Reynolds Babcock's death in 1953, her husband, Charlie Babcock, donated the Gardens to Wake Forest University with specific instructions that the space be preserved as a "haven for contemplation and reflective outdoor leisure."

Two generations of the Reynolds family occupied the house until 1964, at which time the furnished house and 19 surrounding acres were incorporated as a nonprofit institution dedicated to the arts and education. In 1965, restoration efforts prepared it for part-time public visitation. Two years later, the Z. Smith Reynolds and the Mary Reynolds Babcock foundations provided funds for a collection of American art. In September 1967, Reynolda House Museum of American Art opened to the public on a daily schedule. Visitors could wander through this historic house, in which important American art was now on view.

"There is no shortage in this country of museums with respectable collections of American art. Only a handful, however, have collections as thoroughly first-rate as that of Reynolda House," said Myrna Smoot, Director, The American Federation of the Arts.

Reynolda House is "the finest concentration of American art in a public collection south of Washington," said John Wilmerding, Professor in American Art Emeritus, Princeton University.

These are but two in a long list of accolades for Reynolda House Museum of American Art since its founding in 1967. Fifty-four years later, there is still no debate about the singularity of Reynolda House. It is a young museum, but an uncompromisingly selective one, focusing only on important works of art of major significance in the history of American art. Its setting—a historic family estate—not only adds to its allure and distinction, but fulfills the founding idea to showcase the finest of American art in a fine American residence.

There were nine works in the collection on opening day, each significant examples of paintings by nine American artists: Albert Bierstadt, Joseph Blackburn, William Merritt Chase, Frederic Edwin Church, William Harnett, Childe Hassam, Martin J. Heade, Eastman Johnson, and Gilbert Stuart.

Thomas Hoving, then director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spoke at the opening, noting that, "People touring the house are going to be struck repeatedly by certain paintings. The names of artists, in some cases, are not going to mean much to them. The quality of the work is." His remarks conveyed the neglected state of American art at that time, and highlighted the unwavering dedication of Reynolda House to acquire the best. The foresight and wisdom of the selection committee would be confirmed as the stature of American art grew. Instrumental in guiding the Museum's collection was Barbara Babcock Millhouse, R.J. and Katharine's granddaughter, named as president of the Museum at the age of 26. She spearheaded the development of the collection then, and today remains a guiding force of Reynolda House Museum of American Art.

The highly-focused collection now numbers nearly 200 exceptional works of American art, dating from 1755 to the present. Beginning with a portrait by Jeremiah Theus, the South's finest Colonial artist, the collection continues through the dramatic landscapes of the Hudson River School to the

pioneers of modernism, Georgia O’Keeffe and Stuart Davis. The collection essentially provides a chronicle of the development of American art.

In 1977, Wake Forest University commissioned architect Edwin Boudin to develop a master plan for Reynolda Village, which led to the successful rehabilitation of a collection of abandoned farm buildings and cottages into a thriving commercial center, and won the Award for Excellence from the American Institute of Architects’ North Carolina Chapter.

In 1980, Reynolda House, Reynolda Gardens, Reynolda Village, and Reynolda Presbyterian Church—all part of the original Reynolda Estate—were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1993, Reynolda House established archives that preserve 18,000 documents related to the Reynolds family and employees that lived and worked on the estate. Now digitized so that approved researchers can access the historical information, the material has provided the underpinning for a publishing program.

The Mary and Charlie Babcock Wing of the Museum was opened in 2005, adding a 3,000 square foot gallery space for changing exhibitions, along with education studios, auditorium, collections storage, and orientation gallery. The Museum affiliated with Wake Forest University in 2002, and now works closely with the University to enhance its academic program using Museum collections through faculty collaborations and the Reynolda House Student Advocacy Council.

Reynolda marked its centennial in 2017 with a new book, *Reynolda: Her Muses, Her Stories*; the launch of a new, free app to explore the inside and outside of Reynolda called Reynolda Revealed; and a new brand that unifies the historic components of the estate. In 2020, forty-four mature weeping cherries were reintroduced to the areas surrounding the lower Formal Gardens. In the spacious area of the East Garden, an underplanting of hydrangeas, viburnum, and fragrant bulbs helped reimagine this space. Additionally, the cedar shingle roofs were replaced on the five teahouses separating the greenhouse gardens or lower Formal Gardens from the “Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable” Gardens.

From its inception as a public institution and center for reflective outdoor leisure, Reynolda has developed an ambitious program schedule and continues to offer myriad educational resources, attracting audiences interested in a variety of cultural and family learning opportunities and programs, such as art lectures, poetry readings, and concerts. Recent programs include innovative collaborations with other arts and cultural organizations in the Winston-Salem area, including the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Center for Design Innovation, and the National Black Theatre Festival.

View the complete history of the estate at reynolda.org/about/history-timeline.

REYNOLDA

TIMELINE

- 1850 Richard Joshua (R. J.) Reynolds born July 28, Patrick County, Virginia.
- 1874 Reynolds founds tobacco factory in Winston, North Carolina.
- 1880 Katharine Smith born November 17, in Mt. Airy, North Carolina.
- 1902 Katharine graduates from college and goes to work for Reynolds's tobacco company.
- 1905 Katharine marries R.J. Reynolds.
- 1906–11 Four children are born: Richard Joshua, Jr., 1906; Mary Katharine, 1908; Nancy Susan, 1910; and Zachary Smith, 1911.
- 1906 Katharine begins acquiring land for a country estate on the outskirts of Winston, eventually owning 1067 acres.
- 1912 Construction of the estate's model farm is complete, and construction of the formal gardens and farm community buildings begins. Katharine hires Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen to design the Reynolda House residence and buildings.
- 1913 The cities of Winston and Salem merge, now the largest and most industrialized city in the state, with an economy dominated by locally-developed textiles and tobacco manufacturing.
- 1912 With Katharine Reynolds as supervisor, the Reynolda House model farm begins operation, utilizing new methods of crop rotation, soil analysis, and animal husbandry.
- 1913 Reynolda's Greenhouse, designed by premier conservatory makers Lord & Burnham, is complete. The Greenhouse, with its central domed palm house, serves as a public entrance to the four acres of Formal Gardens.
- 1917 In December, after five years of construction, the house at the Reynolda estate is complete and the Reynolds family moves in.
- 1917 The Formal Gardens are redesigned when Thomas Sears adds his own special touches, suggesting different planting materials, altering the shape of the flower beds, and adding architectural elements softened with climbing roses and turquoise vines. It was Sears's plan that incorporated the four themed gardens—the Pink and White, the Blue and Yellow, and the two greenhouse rose gardens.
- 1917 The settlement known as Five Row is home to many of Reynolda's African American farmworkers and domestic staff. It encompasses 10 houses and a building that functioned jointly as a church and school. By 1917, with the completion of Reynolda, a strong community develops.
- 1918 R.J. dies on July 29.

- 1921 Katharine Reynolds marries J. Edward Johnston, headmaster of the estate's Reynolda School, on June 11.
- 1921 The "Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable Garden" is complete and highlights the better-behaved vegetables like lettuce and asparagus to be served in Reynolda's dining room. The garden reflects Thomas Sears's designs for fences, arches, pathways, and shelters, along with some plantings like peonies, climbing roses, and grapevines from the original garden.
- 1924 Three days after giving birth to J. Edward Johnston, Jr., Katharine dies on May 23, at age 44. Reynolda House is put in trust until children come of age.
- 1931–32 Dick and Smith Reynolds may have learned to fly at one of the two early airfields in Winston-Salem. Mary also takes flying lessons. The Reynolda lawn is used for many landings. At the age of 20 in 1931–32, Smith embarks on a 128-day solo trip from London to Hong Kong in a tiny Savoia Marchetti amphibian plane.
- 1932 On July 6, 1932, after a party at Lake Katharine, Smith Reynolds dies of a gunshot wound in the early hours of the morning. Post-mortem investigations render it impossible to tell whether his death was the cause of an accident, murder, or suicide. In 1936, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is incorporated to donate assets from his estate to educational and charitable organizations throughout North Carolina.
- 1934 Mary, elder daughter of Katharine and R. J., and her husband Charles H. Babcock, acquire Reynolda House Estate from heirs, to use for vacations and holidays. The Babcocks will later renovate the house and add a guesthouse, recreation facilities in the basement, pool, and new front entrance.
- 1946 The Babcocks donate 300–350 acres of estate to Wake Forest College to relocate campus from Wake Forest, North Carolina, joining the College's medical school, which moved to Winston-Salem 10 years earlier.
- 1948 Mary, Charles, and their four children settle full time at Reynolda House, relocating from their home in Greenwich, Connecticut.
- 1951 President Harry Truman delivers a keynote at the October 15 groundbreaking for the new campus of Wake Forest University. The site becomes known as the Reynolda Campus of Wake Forest University.
- 1953 Mary Reynolds Babcock dies at the age of 44.
- 1956 First classes are held on the new campus of Wake Forest.
- 1958 After Mary Reynolds Babcock's death, her husband, Charlie Babcock, donates the Gardens to Wake Forest University with specific instructions that the space be preserved as a "haven for contemplation and reflective outdoor leisure."
- 1964 Charles Babcock incorporates the house and its adjoining 19 acres as a nonprofit arts and education institution. His daughter, Barbara Babcock Lassiter (now Millhouse), granddaughter of Katharine and R. J., is named president. Barbara begins collecting art to create a museum.
- 1967 Reynolda House Museum of American Art opens in September with nine important works by Albert Bierstadt, Joseph Blackburn, William Merritt Chase, Frederic Edwin

Church, William Harnett, Childe Hassam, Martin Johnson Heade, Eastman Johnson, and Gilbert Stuart.

- 1972 The Museum receives its first accreditation from the American Association of Museums (now known as American Alliance of Museums).
- 1972 Paul McGill becomes the first director of Reynolda Gardens. In 1977, McGill is appointed the first manager of Reynolda Village and oversees the restoration of the Village buildings headed up by architect Ed Bouldin.
- 1977 Wake Forest University commissions architect Edwin Boudin to develop a master plan for Reynolda Village, which leads to the successful rehabilitation of a collection of abandoned farm buildings and cottages into a thriving commercial center, and won the Award for Excellence from the American Institute of Architects' North Carolina Chapter.
- 1980 Reynolda House, Reynolda Gardens, Reynolda Village, and Reynolda Presbyterian Church—all part of the original Reynolda Estate—are added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1980 Winston-Salem native Preston Stockton is appointed as new manager of Reynolda Gardens. For 37 years, Stockton oversees the maintenance and preservation of the 125 acres of Gardens property, including four acres of Formal Gardens, five greenhouses, a conservatory, woodlands, walking trails, and the Lake Katharine Wetland. In 1997, she oversees the restoration of the Gardens and Greenhouse that returns them to their original 1917 plantings.
- 1991 Reynolda House organizes its first traveling exhibition with 43 major paintings from its collection. The exhibition travels to seven venues around the United States.
- 1997 Under the direction of the Jaeger Company, Reynolda Gardens is restored to the appearance of Thomas Sears's design and plantings.
- 2002 Reynolda House formally becomes an affiliate of Wake Forest University.
- 2005 The Charlie and Mary Babcock Wing opens, adding more than 30,000 square feet to the Museum—including a 3,000 square foot exhibition gallery, education studios, and auditorium.
- 2006 Allison Perkins joins as executive director of the Museum. Reynolda House begins a program of changing exhibitions.
- 2013 The Museum makes its collections available online.
- 2015 Wake Forest University names Perkins associate provost for Reynolda House and Reynolda Gardens.
- 2016 IMLS awards Reynolda House a \$143,000 grant, the largest federal grant in museum history, to develop a new mobile tour for visitors set to debut in late spring 2018.
- 2017 A yearlong celebration of the estate's centennial and Museum's 50th anniversary kicks off in July with landmark exhibitions, special events, and a book on the Reynolda House Museum art collection.

- 2018 The National Endowment for the Humanities awards Reynolda House a \$430,000 grant to replace the iconic and character-defining roof, a project set to begin in 2020.
- 2018 The second century of Reynolda launches with a new brand, new mobile app, and a unified experience.
- 2018 After serving as curator of grounds for the Mariana Qubein Botanical Gardens at High Point University, Jon Roethling begins as director of Reynolda Gardens.
- 2020 Forty-four mature weeping cherries are reintroduced to the areas surrounding the lower Formal Gardens. In the spacious area of the East Garden, an underplanting of hydrangeas, viburnum, and fragrant bulbs help reimagine this space. Additionally, the cedar shingle roofs are replaced on the five teahouses separating the greenhouse gardens or lower Formal Gardens from the upper Formal Gardens.
- 2021 Reynolda launches a new comprehensive website, **reynolda.org**, that connects and celebrates the estate's three destinations: House, Gardens, and Village.
- 2021 In December, the restoration of Reynolda House's roof is complete. The project has since been awarded by Preservation North Carolina, the North Carolina Preservation Consortium, and the Ludowici Roof Tile Company.

REYNOLDA

BY THE NUMBERS

The Bungalow (residence)

- Reynolda House was designed as a bungalow (enclosed porches, shed dormers, horizontal massing) in the Colonial Revival style by Charles Barton Keen, a Philadelphia architect
- **1 of 3** – The Aeolian “home orchestra” organ has 2,566 pipes, 220 organ rolls, and is one of only three that are still playable and in their original locations. The others remain at the Frick Collection in NYC and the George Eastman Museum in Rochester.
- **5** – Reynolds family weddings held in reception hall
- **13** – bedrooms, all with sleeping porches
- **12** – household staff on average
- **46** – years that family members lived at Reynolda in residence or periodically, from 1917 to 1963
- **64** – rooms in the house
- **1917** – year that the house was completed and the family moved in
- **26,387** – original square footage
- **33,619** – expanded square footage in 1936 with pool, recreation areas, and guest house

Reynolda Estate

- **0** – plants of tobacco grown during the Reynolds era
- **1** – number of concrete-paved roads in North Carolina after Katharine Reynolds loaned the money to the State Highway Division to pave the section of Reynolda Road transecting her property in 1917
- **2.25** – miles of public trails on the estate
- **8** – breeds of farm animals in 1917. 51 Tamworth hogs; 2 herds of Jersey cattle; 350 Barred Rock and White Leghorn chickens; 216 Shropshire sheep and Percheron draft horses, mules, bronze turkeys, guinea fowl, and bees
- **15** – Support buildings in the Village, also designed by Reynolda House’s architect Charles Barton Keen
- **25** – original buildings in Reynolda Village that remain out of 27
- **27** – shops and restaurants now housed in Reynolda Village after its conversion to a retail center in the 1970s
- **107** – children enrolled in the upper grades of Reynolda School in 1921–22
- **178** – acres put on National Historic District in 1980 (Reynolda House, Reynolda Village, Reynolda Gardens, and Reynolda Presbyterian Church)
- **200** – maple trees that line Reynolda Road leading up to the estate’s entrance

- **350** – acres cultivated as farmland in 1917
- **650** – acres donated to Wake Forest University by Babcock family (years 1946–51)
- **1,067** – acreage in the Reynolda Estate at its largest

Reynolda Gardens

- **1** – historic Lord & Burnham Greenhouse completed in 1913, home to an extensive tropical collection that includes orchids, ferns, succulents, and primitive species
- **4** – acres of formal gardens
- **14** – acres of wetlands
- **16** – acres of meadow

Five Row

African American families who worked on the Reynolda Estate lived in a community called Five Row. The community had a two-room school that operated until the 1940s and served as a church on Sundays.

- **10** – houses in Five Row (2 rows of 5)
- **14** – African American families lived in Five Row, plus several unmarried employees. Note: at times families shared cottages and sometimes families lived in the large boarding house.
- **78** – people lived and worked at Five Row throughout the years of its existence between 1915 and 1960.

Reynolda House Museum of American Art

- **9** – paintings in the permanent collection when the Museum opened in 1967
- **19** – acres of landscaped grounds surround the Museum
- **197** – paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture and video art, dating from 1755 to present in current collection
- **5,000** – historic photographs in the Estate Archives
- **6,000** – objects in the historic house including furniture, costumes & decorative arts
- **31,619** – square feet added to the Museum in 2005 with the opening of the Mary and Charlie Babcock Wing (includes 3,000-square foot gallery, auditorium, education studios, and collections storage)
- **50,000** – average annual visitation to the Museum

REYNOLDA

ALLISON PERKINS

**Executive Director of Reynolda House;
Wake Forest University Associate Provost
for Reynolda House & Reynolda Gardens**

A spirited leader and gracious steward of art, Allison Perkins joined the staff of Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as executive director in 2006. She was named Wake Forest University's associate provost for Reynolda House and Reynolda Gardens in 2015. Reynolda is evolving as a unified destination for visitors of all ages and backgrounds to experience belonging through peaceful contemplation, play, work, and learning. Annually, more than 180,000 visitors from North Carolina and beyond visit the historic 1917 estate, which includes the highly regarded art museum, formal gardens and public grounds. Reynolda's affiliation with Wake Forest University has grown in several stages, and the historic property and school share a grounding in the humanities for the common good. Perkins considers herself an audience advocate and, in her role at Reynolda, she upholds the institution's mission to connect people with the beauty and complexity of the American story through the integration of art, nature, and history.

Perkins spent the first half of her career in art museum education. Prior to joining Reynolda, she was deputy director of education and interpretation at the Baltimore Museum of Art, moving there from her previous role as education director of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth. Perkins received a Bachelor of Arts in art history from Lake Forest College and completed graduate work in art history at the University of Chicago. She is a graduate of the Getty Leadership Institute, an executive training program for senior-level museum professionals.