

Milford Community House, original Pinchot home

## INTRODUCTION

Many people recognize the name of eminent conservationist Gifford Pinchot, who also served two terms as Pennsylvania’s governor and lived at the family home, Grey Towers, located just outside the borough. Grey Towers was built in 1886 by Gifford’s parents, James and Mary Pinchot, who were a major influence in his life and in this community.

Stepping further back in time, Gifford’s great-grandfather, Constantine Pinchot, his wife Maria, and 19-year-old son Cyrille, first established a Pinchot presence in Milford in 1819. Constantine brought his family from Breteuil, France, to Milford via New York City. He purchased 400 acres of prime farmland outside of the borough and a town lot on which he built a store and a house. Already populated with French émigrés, Milford was an excellent choice for Constantine and later generations of Pinchots, who not only established themselves as businessmen and leaders in the community, but left a legacy that is still felt today.

Please enjoy your walking tour as you learn about how, through the generosity of one family, a community was enriched.



Grey Towers, Old Owego Turnpike, Milford, PA

## GREY TOWERS TODAY

Grey Towers National Historic Site, ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot was built in 1886 by James Pinchot. The French chateausque mansion is considered by many to be the birthplace of the American Conservation Movement because it served as the inspiration for the introduction of scientific forestry in America. In 1905, Gifford Pinchot helped found and was named the first chief of the US Forest Service.

Today the US Forest Service and its many partners manage Grey Towers as a conservation education and leadership retreat, with public programs and tours that tell this family’s fascinating story and help carry forward the Pinchot family legacy.

For information about programs  
and visitor schedules:  
570.296.9630  
[greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us)  
[www.greytowers.org](http://www.greytowers.org) and [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt)

*This publication made possible with funding from the Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association and the Grey Towers Heritage Association.*

# THE PINCHOTS AND MILFORD

*How One Family Helped  
Shape a Community*

## A Walking Tour

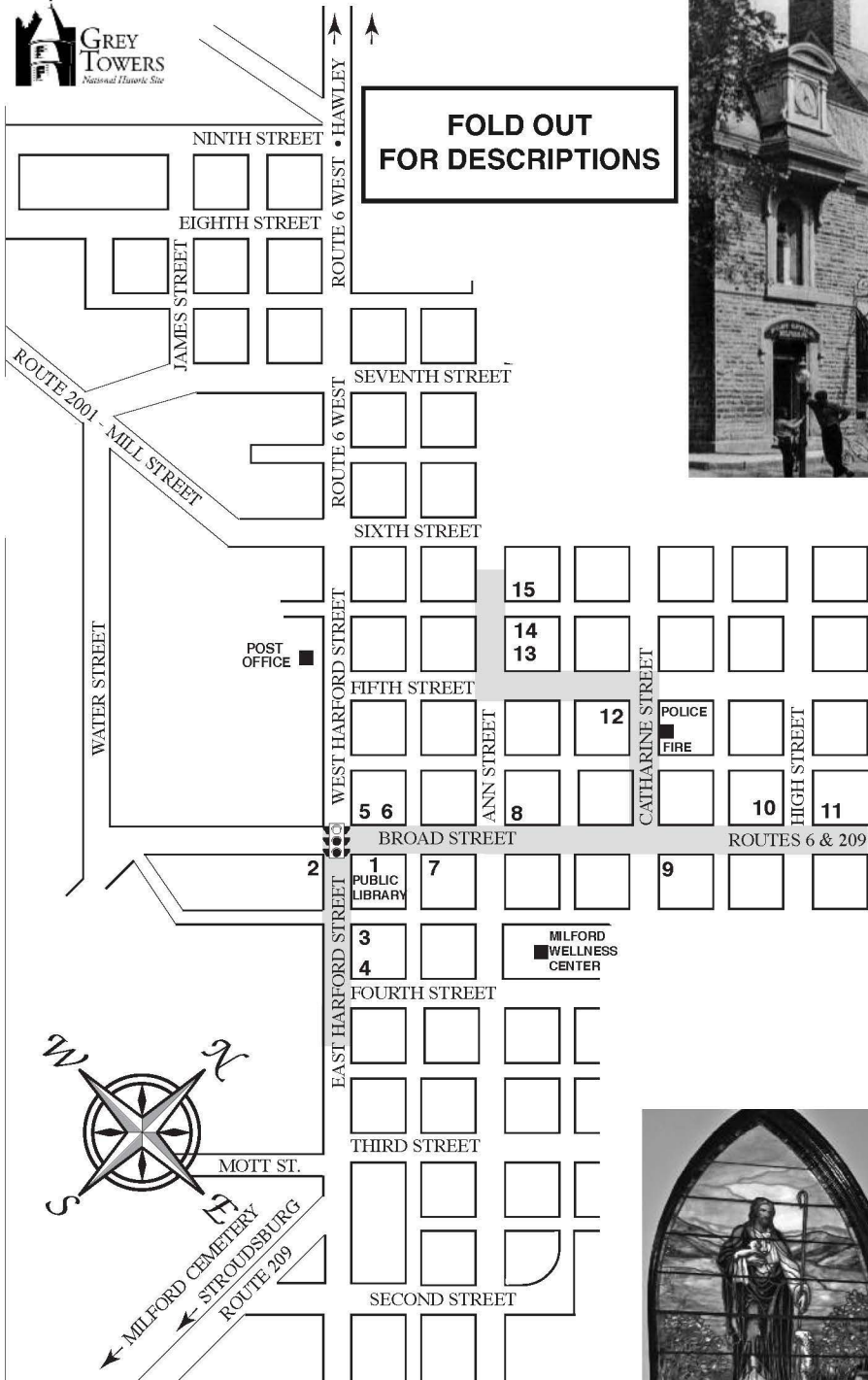


Grey Towers circa 1886

While there are many interesting and unique historic structures in Milford, PA, this walk focuses on the leadership, influence and contributions of one family: *The Pinchots*.

Thank you for joining us  
on this walk through time.





7



14

**Who's Who on Pinchot Tour**

**Cyrille and Eliza Pinchot**

**James and Mary Pinchot**

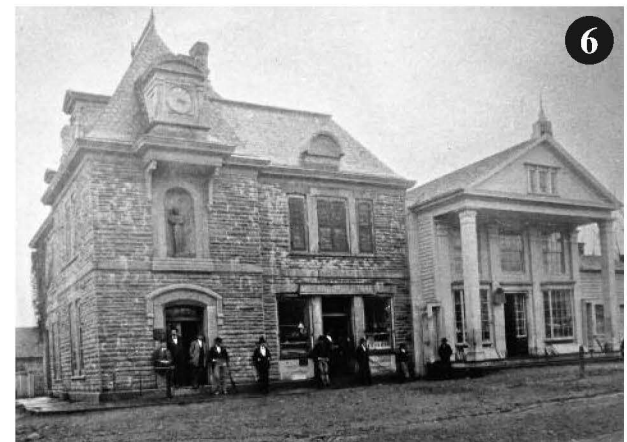
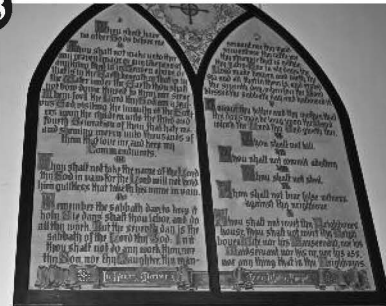
**Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot**



11



13



6

# The Pinchots And Milford: A Walking Tour

**START:** The lawn of the Milford Community House/Public Library.

**1 The Milford Community House/Public Library** — 201 Broad Street and East Harford Street. Built in 1824 by Cyrille Pinchot, Gifford Pinchot's grandfather. It served as the family home in Milford until James Pinchot (Gifford's father) built Grey Towers in 1886. The Episcopal church held services here from 1913-1915. This Greek Revival/Neo Classic structure, renovated in 1900, was donated to the community by the Pinchot family in 1924 and serves today as the public library.

**2 Dimmick Inn** – 101 East Harford Street. Mrs. Cyrille Pinchot (the former Eliza Cross) had built a structure, possibly part of her garden, on this site in 1828. After it was destroyed by fire, the current restaurant and hotel was built in 1856 by Samuel Dimmick.

**3 Gulick/Hoagland House** – 106 East Harford Street. This two-story wood frame structure, built in 1870, currently houses a real estate office and is built on land that was acquired by Mary Gulick from Cyrille Pinchot in 1844.

**4 Pinchot/Sum House** – 110 East Harford Street. Built in 1862 by Cyrille Pinchot, this Italianate designed home also reflects some Greek Revival characteristics, much like the Community House. An inventive carpenter added the egg-shaped forms decorating the pillars of the veranda, thus earning the home the name of *The Egg House*.

**5 Forest Hall (corner section)** – 206-16 Broad Street and West Harford Street. Built by the Pinchot family in 1863 and housing the former Milford Post Office, this corner building was designed by Calvert Vaux, the architect of the original façade of the Metropolitan Museum of in New York City. The Pinchots provided studio space on the second floor for noted Hudson River School painters, such as John Weir. A small frame wood building stood behind this section and served as a library, with books donated by the family. A second wood frame building stood to the right of this section and was the site of *The French Store*, the Pinchot's dry goods store. Both were destroyed by fire or removed.

**6 Forest Hall (extended section)** – 206-16 Broad Street. Built in 1904 by James Pinchot, this huge 2 1/2-story masonry building originally housed the classrooms, lecture hall and professors' offices for the Yale School of Forestry. Students would take classes here in the morning and do their field work in the woods that surrounded the Pinchot estate, Grey Towers. The Pinchot family endowed the Yale School of Forestry when they knew the nation would need professional foresters to carry out a new conservation concept introduced by Gifford Pinchot: forestry. The summer graduate school was held here in Milford for the first 26 years. The first five chiefs of the US Forest Service were either instructors or students in this building. Designed by Hunt & Hunt, successor firm of Richard Morris Hunt, who designed Grey Towers (and the base of the Statue of Liberty), the ground floor is constructed of bluestone. Note the massive chimneys at each end and the recently restored slate roof; the two-story round oriel window on the corner of the façade; the large "P" for Pinchot; and the stone carvings of Bernard Michaeux, French botanist, Bernard Palissy, French potter, craftsman and early proponent of natural history, and the Marquis de Lafayette.

**7 Normandy Cottage** – 219 Broad Street. Built by James Pinchot for his son, Amos, in 1903, it is one of the most unique structures in Milford. This Tudor Revival cottage is a mix of different textures: walls made of rubble stone with half timbering and stucco, bluestone and slate roof shingles cut from the same fish scale tile cuts as Grey Towers. Note the interesting round glass decorations on the front overhang. This home, along with the carriage house in the back alley, was part of the Pinchot family garden.

**8 Presbyterian Church** – Corner of Ann and Broad Streets. Built in 1874, the church began as an evangelistic outreach among logging families in the newly-settled town of Milford, holding its first formal worship service several years later. Cyrille Pinchot helped organize the church and he and his family attended services first held at the original Court House (court was not in session on Sundays) until the church was built. You can see the church bell tower from Grey Towers.

**9 Hotel Fauchere** – 401 Broad Street. Built in 1850 by Louis Fauchere, former chef of Delmonico's Restaurant in New York, the hotel was host to presidents, politicians, artists, actors, and many other prominent visitors, including the Pinchots and their guests who stayed here in the summer months until Grey Towers was built. Recently renovated, the hallways are adorned with Hudson River School paintings. (James Pinchot was a supporter of Hudson River School artists).

**10 Pike County Court House** – 412-14 Broad Street. The courthouse was built in 1874 and Edgar Pinchot, brother of James, was the county's first judge. He served without pay. Edgar was influential in the design and construction of the building. Note the French-influenced mansard-style roof and "widow's walk." Edgar's home was located on Ann Street (see #14).

**11 Pike County Jail** – 500-2 Broad Street. Built in 1814, the Pike County Jail originally served as Pike County's first courthouse where Judge Edgar Pinchot presided until the new courthouse was built in 1874. Presbyterian church services were held here until a church was built.

**12 Episcopal Church** – 321 Fifth Street. This stone-faced church was built in 1914 and attended by the Pinchot family. The first church was built in 1913 but burned shortly after. A stained glass window and a plaque of the Ten Commandments, in memory of James Pinchot, were donated by the family. Edgar Pinchot helped organize the church and was a warden, vestryman, and on the finance committee. The American Elm tree on the corner is a rare survivor of the Dutch Elm disease of the 1930's. It is the only one left in Milford.

**13 Ann Street Park** – Fifth and Ann Streets. This is the location of *Inwall*, the elegant brick home Edgar Pinchot, built in 1869. Note the stone foundation work along the fence and the original hitching posts along the street. Edgar donated the land to Milford for a public park. Edgar's home was stately both inside and out, with an extensive library and selections of his art collection, which included a painting by Sanford Gifford, noted Hudson River artist and for whom Gifford Pinchot was named.

**14 European Copper Beech Tree** – 215 West Ann Street. Sometimes called the "Elephant Tree" because of its characteristic large, dark gray trunk resembling an elephant leg, this was one of Gifford Pinchot's favorite trees. He planted nine on the Grey Towers estate. The leaves are rich bronze in the spring and fall, thus the "copper" in the name. It is rare to see these huge trees thriving in a small residential yard.

**15 Milford Bible Church** – Sixth and Ann Streets. Formerly the site of the Gifford Pinchot Grange Hall, this building was a major gathering place in the community. Cornelia Pinchot, Gifford's wife, made several political speeches here while Gifford was governor and when she ran for Congress as a Progressive Republican. The former building also served as a mortuary.