

# Self-Guided Grounds Tour



**Pearl S. Buck International**

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# Introduction

In 1934 Green Hills Farm was purchased by Pearl S. Buck, where she and her husband Richard Walsh would raise their family. Ms. Buck would continue her writing as well as create her namesake foundation Pearl S. Buck Foundation, now Pearl S. Buck International here. After her death, the land was given to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, where they continued Ms. Buck's work to serve children who were discriminated against due to the circumstances of their birth. In 1974 the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980 the property became a National Historic Landmark. The 67+ acre property is home to many beautiful gardens and sites seen and admired by thousands of people every year. By following this booklet, you can experience some of the beauty that these grounds have to offer and learn more about the property.

# Map Of Grounds



# Map Key

- 1 Welcome Center
- 2 Uplift Statue
- 3 Rain Garden
- 4 Cultural Center
- 5 Mother and Child Statue
- 6 Rainbow Garden
- 7 Milk house
- 8 Peony Garden
- 9 Pearl Buck House
- 10 Japanese Garden
- 11 Breeze Way Overlook
- 12 Courtyard
- 13 Greenhouses
- 14 Daylily Garden
- 15 Pearl S Buck Gravesite



# #1 Welcome Center



The Pearl S. Buck Welcome Center is the first stop on this tour. The center is home to the offices of Pearl S. Buck International and the Janet L. Mintzer Conference and Event Center which can be rented for meetings, parties, and weddings. The site was built in 1987 on what was the site of the Walsh family tennis courts.

The Welcome Center also has an exhibit gallery that houses Ms. Buck's Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes as well as other awards and proclamations that were presented to her over the course of her life. An introductory video gives more insight into the life of Pearl S. Buck as well as a timeline of significant events in her life. There is also a wonderful gift shop in the Welcome Center that is a great place to find unique gifts.



## #2 Uplift Statue

This statue was created by Selma Burke (1900-1995), a well-known African American sculptor who worked during the Harlem Renaissance. While traveling in the south with her biracial child Henriette, Ms. Buck saw firsthand the discrimination of the segregated south. Burke reached out to Ms. Buck, and they became family friends. In 1991 Burke dedicated this statue to Pearl Buck. Burke said "This statue was something I wanted to do for her. It is how I see her. She took those children and lifted them up to better things."



# #3 Rain Garden

The Rain Garden is a great example of Pearl S. Buck International's environmental awareness as this is a Best Management Practice (BMP). BMP are areas of land that are designated to mitigate the dangerous effects of storm-water runoff, which can be harmful to the environment. The Rain Garden is called a naturalized basin which is a BMP with biodiversity that can retain water and stop polluted water from entering streams or ponds.



## #4 Cultural Center

Constructed in 1827, the Cultural Center was the original barn on the property. It was then changed by the Walsh family to a recreational space for the community as well as a garage for Ms. Buck's vehicles. The recreation space had a basketball court and a stage and was also used for dances. Many people in the community have memories of knocking on Ms. Buck's door to ask for the keys to the barn so they could play a game of basketball or roller skate. After Ms. Buck's death, the space changed again into what it is today, which is an event center and meeting space for Pearl S Buck International and can be rented for meetings or events. The basketball court is still in existence under the carpeting in the cultural center.



# #5 Mother and Child

Created in 1990 by artist Madeline A. Smith, the "Mother and Child" statue depicts Pearl S. Buck with a small child holding a butterfly. Smith met Ms. Buck and admired her work, so she created this statue as a gift from the Byers Foundation. Smith used one of Pearl Buck's shoes for scale to make this statue, and the stone they stand on was quarried on Green Hills Farm.



# #6 Rainbow Garden

The Rainbow Garden was created by Pearl S. Buck's second daughter, Janice Walsh. In the garden, a sign reads, "The variety of flowers and plants serve to remind us of the beauty of differences and the potential of all children to blossom." (Janice Walsh) In the garden, there are a variety of different flowers which create a rainbow with their many colors. This a great place to reflect on Janice Walsh's words.



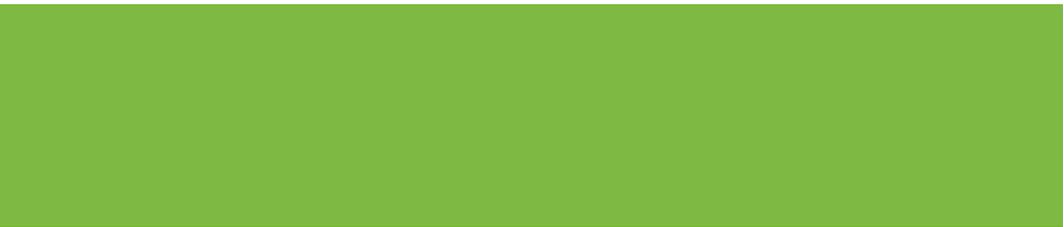
## #7 Milk House

The Milk House is also original to the property when it was purchased by Pearl S. Buck. It was used as a playhouse for Ms. Buck's children. Janice Walsh has said that she remembers having a hot plate inside the Milk House where she would make jam.



# #8 Peony Garden

The Peony Garden is made up of the Pearl S. Buck peony, which was named after her in 2015. Peonies bloom in May and early June. The flower was named after her because of her 1948 book Peony. The story takes place in the 1860s and follows Peony, who is a Kaifeng Jew and bondmaid. She falls in love with her master. The book introduces the reader to the Jewish community in China and a very prominent Jewish family the Ezras. The garden was made in honor of Janice Walsh's 90th birthday.



# #9 Pearl Buck House

The Pearl S. Buck House was a smaller stone house when it was purchased by Pearl S. Buck. When Pearl S. Buck and her husband, Richard Walsh, moved into the house, they renovated it and built the office wing which connects to the original house. The house appears now like it did when Pearl Buck lived there, and house tours are given by Pearl S. Buck International, which go in-depth about Pearl Buck's life and the issues she was passionate about. Tour tickets can be purchased in the Welcome Center.



# #10 Japanese Garden

The Japanese Water Garden was designed by Pearl S. Buck because of her admiration for Japan. She created the garden because she was "forever grateful for the beauty of Japan". Pearl S. Buck spent eighteen months in Japan after escaping the Nanking Incident. During this turbulent time in Chinese history, many westerners were murdered. The Buck family was hidden by a Chinese friend and was able to escape and safely flee China to Japan.

There are many common Japanese plants like the Japanese split-leaf maple, lotus, and azaleas in the garden.



# #11 Breezeway

The breezeway was constructed as an addition to the house. Pearl S. Buck wanted to have the walkway to her office covered. Ms. Buck fondly remembered the courtyard she had growing up in China and chose to have the courtyard be a Chinese-style design when creating the breezeway. At one point, the breezeway overlooked a pool and the outline is still visible today. The view of the valley from the breezeway was a favorite of Ms. Buck's and reminded her of China.



# #12 Courtyard

Constructed in a Chinese-style design, the courtyard connects the two buildings of the Pearl S. Buck house and can best be described by Pearl Buck herself. "The doors open on the courtyard, which in the summer is sort of an extra living room. It was grass once, but the children muddied it, especially in the springtime, so we put in stone. There is a fountain there... This courtyard is a lovely place in the summertime."



# #13 Greenhouses

Pearl Buck enjoyed gardening and loved decorating her home with many flowers. One of her favorites was camellias, which she often planted in China. In the greenhouses of Pearl Buck, camellias that she planted are still growing and blooming. Ms. Buck talked about greenhouses in her book *My Several Worlds* "The greenhouses are my avocation, and when a story halts and its people refuse to speak, an hour's work among the plants will often melt the most stubborn material into something alive and responsive."



# #14 Daylily Garden

This is one of many beautiful gardens, with many flowers and other plant life. This spot is a favorite of the deer because they often eat the flowers planted here. One of Ms. Buck's favorite flowers was yellow roses which were planted in the daylily garden, but are no longer planted due to the deer eating them.



# #15 Gravesites

Pearl S. Buck died on March 6, 1973. She is buried on the property as per her wishes. Her tombstone is made from Vermont Granite, and the etching on the stone is her chop or signature in Chinese. Pearl Buck's daughter Janice Walsh and an anonymous little girl are also buried at the gravesite. The site has bamboo native to China as well as other beautiful flowers and plants to honor Pearl Buck.



# Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to visit the Pearl S. Buck House and grounds. We appreciate your support and we hope you enjoyed your visit.

If you are interested in learning more about Pearl S. Buck's life or the causes she was passionate about during her lifetime, consider joining us for the Pearl S. Buck: Life and Legacy tour or Pearl S. Buck: Taking Action tour. For more information about tours please visit <https://pearlsbuck.org/visit-the-pearl-s-buck-house/plan-your-visit/>.

To continue Ms. Buck's legacy consider sponsoring a child in need. Visit <https://pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/sponsor-a-child/> for more details.

Funding a project will also help underserved communities in Asia. Visit <https://pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/fund-a-project/> for more details.

Need a gift for the person who has everything. Consider purchasing an item from our Gift Catalog and give a gift that will help a child in need. Visit <https://pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/gift-catalog/>.

The Pearl S. Buck House is the perfect backdrop for your special event.g gardens and manicured grounds. Multiple indoor and outdoor rental spaces are available to make your event, party, class, or workshop a memorable one. For more information visit <https://pearlsbuck.org/events-weddings/>.

For general information about Pearl S. Buck International please visit [www.pearlsbuck.org](http://www.pearlsbuck.org).



# Pearl S. Buck International

provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, build better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark Home.



**Pearl S. Buck International**  
BRIDGING CULTURES | CHANGING LIVES

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