



## HISTORY ONGOING

Visiting Shirley Place, one can experience what life was like in rural Roxbury in the early nineteenth century. The orchard of Heritage fruit trees and flowers of yesteryear greet visitors. Experience the grandeur of the French Empire decorative style. The house's history is the history of our country.



PHOTO W W OWENS © 2008



## EVENT DESTINATION

Shirley Place is available to rent for meetings, family gatherings, lectures, concerts, weddings and other events. Please see our website for details.



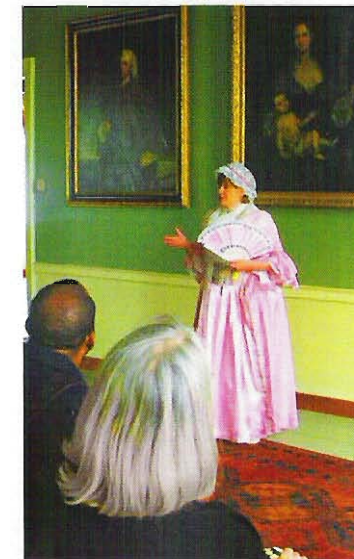
## ARCHITECTURAL JEWEL



Whether the criterion is age, beauty, or architectural importance, the Shirley Eustis house is one of the most venerable mansions of North America. It was built in 1747 by William Shirley, Royal Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, in the Georgian "villa" style of English country houses of the day. Its gracious interior featured a majestic two-story Great Hall. The next seventy years brought many Federal-style changes to the mansion, including the "floating staircase" seen here. Today the house presents a blend of these two architectural traditions. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## EDUCATIONAL TREASURE

Through lectures, exhibits, events, the website and a video tour, the Shirley-Eustis House offers an opportunity to learn about the architecture, decorative arts, history, and horticulture of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and our nation.



## THE SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE TIMELINE

### *Residents of the House*

1747 - 1775

1775 - 1798

1798 - 1819

1819 - 1865

1865 - 1911



Royal Governor William Shirley (1694-1771), appointed by King George II of England in 1741, built a grand Georgian style country home on 33 acres in

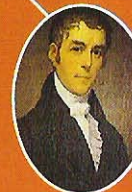
Roxbury, naming it "Shirley Place". The house passed to his son-in-law, Eliakim Hutchinson, who was killed by the Sons of Liberty. His widow fled to England with other Loyalists, ending almost thirty years' association with the Shirley family.

Shirley Place was little occupied during the next 6 years; and though it lay on the front lines during the Siege of Boston it escaped major damage. After 1783, there followed a series of owners, including a French couple, refugees from the Haitian Slave Revolt. Jean-Baptiste César du Buc had served Louis XVI. He disappeared from Boston after the French king was guillotined in Paris.



Astrea, which sailed returned to Boston the next year laden with China goods. With his fortune he purchased "Shirley Place" in 1798. Magee lived in the house until his death 1801; his wife Margaret Elliott Magee remained here until 1819.

James Magee was a "convivial, noble-hearted" Irish-born seaman who commanded a privateer during the Revolution. He then struck it rich as captain the ship to Canton in 1789 and

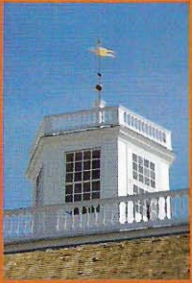


In 1819, William Eustis (1753-1825), a Revolutionary War surgeon turned politician, purchased "Shirley Place" with his wife Caroline Langdon Eustis. Serving two terms in Congress, he was elected Governor of Massachusetts. In 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette visited his friend, Governor Eustis, in Roxbury. His widow lived in the house until her death in 1865.

The Eustis belongings were auctioned and the estate divided into house lots. The house was moved about 30 feet to make way for Shirley Street. By 1900 the proud old mansion was a rooming house, home to many families. In 1911, preservation pioneer William Sumner Appleton and other Bostonians paid \$8000 for the house and its remaining one-third-acre plot and established the Shirley-Eustis House Association.



## PRESERVATION *1911 to present - Shirley Eustis House Association*



Since 1911, through wars and depression, the Shirley-Eustis House Association has stewarded the preservation and restoration of this important building.

Early efforts were stalled during World War I, and in 1919 the house was condemned by the City of Boston. Repairs were immediately made to the

exterior steps and the foundation, under the guidance of Lillie B. Titus, a local preservationist who also rescued the Fairbanks House in Dedham (the nation's oldest frame house).

The house languished through the 1930 Depression, but in 1940, the garden front, Palladian doorway, library, and bedchamber were restored. World War II stalled further work. Finally, in 1970, the Association began to restore the house exterior.



The next decade saw the restoration of the principal interior rooms. In 2001, the 1806 Ingersoll-Gardner Coach House was moved to Shirley Place from Green Hill in Brookline, summer home of Isabella Stewart Gardner.

## SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE

**HOURS** The house is open to the public for tours from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Weekends only from Labor Day through Columbus Day. Appointments can be made year-round. Adults: \$5, Students: \$4. Group rates are available.

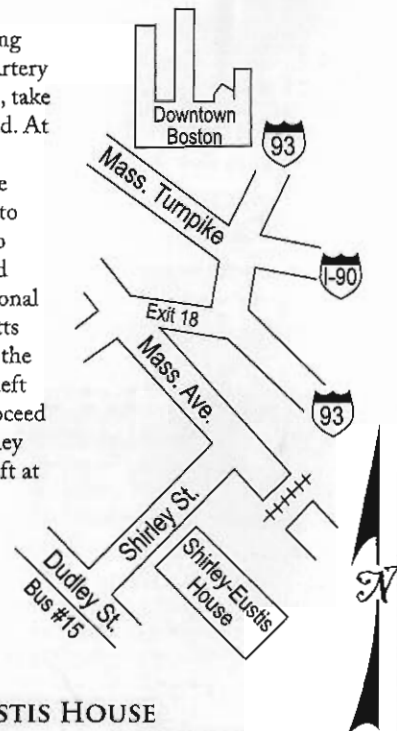
### DIRECTIONS

**From the North:** Drive south through Boston on the Central Artery (Interstate 93/Route 3); take Exit 18, Mass. Ave./Roxbury. Turn left at the stoplight at Mass. Ave. and proceed one-half mile to Shirley Street on the right, just before the railroad overpass. Turn onto Shirley Street and proceed four blocks. Shirley Place will be on your left at the top of the hill. You may park on Shirley Street.

**From the South:** Driving north on the Central Artery (Interstate 93/Route 3), take Exit 15, Columbia Road. At bottom of ramp follow directions around to the right and round rotary to reverse direction and go under highway. At third traffic light, take a diagonal right onto Massachusetts Avenue. Directly after the railroad overpass, turn left onto Shirley Street. Proceed about four blocks. Shirley Place will be on your left at the top of the hill.

**From the West:** Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to the last (Downtown Boston) exit. Take Route 3/Interstate 93 South, then follow directions above.

**By Public Transportation:** Take the MBTA Orange Line to Ruggles Station, then take Bus #15 to Dudley Square and Shirley Street.



### THE SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE

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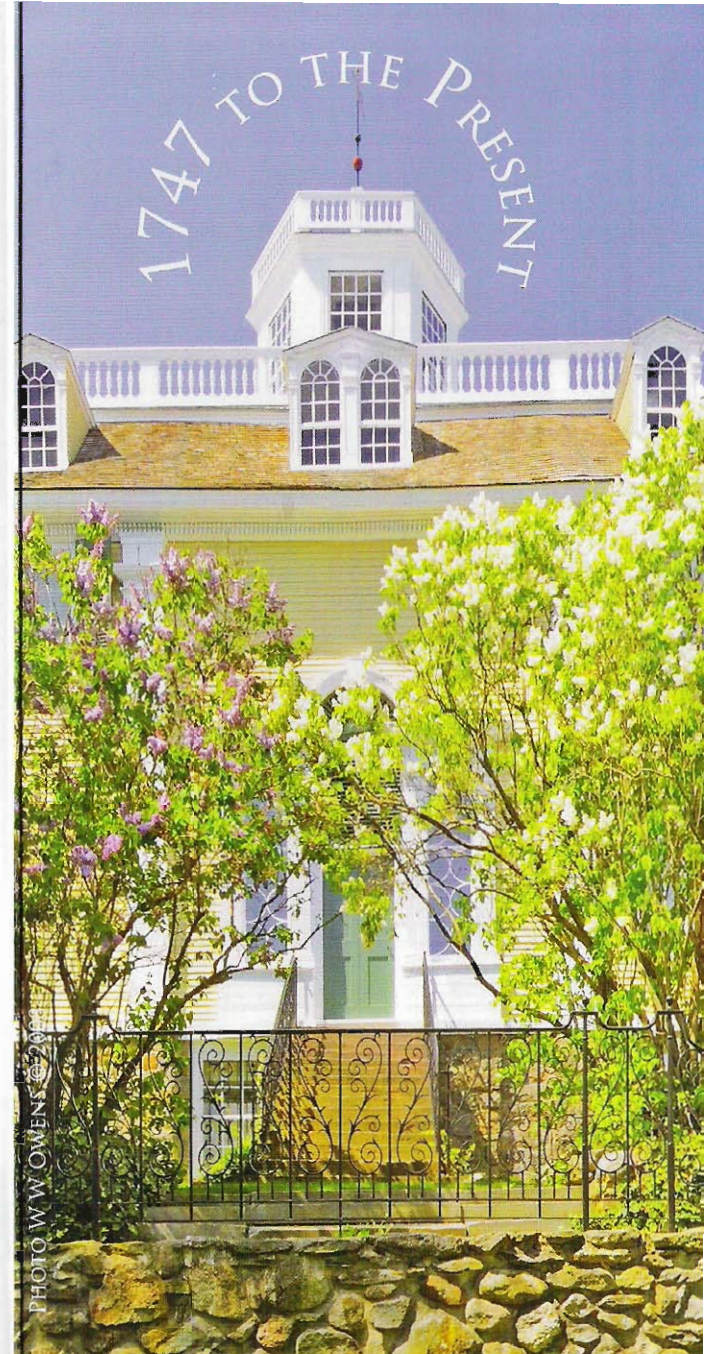


PHOTO: W. OWENS ©2008

THE  
**SHIRLEY-EUSTIS HOUSE**  
*A national historic landmark*