

Ventfort Hall Reclaims Historic Gardener's Cottage in Landmark Acquisition



Lenox, MA — July 29, 2025 — Ventfort Hall Gilded Age Mansion and Museum is thrilled to announce the historic acquisition of the original Gardener's Cottage, known as the *Huss House*, once the residence of Gilded Age landscape architect John Huss. For the first time since the 1950s, the property is returning to the Ventfort Hall estate, restoring a vital piece of its original legacy.

In June, Ventfort Hall was granted the right of first refusal for the off-market sale of the cottage, located on Walker Street just a short walk from the main mansion. The Board of Directors and staff acted swiftly and decisively to secure the property, with the official signing taking place on **July 29, 2025**.

“This is more than a property acquisition—it’s the return of a lost chapter of our estate’s history,” said **Wendy Healey**, Executive Director of Ventfort Hall. “Reuniting the Huss House with the main estate is a powerful moment for all of us who cherish this place and its stories. It feels nothing short of miraculous.”

Ventfort Hall has developed a multi-phase plan for the restoration, maintenance, and reintegration of the Huss House into its operations. The vision includes transforming the property into a short-term vacation rental, allowing it to generate revenue for its own preservation while offering visitors an immersive, historically resonant experience.

“The Huss House adds a new dimension to our mission to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the Gilded Age,” said Healey. “We’re incredibly grateful for the board’s leadership and the passion of our supporters—without whom this wouldn’t be possible.”

This acquisition marks yet another stride in Ventfort Hall’s growing legacy as a cultural and architectural landmark in the Berkshires. The organization invites community members and supporters to learn more and participate in shaping the future of this exciting new chapter.

About Ventfort Hall

Ventfort Hall Gilded Age Mansion and Museum is a Jacobean Revival-style mansion built in 1893 for Sarah Morgan, sister of financier J.P. Morgan. The restored mansion serves as a museum and cultural center dedicated to the interpretation of the Gilded Age. Located in Lenox, MA, Ventfort Hall offers year-round tours, exhibitions, events, and educational programming.