


Celebrate the First Inhabitants of Our Land

Fruitlands Native American Gallery



According to folklore, Clara Endicott Sears' interest in Native Americans began when a plow kicked up arrowheads in the orchard near her home, the Pergolas. From then on, her quest honoring the **spiritual presence and cultural history** of the first Americans became an impassioned pursuit.

Sears enlisted the help of noted museum and Native American experts to assemble a small, but significant **collection of artifacts** from the plains, northwest coastal, arctic and southwest cultural areas. Opened in 1929, Fruitlands second gallery was created from salvaged structures, including a one-room schoolhouse, an old barn and bricks from the original Lancaster, Massachusetts, town hall.

Today, our gallery continues Sears' vision with hands-on activities that convey authentic Native American voices and experiences, offering a unique glimpse into the rich traditions of the past and present.

IN TOUCH WITH THE PAST

The Native American gallery displays the *One Thousand Generations* exhibit that explores the life of native New England peoples. *Objects and Meaning* is a multimedia exhibit that examines artifacts through the eyes of a collector, anthropologist and native peoples.



Recreating a Kowawaund, illustrates our project in which a dugout canoe was constructed using only stone tools. Visitors are also encouraged to explore our recreated wigwam and the two statues flanking the gallery entrance: *Pumunangwet*, he who shoots stars, and *Wo Peen*, the dreamer.

"I did not want to make it wholly a museum of lifeless stones that appeal only to the archeologist. I wanted to bring into this building the spirit of the Indians, to give visitors some idea of their industries and of their love of the beautiful in art and nature."

– Clara Endicott Sears, 1941

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