



## A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

In 1931, legendary dancer/choreographer Ted Shawn purchased the Carter family farm as a retreat for himself and his dancers and so began the story of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. In 2003, Jacob's Pillow was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States government, the first and only dance site to receive this honor. On this tour you will learn about the Pillow's past and present, and its role in the cultural history of America.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Jacob's Pillow is committed to providing an inclusive environment that cultivates the celebration of the art of dance and its positive impact on communities. We are dedicated to fostering a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for everyone on our beautiful campus. You, as patrons and visitors of Jacob's Pillow, are expected to contribute to our mutually respectful and welcoming community, supporting the world of dance and its citizens for generations to come.



## A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Jacob's Pillow was founded in 1933 by dance pioneer Ted Shawn and is home to America's longest-running international dance festival. The Pillow also encompasses The School at Jacob's Pillow, one of the most prestigious professional dance training centers in the U.S.; the Pillow Lab, a residency program that supports new choreography; growing Community Engagement programs that serve local school children, artists, and community members alike; rare and extensive dance Archives, open to the public and available online at [archives.jacobspillow.org](http://archives.jacobspillow.org), which chronicle more than a century of dance through photographs, performance videos, costumes, and more, with curated content available at [danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org](http://danceinteractive.jacobspillow.org); and a Fellows Program and an Internship Program that provide professional advancement and training opportunities.

Cover photo, The Pillow Campus; photo Christopher Duggan.

### THE PILLOW ROCK

In Genesis 28, Jacob lays down his head on a stone and dreams of angels ascending a ladder into heaven. Biblically-minded 18th century settlers riding up the switchback stagecoach road—now Route 20—dubbed the trail Jacob’s Ladder. When the Carter family settled this property in the 1790s, finding this pillow-shaped boulder, they extended the allusion by naming their homestead Jacob’s Pillow. In 1972, Ted Shawn’s ashes were placed here, and in 2001, a memorial to soloist Barton Mumaw was added. It is a tradition for visiting artists to have their photos taken atop the Pillow Rock.

### HUNTER HOUSE

Long before Jacob’s Pillow became a renowned international dance center, its history began with this white farmhouse built in 1790 by the Carter family. In 1931, Ted Shawn bought the property to establish a retreat and, beginning in 1933, a home for his company of Men Dancers. Shawn is considered one of the great pioneers of dance and his revolutionary all-male dance company broke cultural boundaries. This building once served as a residence for Ted Shawn and his staff, and now houses offices year-round.

### STONE DINING ROOM

The Men Dancers built this rustic structure in 1937 as a surprise gift for Ted Shawn while he was on an out-of-town teaching trip. When his returning car reached the top of the drive, generator-rigged floodlights illuminated the finished building. This is now a private area where artists, dancers, interns, and staff dine together.

### HARRIET FREED TEA GARDEN

The first Pillow performances were known as “Tea Lectures” because the Men Dancers served tea on this deck to Pillow audiences before performances, accompanied by commentary from Ted Shawn. In the 1940s, fitness expert Joseph Pilates taught his signature technique here. Today visitors enjoy the beautiful gardens, designed by Berkshire-based horticulturist Valerie Locher.

### BAKALAR STUDIO

One of Ted Shawn’s first tasks in 1931 was to convert this 1790 barn structure into a dance studio. All Pillow performances were held here for the first nine Festivals. If the studio is not in use, take a look at the historic photos and programs lining the walls, commemorating dance pioneers who performed here. If dancers are rehearsing with the doors open, you are welcome to observe from the garden or deck.

### AVNET HOUSE

The portion of this building nearest the Stone Dining Room was one of the individual cabins built by the Men Dancers as their living quarters in the 1930s. This was an unusual twin cabin, designed and built by twin brothers Frank and John Delmar. The front and back sections of the building were originally mirror images of each other. Avnet House has since been restructured into administrative offices.

### TED SHAWN THEATRE

Built in 1942, this 620-seat theatre was the first in North America constructed specifically for dance. Designed by Joseph Franz (who also planned Tanglewood’s Koussevitzky Music Shed), it was constructed of hand-hewn native pine to comply with wartime restrictions as well as for its aesthetic beauty. The weathervane atop the roof depicts Barton Mumaw, Ted Shawn’s lead dancer.

### THE GREAT LAWN

Until 1986, this was not a lawn at all—it was the parking lot. When 50 additional acres were purchased, this area was adapted for dining, picnicking, and outdoor recreation. Special events are held here throughout the Festival.

### THE JENNIE KASSANOFF & DAN SCHULMAN WELCOME CENTER

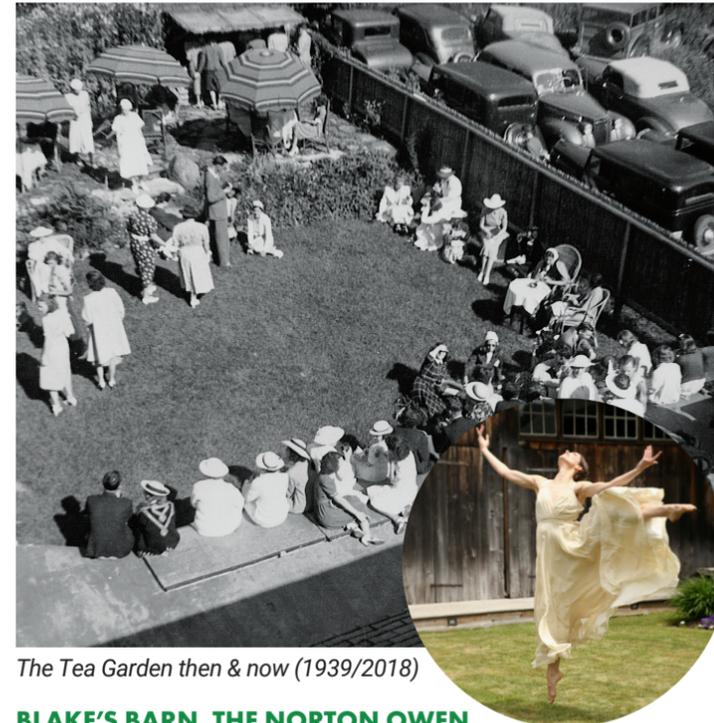
The Welcome Center invites you to learn more about the breadth of Jacob’s Pillow including our history, current activities and performances, and the community programs on-site and throughout Berkshire County that provide myriad opportunities for people of all ages to experience dance.



Ted Shawn Theatre then & now (1942/2018)



Henry Benedum; photo Hayim Heron. Barton Mumaw; photo unknown.



The Tea Garden then & now (1939/2018)

### BLAKE’S BARN, THE NORTON OWEN READING ROOM, SOMMERSPACE & BOX OFFICE

This 18th century barn, moved here in 1992 from Stockbridge, was a gift from famed dancer Marge Champion in memory of her son, Blake. It houses art and photography exhibits and the Pillow’s extensive Archives. Sommerspace, the deck behind Blake’s Barn, was built in 2000 for PillowTalks and Pre-Show Talks for the Ted Shawn Theatre. Celebrities including Jules Feiffer, Peter Yarrow, Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones, and Misty Copeland have participated in programs here.

### DORIS DUKE THEATRE

This 220-seat theater opened in 1990. Named to honor a gift from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, it is a flexible performance space with stage and seating areas that can be configured in many ways. Pre-Show Talks for this theater are held on the porch. The Mark Morris/Yo-Yo Ma collaboration, *Falling Down Stairs*, was filmed here in 1994.

### RUTH ST. DENIS STUDIO

In 1962, Ted Shawn dedicated this dance studio to his wife Ruth St. Denis, one of America’s first famous dancers and the co-founder of their modern dance company Denishawn, which operated from 1915-31. Morning community dance classes and rehearsals for The School at Jacob’s Pillow are held here. Step in the studio entrance to view photographs of “Miss Ruth” in memorable roles.

### PERLES FAMILY STUDIO

Dedicated in 2017, this building is used year-round for Pillow Lab residencies and dance parties. In the summer, it is home to The School at Jacob’s Pillow, a prestigious professional advancement center. Here esteemed choreographers, directors, and artists work with dancers from around the world. Whenever classes are in session, you are welcome to quietly observe.

Historic Tea Garden photo from Jacob’s Pillow Archives. Whitney Cover of Rebecca Rice Dance; photo Noor Eemaan.

### BEN & ESTELLE SOMMERS STUDIO

This studio was moved to this site in 1955, later expanded, and named for the dancewear manufacturer known as “Mr. Capezio” and his wife. For many years it was the main studio for The School at Jacob’s Pillow, and it still hosts classes, rehearsals, and occasional performances.

### THE PILLOW STORE

This structure was one of the property’s original 18th century barns. Before the Civil War, it served as an Underground Railroad station for those escaping to freedom in Canada. Take a moment to browse the Pillow memorabilia and unique gifts on sale. Purchases support the programs of the Festival and The School.

### INSIDE/OUT: THE MARCIA & SEYMOUR SIMON PERFORMANCE SPACE

Originally constructed in 1981 to provide an additional rehearsal area for The School, this outdoor performance space hosts free performances by emerging and established companies and showings by The School at Jacob’s Pillow every Wednesday–Saturday at 6:15pm during the Festival. It is a treasured Pillow location, set against a Berkshire hills backdrop.

For more information, see *A Certain Place: The Jacob’s Pillow Story*, an illustrated history by Director of Preservation Norton Owen, available at The Pillow Store.



Inside/Out Stage then & now (1983/2016)



Urban Bush Women; photo Hayim Heron. Tom Evert on Inside/Out; photo Stephan Driscoll.