Welcome to The Marston House

MUSEUM & GARDENS

For the most intimate of celebrations to larger gatherings of up to 200, the Marston House Gardens are an idyllic location for your wedding or reception. If history and a timeless classic atmosphere appeal to you, then the exceptional 1905 estate gardens will provide the picture perfect backdrop for your special day. We are unlike any other venue in San Diego; the locale is steeped in history with the charm and prestige that can only be achieved at a historic estate of this caliber.

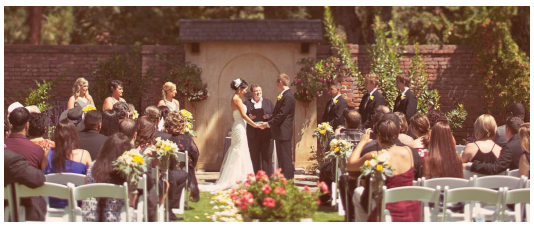
A truly romantic location for your wedding or reception, our gardens, house and grounds offer a multitude of picturesque views for many a lovely photograph to remember your day.

For further information and to make an appointment to view the Marston House Gardens, please email or call us. It will be our pleasure to reserve your date at this special house in the beautiful surroundings of Balboa Park.

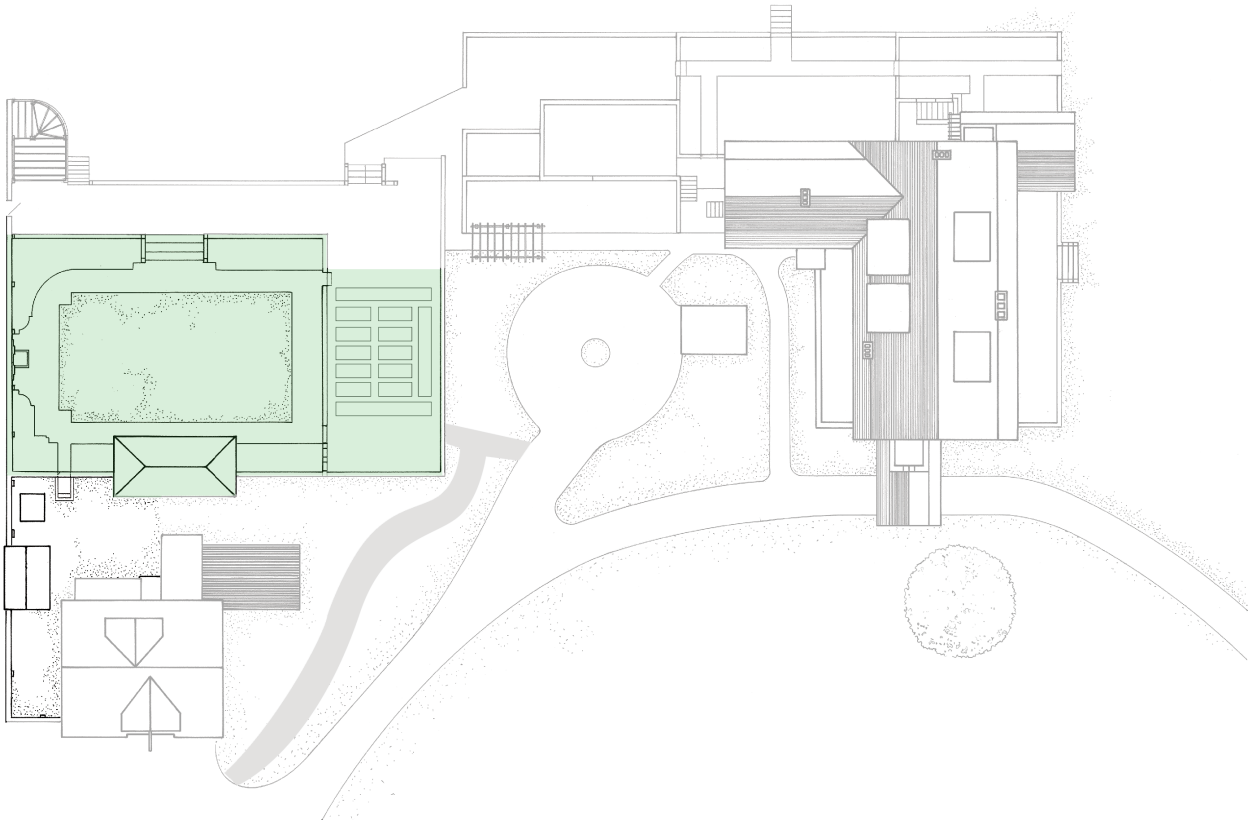
Have the wedding day you have always dreamed of at the Marston House Gardens.

The Formal Garden






The original brick teahouse and wall fountain frame the Formal Gardens providing a picturesque setting for your wedding ceremony or reception. Overlooking the canyons with the majestic Marston House as a backdrop this outdoor venue sets an elegant stage for you and your guests to celebrate your historic day.



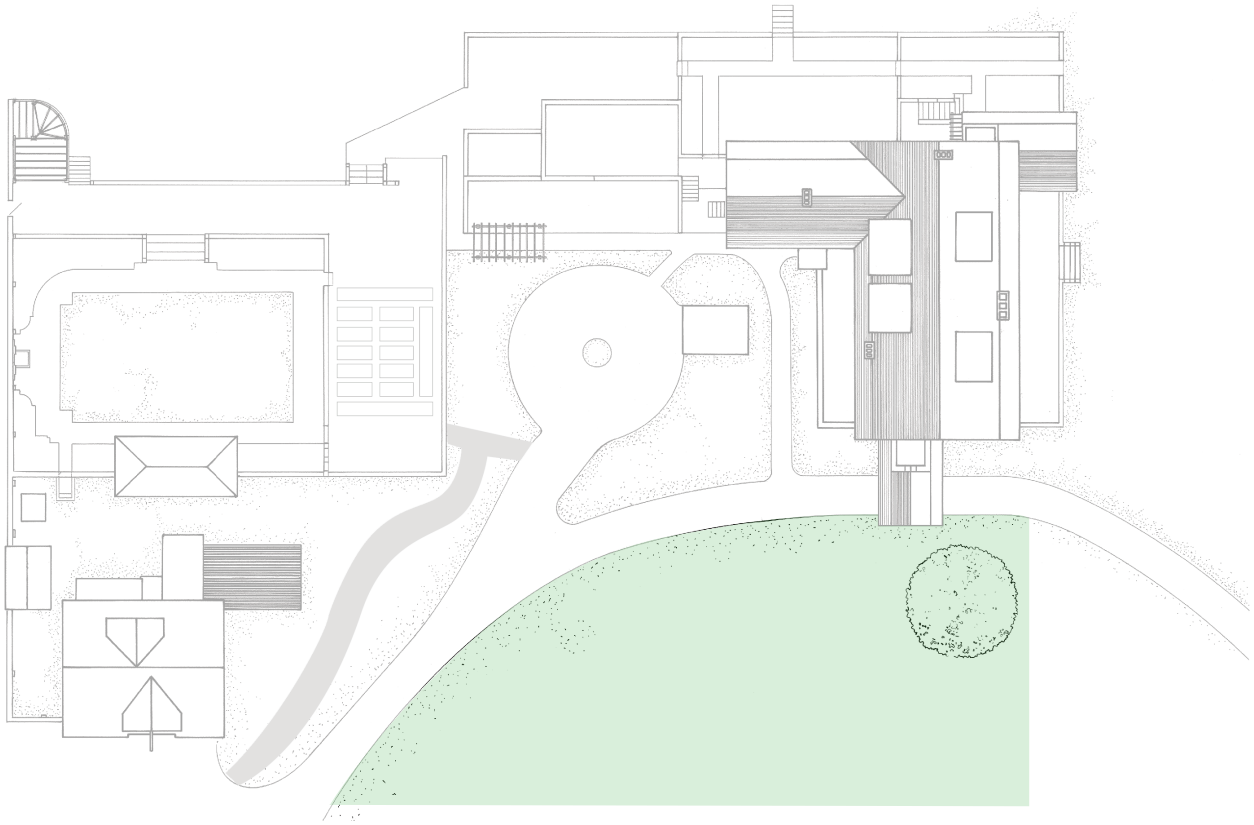
Under the Historic Oak Tree







The gracious canopy of the century-old oak tree creates an elegant and romantic picture perfect setting for your wedding ceremony or reception. Spend your historic day on the lush lawn surrounded by towering trees and flowering shrubs of one of San Diego's most prestigious estates.

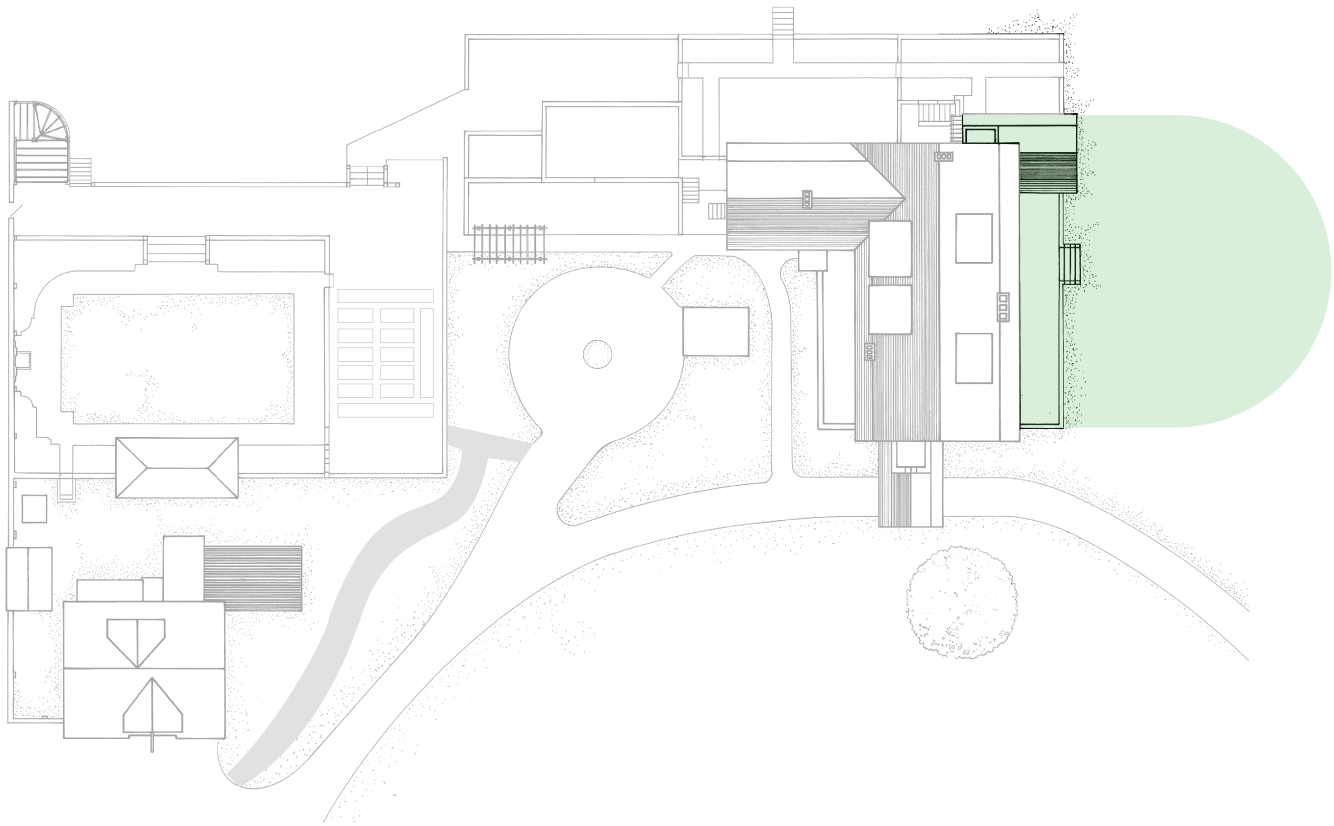


The South Lawn & Terrace






Sweeping lawns set against the historic Marston House, the South Lawn offers a dramatic venue for your wedding reception. The brick terrace overlooks the area providing classic elegance that will make your historic day truly memorable.



Marston House Museum & Gardens
Wedding and Private Event Rental Pricing





Venue Overview

From intimate "minimonies" and memorials with fewer than 25 guests to elegant wedding receptions and celebrations of life, the Marston House Museum & Gardens offers a charming historic setting for your special occasion.

Three beautiful outdoor spaces are available for rental: the formal gardens, the area beneath the historic oak tree, and the lush south lawn and terrace. Events with tables can accommodate up to 100 guests, while ceremonies and gatherings with chairs only can accommodate up to 200 guests.

We offer three wedding and private event rental packages to suit a variety of occasions.

Weddings/Elopements/Intimate Events
Thursday through Sunday
Choice of setting
$1,500 Three-hour site rental period
$600 Each additional hour

Wedding Ceremonies & Receptions/Events
Thursday through Sunday
Choice of setting
$2,500 Five-hour rental
$650 Each additional hour

Wedding Ceremonies & Receptions/Full Size Events
Thursday through Sunday
Choice of setting
$4,500 Seven-hour rental
$700 Each additional hour

Additional Information

- A $650 refundable security deposit and 50% of the total rental fees are due at booking to reserve the date and time.
- All wedding ceremony and reception bookings include a complimentary one-hour rehearsal.
- If event date is within 15 days of booking, full payment is due at signing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Planning Your Event

Q. How do I reserve a date for my wedding or private event?
A. Begin by watching our Virtual Venue Tour and reviewing the rental information to familiarize yourself with the property. Then complete our Request a Date for Your Wedding or Private Event form. A member of the SOHO team will follow up with additional information. Once you've decided the Marston House is the right setting for your event, you may complete the rental agreement to begin the booking process.

Q. Can we visit the property before booking?
A. Yes! Guided site visits are available on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 1–5pm. We encourage you to watch our Virtual Venue Tour first to determine whether an in-person visit would be helpful. A visit is not required to book your event.

Q. What does it cost to host an event at the Marston House?
A. Rental fees vary depending on your selected event space and rental period. Please consult our Wedding and Private Event Pricing Guide for current rates.

Q. What does the rental fee include?
A. Your rental includes exclusive use of your selected event space during your scheduled rental period, including time for setup, your event, and cleanup.

Q. Is a rehearsal included with wedding rentals?
A. Yes. A one-hour rehearsal is included with wedding ceremony and reception bookings and can be scheduled with your site coordinator.

Q. What is the guest capacity?
A. Each of our three beautiful outdoor event spaces can accommodate up to 200 guests for ceremonies and other chair-only events. Receptions and other events requiring tables are limited to 100 guests.

Q. Can we have a small, intimate wedding?
A. Absolutely! Whether you're planning an intimate ceremony with a few loved ones or a grand celebration, the Marston House offers a beautiful setting. The same rental spaces and scheduling options are available for weddings of all sizes.

The Property and Your Guests

Q. Can we arrive early for setup or photography?
A. All setup, photography, and cleanup must take place within your scheduled rental period. Additional rental hours may be arranged in advance.

Q. Where can our guests park?
A. City of San Diego metered parking is available on surrounding streets. Please allow extra time to find a space. Verified, preregistered City residents may qualify for reduced or waived parking rates.

Q. Is there a convenient drop-off location for guests with mobility needs?
A. Yes. Guests may be dropped off near the Museum Shop entrance, where friends or family can assist them before parking.

Q. Are dressing or changing rooms available?
A. There are no dedicated dressing or changing facilities on the property, so we recommend arriving dressed and ready for your event.

Q. What restroom facilities are available?
A. Two ADA-accessible restrooms are available throughout your rental period. Please note that these facilities are also used by museum visitors during public hours.

Event Planning and Amenities

Q. Does SOHO provide event planning services?
A. SOHO staff help coordinate the use of the property but do not provide event planning services. We're happy to share helpful tips and resources as you plan your celebration.

Q. Can we choose our own caterer and vendors?
A. Yes! Your site coordinator can provide a list of preferred vendors familiar with our grounds and policies. You are also welcome to select other vendors, subject to SOHO approval.

Q. Can we bring our own tables, chairs, decorations, and flowers?
A. Absolutely! You're welcome to personalize your event with your own furnishings, decorations, and flowers. SOHO does not provide these items.

Q. Can we have music?
A. Yes! Live and recorded music are welcome, subject to our sound guidelines.

Q. What happens if it rains?
A. The Marston House does not have indoor space available as a rain backup. We recommend planning for appropriate weather protection or making alternate arrangements. Tents and temporary structures must be secured without stakes driven into the ground.

Before You Book

For complete information about rental guidelines and responsibilities, please review our Wedding and Private Event Terms and Conditions.

Ready to begin planning your special occasion? Watch our Virtual Venue Tour, explore our rental options, and complete our Request a Date for Your Wedding or Private Event form on the SOHO website. We look forward to hearing about your plans!

Scan for rental details