

Stafford Offers Great Setting For Your Special Day

Brides have traditionally chosen to have their weddings and receptions in the large upstairs ballroom of the historical 1886 Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street, in Columbus because it is a most elegant and prestigious setting for their special day.

The setting is beautiful on its own requiring little decorating. It is an impressive setting for the

traditional reception or a sit-down dinner.

It accommodates a full band and dancing, and the wood floor is ready for dancing. The large upstairs room, used throughout the year for dinner theatre productions, includes a stage area with a beautifully painted curtain that brings charm to any setting.

It would be a lovely backdrop for

the wedding ceremony. At a reception, the stage would provide a great place for the band.

The tall shuttered windows, the antique chandeliers, and the red cushioned chairs add to the elegance of the room.

Whether you decide to have your wedding or your reception at the Stafford Opera House, this facility will meet your needs.

If you desire a smaller area, you will want to consider the R. F. "Buddy" Rau Meeting Room that is on the first floor.

The tall shuttered windows and the framed pictures of historical significance create a special place.

The room is carpeted giving it a comfortable and intimate feeling. Kitchen facilities are adjacent to the room making catering needs accessible but out of sight.

Also consider other properties of Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, such as the stately and beautiful 1867 Tate-Senftenburg-Brandon House, the quaint 1858

Dilue Rose-Harris House or the rustic 1836 Alley Log Cabin, as sites for photo opportunities for your wedding party pictures or plan a tour of these properties for your out of town guests.

The upstairs ballroom and the downstairs reception room of the Stafford Opera House are available for weddings, receptions or seminars.

Call (979) 732-5135 for an appointment to discuss your wedding plans or for information on the tours or photo sessions at the historical homes.

Handy Tuxedo Tips For Your Day

There are many grooms-to-be who leave choosing their wedding day attire to the last minute. After all, it's something that doesn't require much thought at all, right?

Actually, choosing your attire requires careful consideration of several variables. As such, many men are intimidated by the process, another reason for procrastination. However, acquiring a few pointers will help make the process easier if you have limited experience with wedding day attire.

It's first important to consider the style of your wedding. What time is it being held? What is the size of the wedding party and the number of attendants? Will it be held in a church with a reception at a fancy catering hall, or is it a more laid-back affair at a park or on the beach? All of these questions will help determine the formality of the event. Your wardrobe choices should coincide with this level of formality.

Tuxedos are often the attire of choice for weddings that are moderately or ultra formal. A tuxedo with a bow tie and tails is a very formal look. For the majority of weddings a tuxedo without tails, with a matching vest and regular tie, will be adequate for the groom and groomsmen. On some occasions, especially casual weddings, grooms choose to wear a sports jacket and slacks rather than a tuxedo.

Tuxedos are flattering for most men, especially when a black tuxedo is chosen. Black is slimming, and simply slipping into a tuxedo can enable anyone to look sophisticated. Working with a tuxedo shop representative can help you to find a tuxedo that fits well. These garments are available in a number of sizes, but a reputable shop will make minor alterations to ensure a perfect fit. You want to be sure there is no pulling in the jacket and that the pants are a good length. Also, shirt sleeve length is important (the cuffs should extend past the jacket a little bit), as well as the fit of the shirt collar. You want to be comfortable the entire duration

of your wedding.

Tuxedo jackets come in many styles, with the basics being single- or double-breasted. Double-breasted jackets may add a little bulk, which should be avoided by heavy men or those who are very slim. Jackets also come in different lengths. Choose one that is proportionate to your height so your body does not look overwhelmed by the jacket. Here are a few of the styles:

* Cutaway jacket: This jacket is shorter in the front and tapers to one longer tail in the back. It is traditionally a formal daytime jacket.

* Traditional tuxedo jacket: As mentioned, this can be single- or double-breasted and feature varied numbers of button closures. The lapels may also be varied. A peaked lapel forms a "V" at the collar and points upward. A notched lapel has an indentation at the collar in the shape of a triangle. A shawl lapel has no indentation and smoothly curves around the neck.

* Mandarin jacket: Mandarin-style jackets do not have a lapel but a collar that stands straight up. There are six buttons along the front. It is worn with a mandarin-style shirt without a tie.

* Long coat: The long coat is best worn by tall, broad-shouldered men and is traditional in colder weather. The coat extends beyond the fingertips of the wearer.

* Dinner jacket: This is a variation on the regular tuxedo jacket, but it is usually ivory or white in color. This can set the groom apart from other members of the wedding party.

Many grooms-to-be opt to rent their tuxedo instead of purchase one. Wedding experts recommend renting the attire three months before the wedding. All groomsmen should rent their tuxedos from the same shop for a uniform look. It is also customary to coordinate the tuxedos with the gowns bridesmaids will be wearing. One way to do so is with a similar colored tie, vest or cummerbund. Take a color swatch of one of the bridesmaids'

gowns with you to the tuxedo store for assistance with matching the look.

Pick up the tuxedo a day or two before the wedding and try on every piece, including the shoes, to check for fit. This way you have time for an exchange if something is not right or to pick up a missing tie or cufflink, which is apt to happen.

Rented tuxedos usually need to be returned the day after the wedding or the next business day. Elect a member of the wedding party to handle tuxedo returns because you're likely to be on your honeymoon at this point.

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