Morgan County Landmarks Society
P.O. Box 248
Madison, GA 30650

The Morgan County Landmarks Society
Presents

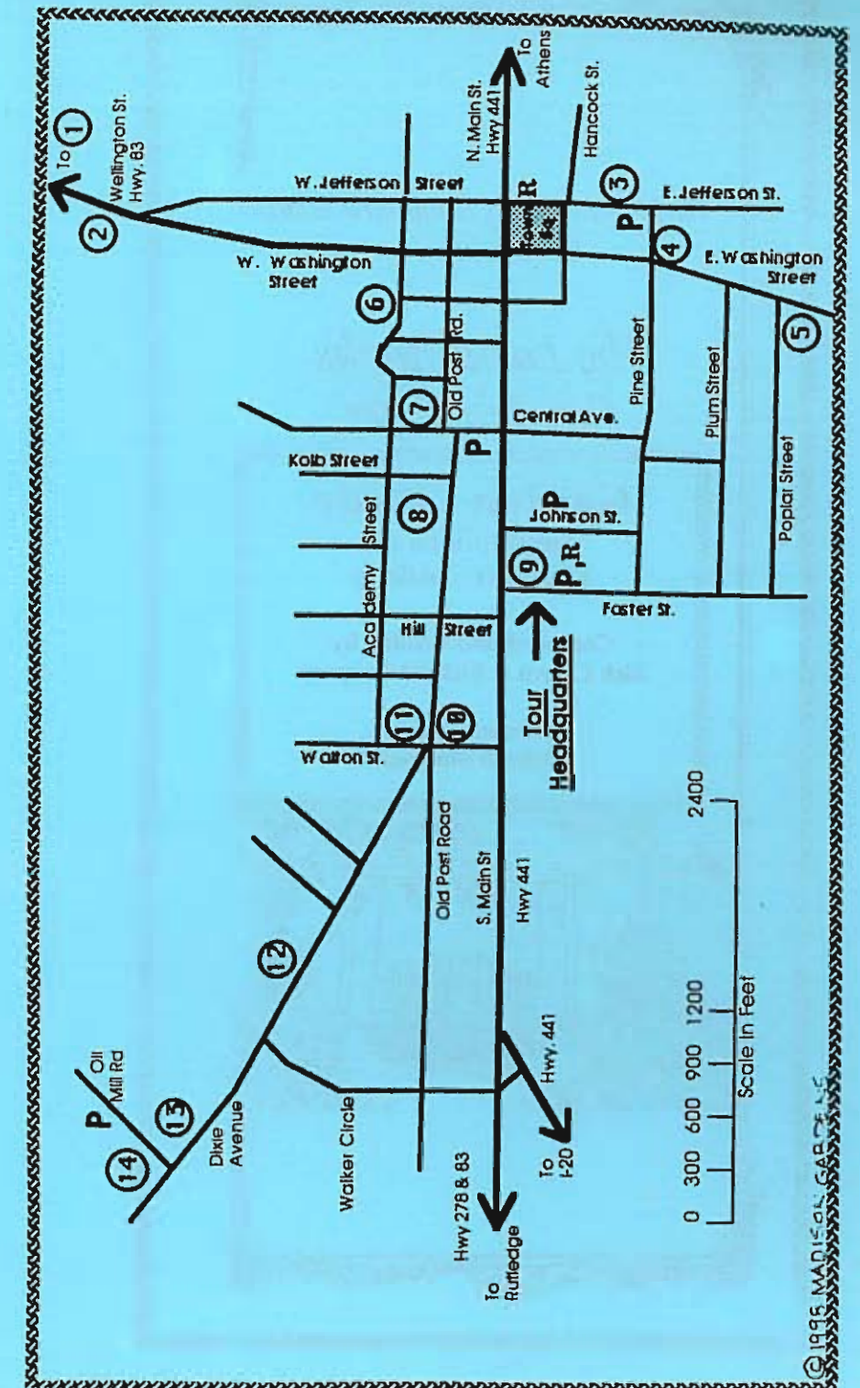
The Landmarks Garden Tour

Garden Guide

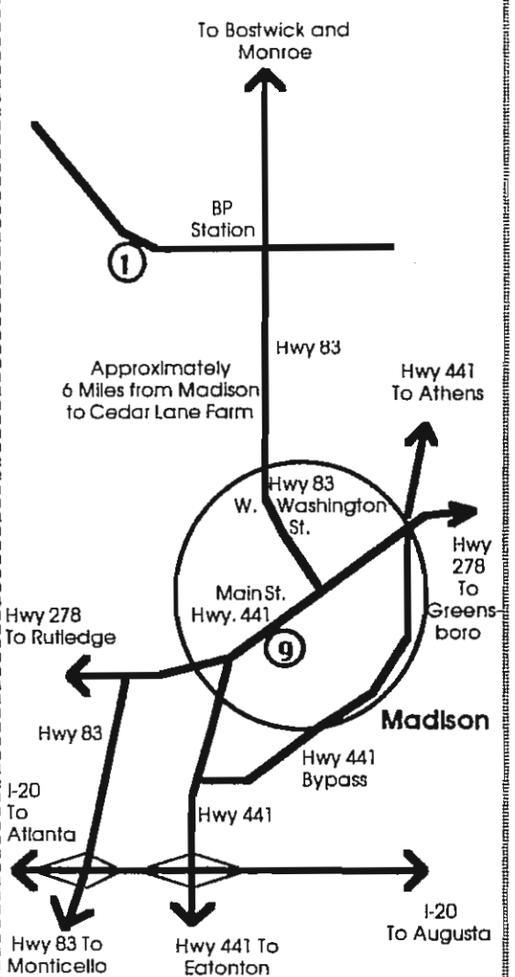
Descriptions of
Madison Gardens

Compiled and Written by
Rick Crown & Richard Simpson

Drawings by
Richard Simpson



Route to Cedar Lane Farm, Site # 1



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Landmarks Garden Tour

Key to Tour Sites

1. Cedar Lane Farm.
2. Richter Cottage.
3. Rogers House-Rose Cottage*.
4. Brick Cottage.
5. Variety Works Cottage.
6. Morgan County African-American Museum*.
7. McCracken Woods.
8. Boxwood.
9. **Tour Headquarters/** Madison-Morgan Cultural Center.
10. Alby Garden.
11. La Flora.
12. Thurleston.
13. Historic Tools Exhibit/ Daniels Workshop.
14. Robson-Mason House.

*Garden open for Tour; additional entry fee for House Museums.

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Landmarks Tour of Gardens and Homes.
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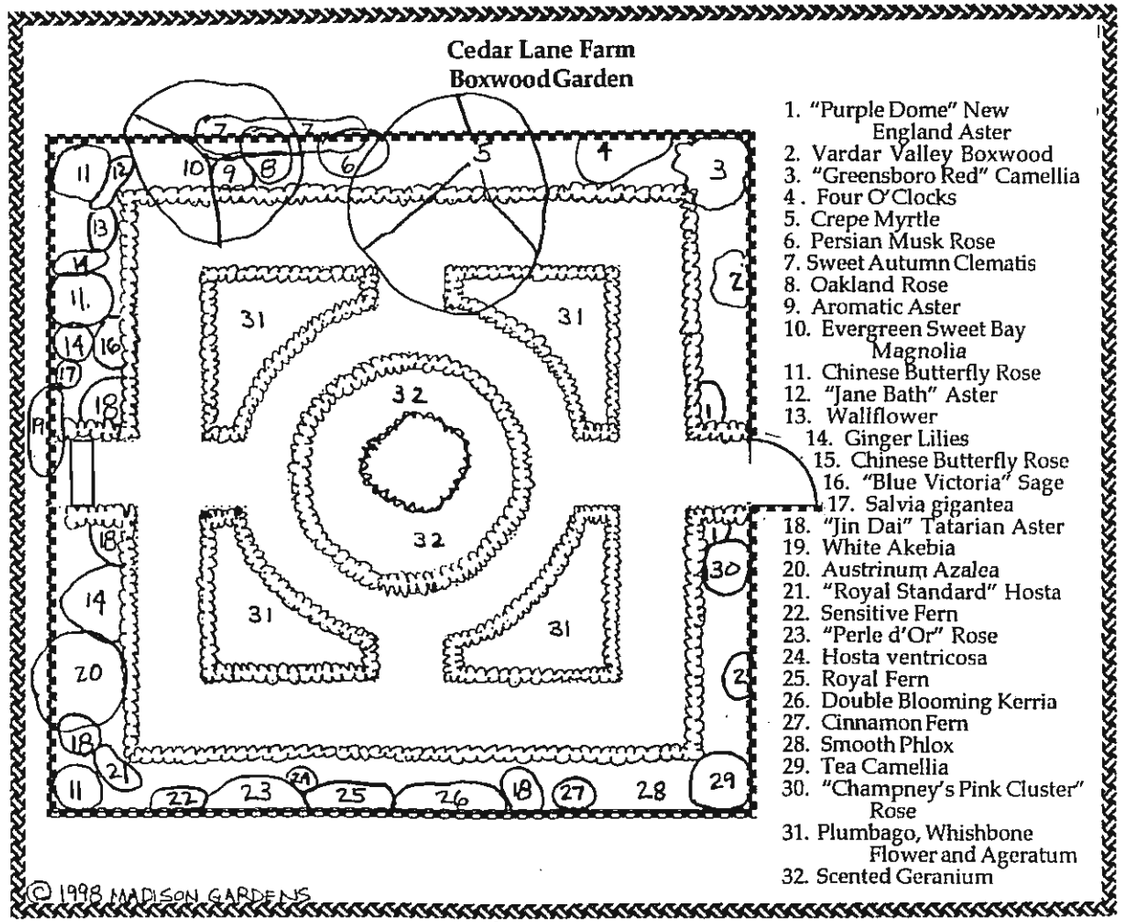
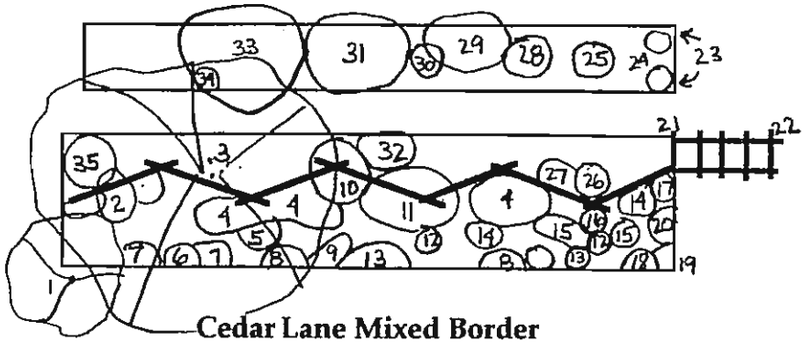
Cedar Lane Farm

Cedar Lane Farm is an 1830's farmhouse, set in a pastoral and picturesque part of Morgan County. The house is a well preserved example of what is locally known as the Piedmont Plain style, and is the home of Mrs. John Symmes.

The extensive landscape that surrounds the farmhouse holds several gardens. Below is a plan of the Boxwood Garden and on the following pages are plans of the Mixed Borders and the Woodland Garden.





Cedar Lane Mixed Border

East side

1. Dwarf White Pine
2. Styrax obassia
3. "Natchez" Crepe Myrtle
4. Tatarian Aster
5. Blue Ginger
6. Blue Anise Sage
7. Hardy Begonia
8. Japanese Roof Iris
9. Mongolian Aster
10. White Japanese Beauty Berry
11. "Annabelle" Hydrangea
12. "Hyperion" Daylily
13. "Honorine Jobert" Japanese Anemone
14. Tibouchina
15. "Indigo Spires" Salvia
16. "Sheilagh's Sunshine" Sunflower
17. English Boxwood
18. "Argentine Skies" Salvia
19. "Powis Castle" Artemisia
20. Japanese Garden Juniper
21. Moonvine (on Arbor)
22. Rosa "Mermaid" (on Arbor)
23. "National" Fastigiate Boxwood
24. "Grandmother's White" Dianthus
25. Golden Thread Leaf False Cypress
26. Tamarix
27. Baptisia australis
28. "Mt. Airy" Fothergilla
29. "Burgundy" Loropetalum
30. Climbing Aster
31. "Toyo nishiki" Quince
32. Hardy Ageratum
33. Burkwood Viburnum
34. "Justin Brower" Boxwood
35. Crinum Lily

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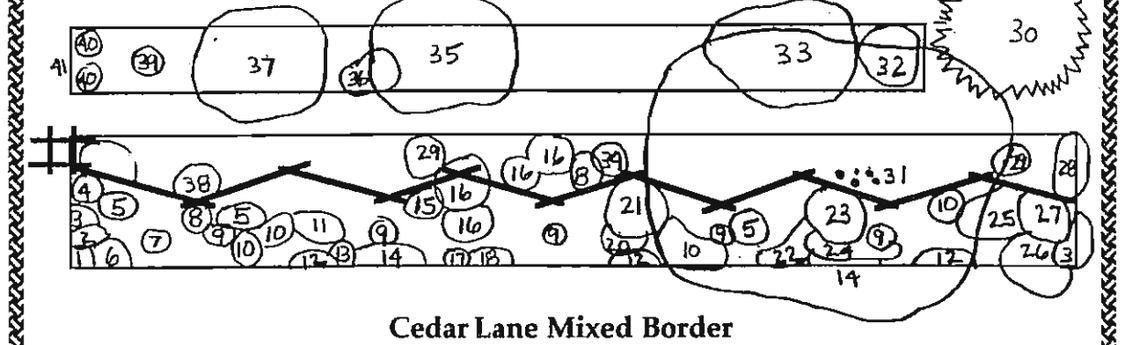
The Border has evolved for over 20 years, and continues to grow and change. One of it's roles is providing a harmonic pageant of the seasons; autumn cools the palette into blues and purples of asters and salvias; pinks of Hardy Begonia and Cosmos; with accents of pale yellow 'Sheilagh's Sunshine' sunflower, and clean whites of Japanese Anemone, Beautyberry, and foaming Mongolian Aster.

Perennial indigo Blue Ginger, ebony fruits of Blackberry Lily, velvet 'Illustris' elephant ear, and the saturated purple of annual Tibouchina offer dramatic punctuation. Massive cinnamon trunked 'Natchez 'Crepe myrtles, now 14 years old, texturally contrast with the silvering black locust split rail fence.

Evergreens combine with the fence to create a strong winter presence. Especially notable is the Dwarf Hinoki Cypress, at the west end, offspring from Fruitland's Nursery; and the Dwarf White Pine, nearly 30 years old, anchoring the east end.

These act in concert with the front of the Border forming an axis leading west through the clipped Cedar Arch and into the Conifer Collection, embracing the pool.

Oldest are the Norway Spruce surviving from an early nursery row, while most surprising may be the 5 year old 'Gold Crest' Monterey Cypress with it's lemony fragrance, or the 10 year old 'Globosa Nana' Japanese Redwood.



Cedar Lane Mixed Border

West side

1. "Powis Castle" Artemisia
2. Blackberry Lily
3. Japanese Garden Juniper
4. English Boxwood
5. Philippine Lily
6. Variegated Kerria
7. "Coral Nymph" Salvia
8. "Sheilagh's Sunshine" Sunflower
9. "Hyperion" Daylily
10. Blue Anise Sage
11. Tibouchina
12. Japanese Roof Iris
13. "Honorine Jobert" Japanese Anemone
14. Mongolian Aster
15. "Gulftide" Holly Leaf Osmanthus
16. "Annabelle" Hydrangea
17. Siberian Pea
18. Hardy Begonia
19. Mexican Sage
20. Acidanthera
21. Round Leaf Osmanthus
22. Hosta undulata "Albo-Marginata"
23. White Japanese Beauty Berry
24. "Illustris" Elephant Ears
25. Mahonia pinata
26. Purple Butterfly Bush
27. Dwarf Hinoki False Cypress
28. Yucca
29. Crinum Lily
30. Leyland Cypress
31. "Natchez" Crepe Myrtle
32. "Cameo" Quince
33. Burkwood Viburnum
34. Tatarian Aster
35. Fragrant Snowball Viburnum
36. "Shamrock" Inkberry
37. Doublefile Viburnum
38. Tamarix
39. Golden Thread Leaf False Cypress
40. "National" Fastigiate Boxwood
41. "Grandmother's White" Dianthus

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Beyond the Border is the Shrub Border, providing a backdrop filled with seasonal interest, and behind that are cutting gardens, and beds of asparagus and raspberries, and finally the Orchard.

In the back yard the 3 walnuts are the last remaining "house trees" present when the property was acquired. The fig was on the property and was moved to it's present location, as was the old pink crepe myrtle in the Box Garden, and the 'Cedar Lane' Althea by the garden house.

Note the Madison Jasmine attached to the east end of the house; from this hardy vine have come all the millions of it's progeny adorning homes everywhere.

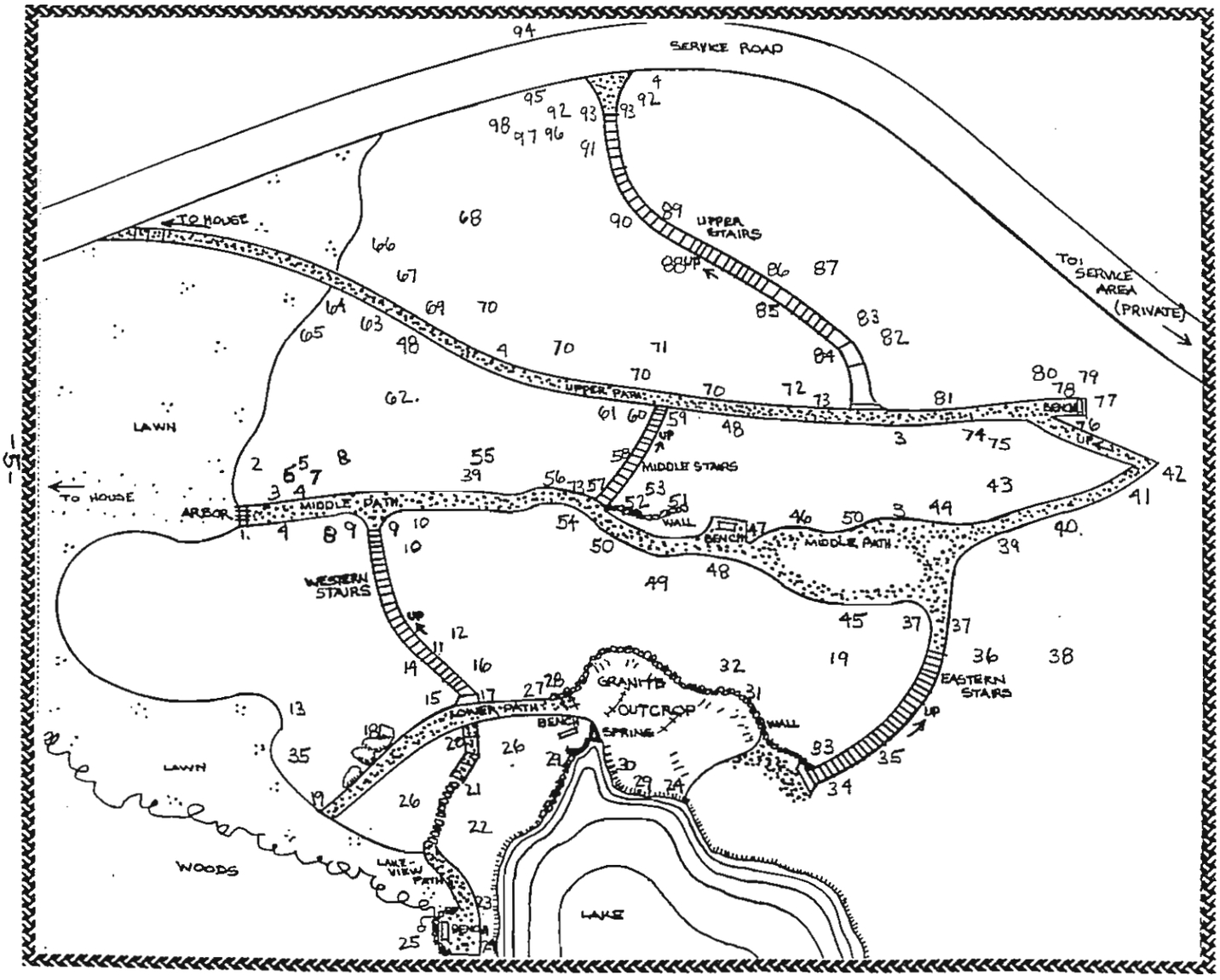
The Kitchen Garden, to the east of the house, has a hardy Bay Laurel and several roses: the climbing 'Sombreuil', a pair of 'Clothilde Soupert', the fragrant white Persian Musk , and an odd Chinese Green.

Among the herbs present, most remarkable is the venerable Weeping Rosemary, at least 15 years old.
The coarse foliage of Horseradish may cause some puzzlement, as might the emerging stalks of wild leeks, naturalized throughout Morgan County.

Be sure to follow the grass path down slope to the Woodland Garden which holds the bold spring that has always been the heart of the farm.

Key to Woodland Plants

1. White Lady Banks Rose
2. "Athens" Sweet Shrub
3. Mahonia bealei
4. Lenten Rose
5. "Limelight" Eleagnus
6. "Moon Fire" Japanese Maple
7. Jap. Maple (green seedling)
8. "Azuma murasaki" Jap. Maple
9. Variegated Holly Leaf Osmanthus
10. Mountain Laurel
11. Christmas Fern
12. Styrax obassia
13. Upright Jap. Plum Yew
14. Black Gum
15. Oakleaf Hydrangea
16. "Emperor" Wax Myrtle
17. Southern Shield Fern
18. Daphne
19. American Beauty Berry
20. "Arnold's Promise" Witchhazel
21. Swamp Cyrilla
22. Yellow Flag Iris
23. Calla Lilies
24. Ginger Lilies
25. Fastigiate White Pine
26. Austrinum Azaleas
27. Christmas Honeysuckle
28. Chinese Fringe Trees
29. Sweet Bay Magnolia
30. Marginal Wood Fern
31. Weeping Rosemary
32. "Tamiyukama" Jap. Maple
33. Creeping Raspberry
34. Hipped Gardenia species
35. Sparkleberry
36. Tea Olive
37. Nippon Lily
38. Sasanqua Camellia
39. White Berry Nandina
40. Butchers' Broom
41. Agarista populifolia
42. Cryptomeria japonica
43. True Anise
44. So. Sugar Maple
45. Stinking Hellebore
46. "Forest Green" Laurel
47. "Globosa" Cryptomeria
48. Tall Sweet Box
49. Umbrella Magnolia
50. Prostrate Jap.. Plum Yew
51. "Sulphureum" Epimedium
52. Alexandrian Laurel
53. "Lombard's Weeping" Witchhazel
54. White Japanese Roof Iris
55. Service Berry
56. Ground Pine
57. Dichroa
58. Holly Fern
59. Painted Fern, Italian Marble Leaf, Black Liriope
60. "Blue Mist" Fothergilla
61. Thunberg Gardenia
62. Live Oak
63. Wintersweet
64. Bottlebrush Buckeye
65. Dragon's Eye Pine
66. Fringe Tree
67. "Tamukeyama" Jap. Maple
68. Colorado Blue Spruce
69. "Cedar Lane" Piedmont Azalea
70. Dwarf Himalayan Sweet Box
71. "Ornatum" Jap.. Maple
72. Weeping Yaupon Holly
73. Cyclamen
74. Persian Ivy
75. Heart's a Bustin'
76. Florida Anise
77. "Evergreen" Wax Myrtle
78. Autumn Fern
79. "Symmes Select" Magnolia
80. Evergreen Stone Oak
81. "Halley's Comet" Fla. Anise
82. Variegated Jap.. Solomon's Seal
83. Stewartia koreana
84. East Indian Holly Fern
85. Amsonia
86. Edgeworthia
87. Big Leaf Magnolia
88. Stewartia monodelpha
89. Jap. Garden Juniper
90. Kousa Dogwood
91. Sassafras
92. "Okame" Cherries
93. "Maryland Dwarf" American Holly
94. Trident Maple
95. "Brillliantissima" Chokecherry
96. "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly
97. "Lydia Morris" Holly
98. "Wirt L Winn" Holly

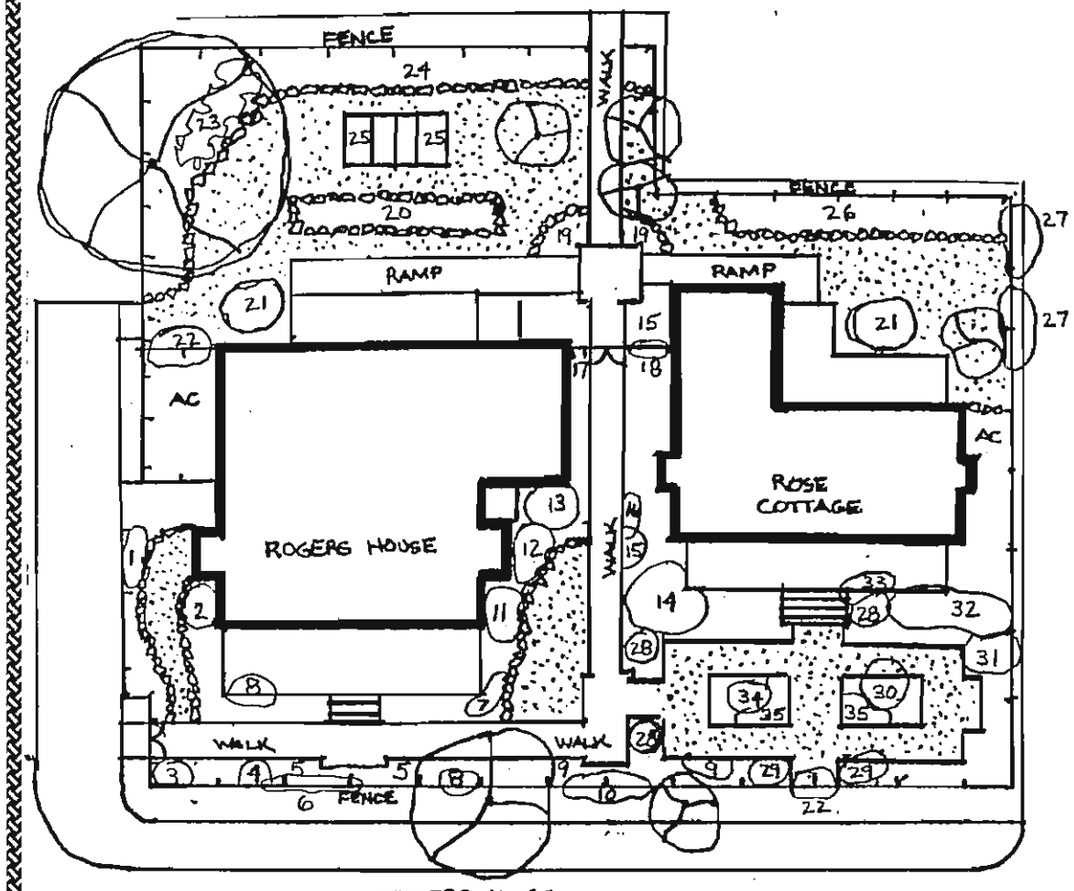


Rogers House-Rose Cottage

The garden that surrounds these two historic Madison homes creates a faithful interpretation for visitors of the flower yards that were common to old Madison homes. June Harrell, ASLA, was the landscape architect for this City of Madison project. There are some necessary modern features to accommodate today's visitors, but the example of the scattered beds and the many historic gives us a glimpse into how previous generations gardened their home landscapes.

Rogers House-Rose Cottage Diagram Key

1. Yucca
2. Rosa Mutabilis
3. Rose
4. Ryan's Pink Chrysanthemum
5. Zinnias, Marigolds & Cosmos
6. Love-in-a-Puff (vine)
7. Verbena bonariensis
8. "Madison' Confederate Jasmine
9. Gomphrena
10. Sweet Autumn Clematis (vine)
11. Double Bloom Kerria
12. Ginger Lily
13. Chaste Tree
14. "Miss Huff" Lantana
15. Strawberries
16. Verbena rigida
17. Orange Ginger
18. Carolina Jessamine
19. Herbs (Rosemary, Chives, Thyme, Marjoram, Lemon Balm, Scented Geranium
20. Vegetables
21. Fig
22. "Madison Confederate Jasmine" and Morning Glory
23. "Nikko Blue" Hydrangea
24. Cotton
25. Muscadines
26. Gourds
27. Purple Hyacinth Bean
28. Gardenia
29. Sedum "Autumn Joy"
30. Butterfly Bush
31. Cut Leaf Chaste Tree
32. Zebra Grass
33. Cypress Vine
34. "Bonica" Rose
35. Bath's Pink



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Brick Cottage

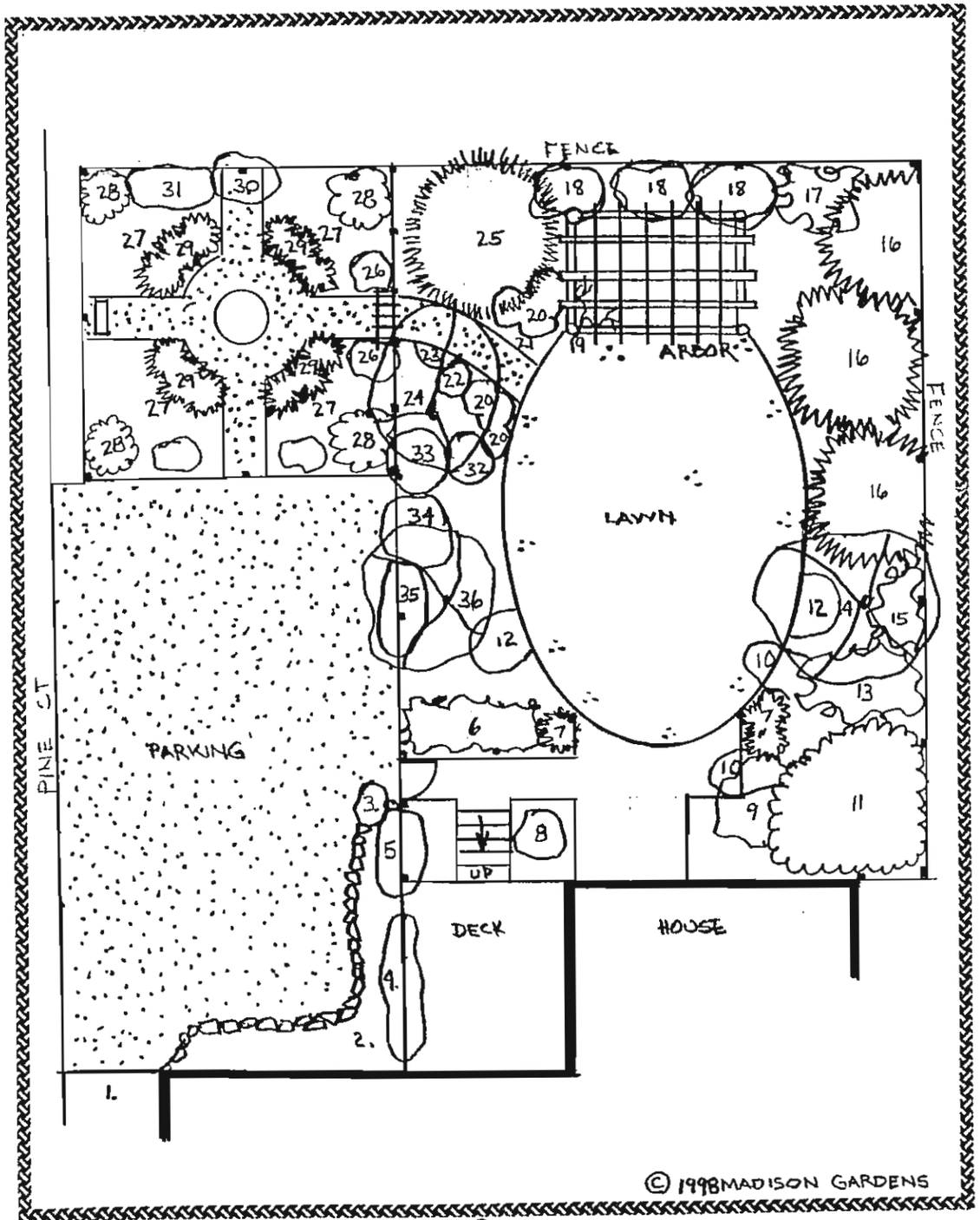
The delightful spaces that are created by this compartmentalized landscape are a good example of structure in the garden. A small space feels larger by dividing it up and concealing parts of the garden from view, only to be revealed by making a journey through the lush landscape. Jeanne Symmes Reid created this garden, taking the germ of a very clever idea from Atlanta garden designer Brooks Garcia, and planting a strong evergreen structure that forms the "bones" of this garden.

A visitor to the garden usually arrives first at the parking court. There, a thick planting , which includes Aucuba, Agarista and Mahonia, softens the walls of the house and fence. The visitor chooses a route to the house from the parking court. To the front of the house, a path travels alongside the house. Here, a "Shamrock" Inkberry hedge bounds a mixed border of shrubs and perennials lining the path. In bloom is the fragrant "Clothilde Soupert" Rose.

The other route leads through the fence gate, first into a landing for the deck, then into the room formed by the lawn. Another space envelops the arbor, while a sanded path leads from the lawn, under a cedar arbor and into a potager, planted with herbs and winter vegetables

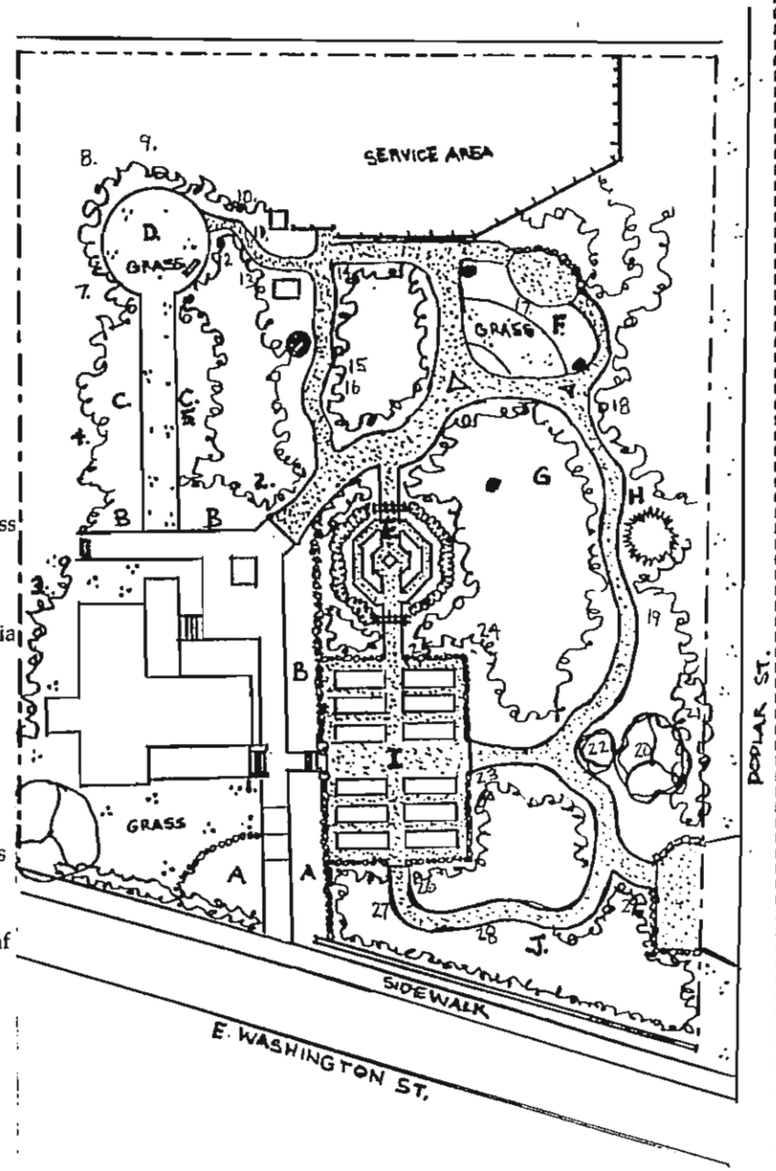
Brick Cottage
Key to Diagram

1. Walkway to Front
2. Parking Court Planting
3. White Berry Nandina
4. Clematis armandii
5. Potato Vine
6. "Shadow's Female" Yaupon Holly Hedge
7. "National" American Boxwood
8. Gardenia jasminoides
9. Gardenia thunbergii
10. Hardy Ageratum
11. "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly
12. "Powis Castle" Artemisia
13. White Butterfly Bush
14. Chaste Tree
15. Prague Viburnum
16. Japanese Redwood
17. Awabuki Viburnum
18. Japanese Maple
19. Stautonia (Vine on Arbor)
20. Round Leaf Osmanthus
21. Hardy Plumbago
22. Sarcococca confusa
23. Mongolian Aster
24. Pearl Bush
25. Cedar
26. Rose of Sharon (flanking arbor)
27. Potager
28. "Lydia Morris" Holly
29. "Globosa" Japanese Redwood
30. Rosa moschata "Nastarana"
31. Canna
32. Rosa x 'Perle d'Or'
33. Cut Leaf Chaste Tree
34. Red Bay
35. Christmas Honeysuckle
36. Fragrant Snowball Viburnum



Variety Works Cottage
Overall Garden Plan

A. Entry Garden
B. Mixed Border
C. Bog & Berm Garden
D. Woodland Circle
E. White Garden
F. Back Garden
G. Dogwood Grove
H. Viburnum Walk
I. Vegetable & Flower Garden
J. "Hollywood"



Key to Plants

1. Dutchman's Pipe Vine
2. Umbrella Magnolia
3. Christmas Honeysuckle
4. Contorted Mulberry
5. Deutzia
6. Dwarf Hinoki False Cypress
7. Japanese Redwood
8. Nippon Lily
9. Southern Shield Fern
10. "Moudry" Grass
11. "Berenice Boddy" Camellia
12. "Central Avenue" Snow Berry
13. Linley's Butterfly Bush
14. Little Brown Jug Ginger
15. Bottlebrush Buckeye
16. Italian Marble Leaf
17. Spider Lilies and Hardy Plumbago
18. Prague Viburnum
19. Viburnum nudum varieties
20. Evergreen Sweet Bay Magnolia
21. Black Bamboo
22. "Crimson Queen" Cut Leaf Japanese Maple
23. Chinese Windmill Palm
24. Tea Camellia
25. Strawberry Tree
26. Justicia spicigera
27. Red Sasanqua Camellia
28. Euphorbia "Robbie"
29. Butcher's Broom

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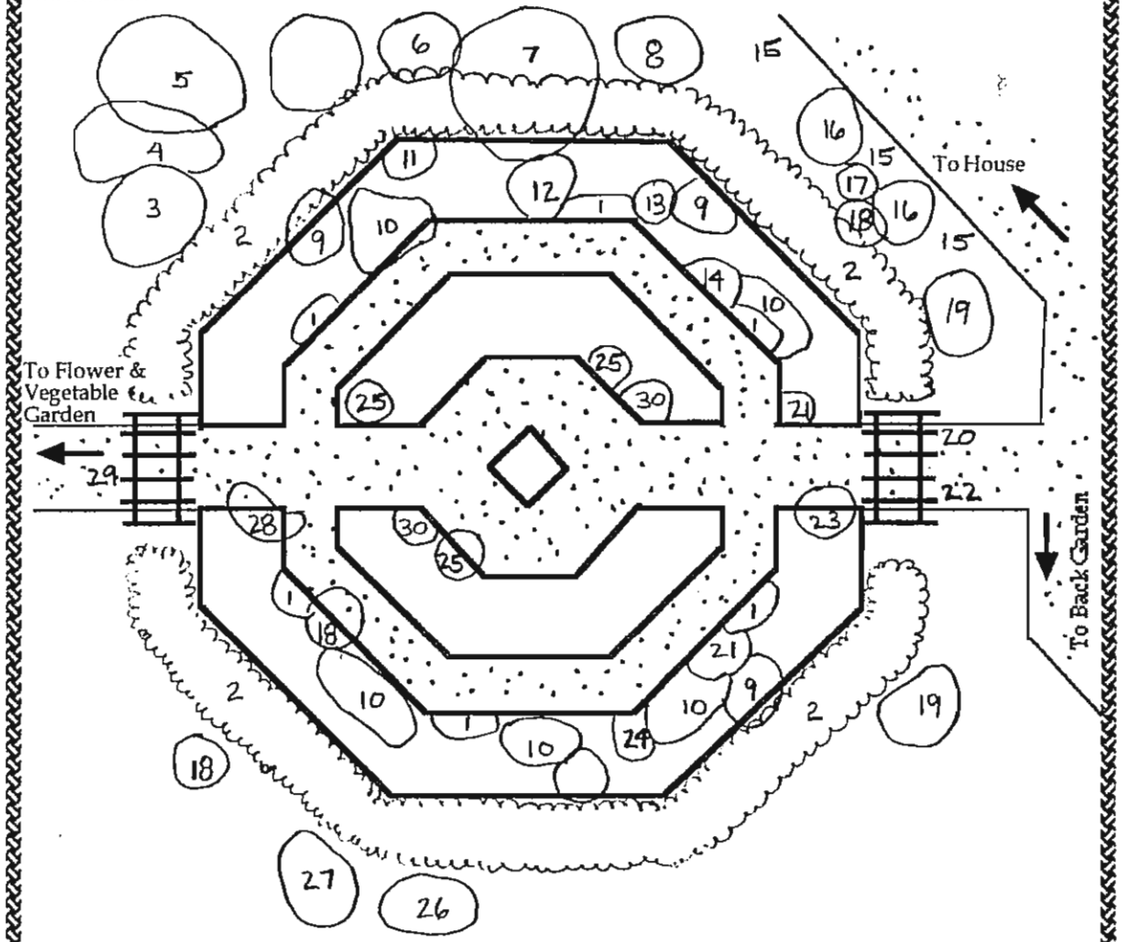

Variety Works Cottage
White Garden

1. Rain Lilies
2. English Boxwood
3. Persian Musk Rose
4. Ginger Lilies
5. "White Profusion" Butterfly Bush
6. "Asakura" Sasanqua Camellia
7. White Japanese Beauty Berry
8. "Sept.ember Morn" Camellia
9. White Hardy Ageratum
10. Orphanage Plant
11. "Honorine Jobert" Japanese Anemone
12. Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal
13. White Wishbone Flower
14. White Variegated Trailing Euonymus
15. Gymnaster
16. "Mountain Fire" Pieris
17. Variegated Acanthopanax
18. Frost Aster
19. "Setsugekka" Sasanqua Camellia
20. Love-in-a-Puff (vine)
21. Variegated Carex Conica
22. "Goldfinch" Rose (on arbor)
23. Korean Hercules Club
24. White Confetti Plant
25. White Mexican Heather
26. "Mine-No-Yuki" Sasanqua Camellia
27. Serissa foetida
28. White Creeping Zinnia
29. Moonflower (on arbor)
30. Italian Marble Leaf

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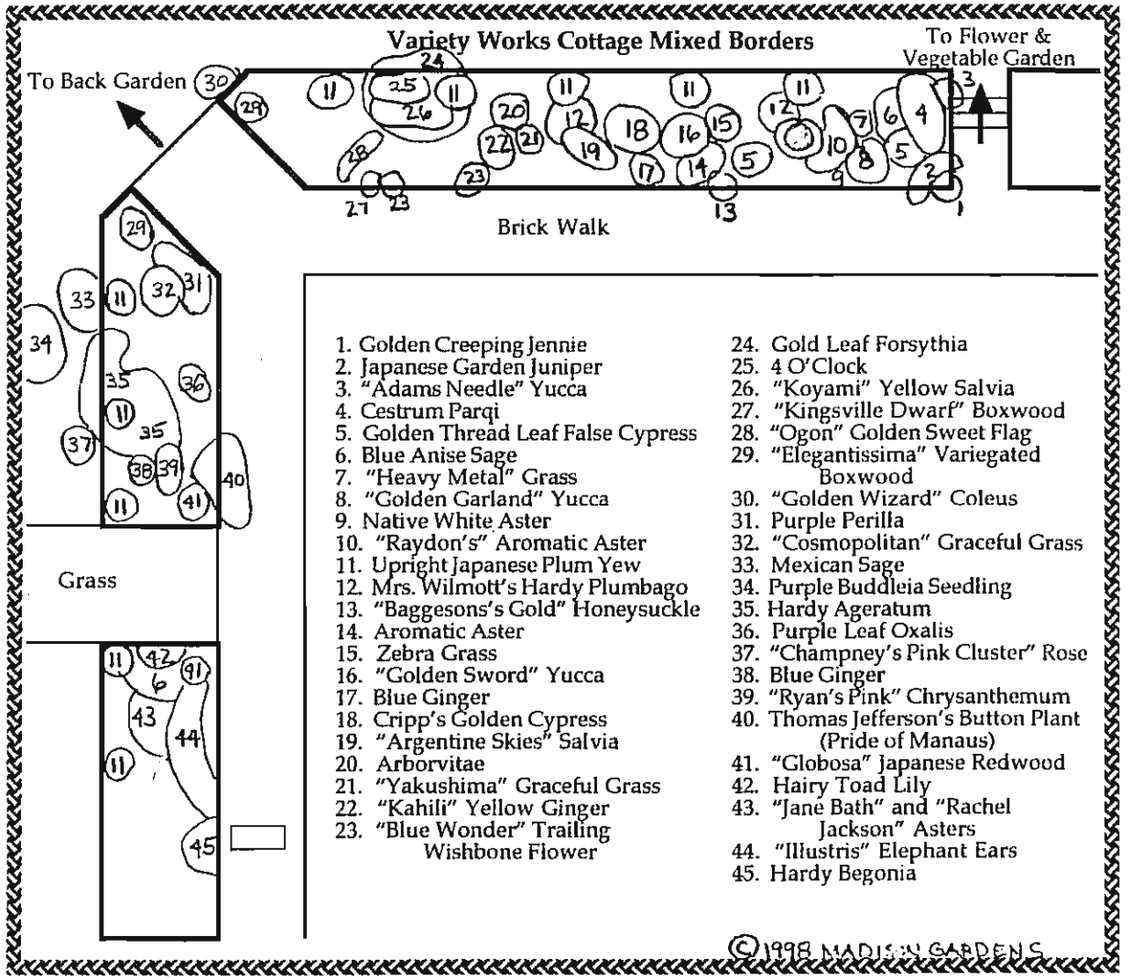

1. Golden Creeping Jennie
2. Japanese Garden Juniper
3. "Adams Needle" Yucca
4. Cestrum Parqi
5. Golden Thread Leaf False Cypress
6. Blue Anise Sage
7. "Heavy Metal" Grass
8. "Golden Garland" Yucca
9. Native White Aster
10. "Raydon's" Aromatic Aster
11. Upright Japanese Plum Yew
12. Mrs. Wilmott's Hardy Plumbago
13. "Baggesons's Gold" Honeysuckle
14. Aromatic Aster
15. Zebra Grass
16. "Golden Sword" Yucca
17. Blue Ginger
18. Cripp's Golden Cypress
19. "Argentine Skies" Salvia
20. Arborvitae
21. "Yakushima" Graceful Grass
22. "Kahili" Yellow Ginger
23. "Blue Wonder" Trailing Wishbone Flower
24. Gold Leaf Forsythia
25. 4 O'Clock
26. "Koyami" Yellow Salvia
27. "Kingsville Dwarf" Boxwood
28. "Ogon" Golden Sweet Flag
29. "Elegantissima" Variegated Boxwood
30. "Golden Wizard" Coleus
31. Purple Perilla
32. "Cosmopolitan" Graceful Grass
33. Mexican Sage
34. Purple Buddleia Seedling
35. Hardy Ageratum
36. Purple Leaf Oxalis
37. "Champney's Pink Cluster" Rose
38. Blue Ginger
39. "Ryan's Pink" Chrysanthemum
40. Thomas Jefferson's Button Plant (Pride of Manaus)
41. "Globosa" Japanese Redwood
42. Hairy Toad Lily
43. "Jane Bath" and "Rachel Jackson" Asters
44. "Illustris" Elephant Ears
45. Hardy Begonia

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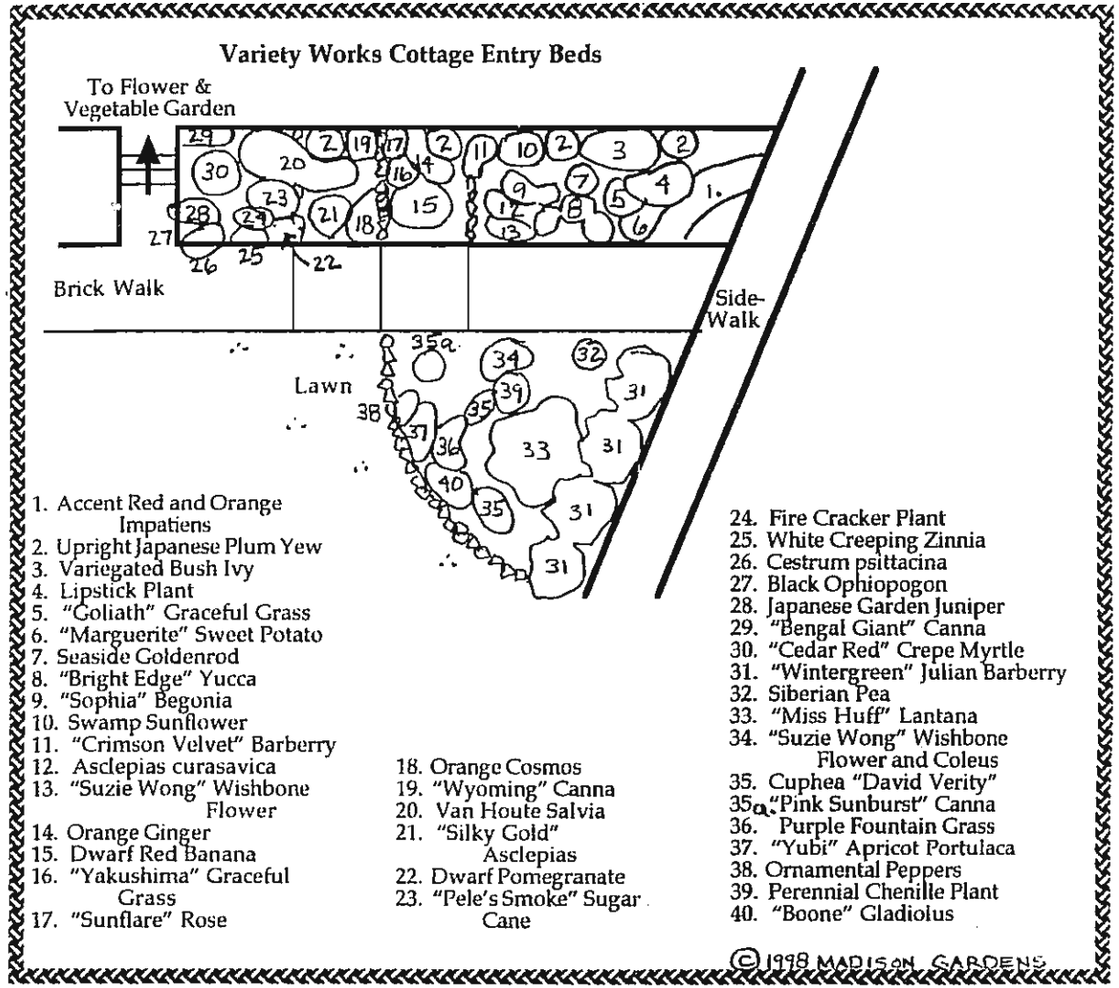
The Variety Works Cottage was built in 1892 by the Madison Variety Works, a local wood mill that turned out scrollwork, built furniture and built homes here in Madison during the latter part of 19th century, into the early 20th century. It is a simple folk Victorian. The large lot that surrounds the house resulted from the burning in the 1920's of a neighboring home, and the subsequent merging of the two properties.

The gardens surrounding the home were created by the current owners, Richard Simpson and Rick Crown, beginning in 1985. Wisteria and privet had engulfed much of the landscape that had been developed by Mrs. Florence Treadaway and her mother-in-law.



1. Accent Red and Orange Impatiens
2. Upright Japanese Plum Yew
3. Variegated Bush Ivy
4. Lipstick Plant
5. "Goliath" Graceful Grass
6. "Marguerite" Sweet Potato
7. Seaside Goldenrod
8. "Bright Edge" Yucca
9. "Sophia" Begonia
10. Swamp Sunflower
11. "Crimson Velvet" Barberry
12. Asclepias curasavica
13. "Suzie Wong" Wishbone Flower
14. Orange Ginger
15. Dwarf Red Banana
16. "Yakushima" Graceful Grass
17. "Sunflare" Rose
18. Orange Cosmos
19. "Wyoming" Canna
20. Van Houte Salvia
21. "Silky Gold" Asclepias
22. Dwarf Pomegranate
23. "Pele's Smoke" Sugar Cane
24. Fire Cracker Plant
25. White Creeping Zinnia
26. Cestrum psittacina
27. Black Ophiopogon
28. Japanese Garden Juniper
29. "Bengal Giant" Canna
30. "Cedar Red" Crepe Myrtle
31. "Wintergreen" Julian Barberry
32. Siberian Pea
33. "Miss Huff" Lantana
34. "Suzie Wong" Wishbone Flower and Coleus
35. Cuphea "David Verity"
35a. "Pink Sunburst" Canna
36. Purple Fountain Grass
37. "Yubi" Apricot Portulaca
38. Ornamental Peppers
39. Perennial Chenille Plant
40. "Boone" Gladiolus

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Features of the garden that has developed include a mixed border that begins at the front sidewalk and sweeps around the house. Hot colors of orange, red and yellow dominate at first, but melt into blues and pale yellows that round the terrace to become violets, purples and pinks. Leading away from the home towards a back circle of grass are double borders which feature berms and wet weather bogs.

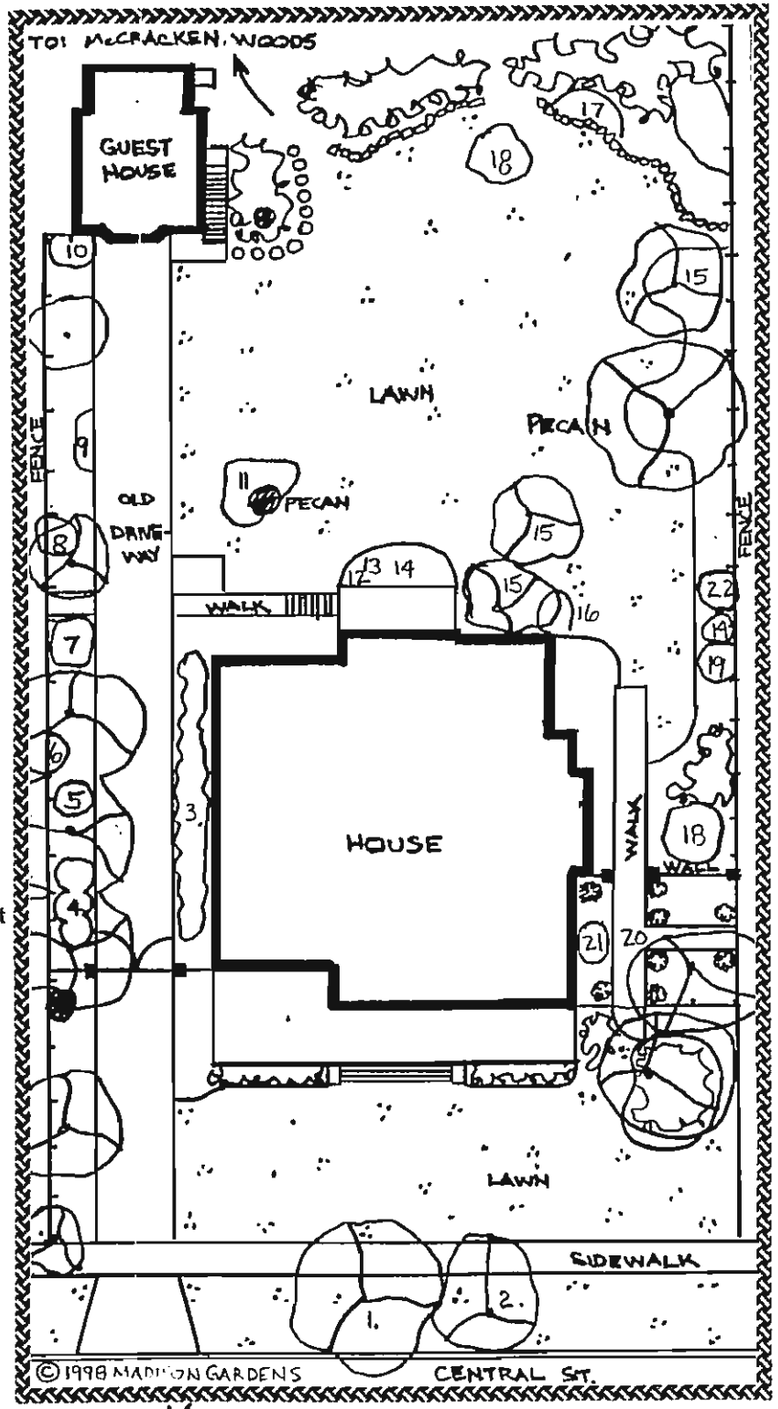
Other features of this landscape include an octagonal garden of white blooming plants, and a raised bed garden for flowers and vegetables. The balance of the property is gardened as a series of woodland walks with different collections of shrubs and perennials.

McCracken Woods and the Brooks-Hart Landscape

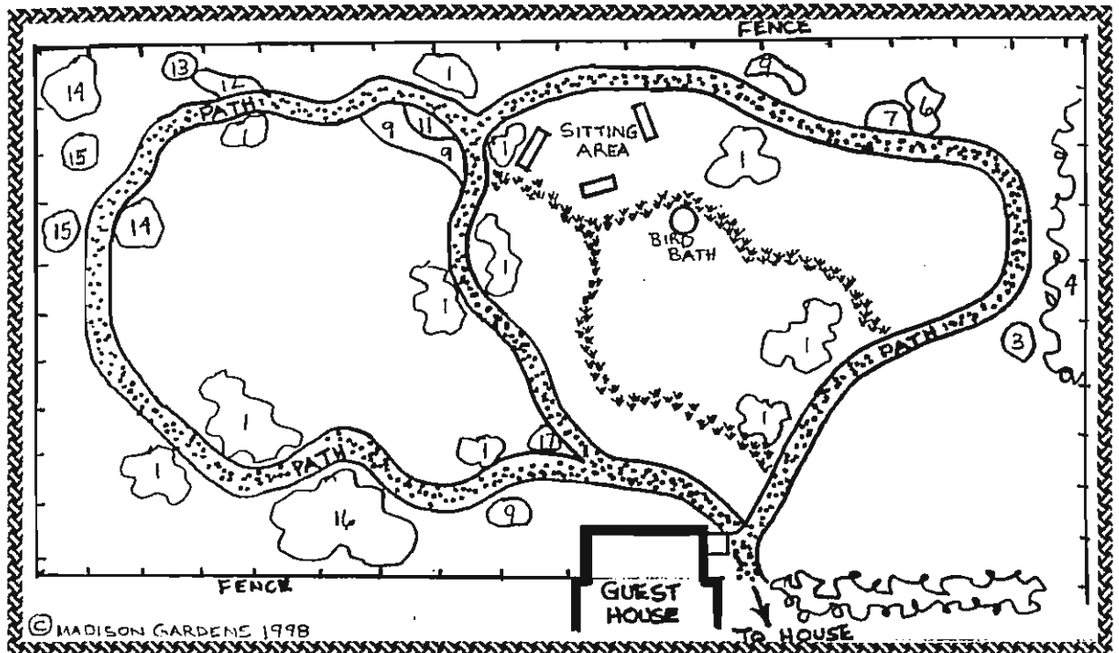
Walk across the lush St Augustine grass lawn to the ample front porch and learn more about the history of this place. At the south end of the porch follow the Love-in-a-puff vine into Mother's Garden, where A fragrant tea olive and dogwood stand watch over the site of a very successful goldfish funeral nearly 80 years ago. Currently brightening

Key

1. "Charter" White Oak seedling
2. Red Bud
3. Pink Macrantha Azalea
4. Sarcococca confusa
5. Gardenia jasminoides
6. Palmetto
7. Lilac
8. "Cecile Bruner" Sweetheart Rose
9. Hardy Ageratum
10. Rose
11. Lily of the Valley
12. Lipstick Plant (in Foster Pot)
13. "Rosie" Azalea
14. Butterfly Bush
15. American Holly
16. Sedum
17. Lenten Rose
18. Fig
19. Confederate Rose
20. Mother's Garden
21. Tea Olive
22. Gordonia



McCracken Woods

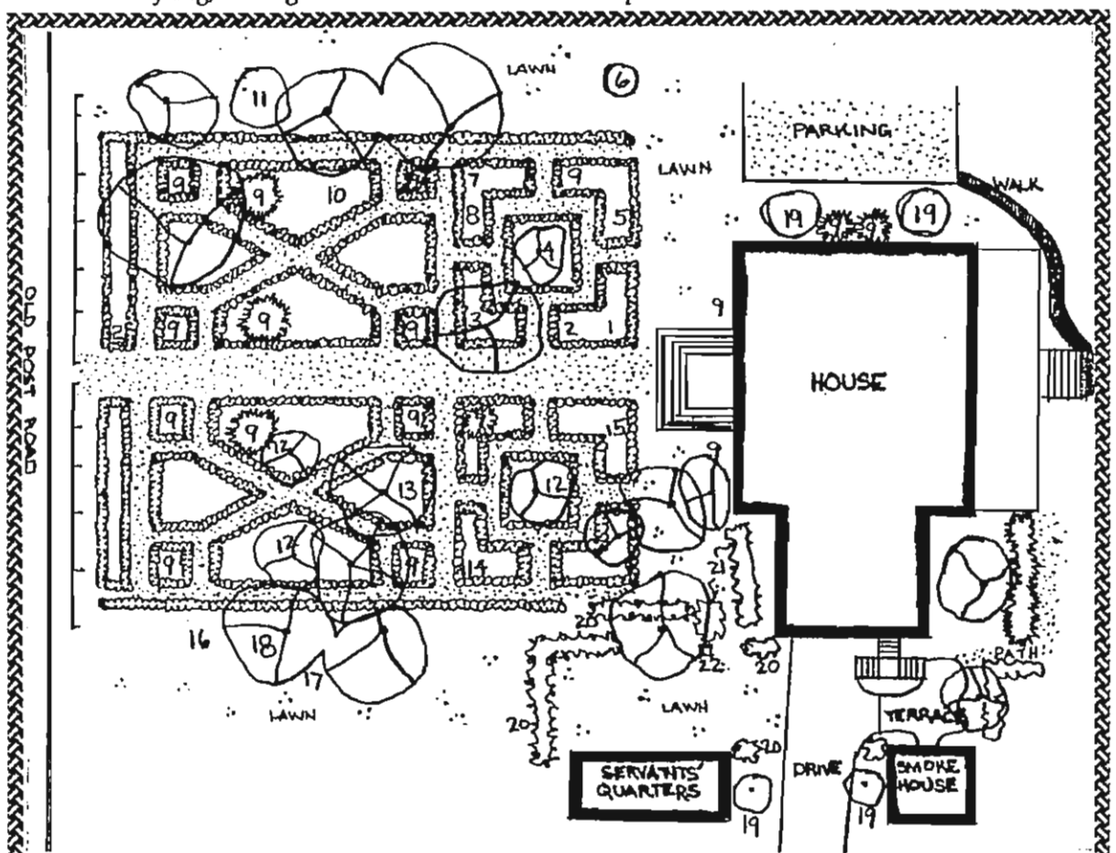


McCracken Woods Diagram Key

1. Azaleas
2. Running Liriope
3. Jack's Grave
4. Palmetto
5. Hosta Collection
6. Hearts a Bustin'
7. Cyclamen
8. Ferns
9. Lenten Rose
10. Southern Shield Fern
11. Foam Flower
12. East Indian Holly Fern
13. Eleagnus
14. Sugar Maple
15. Swamp Dogwood
16. Christmas Honeysuckle
17. Nippon Lily

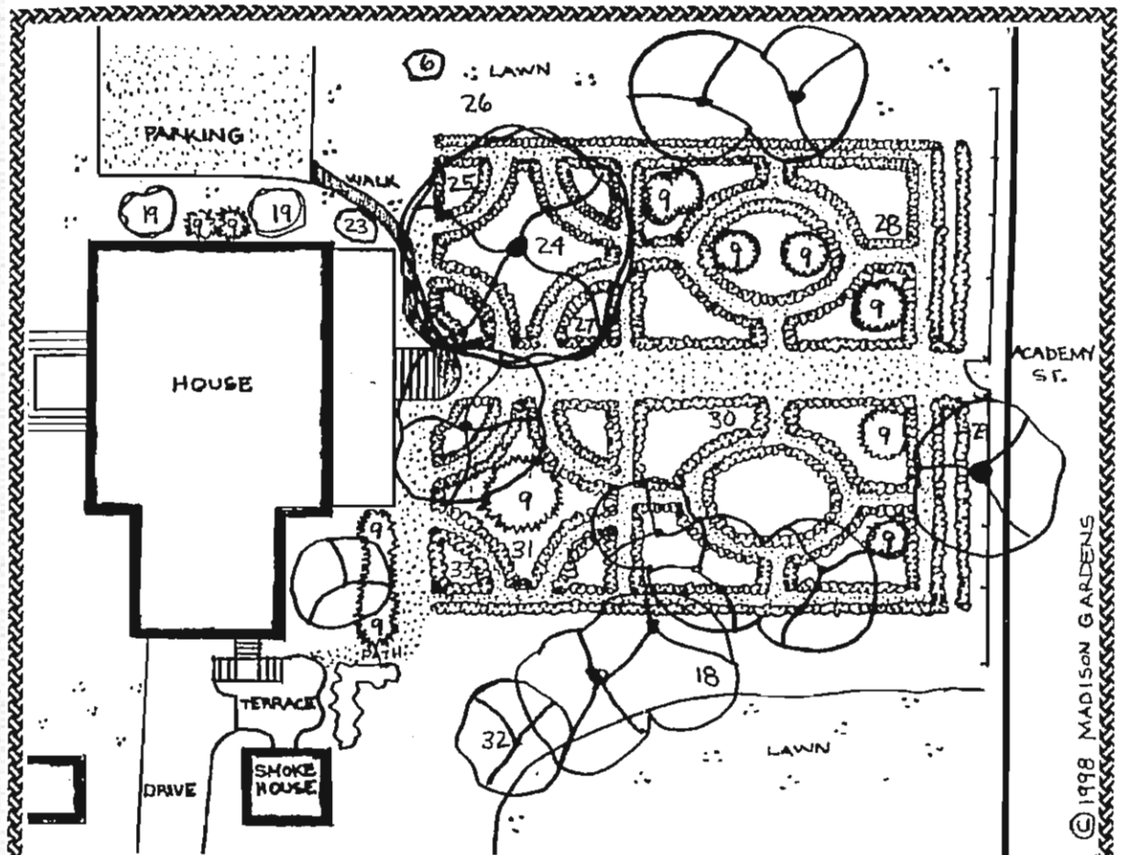
Boxwood

This home and garden is unique to Madison, as it is a relatively unchanged example of antebellum architecture in the garden setting originally planned for it. The house was built in the 1850's and is eclectic in its styling, having elements of the Greek Revival, Italianate and Exotic Styles of the mid-19th century. The boxwood parterres that form the gardens on either side of the home are fine examples of this formal landscape style, and were planted soon after the completion of the home.



1. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick
2. Purple Hyacinth Bean
3. Sweet Bay Magnolia
4. Gordonia
5. Hardy Ageratum
6. California Incense Cedar
7. Oleander
8. 4 O'Clock
9. American Boxwood
10. Chaste Tree
11. Ginkgo
12. Saucer Magnolia
13. American Devilwood
14. Gardenia
15. Daphne
16. "Miss Huff" Lantana
17. Crabapple
18. Ginger Lilies
19. "Amanogawa" Fastigiate Cherry Tree
20. Dwarf Burford
21. Cleyera
22. Creeping Fig

The eastern parterre has a more formal pattern, reflective of the very square styling of the Greek Revival portico on that side of the house. The boxwood parterre on the west side of the house has a curvilinear pattern, following the example of the porch on that side. Jean and Floyd Newton continue the fine maintenance of this historic landscape. Gardens are dynamic, and a fine balance of preservation with additions and embellishment have created this amazing garden treasure.



23. Banana Shrub
24. Southern Magnolia
25. Sweet Shrub
26. Yellow Butterfly Bush
27. Smoke Tree
28. Quince
29. Lantana
30. Blanket Flower
31. Winter Jasmine
32. Sugar Maple
33. Lily of the Valley

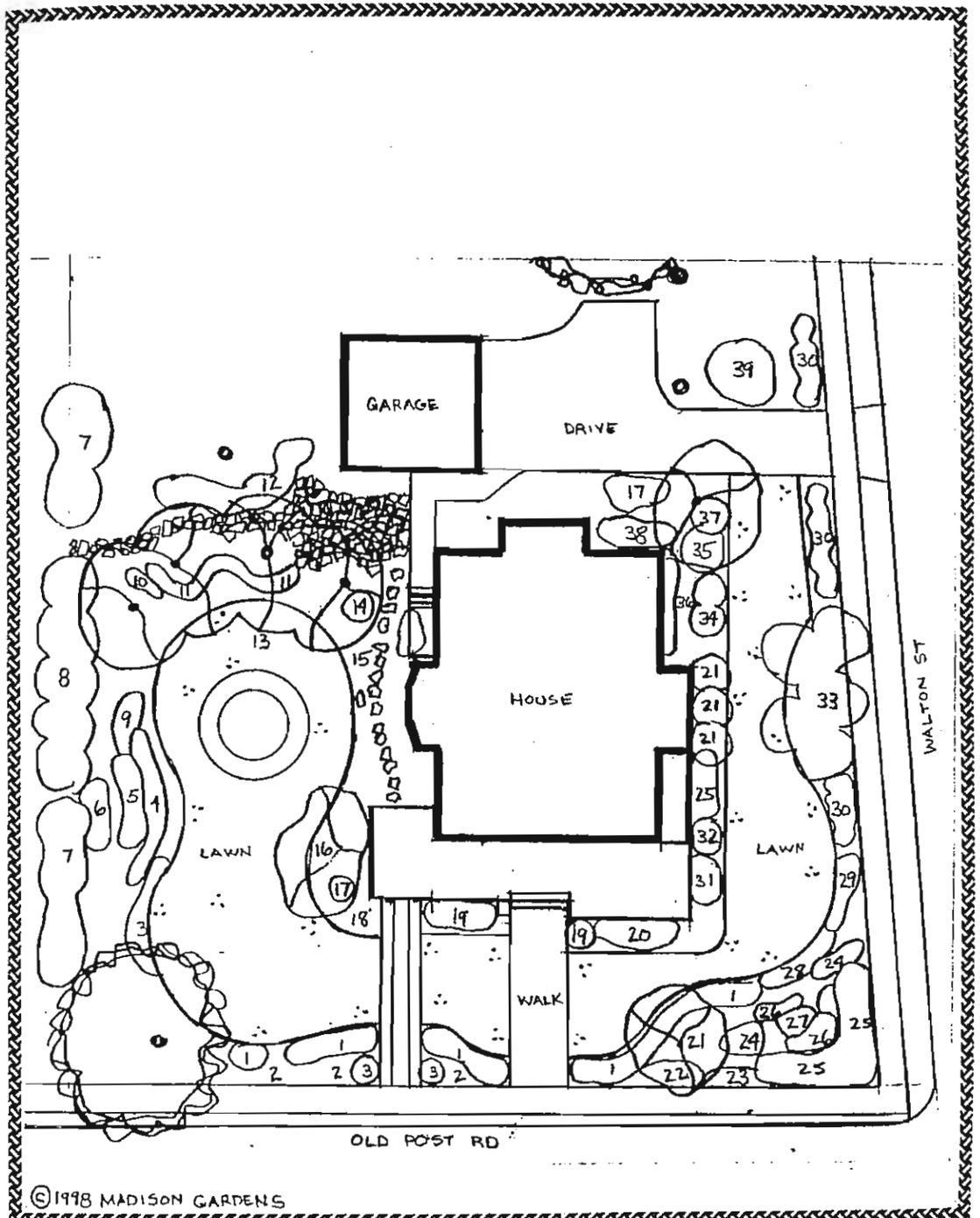
Alby Garden

Bob and Joan Alby's garden sweeps around the corner of Walton Street and Old Post Road, cloaking the bungalow style, 1919 home with an intricate planting of shrubs, trees, perennials and annuals. The original design of the garden was created for the Albys by Sara Groves of Oxford, Georgia. The garden was established in 1990, and has grown and evolved ever since.

An important feature of the garden is the evergreen structure-the "Bones" of the landscape-that provide a framework for the flowering plants. A large collection of Hollies is used for this effect, along with other evergreens noted in the plan. The garden is highly visible from the street, and so the plan includes a variety of plants for year round interest.

Alby Garden
Key to Plan

1. Helleri Holly
2. Hardy Plumbago
3. "Montevideo" Lavender Lantana
4. "Stella d'Oro" Daylily
5. "Brilliant" Sedum
6. Hardy Ageratum
7. "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly
8. "Foster" Holly
9. Gomphrena
10. "Margarete" Japanese Anemone
11. Lenten Rose
12. "Forever Pink" Hydrangea
13. Yoshino Cherry
14. Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal
15. Ajuga
16. "Seiryu" Japanese Maple
17. Hosta ventricosa
18. Lamb's Ear
19. Round Leaf Osmanthus
20. "Meidiland White" Rose
21. "Tuscarora" Crepe Myrtle
22. "Bath's" Pinks
23. Candytuft
24. Gaura
25. "Otto Luyken" Laurel
26. Melampodium
27. "Charming" Butterfly Bush
28. "The Fairy" Rose
29. Pacific Chrysanthemum
30. "Edward Goucher" Abelia
31. "Royal Star" Magnolia stellata
32. Burford Holly
33. "Heritage" River Birch
34. "Needlepoint" Holly
35. Latifolia Holly
36. "New Dawn" Rose
37. Yellow Anise
38. "Jean May" Sasanqua Camellia
39. Tatarian Honeysuckle



La Flora

The front entry garden was born with the cry, "Let's bring the flowers back to La Flora!" Landscape gardeners Madison Gardens designed and installed this garden in 1994 to create a warm and colorful welcome to The Mile's home all year round.

We have used appropriate plants, many native and historic, as well as new introductions to foster the feel of eclectic Victoriana.

Significant specimens at this time of year are the Miss Huff Lantana, the Chinese Butterfly Rose,the sprawling chartreuse Margarita Sweet Potato, and the Dwarf Red Banana.
Against the house foundation is a bed of Silky Gold Milkweed underplanted with white lantana.

A well established Lady Banks Rose arches over the front porch, harboring a clump of ginger lilies at her feet. She consorts with several old Camellia japonica shrubs.

Across the walk a Tangerine Beauty Crossvine scrambles through a pecan, a cascade of orange trumpets in spring.

Alongside the driveway is a mixed shrub border with several evergreens, hydrangeas, bulbs, and groundcovers.

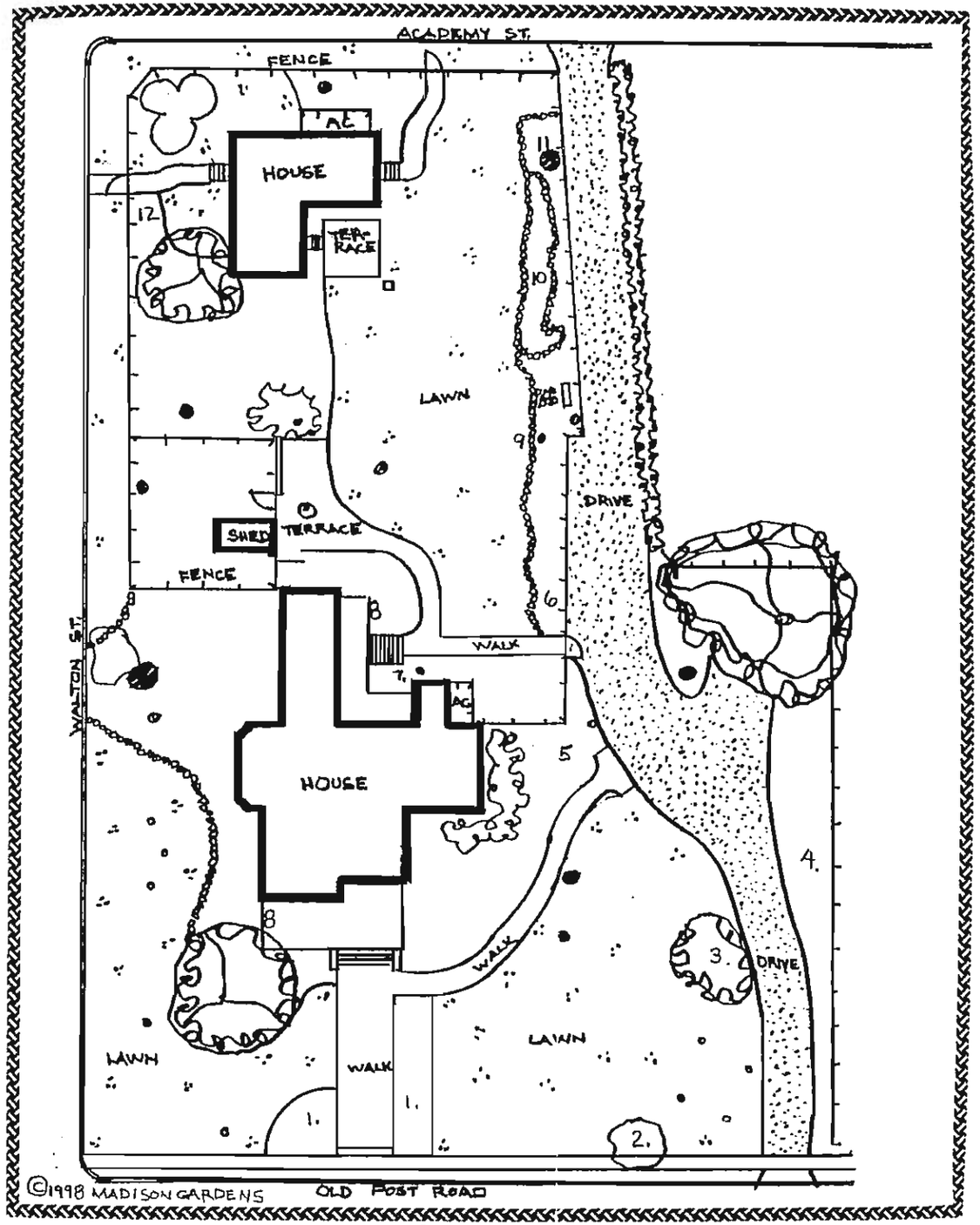
You may notice the small bulb foliage emerging everywhere; this is Blue Star Flower, Ipheion, a South American bulb locally called onion grass due to its strong smell when cut or bruised. In early spring it carpets many Madison lawns with sparkling star flowers of white, pale lilac, and blue. Local lore holds that Mrs Richard of La Flora introduced this charming and hardy ornamental to the area, and for many years you could tell who her close friends were, for their yards sparkled with Blue Star Flower, too.

Jack Miles has recently restored the old Lily Pool, which now flourishes with fish and flowers to further enhance the back yardscape.

The Red Cottage, built in the 1890's, was moved to this property by previous owners when it was threatened with demolition, and restored.

Key to Landscape Plan of La Flora

1. Entry Garden
2. Banana Bush
3. Oakleaf Hydrangea
4. Shrub Border
5. Bloodgood Japanese Maple
6. Tea Olive
7. Lenten Rose
8. Evergreen Smilax Vine
9. Bur or Mossycup Oak
10. Pond
11. Wisteria
12. Cottage Garden



Thurleston

Thurleston offers the visitor extensive grounds that have landscape features from successive owners of this landmark, Madison property. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Whiteside continue the tradition of gardening this beautiful property, and have made many significant additions to its interesting landscape.

As you arrive at Thurleston, your eye is drawn down the double row of boxwood leading to the Greek Revival facade of this monumental, antebellum home. The boxwood formed the parterre that once embellished the Butler-Hannah home on South Main Street. They were removed to Thurleston to create this dramatic entry feature. The front lawns on either side of the boxwood walk are dotted with oak, magnolia, pecan,cedar, and dogwood, along with specimens of Live Oak, Paulownia, and some amazingly tall Chinese Windmill Palms.

To the west of the front grounds is an extensive butterfly garden, filled with Butterfly Bushes, Lantanas, Angel's Trumpet, and many other plants attractive to butterflies. Closer to the house, old Southern Magnolias conceal ancient Sasanqua Camellias. The Camellia collection forms part of on old Woodland garden sloping down to a lake.

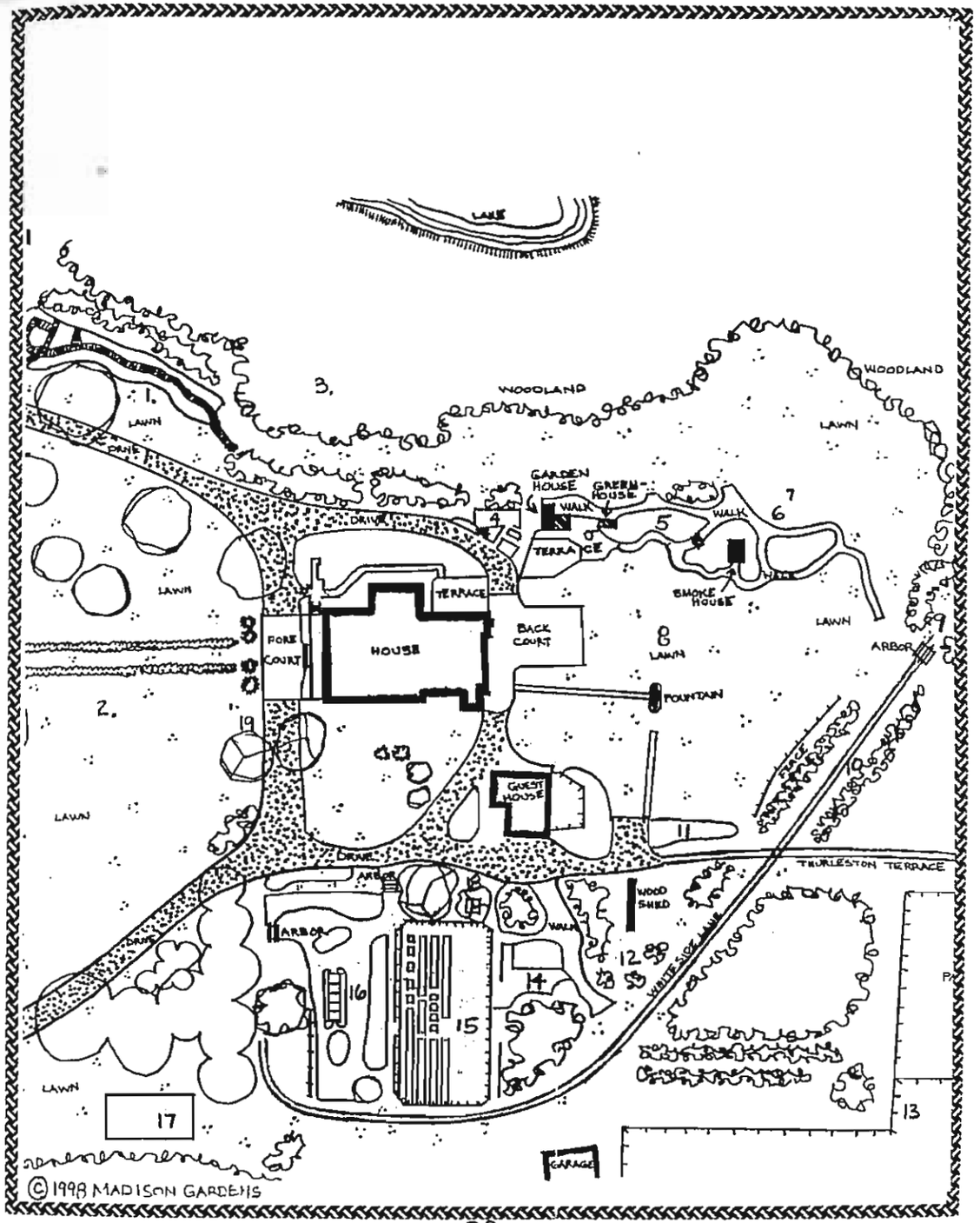
Across from the back of the house, several interesting gardens spill out and away from the new terrace built under spreading pecan trees. A rose garden features many hybrid tea roses, while a winding, gravel path leads past beds of flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals. Past the Smoke House, a wildflower meadow bright with Orange Cosmos melds into a back lawn area. There is also an interesting collection of ornamental grasses adjacent to the wildflower meadow.

To the rear of the property, several ancient features of previous owners may be seen. One is the Oakleaf Hydrangea room, another being the old plantings of crepe myrtles that line the old avenues of the property. Hardy palms may be seen along one of these avenues, including specimens of Palmettos, Needle Palm and Chinese Windmill Palm.

The fence-enclosed Flower and Vegetable Garden forms a focal point for the many garden features on the east side of the property. These include a terrace with new fountain, mixed border beds, and muscadine grape arbor. An extraordinary Lilac tree, rare in this region, grows near the Flower and Vegetable Garden, and is representative of the many surprises and treasures to be found at Thurleston.

Key to Thurleston Landscape Plan

1. Butterfly Garden
2. Front Grounds
3. Camellia Collection
4. Rose Garden
5. Mixed Borders
6. Wildflower Meadow
7. Ornamental Grasses
8. Pecan Grove
9. Oakleaf Hydrangea Room
10. Historic Crepe Myrtle Avenue
11. Crinum Lilies
12. Palms
13. Pumpkin Patch
14. Fountain Garden and Terrace
15. Flower and Vegetable Garden
16. Perennials and Muscadine Grapes
17. Iris and Peonies
18. Lilac Tree
19. Live Oaks



Robson-Mason House and Garden

The Robson-Mason House is set at the boundry where the town quits and the farm fields open up the landscape. This Greek Revival, antebellum house is set in a grove of trees, that shelters it and its interesting gardens. It is the home of Charles and Janet Mason.

To the front of the house, a great lawn is bordered with American Boxwood that sweep along the drives. Tree specimens that dot this front landscape include Southern Red Oak, Chinese Chestnut, Sugar Maple, Live Oak, Southern Magnolia, Ginkgo and a Long Leaf Pine.

At the entry to the house, a mixed border of shrubs, perennials and annuals greets the visitor. Butterfly plants are favored in this garden, and include "Miss Huff" Lantana, a Butterfly Bush, and different selections of Asclepias (a favorite plant of Monarch butterflies). The beds are bordered with hardy plumbago underplanted with spider lilies. Backing the garden and clambering over the porch is "Madison" Confederate Jasmine.

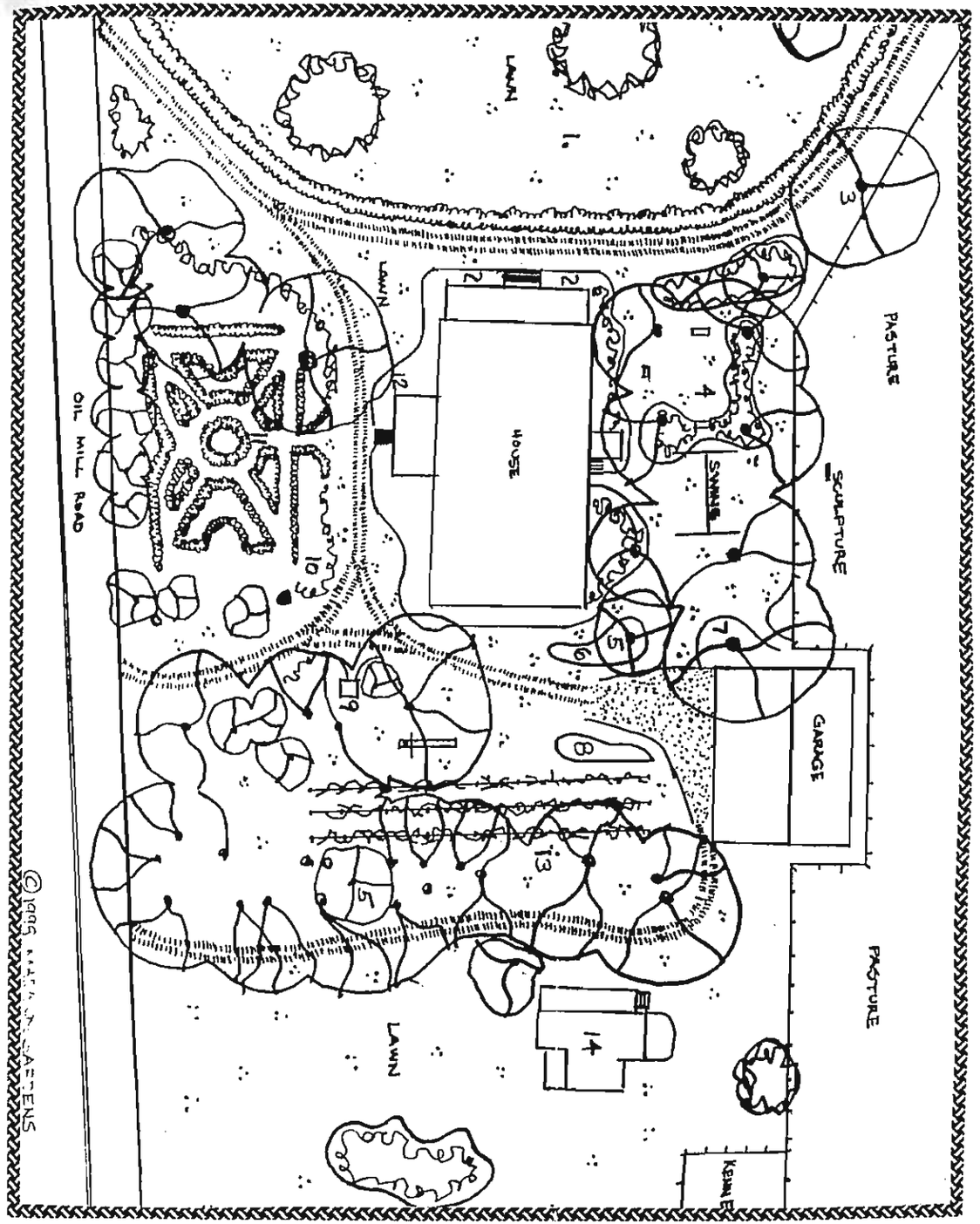
To the west of the house, a sculpture garden is found under the spreading limbs of pecan trees. A mighty wisteria vine cloaks the swing beyond the garden. Behind the house, muscadine grapes grow on three fence rows. A pine wood shelters a growing collection of camellias.

Closer to the house, a boxwood parterre holds many garden treasures, including many more camellias. Around the screened-in porch, fragrant plants are favored, with an ancient Orange Tea Olive at the corner, dwarf Gardenias, and a Clethra. Underplanting these are Upland River Oats, and "Francis Williams" Hosta.

A new addtion to the landscape is the Tenant House, recently moved to the property. It now serves as a guest house. Around it several new garden beds in a cottage style are being created.

Key to Robson-Mason House Garden Plan

1. Front Lawn
2. Front Mixed Borders
3. Long Leaf Pine
4. Woodland Sculpture Garden
5. Sugar Maple
6. Peony and Iris
7. "The Rustic Garden" Display
8. Day Lilies
9. Well
10. Sasanqua
11. Boxwood Parterre
12. Orange Tea Olive
13. Camellia Collection
14. Tenant Cottage/ Art Exhibit



The Richter Cottage

The City of Madison was founded in 1809. One of the earliest settlements was in the area known as Round Bowl Springs, a natural ridge with an abundant fresh water supply which made it an ideal trade route for Indians and later, a stage coach stop for pioneers who were travelling between Philadelphia and New Orleans.

One such traveller, Mr. Charles Richter was an inventor and silversmith. He purchased a small cottage built around 1830, settled down, and set up shop near Tanyard Creek.

Over the years, the cottage fell into disrepair and was in danger of being razed or even moved. However, in 1979, Dr. Josephine Brandon rallied her 7th grade history students to raise funds to stabilize the deteriorating structure. Since then, the cottage with its rich history has served as a link between the natural environment, the people, and the places that are the historical heart of Madison.

But the work is ongoing. The Landmarks Garden Tour is challenged by a grant to raise matching funds, which funds will be used to restore the cottage as a Heritage Education Teaching Museum. Garden landscaping will bring new beauty to the little cottage and will symbolize community renewal for Madison and all of Morgan County -- and we sincerely appreciate your support.