



The Reeves-Reed Arboretum is listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and the National Register. The Arboretum is noted for its gardens that represent early 20th century landscape architecture in this area. The Azalea Garden is one example.

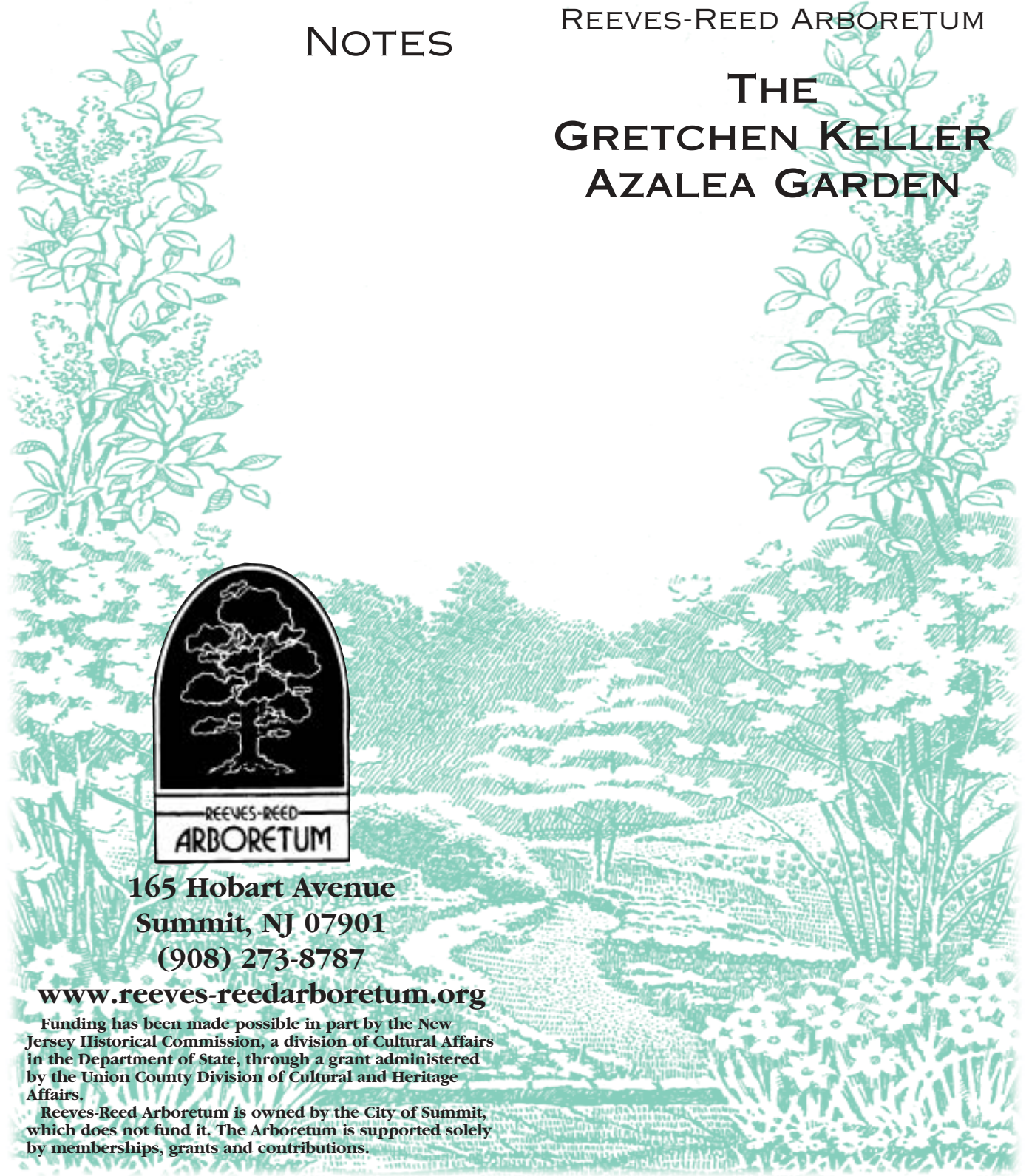
In 1916, Susie Graham Reeves and her husband, Richard, purchased John Horner Wisner's estate, "The Clearing." Mrs. Reeves installed this formal garden's stonework and original evergreens in the Italian "garden room" style popular in the 1920s. The Reeves chose top New York landscape architects Ellen Biddle Shipman and Carl F. Pilat for design ideas including the stone staircase. A New Jersey Historic Trust matching grant helped fund garden restoration in 1995, when 850 shrubs and 25 trees were planted.

The garden honors Gretchen (Margaret Keuffel) Keller, who contributed toward the Arboretum's 1974 founding and whose family continues its significant support.

NOTES

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM

THE GRETCHEN KELLER AZALEA GARDEN



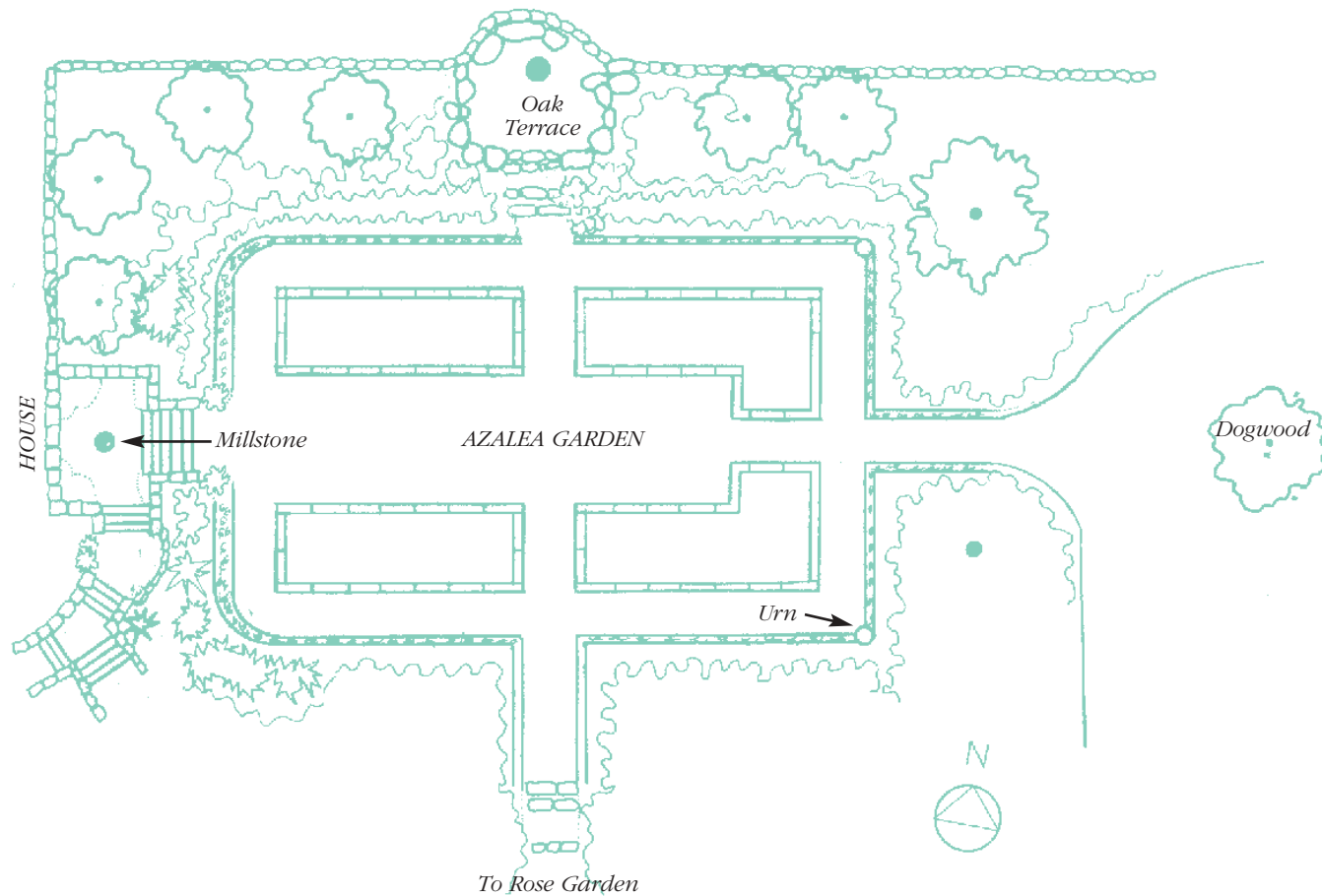
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Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Reeves-Reed Arboretum is owned by the City of Summit, which does not fund it. The Arboretum is supported solely by memberships, grants and contributions.



On the staircase landing is an old millstone from the Reeves' North Carolina home. Bluestone pavers outline the four central flower beds where Mrs. Reeves favored tulips, followed by summer annuals. Due to high maintenance, grass supplants flowers today. At the far corners are terracotta urns that were reproduced in Italy of a special clay to withstand Summit winters.

The Keller Azalea Garden currently features small flowering trees and shrubs. Varieties of shade-loving rhododendron and azaleas grace the north side. For example:

- Carolina rhododendron, (*Rhododendron carolinianum*)
- Evergreen azaleas, such as 'Pleasant White'
- Deciduous azaleas, including 'Lollipop' and 'Lemon Drop'



Deciduous flowering shrubs thrive on the sunny south, including:

- Spirea (*Spiraea aruguta* 'Compacta')
- Bridal wreath (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*)
- Deutzia (*Deutzia gracilis*)
- Forsythia (*Forsythia intermedia* 'Spectabilis')

Various evergreens nestle along the wall near the house, such as:

- Chinese junipers (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitzerana')
- Mugo pines (*Pinus mugo* var. *mughus*)

A small flowering perennial, bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*), edges the perimeter.

In the language of landscape architecture, this garden has an axis, an invisible line that connects the house with its "outdoor rooms." The axis runs from the sun porch, through the center of the staircase, across the garden.

Its terminus is the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) on the east side of the garden. From the stone seat in the niche at the north side, a vista opens to the Rock and Rose Gardens, forming a cross axis.



In the Robin Reed library in Wisner House, a tinted, panoramic photograph hanging over the fireplace shows the garden at peak maturity, c. 1930.