



A dedicated horticulturist, Susie Graham Reeves joined the Summit Garden Club in 1919, a time when the home gardening movement, propelled by The Garden Club of America, closely followed the migration toward country living that transformed this area of New Jersey into suburbia.

Preeminent New York landscape architects Ellen Biddle Shipman and Carl F. Pilat were commissioned in 1924-25. Shipman's "garden room" concept was implemented by Pilat in collaboration with Mrs. Reeves herself, who, in the mode of the time, worked with professionals, confident of her own knowledge and sense of design.

Mrs. Reeves kept a diary of which roses and other flowers performed well. Attesting to her success is the large collection of annual ribbons she won for her roses, an award from The Garden Club of America for horticultural achievement and the abundance her gardens produced. It was said that a morning's cutting of fresh roses would cover the Reeves' dining table. Often, she graciously donated them to Summit's Overlook Hospital. At the front driveway entrance, she would post an invitation to friends, neighbors and passersby to walk in and enjoy the beauty of her rose and other gardens in peak bloom. She was president of the Summit Garden Club from 1954-1958.

The rock garden was designed concurrently in 1924-25 by Carl F. Pilat, collaborating with Mrs. Reeves. With cooling water and shade, this garden room counterpoints the full sun required for roses. Following historical restoration in 1997, funded principally by a matching grant from the NJ Historic Trust, the garden was named for the Reeves' three children who grew up on the property.

NOTES

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM

THE SUSIE GRAHAM REEVES ROSE GARDEN AND THE RICHARD, GRAHAM AND SUSAN REEVES ROCK GARDEN



165 Hobart Avenue

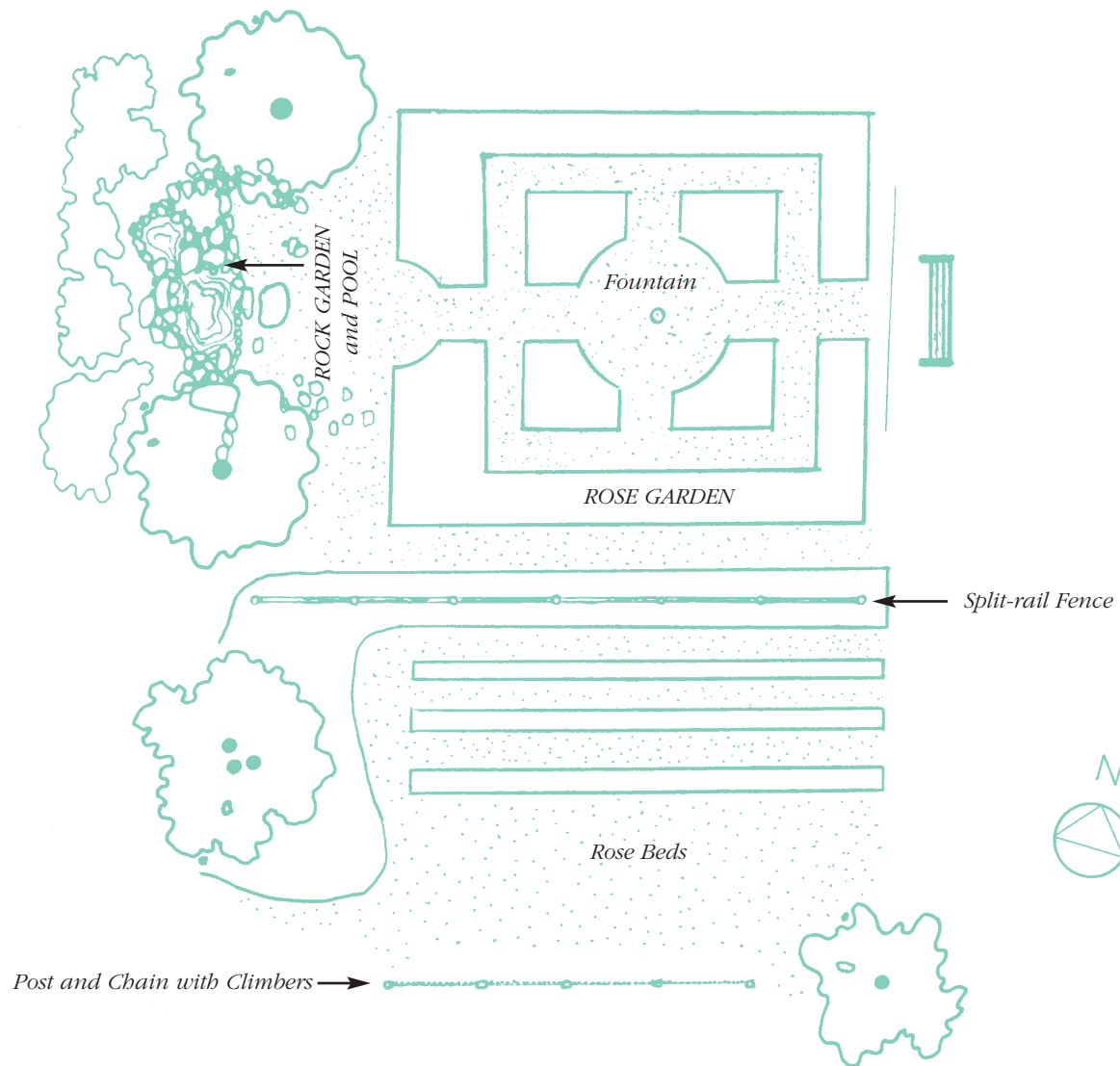
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Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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.



The Rose Garden

Susie Graham Reeves featured, within a square, roses of similar color in four segments that formed a circle around a centered nymph fountain. Tree roses graced the garden entrances. When the property became an arboretum by public funding in 1974, consultants offered advice and evaluation including Peter Malins, then chief rosarian for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Rudolf van der Goot, for

whom the extensive rose garden of the Somerset County (NJ) Park System is named.

Today, the roses are no longer grouped by color, but the four segments and fountain are intact. Roses were added to fill in each corner of the square. The Reeves-Reed's collection of old garden roses and modern varieties includes hybrid tea, shrub, floribunda, grandiflora, miniature, rugosa, wichurana, polyantha, climbers and ramblers. Display labels provide the type of rose.

Labels also identify the given name, variety and, on some, the year introduced. When an American Rose Society annual prize winner is added, the label indicates AARS (All-America Rose Selection) and the year awarded.

A pathway separates the formal garden from the rows of climbers, ramblers and shrub roses. Climbers ascend the post and swag chain, a period design installed by Mrs. Reeves and said to suggest landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand's original at the New York Botanical Garden. Other types wander over the split rail fence or fashionably parade.

The Arboretum has one species of wild rose that stands alone, uphill from the climbers. In May, the Father Hugo (*Rosa Hugonis*) is earliest to bloom, growing up to 9 feet and displaying single yellow blossoms.

At the first of June, the rose garden releases its glories, and in September a second flush of florescence signals summer's end.

The Rock Garden

Integral to this garden's spatial composition are the rock framework, a boulder-edged pool and yews and other evergreen shrubs planted within the rocks. Shrubbery borders of rhododendron, mountain laurel and leucothoe contribute to the visual order and the axial relationships with the adjacent rose and azalea gardens.

During garden restoration, plants that obstructed the north-south alignment such as weeping hemlock, juniper and mugo pine were removed and historic specimens such as mountain laurels were either pruned or removed and replaced. Evergreens and flowering trees including dogwood, dwarf spruce, Callery pear, pyramidal yews and daphnes were planted to regain shape, slope, elevation and contour of the garden.

