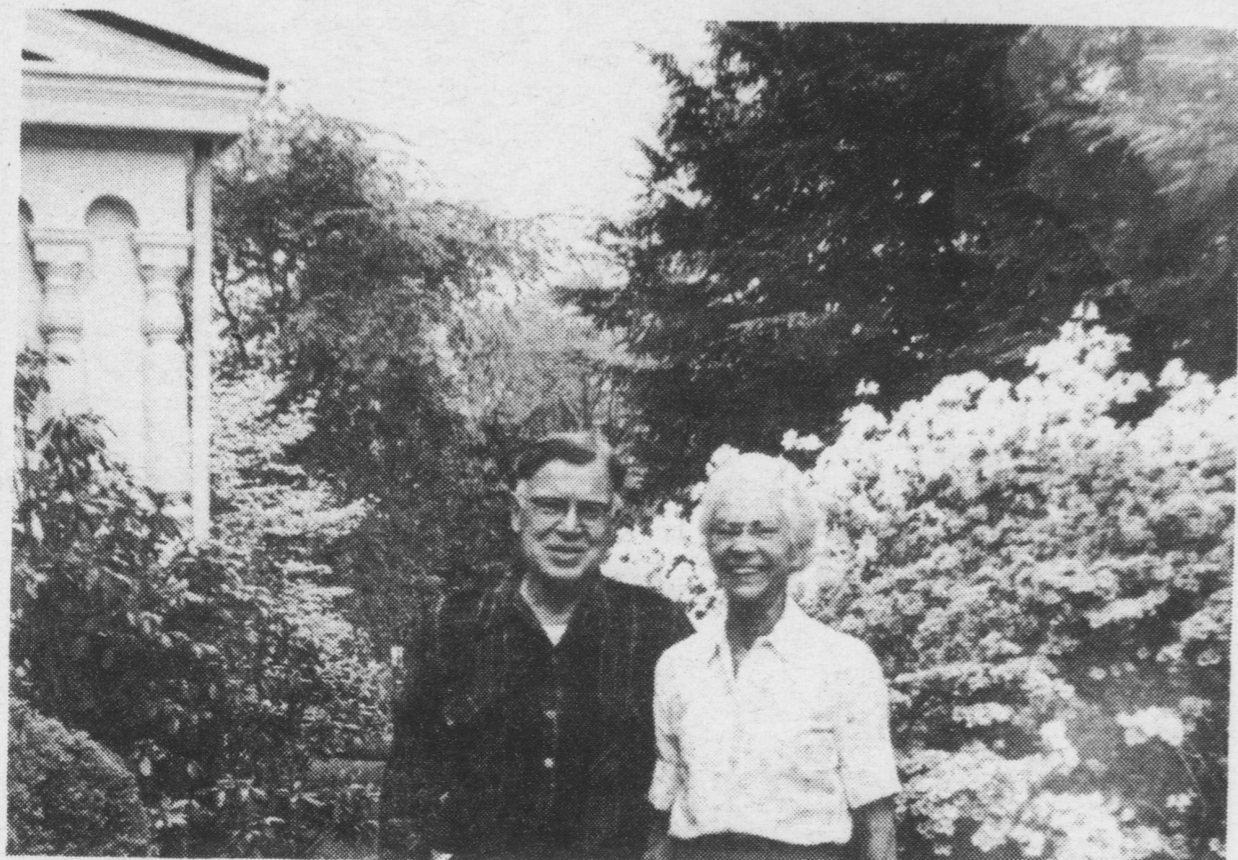


Garden tour sponsored by Mta Restoration Association



Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Vanderslice stand in their garden. The garden was designed by their son, Robert Jr., who is an architect. It is laid out in an unusual, angular pattern. The public will have an opportunity to visit the Vanderslice garden during the Marietta Restoration Associates' garden tour.

Thirteen locations are included in a garden tour sponsored by the Marietta Restoration Associates on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16. The benefit, open to the public, will feature garden and herb plants. Light refreshments will be served. All attractions are open for the first time on this occasion.

The Aldus Baum family, Florinel, route #23 and Kames Hill, East of Marietta, has recently restored the small brick bakehouse and the backoven that was originally constructed as part of their property circa 1810. This building, adjacent to the main house, is now being used as a family room; it is surrounded by herb and perennial flower beds. The landscaping included a mini-fruit and nut orchard, a variety of trees and a typical farm-style vegetable garden.

In 1960 the Meeting House Bluff site, route #441 south of Marietta was a tobacco field, as part of the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Drager. Three of the eight acres have been segregated for landscaping. An arboretum was started in the fall of '60 and it now contains 166 specimens. Among them are thirty plus varieties of conifers as well as flowering hardwoods. The landscaping includes annual and perennials beds, a shade house with potting facilities, a patio and a green house.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vanderslice, 722 East Market Street, Marietta, was created to provide a barrier between the house and the highway, which cut through a previous Victorian formal garden. The entire garden cannot be viewed from any one location, because trees and shrubs were placed to block views into the spaces beyond. Plantings were selected to provide an ever-changing aspect of foliage

and blossoms throughout the growing season. The plantings have been massed to provide a backdrop that increases in height toward the rear or center of each bed.

Over the years the garden has changed in aspect as various plantings matured, were replaced, relocated, or new trails made. Thus, change has been intentionally accommodated, avoiding a static situation and providing a dynamic environment for growing plant life and human enjoyment.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. James Kessler, 225 East Market Street, Marietta, was started in 1958 the year the Kesslers built their home. The garden presents a riot of color in the spring; first with the crocus blooms, then 400 tulips, 400 daffodils and 50 hyacinths. Later rose beds containing more than 80 bushes is a sight to behold. A lovely weeping Japanese cherry tree can be found in the rear of the yard.

Eagles Nest, a backyard garden at 217 East Market Street, the work of Joseph H. Libhart and Thomas S. Vicidomine is enclosed by a stackade fence. The garden features rose bush trees, miniature and climbing varieties, ideal for background and privacy. Also, to be found are: clematis, iris, several flowering trees, (dogwood, crabapple, apple) and a fruit bearing fig tree coddled through the winters with as much protection as possible. Future plans include a brick patio lending a more formal look and allowing several more beds to be used for planting of annuals and perennials.

The yard of Mrs. Paul Portner, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Portner, Fairview Avenue, is planned around a New England style home built in the early 1930's. It is framed with yew and azaleas. In the front, you will find a very beautiful tree of flowering Japanese

quince, also a beautiful red dogwood. Surrounding the house are many varieties of holly. To the right of the house is a long row of hemlocks banked with azaleas, rhododendron and various bulbs. A fish pond and a patio lined with English boxwood is outlined with pines, flowering trees and holly.

Westerly, 214 West Market Street, Marietta, at the Cresswell residence on the square is contained within a six-foot high wide board fence. It features the original brick summer kitchen with walk-in fireplace, a terrace of old brick and old brick walls. Large old maple trees provide shade. Evergreens and specimen trees add interest. Lilacs, honeysuckle and mock orange are the very old shrubs. Many new shrubs have been added including a red berry firethorn espalier on the west side of the house. A herb display will be arranged within the summer house adjacent to the main house.

At 219 West Market Street, shrubs, old-fashioned flowering perennials, wood fencing and brick patio and walkways represent the work of the present owners. The long narrow garden features a vegetable "patch" with selected herbs behind a low stone wall. A charming circular garden house fashioned from old shutters and topped with a wooden shingle roof, a very prolific apple tree and an ancient quince tree which still bears its share of the bitter fruit. A smattering of tall yellow tulips peeping from between evergreens and holly helps to soften the otherwise austere property front. The owners are anxiously awaiting the privacy which will be afforded by new plantings of privet hedge and rapid growing bamboo.

At 138 West Market Street, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Elliot, is an

entrance courtyard, the first step to a comprehensive plan, including the entire lawn, which has been laid out to be more decorative than traditional. Basically a green garden with color added during the growing season, evergreen plants include bamboo, euonymus, catoneaster, gold coast juniper, yucca, japonica, Japanese boxwood, rhododendron pyracantha, English Ivy, hemlocks, white pines, and holly. Vivid azaleas plus a varied array of bulbs give early spring color. The path is lined with allysium and petunias for summer color. Fall brings blooming crysanthemums, zinnias, asters and burning bush. Large bark is used to cover all ground surfaces making the area practically maintenance free.

Miss Elsie McCloskey, 237 West Market Street, Mrs. Richard White, 241

West Market Street have adjoining gardens that have been likened to a small park area. In Mrs. White's yard can be seen a terrace covered with spreading yew. Beyond this are pine trees, a stately old apple tree, lovely young dogwoods, small hollies, and evergreens. A broad expanse of lawn covers both yards. Miss McCloskey's garden boasts a beautiful sugar maple, a large red oak and two bushes of the bittersweet family whose leaves turn a gorgeous shade of red in the fall. Also lemon lilies, daisies, iris, lily of the valley, double white and dark purple lilac, forsythia blooming at this time of the year. Later there will be hundreds of summer phlox, ferns, coral bells, August lilies and yarrow.

The Railroad House at Front and Perry Streets has a yard encircled by a unique wrought iron fence typical of

hotels in the 19th century. Tables placed on the brick terrace enable the tourist (weather permitting) to view the beautiful hills on the opposite banks of the Susquehanna River. Lovely plantings and a gazebo are suited to the era of the Railroad House. Restoration by owner Marlin McConnel is currently underway on the stables.

The Marietta Restoration Associates were organized in 1965 to preserve, restore and up-lift the community and its structures. Michael Abel is president; Dennis Shumaker, vice-president; Mrs. J. R. Baker, secretary; and Mrs. Robert Vanderslice, treasurer. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Marietta Community House. The public is invited to attend meetings.

Mrs. John Brown is chairperson of the garden tour.

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