

Campus Park and Planning. Records.
Horticulture Gardens History, 1972

FOLDER 38
BOX 2314
COLLECTION WA 4.2

DIVISION OF CAMPUS PARK AND PLANNING • 310 MANLY MILES BUILDING

February 1, 1972

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
RECEIVED
FEB 1 - 1972
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Dean William Combs
Director Historical Collection
East Wing Library
Campus

Dear Dean Combs:

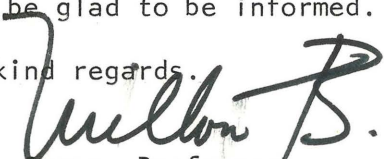
We are interested in getting better facts about the history of our Horticulture Garden since we cannot find any Board records on the subject. Apparently the garden was designed and built through the Department of Horticulture rather than as a Board action. Professor Carl Gerlach remembers that the space was an orchard in 1929 and that in 1930 there was some sort of a perennial garden in the area for he can remember studying plant materials there.

He believes it was in the early 1930's that they built the pool. I was told that the old wrought iron fountain piece came from a decorative pool which was situated somewhere near the old Lit. Building and the old greenhouses in the vicinity of Wells Hall dormitory, the site of which is now occupied by our Library. The old drawings from the T. Glen Phillip's landscape architecture office do not include anything on the Hort garden which would give us clues as to the beginning date of the garden. Someone must have spent time designing what we found in 1946 but the records of the Department of Horticulture or elsewhere do not give us any clues.

Perhaps you might have knowledge that would help us piece together a better history of the garden. We would certainly appreciate any light you might be able to shed on this.

If you have any knowledge or suggestions of where to look for facts we sure would be glad to be informed.

With kind regards,


Milton Baron, Professor
Director

MB:jl

cc: Professor Carl Gerlach
Dr. John Carew

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY TRANSMITTAL

TO

*Dean Combs
Library*

PLEASE

- ANSWER copy to me CIRCULATE SEE ME
- for my signature COMMENT SIGN
- APPROVE FILE TAKE ACTION advise
- CALL ME FOR YOUR INFORMATION RETURN

RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST

- APPROVED ACTION TAKEN NOTED

REMARKS

*Here is preliminary
on Herb. Garden History
per our phone con-
versation*

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
RECEIVED
FEB 25 1972
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

FROM <i>Milton Baron</i>	DATE <i>2-24-72</i>
DEPT. <i>Campus Park + Planning</i>	PHONE NO. <i>5-9582</i>

Problems

HISTORY OF HORTICULTURE GARDEN AND AREAS ADJOINING

- 1855 Land was the north easterly portion of the Burr purchase, part of which was known as the Smith tract (53 acres) located east of the present Home Management Building. The early Smith house was enlarged, rebuilt and moved twice, and finally served as a home for the horticultural foreman somewhere in the vicinity of the garden. Was demolished about 1924.
- Area east of Farm Lane was divided into plots, orchard, etc. with barns and other outbuildings.
- 1888 Horticultural Laboratories with an attached greenhouse erected.
- 1902 Bacteriology Building built.
- 1908 Botany Building built.
- 1909 On the east side of Bacteriology, but west of Farm Lane, four Detention Hospital cottages for contagious diseases were built. These ran north and south.
- East of Botany Building was a greenhouse range which is still in use.
- 1924 Horticulture Building, as it is at present, was finished along with its greenhouses.
- 1925 Horticulture Building first occupied.
- East Circle Drive, in gravel, was an extension of the old farm road in front of the building.
- Area to east near the building was used as a plant material laboratory for teaching purposes.
- Orchards to the east of the present Horticulture Building extended south where the present Auditorium is now and east toward Mason-Abbot area.
- 1929 Planting plan for Horticulture Building by T. Glen Phillips.
- 1932 After this date boxwood planted by Professor Carrick Wilden. Boxwood plants came from the Grand Rapids Experiment Station.
- Pool was installed about this time.
- Statue came from former pool near Union-Lit. Building as a gift of the Class of

- 1932 or after Chinese lilac hedge planted.
- 1933-34 Woody plant collection established across from the Horticulture Building at the site of Berkey-Home Management area.
- 1934 Farm Lane along east side of Dairy Building north to Grand River along Horticulture Building was removed.
- 1935-40 Charles Barr believed the Norway maples along east side of Horticulture Building next to what was Farm Lane extension, were planted. At first they were pruned in the formal European fashion which later was discontinued.
- Lilac collection for teaching and testing new lilacs was planted.
- Around this time or perhaps as early as 1930, a shrub garden was developed directly east of the east entrance to the Horticulture Building with plants which were the gift of the Michigan Association of Nurserymen. Barr and Wilden staked the plantings directly in the garden.
- 1930-35 T. Glen Phillips did a garden design for the area according to Charles Barr.
- Rose collection for testing purposes installed.
- Dahlia test plantings for the National Dahlia Society planted by Wilden.
- Ornamental evergreen collection planted east of pool on site of present Student Services Building. Shrub and tree collection towards East Circle Drive installed about the same time.
- 1943 According to the Horticulture brochure written by Richard Stinson around 1960, he said the area gradually evolved into the present formal development about 1943. (with similar structural changes in 1958)
- 1946 Perennial collection on south part of East Circle Drive removed for Natural Science Building - in the way of the building.
- 1947 Garden was re-designed by Milton Baron with new cross walks, etc.
- 1950 State Board of Agriculture appropriated "\$800 for appropriate work in Horticulture Garden".

1955

Appropriation by Horticulture Department in the amount of \$2,800 was made for installation of underground electrical service for landscape lighting.

1960

\$6,225 Board of Trustee appropriation for new fresh water line to pool to eliminate odors and under drains and river water irrigation system for garden.

1961

Management of the Horticulture garden, lawns, trees and shrubs, but not including care of roses and beds, turned over to the Grounds Department. Use of all herbaceous materials, annuals, perennials, roses, bulbs, etc. designed, planted and managed by the Horticulture Department for display and teaching purposes.