



100 Calhoun St.

The front foundation plantings of this home consist of an exciting mix of evergreen and blooming shrubs and trees, all of which are in perfect scale to this large Victorian home. Just before entering the rear garden from the driveway, you will notice a recently installed outdoor grilling area. The rear garden is divided into multiple outdoor vignettes. Mature boxwoods, statuary, and water features punctuate each area which is richly planted with a diversity of colors and textures.



224 Walker Ave.

The current owners purchased this charming Victoria era home in January of 2012 and immediately began restoring and renovating. At that time, they added additional rooms both inside and out. The long brick drive leads you to the main outdoor room which is anchored by an impressive pergola and wood burning fireplace. What a great place to entertain! A wide selection of plants, chosen to create a fun and festive atmosphere, can be found in the bordering beds as well as in the unusual collection of containers. The owners love to rescue old materials and have recycled several into their design – the wood for the raised vegetable beds is from the Jack Daniels barn, the fireplace mantel was once a floor joist from their house, and some of the brick edging came from the old Coca Cola plant.



227 Walker Ave.

Much like the house it surrounds, this garden has been in a constant state of renovation since the current owners were transferred from St. Louis in 1997. This garden maximizes the use of outdoor space with an eclectic use of hardscape materials and specimen plantings. The lack of a lawn or formal plantings in the front garden reflects the owners' casual lifestyle and their affinity for bird and people watching from the wrap-around front porch. Perennials and annuals ensure a changing seasonal display and welcome the passerby to the garden in front of the house. A cedar fence encloses the rear garden, where collections of hollies, conifers, and Japanese maples complement the water features and other architectural elements. The placement of the garage and garden shed, along with the strong vertical elements of the shrubs and small trees, help define the separate garden rooms, each complete with its own seating area.



Rice Park

(Corner of White and Walker)

This park is a joint effort between the city of Huntsville and Old Town, and was named in honor of the family that helped establish Old Town as a historic district. The proceeds from past Old Town Garden Tours went toward the establishment and maintenance of this park area.

Hidden Gardens of Old Town

Tour



Sunday, June 7, 2015
1:00 – 5:00

Tickets \$10

- 500 Holmes Avenue
- 105 Steele Street
- 107 Steele Street
- 109 Steele Street
- 113 Steele Street
- 503 Clinton Avenue
- 100 Calhoun Street
- Rice Park
- 224 Walker Avenue
- 227 Walker Avenue



500 Holmes Ave.

A wonderful cast iron fence defines the front and rear garden of this Victorian home. Boxwoods and hydrangeas are used as foundation plantings. The rear garden, outlined with roses, boasts a central fountain. The owner's vast collection of iron and concrete statuary and planters accent the landscape. Seasonal plants fill the containers and provide an enticing array of color.



105 Steele Street

This garden has undergone many major changes from its first design in the early 1980s. What was once a deep shade garden has become mostly a sun garden. Many of the changes were brought on by the loss of mature trees due to tornados and other natural causes. Additional design changes were mandated following the construction of an addition to this townhouse in 2010. The majority of the garden is divided in garden rooms, and there is a perennial border along the north fence. While the overall structure of the garden follows a formal design, the selection and placement of plants and whimsical garden ornaments create a fun, relaxed, and inviting environment. Just see if you can spot the flying pig.



Refreshments served on Steele Street.



107 Steele Street

An in-ground pool provides an inviting and relaxing center point for this garden. Just beyond the decking is a lush border garden anchored by the large wooden fence. Beyond the pool area is a rich perennial garden that features a multi-tier fountain. The smokehouse, which now serves as a storage building, once stood on Lincoln Street. Also of historical note is the beautiful dogwood that originated as a seedling from the famous 100 year old dogwood at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. This garden hosts multiple water features and an impressive collection of plants that would turn most gardeners green with envy.



109 Steele Street

This wonderful Victorian raised cottage was moved from its original location in the heart of Downtown Huntsville to Steele Street in 1981. In 2002, the current owner completely renovated the grounds to complement the Victorian era house. Bill Nance designed this extraordinary garden using the original smokehouse as a focal point. Two additional outbuildings, which serve as storage for gardening and flower arranging tools, were added to complete a more formal design. The new design had to be altered only a few years after it was implemented when lightning struck the 100+ year old pecan tree that shaded the entire area. The garden also contains a formal vegetable garden with a primitive miniature church as the focal point. The area behind the magnolia trees at the rear of the garden serves as the family pet cemetery.



113 Steele Street

When the owners began to design this garden, they wanted to capture the sense of order, beauty and peace they had discovered in other gardens they had visited during their many travels. The driveway that leads to the rear garden is shaded by an impressively large Japanese maple. Inside the boxwood walls of the rear garden, a rock path takes you to a peaceful wall fountain. The south side of the house has a special surprise that the grandchildren call the "secret garden". This less formal space has a loose rock path that leads through a wonderful collection of plants.



503 Clinton Ave.

This property has been a part of the family for many generations and the current owners decided to make it their home following their retirement. While the owners' roots to this property run deep, the same cannot be said for most of the planting as this is a relatively new garden. In fact, after attending the last tour in 2012, the owners committed to being on the next tour and got to work. The cabana across the front of the accessory building at the rear of the lot provides a restful place to sit and enjoy the colorful collection of plants. The "kid" of the house, a marque Great Dane named Bama (the unofficial mascot of Old Town), has decided that the fountain in the middle of the garden was put there just for her. The motto over the cabana, Live Well...Laugh Often...Love Much, pretty well describes what happens in the home and garden.