



Smithsonian *Gardens*

The Garden Club of America collection - Lake Forest Garden Club series

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Gardens
Title:	The Garden Club of America collection - Lake Forest Garden Club series
Date:	1948-1969
Identifier:	AAG.GCA.LGC
Extent:	.1 Cubic feet (4 autochromes and 159 35mm slides)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by the Lake Forest Garden Club in February 2019.

Content Description

4 autochromes and 159 35mm slides that document the gardens of Ellen (Mrs. John) Stuart of Winnetka, Illinois and Ellen and Devillo R. Holt ("Homestead") of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Container Listing

Illinois Gardens

IL186: [Lake Forest -- Homestead, ca. 1940-1969](#)

159 Slides (photographs)

Former owner: Holt, Ellen Hubbard
Holt, DeVillo
Holt, Ellen, 1869-1961
Holt, George
Lake Forest College

Notes: In 1860, DeVillo and Ellen Hubbard Holt commissioned a house constructed in the "Italianate" style, made popular by the New York landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing. Known as the "Homestead," the property was intended to be a summer house for the Holt family, however it became the family's permanent residence as they sought to escape the bustle of downtown Chicago. The Holt family owned the Homestead for a century. Siblings Ellen and George Holt probably inherited the property in 1903 after the passing of their mother. In 1960, Ellen transferred ownership of the estate to Lake Forest College. The college sold it to private owners in the mid-1970s. The property featured expansive gardens. Frank Calvert is credited with planting the gardens at Homestead. Landscape architect Annette Hoyt Flanders updated the garden's design; garden designer Louise Stone Hubbard worked on a restoration of the gardens in the 1930s. Persons associated with the garden include: DeVillo and Ellen Holt (former owners, 1860-1903); Ellen and George Holt (former owners, 1903-1960), Lake Forest College (former owners, 1960-ca. 1975).

IL186001: [\[Homestead\]: front of house](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186002: [\[Homestead\]: front of house with lawn.](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186004: [\[Homestead\]: stone dog statuary; lawn.](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186011: [\[Homestead\]: well and plantings of iris and peonies, 1958](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186055: [\[Homestead\]: lily border., 1959](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186060: [\[Homestead\]: looking through the garden gate.](#)
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186072: [\[Homestead\]: peony borders., 1960](#)

1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186074: [Homestead]: phlox garden beds.
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186076: [Homestead]: hollyhocks.
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186077: [Homestead]: cabbages.
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186083: [Homestead]: cat on top of the dog statuary.
1 Slides (photographs) (color, glass.; 35mm.)

IL186088: [Homestead]: garden borders of blue and yellow flowers;
greenhouse in the distance.

IL186091: [Homestead]: cat walking down the stone path through garden
borders; dog statuary set in the lawn.
1 Slides (photographs) (color.; 35mm.)

IL186101: [Homestead]: fall; cutting garden., 1951

IL186107: [Homestead]: fall; cutting garden and garden gate.
1 Slides (photographs) (color, glass.; 35mm.)

IL186110: [Homestead]: metal wheelbarrow with wood barrel filled with cut
dahlias.
1 Slides (photographs) (color, glass.; 35mm.)

IL186122: [Homestead]: garden in winter; stone dog statuary]
1 Slides (photographs) (color, glass.; 35mm.)

IL007: Winnetka -- Stuart Garden, circa 1948
4 Lantern slides

Image(s): [The Stuart Garden](#)

Former owner: Stuart, Ellen (Mrs. John)
Stuart, John

Architect: Zimmerman, William Carbys, d. 1932
Edwin H. Clark, Inc.

Landscape architect: Yeomans, Alfred

Consultant: West, Roy

Notes: Alfred Yeomans designed the garden of John and Ellen Stuart a few years after they acquired the property in 1908. The garden lay on the main axis of the house with woodland paths bordered by stone coping, lilies, delphinium, and yew. English lead statues were scattered throughout the property. For a number of years, Roy West of Simonds, West and Blair and another Winnetka resident served as garden consultants for Ellen Stuart. Persons associated

with the garden include: Mr. and Mrs. John and Ellen Stuart (owners, 1908-1952), William Carbys Zimmerman (architect, 1904), Edwin H. Clark, Inc. (architect, unknown years), Alfred Yeomans (landscape designer, ca. 1913), Roy West (garden consultant, unknown years).

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