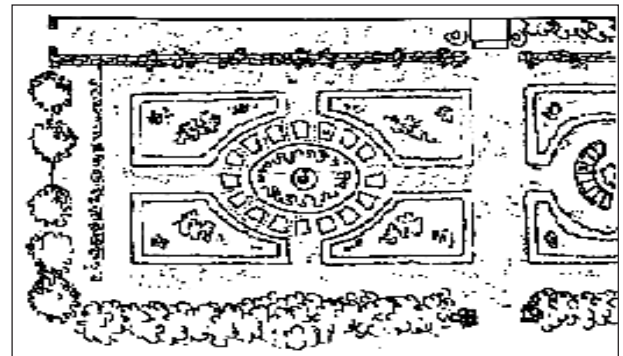


Massachusetts Gardens on Tour was an eleven day “progressive” garden tour showcasing more than 75 private and public gardens in ten communities across the state. The Garden Club Federation, hosts of this tour, wanted to make a lasting gift to one site on the tour, and Lowell was chosen. This gift to the community was to be a recreation of a 19th century garden on the grounds of St. Anne’s Episcopal Church. Built in 1825 with stone taken from the Middlesex Canal, St. Anne’s has an extraordinary collection of Tiffany stained glass windows and is one of Lowell’s historic and architectural treasures. The main objective of the design was to create a garden that would blend with the Gothic Revival church, the period in which it was built, and the character of Lowell at that time.

A COG designer created concept sketches and planting plans showing a low maintenance garden in a historic tradition. The design is a symmetrical geometric

plan, a formal organization typical of the emerging High Victorian style. Low evergreen hedges shape the flowerbeds, and the focal point is a circular evergreen and perennial planting bed, to be replaced someday with an urn or sculpture. The plantings along the internal stone wall were enhanced with old-fashioned perennials. Plants were chosen which thrive in the shade and which need little special care. The existing lilac hedge forms a buffer to the street and was renewed after its spring flowering. A bench beneath the old crabapple provides a place for viewing the garden, a place to enjoy the sense of peace and solitude.

A visit to Lowell is always a fascinating experience. The Lowell “story” is very evident as one tours the city. A visit to St. Anne’s with its newly planted garden will offer a rich glimpse into the past as well as a present day delight.



Client: Massachusetts Gardens on Tour  
The Garden Club Federation of  
Massachusetts, Inc.

Designer: Anneliese Hrones  
Concord, MA

Location: Lowell, MA

Completion: Summer 1998