

Betsy Dietze March 20, 2018

Few know that Reeves-Reed Arboretum, located here in Summit, was first built as an estate house. The 1889 property, originally named "The Clearing" was purchased by Richard and Susie Reeves for their love of gardening. They used a high-profile New York City architect named Carl F. Pilat to create the designs for their gardens. However, in 1974 the estate turned into an arboretum, with help from both private and public funds, to focus on environmental education, as well as preservation of the native woodlands. In 2006, the arboretum received a land donation of 0.733 acres from the Hubbard Family, the same family in which Lincoln-Hubbard school is named for, to complete the 12 acre area that we know as the arboretum today. The current mission statement for the arboretum is: "A suburban conservancy dedicated to environmental and horticultural education for children and adults, and the enjoyment of nature through the professional care and preservation of a former country estate."