



# The Garden Lost



# The Garden Lost



a **Windscape** book  
Wilmington, North Carolina

words, art,  
and photographs  
by Dan Hardison

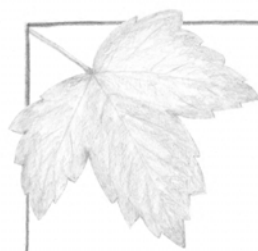
## *Forward*

Located in Columbia, Tennessee, Mercer Hall was the home of James Hervey Otey when he was named the first Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee in 1834. Bishop Otey began the garden behind Mercer Hall on a plot that was once the vegetable garden for President James K. Polk. Over the years the garden was enhanced by later owners including the addition of the gazebo that originally sat on the grounds of the Columbia Institute, a girls preparatory school that was started by Bishop Otey. Mercer Hall is still a private residence today.

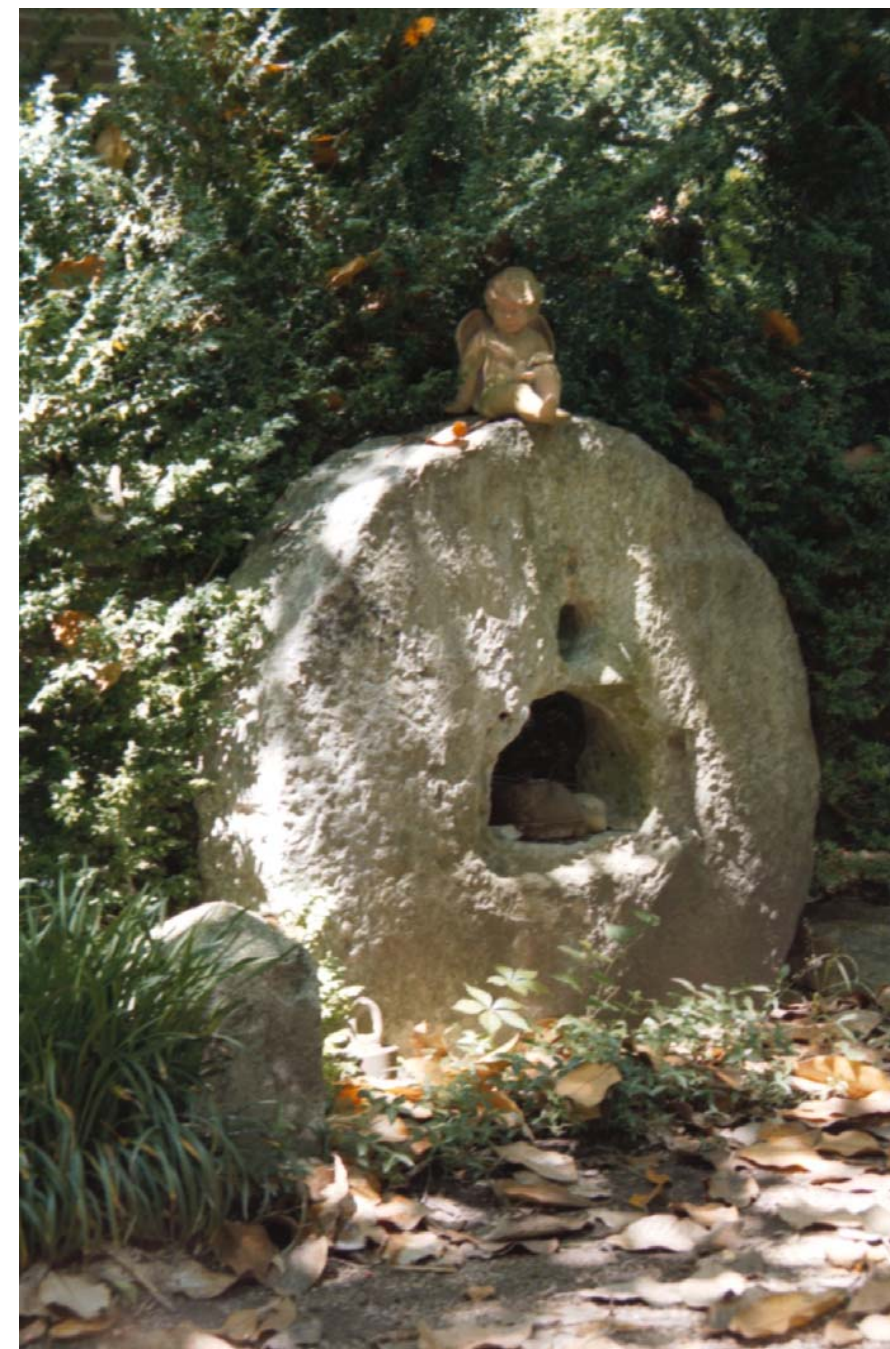
When I visited the garden in 2003, it had not been maintained in awhile, but was still a magical place. Walking through the garden, I could imagine how it once had been and what it could be again.

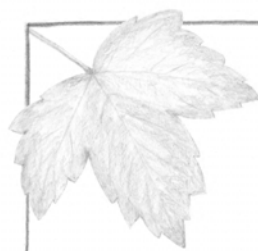
— Dan Hardison



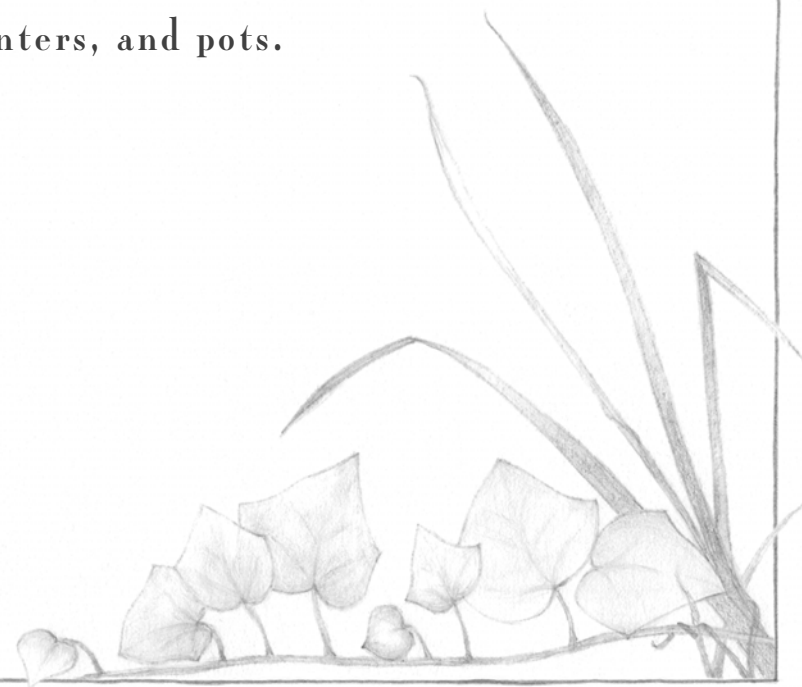


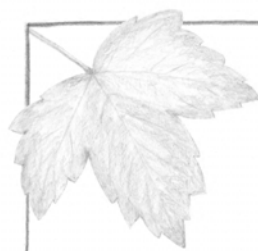
From another place in time  
and a noble man of God,  
behind a house stately and proud  
a garden can be found.





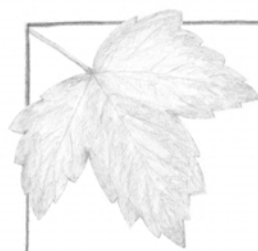
Beneath a canopy of trees,  
through a maze of encircling shrubs,  
walkways of brick are lined  
with urns, planters, and pots.



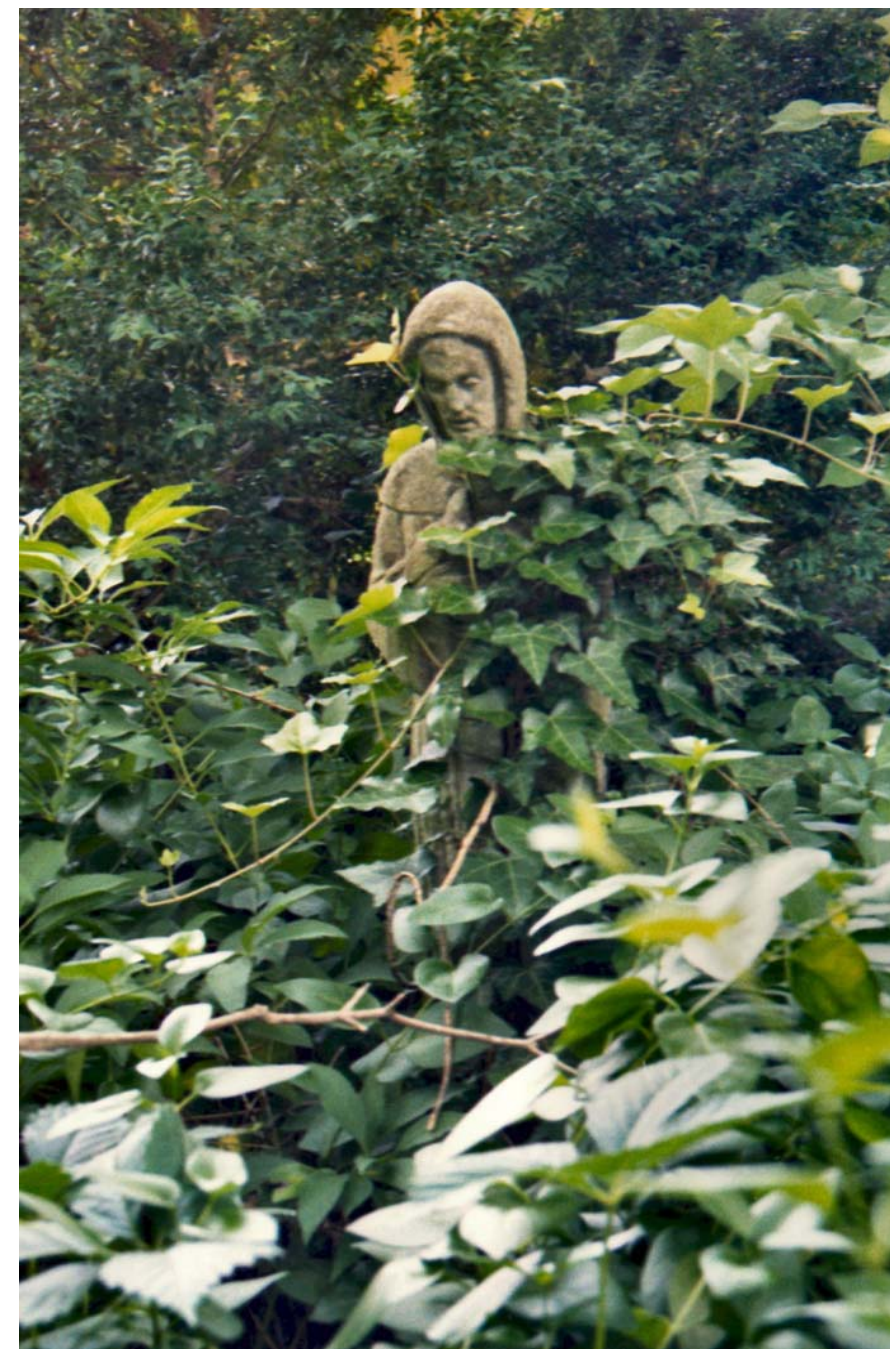


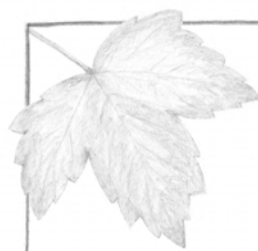
A pond and a gazebo,  
benches for rest and reflection,  
all about are statues  
with St. Francis keeping watch.





**M**uch thought and work  
went into this space –  
its design and intent is clear.  
But flowers have long  
been absent here –  
weeds and vines  
now occupy this place.





Walking through what was a garden  
overgrown and all but forgotten –  
one can imagine what once had been  
and what could be again.





