

Gardens & Gables 2005

A tour of six beautiful gardens in North Platte. This year's tour is dedicated to our good friend, founding member of the Library Foundation, garden lover, and library supporter, Jim Craven.



Saturday
July 16, 2005

7:30 AM—1:00 PM Tours

8:00 AM—1:00 PM Gardening Workshops

Tour Bus operates 8:00 AM and 10:30 PM
(By Advance Ticket Purchase Only)

This event will take place Rain or Shine!

A litter free event.

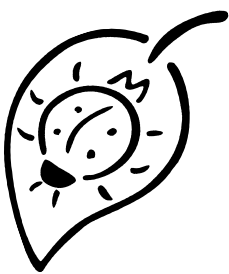
Workshop Information

Container Gardening

presented by Dennis Murphy, University of Nebraska Master Gardener Volunteer
This informational session will be held at the Bruce/Brannen home at 1620 W 3rd St.



Not enough space for a garden? Is that deck too bare? Maybe you have a favorite exotic that won't last Nebraska's winter? We'll discuss the Why's and How's of gardening in containers.



Integrated Pest Management

presented by Ann Bartlett, University of Nebraska Master Gardener Volunteer
This informational session will be held at the Dye/Britton home at 301 S Vine St.

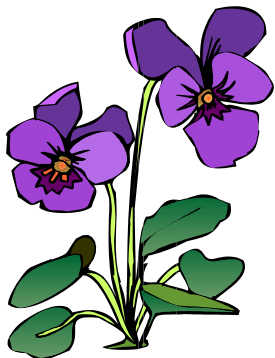
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the best approach to reduce unwanted pest populations and minimize pest damage to an acceptable level. You will learn more about IPM and how it can help you have a healthy garden at this workshop.

Historic Gardening: Good for the Plants and Your Soul!

presented by Cindy Boehlke, University of Nebraska Master Gardener Volunteer
This informational session will be held at the Handlin home at 323 W 1st St



Historic Gardening is not a new concept. Since 1892 there have been many publications written on recreating "grandma's garden". Why should you create an historic garden in your yard?



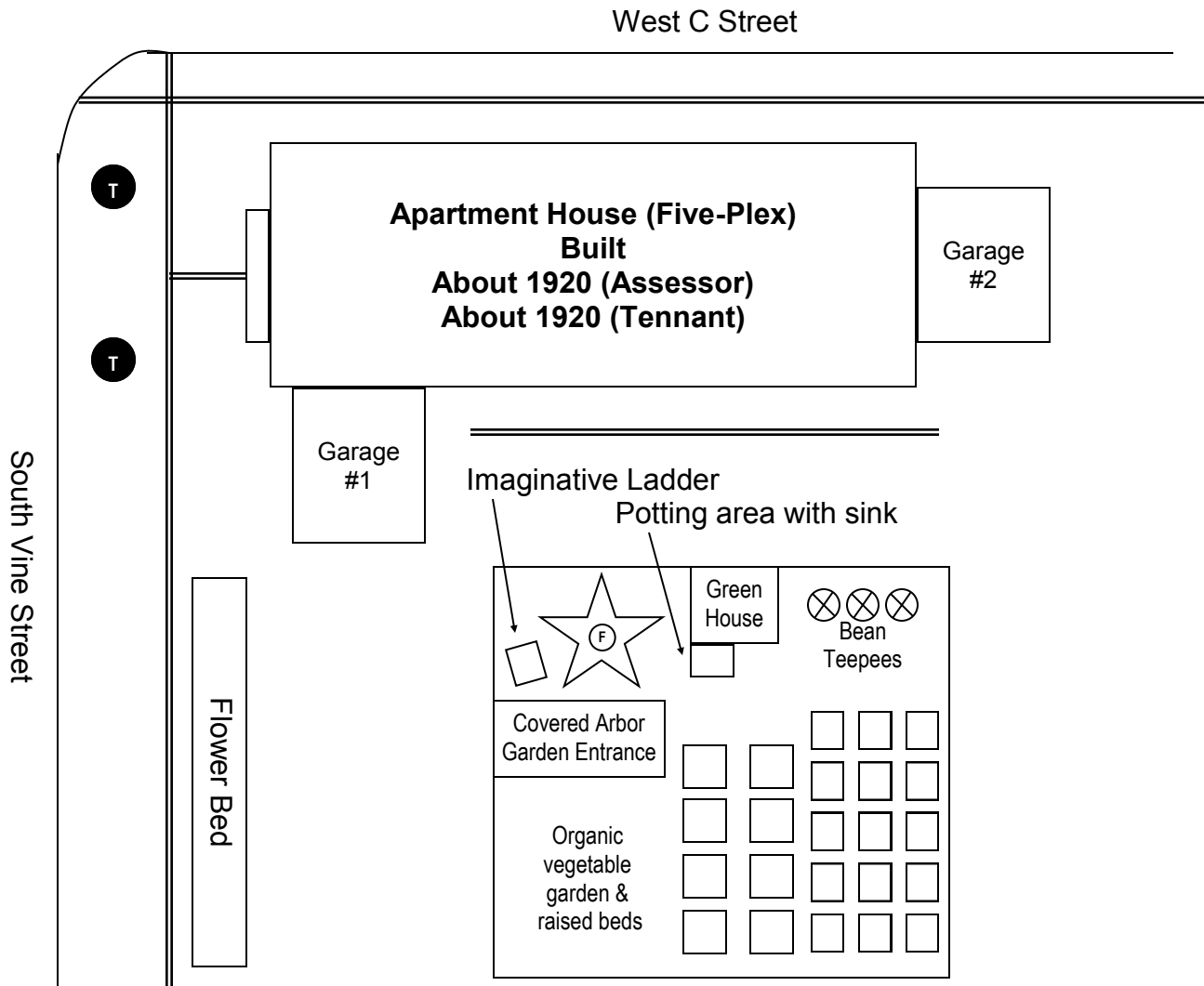
Preserving your garden: the Art of Pressing Flowers

presented by Cecelia Lawrence
This informational session will be held at the Weitzel home at 515 W 3rd St

This informal workshop will discuss some of the types of presses and how you can turn your pressed flowers into beautiful works of art.

Smithfield Gardens

Kaycee Dye & Larry Lee Britton
301 South Vine Street



Notes & Favorite Plants

T Tree

S Shrub

Main Features: This rustic organic vegetable and flower garden is a home for many recycled products. The raised beds and bean teepees make the best use of vegetable growing spaces, while the patriotic star bed and flag honors many and is dedicated to Jim Craven, a founding Library Foundation Board Member. The covered arbor / tunnel offers an interesting entrance into the garden. This unique garden is the result of a good relationship between land owner and tenant and thereby dedicated and named, Smithfield Gardens, in honor of the land owners.

Smithfield Gardens

Kaycee Dye & Larry Lee Britton

301 South Vine Street



Gardener Comments

What fun gardening has been this year! Larry Lee Britton and I have combined our love for growing flowers and vegetables. What you see today is the result of that shared enthusiasm. We have a wide variety of vegetables and flowers mixed together. Our raised beds are built from recycled wood; the bean teepees are built with last years sunflower stalks. All the beds are filled with compost from the landfill. The greenhouse is a new addition this year and a learning experience for both of us. The star-shaped bed was built and planted in honor of our good friend and library supporter, Jim Craven. Enjoy our tunnel and all the personal touches we've added. We grow organically, so don't be surprised to see a weed or bug or two. We want to thank our good neighbors across the street, Jack and Marylee Nichols, without their support, advice, and love who knows what you'd be seeing today — not to forget Jack's skill and patience in dealing with our stubborn water pump! The garden is named after our landlords, Bill and Linda Smith, and Mike and Pam Smith. After much begging on my part, they graciously allowed us to till up the sod and trusted us to create a garden to be proud of. We hope you enjoy Smithfield Gardens as much as we do! Thanks also to "Mighty Weeder", Helen Freiberg, for all her help in getting Smithfield Gardens ready for the tour.

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

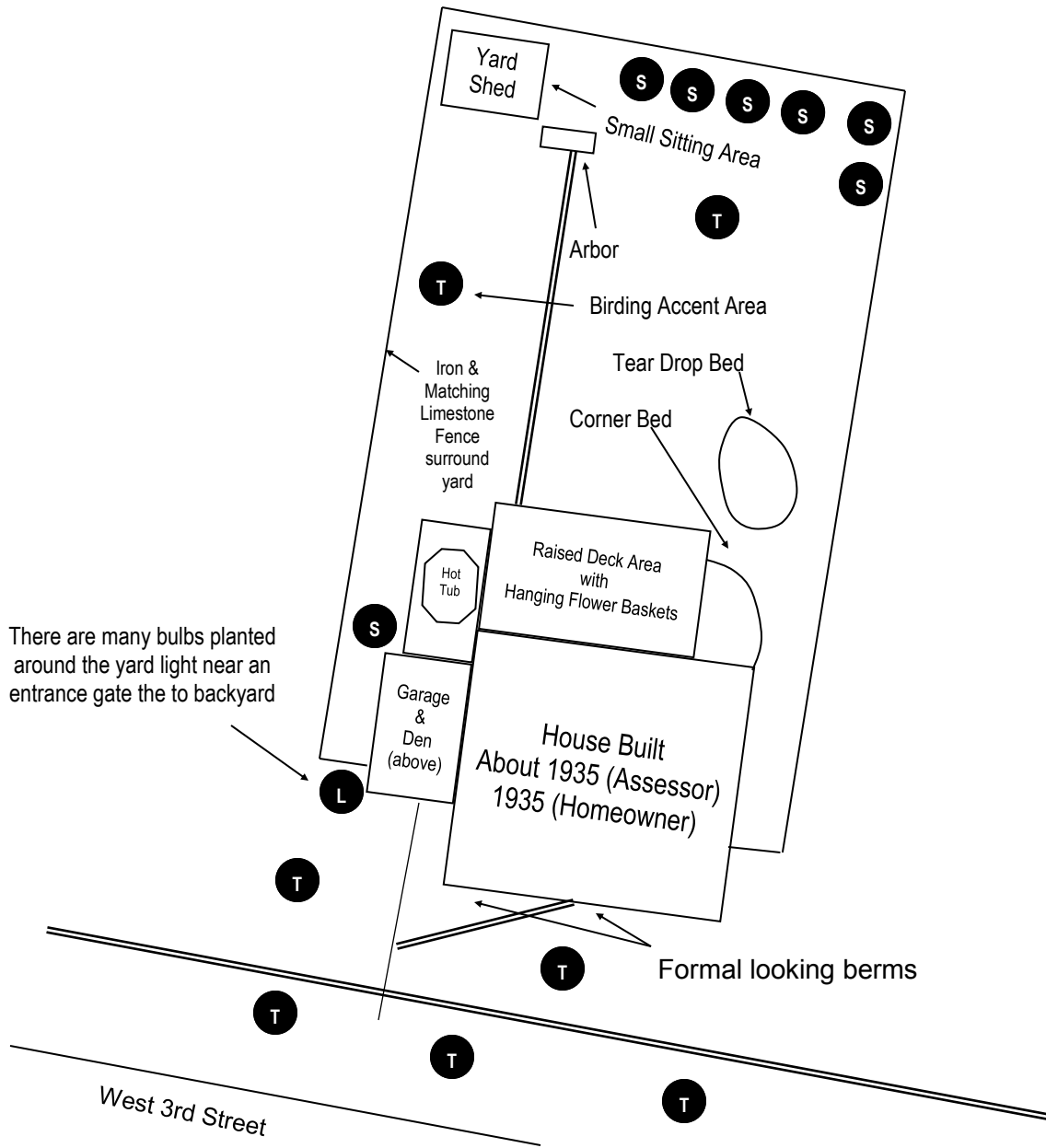
Believed to have been built in the 1920's, this 5-plex sits on the northwest corner of the block is near its original condition. The 5-plex was designed with a larger apartment on the west end of the building which originally served as the landlord or the property manager's apartment. The remaining four apartments were smaller in size and identical to one another. The facility is near original condition with the exception of a garage which was added on to the south side of the building. Coal chutes were also located on the south side of the building, which allowed the delivery of coal to the basement level of each apartment. The main level of the apartments consists of a very small kitchen, ample living/dining area as well as a toilet. The upper level consists of two bedrooms, with one slightly larger than the other. The original millwork still exists in the larger, formerly manager's, apartment. The interior wood work is mission style and still in its original finish state.

The exterior still has its original lap siding, appropriately painted white. Each of the 4 smaller apartments have a shared porch entry on the north side while the larger, landlord/manager's apartment has a full front porch on the west. The porch is entered at a centrally located set of steps, flanked by brick railings. The porch is also surrounded by simplistic columns which frame the edges of the porch. The street trees provide quite a bit of shade to the front porch which is the main focus point of the structure.

Kaycee has been working the grounds, slowly expanding the garden area, after convincing the landlord that less lawn and more garden would be a benefit to the landlord and would spruce up the property as well.

Hal & Donna Weitzel

515 West 3rd Street



Notes & Favorite Plants

- T Tree
- S Shrub
- L Yard Light

Main Features: The house is impressive from the street, with its limestone and wrought iron fencing. Be sure to ask about the picture of the Purple Robed Black Locust tree, just gorgeous. The homeowners have worked hard to make their yard seem formal from the front and a yard for leisure in back.

Hal & Donna Weitzel

515 West 3rd Street



Home Owner Comments

Our home was built in 1935 by a local contractor, L. L. Whitehead, for Mr. & Mrs. Claussen. In 1951, the garage and den (above the garage) were added to the original structure. The fence around the backyard was built in 1971, and it cost the same amount in 1971 as the house did in 1935. We are only the third owners of the house and have lived here for nearly 10 years.

The exterior of the house is the original cedar siding, which is painted and limestone. The fence is made of limestone and wrought iron. The interior of the house has all wood floors with the exception of the family room, which is in the basement.

In the spring the backyard is bordered on the east by red tulips and yellow daffodils and on the west with various iris colors of iris. The north or back of the yard has several spirea and pyracantha bushes. The east side of the house also has ivy growing up the fireplace and spilling over onto the fence. Hal and I have planted 2 English oak trees, 6 nine bark bushes around the arbor and a smoke tree in the backyard as well as the bush next to the garage on the west. Our front landscaping consists of three Fairview maples curbside, a smoke tree in the center of the front and a purple robed black locust tree on the west side of the driveway, which is beautiful when it is blooming in the spring. We have a picture of the tree in full bloom earlier this year. There are 2 eunonymus bushes, 3 potentillas and 2 dwarf spruce trees directly in front of the house.

The flower beds are made up of mostly annuals such as petunias (one of my favorite flowers), impatiens, cosmos, dianthus, sweet potato vines and coleus. There are a few perennials in the flower beds including hostas, delphinium, coral bells, blue speedwell, Jacob's ladder and several bulb plants in the spring.

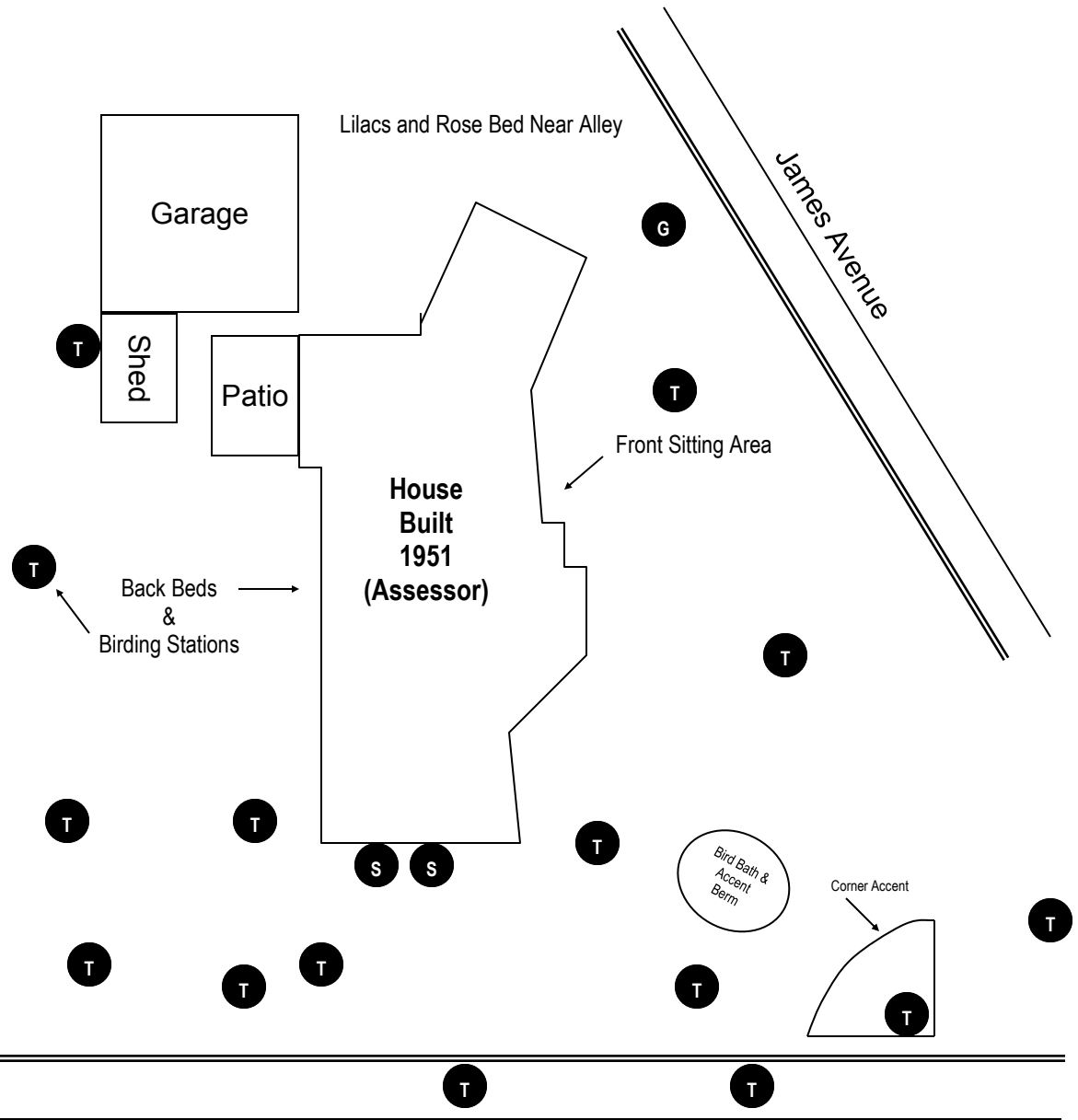
We hope you enjoy visiting our yard as much as we have enjoyed have you stop by on the tour.

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

This two story, full basement house was built in 1935 by L. L. Whitehead. The house was built for the Claussen's and stayed with the family until 1986. The house was then purchased by Dr. Schaeffer who lived in it until 1990 when it was purchased by the present home owners. In 1951, a single stall garage along with an office/den was added to the west. In 1970, a new fence was built around the property matching the limestone base of the house and also bringing in some decorative wrought iron fencing. The cost of the fence in 1970, matched the cost of the original house in 1935. The limestone featured on this house is the prominent material on the front façade, raised to the entry door height. Above the limestone is a large lap siding finished off with a dentil cornice at the roof eave. A large bay window is located in the formal living area as well as 3 dormer windows on the upper floor and two dormers located in the 1950 den and garage addition. The interior still has the original woodworking as well as the original cabinets in the kitchen and laundry areas. There are several built in cabinets through out the house, but the favorite is the two corner cabinets in the dining room where the current owners display her chocolate glassware. Apparently, the Claussen's also displayed some of their chocolate glassware in the same corner cabinets.

Judy & Martin Gutschenritter

418 James Avenue



West E Street

Notes & Favorite Plants

T Tree

S Shrub

G Tall Grass

Main Features: This yard is a shade lover's dream. There are many large trees and a wonderful variety of plant life to enjoy. Some of the plants in this yard include: Pampas Grass, Coral Bells, Climbing Hydrangea, Four O'Clocks, and several mystery plants. By the way, if you know what any of the mystery plants are, please let us know!

Judy & Martin Gutschenritter

418 James Avenue



Gardener Comments

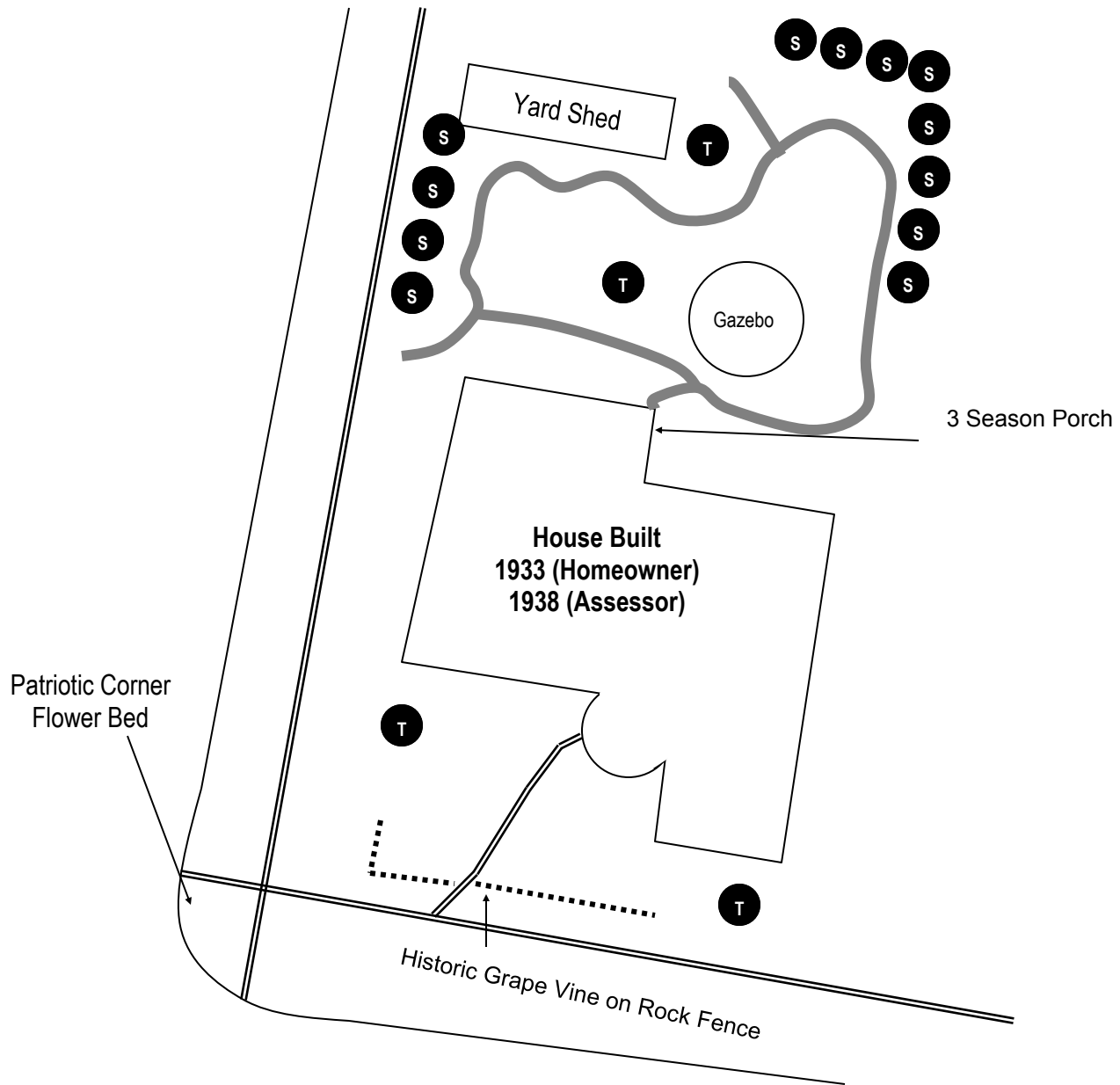
I have been working with mother earth since I was a young child, working alongside my wonderful mother and father (both gave me an appreciation for the land) on a ranch/farm in the beautiful sandhills of southwest Nebraska. Whether I was working in the fields or gardens, I developed a love and desire to make whatever earth I touched more beautiful. I have strived to do that after we purchased our late 1940's home in 1979. It has been my delight over these years to improve the landscaping by planting trees, shrubs, flowers and arranging rocks and fountains — doing so a little each year. I am NOT a Master Gardener by any measure and have done my landscaping by trial and error — many times error — but oh, it has been fun!! Tending earth is the best therapy God could arrange! Hope you enjoy our yard as much as we do.

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

The home of Martin and Judy Gutschenritter is well screened at the corner of James and E Street. The property is fronted by one large maple tree with an extended front lot between the street curb and sidewalk. The sidewalk is flanked by a rustic post and beam fence allowing visibility into the single story home. A brick column topped with an ornamental hitching post is located near the sidewalk. The home is laid out in a fan shape design creating some unique roof lines which are accentuated by the cedar shingles. The fan shape appears to be additions to the original house as garage space was converted to living space. The current garage is detached toward the back of the yard.

Tim & Jackie Handlin

323 West 1st Street



Notes & Favorite Plants

T Tree

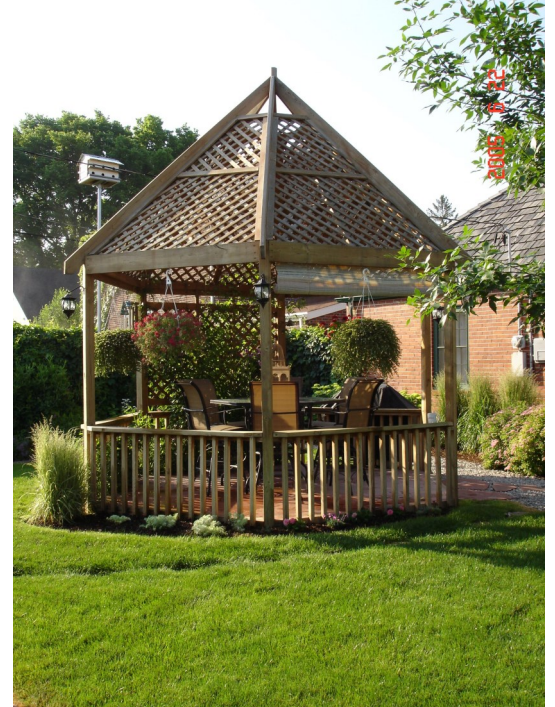
S Shrub

G Tall Grass

Main Features: This house offers several nice architectural features including a Victorian style turret, a rock fence, and an awesome gazebo. On the plant side, it has a historic grape vine transported from Belgium, various types of ivy, many perennials, and a patriotic style corner garden.

Tim & Jackie Handlin

323 West 1st Street



Gardener Comments

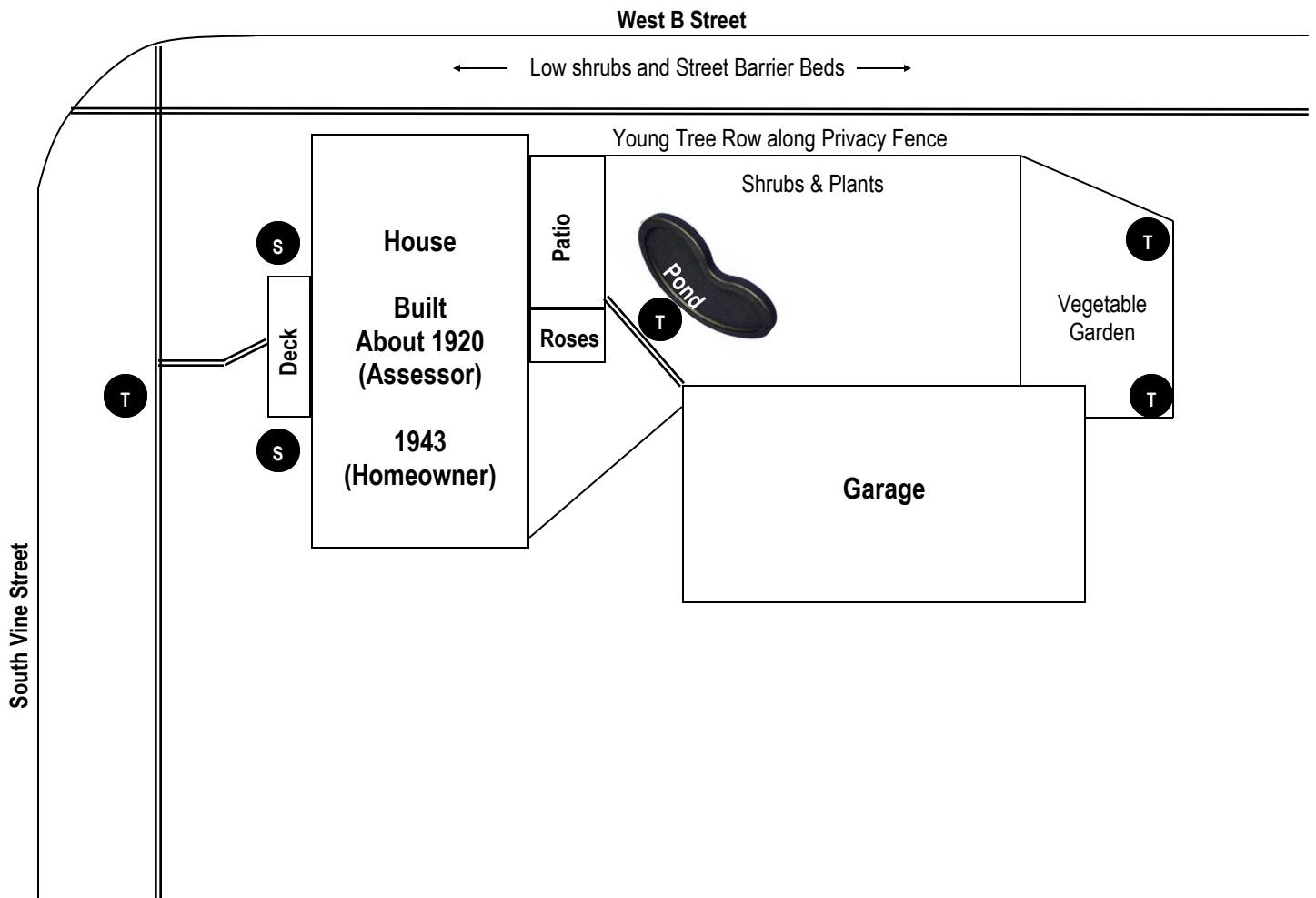
Three years ago in June, Tim and I were put on the spot. We sold our home in Gothenburg and had to be moved out in 2 weeks. So in 2 weeks, we had to get financing, pack, find an empty home, and continue to work at our jobs. We both agreed on an older home with character, but Tim told the Real Estate agent at least 4 or 5 times that he did not want to buy a home on a busy street. I fell in love with the home because of the all the character and our antiques fit this home well. It has knotty pine woodwork, including cabinets and doors, and still has the original wallpaper in the living and dining room. The unique rock wall is from an unknown structure torn down in North Platte and is covered with Mrs. Richardson's grandfathers grape vines, which were brought back from Belgium some 62 years ago. Mr. & Mrs. Richardson built their home in 1933 and paid the workers in cash each week, allowing them to move into a debt free home when it was finished. A massive accomplishment during the depression years. We had Bryan Seamann from Western Sandhill Tops replace counter tops and build a vanity and cabinets in the laundry room. He made a comment to me that a tornado would never take this home, and that I didn't need to go to a storm shelter. When we moved in, the lawn was weedy, patchy and drying up along with the plants. It all needed some tender loving care. Neither of us knew much about gardening, so after many trips and phone calls to Early May and Huebner's, we are slowly learning. We like the full natural look in the yard, along with our 50 or so different kinds of perennials. We have done a lot of new landscaping in our yard. We both work hard on our yard and home to make it look nice. After the hard work, we love to sit back underneath the gazebo or in our screened porch and watch the birds and squirrels, and even the rabbits chewing on our plants. After everything we have accomplished, I don't think we'll ever move from here now!!

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

The Handlin home was built in 1933 by Mrs. Richardson. The home was designed by Mrs. Richardson as a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. With the exception of the two stall garage off of Willow Street, the house still represents the original design by Mrs. Richardson. An astounding feature about this home was that it was paid for in cash during the depression. The design of the home is unique, with a round turret entry with a conical peak. The all masonry structure is reminiscent of English heritage. The windows are still original with storms windows designed with the main frame of the windows. The front yard is surrounded by a stacked stone fence with an iron entry gate. Along each side of the entry gate is a vine growing which was propagated from a vine in Belgium several years ago.

Ignacio & Annie Jimenez

201 South Vine Street



Notes & Favorite Plants

T Tree

S Shrub

Main Features: A Koi pond with foot bridge and water features including water fall, fountains, and a rock garden anchors this pleasing backyard. Another star in the pond area is a healthy Japanese Maple. A small rose bed accents this romantic and cozy backyard.

Ignacio & Annie Jimenez

201 South Vine Street



Home Owner Comments

Our home is close to one of the busiest intersections in town but we have managed to make our yard peaceful and relaxing. The white privacy fence provides good seclusion and helps us enjoy our backyard. The garden area is small but it is large enough to raise a few vegetables. Our rose bed provides a nice fragrance and helps to mask the smells of traffic and nearby businesses.

Our pride and joy is the 2,000 gallon pond. This is our second pond and we installed it three years ago. When we put in the pond, we planted our most unique plant, our Japanese Maple and have been watching it slowly grow. We have about 23 Koi fish in the pond and like to feed them. The fountains and foot bridge are also enjoyable additions.

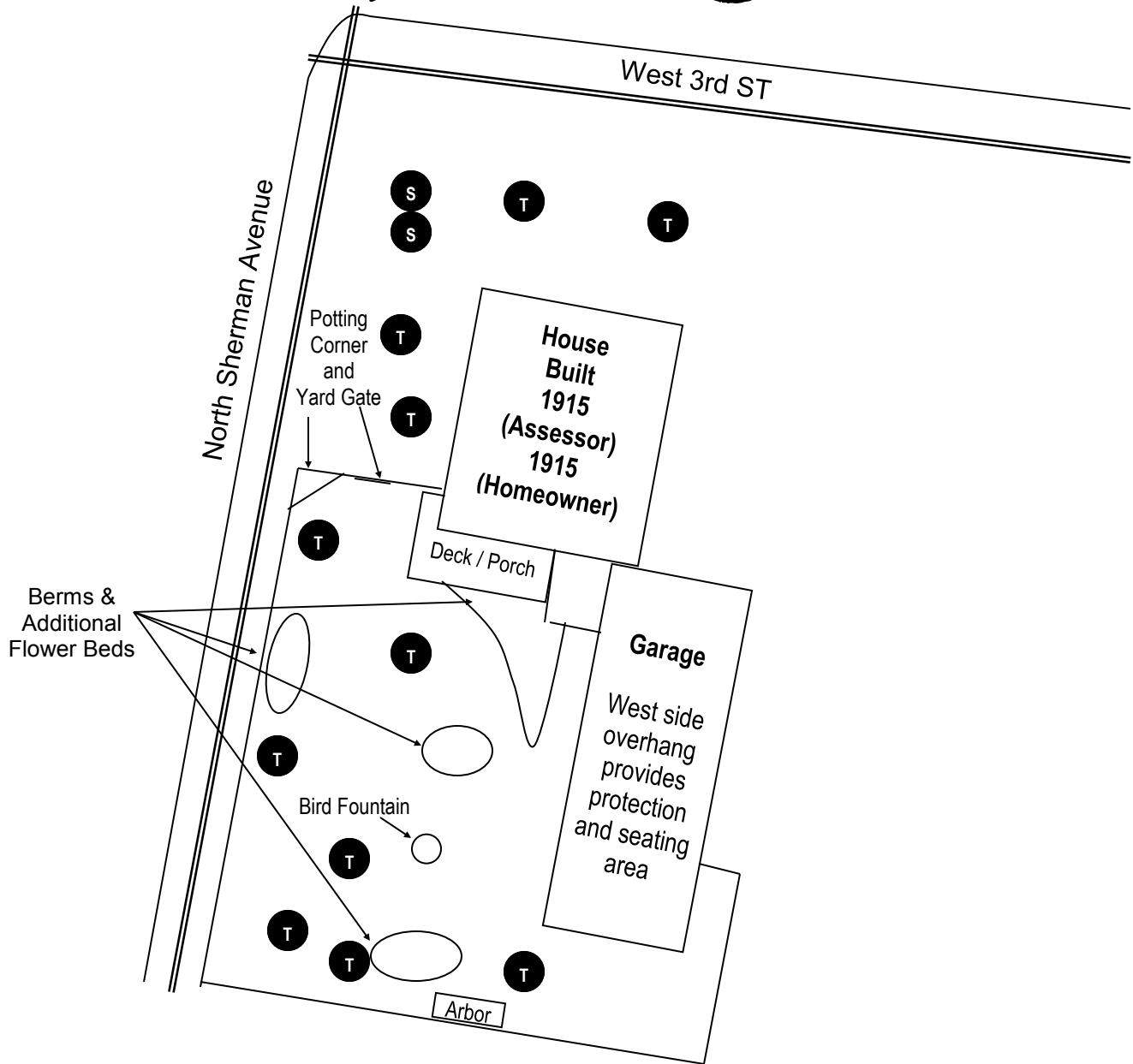
We have lived here for nine years and the home, which was built in 1943, was a duplex when we purchased it. We have done most of the work to convert it back to a single family home ourselves and have slowly built up the landscaping and the yard over the years. My son has been instrumental in choosing the fish, plants, and design of the back yard. It has been fun and we enjoy it, we hope you do too.

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

This raised ranch style home sits near a busy intersection one block off of Jeffers Street. The home was built around 1943 as a 3 bedroom home with a full basement. The home has had several upgrades to the exterior, including new siding, windows, and an updated entry. A long double stall detached garage is located on the south side of the property, with access from Vine Street as well as the alley. The back yard is bordered by a white privacy fence which works well in lowering the visual elements of the businesses along Jeffers, as well as the volume of traffic on B Street. The back yard has a large pond with a small footbridge as well as some fountains to create some background noise to help reduce the noise from the busy streets.

Steve Bruce / Myra Brannen

1620 West 3rd Street



Notes & Favorite Plants

● Tree

● Shrub

Main Features: Can you count the roses? There are more than 60, but they blend so well with other perennials and annuals, they can be hard to count. There are many unique varieties including a gold fish plant, cup and saucer, Asiatic lilies, red hot poker, beards tongue, several cacti, Mexican hat, spinach vine, Husker Penstemon, and an obedient plant. There is also lots of whimsy and color in this garden. Several beds accent the backyard, along with flowers and beds along the fence.

Steve Bruce / Myra Brannen

1620 West 3rd Street



Home Owner Comments

This house was built in 1915. Steve bought it in 1988. Since then he has done lots & lots of remodeling. He had siding installed and had all the windows changed out. He redid the garage and enlarged it, adding a shop at the end of the garage. Steve built the deck and constructed two overhangs above the back patio. He also took down the chain link fence and put up a privacy fence.

After retiring in April 2000, I moved out here and brought a lot of flowers that I had in Council Bluffs. Every year I have added more & more. Where I see an empty spot – I add another flower or rose. There are now 70 rose bushes in the yard.

We really enjoy sitting in back yard every evening after Steve gets home from work. We feel the back yard is like a gardening magazine picture.

Architect Comments by Stephen Granger, AIA

The home located at 1620 West 3rd street is a single story bungalow with a full basement. The home was built in 1915 and has several improvements incorporated to the 1915 home. The home is rectangular in shape and is located on the northeast corner of the block. There is a single stall attached garage which is at least two stalls deep. A small work shed has also been added to the original home. The large porch on the front of the house is almost as wide as the original house. The backyard is viewed from a partially covered additional porch.

Things to Know

- 🌸 Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with the map before starting the tour.
- 🌸 Tour organizers have timed the tour of the 6 gardens at approximately 45 minutes of drive time and 2 1/2 hours total to complete the tour depending on how long you stay, look and visit at each site. Estimates used were 15-20 minutes per site.
- 🌸 There will be refreshments for sale at 301 South Vine Street (Kaycee Dye & Larry Lee Britton) and the proceeds will go to the North Platte Public Library Foundation in memory of Jim Craven.
- 🌸 There are additional handouts in the packets with warning signs for heat illness. Please listen to your body and drink plenty of fluids.

Acknowledgements

First National Bank—corporate supporter
KNOP-TV—corporate supporter
KX104 Radio—corporate supporter
KELN Radio—corporate supporter
Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful—vests & flyers
City of North Platte—cones, use of the park entrance
University of Nebraska— Master Gardener Volunteer Program
Steve Bruce & Myra Brannen—homeowner
Kaycee Dye & Larry Lee Britton—renting tenants
Ignacio & Annie Jimenez—homeowner
Tim & Jackie Handlin—homeowner
Judy & Martin Gutschenritter—homeowner
Hal & Donna Weitzel—homeowner
Ann Bartlett—workshop presenter
Dennis Murphy—workshop presenter
Cindy Boehlke—workshop presenter
Cecelia Lawrence—workshop presenter
Paul Cartwright—Master Gardener Volunteer
Stephen Granger—architect
Marvin & Chris Rankin—bus driver
Linda Broge—raffle ticket sales
Chad Boehlke—volunteer
Naomi Getty—volunteer
Faith Fisher—volunteer
Phillip & Eleanor Grabouski—volunteer
Jan Ravenscroft—volunteer

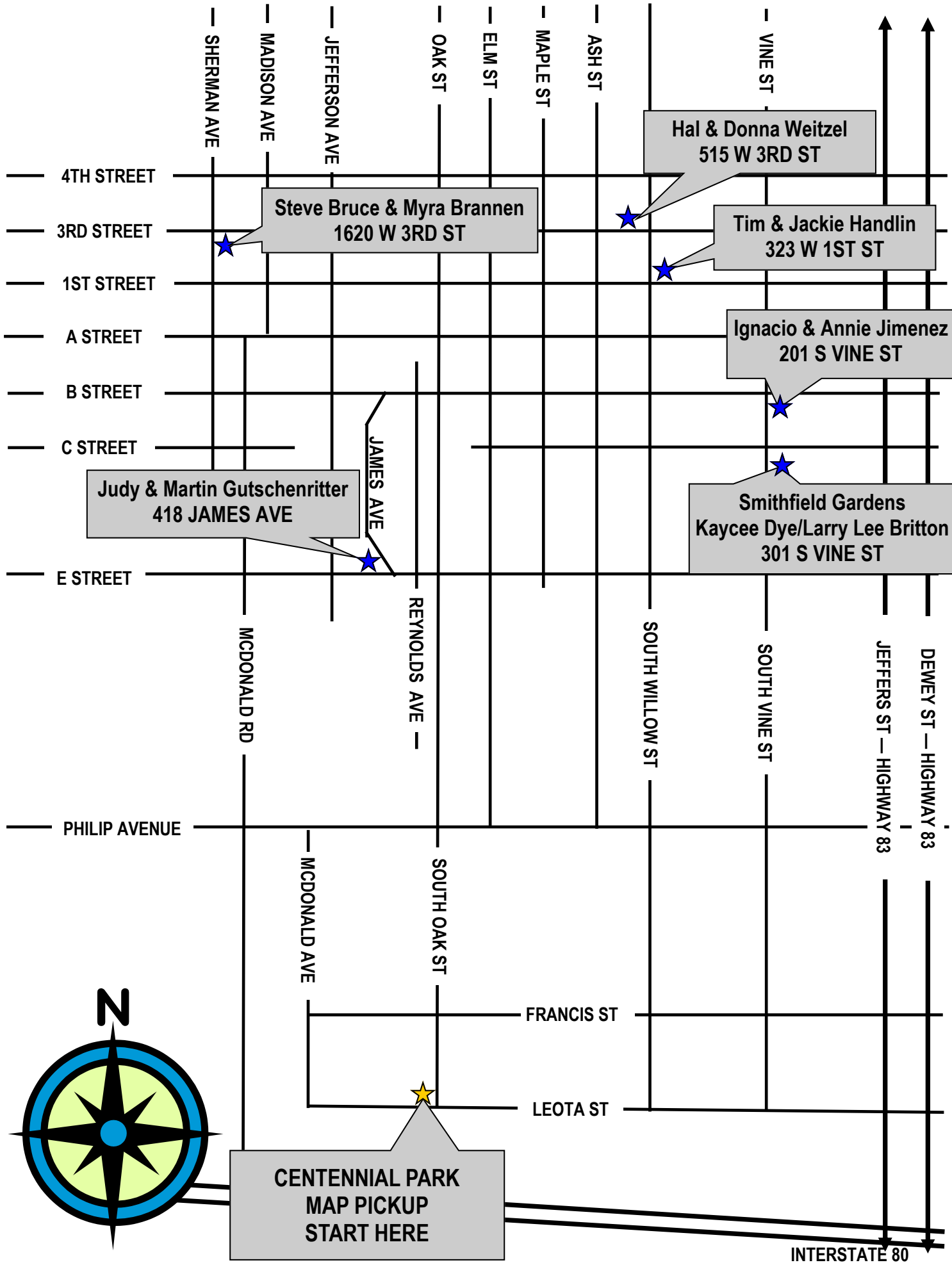
Cheri Erickson—volunteer
Cheryl Roblyer—volunteer
Sara Aden—volunteer
Carol Eshleman—volunteer
Donna Bodenstab—volunteer
Bill & Linda Smith—volunteer
Helen Frieburg—volunteer
Darias Marsh—volunteer
Michelle Marsh—volunteer
Kayla Douglass—volunteer
Additional Volunteers Lined up by Homeowners
North Platte Public Library Staff
North Platte Public Library Advisory Board

There are more and if we forgot you, we apologize.

...and everyone who purchased tour and raffle tickets for this event!

A special thank you to the home owners who have allowed us to peek into their beautiful gardens and willingly share them with us.

The proceeds from this event benefit the North Platte Public Library Foundation, a Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation Fund.
The North Platte Public Library Foundation exists to enhance the facility and services of the North Platte Public Library.



Steve Bruce & Myra Brannen
1620 W 3RD ST

Hal & Donna Weitzel
515 W 3RD ST

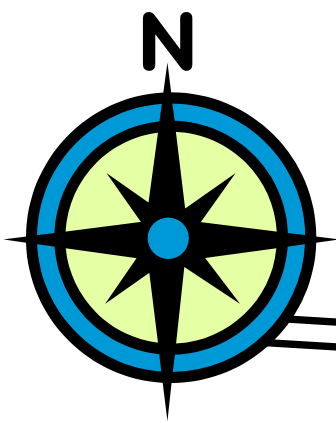
Tim & Jackie Handlin
323 W 1ST ST

Ignacio & Annie Jimenez
201 S VINE ST

Judy & Martin Gutschenritter
418 JAMES AVE

Smithfield Gardens
Kaycee Dye/Larry Lee Britton
301 S VINE ST

CENTENNIAL PARK
MAP PICKUP
START HERE



INTERSTATE 80