



Lady Garden Reservation Form

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Email _____

Date Requested _____

Time Needed: From _____ To _____

For the safety of the Gwynedd Mercy University community and you and your guests, insurance regulations prohibit alcoholic beverages on campus.

The College requests a donation of \$150 which goes into a fund for the upkeep of the Lady Garden, please make a check payable to Gwynedd Mercy University and return it along with this form to:

Robin Oster
Events and Conference Manager
Gwynedd Mercy University
1325 Sumneytown Pike
P.O. Box 901
Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437

Please make payments as soon as possible to reserve your space on the college's online calendar. If you have any questions, please call 215-646-7300 ext. 21419 or email oster.r@gmc.edu



THE LADY GARDEN

The formal garden now known as the Lady Garden was built in 1906-7 by Francis Bond and his wife, Margaret, along with the mansion, stables, and other outbuildings that comprised the original Willowbrook estate. The Georgian-style design was the work of Horace Trumbauer, a well-known Philadelphia architect.

Originally, the formal "English Garden" was ornately decorated with shrubs, seasonal flowers, and imported Italian statues. The path leading through it was made of special sandstone which was raked and manicured daily under strict surveillance.

The Bonds lived on the estate until 1914, when Mr. Bond sold it to Roland Taylor and his family. Mr. Taylor was an avid avocational gardener and landscaper. He planted orchards on the property that did not survive and many ornamental trees and shrubs that did, including rhododendrons, dogwoods, and boxwoods. He employed a gardening staff of six who tended the grounds and the formal garden. Maintenance included waxing the garden's iron gate, designed by Sam Yellen, every year.

After the Sisters of Mercy purchased the estate in 1946, the formal garden became a focal point of campus activities. Early graduations for the Academy were held there and the Academy class of 1949 donated the shrine to Our Lady, thereby giving the garden its present name. The first College graduation in 1950 was also supposed to take place in the Lady Garden, but rain forced it to be moved to Byrne Hall. Subsequent graduations were celebrated there, however, until the garden could no longer accommodate the graduates, their families, and the faculty comfortably. Nowadays, it remains a favorite place for solitary walks, pleasant lunches, and the occasional class.