

Hopelands Gardens and Rye Patch Aiken, South Carolina

Points of Interest



Photo courtesy of City of Aiken



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Morton

**Owned and Operated by the
City of Aiken, South Carolina
Department of Parks and Recreation
with assistance from the
Friends of Hopelands & Rye Patch, Inc.
www.cityofaikensc.gov
803-642-7631**

Hopelands Gardens

C. Oliver and Hope Goddard Iselin built their winter home in Aiken around the turn of the 20th century. Mrs. Iselin began developing the gardens shortly thereafter. Upon her death in 1970, at the age of 102, she left Hopelands to a state entity. The City of Aiken requested the property, and Mrs. Iselin's estate chose Aiken to receive it.

Live Oaks and Deodar Cedars

It is believed that Mrs. Iselin planted the Deodar Cedars and Live Oaks that are throughout Hopelands Gardens.

Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum

Opened in 1977, the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum is located in the Iselins' carriage house and stable. The Hall of Fame immortalizes the forty champion Thoroughbreds that have trained at the famed Aiken Training Track.

Horses from Horseplay

Three horses in Hopelands Gardens were part of the 2003 fundraiser for the Aiken Center for the Arts. *Hav Sum Fun* and *Stonerside* are located in front of the Hall of Fame, and *Magnolia Mare* is located by the Wetlands near Whiskey Road.

The Water Rill

The Water Rill was part of the original plans for the gardens by noted landscape architect Robert Marvin.

Camellia Garden

The camellias and sasanquas in this location were planted by members of the Aiken Camellia Club in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Reflecting Pool

Three of the reflecting pools were created on what was once the foundation of the Iselins' home.

Iselin Pet Cemetery

Several of the Iselins' family pets were buried on the east side of the house.

Reflecting Pool and Promenade Overlook

This area is a favorite location for weddings and also provides a quiet place for thought and reflection.

Iselin Portrait Bust and McNair Portrait Bas-Relief

A bronze portrait bust of Mrs. Iselin and a bronze portrait bas-relief of James D. McNair, the organizing chairman and first president of the Friends of Hopelands, were dedicated in 2006. Both works were created by sculptor Maria J. Kirby-Smith of Camden.

Doll House & Aiken Camellia Garden

It is unknown whether or not the Doll House was the playhouse or schoolhouse for the Iselins' daughter, Hope. It now serves as the home of the Aiken Council of Garden Clubs. The Council established the camellia garden which surrounds the courtyard in 1996. These camellias were propagated and registered by Lib Scott. The second row of camellias was established in 2017 with cultivars developed by Dr. Henry G. Mealing, who lived at historic Lookaway Hall in North Augusta.

Aiken Community Labyrinth

Opened in 2007, the Aiken Community Labyrinth invites visitors to participate in an ancient meditative tradition by walking the brick pathways that lead to a granite center. The labyrinth was patterned by designer Colleen Wallace after a 13th century labyrinth located in France at the Amiens Cathedral.

Joan B. Tower Gazebo

Joan B. Tower was a devoted advocate of Hopelands Gardens and Rye Patch. The gazebo was dedicated in 1996 in appreciation for her tireless work.

Roland H. Windham Performing Arts Stage

The performing arts stage is the location for the Hopelands Concert Series, which began in 1976. The stage was dedicated in 1999 in honor of Roland H. Windham (City Manager of Aiken, 1963-1991).

The Lakes

The connecting lakes were designed and named "lakes" by noted landscape architect Robert Marvin. The lakes are home to numerous turtles and fish. Japanese Iris, Daylilies, Crape Myrtles and Bald Cypress line the lakes' edges.

Overlook

View Hopelands Gardens from the swings and benches that are located at the top of the overlook.

Wetlands

The wetlands, constructed in 1993, are a series of ponds that capture storm water runoff from Whiskey Road and prevent serious flooding in Hopelands and Hitchcock Woods during times of heavy rains.

Rye Patch

This 10 acre estate was the winter home of Edmund P. and Dorothy Knox Goodyear Rogers. After the death of Mrs. Rogers in 1980, the estate was donated in 1981 to the City of Aiken by her four Goodyear children.

Rye Patch Original Entrance and Whiskey Rd. Wall

The original entrance to the estate can still be seen along with former openings in the wall that fronts Whiskey Road. The openings were bricked up in 1938. The *Aiken Standard and Review* reported that the openings were closed to protect the privacy of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor who were to visit later that year. There is, however, no evidence that the Duke and Duchess actually arrived in 1938. They did, however, visit Rye Patch in 1952.

Rye Patch House

The Rogerses loved to entertain and Rye Patch was the setting for many parties. It is now a popular location for weddings, receptions, parties and meetings.

Guest Cottage

This small cottage was a home away from home for many of the Rogerses' guests. It can be rented for small parties and meetings.

Patsy's Garden

A memorial rose garden was created in 1989 on the site of the family's tennis court. It is dedicated to the memory of Patricia Goodyear Good-Farm, who was the granddaughter of Mrs. Rogers.

Clifford S. Gerde Carriage Museum

The Rogerses' former carriage house is now the site of the Clifford S. Gerde Carriage Museum, which has many historical carriages, buggies and surreys on display.

Rye Patch Stable

The Rogerses' former stable houses the "Historic Horses of Aiken," a permanent exhibit of fiberglass replicas of famous horses in the history of Aiken.

Locations in this brochure are not all inclusive. Call 803-642-7631 for hours of operation and more information.



WHISKEY ROAD



Magnolia Mare

Wetlands



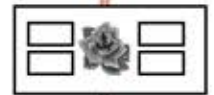
Original Estate Entrance and Historic Wall

Rye Patch



Wetlands

Guest Cottage



Patsy's Garden

100 BERRIE ROAD NO PARKING ON THE STREET

NO PARKING ON THE STREET

135 DUPREE PLACE

Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame & Museum



Iselin Pet Cemetery

Reflecting Pool

Promenade Overlook

Iselin Portrait Bust and McNair Portrait

Site of the former Iselin Home

Aiken Camellia Garden

Little Free Library

Doll House

Live Oaks

Overlook

Guest Cottage



Rye Patch Stable

Roland H. Windham Performing Arts Stage



Amphitheater

Rye Patch Parking

Camellia Garden



Stonerside Hav Sum Fun in Hall of Fame Courtyard

Oak Allée



Caretaker's Cottage private residence not open to the public

Joan B. Tower Gazebo



Clifford S. Gerde Carriage Museum

Caretaker's Apartment private residence not open to the public

Labyrinth



Bird & Butterfly Garden

Hopelands Gardens and Rye Patch Points of Interest (map is not to scale)

- Entrances
- Restrooms

- ~ Serpentine Wall
- Walking Paths



Hopelands Gardens Parking
handicapped parking is available

