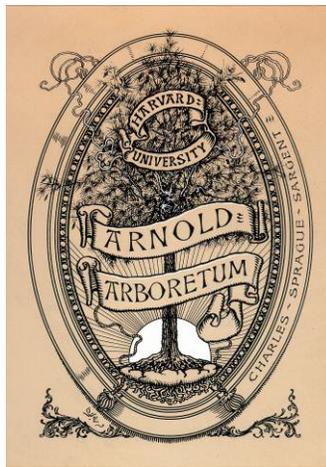


Archives VI MGC

“Maudslay” the Moseley Estate (Newburyport, Massachusetts), 1906-1995: Guide



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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VI MGC

"Maudslay" the Moseley Estate (Newburyport, Massachusetts), 1906-1995: Guide Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA

Call No.: VI MGC

Location: Archives

Title: "Maudslay" the Moseley Estate (Newburyport, Massachusetts), 1906-1995

Date(s): 1906-1995

Creator: Frederick Strong Moseley III

Quantity: 3 linear inches

Language of material: English

Abstract: "Maudslay," the 450-acre Moseley Estate, now Maudslay State Park is located on the Merrimack River in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Between 1895 and 1910 William G. Rantoul of the Boston firm Jacques and Rantoul was the principal architect for the estate. The estate's landscape was designed by Martha Brookes Hutcheson between 1904 and 1906. In 1985, the Moseley Estate was acquired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Environmental Management).

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

Preferred Citation: "Maudslay" the Moseley Estate (Newburyport, Massachusetts), 1906-1995. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Additional material: "[Designing Woman: Martha Brookes Hutcheson](#)" by Rebecca Warren Davidson, *Arnoldia* 61 (1) 2001.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: The photographs and diary were donated to the Archives by Frederick Strong Moseley III of Hamilton, MA, a member of the Arnold Arboretum Advisory Board.

Processing Information

Lisa Pearson, July 2003. Revised Sheila Connor, Liz Francis, 2012. Revised Larissa Glasser, 2023, 2024.

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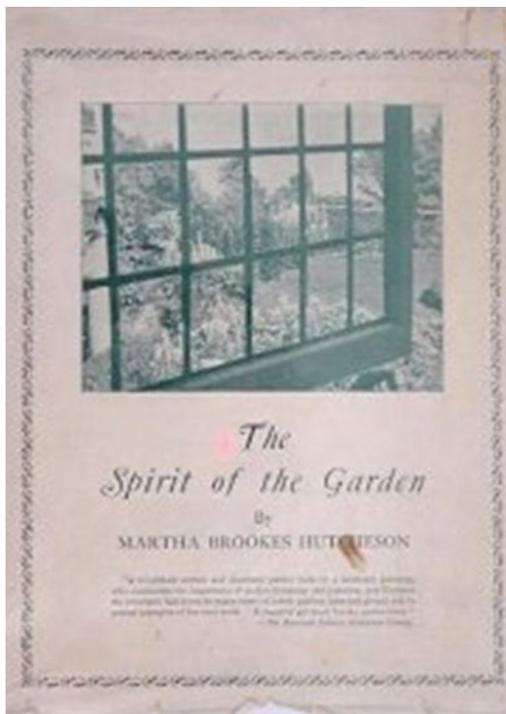
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Historical Note

Maudslay, located in Newburyport, Massachusetts and first known as Maudesleigh after the family's ancestral home in England, was a 450-acre estate created in the 1860s by the Moseley family who occupied the estate for four generations. In 1895 and continuing until 1910, Frederick Strong Moseley (1852-1938) engaged William G. Rantoul (1867-1949) of the architectural firm Jacques and Rantoul and he became principal architect for Maudslay. Known for the many luxurious homes and estates he designed on Boston's North Shore, Rantoul also designed the landmark art deco Shreve, Crump and Low building across from the Boston Public Garden. Rantoul's work at Maudslay included the 72-room main house (demolished in 1955) as well as houses for the coachman, forester, and head gardener and several outbuildings including those in the garden complex. Lord and Burnham designed some of the greenhouses, with William Rantoul responsible for at least one greenhouse and possibly the head house. The [papers of William Rantoul](#) are held by the Peabody Essex Museum. A second large house was built between 1939 and 1941 for Helen S. Moseley, the unmarried daughter of Frederick and Helen Moseley. Her house was destroyed by fire in 1978. A few of the approximately 30 structures from the early nineteenth century are still extant.

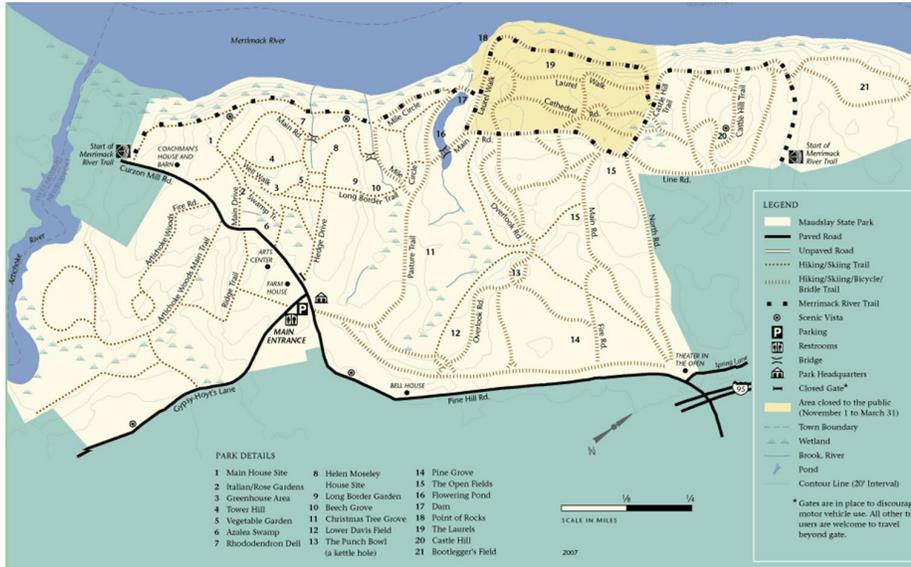
The landscape architect was Martha Brookes Brown Hutcheson (1871-1959), one of the first three female members of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Hutcheson worked on the estate between 1904 and 1906 and was responsible for designing the landscape around the main house as well as the entry drive, and formal gardens. Hutchinson used sixteen images of her work at Maudesleigh as illustrations for her book [The Spirit of the Garden](#) published by The Atlantic Monthly Press in 1923.

At its peak, the property had a staff of about 40 and an extensive horticultural operation. There were three greenhouses, a head house, several types of cold frames, espaliered fruit trees, a large winter plant house, a two-acre formal vegetable and cutting garden, a 500-foot perennial border, an Italian garden, rose garden, and collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, and specimen trees in addition to the laurels naturally occurring on the estate. After the main house was demolished and Helen Moseley's house burned, the landscape received considerably less intensive management.

After Helen S. Moseley's death in 1952 the property was managed by the trustees of her estate. On August 5, 1985, the property was purchased from the Moseley family by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with assistance from the Trust for Public Lands and is maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Environmental Management). [Maudslay State Park](#) was open to the public on September 15, 1985. The volunteer [Maudslay State Park Association](#) (MSPA), and the Association's [Garden Committee](#) work to preserve, rehabilitate, and maintain the park's natural, historical, and horticultural resources which include its historic gardens and designed landscape.



Scope and Content

The bulk of the materials consist of a series of 45 photographs of the estate dating from the first decade of the twentieth century. Also included are an early nineteenth century diary, correspondence, maps, plans, and publications.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 4 series:

- Series I:** Photographs
- Series II:** Moseley family material
- Series III:** Publications
- Series IV:** Maps and plans

Container List

Box 1

Series I: Photographs

Includes documentary photographs of the construction of the Moseley gardens and "before and after" images of many of the estate's landmarks and plantings. Sixteen of these images, with descriptive captions, were published in *The Spirit of the Garden* by Martha Brookes Hutcheson. When received by the Archives the photographs were mounted on five acidic poster boards. The images were removed from the boards (now identified as A-E), inserted in Mylar sleeves, and numbered according to their original sequence on each board.

Folder

1: A1-A9, images taken during construction and prior to planting



A1 - Nos 7 and 4 after hill planting



A2 - Closer detail of No 3 (pg. 98 in Spirit of the Garden)



A3 - Same as Nos 9 and 6 (pg. 98 in Spirit of the Garden)



A4 - Like No 7 including garden walls. Before planting. (pg. 96 in Spirit of the Garden)



A5 - Part of curved path in garden approach



A6 - Same as No 9 just after planting



A7 - Hill site showing existing tower (Greenhouses lay to the right.)



A8 - Construction. Upper garden wall, inside garden



A9 - Garden entrance, just before planting (pg. 96 in Spirit of the Garden)

2: B1-B9, images of the garden gate



B1 - Grille gates, added 1906 (see No 4) (pg. 101 in Spirit of the Garden)



B2 - Same as No 3 showing gate and vases



B3 - Nos 4 and 6 before hedge top was clipped (see D2) gate open



B4 - First wooden gates. From greenhouse yd. (pg. 132 in Spirit of the Garden)



B5 - Greenhouse yard (garden axis from gate to steps in red)



B6 - No 9 after planting



B7 – Upper garden



B8 – Gardens from greenhouse yard



B9 – Construction. Upper garden major axis (see A nos 9,6,3,2) (pg. 99 in Spirit of the Garden)

3: C1-C9, images of the various arbors



C1 – End path steps between Rose and Upper Gardens



C2 – Wall fountain and seats under upper arbor added 1906 (see pg. 202 in Spirit of the Garden)



C3 – Detail from upper arbor (pg. 133 in Spirit of the Garden)



C4 – Detail of rose arbor (see pg. 130 in Spirit of the Garden)



C5 – Arbor in upper garden



C6 – Rose arbor (see pg. 103 in Spirit of the Garden)



C7 – See No 5 . Looking to left.



C8 – No 5 looking to the right



C9 – Rose arbor. Same as no 6

4: D1-D9, images of ornaments and garden accents



D1 – Bird bath from upper arbor



D2 – Dial. (looking toward greenhouses) (hedge clipped)



D3 – Steps from Rose Garden to Upper Garden



D4 – Dial (later supplanted by no 1)



D5 – Pottery on steps between gardens (first season after planting)



D6 – Dial (see No 4)



D7 – Chinese jars by new house entrance



D8 – Construction (see No 5)



D9 – From Upper arbor toward Rose Garden showing box in pottery

5: E1-E9, images of walks and drives adjacent to the house and Photocopy of from the Arboretum's historic Genera and Species image collection



E1 – Planting about new house



E2 – Construction. Formal approach begun toward new house door



E3 – Minor entrance gate and drive



E4 – Same as No 1



E5 – Construction. New entrance toward swamp (Trees at right same as A1)



E6 – Detail of No 3



E7 – Detail in Pit Yard



E8 – Lilac walk to house. Driveway lines subsequently improved



E9 – [The corner of the poster board was broken and the photo title is lost.]



A2567

6: Photograph by H[eman] Howard, 5-31-[19]51 B.P.P Moseley Estate, Ipswich, Mass, *Rhododendron calendulaceum* with *pachysandra* (above)

7: Photocopies of 16 illustrations used in the publication *The Spirit of the Garden*

Series II: Moseley Family material

Folder

- 1:** A five-year "line-a-day" diary from 1906-1910 inscribed "From H.H. Richardson 1906" which appears to have been kept by Helen Moseley. In it were found the contents of Series I, Folder 6 and this series' Folders 2 and 3, 7x8" bound black diary
- 2:** Miscellaneous Moseley papers.
 - Wedding invitation: Helen Dalton and Frederick Strong Moseley, June 1, 1899
 - Letter: Reverend Benjamin Dorris to his brother Reuben Richards, Esquire regarding Dorris' Wisconsin property. March 28, 1846
 - Letter: Auntie [?] Leeds to Helen Moseley regarding Helen's wedding the day before. June 2, 1899
 - Letter: "Mother" to Frederick Strong Moseley approving of a charitable act and enclosing an image of the Reverend W.W. Webb, Bishop of Milwaukee dated 1908. [letter and image removed from diary] undated
- 3:** Eleven negatives and one print of the Moseley family.
 - Horse-drawn sleigh with four passengers, negative
 - Woman standing with horse, negative
 - Unidentified boat, 2 copies of negative
 - Small sailboat with "7" on the sail, negative
 - Three children having tea, with dog beside table, negative
 - Three children having tea, with dolls in foreground, negative
 - Man on a horse, negative
 - Man standing on railroad tracks, negative
 - Two horses, negative

- Horse-drawn carriage with three passengers, negative
 - Man with newborn child, 2"x2" print
- 4:** Letter from landscape architect Lauren Meier to Bob [Cook] Director of the Arnold Arboretum, on the history of the Moseley Estate. July 12, 1995

Series III: Publications

- 1:** "Moseley Estate, Massachusetts' Newest State Park" *TPL Update* ([Trust for Public Land](#)) 14, Fall 1985

Series IV: Maps and plans

- 1:** "Maudslay State Park" Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. Massachusetts Forests and Parks, map/brochure, undated
- 2:** Eight topographic maps of the Moseley estate produced by the Massachusetts DEM [Department of Environmental Management, now DCR Department of Conservation and Recreation]