

# Newport Secret Garden Virtual Tour

## “On the Point” Part V

### Mary & Doug’s Garden

*Back in 1986 the lady of the house was asked by her good friend, the late James Douglas, to join him and the late Myra Duvally in starting a garden tour to benefit the arts in Aquidneck Island public schools. "But I don't have a garden," Mary objected. "Well, get one," James said, draining his scotch. He was persuasive. Now, after half a lifetime of Darwinian efforts -- trials and lots and lots of errors -- a truly secret garden has evolved. It is hidden by the imposing, vine-covered green fence behind this red double house (ca. 1760), known as "the first duplex in America". Within are a number of mature trees, including one of Newport's largest birches, towering over a stand of panted ferns and a small fountain. Water falls gently through verdigris “water lilies” in a larger fountain nearby, which is surrounded by hosta and backed by a cascade of Dutchman’s pipe, growing up and over the 10-foot-high fence. Two other trees are blossoming at this time, a Japanese dogwood and a Stewartia, known for its variegated bark and white-and-yellow flowers. Also of note: a unique twig-form steel gazebo covered by ornamental hops and furnished with tree-form table and seats; a giant cryptomeria; two ornamental pools; aeschynanthus and Stephanandra bushes -- not to mention three or four extraordinarily tame rabbits that sneak under the fence from the Common Burial Ground next door.*

