



# Welcome to The Rose Valley Heritage Garden and Veterans Memorial

*The Rose Valley Heritage Garden and Veterans Memorial was installed as the first project of the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation with help from Rose Valley Boy Scout Troop 272 and the donations of many members of the community. The millstone fountain commemorates Rose Valley's roots as a mill town and its arts and crafts heritage of traditionally handcrafting beauty from simple forms.*

Rose Valley's rich history started long before Architect William Lightfoot Price came to Rose Valley in 1901 and purchased 78 acres to turn a run-down mill town into a utopian arts and crafts colony.

What is now Rose Valley was part of a land grant of nearly 1000 acres along Ridley Creek from William Penn to the three Vernon brothers, who emigrated from England to settle this area in 1684.

The Vernon Brothers were involved in both agricultural and milling along the creek that now bears their name.

The original Old Mill was constructed as a snuff mill in 1789. Probably about the time Antrim Osborne purchased the then-abandoned mill in 1861, a house was constructed on top of the smokehouse shortly before Osborne constructed the tenement that is now the Guesthouse and the Workers Houses across Rose Valley Road. In 1879 Osborne purchased Hutton Mill, which is now Hedgerow Theatre.



*The center portion of the structure is believed to have been a springhouse for the farmhouse situated above it. The roof of the original springhouse was raised as a dome to be used as a smokehouse.*

Osborne moved into the farmhouse and named it Sunnyside. Osborne's Old Mill was heavily damaged by fire in 1885 and mill operations came to an end in Rose Valley.

Shortly after arriving in Rose Valley, Will Price converted that farmhouse into the arts and crafts mansion Schoenhaus, for one of his prime patrons, industrialist Charles Shoen. Price designed an office for Shoen on the property above the Old Mill. Financed by the Rose Valley Association stock company The Old Mill housed the furniture and woodworking shops.

The Rose Valley Association failed financially and was out of business by 1911. Shoen and his son-in-law, M. Hawley McLanahan, who was Will Price's partner who lived on the hill across the creek, purchased its remaining land, including the Gatehouse, which had already received a facelift from Will Price. Will Price died in 1916, but the arts and crafts culture had found a strong foothold in Rose Valley and continued to grow.

Maurice Saul, founding partner of what is now the law firm of Saul Ewing, and his wife moved to Schoenhaus in 1921. Saul was a leader of the community who organized the creation of Rose Valley as a separate borough in 1923.

The Sauls sold much of their land holdings as building lots over a number of years. They rented the Old Mill to the Rose Valley Folk for the price of one red rose a year and donated the Saul Wildlife Preserve and a portion of their estate to the School in Rose Valley. Saul family members continued to live in Schoenhaus and the other structures on the estate until 2005, when the remaining 26-acre property was sold for the development of Traymore.

The Gatehouse, which had been in continuous use as a rental property since Price's arrival in Rose Valley, had suffered from a structurally unsound bathroom addition, a leaking roof and a fire that damaged the roof rafters. The developer agreed to raze the house down to the original springhouse structure and donate the ruins to the Borough of Rose Valley.

The charming patio was constructed by a previous tenant of the Gatehouse. The garage, built later than the house in classic Rose Valley style also remains. The mercer tile Rose Valley emblem was installed shortly after the house was removed in 2010.

Schoenhaus at Rose Valley Farm and the other homes on Old Mill Lane are private property. Thank you for not trespassing or disturbing the privacy of those homeowners.



Looking northwest on Rose Valley Road this photo shows the gatehouse (on left) overlooking the pond built by the Rose Valley Association. The original access to the mill was located on the opposite side of Vernon Run and ran in front of the gatehouse. The current stone bridge for Old Mill Lane was built during Will Price's era. In keeping with the Arts and Crafts philosophy that even utilitarian objects should be made to be beautiful, the bridge is decorated on either side with faces carved by John Maene, who came to Rose Valley in 1902 to be foreman of the Furniture Shop and remained here, gaining national recognition for his carvings in stone and wood. *Photo from the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Price/Thomas Collection*

*For more on the history of Rose Valley, visit the websites of the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society at [rosevalleymuseum.org](http://rosevalleymuseum.org).*

*For more information on the 146 structures in Rose Valley that are on the National Register of Historic Places, visit [rosevalleyborough.org](http://rosevalleyborough.org).*

*For more information about the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation visit [rosevalley100.org](http://rosevalley100.org).*