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HISTORIC GROUNDS REPORT

Part II

on

THE CUSTIS-LEE MANSION FLOWER GARDEN

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Historic Grounds Report

Part II

The Custis-Lee Mansion Flower Garden

Prepared by the Staff
National Capital Region
and
National Capital Office,
Design and Construction
Washington, D.C.

March 1964

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CHAPTER ONE

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator, Agnes D. Mullins

CHAPTER ONE

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

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Section 1. NAME, LOCATION, AND NUMBER OF THE ARLINGTON FLOWER GARDEN

The flower garden of "Arlington House," now known officially as the Custis-Lee Mansion, is the subject of this historic grounds report. The garden was located south of the south wing of the main house and extended its grove westward into the park south of the south servant's quarters.[1]

A topographical study, Survey of the Environs of Washington City, by the Coastal Survey in 1861 indicates the original garden area, rose garden, and grove[2] (See Illustration No. VII, Chapter II). The garden area suggested for restoration is indicated in Section 2 of Chapter IV of this report. The key map on that plan identifies the location of the garden in relation to other component parts of the Custis-Lee Mansion National Memorial. Illustration No. I of this chapter shows the present condition of the garden area.
The Custis-Lee Mansion and its integrated features have been rated AAA in the Historic Structures Inventory. The entire area has been assigned the number U. S. Reservation 697.

Section 2. PROPOSED USE OF THE ARLINGTON GARDEN SITE

Restoration of the Arlington garden to its appearance in 1861, on the site it occupied from 1802 through 1861 is recommended. Technically this work is classified as a Restoration-Reconstruction.[3] The suggested reconstruction of the garden is based on accurate documents and may therefore be termed "accurate." The restoration-reconstruction of the garden will be an important part of the restoration of the Custis-Lee Mansion to the appearance it had prior to the Civil War. The garden will make possible the more complete interpretation of the story of the area for the visitor. The garden when restored will serve as a self-interpreting exhibit in place. The flower garden was an important to the Lee family as any room in the main house. It was here they came to entertain, study, seek solitude, pray, admire the beauties of nature, work the soil, read, play, and even bury their pets.[4] The garden was well known among their friends and relatives and plants from Arlington's garden and the conservatory found their way into many other Virginia gardens.

The restoration-reconstruction of this historic landscaping is of great importance to the restoration-reconstruction of the total Custis-Lee Mansion historic scene. Accurate restoration-reconstruction of this nineteenth century garden will provide

the visitor with a unique, pleasant, and meaningful experience; and it will increase his general knowledge of nineteenth century gardens as well as knowledge of the Lees of Arlington.

Section 3. PROVISIONS FOR OPERATION OF THE ARLINGTON FLOWER GARDEN

This garden will operate as an unattended interpretive feature of the Custis-Lee Mansion. A special study of the sign and label presentation of the story of Custis-Lee Mansion has been requested for the total area. A few interpretive signs should be all that will be necessary, in addition to the restoration-reconstruction of the garden, to make the story clear for the visitor. The maintenance requirements for this nineteenth century garden area will be determined by the Division of Horticulture Maintenance. However, the services of at least one full time gardener is anticipated.

Section 4. ESTIMATE OF COST OF RESTORATION-RECONSTRUCTION

This information is being prepared on the basis of continuing study and evaluation.

Footnotes:

1. DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Documents, MS., Journal by Agnes Lee, Mildred Lee's garden description. Private collection, Upperville, Va.

2. Ibid., MS., Mildred Lee's garden description.

3. Historic and Prehistoric Structures Handbook, National Park Service, Part I, Chapter 2, p. 6.

4. Journal by Agnes Lee, op. cit., Mildred Lee's garden description.

Chapter I

Illustration No. I





Present condition of the area proposed for the restoration-reconstruction of the Arlington flower garden. Left: looking south from near the south servants' quarters. Right: looking southwest from near the southeast corner of Mansion.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Capital Region

Custis-Lee Mansion National Memorial

March 1964

Illustration No. II



Aerial view of the Custis-Lee Mansion. Flower garden, with Temple of Fame, lies to the left of the Mansion. The vegetable garden area lies to the right. Photograph taken in 1950.

Chapter Two

HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator Agnes D. Mullins

CHAPTER TWO

HISTORICAL DATA

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Section 1. HISTORY OF THE ARLINGTON FLOWER GARDEN AND AN EVALUATION OF ITS IMPORTANCE

The Custis-Lee Mansion flower garden was laid out by Mr. George Washington Parke Custis around 1802.[1] After Mrs. Washington's death in 1802, Mr. Custis brought William Spencer, George Washington's Scots gardner, with him from Mount Vernon to his 1100 acre estate on the west bank of the Potomac. Mr. Spence had been in charge of the gardens at Mount Vernon since his arrival in the fall of 1797.[2] He is credited with the placement of boxwood borders around the flower beds there. He stayed with Mr. Custis less than one year, sufficient time, however, to have assisted him in laying out the grounds of his estate. The estate was divided roughly into one-third farm land and two-thirds park.[3] Within the park Mr. Custis built his classic revival house from plans believed to have been executed for him by the talented young English architect, George Hadfield.[4] There is no evidence of how much assistance Mr. Custis may have received from the architect of his house in planning his pleasure grounds--the roads, walks, gardens, and dependencies that surrounded his house. But when one studies the interrelationship of these features it is evident that their placement is not haphazard but is part of a plan that corresponded with recommended gardening practices of the day. Mr. Custis' taste was influenced by Washington's appreciation of contemporary landscape architecture.[5] He was also influenced by the Custis family interests

in horticulture. His great-grandfather, John Custis of Arlington on the Eastern Shore, had one of the finest horticultural libraries in the colony of Virginia and carried on an active correspondence with others in England and the colonies interested in horticulture. He published an essay on tulips and a tulip and book were included in his portrait.[6]

Some of this library and correspondence came into Mr. Custis' possession and was kept at Arlington. Mr. Custis' background and environment gave him the taste and tools with which to work in choosing the layout for his country house and grounds. He placed the vegetable garden to the north of the north wing of the main house and the flower garden to the south of the south wing. The north and south servants' quarters were constructed west of each of the wings of the house (Illustration No. VII). The stable was built west of the house across the ravine on a line with the main section of the mansion. Mr. Custis began construction of the main house in 1802 and completed it after 1817.[7]

In 1804 Mr. G.W.P. Custis brought home his bride, Mary Lee Fitzhugh.[8] She was very interested in the flower garden and strongly influenced its development. The gardens that were most closely associated with her life were the ones at Chatham, Fredericksburg; 607 Oronoco Street, Alexandria; and the one at Ravensworth in Fairfax County. Unfortunately, none of these gardens is extant in the form in which she knew them. Mrs. Custis' favorite flowers were hartsease and lilies of the valley. These she planted in the borders of flower beds. Her interest in

gardening and love of the beauty of nature was shared by her daughter and her granddaughters.

Mary Anna Randolph Custis was born in 1808 and was the only Custis child to survive infancy. She grew up in an atmosphere that encouraged reading and practical application of that reading in many fields, including horticulture. Arlington's library contained old and new books on this interesting subject. As her own daughters grew up they were assigned beds within the garden for which they were responsible.

Robert E. Lee, who married Mary Custis in 1831,[10] had known the ga rdens of Arlington since boyhood. As young children he and Mary Custis planted trees near the house. Lee enjoyed walking in the garden. In the morning he frequently picked roses to place beside each lady's breakfast plate.[11] The month of May brought the beauty of nature to Arlington. Robert E. Lee once described it: "The Country looks very sweet now, and the hill at Arlington...covered with verdure, and perfuned by the blossoms of the trees, the flowers of the Garden, Honey-Suckles, yellow Jasmine...is more to my taste than at any other Season of the year...."[12]

It was a custom at Arlington to present visitors with flowers from the garden upon their departure. Plant materials were frequently exchanged with friends and relatives.[13] Mrs. Custis was held in high regard by those who knew her success with flowers. The Lee girls loved the garden

and took great delight from childhood in seeking out secret places and playing among the trees, vines, and blossoms. Here rose leaves were gathered for the making of the household supply of rose water.[14] Strings of jasmine blossoms were made to scent the linens.[15] The flower garden played well its roll as a vital functioning appendage, as well as an ornamental one, of the Mansion. In the proper seasons it was the most important place for entertaining at Arlington.

Study and experimentation prevented Arlington's garden from becoming static. The Lees and Custises kept themselves informed on the latest thinking in the field of horticulture and landscape gardening. They retained features from the early days and continued to develop the garden as their taste changed with the fashions of the times. The overall pattern and specific plant material of Arlington's garden conformed generally to the design of a nineteenth century garden which remained flexible over a period of fifty years. It would have been classified by some contemporary sources as a general or mingled flower garden in which were displayed a mixture of flowers with or without flowering shrubs. The object of this type of garden was to mix the colors and kinds of flowers so that the whole garden might present a variety of blooms through the entire season from February to October.[16] A full description of the garden as it appeared in 1861 will be reviewed in Section 3 of this chapter. It is sufficient here to indicate the features that were introduced into the garden. The earliest

documentation of the arbor or summer house located in the center of the garden is a view of the roof of the structure shown in a sketch by Benson J. Lossing done in 1853 (Illustration No. I). The same sketch also shows part of the board fence along the east side of the garden. A summer house of this type was found in contemporary gardens of the nineteenth century and was probably part of the original design.[17] Documentary descriptions of the arbor indicate that the Lee girls had always known it.[18] The paths laid out from the earliest time were gravel.[19]

The symmetrical part of the garden and the natural beauty of the grove with its moss covered rock seat and vine humg tree limbs was in keeping with garden philosophy and practices described in garden books from 1806 to 1850. It is unfortunate that no complete list of the volumes in the Arlington library is now available. The 1859 edition of A. J. Downing's Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening was acquired by George W. C. Lee.[20] The complete list of Daniel Parke Custis' library is available and furnishes titles which are evidence of some of the eighteenth century books on gardening that could have been found at Arlington. The Floralist's Manual was published in London in 1806 and describes basically the principles that must have been influenced the laying out and development of the Arlington garden. The location of the garden, its general layout, and its ornamentation conform to recommended principles.

"The author of the Floralist's Manual confines her observations to the 'construction of the humble flower-garden,' which she calls 'the common mingled flower garden.' 'This,' she says, 'should be situated so as to form an ornamental appendage to the house, and, where the plan of the ground will admit, placed before windows exposed to a southern or south-east aspect.... When apart from the house, the mingled flower-garden may be introduced with great advantage, if situated so as to form a portion of the pleasure-ground; in this case it should not be distant from the house, but so contrived as to terminate one of the walks of the home shrubberies.' (Flor. Man. p. 10, 15). To place the flower garden south east or south west of the house...is in general a desirable circumstance."[21]

By 1861 Arlington garden contained flowers, shrubs, and trees. Its beds were laid out in such a way that no two were identical.[22] The gravel paths passed through the more formal garden and connected this part of the flower garden with the grove. Although the grove showed the work of man, it was maintained in a more-or-less natural state. The grove had an arbor covered with grape vines as well as shaded alleys carpeted with wild flowers and ferns. It was here that the moss covered rock seat was located.[23] The grove and flower garden were fenced together: the only entrance was the gate east of the elm tree on the north side. (Illustration No. V).

In May, 1861, the Union Army of the Potomac began its march into

Virginia. General Sanford reported the mansion secured on May 24th.[24] The occupation and use of the estate by the Army brought many changes. But surprisingly enough great effort was made to protect the house and its component parts, even to the flower garden. General McDowell is said to have set up the first headquarters of the Army of the Potomac in the garden,[25] and it is probable that his command was set up in the grove. Markie Williams described the condition of the garden in 1862 in a letter to Mrs. R. E. Lee. "The garden is enclosed by a white washed fence and the roses white jasmine were blooming as...used to do in the happy days gone bye.... I walked in & with tearful eyes, gathered a boquet. All the small flowers in the garden are of course overgrown with weeds, but the larger ones look pretty much the same & considering the immense number of troops that have been here and that it is still a military Depot, The preservation is wonderful."[26]

The Army erected a fence around the flower garden only and excluded the grove. The 1864 topographical survey map by Mr. E. Hergesheimer of the area shows only the eastern section of the flower garden fenced. (Illustration No. VI). Close examination of the Topographical Survey done by F. W. Dorr and Cleveland Rockwell in 1861 will show the grove and flower garden fenced together as Mildred Lee remembered it in her description of the garden (Illustration No. V).

In 1864 Arlington was seized for taxes and bid in at the tax sale by

the United States Government.[27] In May the first official burials took place near the Ord-Wetzel gate in the northwest section.[28] In June the center acerage was established as Arlington National Cemetery. This included the pleasure-grounds surrounding the Mansion and some of the park that surrounded it.[29] Graves were placed outside the white picket garden fence on the south and east on June 28 and 29, 1864. These graves, marked by headstones, are still located on the south and east of the old garden fence line.[30] It is believed that when the army established this fence line it followed the original Custis fence line on all but the west boundary and the north and south boundary of the grove. The Tomb of the Unknown Dead from the Civil War was located just west of the army fence line in what had been known to the Lees as the grove. The eastern fenced section remained virtually unchanged.

The army used flowers from the garden and from the conservatory (in the Mansion) for the cemetery. All evidence now indicates that the Lee greenhouse and the conservatory were the same.[31] In September, 1870, the army laid the foundation of a new greenhouse in the garden, and the structure was completed by October.[32] This is the greenhouse that D. H. Rhodes describes as being located along the north fence line in 1873.

In 1873 the amphitheater was constructed in the grove.[33] It is not

clear if the grove grape arbor was included in this construction or not. At any rate, the moss covered stone seat and the grape arbor of the old garden were replaced. In 1884 the old arbor or summer house in the center of the eastern part of the garden was replaced by the "Temple of Fame."[34] In his history of the garden as he knew it, Mr. D. H. Rhodes states that after the removal of the old arbor, the greenhouse, and the picket fence "...the whole site was plowed up and graded.... Other changes made at this time were the opening up of three additional entrances, i.e., at the east, west and south, with steps for approaches up the terraces on the east and south and connecting with existing walks on the west at the Civil War Tomb of Unknown, all old walks in flower garden were abolished and new gravel walks were laid to run from north to south entrances and from east to west entrances thru and around the 'Temple of Fame'."[35] Mr. D. H. Rhodes submitted the plan for this reorganization of the garden. He included the recommendation for the removal of boxwood hedges and several poor trees within the garden. From Mr. Rhodes' information it is evident that removal of the last vestiges of the layout of the old garden and its structures took place between 1884 and 1888.[36] From this information it is evident that pictographic evidence of the old garden survives, with possible moderate changes, in material showing the picket fence, the arbor, or the greenhouse. Illustrations IX, X, and XI show the Arlington garden as it looked prior to the implementation of the Rhodes re-organization plan (1884-1888).

Through the years the flower beds laid out by Mr. Rhodes have been removed. The area which was once the flower garden now consists of large lawn squares around the "Temple of Fame." The "Temple" itself stands on the spot where the old arbor was located. (See Illustration No. II, Chapter I.) The old elm tree that stood near the garden gate survives. The walks that Mr. Rhodes laid out have been surfaced with concrete. Today signs of the layout of the Rhodes flower beds are not discernable. The tomb stones placed one foot from the garden fence in 1864 remain around the east and south sides. There is no evidence of drastic changes in the grove area since the old amphitheater was placed there in 1873 and Mr. Rhodes planted the wisteria that now provides its reason for existence. The War Department was considering the restoration of Arlington's gardens as early as 1924.[37] Plans for the development of this area to look as it had when Robert E. Lee last saw it were in their active files at the time of transfer to the Department of Interior in 1933-34.

The historical significance of the Arlington garden is its existence as an important part of the historic scene when it was the home of Robert E. Lee. The intended restoration of Custis-Lee Mansion, exterior as well as interior, to the appearance it had in 1861 is documented by legislation and interpretation of legislation passed concerning the house since the Joint Resolution of Congress in 1925 established it as the National Memorial to Robert E. Lee.[38]

Section 2. JUSTIFICATION OF PROPOSED RESTORATION-RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ARLINGTON FLOWER GARDEN

In Section 1 the function of the Arlington flower garden throughout the historic period (1802-1861) of the Custis-Lee Mansion has been described. The terminal date for this restoration is defined in the Joint Resolution of Congress that established "Arlington House" as the National Memorial to Robert E. Lee under the title "The Lee Mansion National Memorial."[39] The aim of this restoration is clearly set forth in this and succeeding legislation; to make the house and grounds around it, as nearly as possible, look as they did in the years immediately prior to the Civil War.

The Joint Resolution reads, in part, as follows: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby authorized and directed, as nearly as may be practicable, to restore the Lee Mansion in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, to the condition in which it existed immediately prior to the Civil War and to procure, if possible, articles of furniture and equipment which were then in the Mansion and in use by the occupants thereof. He is also authorized, in his discretion, to procure replicas of the furniture and equipment which were then in the Mansion during the period mentioned, with a view to restoring, as far as may be practicable the appearance of the interior of the Mansion to the condition of its occupancy by the Lee Family."[40]

In the hearing on this Resolution, May 28, 1924, Mr. Charles Moore,

then Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, made it clear that plans had been made by the War Department for the external restoration of the Mansion, including the gardens, and for preservation of the vista and of the wooded slopes which gave Arlington a park-like character. It is interesting to note that he suggested that the south area of what is now Fort Myer be considered for extension of the cemetery in order to prevent destruction of the wooded slopes.[41]

The initial responsibility for the restoration of the Custis-Lee Mansion rested with the War Department. It was their intention, as their plans show, to restore both the flower garden and the vegetable garden to their pre-Civil War appearance. These plans were being actively considered when the Mansion was transferred in 1933 (Executive Order Nos. 6166 and 6228) to the Department of Interior for continued maintenance, restoration, and administration. The transfer became official in 1934.[42]

Unfortunately, the transfer of the Mansion included neither the land which had contained the flower garden nor the vegetable garden. In 1947 the area that had been the vegetable garden was transferred and temporarily planted with flowers.[43] In 1959, Public Law 86-170 was passed, transferring to the Department of Interior for restoration the area of the Arlington flower garden that was not involved in the land used for the Tomb of the Unknown Dead of the Civil War and the Old Amphitheater. The aim of this legislation was to make possible the restoration of the Arlington flower garden.[44]

This continued restoration of the historic scene is part of the trust transferred to the National Park Service from the War Department in 1933-34. It is in keeping with National Park Service principles of historic restoration and preservation that pertain to the historic house museum. The excellent documentary and pictographic evidence of the garden and its structures, themselves no longer extant, make the restoration-reconstruction important and well within the National Park Service definition of "accurate" rather than "conjectural." The fact that this is a component part of an area that is inventoried AAA by the Service entitles it to our maximum professional efforts and expenditures. The Custis-Lee Mansion is not only one of the most important historic houses in the country, but has been established and dedicated by Congress as the National Memorial to Robert E. Lee, who considered it his home for thirty years.

There is legislation authorizing this restoration. There is sound Park Service policy which demands historic restoration of the Custis-Lee Mansion, including the grounds for which the Service is responsible. There is a wealth of evidence concerning the specific appearance of this garden in its historic period. There is documentary, pictorial, and physical evidence of contemporary gardens to support and assist in accurate interpretation. Finally, there is Robert E. Lee's own

statement of his desires for this house:

"You must not think I desire the house to be repaired from any expectation of enjoying it. It is not with that view I do anything farther than incidentally. But I think it right to improve everything for which we are responsible, as far as necessary for its object, within our means, and leave the enjoyment to the great disposer of events. In this particular instance, it is for the sake of her who is gone, and of those who remain, that I wish the place dear to their affections to be properly preserved, and not either to suffer from, nor exhibit neglect. And I wish it out of respect for their memory and feelings. Life as you say hangs by an uncertain tenure; but that ought rather to stimulate us to execution, than to relaxation, that we may fulfill our duties, and the work set before us before we go hence. It matters not who is benefitted by our labors, so our part is done. May God grant it be well done and that we may earn the title of faithful servants."[45]

Section 3. DOCUMENTED APPEARANCE OF ARLINGTON'S GARDEN AS OF 1861.

The Garden Boundary

The boundary of Arlington's gardens is shown on topographical surveys of the area made at the beginning of and during the Civil War (Illustrations Nos. V, VI, and VII). Illustration No. V shows the board fence which extended around the flower garden and grove in 1861. The grove was part of the park which was described by Mildred Lee in 1890: "The grove was a place of mystery to me! It was a part of the Park enclosed in the garden & was the special resort of squirrels, blue bells of Scotland and grapevines where we used to swing. Here too there was an arbour - covered with a grape vine - with a big mossy natural stone for a seat a capital place to crack hickory nuts. ...Just at the edge of the Grove, under a spreading tree, was my own little garden a white lilac in one corner & violets forming the boarders of the beds...."[46]

The War Department wrote to Mr. D. H. Rhodes, April 11, 1930, asking further information on the old garden plan, as he had seen it reflected in the extant flower garden of 1873. Mr. Rhodes described the boundary lines of the flower garden on its east and south sides as one foot from the headstones placed there in 1864. This line of tombstones is extant.[47] The picket fence which Mr. Rhodes saw in 1873 had been placed around the area during the Civil War, and it ran on the line

of the old board fence except on the west where it ran between the flower garden and the grove. Association of the grove with the flower garden was thus destroyed and forgotten (Illustrations Nos. VI and VII). When Mr. Rhodes came to Arlington he found the Tomb of the Unknown Dead was occupying part of the grove.[48] The picket fence standing at that time was identical to fences the army placed at the Custis graves and in other parts of Arlington in the 1860s.[49] The plan in Chapter IV, Section 2, recommends the restoration of the 1861 boundary as far as is possible.

Atmosphere and Feeling

Mildred Lee's description of the grove indicates that it was primarily a natural area in contrast to the flower garden laid out in rectangular form in the eastern part of the fenced area. The rear of even the more formal flower garden grew luxuriant with the greenery of plants, shrubs, and trees.[50] A friend of Mrs. Sigourney, the novelist, visited the Lees at Arlington and described the garden as she saw it on a late May morning: "Mrs. Lee took me into the tangled neglected gardens, full of rose-buds, and allowed me to pick my fill of the sweet dainty Bon Silene variety, which she told me blossomed all Winter."[51] To some of their contemporaries, the taste of the ladies of Arlington for natural beauty seemed to develop a garden where nature moved unrestrained to the point of destroying the artistic man-made plans of

the garden (Illustration XII).

Walks

The paths of this garden were six feet wide, made of gravel, and provided access to every part of the old garden (A detailed description of the construction of gravel walks is found in The Garden Encyclopedia[52]). Mr. D. H. Rhodes described what he remembered of the garden walks which were present in 1873. "The whold plot of ground had been laid off in a series of gravel walks--six feet wide--one of which ran thru the center of the garden from north to south, and connected with a similar walk which extended around the entire flower garden and about four feet from the inside face of the enclosing picket fence.... Other walks of similar width had been laid off in various directions to connect with the perpendicular walks referred to and provide access to and around the old arbor, or summer house which formerly occupied the site of the present "Temple of Fame," as well as to reach practically every other point within the garden.... The result of this plan was that the entire garden was comprised of flower beds and walks only--there being practically no two beds alike in shape or size.... Boxwood plants had been planted on the edges of some of the walks leading to and around the old arbor and it has been stated that it was originally intended that boxwood should eventually enclose all the flower beds."[53]

In answer to further War Department questions, Mr. Rhodes described the grass borders: "A border of grass about one-foot wide separated the six foot walk from a three-foot open border of soil adjoining the picket fence. In the early 70's a hedge of arbor-vitae was planted in this open border as a screen to the picket fence, and some ten years later or about the time the flower garden was reorganized this hedge was removed."[54] He again discussed the walks. "Owing to the unconventional plan and great irregularity of the walks and beds in the old flower garden, and in the absence of any copy, sketch or photographic view of said plan, I regret that I am unable to render a true picture or greater detail of the walks in flower garden, other than..that a curved walk passed around either side of the summer house and then connected with the main center walk at points north and south of that structure, which resulted in the summer house and adjacent grass plot being inclosed in an oblong-shaped rather than circular-shaped plot--enclosed by walks."[55] He continued to give further information documenting existence and location of boxwood. "The boxwood hedges varied from about six to ten inches in height. The boxwood was 'Buxus Suffruticosa' or what is known as the common 'dwarf box.' It had been planted on both sides of the main center walk from a point near the entrance gate to the south end of flower garden, except that portion of said walk that passed thru old summer house, and also on curved walks on either side of the summer house. This box hedge, when

removed from the old flower garden, was replanted in the old vegetable garden north of Mansion.... Grass borders about one foot wide, were around practically all beds that were not provided with box hedges."[56]

There is no record in cemetery reports[57] of any major changes in the walks or beds of the fenced portion of the old flower garden until the 1884 reorganization.[58] Illustration No. XI shows a small portion of the Arlington graden between 1870 and 1888 when the portion of the garden was reorganized by the War Department.

To supplement specific information on the Arlington garden plan and to assist the Task Force in interpretation of specific documentation, contemporary garden plans included in the Historic American Building Survey and in gardening books of the period have been studied[59] (Illustrations Nos. XIII and XIV). Results of this study are incorporated in the restoration plan, Section 2, Chapter IV.

The Garden Fence

The general location of the 1861 garden fence is shown in Illustration No. V. The original character of this board fence is indicated in the historical sketches of Arlington House (Illustrations Nos. I, II, III, and IV). Sketches appearing here as Illustrations Nos. III and IV were made after 1858 while Nos. I and II were made before that date.[60]

Benson J. Lossing's watercolor of Arlington, made in 1853, is in the Custis-Lee collections, but is not included in this report. It clearly shows the garden fence.[61] Mr. Lossing was more accurate in his detail in his watercolor than in his sketch here included as Illustration No. II. Illustration No. III and the watercolor are most accurate in detail of all the sketches from the 1850-1860 period. Both show a board fence with the lower board and no top rail.

The proportion and design of the recommended flower garden fence is based primarily on the evaluation and study of pre-Civil War pictorial evidence contained in those sketches of Arlington that show the flower garden fence. The gate in the fence around the flower garden was placed on its north side about four feet east of the elm tree which, although much larger now, is still standing. The gate opened onto the main walk through the arbor and was the only entrance to the garden and grove in 1861.[62] The restoration-reconstruction of a board fence is also based on what is known of the tastes of the Lees and Custises.[63] This was a practical fence placed around the flower garden for a practical purpose. Arlington was a country house placed in the center of a park area that Mr. Custis never entirely managed to clear of underbrush, although that was his aim (Illustration No. IV). The fence protected the garden from intrusion and to some extent made possible its controlled development. Those whose philosophy of gardening differed from the

Lees' did have difficulty in identifying that control, but it was there. When a feature is as well documented as the board fence around the garden, the principles of accurate historic restoration demand its replacement regardless of differing personal or period tastes. The replacement of what we can establish of the historic scene is essential to the integrity of this restoration. From the detailed comparative study of period sketches a board fence is established as the 1861 fence. Landscape Architect Skillman's interpretation of the sketches appears on the recommended restoration elevation in Section 3 of Chapter IV of this report.

Garden Bench

Mildred Lee described a garden bench in the Arlington garden: 'My thoughts flew to the old garden at Arlington--to a wooden bench, almost hidden by a drooping branch of seringa which formed by favourite hiding place in days long ago.'[64] On the basis of a broad study of simple garden benches of the period, the inclusion of such a wooden bench under the lilacs is recommended. This was a very simple feature. Both the seats in the arobr described by Mr. D. H. Rhodes and the benches on the Portico of the Mansion (which can be identified in the Civil War photograph taken in 1864, National Capital Region Negative No. CN-972) furnish indications of the Lee taste in benches and will be used to guide the development of the garden bench design. Most contemporary

garden seats or benches shown in Historic American Building Survey drawings and in photographs of similar garden features are found in urban areas of Massachusetts and hence have an entirely different character from similar features found at rural country homes in Virginia.[65] Location of the garden bench is indicated on the restoration plan, Section 2, Chapter IV.

The Arbor in the Flower Garden

The old arbor was described by Mildred Lee, about 1890, from her childhood memories: "A large arbor stood in the center--covered with heavy masses of yellow Jasmine, every morning we children found the ground beneath carpeted with the golden blossoms which we gathered and made into necklaces or long strings to be put in the linens." When she returned to view the garden in 1890, she described the spot where the arbor had stood: "...in place of the Jasmine arbour--rose a hideous white pavilion--with the names of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, etc.... Everything was gone--the dim shady alleys--the flowering shrubs--the rose beds were replaced by stiff little beds, cut in ginger-cake patterns!"[66]

The arbor thus described, and replaced by the Temple of Fame in 1884, was the central feature of the flower garden in 1861. We have located only one photograph that shows it in place--a photograph

of the Tomb of the Unknown Dead from the Civil War (Illustration No. IX). A corner of the decayed arbor roof is visible beyond the tomb. The construction of this roof corresponds with the roofs of two summer houses photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey collection in Alabama.[67] In the restoration-reconstruction of the arbor, however, we are not left entirely with comparative period sources.

Mr. D. H. Rhodes, who was acquainted with this structure from 1873 to 1884, described it in detail and submitted a sketch showing shape and measurements. "Referring to your letter of May 28, 1930, in which you request additional information as to dimensions and general design of the old arbor formerly in the flower garden, I am enclosing a rough sketch showing the approximate size and slope of the arbor in 1873."[68] (Illustration No. X). "The woodwork consisted of ordinary posts and lumber for the main structure but the inner partition, or lattice work, was of dressed and painted woodwork. The top or roof of the arbor had a somewhat concave outline to a small central point at top 20' high at least."[69] Illustration No. VIII shows original lattice work at the cellar entrances on the south front of Arlington as they appeared in 1864. This lattice work, still in place, furnishes reference for the restoration-reconstruction of the lattice partition of the arbor.

Mr. Rhodes confirmed Miss Mildred Lee's assertion that the Temple of

Fame occupied the site of the old arbor.[70] His description of the network of walks as they passed through and around the old arbor has been discussed.

Two of Selina Grey's children, who were born slaves at Arlington, described the appearance of the old arbor as they recalled it. Mrs. Baker said in 1929: "The arbor was round and had a round seat all around in the inside and here Miss Mary and her big Newfoundland Dog, Leo, used to sit for house, annice used to pick daisies and heartseast and put them in her lap as she sat reading."[71] A year later Mrs. Baker and her sister, Mrs. Thompson, again described the garden: " They remembered the garden very distinctly. The arbor in the center had red and pink honeysuckel and yellow Jessamine over it."[72]

It is doubtful that Mrs. Baker knew the difference between octagonal and round or that she would have been careful of exact use of vocabulary. Although inaccurate in her description of shape, it is probable that her description of activity and of flowers was more accurate. It is also probable that the exact shape of the arbor was distorted to the casual observer by its covering of vines.

Suggested restoration-reconstruction of this focal feature of the old Arlington garden is presented in Section 3 of Chapter IV. Illustration XV, in this Chapter, was used for period reference in developing the suggested roof construction. Illustrations Nos. 1, II, and IV furnish

information on the general feeling and appearance of the arbor but do not give detailed information. The roof line in Illustration No. I most closely resembles the documentary descriptions of the roof's general shape. It is the Rhodes description and sketch that pulls together the rest of the documentary and pictorial evidence and makes possible the development of accurate restoration-reconstruction of the old arbor. It is interesting to note that those who had known the structure before the Civil War referred to it exclusively as an arbor. It is suggested that the term arbor be adopted and the term summer house, in the absence of other documentation, be dropped.

Plant Material

The plant material in this garden has been drawn together from original sources and listed below. Unfortunately, the location of the plant material within the garden is not frequently given. From a study of contemporary planting practices, probable locations may be established when they are not specifiec. It is expected that this list will be expanded as evidence of additional plant material original to Arlington is established.

In the following table, sources are indicated by the following key:

ALJ - Agnes Lee's Journal by Miss Agnes Lee and Miss Mildred Lee

DHR - Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery by David H. Rhodes

MHN - Old Arlington by Murray H. Nelligan

LMD - Lee Mansion Date File

Baker - Memoirs of Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Thompson, born slaves at Arlington.

Marcey - transcript of interview of William Marcey, 1940.

LIST OF PLANT MATERIAL FOUND IN THE ARLINGTON GARDEN BEFORE 1931

Material Name of plant found in original sources	Location	Source
PLANTS: ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS		
Blue Bells of Scotland	grove	ALJ
Chrysanthemums		MHN-Memo
Camellia	conservatory	Baker-3/30/30
Cowslips	borders	ALJ
Crocus	borders	ALJ
Dahlias	flower garden	LMD, news clipping, 9/20/1845
Daisies	flower garden	LMD, Baker, 1929
Forget-me-nots	woods	AJL
Heartseases	flower garden	Baker, 1929, LMD
hyacinths (hayacinths)	flower garden	ALJ
Jonquils or "Yellows"	borders	ALJ
Lilies of the Valley	"every shady place"	ALJ
Tulips	flower garden	MHN-Memo
Lily, Calla	conservatory	MHN-Memo
Violets,	garden borders	ALJ
Violets, Parma	conservatory	MHN-Memo
SHRUBS		
Box	on curved walk around Arbor, beside center walk	Memo, 4/14/30
Boxwood (Buxus Suffruticosa)	borders of walks	DHR
Laurel		MHN

SHRUBS (continued)

Lilac or Seringa		ALJ
White		ALJ
Purple		ALJ
Pyrus Japonica		LMD
Roses	Sides of the garden	Baker, 3/3/30
Bon Salene		MHN
Cherokee		MHN
Dark Red	Along sides of garden	MHN, ALJ
Damask		ALJ
Deep yellow, lipped with crimson		ALJ
Hundred leaf		ALJ
Moss Rose		MHN, LMD
Safronia Rose		MHN, ALJ
Single red rose	Under apricot tree	ALJ
Snowball bushes		ALJ
Maidens Bower		ALJ
Mock Orange		ALJ

VINES

Jasmine, yellow (bloomed 5/9/1861)	Back of garden	Baker, 1929
	Old arbor	LMD
White (blooming in July)		LMD
Honeysuckle, Pink and Red	Old arbor	Baker, 1930
Grape	grove	ALJ

VINES (continued)		
Ivy	Old st[illegible]	DHR
Woodbine		MHN
TREES		
Apricot		ALJ
Cedar	Outside--near fence.	MHN
Elm	Extant	DHR
Magnolia, white and pink	Middle of south garden	Baker, 1929
Pear	South garden	Marcey, 1940
Poplar, white leafed		DHR
Spruce, Norway (2)		DHR

At this time the Virginia garden club can cite only two nineteenth century garden restorations in Virginia. Neither of these is based on sufficient specific evidence to be considered more than period restorations.

Dr. Murray H. Nelligan did the basic original research for the restoration of the Custis-Lee Mansion. His historic note file, memoranda, reports, his thesis Old Arlington, and the pictorial collection that he initiated have been essential in the location and codification of the historic evidence on the appearance of the Arlington flower garden c. 1861. The vast amount of evidence on this garden removes it from the category of a period restoration--it is a specific restoration-reconstruction of the garden that Robert E. Lee knew.

Footnotes:

1. Mary Custis Lee, Recollection, MS, 1865, Transcript in Custis-Lee Mansion Historic Note File.

2. Murray H. Nelligan, Old Arlington (Department of the Interior, 1954), p. 61.

3. No. 5, Army Engineers Topographical Survey, Environs of ...ton, Record Group 77, Cartographic Section, The National ...chives.

4. Nelligan, op. cit., p. 70.

5. George Washington Parke Custis, Recollections and Memoirs of Washington, p. 371.

6. E. G. Swem, Brothers of the Spade, p. 37, p. 108.
Custis, op. cit., p. 74.
Catalog of the Library of Daniel Parke Custis, MSS, Collection of the Virginia Historical Society.

7. Nelligan, op. cit., pp. 74, 149.

8. Custis Family Bible, Debutts-Ely MSS, Upperville, Virginia. Photostat in Custis-Lee Mansion Historic Note File.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid.

11. Mildred Lee, Agnes Lee's Journal, Debutts-Ely MSS, Upperville, Virginia, entry July 20, 1890.

12. Nelligan, op. cit., p. 241.

13. Ibid., pp. 163, 237.

14. Mildred Lee, op. cit., entry July 20, 1890.

15. Ibid., July 20, 1890.

16. John C. Loudon, An Encyclopaedia of Gardening (London, 1850), p. 1004.

17. Ibid., p. 1022.

18. Mildred Lee, op. cit., July 20, 1890.

19. David H. Rhodes, Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery, MS, March, 1930, p. 1. On file at Custis-Lee Mansion.

20. A. J. Downing, A Treatice on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America, 1859. This book is among the collection of books from the Arlington Library in the Debutts-Ely Collection, Upperville, Virginia.

21. Loudon, op. cit., p. 998.

22. Rhodes, op. cit., p. 1.

23. Mildred Lee, op. cit., July 20, 1890.

24. Major General C. W. Sanford, Report, May 28, 1861. Transcript in Custis-Lee Historic Note File.

25. Nelligan, op. cit., pp. 466, 467.

26. Martha Custis Williams to Mary Custis Lee, July 25, 1862, Debutts-Ely Collection, Upperville, Virginia.

27. The Alexandria Gazette, January 12, 1864, Vol. LXV, No. 10. Microfilm, Library of Congress. Announces sale of Arlington estate as of January 11, 1864.

28. T. Sutton Jett, Arlington National Cemetery, p. 7.

29. Ibid., p. 7.

30. Rhodes, op. cit., p. 1.

31. Annie Baker and Ada Thompson, Memories of Arlington, transcript of interview, March 3, 1930, Custis-Lee Mansion Historic Note File, p. 1.

32. Charles Fetchett, Superintendent, Monthly Report, National Cemetery at Arlington, October, 1870. Cemeterial Records, National Archives.

33. Frederick Kauffmann, Superintendent, Monthly Report, National Cemetery at Arlington, November, 1873. Cemeterial Records, National Archives.

34. E. M. Main, Superintendent, Monthly Report, National Cemetery at Arlington, May, 1884. Cemeterial Records, National Archives.

35. Rhodes, op. cit., p. 2.

36. Ibid., p. 2.

37. Restoration of Lee Mansion, Hearing before Joint Committee on the Library of Congress of the United States...pursuant to H. J. Res. 264, May 28, 1924, p. 4.

38. Nelligan, op. cit., p. 504.

39. Ibid., p. 504.

40. Ibid., p. 504.

41. Restoration of Lee Mansion, op. cit., pp. 4-7.

42. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order No. 6166, June 10, 1933.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order No. 6228, July 28, 1933.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order No. 6540, December 28, 1933.

43. T. Sutton Jett, memorandum to Mr. Irving C. Root, Anticipated Improvements in grounds adjacent to the Lee Mansion, August 18, 1959.

44. Public Law 86-170, 86th Congress, H. R. 5138, August 18, 1959.

45. Nelligan, op. cit., pp. 379, 380.

46. Mildred Lee, op. cit., July 20, 1890.

47. David H. Rhodes, memorandum to Colonel Mortimer in reply to memoran dum. Letter, April 11, 1930, p. 1.

48. Compare garden outlines in Illustrations Nos. V and VI. Illustration No. V was done under pressure at the beginning of the Civil War for the forces that were defending Washington. Whatever shows in this survey was what the troops found when they moved into the estate in the spring of 1861. Many features that were not judged important for military op... included from the finished survey. By the time Illus... No. VI was drawn the fence line had been changed.

49. The picket fence was placed around the Custis graves on June 29, 1864. See photographs of Custis graves in Custis-Lee Mansion pictorial file, Negatives No. CN 5653 and 2844-J.

50. Mary Pagen, Notes from interview with former Arlington Slaves, p. 2.

51. Nelligan, op. cit., p. 325.

52. Loudon, op. cit., pp. 664-665.

53. David H. Rhodes, Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery, MSS, March, 1930, p. 1.

54. David H. Rhodes, Memorandum to Col. Mortimer in reply to memorandum-letter, April 11, 1930, p. 1.

55. Ibid., p. 1.

56. Ibid., p. 1.

57. Monthly Reports from the National Cemetery at Arlington, Cemeterial Records, National Archives, have been examined to establish dates and work related to the garden area, 1864-1884.

58. David H. Rhodes, Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery, MSS, March, 1930, p. 2.

59. Historic American Buildings Survey files at the Library of Congress have been examined and a list of this material is in the Custis-Lee Mansion Garden Restoration File. An annotated bibliography of published reference material is in the same file.

60. Nelligan, op. cit., p. 417.

61. Benson J. Lossing, Arlington House, 1853, a watercolor of Arlington now on exhibit in the Custis-Lee Mansion Museum.

62. David H. Rhodes, Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery, MSS, March, 1930, p. 1.

63. Ibid., p. 3.

64. Mildred Lee, op. cit., July 20, 1890.

65. Historic American Buildings Survey, Massachusetts 213, 5 Newburyport, 10, John N. Cushing Place, Garden 1830, Garden seats and garden arch, photographs 10B-1, 10C-1, 10D-1.

66. Mildred Lee, op. cit., July 20, 1890.

67. Historic American Buildings Survey, Alabama, 267, 53 Unito., Pitts Folly, Photographs 1B, Summer house with open roof (Ala. 85).

Historic American Buildings Survey, Alabama, 66 Cam, Gen. R. E. Jones Home, Broad St., Camden, Ala., Photographs 2-1, B-1, open summer house roof.

68. David H. Rhodes, Letter to Maj. F. W. Matteson, June 19, 1930, MS, Custis-Lee Historic Note File.

69. Ibid.

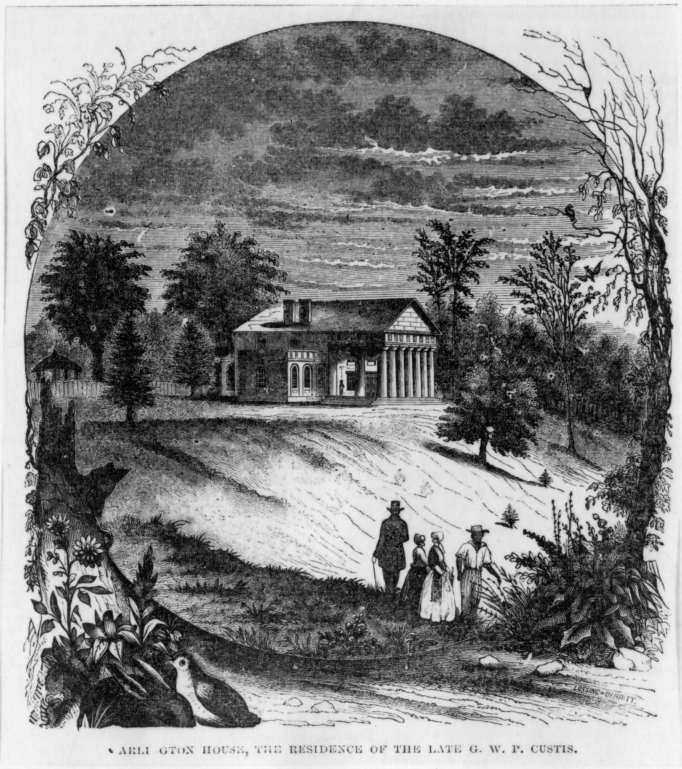
70. David H. Rhodes, Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery, March, 1930, p. 1.

71. Pagen, op. cit., p. 1.

72. Edna E. Davies, Notes on Conversation with Mrs. Annice Baker, 1929. Typescript in Custis-Lee Mansion Historic Note File.

Chapter II

Illustration No. I

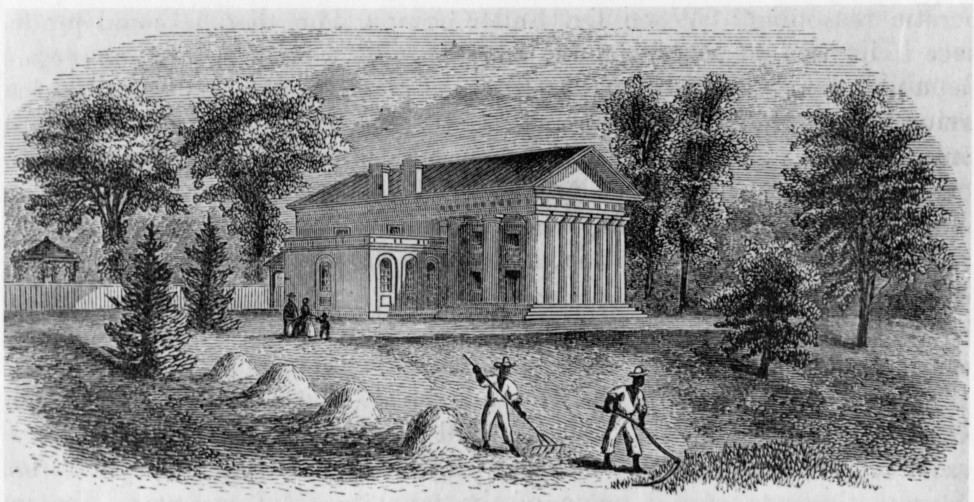


ARLI GTON HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE G. W. P. CUSTIS.

Sketch of "Arlington House" &c. 1853
by Benson J. Lossing, published in
Harper's Weekly Magazine, 1857.

Chapter II

Illustration No. II

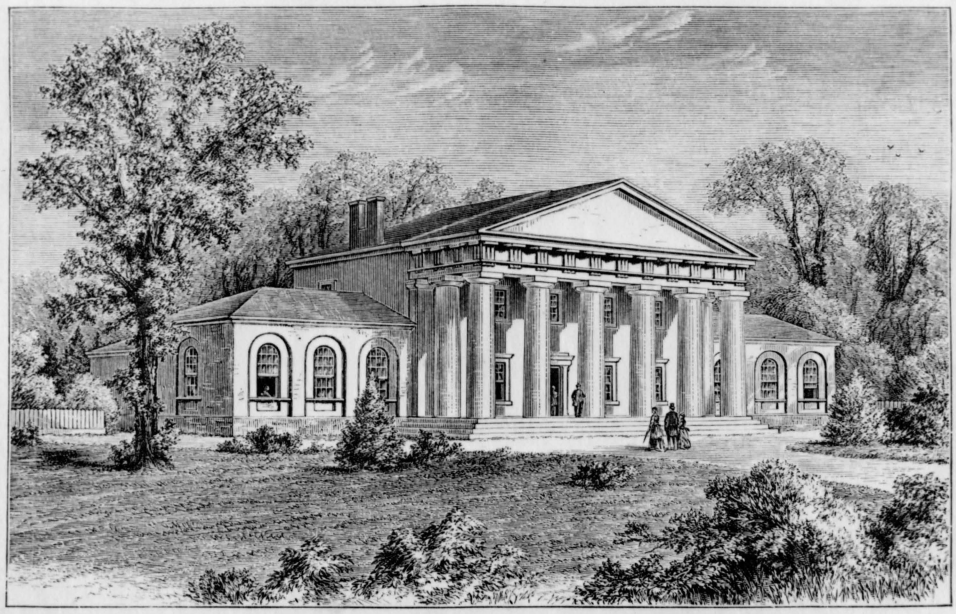


ARLINGTON HOUSE IN 1860.[2]

Sketch of "Arlington House" c. 1853 published in Civil War in America by Benson J. Lossing. Arlington House had the parapits on the wings removed between 1857 and 1859. Mr. Lossing visited Arlington in 1853 and most of his sketches show the house as he remembered it from that visit.

Chapter II

Illustration No. III

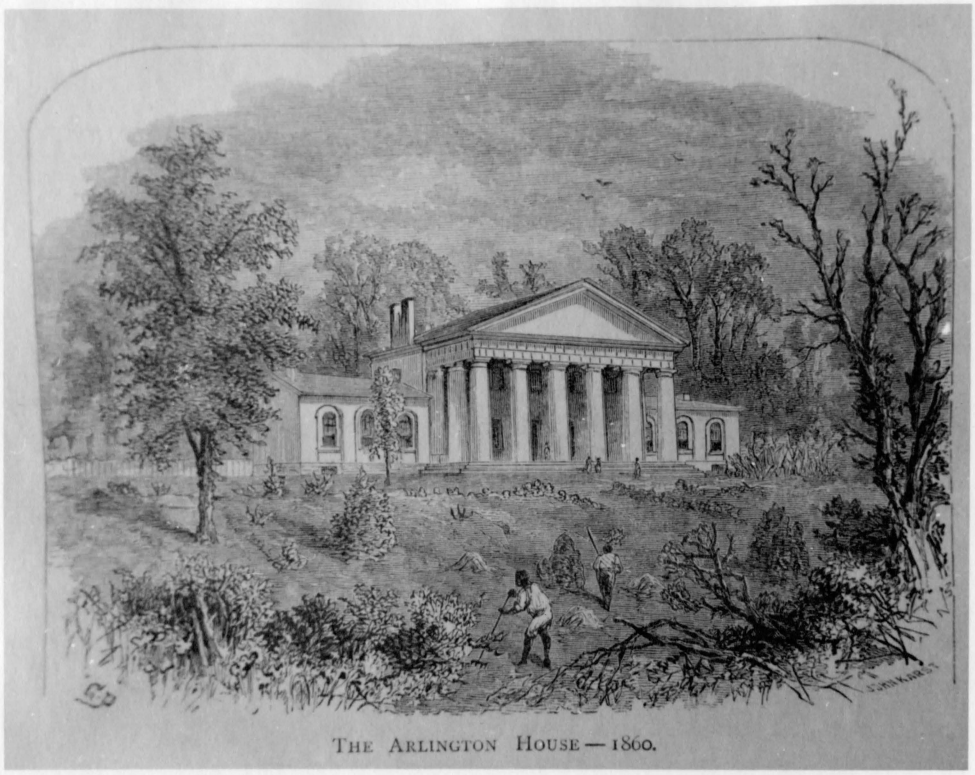


ARLINGTON, THE HOME OF LEE.

Sketch of "Arlington House" c. 1860, published in Reminiscences of R. E. Lee by J. William Jones.

Chapter II

Illustration No. IV

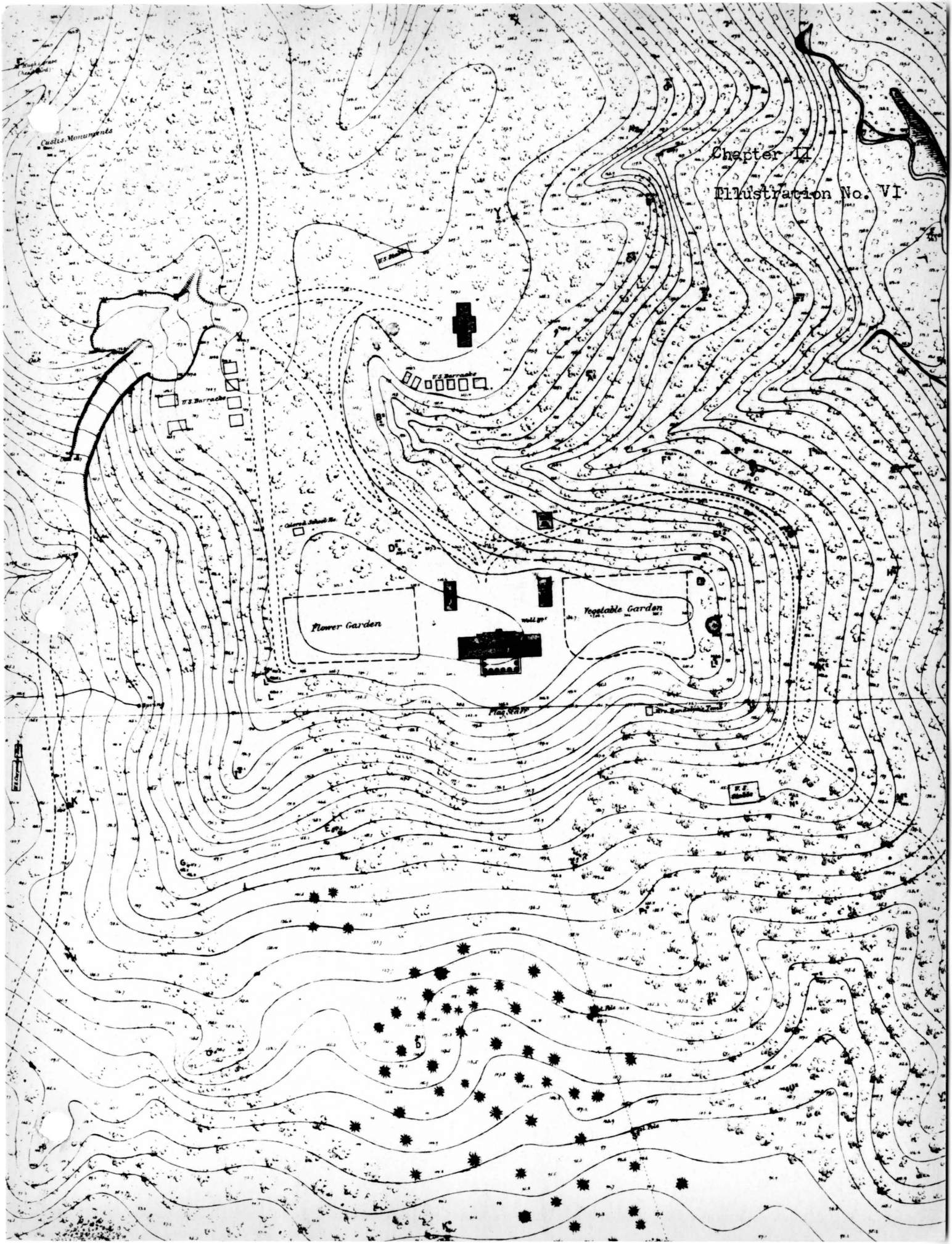


THE ARLINGTON HOUSE — 1860.

Sketch of "Arlington House" c 1860 by John Karst, published in Genealogical History of the Lee Family by Edwin C. Mead.



Chapter II
Illustration No. V

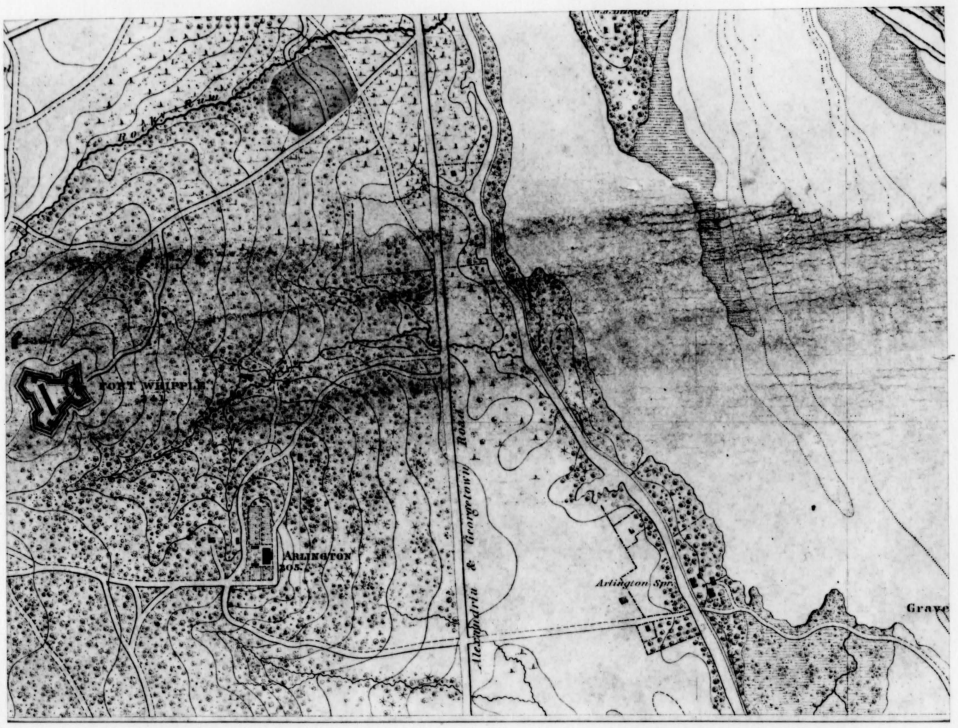


Chapter II

Illustration No. VI

Chapter II

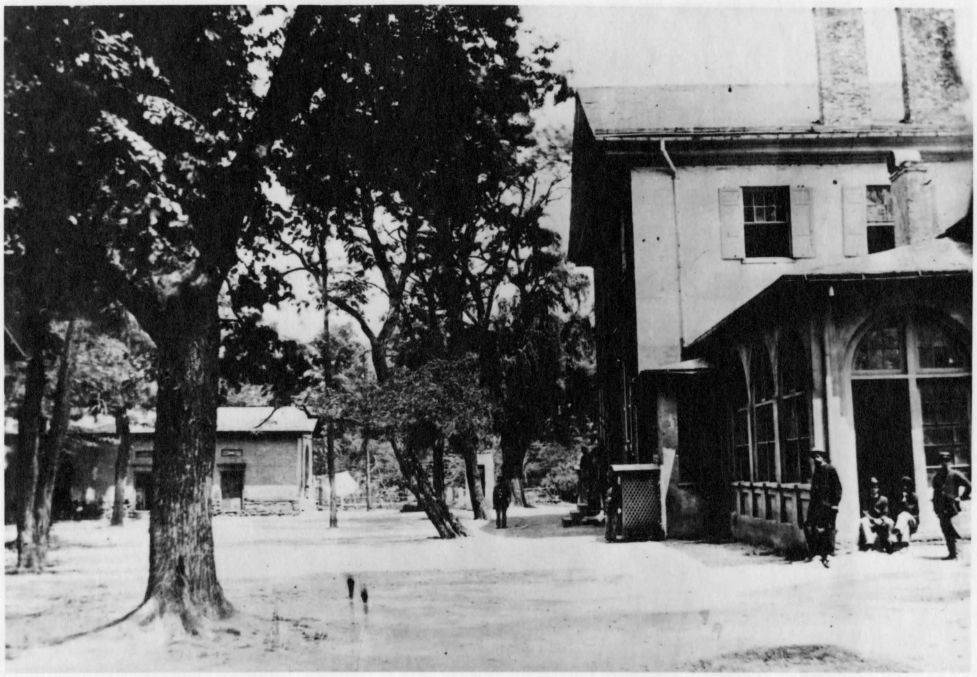
Illustration No. VII



Portion of Sheet No. 5 of the Topographical Survey, Environs of Washington, from a file in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, now located in Record Group 77, Cartographic Section, National Archives. This shows topographical detail around "Arlington House" c. 1864.

Chapter II

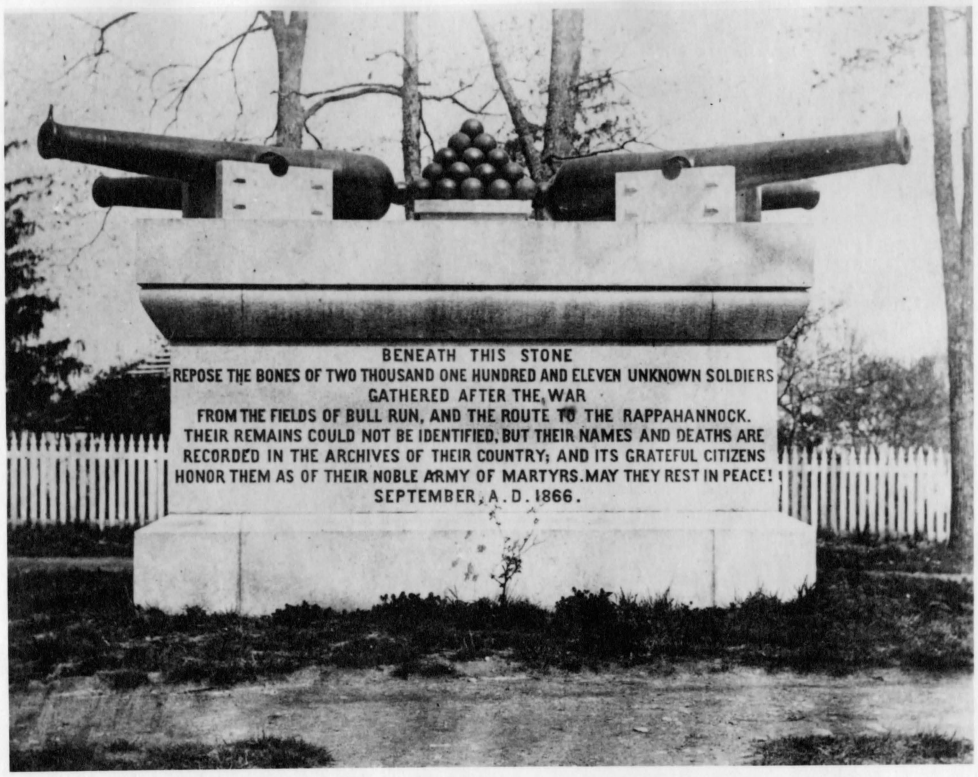
Illustration No. VIII



View of the western front of Arlington House,
June 29, 1864, made by the Army Signal Corps.

Chapter II

Illustration No. IX

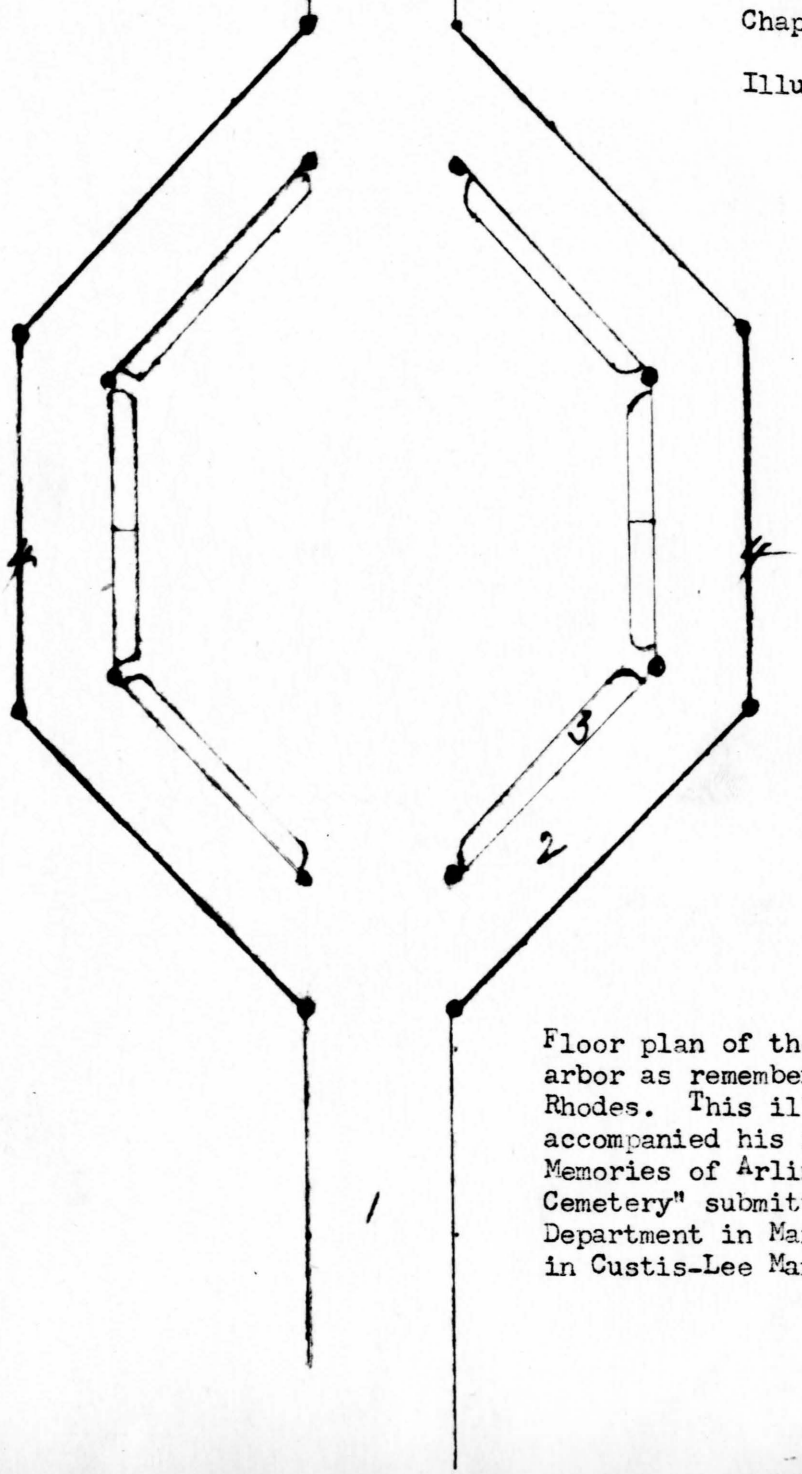


View of the Civil War Tomb of the Unknown Dead showing a portion of the roof of the Arlington garden arbor, United States Army photograph (1867-1883).

Approx size & shape of de arbor in flower garden. Size ca. 30'x40'

Legend 1. Six foot walk thru center of flower garden.
2 Footpath " " " Arbor
3 Wooden benches. & lattice work extending from rear of arbor
4 Exterior of arbor. Wood work & vines.

Illustration No. X



Floor plan of the Arlington garden arbor as remembered by David H. Rhodes. This illustration accompanied his report "Historic Memories of Arlington National Cemetery" submitted to the War Department in March, 1930. MS in Custis-Lee Mansion Files.

Illustration No. XI



Photograph of Arlington garden from Miss Mary Lee's Scrap Book (RESTRICTED). Shows the greenhouse, part of a gravel walk, and the picket fence (1870-1888).

Illustration No. XII



Photograph from within Arlington garden showing part of the south wing of the house. From Miss Mary Lee's Scrap Book (RESTRICTED) (1862-1888).

CHAPTER THREE

ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

Prepared by Regional Archeologist

B. Bruce Powell

CHAPTER THREE

ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

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Section 1. INTRODUCTION

Archeological exploration of the historic flower garden at Custis-Lee Mansion was undertaken with the hope that sub-surface investigations would provide data on the physical appearance of the garden in 1861. Although we were aware that the Army, in or about 1885, had "...plowed up and graded."[1] the whole site, we believed the chance that some underground features had escaped the plow made the effort worthwhile.

Although we possess general descriptions of the flower garden from several sources, detailed plans are not available. We hoped archeological research might uncover such features as fence lines, gravel walks (which delimited flower beds), and building foundations.

A crew of four laborers began excavating on July 1 and continued until July 12. A total of 285 man-hours of labor was expended on the project.

Test trenches and features are located by reference to a grid system constructed on the National Park Service boundary markers. North-south distances refer to a line drawn between Monuments CL#6 and CL#7 and designated North 50 feet (See Illustration No. I, Chapter IV). East-west distances refer to a line drawn between Monuments CL#5 and CL#6 and designated East 150 feet.

Section 2. THE EXCAVATIONS

Since the eastern boundary line of the historic garden seemed to be the one most closely identified, [2] the first test trench was laid out so as to straddle the presumed fence line near the center of the east edge of the garden (See Illustration No. I, Chapter IV). In spite of digging in 0.5 foot levels and carefully cleaning the floor of the trench at each level, we found no evidence of post molds which would identify the fence line. Beneath a very thick layer of black topsoil (1.8 feet thick) we found a thin layer of broken and decomposed brick resting directly on sterile red clay.

Test Trench 2 lay across the National Park Service-Arlington National Cemetery boundary on the west of the site and where, at the time, I presumed the western edge of the historic garden lay (See Illustration No. I, Chapter IV). No post holes were found in the trench, and sterile soil appeared at a depth of 1.5 feet. A portion of a circular pit, estimated to be some 2.5 feet in diameter, was found in the southwest corner of the trench. When troweled out, the pit was found to extend to a depth of 1.9 feet. Judging from later discoveries, this pit was too large to have been the remains of a fence post.

Test Trench 3 was excavated at the north end of the garden (See Illustration No. I, Chapter IV). Originally 5 by 10 feet in size, it was later extended to the east and south in a somewhat illregular pattern.

Only 0.8 foot below surface, along the north edge of Trench 3, we exposed a concrete layer 0.3 foot thick and projecting inward 1.4 feet from the north wall of the trench. The concrete appears to be relatively modern and is believed to be part of a parking lot constructed in the 1930's by the Cemetery. It overlies a telephone line contained in a one-inch conduit which runs southward from the Mansion across the garden (Illustration No. I).

In the east end of the trench two features were exposed which may be of the historic period but which are of doubtful significance. A dark circle in the lighter clay appeared at a depth of 1.6 feet. The circular area was 6 feet in diameter and when troweled out proved to end at a depth of 2.05 feet from surface. East of the circular feature was a rectangular area of dark red soil approximately 4.5 by 2.5 feet in size. The red soil was 0.3 foot thick. Near the northeast corner of the rectangle lay a circular pit 0.5 foot in diameter and extending .15 foot below the red soil. This may be the remains of a post hole marking the north fence line of the garden (Illustration No. II).

Test Trench 4 was placed on each side of the modern north-south concrete walk which runs the length of the garden area (See Illustration No. I, Chapter IV). I felt some of the center gravel walk of the Lee garden might remain beneath the new construction.

The portion of the trench west of the center walk revealed nothing but topsoil--it was badly disturbed by many large roots of trees. Sterile soil was reached 2.5 feet below surface.

On the east side of the sidewalk, however, we found a zone of compact clay and waterworn gravel 0.8 to 1.0 foot thick and extending eastward 4.6 feet from the east edge of the concrete walk. This feature, No. 6, extended from N 226.9 southward for a distance of 6.6 feet. Its southern end was cut off by Feature 9, a 10 inch water main running east-west across the garden plot at a depth of 2.8 feet. Feature 6 was not found on the south side of the pipe trench (Illustration No. III). Feature 6 lay on 0.8 foot of dark soil which in turn rested on sterile yellow clay.

The sidewalk was partially removed, but disturbances attendant upon its construction prevented detection of Feature 6 beneath it.

It is possible Feature 6 represents a remnant of the central gravel walk of the garden as described by Rhodes,[3] but evidence on this is largely conjectural.

Test Trench 5 was laid out across the south boundary of the garden west of the center walk. It ran from 46 to 56 feet north and from 170 to 175 feet east. A block of earth 1.1 feet (N-S) by 2.5 feet (E-W) was left partially unexcavated in the southwest corner of the trench to protect Civil War tombstone No. 5222 marking the grave of Captain J. H. Fleming of New York.

One post hole was found in Test Trench 5. It lies on the presumed south boundary of the Lee garden and is the first real evidence of the garden. This post hole, Feature No. 11, lay at a depth of 1.1 feet to 2.4 feet below present surface. It was 0.7 foot in diameter and had a rounded bottom (Illustration No. IV).

The topsoil was of very irregular thickness in this trench, varying from 1.3 to 2.6 feet in depth. Some brick fragments lay at its base in places, but over most of the trench the dark topsoil rested directly on sterile yellow clay.

Test Trench 6 lay over the southern boundary east of the main walk. It was bounded by the following grid lines: N46; N56; E222.5; and E227.5.

No post holes were found in Trench 6 but the remains of a large pit 2.3 feet in diameter were uncovered at a depth of 1.3 to 2.1 feet. This feature, Feature 10, was filled with red clay but contained no diagnostic artifacts. The center of the pit lay at N47.5 and E226.1.

Test Trench 7 was excavated along the east side of the center walk south of the Temple of Fame (See Illustration No. I, Chapter No. IV.) It was bounded on the north and south by N75.1 and N65.9.

Three features were found in this trench: the telephone line, Feature 4, first uncovered in Trench 3; a large circular pit with an estimated diameter of 20 feet (Feature 12); and a layer of stones representing, I believe, a French drain (Feature 18).

The pit, which appeared at a depth of 2.0 feet, was 0.5 foot deep with a flat bottom. What appeared to be an irregular concentration of stones in the west side of the pit turned out to be a regular layer of river pebbles extending northeast-southwest across the top of Feature 12 (Illustration No. V). The pebbles were carefully set in place and formed a band one pebble thick, 1.5 feet wide, and, as finally cleared, 8.6 feet long. The excavators felt they had destroyed an undetermined length of the layer on the southwest end before they recognized the feature. The northeast end, however, was more carefully excavated and the feature actually seemed to terminate with a rectangular end at E216.5.

Proper drainage was considered by nineteenth century garden experts to be "...the principal step towards the improvement of soils..." [4]

A common practice was to trench drainage lines, fill the bottoms with stones, brickbats, earthenware tiles, or even brush-wood, and then backfill. [5] Feature 18 is undoubtedly the remains of a portion of one of these drains.

Over much of the garden area the dark soil, which rests on hard red clay, is underlain by a layer of badly decomposed brick fragments. The practice of using brickbats in drain fields might well account for this fact.

Test Trench 8, on the presumed western fence line, produced one post hole (Feature 13), but it was entirely different from fence post holes found later. The test trench lay north and east of grid stake 105-100, and the center of the post hole was found at north 99 and east 155.75.

The post mold of Feature 13 showed the post to have been square, 0.3 foot in diameter, and it extended downward about 1.6 feet from the surface. Its bottom was indistinct. The hole in which the post had been set was circular with a diameter of 2.4 feet and a total depth of approximately 2 feet. The top of both features were found at a depth of 0.9 foot below surface.

The final test trench in this excavation, Trench 9, was the most productive of historical data. A series of four post holes provided information on the location of the east fence line, the size of the fence posts, and the spacing between posts.

Test Trench 9 was excavated between N61.5 and N81.5 and, like Trench 1, lay across the presumed eastern boundary of the garden. Four post holes, recorded as Features 16, 14, 15, and 17, north to south, were uncovered along a line approximately one foot west of the Civil War tombstones (Illustration No. VI and Illustration No. I, Chapter IV).

The centers of Featurs 16 and 14 were 7.55 feet apart, those of Features 14 and 15 were 8.45 feet apart, and those of Features 15 and 17 were 7.85 feet apart.

Feature 14 was sectioned (Illustration No. VII) to provide additional data. The post hole was 1.8 feet in diameter at its top, which lay 0.8 foot below surface. It tapered to a rounded bottom at an estimated depth of 3.4 feet below surface. The post mold, centered in the post hole, indicated the post was 0.6 foot in diameter at the top of the feature and that it tapered gently to a point at the bottom of the hole.

Section 3. CONCLUSIONS

The data recovered from the archeological excavations were disappointing. No information on the nineteenth century walks was found with the possible exception of a fragment of the center walk (Feature 6). The evidence here, however, is inconclusive and I hesitate to recommend any restoration on the basis of this alone.

The historical records indicate the present Temple of Fame stands on the site of the Lee arbor. [6] The base of the concrete floor of the Temple of Fame is now 1.25 feet deep and it is probable all traces of the arbor have been destroyed. Even so, if the Temple is removed in the future it will be possible to search beneath it for evidence of the historic structure.

The only real contributions of the archeological research were in locating the south and east fence lines and in revealing the size and placement of the fence posts. I recommend that the restored fence be placed on lines indicated by Feature 11 on the south and by Features 14, 15, 16 and 17 on the east. Since these lines lie on Cemetery, not National Park Service, property, it will be necessary to reach agreement with Cemetery Officials before the recommended restoration can be accomplished. The fence should be supported by posts approximately 7 inches in diameter set approximately 8 feet apart.

Footnotes:

1. Notes Pertaining to the Old Flower Garden South of Arlington Mansion by Mr. D. H. Rhodes, Landscape Gardner at Arlington, where he has been employed since 1873, April 14, 1930, p. 3. National Capital Region Files.

2. Ibid., "The boundary lines on its east and south sides were about one foot from the rear of the headstones.....," p. 1.

3. Ibid., p. 1.

4. The Practical Gardner, and Modern Horticulturalist by Charles McIntosh. Thomas Kelly, London, 1823. Vol. 1, p. 52.

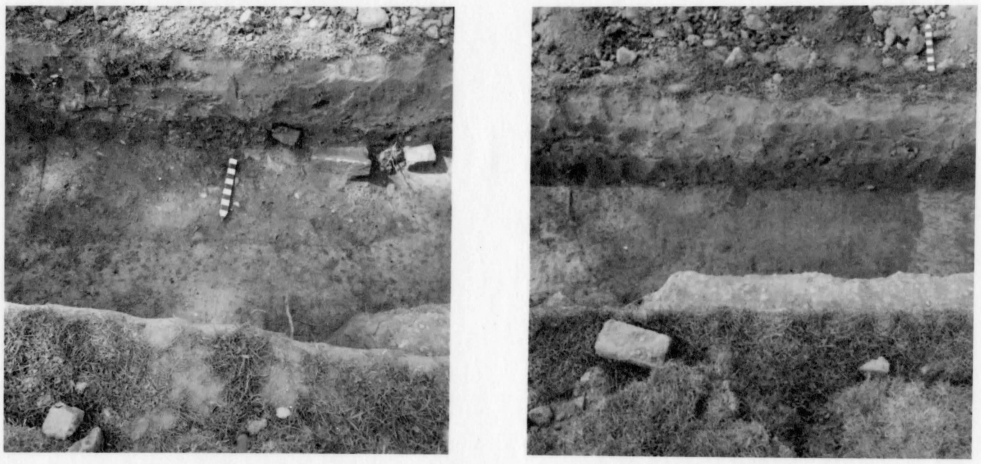
5. Ibid., pp. 53-58.

6. Notes Pertaining to the Old Flower Garden South of Arlington Mansion by Mr. D. H. Rhodes, Landscape Gardner at Arlington, Where he has been employed since 1873, April 14, 1930, p. 1, ". . . the old Arbor, or summer house which formerly occupied the site of the present 'Temple of Fame' . . ."

Illustration No. I



Test Trench 3. Notebook and trowel rest on concrete ledge (Feature 2). The telephone conduit (Feature 4) runs north-south across the trench.



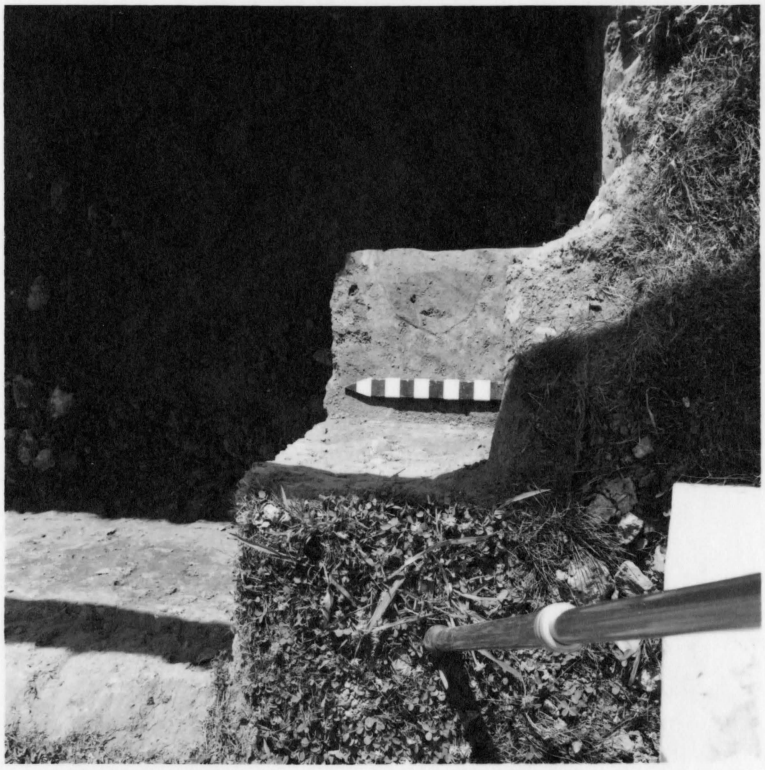
Test Trench 3. Right: Feature 7, a circular area of dark soil. Left: Feature 8, a rectangular area of dark red soil. The possible post hole can barely be seen approximately one foot east of the arrow. The arrow points north and is marked in one-inch divisions.

Illustration III



Test Trench 4. The arrow lies on Feature 6, the possible remnant of a historic gravel walk. The arrow points north and is marked with one-inch divisions..

Illustration IV



Test Trench 5. Feature 11, a post hole probably marking the south fence line of the garden can be seen to the right of the arrow. The arrow points north and is marked in one-inch divisions.

Illustration V



Test Trench 7. Feature 18, base of French drain, completely exposed. The arrow points north and is marked in one-inch divisions.



Test Trench 9. The three surveyor's arrows near the left edge of the trench mark the centers of Features 16, 14, and 15 (front to rear). Workmen are standing in area where Feature 17 was subsequently discovered.

Illustration VII



Test Trench 9. Section of Feature 14 with earth removed from the post mold. The rule is divided into feet and tenths of feet. The arrow points north.

CHAPTER FOUR

LANDSCAPE DATA

Prepared by Landscape Architect LeRoy Skillman

CHAPTER FOUR

LANDSCAPE DATA

Section 1. PLAN OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Section 2. PLAN OF HISTORICAL LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDED FOR RESTORATION-RECONSTRUCTION

Section 3. PLAN, ELEVATION, AND PERSPECTIVE OF THE ARBOR AND FENCE

CHAPTER FIVE

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator, Agnes D. Mullins

Section 1. EXISTING ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES.

The only existing architectural feature in the area proposed for restoration-reconstruction is "The Temple of Fame," placed on the site of the Lee arbor in 1884 by the War Department (Illustration No. I, Chapter I).

Chapter Six

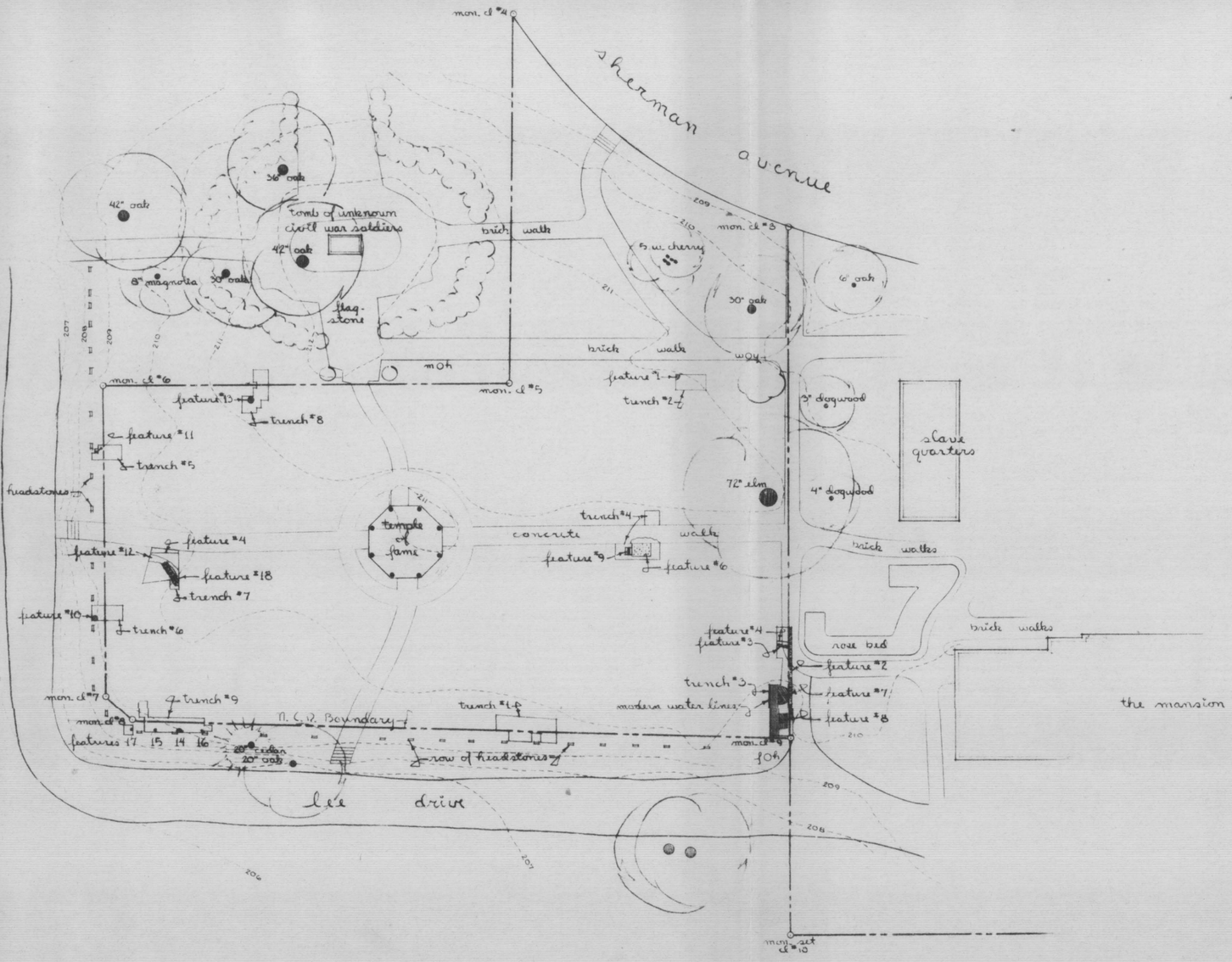
SUMMARY STATEMENT

Prepared by The Task Force

It is recommended that the Custis-Lee Mansion garden be restored to look as it did in 1861 in conformance with the approved restoration plan (Chapter IV, Illustration No. II). It should be noted that implementation of this plan requires negotiation with Arlington National Cemetery as to existing property lines and removal of certain features on Cemetery property.

The grove which existed as part of the flower garden, located west of the restored section, should be, as far as practicable, re-established and interpreted.

It is emphasized that the recommended restoration is based on detailed historical documentation and all features of the restoration conform to the historical evidence.



BASIC DATA: Archeological Field Work: Mr. Bruce Powell, Regional Archeologist, July 1963.

Archeological Features

Feature No. 1. Bowl shaped pit containing dark soil, diameter 2.5 feet, depth 1.2-1.9 feet. Significance unknown.

2. Layer of concrete 0.3 foot thick, depth 0.8 foot. Modern.

3. Dark band of soil, depth 1.8 feet. Significance unknown.

4. Telephone line in one inch conduit, 1.5 feet deep. Modern.

5. Indefinite area of reddish gravel in west end of Trench 3, depth 1.8 feet. Significance unknown (not shown on plan).

6. Layer of gravel and clay, 0.8 foot thick, depth of top 0.7-1.3 feet. Possible remnant of historic walk.

7. Circular pit containing dark soil, diameter 6 feet, depth 1.6-2.05 feet. Significance unknown.

8. Rectangular area of dark soil 4.5 feet wide, depth 1.6-2.2 feet. Within the rectangle was a possible post hole which may mark the north boundary of the flower garden. Post hole diameter 0.5 foot, depth of bottom 2.35 feet.

9. Ten-inch water main, depth of top 2.8 feet. Modern.

10. Circular pit containing red clayey gravel, diameter 1.8 feet, depth 1.3-2.1 feet. Significance unknown.

11. Post hole, diameter 0.6 foot, depth 1.2-2.4 feet. Part of historic fence.

12. Circular pit containing dark soil, estimated diameter 20 feet, depth 2.0-2.6 feet. Significance unknown.

13. Post hole: post 0.3 foot square, depth 0.9-approximately 1 foot; hole circular, diameter 2.4 feet, depth 0.9-approximately 2.0 feet. Significance unknown.

14. Post hole: post diameter 0.5 foot, depth 0.8-3.4 feet; hole diameter 1.6 feet. Part of historic fence.

15. Post hole: post diameter 1.45 foot, depth of top 0.8 foot. Part of historic fence.

16. Post hole: post diameter 0.5 foot, depth of top 0.8 foot. Part of historic fence.

17. Post hole: post diameter 0.45 foot, depth of top 0.8 foot. Part of historic fence.

18. Layer of waterworn pebbles one pebble thick. Width 1.5 feet, length 8.6 feet, depth of top 1.8 feet. This feature overlies Feature 12. Remnant of French drain from historic period.

ORIENTATION

Plan of Archeological Excavation on Existing Conditions

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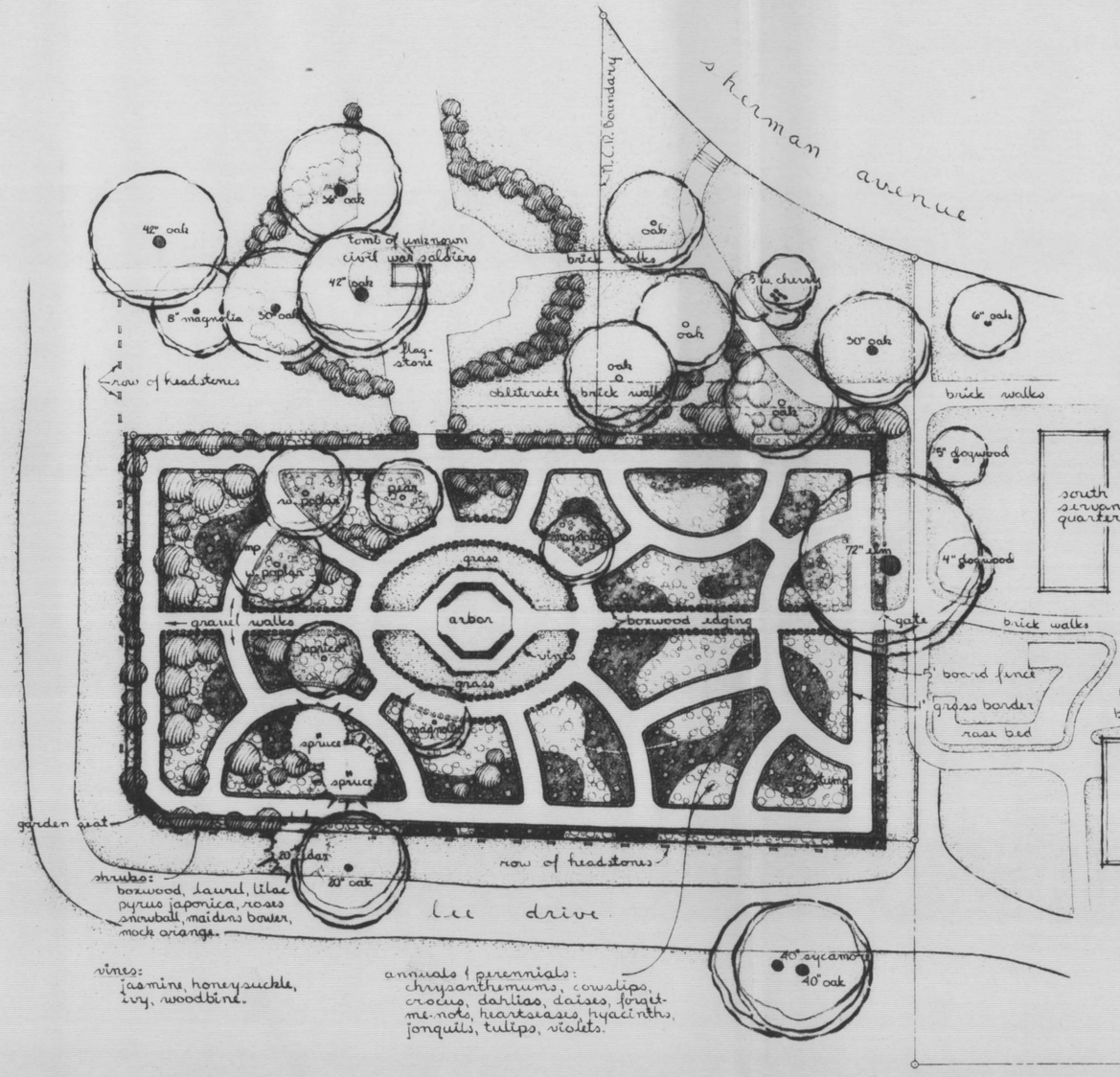
RECOMMENDED
B. Bruce Powell, chairman, restoration task force — DATE 3/9/64
Robert W. Andrews, chief, N.C.D.C. — 3/9/64

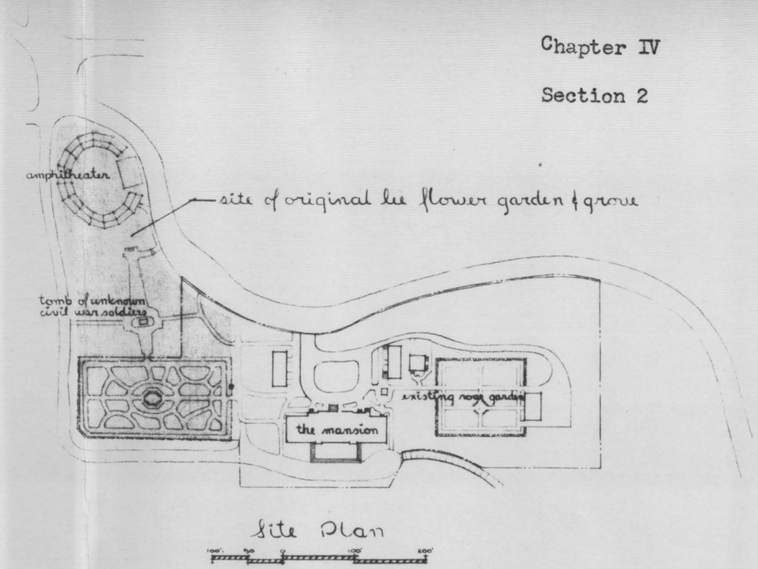
APPROVED T. Sutton Vint, regional director — 3/11/64

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY
NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

Restoration of Flower Garden
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Co., Va.
Custis-Lee Mansion

PREPARED	Powell
DESIGNED	Stillman
DRAWN	Powell
CHECKED	
	3/4/64
	3/4/64
	3/4/64
	3/4/64
Nunns	3-10-64
REGION	NATIONAL CAPITAL
PCP	
SHEET	1 OF 3
DRAWING NO.	N.C.R. 2.5-105-1
DATE	2-19-64





Site Plan

ORIENTATION

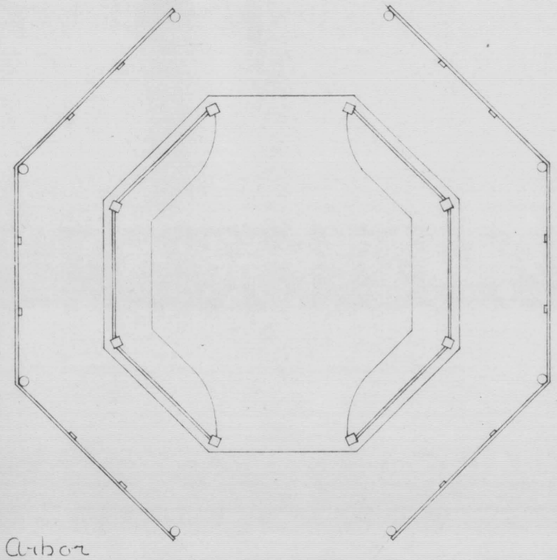
■ Plan of Restoration ■

BASIC DATA

SCALE: 1" = 20'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PREPARED BY NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE	REGION NATIONAL CAPITAL PCP SHEET 2 OF 3
Restoration of Flower Garden Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Co., Va. LOCATION WITHIN PARK Custis - Lee Mansion NAME OF PARK	DRAWING NO. N.C.R. 2-5-105-2 DATE 2-19-64

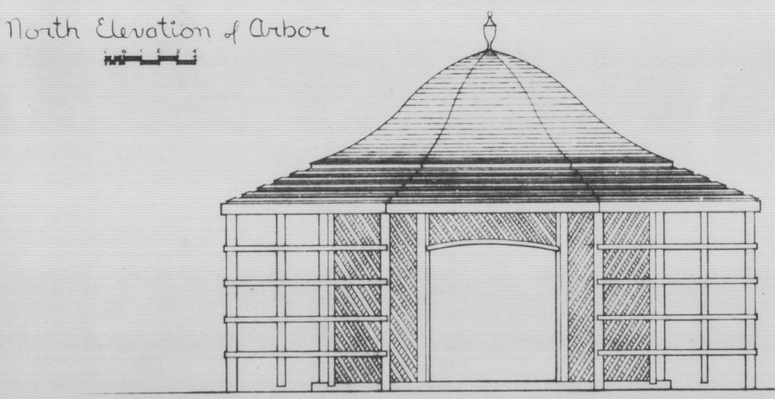
PREPARED Skillman
DESIGNED Skillman
DRAWN Mullins
CHECKED



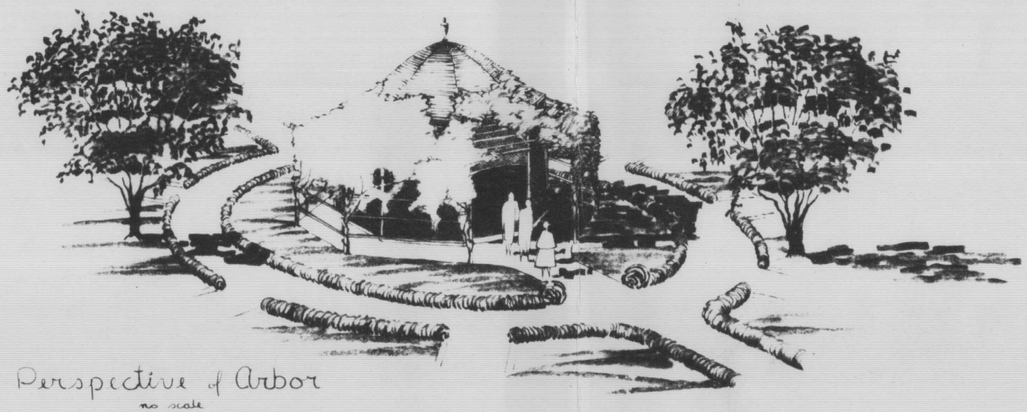
Plan of Arbor



North Elevation of Fence



North Elevation of Arbor



Perspective of Arbor
no scale

BASIC DATA

Plan, Elevations and Perspective of Arbor & Fence

scale: as noted

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PREPARED BY NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE	REGION NATIONAL CAPITAL PCP SHEET 3 OF 3
Restoration of Flower Garden Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Co., Va. Custis - Lee Mansion	DRAWING NO. N.C.R. 2.5-105-3 DATE 2-28-64

PREPARED	Myers
DESIGNED	Myers
DRAWN	Mullins
CHECKED	

GENERAL PLAN

HOUSE BUILT 1808 GARDEN LAID OUT 1830 RECORDED 1936

LOUISE ROWELL, DEL.

LEGEND

- OLD STRUCTURE
- NEW STRUCTURE
- SAW TOOTH BRICK EDGING LAID ON END
- STONE WALK
- KIDNEY STONE
- BOX EDGING
- GRASS AREA
- PERENNIALS
- SHRUBS

REFERENCE FOR PLANT MATERIAL "STANDARDIZED PLANT NAMES", 1924
CONTOUR INTERVAL ONE FOOT
DATUM ASSUMED

NOTE - GARDEN PATHS FORMERLY EDGED WITH BOX. PRESENT BRICK EDGING ADDED 1905.

RECORD PLAN ON SHEET 6
SEE ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SHEETS 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEE ALSO OUTLINE PLAN, SHEET 7

LIST OF PLANT MATERIAL

COMMON NAME	BOTANIC NAME
TREES	
Cherry	Prunus in variety
Wild Sweet Crab	Malus coronaria
Douglas-fir	Pseudotsuga douglasi
American Elm	Ulmus americana
English Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Common Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia
Red Maple	Acer rubrum
Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum
Peach	Amygdalus in variety
Pear	Pyrus in variety
Plum	Prunus in variety
SHRUBS	
Common Box	Buxus sempervirens
Tatarian Dogwood	Cornus alba
Greenstem Forsythia	Forsythia viridissima
Weeping Forsythia	Forsythia suspensa
Oregon Hollygrape	Mahonia aquifolium
Morrow Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowi
Peegee Hydrangea	Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora
Common Lilac	Syringa vulgaris
Persian Lilac	Syringa persica
Sweet Mockorange	Philadelphus coronarius
Flowering Quince	Cydonia japonica
Catawba Rhododendron	Rhododendron catawbiense
Rose	Rosa in variety
Downy Shadblow	Amelanchier canadensis
Common Snowberry	Symphoricarpos racemosus
Pink Weigela	Weigela rosea
VINES	
American Bittersweet	Celastrus scandens
Sweet Autumn Clematis	Clematis paniculata
Japanese Creeper	Ampelopsis tricuspidata
Virginia Creeper	Ampelopsis quinquefolia
Grape	Vitis in variety
Hall Japanese Honeysuckle	Lonicera halliana
Trumpetcreeper	Bignonia radicans
Chinese Wisteria	Wisteria sinensis

SCALE OF METERS 1 0 5 10

SCALE OF FEET 10 5 0 10 20 30

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIAL PROJECT NO. 265-6907
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
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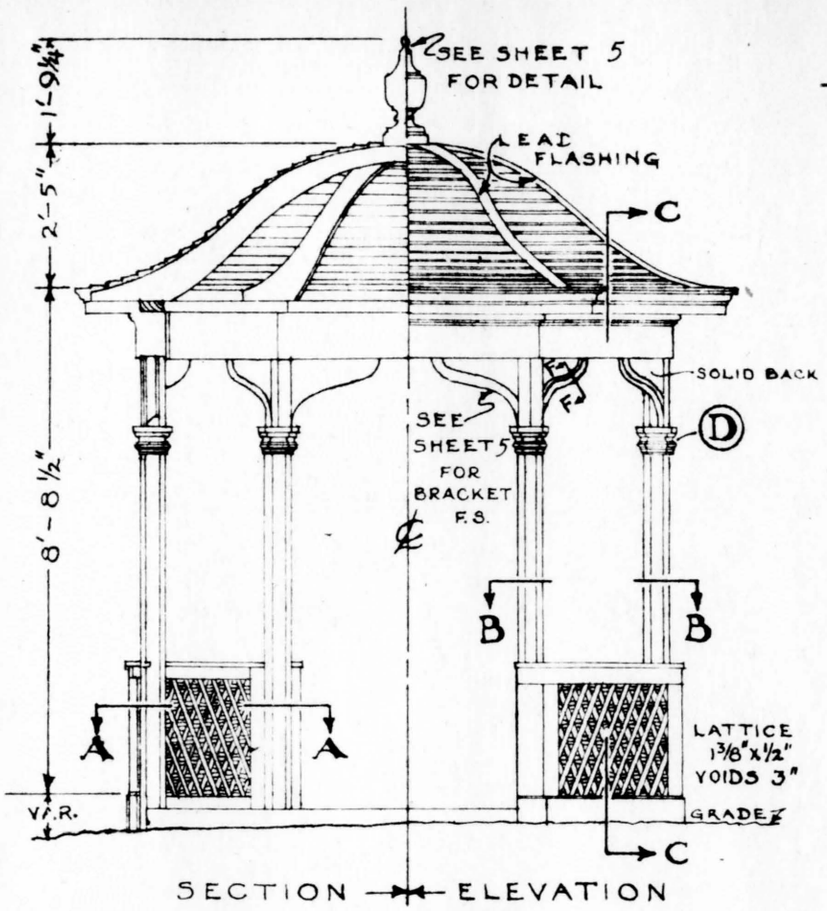
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 7 SHEETS

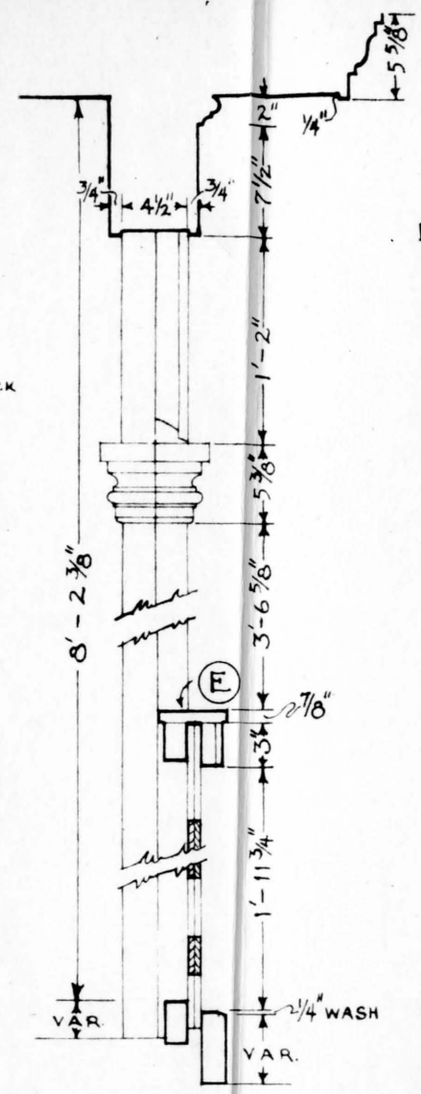
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

RECORDED 1936

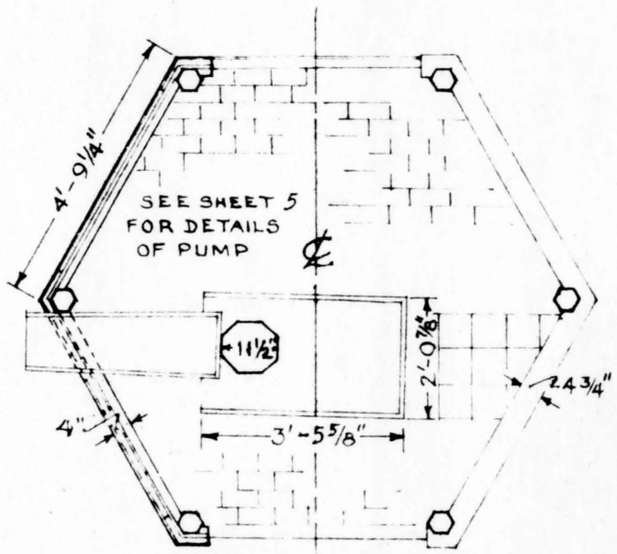
Chapter II
Illustration No. XV



SECTION — ELEVATION
SCALE NO. 1



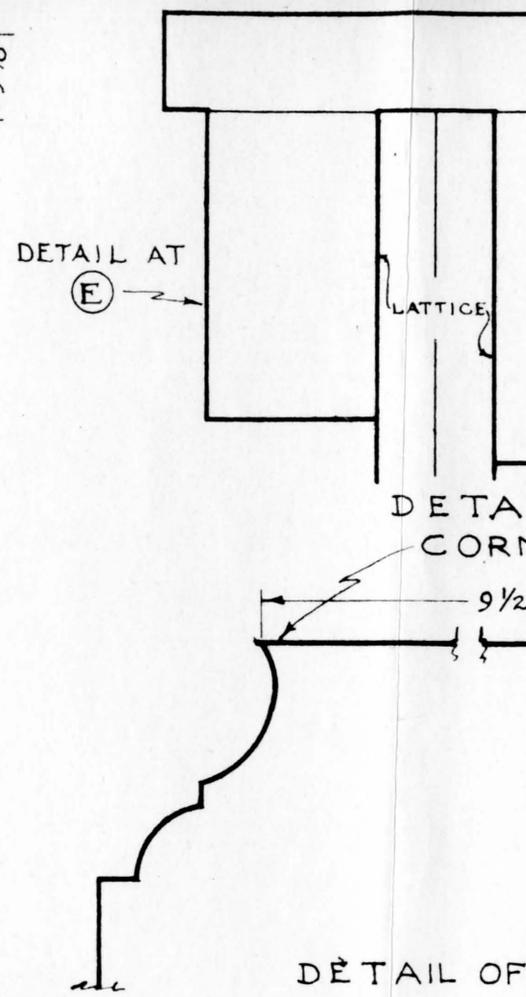
SECTION C-C
SCALE NO. 2

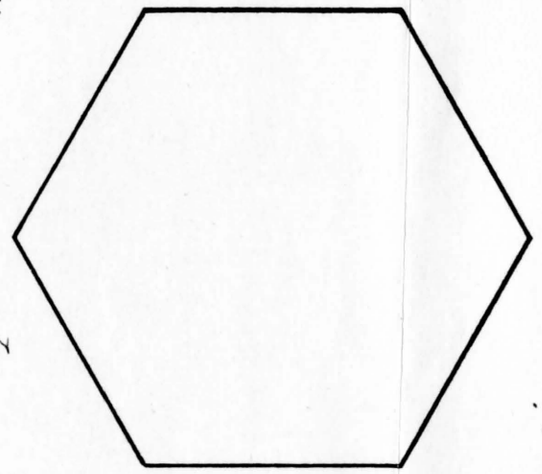


PLAN AT A — PLAN AT B
SCALE NO. 1

PUMP HOUSE WOOD PAINTED LIGHT BROWN.
ROOF PAINTED DARK RED

PUMP HOUSE BUILT IN 1800.





DETAIL OF POST CAP AT D

METRIC SCALE
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

SCALE OF FEET NO. 1
1 0 1 2

SCALE OF FEET NO. 2
1 0 1 2 3

SCALE OF INCHES FOR DETAILS

DETAIL OF PLAN OF POST

MARGARET WEBSTER
LOUISE ROWELL } DELS.

PUMP HOUSE DETAILS

HOUSE BUILT 1797 — GARDEN LAID OUT 1841

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIAL PROJECT NO. 265-6907
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
WM. WHEELWRIGHT PLACE, NEWBURYPORT, ESSEX CO., MASS.

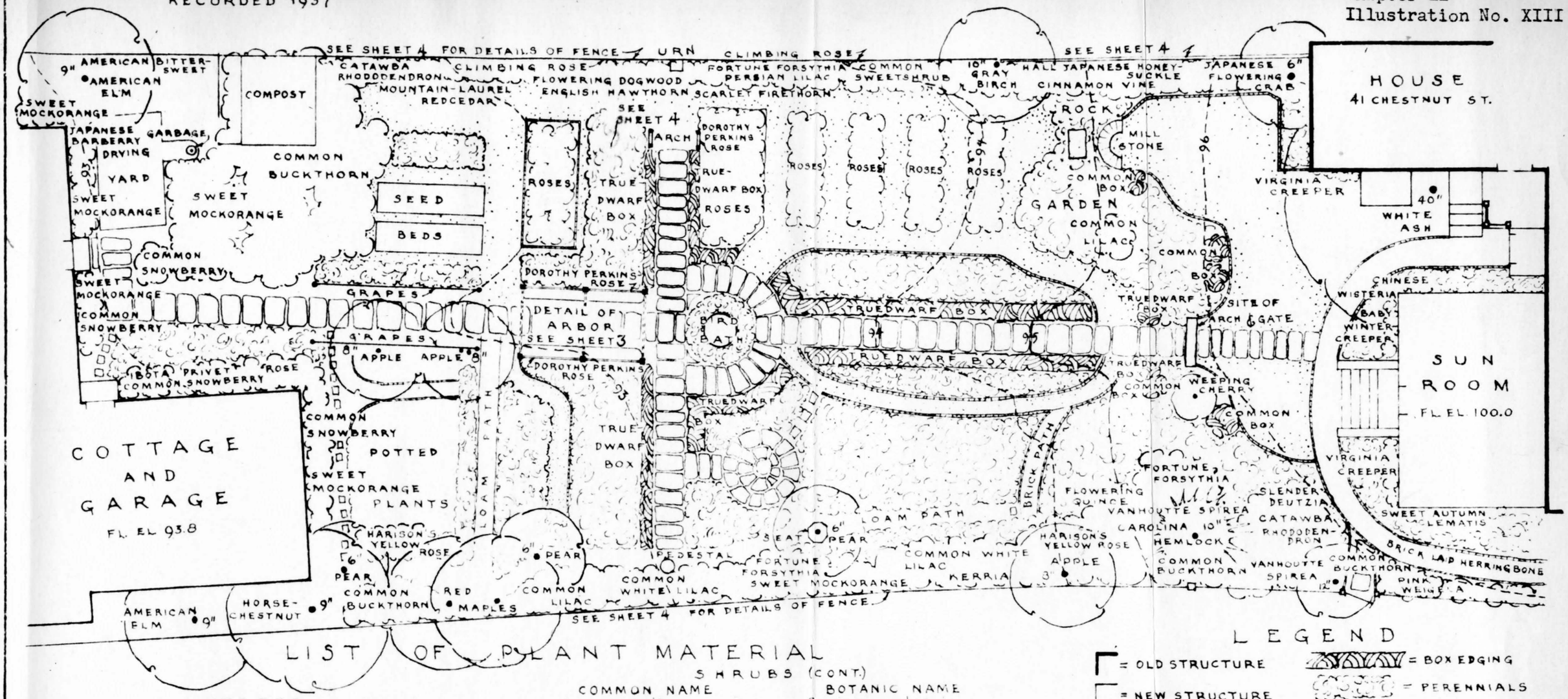
SURVEY NO MASS 209

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 6 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INDEX NUMBER

RECORDED 1937

Chapter II
Illustration No. XIII



LIST OF PLANT MATERIAL

TREES

COMMON NAME	BOTANIC NAME
Apple	Malus sylvestris
White Ash	Fraxinus americana
Gray Birch	Betula populifolia
Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica
Weeping Cherry	Prunus subhirtella pendula
Japanese Flowering Crab	Malus floribunda
Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida
American Elm	Ulmus americana
White Fringetree	Chionanthus virginica
English Hawthorn	Crataegus oxyacantha
Carolina Hemlock	Tsuga caroliniana
Horsechestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum
Red Maple	Acer rubrum
Pear	Pyrus in variety
Redcedar	Juniperus virginiana
White Willow	Salix alba

SHRUBS

Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergi
Common Box	Buxus sempervirens
Truedwarf Box	Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa
Slender Deutzia	Deutzia gracilis
American Elder	Sambucus canadensis
Scarlet Firethorn	Pyracantha coccinea
Fortune Forsythia	Forsythia fortunei
Kerria	Kerria japonica

SHRUBS (CONT.)

COMMON NAME	BOTANIC NAME
Common Lilac	Syringa vulgaris
Common White Lilac	Syringa vulgaris alba
Persian Lilac	Syringa persica
Sweet Mockorange	Philadelphus coronarius
Mountain-laurel	Kalmia latifolia
Ibota Privet	Ligustrum ibota
Flowering Quince	Cydonia japonica
Catawba Rhododendron	Rhododendron catawbiense
Rose	Rosa in variety
Common Snowberry	Symphoricarpos racemosus
Vanhoutte Spirea	Spiraea vanhouttei
Common Sweetshrub	Calycanthus floridus
Pink Weigela	Weigela rosea

VINES

American Bittersweet	Celastrus scandens
Cinnamon-vine	Dioscorea batatas
Sweet Autumn Clematis	Clematis virginiana
Virginia Creeper	Ampelopsis quinquefolia
Grape	Vitis in variety
Hall Japanese Honeysuckle	Lonicera halliana
Rose	Rosa in variety
Baby Wintercreeper	Euonymus radicans minimus
Bigleaf Wintercreeper	Euonymus radicans vegetus
Chinese Wisteria	Wisteria sinensis

LEGEND

- = OLD STRUCTURE
- = NEW STRUCTURE
- = LATTICE FENCE
- = PICKET FENCE
- = BRICK EDGING
- = STEPPING STONES
- = FLAGSTONES
- = BOX EDGING
- = PERENNIALS
- = GRASS AREAS
- = SHRUBS
- = EVERGREENS

NOTE-
SEE SHEET 1 FOR GENERAL PLAN
REFERENCE TO PLANT MATERIAL "STANDARDIZED PLANT NAMES", 1924

CONTOUR INTERVAL ONE FOOT
DATUM ASSUMED

SCALE OF METERS
1 0 5

SCALE OF FEET
10 5 10 15 20 25 30

LOUISE ROWELL, DEL.

DETAIL PLAN OF GARDEN

HOUSE BUILT 1808, GARDEN LAID OUT 1808

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIAL PROJECT NO. 265-6007
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL PLACE - SALEM, ESSEX CO., MASS.

SURVEY NO. MASS 228

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 4 SHEETS