THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM LEAFLET No. 19

CHARLESTON GARDEN PLATS

By EMMA B. RICHARDSON
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

PUBLISHED BY
THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
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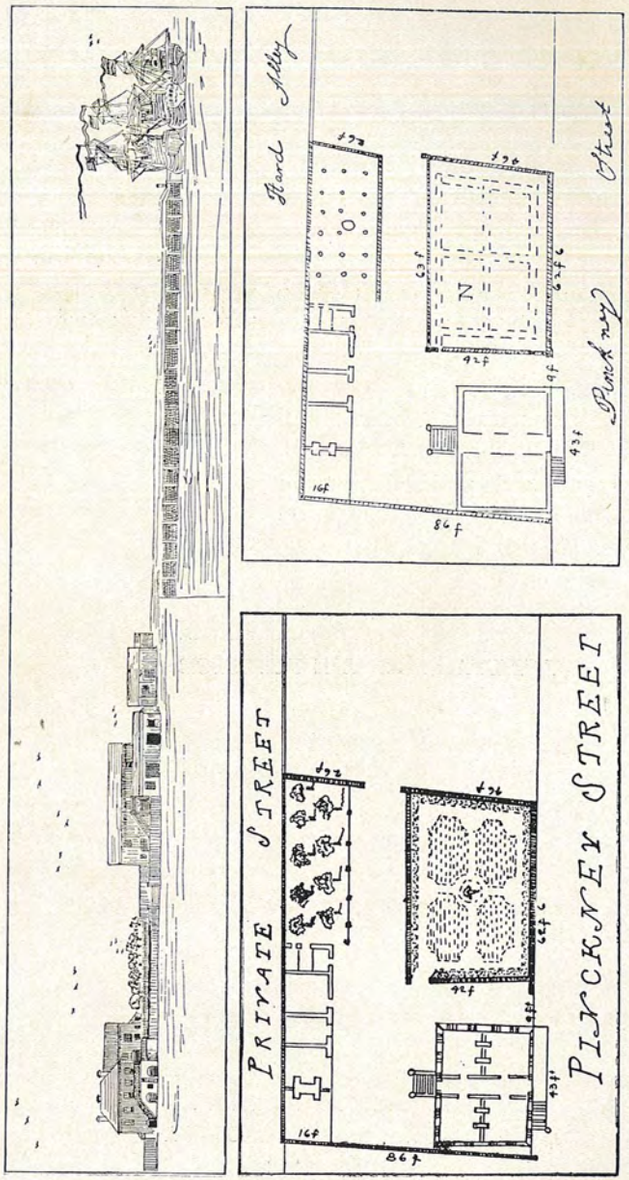


Mr. Mey's Wharf and Garden

CHARLESTON GARDEN PLATS

The plats referred to or shown in this *Leaflet* were part of a temporary exhibit at the Charleston Museum in the spring of 1943. They were traced from plats in the record books in the Register of Mesne Conveyance Office for Charleston County, and are to be found in the books known as the John McCrady Plat Books or in the books in which the transfers of property are recorded. The references given indicate where they may be found. As the scales to which the plats are drawn differ, no attempt has been made to reproduce them uniformly but the sizes in feet are indicated on each plat.

I wish to thank Miss Anna Wells Rutledge, Miss Beatrice de St. Julien Ravenel, and Mr. Samuel Gaillard Stoney for several references and Miss Margaret Dewar Gordon for making the tracing of Mr. Grogan's garden for me.

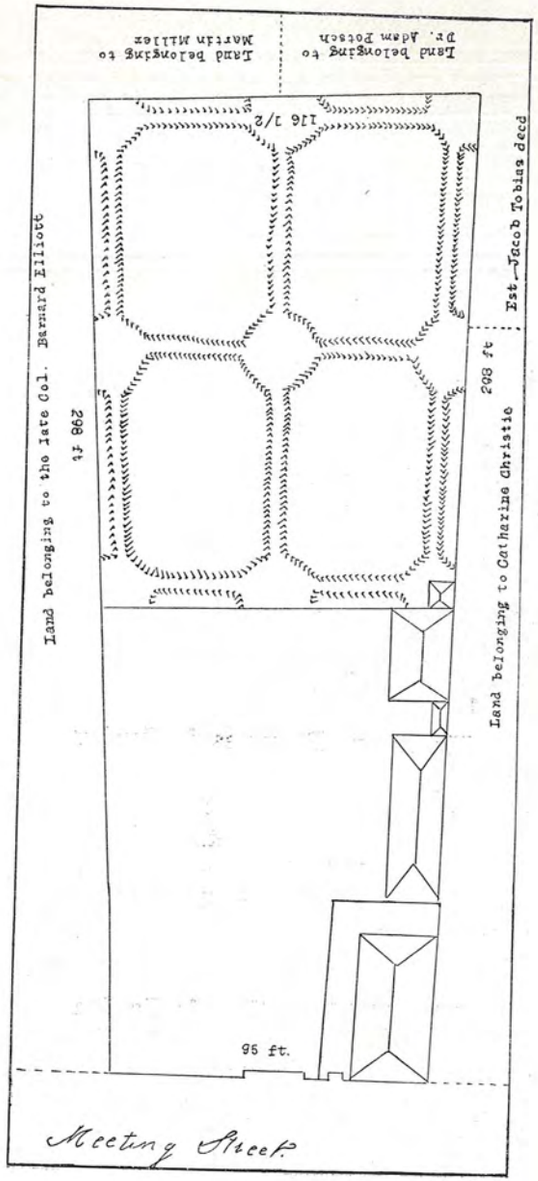
CITY GARDENS

Mr. Henry Peronneau's Garden

This property was on the west side of Meeting Street extending back toward King Street. This plat was certified in October 1784, at which time the property was purchased from Mr. Peronneau by General William Moultrie.
M.C.O. Book N-5, p. 255.

Mrs. Edith Mathews's Garden

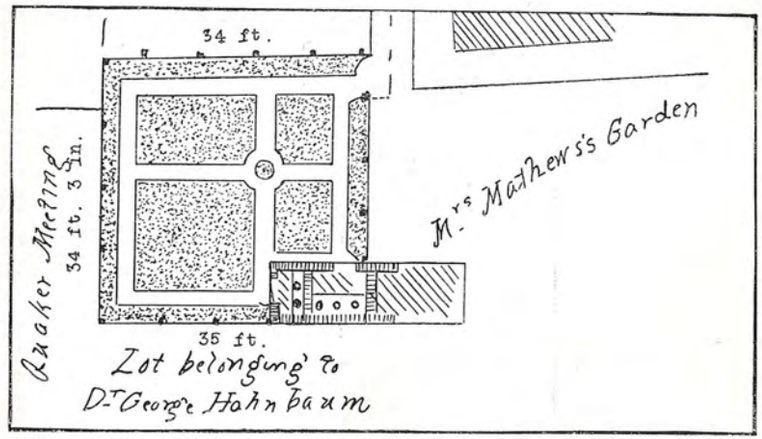
The large double house behind the Court House, at the northwest corner of Broad and Meeting Streets, known as the Daniel Blake tenements was built between 1760 and 1772.



Mr. Peronneau's Garden

At the time this plat was made in July 1788 by Joseph Purcell, the eastern half was owned by Mrs. Mathews. Her garden was about midway between Meeting and King Streets and to the south of the Quaker Burying Ground and was entered by a lane, about one hundred feet long, running east and west. It shows a very simple design of four rectangular beds, enclosed in long narrow beds.

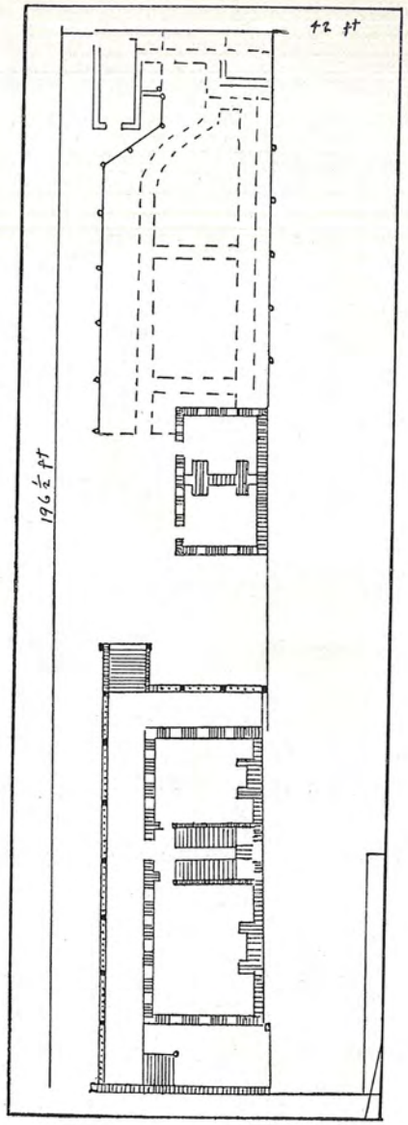
M.C.O. Book G-6, p. 33.



Mrs. Mathew's Garden

Mr. Florian Charles Mey's Garden

Mr. Mey's house and garden were west of Concord Street between Pinckney Street and a small private street, known as Hard Alley, which has since disappeared. His property extended to the east across Concord Street to his wharf. The design of the garden is similar to that of Mr. Peronneau's with a variation in the small beds bordering it. One of the



Mr. Pringle's Garden

plats was made by Joseph Purcell in July 1787 and shows his "yard inclosed with a brick wall and palisade on the top." The other without date is captioned "Plan of Mrs. Mey's Lot." The tracing of Mr. Mey's wharf was made by Miss Elizabeth duB. Porcher.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 1, p. 17,49.

Mr. John Julius Pringle's Garden

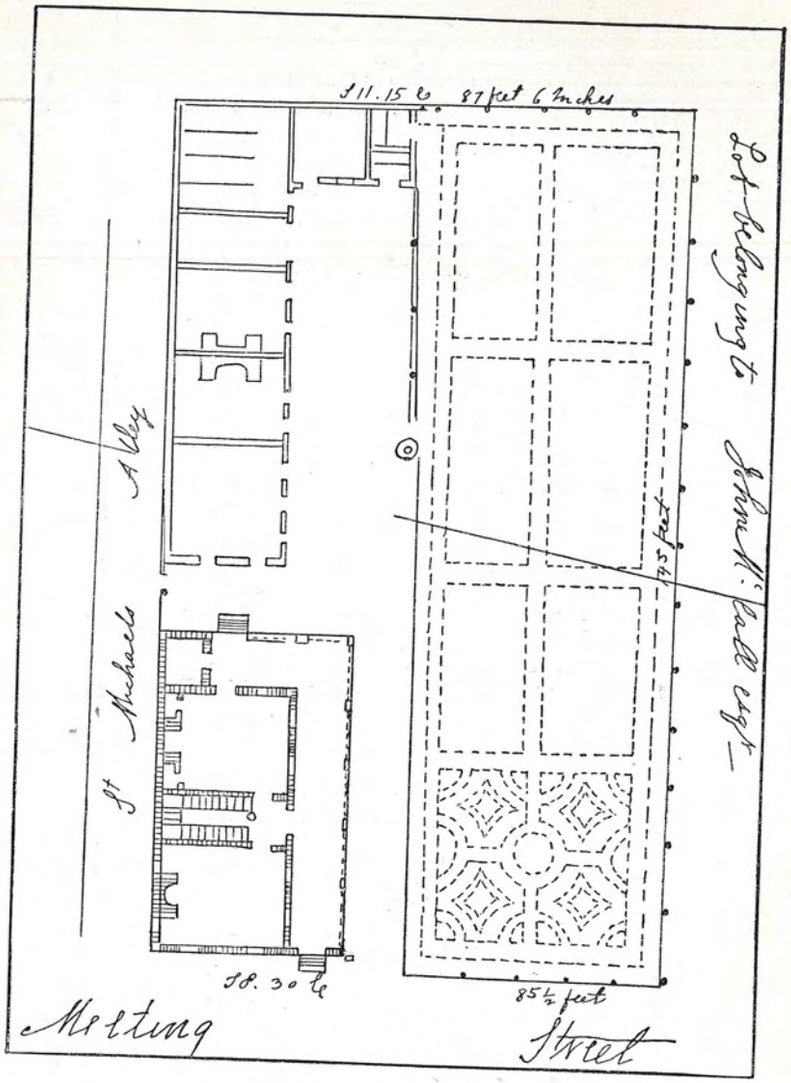
This simple garden was in the rear of the building on the north side of Tradd Street, one door west of Meeting Street, now known as No. 70 Tradd Street, the residence of Mr. Arthur R. Young. The house was built in 1774 by Mr. Robert Pringle, the father of Mr. John Julius Pringle. At the time the plan was made, in August 1789, the house was known as No. 105 Tradd Street.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 2, p. 58.

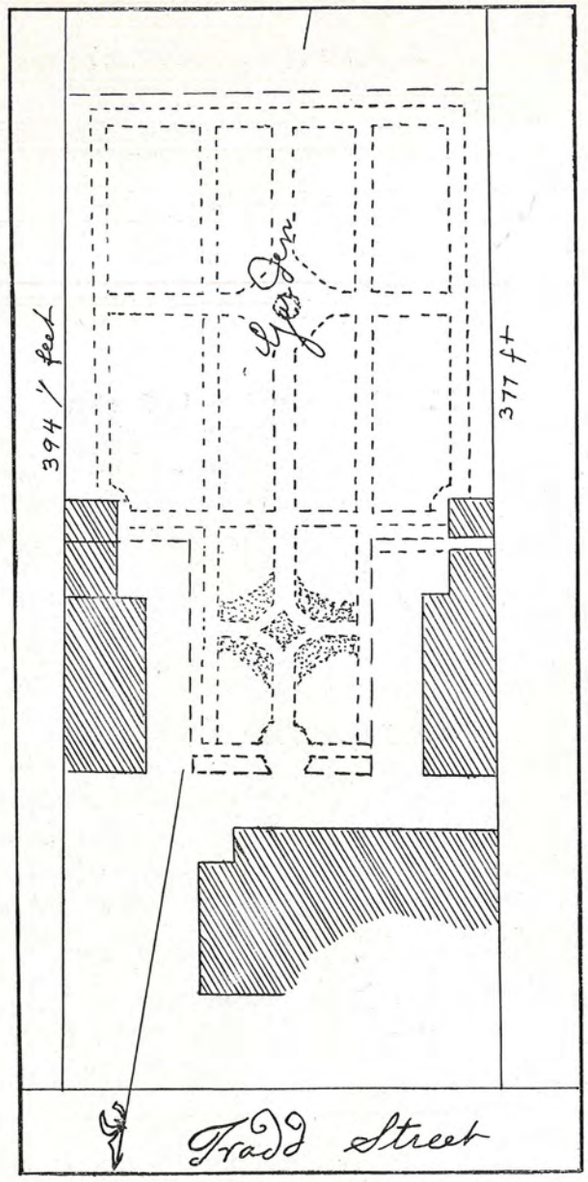
Judge Elihu Hall Bay's Garden

This plan was from a survey made in August 1789. The property was then owned by Judge Elihu Hall Bay. The house, which was built about 1785, is at the southeast corner of Meeting Street and St. Michael's Place and is now the rectory of St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church. The garden lies to the south between the house and the South Carolina Society Hall. What was probably the flower garden fronted on Meeting Street and shows symmetrically shaped beds surrounding a circular bed. The six rectangular beds to the east were no doubt for fruit and kitchen gardens.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 2, p. 26.



Judge Bay's Garden



Tradd Street Garden

A Garden on Tradd Street

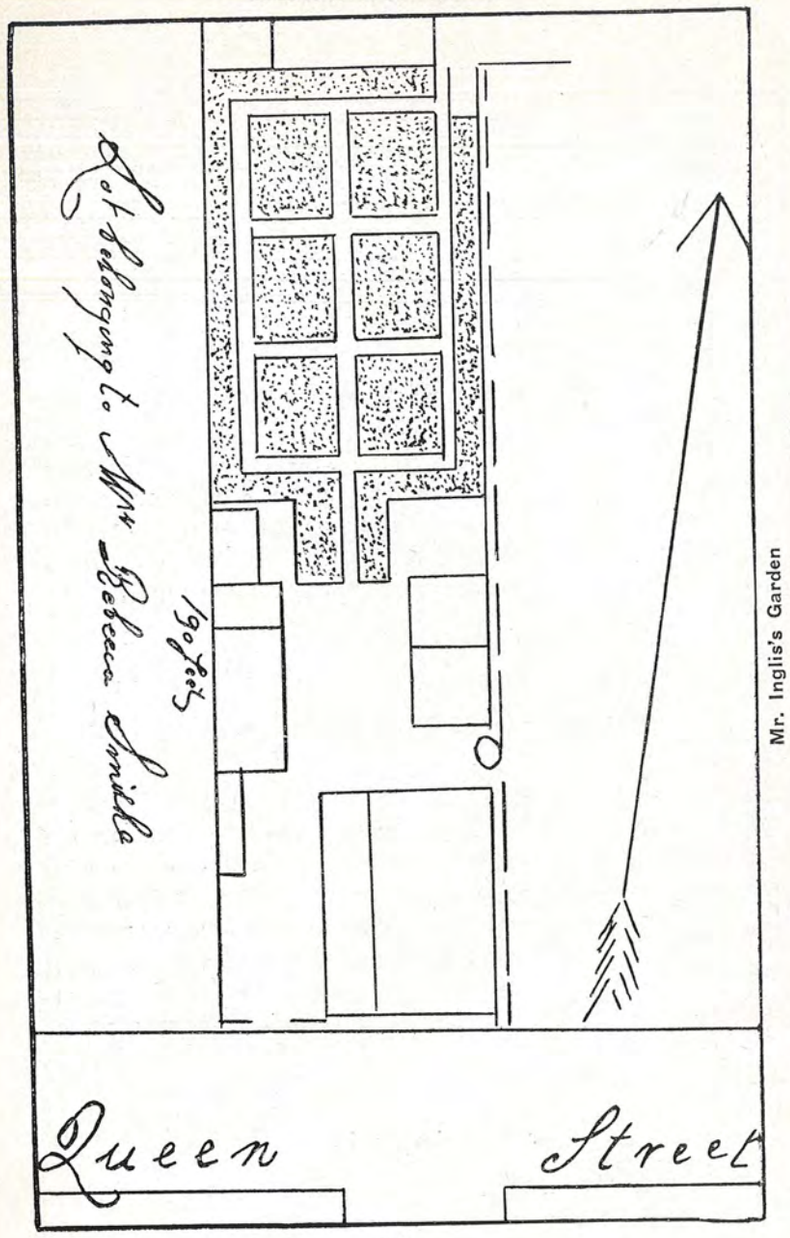
This town lot with its buildings and garden was on the south side of Tradd Street near the west end and extended back to Mr. William Gibbes's land on the south. The garden was in the rear of the dwelling house with the upper part between the servants' houses and the outbuildings, apparently separated from them by a wall.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 1, p. 1.

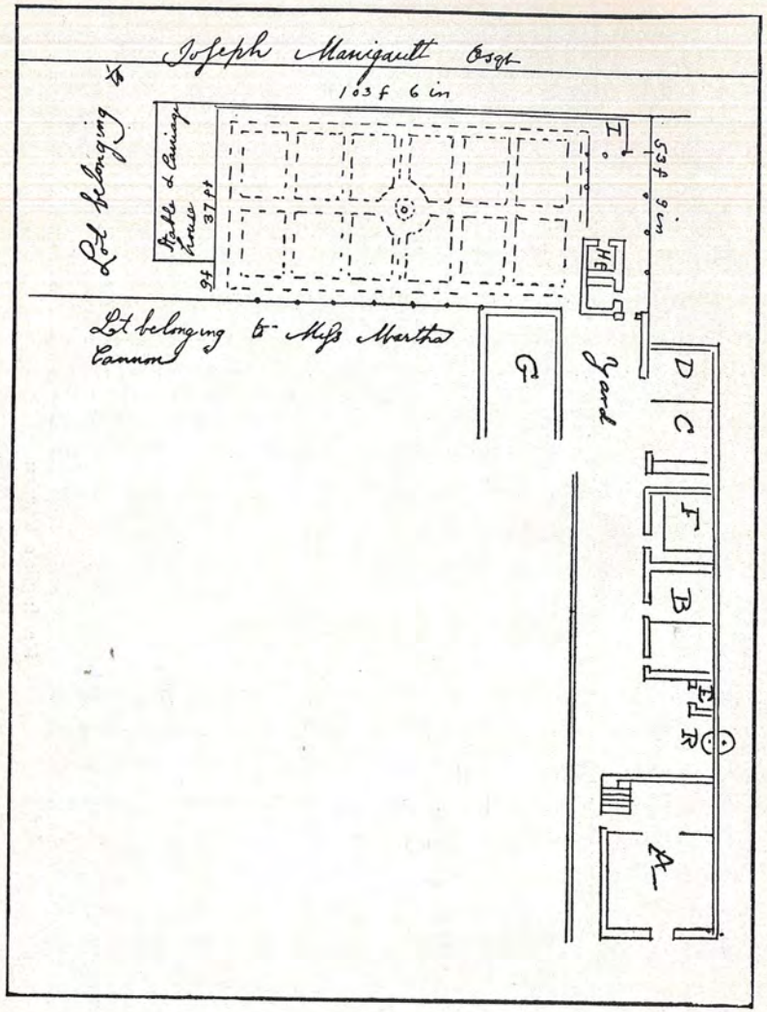
Mr. Alexander Inglis's Garden

When this property was sold by the Estate of Mr. Alexander Inglis to Mrs. Rebecca Drayton, it was known as No. 82 Queen Street. It was on the north side of the street facing Friend, the present Legare, Street. The garden, with its numerous rectangular beds, was in the rear of the house. The plat was made by Joseph Purcell in January 1792.
M.C.O. Book G-6, p. 479.

Mr. James Gregorie's Garden

Mr. Gregorie's house was on the north side of Broad Street about midway between State and Church Streets and his garden, with its many square beds, was at the rear running east and west just south of a street known as Manigault Court, which has since been built upon. Mr. Gregorie married Mary Christiana Hopton, one of the daughters of Mrs. William Hopton who is well-known as a lover of flowers and had her own garden on Meeting Street near Market Street. This plat was made in January 1797 and shows: (A) the House; (B) Kitchen and Wash Room; (C) Carriage House; (D) Stable; (E) Pantry; (F and G) Back Stores; (H) Pridgeon (*sic*) House; (I) Shed; and (R) Well.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 2, p. 19.





Mr. Gregorie's Garden

The Orphan House Garden

This plat was made by Joseph Purcell in February 1799 at the request of the City Council of Charleston and shows property on the north side of Boundary, now Calhoun, Street. The Orphan House Chapel now occupies part of this garden.

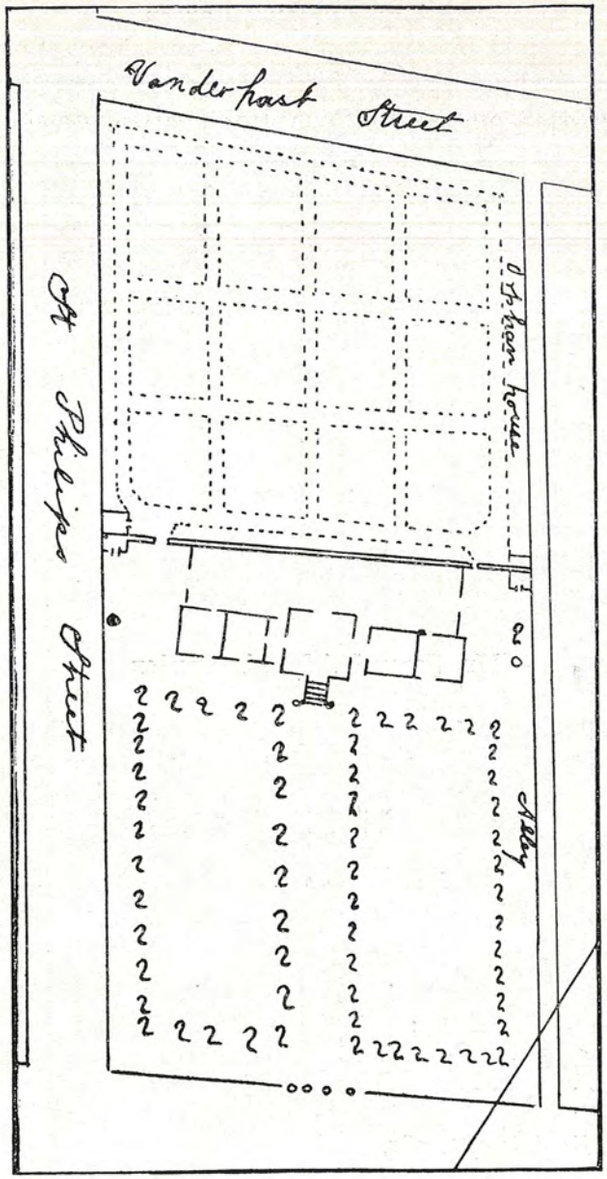
In the *City Gazette* (Charleston) for November 7, 1794, Robert Squibb advertised fresh garden seed for sale at the Orphan House Garden. Squibb was the author of the Gardener's Calendar, the first edition of which appeared in 1787. Before that time, Squibb had a garden on Savage's Green on the south side of Tradd Street between Legare Street and the present Lenwood Boulevard. He also had a nursery on the east side of Meeting Street on Charleston Neck in the Village of Romney.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 2, p. 36.

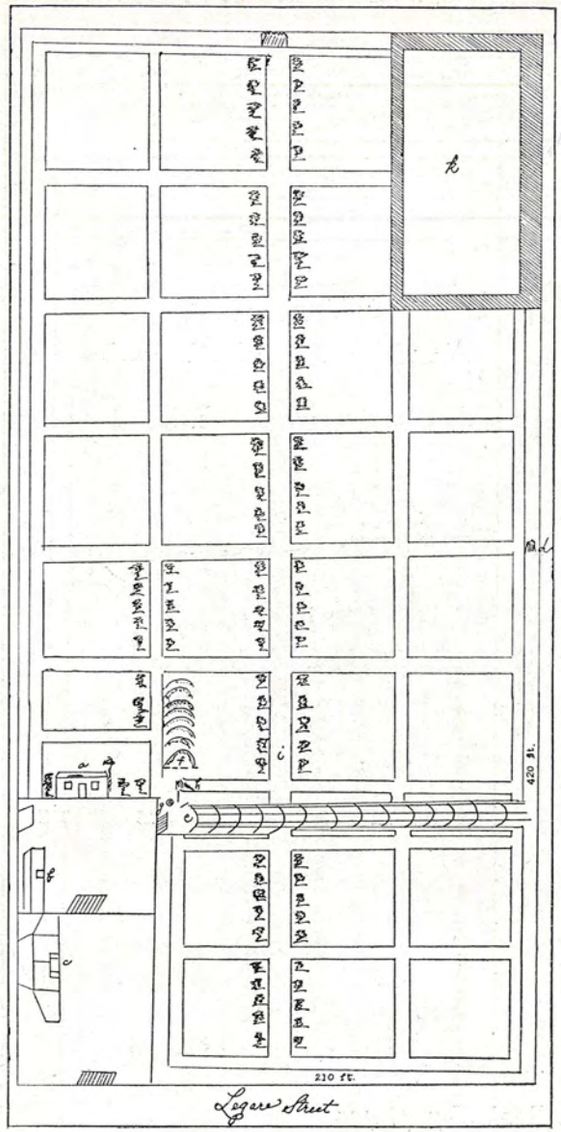
Mr. Samuel Adams's Garden

The garden and houses of Mr. Adams were in the Village of Washington, one of those small early developments which has since become part of the city of Charleston. This piece of property occupied the block between what is now Congress Street, Ashley Avenue, Huger Street, and Wesson Avenue. This Legare Street is the present Huger Street. This plat, made in 1792 by William Sturges, shows: (a) the mansion house: (b) the kitchen; (c) the store; (d) the necessary; (e) the grape-arbour; (f) the hop arbour; (g) the well; (h) the boiler; (i) the center wall between two rows of peach trees; (k) the fish pond.

M.C.O. Book F-6, p. 281.



The Orphan House Garden



Mr. Adam's Garden

Mr. Samuel Prioleau's Garden

The house on the west side of Church Street, now known as No. 71, is one of the oldest in Charleston, having been built before 1733. In 1778 it was purchased by Samuel Prioleau and was sold by his estate in February 1792, at which time this plat was made by Joseph Purcell. The garden, which is behind the house, is divided into four almost square beds with a border approximately three feet wide.

M.C.O. Book G-6, p. 498.

Mr. Thomas Bradford's Garden

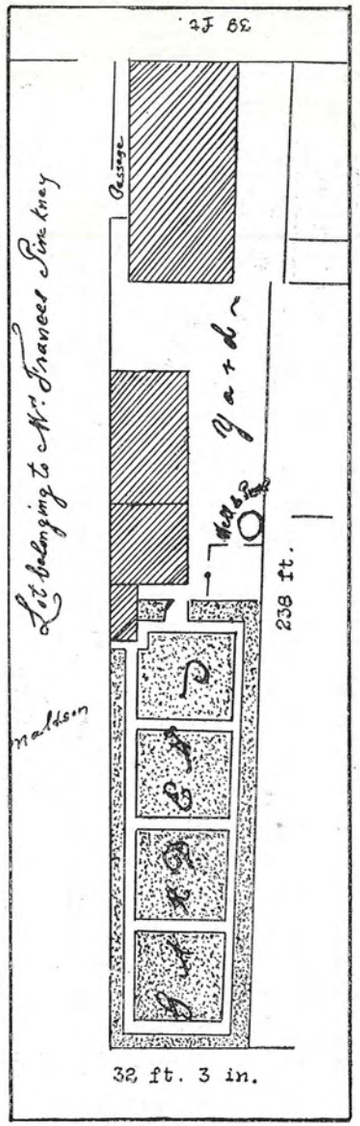
This property, then known as No. 76 Church Street, was on the east side of Church Street just south of the Huguenot Church. The plat was made in November 1802 by Joseph Purcell and shows: (A) the house of wood, with three stories and garret and cellar, having a conductor or lightning rod; (B) kitchen and wash room; (C) divers offices; (E and F) wells of water; (G) yard; (H) horse and cow yard; (I) garden. The garden lay to the south of the driveway and outbuildings and covered the rear of the lot. The beds were the usual rectangles seen in most of these plats.

M.C.O Book I-7, p. 40.

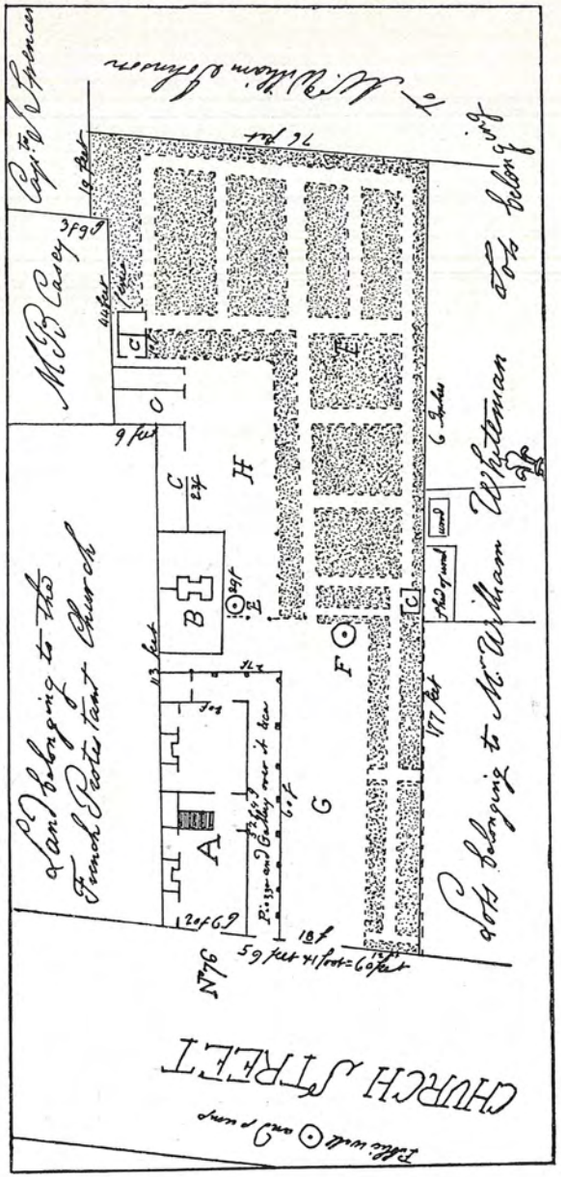
Gardens on Tradd and Legare Streets

These two gardens, one on the south side of Tradd Street near Legare, and the other on the east side of Legare Street just south of Tradd, were on property owned by Mr. Isaac Holmes. In 1803 Mr. Holmes assigned the property to Mr. James Simons who had it divided into seven lots. The gardens were almost identical, with their four rectangular beds and long outer bed.

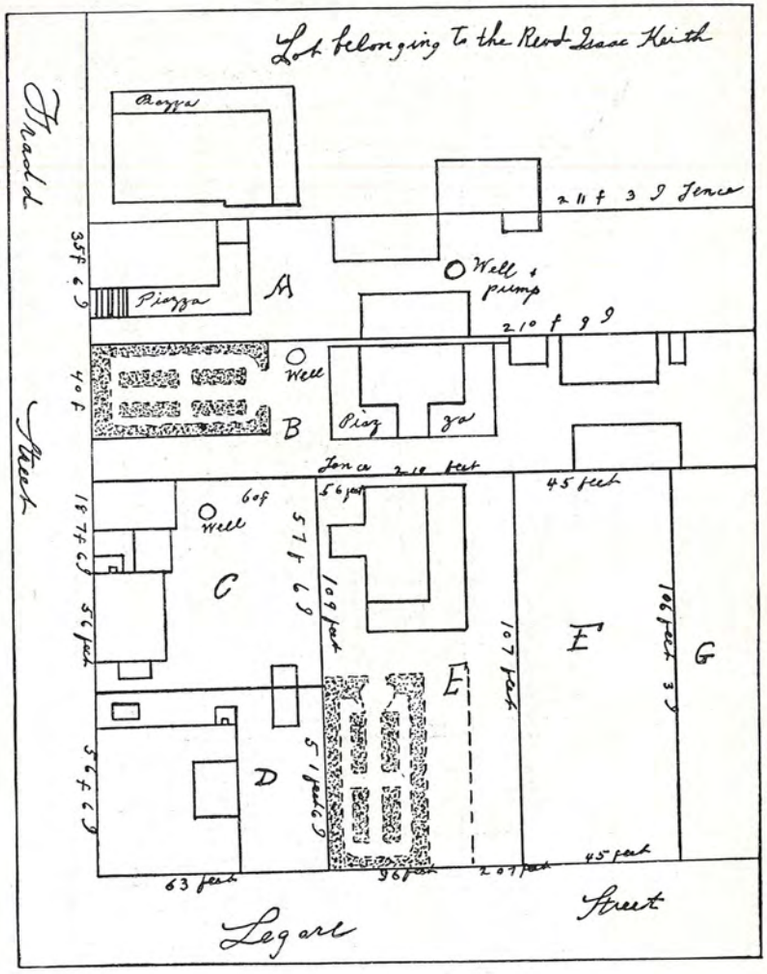
M.C.O. Book K-7, p. 445.



Mr. Prioleau's Garden



Mr. Bradford's Garden



Gardens on Tradd and Legare Streets

Mr. William Grogan's Garden

This property was on the north side of Trott, now Wentworth, Street about midway between King and Meeting Streets. It was purchased in November 1812 by Mrs. Mary Davis, the wife of Mr. John Maynard Davis who was the first agent in Charleston for the Phoenix Assurance Company of London. This plat was made in January 1813. The garden, unlike most of those shown here, was in front of the house. It has an interesting design of many small beds regularly placed around a circular center.

M.C.O. Book F-8, p. 286.

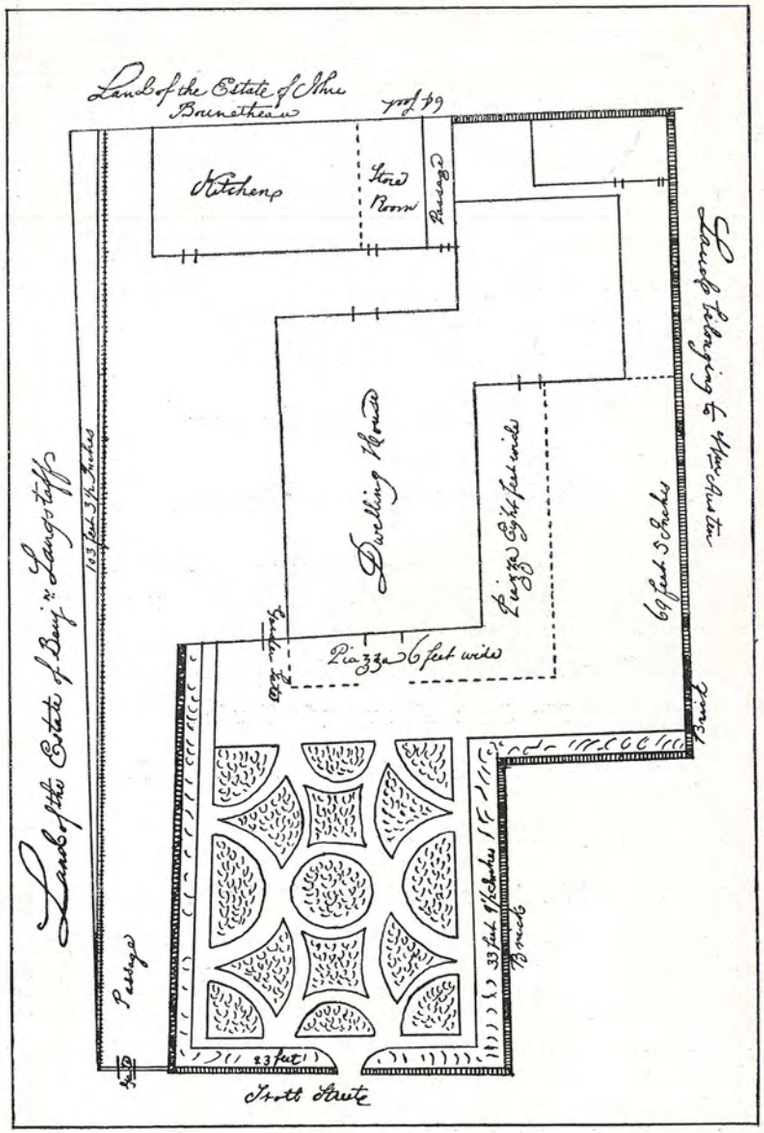
COUNTRY GARDENS

The gardens shown on plats of property in the country are on a smaller scale than those on city plats. Although not reproduced in this *Leaflet,* they were charming little gardens and the following brief descriptions, and references, are given so that those interested may look them up.

Mr. William Bolough's Garden

This property, on Seewee Bay, between Charleston and Georgetown, was sold by the heirs of Mr. Bolough to Mr. Benjamin Simons. The plat was made in May 1786 by Joseph Purcell. The approach to the house was through an avenue crossing the pasture. Behind the house was the garden. There were square beds in front with a semi-circular bed on the Bay.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 3, p. 46.



Mr. Grogan's Garden

Mr. William Williamson's Garden

Mr. Williamson's plantation, known as "The Garden", was on the Stono River near Wallace's Ferry. He died in November 1783 and his property was advertised for sale in the *State Gazette of South Carolina* (Charleston) for February 23, 1786. Twenty acres were set aside as a pleasure garden and seven or eight acres, including three canals or fishponds, were "laid out and improved in a taste no where excelled in this State. . . . The most curious Botanists may here be entertained. . . . In short, nature and art are happily united: nature is improved but no where violated in this delightful spot." The property was purchased by Mr. John Champneys. The plat was made by Joseph Purcell in 1786.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 4, p. 48.

Mr. Alexander Bethune's Garden

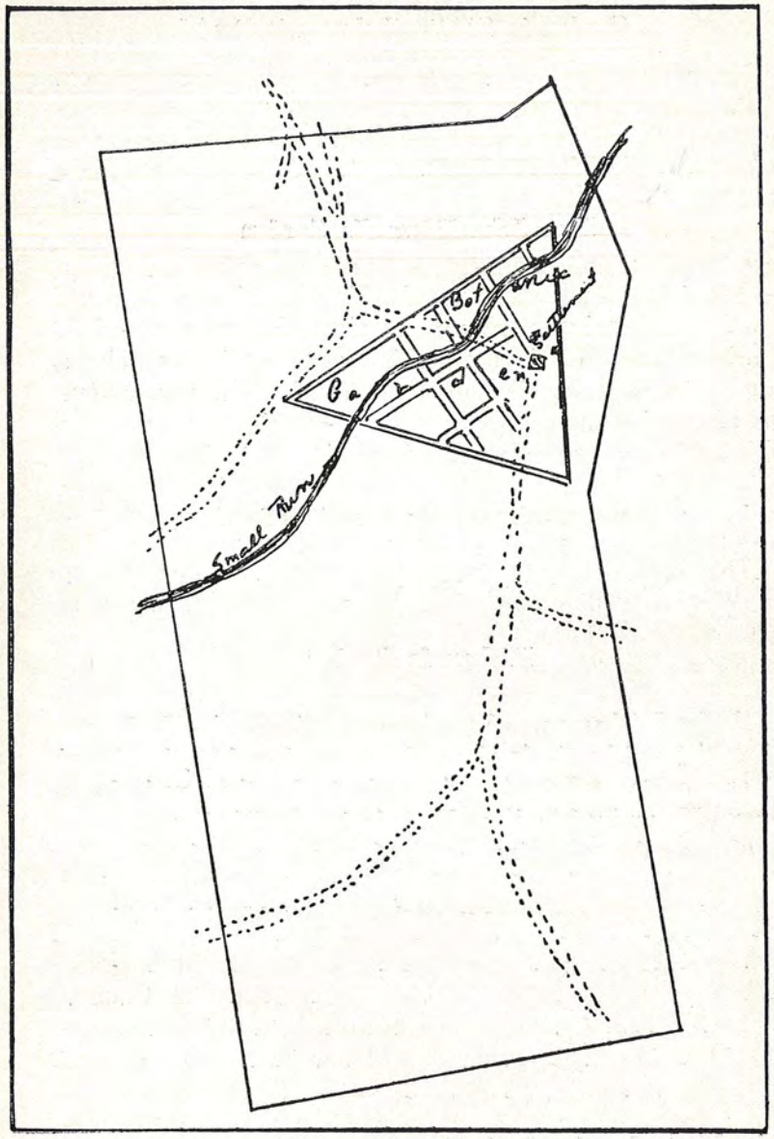
This garden was on the Stono River, adjoining that of Mr. William Williamson. The plat was made in September 1786 by Joseph Purcell.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 4, p. 49.

Mr. John Champney's Garden

This plan of a tract of land on Wando River was made in April 1789 by Joseph Purcell.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 14, p. 65.

Mr. Alexander Mazyck's Garden

There are two plats showing the garden at "Springfield" plantation in St. James', Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina. One was made by Joseph Purcell in September 1791. The house was reached by an avenue of trees and the square garden lay behind the house. To the right of the road were the spring house and a double row of negro houses.
John McCrady Plat Book No. 4, p. 64; Book No. 6, p. 40.



Michaux's Garden

A Garden in St. Bartholomew's Parish

A plan of the plantation belonging to B. Postell, O. Smith and I. McPherson made in April 1793, shows a small garden.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 12, p. 56.

Mrs. John Edward's Garden

Mr. Timothy Ford wrote in his diary in 1785 (*South Carolina Historical Society Magazine,* Volume 13, p. 185) that he spent the Christmas holidays at "Washington" plantation on the Cooper River, the home of Mr. John B. Holmes and his mother, Mrs. John Edwards, the widow of Mr. Isaac Holmes. He says the "garden is spacious, & animated by the taste and ingenuity of Mrs. Edwards, exhibits its various walks, flowers, vegetables, trees & springs in the most pleasing view". The plat was made in May 1796.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 12, p. 69.

Michaux's Garden

Andre Michaux was born in France in 1746. He became a botanist and horticulturist and was employed by the French government to collect American plants for the royal plantations. He arrived in New York in 1785. He later came to South Carolina and finding Charleston a suitable place for his nurseries, purchased, on November 3, 1786, a tract of one hundred and twenty acres near the present Municipal Airport and established a botanic garden where he propagated and cultivated the plants he collected for the French government. Michaux left Charleston on August 13, 1796. He died in November 1802. A resurvey of the land "commonly called the french Botanic Garden" was made by John Diamond and a copy made in September 1816.

John McCrady Plat Book No. 12, p. 24.

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