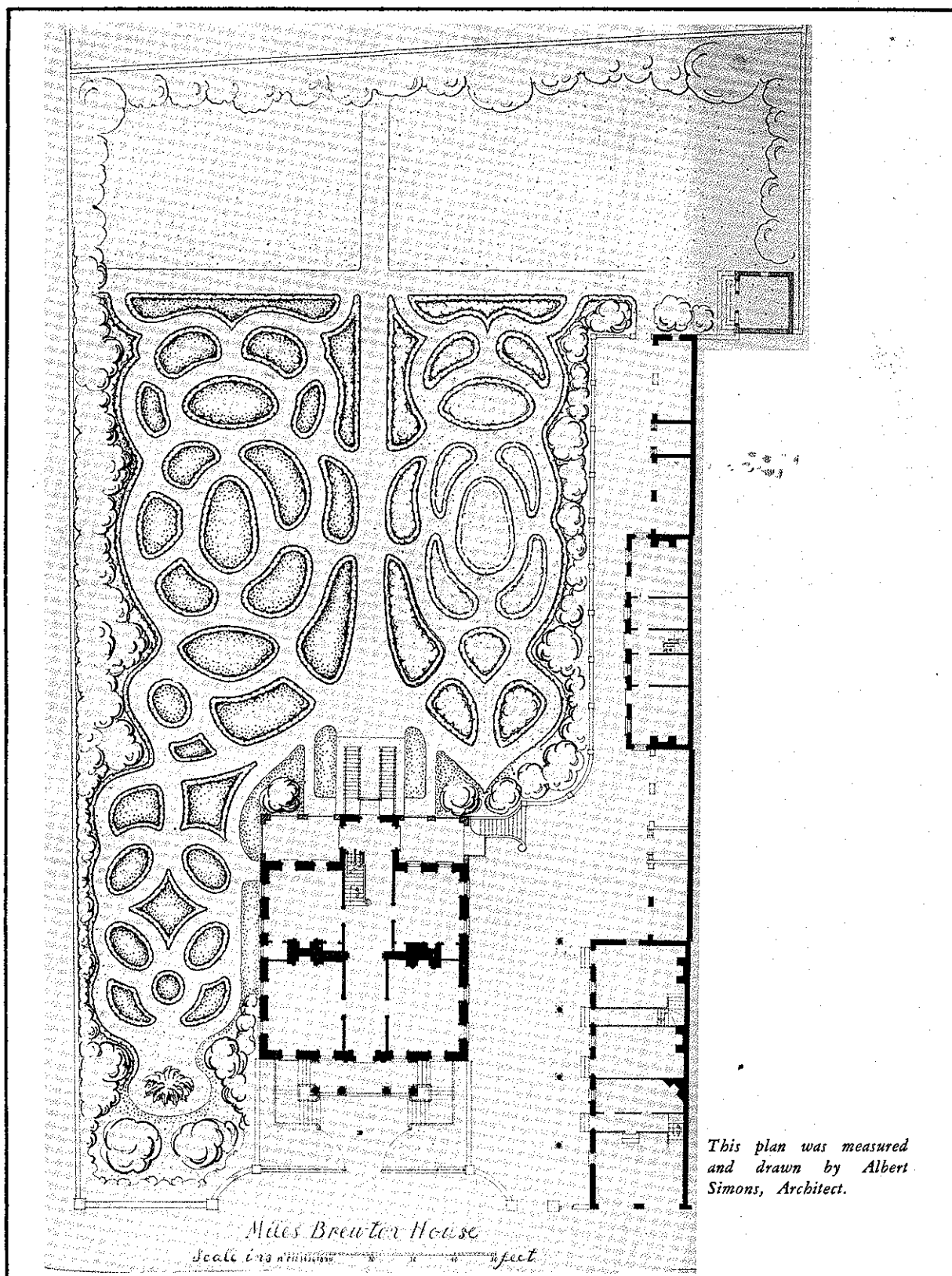


SKETCH OF THE GARDEN PATTERN AT 20 CHARLOTTE STREET

Within the area of the city, as first laid out, are a number of other fine old houses, some with quaint gardens also created many years ago. One of the most stately of these homes is the well-known mansion of Miles Brewton, also called the Pringle House, a superb example of Colonial architecture. Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British forces which occupied Charleston during the Revolution, established his headquarters here as did his successor, Lord Rawdon. The grounds were at one time more spacious, probably extending all the way to Legare Street, but there is still an ample garden, the age of which is apparently not known. The quaintly cut beds attest that they were fashioned long ago. Their design is so much in the manner of the little box-edged plats in the flower garden at Mount Vernon that they confirm the author's impression that this is the first garden or at least an important part of the original arrangement. In it were such old-time plants as the vitex or chaste-tree, the feathery mimosa with thistle-like pink blossoms, oleanders, pomegranates, and the sweet shrub or Carolina allspice.



A GATE IN THE GARDEN OF THE MILES BREWTON HOUSE



COURTESY, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

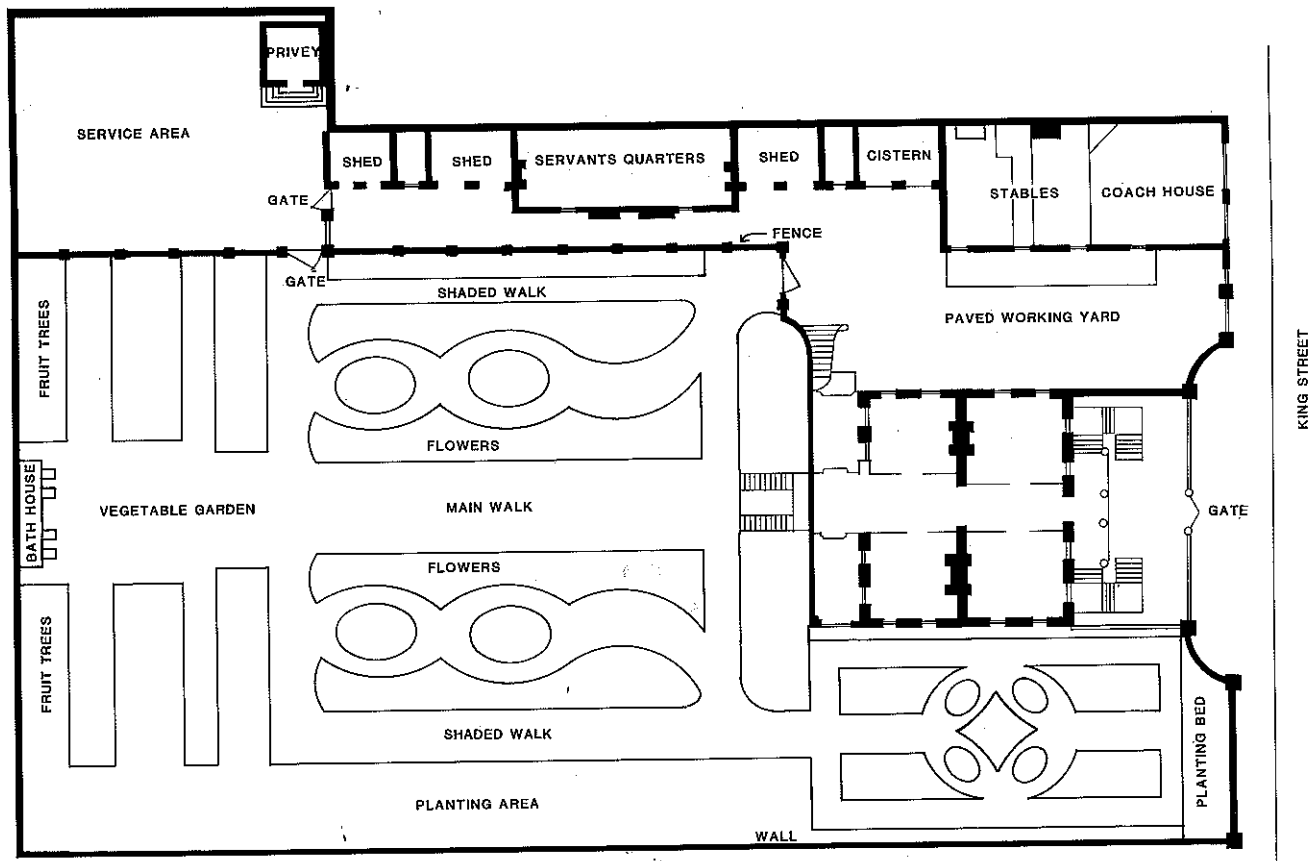


MARBLE SEAT AND ASPIDISTRAS IN THE MILES BREWTON GARDEN

In addition to an increasing number of itinerant gardeners who arrived from Europe to assist in the design of Charleston's plantation and town gardens, contributions were also made to the fields of horticulture and gardening by the French Huguenots who had immigrated to Charleston by 1700. Many of these early French settlers were artisans by trade and often became gardeners for the large plantations that developed along the Ashley and Cooper Rivers.

Those that settled in the city were particularly well known for their fine small gardens and for their influence on the design of many of Charleston's town gardens during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

One of the most notable and frequently mentioned of Charleston's colonial town gardens was that of the Miles Brewton House located on the west side of lower King Street. Built around 1769 by Miles



Miles Brewton House Garden Plan

Brewton, a wealthy Charleston merchant, the house has been described as a supreme example of a double house in the city and one of the finest town houses in America. The garden's earliest plan indicates that it was designed along a main axis that extended from the house to a central focal point—a decorative pavilion complete with marble columns, located at the western extremity of the site. The garden originally extended all the way to Legare Street.

The main garden, surrounded by brick walls 8 to 10 feet high, was based on a unified design; an upper garden devoted to flowers and ornamental plants with a lower garden relegated to vegetables and fruit trees. An additional area to the south of the house served as a pleasure garden, while the area to the north was given over entirely to utilitarian needs, including servant quarters, kitchen, stables, carriage house, and cistern. A later version of the original plan indicates that the garden underwent an elaborate redesign around 1857 when the rear portion of the property was sold. The new garden contained a more intricate arrangement of brick-bordered beds in paisley designs. Plants that were grown in this garden included pomegranates, figs, oleanders, mimosa, vitex, sweet shrub, gardenias, altheas, acacia (*Acacia farnesiana*), star jasmine and a variety of old roses, including Duke of Luxemborg, Safrano, and Devoniensis.

A re-created town garden of the colonial era can be found on Church Street at the Heyward-Washington House. This fine old double house was built in 1770 and was owned by Thomas Heyward, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In May 1791 President George Washington was housed in the Heyward House during his visit to Charleston as part of his triumphant tour of the South. While no record of



Miles Brewton House Garden

"Down the center goes a wide pathway. . . . The flower beds extend on either side, brick-edged and bordered with sweet violets and other small and fragrant plants. Close to the house the oleanders and acacias bloom and crowd, and vines are all about clambering over porches and walls and trees. So secluded is it that the wild songbirds come here to nest, careless of the city close around."

Hildegard Hawthorne, *The Lure of the Garden*

the original garden plan survived, the existing garden was carefully researched and laid out in the 1930s in a fashion that exemplifies a late eighteenth-century Charleston garden. The garden incorporates a series of circles in a symmetrical design. Paths are of sandshell, and the five patterned beds are bordered with old Charleston brick and edged with Harland boxwood to maintain the design. Beds are planted with heirloom flowers, bulbs, and ornamental shrubs of the period including such favorites as violas, tulips, scilla, candytuft, stock, calendulas, and stokesia.