

Gardens of Historic **CHARLESTON**

James R. Cothran



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HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

Dedicated to Lynn and Caroline

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GARDENS OF HISTORIC CHARLESTON



The Jenkins Mikell House with its formal gardens was built in 1853 by Edisto Island cotton planter I. Jenkins Mikell. Designed in the elegant manner of an Italian villa, the Jenkins Mikell House represents one of the last great town houses built in Charleston before the end of the antebellum era.



"A passion for flowers has of late astonishingly increased. Many families in the capital and many in the country, for some years past, have been uncommonly attentive to flower gardens. Those who cannot command convenient spots of ground have their piazzas, balconies and windows richly adorned with the beauties of nature far beyond anything that was known in the days of their infancy."

David Ramsey, Charleston historian and physician,
ca. 1804 (*The History of South Carolina*)

sist with the layout and planting of gardens and grounds.

Descriptions of several town gardens in Charleston during the early nineteenth century are provided by Alice Lockwood in *Gardens of Colony and State*. This comprehensive work, prepared in two volumes by the Garden Club of America, documents the gardens and gardeners of the American Colonies and of the Republic before 1840. One of the most important Charleston gardens during the early 1800s as described in this work was that of Governor Thomas Bennett who brought over two English gardeners to whom he gave a house and a yearly salary of twelve hundred dollars. "The garden was the