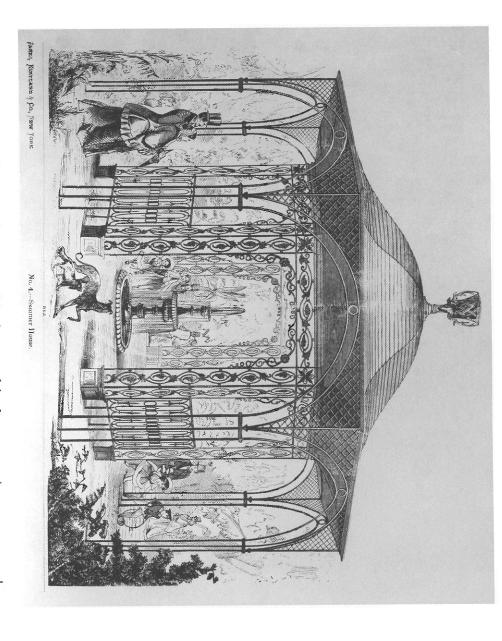
The central gazebo, dating to around



The second circle on the grounds contained the largest of the five summerhouses, or gazebos, adorning the grounds. The central gazebo (facing page) dates to around 1853. It closely resembled a similar iron work structure (above) in an 1858 Philadelphia ironworks catalog. (1970 photo, HABS, Library of Congress and No. 703, Wood & Perot catalog, 1858)

wrought iron. An 1870 catalog of the Janes, Beebe & Co. of New York indicates its style, which matched illustration No. 4; it remained popular through the Reconstruction era. The gardens were restored and improved following the Civil War and yet another pair of gazeboes was installed around 1867, but they were not of local manufactory. The centers for cast iron production, particularly in the area of

garden furnishings, were New York, New Orleans, and Philadelphia. Acklen had strong ties to both New York and New Orleans, but she would also have been able to mail order gazeboes such as No. 703 in the 1858 catalog of the Philadelphia Ornamental Ironworks aka Wood & Perot. 19

The "parlorization" of the garden as a means of displaying affluence and taste was not a practice confined to the south nor the antebellum era. There were ear-

to Baltimore remarked on "a hill owned surrounding landscape. A French visitor that afforded a commanding view of the Howard's Belvedere sat on an eminence private pleasure gardens in and around was one of an estimated seventy plus grounds with classical statuary and garden for later country seats.20 Like Belmont, Baltimore, which established a precedent between 1786 and 1794 as a subursoldier and politician born into a family both art and nature. By 1798, Belvedere seats for comfort and contemplation of ban home where he furnished the lavish of Maryland planter elites, built Belvedere Howard, an honored Revolutionary War lier precedents. General John Eager

the garden. ing flowers, or the young boy playing in the curved pathway, or the little girl pickwalking stick in hand, who strolls along with the ambient experiences of the man, seats, while encouraging us to associate statuary, urns, and wrought iron garden that draws our attention to the classical around 1858. The artist composed a view painted an estate portrait of Belvedere European ideas."21 Augustus Weidenbach appearance that evokes despite itself elevated situation, the mass of trees, an while a park embellishes the rear. The dependencies occupy the forward part town to the north. The mansion & its by Colonel Howard that dominates the

