

ELIZA BELLAMY'S GARDEN

DR. BELLAMY BUILT A GRAND HOUSE...

MRS. BELLAMY INSPIRED A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN.

As early as 1855, Eliza McIlhenny Harriss Bellamy (1821-1907), had started an herbarium of botanical specimens which she brought up to date from year to year. Her garden had always been a source of great pleasure to her personally and its well-tended flower beds were admired by many.¹

The formal landscaping did not begin until after the family moved back into the house in 1865. In 1866, the city of Wilmington widened Market Street and Fifth Avenue, slightly modifying the Bellamy property lines and creating the border that is marked by the present brick wall and ornate iron fence. Research suggests that the formal landscaping of the front and sides of the house emerged between 1866 and 1873, shortly after the fence was completed.

The garden was certainly eye-catching, a little non-traditional and definitely a source of pride to the Bellamy family. Family tradition says that it was Mrs. Bellamy's interest in plants that inspired the design of this garden and prompted her to keep a botanical notebook on her plants. Unfortunately, the location of this notebook remains a mystery.

After Mrs. Bellamy's death in 1907, the garden began a slow decline. By the time of Ellen Bellamy's death in 1946, the gardens were completely overgrown and the house fell into disuse until 1989 when it was donated to Preservation North Carolina.



RECREATION

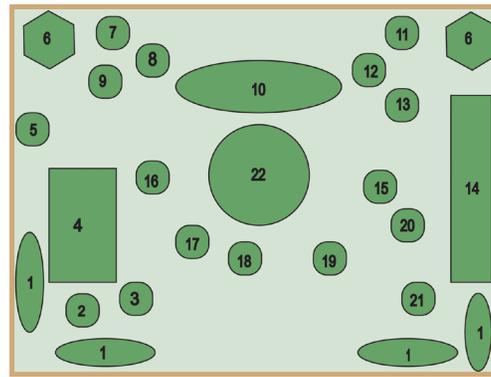
Most of what is known about the design of the garden is courtesy of a two-year process of historical research and archaeological investigation. The archaeology, coordinated by the University of North Carolina Wilmington, revealed the configuration of the beds and the materials of the paths. Historical photographs and personal recollections revealed the specific plant choices and locations. Recreation of the Bellamy garden took place in the fall of 1996 with major funding from the Cape Fear Garden Club. Today, the gardens are maintained by a dedicated group of Bellamy Volunteers.

ABOUT THE HERB GARDEN

Herbs were used in the Victorian Era for a variety of purposes, including insect repellants, medicines, cosmetics, dyes, teas and beers, cleaning, potpourris for personal and household odors, and of course in cooking for both flavor and as preservatives. The herb garden you see today has been designed to reflect the same plants and herbs that would have been used and enjoyed by the Bellamy family in the past.

¹ Excerpt from Mrs. Bellamy's obituary, Wilmington Morning Star, 19 October 1907

HERB GARDEN (LOCATED IN REAR YARD)



PLANTINGS AND MEDICINAL USES

1. **Thyme:** used as expectorant, disinfectant, and has anti-fungal properties.
2. **Joe Pye Weed:** also called Indian healer; treats fevers, UTI's, and kidney ailments.
3. **Sage:** used as astringent, stimulant, diuretic, and expectorant.
4. **Garlic chives:** aids in kidney support, digestion, and respiratory congestion.
5. **Germander:** said to cure gout; used as stimulant, tonic, and diuretic.
6. **Rosemary:** can be a stimulant, astringent, and helps headaches.
7. **Parsley:** helps settle stomach after a meal; soothes asthma, and helps clear congestion.
8. **Dill:** used to treat colic, gas, and indigestion; cures hiccups; can be a good breath freshener.
9. **Basil:** used as a mosquito repellent; aids in digestion; helps with headaches.
10. **Mint:** dried leaves make potpourri; aids in digestion.
11. **Mexican Mint Marigold:** used for malaria, colic, and colds; dried leaves make potpourri.
12. **Stevia:** sugar substitute; 200 times sweeter than sugar.
13. **Valerian:** used to help insomnia; can be used as a diuretic.
14. **Echinacea:** also called coneflower; aids immune support; fights the common cold.
15. **Southern wood:** used as air freshener; antiseptic.
16. **Borage:** soothes respiratory issues; can be a decongestant; has antidotal qualities.
17. **Red veined sorrel:** boosts eyesight; aids digestion, heart, and kidney health.
18. **Salad burnet:** used to help diarrhea; has astringent qualities.
19. **Lamb's ear:** used as wound dressing; contains antibacterial, antiseptic, and anti-inflammatory properties.
20. **Bee balm:** helps with stomach ailments; soothes bee stings; attracts bees and butterflies.
21. **Oregano:** soothes bee stings; helps treat the cold, flu, and fevers.
22. **Common Fig tree:** blooms in the spring; fruit can be eaten cooked, raw, or can be dried for later.

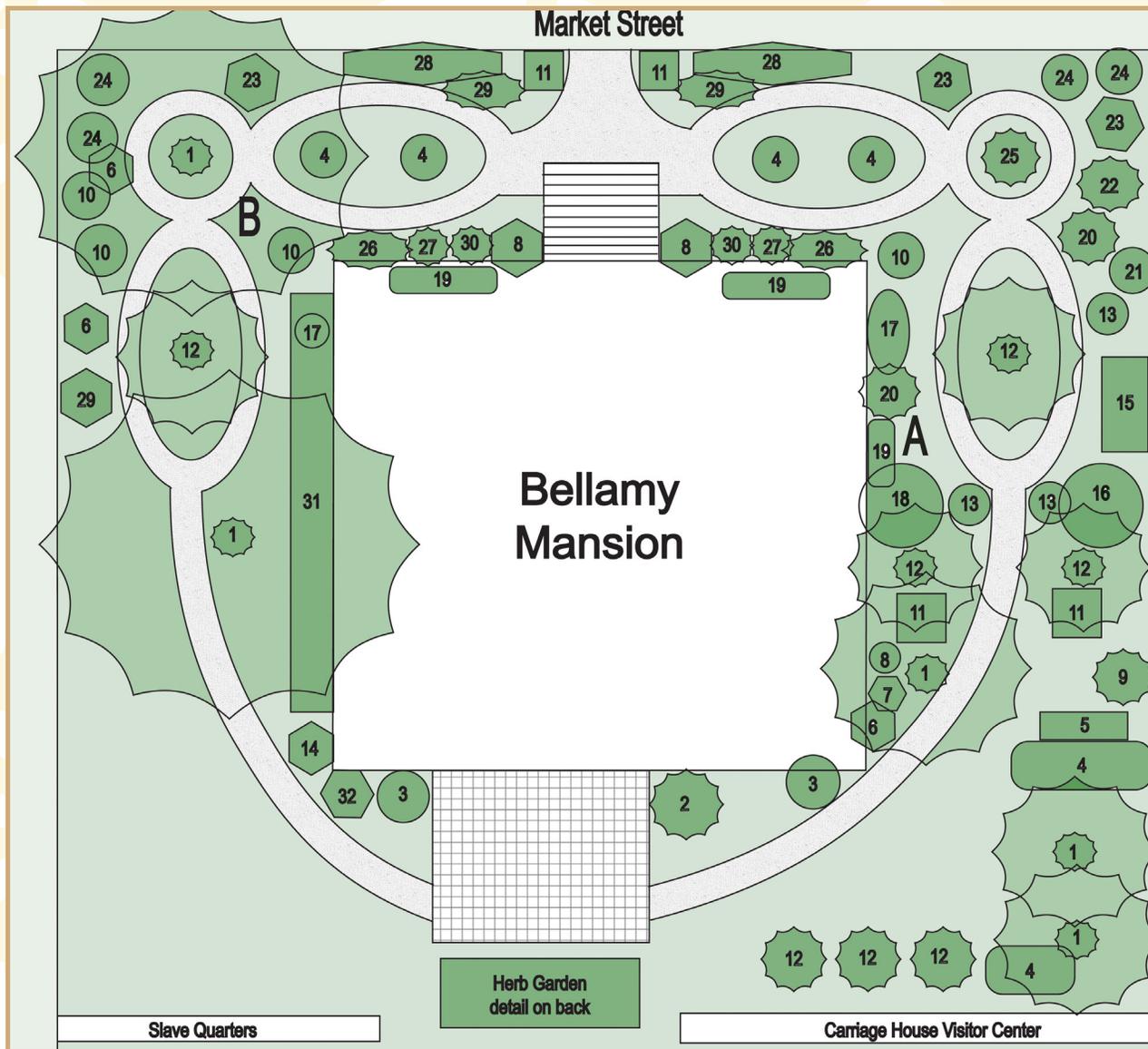
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA



SELF-GUIDED GARDEN TOUR

The year was 1861. The grand Bellamy Mansion was finished. All that remained was the planting of the garden. By the time the restoration of the Mansion began in 1992, virtually all traces of the original formal gardens had disappeared. The Victorian elegance of the Bellamy garden has been faithfully recreated to interpret how the young landscaping plan may have appeared in the mid-1870s.

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PLANTINGS

1. **Southern Magnolia Tree** (*Magnolia grandiflora*): white flowers- Sp.
2. **Cape Jasmine** (*Gardenia jasminoides*): white flowers- Sp.
3. **Chinese Fringe-Flower** (*Loropetalum chinense*): white or pink flowers- Sp.
4. **George Tabor Azalea Bush** (*Rhododendron*): light and deep pink flowers- Sp.
5. **Holly Fern** (*Cyrtomium falcatum*): No bloom
6. **Prince Eugene Napoleon** (*Camellia japonica*): pink flowers- W.
7. **Lenten Rose** (*Helleborus orientalis*): white/purple flowers- W.
8. **Heavenly Bamboo** (*Nandina domestica*): has red berries- F. and pinkish/white flowers- Sp.
9. **Mound-lily Yucca** (*Yucca gloriosa*): white color- S.
10. **Wax Myrtle Tree or Southern Bayberry** (*Morella cerifera*): pale blue berries- W.
11. **Yew Plum Pine** (*Yew podocarpus*): No bloom
12. **Natchez Crape Myrtle Tree** (*Lagerstroemia indica*): white color flower- S.
13. **Japanese Kerria** (*Kerria japonica*): golden yellow flower; part of the rose family- Sp.
14. **Fatsia** (*Fatsia japonica*): white color; grows green to black berries in winter- F.
15. **Carissa Holly** (*Ilex comuta*): No bloom
16. **Loquat Fruit Tree or Japanese Plum** (*Eriobotrya japonica*): yellow/orange color fruit- W.; white color flowers- Sp.
17. **Japanese Pittisporum** (*Pittisporum tobira*): orange blossom flower clusters- Sp.
18. **Pomegranate Fruit Tree** (*Punica granatum*): flowers can bloom; fruit is yellow with pink or red coloring- Sp.
19. **Lady Banks Roses** (*Rosa banksiae*): yellow or white flowers- Sp.
20. **Big Leaf Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea macrophylla*): blue flowers- S.
21. **Bridal-Wreaths** (*Spiraea prunifolia*): white color- Sp.
22. **Rose of Sharon** (*Hybiscus syriacus*): various colors- S./F.
23. **Burford Holly** (*Ilex cornuta*): grows pea-sized, red berries- F.
24. **Japanese Privets** (*Ligustrum japonica*): white flower- Sp.
25. **Little Gem Magnolia Tree** (*Magnolia grandiflora*): white flowers- Sp.
26. **Southern Swamp Lilies** (*Crinum americanum*): white and pink color- S.
27. **Oleander** (*Nerium oleander*): various colors- S.
28. **Scarlet Firethorn** (*Pyracantha coccinea*): has red berries- F.
29. **Red Maple Tree** (*Acer rubrum*): yellow to red color- F.
30. **Windmill Palm** (*Trachycarpus fortune*): yellow flowers- S.
31. **Cast Iron Plant** (*Aspidistra elatior*): No bloom
32. **Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle Vine** (*Lonicera sempervirens*): orange/red flowers- Sp.
33. **Dwarf Yaupon Holly** (*Ilex vomitoria*): surrounds the ellipses, red berries- F.

BLOOM SEASON LEGEND:
 F.- FALL BLOOM • SP.- SPRING BLOOM
 W.- WINTER BLOOM • S.-SUMMER BLOOM

DESIGN

Eliza Bellamy planned her garden in the French parterre style. A parterre garden is composed of symmetrical elliptical or circular garden beds that are usually connected by gravel pathways. In the case of the Bellamy garden, the pathway was made from crushed oyster shells. Although no longer available for use, the crushed shells help to replenish minerals in the earth over time as well as aid in drainage. Diverse plantings were selected to ensure year-round blooms. The most successful plantings were hardy native species that could withstand the extended hot summers of this area.

GROUND BED PLANTINGS

While plantings in areas A and B change seasonally, you are likely to find colorful arrays of rose campion, daffodils, irises, spiderworts, belladonna lilies, and more as you make your way through the garden.

This tour was made possible by:

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