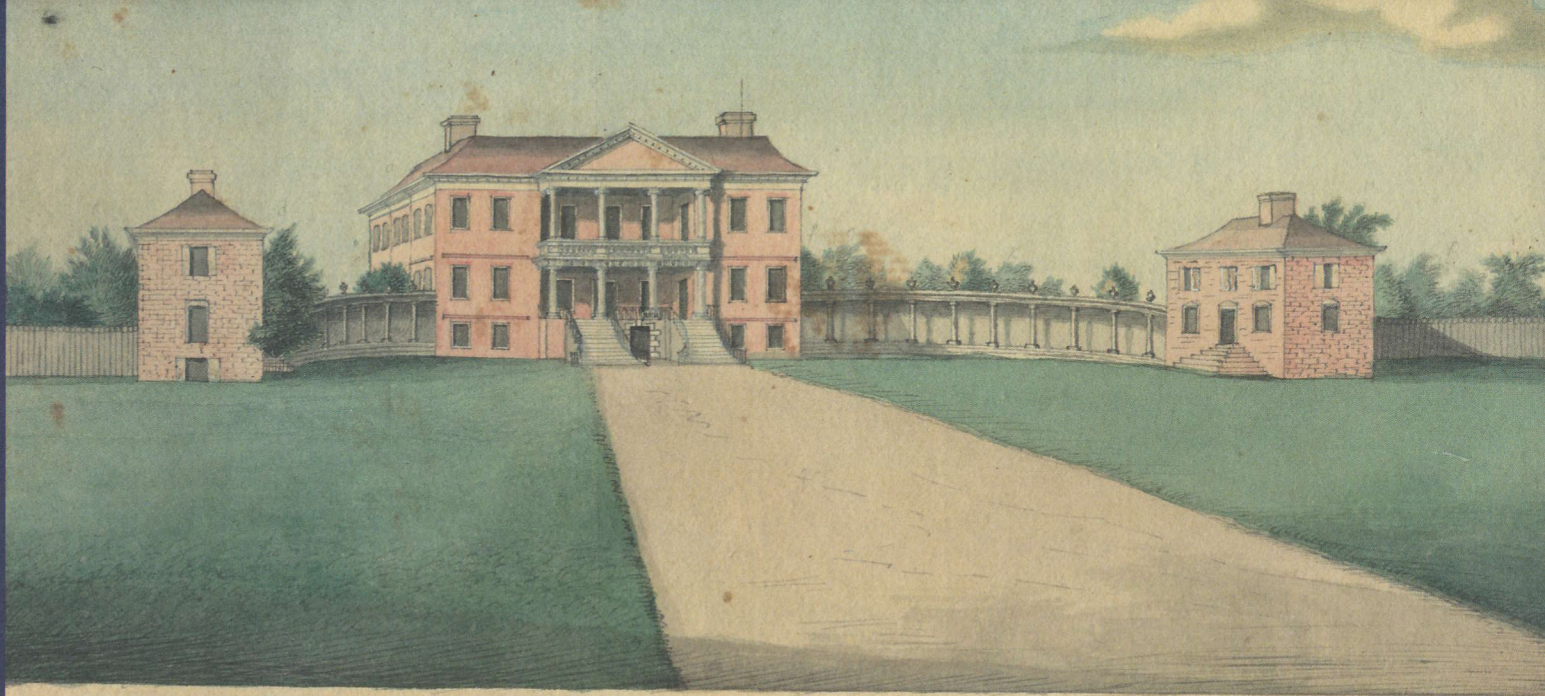


Self-Guided Walking Tour

*WITHIN THE GARDEN:
EXPLORING OUTSIDE
THE MAIN HOUSE*

CIRCA
DRAYTON
HALL

1738



Drayton Hall - S.C.

Within the Garden:

Exploring Outside the Main House

Welcome to Drayton Hall. We invite you to enjoy walking the property while learning about how it has changed and, in some ways, stayed the same over the past 280+ years. This is a self-guided tour of ten stops in which you will view architectural ruins, flora, and landscape features shaped by the tastes of the Drayton family and the hands of enslaved laborers.

The wealth and prominence of the Drayton family in the early 1700s provided John Drayton (c.1715-1779) with a financial advantage that few South Carolina colonists enjoyed. John played a significant role in the design of Drayton Hall, the first fully executed example of Palladian architecture in the colonies. He relied on the work of enslaved laborers to maintain his wealth, to build structures, and to sculpt the landscape according to increasingly popular British styles.

After John's death, his oldest surviving son, Charles Drayton (1743-1820), purchased Drayton Hall from John's widow, Rebecca Perry Drayton (1759-1840) in 1784 at the close of the American Revolution. Charles had spent much of his adolescence in Britain and received a medical degree from the University of Edinburgh. Charles envisioned Drayton Hall in much the same way that his father had, yet made changes and updates to the house and landscape to suit his personal tastes. Facilitating Charles's business and intellectual pursuits was the labor of an enslaved workforce that stretched across the network of plantations inherited from his father. Much of what we know of life at Drayton Hall comes from diaries kept by Charles Drayton from 1784-1820.

Stop one: NORTH FLANKER BUILDING

1 John Drayton emulated British estates when he designed Drayton Hall in the mid-1700s. Two additional structures were built simultaneously with the main house to give an impressive appearance for those arriving to Drayton Hall. The flankers may have served as workspaces, offices, storage areas, or living quarters for enslaved laborers, members of the Drayton family, or guests. Charles noted in his diary in 1791 that enslaved carpenters "*finished the roofs of the two Offices & went from D. hall to Savannah?*" Savannah was a nearby Drayton plantation. Around 1900, the flankers were taken down. Originally, the flankers were connected to the main house by curved colonnades as seen in the 1765 watercolor (FRONT COVER).

Stop two: PRIVY

2 The privy is one of two intact 18th century buildings still on the property (the other being the main house). Archaeological excavations uncovered a two-foot wide brick-lined tunnel (IMAGE A) connected to a ditch that flushed waste toward the Ashley River. On the back side of the privy, archaeologists identified a pit likely used as a collecting basin for the water needed to flush



waste out of the brick drain. Perhaps Charles's medical training led to his desire for a flushing system to routinely remove waste in a somewhat hygienic manner. A 1793 entry in Charles' diary might reference this ditch dug by enslaved laborers: "*Began a double sloped ditch. Leading from the garden ditch... to the ditch leading from the lake to the river.*" Look closely at this brick on the riverside of the privy, to the left of the chimney. Do you see the

fingerprint? It is likely from an enslaved bricklayer, such as Carolina or Exeter, building the privy.

Aside from the privy, there were many other outbuildings on the property. Charles mentioned over 30 in his diaries, including stables, barns, storage buildings, and a poultry house. Future archaeology may lead to the discoveries of their locations.



Stop three: HA-HA

3 Charles shared his father's interest in landscape and gardens and continued to follow British trends. This ditch, called a ha-ha, is one of the surviving features of Charles's gardens. The ha-ha was a ditch with a fence constructed at its bottom to provide a nearly invisible barrier to keep grazing animals away from the ornamental garden while preserving the sweeping view. For the Drayton family and their gentry guests, the garden was a place to enjoy social strolls and observe plants from around the world. A number of enslaved people, including Emanuel and Joe, tended the gardens.

There are several ha-has on the property, and Charles mentioned some of them in his diary, noting in 1789 that work began on the "ha-ha across the garden." Eight years later, he recorded that enslaved laborers "began to repair the garden fences of the S.E. ha-ha."

Stop four: GARDEN HOUSE

4 Now a ruin, the garden house was completed c. 1747 (IMAGE B). The garden house was oriented toward the main house, and the façade facing the house was composed of decorative brick. The Draytons and their guests used this building as a wayside while strolling through the gardens (IMAGE C). With its raised vantage point, the garden house provided scenic views of the river, and potentially looked onto a bowling green, a space for recreational activities such as lawn bowls, an English game similar to bocce ball. Charles mentioned an enslaved gardener named July mowing the bowling green on July 22, 1785: "The weather being cloudy & rainy he was unable to mow the greater part of the day."

Stop five: THE ASHLEY RIVER

5 While the Drayton family only traveled by boat occasionally, Charles wrote frequently in his diary about enslaved people traveling on the Ashley River as they moved from one plantation to another or transported products to Charleston. His schooner, a type of vessel for transporting goods, was mentioned hundreds of times, often carrying barrels of rice or other items to town. Charles recorded the regular maintenance of the schooner and other boats by teams of enslaved men, such as in this entry from October 20, 1801: "Schooner arrived in town to be careened, & caulked where necessary, & to put in a new bowsprit of cypress. Will brought two calves. Carpenters Quash & Cimon came in the Schooner."

Jack Patroon and Captain Tim were two enslaved men who appeared often in the diaries. While they both appear to have overseen work on the boats, Jack was the only man Charles referred to as Patroon, a title for an enslaved boat captain in a supervisory position. Jack Patroon was one of the enslaved people Charles wrote about the most in his diaries.

Stop six: MEMORIAL

6 This is a modern memorial constructed for the Drayton family. Aspects of John Drayton's death remain a mystery. As the British Army marched toward Drayton Hall in the spring of 1779, John and his family fled. While crossing the Cooper River, John suffered a seizure and died. His burial site remains unknown. Charles Drayton and several other historic members of the Drayton family are buried at nearby St. Andrew's Parish.

While there are no historic Drayton family members buried at Drayton Hall, there is a historic African American cemetery on the property, dating to the colonial era and found close to the entrance gate. A complex of houses where many enslaved people lived was likely located nearby.

Stop seven: TERRACED LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC PATH

7 In many ways, the landscape looks different today, but there are still features remaining from Charles's era. If you face the river and look to the right from this stop, you see a wooded area beyond the path. The trees are

modern, but in the early 1800s, this area was clear of trees, and enslaved laborers created a terraced landscape that offered a beautiful, elevated view of the river and surrounding marshes.

The path you are walking on is the same path from Charles's era. Growing along this path (IMAGE D) is the plant *Illicium parviflorum* (yellow anise), which is not native to South Carolina. Charles made many acquaintances who helped advance his horticultural ambitions, and he used those connections to acquire plants from across the world. On February 11, 1810, he noted, "Frazer botanist came... He gave me 3 cuttings of *Lonicera lutea* - & a plant, a vine, not named... He promised to send 1. or 2 *Illicium Florida* in pots." Charles was referring to Scottish botanist John Fraser, who met with him on many occasions. Charles also corresponded and visited with French botanist Andre Micheaux, who had a botanical garden across the river.

Stop eight: REFLECTING POND

8 This manmade pond from c.1900 is an expansion of a fresh water creek. Turn with your back to the river. The area in front of you was once cleared fields. In his diaries, Charles described work being done in the fields at Drayton Hall. Enslaved people grew wheat, oats, corn, rye, peas, rice, and cotton. Like other planters in the region, Charles utilized a system of task labor in which each enslaved individual was assigned a task for the day. A person's task was based on their skills, physical ability, and what work Charles needed done, among other factors. An enslaved driver ensured that individuals completed their daily tasks. Once their tasks were completed, individuals could tend to their personal duties.

The primary responsibility of many enslaved people at Drayton Hall was agricultural labor, but individuals with other jobs were assigned to work in the fields as needed. In October 1794, Charles wrote, "Began mowing in the cornfields with Emanuel Toby Exeter." Likewise, people who worked in the fields were sometimes reassigned to other jobs based on Charles's needs, such as in this example from May 7, 1804: "Peggie from the field, to assist Affy in the house."

Stop nine: LIVE OAK

9 This live oak tree predates the construction of Drayton Hall. As you look over the landscape, envision an open, pastoral view. Historically, the property and surrounding areas had fewer trees and more open areas for grazing and planting. The 1765 watercolor was painted close to where you are standing and shows fences that kept the ornamental gardens behind the main house shielded from view. The garden experience was reserved for guests invited to that area.

Stop ten: ORNAMENTAL PONDS

10 The watercourse you see at this juncture was originally adapted for inland rice cultivation by previous European owners of the property. During Charles's ownership (IMAGE E), these ponds served as ornamental features and piscatories for food and leisure fishing. He wrote about them regularly, noting on several occasions that the ponds froze completely over in the winter. Maintenance of the ponds was an ongoing process and many enslaved men were tasked with such jobs. On March 7, 1797, Charles wrote: "Yesterday morning Carolina Dick Sandy Toby... began with & ca [etc.] to scout the ditch & repair the banks of the lower lake at D.h." The next year, in February, Charles wrote, "Began to repair with 6 men the breach in the lower lake."



NOTE: ALLIGATORS ARE COMMON IN THIS AREA AND CAN BE DANGEROUS. PLEASE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.

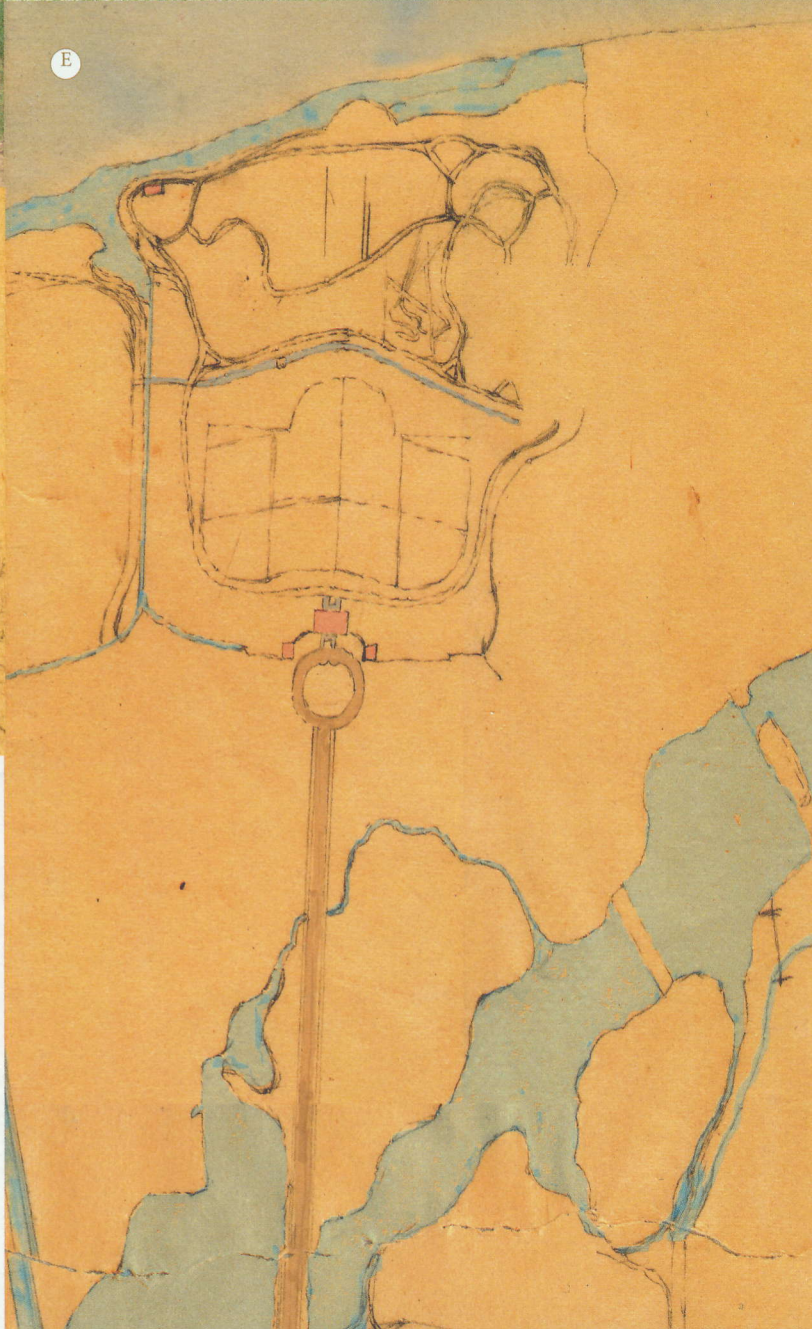
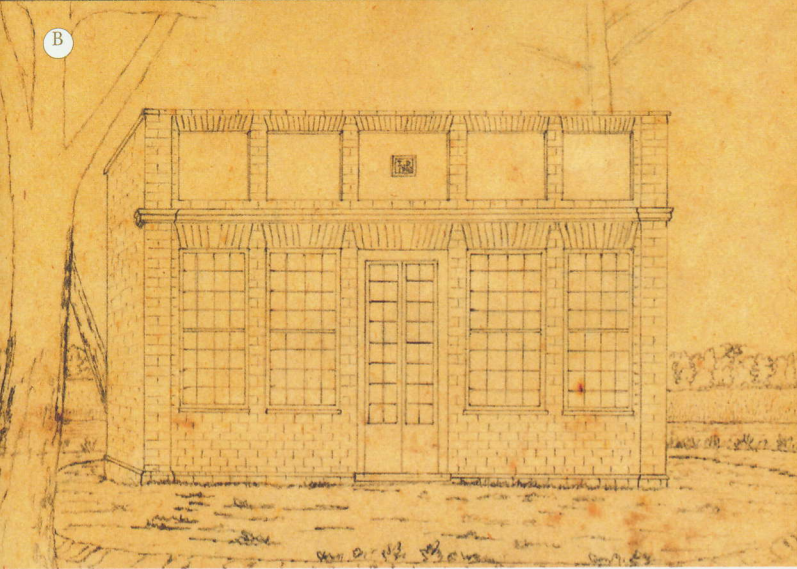


IMAGE CREDITS

Cover Image

DRAYTON HALL S.C.

This 1765 watercolor by Pierre Eugene De Simitiere is the earliest known image of Drayton Hall.

Courtesy of J. Lockbard

Image A

PRIVVY EXCAVATION, 2007

Archaeological excavation of the privy showing the discovery of a brick tunnel that helped the privy “flush” through a ditch waterway that rose and fell with the tides.

Image B

GARDEN HOUSE

A sketch of the c. 1747 Garden House by Lewis Reeve Gibbes c.1845.

Drayton Papers Collection

Image C

ARTIFACTS FROM THE GARDEN HOUSE

Smoking pipes, a delft porringer handle, and a wine bottle base found during excavations of the garden house by Drayton Hall archaeologists.

Drayton Hall Archaeological Collection

Image D

PLANTS

Modern photograph of the ILLICIUM PARVIFLORUM (yellow anise) and ASMINA TRILOBA (pawpaw) along the walking path.

Image E

19TH CENTURY MAP OF THE PROPERTY

Map thought to be drawn by Charles Drayton c.1800 (modern color added).

Drayton Papers Collection

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