

Introduction

Independence National Historical Park, which commemorates the events that established the United States as a free and independent nation, includes 40 historic buildings situated on 42 acres of land. Some of these like Independence Hall, are original; others like City Tavern, have been carefully reconstructed. Their landscape settings; however, are not original. Once crowded in on all sides by other colonial structures, they are now surrounded by 18th century type plantings. This garden-like setting provides a natural buffer between the historic buildings and their 20th century neighbors.

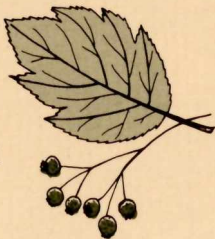
The purpose of this folder is to introduce you to the landscape features of the Park, acquaint you with the “whats” and “whys” of the Park plantings, and also serve as your personal guide for a horticultural tour of the Park. We hope that it will enhance your enjoyment of your visit here.

History and Development

In 1736 the Pennsylvania Assembly set aside the grounds behind their new State House (now known as Independence Hall) as “a public open green and walks forever”. At that time these grounds were uneven and covered by “whortleberry” (blueberry) bushes and other vegetation. In 1784, Samuel Vaughan, a wealthy Jamaican planter living in Philadelphia, undertook the complex task of designing and supervising the planting of a suitable garden. He based his plan on the new “naturalistic” style of gardening. By 1787 his work was completed. A visitor to Philadelphia described it as “a fine display of rural fancy and elegance.” A broad central walk lined with elm trees led from the State House to Walnut Street. Serpentine paths of red gravel followed the boundaries of the State House Yard (Independence Square); the grounds were laid out in small mounds and depressions which featured a variety of trees and shrubs such as linden, maple, spruce, pine, weeping willow, indigo, holly and laurel.

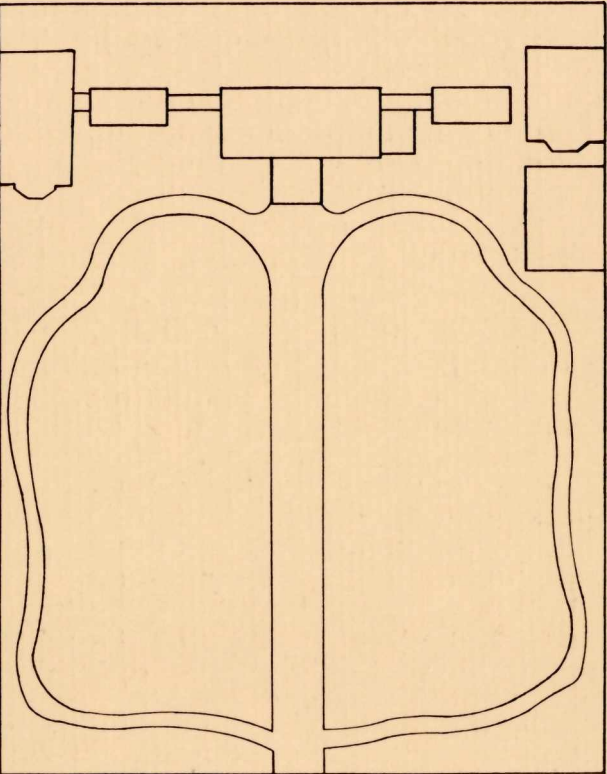
Since 1787 the State House Yard has undergone many changes. Even though Samuel Vaughan’s garden has not survived the passage of time, his contributions in the field of 18th century landscaping are most significant to the Park’s horticultural story. The 18th century Norris and Pemberton gardens have also furnished important information to the planning and development of the present Park grounds. (See map side for additional information about these gardens).

Philadelphia was an active 18th century horticultural center. In this city resided botanist and plant



Hawthorn

explorer John Bartram. Included in the present park landscape is the Franklin tree, a Bartram contribution, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. William Brinckle, a prominent fruit specialist, lived near Third and Chestnut Streets, and another resident was Robert Buist who developed the “Old Blush”, a forerunner of the modern hybrid tea rose. In 1784 Philadelphia’s first seed store was opened by David Landreth. Bernard McMahon, a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, opened another store in 1796 at Second and Market Streets. McMahon later received many of the plants acquired during the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



Artist’s conception of the Vaughan Plan — 1784

About the Plantings

More than 120 different types of trees and shrubs may be found in Independence National Historical Park. Extensive plantings of ground cover, flower beds, lawns and an 18th century vegetable garden also add variety to the area. Some of the most common plants to look for are oak, sycamore, elm, ginkgo, honey locust, hawthorn, holly, aronia, and ivy.

On the map (inside this brochure) is the approximate location of the conspicuous plants included in the Park’s landscaped grounds by specific city blocks. These were selected on the basis of their uniqueness, ornamental value, and visitor interest. To avoid repetition the map does not illustrate all of the Park’s plantings.

Planning Your Tour

You may begin your tour of the Park grounds at the location where you obtained this brochure. However, you may wish to start from the Visitor Center, strolling the same path which the delegates to the Continental Congress took 200 years ago as they walked in a body from City Tavern to Carpenters’ Hall and to the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall). All areas are accessible the year round. You may view the grounds at your own pace and photograph the environment, but please do not collect samples.



White Mulberry

The brochure map is arranged by city blocks. Each block is identified with a letter (A, B, C, etc.) and the major historic structures located therein. In addition each block includes numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) which designate the location of specific plants. To identify

these plantings refer to the key for each block. The key includes a listing, which provides both the common and botanical names of the selected plants and it designates the season of the year when the plants are best viewed. The abbreviations Sp, Su, Fa, and Wi are used to represent the four seasons.



Sweet Gum



Plane Tree

Cover

“Back of the State House, 1799”
William Birch Engraving

This brochure was made possible through a grant from the Friends of Independence National Historical Park.



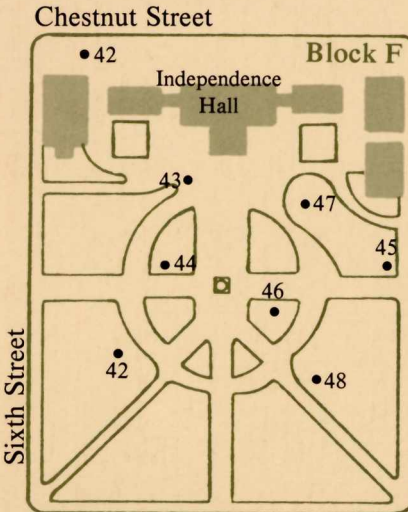
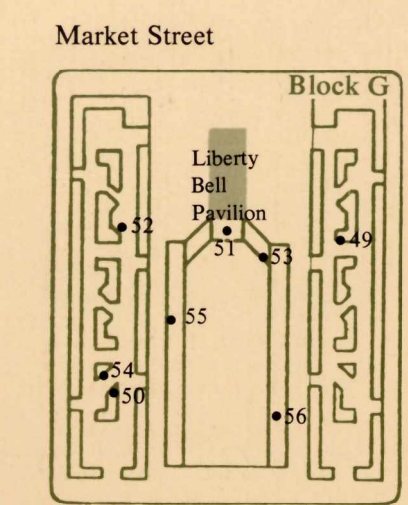
The Gardens of Independence

A Four Season Guide to the Plantings of Independence National Historical Park

No.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Seasons			
Block A			S	S	F	W
			P	U	A	I
1	Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	●	●	●	●
2	Carolina Silver Bell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	●		●	●
3	Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>			●	●
4	Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>		●	●	●
5	English Boxwood	<i>Buxus semperuirens</i>	●	●	●	●
6	Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	●		●	●
7	Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	●		●	●
8	Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>			●	●
9	Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>		●		●
10	Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	●		●	
11	Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	●		●	●
12	Weeping Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	●	●	●	●
13	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>				●

Block B						
14	American Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>		●	●	●
15	Crabapple (espaliered)	<i>Malus floribunda</i>	●	●	●	●
16	Japanese Pagoda Tree	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	●			●
17	Leatherleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	●	●	●	●
18	White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>		●		
19	Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sp.</i>		●		

Block C						
20	American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	●	●	●	●
21	American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	●	●	●	●
22	Bigleaf Linden	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>		●	●	
23	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>		●	●	
24	Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	●		●	
25	Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>			●	●
26	Franklinia	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	●	●	●	●
27	Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	●	●	●	●
28	Mt. Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	●			
29	Sour Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>			●	
30	Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>		●		
31	Sentry Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> ‘Wm. Penn’	●	●	●	●
32	Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>		●	●	



Walnut Street

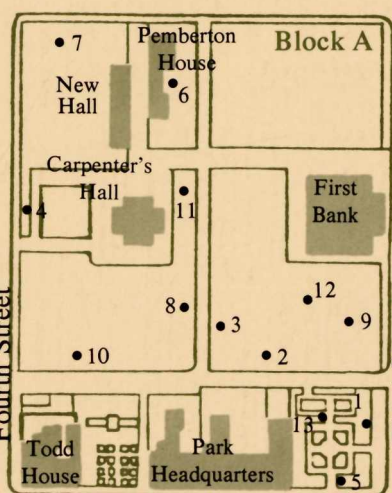
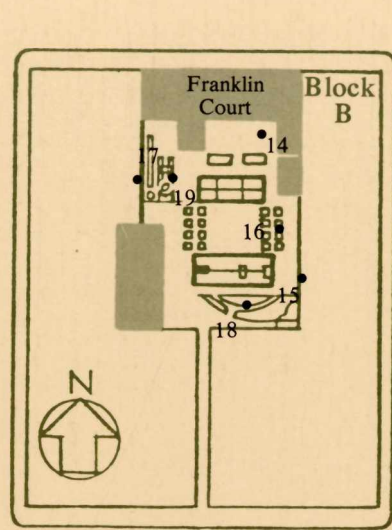
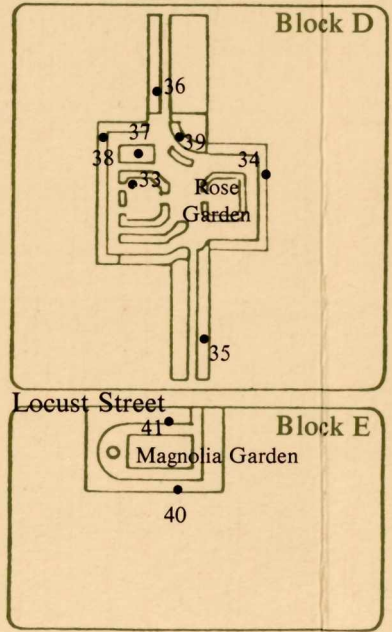
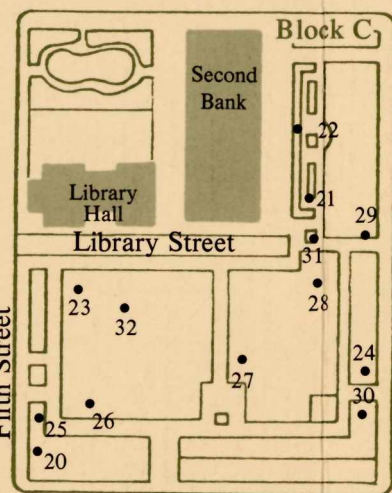
STATE HOUSE YARD (Independence Square)

Here on July 8, 1776 Colonel John Nixon publicly read for the first time the Declaration of Independence. At that time the State House Yard was an open tract of land, beaten down by heavy use, and practically barren of vegetation. By 1787 when the Constitutional Convention met in the State House, this same area had been transformed into the finest garden in Philadelphia. Since then, there have been many changes in the State House Yard. The last major change, completed in 1915, provided for the geometrical walks and stately trees which characterize Independence Square today.

Franklin Court

In July 1787 Manasseh Cutler, a Massachusetts clergyman and botanist, visited Benjamin Franklin in his Market Street home. As he walked thru the bricked archway to the courtyard, he spied Franklin and a few delegates to the Constitutional Convention (then meeting in Independence Hall) seated beneath the mulberry tree in the garden. A tea table had been prepared and Ben’s daughter Sally Bache served refreshments.

A brick wall enclosed the garden which included rectangular grass plots, gravel walks, mulberry and plane (sycamore) trees, and flowering shrubs. One of the grass plots earlier served as a vegetable garden. In 1812 the garden was removed during the razing of Franklin’s house. The present garden features plantings of the contemporary scene.



18th Century Garden

On the north side of Walnut Street between 3rd and 4th Streets is a representation of an 18th century formal English garden. No other location in the city proper provides such an unique landscape feature. This garden, maintained by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, best illustrates a formal style of gardening for the contemporary period by its walks, geometrically patterned flower beds, the small orchard, and the gazebo. The species of trees, shrubs, and flowers exhibited in the garden are typical of those grown in this city prior to 1800.

From 1750 to 1783 this site was occupied by a garden larger in area and scale than the present one.

Rose and Magnolia Gardens

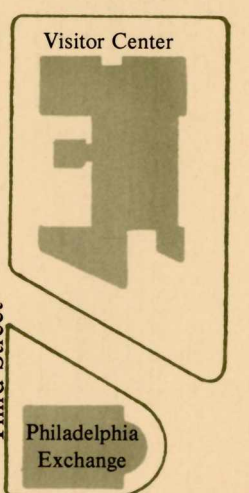
The Rose Garden, in the center of a landscaped area bounded by Locust and Walnut Streets and 4th and 5th Streets, was donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and dedicated in May 1971. The Garden includes some 250 roses consisting of 96 varieties. Among these are the “Old Blush” rose (“Chinese Monthly Perpetual”) and the green flowered rose (*Rosa chinensis viridiflora*). Unlike the modern hybrid roses, the majority of these roses flower but once a year.

The Magnolia Tribute Garden, on the south side of Locust between 4th and 5th Steets, was donated by the Garden Club of America in honor of the founders of our nation, and dedicated in May, 1959. Enclosed by wrought iron fences and gates, the plantings include Saucer Magnolias, Narcissus Snow Azaleas, English Oak, Honey Locusts, Cotoneasters, and a ground cover of English Ivy.

The Norris and Pemberton Gardens

The Norris Garden (1750-1787), located at Library and 5th Streets, was planted in a geometrical pattern, and included flowers, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

The Pemberton Garden (1680-1790), at 3rd and Chestnut Streets, was also planted in a geometrical style, though on a larger scale. A distinguishing feature of this garden was its evergreens which were clipped into pyramidal and conical forms.



No.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Seasons			
Block D			S	S	F	W
			P	U	A	I
33	Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>			●	●
34	Bulbs	<i>Crocus, Narcissus, etc.</i>	●	●	●	
35	Columnar English Oaks	<i>Quercus robur</i> ‘Fastigiata’	●	●	●	●
36	Hick’s Yew	<i>Taxys Media</i> ‘Hicksi’			●	●
37	Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	●		●	●
38	Perennials	<i>Hosta, Daylilies, Peonies, etc..</i>	●	●		
39	Old Blush Rose	<i>A. Rosa sp.</i>	●	●	●	
	Green Rose	<i>B. Rosa sp.</i>	●	●	●	

Block E						
40	Azalea	<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>	●			
41	Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia soulangeana</i>	●	●		

Block F						
42	Elms	<i>Ulmus sp.</i>		●	●	●
43	Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		●		●
44	Sorrel Tree	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>			●	
45	Stewartia	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	●	●	●	●
46	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>			●	
47	American Plane Tree	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	●	●	●	●
48	Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>				●

Block G						
49	Bradford Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ‘Bradford’	●		●	
50	Crabapples	<i>Malus sp.</i>	●		●	
51	Flower Garden	<i>Annuals, mums, tulips, etc.</i>	●	●	●	
52	Golden-rain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>		●		
53	Korean Boxwood	<i>Buxus microphylla</i> ‘Koreana’	●	●	●	●
54	Lilac	<i>Syringa sp.</i>	●	●	●	
55	Red Oak	<i>Quercus borealis</i>			●	
56	Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>			●	●

Map is not to scale.