



THE LAND IN 'HER NATURAL DRESS'

Explorers and naturalists like Mark Catesby, John and William Bartram, and John Lawson visited North Carolina during the 18th century in search of plants and animals for their wealthy patrons in Europe, who were eager for the newest, exotic specimens from the New World. Lawson, who helped Christoph von Graffenried found the town of New Bern, wrote "A New Voyage to Carolina," which was the first natural history of the colony. The plants found in North Carolina by these explorers like sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) were promoted as wonder drugs but failed to live up to the promise, while others like butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) were used to effectively treat pleurisy, a serious lung disease common in the 18th century.

REBUILDING THE GARDENS

A lack of historical and archaeological evidence for the original Palace gardens created a challenge during Tryon Palace's restoration in the 1950s. Landscape architect Morley Jeffers Williams agreed, "to create an appropriate setting for the handsome Georgian brick mansion by having gardens constructed and planted like those which flourished from 1760 to 1770 at comparable estates in Great Britain." Williams tried to balance the idea of an accurate restoration with the desire to create an aesthetically pleasing garden for the modern visitor. The result is a garden that has an essentially 18th-century flavor.

HERITAGE PLANT SALES

The popular Heritage Plant Sale held each spring and fall draws crowds of garden lovers every year when the Tryon Palace Gardens are free and open to the public. The plant sales allow buyers to speak with Tryon Palace gardeners and volunteers before purchasing any of the unique and rare plants on display.

CULTIVATING THE PAST

Governor Tryon expressed little interest in horticulture and made only a few references to gardens in his letters. Two maps of New Bern drawn while the Palace was under construction in 1769 reveal two different garden plans.

In 1783 Palace architect John Hawks gave a plan of the Palace gardens to Venezuelan traveler Francisco de Miranda, who was in New Bern as part of his tour of the newly formed United States.

It was not until 1991 that Tryon Palace researchers discovered the garden plan in the collections of the Academia Nacional de la Historia in Venezuela. The plans for the gardens suggest a strong French influence.

TRYON PALACE RESTORATION

Morley Jeffers Williams

Morley Williams, a native of Canada, and former member of the faculty of Harvard University and North Carolina State University, designed the existing gardens during the restoration of Tryon Palace in the beginning of the 1950s.

Having assisted in the restoration of the gardens at Mount Vernon and Stratford Hall, he was considered an expert in 18th century landscapes.



1 ENTRANCE AVENUE

The grandeur of the Palace unfolds before visitors as they cross the front gates and take a walk back in time along the marled entrance avenue surrounded by expansive lawns.



2 KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen garden was an important source of food for early colonists that produced various seasonal vegetables for the household as well as herbs for cooking, fragrances, and medicinal purposes.

Larger crops like corn would have been grown in neighboring fields. Observing the abundant fruits of the land, in 1765 Tryon noted, "Peaches, Nectr' Figgs and Plumbs are in perfection and of good Sorts."



3 KELLENBERGER GARDEN

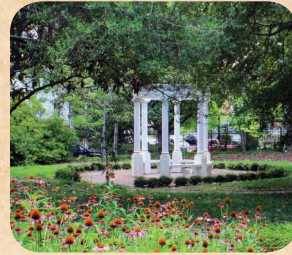
Honoring Tryon Palace benefactors Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kellenberger, this walled garden is an example of an 18th-century ornamental layout in which plants were grown for their decorative qualities.

Though Tryon was not likely to have such a garden, it reflects the more formal gardens popular in other colonies.



4 THE WILDERNESS GARDEN

Native North American and Asiatic plants and trees populate the Wilderness Garden that unfurls south of the Palace. The natural landscape style of the Wilderness Garden was popular in 18th-century England.



The Wilderness Garden stretches from the southeast corner of the Palace to the Trent River.

5 PLEACHED ALLÉE

Pleaching, the practice of intertwining branches to form a hedge, was used in this part of the garden to create an archway of yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) that ends with a vista of the Trent River. The Pleached Allée can be accessed from the Latham and Wilderness gardens, or through the Hawks Allée.



6 HAWKS ALLÉE

Honoring the Palace's original architect, John Hawks, the Hawks Allée is surrounded by classic Italian statues donated by Mrs. Louise DuPont Crownshield. Mrs. Crownshield was a direct descendant of Hawks. Seasonal plants and flowers surround the statues throughout the year for pops of color.



7 MAUDE MOORE LATHAM MEMORIAL GARDEN

This formal garden, designed in the style of a cutwork parterre, is named in honor of one of the original leaders of Tryon Palace's restoration. Dwarf yaupon holly forms the scrollwork hedges that define the flower beds. Statues representing all four seasons line the west wall of this garden, which is seasonally planted with spring bulbs, summer annuals, and autumn chrysanthemums. While tulips and yaupon were part of colonial landscapes, many plants featured in the Latham Garden like chrysanthemums and crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*), were not.



8 GREEN GARDEN

Tryon Palace restoration gardens landscape architect Morley Jeffers Williams called this a Privy Garden, which was a small, enclosed space designed to be seen from the house and for the private use of the family. The Green Garden is in the style of early knot gardens, comprised of interlacing bands of plants designed to illustrate an endless cycle.



9 COMMISSION HOUSE GARDEN

Like many other gardens of the late Victorian period, the Commission House Garden benefitted from plant explorers of the previous centuries.

A variety of exotic plants from around the world began finding their way into American gardens during the latter half of the 19th century. Expect to find azaleas, camellias, and Fatsia from Asia, which were introduced to the South during that time.



10 STANLY HOUSE GARDEN

A town garden of brick walks edged with clipped boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*) was created for the home in 1971 after it was relocated to its current location in 1966.

The two reproduction summer houses in the rear garden are based on structures that appear in an 1862 drawing of the Stanly House and would have been used for a shady escape from the summer heat.



11 CARRAWAY GARDEN

Named in honor of Gertrude Sprague Carraway, who was one of the leaders of Tryon Palace's restoration and later became the first director of the Tryon Palace Restoration, this parterre garden has seasonal displays of modern plants mixed with historic flowers.



12 MARY KISTLER STONEY FLOWER GARDEN

Bordered by a white picket fence, this garden boasts plants known to have graced many New Bern gardens in the 19th century and is named for an original member of the Tryon Palace Commission.

The plantings include numerous perennials and old fashioned roses chosen for their historic merit and beauty.



13 DOT TYLER GARDEN

Plants in this garden are specimens known to have been used during the mid-19th century and are similar to the ones Confederate spy Emeline Pigott would have seen while imprisoned at the Jones House in 1864 during the Civil War.

Featuring a modern layout of beds and lawn, this garden honors a former member of the Tryon Palace Commission.



14 HAY HOUSE GARDEN

This example of an early 19th-century urban garden includes a swept yard, trash pit and plants that could be used in the kitchen and for other practical purposes, which was common for a middle class family of that period. Seasonal hours.

