

## Landscape Architecture at the Library of Virginia

America's natural landscapes have been appreciated through songs, paintings, and verse. But what of our structured landscapes, our gardens, groves, and orchards? American landscape architecture began with exposure to the English idea of landscape. The expanse of natural land in America allowed for translation of literary and pictorial ideas into reality. Gradually, beginning with farmers and their manipulation of the soil, Americans began to read and study ways to alter the landscape for aesthetic purposes. Wealthy planters like Jefferson and Washington took up amateur landscape design using volumes shipped from England. The following is a selectively annotated bibliography of the Library of Virginia's holdings related to landscape architecture.

### ARCHIVAL AND MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS

Auditor of Public Accounts, Record Group 48, State Government Records Administration of State Government, Contingent Funds

This record sub-series contains vouchers for work done by private contractors on state property or at state buildings. Accounts for projects such as garden walls or fencing on Capitol Square may be found in this collection. In addition, vouchers for pay owed by the state to gardeners or contractors are contained in this collection, such as the pay voucher for Charles A. Ruhle for three months work as a gardener at Capitol Square (RG 48, APA Entry 139, Folder 1858-1859).

General Contingent Fund. Vouchers. 1776-1859, APA Entry 139

Includes vouchers for work done at public buildings, 1785-1788, 1799, 1813-1816, 1822, 1831, n.d.

Civil Contingent Fund. Records. 1860-1914, APA Entry 140

Includes information on work done at hospitals and public buildings (vouchers), 1870.

Bland, Robert Taylor, Papers, 1848-1889, Personal Papers Collection, Accession 35892.

The Robert Taylor Bland Collection contains letters, legal papers, and business accounts concerning Bland's activities in King and Queen and Middlesex Counties. Of particular interest is a "Patron of Husbandry" certificate (oversized) dated 1877.

Butterworth, John Reynoldson, 1817-1874, Personal Papers Collection, Accession 21536.

This collection contains a charter from the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry for the Dinwiddie [County, Virginia] Central Grange No. 22.

City of Richmond, Office of the City Engineer, Architectural Drawings, Plans, and Plats, 1809-1975, Local Records Collection, Accession 34886a-b.

The following is a select number of records and should only be considered representation of the type of materials in the collection. Please consult the guide in the Map Research Room for more information.

"Entrance Arch, Joseph Bryan Park, Henrico County, Virginia," Dated: 24 July 1912, LVA File Number: 36, City File Number: 38-A-6, 2 sheets, Signed: "Carneal & Johnson, Architects & Engineers, Richmond, Virginia."

"Shields Lake, William Byrd Park," Dated: 18 December 1914, LVA File Number: 37, City File Number: 52-B-3c, 1 sheet.

"Proposed Civic Center for Richmond, Virginia," n.d., LVA File Number: 92, City File

Number: Y-3302, 1 sheet, Signed: "Drawn By W. F. Beaman."

"Plan of Council Chamber Hill," n.d., LVA File Number: 100, City File Number: 1-B-5, 1 sheet.

Gillette, Charles Freeman (1886-1969), Papers, 1918-1969, Business Records Collection, Accession 34472.

Charles Freeman Gillette, a native of Wisconsin, became synonymous with landscape architecture in Virginia in the twentieth century. He received no formal training in landscape design other than a brief apprenticeship with Boston landscape architect Warren Manning (1860-1938). Gillette's career in Richmond spanned over fifty years. This collection contains working and finished architectural drawings, photographs, and correspondence. The collection also contains materials from other professionals, such as surveyors and other architects. Please see the guide in the Map Research Room for a detailed listing of materials in this collection.

Mount Airy, near Warsaw, Virginia, Measured Plan, Drawings and Plans Collection, 1931, Accession 36538. [Facsimile]

This drawing is a measured plan for Mount Airy near Warsaw, Virginia, the home of the Tayloe family. The drawing shows layout for plants, shrubs, trees, and other landscape elements. The drawing is signed "Measured by Arthur A. Shurcliff, Landscape Architect, Boston, Mass."

Office of the Governor, Record Group 3, 1776-1982, State Government Records Contracts, 1808-1865, 4 vols., miscellaneous reel 1648.

Certain contracts in this collection deal with work executed at Capitol Square during the period 1816-1819 and again in the 1850s. In several agreements, reference is made to Maximillian Godfroy's plan for Capitol Square circa 1816. An index to these contracts can be found in the Archives Research Room in a black binder entitled "Capitol Square Data."

Southern Eclectic Nurseries (Dinwiddie County, Virginia), A Catalogue of Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, &c.: Cultivated at the Southern Eclectic Nurseries, Near Crimea, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, by George Whitmore, 1861, Special Collections, Broadside.

Virginia State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia, Architectural Drawings and Plans Collection, Plan for the Improvement of the Capitol Grounds, 1906, Accession 36581.

These drawings document proposed improvements to the grounds at the state capitol. These landscaping improvements coincide with the expansion of the capitol building. The 1906 expansion added wings to either side of the original which was based on Thomas Jefferson's interpretation of the Maison de Carrée.

Virginia State Grange. Black Lick Grange, No. 602, Wythe County. Minutes, 1875-1879. Accession 33549.

#### PRINTED PERIOD MATERIALS

Copeland, R. Morris. *Country Life: A Handbook of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Landscape Gardening*. Boston: J. P. Jewett, 1859.

Davis, A. B. *Abridged Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Evergreens, and etc. of the Purcellville Nursery, Purcellville, Loudoun County, Virginia*. Purcellville, Virginia: A. B. Davis, 1880.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. *Rural Essays*. New York: Putnam, 1853.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America; With a View to the Improvement of Country Residences With Remarks on Rural Architecture*. New York: O. Judd & Co., [ca. 1859].

Fessenden, Thomas Green. *The New American Gardener: Containing Practical Directions on the Culture of Fruits and Vegetables: Including Landscape and Ornamental Gardening, Grapevines, Silk, Strawberries, &c., &c.* New York: C. M. Saxton, 1851.

Franklin Davis & Co. *Descriptive Catalogue of Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, &c: Grown and For Sale By Franklin Davis & Co. Richmond Nurseries, Richmond, Va.* Richmond: J. W. Randolph & English, 1874.

Hood (W.T.) and Company. *Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Grape Vines, Small Fruits, Shrubs, Plants, etc., Cultivated and For Sale by W. T. Hood & Co.* Richmond, 1891.

Jefferson, Thomas. *Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book, 1766-1824, With Relevant Extracts From His Other Writings. Annotated by Edwin Morris Betts*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1944.

Jefferson kept this record book until 1824, two years prior to his death. It chronicles the changes and additions to his gardens at Monticello and Poplar Forest over a fifty-eight year period. Betts has included relevant materials from Jefferson's farm and weather books, correspondence, and memoranda to overseers. This work is arranged chronologically.

Malcolm, William. *A Catalogue of Hot-House and Green-House Plants, Fruit, and Forest Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Herbaceous Plants, Tree and Kitchen Garden Seeds, Perennial and Annual Flower Seeds, Garden Mats and Tools*. London: J. Dixwell, 1771.

Miller, Philip. *The Gardeners Kalendar; Directing What Works Are Necessary to be Done Every Month in the Kitchen, Fruit and Pleasure-Gardens, and Also in the Conservatory and Nursery*. London: R. Rivington, for J. and J. Rivington, 1754.

Munson Hill Nurseries. *Catalogue of Ornamental and Fruit Trees, Cultivated and For Sale by D. O. Munson at the Munson Hill Nurseries Falls Church, Fairfax County, Virginia*. Washington, D.C.: R. H. Darby, 1900.

Nicholson, John. *The Farmer's Assistant; Being a Digest of All that Relates to Agriculture, and the Conducting of Rural Affairs; Alphabetically Arranged, and Adapted for the United States*. Richmond: B. Warner, 1820.

Randolph, John. *Randolph's Culinary Gardener, Enlarged and Adapted to the Present State of Our Climate, By an Experienced Gardener, a Native of Virginia*. Richmond: Collins, 1826.

Redd, George. *A Late Discovery, Extremely Interesting to Planters and Farmers, Relative to Fertilizing Poor and Exhausted Lands, Upon a Cheap and Easy Plan; with Some Remarks and Observations on Orchard and Gardening*. Winchester: J. A. Lingan, 1809.

Repton, Humphry. *The Art of Landscape Gardening*, edited by John Nolen. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1907.

Smith, Charles H. J. *Landscape Gardening, or, Parks and Pleasure Grounds: With*

Practical Notes on Country Residences, Villas, Public Parks and Gardens. New York: C. M. Saxton, 1853.

Virginia Nursery and Wine Company. Hermitage Nurseries: Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Plants, Etc. Grown and For Sale by Virginia Nursery and Wine Company. Richmond: Allan & Johnson, [ca. 1869].

White, William N. Gardening for the South, or, The Kitchen and Fruit Garden: with the Best Methods for Their Cultivation, Together with Hints Upon Landscape and Flower Gardening. New York: C. M. Saxton, 1856.

## PRINTED SOURCES ON VIRGINIA

### Articles

Favretti, Rudy J. "Thomas Jefferson's 'Ferme Ornèe' at Monticello." *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* 75 (1993): 17-29.

The author originally presented this piece as a lecture to the American Antiquarian Society. He discusses how Jefferson used English models and adaptations of English models to create the gardens at Monticello. The author focuses on Monticello's layout and Jefferson's influences while planning the site.

Gillette, Charles F., Bradford Williams, and Gilmore D. Clarke. "New Gardens in Virginia." *Landscape Architecture* 28 (January 1938): 74-86.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Look Here Upon This Picture, and On This: In Virginia." *Landscape Architecture* 28 (October 1937): 50-51.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Look Here Upon This Picture, and On This: In Richmond, Virginia." *Landscape Architecture* 28 (April 1938): 161-162.

Gillette discusses a specific home and some of the landscape details that were used to enhance the site. The second article comments on the author's home.

Kelso, William M. "Landscape Archeology: A Key to Virginia's Cultivated Past." *Eighteenth Century Life* 8 (January 1983): 159-169.

The author discusses the value of archeology in uncovering the landscapes of the past. He remarks on shortcomings in early archeological theory that largely ignored the period landscape, and the progress of the recent past. He discusses several specific examples at historic Virginia homes, namely Monticello, Carter's Grove, and Kingsmill.

Kornwolf, James D. "Doing Good to Posterity: Francis Nicholson, First Patron of Architecture, Landscape Design, and Town Planning in Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina, 1688-1725." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 101 (July 1993): 333-374.

This article discusses the largely unknown beneficence of Francis Nicholson. He served as governor or lieutenant governor of several colonies. He proved himself a great proponent of building, landscape design, and town planning. Nicholson often used his own funds to sponsor projects.

Shurcliff, Arthur A. "Look Here Upon This Picture, and On This: At Williamsburg Virginia." *Landscape Architecture* 28 (January 1938): 102-107.

In a regular feature of the publication, the author comments on views of Williamsburg before and after its restoration. At the time of the publication, the restoration work was still in progress.

Williams, Morley J. "Washington's Changes at Mount Vernon Plantation." *Landscape*

Architecture 28 (January 1938): 62-73.

The author discusses the then on-going restoration of Washington's home. He looks at techniques, including the use of period documents, utilized to recreate the grounds organized by Washington.

#### Books

Christian, Frances Archer, and Susanne Williams Massie, eds. *Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia*. Richmond: Garret and Massie, 1962.

Originally intended to document most homes and gardens of historic or architectural interest, the authors condensed the work. Accordingly, this volume departs from the format of its predecessors in that it is not meant to be a guide book for annual tours, but rather a study of historic structures and landscapes. The work discusses various homes and gardens from across the state of Virginia.

Griswold, Mac K. *Washington's Gardens at Mount Vernon: Landscape of the Inner Man*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.

Using previously undiscovered gardening and landscape plans of George Washington, the book discusses how researchers used correspondence, diaries, and plans written by Washington to create and recreate Mount Vernon. The writer portrays Washington as the typical eighteenth-century amateur landscape architect.

Longest, George C. *Genius in the Garden: Charles F. Gillette and Landscape Architecture in Virginia*. Richmond: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992.

The author investigates the long and impressive career of landscape architect Charles F. Gillette. Gillette worked on some of the most well-known residences in Virginia, including Agecroft Hall and Virginia House. His career coincided with the County Place era, which suited his style perfectly. Gillette developed a regional style centered on proportion, detail, and spatial arrangement.

Nichols, Frederick Doveton. *Thomas Jefferson: Landscape Architect*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1978.

This work contends that Thomas Jefferson used innovative garden designs founded in tradition. It also holds that his knowledge of architecture, surveying, climate, soil, and other features gave him a unique perspective not bound by one particular style. The author looks at Jefferson's contributions to what eventually became a fine art, landscape architecture.

Society of American Landscape Architects. *Colonial Gardens: The Landscape Architecture of George Washington's Time*. Washington, D.C.: United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, 1932.

This work was written in conjunction with the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. Noted landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff discusses gardens in the southern United States.

Williams, Dorothy Hunt. *Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservations by the Garden Club of Virginia*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975.

This book chronicles the preservation efforts of the Garden Club of Virginia and their pioneering efforts in saving Virginia's landscape treasures. The author uses the records and drawings of the garden club to tell the story of restoration gardens in Virginia. The book is arranged by historic home.

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