



Penelope Hobhouse of Dorset, England refined the plan with the assistance of Frances Parker of Beaufort, South Carolina. Savannah landscape designers including John McEllen and Jan Vandenburg have also fostered the garden.

Exhibiting typically Georgia plantings that offer fragrance, color, texture and harmony, the Davenport House Garden is a twentieth century complement to an 1820s house. The principal colors are white and green with features including beds, a parterre, an arbor, benches, Italian pots and a pond. Trees include ornamental crabapple, tea olive and crepe myrtle; shrubs include camellia and azalea and vines include confederate jasmine and red honeysuckle.

Behind the wall, the Davenport House courtyard and garden offer an exclusive setting for weddings and special events. Consult the Museum's website or speak with a staff member for additional information about garden rentals.



**Isaiah Davenport**, a young carpenter from New England, achieved success as a builder in his adopted city. Davenport's fine home was a tangible demonstration of his skill as a builder as well as a residence for his growing family and the enslaved people who worked in the home and in his business. Furnished as it would have been in the 1820s, the Museum received a Preserve America Presidential Award for the authentic period restoration.

While the story of the original owner's time is compelling, the twentieth century history of the house offers a chronicle of dilapidation, rescue, and restoration. Passing out of Davenport family hands in the mid-19th century, the building became a tenement in what had become an unsavory part of Savannah in the mid-20th century. Its survival is a testament to the tenacity of seven Savannah women who came together in 1955 to save the structure from demolition. This action prompted the founding of the Historic Savannah Foundation which has brought about an architectural renaissance through historic preservation in this coastal Georgia city.

Today, as an historic house museum, the Isaiah Davenport House provides a look at domestic life and aesthetics from an earlier time as it welcomes visitors from across the United

[www.DavenportHouseMuseum.org](http://www.DavenportHouseMuseum.org)

*A property of Historic Savannah Foundation  
www.myHSF.org*



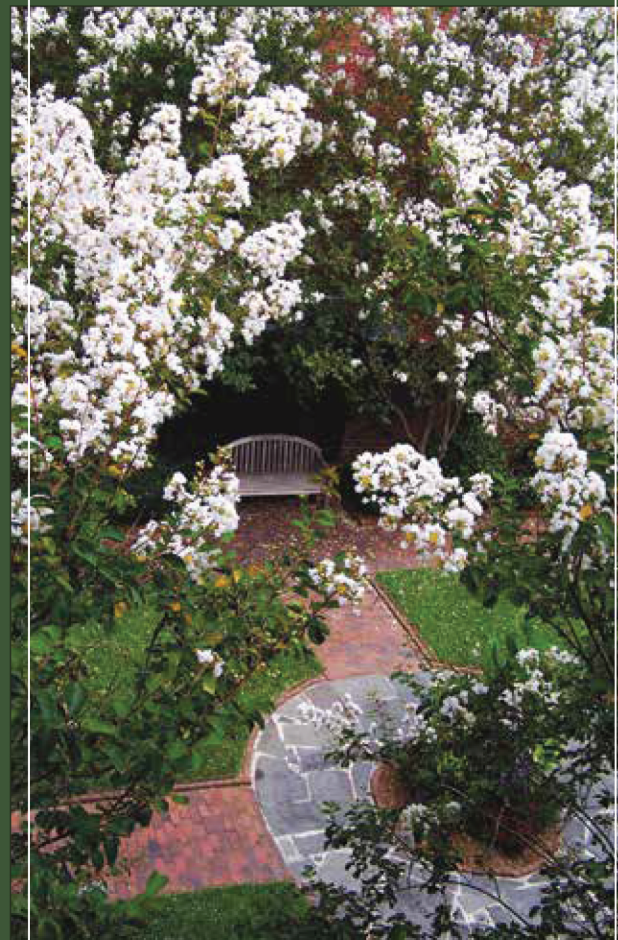
**DAVENPORT  
H O U S E  
M U S E U M**

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# Davenport House Garden

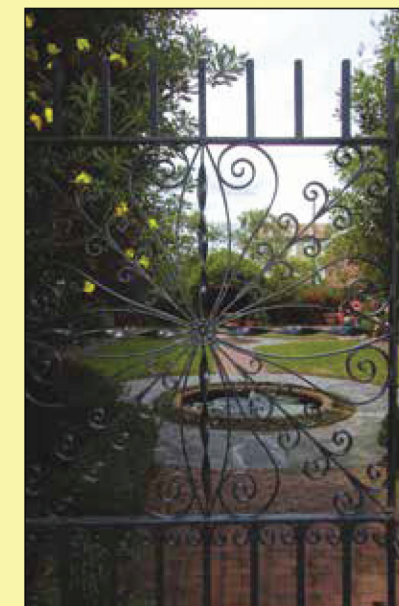
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA



**DAVENPORT  
H O U S E  
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## The Courtyard and Garden We Enjoy Today

are not what the Davenports would have seen from their windows in the 1820s. At the time, most urban lots were functional rather than decorative. Their

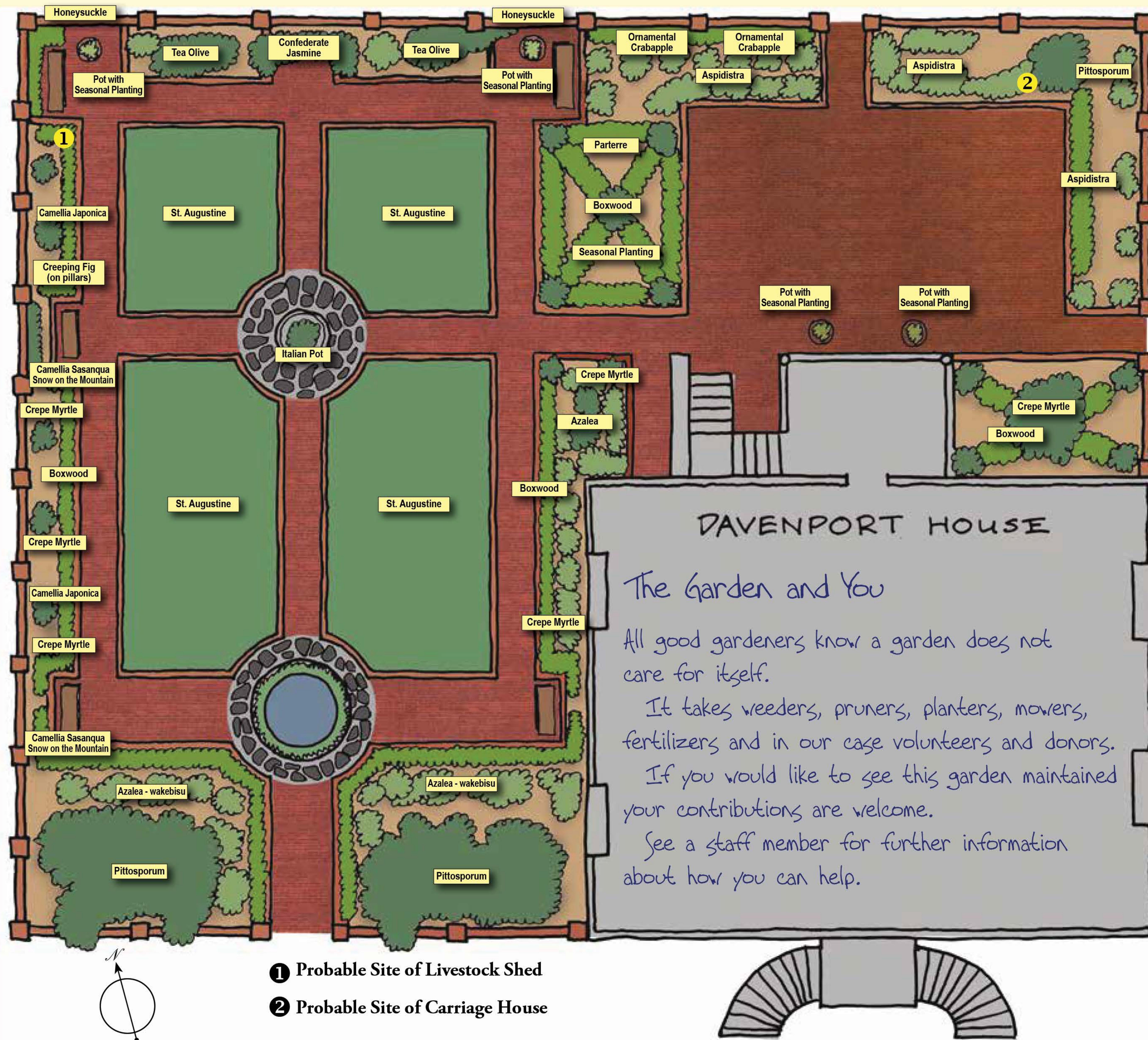


was utilitarian space. There would have been a privy, carriage house, horse shed, wood pile, and well. The 1828 inventory taken at the time of Isaiah Davenport's death lists "1 waggon & 2 horses" which were kept on the property. There would probably not have been space

for a kitchen garden in the planned city of the early 19th century.

## As Years Passed,

what had been the Davenports' property was sold to other owners and their garden became the location of an apartment building and a parking lot for the funeral home across the street. In 1975, as a Bicentennial project, Savannah's Trustees' Garden Club created the charming garden of today following research into antebellum gardens of coastal Georgia. The Club purchased an adjoining lot and worked with designer Cy Paumier of Land Design/Research of Columbia, Maryland who was commissioned to create the Davenport House Garden. By 2000, a rethinking of the plant materials and garden features took place. The 1975 design was altered to create a more easily maintained environment. Internationally known landscape designer



**DAVENPORT HOUSE**

*The Garden and You*

All good gardeners know a garden does not care for itself.

It takes weeders, pruners, planters, mowers, fertilizers and in our case volunteers and donors.

If you would like to see this garden maintained your contributions are welcome.

See a staff member for further information about how you can help.

# Many of Our Garden Plantings

are seasonal. Plantings are seasonal. Savannah's location (zone 8b) is in the Coastal Plain along the Savannah River. The climate is categorized as temperate tropical. On average, there are 216 sunny days per year in Savannah. The July high is around 92 degrees with high humidity. The January low is 39. Savannah's soil is fertile and friable and the water table high, but drainage is very good.



## Garden Features

- Arbor
- Bluestone
- Espaliered Shrubs
- Ironwork
- Italian Pots
- Parterre
- Pond
- Teak Benches
- Savannah Grey Bricks



## Trees:

- Ornamental Crabapple
- Crepe Myrtle
- Tea Olive



## Shrubs:

- Azalea
- Camellia japonica
- Camellia sasanqua
- Pittosporum
- Wintergreen Boxwood

## Vines:

- Creeping Fig
- English Ivy
- Red Honeysuckle
- Confederate Jasmine



## Grass:

- St. Augustine

## Other Plants to See:

- Aspidistra
- Dwarf Mondo
- Fatsia
- Holly Fern
- Pond Lilies
- Seasonal Plantings in Pots
- Stokesia
- Variegated Ardisia

