



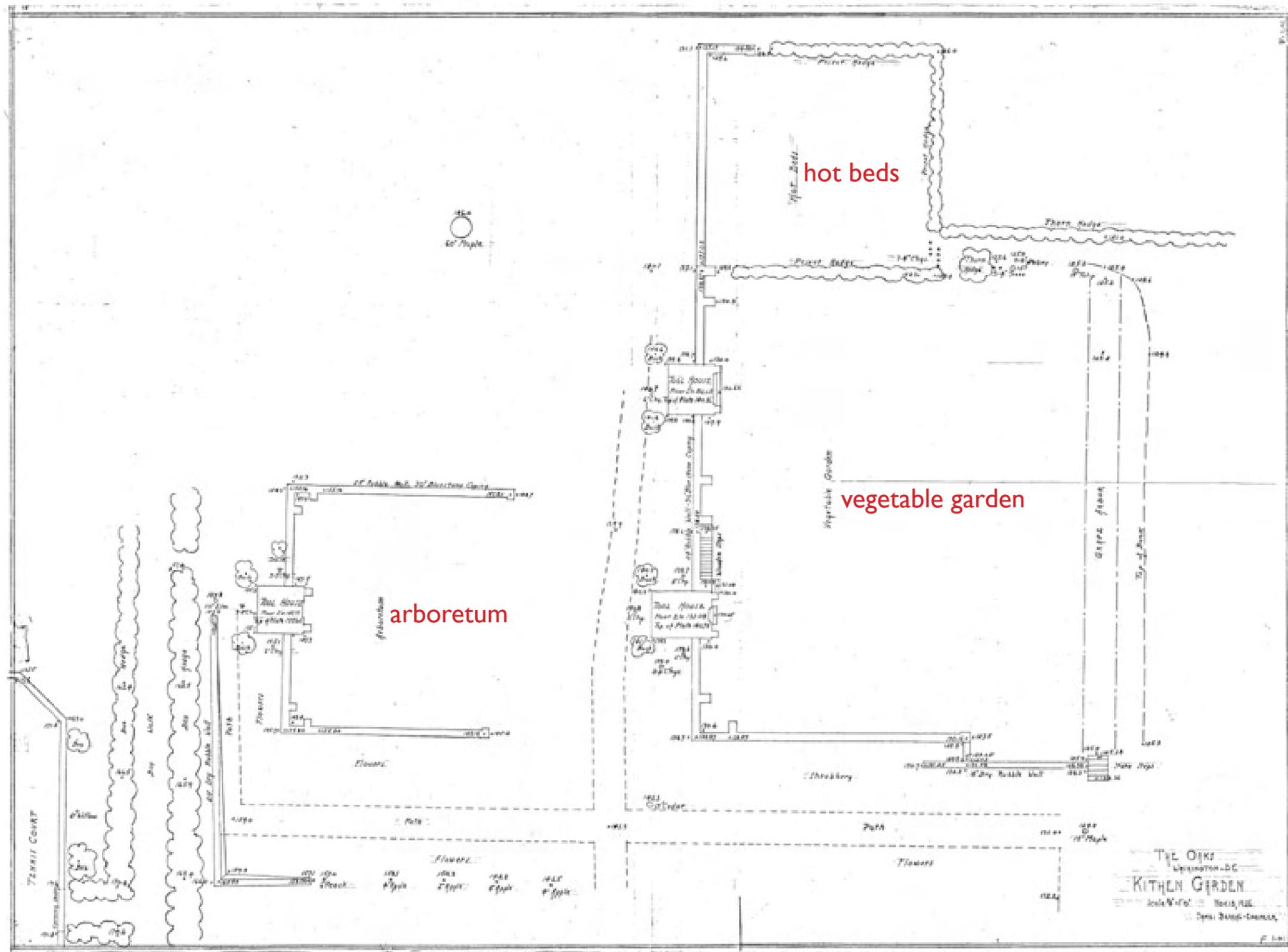
# Dumbarton Oaks Kitchen Gardens 1922-2009

Emily Rogers  
Landscape Conservation Intern  
Summer 2009

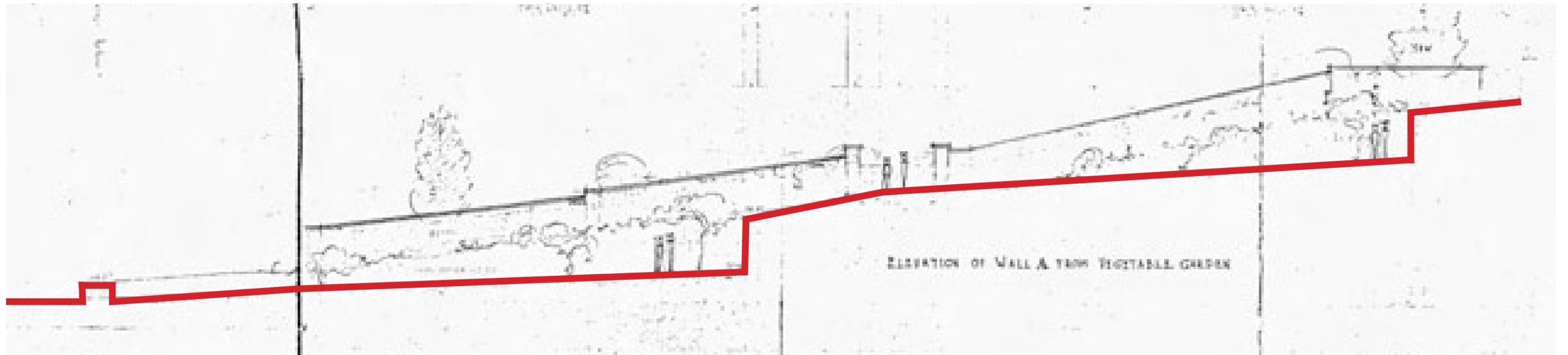
Obviously the place for the big kitchen garden is in the area between the present gardener's house and the east terrace. The survey shows it to be the only approximately level part of the ground and there is no reason why it should not be worked attractively into the scheme of walks leading from the house around the boundaries. The cutting garden should be thought out as a part of this scheme and espaliered and cordon, small fruit and large, should be planted on either side of the walks and also on the hillsides sloping down from the terraces to the garden. This would seem to tie the whole scheme of house, terrace and green garden, swimming pool and kitchen garden, into a unit.

"THE OAKS."  
Beatrix Farrand to Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
June 24, 25, 1922

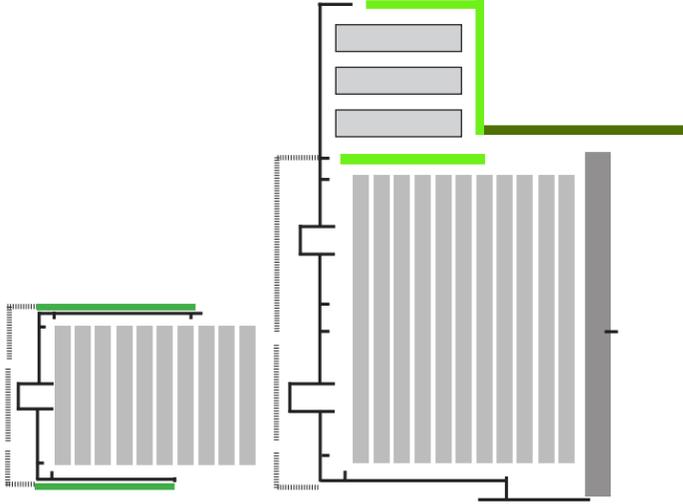
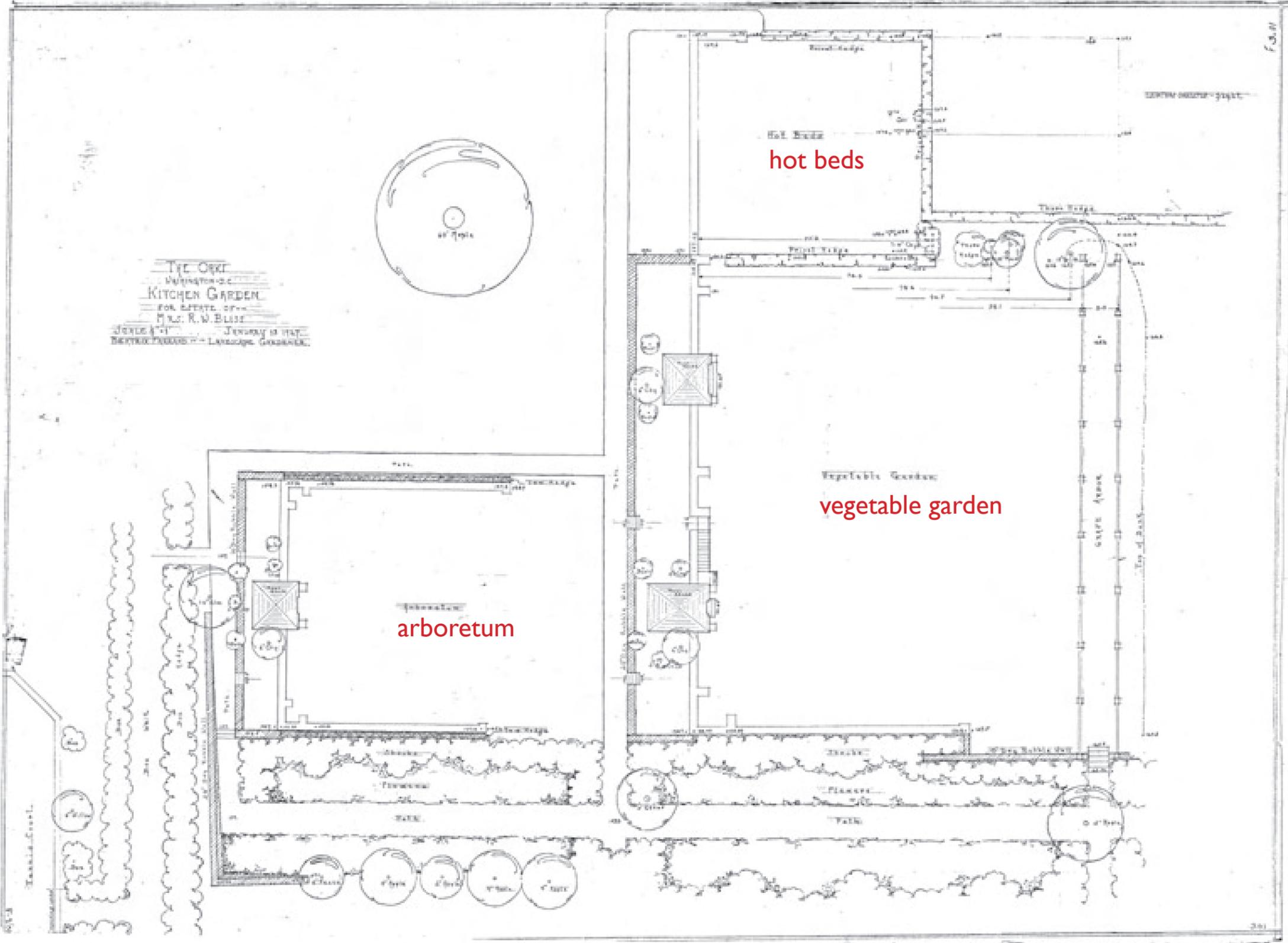
# Kitchen Gardens: Draft Plan



Elevation of Vegetable Garden Wall  
Looking South



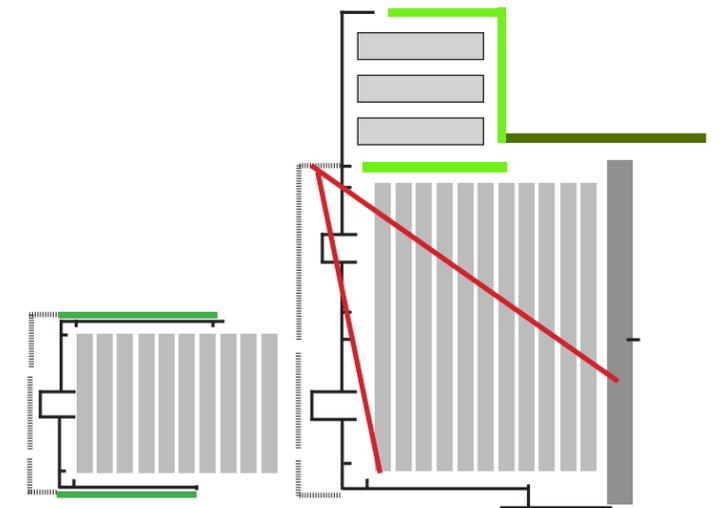
Kitchen Gardens: Final Plan



# Vegetable Cultivation Summer 1927



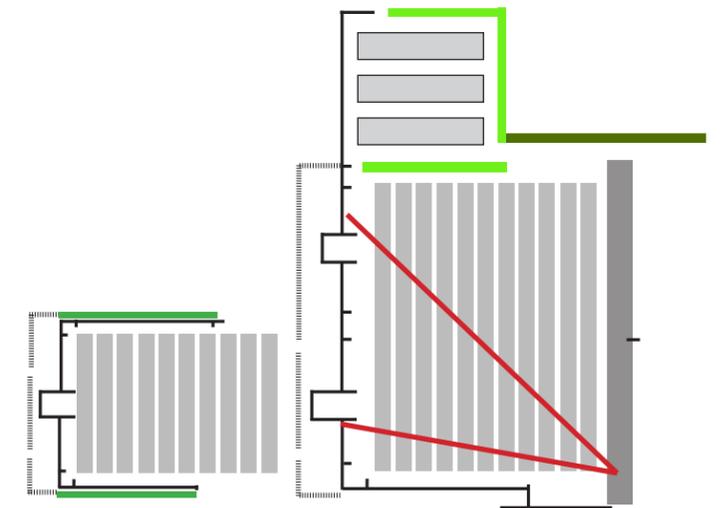
- corn
- tomatoes
- bush beans or potatoes
- cucumbers or melons?
- beets?
- garlic or onions
- aspaagus



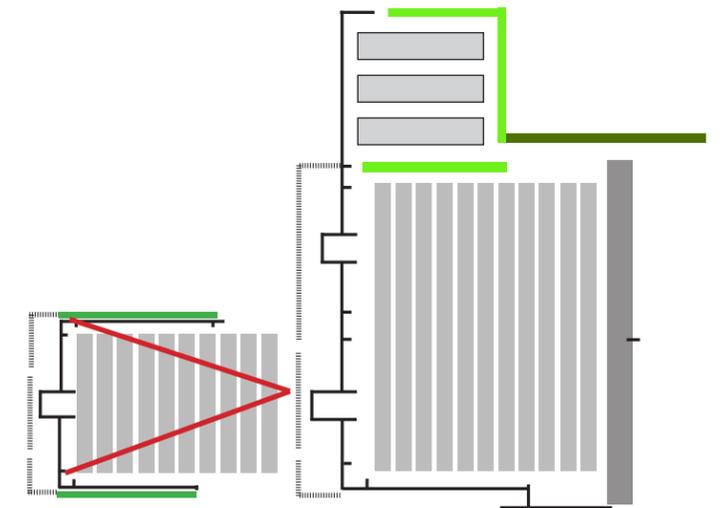
# Vegetable Cultivation Summer 1929



- asparagus
- potatoes or beans
- onions
- beet or potatoes
- radish?
- lettuce?
- tomatoes

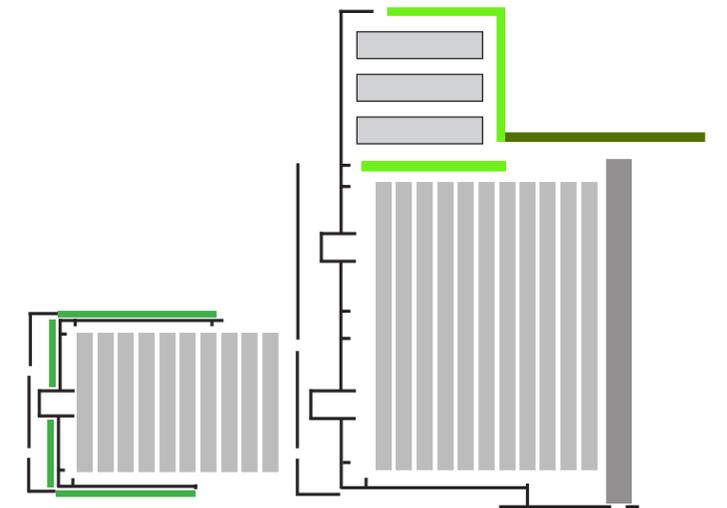


Flower Cultivation  
circa 1927-1933



## Farrand's vision for Dumbarton Oaks as an Institution

In order to provide for replacement of the plants which seem inevitably associated with Dumbarton Oaks it may be wise to start a small nursery for Box, Yew, Holly, Oaks, and other plants which are costly to buy in large size.



Report Submitted to the Chairman of the Dumbarton  
Oaks Administration Board, on the Grounds of Dumbarton  
Oaks Research Library and Collection  
Beatrix Farrand  
12.16.41

# Demonstration Garden for Victory Gardeners



3/26/43

**THIS IS THE WAY WE PLANT THE BEETS**—Victory garden leaders were taught by professionals yesterday at the Dumbarton Oaks estate in Georgetown. Mrs. Joseph Ballantine, Mrs. J. J. Murphy, Mrs. Charles Daly, jr.; Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney, Owen J. Le Prevost, James Bryce, Mrs. Edith Markus and Mrs. John H. Collier watch Matthew M. Kearney plant beets. Mr. Le Prevost is gardener of the Lothrop estate in Virginia. Mr. Bryce is head gardener at Dumbarton Oaks and Mr. Kearney his assistant. —Star Staff Photo.

## D.C. Victory Gardeners Advised By Professional Soil Tillers

James Bryce of Dumbarton Oaks Gives AWVS Demonstration

James Bryce, head gardener of the Dumbarton Oaks estate in Georgetown, is giving garden leaders of the American Women's Voluntary Services demonstrations in the elementary techniques of gardening.

About a dozen women stood about in the warm sunshine yesterday, watched every move and asked countless questions. Mr. Bryce was working with two of his fellow members in the Washington section of the National Association of Gardeners; his assistant, Matthew M. Kearney, and Owen J. Le Prevost, gardener at the A. M. Lothrop estate in nearby Virginia.

So interested were the women that they made him promise to give a demonstration in spading and other work of soil preparation on Sunday morning for their husbands. The demonstration will be at 9:30 o'clock and men interested in the Victory garden movement are welcome to attend.

### Plot Is Sunken Garden.

The plot used is the sunken garden of the old estate now owned by Harvard University. The space between the stone walls and flagstone walks is about the size of the typical victory garden plot. No plow was used to break the soil. Professional gardeners scorn use of the plow even for fairly good-sized spaces.

In this connection, Mr. Bryce said, would-be gardeners should not despair because it is impossible to get plows and plowmen in the city to turn the many vacant lots made available to gardeners. Even if a plot was plowed, which does make it easier, he would go over it with a spade or a fork. A plot is best prepared that is spaded, he said,

and it is not such back-breaking work as most people fear, if it is done right.

Yesterday's was the second demonstration given by the gardeners to the women. Another one will be given Thursday at 2 p.m. and he intends to continue the demonstrations right through May.

In addition to the preparation of the soil, the gardeners showed their interested watchers how much fertilizer to add for the different plantings. Spacing between the rows of different vegetables and depth of the seed were also explained.

"It's a good rule for an amateur to put the seed in at a depth four times the actual measurement of the seed itself," he told them.

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, former owner of the estate, has offered a half acre at Massachusetts avenue and Whitehaven street N.W. for the use of victory gardeners and several plots there have been assigned. Mr. Bryce is advising the gardeners there.

Arlington County defense zones are busy organizing their garden groups. A meeting will be held at 8 o'clock tonight at the home of Mrs. Margerie W. Prytherch, 2327 South Hayes street, for citizens of Zone 22 interested in gardening. Zone 22 includes Aurora Hill, Virginia Highlands and Oakcrest.

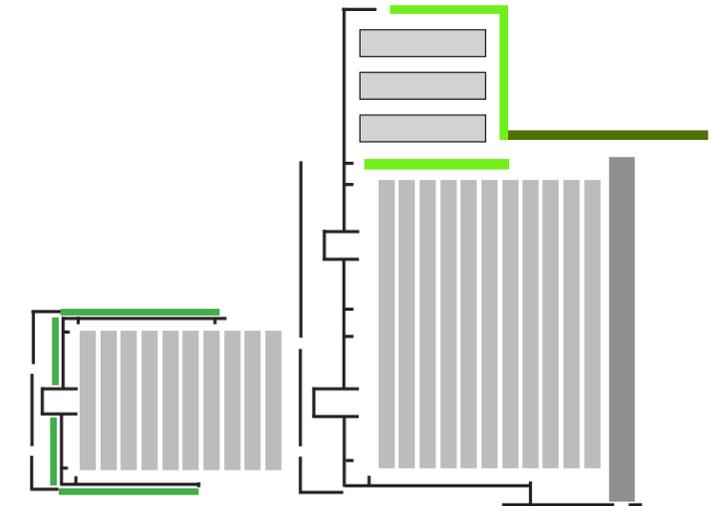
More land is needed all over the city. If you are the owner of a vacant lot or a large backyard suitable for grading fill the coupon above and mail it to the garden editor of The Star. Your offer will be brought to the attention of the District Victory Garden Committee.

## Woman Gets 20 Years For Kidnaping Baby

By the Associated Press.  
COLUMBUS, Ohio, Mr. Ruby Cremeans, a 23-year Virginian who married

sentenced to 20 years on yesterday for from St. Ann's. She showed she said: "It was craving I think, I even?"

Ed. W.P.



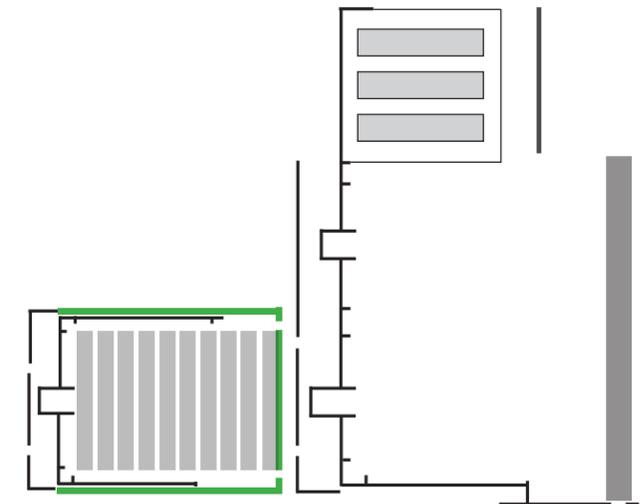
Mildred Bliss to Beatrix Farrand  
August 29, 1944

P.S. Bryce has just asked me if the order not to plant vegetables is definite. If so, he will convert the space into a nursery. I told him that I would speak to you again about it and I shall ask Thatcher today, or to-morrow. My own opinion is that it would be a mistake to suppress the vegetables. This year, for instance, Mrs. Fitch would have been unable to properly provide for the Scholars and Fellows had she not had the con-serves put up at Dumbarton Oaks, and obviously the quality is much better than what <sup>one</sup> can buy.

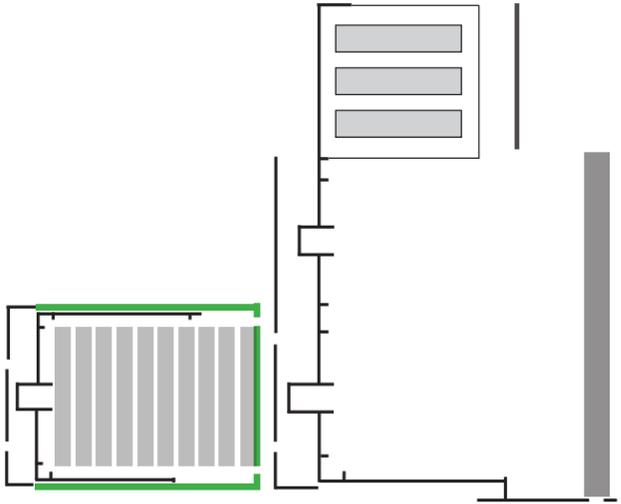
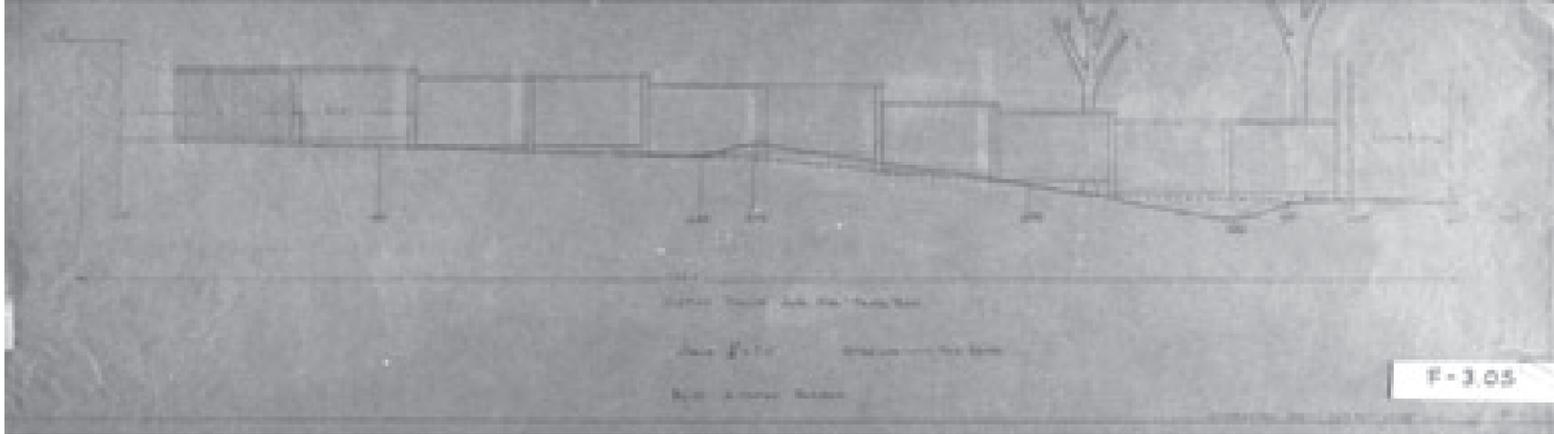
Dearest Mildred:

Very neglectfully the question as to growing vegetables at Dumbarton Oaks was not answered in my last letter. This subject is one which is constantly brought up by Mr. Thatcher as he seems to feel much inclined to at least try omitting vegetable growing for a year. Mr. Thatcher feels there is considerable work entailed and that the expense in labor is not worth the return in kind. Bryce also confesses that the vegetable garden, while useful, does mean a considerable amount of work, and taking all of these various elements into consideration it would seem to be wise to omit vegetable growing for one year at least as an experiment. If the Quarters costs rise appreciably as the result of not having home-grown vegetables the question will be answered, but otherwise I feel there will always be uncertainty in Mr. Thatcher's mind until there is actual visible proof in the account books. It is of course understood that Bryce and Kearney would be given permission to grow vegetables for themselves in their own over-time, but this is a very different undertaking from producing the amounts needed to feed the students.

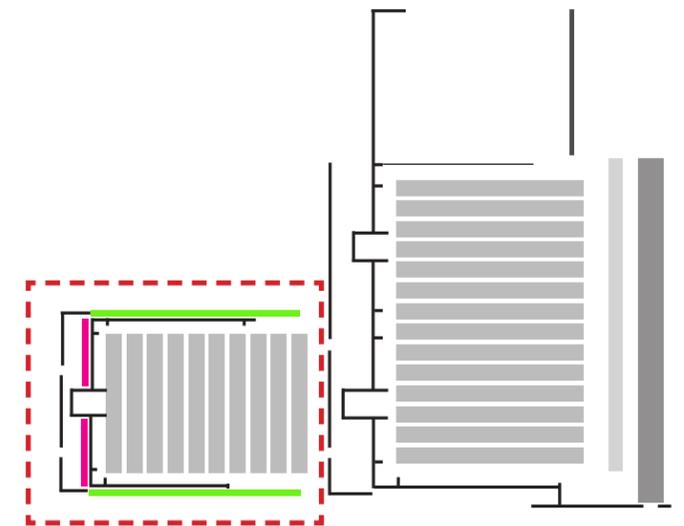
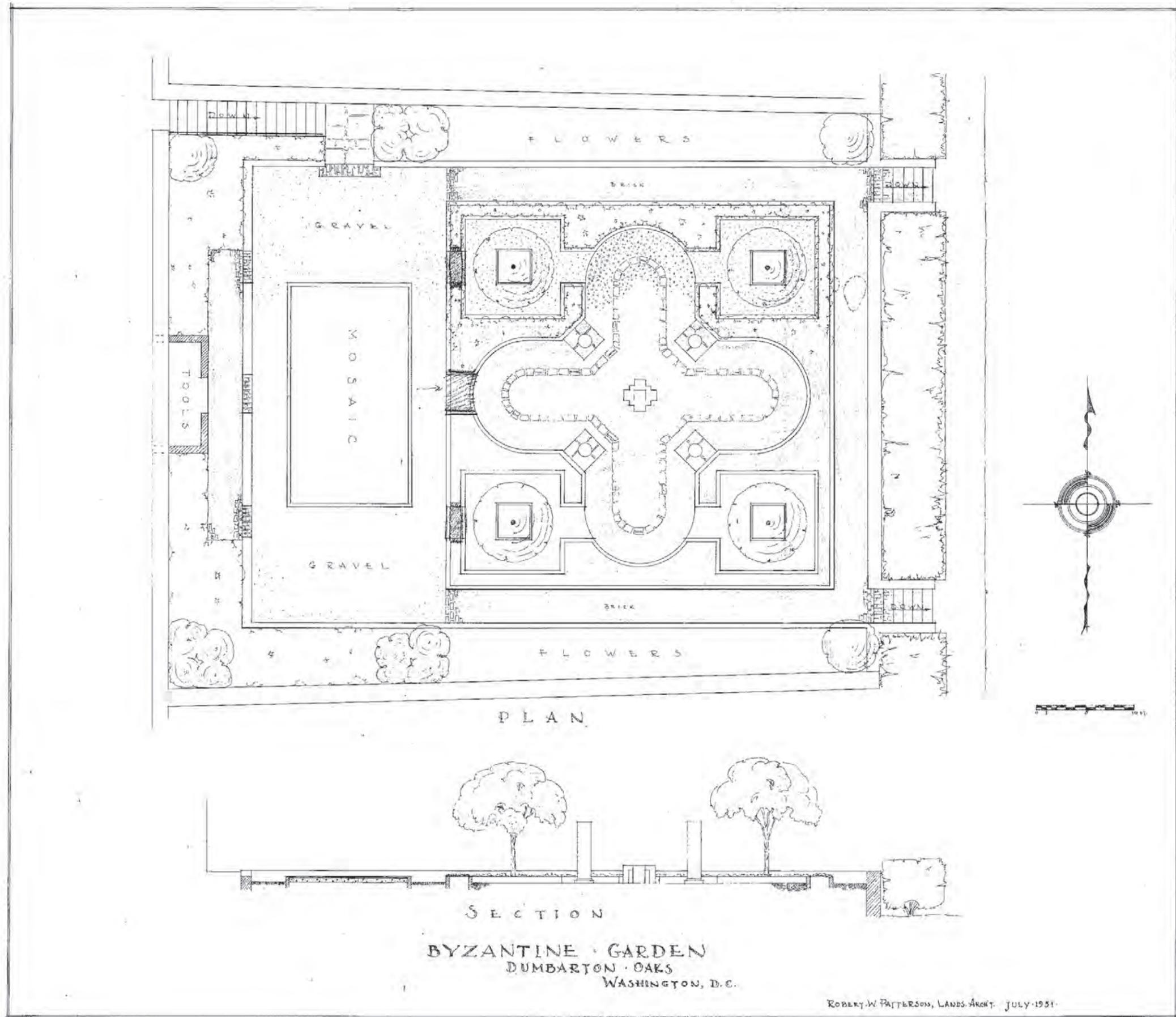
Beatrix Farrand to Mildred Bliss  
September 6, 1944



Frame Yard  
1940's

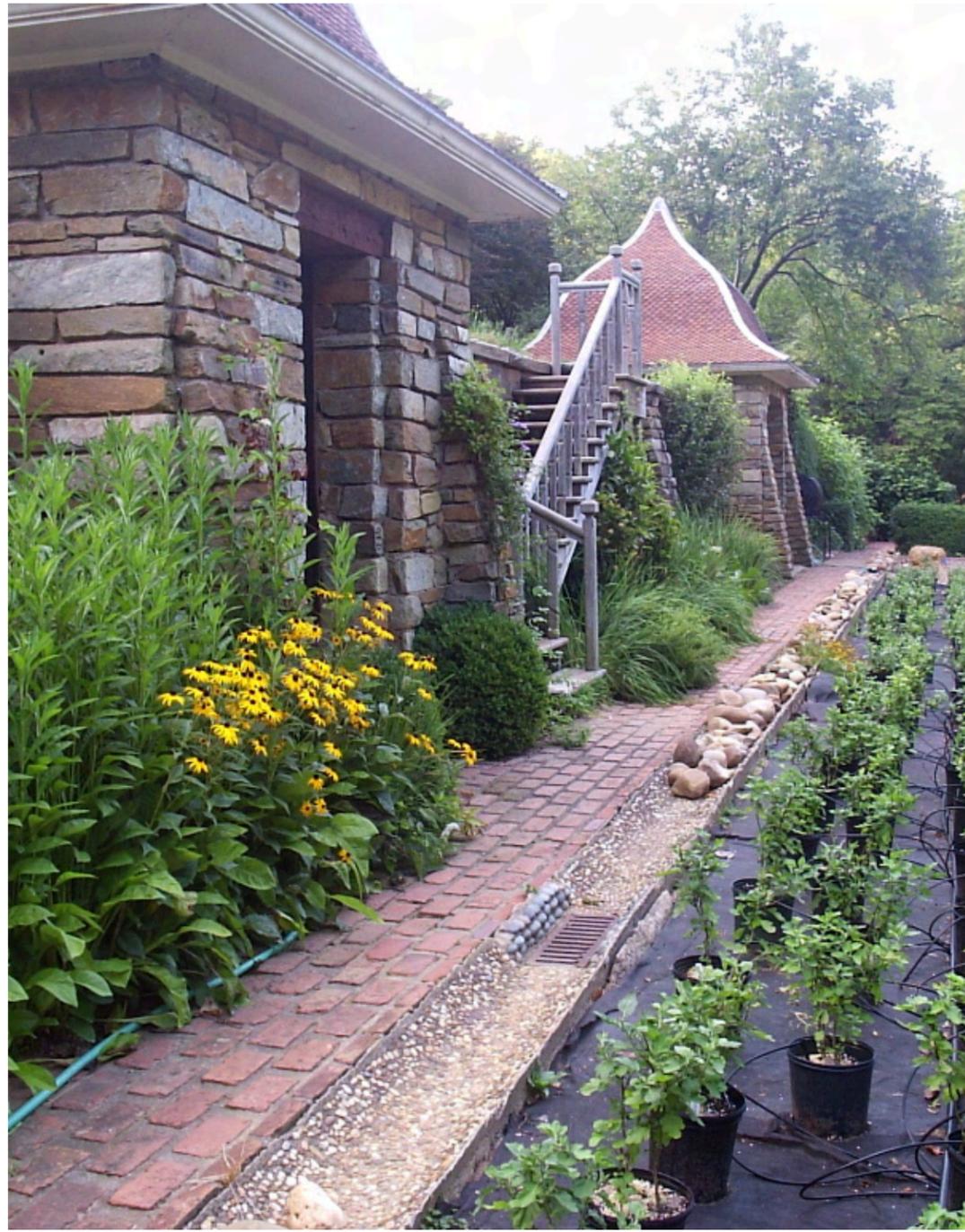


Cutting Garden  
Plan for Byzantine Garden  
Robert W. Patterson, 1951

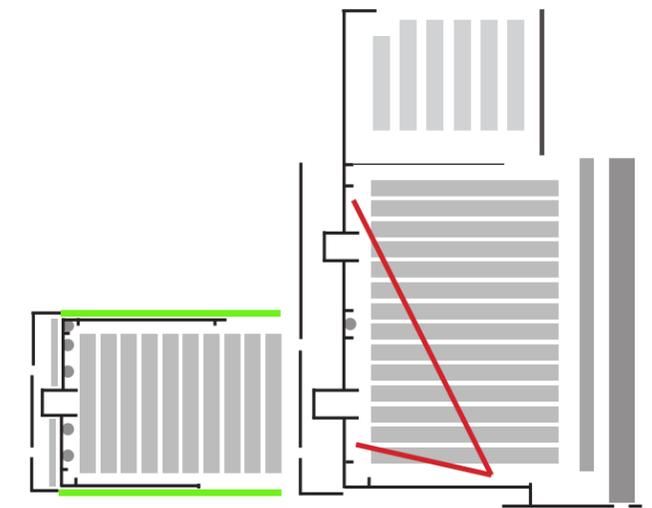




## Vegetable Garden: Drainage 1968



1) Lower Cutting Garden. Many of the chrysanthemums being started for transplanting to borders this summer were drowned out here because of flooding and bad drainage coming down from above. Mr. Kearney proposed, and I approved, building a shallow open drain, running north and south right alongside the path near the west wall, which will connect with an underground drainage system already in place. A pipe will be run all the way out to Lover's Lane, to avoid any possible muddy spots around the arbor. The interior of the open drain will be pebbled. All work will be done this winter by the D.O. crew.



Tool Houses and Stairs  
LA.GP.28.04  
1933?

Tool Houses and Stairs  
2009

Notes on discussions with Mr. Kearney, 8/28/69  
T. Baird

### Peonies Bed (Frame Yard)

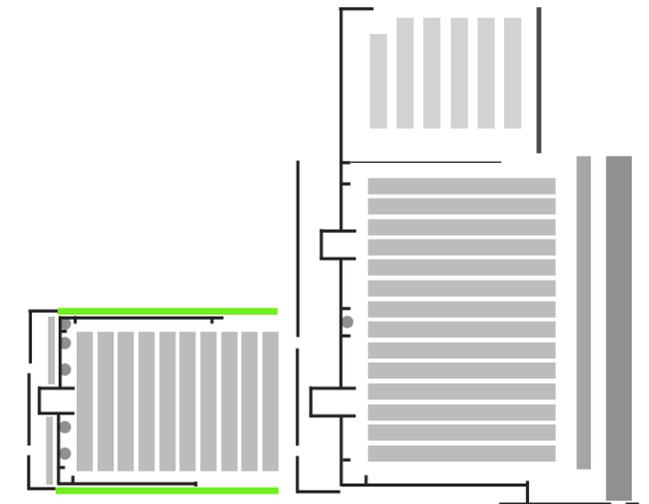
Greenhouse and coldframes removed and area seeded over (1949-50). Peonies planted (1968). Chestnut fence replaced with stained Redwood fence and hedge of Osmanthus (1970).

### Orchard

Apple trees removed and replaced with flowering Crabapples starting in 1955.

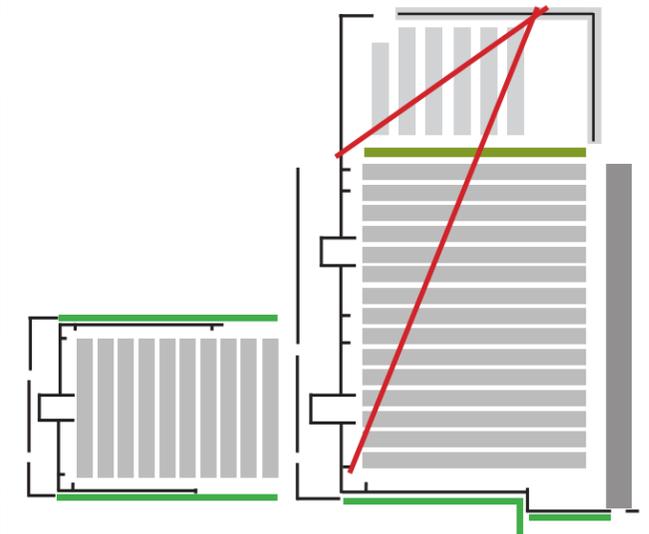
### Plum Walk (1954)

Yew Hedge replaced with 40 *Prunus blireiana* along walk. Privet planted along cutting garden wall. Cononaster planted along stairs to Cherry Hill.

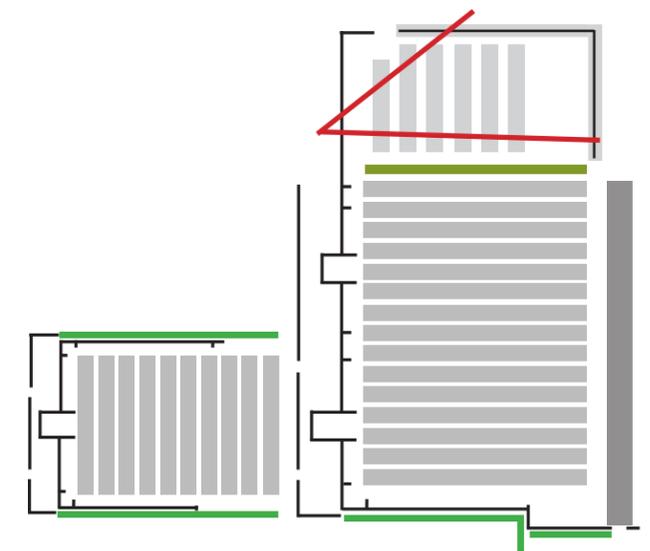


## Enclosure/Plantings 1983

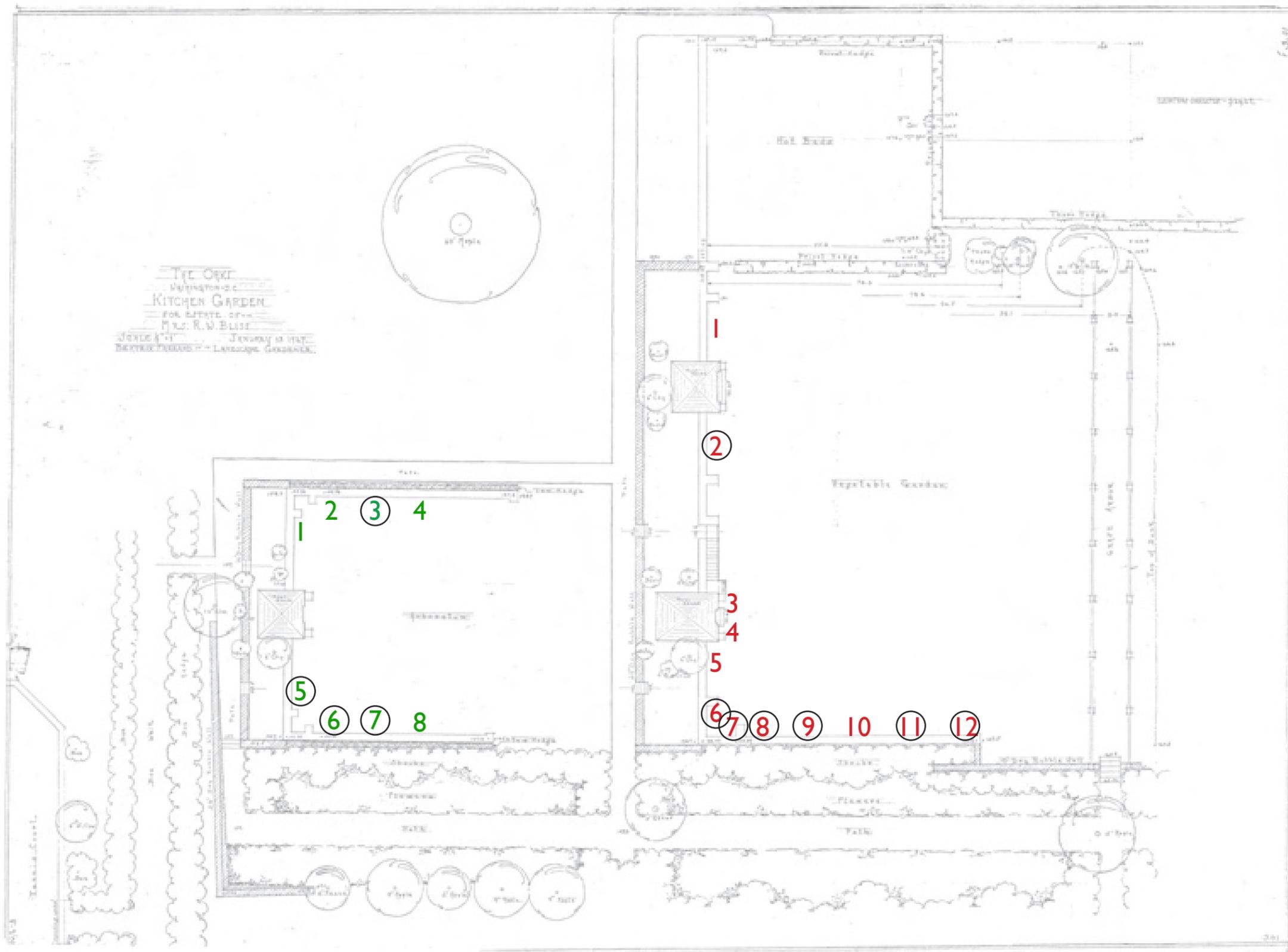
6) At proper time, osmanthus hedges will be put in between lower cutting garden and the new peony-iris garden. Also the present hedge will be removed running to east of lower cutting garden and osmanthus put in its place.



Enclosure/Plantings  
1983



# Espaliered Fruit Trees, 1984



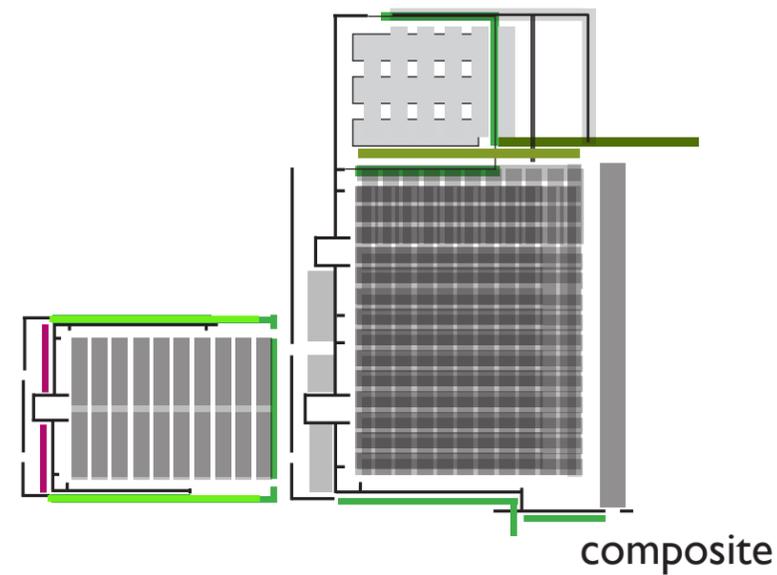
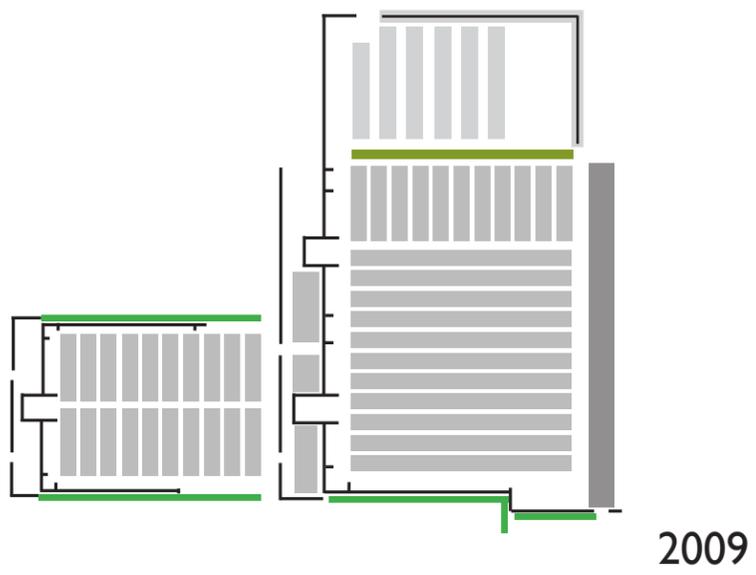
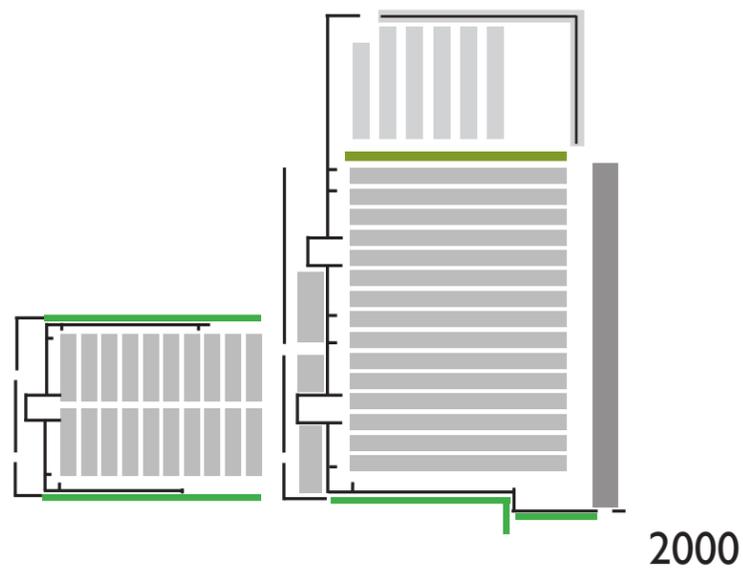
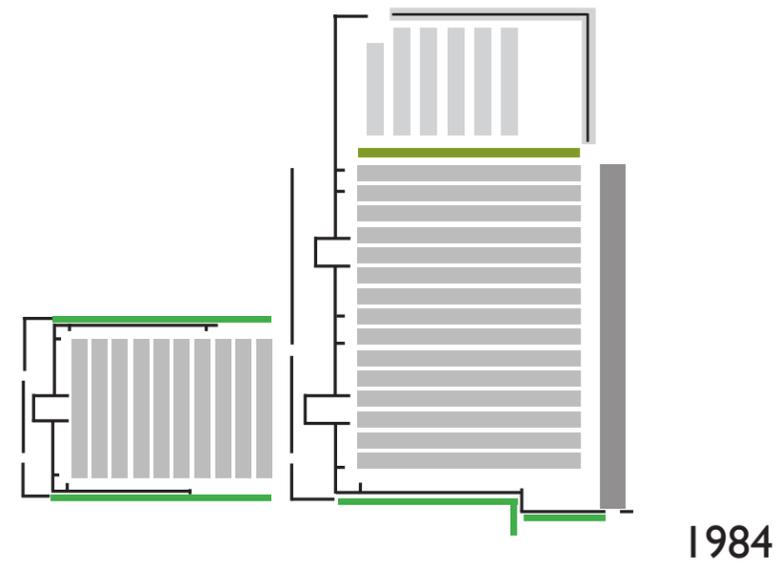
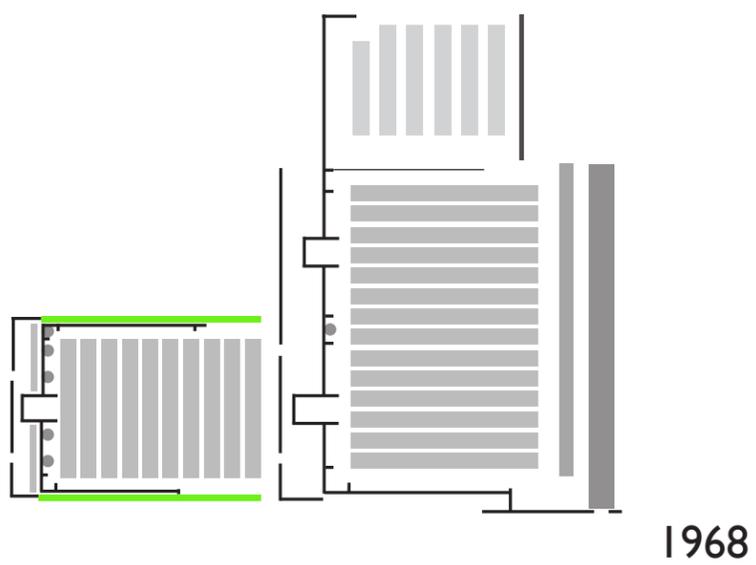
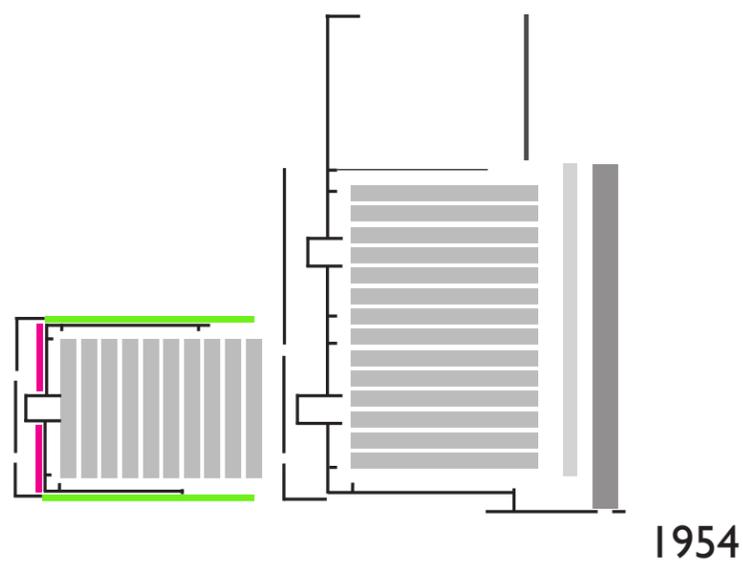
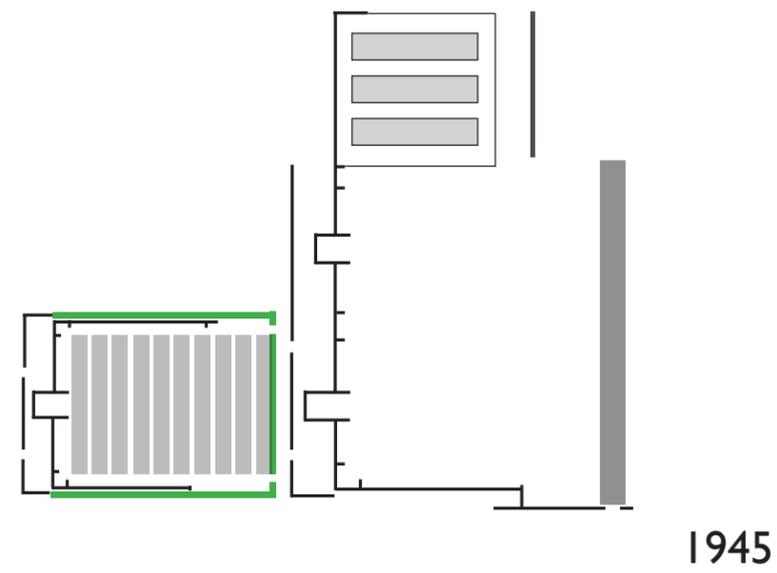
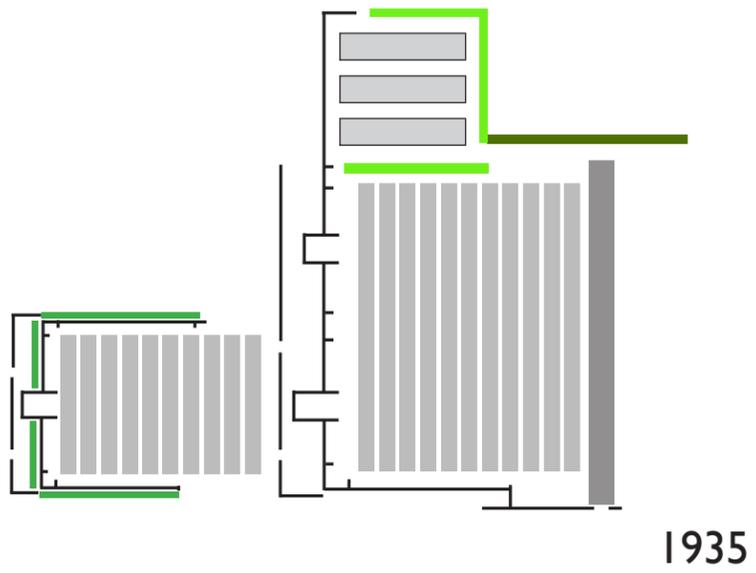
## Cutting Garden

- 1 Apple Irish Peach
- 2 Pear Buerre Superfin
- 3 Plum Green Gage
- 4 Peach George IV
- 5 Apple Akero
- 6 Pear Sheldon
- 7 Plum Perl
- 8 Peach Champion

## Vegetable Garden

- 1 Nectarine Morton
- 2 Peach J.M. Mock
- 3 Nectarine Morton
- 4 Nectarine Morton
- 5 Plum Elephant Heart
- 6 Apple Caville Ablne d'Hiver
- 7 Apple Golden Nugget
- 8 Apple Swaar
- 9 Pear Chapin
- 10 Apple Cox's Orange Pippin
- 11 Pear Comice
- 12 Apple Golden Russet

○ Existing, 2009



Vegetable Garden  
2009



salad greens  
okra  
cucumbers



radishes  
beets  
potatoes

garlic  
onions  
peas



bush beans  
pole beans



okra  
artihokes  
peppers  
eggplant



tomatoes

tomatillos  
tomatoes



tomatoes

# Salad Greens 2009



Salad Greens  
2009





## Reccomendations for next year

greens:

omit head lettuces

add romaine lettuce

try again with spinach, hope for better germination

continue with Asian mesculun and Burpee Mixes

increase number of beds to utilize entire E-W strip

include kholrabi, possibly buleberries

provide for adequate maintenance: kitchen garden intern

fewer tomato plants per bed

plan in winter for three crop cycles so new can be germinated and planted as pervious crops finish

ontinue efforts to compost garden waste and generate compost tea



# Edible Plants at Dumbarton Oaks



- Vegetables
  - Squash
  - Tomatoes
  - Beans
  - Cucumbers
- Vegetable Beds

Mixed Herbs

## Fruit Trees/Vines

- Apples
- Pears
- Fig
- Chinese Quince
- Persimmon
- Bitter Orange
- Pomegranate
- Cornelian Cherry
- Serviceberry