

GENERAL HISTORY

Wyck served as the ancestral home of one Germantown family from 1690 until 1973 and contains authentic family furnishings and possessions from each generation. The house and its contents, gardens, and outbuildings were lovingly preserved and cared for by nine generations of Milans, Jansens, Wistars, and Haineses. The house, renovated by noted architect, William Strickland in 1824, contains over 10,000 original family belongings from each generation, ranging from the ordinary to the extraordinary—household furniture and furnishings,

clothing, toys, scientific, agricultural, and industrial instruments, natural history specimens, and Native American artifacts. Wyck's 1820s old rose garden still grows in its original plan and is a rare survival of its time, unique in the nation.

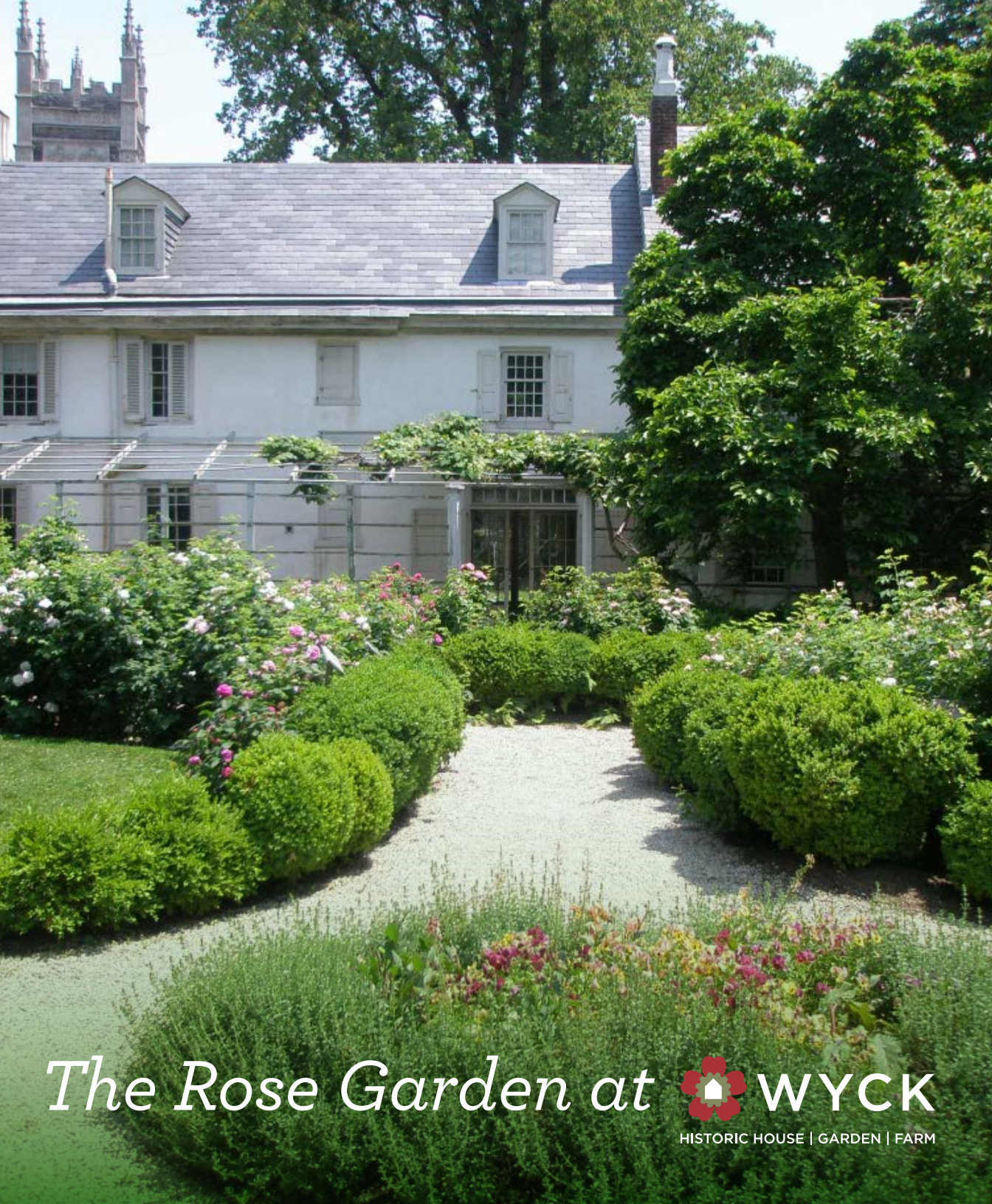
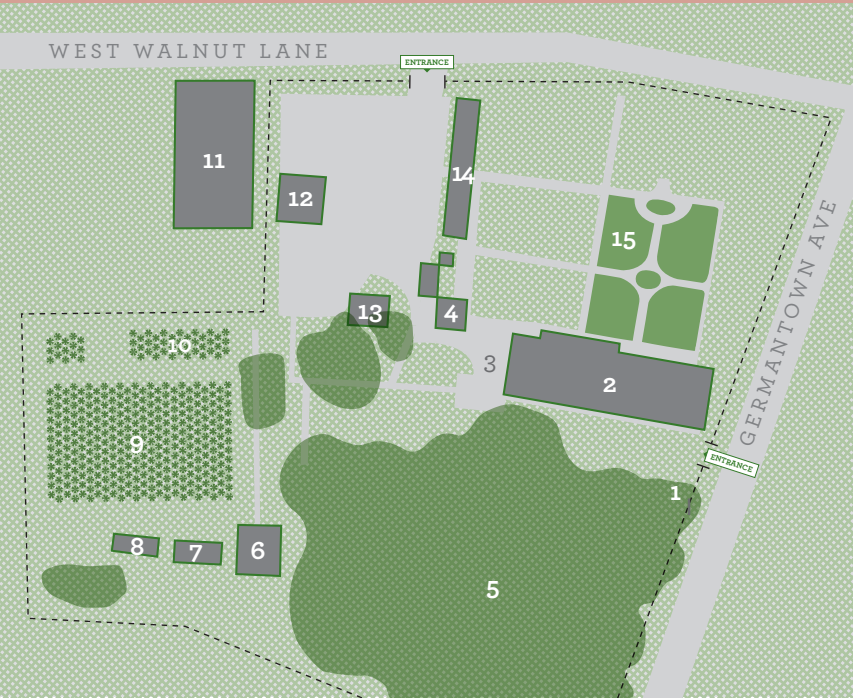
Other features of Wyck's site include perennial gardens, a woodlot, fruit trees, extensive vegetable and herb gardens, and outbuildings from the late 18th-century through the early 20th-century. In addition, over 100,000 personal papers, such as diaries, photos, account books, and letters, tell the story of this

Germantown family.

The family members who lived at Wyck balanced tradition and innovation in every aspect of their lives. Quaker values and aesthetics are evidenced in the house and garden and in the family's legacy as philanthropists, innovators, educators, applied horticulturists, and social reformers.

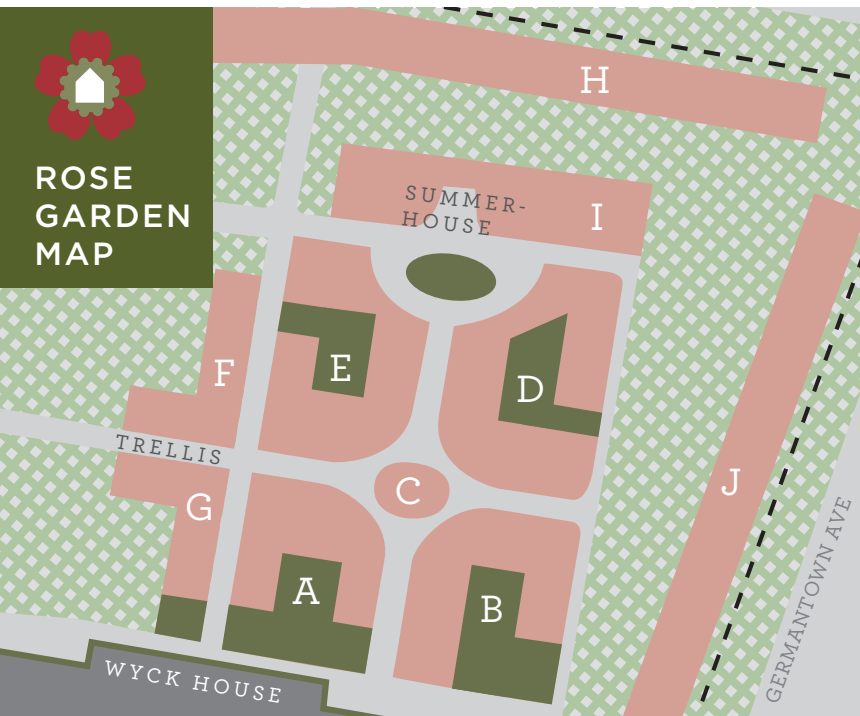
Wyck connects this family and its rich history in Germantown to our community today through programs that focus on history, horticulture, and urban agriculture, using the past as inspiration for the future.

- 1 PROPERTY FENCE
- 2 WYCK HOUSE
- 3 PUMP AND WATER SYSTEM
- 4 SMOKE HOUSE
- 5 SOUTH LAWN AND WOODLOT
- 6 COACH HOUSE
- 7 GREENHOUSE
- 8 CHICKEN COOP
- 9 HOME FARM
- 10 COLD FRAMES
- 11 BARN
(now a private residence)
- 12 EDUCATION CENTER
- 13 ICE HOUSE
- 14 RESTROOMS
- 15 ROSE GARDEN



THE Wyck Rose Garden in Germantown, Philadelphia, dates to the 1820s and is widely recognized as the oldest rose garden in its original plan in America, with 50+ cultivars of historic roses. Included in the garden are the original rose plants from the 19th century design, as well as plants from the 18th century kitchen garden.

late October, Wyck’s historic roses are remarkable for their beauty as well as for their fragrance, which fills the garden. Wyck is a rare wonder for garden lovers and an important repository of plants that have disappeared from other historic gardens.



Aglaia
Intro. 1896
Class: Hybrid Multiflora (once blooming)
Aglaia was planted at Wyck prior to 1910. Absent from nursery catalogues for many years, Leonie Bell found it growing up through an overgrown mock orange against the chimney wall that fronts Germantown Avenue. “Camouflaged by the orange-centered white bloom of the Philadelphus, and struggling to reach sunlight, the limber canes must have been twelve feet long.” At the turn of the century it was better known as “Yellow Rambler” and was widely planted.

Blush Noisette
Intro. c. 1817
Class: Noisette (reblooming)
Bred by

the American John Champneys but distributed by the Noisette brothers, ‘Blush Noisette’ is a seedling of ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’ and the origin of the Noisette class. Phillip Noisette sent seedlings of ‘Champney’s Pink Cluster’ to his brother Louis in France, where future offspring caught the attention of famous court painter Redoute, thus beginning the popularity of this class.

Rosa gallica var. officinalis

(Apothecary Rose)
c. 1300
Class: Gallica (once blooming)
Also called the “Provins Rose” after the region to the south-east of Paris where it has been grown commercially for cosmetic, medicinal and culinary purposes since the late 13th century. Possibly brought back to France from the crusades, the petals, though not as fragrant as other roses, hold their fragrance for a long time when dried. Though not actually red, the Apothecary Rose was adopted as the badge of the House of Lancaster.

FEATURED ROSES

From the collection of 50+ types



Pink Leda
Intro. c. 1827
Class: Damask (once blooming)
This is the rose thought to be in Hannah Marshall

Haines’ kitchen garden. Jane Bowne Haines retained the roses from the kitchen garden, incorporating them into a newer formal plan. ‘Pink Leda’, which may or may not be a blush sport of white ‘Leda’, has probably been growing at Wyck since the late 1700s.



“Elegant Gallica”
Class: Gallica (once blooming)
“Elegant Gallica” was found at Wyck when

the Rosarian Leonie Bell was invited to assess the abandoned garden in 1972. Undescribed and unnamed, but more elegant than any gallica she knew, Ms. Bell named the rose “Elegant Gallica” and distributed it to a nursery and historic center for plants. All plants in trade today come from the original “Elegant Gallica” at Wyck.



“Lafayette”
c. 1825
Class: Gallica x Damask Hybrid (once blooming)
General Lafayette

toured the United States in 1825 to celebrate the Declaration of Independence’s 50th anniversary. A party in his honor was hosted at Wyck during his stay in Germantown; it is thought that this rose was planted to memorialize that visit. This rose is still technically unnamed—the Rosarian Leonie Bell thought it could be ‘Lafayette’.



Celsiana
Intro. c. 1817
Class: Damask (once blooming)
A rose with deep roots locally, ‘Celsiana’

was so widely grown in Germantown by the 1750s that it was locally called the “Germantown Damask”. It was also known as the “Tobacco Rose” because its fragrant petals were added medicinally to tobacco. It is named after Jacques-Martin Cels, a horticultural author who first described the variety.

ROSE GARDEN KEY

A “Lafayette”
Baltimore Belle
Rosa palustris ‘Scandens’
Rosa setigera

B Rose de Rescht
Rosa gallica var. *officinalis* (Apothecary Rose)
Rosa gallica versicolor (Rose Mundi)
Tuscany
William Lobb
Centifolia
Rosa moschata semi plena (Musk Rose)
Rosa majalis plena (Cinnamon Rose)
Leda
Aglaia

C Marchesa Boccella
Baronne Prevost
Victor Verdier

D Celsiana
Rose de Rescht
Le Reine
Shailer’s Provence
Hermosa
“Single Pink”
White Pearl in Red Dragon’s Mouth
(Miss Wilmot’s Crimson)

E Rouletti
Frau Karl Druschki
Clytemnestra
Red Smith’s Parish
Trinity
Chloris
“Elegant Gallica”

F Laure Davoust
La Belle Sultane
Kazanlik
“Elegant Gallica”
Celsiana
Silver Moon

G *Rosa spinosissima* (Scotch Rose)
Champneys’ Pink Cluster
Pompon de Bourgogne
Blush Noisette
Rosa carolina plena
Pink Leda

H American Pillar
Seven Sisters
Dr. W. Van Fleet

I *Rosa rubrifolia*
Pink Leda
Alba Maxima
Banshee

J Arcata Pink Globe
Danae
Bella Donna
Leonie Lamesch
Champneys’ Pink Cluster
La Reine
Multiflore de Vaumarcus
Harrison’s Yellow
Paul’s Himalayan Musk

FRONT OF HOUSE

Dorothy Perkins
Lamarque
American Pillar
Tausendschon
Jaune Desprez

FARM | *Rosa rugosa*