

South Carolina Historic Landscape Survey Form

1. **Name of garden/historic site** The Nancy Bryan Luce Garden

2. **Location**

Street & Number: 1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd

City or Town: Moncks Corner, SC

Zip Code: 29461-479 County: Berkeley

3. **Geographical Data**

Size (acres): 1 acre

USGS Quadrangle (mark in pencil): Kittredge

UTM References (optional): _____

Zone: 17 Northing: 5977471 Easting: 3664699

4. **Owner/Administrator**

Name: The Catholic Diocese of Berkeley County South Carolina

Address: 1098 Mepkin Abbey Road

Telephone: (843) 761-8509 E-mail: community@mepkinabbey.org

Contact Name/Title: Father Guerric

Telephone: (843) 761-8509 Email: guerric@mepkinabbey.org

Check one:

☒ Private

☐ Public- local

☐ Public- state

☐ Public – federal

5. **Landscape Type**

Setting (Check where appropriate)

☐ Urban

☐ Small city/town

☒ Rural

☐ Suburban

Significant characteristics of the garden/historic site that warrant preservation:

The garden was designed by notable landscape architect Loutrel Brigs. It is an excellent example of a complex terraced garden design that is unique to the South Carolina Lowcountry. It is also an excellent example of a grading and drainage systems that were employed at this time

Type of Garden/Historic Site (check all that apply)

- ☐ naturalistic/informal garden
- ☐ colonial revival garden
- ☒ formal garden
- ☐ rose garden
- ☐ woodland garden
- ☐ kitchen garden
- ☐ water garden
- ☐ parterre garden
- ☐ perennial garden
- ☒ cemetery
- ☐ park
- ☐ battlefield
- ☐ square/commons
- ☐ public buildings
- ☐ farm
- ☐ monument grounds
- ☐ fort/other military site
- ☐ other – please describe: _____

General description of garden:

The garden is an eight tier terraced garden defined by intricate brick work and flower beds predominately containing camellias and azaleas. Several large live oaks surround the garden.

Garden elements and features (check all that apply)

- ☐ residence
- ☐ historic building
- ☐ new building (constructed within the last 50 years)
- ☒ containers/raised beds
- ☐ paving
- ☒ garden paths
- ☐ benches/seats
- ☒ statuary
- ☐ fences
- ☐ gazebo
- ☐ arbors/pergolas/trellises
- ☐ tool shed

- ☐ potting shed
- ☐ greenhouses
- ☐ pit garden
- ☐ pool house
- ☐ water features
- ☐ parterre
- ☒ herbaceous plants
- ☒ trees
- ☒ shrubs
- ☒ walls
- ☐ roadways/carriageways/drives
- ☒ vistas
- ☐ other outbuildings

6. Landscape Status

Indicate the overall condition of the garden/historic site:

- ☐ Excellent: new or recently restored/fully functional
- ☒ Good: basically sound and functional
- ☐ Fair: deterioration evident, not fully functional
- ☐ Poor: advanced deterioration evident, compromised function, loss of major elements

Is the garden/historic site threatened in any of the following ways?:

Threats:

- ☒ adjacent development (including roads)
- ☒ compromised viewshed
- ☐ insects and diseases
- ☐ deer or other animals
- ☒ over visitation
- ☐ neglect
- ☐ damage/vandalism
- ☐ other (explain: weather- hurricanes, tropical storms)

Access:

- ☐ Unrestricted
- ☒ Restricted
- ☐ No Access
- ☐ By appointment ☐ Freedom to wander ☐ Guided tours

7. Design History

Approximate date designed or built: designed April 1937

Original landscape architect, architect or designer: Loutrel Briggs

Gardener/horticulturist: _____

Describe extent of involvement:

Development chronology of garden/historic site:

-1937 the garden was designed by Loutrel Briggs of New York and Charleston. He referred to this garden as "The Camellia Garden."

-1984 The Camellia Garden was rehabilitated by Morgan Wheelock of Boston MA and renamed "The Nancy Bryan Luce Garden."

8. Significance of garden/historic site:

Associated with prominent person/property: _____

Associated with important designer: Loutrel Briggs

Good example of its design type or style: _____

Unique regional expression: Unique design in SC Lowcountry landscape

Important artistic statement: _____

Significant plants or collections: _____

Exceptional features: brick work, grading and drainage

Exceptional scenic or environmental values: _____

Other qualities: _____

Statement of significance: Describe the historic landscape's significance in one or two sentences.

This Garden designed by notable landscape architect Loutrel Briggs contains a complex terraced design that is defined by brick structures. The complex manipulation of grade as well as ground level as well as subterranean drainage make this an excellent example of Loutrel Briggs rural works.

_____ Listed in the National Register of Historic Places (if so, under what name?)

Statement of integrity: Describe the extent to which the overall historic landscape and its significant features are currently present.

The landscape design has lost several small features as it has evolved. An addition was made on the eastern end that contains the graves of the Luce family. Other than minimal loss of the oak canopy great efforts have been made to preserve this historic designed garden.

9. Sources of Information/Supporting Material

Published material: <u>Charleston Gardens by Loutrel Briggs</u>	Date <u>1951</u>
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
Unpublished material: <u>Mepkin Abbey Garden Guide Book</u>	Date <u>1/2009</u>
<u>Details of Steps, Walls, Curbs, drainage, & grading-Garden for</u>	
<u>Mr. & Mrs. Henry Luce of "Mepkin South Carolina"</u>	Date <u>4/1939</u>
<u>Planting Schematic</u>	Date <u>?</u>
_____	Date _____

Availability and location of landscape plans/historic photographs: Mepkin Abbey Library, South Carolina Historical Society

Nurseries that supplied plant material: _____

10. Form Prepared by:

Name: Chase Williston
Title/organization: Clemson University/College of Charleston
Address: 292 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC, 29401
Date: 2/24/2009

Photographer:

Name: Amelia Millar/Erin McNicholl
Title/organization: Clemson University/College of Charleston
Address: 292 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC, 29401
Date: 2/24/2009

Names of other members of survey team:
Amelia Millar, Chase Williston, Erin McNicholl

11. Additional information and Attachments

Photographs: Label and number photographs. Include garden name, location and subject of each photograph.

Plans: Attach copies of plans (historic and existing if available). In the absence of an existing plan, attach a rough sketch of garden or site layout.

Other material (specify)/Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary):



Figure 1 - View of northeast Side of Garden



Figure 2 - View facing northeast



Figure 3 – View facing southwest



Figure 4 – Statue located in southwestern portion of garden



Figure 5 – Tile fresco behind statue



Figure 6 - Grave marker in northeast burial plot



Figure 7 - Grave marker in northeast burial plot



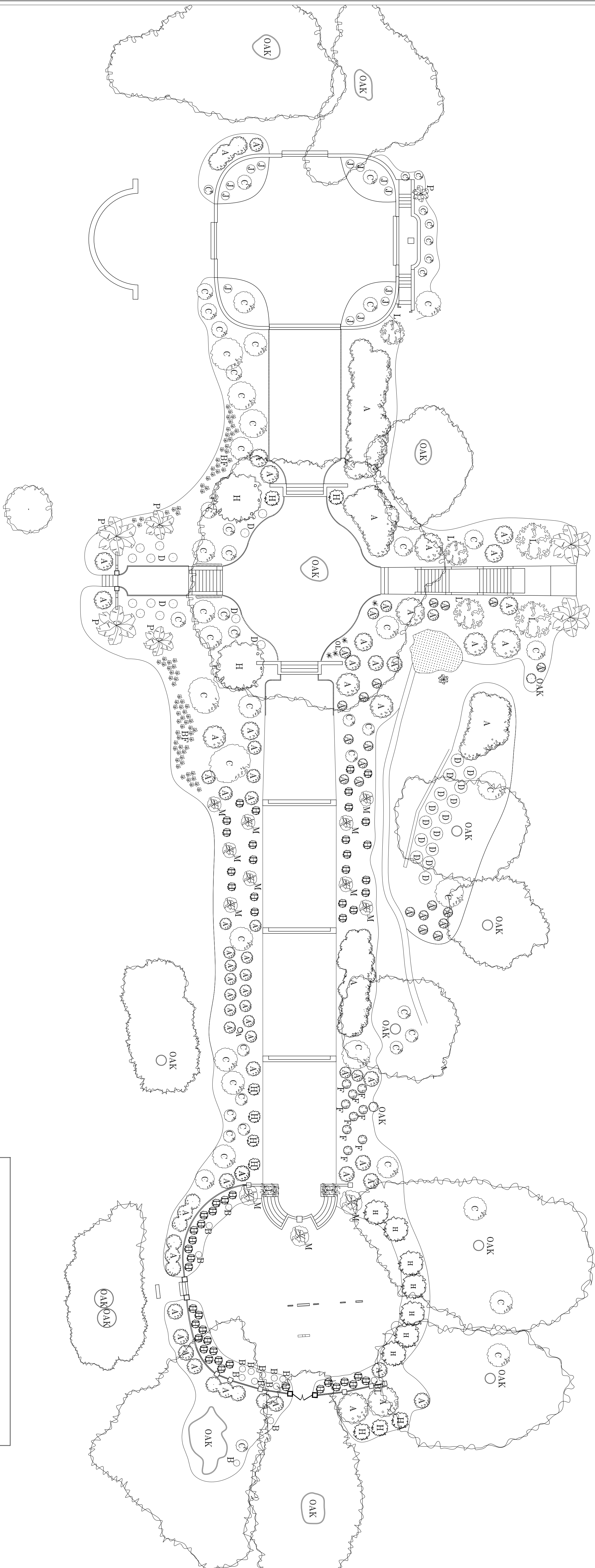
Figure 8 – Garden gate at northeast end of Garden facing NE



Figure 9 – Garden Gate in middle of eastern side of garden (facing northwest)



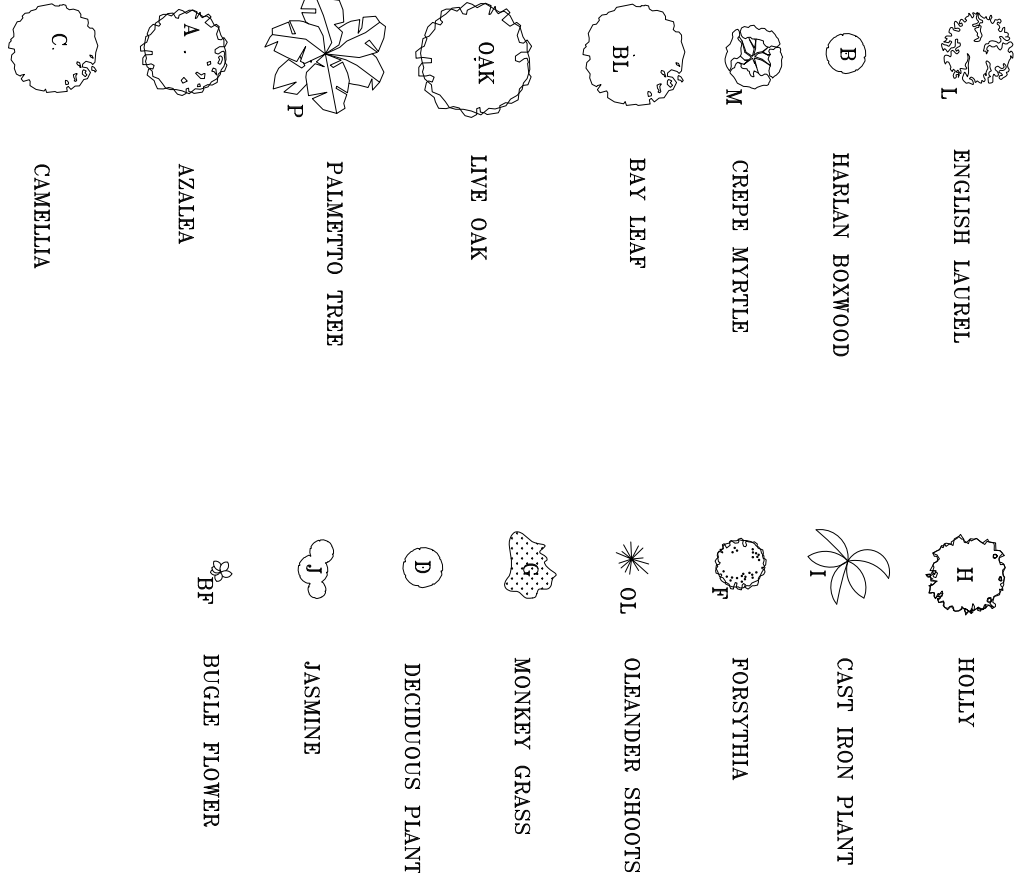
Figure 10 – Brick drainage system on northwest side of garden



LANDSCAPE PLAN

SCALE; 1/16"=1'-0"

KEY:



DRAWN BY: ERIN MCNICHOLL, AMELIA MILLAR, CHASE WILLISTON

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THE NANCY BRYAN LUCE GARDEN
1098 MEPKIN ABBEY ROAD MONCKS CORNER, SC 29461

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
LANDSCAPE SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

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