

Vantucket

GARDENS AND HOUSES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAYLOR LEWIS

TEXT BY VIRGINIA SCOTT HEARD

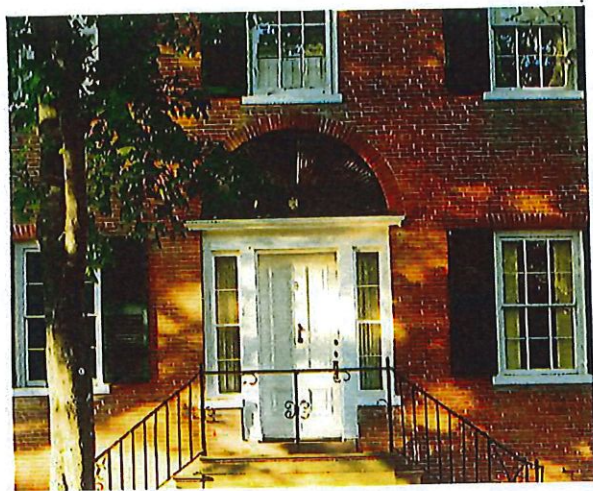


MOOR'S END

Jared Coffin built this brick Federal house between 1829 and 1834 for his wife, who subsequently thought the house was too far out of town. He had another huge brick house, the Jared Coffin House, now a hotel, built for her. Moor's End was the first brick house on the island. For three years, John and Marilyn Whitney have been in the process of restoration and decoration of the house, as well as rehabilitation of the extensive gardens.

Clockwise from top left: The front door of the house; a view of the back of the house and grounds; the extensive formal garden as seen from the south porch.

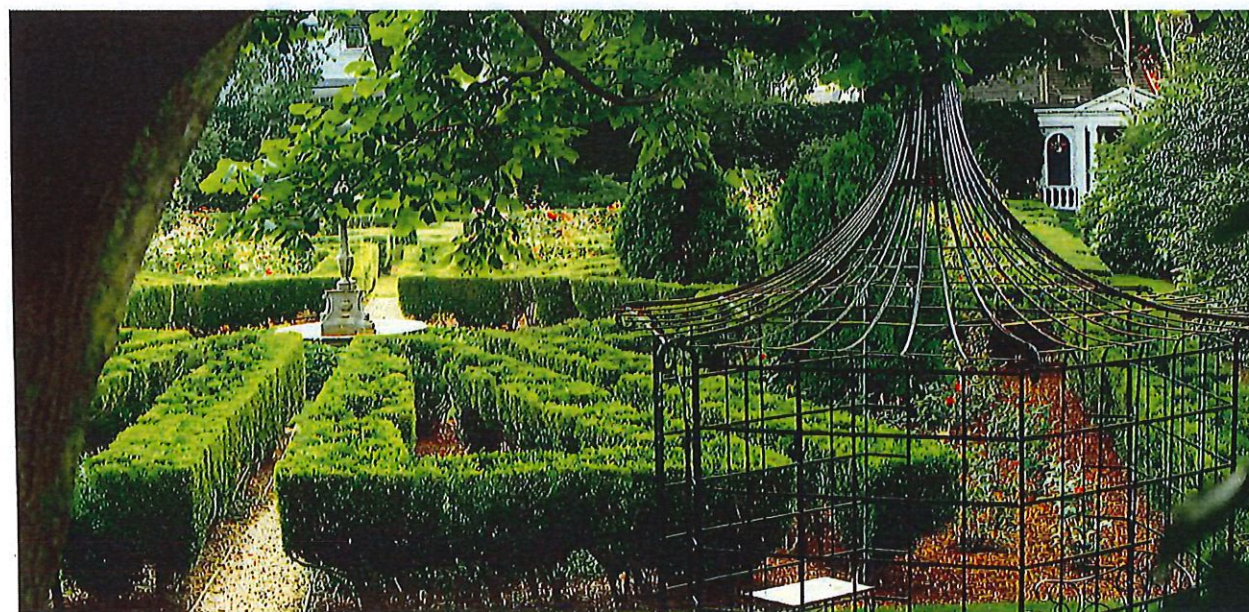
Above: The overall pattern of the boxwood planting and extensive rose gardens as seen from an upstairs porch.





Impatiens grow along the ivy-covered stone wall, looking toward the large brick wall that encloses the garden on the street side. A terra cotta urn, one of a pair filled with astilbe, adds balance and a classic look to the formal garden.

The Whitneys have added the ornamental iron gazebo. Some of the plantings found within this walled garden are hostas, lilies, rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*), azaleas, lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*), lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), ferns, rhododendron, white oak-leaved hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), and birch trees.



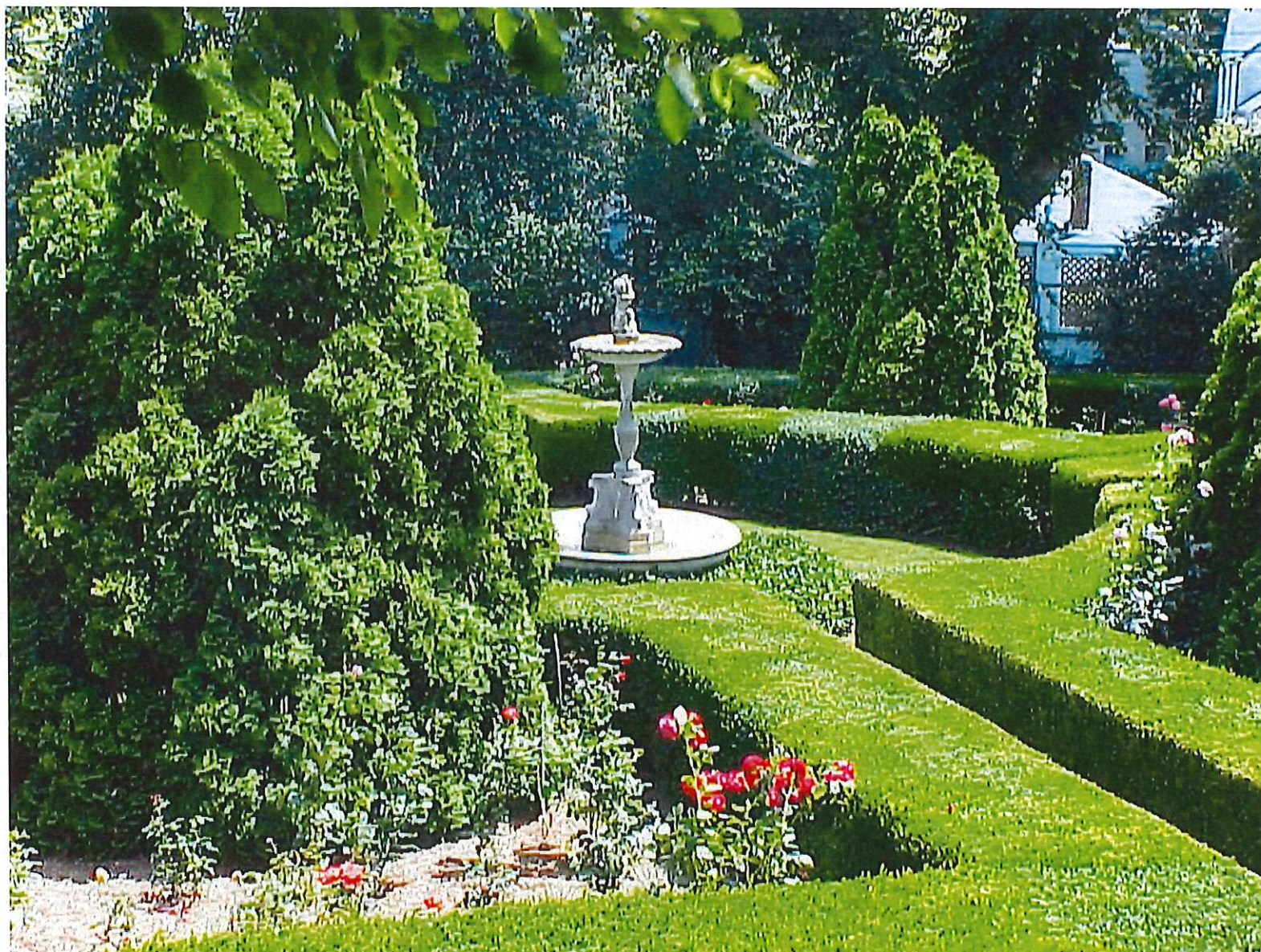
Facing page: A view along the gallery porch shows the main part of the house with its Greek Revival cupola. Antique wicker furniture and large pots of geraniums blend with the foundation plantings to create an intense palette of colors. Pink hydrangeas, impatiens, and bright coreopsis delight the eye.



















known copies of Dufour's "Captain Cook" wallpaper printed in 1804 and placed in the house of Jared Coffin.

The Portuguese cakes and cookies, so typical of Cape Cod and Nantucket, are reminders of Portuguese fishermen's frequent visits to the Grand Banks in search of codfish.

The "Captain Cook" wallpaper commemorates Cook's discovery of the Hawaiian Islands in 1778 while sailing from the Society Islands to the west coast of North America in search of the mythical Northwest Passage.

The close connection of Nantucket and Hawaii may not be evident to the luncheon guests, but the hostess will be happy to

explain the significance of the native dances in the Dufour scenic paper.

They portray the Makahiki New Year's feast of the agricultural fertility god, Lono, in January 1779.

Returning to "The Sandwich Islands" for a second time to trade English iron nails for Hawaiian pigs and other provisions, and to have a bit of rest and recreation for himself and his men, Captain Cook arrived, for the second year in a row, in the midst of the Makahiki. The feather-crowned chief, Kalaniopuu, presided over the festivities. The natives took the visiting

Victorian Staffordshire figures from Mrs. Melhado's extensive collection hold roses and astilbes from the garden

captain for Lono incarnate and feted the English in high island style.

Unfortunately, by February 14, 1779, the party got rowdy and Cook overstepped his bounds when he tried to discipline Kalaniopuu, uncle of Kamehameha I. That was the last of Captain James Cook, R.N.

In 1819 the great Hawaiian King Kamehameha died. A few months later American ships captured the first whales of Hawaii. Captain Coffin's fine new house was built at this time, attesting to his involvement in the following fifty years of New England domination of the Hawaiian whaling industry.

*The Nantucket summer colony's gracious and
conservative life-style*





In one corner of the living room is an eighteenth-century Italian desk with a bombé front and ball and claw feet. Beside it is a Dutch Queen Anne chair. A continuation of the whaling mural is seen above the wainscot.





Hydrangeas in a Chinese export bowl sit on the Biedermeier dining table surrounded by six of twelve damask-covered chairs. On the ornate serving table to the left and on the cabinet directly behind the dining room table are some of the pieces of Marilyn Whitney's extensive collection of Majolica. On the walls are a rare set of fifteen Empire wallpaper panels, "Les sauvages de l'océan pacifique," designed by J. C. Charvet for Joseph Dufour et Cie, circa 1804.

Left: A close-up of three of the pieces of Majolica.

the dining room, showing more panels of the wallpaper murals.

