



Construction of the Formal Garden wall, c. 1915.

## THE HAY LANDSCAPE

Eliza Ferriday and her daughter, Caroline, collaborated to create The Hay Landscape, aiming to transform the working farm into a Colonial Revival garden. They aligned the landscape in a symmetrical fashion, along an east-west axis. From the axis, they defined a series of garden spaces, including the south lawn, orchard, magnolia grove, and formal garden. They also enclosed the landscape, establishing a sense of privacy from the surrounding roads and adjacent town green. Along the property edges, they created a walking path -- a closely mowed turf strip among higher growing meadow grasses and plants -- allowing visitors to take in views of the house from many angles. Eliza and Caroline selected plants of varying textures, sizes, colors and fragrances that matured and bloomed at staggered times of year. Many of the plants were those commonly used in Colonial America, such as delphinium, monkshood, honesty, lupine, pinks, roses, peonies and lilacs.

## CAROLINE FERRIDAY'S GARDEN VISION

Caroline Ferriday's enthusiasm for gardening continued long after her mother's death in 1953. She consulted the writing of two well-known garden designers, Helena Rutherford Ely, and Louise Beebe Wilder, and sought advice from a New York City-based landscape architect, Nelva Weber. The many flowering deciduous trees and shrubs, planted against the evergreens at the edge of the property, were among some of Weber's suggestions.



Caroline Ferriday in the Formal Garden, c. 1950.

Friends and family of Caroline knew her to be an adventuresome gardener who was always trying something new. Mitchell Van Winkle, Caroline's second cousin and an avid grower of roses, believed her to be ahead of her time, an experimenter. Caroline shared her cousin's fondness for roses, cultivating dozens of varieties in the formal garden area.



## Connecticut Landmarks

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History Moving Forward

## THE FORMAL GARDEN

The highly-structure parterre style garden, located on the west side of the house, forms the centerpiece of the Bellamy-Ferriday landscape. Before the Ferridays purchased the property, the Formal Garden area had been used for a cart path. Eliza Ferriday oversaw its construction between 1915 and 1918, designing as the workmen built the terrace walls and cultivated the planting beds. For inspiration, Eliza was drawn to the Aubusson rug which covered the floor of the interior parlor of the house. She copied the rug pattern on a piece of paper, and the workmen built the parterre from her sketch. The Formal Garden consists of five basic components:

### Upper Terrace

A level area adjacent to the west side of the house, filled with snowberry and ground covers growing amongst stones. The Upper Terrace served as a 'foyer' for the garden, providing a transition between the house and garden.



Eliza Ferriday in the Formal Garden, c. 1920.

### Parterre

A geometrically square plot, set on a terrace, and retained on the east and west sides by stone walls accessed by stone steps. At the center, emerging from a small circular pool, is a putti. A clipped yew hedge rims the outer edges of symmetrically designed beds, and upright and topiary yews anchor the garden's inner corners. Plants within the beds include peonies and roses, interspersed with an array of garden perennials.

### Arbor

A wood structure, likely added by the Hull family, standing on a north to south axis. On her first visit to the house in 1912, Caroline remarked about the tastiness of the "white grapes" growing along this feature. Today, the structure serves primarily as a setting for shrub roses and lilacs, and divides the Formal Garden from the Magnolia Grove.

### Northern Allee

A loose shrub border consisting of several varieties of lilacs, as well as a Rosy Dipelta, an Enkianthus, and shrub roses.

### Southern Allee

A shrub border mirroring the Northern Allee, containing shrub roses and lilacs, as well as bayberry, Viburnum, flowering quince and tree peonies, planted in a loose arrangement.

## THE BELLAMY-FERRIDAY LANDSCAPE IN HISTORY

In the 1730s, Rev. Joseph Bellamy came to preach in the northern part of Woodbury (incorporated as Bethlehem in 1787). In 1740, he purchased land bordering the northern end of the town green, and on it built a small house and planted an orchard. In the 1750s, he began constructing a larger house to accommodate his growing family, and in 1754 moved into the central section. With the aid of his congregation, Bellamy added a front section to the house in 1767. In addition to raising sheep and dairy cows and maintaining pastures and meadows, Bellamy raised seven children and established America's first divinity school on his 100-acre property.

Bellamy's heirs, including his son, David, and grandson, Joseph H., acquired the property upon his death in 1790, and retained ownership for over six decades. During this period, the family added the columns and gates to the east entrance, fenced the southern border, and built stone walls along the eastern and western edges. By 1848, Joseph H.



"The Hull Place, Bethlehem, CT," c. 1900.

Bellamy was operating a fully-functioning farm, with a woodhouse, carriage house, horse barn, north barn and south barn, as well as a small office or study. In 1868, the property was sold outside the Bellamy family.

In 1912, New Yorkers Henry McKeen Ferriday and his wife, Eliza Mitchell Ferriday purchased the property. Their daughter, Caroline, suffered from a nervous condition that required her to summer inland, away from the sea. They named the property "The Hay." Initially, the Ferridays maintained farming operations, raising horses and chickens and maintaining a vegetable garden. Henry Ferriday died in 1914, but Eliza and Caroline continued to spend summers at The Hay, and little-by-little converted the working farm into a Colonial Revival style landscape with several garden spaces. When Eliza died in 1953, Caroline assumed ownership of The Hay, and continued to build, modify and maintain its landscape for four decades.

In 1990, Connecticut Landmarks (then the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society) received the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden through a bequest made by Caroline Ferriday.

## THE BELLAMY-FERRIDAY HOUSE & GARDEN

A Connecticut Landmarks Property  
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open to the public May through October

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## BELLAMY-FERRIDAY HOUSE & GARDEN

Bethlehem, Connecticut

*A Guide to the Landscape*







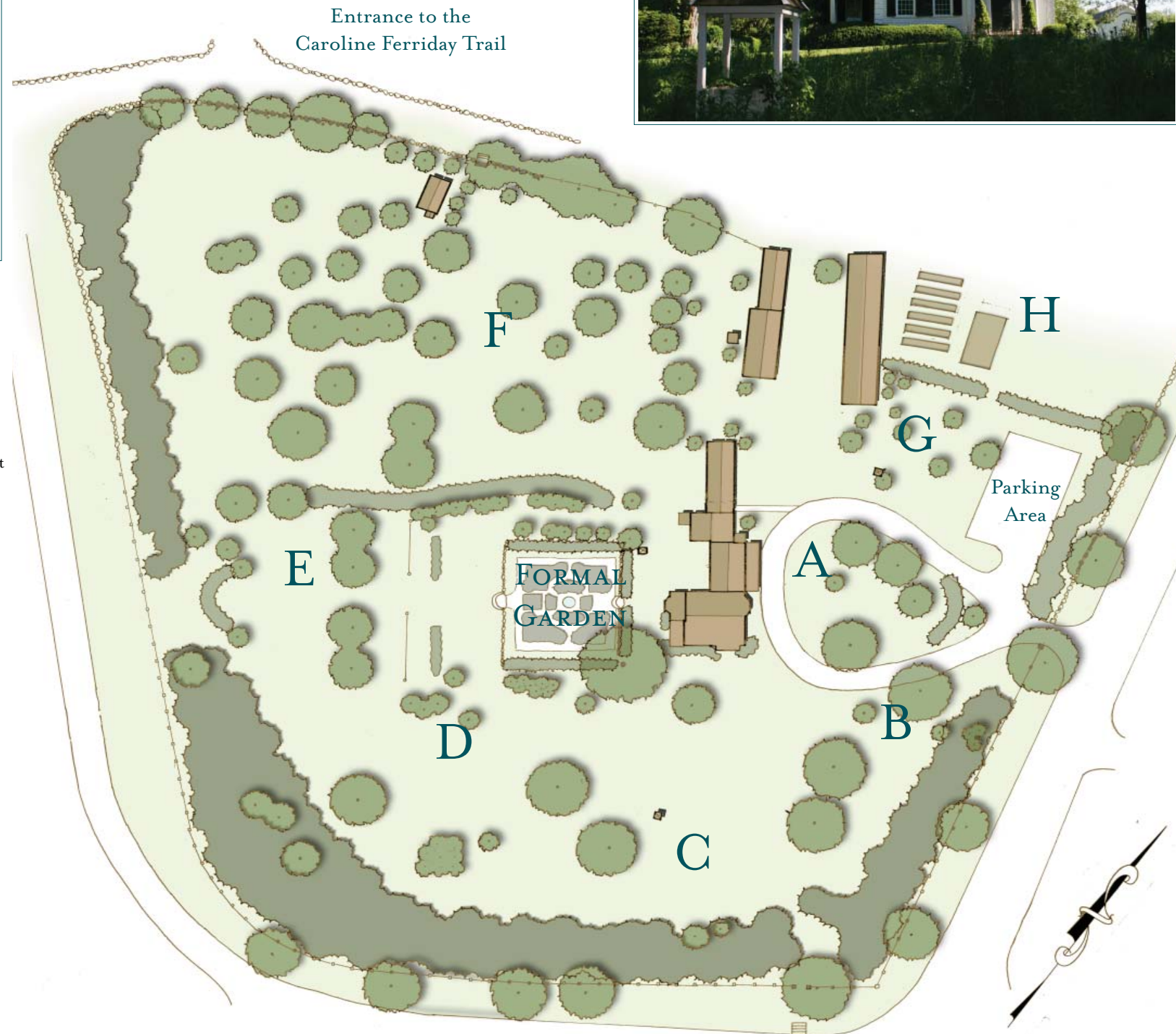
## H NURSERY & PLANT PROPAGATION AREA

This work area lies secluded from the Bellamy-Ferriday landscape behind a hemlock hedge. Once the site of the Ferriday's kitchen garden, it was made into a plant propagation area in 1992. Each year, the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden holds a plant sale, featuring trees, shrubs, ground covers and perennials that reflect the influences of both Reverend Bellamy and Eliza and Caroline Ferriday on the landscape.



## A EAST LAWN

The East Lawn consists of the entry drive, a broad lawn, a curved yew hedge and several mature specimen trees. Specimen trees were often found in Colonial Revival gardens casting shade on the house and framing it in views from a distance. Trees on the East Lawn include a Pee Gee Hydrangea and two Blue Spruces. Also prominent is the Weeping Hemlock, discovered in 1870 by Civil War General Joseph Howland, Caroline Ferriday's great uncle. Howland found the plant growing near the summit of Fishkill Mountain (near the Hudson River), grew one in his own garden, and gave one to C. S. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum. Most of the plants in existence today are derived from Howland's original find. The yew hedge was likely added by Caroline at the suggestion of Nelva Weber. It marks the eastern end of the garden axis; a matching hedge stands at the western end.



## B EASTERN BORDER

The eastern edge of the Bellamy-Ferriday landscape retains elements left by several owners, from the 1740s to the present. Reverend Joseph Bellamy likely planted the lilacs and Carolina Allspice. Caroline Ferriday added other flowering plants to diversify the look, including Azalea, a Saucer Magnolia, and Eastern Redbud. The result is a dense showy border that displays colorful blooms, mostly in spring.

## C SOUTHERN BORDER

The dense evergreen screen rimming the southern and southwestern edges of the property was planted by Eliza and Caroline Ferriday as a way to separate the house and garden from the town green. Caroline consulted with Nelva Weber about the border, who suggested planting flowering species to soften the evergreens. Hemlocks are the dominant evergreens throughout the border. Along the south edge are several white-flowering species, including Shadblow Serviceberry, Japanese Styrax, Summersweet Clethra, Japanese Clethra, Japanese Pagoda Tree, and Elderberry. In the southwestern border, flowering species include Halesias, Kousa Dogwoods, Corneliancherry Dogwoods, Pagoda Dogwoods, Fothergillas, Black Jetbeads, and Viburnums.



## G NORTHEAST LAWN

This small lawn area to the east of the barns features several specimen trees set against a hemlock hedge. Species include an Empress Tree and a Franklinia, two trees with stories to tell. The Empress Tree is a native of China, where the fast-growing species was planted when Chinese princesses were born. At the time of the princesses' marriages, the trees were cut, and the wood used to make chests for dowries. The Franklinia, named for Benjamin Franklin, originates from Georgia, but has not been found growing in the wild since 1790. All plants now in cultivation stem from the original collection of John Bartram, the 18th century botanist who located it growing along the Altamaha River in Georgia.

## F ORCHARD

Reverend Bellamy began planting fruit trees on the property as early as 1746. Early fruit orchards were arranged in random patterns, and this planting reflects that tradition. Caroline Ferriday added a Weeping Willow cut from a tree growing on St. Helena (the island of Napoleon's exile), inserting a reminder of her affection for Napoleon and the causes he championed. Species in the orchard include Japanese walnut, fruiting quince, Empress Tree, and several varieties of apples, including Wolf River, Sheepnose, Northern Spy, McIntosh, Delicious, and Cortland. The Orchard extends along the northern property line eastward where, east of the barns, in the Northeast Lawn, are several plantings of peach trees.

Beyond the Orchard to the north is the remaining acreage of the original Bellamy property, today part of the Bethlehem Land Trust. The trust has built the "Caroline Ferriday Trail" through the property, which leads to the burial ground of the Bellamy Family and others, located at the far end of the property.

## E MAGNOLIA GROVE

The Magnolia Grove stands at the western end of the landscape's central axis, and a semi-circular clipped yew hedge marks its terminus. Inside the hedge is the earliest blooming area of the Bellamy-Ferriday landscape, filling the garden with color before the trees leaf out. It was planted in the 1950s by Caroline Ferriday. The Magnolia collection includes five species, Star Magnolia, Saucer Magnolia, Yulan Magnolia, Loebner Magnolia, and Magnolia cordata.

## D SOUTH LAWN

This broad grassy area dotted with mature specimen trees is the site of Reverend Bellamy's first house, built in 1740. He lived in the "Backus House" until 1754, when he built the central portion of the existing house and moved. Today, a bed of daylilies and lilac shrubs mark the old house site. In keeping with the Colonial Revival style, Caroline maintained a closely clipped lawn close to the house, and

allowed the outer lawn to grow higher and fill with meadow plants and wildflowers. She planted several large specimen trees and spaced amply apart, establishing individual settings for them in the landscape, and separating them from the rest of the garden. Species include a Copper Beech, Yellowwood, and Sugar Maple,

## Gate to the Bethlehem Green