



A koi pond adds an element of tranquility to the garden of Hope House.

A lush garden scene featuring a stone wall, pink hydrangeas, and a stream. The text is overlaid on a teal background.

{Behind^{the} GARDEN Wall}

Photos by Boo Hardy

Known for its elegant houses and public greensward, Gratz Park also contains a trove of private gardens. They range from pocket-sized to grand, each one as different and personal as the home it adorns. This rare glimpse of the gardens of Gratz Park reveals that these private sanctuaries are an important part of what makes Lexington's oldest neighborhood so unique.

{ 215 North Mill Street }



Hope House (1841) has the largest garden of the Gratz Park residences. The Greek Revival mansion originally faced the park, but an early owner changed its orientation as part of a major remodeling.



When the current owners purchased the Maria Dudley House (1879), they added the garden and porch in the rear of the castle-like townhouse. Hydrangeas accent the colors of the lawn jockey's racing silks.



{ 304 West Third Street }



{ 247 North Mill Street }

One of the Goodloe Houses, also known as the "Three Sisters." The garden of this Queen Anne-style home is a harmony of stone, statuary, and stately trees. Mrs. William Cassius Goodloe built the houses for her three daughters in 1901 in the hopes of attracting husbands, according to local lore. The houses did their jobs.



{258 Market Street}



A living arch, Meyer lemon tree, and an espaliered Kieffer pear tree give the garden at the Anderson Family House (1840) a European flavor.





Flowing lines,
plant-filled urns,
and a weathered
fountain add to the
rich environment of
the Woolley House
(1841) garden.



{ 226 West Second Street }



Grays and blues provide a schematic look to this compact garden.



{ 205 West Second Street }

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{ 244 North Broadway }



Birds are invited to visit this lushly flowered garden just beyond the perimeter of Gratz Park.





{ 240 Market Street }

Geometric arrangements characterize the rather formal garden of the Henry Gilbert House (1871), an Italiante mansion typical of the era.



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