

Andalusia Historic House, Gardens and Arboretum



1. Big House: Built in 1797 for the John Craig family, with additions in 1807-08 designed by Benjamin H. Latrobe. Craig's daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Nicholas Biddle, took over the house in 1814, hiring architect Thomas U. Walter to complete a major remodel and expansion in 1835-36. While the central rooms with the bay windows remain largely unchanged from the original house, Walter added the monumental Greek Revival portico facing the Delaware River and the long wings and entrance facing the gardens. The house is decorated with art and furniture from seven generations of Craig and Biddle families.

2. Visitor Center: Once a Laundry House and Woodshed, the Louisa Copeland Duemling Visitor Center features a gallery and video about the history of Andalusia.

3. Privies (Restrooms): Greek Revival outhouses, now converted into modern facilities.

4. White Garden: Redesigned by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2017 in homage to the White Garden at Sissinghurst Castle in England. Featuring Hybrid Dogwoods, Azalea 'Fragrant Star,' Rhododendron 'Dora Ameteis,' Anemone 'Honoree Jobert,' Rhododendron 'Cunningham White,' Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) and Flowering Cherries (*Prunus incisa* 'The Bride').

5. River Walk Entrance: The self-guided garden tour begins here at the obelisk.

6. Billiard Room (Private): Originally a one-story structure built in 1815, shortly after Nicholas and Jane Biddle took over the property. Thomas U. Walter added a second-floor card room with the Greek Revival porch and roof in 1835-36. Jane Biddle was actively involved in the project—even stopping work at one point until changes to the design could be approved by her husband. The building was intended as a billiard and game room for the gentlemen of the house and was stocked with its own supply of wine.

7. Grotto: Designed by Thomas U. Walter and built in 1834 and 1836 as a Gothic "ruin," the Grotto first served as a ladies' retreat during the hot summer days. It is now a memorial to the Craig and Biddle families, some of whom are interred here.

8. Rondel: Designed by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2017, the Rondel features a collection of Rhododendrons including 'Hoppy,' 'Ingrid Melquis,' 'Yaku Prince,' 'Yaku Princess,' 'Mrs. Charles Pearson,' 'Gomer Waterer,' 'Album Elegans,' 'Dora Ameteis,' 'Ginny Gee,' 'White Lights' and 'Irene Koster.'

9. Cottage (Private): A three-story Gothic style home added by Thomas Walter in 1838 to accommodate more family and visitors. It is likely around this time that the original mansion started being called the "Big House".

10. Green Walk: The current design was created by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2017. The Green Walk is an allee leading to the Walled Garden lined by pink flowering Dogwoods and featuring a collection of herbaceous plants and shrubs in a variety of purple, pink and white colors. Note the Weeping Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Pendens').

11. Ice House: Ice was cut from the river in winter and stored here and beneath the Billiard Room for summertime use. The Wisteria arbor and elaborately decorated door were added by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2017.

12. Father's Garden: Designed by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2018. The Father's Garden is a shade garden in memory of James Biddle (1929-2015) given by his son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Kristin Biddle. Highlights include the Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum Atropurpureum'), Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*), Needle Juniper (*Juniperus rigida* 'Pendula') and Magnolia 'Judy Zuk.'

13. Conifer Border: Originally installed by James Biddle in 1975 to house a collection of dwarf conifers acquired from Fred Bergman's Raraflora nursery in Feasterville, the Conifer Border was re-interpreted by Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd in 2018. The border includes the original Hinoki Cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtuse* 'Nana Compacta'), Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) and select dwarf conifers, but now includes a selection of spring flowering trees. Note the massive Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) at the end of the bed.

14. The Grapery: During the burst of activity in the 1830s, Nicholas Biddle undertook his most ambitious agricultural project – the raising of fine table grapes. Surviving today are the enormous stone walls that physically supported the Greenhouses and Stoke Holes (Furnace Rooms), which have been partially restored to better explain the system of heating the grape houses. Tree lovers will enjoy the River Burch (*Betula nigra* 'Cully'), Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku'), Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and espalier Pears and Kousa Dogwood.

15. Rose Garden: The original Rose Garden was created by Letitia Glenn Biddle in the early 20th century and features a collection of rose varieties including Hybrid Tea, Old Garden and English, among many others.

16. Peony Walk: A collection of peonies that was probably gathered by Letitia Glenn Biddle in the early 20th century. The line of bordering trees was planted to demonstrate various types of spring flowering trees.

17. Gold Garden: The Gold Garden features our remarkable Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) highlighted by a collection of trees, shrubs and perennials that complement the gold and red tones of its bark.

18. Pet Cemetery: The memorials were gathered from the estate. The two large standing stones were sculpted by artist George Kelly. Note the beautiful Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*) and the Hornbeam Arch (*Carpinus caroliniana*) leading into the Easter Garden.

19. Long Border: A beautiful perennial border designed in jewel tones that evolves throughout the seasons.

20. Easter Garden: Designed to peak between late March and late April, the Easter Garden features several Star Magnolias (*Magnolia stellata*) and Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) as well as a number of shrubs and perennials in pastel colors.

21. Woodland Walk: In the spring, this area provides a carpet of daffodils and a display of flowering azaleas.

22. Big Meadow: A new addition to the Arboretum. Follow the circular path through an expanding collection of flowering trees, including Cherries (*Prunus sargentii* and *Prunus* 'Shirofugen'), Magnolias (*Magnolia salicifolia* 'Wada's Memory' and *Magnolia denudata*), and Chinese Fringetrees (*Chionanthus retusus* 'Arnold's Pride').

23. Horse Meadow: Two steel stallions are represented in sculptor Wendy Klemperer's "Andalusians," installed in 2002.

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For just \$50 a year, you can receive free Garden Admissions and Big House Tours during all public hours, plus regular updates about what's new at Andalusia and invitations to special events. Membership donations provide essential financial support to maintain the buildings, gardens, and arboretum at this important National Historic Landmark.

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