



Celebrating **100** YEARS
of Research for the *Growing World*

BARC History: American Arboretum

Rob Griesbach

From 1868 to 1942, the USDA occupied a significant portion of the National Mall. The garden and grounds of the Department were commonly referred to as the American Arboretum. For nearly 70 years, the American Arboretum served as an evaluation garden, research tool, and an outdoor classroom. Many of the plants in our modern landscapes have their roots in the American Arboretum.

**In 1871,
William Saunders, Chief
Experimental Garden,
designs American
Arboretum.**

American Arboretum

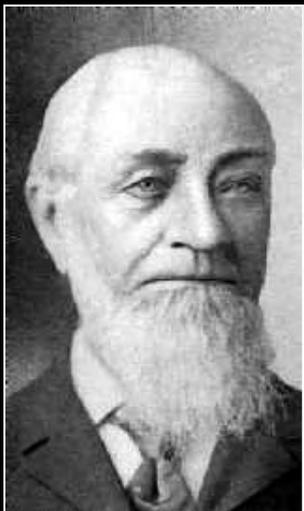
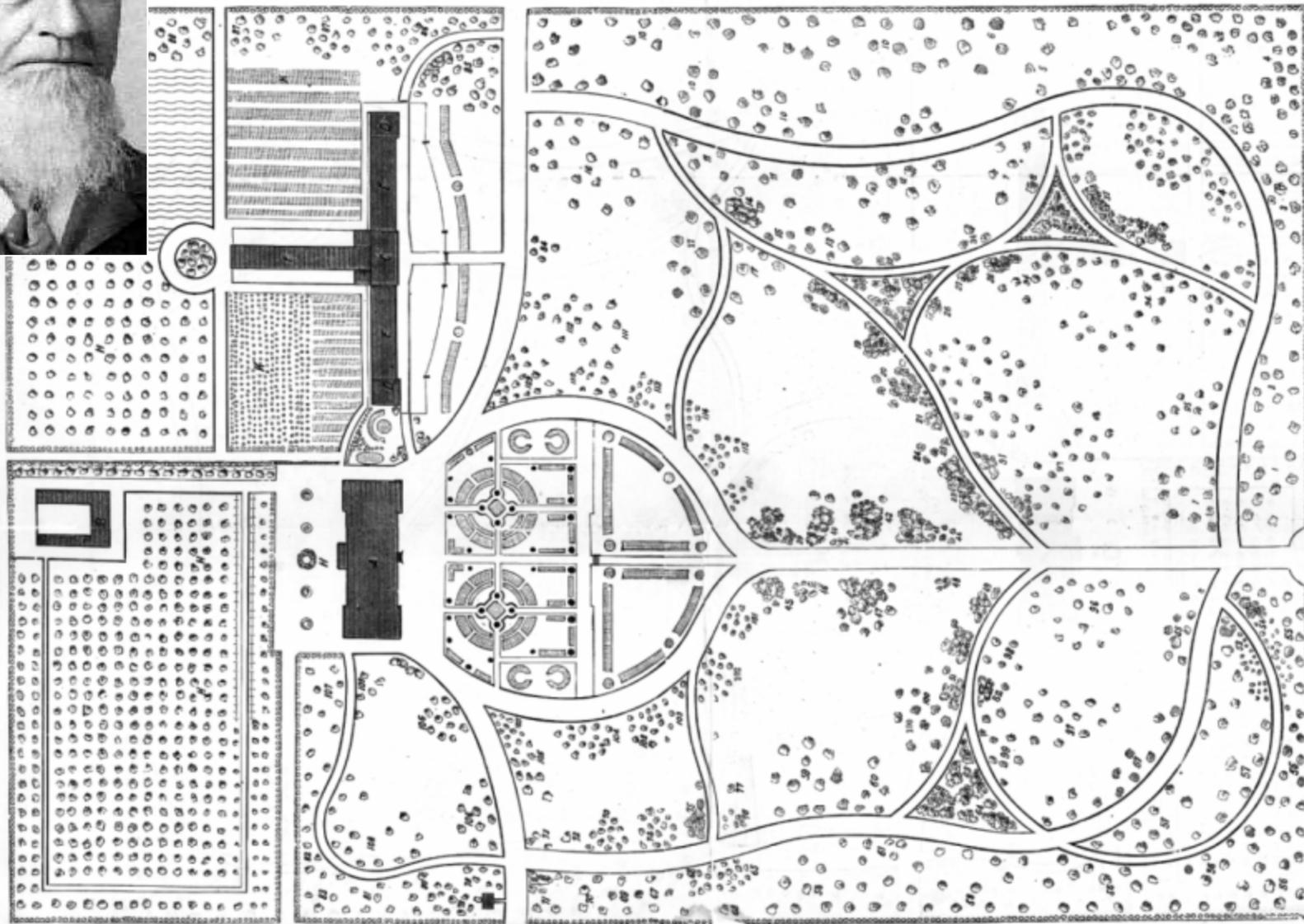
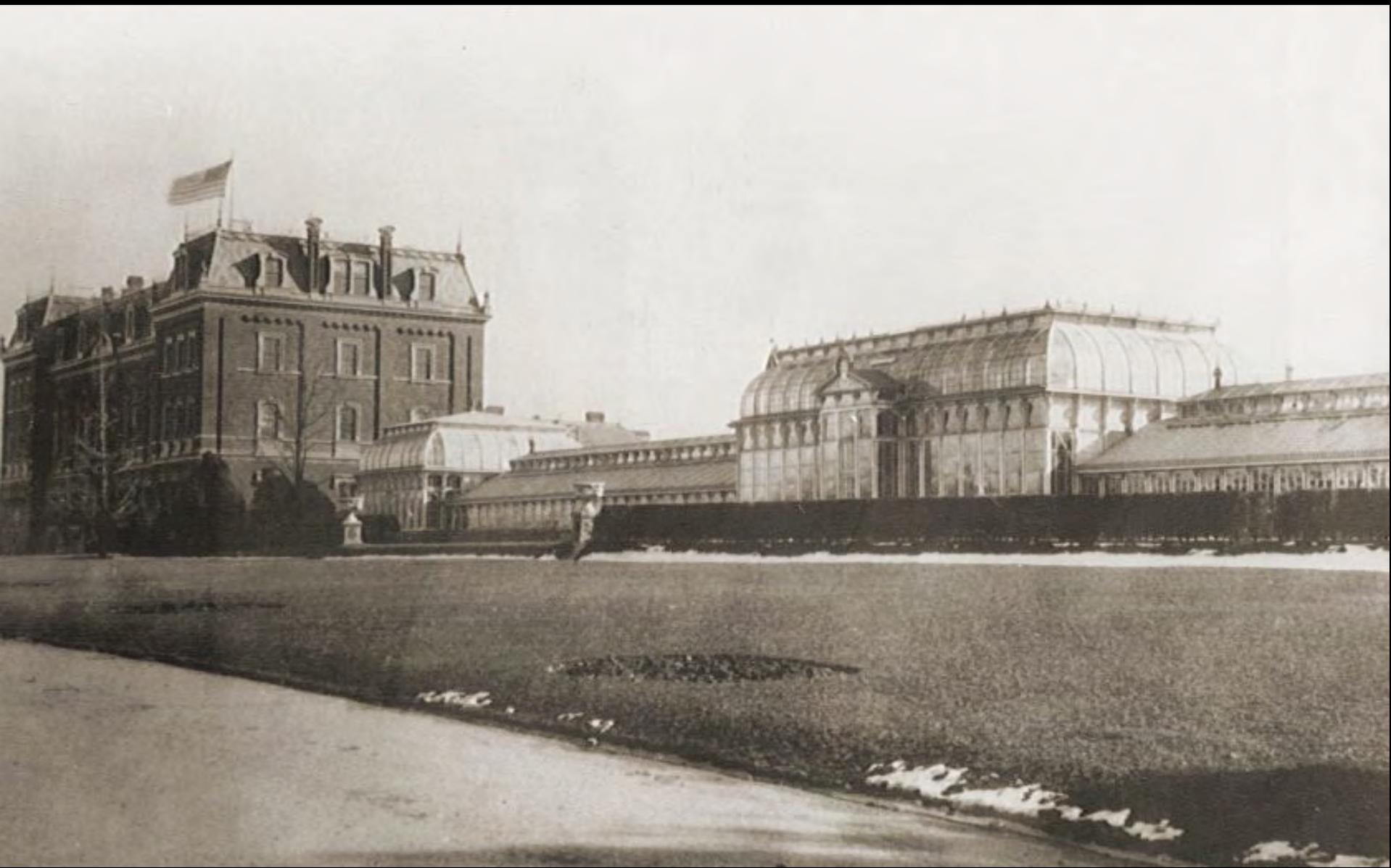


PLATE II.



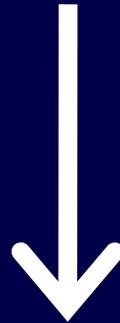
PLAN OF THE DEPARTMENT GEORGETOWN

**In 1871, Conservatory
constructed to house
tropical economic plants.**



1873

US Propagation Garden



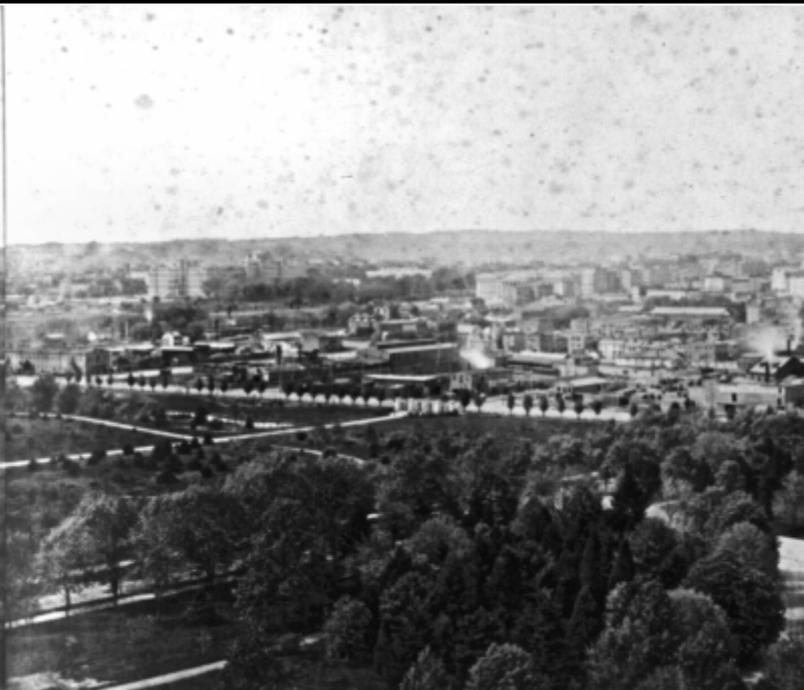
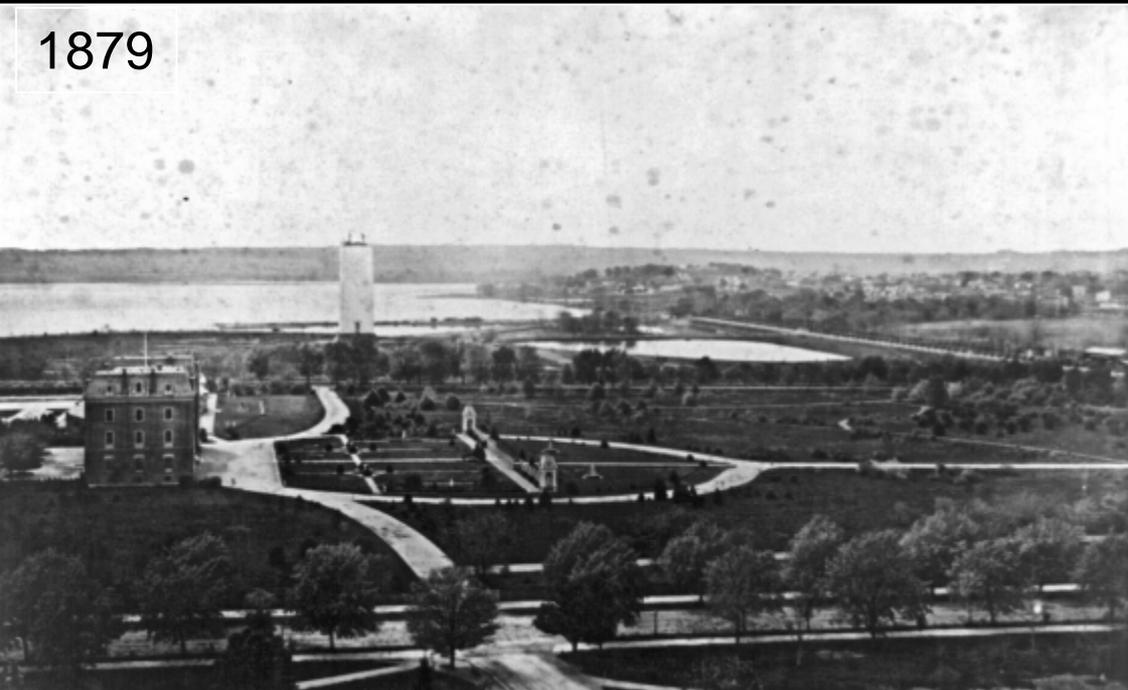
moves

American Arboretum

1865



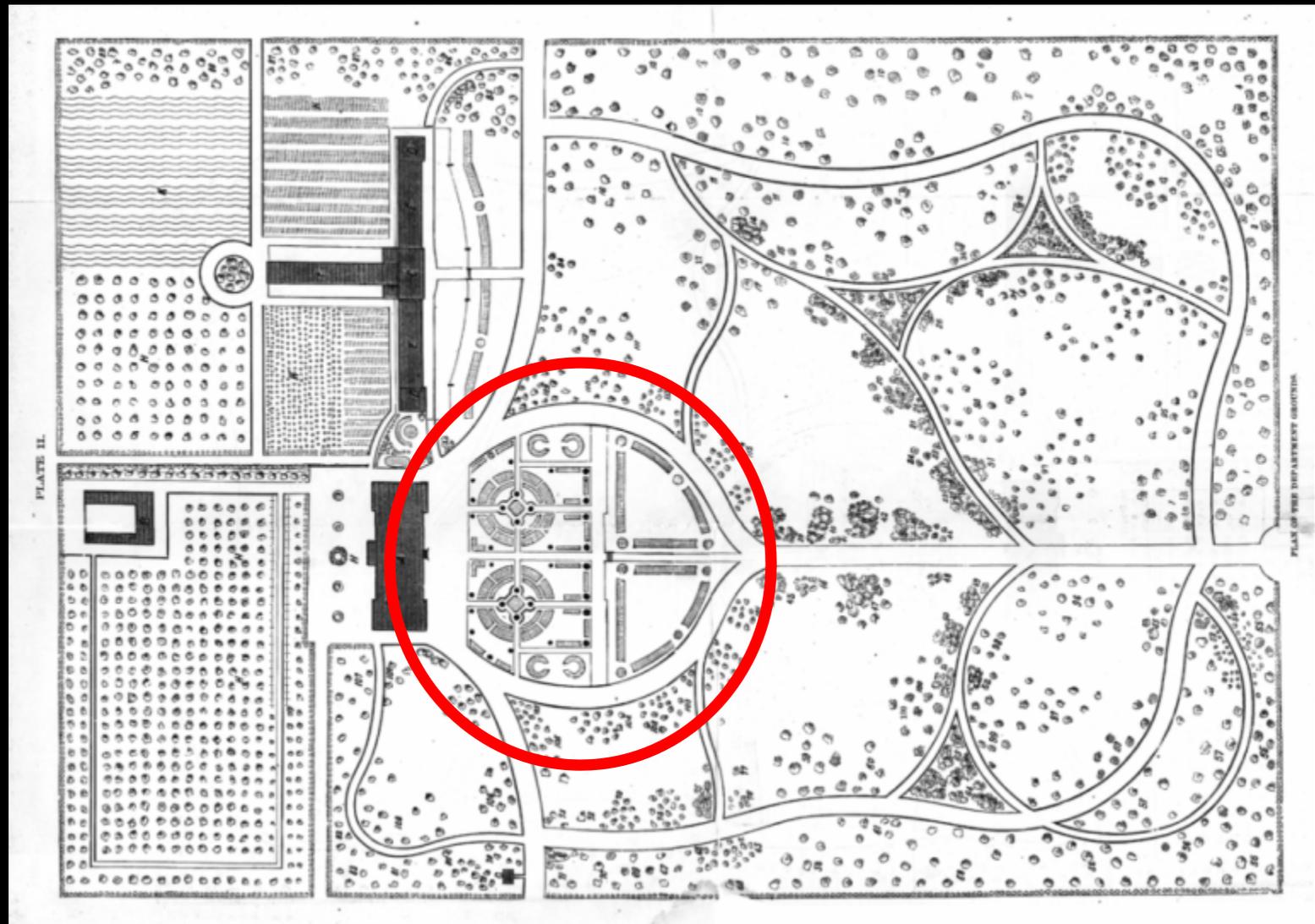
1879



“Every plant and tree indigenous to our country from the luxuriant tropical vegetation of the southern states to the dwarfed and hardy foliage of our northern borders, may be found in its grounds ... The shade trees of our entire country are to be represented in these grounds ... The display of flowers in the agricultural grounds is already something wonderful, and soon will equal any like display in the world ... Studies in ornamentation, in the best means of hybridization, budding, pruning, and grafting, in treating diseases of plants and trees, are thoroughly pursued in the experimental gardens.”

Mary Ames, 1873

North of the Agriculture Building were geometrically arranged flower beds.



1893



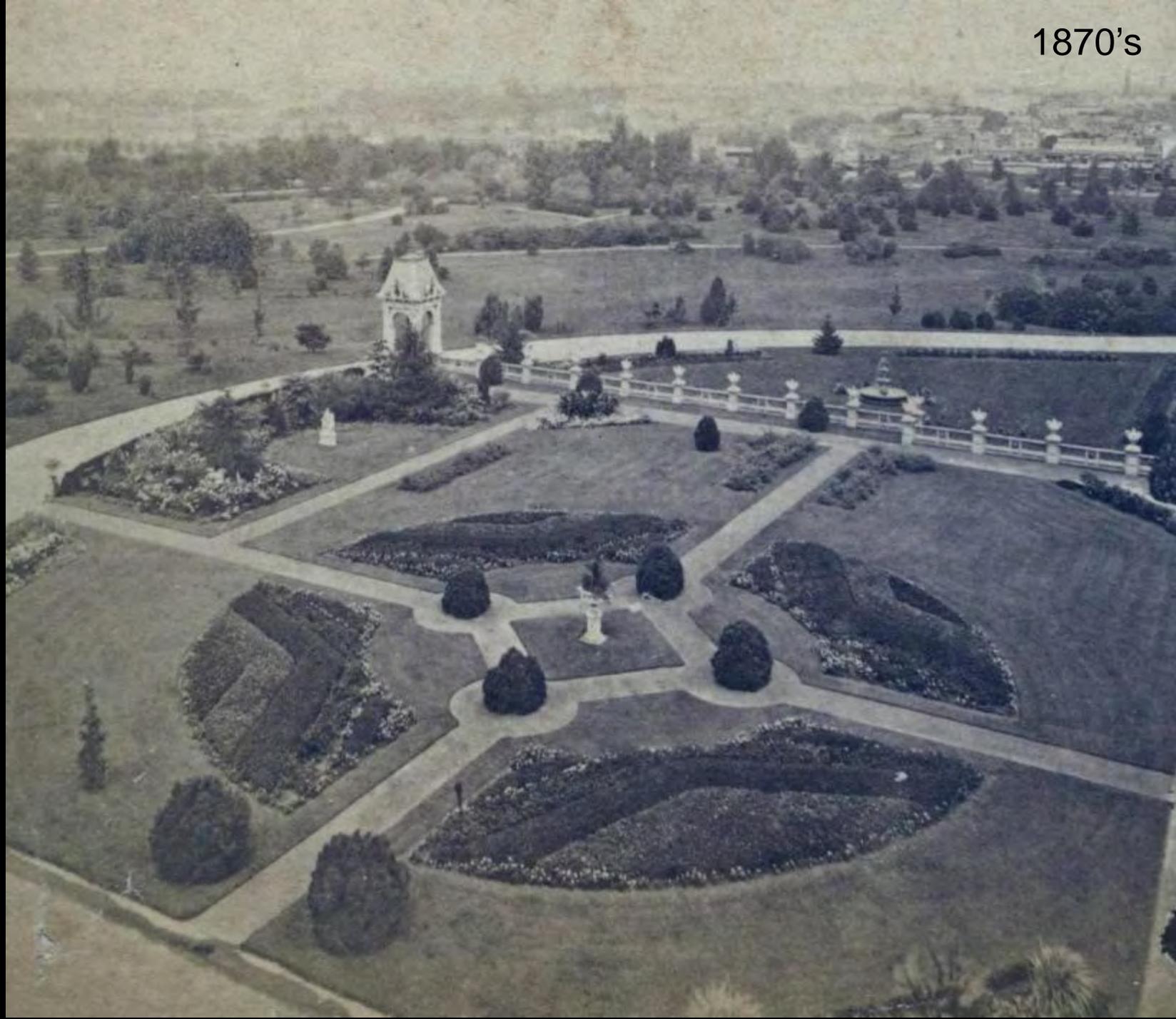
1880's







1870's



1870's



1877



1870's



1877



1875











1923



1923



1923

