



## WELCOME

### HERITAGE GARDENS at the ERMATINGER & CLERGUE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Our gardens display some of the early methods of planting as well as the plants themselves. Included in the gardens are some native plants that would have been gathered from nature rather than cultivated.

Most of the plants used today are hybrids of the earlier species that would have been planted. The garden has three main areas: the kitchen garden, the crop garden and the orchard area. Flower gardens are scattered throughout the site, highlighting some of the species popular in earlier times.

The heritage gardens enable visitors to see how our forefathers gardened without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers while providing herbs, fruits and vegetables for use in educational programs and interpretation.

The Ermatinger Old Stone House was built in 1812 by Charles Oakes Ermatinger. It served as his family home and the location from which he operated his fur trade business. Charles and his Ojibway wife, Mananowe, along with their thirteen children, cleared and cultivated approximately thirty acres of land.

The property surrounding the house contained a grist mill and fields fenced in by cedar rails. In the fields grew wheat, oats and potatoes. Close to the house there was a vegetable garden, while in a sunny location thyme, mint and other herbs grew.

Gardens were an integral part of life in early Canada. Every house had a kitchen garden near the house so that women could easily gather herbs, vegetables and fruits for daily use.

By the start of the 19th century a wide variety of food crops were being grown. Root vegetables were important as they could be kept through the winter. Fruits were eaten fresh or preserved in jams, jellies and syrups for the winter months.



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## Self-Guided Walking Tour & Site Map



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## LEGEND

1. Front gardens show a variety of early 19th century flowers featuring hollyhocks, black-eyed susans and delphiniums.
2. The stone cairns are re-creations of the pillars found at the original blockhouse site and are built of local sandstone.
3. The walkway gardens feature the Belle Amour rose which is thought to date back to Roman times. They were prized for their fragrance, rose hips and medicinal properties.
4. Elderberry bushes were commonly used for cooking and medicinal purposes.
5. Front garden featuring another heritage rose of the rugosa family.
6. The “Old Stone House” was built of local stone in 1812 by Charles Ermatinger. It was a large house of generous proportions for its time.
7. The millstones are examples of the stones that were used to grind grain in a grist mill.
8. Summer kitchens were used by wealthier families. The original kitchen would have had a dirt floor and log walls. Cooking here in the summer kept the main house cool.
9. & 10. Kitchen gardens were planted close to the house and provided fresh herbs and flowers for daily use.
11. & 12. Rhubarb and asparagus were both commonly planted.
13. Raspberries were a perennial fruit which provided variety to the diet.
14. Apples were widely cultivated by the settlers. The apples were used fresh, made into cider and also dried for winter use.
15. A vegetable garden was essential to every household. Beans, beets, carrots and potatoes were some of the more common plants. Europeans introduced broom corn, which was grown for making into brooms, brushes and as food for livestock. The three sisters of corn, beans and squash were components of an Aboriginal garden.
16. The Clergue Blockhouse was built by Francis Clergue in 1894 as a bachelor residence. The base of the building was originally a powder magazine for the North West Company. The entire building was moved here from its original site in 1996.