

HOME GROUNDS.

Amelia Augusta Maelzer.

## H O M E G R O U N D S .

### 1. Introduction,

(a) Definition of the home.

(b) The average home.

(c) The ideal home.

### 2. Home Grounds in the country.

(a) Home grounds on uneven surface.

(b) " " arranged symetrically.

(c) My own home improved and rearranged.

### 3. Home Grounds in town.

(a) A City park.

(b) Conclusion.

The subject of home grounds is a question of vital importance to this and every other country. What a vast difference it would make in the appearance of our Kansas plains to have them dotted with elm and pine groves, orchards, and artistically arranged into home grounds - God has given us the material, why not make use of it.

Home may be defined in many different ways but the things it stands for are harmony, order, neatness and contentment. It is the center for our affections and the throne on which love reigns supreme.

Whatever may be contemplated there should be a definite plan at the outset. Haphazard efforts do not produce the effects of beauty, repose, contrast, harmony, variety and unity produced by thorough and thoughtful plan. We can also say that home should reflect the culture, refinement and order of its inhabitants and that in planning home grounds special attention should be given to the inner consciousness of the home. That this "atmosphere" should be made manifest demands a plan.

The home should first be established then the development of the grounds into picturesqueness and comfort will follow in natural sequence and will be a source of great pleasure to the one who attempts this good work. Sometimes many years are required in carrying out to perfection a complicated plan, but the grandeur, beauty and usefulness as the result of such faithful and untiring effort is inestimable in the eyes of the home and commonwealth.

483

The average country home is very poorly arranged which is, in most cases, due to the lack of a definite plan. Buildings suggest a lack of space by being very near the public road. All crowded effects in new plans should be avoided. Sometimes there is a faint suggestion of a lawn with here and there a straggeling bush or shrub for an ornament and sometimes the space is left but no improvements made and consequently serves very nicely as a chicken run. The pigs may also take advantage of it in which to exercise their proboscis. Even in the attempt to improve the lawn a great mistake is made by crowding it with flower beds of every discription so that no open space is left for a beautiful grassy plot which is a great modifier of beauty. These flower beds are sometimes bordered with rocks and shells which gives them a certain boldness and spoils the natural blending with the lawn which should prevail. A great pile of rocks, intended for artistic beauty may occupy a conspicuous place on the lawn. This is indeed a thing of beauty in its place (near a small stream) but a lawn has no room for such as this.

The ideal grounds have but few flower beds, and these are always placed at a distance from the walks so as to hide all defects in them and afford an general effect. They are also made to gradually blend with their surroundings. Open lawns are always desirable in the plans of ideal grounds and numerous small flower beds and bushes

have no place in these plans. The walks are made to curve gently but never in such a way that a greater distance is gone over for the sake of the curve. The shortest distance is always sought. However a slight curve does not add a great deal to the length and if a tree or an obstacle of some sort is in direct line of the plans of the walk, then a greater curve is required.

The ideal grounds bring into use the ideas which nature suggests in regard to the planting of trees and shrubbery and also brings into use mathematics by designing geometrical figures for roads, walks, flower beds, etc., beauty, neatness, order and harmony being the prevailing characteristics of these grounds and are qualities which ought to be desired. Country homes in general consist of a large variety of plans owing to the wide choice in the selection of a site.

Ideal plans of country homes, accompanied with illustrative drawings will be described. These few illustrations are taken to show, in a limited way how plans, on various kinds of surfaces, are made.

PLATE 1. Home grounds on uneven surfaces, makes use of land that would be almost impossible to bring under general cultivation to any advantage yet it is a beautiful and wholesome site for a dwelling. The perfect surface drainage affords an immediate dispersal of all refuse and contaminated water. The flower beds (a & a') which are supplied with poppies in the spring and geraniums or foliage plants in autumn are indeed beautiful. Here the lawn is

# Home Grounds on uneven surface.

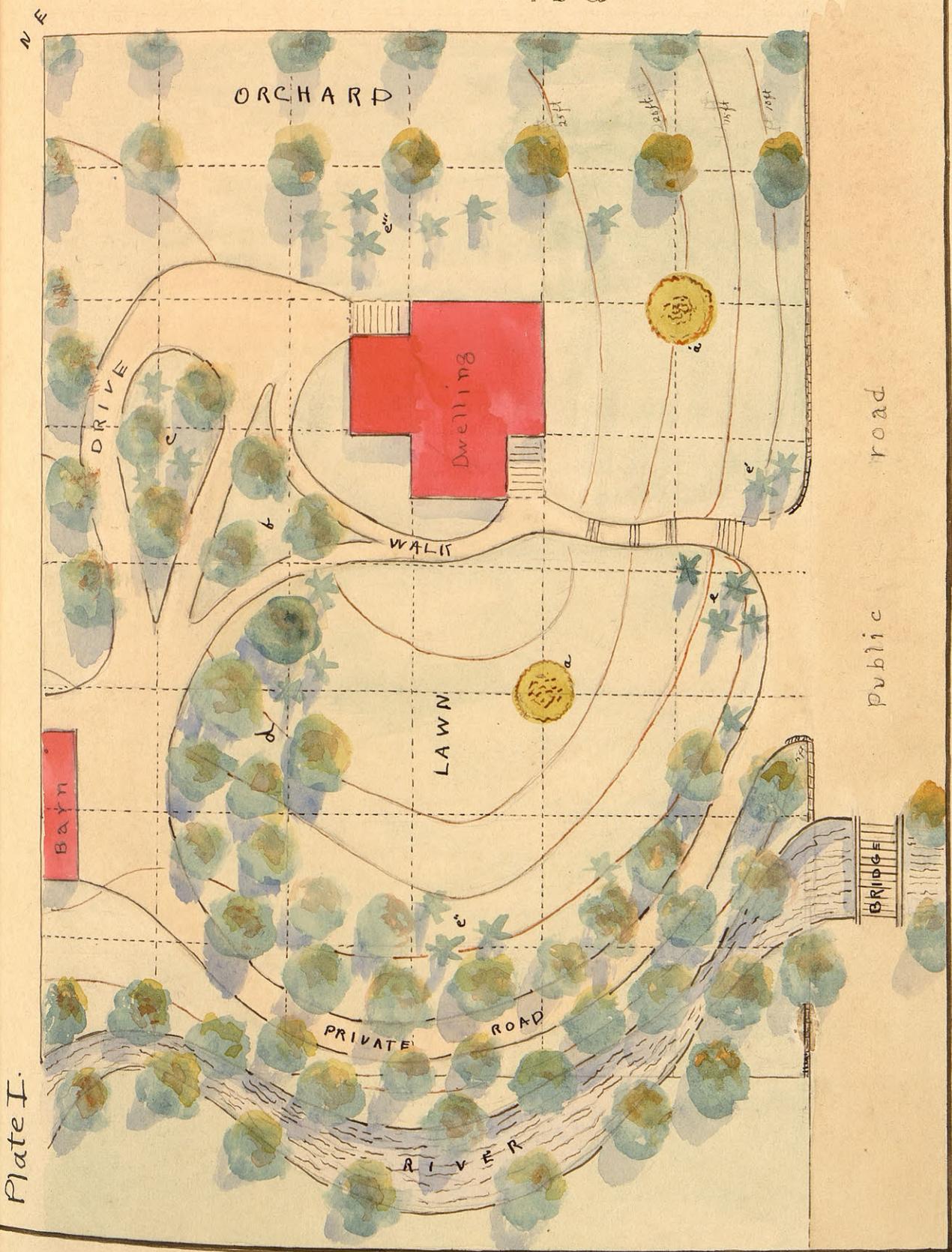


Plate I.

sufficiently large to afford space for flower beds. A group of six large elms and Austrian pines (b & c) occupy the space of ground back of the house. These are beautiful shade trees and also serve as a protection to the house from the north winds. The group of trees at (d) consists of elms while those farther west and along the river banks consist of oak, walnut, ash, and beach trees. The private road leading thru these near the stream is indeed a happy retreat for one who wishes to obtain a refreshing breath. The clumps of trees (e e' e" e''') are Austrian pines. These have a richness and density that no other tree possesses and serve to conceal the barrenness caused by the deciduous trees in the winter.

The walk leading from the public road to the dwelling is a unique construction. The elevation being too great for ordinary walking, steps were required for convenience in climbing the hill. The elevation from the river to the dwelling occupies ground that is partly on the level and partly sloping toward the south.

PLATE 11. is an illustration of "home grounds" on level surface and the plan is arranged symmetrically. This occupies the south east corner of a section and a private road leads thru double corn cribs to the barnyard from each public highway. The walks are also arranged so the yard may be entered from either side. The lawn is a wide space enclosed with a fence of privet hedge. A large elm (a) tree occupies the corner and a lone star flower bed (f) the center. This is a very simple and artistic lawn and is not indented by flower beds and shrubbery that have no artistic bearing with the

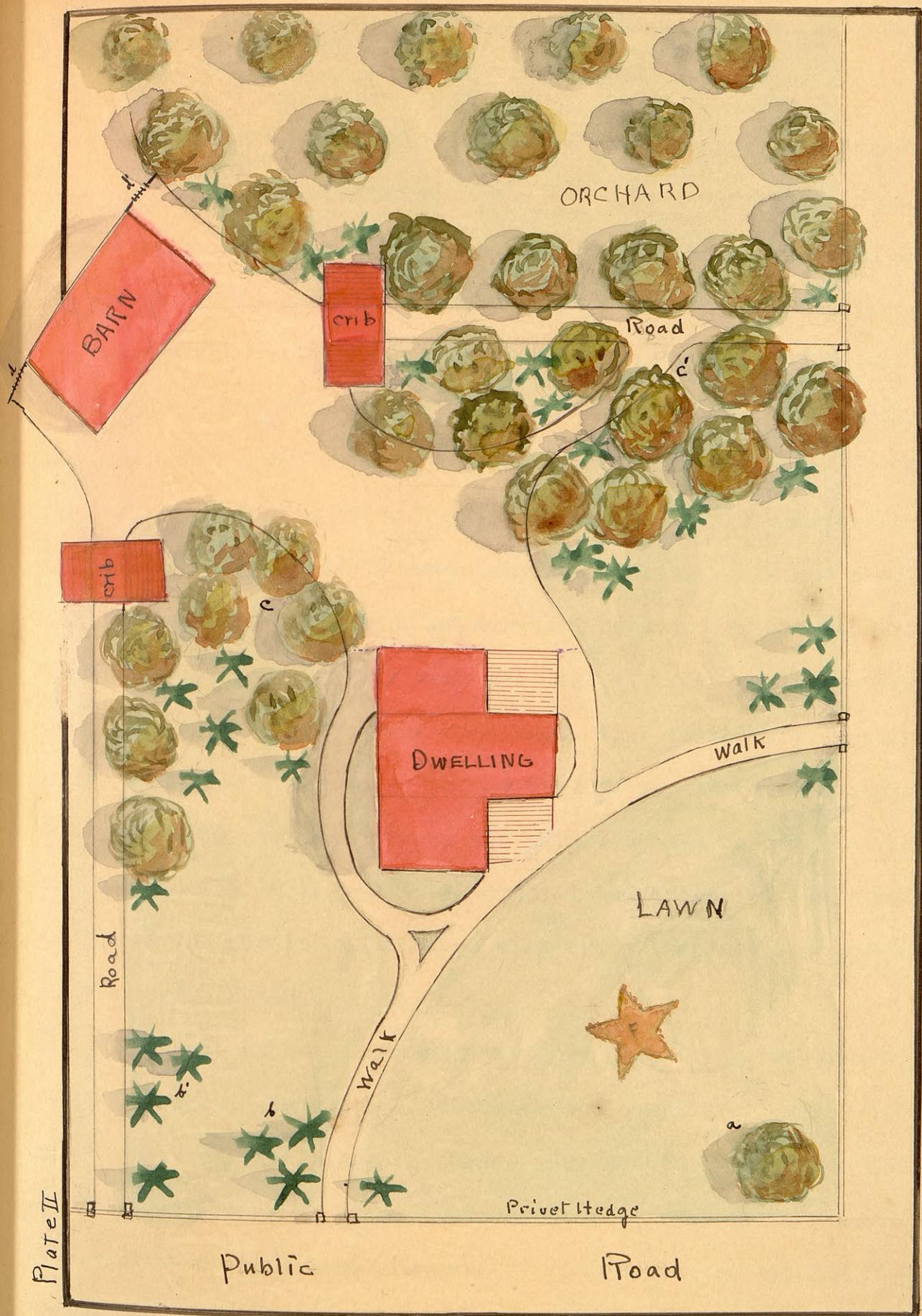


Plate II

plan.

Various clumps of Austrian pines (b b') occupy the space near the front gates and mingled with the shade trees in the rear grounds Both private roads are lined on either side with walnut trees and the groups (c c') are elms. The gates (d d') separate the yards of the various out buildings, from the yard surrounding the house. The private roads are so arranged that upon entering the back yard, there is no inconvenience in driving directly to the back door of the dwelling which is often a great necessity. This plan contains but 3 kinds of shade and ornamental trees, walnut, elm and pine. In planning and making any kind of garment those colors and materials are always chosen that will wear well and if trimming is used it should harmonize with its surroundings. When trimming with silk or satin, cotton or linen would not be used as additional trimming. So it is with home grounds. Trees and shrubs should be selected that will harmonize with the climatic conditions, grow with luxuriant foliage and should not be mingled with trees that are straggeling and sparingly decked with foliage.

Elegance rather than gaudiness and simplicity rather than complexity should be sought. Elegance and simplicity may be found either in symmetrical plans which are made according to exact geometrical designs or in plans that follow the order of nature. Either one requires a considerable amount of thought and energy for their proper unfoldment.

PLATE 111. is the plan of the writers own home improved and

MY OWN HOME  
IMPROVED <sup>and</sup> REARRANGED.

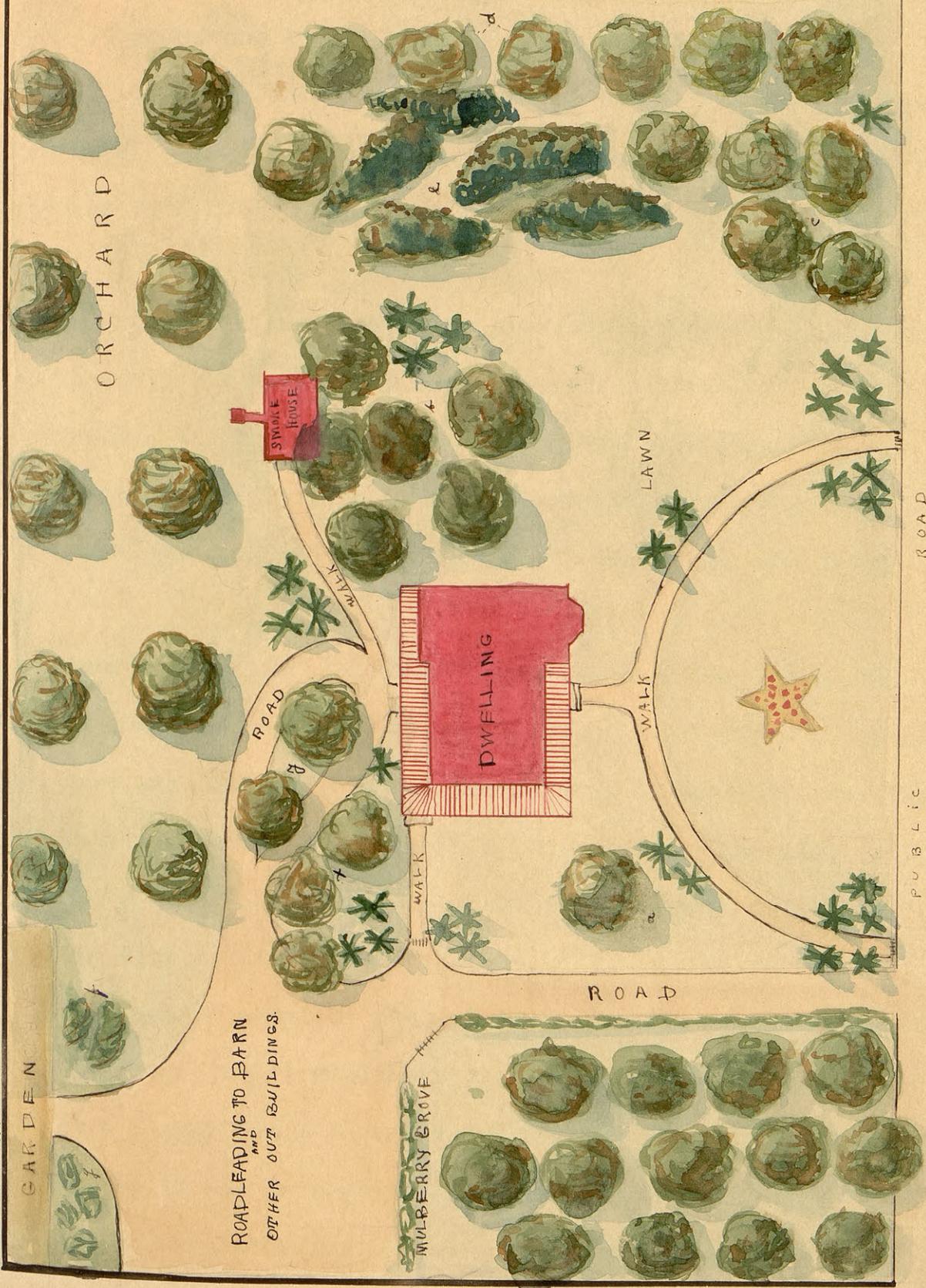


Plate III

GARDEN

ORCHARD

ROAD LEADING TO BARN  
AND  
OTHER OUT BUILDINGS.

MULBERRY GROVE

SMOKE HOUSE

DWELLING

LAWN

ROAD

ROAD

PUBLIC ROAD

489

rearanged. The farm is situated three miles north and one mile west of Neuchatel in Nemaha County, Kansas. The home itself as it is today is of the usual character of a Kansas prairie home - comfortable and with a large area of more or less waste land about it that has grown up with trees and bushes partly planted and partly sprouted.

The plan was begun before the present planner commenced his work on it and it is well known that it is more difficult to "make over" something old than to make something entirely new. However, it can be done successfully with persistent and thoughtful labor to which any one, who has had experience along this line, can truly testify.

From a straggeling and poorly arranged plan has grown the illustrated plan in question. The pine trees and front walk are rearranged here and the elm is added to the list of shade trees. The elm tree (a) is entirely for ornamental purposes. A handsome isolated tree like this is a source of great inspiration. This goes hand in hand with culture and refinement.

The groups of elms (b) and (c) form a lovely retreat on a hot summer day. Group (e) is a plum thicket. The star in the center of the lawn is a flower bed - In the country where there is so much work to be done in the care of the farm and the home grounds there is very little spare time for the care of flowers, so it is wise to have a flower bed filled with beautiful hardy flowers in the front yard. It should not be in the back yard or in some out of the way

490

corner where all its beauty is hidden. A large iron vase painted white with a broad stone base placed in the center of this flower bed is a lovely ornament for the lawn. It contains a wild Yucca and surrounding the vase are foliage plants and geraniums. These hide the rough foundation and at the same time produces artistic beauty. Later in autumn when these plants must be taken up, their place may be filled with some annual plant such as the marigold, zinna, pinks, etc. These may be planted in boxes until ready to transfer to the flower bed.

The lilac bushes are opposite the spiraea (g) at the entrance of the vegetable garden. West of this is the cherry orchard while farther south and west are the apple and peach orchards and the vineyard. The mulberry grove which occupies over an acre of ground serves as a "wind break" to the barn and other out-buildings from severe north winds.

The road that leads to the back door is an improvement which adds both to convenience and looks. x and y are walnut trees. The Austrian pines indicated by green stars add the final richness and beauty to the plan. The general slope of the ground is toward the south and a little west. The drainage is excellent and there is no chance for stagnant water to accumulate.

Home grounds in town are at a great disadvantage over the country homes owing to the lack of space. The small plot of ground whereon a home is built generally is more expensive than the dwelling itself. A wealthy person who is able to purchase from two to

four lots, may very conveniently produce an arrangement that is equal in every respect to a country home, but, in this case wealth would be the only advantage in forming and carrying out plans for artistic home grounds in town.

However small the space may be, the successful carrying out of a handsome and convenient plan can not be hindered.

Plans of home grounds in town are nearly all on the same order, a scant lawn, a few bushes and several trees. Trees are generally planted in abundance along the streets and in parks. The walks of these grounds vary with the structures and plans of the dwelling. Curved walks are not common as the straight ones.

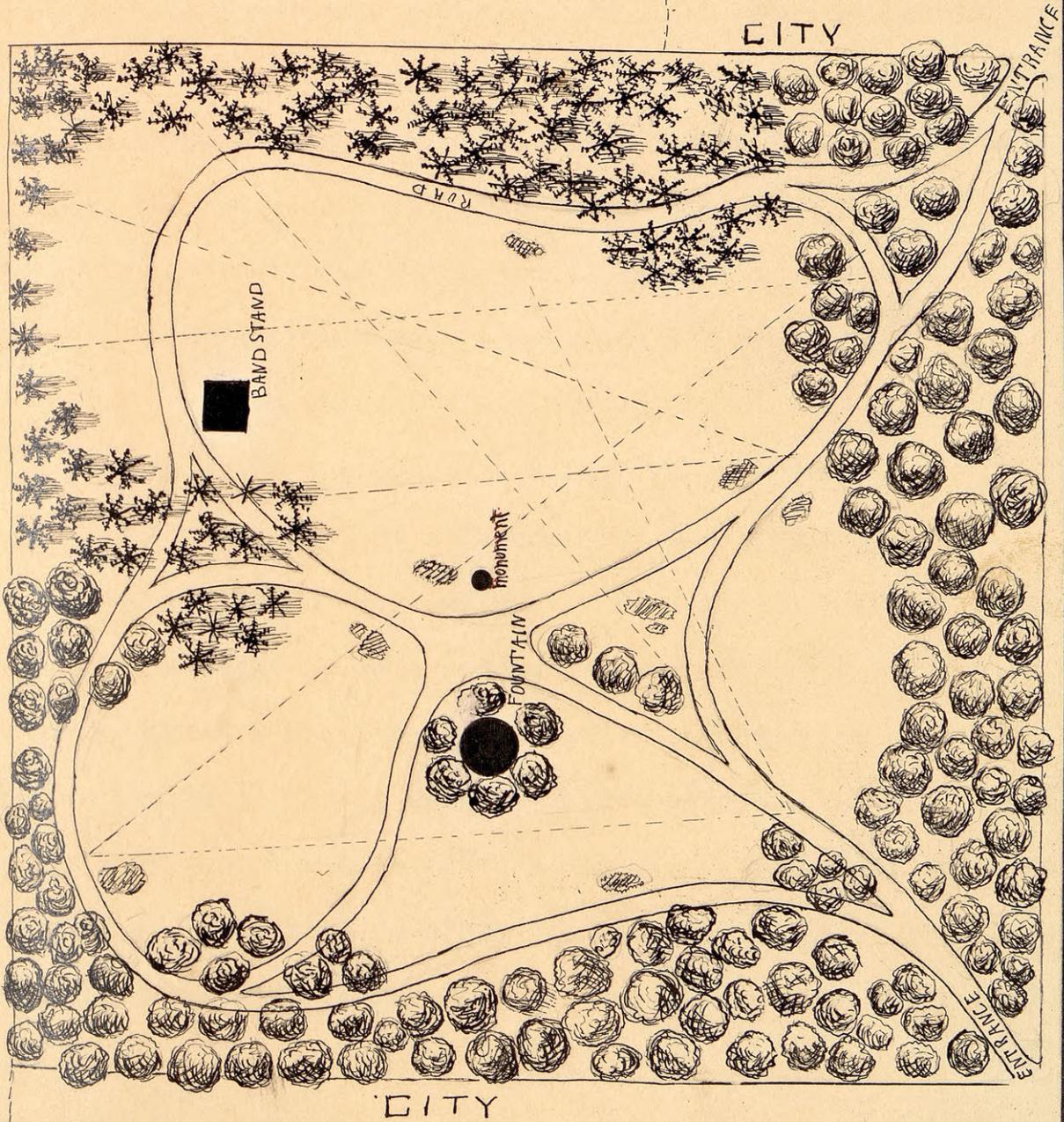
Now that the town people are deprived of wide lawns, shade trees and all the luxuries an ideal plan possesses, they often cooperate and develop a beautiful city park which can be used and enjoyed by all. The site generally selected for a park is level or gently sloping so that upon entering one can see the beauties of the distant corners. An uneven site such as a rocky valley or a bluff cut up by deep ravines would make a still better, i e, more picturesque park but its planting and the engineering work of its necessary walks and roads would be much more difficult.

PLATE IV. is the plan of a small city park containing 20 acres of ground. Large elm trees line the edge on the south east and west while pines are the prominent trees on the north west. The bushes which dot the lawn on each side of the drive serve to break the monotony by changes in the scene.

# CITY PARK

CONTAINING

## 20 ACRES.



The fine dotted lines extending from various points in several directions, are lines of vision showing the distance thru which the eye may detect objects and indicate different view points. Here the trees are so arranged that one may see from one corner to the other. This gives it a certain deepness making it seem much larger and denser than it really is. The person who made the plan of this park, thought with the poet who sang of garden plans,

"When in the Garden's Entrance you provide,

The waters, there united, to divide:

First in the Center a large fountain make

Which from a narrow pipe its Rise may take!"

A park would not be complete without a fountain or a stream running thru it. Water adds the item of motion and life to a landscape. A monument occupies a place near the center and near the north east corner is the band stand. Here a large open space is left to give the boys plenty of space to march while at the same time the beautiful carpet of grass and the overhanging canopy of trees will inspire them to play their music in a manner corresponding to the surroundings.

From the earliest days down to the present time eminent men, men who have transmitted much good to mankind, have continually offered praise to the gardens they had so often frequented. Here under shady bowers on sunny lawns near flowing streams, our greatest poets and writers received inspirations revealing to them the harmony of the universe, thus enabeling them to give to the less

inspired a glimpse of the spiritual creation.

"'Tis he can paint in verse those rising hills  
Those gentle vallies and their silver rills  
Close groves and opening glades with verdure spread  
Flowers sighing sweets, and shrubs that balsam bleed"