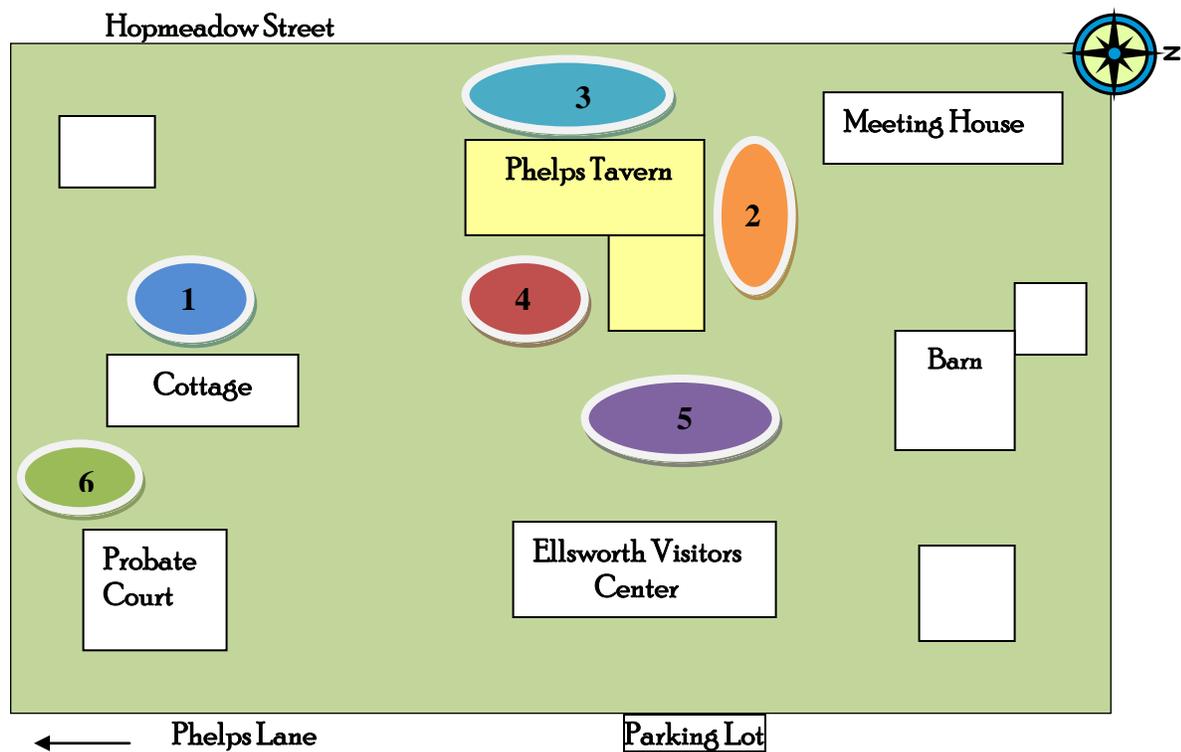


# Simsbury History Society PHELPS TAVERN MUSEUM

## Our Gardens Self-Guiding Tour

Established in 1911, the Simsbury Historical Society has had a permanent home in the center of Simsbury since 1962, when it received the Phelps tavern and barn. The beautiful grounds of this two acre site have been enhanced over the years with a variety of gardens and plantings created and maintained by community gardening groups, and volunteer gardeners under the guidance of a single staff gardener. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the gardens and picnic on-site during their visit.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4a90e2; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 1 Herb Garden</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ff9f44; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 2 Shade Garden</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4dc0f5; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 3 Fisher Memorial Garden</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #c0392b; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 4 Parlor Garden</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #8e44ad; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 5 Wagner Rose Walk</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90ee90; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 6 Phelps Iris Bed</li> </ul> |
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*Descriptions continue on next page*

## 1 Herb Garden ~ Simsbury Garden Club ~ 1966

This on-going award-winning project contains about forty varieties of annual and perennial herbs known to have been planted for culinary and medicinal purposes from 1779 to 1850. Among the plantings are basil, bee balm, calendula, catnip, chamomile, chives, costmary, dianthus, geranium, lady's mantle, and lamb's ear.

## 2 Shade Garden ~ Simsbury Garden Club ~ 1994

Created to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Simsbury Garden Club, this shade garden is planted with several unusual fern, hosta, and astilbe varieties, and is shaded by a clump of Shadbush trees.

## 3 Betty Fisher Memorial Garden ~ Simsbury Garden Club ~ 1998

Created to honor the memory of Betty Fisher, long-time Simsbury Historical Society member and the wife of the late local author Clavin Fisher, this garden features a naturalized planting of myrtle groundcover with daffodils, trillium, spring and fall crocus, and daylilies. With historic lilacs at each corner, Russian sage softens the edge of the stone porch.

## 4 Parlor Garden ~ Gardeners of Simsbury ~ 2007

This award-winning perennial garden, anchored by a mature Weeping Higan Cherry tree, was in the process of a redesign when the gardeners found a previously unknown well shaft as they were preparing the new beds. The raised beds feature plants popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries such as bachelor's buttons, phlox and dianthus.

## 5 Wagner Rose Walk ~ Simsbury Chapter, American Rose Society ~ 2002

Nearly twenty different varieties of roses bloom here beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. In 2002, the original bed was expanded to the current rose walk with the addition of New Dawn climbing roses and the latticework trellis in honor of Lina Wagner and her horticultural service to the Historical Society. As a result, the Town of Simsbury was recognized with a *Rose City* designation.

## 6 Phelps Iris Bed ~ Joan Phelps Messenger & the Historic Iris Preservation Society ~ 2004

Joan Phelps Messenger, the last of the Phelps family to live in the Phelps house on the site, donated this bed in honor of her mother Martiema Tuller Phelps and in remembrance of the massive iris beds that graced the site during her residence. With technical assistance from the Historic Iris Preservation Society and the acquisition of heritage planting stock, this bed now contains iris varieties that were popular from the 1500s through the 1930s.