

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Reddick Mansion Herb Garden Certified as “Official Illinois Herb Garden”

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After several months and the hard work of several volunteers, the herb garden on the grounds of the Reddick Mansion has been certified as an “Official Illinois Herb Garden” by the Illinois Herb Association.

Back in the spring, Susan Fuller and Marge Renwick approached the Reddick Mansion Association about transforming the existing herb garden in the northwest corner of the Mansion grounds into a certified herb garden. The “Eliza Jane Reddick Herb Garden”, named after William Reddick’s wife, was originally planted by the Ottawa Garden Club in 1995 and has been maintained by club members since that time. Fuller and Renwick, both Master Gardeners and members of the Ottawa Garden Club, had attended a seminar on herb gardens at IVCC and wanted to bring these ideas to life in Ottawa. Fuller, in addition to being an avid gardener (her and her husband’s home was part of the Sunrise Rotary Garden Walk this past spring) is also the treasurer of the Reddick Mansion Association.

With the Reddick Mansion Association’s approval and financial assistance, the two ladies began the project—working to meet the guidelines provided by the Illinois Herb Association:

- 1) The herb garden must contain at least 20 of the “Herb of the Year” plants and must be at least 80% herbs.
- 2) The garden needs to be in a place that is easily accessible to the public for educational purposes.
- 3) The garden must contain markers or a paper map so that people can readily identify the plants.

Many existing herbs were incorporated into the new design and several additional herbs were also added. The garden now includes varieties of mint, lavender, sage, basil, dill, thyme, and garlic.

Prior to certification by the Illinois Herb Association board of directors, a board member must visit the garden to verify that it complies with all the guidelines. In July, Deborah Neiman, Vice President of the Illinois Herb Association, inspected the garden. According to Neiman, the association’s goal is to have a certified herb garden in each county in Illinois. Neiman, who was impressed by the herb garden, the variety of plants, and rest of the gardens at the Mansion, also toured the Reddick Mansion during her visit to Ottawa.

Fuller received the certificate for an “Official Illinois Herb Garden” in early August. The Reddick Mansion Association is now working with the city of Ottawa to place a sign or a duplicate certificate in the herb garden.

As part of the gardens at the Reddick Mansion, the herb garden is open to the public every day.

The Reddick Mansion, built in 1858, is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Mansion, at 100 W. Lafayette Street, Ottawa, IL, is open to the public for tours and also has meeting/reception rooms available for rent for special events.