domesticity and presence of heart,” were once plentiful. Akebia is trained along the sides of the c. 1920 garden house.

In 1978, Rudy Favretti, a faculty member at the University of Connecticut with specialized knowledge of landscape history, supervised the restoration of the gardens. This project included stabilizing the boxwood hedge and flower beds, taking an inventory of surviving Bowen plant material, and researching original documents and records. During this process, the boxwood was pruned and some plants were reintroduced.

Today, Historic New England’s gardener and several volunteers plant 3,500 annuals each year—all of them varieties known to have been used by Bowen. When possible, plant material surviving from Bowen’s era is propagated to maintain a bank of historic specimens for future use.

Several trees and shrubs are worthy of note: a tulip tree, ginkgo tree, Japanese maple, Chinese wisteria, and a rhododendron that was moved from the garden to the south lawn. There are, in addition, dogwood, hawthorn, smoke bush, shagbark hickory, crabapple, pear, hemlock, pine, and weeping willow. A Wye Oak Tree, offspring of the largest white oak in the United States, was donated and planted on the grounds in 1994. A Homestead Elm, a disease-resistant variety, was planted in 1998 as a gift from the Woodstock Academy graduating class to replace the many elms lost to blight. Both of these trees are located near the ice house.

Historic New England continues to improve the garden and grounds at Roseland Cottage every year. As Henry Bowen so eloquently said at the Woodstock Fair in 1875, “You can at least plant an elm or a rosebush every year and you will not have lived entirely in vain.”

Exterior view of Roseland Cottage, c. 1865.