National Register of Historic Places
Inventory - Nomination Form

1. NAME
   COMMON: Tower Grove Park
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on annexed map
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri 63100
   CODE: 29
   COUNTY: St. Louis
   CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One): District
   Structure
   Site
   BUILDING
   OBJECT
   OWNERSHIP (Check One): Public
   Private
   Both
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes
   Restricted
   Unrestricted
   No
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION (Check One): In Process
   Being Considered
   Occupied
   Unoccupied
   Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC: Yes
   No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: City of St. Louis
   STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall, 12th and Market Streets
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri 63103
   CODE: 29

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City Hall
   STREET AND NUMBER: 12th and Market Streets
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri 63103
   CODE: 29

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: Building Art in St. Louis (George McCue)
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1964
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: St. Louis Chapter, American Institute of Architecture
   STREET AND NUMBER: 107 North 7th Street
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri 63103
   CODE: 29
6. **TOWER GROVE PARK**

Missouri State Historical Survey  
1968  
Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176,  
1204 Jefferson Building,  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
65101  
Code: 29
Tower Grove Park encompasses a long, narrow rectangular area of 277 acres located in the south central section of St. Louis, Missouri. It is bounded by Magnolia Avenue on the north, Grand Boulevard on the east, Arsenal Street on the south and Kingshighway Boulevard on the west.

Originally this land was open prairie, and it still retains the flat rolling contour of a plain, but it has now been domesticated. Treeless in the beginning, Tower Grove Park (the second largest park in St. Louis) is of English design with its grand drives and walks interspersed with colossal but graceful statues, miniature lakes, gazebos and other summer houses, and hundreds of trees suited to the soil and climate of Missouri.

The park was designed by James Gurney, Sr. (1831-1920) an Englishman whom Henry Shaw, donor of the land, brought to St. Louis for that purpose. Mr. Gurney, who had been head of the aquatic section of the Royal Gardens at Kew, remained in St. Louis as park superintendent afterwards.

The landscape design follows the so-called "gardenesque" or "cultivated" style of park arrangement, a style popular in the second half of the nineteenth century in this country. The 1883 report of the Commissioners of Tower Grove Park fully explains the nature of this style:

The cultivated style of park ornamentation necessarily implies order, systematic arrangement, but it is not limited to formal or purely artistic conceptions, and the freedom and grace of nature are not sacrificed in the landscape it creates. The artist of the graceful and cultivated style pursues a middle course between the picturesque and the formality of the purely artificial, aiming always to preserve the harmony of natural forms and scenes.

The reflection of this style is still evident. The plan of the park is dominated by a central drive from the east to the west end. Each end of the drive is elevated to provide a view of the park, and the traffic circles interrupt the course of the road to break the formal monotony of a long straight line. Originally on either side of the main drive was a somewhat narrower road by which the park could also be traveled from east to west. Each way had frequent curves and passed through a series of wooded groves. The north road still exists, but the eastern section of the south road between Tower Grove Avenue and Grand Boulevard has been obliterated. Several northsouth pedestrian paths which were once prevalent have since disappeared. The roads are now paved for automobile traffic.
TOWER GROVE PARK

Most of the structures and ornamentation places throughout the park date from the second half of the nineteenth century, and most are significant architecturally as surviving examples of pleasure and garden buildings.

Most of the buildings, the main entrance on Grand Boulevard, and the bases of the three 30 foot high bronze statues were designed by George I. Barnett (1815 - 1898). Barnett was an English-born architect who was probably the most distinguished representative of his profession in Missouri in the nineteenth century; he received several other important commissions from Henry Shaw. There are ten picnic pavilions or gazebos in the park (3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19) which reflect a variety of architectural styles including elements of Greek revival, gothic revival, oriental, and nineteenth century bracket and scroll. As a collection of garden architecture they are perhaps unsurpassed in any public park in this country. In addition there are smaller well houses (no longer functioning as sources of drinking water) of a pleasant nineteenth century rural nature. Three gothic revival stone gatehouses (1, 7, and 20) guard the north, south, and west entrances to the park, and heighten the romantic effect gathered from the other exotic structures on the grounds. The Moorish-domed bandstand (10) is a prominent feature near the center of the park, and it is surrounded by Carrara marble busts of composers which were popular with Mr. Shaw and the public of the 1870's: Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Gounoud, Wagner, and Beethoven.

Other sculptural decorations include the German wrought zinc figures of griffins and recumbent lions (the latter after Canova's lions) which guard the Grand Boulevard entrance; three over life-sized bronze statues (Columbus, von Humboldt, and Shakespeare) by Baron Ferdinand von Muller of Munich (a favorite Shaw artist), and an ornamental pool backed by "ruins" constructed out of rusticated and classically carved limestone fragments from the Lindell Hotel (St. Louis) which burned in 1867.

Although some buildings have been erected in this century, they are relatively few, and the park retains its essentially nineteenth century character. The gazebos and other shelters are well-maintained, and a few years ago were repainted in Victorian hues which have done much to recapture the original feeling of Tower Grove Park.
Tower Grove Park is significant as a well preserved and outstanding example of a public park of the 1870's in particular, and the later nineteenth century in general. The total ensemble—landscape architecture, gaxeboes, and gatehouses, and ornamental sculpture and picturesque conceits—is a rare survivor for its period of unusually fine quality. The park can be compared favorably with any other of its period in the country for the excellence of its over-all plan, and the variety and richness of its ornamentation, both structural and artistic. As a unit—purely for pleasure—it probably has no rival in the United States.

Equally interesting is the background of its creation. Henry Shaw, the wealthy English-born donor and patron; James Gurney, the English-born landscape gardener; and George I. Barnett, the English born architect, present an unusually gifted and enlightened trio of creators. Henry Shaw (whose benefaction include the founding of the Missouri Botanical Garden on his country estate adjacent to the park) was a student of English landscape gardens; and his selection of two fellow-countrymen to assist in developing the park was no accident. The park is, in many ways, an English garden experience transported to the midwest.

Tower Grove Park is a significant recreational, horticultural, and visual experience of a century ago on a major scale which has come through the years, virtually unchanged.

The land for Tower Grove Park was donated to the city in 1867 by Henry Shaw, a hardware merchant, importer, and western outfitter who came to St. Louis in 1819, prospered, and retired at the age of forty to devote full time to travel and his avocation, botany. (D. O. Jensen, "The Enigma of Mr. Shaw", Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. XV, July 1959, p. 311.) Public funds of $300,000 were then raised to match the land donation and support.
for its ornamental improvement. Because the territory donated for the park was on the edge of the city and outside its limits, the creation and improvement of the area had to be authorized by the Legislature of the State. On March 9th, 1867 "An act to create, establish and provide the government of Tower Grove Park of the city of St. Louis" was passed and approved. The growth of the city soon encompassed the park and it is now located close to the heart of St. Louis.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 277 acres

STATE CODE

STATE CODE

COUNTY CODE

COUNTY CODE

NAME AND TITLE:

Sheila Hannah, Research Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION:

State Historical Survey and Planning Office

Missouri State Park Board

DATE:

March 2, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Jefferson City

STATE:

Missouri 65101

29

STATE LIABILITY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☑ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title

Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
(Continuation Sheet)

9.

TOWER GROVE PARK


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME
   COMMON: Tower Grove Park
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on annexed map
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri
   CODE: 29
   COUNTY: St. Louis
   CODE: 510

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle, Webster Groves, Missouri
   SCALE: 1:24,000
   DATE: 1954

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, Missouri
UTM References:
A 15/740265 4276600
B 15/740180 4276110
C 15/737810 4276270
D 15/737875 4276800
**Form 10-301**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

| NAME | COMMON: Tower Grove Park  
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis |

| LOCATION |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on annexed map |

| CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis |
| STATE: Missouri |
| CODE: 29 |
| COUNTY: St. Louis |
| CODE: 510 |

| MAP REFERENCE |
| SOURCE: Sheila Hannah, Missouri State Park Board |
| SCALE: Not to scale |
| DATE: October, 1970 |

**REQUIREMENTS**  
*TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS*  
1. Property boundaries where required.  
2. North arrow.  
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Tower Grove Park 36
St. Louis, Missouri
artist: Camille Dry 1875
source: Richard V. Compton, ed.
Pictorial St. Louis
St. Louis: 1875
Composite assembled from 5 plates
showing bird's-eye view of park from southeast
Tower Grove Park west entrance gatehouse; number one (1) on annexed site plan map; view from the southwest facing northeast.
3. LOCATION

Boundaries as shown on Annexed Map

4. IDENTIFICATION

The park band pavilion, surrounded by busts of famous
view from the east facing west.
### 1. NAME
- COMMON: Tower Grove Park
- AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis

### 2. LOCATION
- STREET AND NUMBER:
  - Becoming as shown on annexed map
- CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
- STATE: Missouri
- CODE: 28
- COUNTY: St. Louis
- CODE: 510

### 3. PHOTO REFERENCE
- PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Hannah
- DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1970
- NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 178, St. Louis, Missouri, 63166

### 4. IDENTIFICATION
- DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
  Romantic ruins and pool; number 9 (9) on annexed site plan map; view from the southwest facing northeast.
1. TITLE
COMMON: Tower Grove Park
AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on annexed map
CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
STATE: Missouri

3. PHOTO-REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Reusch
DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1970
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
100 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: Tower Grove Park north gatehouse; number 7 on annexed site plan map; view from the southeast facing northwest.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Tower Grove Park
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Tower Grove Park of the City of St. Louis

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 
   CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis
   STATE: Missouri
   CODE: 29
   COUNTY: St. Louis
   CODE: 10

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Hoppah
   DATE OF PHOTO: October, 1979
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Park Picnic pavilion; number seventeen (17) on the annexed site plan map; view from the north facing south.
Spring Avenue Gate
Tower Grove Park  5
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from south across Arsenal St.
Shelter 19
Tower Grove Park
8
St. Louis, Missouri
Photo: Esler Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
1988, from south
Shelter 18
Tower Grove Park 10
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from west
Alexander von Humboldt Statue
Tower Grove Park  
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from southwest with Shelter 17
Music Stand
Tower Grove Park 12
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg.loc: Tower Grove Park
View from southeast
Shelter 16 (Horse Concourse)
Tower Grove Park
St. Louis, Missouri

Photo: Esley Hamilton 1988

View: From southeast
Lily Ponds and Plant House
Tower Grove Park 15
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
view from southwest
Shakespeare Statue  
Tower Grove Park  16  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988  
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park  
View from east with flagpole  
and Roman Pavilion
Shelter 28 (Lily Pond Summerhouse)
Tower Grove Park 17
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from northwest
South Gate (Arsenal Street)
Tower Grove Park 24
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from southwest
Stone House at Stable Complex
Tower Grove Park 25
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from east
West Gate House and Gate
2800 Kingshighway  27
Tower Grove Park
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg Loc: Tower Grove Park
View from northwest
Shelter 9 (Roman Pavilion), 1914
Tower Grove Park 29
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from southeast
Shelter 13 (Stone Pavilion), 1923
Tower Grove Park  30
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog: Esley Hamilton  1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
view from southeast
Grovet, fork 31

Uuis,
Northeast Shelter and Confort Station, 1931

Tower Grove Park

St. Louis, Missouri

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, 1938

Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park

view from south
Comfort Station, 1967
Tower Grove Park 34
St. Louis, Missouri
Photog.: Esley Hamilton 1988
Neg. Loc.: Tower Grove Park
View from southwest