

Tower Grove Park Shelter Ten
(Turkish Pavilion)
Tower Grove Park ...
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-I

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MO,
96-SALU,
46I-

PHOTOGRAPHS
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-I

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER TEN
(TURKISH PAVILION)

Location:

Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelter lies about 600' north of the South Gate at Arsenal Street on east edge of the Central Cross Drive, within the original boundaries of the Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.738790.4276370..

Present Owner:

City of St. Louis.

Present Use:

Public picnic shelter.

Significance:

The structure is well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1871-April 1872 (Mss. of Board Report, 1/31/72, p.27; Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p.162, 4/4/72 roofing bill).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Comp.1868, p.122, payment drawing plans, 6/27/72). For additional biographical information see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1196).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis. For property description, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1196).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Benjamin Lynds and Joel McFern were paid \$100 for building the summerhouse near the South Gate (Comp.1868, p.158, 3/19/72). The roof was done by Jones, Sanders, and Co. for \$500 (Comp. 1868, p.162, 4/4/72).
5. Original plans, construction etc: This was one of several picnic shelters originally planned for the park. The juncture of the first and second major roof tiers contains nesting places for pigeons, (TGP Receipts and Vouchers 1/71-6/71 bill for Summer and Pigeon house in letter from Architect Greenleaf to Comptroller, Henry Shaw, 6/27/71). (The pigeon roosts are now removed.)

6. Alterations and additions: The shelter was enlarged in 1892 with the addition of the third and lowest roof tier. The extension was carried on iron supports and cost \$1878.50 (Mss. of Board Reports, 1/1/93, p.360). Presumably, the dovescotes were moved there.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: There is one view of the shelter before the 1892 addition showing pigeon nests, printed from glass plate in Fuhrman Collection, Scottish Rite Library, 3633 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, Mo.; and a Contact sheet made on March 22, 1973, showing structural system, in the Park photo files. (see HABS photocopies)

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Comptroller's Books 1875, 1882, and 1888; the reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; Shaw's synopsis of Work done in Park from 1872 and Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers for 1867-1889 are in the custody of Park Superintendent, Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and probably will be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia to the Shaw Manuscript Collections at the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, by the end of the summer of 1974.

Deed Books: City Hall, Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

- b. Secondary sources: Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners.

Tower Grove Park. St. Louis:
Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co.,
1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July 1974

PART II.. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: The shelter consists of a multi-tiered bulbous-domed roof carried by an ornate octagonal iron truss and column support system and was designed to evoke romantic associations with the architecture of the East.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Octagonal shape: Each bay is 21' wide. Height to pinnacle is 42'.
2. Foundations: Concrete pad, column bases.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: There are eight outer cast-iron ornamented dark green columns with an ornate iron truss spanning each bay and eight paired interior brown wooden columns, joined at the shafts by two carved-edged wedges. Arched trusses with an infill of flat, latticed members span the intercolumniations of the inner columns.
4. Structural system: Post and truss framing with bowed and curved trusses supporting the largest lower roof tier.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape covering: The bulbous roof design is composed of three onion domes with gilded pointed spire on an orb at the apex and two lower curving tiers, covered with ribbed sheet metal. The lower tier is almost bell-shaped and open underneath, its alternate ribbed strips are painted purple and yellow. The two tiers above the lowest are painted greenish gray.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The floor is divided by the ~~inner~~ octagonal columns, creating a central and then a surrounding octagonal floor space.
2. Flooring: Herring-bone pattern in brick.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The ceiling of the lower tier is tongue-and-groove wood painted greenish-white and resting on curved mitre trusses painted black. The ceiling of the inner octagon is flat with a "wagon-wheel" design of greenish-white tongue-and-groove wood. There is a cast-iron pendant at the center of the ceiling, and molded strips radiating from it reach the innermost ring of paired columns.

D. Site.

1. General setting: The Turkish Pavilion is located along the east side of the Tower Grove Avenue Drive in a shady spot with picnic tables, cook-out stoves and a water pump. in the south end of the Park, 600' north of the Arsenal Street entrance.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
and
Peter Dessauer
August 1975
Field Historians
National Park Service

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -