

Tower Grove Park Bridges
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-T

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
46T-

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

HABS
MO,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-T

TOWER GROVE PARK BRIDGES

Location:

Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

Tower Grove Park Bridges: All bridges are within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

Wooden bridge on northeast drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739440. 4276580

Wooden bridge on southeast drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739420. 4276300

Iron bridge north of main drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739460. 4276300

Iron bridge south of main drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739460. 4276410

Wooden bridge on northwest drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.738380. 4276630

Wooden bridge on southwest drive
USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.738360. 4276370

Present Owner:

City of St. Louis. For property description see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).

Present Use:

Spanning streams along public park footpaths and drive.

Significance:

The bridge types are representative of late nineteenth century landscape design features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1868-1872 (Shaw Synopsis).
2. Architect: Not known. Possibly Francis Tunica. For biographical information see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis.
4. Description of property: For property description see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
5. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Ironwork was supplied by Shickle, Harrison, and Co. of St. Louis for \$320 (Shaw Synopsis).
6. Original plans and construction, etc.: The iron bridges were initially floored with oak planks; the four wooden bridges were built of cedar for \$1000 (Shaw Synopsis).
7. Alterations and additions: Bridges on the north and south drives were replaced by the end of 1964 — the ornamental railings had been destroyed by vandals (Superintendent's report for November December 1964). In April of 1965 another case of vandalism and ensuing replacement of a bridge railing occurred (Superintendent's report for April 1965). A new redwood bridge on the north drive installed in the spring was badly vandalized in October of 1971, and was consequently replaced (Superintendent's report for October 1971).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Synopsis of Work Done in Park 1868-1872; the reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; and the Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers from 1867-1889 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection 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.
2. 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 R. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R. P. Studley
and Co., 1883.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: These utilitarian structures of geometrical design blend with the landscape and ornamental shelters.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description:

1. Cast iron pedestrian bridges: The pair have the same design and color, and stand to the northeast and southeast.
 - a. Over-all dimensions: 21'-8" by 13'-9" (wide).
 - b. Foundations: Stone, random ashlar: The same forms a retaining wall for the stream underneath.
 - c. Construction, framing: Arched beams painted green attach to plain, square, chamfered end posts which have circular moldings and a plain ball cap at the top, also painted green. The sides consist of criss-crossed ribbed green diagonal members, intersecting in the center of ribbed circular members which are painted white. The lower arched beam has three basically rectangular panels with concavely curved ends separated by rosettes.
 - d. Surface: Flat macadamized walkway.

2. Wooden pedestrian bridges: The pair has the same design and color, and stands to the northwest and southwest.

- a. Over-all dimensions: 11'-0" long by 10'-0" wide.
- b. Foundations: Stone, random ashlar, the same forms a retaining wall for the stream underneath.
- c. Construction, framing: The square corner posts are chamfered and painted white, and are topped by polygonal knobs painted green. The upper and lower railings are plain green horizontal members. The sides consist of diagonal and counter diagonal lattice work (Chippendale style), painted white. The entire structure is cedar.
- d. Surface: Flat macadamized walkway.

3. Wooden vehicular bridges:

Northeast drive:

- a. Over-all dimensions: 17'-6" long by 12'-0" wide, flat.
- b. Foundations: Stone, random ashlar.
- c. Construction and framing: Straight, plain horizontal upper and lower rails join the square corner posts, which have beveled edges. The tops of the corner posts are pyramidal. A criss-cross lattice of evenly-spaced, plain diagonal members runs between the rails. The entire structure is of unpainted redwood.
- d. Surface: Flat macadam.

Southeast drive:

- a. Over-all dimensions: 16'-9" long by 9'-0" wide, flat.
- b. Foundations: Stone, random ashlar.
- c. Construction and framing: The bridge has two sections. It has plain, horizontal upper and lower rails and square posts. The four end posts have pyramidal tops. The two center posts have flat tops, reinforced with iron plates and rods, painted yellow. Each section has four segments defined by plain straight vertical members running the full length of the siding between the rails. The top and bottom rows of each segment have a short vertical member in the center, running perpendicular to the horizontal members defining the middle row. The center row has two vertical members symmetrically placed several inches to either side of the center of the segment. The structure is unpainted cedar.
- d. Surface: Flat macadam.

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 office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.