

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100002336

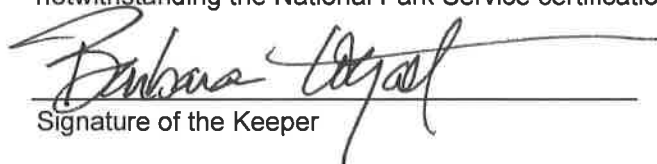
Date Listed: April 19, 2018

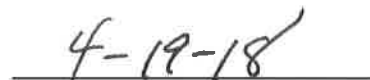
Property Name: Tilles, Rosalie, Park

County: St. Louis

State: MO

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

The Supplementary Listing Record corrects Section 5 of the nomination. The Category of Property should be "district" not "site". The Number of Resources within Property has been correctly completed.

The MISSOURI SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Other names/site number Rosalie Tilles Children's Playground and Park
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 9551 Litzsinger Road
City or town Ladue
State Missouri Code MO County St. Louis Code 189 Zip code 63124

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title JP Date 2/26/18

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
11	3	buildings
1	0	sites
15	10	structures
0	4	objects
27	17	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture; outdoor recreation

Landscape; park

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture; outdoor recreation

Landscape; park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: French

Renaissance

Other: WPA architecture

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone; concrete

walls: Stone; wood

roof: Slate; asphalt

other:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES

Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance

Architecture
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1935-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pendleton, Louis Baylor

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 68.6

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.624240 -90.367923 3 38.619794 -90.368714
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 38.624209 -90.362473 4 38.619143 -90.362484
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Esley Hamilton/Preservation Historian, Marie Taylor/Preservation Technician, Daniel Gonzales/Historian

organization St. Louis County Parks date October 2017

street & number 41 South Central Avenue telephone 314-615-7869

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63105

e-mail ehamilton@stlouisco.com, marie.taylor@nara.gov, dgonzales@stlouisco.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Tilles, Rosalie, Park

City or Vicinity: Ladue

County: St. Louis County State: Missouri

Photographer: Daniel Gonzales, Historian

Date
Photographed: October 10, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

See Fig. 28 for Map of Photo Locations

- 1 of 28: Main Restroom, looking southeast at the north façade of the building.
- 2 of 28: Gloria Rogers Restroom, looking north at the south façade of the structure.
- 3 of 28: Gloria Rogers Shelter, looking north at the south façade of the building.
- 4 of 28: Inside the Gloria Rogers shelter, looking at the interior east wall.
- 5 of 28: Dancing Figures Sculpture, Stone Pylon #1, and the Hyde Park Fence, taken looking northeast at the southeast corner of the park.
- 6 of 28: Park Keeper's Residence, Park Keeper's Garage, and Tennis Court with stone wall, taken from the northeast looking southwest.
- 7 of 28: Skow Shelter, taken looking northeast while looking at the southwestern façade.
- 8 of 28: Skow Restroom, taken looking southwest looking at the northeast façade of the structure.
- 9 of 28: Skow Playground Restroom, looking north at the southwest façade of the building.
- 10 of 28: Ball Field Restroom, looking north east at the west façade of the structure.
- 11 of 28: Picnic Site #4 Restroom, looking south at the north façade of the building.
- 12 of 28: Picnic Site #1 Restroom, looking west at the east façade of the building.
- 13 of 28: Picnic Site #1, looking north at the south façade of the stone structure.
- 14 of 28: Picnic Site #2 Restroom, looking south at the north façade of the building.
- 15 of 28: Parking Lot Stone Wall #1, looking northwest at the wall located on the northeast part of the property.
- 16 of 28: Parking Lot Stone Wall #2, looking northwest at the low stone parking wall.
- 17 of 28: Stone Wall #1, looking south, located on the north east part of the park.
- 18 of 28: Stone Wall #2, looking west and taken of the eastern wall.
- 19 of 28: Stone Wall #3, looking southeast while taken from the northwest perspective.
- 20 of 28: Stone Wall #4, looking north while taken from a southern perspective.
- 21 of 28: Baseball Field, looking north at the field, which is located at the northeast corner of the property.
- 22 of 28: Maintenance House, Maintenance Garage, looking northeast at the southwest façade.
- 23 of 28: Maintenance Shed, looking southeast at the northwest façade of the structure.
- 24 of 28: Windegger Shelter, looking northwest at the southeast façade of the structure.
- 25 of 28: Windegger Dock, looking south from a directly north perspective.
- 26 of 28: Landscape #1, looking north from near parking lot #1 across the park toward the Skow Shelter. The Gloria Rodgers Shelter is visible in the far left of the photo.
- 27 of 28: Landscape #2, looking west from near parking lot #1 looking up the main circle drive toward the Gloria Rodgers Shelter and Picnic Site #1 and #2.
- 28 of 28: Park Keeper's Residence, Park Keeper's Garage, looking south toward the north façade of the buildings.

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Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Excerpt from *The Book of St. Louisans*, section for "Tilles, Cap. A."

Figure 2: Obituaries for C.A. Tilles from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and St. Louis Post-Dispatch, respectively (November 23, 1957).

Figure 3: *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* articles pertaining to the gift of land by C.A. Tilles.

Figure 4: Architectural Plans for the front entrance to Tilles Park, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1935; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 5: Architectural Plans for the Main Restroom located in the southeast corner of the park, 1936; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 6: Revised floor plan and elevation plans for the Main Restroom, 1936; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 7: W.P.A. architectural drawing of the wading pool and Main Restroom, 1935; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 8: W.P.A. architectural drawing for the Gloria Rogers Shelter, orig. 1936, updated in 2005; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 9: Elevation and material plan for Gloria Rogers Shelter, 1936; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 10: Floor and elevation plan for the Gloria Rogers Shelter, 1936; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 11: Architectural drawings for "comfort stations" within Tilles Park, 1935; From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 12: Early aerial plan of Tilles Park; From St. Louis County Assessor's Plat Book.

Figure 13: Early aerial plan of Tilles Park, part II; From St. Louis County Assessor's Plat Book.

Figure 14: W.P.A. photo of Tilles Park under construction, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

Figure 15: W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

Figure 16: W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

Figure 17: W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

Figure 18: Excerpt from the 1938 Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Figure 19: Excerpt from the 1938 Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Figure 20: Letter to Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for St. Louis City, Joseph J. Mestres, from W.C. Murphy, Secretary of Parks and Recreation, May 15, 1939; (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

Figure 21: Deed of Gift (Tilles Park) from the City of St. Louis to St. Louis County.

Figure 22: Photograph of St. Louis County Parks Sign, c.2000, Camera facing northwest. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, August, 2017.

Figure 23: Photograph of Memorial to Rosalie Tilles, 1958, Camera facing west. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, August, 2017.

Figure 24: Photograph of Stone Wall #5, c.1937, Camera facing northwest. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, August, 2017.

Figure 25: Photograph of Stone Wall #6, c.1937, Camera facing south. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, August, 2017.

Figure 26: Aerial Map of Tilles Park from 1937, From ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

Figure 27: Aerial Map of Tilles Park from 1955, From ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

Figure 28: Log for Photos 1-28; From ArcGIS Map.

Figure 29: Tilles Park Contextual Map 2017; From ArcGIS Map.

Figure 30: Tilles Park Contributing/Non-Contributing Structures Map 2017; From ArcGIS Map.

Figure 31: Map of Tilles Park, 1962 from St. Louis County Parks.

Figure 32: Photograph of Babler State Park ca. 2000, from St. Louis County Parks.

Figure 33: Photograph of WPA structures at Fort Bellefontaine County Park 2015.

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Figure 34: Photograph of exercise station at Tilles Park. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, October, 2017.
Figure 35: Photograph of stained glass windows in Caretakers House at Tilles Park. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, October, 2017.

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

Rosalie Tilles Park is located in the City of Ladue, St. Louis County, Missouri (See Contextual Map, Fig. 29). It was established in 1932, but the date of construction for most structures within the park is 1935-1938. The park is a roughly rectangular parcel with Litzsinger Road to the South, McKnight Road to the East, Deer Creek Woods Subdivision to the North, and Litzsinger Lane Subdivision to the West (See Fig. 12, 13, and 30). The park takes up 68.62 acres within the confines of the city. According to a topographical survey conducted in 1933, there were several sinkholes of low elevation in the park typical of the geology of the area, and large amounts of vegetation were present.

The boundaries of the historic district contains 11 contributing buildings, 15 contributing structures, and one contributing site. (WPA buildings and structures, Hyde Park iron fencing, and the park's landscape). Additionally, the site has 3 non-contributing buildings (maintenance structures), 10 non-contributing structures (playgrounds, parking lots, baseball field retaining wall, and shelters), and 4 non-contributing objects (sculpture and signage).

In 1932, C.A. Tilles donated this property (listed as 68.62 acres) to the City of St. Louis with the instructions that it be developed into a children's park and named in memory of his mother, Rosalie Tilles. The deed contained a restriction that gave Tilles himself the right to continue to live on 7.746 acres of the property located just north of the caretaker's house and tennis courts. (See Fig. 31). After Tilles passed away in 1951 his will passed this portion of the property onto Jeanette Windegger. Although the rest was transferred into public custody, the land remained largely undeveloped until 1935 when a grant from the Works Progress Administration enabled construction of the park. This included structures, but also planting of trees, running sewer pipe, and reshaping the landscape. Most buildings and supporting structures in Tilles Park originate from this time period (See Fig. 26 and 27). Large amounts of stone were used to construct eight comfort stations, two picnic shelters, one park keeper's residence with garage, several low walls surrounding the tennis courts and drainage areas, and stone camp stoves. Along with these structures, three hundred feet of drainage pipe were laid, and drives were paved with concrete, they are now asphalt. Most undergrowth was cleared, exposing the undulating landscape almost entirely shaded by the forest canopy, dominated by oaks. The park stayed relatively the same until St. Louis County bought it in 1957.

In 1957, St. Louis County officially purchased Tilles Park from the City of St. Louis, but it was not until Jeanette Windegger relinquished her claim to the remaining tract of land (7.746) in 1975 that further development took place. The only remaining buildings from C.A. Tilles' property, known as "Resthaven", included the bungalow and stable. Deemed unsalvageable by St. Louis County, those structures were promptly torn down. The lake that originally covered a smaller portion of the land was expanded by roughly 1/3rd. Next to this lake a new timber-framed shelter was built, featuring a cantilevered deck overlooking the lake. In 1974, the St. Louis County Art Association donated the large metal sculpture "Dancing Figures" to the park. In 1989, a second-generation black oak tree created seedlings from prizes awarded at the 1936 Olympics was dedicated in the park, and still resides where it was planted, next to the Maintenance House. Since that time, two playgrounds and a children's fountain area have been added to the park. These were constructed between 2006 and 2008.

In 1989, the Skow Shelter, adjacent access roads, and Playground area #2 were renovated and improved using funding from the 1986 Bond Issue. The main ball field was also renovated in 1990 thanks to funds from the 1986 Bond Issue. In 2001, the Hyde Park wrought iron fence surrounding the park was restored

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through funds donated by the John Allen Love Foundation in memory of Jackson C. Parriott.¹ A memory bench was also installed in Jackson C. Parriott's honor.

ELABORATION:

SETTING

Tilles Park is surrounded by a well-maintained, affluent residential area. The surrounding subdivisions, which lay to the North and West, were both platted in the 1930s, meaning they developed in connection with the park. The park's boundaries are delineated by a fence that runs the full perimeter of the property allowing the public to enter the park only at the corner of Litzsinger and McKnight Roads, where a limestone gateway marks the entrance. The rolling hills of the park have a series of shelters, bathrooms, and playgrounds that are all connected by a main paved road that runs in a meandering circle throughout the park (See Photo 0026, 0027). This road makes Tilles Park ideal for visitors touring the park via car. The bathrooms and shelters, for the most part, even provide their own small parking lots just off the road. The park contains areas of lush vegetation, as well as a number of large trees that provide a canopy of shade for park visitors. Toward the northeast corner of the park is a large pond. The pond is a natural feature that was enlarged following St. Louis County's acquisition of the site in 1971. The large numbers of evergreens that dot the park were planted as part of the site's original design.² Scattered throughout the park are a number of trash cans, picnic tables and benches. Additionally, the park has a walking trail that runs along the perimeter of the park. At periodic locations this walking trail provides exercise stops which are defined by a mulched area (roughly 8ftx8ft) and aluminum metal structures that facilitate various forms of stretching or exercise (See Fig. 34)

See Fig. 30 for Map of Contributing and Non-Contributing Structures

The nomination includes 27 contributing resources and 17 that are non-contributing. Not listed as resources are the walking trails and lake. The walking trails run much of the circumference of the circle drive, and are gravel. They are considered natural features of the overall site. In addition, small objects like the exercise stations, benches, and trash cans have not been inventoried for this nomination due to their numbers, movability, and small size. Short expanses of concrete, including a few concrete walks, are described and included with their associated resources.

The contributing resources also include two picnic sites, and accompanying camp stoves. There were originally 10 camp stoves placed throughout the park, roughly half of them were associated with nearby comfort stations. A number of comfort stations remain where the camp stove has been lost. This explains the numbering structure used below in the listing of contributing resources.

The largest resource is the meandering circle drive that runs throughout most of the park. Contained within the drive are six small parking lots. They are not counted as separate resources because they are all directly connected to the main drive as they were historically.

The bulk of the contributing resources are limestone Works Progress Administration structures. These buildings, sites, and objects were constructed in the last half of the 1930s. Highlights among these resources are the main restroom with its high arches, and skilled stone work. Equally important are the

¹ St. Louis County Parks interoffice communication. Genie Zakrzewski, CPRP Director of Parks and Recreation to Honorable Buzz Westfall, St. Louis County Executive, November 5, 2001. "Accepted of a Gift to Tilles Park Council District 5."

² Annual Report of the St. Louis Division of Parks and Recreation, "Tilles Park," 1938, p. 11.

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caretaker's house, and central shelter now named for Gloria Rodgers. The nominated area also includes smaller contributing resources installed by the WPA to help make the park usable. These include small limestone boundary walls, and culverts.

Items that are considered non-contributing are ones that were built or installed after the end of the period of significance.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

**1. Park Landscape; c. 1937; contributing site
(Photo 0026, 0027)**

The full landscape of Tilles Park from its topography to the location of many of its trees was by design. As the WPA constructed the park from 1935 to 1938 the roughly 300 workman reshaped the landscape for park purposes. This work included the construction of walking paths of varying widths which ran between park features including picnic sites, comfort stations, and shelters. It also included the planting of hundreds of trees, mostly evergreen trees, which dot the landscape as historic vegetation. Additionally, concrete walks were built to connect comfort stations, shelters, and other park amenities. It required clearing thirty acres of brush, plowing and seeding 25 acres, laying three hundred feet of drain pipe, and removing 4,200 square yards of earth for the construction of tennis courts. The site includes a natural pond (see photo 25), which was enlarged by St. Louis County in the 1970s. The lake is now roughly 300 feet across and an estimated 15 feet deep. Also part of the site is an area in the northeast corner of the park, historically an open field area (see Figure 26), utilized as a baseball field starting sometime in the late 1930s or early 1940s (see photo 21). It consists of a planned dirt ball field with a short expanse of chain link fence to the west. A set of metal bleachers is located on the northern side of the ball field. The field was renovated in 1990. Brick retaining walls were constructed at that time (a noncontributing structure, see page 11 below).

**2. Main Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0001) (Fig. 5, 6, and 7)**

Located just inside the park's entrance, this one-and-a-half-story stone building is constructed with a high gable roof with slate shingles and capped with copper. It is adjacent to a playground and parking lot, both non-contributing. It connects to these resources by a series of curvilinear concrete paths that extend from both the northern and southern facades. On the eastern and western sides of the building are lean-tos that exhibit the same cut stone construction as the center of the building. The two entrances to the Main Restroom each feature three large arcading entryways with stone voussoirs. The cut stone is laid in broken courses throughout. The stone surrounding the entryways and windows is different than the stone used for much of the walls. The stone surrounding the windows and entryways is made from a yellower material, whereas the primary stone has a gray tone. All of the windows throughout the structure have the decorative stone voussoir details.

The east lean-to (to the right in Photo 1) has two windows located on the south side, which are filled by glass blocks. The left window on the south side does also have a metal vent installed at the top. There are four windows located on the eastern side of the east lean-to, and all have been filled in with glass blocks. The two windows located on the northern side of the east lean-to have also been filled in with glass blocks.

The west lean-to (to the left in Photo 1) also has two windows located on the south side, but these windows have been filled in with modern cut stone. The transoms above each window still retain glass blocks. The western side of the west lean-to was originally planned with four windows, two large and two small, however all have been bricked over with cut stone. This side now serves as the storage area for the

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park's utility services. The northern side of the east lean-to features two large windows that have glass blocks.

Inside the structure, the ceiling features stained wood panels with alternating colors. Each lean-to features access to men and women's restroom facilities. The original plans called for the eastern side of the building to be used as boys' and girls' dressing rooms, but have been repurposed for park needs.

**3. Gloria Rogers Shelter; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0003; 0004)**

Located in the center of the park, inside the main circle drive, this shelter has a cement floor and is constructed from cut stone, just like the Main Restroom. The shelter is connected to the main circle drive, and a neighboring bathroom by a curvilinear concrete pathway. Eight stone pillars hold up the building, four of which are located at the corners of the shelter. The roof has steel reinforcements and timber frame details that intersect across the top interior portion of the shelter. The roof was originally furnished with slate; however it has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The purlins under the roof are exposed. On the west side of the shelter is a large fireplace, which has been constructed from rubble stone with natural texture. The arched window openings are lined with yellow stone, as is the fireplace. The pillars contain quoining of yellow colored limestone.

**4. Gloria Rogers Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0002)**

The Gloria Rogers Restroom, located just south of the Gloria Rodger Shelter, is larger than the other comfort stations and includes separate areas for both men and women. The bathroom is connected to the main circle drive and the Gloria Rodgers Shelter by a curvilinear concrete pathway. The pieces of stone that make up the buildings walls are larger than those seen in the other restrooms, and these stones are constructed with a broken course. The side of the restroom that faces the road is designated for women, which is indicated by a green sign screwed to the fascia. Three windows are located on the front side, and all have been "bricked up" using light colored stone. It is unknown when this was done, but the intention seems to have been to create greater privacy. The side gable roof, also originally slate, has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The back exterior of the restroom has been designated as the side for men.

**5. Stone Pylon #1; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0005) (Fig. 4)**

Moving south along McKnight Road, when visitors turn right into the entrance to the park, a one-story French Renaissance stone pylon is immediately to the right. To the direct south of the stone pylon is a tall three-part cruciform-shaped post made from the naturally textured split fieldstone. Between the stone pylon and the plain guard post is a wrought iron gate that can be opened and closed at the center. Note, that this whole structure is counted as a single resource. The pylon itself is a polygonal structure and is constructed from split fieldstone, which maintains a natural texture. The high-hipped roof features flat slate with a copper center cap. On the east and west sides of the pylon are inset doors with a flat wooden transom above each doorframe. Above each door is a semi-circular window with cutouts supported by stone voussoirs. An inset stone gate is attached to the interior of the semi-circular window. Attached to the north and south sides of the stone pylons are vertical rectangular stone attachments made from split fieldstone. These stone attachments give the structure a cruciform shape.

**6. Stone Pylon #2; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Fig. 4)**

At the park entrance on Litzsinger Road, a second stone pylon is to the left of the entrance opening. This stone pylon is identical to the one of Litzinger Road in materials used and in layout of the entire structure. This includes the three-part cruciform-shaped post and gate.

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N/A
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**7. Hyde Park Iron Fence; c. 1937 (also c. 1870); contributing structure
(Photo 0005)**

A black-painted wrought iron fence is attached to both stone pylons to cover the perimeter of the southeast corner leading into the park. The fencing extends roughly 20 feet in each direction. Each piece of wrought iron fence features small spikes mounted on top of a tall squared piece of iron. Running underneath the full length of the iron fencing is a low limestone wall. Chain link fencing has been constructed around the rest of the park. The City of St. Louis Park Department's Annual Report for 1938 states that this fence was taken from Hyde Park, a municipal park located in the northeast part of St. Louis (See Fig. 18 and 19).

**8. Park Keeper's Residence; c. 1937; contributing building (currently Park Ranger's Office)
(Photo 0028)**

The one-and-a-half-story rectangular house located on the east side of the park near McKnight road is made from cut stone with a broken course pattern. The west side of the house is covered in white vinyl clapboard strips, this is a change from the period of significance. An interior stone chimney, located on the east side of the house, is made from cut stone. The front door to the house features stone voussoirs and semi-circular top. The side gable roof with a projecting gable on the east end, consists of red curved tiles with a red cap along the top. The windows on the front of the house are six-over-six, except on the right side of the house where the stone wall extends out in a 3-sided area that is covered with red tiles. The windows in this area are nine-over-nine. Most of the windows have been replaced, but the original wood remains in two of the windows on the main house, and several of the basement windows. One of the remaining original windows contains decorative stained glass (see Figure 35).

On the back of the house there is a door leading to the small wooden back porch, which meets a concrete walking path that extends over to the garage. There are two six-over-six windows on this back side, with three smaller windows constructed between the two. The stone construction for this building is reflective of the Main Restroom, as it features the decorative stone voussoirs over the windows and doors, and utilizes two different stone materials in overall design. The yellower stone is added to the dominant gray throughout.

**9. Park Keeper's Garage; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0028)**

The park keeper's garage features the same architectural characteristics as the Park Keeper's Residence. On the south side of the building are two large vinyl garage doors. The stone construction and materials are the same as the house, and each window features decorative stone voussoirs. The north side of the garage has two six-over-six windows. On the east and west sides of the garage, a single center window has been boarded up using white plastic material. The roof is made from the same red tile, and the white purlins of the building are exposed. Finally, the garage has decorative quoining not just on the corners of the structure, but around the doorway as well.

**10. Tennis Courts; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0006)**

Located east of the Park Keeper's House, the tennis courts, which consists of four courts, feature a low stone wall constructed from fieldstone. This wall is a part of the original W.P.A. work, but the fence constructed above the stone is a modern one of green-coated metal. The wall is surrounded by a concrete drainage channel that was added after the period of significance.

**11. Skow Shelter; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0007)**

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N/A
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The Skow Shelter is located just north of the main ring road, and just west of the maintenance buildings. It is connected to the main circle drive by a curvilinear concrete path which widens near the shelter for additional picnicking space. Constructed on top of a concrete base, this 1930s shelter is structurally supported by wooden beams that lead to a low-gabled roof. On each corner of the shelter is a medium wall of stacked cut fieldstone. The wooden piers are connected to this fieldstone by metal plates. In the center of the north wall is a large stone fireplace with an iron grill. The interior of the shelter allows for picnic tables. The gable roof of the shelter currently features asphalt shingles. It is unknown if this is the original roof material.

**12. Skow Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0008)**

Located just east of the Skow Shelter, and in the French Renaissance style, the Skow Restroom is constructed from stone. The pieces of stone that make up the buildings walls are larger than previously seen with the previous restrooms, and there is no differentiation in texture or color with these large pieces. The gabled doorways leading into the restroom are supported on either side by large stone buttresses. The eastern side of the restroom, facing the road, is designated for women, which is indicated by a green sign screwed to the fascia. Three windows are located on the east side, and all have been "bricked up" using light colored stone, as seen with the previous restrooms. The side gable roof, originally slate, has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The west exterior of the restroom is identical to the east, however this side has been designated for men.

**13. Skow Playground Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0009)**

The concrete path that connects the Skow Shelter to the main drive winds past the shelter by a non-contributing playground and connects to this restroom. Designed in the French Renaissance style, the building is constructed from irregular stone rubble arranged in a broken course style. The only leveled stone is located on the buttress supporting the gabled doorway to the bathroom. The high side gabled roof originally had slate material, but was replaced with asphalt shingles. A single window is on the front of the restroom, left of the entry, and over half of it has been bricked up using more modern stone material. On top of the bricked up area is a stone sill. The two windows located on the north side of the shelter were similarly bricked up. The masonry on this restroom differs from the previous structures, as much of the stone used was rubble of the same color and texture. There is no obvious pattern to this stone, however it is laid out in a cohesive way.

**14. Ball Field Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0010)**

Located just west of the Baseball Field itself, the Ball Field Restroom is designed in a similar style to the Skow Playground Restroom, however there are a few differences. The building is constructed from cut fieldstone arranged in a broken course style, but does not feature any color differentiation with the stone. A stone buttress, as seen with the Skow Restroom and Skow Playground Restroom, supports the gabled doorway to the restroom. The high side gabled roof originally had slate material, but was replaced with asphalt shingles. There is a single window on the front of the restroom, and over half of it has been bricked up using light colored stone material. Two windows are located on the east side of the shelter, and both were similarly bricked up. Four wide steps lead up to the restroom, and all are made from cut stone pieces mortared together.

**15. Picnic Site #1; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0013)**

Picnic Site # 1 is located just outside the main circle drive in the southwestern corner of the park. The base of the picnic site is made from six concrete squares imprinted with a pattern designed to mimic the

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N/A
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stone used throughout the park's design. These concrete squares are modern additions to the picnic site. The squares together are roughly 10x10ft. All elements of the original picnic site remain intact ensuring a strong feeling of integrity. To the north of these squares is the original (1930s) raised semi-circular stone wall. The wall is close to 2 feet wide and 2 feet tall, and is made from cut fieldstone. In the center of the wall is a raised square barbecue grill, with the base and back both made from cut fieldstone. A black iron grill is attached to the center of the raised stone.

16. Picnic Site #1 Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0012)

The restroom is located just northwest of the picnic site itself. It was constructed in same design as the Skow Playground Restroom and the Baseball Field Restroom, but was constructed using different stone materials. The building is constructed from large rubble stone arranged in a broken course style, and the colors of the stone vary. The only squared stones are located in the lintel of the main doorway. The high side gabled roof originally had slate material, but was replaced with asphalt shingles. A single window is on the front of the restroom left of the entry, and over half of it has been "bricked up" using light colored stone material. Two windows located on the west side of the shelter were similarly bricked up.

17. Picnic Site #2; c. 1937; contributing structure

This picnic site is identical to Picnic Site #1, including the modern concrete and grill details. It is located just outside the main circle drive in the southern portion of the park.

18. Picnic Site #2 Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0014)

This restroom is located just west of its accompanying picnic site. Although designed in the French Renaissance style like the previous restrooms, this restroom is different from the others. Besides the Main Restroom, this is the only restroom that follows the original plans created by L. Baylor Pendleton in the 1930s. The restroom is made from cut fieldstone in a broken-course pattern, but surrounding the top portion of the door is a red brick frame. Above the doorframe is shed-style dormer. The shingles are currently made from asphalt, but were likely slate historically. The two windows on the back and one in front have been almost completely bricked over using the lighter-colored cut stone.

19. Picnic Site #4 Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building
(Photo 0011)

Located in the North west corner of the park, this square shaped restroom features a significantly different design from the others, but is made using the same materials as the previous restrooms. The stone used in the building is of a similar texture and color, and the pieces have been cut horizontally with relatively the same shape. The only large pieces of stone in the building are located along the edges of the walls and for the stone buttress at the doorway. The building's door is off-center to the right, and the medium hipped roof has the dark red rafters exposed. The shingles on the roof are asphalt, but would have originally been slate. A window is on the front of the restroom which has been bricked over in the same manner as the others. There are two windows on the back, which are identical to the one on the front.

20. Picnic Station #5 Restroom; c. 1937; contributing building

Picnic Site #5 Restroom has the same design as Picnic Site #4 Restroom, with the only difference between the two buildings being the layout. The doorway to PS#5 Restroom is located on the left side of the building, and the window is located on the right. PS #4 Restroom had the doorway on the right and the window on the left. The restroom is located just south and across the main circle drive from picnic site #4.

21. Meandering Circle Drive; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0015, 0016, 0027)

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Running in an irregular circle is a road that spans a majority of the park. The road connects to all of the parks major resources. Resources either fall just off the drive or down short side roads that spider off of the main drive. Included in this category is a road that extends up to and circles back from the site of the baseball field. Most side roads were constructed at the same time as the meandering drive. The road has at various points 6 small parking lots (10-20 spots each) along it that allow a visitor to drive directly to the part of the park they are seeking to use. These lots are part of the original design and 4 of them are surrounded by short limestone walls. It is likely that all of them contained similar surrounds at one time.

**22. Stone Wall #1 (Tree Enclosure); c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0017)**

Just northeast of the Skow shelter a low stone wall was laid in a semicircle around the perimeter of a single tree. The stone features a broken-course pattern using cut fieldstone and is approximately 1 foot in width and height.

**23. Stone Wall #2 (Skow Shelter Elevated Wall); c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0018)**

Also to the northeast of the Skow Shelter, there is a shallow curved stone wall which features a broken-course pattern made from cut fieldstone. The wall forms a semi-circle around a group of trees and is approximately 1 foot in width and height.

**24. Stone Wall #3 (Skow Restroom/Road); c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0019)**

Located directly east of the main road and near the Skow Restroom, there is a long stone support wall that was made from long shallow pieces of stone. There is a cement drainage path leading from the road toward the stone wall. This wall is roughly six feet tall at its center, and gradually slopes upward with the ground on either side, running about 20 feet in length.

**25. Stone Wall #4; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Photo 0020)**

This set of stone walls run parallel to each other along the northwest walking path near the Baseball Field. They serve as two sets of culverts for rainwater that drains underneath the road. The stone walls are made from the same material as the previous low-lying walls, and each wall is curved into a concave semi-circle. Each culvert is approximately five feet long, and seven feet tall.

**26. Stone Wall #5; c.1937; contributing structure
(Fig. 24)**

Running along the main drive just west of parking lot #1 is a small stone retaining wall that extends approximately 10 feet and is about 1 foot tall in the center and slopes down on either side.

**27. Stone Wall #6; c. 1937; contributing structure
(Fig. 25)**

Located across the main drive from parking lot #1 this small stone wall serves as a culvert for rain water drainage that runs under the main drive. It is roughly 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

**28. Maintenance Garage, post 1957, noncontributing building
(Photo 0022)**

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Located directly to the north of the Maintenance House is a long rectangular front gable metal building that serves as the park's Maintenance Garage. The brown colored structure has a large white garage door on the east wall, which allows access to vehicles equipment by maintenance staff. A side entry is located on the southeast corner.

**29. Maintenance House, post 1957, noncontributing building
(Photo 0022)**

Located northeast of the Skow Shelter, the modern ranch-style maintenance house resides in the center of a small compound dedicated to housing maintenance staff and equipment. The one-story side gable house is decorated with vinyl siding painted brown, and the details of the house are painted white. Two white garage doors are located on the left side of the house's western wall. Bays 3 and 5 contain entries and 4 and 6 contain small 6 light windows (the right window is obscured by an air conditioning unit). This house was added to the location after Tilles Park was sold to the County in 1957.³

**30. Maintenance Shed, post 1957 noncontributing building
(Photo 0023)**

To the south of the Maintenance House is a long rectangular metal shed that houses larger vehicles and materials in the park and is supported by wood framing. A gray chain link fence surrounds the area between the house and the shed.

**31. Baseball Field Retaining Wall ca. 1990, noncontributing structure
(Photo 0021)**

As mentioned in the landscape description there is a baseball field located in the park. The field was renovated in 1990. Brick retaining walls were constructed at this time.

32. Parking Lot #1, noncontributing structure

Located near Playground #1, this modern parking lot is shaped in a semi-circular pattern, and contains 86 parking spots. It was constructed ca. 2007.⁴

33. Parking Lot #2, noncontributing structure

This modern parking lot is rectangular and faces east towards the Windegger Shelter. It was constructed between 1970 and 1981, and contains 25 parking spots.⁵

34. Parking Lot #3, noncontributing structure

Located near the Baseball Field, this modern parking lot is roughly rectangular and edges the perimeter of the field. It contains roughly 46 spaces and was constructed between 1970 and 1981.⁶

35. Parking Lot #4, noncontributing structure

Located to the west of the park keeper's house, this lot was constructed to fit within the open space between an existing lot (part of contributing structure 21-the main circle drive), the park keeper's house, and park keeper's garage. It was constructed in 2016, and contains 13 parking spots.

36. Playground #1, c. 2007; noncontributing structure

A set of modern plastic playground equipment is located northwest of the Main Restroom. This playground is a recent addition to the park, and is located directly west of the original wading pool, which is now a public fountain area for children. The playground contains a number of slides, jungle gyms, and other playground equipment connected by a series of bridges and walkways.

³ ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

⁴ ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

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N/A
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37. Playground #2, c. 2009; noncontributing structure

(Photo 0009)

This modern playground made from plastic materials is located just east of the Skow shelter. The playground is designed with large, green, metal semicircular structures. This replaced an earlier playground installed after St. Louis County Parks took over the site, and renovated in 1989.

38. Wading Pool/Spray Basin, noncontributing structure

The wading pool, located just north of the main restroom, from the original construction is no longer present, and the area is now used as a spray zone for children. The low concrete wall surrounding the area features cut outs of the concrete where people can enter from the north, south, east, and west. The cement near the center of the pool is at a lower elevation, and small grates indicating the presence of fountains have been installed. Lines from nursery rhymes are cut into the cement wall of the former pool. These nursery rhymes include the words, "Little Miss Muffet....Sat On A Tuffet....Jack And Jill....Went Up A Hill..." and so on. Small iron spiders are attached to the sides of the cement wall.

39. Swing Set – Playground, noncontributing structure

Directly east of the wading pool and northeast of the Main Restroom is a large swing set for children. The swing set area features a rubberized plastic as the surfacing material, but is surrounded on the perimeter by a walking path. The metal swing set is blue in color and utilizes large arches as its structural support.

40. Windegger Shelter and Dock; 1978; noncontributing structure

(Photo 0024, Photo 0025)

Overlooking the enlarged lake, the 50 x 20 foot rectangular timber-frame shelter was built with open sides, a cedar shake roof and a concrete pad. (Twelve vertical posts support the roof of the structure.) The Windegger Shelter was added to the park in 1978.

Directly to the north of the Windegger Shelter is an attached wooden cantilever dock. This was constructed in 1978 along with the shelter. The dock has a rectangular layout with an additional rectangular section to the northeast. The dock overlooks the man-made lake that was expanded during this period of construction.

41. Dancing Children Sculpture; 1974; noncontributing object

(Photo 0005)

The St. Louis County Art Association presented the metal sculpture "Dancing Children" by Gaye Gambell to the park in 1974. The abstract sculpture made from cut iron displays four "dancing" silhouettes connected by a tall center pole. The figures' hands reach toward the top of the pole. The sculpture was placed on the median located just inside the main entrance to the park.

42. Turtle Sculpture; after 1963; noncontributing object (Photo 0009)

A large cement sculpture of a green turtle is located directly outside of the Skow Playground Restroom.

43. St. Louis County Park's sign, c. 2000; noncontributing object (Fig. 22)

Located at the end of the entry drive where the meandering circle drive begins is a flower bed with a large sign embedded in a square structure of stacked flagstone. The sign itself is green with white lettering. It reads "St. Louis County Parks, Tilles Park."

44. Monument to Rosalie Tilles, 1958; noncontributing object (Fig. 23)

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Located just off of the main circle drive where it intersects with the park's entry road, this granite monument was placed in June of 1958 as a memorial to Rosalie Tilles and the park's history following its sale to St. Louis County in 1957.⁷

RESOURCE TABLE:

Name	Age	Contributing (C)/Non-Contributing (NC)
1. Park Landscape	c. 1937 Although it is known that construction began in 1935 and ended in 1938 an exact construction date for most resources cannot be determined. Therefore a c. 1937 date was chosen for most resources	C
2. Main Restroom	c. 1937	C
3. Gloria Rodgers Shelter	c. 1937	C
4. Gloria Rodgers Shelter Restroom	c. 1937	C
5. Stone Pylon #1	c. 1937	C
6. Stone Pylon #2	c. 1937	C
7. Hyde Park Iron Fence	c. 1937 (also c. 1870)	C
8. Park Keeper's Residence	c. 1937	C
9. Park Keeper's Garage	c. 1937	C
10. Tennis Courts	c. 1937	C
11. Skow Shelter	c. 1937	C
12. Skow Restroom	c. 1937	C
13. Skow Playground Restroom	c. 1937	C
14. Baseball Field	c. 1942	C
15. Baseball Field Restroom	c. 1937	C
16. Picnic Site #1	c. 1937	C
17. Picnic Site #1 Restroom	c. 1937	C
18. Picnic Site #2	c. 1937	C
19. Picnic Site #2 Restroom	c. 1937	C
20. Picnic Site #4 Restroom	c. 1937	C
21. Picnic Site #5 Restroom	c. 1937	C
22. Meandering Circle Drive	c. 1937	C
23. Stone Wall #1	c. 1937	C
24. Stone Wall #2	c. 1937	C
25. Stone Wall #3	c. 1937	C
26. Stone Wall #4	c. 1937	C
27. Stone Wall #5	c. 1937	C
28. Stone Wall #6	c. 1937	C
29. Maintenance Garage	Post 1957	NC
30. Maintenance House	Post 1957	NC

⁷ "Park Monument is dedicated to Rosalie Tilles" St. Louis Post-Dispatch", June 8, 1958.

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31. Maintenance Shed	Post 1957	NC
32. Parking Lot #1	c. 2007	NC
33. Parking Lot #2	Btw. 1970-1981	NC
34. Parking Lot #3	Btw. 1970-1981	NC
35. Parking Lot #4	c. 2016	NC
36. Playground #1	c. 2007	NC
37. Playground #2	c. 2009	NC
38. Wading Pool/Spray Basin	c. 2007	NC
39. Swing Set	c. 2007	NC
40. Windegger Shelter and Dock	1978	NC
41. Dancing Children Sculpture	1974	NC
42. Turtle Sculpture	After 1963	NC
43. St. Louis County Park's Sign	Ca. 2000	NC
44. Monument to R. Tilles	1958	NC

INTEGRITY:

The buildings and structures in Tilles Park constructed during 1935-1938 contain most of their original materials. Some buildings and structures, such as the stone pylons, main restroom, park keeper's house and garage, stone walls, and the picnic site stoves, have maintained almost all of their materials. In many cases, the only features that have been compromised include windows and roofing materials. Window and material adjustments were associated with accommodations necessary for a functioning park. Windows that have been "bricked up" in original structures have been altered to accommodate privacy within the restrooms. Open windows, such as those called for in the original plans, would allow for ground-level views into each stall. With some restrooms, the roofing material has been changed from slate to asphalt. This could reflect financial variables or availability of resources for the park at one time.

A larger concession in Tilles Park's historic integrity includes the former wading pool, which has been turned into a fountain area for children. It remains unclear as to why such a dramatic change occurred, however the fountains are in the original footprint of the wading pool. The walls of the new fountain area are inscribed with nursery rhymes giving it additional decoration.

The other loss has been the deterioration of the majority of the original 10 camp stoves that dotted the park's landscape. Currently, two of the originals remain in good condition. However, the vast majority of the original park construction remains intact and in good condition.

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SUMMARY

Rosalie Tilles Park is located in the City of Ladue in St. Louis County, Missouri, at 9551 Litzsinger Road. Tilles Park is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The district nominated in this document contains one period of significance. The story of Tilles Park begins in 1932 when St. Louis businessman and philanthropist Captain Andrew Tilles donated his country estate "Resthaven" to the City of St. Louis to be used as a non-denominational, non-segregated children's playground in memory of his mother, Rosalie Tilles. Although it opened to the public soon after the donation, true construction and development of the park did not begin until 1935, when Works Progress Administration funds and labor were provided to construct facilities and amenities for the park. WPA work concluded in 1938. This period of construction is used to define the nomination's period of significance. The park continues to reflect the designs and work of the New Deal era.

Over 80 years after it was originally designed, by master architect Louis Baylor Pendleton, the Tilles Park retains almost all major architectural features. These include two powerful entry pylons, a main bathroom with decorative archways, a park keeper's home, and several comfort stations, pavilions, and decorative picnic areas scattered throughout the park. All of these structures are connected with a semi-circular road that runs the full length of the park. While these structures have been added to over the years, the original design of the park is retained. As is the massive construction effort engaged in by the over 300 W.P.A. workers who lived and worked on the site for almost three years.⁸ The massive undertaking, in addition to the construction of park structures, involved laying concrete walks, trimming 2000 trees, removing over 500 that had died, and planting hundreds more. It required clearing thirty acres of brush, plowing and seeding 25 acres, laying three hundred feet of drain pipe, and removing 4,200 square yards of earth for the construction of tennis courts.⁹ In short, this was an incredible investment of human capital, and one that has paid dividends for St. Louis County by providing space for recreation that has been used for 80 years. The resulting park evokes the style of the "rustic architectural" movement promoted by the National Parks Service at the time, but contains within it a number of fine architectural features that are not typically seen in W.P.A. construction (see historical background for more details on these).

The scale of the project with 27 extant contributing resources, the architectural elements represented, and the degree to which the park has retained its original design and feel make it an exceptional example of New Deal architecture in St. Louis County.¹⁰ It is therefore eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE and LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the Park: 1912-1932

⁸ "Tilles Park Improvement Now 50 Pct. Completed" St. Louis Star and Times, July 29, 1936.

⁹ "Plans Are Announced for New Tilles Park", St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 24, 1935; Annual Report of the St. Louis Division of Parks and Recreation, "Tilles Park," 1938, 1939.

¹⁰ The author made a review of other New Deal sites in the region to determine the standout qualities of the nominated district using the below listed sources: "Still Working For America." Living New Deal, livingnewdeal.org.; United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Fort Bellefontaine. By Daniel Gonzales.; United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Babler State Park by James M. Denny and Bonita Marie Wright.

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The man behind the large land donation of the park to the City of St. Louis also played a considerable role in the St. Louis entertainment industry. C.A. Tilles, known as Captain or “Cap” Tilles was a hugely successful businessman (See Fig. 1) who invested in real estate ventures and the United States horseracing business.¹¹ On the flip side of this, Tilles was also a respected and secretive philanthropist who provided large amounts of support for charities and those in need.¹²

C.A. Tilles’ father, Louis Tilles (originally Melech Tilles before his name was changed due to immigration processing), was born in Krakow, Poland in 1829, and emigrated from Poland to the United States in 1847.¹³ Tilles’ mother, Rosalie Peck, was born in Germany in 1837, and immigrated to the United States some time in the 1840s. She married Louis Tilles in 1858, and shortly afterwards their son George was born on September 11, 1859. The family would grow to include their next son, Emanuel, called Manny, in 1862, and Andrew Tilles in November of 1865.¹⁴ (When Andrew Tilles was older, he was known as Cap or Captain. According to his obituary he said he received the nickname while, as a youth, he operated a ferry across a river in Arkansas).¹⁵

Louis Tilles moved the family from St. Louis to Fort Smith, Arkansas after the Civil War to expand his business as a merchant. Louis Tilles had been stationed around Fort Smith during his time in the Union Army during the Civil War, and understood the potential for business in the area surrounding the site. The family settled in Fort Smith, and the business of Louis Tilles prospered. Tragedy struck the family when Rosalie Tilles died of congestion in August of 1872. Louis Tilles remarried shortly afterward but died only three years later in September of 1875.¹⁶ The children of Rosalie and Louis Tilles were separated and forced to live with different relatives and acquaintances. It was thought that this unfortunate period in C.A. Tilles’ life influenced his philanthropic nature later on.

C.A. Tilles remained in Fort Smith and graduated from the local high school. He then briefly attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, but then moved back to St. Louis in 1886 with his childhood friend Sam Adler.¹⁷ Upon their arrival in St. Louis, Tilles and Adler opened their business, the Missouri Cigar and Tobacco Company.¹⁸ This business operated from 1887 through 1896, when Tilles and Adler also began to invest in the horseracing business in St. Louis. Louis A. Cella would later join their horseracing business, and together the three men would grow one of the most prosperous horseracing ventures in America.

The three business partners began their relationship by buying the South Side racetrack, located on Missouri Avenue between Russell and Geyer in South St. Louis, in the 1890s, which became the first electric light track in America.¹⁹ The men then moved on to re-open the Madison Track in nearby Illinois, as well as the hugely successful Delmar Racetrack.²⁰ Their racing ventures included tracks outside the St.

¹¹ David J. Simons. *Crossing the Finish Line: The Golden Age of Thoroughbred Horse Racing In St. Louis.* (ND), p.9-131.

¹² Lewiston Daily Sun, “C. Andrew Tilles Die: Was Racetrack Owner” 23 November 1951.

¹³ Nancy Ellen Carver. *Talk with Tilles: Selling Life in Fort Smith, Arkansas.* (Xlibris, 2002), p.19.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 28

¹⁵ “Cap Andrew Tilles Dies; Sportsman, Philanthropist” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, November 23, 1957.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 28.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 176.

¹⁸ Albert Nelson Marquis (ed.). *The Book of St. Louisans.* (Chicago: A.N. Marquis & Company, 1912), 598.

¹⁹ “Fairgrounds to be Sold to a Syndicate,” *St. Louis Republic* (St. Louis, MO), March 15, 1901. “When the South Side baseball park was opened they interested themselves in the enterprise, and when the park was changed into a race track were identified with it. Afterwards they established the first electric light track in America, and, it is said, made a fortune out of the venture.”; David J. Simons. *Crossing the Finish Line: The Golden Age of Thoroughbred Horse Racing In St. Louis.* (ND), p.9-131.

²⁰ David J. Simons. *Crossing the Finish Line: The Golden Age of Thoroughbred Horse Racing In St. Louis.* (ND), p.16

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Louis area, eventually encompassing ownership of 25 racetracks across the country.²¹ After racetrack gambling was outlawed in Missouri in 1905, Tilles and his partners expanded their financial ventures outside of the racing business. Tilles' also had financial success as the president of the Delmar Investment Company.²²

In 1926, C.A. Tilles created The Rosalie Tilles Non-Sectarian Charity Fund (still in existence as the Tilles Foundation), which used funds from his personal fortune to finance projects for the betterment of orphans in St. Louis.²³

Despite already owning an apartment in St. Louis City, Tilles bought a large property in what is now the City of Ladue, between Lay (now McKnight) and Litzsinger Roads. C.A. Tilles bought the 68.62 acres from Walter Bliss Woodward in 1912.²⁴ One source suggested he purchased the property initially as a site to develop a racetrack, but not long after buying the land he began construction of a home for himself on the large property.²⁵ According to evidence from the previous property maps, the nearly 70 acres of property had never been farmed. The land had originally been granted to A.T. Delaurier at some point prior to 1838, followed by James C. Sutton, who owned most of what would become the suburban community of Maplewood at one time.²⁶ Sutton's daughter, Kate C. Thomas, was listed as the owner in 1893.²⁷ Her husband, William L. Thomas, was a printer and wrote the 1911 tome, *The History of St. Louis County, Missouri*.²⁸ In 1909, Walter Biss Woodward, President of Woodward & Tiernan Printing Company, was registered as the owner of the property.²⁹

After acquiring it in 1912, Tilles named the property, which included a significant apple orchard and large pear orchard³⁰, "Resthaven." He built a modest bungalow at the site, as well as a barn and a few other supporting structures. None of these features remain today, they were removed by the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation after acquiring the property in 1975.

A City Park: 1932-1957

²¹ Nancy Ellen Carver. *Talk with Tilles: Selling Life in Fort Smith, Arkansas*. (Xlibris, 2002), p.177.

²² The Tilles Foundation, "Building Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow." www.tillesfund.com. Accessed February 5, 2015.

²³ Ibid

²⁴ General Warranty Deed from Walter B. Woodward to C.A. Tilles, May 17, 1912.

²⁵ Tilles Scrapbook by Nancy Ellen Carver p. 21, St. Louis County Municipal History Records, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation.

²⁶ Dupre, E. Atlas of the city and county of St. Louis: by congressional townships; showing all the surveys of the public lands, and of the confirmed French and Spanish grants, New-Madrid locations, and entries of public lands, up to the 1st day of January, 1838: with the names of the original claimants, and number of acres claimed by each. St. Louis: E. Dupre, 1838.; Pitzman, Julius. Pitzman's new atlas of the city and county of Saint Louis, Missouri: constructed from actual surveys and official records/by Julius Pitzman. Philadelphia: A. B. Holcombe, 1878.; "History- James Sutton." History | City of Maplewood - Official Website, City of Maplewood, maplewood.civicplus.com/102/History.

²⁷ Johnson, Berkley E. *An atlas of St. Louis County in the state of Missouri: data procured from actual surveys and official records*/by Berkley E. Johnson. Clayton, Mo.: C. R. Black, 1893.

²⁸ Thomas, William Lyman. *History of St. Louis County, Missouri: a Story That Attracts by Its Recital of Past Achievements, Its Record of Earnest Endeavor and Sure Development to Present Greatness and Its Future Filled with Roseate Promise*. County Living Publications, 2011.

²⁹ Plat book of St. Louis County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Northwest Publishing Co., 1909.; Marquis, Albert Nelson. *The Book of St. Louisans: a Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the City of St. Louis and Vicinity*. New York Public Library, 2012, p. 657.

³⁰ "Topographic Survey/Tilles Property" Division of Parks and Recreation, April 1933. Located in the archival files of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation. Accessed January 25, 2015.

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On May 28, 1932, C.A. Tilles donated 68.62 acres of land to the City of St. Louis (See Fig. 3) with the intention of having them construct a public park that would be open to children of all backgrounds and race. C.A. Tilles included this one part of the stipulations in the deed;

"...designated and known as the 'Rosalie Tilles Children's Playground and Park' in honor of the memory of grantor's mother, and shall be maintained by the City of St. Louis as a public playground and as a once time park for children regardless of race or creed, and under regulations as maybe prescribed from time to time by said City."³¹

According to the Annual Reports of the St. Louis Department of Park and Recreation, there were very few non-segregated public parks owned and operated by the city at this time, and the location of this property was ideal as a country park for the city dwellers. Restricted in the donation were the 7.746 acres of land that still retained the house and other outbuildings, for use by C.A. Tilles. Even after Tilles' death, this parcel of land would be restricted for use by C.A. Tilles' housekeeper and longtime companion, Jeanette L. Windegger.³²

After its initial donation to the City of St. Louis, the city struggled with a lack of funds to properly build park-related features on the land. After the donation in 1932, the City of St. Louis allocated funds to survey and plan the development of the park, but little else was done. It is unclear how the city's early plans compared with what was ultimately developed beginning in 1935.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat noted on April 25, 1935, that the park project was getting ready to begin, and would provide work for "250 transients" in the community (See Fig. 14, 15, 16, and 17).³³ It appears however that work did not begin until November. In July of the following year, the St. Louis Star Times reported that work was 50 % completed, and that the project had employed an average of 308 men since it began.³⁴ According to the *Annual Report of the St. Louis Department of Parks and Recreation*, "Regarding expenditures on ordinances, \$50,864.66 was expended on W.P.A. projects, which included Francis, Tilles, River des Peres Parks, landscape and development of various parks and improvement of parks and playgrounds."³⁵ Many improvements were made to existing city parks, but massive expansion and vital construction took place at parks such as Tilles.

The New Deal in Park and Landscape Architecture Development of the 1930s

The 1930s was a period of rapid growth for National, State, and County parks, and one that had a profound impact on landscape architecture in parks. The foundation for this growth was laid in the 1920s as the growth of automobile ownership created more regional mobility, and people increasingly took to the road, visiting new County and State parks instead of turning to the more proximal city parks.³⁶ In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge requested a conference be organized to respond to the increasing demand for recreational development. The result, the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation was held in May of that year, and set out policy objectives for coordinating recreational activities at all levels of government.

³¹ Deed of Gift from C.A. Tilles to St. Louis City May 28, 1932.

³² Warranty Deed from St. Louis City to St. Louis County, June 22, 1957; "Rosalie Tilles Park," stlouisco.com, Park History documents. Accessed February 25, 2014.; Appraisal Report: Tilles Park, City of Ladue, St. Louis County, MO, prepared by Roy Wenzlick & Co. May 1956, St. Louis County Municipal History Records, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation.

³³ "Plan for Tilles Park Development Ready: City to Employ Transients on Tract Donated by Capitalist." *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, April 25, 1935.

³⁴ "Tilles Park Improvement Now 50 Pct. Completed" *St. Louis Star and Times*, July 29, 1936.

³⁵ *Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation, 1938-1939*. Report of Secretary, W.C. Murphy to Honorable Joseph J. Mestres, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, 1939, p. 19.

³⁶ Rogers, Elizabeth Barlow. *Landscape Design: a Cultural and Architectural History*. Abrams, 2003. 426-427

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Two years later, Congress responded with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act which gave the Department of the Interior the ability to sell certain types of public land to states and localities for the development of parks. The low-cost land accelerated interest in park development around the country.³⁷ Therefore, when the Great Depression began in 1929, and New Deal programs sought work for the unemployed there was plenty to be found in park development.

The St. Louis area had been thinking about park development long before the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation however. The City of St. Louis had established parks by the early 19th Century.³⁸ By 1907, the City had a network of parks within its borders, but anticipating a continuation of rapid population growth, the Civic League of St. Louis put out a plan in 1907 which included the creation of a network of “outer parks” in St. Louis County. Suggested sites included the still active military post Jefferson Barracks and Creve Coeur Lake, which are both parks today. In the subsequent decades, the city acquired large tracts of land in St. Louis County toward the creation of a park system.³⁹ These included land along the Missouri River in the community of Spanish Lake in 1913 (Now Bellefontaine Park, see Figure 33), property near Valley Park donated by Gustavus A. Buder in 1917 and 18 (Now Buder Park), and the Tilles Park property.⁴⁰

This prospective park land was all undeveloped when the Great Depression began. Roosevelt’s New Deal led park development initially through the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was established in April of 1933. The development of Babler State Park (Figure 32) in St. Louis County is an example of work done by the CCC.⁴¹ Beginning in 1935, the Works Progress Administration was established. The agency granted money to local governments for projects that would stimulate the economy.⁴² These projects included the development of park facilities at Tilles, as well as at Bellefontaine Farms (the City’s property along the Missouri River).⁴³ Moreover, park improvements were funded at existing parks including Forest Park.⁴⁴ These grants were administered at the state level, however beginning in December of 1935, the National Park Service began providing technical supervision of park development funded by the WPA. State park inspectors and National Park Service designers helped decide which applicants would receive funding, approved designs, and inspected construction sites. Tilles Park was among 13 municipal parks funded nationwide by the WPA in 1935.⁴⁵

Architecture and Landscape Architecture in Tilles Park

For the design elements of the park’s structures, a Classic French Renaissance design was chosen, which strongly featured natural materials and “rustic” characteristics (See Fig 8, 9, and 10). The “rustic” nature of the designs at Tilles Park are in line with much of the park development done by the WPA and CCC in Missouri and beyond. This design preference, for structures that used local materials, and fit

³⁷ “National Park Service: Expansion of the NPS in the 1930s (Chapter 4).” National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/unrau-williss/adhi4.htm.

³⁸ Harris, Eileen Nini, and Esley Hamilton. St. Louis Parks. Reedy Press, 2012.10-13, 62

³⁹ The Civil League of Saint Louis. A City Plan For Saint Louis: Reports of the Several Committees Appointed by the Executive Board of the Civic League to Draft a City Plan. 1907, pp. 65–69

⁴⁰ Harris, Eileen Nini, and Esley Hamilton. St. Louis Parks. Reedy Press, 2012.100-134.

⁴¹ Emergency Conservation Work (E.C.W.) Architecture in Missouri State Parks, 1933-1942, Thematic Resources, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

⁴² McClelland, Linda Flint. Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction. Diane Pub Co, 2001. 220-221.

⁴³ United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Fort Bellefontaine. By Daniel Gonzales

⁴⁴ “Still Working For America.” Living New Deal, livingnewdeal.org.

⁴⁵ McClelland, Linda Flint. Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction. Diane Pub Co, 2001. 220-221.

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seamlessly into the natural landscape, had come from the National Park Service.⁴⁶ Through inspections they encouraged its use in state and local projects. In fact, as work was beginning at Tilles in 1935 NPS inspectors from the Missouri region were meeting in St. Louis for a three day conference where they outlined and discussed these design preferences in detail. While no documentation exists to show that this preference was being directly enforced at Tilles, this Federal preference is clearly seen in the buildings and structures that were built in the park.⁴⁷ Noteworthy however, is the way in which Pendleton, in designing the structures in a rustic style, found ways to insert fine architectural features into a number of the structures at Tilles Park. These features include fine arches (Photo 0001), decorative quoining around windows and doors, and stained glass in the park keeper's house (Fig. 35).

Although all buildings emit French Renaissance characteristics, many of the structures differ in the final execution of their design. Only one comfort station (Picnic Site #2 Restroom) (Photo 0014) (Fig. 11) mirrors the original design, as depicted in the original drawings. The Main Restroom, Gloria Rogers Shelter, and Skow Shelter do follow specifications in the original designs, but that consistency is not repeated in the other comfort stations (See Fig. 11). For example, while all comfort stations adhere to the rustic WPA style, they contain different entryways, and the size and design of limestone used varies. This may indicate that several different WPA-funded masonry groups were employed in the construction of these resources.

In 1938, the City of St. Louis described the progress that had been made saying "Six of eight comfort stations are complete, one children's shelter and comfort station, one wading pool, one large open shelter, two stone gates with driveway gates, three gates for pedestrians..."⁴⁸ The wrought iron fence was brought from St. Louis City's Hyde Park, and was installed at the main entrance to the park. According to the Annual Report of the City Park's Department, the stone foundation from the wrought iron fence was also moved to Tilles Park from Hyde Park, and was used for the shelters.⁴⁹ It is unclear where the stone for the current fence foundation came from. As Hyde Park in North St. Louis was established in the 1860s, the iron fence and stonework provide even earlier historical elements to the park.

The landscape architecture of Tilles Park reflected in many ways the trends of the period. Like with the buildings, the National Park Service encouraged incorporation of "rustic" styles. This included the use of natural materials, especially weathered stone, and building to maintain a more pristine landscape. In Tilles Park you can see the way in which limestone walls are built into the land to support drainage without drastically altering the area's appearance. Additionally, you can see the curvilinear roads and paths that move with the undulating landscape instead of through it. This is in line with early National Park Service landscape design that acknowledged the importance of roads and public access along with the need to be sympathetic to and retain the natural landscape.⁵⁰

Tilles Park is also a reflection of the automobile era, and the movement of parks toward recreation. The 1930s saw parks increasingly incorporate ball fields, playgrounds, and fencing that showed little sensitivity to the natural landscape.⁵¹ The main circle drive is punctuated with small parking lots in close proximity to picnic sites, and comfort stations. These all served to allow city residents to use Tilles Park as an escape from urban life. The park also included from its earliest days modern park elements like playgrounds and ballfields. In this way, Tilles is reflective of two seemingly contradicting trends of the era. Perhaps this too can be associated with what was happening at national parks during this time which focused on "a

⁴⁶ United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Emergency Conservation Work (E.C.W.) Architecture in Missouri State Parks. James M. Denny and Bonita Marie Wright, November 7, 1984.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ *Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation*, "Tilles Park," August 1937, p. 11.

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid, 2

⁵¹ Rogers, Elizabeth Barlow. *Landscape Design: a Cultural and Architectural History*. Abrams, 2003. 430.

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cohesive style of landscape design which fulfilled the demands for park development while preserving the outstanding natural qualities” of the park being developed.⁵²

The Architect: Louis Baylor Pendleton

The architect who led the development of Tilles Park was Louis Baylor Pendleton (1875-1964), who already had an established career as a St. Louis architect. Pendleton had studied at the Georgia Institute of Technology before coming to St. Louis. In 1904, he was supervising architect for the division of Exhibits at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.⁵³ He served as senior architect for the City of St. Louis, and also worked on projects such as the construction of the Missouri State Capitol (Jefferson City, Missouri, extant, NR)⁵⁴ the Century Electric Building (1831 Chestnut Ave., St. Louis, Mo, extant but heavily altered), and the educational building of the Third Baptist Church (620 N. Grand Blvd. St. Louis, Mo, extant). He was President of the St. Louis Chapter of the AIA for two terms (1927-28).⁵⁵ Other projects he was involved with include the designing of upscale Colonial style apartments on Skinker Boulevard in 1909 (305 N. Skinker Blvd. St. Louis Mo, extant),⁵⁶ the Henry Service Company automotive shop (1015 Locust St, St. Louis, Mo, extant but heavily altered),⁵⁷ and the 1918 addition to the Missouri Baptist Sanitarium (919 North Taylor Ave. St. Louis Mo, not extant).⁵⁸

City Ownership of Tilles Park 1938-1957

By October of 1938, work on the park had been completed. Unfortunately, it wouldn't be until early 1939 that the park would reopen to the public. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch explained Tilles Park was a "Frozen Asset" until the city appropriated "\$5000 for equipment, plus a \$427 monthly payroll for keepers and other workers."⁵⁹ Once the park was open to the public it became a popular site for events including an "Annual Good Neighbor Picnic" which celebrated immigrants to the region, and a number of Boy Scout camporees. Events held in 1941 and 1944 both attracted 3-4 thousand scouts and leaders.⁶⁰

In a 1939 letter to Honorable Joseph J. Mestres, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Secretary W.C. Murphy speaks about the completion of the park under W.P.A. guidance:

"I wish to comment briefly upon our new acquisition 'Tilles Park' located in the county, which was developed under W.P.A. projects and just recently turned over to this department. This park with all its modern facilities for outdoor recreation, such as a large barbecue pit, ten camp ovens, tennis courts, and suitable grounds for horseshoe playing and other games, should fill the much needed recreation spot in

⁵² Linda Flint McClelland, Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction (Baltimore,MD): The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998) 2.

⁵³ (Obituary) "Louis Pendleton Is Dead at 89." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 30-31, 1964

⁵⁴ United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. National Register Nomination for Missouri State Capitol Building and Grounds. By Patricia Holmes, June 23, 1969

⁵⁵ (Obituary) "Louis Pendleton Is Dead at 89." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 30-31, 1964. "Board Consults Pendleton: St. Louisan Discusses Contest to Design New State Capitol," *Iron County Register*, January 4, 1912. "Century Electric Buys Half Block Opposite Plant." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 11, 1920.

⁵⁶ "Colonial Style Apartment to be Built on Skinker Road," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 31, 1909.

⁵⁷ "Other 19—No Title," *St. Louis-Post Dispatch*, July 29, 1917.

⁵⁸ "Baptist Sanitarium Plans Addition to Cost \$100,000," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 7, 1918.

⁵⁹ "Tilles Park, Frozen Asset." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 22, 1938; "City-Owned Tilles Park In County Open to Public" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* January 7, 1939.

⁶⁰ "Fourth Annual Good Neighbor Picnic Held At Tilles Park" *St. Louis Star-Times*, July 21, 1947.; "Scout Camporee attracts 3,500 to Tilles Park" *St. Louis Star-Times*, May 24, 1941.; "Boy Scouts take over Tilles Park for Three-Day Camporee" *St. Louis Star-Times*, May 20, 1944.

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*the county, where city folks may enjoy all the activities offered, in a beautifully wooded park, far removed from the noise of the city.*⁶¹ (See Fig. 20)

Designed with a mix of traditional and modern characteristics, the 1930s construction of Tilles Park reflected the changing needs of the 20th century city. Parks provided the natural retreat away from the problems of the city, and it was during the 20th century that parks became places that promoted more active recreational activities. Pools were constructed, tennis courts were installed, and ball fields for children's games were provided for outdoor activities. These changes marked a new era in park design, one that advocated the benefits of physical activity to combat the stress and congestion of the cities.

Despite the park's heavy use, as early as 1947 the City of St. Louis was looking to sell Tilles Park. In June of that year, City Park Commissioner Palmer B. Baumes met with county officials. At that time, St. Louis County Presiding Judge Luman Matthews said "I think it is logical for the county to own and operate the park, since it lies in the county and about 85% of the people who use it are from the county."⁶² No movement occurred toward the parks acquisition however, and in the following year the City of Ladue made an unsuccessful attempt to purchase a 6 acre portion of the park to construct a school.⁶³

C.A. Tilles passed away in his residence at the age of 85 on December 13, 1951(See Fig. 2)⁶⁴ leaving the rest of his land to Jeanette Windegger, along with \$100,000.⁶⁵ He was interred in a mausoleum in Oak Grove Cemetery (7800 St. Charles Rock Road).⁶⁶ Just a few years later in 1956, St. Louis City began aggressively pursuing an effort to get rid of the park. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment made plans to seek bids from both public and private entities. The City of Brentwood, a close neighbor of the City of Ladue expressed interest in buying the land to maintain as a park, but as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch warned "if there is to be open bidding the chances are that any number of subdivision developers would be willing to pay far more for the tract as home sites than any public agency might pay for it as a park."⁶⁷ That scenario did not come to pass as St. Louis County stepped up to the table, commissioning an appraisal of the property in May of 1956.⁶⁸ A little over a year later, on June 22, 1957, St. Louis County officially bought the park from the City of St. Louis for \$429,625.00.⁶⁹ (See Fig. 21)

Tilles Park Transferred: 1957-Present

In keeping with the original stipulations of the gift, the city used the funds from the county purchase to acquire 29 acres of land located in the City of St. Louis, specifically on the east side of Hampton Avenue between Fyler and Marquette. Keeping with another clause from the original gift, this park was also named "Rosalie Tilles Park," in honor of Tilles' mother.⁷⁰ The new plot of land only cost the city \$388,000, allowing the city to use the rest of the money for the park's development.⁷¹

⁶¹ *Annual Report for the Division of Parks and Recreation, 1938-1939*. Letter to Joseph Mestres from W.C. Murphy, May 15, 1939.

⁶² "County Considers 2 Park Proposals" St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 20, 1947.

⁶³ "Laude seeking to buy 6 acres from St. Louis" St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 30, 1948.

⁶⁴ Certificate of Death for C.A. Tilles, Division of Health of Missouri. December 13, 1951.

⁶⁵ Probate records of Cap Andrew Tilles-22507, November 11, 1951. St. Louis County, Mo.

⁶⁶ "Burial Service Today for C. Andrew Tilles" St. Louis Post-Dispatch, November 23, 1951.

⁶⁷ "A Park to Be Saved" St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 15, 1956.

⁶⁸ "Tilles Park Appraisal" St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 10, 1956.

⁶⁹ Warranty Deed from St. Louis City to St. Louis County, June 22, 1957

⁷⁰ *Annual Report for the St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Division, 1957-1958*, 13-14.

⁷¹ St. Louis County Parks and Recreation, "Tilles Park" file. "Notes on the History of Rosalie Tilles Park. Accessed January 16, 2015.

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With the buying and selling of this property also came the understanding that Jeanette Windegger would continue to reside on the small parcel of land that still retained Tilles' original house. According to the deed:

*"SAVING, RESERVING, AND EXCEPTING unto Jeanette L. Windegger, for and during the term of her natural life the following smaller lot, tract, or parcel of land contained within the boundaries of the premises above described, together with improvements upon such smaller tract of land and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, the said smaller tract of land so saved..."*⁷²

Despite being able to retain that property until her death, Jeanette Windegger made the decision in 1975 to donate the rest of the property, located toward the park's northeast corner, to St. Louis County. She chose to donate it with the hopes that she would see the land developed further for the park. When the County received the rest of the land, the only buildings left from the original "Resthaven" property included the bungalow and a barn. These two structures were deemed unsalvageable by St. Louis County and promptly torn down after the county legally acquired the property.⁷³ The St. Louis County Parks Department then enlarged the pond that had been a smaller feature on the private plot of land. In 1978, on the southern portion of the lake, a prominent shelter was built, and this shelter was named after Jeanette Windegger.⁷⁴ The shelter was designed with a cantilever deck that overlooked the pond.

In addition to development of the "Resthaven" estate, St. Louis County Parks oversaw several other changes to the landscape post-1957. This included the construction of a maintenance complex, new playgrounds, and additional parking lots. They also saw two unfortunate losses of the WPA development, the removal of most of the camp stoves, and the removal of the original spray pool.

St. Louis County's first park commissioner, Charles R. Skow, was appointed to the position in 1957 after working in various government roles around St. Louis County. In 1962, only a couple of years after he was appointed, Charles Skow suffered a heart attack and died. The County moved to rename Tilles Park after him, but the community opposed that move. Instead, a shelter in the park was named after him.⁷⁵ Another shelter in the park was named for Gloria Holland Rogers, Recreation Manager for St. Louis County Parks, after she passed away from cancer in 1996.⁷⁶

COMPARISONS

At this time, no other examples of WPA architecture are known within the City of Ladue. However a number of examples of New Deal architecture exist in the central corridor of St. Louis County. They include a number of schools and other civic buildings like the North Glendale School, constructed by the WPA in 1938 and the Brentwood City Hall, constructed by the PWA in 1935.⁷⁷ The best comparisons however are outside of the central part of St. Louis County where Tilles Park is located. The two best comparisons are:

Babler State Park (NR) (Fig. 32) - Donated to the state of Missouri in 1934, in memory of Dr. Edmund A. Babler, the park was developed beginning in 1935 by workers in two companies of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Like the development of Tilles Park, Babler had 300 workers involved in the project. Also like Tilles, they laid roads, planted trees, constructed picnic shelters, and other work toward the development of the park. The work was done from 1935-1941. The park is listed on the National

⁷² Deed of land, June 28, 1957.

⁷³ Untitled Correspondence located in "Tilles Park" file. Clayton, St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation.

⁷⁴ Al Foster, "A Stroll through the Parks." *St. Louis Home Magazine*, (St. Louis, MO) September 1985.

⁷⁵ "Rosalie Tilles Park," stlouisco.com, Park History documents. Accessed February 25, 2014.

⁷⁶ "Obituary: Gloria Rogers; Recreation Manager for Parks." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (St. Louis, MO), June 11, p. 10.

⁷⁷ "Still Working For America." Living New Deal, livingnewdeal.org.

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Register and contains 22 contributing resources. One major distinction between Tilles and Babler parks is that while the structures in Babler are “superb examples of sturdiness [and] simplicity” the National Register nomination does not indicate that they were architect designed, and only Tilles contains examples of classical architectural styles.⁷⁸

Fort Bellefontaine Park (NR) (Fig. 33) – A number of structures were built by the WPA at the Fort Bellefontaine site beginning in 1938. At the time the area was in use as a boy’s home called Bellefontaine Farms. It was operated by the City of St. Louis. The project was led by L.A. Pettus an engineer with the City’s Board of Public Service. The project included the construction of a grand staircase, picnic areas, and bath houses. It was built to be used as public recreation space. Unfortunately, most of these structures are today deteriorated to the status of ruin. They remain important historic resources, but lack the integrity found at Tilles Park.⁷⁹

CONCLUSION

Rosalie Tilles Park has been a vital community resource for St. Louis residents since 1932, when famed businessman and philanthropist, Captain Andrew Tilles, donated the land (68.62 acres) from his country estate “Resthaven” to the City of St. Louis. Tilles maintained his original house and other structures on a 7-acre parcel of land, while the rest was given to the city to be used as a non-segregated, non-denominational park for children. The park was named in memory of his mother, Rosalie Tilles. The park was largely undeveloped until 1935 when funds and labor resources from the Works Progress Administration were provided to develop the land into an active park. Local St. Louis City architect Louis Baylor Pendleton designed the layout of the park and the individual structures located within it. Keeping with the natural elements of the park, many of the materials for the construction were locally sourced, including the stone and wrought iron taken from the 1860s North St. Louis’ Hyde Park. The park, locally significant for its Architecture (Criterion C), is one of the most expansive and well preserved examples of local (the Municipality of Ladue, St. Louis County) W.P.A. construction from this time.

⁷⁸ United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Babler State Park by James M. Denny and Bonita Marie Wright.

⁷⁹ United States of America. Department of the Interior. National Parks Service. National Register Nomination for Fort Bellefontaine. By Daniel Gonzales

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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N/A
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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
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Verbal Boundary Description

Tilles Park is located in Ladue, Missouri, and is part of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation. Tilles Park's east border is along S McKnight Road, and extends to the South along Litzsinger Road. The west border begins at the south, along Litzsinger Road, and extends north along the property line for the residential neighborhood of Litzsinger Lane. The north border of the park extends east to west along the property line for residential houses belonging to Deer Creek Woods Drive and Lindworth Drive.

Boundary Justification

The mentioned boundaries include the original acreage donated to the City of St. Louis by C.A. Tilles in 1932 and the additional donation made by Jeanette Windegger in 1975 which is currently a clear and cohesive part of the overall park. (See Fig. 29)

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Name of Property
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

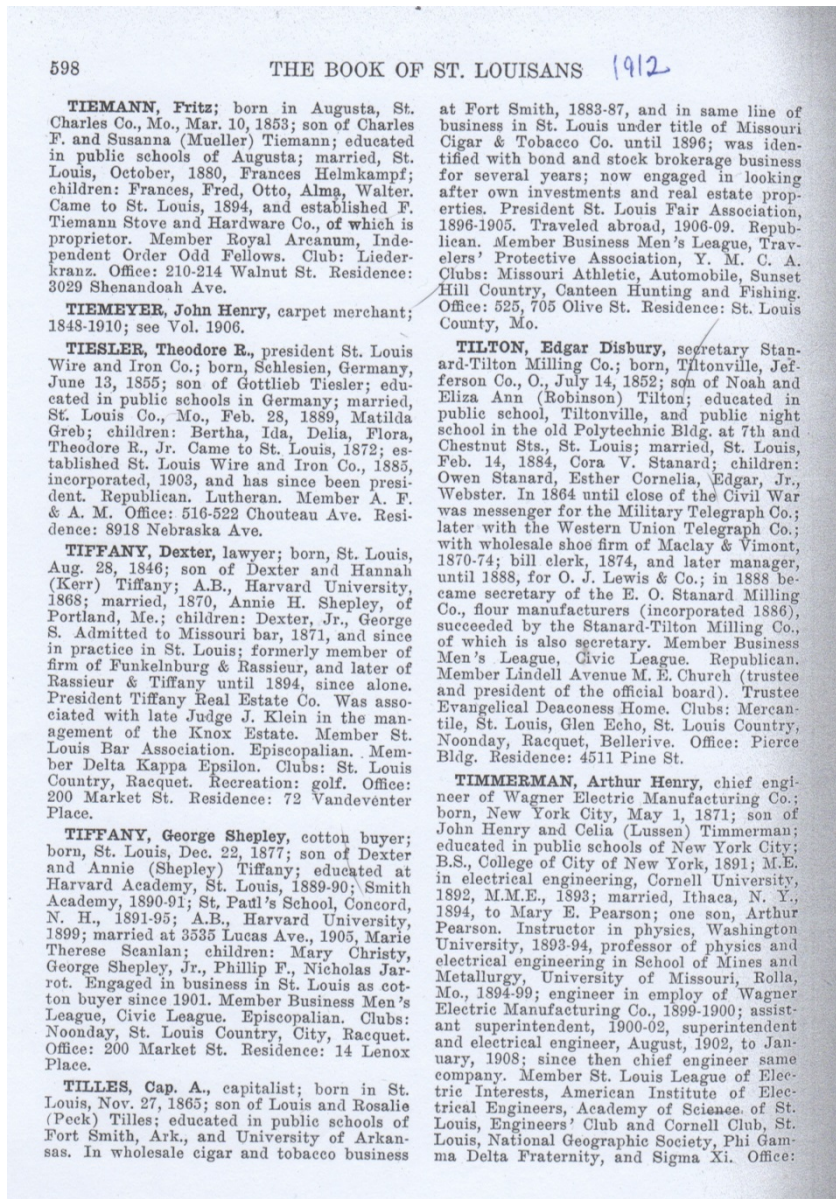


Figure 1. Excerpt from *The Book of St. Louisans, 1912*, section for "Tilles, Cap. A."

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Figure 2. Obituaries for C.A. Tilles from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, respectively (November 23, 1957).

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

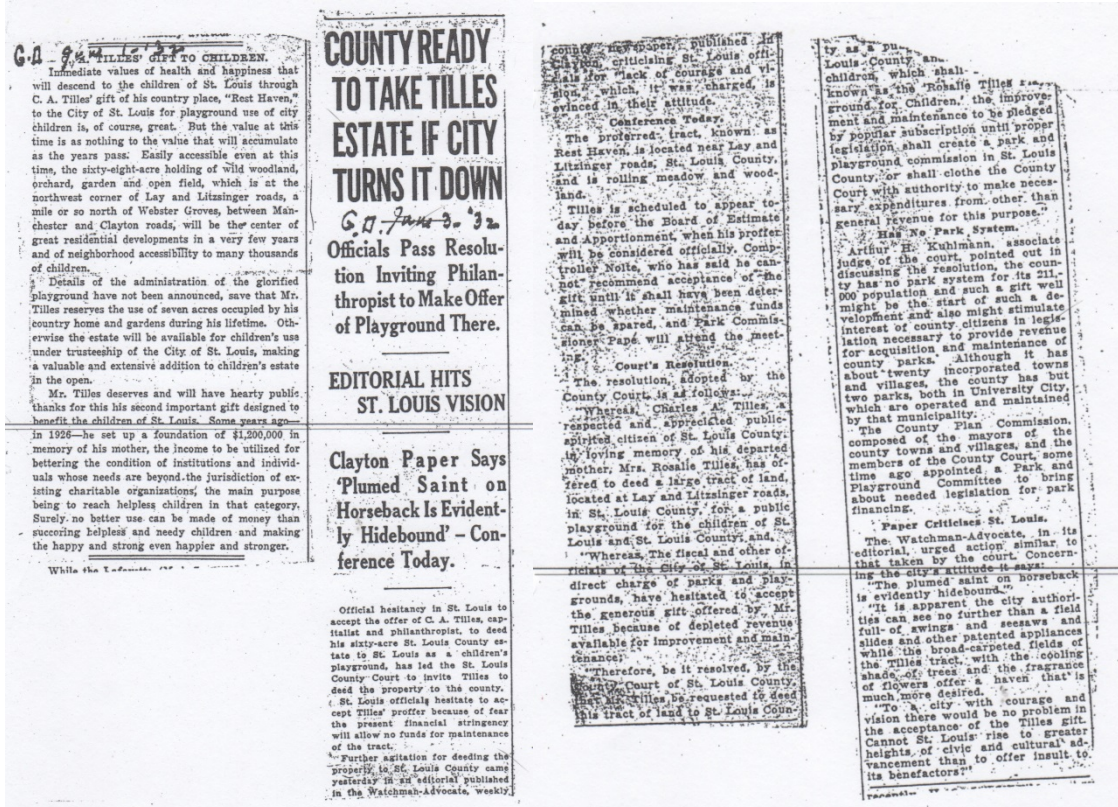


Figure 3. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1932 articles pertaining to the gift of land by C.A. Tilles.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
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N/A
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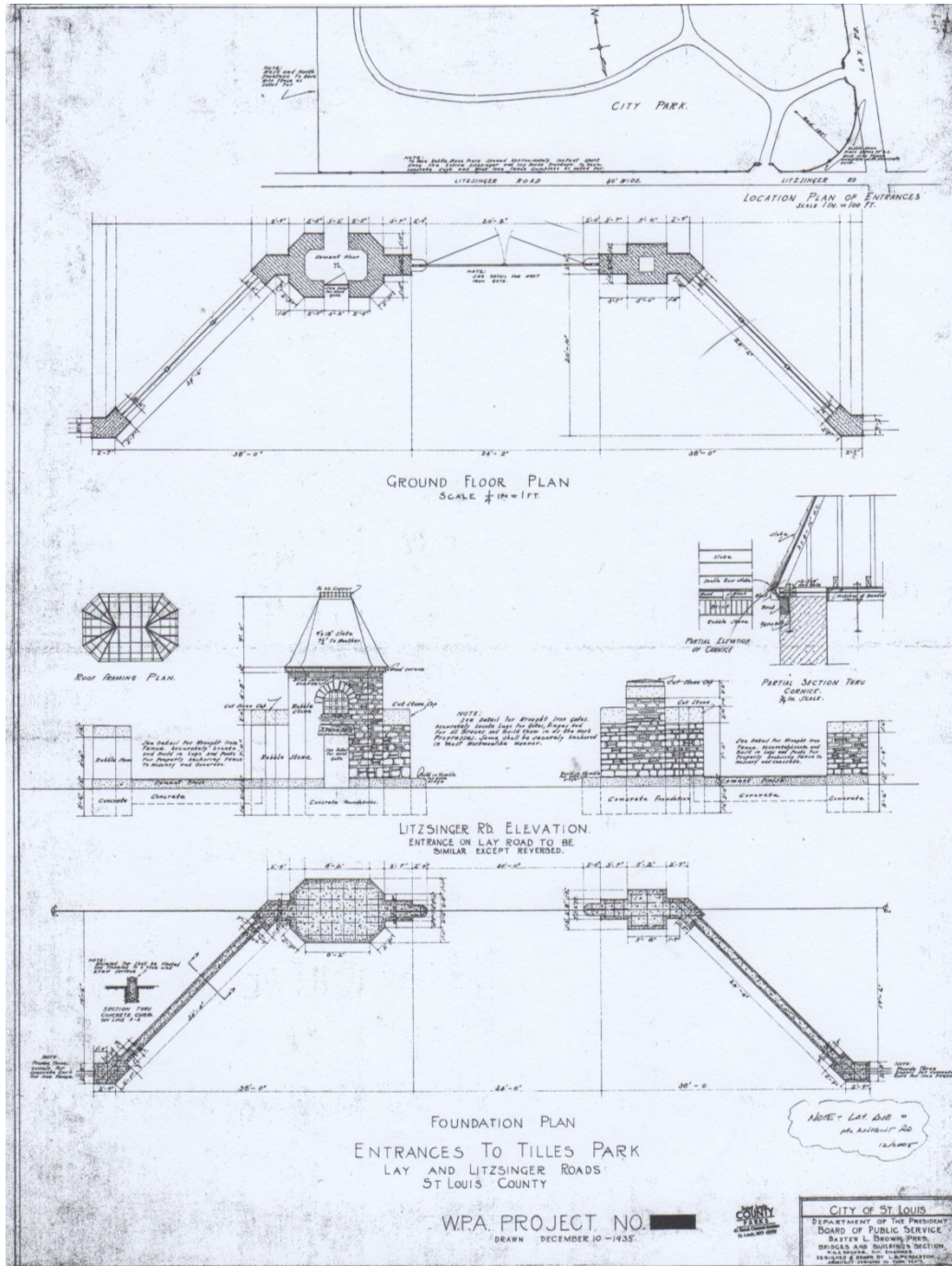


Figure 4. Architectural Plans for the front entrance to Tilles Park, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1935. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

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N/A

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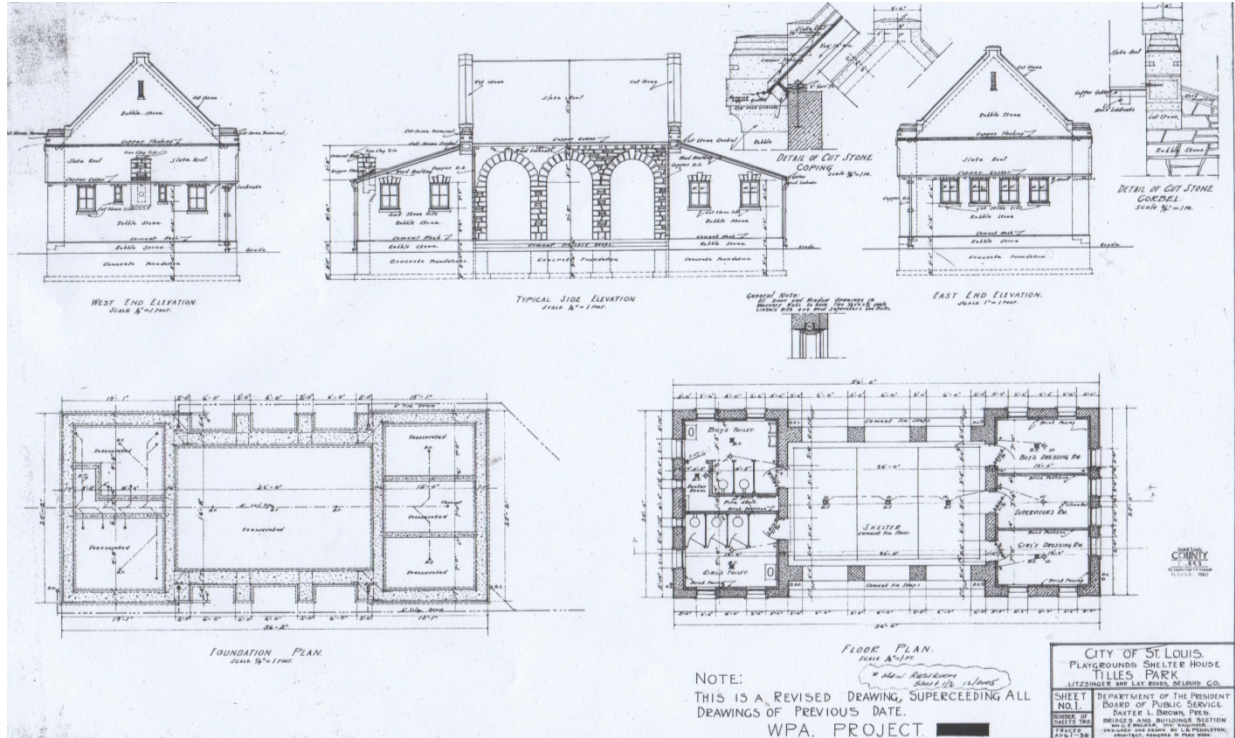


Figure 5. Architectural Plans for the Main Restroom located in the southeast corner of the park, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1936. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Name of Property
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N/A

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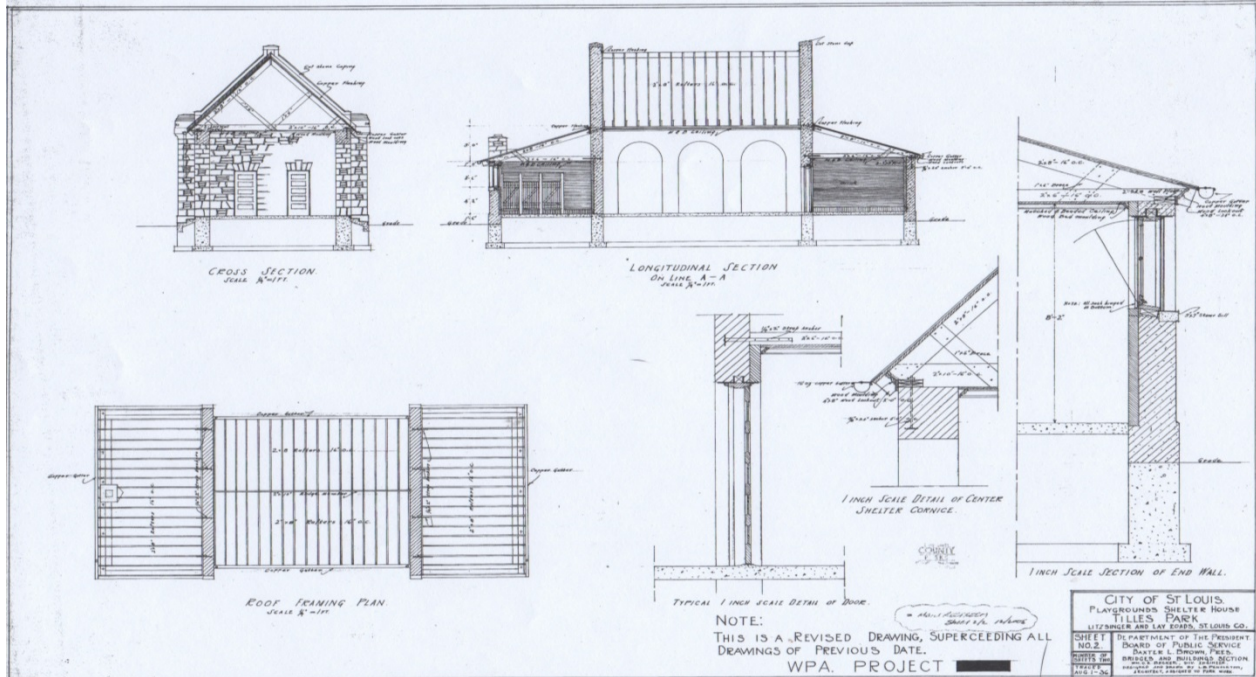


Figure 6. Revised floor plan and elevation plans for the Main Restroom, drawn by L.B. Pendleton , 1936. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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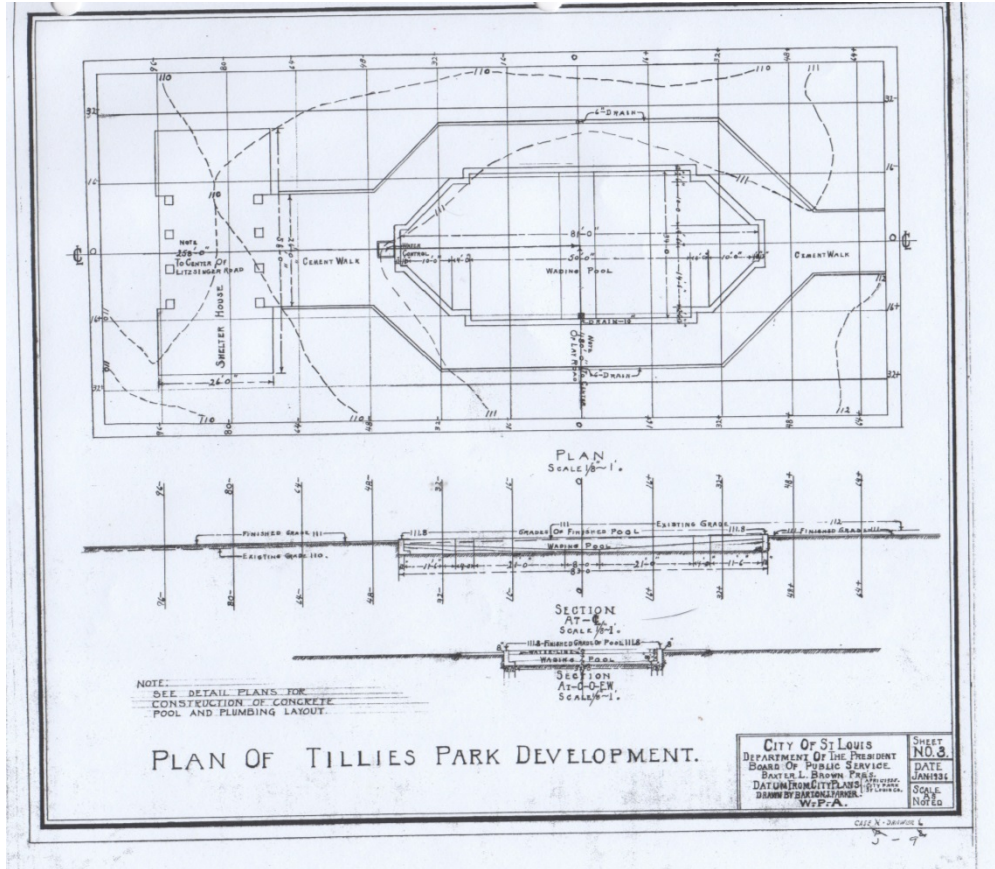


Figure 7. W.P.A. architectural drawing of the wading pool and Main Restroom drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1935. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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N/A
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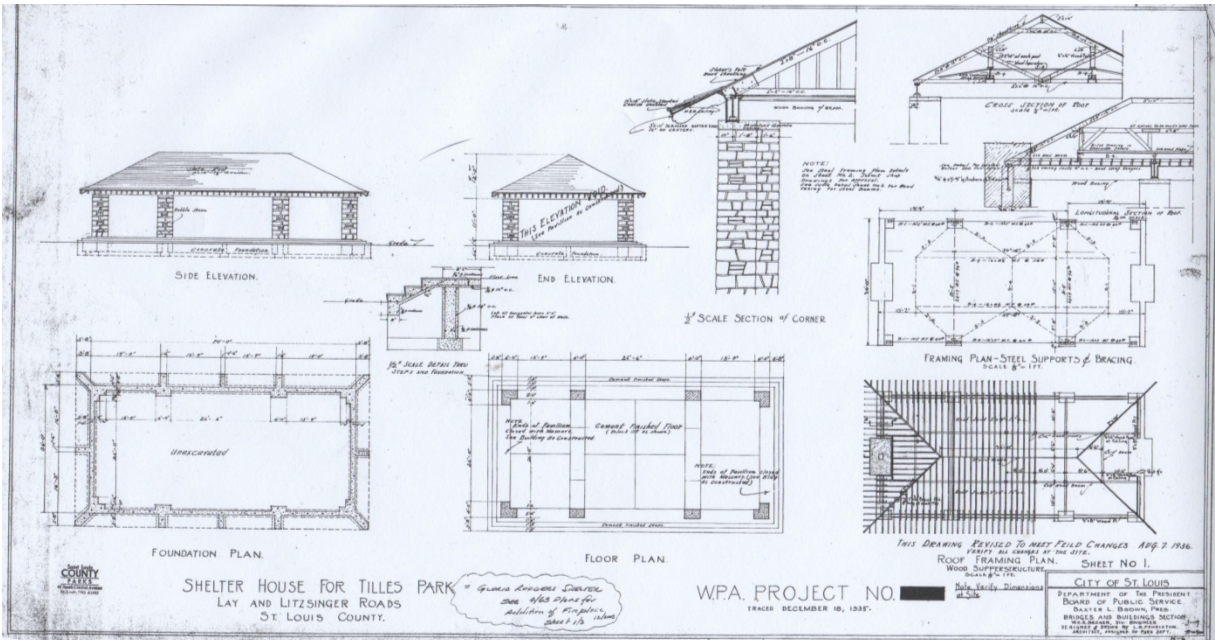


Figure 8. W.P.A. architectural drawing for the Gloria Rogers Shelter, orig. 1936, updated in 2005. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

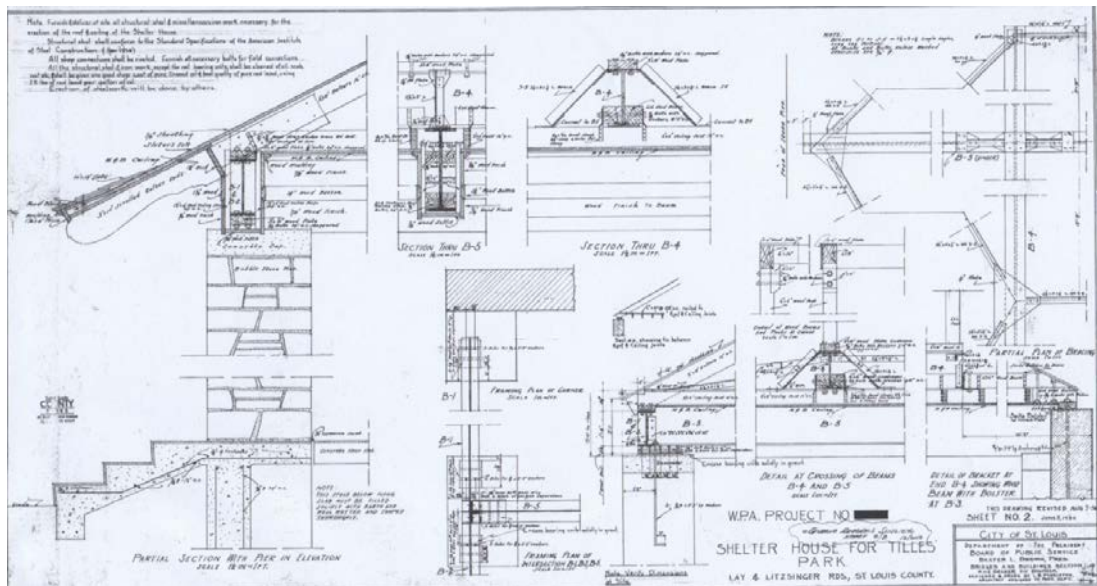


Figure 9. Elevation and material plan for Gloria Rogers Shelter, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1936. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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N/A
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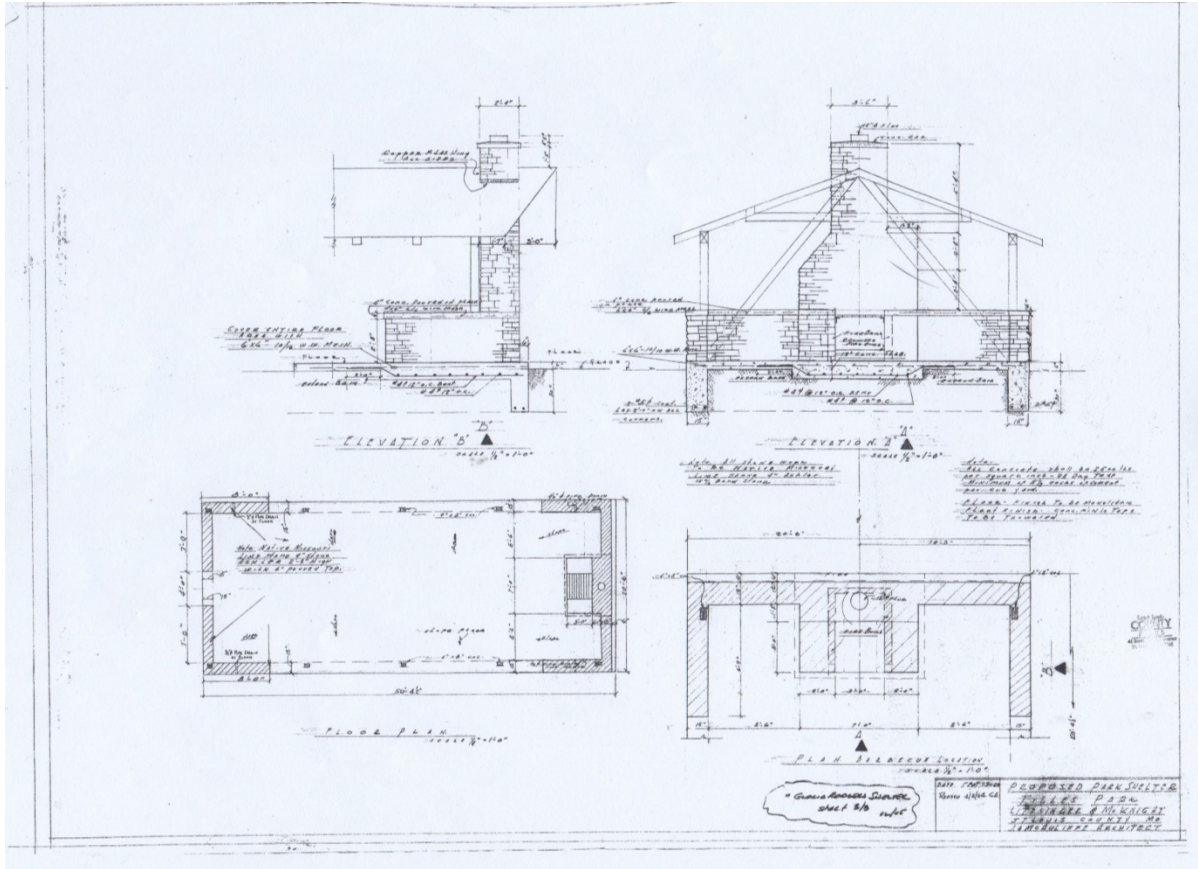


Figure 10. Floor and elevation plan for the Gloria Rogers Shelter, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1936.
From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
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N/A
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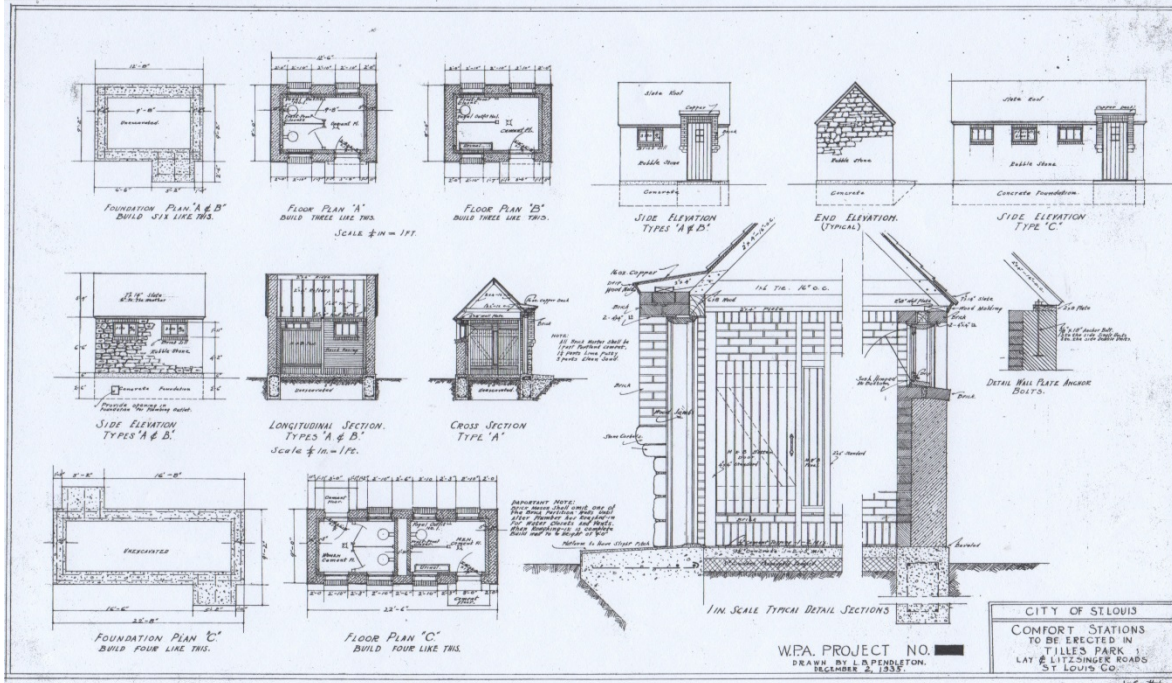


Figure 11. Architectural drawings for "comfort stations" within Tilles Park, drawn by L.B. Pendleton, 1935. From St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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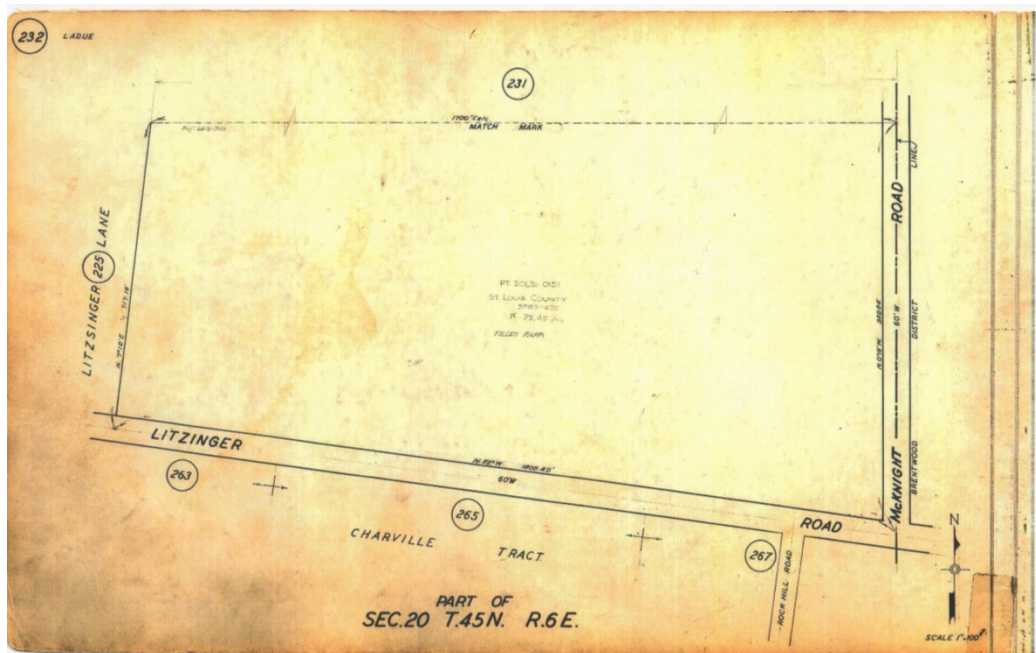


Figure 12. Early aerial plan of Tilles Park. From St. Louis County Assessor's Plat Book

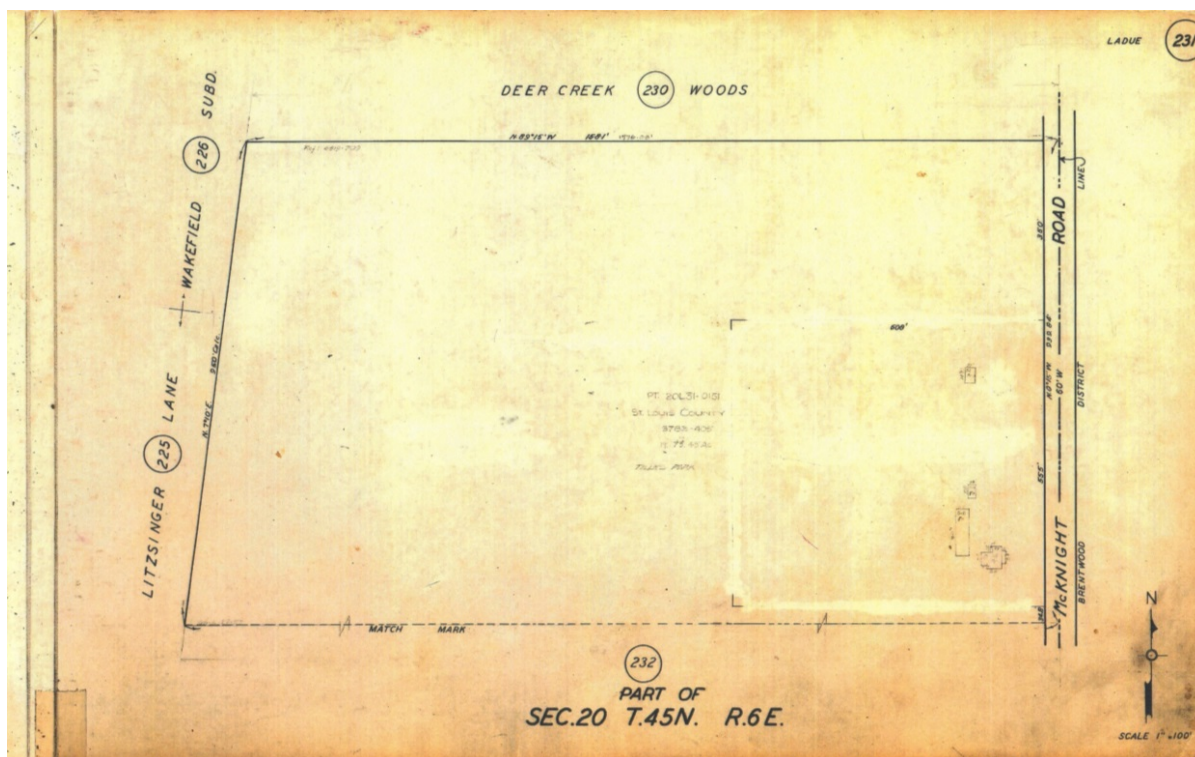


Figure 13. Early aerial plan of Tilles Park, part II. From St. Louis County Assessor's Plat Book

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Figure 14. W.P.A. photo of Tilles Park under construction, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).



Figure 15. W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

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Figure 16. W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

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Figure 17. W.P.A. photo of stonemason working on site, ca. 1935 (source of photographs unknown, copies held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department).

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N/A

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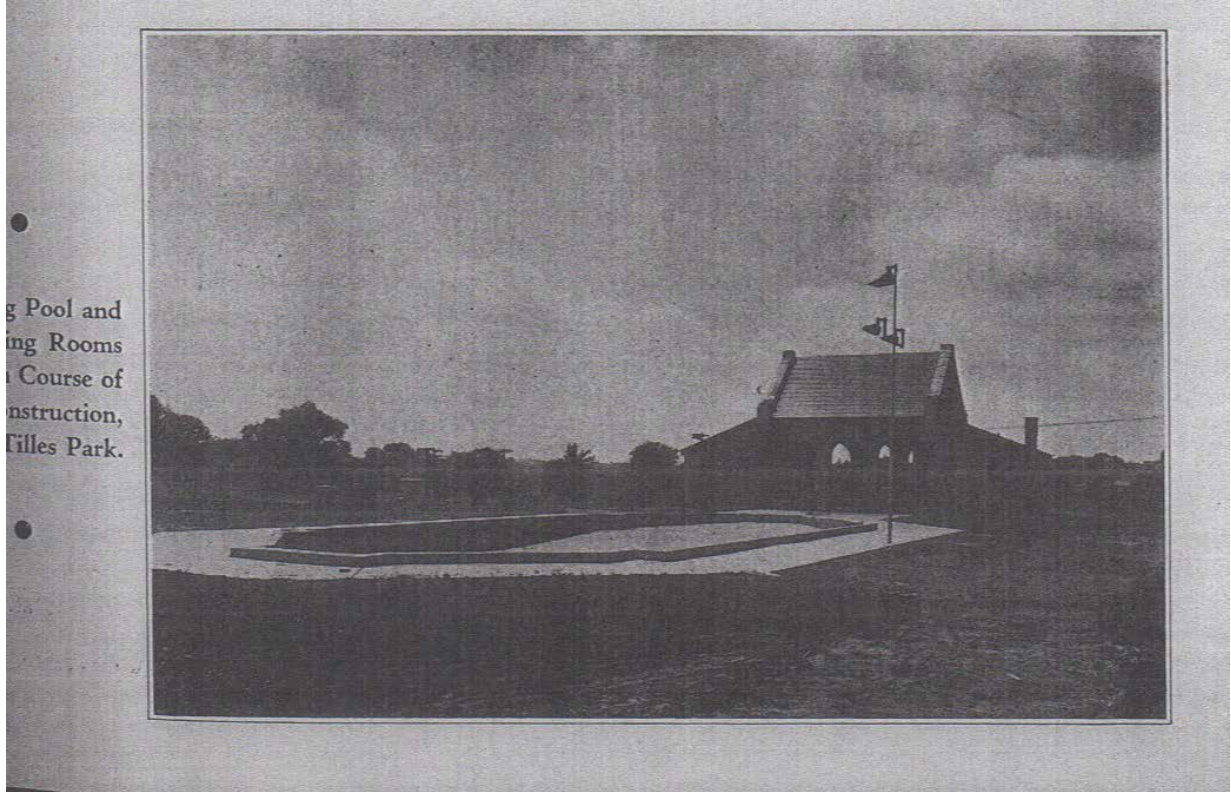


Figure 18. Excerpt from the 1938 *Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation*.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

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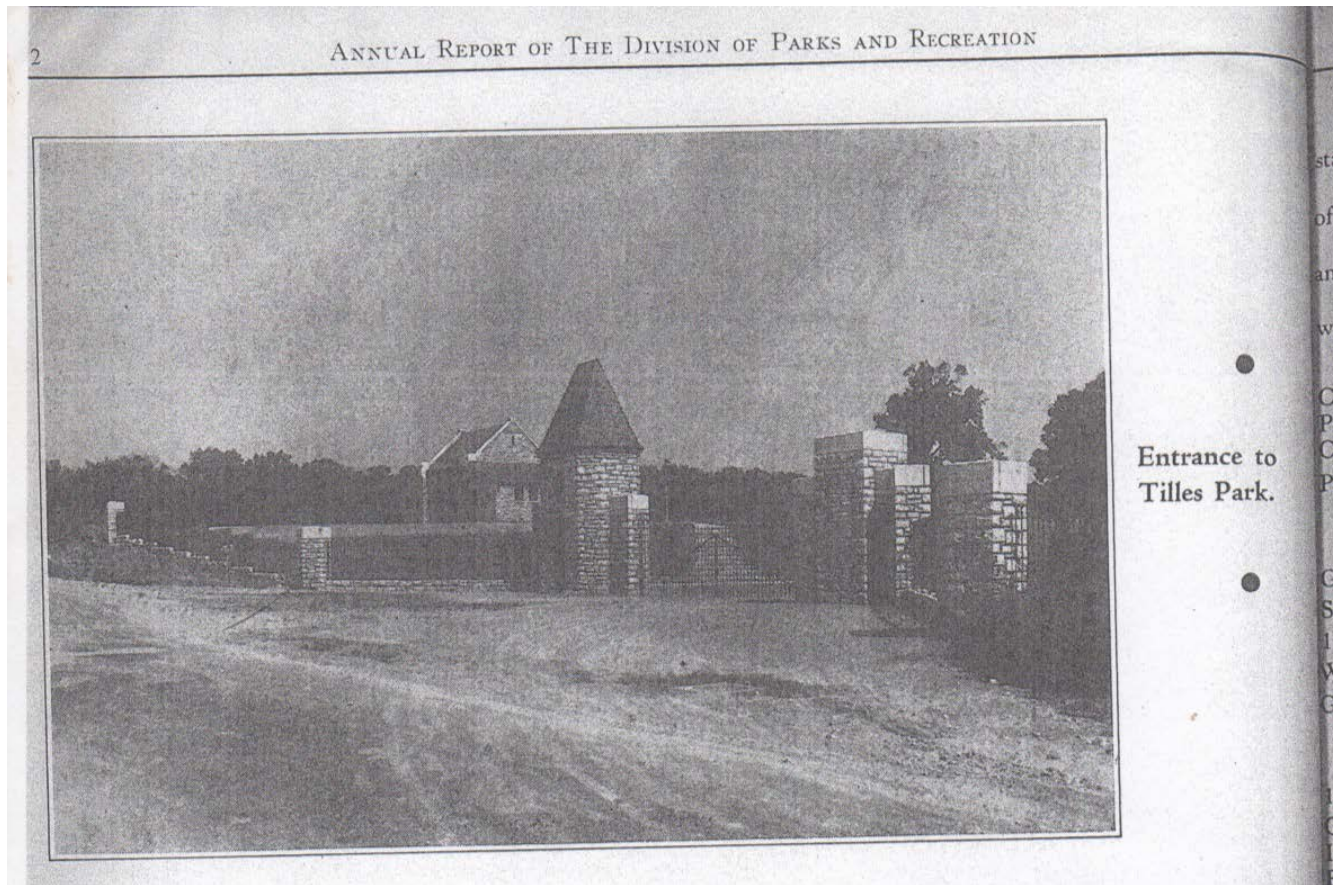


Figure 19. Excerpt from the 1938 Annual Report of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
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N/A
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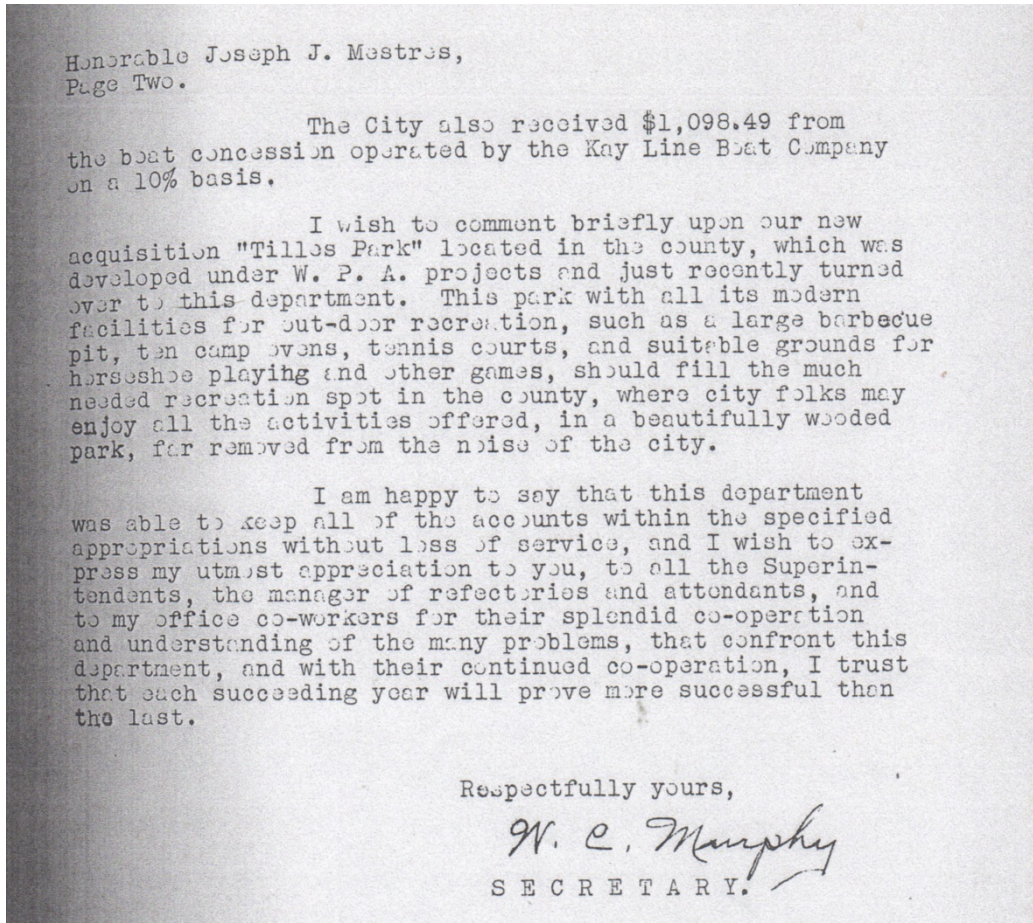


Figure 20. Letter to Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for St. Louis City, Joseph J. Mestres, from W.C. Murphy, Secretary of Parks and Recreation, May 15, 1939; Copy held by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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St. Louis County, Missouri
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N/A
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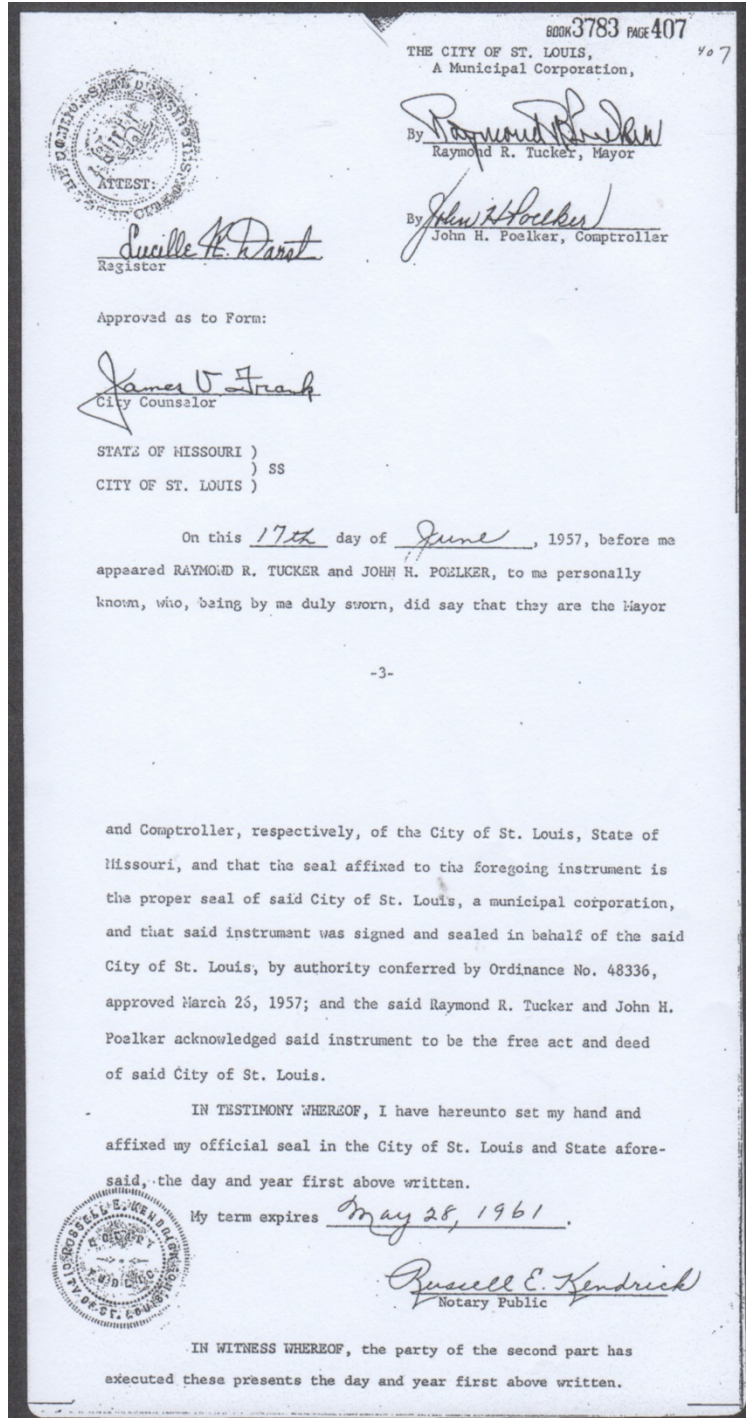


Figure 21a. Deed of Gift (Tilles Park) from the City of St. Louis to St. Louis County.

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Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

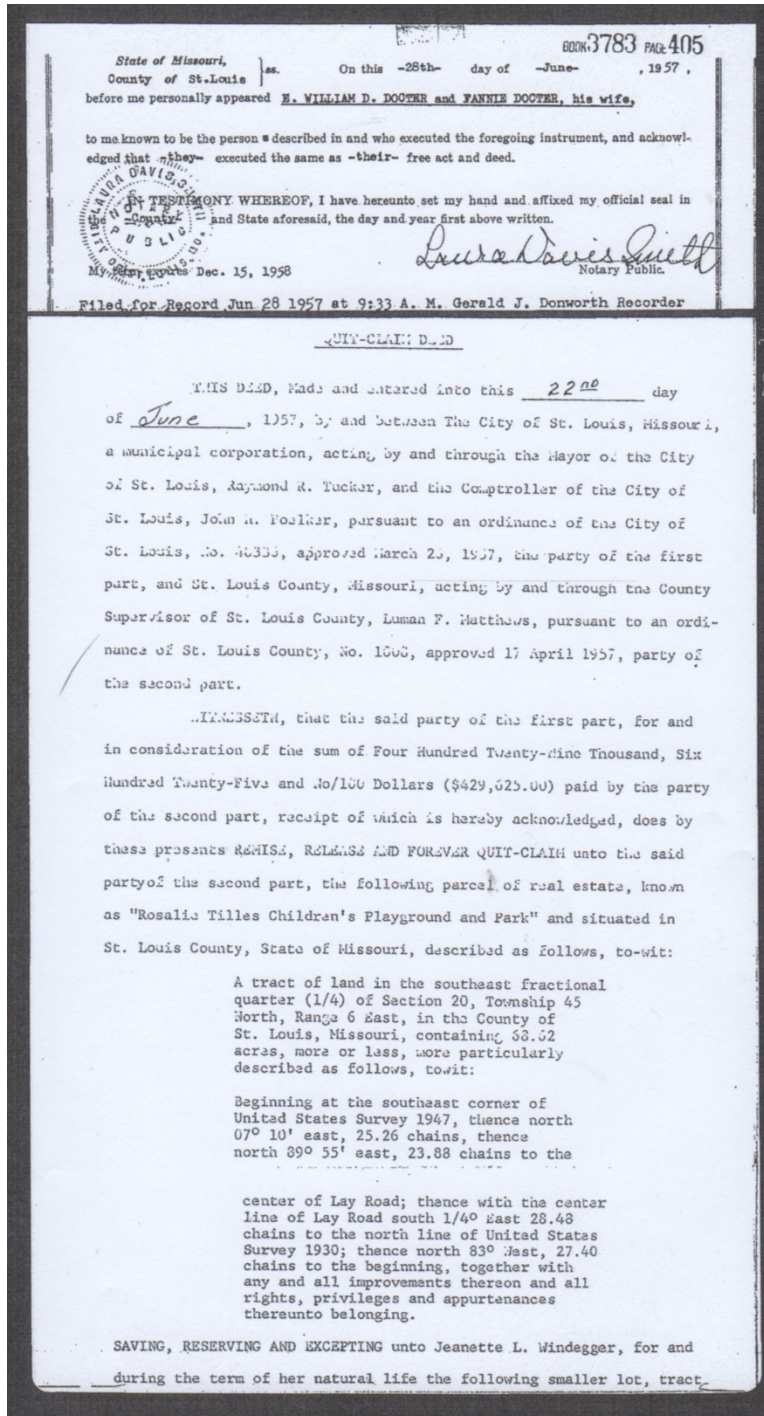


Figure 21b. Deed of Gift (Tilles Park) from the City of St. Louis to St. Louis County.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

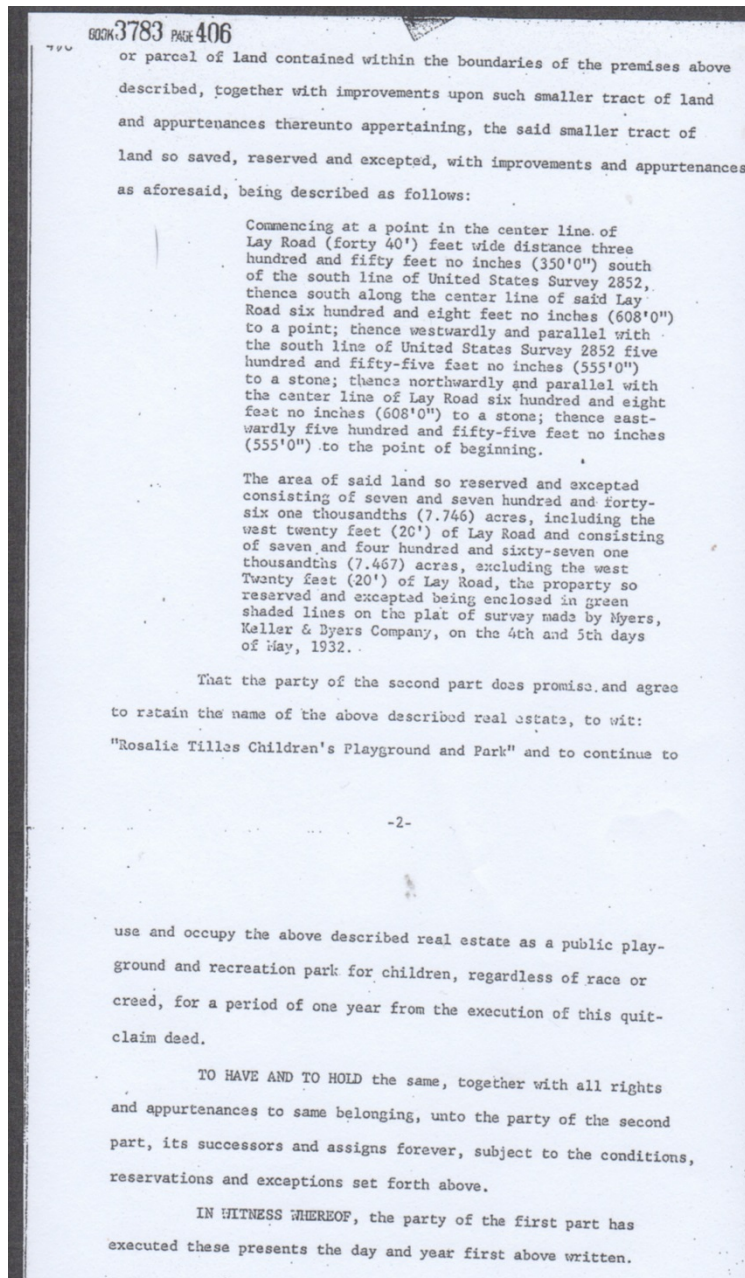


Figure 21c. Deed of Gift (Tilles Park) from the City of St. Louis to St. Louis County.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

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**Figure 22. Photograph of St. Louis County Parks Sign, c.2000, Camera facing northwest.
Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales August 2017**

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Name of Property
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N/A

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Figure 23. Photograph of Memorial to Rosalie Tilles, 1958, Camera facing west. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales August 2017

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Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

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N/A

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Figure 24. Photograph of Stone Wall #5, c.1937, Camera facing northwest. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales August 2017

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N/A

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Figure 25. Photograph of Stone Wall #6, c.1937, Camera facing south. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales August 2017

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
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N/A
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Figure 26. Aerial Map of Tilles Park, 1937
From ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

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N/A
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Figure 27. Aerial Map of Tilles Park, 1955
From ArcGIS Map via St. Louis County Parcel Viewer, <http://maps.stlouisco.com/propertyview/>

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N/A
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Figure 28. Log for Photos 1-27
From St. Louis County Parks

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N/A
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Figure 29. Tilles Park Contextual Map 2017 Site outlined in red
From ArcGIS Map

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 30. Tilles Park Contributing/Non-Contributing Structures Map 2017
 From ArcGIS Map

(See next page for a larger map key)

National Register of Historic Places
 Continuation Sheet

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
----- Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Contributing/Non-Contributing Map Key

1. Main Restroom	2. Gloria Rodgers Restroom
3. Gloria Rodgers Shelter Restroom	4. Stone Pylon #1
5. Stone Pylon #2	6. Hyde Park Iron Fence
7. Park Keeper's Residence	8. Park Keeper's Garage
9. Tennis Courts	10. Skow Shelter
11. Skow Restroom	12. Skow Playground Restroom
13. Baseball Field	14. Baseball Field Restroom
15. Picnic Site #1	16. Picnic Site #1 Restroom
17. Picnic Site #2	18. Picnic Site #2 Restroom
19. Picnic Site #4 Restroom	20. Picnic Site #5 Restroom
21. Meandering Circle Drive	22. Stone Wall #1
23. Stone Wall #2	24. Stone Wall #3
25. Stone Wall #4	26. Stone Wall #5
27. Stone Wall #6	28. Maintenance Garage
29. Maintenance House	30. Maintenance Shed
31. Parking Lot #1	32. Parking Lot #2
33. Parking Lot #3	34. Parking Lot #4
35. Playground #1	36. Playground #2
37. Wading Pool/Spray Basin	38. Swing Set
39. Windegger Shelter and Dock	40. Dancing Children Sculpture
41. Turtle Sculpture	42. St. Louis County Parks Sign
43. Monument to Rosalie Tilles	

LATITUDE/LONGITUDE COORDINATES

- 1. Northwest corner:** 38.624240, -90.367923
- 2. Northeast corner:** 38.624209, -90.362473
- 3. Southwest corner:** 38.619794, -90.368714
- 4. Southeast corner:** 38.619143, -90.362484

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

 Name of Property
 St. Louis County, Missouri

 County and State
 N/A

 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

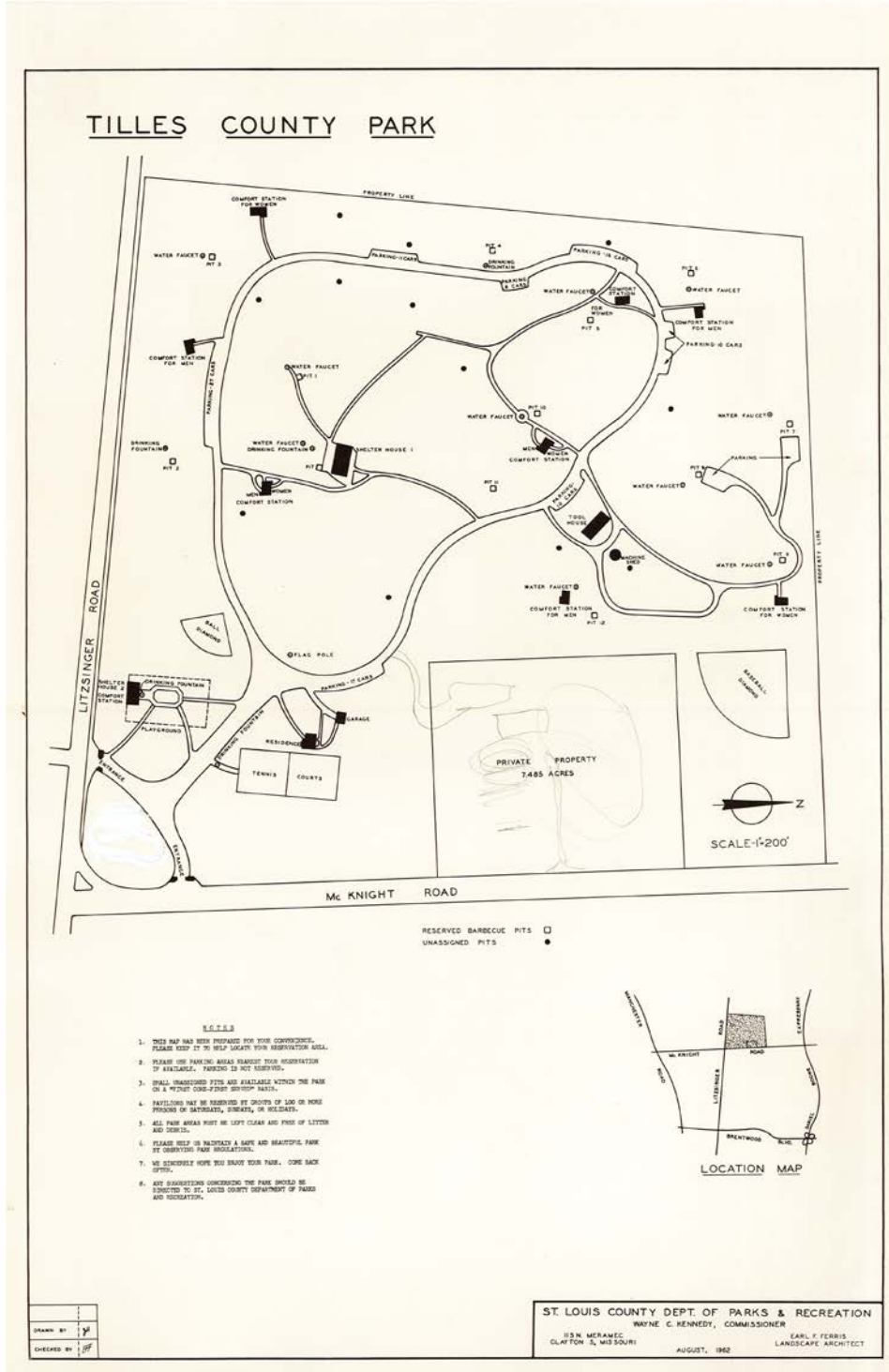


Figure 31. Map of Tilles Park, 1962 from St. Louis County Parks

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 32. Photograph of Babler State Park ca. 2000, from St. Louis County Parks

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 33. Photograph of WPA structures at Fort Bellefontaine County Park. Photograph taken by Esley Hamilton, 2015.

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 34. Photograph of exercise station at Tilles Park. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, October 2017

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Continuation Sheet

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Tilles, Rosalie, Park

Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 35. Photograph of stained glass windows in Caretakers House at Tilles Park. Photograph taken by Daniel Gonzales, October 2017





MEN



GLORIA ROGERS SHELTER

NO
PARKING
&
LOADING &
UNLOADING
ONLY









SKOW SHELTER



WOMEN

18

THE FLAKES



**RESTROOM
CLOSED**
Please use one of
the others that have
remained open.



RESTROOM





RESTROOM





TROOP
USED
Use one of
the outhouses
that have
been opened.

















South
COUNTY
PAVING

121442

249331



Welcome
to
Winter









