

# Hogan's Fountain Pavilion Designation Report



**Metro Historic Landmarks and  
Preservation Districts Commission  
September 24, 2012**

## Hogan's Fountain Pavilion Local Landmark Designation Report Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission

### **Location**

The structure known as the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion is being considered for designation as a Local Landmark. It is located within the National-Register listed Cherokee Park (1982) which is an historic Olmsted-designed park. Sited in the area of the park originally known as Bonnycastle Hill, this part of the park is approximately 7 acres and is characterized by a gently sloping hilltop and open space surrounded by large deciduous trees. The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion is located approximately 100 feet west of the Scenic Loop opposite of the Hogan Fountain statue (1905). It is situated in a park landscape of turf, trees and meadow with drive, walking paths and recreational elements that include a playground, basketball court, spraypad, and grass multi-purpose ballfield as well as a comfort station and parking area.

### **Description**

Constructed in 1965, the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion has a character-defining steep sloping roof echoing a teepee form making it a distinctive element along Cherokee Park's Scenic Loop. Commonly referred to as the Teepee Pavilion, this is a semi-"conical"-shaped shelter structure with eight sides that is approximately 62' high at top of laminated arch with a 60' wide covered roof area and with a 96' wide concrete foundation made of 8 concrete piers. The superstructure of the roof is comprised of eight curved laminated wood arches anchored to and extending up from the 8 concrete piers structure to a single steel compression ring. Each of the eight wood arches are segments of a circle and rise upward extending through an opening in the roof. A metal chimney above the central fire pit also passes through the roof opening. The arches are anchored to steel saddles which are anchored into the concrete piers that have a stone veneer. The original construction drawings refer to these elements as buttresses. The laminated wood beams originally carried the gutters and the top face coated with copper. The previously exposed lower portion of these arches degraded and were repaired and reinforced with bent structural steel plates. The roof decking is composed of solid wood purlins at 10" on center spanning between the arches. Plywood sheathing is installed over the purlins. Two layers of shingles, one layer of asbestos-asphalt shingles and one layer of wood singles are installed over the plywood. Although the first roof was to be wood shake, plywood decking was installed over the wood purlins and asphalt/asbestos shingles were installed and remain in place. Subsequently, wood shake shingles were installed over the first roof which may have been the architect's original design concept. The roof fascia has a decorative triangular dentil pattern in laminate wood running around the edge of pavilion. Concrete walkways radiate outward from the shelter structure to connect to the Scenic Loop path and the recreational areas.

The open-air interior of the structure is defined by a round concrete base with a circular brick seating wall, as well as another smaller concrete pad in the center where grills are placed. The original fire pit was removed and enclosed with this concrete pad. A fire pit hood connected to a smoke stack is suspended from the ceiling in the center of the

pavilion. The exposed wood purlins of roof deck are visible from below and serve to keep the rain out and provide shade.

The pavilion was originally designed and constructed with a brick comfort station for bathrooms, which was located on one of the western bays of the structure. It was slightly inset into the interior of the Teepee. This portion of the original structure was previously removed in 1989-1990.

### **Cherokee Park and Hogan Fountain Area History**

As early as 1887, a plan was proposed for Louisville to have three major parks interconnected by a series of parkways. The nationally-prominent park designer and landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. visited Louisville at the invitation of the Board of Park Commissioners in 1891, and was then commissioned to design the city's park system. Three parks were initially designed with each location chosen in order to represent three different native landscapes that exist in Louisville: Iroquois Park for its old growth forested knobs; Shawnee Park for its terraced views of the river; and Cherokee for its rolling hills and valleys surrounding Beargrass Creek. The three historic parks were planned with a group of linking Olmsted-designed parkways: Eastern, Southern, Southwestern, Northwestern, and Algonquin. The parks and parkways were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. A total of eighteen parks along with the parkways are associated with the Olmsted firm in Louisville.

Cherokee Park in eastern Louisville consists of 409 acres of broad meadows and tree covered hills. According to the National Register nomination, Olmsted designed Cherokee to be a landscape park with few, well integrated built elements, such as the group of stone bridges crossing Beargrass Creek, that are positioned to make the park landscape accessible. Olmsted's vision for the park was to concentrate on the experience of scenery.

Later additions of built elements within Cherokee Park include the 1901 Arthur Loomis designed Christensen Fountain, the Enid Yandell designed Hogan Fountain in 1905, and the 1908 McDonald and Dodd designed Gaulbert Memorial Shelter at Big Rock. This open-air pavilion structure is characterized by Doric columns and a tile roof.

Adjacent to the park is the historic Cherokee Triangle residential area dating to the turn of the 19th and 20th century which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and is also a local preservation district.

The Scenic Loop traverses the park following the contours of the landscape. One of the primary vistas along the Scenic Loop is located on Bonnycastle Hill. Locally, the area is commonly referred to as Hogan Fountain named after the Enid Yandell-designed fountain featuring the Greek God, Pan. This was financed in 1905 by the Hogan family of Anchorage, Kentucky and became a familiar icon on Bonnycastle Hill.

Bonnycastle Hill, now commonly known as the Hogan Fountain area, is a gently sloped hilltop with steeper approaches. The topography and the design provided areas and features for facility-based active recreation. Olmsted's original plan designated this area as the only part of the park for recreational activities. Olmsted divided recreation into four categories: active, passive, social, and educational. The hilltop at Hogan Fountain was originally designed by Olmsted as a scenic landscape for passive and social recreation. Passive recreation was intended to be strolling, sitting, picnicking, or sunbathing. Social recreation was characterized by group gathering for picnics, celebrations, reunions. The place of social recreation could take place in the broader landscape, or be focused on facilities, like picnic tables and pavilions. Initially, the area positioned west of the Scenic Loop drive was intended to be open and rolling with facilities positioned subordinately along wooded edges.

### *Hogan's Fountain Pavilion*

The original landscape plan for the Bonnycastle Hill area contained a rectangular shelter named Tarry-A-While, which was constructed by 1895 with restroom facilities also being added. In 1964, a new shelter was commissioned to replace the 70 year old original facility that had fallen into disrepair. It was designed by local architect Edward Jacob Schickli, Jr., a graduate of MIT and partner of the design firm, Tafel & Schickli (1961-1994). Mr. Schickli has been a member of the American Institute of Architects since 1954. In 1961, he served as President of the West KY Chapter of the AIA, and in 1965 as President of the Kentucky Society of Architects.

The Tafel and Schickli firm is also responsible for other well-known projects such as the original design of the Louisville Zoo and Botanical Gardens buildings, and the Standiford Field expansion from the security area to the jetways. His architectural firm, Tafel and Schickli also contributed to Louisville's cityscape by designing an addition to the Fire Department Headquarters at 1135 W. Jefferson (1967), as well as Barrington Place Apartments (1962), then called Trinity Towers. The firm's project portfolio also includes designing numerous local churches including the Harvey Brown Presbyterian Church on Browns Lane, fire stations, hospitals, and schools.

The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion was one of the first commissions for the Tafel and Schickli firm. The Parks Department selected the firm with the program to design a shelter for 50 people. The facility was intended to provide space for cook-outs for family gatherings and church groups. A restroom facility was also included in the project scope. According to Mr. Schickli, the only parameter given by the Parks Department was to keep the project within a defined budget. Mr. Schickli was given no specific architectural requirements for the design of the shelter, so he chose "to create something that was more imaginative." Schickli's design motif was derived from the idea that the pavilion should reflect the culture of the Native Americans for which the park was named, thus an iconic (wigwam) teepee design was chosen. Using this historic building form, he wanted to reinforce the idea of a community gathering space. In selecting the shelter's materials, Mr. Schickli stated that his intent was to "use a modern way with traditional forms and materials." The laminated wood arches of the structure of the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion allowed the shelter to have the curved sculptural appearance which would not have been

used historically in a teepee design. While this design could have been accomplished with steel, E.J. Schickli, Jr. stated that he purposely selected natural building elements instead of modern materials to create the shelter structure.

The Board of Alderman appropriated \$40,000 for the open-air pavilion in 1964. The wigwam form was a marked departure from the traditional rectangular shelter type used previously in the parks. Constructed in 1965 at a cost of \$49,915.00 by the C.G. Campbell and Son contractor, the facility was originally named the McCall Shelter in honor of Alderman C.W. “Ches” McCall who was killed in an auto accident in 1962. Mayor William Cowger dedicated the shelter in October 1965. Although the structure was officially named for McCall, the local vernacular continues to refer to the shelter as the “Teepee.”

When the 1974 tornadoes ripped through the Louisville area, much of Cherokee Park was severely affected. Although many of the parks trees were destroyed, the pavilion survived the storms, suffering only minor damage to the roof’s shingles. According to Metro Parks records, the shelter was re-roofed in 1974-1975, and the roof structure repaired in 1978-1979. Due to serious structural deterioration, in the spring of 1979, the first two of the eight laminated beams were repaired and encased in steel support sheaths to correct hazardous conditions. By 1983, the pavilion underwent additional structural engineers’ renovation to shore up the exposed rotting areas of the laminated wood structure that connects to the stone and concrete buttresses. The remaining 6 beams rated fair, poor, to extremely poor condition with 50% rot through and carpenter ant activity noted. Structural degradation, deterioration, rotting and insect infestation was most likely the result of not using exterior treated laminated wood. The 1983 work essentially installed a large steel sleeve over four more of the wood beams in the section between the buttress and the roof fascia to prevent failure. The last two beams were finally encased by 1989.

#### *Master Planning Efforts*

Renewed recognition of the Olmsted design legacy in Louisville and concern about deteriorating conditions in the parks spurred creation of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy in 1990. Louisville Metro Parks partnered with the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy to launch a comprehensive community-driven master planning effort to “restore, enhance, and preserve the city's parks to Olmsted's vision.” This effort culminated in 1994 with the publication (and subsequent adoption by the Louisville Board of Aldermen) of the *Master Plan for Louisville’s Olmsted Parks & Parkways: A Guide to Renewal and Management*. In Chapter 8: The Built Landscape (p. 237), the master plan’s guidance for the Teepee states:

“The “teepee” shelter is particularly obtrusive and oversized. When it deteriorates it should be replaced with two smaller picnic shelters and clusters of open picnic tables in this high-use area.”

Since that time, there has been deferred maintenance for the pavilion structure. In 2010, the Hogan Fountain Master Plan again recommended replacement of the Hogan’s Fountain Pavilion due to its nonconforming location and scale; deteriorating condition; as

well as issues with soil erosion and drainage in the area. The structure remains intact and utilized by the public as of July 2012.

Cherokee Park as a whole experienced departures from the design intent conceived by the Olmsted firm to its manifestation in an “as-built” form. For example, several of the original Olmsted-designed bridges were replaced with ones that were donated to the park in the 1920s that featured more ornate designs. Some areas of the park’s topography were altered to accommodate sports facilities that were added after the initial design. Other changes overtime affected the park’s design including the construction of Interstate 64; the 1974 Tornado; the replanting plan that was employed after the tornado. As noted in the 1994 Master Plan (page 129), Cherokee Park’s condition and appearance is the cumulative result of the original design and construction with the additional changes over time that were either man-made, or the result of natural events. The master planning efforts that have been undertaken over the last 20 years have sought to identify changes that could be made to restore the historic landscape. This is demonstrated by the construction of the shelter located on Barringer Hill that restored the structure that had been destroyed by the tornado.

The development of the Bonnycastle Hill or Hogan Fountain Area has undergone change since it was originally designed, as well. As noted in the 2010 Master Plan for the Hogan Fountain Area (p. 3-4), the fountain’s siting was considered to be incompatible with the original design intent:

“ The [Olmsted] firm intended that the site on Bonnycastle Hill chosen for the fountain was to be empowered by a dense planting of surrounding trees. Cecil Fraser, noting this site was a popular place for festive occasions and was often congested made changes to the Olmsted plan, enlarging the surrounding concourse and moving the existing shelter to align it with the fountain. On a visit in 1905, John Olmsted observed that the fountain’s prominence adversely affected the character of the locality with its old beech woods”.

Since that the time, the Hogan’s Fountain has become an integral feature of the Bonnycastle Hill area of the park. Master planning documents recommend that the fountain should be repaired and restored.

At the time of the Hogan Fountain Pavilion construction in the 1965, the Parks Department was addressing the replacement of the original rustic-style shelter, Tarry-A-While, that had become deteriorated. The Teepee shelter was a product of its own time and was designed as a modern architectural form. The Parks Department commissioned the new shelter without requiring it to recreate the original Tarry-A-While design. By the 1990s, a renewed interest in restoring Olmsted’s original park design, and a concern for the environmental impacts to the park renewed master planning efforts for the Hogan Fountain Area. Recognizing that the entire park is an historic landscape there is an inherent tension of interpretation that exists between the presence of the Teepee shelter

within the Hogan Fountain Area. The consideration of the Teepee shelter within the context of the original Olmsted firm's park design is that it is incompatible intrusion. When the shelter is considered within a context of change over time, it is a document of local park development in the mid-twentieth century.

## **Significance**

### *“Parkitecture”*

Park architecture has largely been influenced by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century romanticized ideas of nature and the need to preserve wild frontiers. Under this influence, park structures should be accessory to nature and should not interfere with the natural landscapes already present. This policy of using native building materials and native building styles was thus adopted by the National Park Service in the 1920s in order to preserve the nation's deteriorating natural landscapes.

Rustic architecture received a boost in the 1930s when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president, and the New Deal programs were created to aid the struggling nation. From 1933-1943, the Civilian Conservation Corps, a work relief program created by Roosevelt, provided jobs to young men and worked to preserve and rehabilitate the nation's parks which had suffered under American exploitation. Under this program, new facilities were built as well as roads and trails maintained, trees planted, bridges maintained, etc.; all with rustic architecture influences. It was not until after World War II that park architecture saw any significant change.

The influences of this prolific architectural movement can be seen throughout the U.S. in the national parks, as well as smaller local parks. Commonly referred to as “Parkitecture”, the use of native and natural materials in order to create a blending of the natural and built environment can be found from the administration buildings of great national parks such as Yosemite and Mount Rainier to Louisville's very own Tyler Park Bridge, already a local landmark. Early pavilions in Shawnee Park and Iroquois Park utilized a Craftsman aesthetic that emphasized wood and stone. The Tarry-A-While shelter originally constructed for Bonnycastle Hill was a rustic shelter, as was the original pavilion on Baringer Hill.

### *Mission 66*

In the context of the Post-World War II period, the Mission 66 program which was created by President Eisenhower to update National Park facilities to accommodate the onslaught of visitors in the mid-century period. An estimated \$1 billion dollars went into the program during its life, from 1956-1966. It was during this time that modern architectural influences were seen throughout parks. A well-known example is Richard Neutra's Gettysburg Cyclorama at The National Military Park in Adams County, Pennsylvania, a modernist circular visitor's center built to house a large circular painting of a famous Gettysburg battle. It was through this program that Neutra and other modernist architects contributed significantly to park architecture. The Mission 66 program introduced a park architecture rooted in the design philosophies of Modernism into the context of the nation's parks to express a new era of park services.

### *Mid-Century Modern Architecture*

“Mid-Century Modern” refers to a style of architecture built in the Post-World War II-era into the late 1960s (the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century). The style expresses the structure of the building without extraneous ornament and utilized modern construction methods and materials. The style grew out of the influences of the International Style and Bauhaus movements – including the work of Gropius, le Corbusier, and Mies van der Rohe. These movements emphasized the tenets of the machine age which focused attention on the structure as a pure form. Modern materials such as steel and concrete that have smooth surfaces were favored. The structure of building was meant to be clearly visible and not hidden under another surface. Additionally, expansive window openings, terraces, roof-top gardens were gestures to connect the interior with the exterior. It was also enhanced by the incorporation of Frank Lloyd Wright’s principles of organic architecture that was informed by the landscape and native materials. Mid-Century Modernism drew from these high style sources but also was an expression of the American attitude in the Post-World War II period. The United States was in the midst of the Atomic Age with new technologies that were developed during World War II and was entering the Space Race-era. The exuberance and optimism in the time of new found prosperity became incorporated into the built environment.

Mid-Century Modern popularized the high style designs by utilizing cantilevered overhangs, parabolic, butterfly, accordion and other geometric roof forms area associated with the Atomic Age. The style also emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor-plans with the intention of opening up interior spaces and bringing the outdoors inside the structure. The architecture from the period stressed using modern materials and technologies especially those developed in the Post-World War II era to create new building methods. The idea that the exposed structure of the building became integral to the design is a pure modern form and character-defining feature. Vernacular architectural forms for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational property types during the 1950s and 1960s incorporated the Mid-Century Modern characteristics that define the development of the built environment during the period.

At the time of the Hogan’s Fountain Pavilion’s construction, Mid-Century Modernism was a dominant architectural theme with high-style influences generated by Eero Saarinen and Philip Johnson. Architect, Eero Saarinen, who created the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (St. Louis Gateway Arch) employed a sculptural aesthetic to create an architectural design in a modern steel material that was a pure geometric form. Philip Johnson also used sculpture in his work designing the Roofless Church in New Harmony, Indiana in 1960. This structure is characterized by an exaggerated oblong dome roof form clad in wood shakes.

Frank Lloyd Wright was also still a major architectural influence known as the father of organic architecture. During the period of the late-1940s and 1950s, Wright produced religious architecture that emphasized monumental roof forms. The Unitarian Meeting House (1947) in Shorewood Hills, Wisconsin is defined by a triangular roof form that extends from the ridgeline to the foundation. In 1953, Wright designed the Beth Shalom



Temple (National Historic Landmark, 2007) in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania which was inspired by dual metaphors as a tent and a mountain, and manifested in a glass pyramidal tower design with the roof forming the structure.

Vernacular forms of Mid-Century Modern design also appeared on the architectural landscape. Particularly characteristic of the period was the presence of exaggerated roof forms in geometric shapes. The Atomic Age created a desire for parabolas and boomerangs, as well as stylized fin shapes. A design aesthetic that is sometimes referred to as Googie or Populuxe, the mid-century period was populated with architectural designs that emphasized large roof forms. Taking architectural inspiration from Modernism, these roof designs were meant to connect interior space with exterior landscapes. Concurrently, Cooper Union-educated architect, Andrew Geller, popularized the A-frame design in 1955 as a convenient architectural option for vacation homes. The A-frame with its roof structure integrating in the wall of a building became quickly associated with the architecture of leisure.

### **Statement of Significance**

The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion is a historically significant structure because it represents a style of recreational architecture that fused natural materials with the characteristic elements of Mid-Century Modernism design that were prevalent during the period of construction. The Teepee Pavilion consciously utilizes the rustic aesthetic to create a modern interpretation of "parkitecture". The use of natural materials such as exposed wood elements and stone-veneered buttresses gives the shelter a traditional look that is intended to be harmonious with the surrounding park landscape. E.J. Schickli Jr.'s design language for the structure suggests a Mid-Century Modern expression of culture and heritage through the pavilion's teepee form. The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion has become significant as a product of its own time within the Olmsted-designed park setting as a Mid-Century Modern interpretation of park architecture.

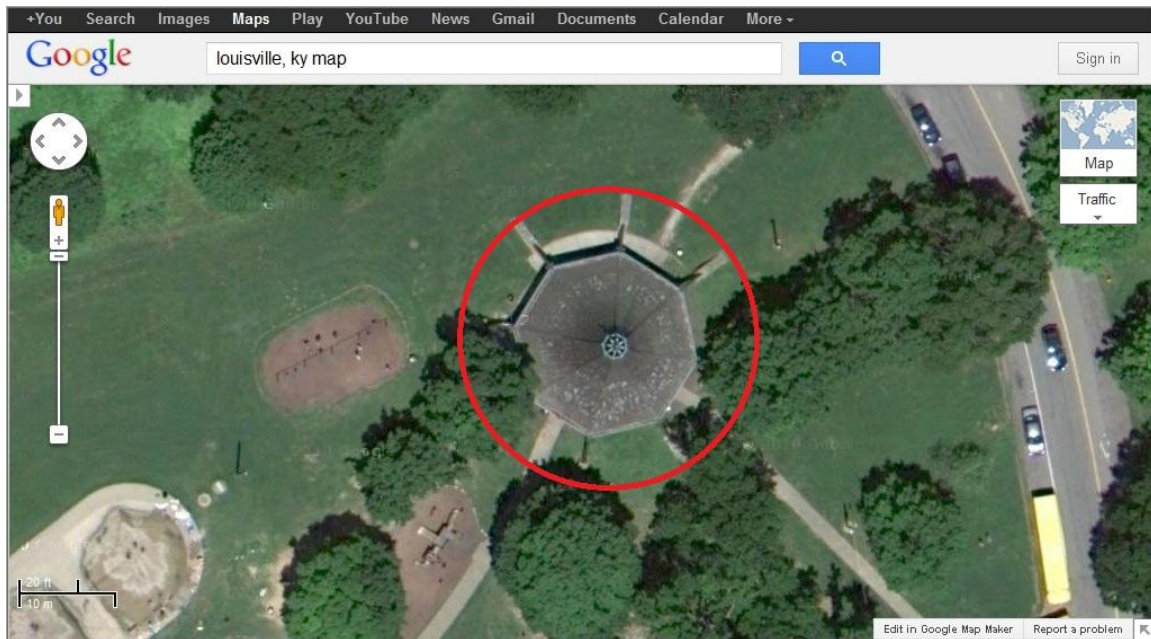
### **Integrity Assessment**

The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion has remained largely intact since its construction starting in 1965. The location of the shelter has remained the same throughout the period. The general setting of the Teepee has survived even with the addition of recreational uses surrounding the shelter. The site remains as a social recreation center, and a focal point of gathering within the park boundaries. The integrity of craftsmanship are clearly evident in the curvilinear exposed laminated wood beam superstructure and horizontal wood roof deck. A majority of the stone veneer also is intact. Both of these elements speak to the intent to retain a natural aesthetic even in a modern technological application. The integrity of design is generally maintained. Its outward appearance of the original teepee form has been preserved which represents the architect's design intent. Though an area of the exposed laminated wood beams were required to be sheathed in steel support sleeves in order to save the pavilion, the remainder of the beam structure is still intact, and visible on the interior of the structure. The pavilion was originally built with a circular fire pit that has since been removed. Now in its place a small circular pad of concrete exists where grills grouped together under the hood and smoke stack retaining the original function of the space. The original brick bathroom facility located on the western side of

the shelter has also been removed. The removal of these elements has not impacted the general overall architectural integrity of the Hogan’s Fountain Pavilion. The integrity of feeling and association also remain strongly connected to the structure. The original programmatic use of the shelter was to provide a place of gathering for families and groups which continues into this current time. The pavilion also retains the connection to the surrounding site with its open-air design that allows shelter uses to flow between the spaces of recreation and leisure. The overall integrity of the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion is at a high level with E.J. Schickli's wigwam-inspired design clearly expressed through the rustic materials of wood and stone accomplished with a Mid-Century Modern design aesthetic.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Hogan’s Fountain Pavilion (3110 Scenic Loop) is defined as the area that immediately surrounds the structure from the outer edge of the end of each stone buttress, continuing around the pavilion. This is the area originally defined in the Schickli drawings for the project identified as project area limits.



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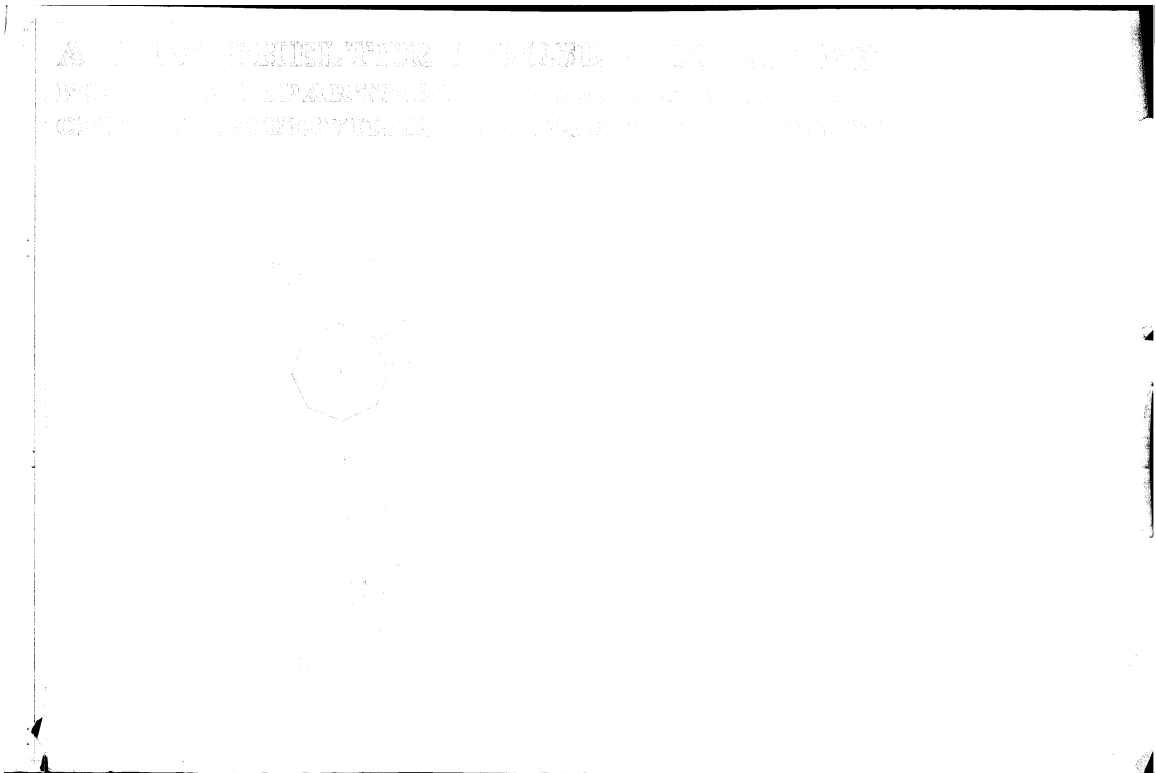
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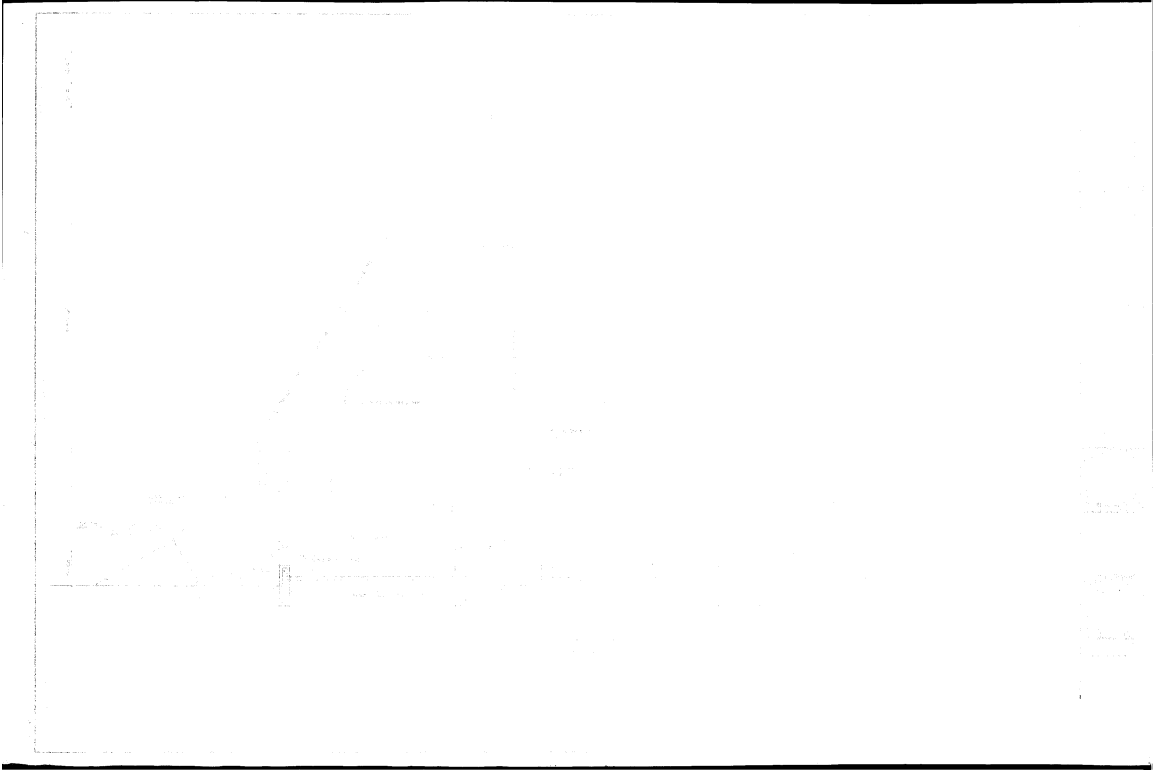
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Original Tarry-A-While Shelter and Hogan Fountain



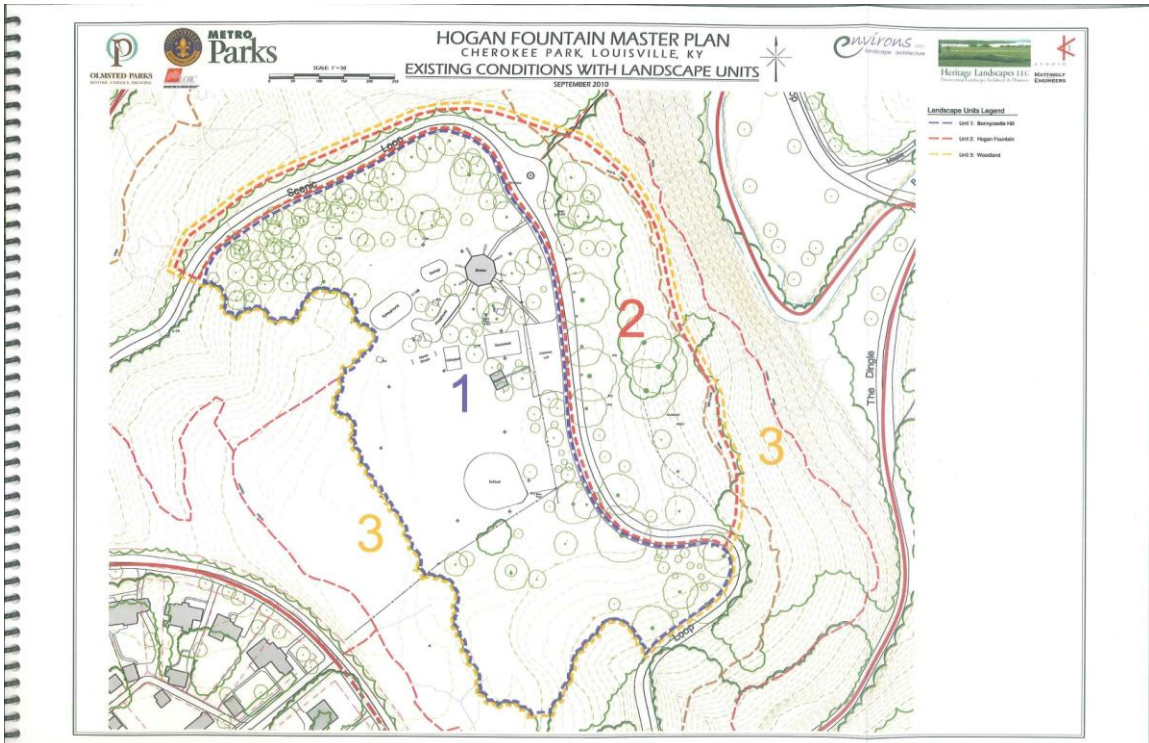
Site plan from original drawings



Original section drawing



September 1965, Shelter under construction



Hogan Fountain Area Master Plan site plan (2010)



July 2012



Shelter setting





Setting on Bonnycastle Hill (southwest)



Northwest site



Perimeter of shelter



Detail of buttress element



Detail of fascia board dentil pattern



Brick seating wall surrounding perimeter of shelter picnic area



Interior of shelter



Smokestack with interior roof detail





Location of fire pit (removed) with grills in place currently



Steel sheath encasing the laminate beams from the buttress to the fascia board



Hogan's Fountain Pavilion

### Designation Criteria

In considering the designation of any neighborhood, area, Property or Structure in the Jefferson County as a Local Landmark, or District, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such Structure, Property or District:

Local Landmark Designation Criteria	Applies	Comments
<b>LANDMARKS ORDINANCE DESIGNATION CRITERIA</b>	<b>APPLIES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
a) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of the City, the Commonwealth, or the United States.	X	The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion was commissioned by the Parks Department to replace an existing shelter. The expressive design of the Teepee shelter indicates interest in creating a place for continued use of the historic Cherokee Park in the mid-century period.
b) Its exemplification of the historic, aesthetic, architectural, prehistoric or historic archaeological, educational, economic, or cultural heritage of the City, the commonwealth, or the nation.	X	The Teepee is an example of Mid-Century Modern design that incorporated natural materials into a contemporary architectural form which is characteristic of a Post-World War II design aesthetic for recreational architecture.
c) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.	NA	
d) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City, the commonwealth, or the nation.	NA	

e) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.	X	The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion is representative example recreational architecture during the period of Mid-Century Modernism. The Teepee design employs the monumental roof forms developed in this period of architectural design.
f) Its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City, the commonwealth, or the nation.	X	MIT educated architect, E.J. Schickli, designed the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion in 1964 as one of his firm's first commissions. Among his other local accomplishments is the original design for the Louisville Zoo and Botanical Gardens facilities, as well as the Standiford Field expansion. The architect's firm, Tafel and Schickli also designed numerous local religious, institutional, and civic structures. The Teepee is an example of the firm's recreational designs.
g) Its embodiment of elements or architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, which represents a significant architectural innovation.	X	The Hogan's Fountain Pavilion represents the development of park architecture in the Post-World War II period which emphasized modernist forms create recreational architecture. The Teepee design is further enhanced by the emphasis on employing natural materials of wood and stone with modern technology.
h) Its relationship to other distinctive areas, which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on an historic, cultural, or architectural motif.	NA	
i) Its location or physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature or which reinforce the physical continuity of a neighborhood, area, or place within the City.	NA	