

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Scott Street Pavilion

and or common

2. Location

street & number Columbian Park N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Lafayette, Board of Parks and Recreation

street & number Columbian Park

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City of Lafayette, Clerk's Office

street & number City Hall, 20 N. 6th Street

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

The Lafayette Preservation Notebook
title Second Printing has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Lafayette Redevelopment Commission

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located near Scott Street in Lafayette's Columbian Park, the Scott Street Pavilion is sited on the northwest edge of the Lagoon.

The Pavilion is a one and one-half story wood framed structure with clapboard siding. Rectangular in plan, its main floor is raised nine feet above the Lagoon's surface. The basement, which is used for storing boats, has its floor level only slightly above water level. A single large hipped roof covers the building, extending 12 feet beyond the walk to create a covered veranda. The roof contains a dormer on each elevation and has flared eaves carried on capitated wood columns and arched frieze-boards. The veranda's column and spandrel detailing is repeated above on the dormer walls. The windows have wooden sash with diamond shaped lights. A single corbeled brick chimney extends through the west dormer roof.

The main floor consists of a single room, 45 feet wide, oriented perpendicular to the Lagoon for views, and 28 feet deep. The fireplace, centered on the west wall, has a massive, full length, corbeled mantel. Beaded ceiling stock covers the walls and ceiling. The floored attic is accessible by a stairway at the northeast corner of the building.

Alterations to the building have occurred over the years. The veranda, which once surrounded the main room on four sides, has been enclosed on the east side with a shed roof addition. This alteration also enclosed an open deck that overlooked the Lagoon. Original sash were relocated to the walls on this enclosure, and exterior stairs on the north and south elevations that led down to the boat dock were removed. The original veranda balustrade has been removed as has a decorative metal roof ridge cap and finials. Wooden trim panels enclosing the crawl space and east basement elevation have also been altered.

The interior of the main room has had its walls covered with hardboard paneling, and an acoustic tile, dropped grid ceiling has been installed. Rooms in the enclosing addition have been finished out but the original wood deck flooring remains.

There has been little structural alteration to the Pavilion and most alterations are reversible. The building's profile, form, scale and detailing lend a close association to the period of its construction.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		X other (specify) Recreation
Specific dates	1899	Builder Architect	Peter Levandowski, Builder	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Scott Street Pavilion is significant both for its historic association with the original plan for Columbian Park, and as the last remaining example in Tippecanoe County of a 19th century public recreational structure. While a similar, larger pavilion was constructed on the Wabash River north of Lafayette during the mid-1890's, it no longer remains.

Columbian Park, Lafayette's first public park, had its beginnings in 1876 when the city built a reservoir to hold water pumped from the Wabash. The reservoir was built on 15 acres owned by the City at the summit of Oakland Hill. Artificial lakes were formed when earth was borrowed to build the walls of the reservoir. One lake was shaped into a "G" in honor of Elias B. Glick, mayor from 1875 to 1877.¹ During this early period, the park was called "Reservoir Park," with the lakes being the main attraction for boating and picnicking.

The Belt Railway Land and Improvement Company was instrumental in the development of Columbian Park. Created as a private venture in land speculation and development, the company built a rail line around the eastern edge of the city to provide rail service to potential industrial sites. As added inducements to attract industry, the company would offer free land and start-up donations of up to \$50,000.² They also bought up large tracts of land to be developed as residential neighborhoods for the workers who would come with the new industries. In 1890, they donated 25 acres from a tract adjacent to the reservoir to the city for the purpose of creating a public park.³ The park was promoted as the focal point and attraction for the new neighborhoods, and 100 model homes were constructed by the company in the area surrounding the park site. Adams Earl, general manager of the Belt Railway Land and Improvement Company, was also the first president of Lafayette's Board of Park Commissioners. The Board was created in 1892 and decided during that year to join the reservoir grounds with the park lands to create a single tract of 40 acres.⁴ The name, Columbian Park, was chosen in honor of Chicago's Columbian Exposition.

The landscape engineering firm of Earnshaw and Punshon of Cincinnati was commissioned to create a design for Columbian Park. The firm was first founded by Joseph Earnshaw in 1856, who took Thomas B. Punshon as his partner in 1890.⁵ They specialized in design of cemeteries, parks, private estates, and subdivisions. Some of their other commissions included design of an elevated railway, a subway, water storage and distribution facilities, and general practice of land surveying and city planning.⁶ They were responsible for the layout of the City of Oakland, California.⁷ In Lafayette, the planned subdivision of Highland Park was laid out by Earnshaw and Punshon in 1892.

Earnshaw and Punshon's c.1892 plan for Columbian Park reflects the tradition of pastoral landscape design established in this country by Olmstead and Vaux with their creation of Central Park in New York. Built around the reservoir and lakes, the park was to contain three major carriage drives and winding walking paths shaded by hundreds of trees and plants. A music stand, a shelter house, a bird and animal house, a restaurant, a boat and skating house, a conservatory and several pavilions were among the structures called for in the original plan. With the exception of the Scott Street Pavilion, none of these structures were built as planned.

The park's lakes and drives were shaped according to the original plan during the mid-1890's. Also during this period, the Lafayette Street Railway Company extended its lines into the surrounding neighborhood, anticipating the residential development that would coincide with the development of the park and the lands of the Belt Railway Land and Improvement Company. Earlier, Adams Earl had appeared before the City Council in support of plans to extend the streetcar lines.⁸ Streetcar rides on the Oakland line allowed passengers to escape the heat of the city in the valley as they ascended Oakland Hill. Passengers would then disembark at Scott Street and spend time in Columbian Park enjoying the outdoor concerts and a cool breeze.

During the fall of 1898, the Board of Park Commissioners directed that a pavilion be constructed at the edge of the large lake for the "accommodation and convenience of the public."⁹ It would be located near Scott Street, thus serving as a focal point for people entering the park from the streetcar line. The pavilion would be one story high, contain one large room, and be completely surrounded by a wide veranda. It was to be built in such a manner as to provide easy access to boaters in the summer and skaters in the winter.

In February, 1899, ground was broken for construction of the pavilion at the former site of the bandstand on the northwest edge of the Lagoon. Peter Levandowski was the builder.¹⁰ The pavilion was finished in May for a cost of approximately \$3,000 and was dedicated to the use of the public over Memorial Day weekend.

From the start, the Pavilion was a popular location for socials, picnics, and boating parties. Stairs leading down from the veranda gave access to a wooden dock at lake level. Balconies extending out from each dormer window provided elevated platforms for band performances. Skating was popular during the winter months and the pavilion's main room offered a fireplace for warming up and a place to take refreshments.

Around 1913, Frank McMahan, a former horse trader, opened the Columbian Park refreshment stand and ice cream parlor in the Pavilion.¹¹ White painted lattice was placed along the sides of the veranda and tables and chairs were set out for the customers. The Pavilion was the center for food concessions while most of the park's activities still revolved around the lakes.

As more and more facilities were put in Columbian Park, the center of activities gradually moved away from the Pavilion and its lake. In 1944 it was closed to the public and concessions were served at the new bathhouse.¹² By this time the lake side of the veranda had been enclosed.

During the years of about 1944 to 1950, the park caretaker, Curtis Counterman, and his family used the Pavilion as their residence.¹³ From the early 1950's to the present, the Children's Theater has had the Pavilion as its home, using the building for rehearsals, scenery shop and storage.

Today, the park's more modern facilities provide settings for the same activities the Pavilion did in the early 1900's. The Pavilion, the lakes and drives remain, however, as elements from the original design of the park to provide a strong association with the history of recreation in Lafayette's first public park. Restoration of the Pavilion to commemorate Columbian Park's centennial year in 1992 is being planned.

Footnotes

1. Stevens, Errol, conversation, 15 March, 1984.
2. The Lafayette Preservation Notebook. (Lafayette Redevelopment Commission 1982).
3. Lafayette City Clerk's Office, list of City owned properties.
4. Lafayette City Council meeting minutes. 12 September, 1892, p. 224.
5. Goss, Charles, Cincinnati the Queen City, 1788-1912. Vol. 4, pp. 112-113.
6. Ellsberry, George and Ronald Roat, correspondence. 22 November, 1966.
7. Perrin, Mrs. W. H., "The Community Builders". unpublished paper.
8. Lafayette City Council meeting minutes. 31 October, 1892.
9. Lafayette City Council meeting minutes. 28 November, 1898, p. 163.
10. "Park Pavilion". The Morning Journal, 10 May, 1899.
11. Lafayette City Directory & Tippecanoe County Gazetteer. (Lafayette: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1913-1914).
12. "Columbian Park Beautified for Memorial Day Opening". Newspaper article from Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department scrapbook, 1944.
13. Harber, Jane Ellsberry, conversation, 25 January, 1984.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately .17 acre

Quadrangle name Lafayette East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	0	8	8	0	4	4	7	3	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is limited to the structure itself, plus an area extending ten feet out from the structure's foundations on all sides.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lydia Lowrey, Assistant Director

organization Lafayette Redevelopment Commission date 4-2-84

street & number 324 Ferry Street telephone 317/742-1145

city or town Lafayette state Indiana 47901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John T. Covert*
Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources
title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-17-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

date

Chief of Registration

A Glimpse of Lafayette, Indiana. Published for the Merchant's and Manufacturer's Exchange 1890, TCHA.

Annual Report of the City Controller of Lafayette, Indiana, for the year ending December 31, 1907. TCHA

"Columbian Park Beautified for Memorial Day Opening", 1944 newspaper article from Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department Scrapbook.*

Ellsberry, George and Ronald Roat, correspondence November 22, 1966.*

Goss, Charles, Cincinnati the Queen City, 1788-1912. Vol. 4, pp. 112-113, Cincinnati Historical Society.

Harber, Jane Ellsberry, conversation January 25, 1984.*

Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation Annual Report 1976.*

Lafayette City Clerk's Office, list of city owned properties.

Lafayette City Council meeting minutes. September 12, 1892; September 26, 1892; October 24, 1892; October 31, 1892; November 28, 1898. Lafayette City Clerk's Office.*

Lafayette City Directory and Tippecanoe County Gazetteer. Lafayette: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1913-1914.

The Lafayette Preservation Notebook. Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, 1982.*

"Lafayette Street Railway". The Evening Call. Lafayette, December 30, 1893.**

"Park Beginning a Modest One, 67 Years Ago." Lafayette Journal and Courier. June 30, 1943.**

"Park Pavilion". The Morning Journal. Lafayette, May 20, 1899.**

Perrin, Mrs. W. H., "The Community Builders". Unpublished paper, TCHA.

"Star City Brevities". The Morning Journal. Lafayette. February 25, 1899.**

Stevens, Errol, conversation March 15, 1894.*

TCHA - Located at Tippecanoe County Historical Association library.

* - Copy available at Lafayette Redevelopment Commission.

** - Located at Wells Memorial Library, copy available at Lafayette Redevelopment Commission.

Scott Street Pavilion
Lafayette, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/510880/4473620

