

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCERS use only  
received NOV 12 1981  
date entered DEC 10 1981

**1. Name**

historic Collett Park

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number North 7th Street and Maple Avenue not for publication

city, town Terre Haute vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Indiana code 018 county Vigo code 167

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Terre Haute Park & Recreation Department

street & number 17 Harding, Room 218, City Hall

city, town Terre Haute vicinity of state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

street & number 3rd & Wabash, Room 23

city, town Terre Haute state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Collett Park is a 21.3 acre park located near the northwest edge of Terre Haute. Established in 1892 on land donated by Josephus Collett, Collett Park is the city's oldest park. The park area is rectangular in shape, its length being greater than its width. The park is bounded by Collett Avenue on the north, Maple Avenue on the south, Seventh Street on the west, and Ninth Street on the east. A meandering drive forms a loop beginning at the park's southwest corner and winding throughout the park's southern section. A gravel road which is blocked off at each end longitudinally bisects the park. ✓

Two sets of double tennis courts are located in the northeast corner of the park. Immediately south of the tennis courts are a series of structures: three sheltered picnic areas and restroom facilities. A pavilion is located just northeast of the center of the park. At the southeast corner of the pavilion is a parking lot. ✓ Southwest of the pavilion are horseshoe courts. Immediately south of the horseshoe courts is a storage building. ✓

The park is located on flat, slightly rolling terrain near the highest point in the city. The flat terrain contributes to the tranquil, expansive quality of the park. The large, numerous shade trees are one of the park's special features, providing the area with a picturesque quality. ✓

The Collett Park Pavilion, another special feature, is situated northeast of the center of the park. It is a one-and-a-half-story structure with a rectangular floor plan, surrounded by a gallery. ✓ The entire structure, including the first floor gallery, is covered by a large hipped roof, covered with green asphalt rolled roofing. ✓

The gallery is formed by a colonnade consisting of rock-faced, concrete block pedestals with one or two small wooden columns on top of the pedestal supporting the roof. The smoother masonry surface of the pedestal's foundation and crown molding contrasts with the rock faced concrete dado of the pedestal. The capitals and base of the short, smooth columns are of the Tuscan Order. ✓

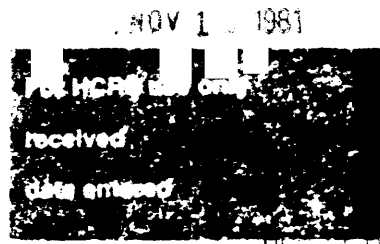
The focal point of each facade is the large, central arched portal. The round-arched portal is made of the same rock-faced concrete block as the pedestals. The height of the portal extends above the roof edge, giving the portal a massive appearance. ✓ The portal is supported on concrete block piers which are shared by a column on either side of the portal. The smooth concrete voussoirs of the round arch spring from the piers. Above the voussoirs of the east and west portals is an entablature composed of three striations, immediately above which is an egg and dart molding, followed by a corbelled cornice. Unique to the east and west facades is the addition of an extra pedestal with double columns, one on each side of the portal. The north and south ends differ from the east and west facades in their shorter length, the omission of the extra pedestals and columns, and the portals' use of a floriated frieze below the corbelled cornice instead of the egg and dart molding. ✓

The structure of the pavilion, itself, has a wide concrete block foundation. Vertical, wooden board siding covers the majority of the facades. ✓ The east and west facades have concrete block on either side of the door with windows (now boarded up) on either side of the door. All four facades have a central doorway behind the arched portal.

The large, hipped roof includes a large, centrally placed gabled dormer on each of its four sides. Each dormer has two levels of vertical, wooden board siding, separated from each other by the straight lintels of the two low window openings. The dormers are covered with the same asphalt rolled roofing as the rest of the roof. The north face of the roof contains a large brick chimney to the left and a smaller metal chimney to the right of the dormer.

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Continuation sheet Collett Park

Item number 7, Description

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Two of the picnic shelters, of riveted steel girder construction, were originally owned by the Big Four Railroad as passenger shelters. These shelters were transferred to the park in the late 1960's. They have flat roofs supported by metal poles and decorative metal support elements under the roof. The restroom facilities are housed in a square, red brick building, topped by a gabled roof and covered in rolled roofing. The one story concrete block, storage structure near the horseshoe courts was a recent addition built at the request of a local horseshoe club. The restroom structure is also a recent addition.

At the entrance of the park are two brick pillars topped with concrete ornaments on either side of the entrance drive. At one time Collett Park was noted for its central band stand, its ornate, hand-forged metal sign identifying the park, its fish pond, and its flower gardens. These no longer exist. ✓

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1890-1904

**Builder/Architect**

J. Merrill Sherman

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Collett Park is historically significant because it is the oldest park in Terre Haute. Dedicated in 1890 and completed in 1894, the park is situated on property donated to the city by Josephus Collett, railroad entrepreneur and philanthropist. The tree shaded park with its meandering circular drive was a popular location for Sunday afternoon horse-and-buggy rides, band concerts and picnics near the turn of the century.

Located on flat, slightly rolling terrain, Collett Park is located near the northwestern edge of the city. Far from the industrial and commercial center of the city, the periphery of the park was soon considered the most beautiful and serene location for homes. The original deed of the land to the city excluded all commercial establishments from the area, which insured its residential character. The area was particularly popular among Rose Polytechnic Institute faculty, who built large, frame, Victorian homes around the park's boundaries in the early 1900's.

The park's pavilion was a popular spot for public meetings and a polling place for the local precinct.

The designer of the pavilion was a prominent local architect, J. Merrill Sherman, son of James H. Sherman, Rose Polytechnic instructor, who came to Terre Haute in 1882. Among the numerous other local buildings which Sherman designed were the Bement-Rae wholesale grocery house on Wabash and Eighth Streets, the McKeen Block, on the corner of Wabash and Seventh, and the Maple Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Volume 2, pg. 615, of Oakey's Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County. Terre Haute Tribune Star, April 7, 1971, Pg. Historical Society Column by Dorothy J. Clark.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 21.3 acres approx.

Quadrangle name Terre Haute, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	4	6	4	9	8	0	4	3	7	1	6	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

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

C 

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

D 

1	6	4	6	4	9	8	0	4	3	7	1	2	6	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point which is 30.0 feet north and 32.5 feet east of the southwest corner of Section 10, Township 12 north, Range 9 west of the Second Principal Meridian; thence north 1260 feet; thence east 735.4 feet; thence south 1260 feet; thence west 735.4 feet to the point of beginning and containing 21.27 acres.

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William B. Pickett, Associate Professory of History

organization Terre Haute Civic Improvement, Inc.

organization Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology date August 25, 1980

street & number 5500 Wabash Avenue telephone 812/877-1511

city or town Terre Haute state Indiana 47803

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-6-81

### For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 12/10/81

Keeper of the National Register 

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

COLLEGE PARK  
FORGE HAUTE, INDIANA

TENNIS COURTS

SHELTER

PAVILLION

RESTROOMS

SHELTER

HORSESHOE COURTS

SHELTER

STORAGE BUILDING

COLLEGE

ENTRANCE - EXIT

MAPLE

7th

9th

6th

6-15A

NA

