

SITE FILE COPY

NRPY001

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Perry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tower Rock

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Grand Tower

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 mile south of Wittenburg, east 1 mile on gravel road from County Hwy. A

CITY OR TOWN:
Section 20 - Township 34N - Range 14E

STATE Missouri	CODE 24	COUNTY: Perry	CODE 157
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Site in Miss.</u> <u>River bed.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: United States of America
Department of the Interior

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE: 20006
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Perry County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Perryville

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63775
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: Missouri	CODE: 65201
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri	COUNTY: Perry	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tower Rock is a large projection of limestone eroded by the Mississippi River to its current configuration.

The rock is located in the Mississippi River 150 feet from the Missouri bank.

It is formed of Bailey limestone deposited on the bottom of a shallow sea in the Devonian Age, 350 million years ago. (Dr. George Viele, Associate Professor of Structural Geology, University of Missouri, interviewed by Charla A. Piggott on Sept. 16, 1969.)

Tower Rock is approximately 80 feet high at the normal river level. Its sides are broken and jagged due to the river's erosional action, but the top supports a growth of grasses and shrubs.

Due to the uplift of the Ozark Dome which began in the Pleistocene Age, the river was able to cut a deeper trench in the resistant bedrock. As a result, a relatively narrow channel was created at this point and numerous rock pinnacles (including Tower Rock) remained as evidence of the river's vigorous cutting action. (Dr. George Viele, Associate Professor of Structural Geology, University of Missouri, interviewed by Charla A. Piggott on Sept. 16, 1969.)

The rock ledge all along the bank has been quarried, leaving only a small remnant of the original ledge opposite the rock. The three rock pinnacles which existed near Tower Rock have been destroyed because of their hazard to navigation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>rock is significant as noted</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>landmark on the</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>river.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tower Rock is primarily significant as the site where Father Jean Buisson de Saint Cosme planted a large wooden cross in 1699. The cross was erected as a symbol of Christianity and also to dispel the Indian belief that evil spirits inhabited the rock. The cross was clearly visible to all the river travelers. St. Cosme, Francois de Montigny, and Ambrose Davion voyaged down the Mississippi on a mission to the Indians of that area in 1698-99. From this incident, the perilous rock became known as La Roche de la Croix (Rock of the Cross) (Elisabeth Clark, Tower Rock, 1963, p. 16, and Louis Houck, A History of Missouri, 1908, p. 226.)

Tower Rock is also significant as a landmark on the Mississippi River noted by other early river travelers. Rising 80 feet above the water, it poses a serious navigational hazard and is considered to be the most dangerous spot on the river. The river is forced into a narrow channel between the rock and the bank, and the turbulent waters create a treacherous whirlpool.

Father Jacques Marquette described this stretch of river in the journal of his voyage down the Mississippi in 1673. According to him, the Indians made sacrifices whenever they passed the rock because they believed a manitou (an evil demon) lived there waiting to devour travelers. (Louis Houck, A History of Missouri, 1908, p. 161.)

Early western travelers, Stephen H. Long, Maximilian-Prince of Wied, Edmund Flagg and Henry Schoolcraft also noted the hazardous rock in their journals. (State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Sites Files: Perry County.)

Before the invention of steam power, the river boats could not ascend the river at this point because of the whirlpool and the danger of being crushed against the rocks. The boats had to be pulled around the cape on the Illinois side and this gave the Indians an excellent opportunity to attack the boatmen. (James Hall, Notes on the Western States, 1838, pp. 48-9.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Clark, Elisabeth. Tower Rock. Topeka, Kansas, 1963.
2. Hall, James. Notes on the Western States. Philadelphia: Harrison Hall, 1838, pp. 48-9.
3. Houck, Louis. A History of Missouri. Vol. III. Chicago: Donnelley and Sons, 1908, p. 161.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	37'	54"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		89°	30'	53"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charla A. Piggott, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Survey and Planning Office DATE: Nov. 13, 1969
Missouri State Park Board

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Perry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

TOWER ROCK

6.

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P. O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 24

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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8.

TOWER ROCK

On February 24, 1871, President Grant set aside Tower Rock for public purposes and it is now under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior. (Felix E. Snider and Jess E. Thilenius, Tower Rock, 1968, pp. 28-30.)

Tower Rock was such an integral part of life along the river that many legends and stories have been woven about its colorful history.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
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(Number all entries)

TOWER ROCK

9.

4. State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Historic Sites Files. Ref. Perry County.
5. Snider, Felix E. and Jess E. Thilenius. Tower Rock (la Roche de la Croix.) Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1968, pp. 28-30.
6. Viele, Dr. George. Associate Professor of Structural Geology, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Interviewed by Charla A. Piggott, September 16, 1969, filed at Missouri State Park Board, 1204 Jefferson Building, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Perry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Tower Rock	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Grand Tower	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
One mile south of Wittenburg, east 1 mile on gravel road from County Hwy. A			
CITY OR TOWN:			
SW $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 20 - Township 34N - Range 14E			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	24	Perry	157
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' quadrangle Altenburg			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1948			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

TOWER ROCK

COUNTY: Perry

LOCATION: 1 mi S of Wittenburg, E 1 mi on gravel road
from County Hwy. A

OWNER: Missouri Conservation Commission
ADDRESS: 2901 N. Ten Mile Drive, Jefferson City, Mo.

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: 11-15-69

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 12-08-69

DATE SENT TO D.C.: 12-22-69

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: 12-31-69

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 02-26-70

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Tower Rock is primarily significant as the site where Father Jean Buisson de Saint Cosme planted a large wooden cross in 1699. The cross was erected as a symbol of Christianity and also to dispel the Indian belief that evil spirits inhabited the rock. The cross was clearly visible to all the river travelers. St. Cosme, Francois de Montigny, and Ambrose Davion voyaged down the Mississippi on a mission to the Indians of that area in 1698-99. From this incident, the perilous rock became known as La Roche de la Croix (Rock of the Cross).

Photo

Missing