

TP Building Survey and How It Came To Be

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By Carol C. Cole

As most of us already know, Terrace Park is a very special place. Probably most of you do not know that it has a website that is unique and may be the only one of its kind on the Internet. It records as much as we know of the history of every building in Terrace Park – past and present. One reason for this is that the relatively small size of Terrace Park makes this possible. Many communities record the history of some of their buildings, but none record it for all their buildings. The website we are talking about is www.tpsurvey.org.

This project started in April 1995 under the auspices of the Terrace Park Woman's Club. Having noted all the changes going on in the village, Pat Henley suggested that they "start a project of collecting pictures of Terrace Park homes and recording their history". A committee was formed consisting of Pat Henley, Carol C. Cole, Jeanette Pruiss, Esther Power and Marilyn Julnes. Jane Harrier, Lynn Nelson and Bette Griffith later joined them. A questionnaire was circulated in the Park asking homeowners for as much information as possible on their homes. We were interested not only in the buildings themselves but in the people who lived there. Carol C. Cole volunteered to keep a record of the information gathered from the questionnaire and from a great many other sources. Her husband Lee suggested keeping the information in a computer database so it could be stored and searched. Publishing a book was considered. This activity continued for a couple of years until it was realized that publishing a book was totally impractical. Information changes almost daily so a book would be out of date before it could be published. In addition, publishing a book would cost money that was not readily available.

At that time the Internet was just coming into widespread use, and Lee suggested transferring all the information to a website. Work started in earnest after getting the green light from the Woman's Club. Lee's friend, Herb Anderson, a computer expert from Kentucky, who has lunch every Thursday with the Coles, offered to write the conversion software. Gregg MacMillan, a Terrace Park resident and the owner of www.terracepark.com, offered to pay for hosting the website. After many long hours of work the website was up and running. Currently this web site contains 906 buildings, 1077 pictures and 2909 computer files, using a total of about 85mb of disk storage. It is a very large site and continues to grow almost daily.

Since its inception, many people have contributed to its success – too many to mention here. Information continues to be collected from as many sources as possible. Carol C. Cole enters this data into the computer. Photographs taken by Jeanette Pruiss, Pat Henley, Lee Cole, Frances Stafford and Sandy Lowery are scanned and entered into the computer by Lee Cole. The artistic design for the website was done by Tarak Boulares, a Tunisian AFS student who lived with the Cole family and who now lives in Milford. Lee Cole, Herb Anderson and Tarak Boulares provide ongoing technical support. The website is proving to be of great interest, not only to current residents, but to people who have moved away, people who have had relatives living here in the past, and others researching various pieces of family history. Many people send us information after visiting the site.

You too can help in this unique venture by providing new and updated information on the history of Terrace Park homes and people. We now have detailed instructions on how to research houses. We encourage you to visit the site and help us make it even better and ever more useful. Please contact Carol C. Cole at 831-6771 or cccole4@juno.com if you would like to help in this exciting activity.