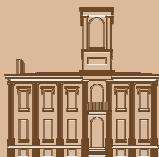




Welcome to Tower Grove House!
This was the country house of Henry Shaw,
founder of the Missouri Botanical Garden.
The home was built from 1849 to 1851.

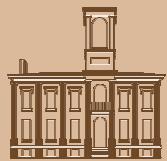
Missouri Botanical Garden
Tower Grove House, Henry Shaw's Country Home





Henry Shaw was born in Sheffield, England on July 24, 1800. He arrived in St. Louis in 1819 and operated a hardware store until he retired at 39. Shaw traveled Europe throughout the 1840s.

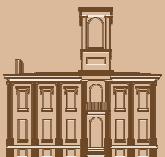
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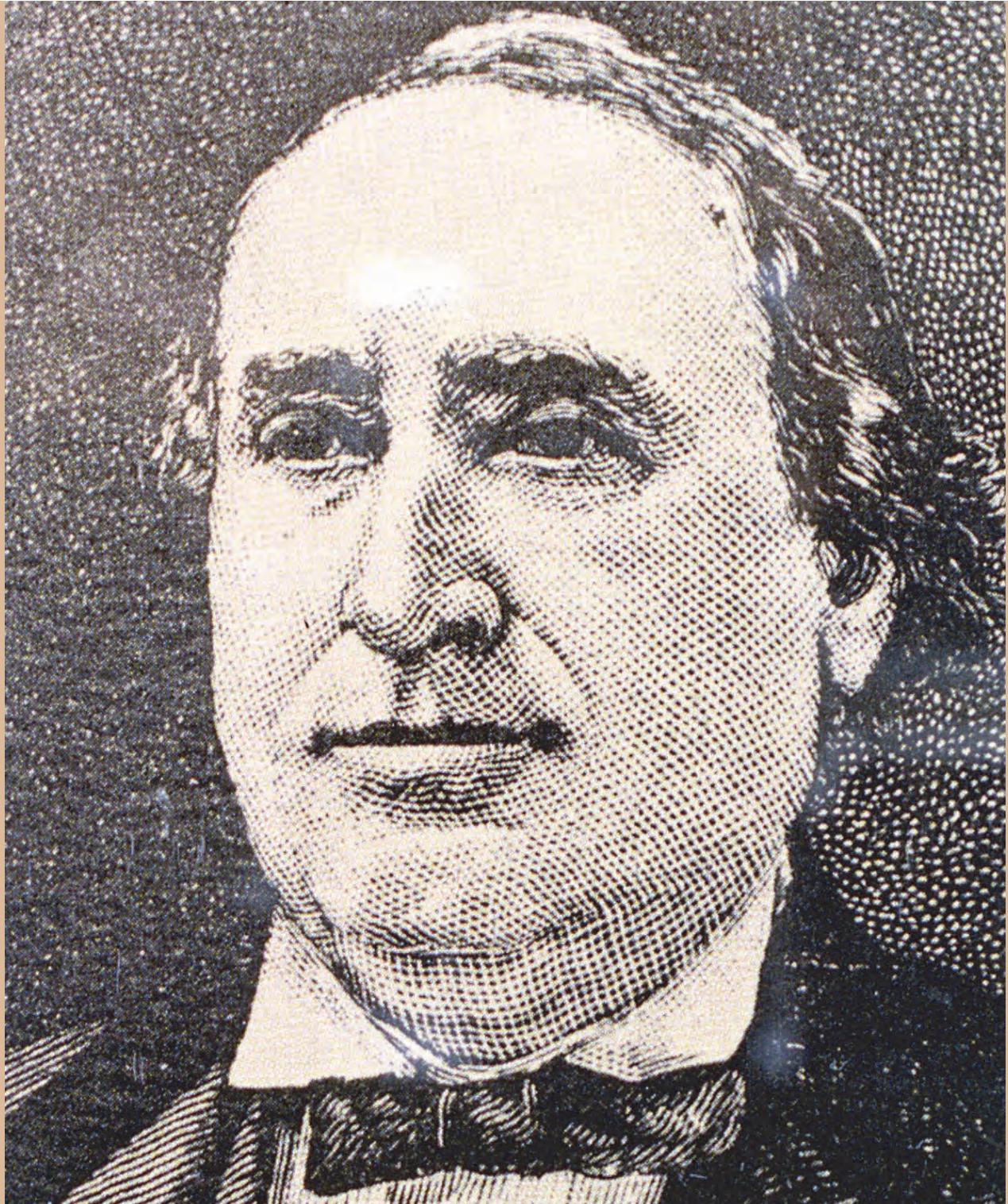




Shaw opened the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1859. He was a life long bachelor. Shaw died in his bedroom upstairs on August 25, 1889 due to complications from malaria.

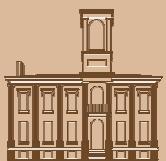
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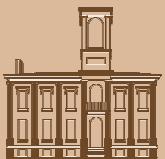
In 1849, Shaw commissioned George I. Barnett to build his country home and townhouse. Barnett would end up building many structures for Shaw. Seven currently stand on the grounds.

Missouri Botanical Garden
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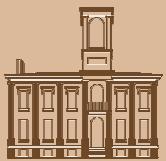


The First Floor Entry has original woodwork, a reproduction of a linoleum pattern that Shaw had installed, and wallpaper patterns from the era. Also visible is the 12½ foot high ceiling.



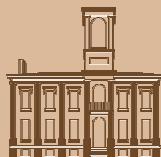


The Parlor was the nicest room in the house. Original pieces include the piano, artwork, and inlaid marble table. Shaw welcomed guests in the room and even paid garden laborers here.



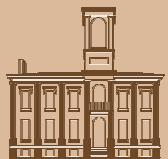


Henry entertained guests in the Formal Dining Room. He also planned the Garden from his desk and dining table. The sideboard, corner cabinet, and plate warmer were also Shaw's.





The Informal Dining Room was added on in the 1880s due to poor drainage in Shaw's basement dining room. Shaw probably used this room to dine when he had no visitors.





The Second Floor Hall shows off the 15½ foot high ceilings. Accessible from the hall are the bedrooms, tower, balcony, and east wing. The original décor of the hall is also display.



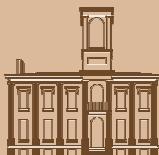


The Guest Bedroom was most likely used by visiting scientist, friends, and family. The front windows give a beautiful view of the garden.





Shaw's Bedroom is filled with lots of furniture from his townhouse. The Venetian Lady portrait hung in this bedroom during his life. Henry passed away in this room on August 25, 1889.





Shaw's servants used the Northwest Basement Room to wash laundry, store food, and possibly as a sleeping quarters. Today there are exhibits that highlight a worker's life in the 19th century.

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The Southwest Basement Room was initially used as Shaw's informal dining room before it became storage. Today the exhibit tells the story of Shaw's staff, hired workers, and slaves.

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The original East Wing was for Shaw's servants. In 1890, the Garden replaced it with what you see today. More bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, running water, and gas were added at this time.

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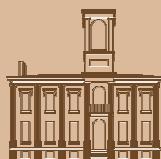
The Kitchen in the house is located in the newer East Wing. It is displayed as a turn of the 20th Century kitchen. This set up is similar to what the Director would have seen.





After Shaw's death the home became the Director's Residence. Dr. William Trelease, seen here, and his family lived here from 1889-1912. Dr. George Moore used the house briefly.

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After Dr. Moore moved out in 1912, the house was used as classroom space for Shaw's School of Gardeners. Here you see students working in Shaw's old Parlor and Formal Dining Room.

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The house was used as office space starting in the 1930s. In 1953, it opened as a historic house museum. Here you see Garden representatives receiving a donation for the restoration work.

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Thank you for stepping back in time with us to experience the country home of Henry Shaw. We hope you enjoy your Garden visit today!

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