

P0277 St. Louis Tornado Photographs, 1896
40 photographs

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INTRODUCTION

Photographs of damage following an 1896 tornado in St. Louis, including many by Samborsky Photo. Some of these images were published in Julian Curzon's *The Great Cyclone at St. Louis and East St. Louis, May 27, 1896*.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Department of Atmospheric Science, University of Missouri-Columbia, and the Central Regional Office of the National Weather Service on 15 December 2008 (Accession no. 023585).

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

The costliest tornado in U.S. history, known as the Great Cyclone, hit St. Louis, Missouri, on May 27, 1896. The tornado's path crossed through the city core. The damage covered a mile-wide swath, which included a variety of downed trees, particularly in Lafayette Park, and destroyed 311 buildings; homes, civic buildings, and businesses alike. A further 8500 buildings were damaged. The tornado was the third deadliest in U.S. history, killing at least 255 people in about twenty minutes, with many additional injured. It crossed the Mississippi River into East St. Louis, hitting the Eads bridge and causing additional damage.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Black and white photographic prints, many by Samborsky Photo, depict tornado damage in central St. Louis. Photographs are arranged by identifier.

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IMAGE LIST

Identifier	Description	Photographer
277-001	Park Avenue residence with woman walking by. A "for sale" sign can be seen lying next to almost completely demolished building. Row of shacks in front of church left untouched.	Samborsky Photo
277-002	group stands outside a building, intact. Two neighboring buildings show tornado damage.	Samborsky Photo
277-003	view of destroyed Soulard Market with men picking through rubble.	Samborsky Photo
277-004	damage to the People's Railroad Power House on Park Avenue.	Samborsky Photo
277-005	destroyed Mount Cavalry Protestant Episcopal Church on Lafayette and Jefferson Avenue.	Samborsky Photo
277-006	ruins of City Hospital.	Samborsky Photo
277-007	damaged Bohemian Gymnasium at 9th Street and Allen Avenue	
277-008	unidentified area with many horse-drawn carriages parked along side street. Building possibly a carriage manufacturer. Residential buildings in background.	Samborsky Photo
277-009	view of damage on Manheim Place at Seventh Street and Rutger Street where 15 people were killed.	Samborsky Photo
277-010	unidentified residential area with severely damaged homes. Wooden planks stacked up alongside road.	Samborsky Photo
277-011	exterior of damaged home along Texas and Allen Avenue. Little boy in foreground, possibly a newsie, carrying what looks like newspapers.	Samborsky Photo
277-012	view of the ruins of the city hospital.	
277-013	closeup damage of Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company.	
277-014	damage at Eighth Street and Rutger Street, looking east.	
277-015	view of damage at Eighth Street and Chouteau Avenue, looking north.	
277-016	view of damage along Chouteau Avenue looking west from Twelfth Street.	
277-017	view of large pile of rubble on Seventh Street and Rutger Street with crowd of people gathered and some helping pick through the debris.	
277-018	damaged residential complex on Eighth Street and Rutger Street, southeast corner.	
277-019	derailed train on its side next to tracks.	
277-020	unidentified building with roof collapsed on ground.	
277-021	Black and white photo unidentified area of damage with many people gathered on sidewalk. Man and woman with bicycles in foreground.	
277-022	unidentified area of damage with large pile of rubble.	
277-023	unidentified area showing almost completely destroyed home. Men and children outside standing by fence.	
277-024	view of Eighth Street and Park Avenue with severely damaged Carondelet trolley.	
277-025	Twelfth Street and Chouteau showing damage to Riverside Yeast Company with overturned carriages in front.	
277-026	view down South Third Street with leaning telegraph poles, their wires have been ripped away.	
277-027	view of twisted utility poles.	
277-028	row of damaged homes at unknown location.	Samborsky Photo

277-029	showing severe damage to Anchor Hall at Jefferson and Park Avenue.	Samborsky Photo
277-030	unidentified damaged home with men picking through rubble on roof.	Samborsky Photo
277-031	view of a damaged church and surrounding buildings	Samborsky Photo
277-032	the rubble of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church at Ninth Street and Lafayette Avenue	Samborsky Photo
277-033	rubble in an unidentified industrial area	Samborsky Photo
277-034	a group of men and boys stands on top of and near destroyed buildings	Samborsky Photo
277-035	view on Accomac Street between California and Oregon Streets	Samborsky Photo
277-036	damage at unidentified location	Samborsky Photo
277-037	damage at unidentified location	Samborsky Photo
277-038	damage at Allen and Ohio Avenues, southeast of Lafayette Square.	Samborsky Photo
277-039	remains of an unidentified building	Samborsky Photo
277-040	row of buildings with tornado damage	Samborsky Photo