Water Tower Recreation Center Complex | 209 E. Hartwell La
Robert McGoodwin | 1889, 1919. The Complex consists of the
historic Water Tower built in 1859 by the Chestnut Hill Water
Company, and a Recreation Center and public playground built on
a former pumping station and reservoir site. Philadelphia Water
Department took possession of the Chestnut Hill Works on
January 20, 1873. The reservoir and Tower, originally capped
with a wooden water tank, were built because Philadelphia’s
water system did not extend to Chestnut Hill until 1904, at which
point this pumping station became obsolete. The Water Tower
Recreation Center was built in 1919 by architect Robert
McGoodwin in memory of Henry M. Houston Woodward, the
eldest son of Dr. George and Mrs. Gertrude Houston Woodward,
who was killed in the line of duty during World War I.