CHINA BASIN
A BALLPARK
FOR THE
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS
architectural thesis 2
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M. Lee Murray  6/7/91
I would like to thank my parents and family for their support, guidance, assistance and patience, for I know that sometimes it seemed like I might be going to school forever. I would like to dedicate this book to them, and to Paige, whose love and support has been the driving force behind the success of this project.

Thank you...
Throughout my research I have utilized numerous sources in the preparation of this document. Much of what you will read is not my own work, in fact some sections were condensed from previously published sources, or sometimes various sources were combined to provide a concise body of information from which I based my decisions and you, the reader, may base your critique. In these sections and topics I have chosen not to re-invent the wheel. That is for another project, at another time. The body of baseball research is vast. This project has touched on but a small portion of that research. If I have somehow neglected to give proper credit to the rightful author, please accept my deepest apologies.

M. Lee Murray, 1991
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"Modern ballparks are the most conventional architecture since Mussolini's social realism... A ballpark should be a box, not a saucer—everybody knows that. Why can't we think up a stadium that would have some of the virtues of a Fenway Park? —A place of weird angles and distances and beautiful ricochets. It could be done."

—A. Bartlett Giamatti
PURPOSE OF THESIS

The urban setting of the traditional ballpark interested me, especially in how they reinforce the qualities of the city that I enjoy; the diversity of activities juxtaposed against one another. I wanted to do an urban project because in school most projects are situated in a suburban or rural environment, and the challenges of the urban project are something I wanted to explore more in depth. I chose a real project with a real site and real issues to provide limits and constraints by which this project may be judged.

Above all I wanted to have fun. I wanted a topic I could become involved in and one which would challenge everything I have learned. I believe that the technological improvements of sports facilities, especially ballparks, have not necessarily improved the game. I believe the historical precedents should also be taken into consideration. We cannot build the same ballparks of baseball's early days, but we can build parks which function better, yet retain that certain baseball feel. Allowing the fans to become a part of the game, allows the memories to be created. Baseball is a game of memories, and the ballpark sets the stage for them. The enrichment of the sport is the driving force behind this project. Let's play ball!...
THESIS GOALS

To create a ballpark which promotes the game of baseball by providing an environment with the charm and character of the classic ballparks.

To create an intimate ballpark by bringing the fans closer to the game, and creating a unique place for viewing the game.

To make a place which does not try to recreate the past, but one that will become a special place for baseball in the course of it's own history.

To promote the urban environment by responding to the existing system of streets and blocks.

To contribute to the economic viability of the neighborhood by providing for activities other than baseball which continue to draw people year-round.

To take advantage of the location of the ballpark and create vistas and special places which respond to the waterfront site.

To make the ballpark a focal point or civic monument for the city of San Francisco, one that will become a landmark for the city.

To respond to the site conditions in such a way that it produces the idiosyncrasies which make the classic ballparks so special.
"Our pleasure...whose origins are far more difficult to discover than are the historical roots of any sport or game, is radically tangled up with our childhood. Much of what we love later in a sport is what it recalls to us about ourselves at our earliest. And those memories, now smoothed and bending away from us in the interior of ourselves, are not simply of childhood or of a childhood game. They are memories of our best hopes. They are memories of a time when all that would be better was before us, as a hope, and the hope was fastened to a game. One hoped not so much to be the best who ever played as simply to stay in the game and ride it wherever it would go, culling from its rhythms and realizing its promises. That is, I think, what it means to remember one's best hopes, and to remember them in a game, and revive them whenever one sees the game played, long after playing is over."1

- A. Bartlett Giamatti

Baseball is known as America's pastime. It is deeply rooted in our country's traditional values: "baseball, hot dogs, apple pie..." The sport is a celebration of summer, of carefree sunny afternoons and balmy evenings.

Baseball can take an adult back to his childhood. A time full of fond memories; time spent with close friends, or special moments with Dad. The smell of new-mown grass, or dusty canvas; the sound of a ball cracking against a wooden bat or the muffled sound of a ball being caught in a well-worn leather mitt. The chatter of the infield, the bench-jockeying, or the call of the umpire. Somehow these are all ingrained in our memories as important parts of our childhood.

Baseball is about heroes, but these heroes are real people. We can watch them, touch them and talk with them. They are not from the comic books or television cartoons, they live and breathe the same game as we do. There is a bonding with our heroes as we nervously get up to the plate for the first time and know that Lou Gehrig felt the same way.

Baseball is a team sport; a belonging to a group of friends, all working together toward one goal. However it is also a sport of individuals. The outcome of the entire game can hinge on one player's performance. That game-winning RBI or that costly error, can mean success or failure. There is nobody to cover for your mistakes. For that one instant, you are alone, just you and the ball.

Baseball is an artform; it requires a high degree of skill and finesse to play. The act of hitting a ball coming toward you at 90 mph with a thin wooden bat is an act of immeasurable skill. The
motion of the batter, the explosive release of power in his swing, and the skill in being able not only to defy the odds and actually hit the ball, but hit it where you want it to go (Babe Ruth in the '32 World Series) is a feat which has captured the admiration of many.

Fielding a ball is a similar act of graceful moves and athletic ability. Catching a ball on the fly requires one to judge spatial relationships and adjust and readjust to catch the ball, and in one continuous motion fire it back accurately to second base to tag a runner out. Referred to as the National Pastime, baseball is not an American invention; it is derived from an English game. The only truly American sport is basketball, yet baseball is deeply rooted in early American history. Originally a gentleman's sport, it was found that big, strong farm boys or factory laborers were better at the game than their wealthier teammates. Soon baseball became popular with the larger working class. Towns and cities formed their own teams and friendly competition and rivalries developed between communities.

Baseball served to unify these towns, especially in the new towns on the western frontier. The sport served to give the townspeople something to call their own; their baseball club. Baseball also served as an important link to the civilized world of the eastern cities; it was the one thing the two parts of the country had in common. Ballgames became social events which helped develop a sense of unity and familiarity for early settlers in a strange, new place.

Baseball also typifies the American dream. An uneducated young man could work his way up to the professional teams, through his local ball club. Relatively inexpensive to play, at least in its beginning, anybody could play the game, unlike football which was mainly a college, or wealthy man's game. Through baseball a boy could grow up to be even more popular than the president; he would be a baseball player—a national hero.

For all these reasons, baseball still has a sense of nostalgia, of taking one back to a time when life was simpler and less complex. Certainly the monetary aspect of the present has changed the game considerably, but there still remains a strong tie to the past. There are still many people out there who would give up everything to play professional baseball.

"Baseball stadiums are a uniquely American building type. They shape space on a grand scale, accommodate a public activity that approaches ritual, and are potent emblems of civic pride. While they are undoubtedly monuments, the best of them are comfortable and friendly ones."

A ballpark is different than a stadium. A stadium is a structure which can host a variety of sporting events, holding crowds up to 100,000. A ballpark is intended for one sport only: baseball. This allows the structure to conform more closely to the dimensions of
the playing field. Usually located in an urban context, the ballpark was an integral part of its neighborhood.

Typically the size and shape of the ballpark was controlled by the lots the building occupied. This often resulted in oddly-shaped fields which added an exciting dimension to the game. Each field was different, accommodating some players and forcing other players to adjust to the different playing conditions. Some fields favored pitchers while others favored right- or left-handed hitters. Some had monstrous outfields in which the skills of the outfielders were put on display. At one time you could tell which field you were in by the shape of the ball park, but that is not the case anymore.

In the 1960s many of the old urban ballparks were lost to the wrecking ball, and new multi-use superstadiums were built in the suburbs. The field dimensions were standardized at minimum distances and no longer favored specific skills of certain players. In the eyes of many critics, the quality of the sport has been diminished.

The problem came when the city grew around the new stadium, and it was apparent that the concrete structures did not contribute in any way to the city landscape of buildings and streets. The new stadium, quite often disrupted the grid of streets and because their shape no longer conformed to the grid. Because the stadium was often surrounded by or located next to large parking lots, there was created what Roger Trancik calls "lost space". Lost space is ill-defined space which used to be defined by buildings. Lost space interrupts the pedestrian walk in a city, the visual connections, the spatial edges to which we cling in order to orient ourselves.

The older ballparks were closely tied to their neighborhood. Their scale blended with the surrounding buildings; they were not dominating. Care was often taken to develop a facade which fit the fabric of the neighborhood. The ballpark was constructed on a building lot, and like the city around it, continued to grow and adapt to circumstances. "Each park was rooted in local history, in an unrepeatable confluence of time, place, social forces, idiosyncracies, even individual personalities."

Each neighborhood had its locus, its specific place, which identified the ballgame to a specific point in time; sort of the collective memory, and identity of the neighborhood. Aldo Rossi describes certain buildings which give character, and are characterized by their own history, as urban artifacts. These urban artifacts give parts of the city its own specific identity, its locus solus. The artifacts also help fix the locus in the broader context of the city. The neighborhood becomes a place within a larger context, which is not defined unless it is concurrently viewed in that broader context. Christian Norberg-Schulz would describe this character as a place's genius loci, the composition or makeup of a place.
After the decline of the Roman Empire, many monuments were abandoned. New walls were erected around the nucleus of the city. Often within these walls, or sometimes becoming the nucleus of a new city, was the amphitheater. The size and scale of these structures made them a major element in both the original and the new city. In Nimes, Arles and Florence these buildings were transformed into new uses, however their form remained for the most part intact, thus preserving the artifact, and fixing it in the collective memory of the city; the awareness of the city's history, the recognition of it's present existence, and the vision of it's future.

"...The... essence of a city is found in... elusive attributes-the view from a hilltop, the silhouette of a bridge against the sky, the glimpse of people and traffic in the distant landscape, and the memories we have of all this: of driving along a street, of walking through a park, of friends and buildings.

"The memory of a city's past embraces not only an awareness of it's history... but also our memories or fragments of memories of it."*

The use and reuse of buildings preserves them as urban artifacts, and thus preserves memories of the city. Could a contemporary ballpark be given a new use if abandoned by it's home team? Perhaps this thinking could have saved many of the ballparks built during baseball's early years, and preserved the neighborhood character and memory which surrounded them.

The making of a ballpark is the making of a place, the capturing of an event, and creating a place for it to occur. The ballpark is a container for memories and events, to coexist and to further coexist in an urban context, becoming a viable and contributing element to the urban environment.

There is actually two places to create: the place which connects the park to it's urban context, and the playing field and seating which connect the ballpark to the historical present of baseball.

The urban context is a neighborhood of rich diversity, constructed within the street grid system, which organizes the city or neighborhood. Within this organizational system are both public and private space, which are defined by the buildings, their uses and functions. The shape, size, and location of the buildings, relative to the street (public space) and surrounding buildings (private space) are the physical determinants of a neighborhood.

"The traditional insula [a Roman block of buildings surrounded by streets],... is characterized at ground level by a great number of entrances. The street is used not only as a space of distribution and orientation but as a space of economic and social exchange. There is a strict relationship between building type, form of property and the form of
The urban ballpark occupies an entire urban block. It has a responsibility not to devalue the public space around it. By incorporating other functions into the street level, the public space will become more viable, thus contributing to the vitality of the neighborhood. By allowing people to use the space around the ballpark on other than game days, the area will not have dead periods when nobody is around. The urban building block should promote a variety of uses and activities, concentrated in a single location.

The area of the playing field and the seating surrounding it are also important to the success of the ballpark as a whole. One of the main complaints about new ballparks is the regularity and symmetry of the playing field. Once minimum dimensions were set in 1958, it seems like all ballpark designers have seen those figures as sacred. There is nothing that says the field must not be irregular, or larger than 330' at the foul poles and greater than 400' at the center field fence. The configuration of the field was, and still should be controlled by the shape of the city block on which the ballpark is built.

Another element which gives a ballpark character that has been lost over the years and is tied closely to lot shape is the irregular bleacher seating in the outfield. One could tell which park you were in, just by looking at the outfield. Each ballpark was different. A park's designers (keep in mind that the old ballparks were often built incrementally over a period of time, rarely all at once) often took advantage of vistas out beyond the bleachers and many ballparks today are known for and can be identified by their panoramic vistas.

Many fans have decried the lack of intimate scale in the new ballparks. Closeness to the game is what made going to the ballpark so special. Many of the older ballparks have almost no foul territory. The seats crowd the edges of the field. The suburban-style parks, and especially the multi-use stadiums don't conform to baseball's dimensions and therefore fans are farther away from the action.

The new ballparks also lack the scale of the older ones, "...a consequence of an almost doctrinal insistence on the part of owners and architects that there be absolutely zero 'obstructed view' seats." This ultimately results in the seats being farther away from the playing field. Since no columns can be used to support the large overhangs of the upper deck, the supports must be located behind the seating of the field level. The ballparks become much larger in width and much taller.

The challenge of today's urban ballpark designers lies in the manipulation of an increasingly complicated program, while at the same time being responsive to the needs and conditions of the neighborhood and the desires and needs of the fans.
The proposed new home of the San Francisco Giants professional baseball team is located in an area of San Francisco known as China Basin. The site is situated to the north of China Basin, bounded by Third and King Streets and The Embarcadero. To the east is South Beach Harbor, a small boat marina. In order to create a site large enough, it is proposed that Berry Street be terminated where it intersects Third Street and Second Street end at King Street.

China Basin is the remnant of Mission Bay, a tidal lagoon of over 500 acres which was slowly filled in during San Francisco's early days to form a teeming shipping and transportation hub. All that remains of Mission Creek, which emptied into the bay, is Channel Street, a waterway extending inland from Third to Seventh Street. Mission Creek was the busiest part of the waterfront. Period photographs show the channel clogged with schooners and scows unloading bricks, hay, and lumber. The area was a main transfer point from ship to rail and a vast network of rail lines spread on both sides of the channel.

The site of the China Basin ballpark is on landfill, just off what once was Steamboat Point, and occupies the location of the old Hay Wharf. The 11-acre site is approximately 800 feet long and 800' in it's widest dimension, perpendicular to China Basin.

San Francisco is located in a highly active seismic belt. The Well-known San Andreas fault runs just offshore to the west of San Francisco, 3 or 4 miles from Ocean Beach. Continuously active, there have been only four major earthquakes severe enough to cause serious damage to buildings, occurring since 1850: in 1865, 1868, 1906, and 1989. "Each time the greatest damage was in the artificial land built on old tidal marshes, although these areas are farther from the San Andreas fault than the less damaged portions of the city." The buildings whose foundations are on or near bedrock suffered minimal damage.

Currently the area is a warehouse and light industrial district. A luxury apartment complex has been built at Townsend and The Embarcadero. This thesis assumes the construction and development of Mission Bay according to the Mission Bay Plan; a comprehensive mixed-use development including housing, schools, commercial, retail, light industrial, and public uses, which is scheduled to take 20–30 years to complete.

In its proposed location, the ballpark is in a position to act as a transitional element between Mission Bay and the existing South of Market neighborhood. In March of 1991, the Embarcadero Freeway (Hwy. 480) is scheduled to be torn down. This will allow the tourism/shopping district, which is now predominantly located at the northern end of the Embarcadero, to spread south past the Ferry Building toward China Basin. The ballpark can act as a termination
Location of China Basin Park.
Proposed Mission Bay plan.
and focal point for the south Embarcadero, similar to the way The Cannery, Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 do at the northern end.

The ballpark must respect the existing urban fabric of the China Basin neighborhood. It must conform to the city street grid system and it must create a viable business and pedestrian environment for the neighborhood, so that the area does not become dead in the off-season and on non-game days. The scale of the ballpark must be carefully controlled in order not to disrupt or overly dominate the streetscape.

As I conducted my research for this project, one of the things which fascinated me about the old ballparks is that they were not always immediately recognizable as ballparks. They looked as if they could easily be used for another function. This character, though never utilized, is, I believe, what helped make these ballparks a vital part of the neighborhood.

It is intended that the China Basin ballpark follow the historical examples of the urban ballparks built in the early part of this century, in respect to how they became integral, positive elements of city neighborhoods, thus becoming a part of the memory of the city.

In addition, the ballpark should enhance the game of baseball in the same way the traditional parks did. Playing field idiosyncracies and variations from established minimum field dimensions are to be expected. The bleacher seating in the outfield should be arranged so as to capture the vistas and panoramas afforded by the site. The seating should be arranged so that the greatest number of fans are as close to the game as possible, creating an intimate scale. Every effort will be made to make each game here a great day at the ballpark.


The Mission District showing the original shoreline.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge viewed from the Embarcadero.
The origin of organized American baseball is credited to Alexander J. Cartwright, a well-to-do surveyor and amateur athlete. In 1845 he, along with a friend named Wadsworth, established a written set of rules for the game which included instructions for field layout and player's positions. On June 19, 1846, the Knickerbockers played the New York Nine under Cartwright's new rules. Cartwright umpired the game; the New York Nine won 23-1. Many of Cartwright's original rules still remain in effect in major league baseball today.

The modern game of baseball was at one time attributed to Abner Doubleday, a Civil War general. In 1904 A.G. Spalding established a fact-finding commission, with the aid of a U.S. senator, to determine baseball's origin. Spalding's commission was made up of persons, like himself, who found it somewhat unsettling that what had become an American institution was derived from an English game, rounders. The commission issued a report in 1908 which traced baseball to Doubleday, who, it said, invented the game at Cooperstown, New York in 1839. This theory was accepted until 1939 when Robert W. Henderson of the New York Public Library exposed the myth.

Before Cartwright, the true origins of baseball are sketchy. The Egyptians, along with each succeeding culture, are given credit for playing a game which could have evolved into modern baseball. Early forms of baseball began as a game of tag. A ball was served by a playmate and struck by a "striker" who then ran to a base before an opponent could catch the ball and hit the runner with it.

The game was played in the American colonies at town gatherings such as Election Day or Town Meeting Day, and took on names like Town Ball. Another sightly different game was played in New England called the Massachusetts Game. Both versions used posts as bases, placed 60 feet apart in the shape of a quadrangle. There was also a designated bowler (pitcher) and catcher. A game known as base ball is referred to in A Little Pretty Pocket-Book, published in 1744. The book was reprinted in New York in 1762 and Massachusetts in 1787.

"Many other early references to bat-and-ball games involving bases are known: 'playing at base' at the American army camp at Valley Forge in 1778; the forbidding of students to 'play with balls and sticks' on the common of Princeton College in 1787; a note in the memoirs of Thurlow Weed, an upstate New York newspaper editor and politician, of a baseball organized club about 1825; a newspaper report that the Rochester (New York) Baseball Club had about 50 members at practice in the 1820s; and a reminiscence of the elder Oliver Wendell Holmes (Harvard, 1829) that he played a good deal of ball while at college."
The English game of rounders is certainly a precursor to modern baseball. The Boy's Own Book (1828) describes rounders as being played on a diamond-shaped infield, with bases at the corners. A ball was pitched to a batter who hit the ball through or over the infield in order to run. The runner was put out by an opponent catching the ball on the fly, or hitting the runner with the fielded ball. The first U.S. reference to rounders was Robin Carver's The Book of Sports (1834), who called the game base, or goal ball. In 1833 the Olympics Base Ball Club of Philadelphia was playing this game, calling it the Philadelphia Game.

Cartwright's game of baseball evolved from this early game of rounders, or the Philadelphia Game, but also included some characteristics of catapult ball, a game fashioned after the game of cricket. Catapult ball involved a ball placed on the end of a seesaw board. The ball was launched into play by a blow, by the foot or fist, to the high end of the board. Cartwright borrowed the infield arrangement from the Philadelphia Game, but used the pitcher and catcher from Town Ball and the Massachusetts Game. The pitcher stood 45 feet away from the striker, the catcher was positioned 40 feet behind home. The game became a gentleman's sport, and was known as the New York Game, played by the Knickerbocker Club.

Eventually strategies for play evolved including pitching the ball at top speed making it more difficult to hit. "Dickey Pearce, from Brooklyn, discovered - that it was possible to throw the entire enemy team into a turmoil by not hitting the ball hard at all, just tapping it so it would land in fair territory and roll away out of reach of the distant catcher."

Men on base also began to "lead off" on a slow pitch, forcing the catcher to move close behind the batter in order to have a chance at throwing the runner out. Eventually the Philadelphia nine-inning rule was adopted and the game became fast-paced and exiting. In 1854 the rules were changed to specify the size and weight of the ball, similar to today's specifications.

Before the Civil War, baseball was an amateur sport, with some clubs levying stiff fines for members who accepted money to play ball. In 1857 the National Association of Base Ball Players was formed as an amateur organization. The desire to win became stronger, and with the shortage of player able to play the New York Game, by 1865-66, some teams were hiring skilled players on a game-by-game basis. The first truly professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, was organized in 1869. The Red Stockings went on tour and ended the season with an impressive record of 56 wins and one tie. The following year the team was not so successful, and disbanded. However Cincinnati's barnstorming tour ushered in a new era in baseball, "uprooting the foundation of amateur baseball and replacing it with a caliber of play that paved the way for the first professional baseball league." The National Association of Professional Base Ball Players was formed on March 17, 1871. The charter teams were the Boston Red Stockings, Chicago White Stockings, Cleveland Forest Citys, Fort Wayne Kekiongas, New York

Bribery and gambling permeated the league and by 1875 the public's confidence in it had faded. "Boston remained above this corruption, yet unwittingly aided to the demise of the National Association through their constant domination of the competition." On February 2, 1876 the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs was formed as a tighter organization with a higher quality of players. Among the first players was Al Spalding, who later went into the sporting goods business, supplying all the baseballs to the National League. His name and signature still appears on all National League balls.

In 1881, teams which were not members of or had been expelled from the National League, formed the American Association. Cincinnati had been excluded from the National League for playing Sunday games and allowing liquor in the ballpark. In 1883 the National Agreement between both leagues was brought about to stop player raids between the leagues. The accord between the leagues led, in 1884, to the first post-season series between league champions.

Eventually disagreements forced the withdrawal of the American Association from the National Agreement at the beginning of the season in 1891. Not as solvent as their counterpart, the American Association folded at the end of the season. In 1900 Ban Johnson changed the name of the Western Association, a minor league, to the American League. Establishing several teams in the East, with some National League players, the American League became a "major" league even though it was not recognized by the National League.

In 1903 the National League came to an agreement with the American League and the first World Series was held that year (Boston defeated Pittsburgh 5 games to 3). A dispute in 1904 prevented the Series from being held, but in 1905 the two leagues realized that they needed each other in order to succeed, and reconciled their differences. The World Series has been held every year after, but in 1919 a scandal rocked the baseball world, again jeopardizing the future of professional baseball.

The 1919 World Series had been thrown by some of the Chicago White Sox players. Eight players were indicted, accused of accepting bribes. A grand jury found the men not guilty, but baseball commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis barred Lefty Williams, Eddie Ciotte, Chick Gandil, Happy Felsh, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Fred McMullin, Swede Risberg, and Buck Weaver from baseball for life.

The great fix sparked new fan interest in baseball, and Landis' decision renewed respect and admiration for the sport, but in 1920 the biggest change occurred, having an even greater impact.

"To take advantage of the rising popularity of a young star
named Babe Ruth, the ball was made much more livelier. Ruth had broken the all-time home run record by hitting 29 for the Boston Red Sox in 1919. In 1920, after being sold to the New York Yankees, Ruth hit 54 home runs. This combination of Ruth, the lively ball, and the publicity generated by the New York City press took much of the glare of attention away from the scandal of the 1919 World Series and brought to baseball the beginnings of an unprecedented era of prosperity and home runs."

From the 1920s on, baseball's popularity has continued to grow. The crowds became larger and the game even faster and more exciting. The 1920s saw the greatest names in baseball, all playing the game in the same decade; Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Walter Johnson, Eddie Collins, Grover Alexander, Lou Gehrig, Lefty Grove, Babe Ruth, and Rogers Hornsby.

During the Great Depression the public flocked to the ballparks for temporary relief from the economic realities. Night baseball was tried in May of 1935 in Cincinnati and was a big success. The thirties also brought baseball into the home as radio began to be utilized. The live play-by-play accounts of major league games attracted many new fans.

The postwar period saw a steady increase in fan attendance, and better pay and employment conditions for the players. In 1947 Jackie Robinson was called up to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black major league player in modern baseball. That year Robinson was named rookie of the year, and helped his team win a pennant. After his third year with the Dodgers, Robinson was named most valuable player in his league. Robinson helped pave the way for other great black players such as Larry Doby, "Satchel" Paige, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Bob Gibson, Willie McCovey, Ernie Banks, Roberto Clemente, Frank Robinson, and Willie Stargell.

"In the late 1940s television started to take over from radio and many people were given the opportunity to see a major league baseball game for the first time. Communications had improved, along with commercial air travel, and they would both have a far-reaching effect on baseball." Air travel and radio and television allowed teams to move from the traditional major league playing grounds of the East. The Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants moved their franchises west to Los Angeles and San Francisco before the start of the 1958 season. In 1954 the St. Louis Browns moved to Baltimore. In 1955 the Philadelphia Athletics moved to Kansas City (and to Oakland in 1968). The Washington Senators moved to Minneapolis in 1961 becoming the Minnesota Twins. Washington was given a new franchise, but in 1971 it was transferred to Dallas-Ft. Worth and became the Texas Rangers.

In 1969 both leagues were expanded to twelve teams. The National League moved into Canada with it's Montreal franchise. Baseball had now become an international sport. Other teams were created in Seattle, San Diego, and Kansas City. Seattle was sold and moved to
Milwaukee the next year. The American League expanded again in 1977 creating a club in Toronto and one in Seattle. The American League became a 14-team league while the National League remained at twelve. In 1991 major league baseball is again facing expansion with Denver, Phoenix, Orlando, Sacramento, and St. Petersburg all hoping to secure a new team, attesting to baseball's ever-increasing popularity.


5. Ibid., p. 16.

"There hasn't been a sports stadium built since the Roman Coliseum when the neighbors haven't objected to it."

-Joe Robbie, owner, Miami Dolphins
SAN FRANCISCO BASEBALL

The California gold rush introduced baseball to the Pacific Coast, and the Eagles of San Francisco, organized in 1859, afforded the first regular competition for pick-up teams. In 1862 the Pacifics were organized and frequently challenged the Eagles, to the delight of sporting enthusiasts and gamblers. The first baseball game was played on a sand-lot at 16th and Harrison Streets in the Mission. California's first enclosed ballpark was built at 25th and Folsom Streets. Opening day at the park in November, 1868 saw the San Francisco Eagles defeat the Oakland Wide Awakes, 37 to 23. In 1869 the first professional club, the barnstorming Cincinnati Red Stockings, visited the West Coast and walloped the Pacifics, 66-4 and 35-4. In 1885, Central Park at Eighth and Market Streets opened. The park, with it's grandstand as the backstop, was a long narrow field running from Market to Mission along Eighth. In 1887 the first championship of the California League was declared a tie between the Haverlys and the Stars, both of San Francisco.

Beginning with the 1888 baseball season San Francisco had another new park, the Haight Street Grounds at Stanyan across from Golden Gate Park. On opening day, a crowd of 7,000 watched the game between two San Francisco teams, the Pioneers and the Haverlys.

The first site of Recreation Park, perhaps San Francisco's best loved baseball park, was at Eighth and Harrison Streets where in 1897 San Franciscans could see a baseball game for 25 cents and sit in the reserved section for another 10 cents. A baseball barker called Foghorn Murphy rode a horse up and down Market Street announcing home games through a megaphone. The ballpark was destroyed in the earthquake of 1906.

When the professional Pacific Coast League was first organized in 1903, San Francisco was represented by the Seals. During it's 55 years in the PCL, the Seals finished first 12 times and won seven playoff titles, however San Franciscans did not savor their first PCL title until 1909.

The second site of Recreation Park (also called the Valencia Street Grounds), with an expanded seating capacity of 16,500, was located at 15th and Valencia. From 1907 to 1930, with one brief interruption, it was the home of the San Francisco Seals and the Missions. Built from warped lumber and hazardous chicken wire and often referred to as a "crackerbox" by baseball writers, Recreation Park nevertheless had all the intimacy, informality, warmth, and color of the traditional baseball park. Fans loved the place and their local team the San Francisco Seals. In 1926 the Seals finished last in the league standings and first in crowd attendance. Recreation Park had a full complement of colorful features: the "Booze Cage", a dark, dank, wire-enclosed spot under the Grandstand where the real baseball nuts gathered, "Pop" Hardy,
a bowlegged, rotund groundskeeper and his lawn-mowing goat, Otto Makowski, the one-armed announcer with a flair for dramatic presentations, and a private dining room in which to entertain scouts from the major league teams.

The shortcomings of the park, even by 1913 standards made the facility inadequate for a top minor league team and led Seals president J. Cal Ewing to build a new stadium, Ewing Field, on Masonic Avenue just below the sand hill called Lone Mountain. Unfortunately, the climatic research of the site had been inadequate. When the Seals began their 1914 season there, everyone realized that the field was directly in the path of the rolling fog that not only chilled players and fans alike, but frequently obscured both flyballs and outfielders for tense moments. Midseason, the Seals moved back to Recreation Park in the sunny Inner Mission where they remained until 1930 when Seals Stadium at 16th and Bryant was completed. Ewing Field was later destroyed by a spectacular fire.

San Francisco boasted an extremely stable roster during the 1920s, with a number of Seals regulars—many with several years' experience in the big leagues—returning to their positions season after season. A nucleus of fine players produced flags in 1922, 1923 and 1925.

In 1914 the bankrupt Sacramento franchise was moved to San Francisco. It was hoped that the new club, called the Missions, would draw fans into Ewing Field while the Seals were on the road. At the end of the season the next-to-last place Missions were moved to Salt Lake City, but in 1925 the Vernon Tigers were resurrected as the Missions. Games would be played in Recreation Park, home of the Seals; each San Francisco club would inhabit the field while the other was out of town. Occasionally called "Monks", "Bells", "Bears", and "Reds", the team was generally known as the "Missions". The team followed the Seals to Seals Stadium in 1931.

Throughout the history of the Missions the fans would enjoy ferocious hitting, but poor pitching would doom the club to just four winning seasons in twelve years. The Missions were eclipsed in San Francisco by the far more consistent Seals. In 1937 owner Herbert Fleischaker moved the team to Hollywood, becoming the Stars, then sold the franchise in 1938.

In 1931 the Seals won another flag, playing in their new park, Seals Stadium. Built at the height of the Depression by the optimistic trio of Charley Graham, George Putnam, and Charles (Doc) Strub, 18,600 seat Seals Stadium featured a lighting system that rivaled the best in the majors, and three clubhouses— one for the Seals, one for the visitors, and one for the Missions. Pacific Coast League teams played there until 1958 when major league baseball came to San Francisco. It then became a temporary dwelling for the Giants until their new stadium was completed at Candlestick Point. Seals Stadium wasrazed in 1960 and replaced with a White Front department store and large supermarket, it's seats and light
standards were moved to Tacoma's Cheney Stadium.

During Seals Stadium's Pacific Coast League era, there were white stars painted at the top of the right center field fence, bearing names like Al Lyons and Joe Brovia, indicating where these players hit home runs completely out of the park. There was no warning track at the base of the fence. The grandstand had no roof, the outfield wall was 30 feet high, and there were advertising billboards on top of the hitters' background in center. Bleachers sat in right field.

In 1932 outfielder Vince DiMaggio arranged a tryout for his 17-year-old brother, Joe, who played in three games at the end of the season. Joe DiMaggio set an all-time PCL record hitting in 61 straight games in 1933. The streak ended at Seals Stadium on July 26 when Oakland pitcher Ed Walsh, Jr., put a 0-5 collar on him. DiMaggio and pitcher Sam Gibson brought another PCL championship to San Francisco in 1935.

Seals Stadium hosted the first PCL All-Star Game in 1941, and San Francisco was the site of the game again in 1944, 1946 and 1948. In 1946 the Seals took on All-Stars from the other seven PCL teams and won, 3-0. From 1943 through 1948, San Francisco made six consecutive postseason appearances, winning the playoffs in 1943, 1944, 1945, and 1946.

In 1945 Paul I. Fagan bought into the Seals with the intention of bringing major league baseball to the West Coast by 1950. Fagan upgraded Seals Stadium and removed all advertising from the outfield walls. He spent $10,000 to install baseball's first glass backstop, establish a deluxe pressbox, and built a tower to pinpoint drunks or troublesome rowdies. Fagan installed the first female usherettes in Organized Baseball, outfitting the pretty, young ladies in expensive, tailor-made uniforms. Ladies' restrooms were so sumptuous that some women spent most of their time there, listening to the game amidst luxurious surroundings. Fagan brought in an expert from a Scottish golf course to install rare turf, and groundskeeper Harvey Spargo soon was maintaining the finest field in baseball. Seals Stadium was called a "fairyland of diamond entertainment".

The Seals' clubhouse featured a soda fountain, barber shop, and draft beer. On the road, the Seals stayed in the best hotels, ate the finest food, and became the first minor league team to travel regularly by plane. The lowest-paid Seal would earn $5,000 per season, equivalent to the major league minimum salary, while Fagan's stars were handsomely remunerated. Fagan paid Lefty O'Doul, the Seals' colorful and highly capable manager, a salary in the $45,000-$50,000 range so that he would not be lured away to the majors.

O'Doul was a native San Franciscan who played for his home team in 1918. He bounced back and forth between the majors and the Seals three times in his career, being named Most Valuable Player in the
PCL in 1927, and twice winning the National League Batting title, in 1929 and 1932. In 1935 O'Doul returned to the Seals as manager, winning a pennant in his first season. Hugely popular with fans, O'Doul played up his Irish background by wearing green suits and sports coats. A large brewery was located across the street from Seals Stadium and often suds would be expelled into the atmosphere. O'Doul, stationed in the third base coach's box, would "catch" a capful of suds and pretend to drink brew from his cap before a delighted audience. To incite a rally, O'Doul would pull a handkerchief from his hip pocket and begin waving it at the opposing pitcher, and throughout Seals Stadium, the "Handkerchief Brigade" would enthusiastically follow suit. O'Doul managed the Seals from 1935 through 1951, and was named vice president of the club in 1948.12

According to Art Rust, Jr. in the New York Daily News, it was in September 1950 that Seals Stadium president Paul I. Fagan announced there would be no more peanut sales at Seals Stadium because of the cost of cleaning up the shells—reportedly $20,000 a year. More, Fagan claimed, than the income from the peanut sales.

As one might expect, all hell broke loose. Within days fans were smuggling their own peanuts into the ballpark and throwing the shells all over the place in protest.

Fagan eventually gave in. The story was earning him a national reputation as a cheapskate. To make amends, he gave away 18,000 free bags of peanuts. In response, the Seals' janitorial crew demanded a raise.13

By 1949 the Seals became increasingly cut-off from major league assistance and when a disappointed Fagan pulled out, the team became owned by fans who purchased stock in a community backed team. The Seals put together one final championship club for their 1957 season, winning the pennant. The New York Giants moved to San Francisco in 1958 and played their first two San Francisco seasons in Seals Stadium.

When the Giants moved into Candlestick Park in 1960 they immediately set an attendance record of 1,795,356. In 1961 San Francisco hosted a major league All-Star Game. It was a revealing experience for fans in the rest of the nation. The winds at Candlestick became famous in the ninth inning as relief pitcher Stu Miller was literally blown off the mound, committing a costly balk. The game was won (5-4) by the National League on hometeam hero Willie Mays' double in the tenth inning.14

Candlestick was the first major league park constructed exclusively of reinforced concrete.15 The wild winds at Candlestick also made the cool San Francisco temperatures even colder. A heating system installed in the stands failed to work properly and "the Giants' program for years carried a line warning that the club made no warranty as to the effectiveness of the Candlestick Park heating system".16
This kind of weather nightmare is partly due to location—this home of Mays, McCovey, and Marchial is right on the bay—but part of the problem is the wacky thing they call San Francisco summer. The temperature rarely gets above 70 and there's a dense fog until noon each day, which burns off and is replaced by a warm but gentle sunshine. At night it's like the wintertime.1

Pop-ups offer thrill, adventure and lost face to infielders. Mets third baseman Rod Kanehl—an adventurous lad to begin with—once raced back into left after a pop-up that came down near first. Ground balls are no fun either, as the field is built on a landfill, settling and growing new bad hops every day.2

In 1970 Candlestick Park was enclosed to facilitate moving the 49ers professional football team into the stadium. "The seating capacity was expanded to 59,091 for baseball making Candlestick Park the largest park in the National League."3

In 1989 the Giants again won the National League pennant. The third game of the World Series, against cross-bay rivals, the Oakland Athletics, was played at Candlestick. The game was postponed as an earthquake hit the Bay Area and a filled Candlestick on October 17, at 5:04 PM, just as the teams were warming up. When the Series resumed, the A's swept the Giants in four games. The 1990s could see the end of Giants ballgames at Candlestick as owner Bob Lurie searches for a new Bay Area home for his team.


17. Ibid., p. 364.

18. Ibid., p. 364.

19. Ibid., p. 223.

"If I didn't play baseball, I probably would have been an architect"

-Terry Kennedy, catcher, San Francisco Giants
San Francisco ballpark sites.
Unlike baseball itself, the ballpark had an inventor. He was William Cammeyer, and in 1862 Cammeyer changed baseball forever. That year he introduced the first enclosed field for baseball playing. The Union grounds, formerly the site of a skating club at Lee Avenue and Rutledge Street in the city of Brooklyn, opened on May 15.

Cammeyer was really expanding an idea that had been vaguely conceptualized a few years earlier. The very first "ballpark" wasn't a ballpark at all, but a racetrack. The games of that 1858 championship were played at New York's Fashion Race Course. About 1,500 paying fans anted up half a buck apiece to watch the first game ever played for a national baseball title. Ironically, the location of Fashion Race Course, that first ballpark, was but a few hundred yards from the present home plate at Shea Stadium. But it remained for Cammeyer to turn the fleeting idea into a practical reality.

In 1866 the sub rosa professional baseball player burst into the forefront of baseball attention... Since at least some of the players were now being paid openly, somebody had to undertake to see that this activity was administered in an orderly way. Thus, in its most infant form, the "front office" was born. Now, in addition to a playing captain who served the function of a manager, most of the clubs also had a president who served as a business manager. Logically, the next step came in the actual ownership of clubs. But this development was still in baseball's future. Cammeyer was to accelerate it's arrival.

The major motivating factor in this whole scheme now being money, the ballpark—which generated the revenue—began to assume paramount importance. Owners of enclosed ballparks, which appeared in almost every major American city after the Civil War, sought to increase their influence over the clubs and players. When the first professional league was established—the National Association in 1871—it was no surprise that William Cammeyer was the president of the New York entry. It was through the medium of the ballpark that the entrepreneur owner-manager gained admission to baseball. He was quickly to control it.

Ballparks assumed a hand-me-down aspect during the period after the organization of the National Association. Association clubs moved along into the National League in 1876, and functioning clubs continued to use whatever park was available and best suited their need at the moment.

It can be safely asserted that the successful introduction of the ballpark, and its universal adoption, changed the game from a sport to a business. From the end of the Civil War onward, the enclosed ballpark swept the baseball world. It becomes fully
understandable then why the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional team in 1869, a scant four years after Robert E. Lee offered General Grant his sword in surrender at Appomattox. The ballpark, of course, was not the sole reason for the emergence of professional baseball; but it played a major part in that emergence.

Concession concepts, scorecards, the sale of telegraphic rights (forerunners of radio and television packaging), vending of souvenirs, off-premises production of collectable items such as sales promotion tools (picture cards, for instance) and sports coverage by the press (often against the better judgement of the editors) were all developed around major league baseball. Virtually all of these developments took place between the end of the Civil War and the close of the nineteenth century. The elaborate structure of the baseball industry, now widely imitated by all professional (and most collegiate) team sports, was constructed entirely on the foundation of the ballpark and it's ability to produce the primary source of revenue: ticket sales.

During it's developmental period, owners of ballparks sought to use other sports as sources of additional income. National League owners once seriously considered forming a professional football league as a satellite to their baseball operation. What we now familiarly call warning tracks in ballparks were originally introduced for use by racing bicyclists during the bike craze of the 1890s. Some parks, notably St. Louis, were even converted for use as racetracks.

The so-called enclosure movement was the rage of baseball after the Civil War. Virtually every city engaged in the construction of a spacious wooden enclosure for the local baseball teams. These early ballparks generally were constructed by a private investor who, in most cases, did not control a club. Instead, they sought to rent the grounds to local teams on a per-game basis. In return for the use of the baseball grounds, the club permitted the owners of the enclosure to charge a minimal fee for admission to the games.

The decade following the opening of the first ballpark in 1862 saw such a rapid growth in the number of enclosed parks and professional players that a league founded in 1871 was composed almost entirely of professionals playing in enclosed parks. At the start of that year there were only eighty-four registered professional ballplayers. But the National Association was formed for the purpose of playing professional games and charging admission to watch those games.

The enclosed ballpark also brought the entrepreneur into baseball. He set the sport on the path to organization as a mass-appeal entertainment and business. Although the ballpark created overhead that had to be met, it also created a way for entrance to the grounds to be controlled and hatched an environment in which thing of value could be sold-choice seats, refreshments, programs, souvenirs. Today such concessions form a vital element in
Comiskey Park, Chicago, Illinois, c. 1912.

Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts, c. 1914.

Tiger Stadium, Detroit, Michigan, c. 1921.

Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York, c. 1932.

Comiskey Park (1910)
CHICAGO, IL

Fenway Field (1914)
CHICAGO, IL

Tiger Stadium (1921)
DETROIT, MI

Ebbets Field (1932)
BROOKLYN, NY
baseball's profit picture, accounting for 15 percent of an average club's revenue, often the difference between profit and loss.

Ultimately, it was the enclosed ballpark that changed the entire nature of the game from a low-scoring, defense-dominated contests into free-swinging, offense-oriented games. As the game and the men who played it outgrew the confines of the older ballpark, the explosive drama of the homerun came to the fore. The lively ball and the shrinking ballpark made this change possible. The need to expand capacity on a fixed piece of property was responsible for reducing outfield acreage and putting the fence within reasonable reach of every hitter. Today, 138-pound shortstops hit more homeruns individually in a season than league leaders did before the turn of the century.

Historically, the ballpark developed through several epochs. First there was the open field of the amateur days. Then, beginning in 1862, there was the enclosed wooden ballparks followed by the concrete and steel era, starting in 1909. In 1960 the massive superstadium phase began with the opening of Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

During all of these developments, property valuations remained a prime factor in ballpark location and construction. In it's earlier stages the ballpark was located on the outer edge of the urban center to allow for the use of cheap real estate. With the growth of baseball as a commercial venture, the park began to move closer to key public transportation and nearer the center of the urban area from which it drew it's audience.

In many cases the city grew around the ballpark and created the "inner-city park" (Ebbets Field in Brooklyn and Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia are among the handiest examples). Then came a second trend-to move the ballpark away from the urban center and surround it with the enormous inexpensive space needed to park the private car. Now the trend seems to be reversing itself. The ballpark is moving back into the center of the city (Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati and Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh are examples of this trend.) [More current examples would be the new Comiskey Park in Chicago, the Skydome in Toronto, Camden Yards in Baltimore, and hopefully the China Basin Ballpark in San Francisco.]

Over the years, many ballparks have been built on land previously used for other sporting purposes both before their construction and after their destruction. The granddaddy of all ballclubs, the Knickerbockers, played their early games in a field at 26th Street near Madison square in Manhattan-then considered uptown. Four decades later Stanford White was to use almost the same site for his magnificent second Madison Square Garden. The Knickerbockers themselves moved across the Hudson River to Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Cammeyer reversed the process by building his Union Grounds on the
Playing field configurations and dimensions of representative urban baseball parks.

Playing field configurations and dimensions of representative suburban stadia.
site of the old Union Skating Club. In Chicago, Charles Comiskey's first park was on the site of a cricket grounds. The original Polo Grounds was just what one might think, a polo field. But over the years, the lure of baseball has been so strong that ballparks have sprung up in locales that were previously brickyards, slums, lumberyards, swamps, and plain old vacant lots. Charles Ebbets had to acquire over 1,200 parcels of land for Ebbets Field.

The parks generated their own traffic habit and frequently affected the composition of the neighborhoods around them. In later years, the blade cut the other way as well, the neighborhoods often affecting the usefulness and attractiveness of the ballparks.

In the days that produced the first wave of ballpark construction, the innovation was widely acclaimed. Cammeyer's baby was credited with providing superior, well-graded grounds for the baseball clubs, plus reducing the hazards of fans interfering with play. By its mere existence, the enclosure instilled a more formal aura on the game and improved crowd behavior. It gave the game substance.

As originally conceived, the ballpark was designed to keep out nonpaying cranks (as baseball fans were then known). Built entirely out of wood, all early ballparks had enormous outfield areas and the fences were great distances from the infield. As the ballparks and the games played within them changed, the fences became targets for hitters to drive ball against or over. Thus the simple matter of enclosing the park gave rise to the most important strategic changes in the game as well.

Initially, the pioneer Union Grounds has a seating capacity most reliably estimated at about 1,500. This consisted of benches principally reserved for the ladies who might be in attendance. It also had a clubhouse for three teams and some primitive refreshment service. The remainder of the audience observed the former custom of standing around at various points on the edges of the playing field. It wasn't long, however, before additional seats and benches began to sprout up.

During the first twenty years of the enclosed ballpark, all of the structures were built of wood and were of relatively simplistic design. The sophistication of the baseball industry quite naturally led to the increased sophistication of the ballpark. Chicago was among the early leaders in elaboration of the basic ballpark. In 1885 the new West Side Park at Congress and Loomis Streets opened to raves for its luxurious appointments, which included "a neatly furnished toilet-room with a private entrance... for the ladies." The main grandstand was horseshoe shaped with 2,500 numbered seats and its adjacent bleachers held 3,500 more. The entire layout was surrounded by a brick wall twelve feet high. For the well-to-do and civic dignitaries, a dozen rooftop boxes were provided with individual chairs.

...Constant use tended to lend a pasturelike quality to the playing field. Owners of ballparks, even when they were the clubs
themselves, were not notorious before the turn of the century for lavishing care upon their fields. The number of groundsmen responsible for the field was kept as low as possible—sometimes even lower.

Wooden construction was, of course, not the only difference between the older ballpark familiar to today's generation and their wooden predecessors. The wooden parks were much smaller in capacity, rarely exceeding 15,000. The box seat at field level, which is so common today, was almost unknown. After the introduction of the boxes, they were placed in the forward portion of the stands; but the front row of the box seats was usually five or six feet above the level of the field. Thus, the dugouts were not dugouts at all, but often-uncovered benches placed in front of the stands. In some of the later wooden era ballparks, the dugouts were tucked under the front of the boxes, creating something of a "dug-out" effect. Most ballparks lacked dressing rooms for the visiting clubs (Chicago was an exception to this) and teams, dressed in full uniform, were generally taken to the ballpark in carriages. This practice led to a virtual street parade prior to every game, often accompanied by trumpets or even small bands and, depending upon the visiting team, a stray vulgarity or two from the sidewalk.

Another major difference came in the size of the outfield. The playing area of the average wooden park was huge by today's standards. The parks were not normally built with stands or bleachers in the outfields, although some were added in the 1890s. The fences were placed at the outermost edge of the lot occupied by the park. This was frequently 500 or more feet from the plate. In the era of dead-ball baseball, the homerun was not a major factor of strategy for several reasons, and the distance to the fences was certainly one of them.

The enormous outfield areas led to another common practice that tended to reduce the number of homeruns. On Saturdays and major holidays, the crowds that overflowed the tiny grandstands were herded into the outfield, where they filled in an area in front of the fence and behind the rope or chain barriers set up for the occasion. Balls hit into the crowds were generally grounds-rule doubles or triples when, normally, some of them might have rolled far enough to be homers.

Wooden parks were constantly in a state of flux. Some teams changed parks regularly in the early years of professional baseball. Fire was a constant danger throughout the wooden era. One of the most critical fires in baseball history, from the club standpoint at least, probably occurred in Louisville. After having been a charter member of the NL, Louisville was a major league city as a member of the American Association from 1882 to 1891 and the NL after 1892. In midseason 1899, the main grandstand at the Colonel's Park was destroyed by fire. A temporary stand was hastily erected but failed to provide suitable capacity. After a doubleheader with Baltimore in August created havoc with overflowing fans, owner Barney Dreyfuss decided to shift his home games to other cities until
Plan of new Comiskey Park.
something could be done about the park. The last NL game was played in Louisville on September 2, 1899.

Initially, the concrete parks followed the mode of the wooden ones in that outfield walls were great distances from the plate. But their very permanence gave rise to new needs, requiring expansion of the existing rather than shifting from one park to another. When the earliest concrete parks were built, they had walls often 400 feet or more from home plate at the foul lines. To increase the capacity for major attractions, ballclubs added extra stands in the outfield which had the simultaneous result of reducing homerun distances.

Parallel with the concrete park came a jump in costs to build parks to the new major league standard. By the end of the 1915 season, every major league team except the Cardinals was ensconced in a new facility. The grand finale of that era—Yankee Stadium—didn't come until 1923 when the Yankees shifted to the Bronx after a decade as tenants of the Giants in the Polo Grounds.

Gone are the colorful and magnificently archaic structures that once dotted the baseball landscape. Shibe Park (or Connie Mack Stadium), Forbes Field, Sportsman's Park, League Park, the Polo Grounds, Griffith Stadium, Crosley Field, Ebbets Field, and Braves Field have passed into history. Many of these venerated sites were anachronisms within a few years after their construction. Yet the individualistic ballpark, an anachronism though it may be, breeds speculation and statistical oddities that serve as the perhaps unequalled sources of baseball conversation. The loss of the old ballparks, in many ways, is baseball's loss. Ballparks hatch nostalgia in gushes, and baseball is a game of memories.

Space-age gadgetry is now the byword in ballpark construction, with fountains, waterfalls, light shows, exploding scoreboards, escalators, posh clubs, and form-fitting chairs [don't forget the Diamond-vision television screen] now the order of the day. The new parks have, at least in the short run, broadened the base of baseball attendance and brought women and families in record numbers. But we've been down this path before. The major attraction is still baseball, and the hard-core baseball fan is still the most important customer. [There are some who would disagree, citing the addition of enclosed luxury boxes in every major league park, including the sacred, Friendly Confines of Wrigley Field. These boxes rent for $40,000 - $50,000 a season.] The more things change, the more they seem to remain the same. A fan can see fountains in a city park, light shows in a tote board, and go to a posh club anytime he has the money. But the only place he can see baseball is at the ballpark. The only thing the ballpark can give him that he cannot get anywhere else is baseball.

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"No mere mortal could have dreamed up the dimensions of a baseball field. No man could have been that perfect... The field runs to infinity... Foul lines run on forever, forever diverging. There's no place in America that's not part of a major league ballfield: the meanest ghetto, the highest point of land, the Great Lakes, the Colorado River. Hell, there's no place in the world that's not part of a baseball field."

-The Iowa Baseball Conspiracy
by W.P. Kinsella
FENWAY PARK, Boston

Style: Major League Classic
Capacity 33,583
Opened April 20, 1912.
"Baseball's religious experience" - Mel Antonen.
37' wall in left field known as the Green Monster.
Outfield has 17 different facets and barriers.
No foul territory results in lot of souvenirs for fans.
A day at this ballpark is one of baseball's richest experiences - Mel Antonen.
PHENOMENA

- Duffy's Cliff was a 10-foot high mound which formed an incline in front of the left field wall from 1912 to 1933, extending from the left field foul pole to the flag pole in center — named after Red Sox left fielder Dufty Lewis who was the acknowledged master of defensive play on the cliff. It was greatly reduced but not completely eliminated in 1934.
- Right Field Belly — the low railing and wall curve out sharply from the 302 marker at the right field foul pole into deep right field — many a right fielder has run toward the foul line and watched helplessly as a 310-foot pop fly falls over the railing for a home run.
- Ladder starts near upper left corner of scoreboard 13 feet above ground and rises to top of the Green Monster to allow groundskeeper to remove batting practice home run balls from the netting above the Wall.
- The Green Monster wall in left completely dominates the field of play — now all green, it used to be covered with advertisements, most prominently a Gem razor blades sign. The huge Citgo sign on a building in nearby Kenmore Square looms over the wall in left center, Jimmy Fund sign in right.
- Scoreboard numbers — runs and hits — 16 inches x 16 inches, 3 pounds; errors, innings, pitcher’s numbers — 12 inches x 16 inches, 2 pounds.
- Bleachers in foul territory down the left field line burned down in 1926. The charred remains were removed, increasing the size of foul territory there.
- No ball has ever been hit over the right field roof.
- Balls that hit uprights above The Wall, and should have been homers, were declared in play by the umpires. These were hit by Jackie Jensen in 1959, Brooks Robinson in 1965, Frank Malzone, Gene Conley, Tony Conigliaro, and Mickey Mantle (off light tower). Mike Higgins hit a homer off the loudspeaker horn, which used to stand on the top at the wall in left center.
- Wooden bleachers stood in left in front of the wall in the 1910s and 1920s, but burned down on May 8, 1926 and were not replaced. Wooden bleachers also were added in center and right center during the 1912 World Series.
- Infield grass was transplanted from Huntington Avenue Baseball Grounds to Fenway in 1912.
- During the winter of 1933-1934, all the wooden grandstands were replaced with concrete and steel. A big fire on January 5, 1934 destroyed much of what had already been built, but all was finished for the 1934 season.
- In 1936, a 23.5-foot net was placed atop the wall in left to protect windows on Lansdowne Street.
- In 1940, in an effort to help Ted Williams hit home runs, the Red Sox added the right field bullpens, called Williamsburg, which reduced the distance to the fence by 23 feet.
- In 1947 all advertisements were removed from the left field wall, which was painted green.
- On May 17, 1947 a seagull dropped a three-pound smelt on the mound, leaving Browns pitcher Ellis Kinder dumb-founded.
- Tom A. Yawkey's and his wife Jean R. Yawkey's initials, TAY and JRY, appear in Morse code in two vertical stripes on the scoreboard in left.
- The screen behind home plate, designed to protect fans and allow foul balls to roll back down onto the field of play, was the first of its kind in the majors.
- The right field flagpole was called Pesky's Pole because Johnny Pesky hit it several times for home runs.
- Roped-off section of seats in center field bleachers was called Conig's Corner in the late 1960s, after Tony Conigliaro.
- Left field bluegrass removed in post 1967 resodding is now the lawn for Carl Yastrzemski's suburban Lynnfield home.
- The low concrete base of the left and center field walls was padded after the 1975 World Series, during which Fred Lynn crashed into the concrete wall in center.
- The left field foul line was measured by Art Keefe and George Sullivan, authors of The Picture History of the Boston Red Sox, in October 1975 as 309 feet 5 inches. On October 19, 1975, the Boston Globe used aerial photography and measured it at 304.779 feet.
EBBETS FIELD, Brooklyn

Style: Major League Classic
Opened April 9, 1913. Destroyed February 23, 1960.
Capacity 31,497
Urban ballpark. Helped unite multi-ethnic Brooklyn.
Facade had industrial-Romanesque arched windows.
Accessible to 90% of Brooklyn's population by way of mass transportation.
Brick, vine-covered wall around infield.
"Ebbets Field was maybe the best ballpark ever" - Michael Benson.
PHENOMENA

- Right field wall and scoreboard had approximately 269 different angles — the scoreboard jutted out 5 feet from the wall at a 45 degree angle. Overhang of center field second deck hung out over the field.
- Schaefer Beer sign on the top of the right center scoreboard notified fans of official scorer's decision — the “H” in Schaefer lit up for a hit, the “E” for an error — the sign was erected after World War II.
- Abe Stark sign — offered a free suit at 1514 Pitkin Avenue to any batter hitting the sign.
- Joe Adcock hit the only home run over the roof.
- Opened on April 9, 1913, and it was discovered that the flag, a press box, and the keys to the bleachers had been forgotten.
- September 24, 1924, 500 fans gained admittance by battering down center field gate with a telephone pole.
- In the winter of 1931-1932, the double deck was extended from 3rd base to the left field corner and across to center field.
- In the winter of 1937-1938, box seats were added in center field.
- In the early 1940’s, Lonnie Frey of the Reds hit a ball which fell off the screen on the top of the wall in right between the scoreboard and the right field foul pole. It bounced up and down repeatedly and never came down. Larry McPhail put up boards the next day to prevent similar homers.
- In the winter of 1947-1948, more seats were added to left and center.
- Demolition began on February 23, 1960. Same wrecking ball used 4 years later to demolish Polo Grounds.

"Ebbets Field was a narrow cockpit, built of brick and iron and concrete, alongside a steep cobblestone slope of Bedford Avenue. Two tiers of grandstand pressed the playing area from three sides, and in thousands of seats fans could hear a ball player’s chatter, notice details of a ball player’s gait and, at a time when television had not yet assaulted illusion with the Zoomar lens, you could see, you could actually see, the actual expression on the actual face of an actual major leaguer as he played. You could know what he was like!"

—Roger Kahn, 'The Boys of Summer'
**COMISKEY PARK, Chicago**

**Style:** Major League Classic

Opened July 1, 1910 (Demolished in 1991)

Capacity 44,492

The oldest ballpark in country.

"Feeling of a 19th century fairy-tale world". - Mel Antonen

Great access from Dan Ryan Expressway and elevated train.

Plenty of parking.

A pitcher's park. Deep CF and power alleys.

Site of first experimental night game, August 27, 1910.

Home of the Black Sox scandal of 1919.

Look for bronze plaque where home plate used to be after demolition.
PHENOMENA
• In 1910, bleachers in left and right, but not in center.
• In the winter of 1926-1927, wooden bleachers were replaced with concrete and steel, and the pavilions in left and right were doubledecked.
• The plate was moved 14 feet towards center field in the winter of 1933-1934 to give slugger Al Simmons a better chance at the seats, but it didn't help so the plate was moved back to its original location in 1937.
• Center field bleachers closed in 1947 to improve batter's visibility.
• A low wire inner fence was constructed before the 1949 season but removed after a few games on May 5, 1949.
• In 1949 Frank Lane, having just installed special fences that reduced the fence distances down the lines from 352 to 332, removed them in the middle of the night before the Yankees began a series in Chicago because the opposing teams were hitting more homers into the 20 foot wide strip between the 332 fence and the 352 fence. This caused the American League to pass a new rule that fences could not be moved more than once per season.
• In 1950 the bullpens were moved from foul territory down the lines to behind the center field fence.
• In 1960 Bill Veeck installed the first exploding scoreboard in the majors, high above the bleachers in center. In 1982, when the Diamond Vision Board replaced the original, the pinwheels were retained.
• Green cornerstone laid on St. Patrick's Day in 1910 stayed green until 1960 when the exterior was painted all white by Bill Veeck.
• Popcorn machine fire in right field stands on June 4, 1974 caused 70 minute delay in 8th inning of White Sox 8-6 win over Red Sox and forced 4000 fans onto the field.
• On July 12, 1979, Tigers won second game of doubleheader by forfeit on Disco Demolition Night when sellout crowd wrecked the field after first game.
• The only four batters to homer into the center field bleachers are Hank Greenberg, Alex Johnson, Dick Allen, and Richie Zisk in 1938, 1970, 1972, and 1977 respectively.
• Scene of many masterful groundskeeping tricks by Roger, Gene, and Emil Bossard: (a) Camp Swampy in 1967 referred to the area in front of the plate, dug up and soaked with water when White Sox sinkerball pitchers were on the mound, but mixed with clay and gasoline and burned to provide hard soil if a sinkerballer was pitching for the visiting team. (b) Opposing team bullpen mounds were lowered or raised from the standard 10 inch height to upset visiting pitcher rhythm. (c) Under Eddie Stanky's managerial tenure, the grass in front of shortstop was cut long because the Sox shortstop had limited range, but at second the grass was cut short because the Sox second sacker had very good range. (d) When the Sox had a lousy defensive outfield, the grass was cut long to turn triples into doubles. (e) When the Sox had speedy line drive hitters, the outfield grass was cut long to turn singles into doubles. (f) When the Sox had good bunters, more paint was added to the foul line to tilt the ball back fair.
• Nine speaker horns on the center field bleacher wall.
• Clock on wall in center to left of flag pole.
• Picnic areas, including Bullring in left and Bullpens I and II in right and right center. Bavarian and Mexican restaurants and beer halls under the stands behind the plate.
• One-time Sox shortstop Luke Appling heard his spikes hit metal — the game was delayed as a huge blue and white copper kettle was removed from the infield, and the resulting big hole filled in. The site was formerly a city dump.
• Showers in the bleachers in center.
• Foul poles bend back slightly to join the top of the roof.
WRIGLEY FIELD, Chicago

Style: Major League Classic
Capacity 37,741
This place is filled with history.
Home to the only NL charter club still operating.
Only urban park in NL and soon to be the oldest in country.
Ivy-covered wall adds character no place can match.
No parking, but that is part of the experience.
Seats are closer to action than any other NL park.
Last ballpark to install lights (1988).
Neighbors can watch games from rooftops over RF and LF fences.
Hand-operated scoreboard.
"Every fan should find a way to see a game here at least once in a lifetime." - Rod Beaton
PHENOMENA

• The only remaining FL ballpark.
• The beautiful ivy vines on the outfield wall provoke plays such as Cub leftfielder Andy Patko losing Tiger Roy Cullenbine’s hit in the 1945 World Series and Roberto Clemente attempting to uncork one of his great throws to the plate with an empty white Coca-Cola cup.
• The center field 400 sign is slightly right of straight away center.
• Only park where it’s more difficult to hit a homer down the foul line than to hit one 50 or so feet out in fair territory because the bleachers protrude into the outfield.
• William Wrigley Jr. Water Fountain, in the lobby under the stands near the Frank Chance Plaque, was dedicated in 1938 by a handshake between the previously quarreling Messrs. Tinker and Evers.
• Bobby Dorr, the groundskeeper, lived in a 6 room apartment in the 1930’s at the ballpark, adjacent to the left field corner gate, which is still there.
• The Chi-Feds put in the world’s first permanent concession stand in 1914.
• In July 1916, Joa the live Cubbie Bear was the team’s mascot, living in a cage outside the park on Addison Street.
• In 1923, the foul lines were shifted slightly amidst park renovations.
• In the winter of 1926-1927, the left field bleachers were removed, the grandstand was doubled, and the playing area was lowered several feet.
• In 1929, 1932, and 1935, extra bleachers were built on the street on Waveland and Sheffield for World Series games.
• The 27 foot high, 75 foot wide scoreboard was built in 1935 by Bill Veeck.
• In 1937, the bleacher stairstep was created to allow potted plants and Chinese elm trees to grow, complementing the ivy.
• Ivy planted on the outfield walls in 1937.
• In 1937 and 1938, new outfield bleachers were built, and the six gates in the brick wall were emplaced. They were red, repainted blue in 1981.
• The bleachers were expanded to their present state in the 1940’s.
• Lights were inside the park in the early 1940’s ready to be installed, but Mr. Wrigley donated them to the war effort instead on December 8, 1941, thus allowing Wrigley Field to remain dark at night ever since.
• The right field wall was remodeled in 1950-1951.
• On June 9, 1963, 35,743 fans, right field bleacher fans showered LA right fielder Frank Howard with peanuts and made him miss Bob Lillis’ fly ball - ruled a single.
• On April 14, 1976, Met Dave King Kong Kingman hit a homer 550 feet over Waveland and against a frame house 3 doors down on the east side of Kenmore Avenue.

• Bill Buckner’s hit was lost in the vines for a homer
• Water fountain now moved to the Cub Hall of Fame under the first base stands, near the Friendly Confines cafe.
• Outfield wall distances before 1981 were marked on plywood markers screwed into the brick. Since then they have been painted directly on the brick.
• Foul pole screens have distances marked on plywood vertically “355” and “353”.
• The most distant current outfield measurement sign is at Wrigley Field. On the roof of a house across Sheffield Avenue in right center, the sign says “495.”
Fans cheered as Fred Patek and Cookie Rojas dove into this fountain after winning the 1976 Division championship.

Style: Traditional Baseball Only
Capacity 40,762
Feels like it was built in the 1990s. - Mel Antonen
Great looks, great seats.
Modern circulation: escalators and spiral ramps.
Largest publicly-funded fountains in world, RF.
Easily accessible by freeways I-70 & I-435, good view of stadium from freeway, impossible to miss.
Clean and well-kept.
Astroturf field, first in AL.
A suburban stadium, but it's sculptural qualities make it ideal for it's setting.
All seats point to second base.

PHENOMENA
- Waterfalls and fountains run for 322 feet on the embankment overlooking right center.
METRODOME, Minneapolis

PHENOMENA
- Almost an exact duplicate of the domed stadiums in Seattle, Pontiac, and Vancouver. All four were built by the same engineering firm.
- Nicknamed the Sweat Box because it lacked air conditioning in its first two seasons.
- The white roof makes it difficult to see the ball when hit high in the air.
- Sections 107 to 113 are football seats which in baseball season are tilted up and back to create a 40 foot wall behind the right field fence.
- The roof collapsed in the fall of 1982 but was repaired quickly.
- Twin batter Randy Bush hit a ball off the roof in 1983. The ball was caught foul for an out by Blue Jays catcher Buck Martinez.
- On May 4, 1984, in the top of the 4th inning, A's batter Dave Kingman hit a ball that went through a hole in the canvas roof. Twins third sacker John Castino and shortstop Houston Jiminez waited and waited but it never came down. Kingman got a double.

Style: Dome
Opened April 2, 1982
Capacity 55,000
World's largest air-supported dome.
Multi-use: baseball, basketball, football.
Sporturf field, liveliest in majors.
Parking on-site is limited, but plenty in lots nearby.
Has all the amenities of a good ballpark, but feels like a large warehouse.
The high air pressure makes you feel light-headed.
Long rows and steep hikes in upper deck.
Location is great; right on edge of downtown.
POLO GROUNDS, New York

Style: Major League Classic
Capacity 55,987
Opened in 1891, rebuilt in 1911.
Clubhouse located in center field.
Deepest center field in majors, at 483' (1954).
Shared at one time by both the Giants and the Yankees.
Site of Willie Mays' Catch in 1954 World Series.

PHENOMENA
- Originally named for owner John T. Brush.
- Second deck in right had 9 foot photographers' perch overhang 60 feet from foul pole out into right center.
- Bullpens in fair territory in left center and right center.
- There was no line on the 60 foot high center field clubhouse above which a ball would be a home run.
- The outfield was slightly sunken. A manager, standing in his dugout, could see only the top half of his outfielders.
- At the wall, the field was 8 feet below the infield.
- The left field second deck overhang meant that a homer to left was easier than a homer to right, even though the wall in left was 279 and the wall in right was 258. The overhang was 22 feet, but it effectively shortened the distance required for a pop fly homer to the second deck in left to 250 feet.
- The overhangs here and at Tiger Stadium and Shibe Park have more significance than one might suspect, according to research published by the professional society for physicists, the American Physical Society. The
batted ball’s trajectory consists of two component vectors, horizontal and vertical. The vertical deceleration is constant over time due to gravity, but the horizontal deceleration increases over time due to wind resistance and atmospheric drag. Near the end of its flight, the ball is coming down sharply, rather than arcing down as it arched up, as would occur in a vacuum. So many outfielders have watched helplessly as a ball they could catch drops into the 2nd deck.

- Hitters’ background extended beyond the end of the bleacher wall, several feet into the clubhouse gap.
- The field sloped in a “turtle back” just beyond the infield dirt. It sloped down 1.5 feet to drains about 20 feet into the outfield, then back up again.
- Right center wall sloped gradually from 11 feet at pole to 12 feet at the catchers.
- Left center wall sloped from 16 feet 9.75 inches at the pole to 18 feet in left center, and then to 14 feet and sloped gradually to 12 feet at the catchers. When ad signs were removed in the 1940s, the abrupt changes in height in left center disappeared.
- After the all-wooden Polo Grounds (III) burned down April 14, 1911, Polo Grounds (IV) was built. With a concrete double deck from the left field corner, around the plate, and back out to right center field, it was the first concrete era stadium in New York. The catchers in left center and center were wood remaining from before the fire.
- In 1914, there were 2 bends in the wall in right center.
- In 1917, the fans exited from the field through gates under the center field catchers.
- In 1919, Babe Ruth hit the first hom run over the right field roof into Manhattan Field.
- Coats of arms of all the teams in the National League on the top of the grandstand. Removed in the 1920s.
- Harry Danning once hit a drive that bounced behind the Eddie Grant Memorial. Center fielder Vince DiMaggio had trouble finding the handle and slow-footed Danning got an inside-the-park homer.
- Henry Fabian was the groundskeeper in the 1920s.
- In the winter of 1922-1923, the concrete double decks were extended all the way to either side of the new concrete catchers in center, housing the clubhouse. Unfortunately, the Roman Colosseum facade frescoes were removed during that winter also.
- Catchers remodeled 1923 in center.
- In 1929, the first attempt was made to wire the umpires for sound and connect them into the PA system. It didn’t work too well.
- A speaker above the Eddie Grant Memorial in 1931.
- Largest crowd 60,747 for Dodger double header in 1937.
- The Giants lost by forfeit the second game of a double header on September 26, 1942 because fans swarmed onto the field. The Giants were leading the Braves 5-2.

- Dedicated on May 30, 1921 to a former Giant killed in World War I, the Eddie Grant Memorial stood in center at the base of the clubhouse wall. It was 5 feet high. The Memorial reads:

    In Memory of
    Capt. Edward Leslie Grant
    307th Infantry - 77th Division
    A.E.F.
    Soldier - Scholar - Athlete
    Killed in action
    Argonne Forest
    October 5, 1918
    Philadelphia Nationals
    1907-1908-1909-1910
    Cincinnati Reds
    1911-1912-1913
    New York Giants
    1913-1914-1915
    Erected by friends in Baseball, Journalism, and the Service.

- On June 26, 1944, a three-sided game was played to raise money for World War II War Bonds before over 50,000 fans. The final score: Dodgers 5, Yankees 1, Giants 0.
- The first home run into the center field bleachers, over the screen, was hit by Luke Easter in a Negro league game in 1946. The second was struck by Joe Adcock of the Braves on April 29, 1953 off Jim Hearn. Only two others later managed this feat, on successive days on June 17 and 18, 1962: Lou Brock and Henry Aaron. No one ever hit the clubhouse wall, much less hit one over it.
- During the 1950’s, groundskeeper Matty Schwab and his family lived in an apartment under Section 3 of the left field stands built for him by Horace Stoneham. The apartment was the main bait in Mr. Stoneham’s successful offer to grab Mr. Schwab away from the hated Dodgers in 1950.
- A two foot square section of sod from center field was removed and taken to San Francisco in the fall of 1957.
- Home plate was moved out towards center several feet by the Mets in the winter of 1961-1962.
- During the Mets stay in 1962 and 1963, Johnny McCarth and his crew of groundskeepers painted Schwab’s four rooms pink, installed a shower and plywood on the floor and lockers, and called it their Pink Room.
- In 1962 and 1963, the Howard Clothes sign on the outfield wall promised a boat to any player hitting the sign.
- Demolition started on April 10, 1964 with wrecking ball that demolished Ebbets Field.
The Greatest Defensive Moment in Baseball History. The clubhouses and the ball club's front office were in center field. Twin staircases led the ballplayers from deepest center up to the clubhouse entrances. The clubhouse wall was 60 feet high. No one ever hit a ball over it. In fact, no ball ever struck the clubhouse wall on the fly. It was just to the right field side of the alley leading back to the clubhouse steps that Willie Mays made the greatest catch in the history of baseball.

There are those that say Mays made greater catches—and this alone is hard to believe—but we know he never made one more important. The Catch (a proper noun) in all likelihood won the Giants a World Series game. The score was tied 2-2 in the eighth inning, men on first and second, when the Catch was made. The Indians failed to score in the inning. Eyewitnesses (3,786,987 report being there) claim Wertz's shot was low, not a towering drive. Mays must have started heading for the place where the ball was going to come down while pitcher Don Liddle was winding up—and he probably would have made the Catch even if he weren't wearing a glove.

Track and field records are broken every day. All athletics have improved greatly in the last 35 years. Could today's slick young outfielder make the Catch routinely? We'll never know. There is no 460 right center anymore. The devaluation of the homer has limited our ability to measure an outfielder's skills.

Mays spun and threw a strike to second after the Catch. The Throw kept Indian base runner Larry Doby from scoring from second after tagging up.

Style: Major League Classic, Traditional Baseball Only
Capacity 57,545
Known as the "house that Ruth built".
Giants football team used to play here too.
Triple deck around entire park.
No parking close by. Good access by subway.
Neighborhood isn't the safest.
Still retains character of 1926. "Walk into the stadium and the black-and-white films come to life". - Mel Antonen
PHENOMENA

  
- Casey Stengel is said to have watched a long drive to center go past his center fielder, and bounce around behind the three monuments while his outfielder had troubles picking it up. Finally, Casey yelled, "Ruth, Gehrig, Huggins -- someone throw the ball."
  
- A ball hitting the foul pole in the 1930s was in play, not a homer.
  
- "Death Valley," in left center.
  
- Green curtain in center sometimes raised and lowered like a window shade to force visiting batters to face a background of white shirted bleacher fans but allow Yankee hitters to face a dark green background. Removed in World Series to sell more seats.
  
- Bleachers in right center often called Ruthville and Gehrigville.
  
- Warning track red cinders, later on red brick dust.
  
- Extra grass kept near monuments in center in play.
  
- Underneath second base in Yankee Stadium (I), there was a 15-foot-deep brick-lined vault with electrical, telephonic, and telegraphic connections for boxing events.
  
- As originally constructed, from May 5, 1922 to April 18, 1923, three concrete decks extended from behind home plate to each corner, with a single deck in left center, and wooden bleachers around the rest of the outfield.
  
- In the winter of 1927-1928, second and third decks were added to left center, and several rows of box seats were removed in left, extending the foul pole from 281 to 301.
  
- In the winter of 1936-1937, the wooden bleachers were replaced with concrete ones. During the 1937 season, second and third decks were added in right center. The bleacher changes shortened straight-away center from 490 to 461 and reduced capacity from the 80,000's to the 60,000's.
  
- As the outfield bench seats were gradually replaced with chair seats, in the 1930s and 1940s, the seating capacity gradually dropped from the 70,000's to 67,000.
SHIBE PARK, Philadelphia

Style: Major League Classic
Capacity 33,608
Opened April 12, 1909, expanded 1925.
Also known as Connie Mack Stadium.
First concrete and steel ballpark.
Rectangular in plan. The park's facades blended well with city that grew around it.
The exterior was built in a Beaux Arts Revival with a domed tower on the corner.
PHENOMENA

- The first concrete and steel stadium in the majors.
- Named for Ben Shibe, an A's stockholder and baseball manufacturer.
- French Renaissance church-like dome on exterior roof behind the plate which housed Connie Mack's office.
- Sod transplanted here from Columbia Park.
- Highest pitcher's mound — 20 inches high.
- Batting cage sat behind short fence in center when measurement was only 447.
- Corrugated iron fence in right — balls bounced at crazy angles off it.
- Conduit on right field wall was in play.
- Slopes in front of the outfield fences in early years.
- Ladder in front of left field scoreboard — went all the way to the top — 1909.
- In 1910, manager Connie Mack had Danny Murphy use opera glasses to steal signs from a building in right center and use a weather vane to signal A's hitters.
- Doubledecked in 1925; also in that year left field stands added.
- Mezzanine added in 1929.
- Loudest fans — Bull and Eddie Kessler in the 1930s.
- Right field wall reinforcement in 1934 reduced distance from 331 to 329 but sign wasn't changed until 1956.
- Before 1935, 20th Street residents could sit in their front bedroom or on the roof and see the game free over the 12 foot right field fence. Fans could see the lines of laundry on the roof of 20th Street houses. Connie Mack lost a suit to prevent this, so he built the high right field fence.
- A practice war-time blackout caused a sixty-five minute delay in a 1943 A's-Red Sox game.
- In 1956, the old Yankee Stadium scoreboard was installed on top of the right center wall, later a clock was added — balls hitting the clock were homers — top of clock 75 feet high.
- Ashburn's Ridge — a specially tailored area down the third base foul line which served to keep Richie Ashburn's bunts fair.
- Richie Allen was the only man ever to hit a ball over the 60 foot scoreboard in right center.
- In 1956, the normal screen was replaced by see-through plexiglass — protected the fans behind the plate from foul balls.
- Home plate moved to Veteran's Stadium in 1971.
- On its last day of use, October 1, 1970, with the fans unruly, a spectator ran onto the field and grabbed Phillies' left fielder Ron Stone just as an Expo batter hit a fly to left. Stone could not catch it, and the Expo batter scored, one of Montreal's two runs in a 2-1 10-inning victory.
- Fire damaged it on August 20, 1971.
- Torn down in June 1976.
COUNTY STADIUM, Milwaukee

Final home run of career (755th) hit here by the great Hank Aaron on July 20, 1976.

Style: 1950s Transitional
Capacity 46,625
Opened April 14, 1953
Natural turf
Has character of an old park. Good, wooden seats, close to the action.
Home to Hank Aaron.
Simple materials: brick, steel, and concrete.
Surrounded by parking. Freeway access is good.

PHENOMENA
- Surorver's mark on the right field foul pole reads "315.37."
- Low fence all around the outfield in 1953.
- Before the park was expanded, back in the 1950s and 1960s, hospital patients sat outside their rooms on a hill overlooking right field and watched the game for free.
- Perri's Woods, pine trees behind center field fence, replaced by bleachers in 1961.
- Braves Reservation, a picnic area down the left field line, inaugurated in 1961.
- Bleachers in the power alleys were added in the winter of 1961-1962.
- Bernie Brewer slides into a huge beer stein in right center whenever a Brewer hits a homer.
- Best bratwurst and best tailgate parties in baseball.
Where Bob Gibson suffered a broken leg by a baseball as Roberto Clemente's line drive knocks him off his feet in 1967.

"I stand at the plate in Philadelphia and I don't honestly know whether I'm in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, or Philly. They all look alike."

-Richie Hebner, former infielder, Philadelphia Phillies.
CANDLESTICK PARK, San Francisco

Style: Superstructure with natural grass
Capacity 59,083
"The worst ballpark in the National League" - Michael Benson
Chilly San Francisco summer makes watching games an exercise in survival. Wind makes it even worse.
Attractive park on a beautiful piece of land (too bad stadium is enclosed).
Access is poor. Takes a long time to get in or out. Lots of parking.
"Something crazy happens at least once every other game." - Rod Beaton
Strange shape comes from sharing ballpark with 49ers football team.
PHENOMENA
• Named for jagged rocks and trees which rise from the tidelands like giant candlesticks.
• Candlestick Point overlooks the park from a hill behind 3rd base.
• Many fans arrived by boat in 1960s.
• Before enclosed, so many fans would stream out of the bleachers in right center when Mays and McCovey batted and crowd up against the flimsy cyclone fence, that a white line was painted on the asphalt 20 feet behind the fence. Fans had to stand behind this line.
• Only heated open air stadium.
• Fifty-nine posts every 20 feet or so on the outfield fence can cause strange bounces — their tips extend 6 inches above the 9 foot wire fence.
• Wind, wind, and more wind! Before the stadium was enclosed, wind blew in from left center and out towards right center.
• Six Giants retired numbers on white baseballs on the right field fence.
• Maury's Lake — Basepath between first and second was drenched before the game to make it more difficult for Dodger Maury Wills to steal second.
• Umps protested location of foul poles completely in fat territory in 3rd inning of opening game on April 12, 1960.
• Stu Miller was blown off the mound by the wind in the 1961 All-Star game.
• The stadium was enlarged and fully enclosed in the winter of 1971-72.
• In the winter of 1978-79, the Giants ripped up their carpet and replaced it with grass.

"If I had to play here I'd think seriously of quitting baseball"

-Rocky Colavito
This space intentionally left blank in order to illustrate that no amount of statistics, dimensions or other technical data can show what a ballpark is about. What makes a ballpark come alive is the game of baseball, the playing of the game over a season or seasons. Ballparks are filled with memories; the highs, the lows, the excitement and the heartache. As yet, no games have been played at the new Comiskey Park. It won't be until the White Sox have played there for a few years that we can know what this park is like.

Style: Traditional Baseball Only
Capacity 43,000
Will open April 1991
Natural turf
Replaces old Comiskey Park. Located across street from it.
Ramp will mimic curve of old stadium.
Much bigger than original, although it will seat less.
Exterior uses arch motif from original Comiskey.
Switchback ramps and escalators should move crowds quickly.
Wide, wide concourses.
Players sing praises of new Comiskey

By Matt Antonen and Jerry Broukewalt
USA TODAY

CHICAGO — Comiskey
Park It was a hit with the hula
team despite the humiliation of
a 16-0 loss Thursday.

“Baseball because it
is small and has green
grass and dirt,” White
Sox shortstop
Ozzie Guillen said. “Toronto’s
Skydome) is like a shopping
center — too many distrac­tions.
Kansas City is nice, but it
turts.”

Reliever Donn Pall, who
grew up a White Sox fan, said
the new ballpark is spec­tacu­lar. “You don’t realize
you’re in Chicago,” Pall said. “It’s
Field of Dreams where a
stadium just sprouted up. I’m glad I
have footage of me pitching in
old Comiskey Park.”

Fans, on the other hand,
gave the new Comiskey Park
mixed reviews.

Likes: Width of aisles and
concourses, sight lines, cleanliness,
palatial skyboxes and the
brightness and freshness of a
new arena.

Dislikes: Long lines at both
food counters and men’s rest­roons, slow elevators,
cramped seats, scarcity of food
vendors in the aisles... not to
mention the embarrassing 16-0
loss to the Detroit Tigers.

“Comiskey Park is built for
the rich. We have season
tickets in the upper deck, and
there’s not an inch to spare be­tween seats. The best thing is
it’s still on the south side,” said
Jim Rigby of suburban Mort­ton
Grove.

“I’d much rather be in Wrig­ley Field,” said John Kennedy,
“We’re closer to the players
there. In (Comiskey Park’s)
upper deck, you’re so far away
from the field, you can’t tell
which uniforms the players are
wearing.”

The variety of food tem­pered annoyance at long lines.

“The food choices were great.
Some woman said to me, ‘Look
at the beautiful park they built
inside this restaurant’” said
Steve Link.

FAST FACTS

> After opening the season with
six consecutive wins, the White
Sox have allowed 29 runs in their
two losses.

> Pall gave up eight runs in the
White Sox’s worst lost since

> The game was Detroit’s biggest
victory margin since an 18-6
statement against Milwaukee

> The White Sox became the fifth
team to be shut out in their
home opener this season. The others
were Houston, Seattle, Cleveland
and Milwaukee.

Firsts in the new Comiskey Park

First pitch: Jack McDowell,
Chicago Ion two
Batter: Tony Phillips, Detroit
(flied out to LF Cory Snyder)
Hit: Alan Trammell, Detroit (on
second lined)
Double: John Shelby, Detroit
Triple: Tony Phillips, Detroit
Home run: Carlos Delgado, Detroit
(3-run to right in third inning)
Batters: Tim Raines, Chicago
(batted third)
Walk:风H sidewalks, Chicago
Runs: Travis Fryman, Detroit
Ties: Alan Trammell (single to
right)
Team bases: Lou Whitaker,
Detroit
First relief pitcher: Brian Drahman,
Chicago
PILOT FIELD, Buffalo

Style: Minor League
Opened April 14, 1988
Capacity 19,500
Set all-time minor league season attendance record in first year.
"A gorgeous new ballpark... Best new ballpark in a long time" - Michael Benson.
Urban site, surrounded by city.
Old look with all the modern amenities.
Pennant-topped cupolas, similar to Ebbets Field.
Unusual Forfeits

Griffith Stadium  August 15, 1941  Senators lost to Red Sox because ground crew was unnecessarily slow in covering the field during a rainstorm with the Senators leading 6-3.

Comiskey Park  July 12, 1979  White Sox lost 2nd game to Tigers on Disco Demolition Night; when rock 'n roll fans destroyed the field as well as disco records after the first game.

Cleveland Stadium  June 4, 1974  Indians lost to Rangers as Ten Cent Beer Night fans stormed the field in the bottom of the 9th with the score tied 5-5 and two Indians on base.

RFK Stadium  September 30, 1971  Senators lost to Yankees despite leading 7-5 with 2 out in the top of the 9th as fans stormed the field in the last Senators home game before moving to Texas.

Washington Park in Brooklyn  October 14, 1899  Orioles lost to Dodgers when Oriole right fielder Sheckard refused to leave the field after having attacked umpire Hunt, who had called him out stealing second and then ejected him for arguing.

American League Park in Baltimore  July 17, 1902  Home team Orioles failed to show up to play a regularly scheduled contest with the Browns. After five minutes, the umps gave the game to St. Louis.

Lights Moved from Park to Park: Ebbets Field, Brooklyn moved to Downing Stadium on Randall’s Island, N.Y.

Fences Moved Most Often: Cleveland Stadium, Braves Field, Griffith Stadium, Kansas City Municipal Stadium
**The Intrigue Behind Ballpark Indictments**

Political enmities add extra zest to stadium study, which predicts woes for S.F. traffic. A recent report says an improved Candlestick Park would be at Chinatown, and a new report says not. A city commission is studying the site.

**Why San Francisco Is Losing Out**

Many people work hard to defeat the proposed site, and it's been lost in the past.

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**Panel's Site for New Stadium**

It's a good alternative to Candlestick Park. Booster calls baseball 'The Working People's Opera.'

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**Agency Set Up in South Bay To Build Stadium for Giants**

"This is the damnestest city I ever saw in my life. They cheer Khrushchev and boo Willie Mays."

--Frank Conniff, National Editor of Hearst Newspapers, September 1959.
At the end of the 1994 baseball season, the San Francisco Giants' lease at Candlestick Park will expire. Citing various reasons for wanting to leave Candlestick, Giants owner, Mr. Robert Lurie has threatened to relocate his team outside of San Francisco unless the City of San Francisco commits to the building of a new ballpark. Surrounded by water on the West, North, and East, and bordered by San Mateo County to the South, the City of San Francisco was faced with a finite amount of land available to develop into a ballpark site. After studying a number of potential locations, the City chose the latest proposed site, located in an underutilized industrial district along China Basin, neighboring the Mission Bay District. In January of 1989, a proposal was submitted to the City and County of San Francisco by Spectacor Management Group of Philadelphia, for the design, construction and management of a baseball stadium and a sports arena.

"Anything that costs as much as a stadium, and that has such an impact on the city-physically, socially and economically-automatically enters the realm of politics". The China Basin ballpark is no exception. When first put on the ballot in San Francisco, as Proposition W, the ballpark was defeated in 1987 53-47%. Proposition W had been poorly worded and then-mayor Dianne Feinstein was not wholly supportive of the issue. Replacing Feinstein, Mayor Art Agnos was much more supportive of the ballpark and a new initiative, Proposition P, was scheduled to be placed on the November 1989 ballot. In the meantime Spectacor had been selected as the developer for the project, but by now the many special interest groups in San Francisco became involved in the campaign.

The proposed baseball stadium would be constructed in conjunction with a 20,000-seat sports arena, located approximately five blocks to the southwest of the ballpark site, and a 1,500-car parking structure, with leasable commercial space, located adjacent to the proposed ballpark. The ballpark would be located on an 11-acre site bounded by China Basin, Second, King, and Third Streets, and will have a seating capacity of 45,000 to 48,000 seats, which include 120 luxury suites and 2,000 premium seats. The ballpark will also contain a stadium club (a membership restaurant and bar), Giants management offices, a sports museum and leasable commercial space.

The principal use for the ballpark will be for the home of the San Francisco Giants who will play major league baseball on up to 81 dates during the regular season of play, lasting from the beginning of April to the end of September. The majority of these games will be played on weeknights or weekends. Additionally, the ballpark is expected to host an average of seven other major events per year such as concerts, boat shows, truck pulls, etc.
The proposed China Basin site is located at the northern edge of the Mission Bay district; a new neighborhood replacing an underutilized industrial district. Projected to take 20 to 30 years to complete, the neighborhood would be a mixed-use area of housing, commercial, retail, hotel, educational, public services, and open green spaces. "It is the mixed-use nature of Mission Bay that will ultimately allow it to become viable." The development of Mission Bay will answer many of the region's needs for housing, secondary office space, etc. One important thing to note about the Mission Bay plan is the exclusion of the China Basin ballpark site from the master plan. It could be inferred that the City fully intended to use the China Basin site for the ballpark, and knowingly excluded it from the Mission Bay plan. It may be argued, then, that the ballpark and the Mission Bay Project were intended to coexist, thus creating a unique neighborhood with its own identity in San Francisco.

The Mission Bay project lies at the heart of the arguments against the proposed downtown ballpark. Faced with a severe shortage of affordable housing, "defined by the City government as something that can be afforded by those with a household income of $50,000 a year". The proponents of the Mission Bay project see proceeding with the ballpark as ignoring the current and future needs of the city, claiming the ballpark proposal conflicts with planning decisions previously made for the area. Ballpark supporters claim that the ballpark would displace only one block of market-rate housing, which San Francisco has an abundance of.

The location of the ballpark is ideal as a transitional zone between a residential neighborhood and a light industrial area. Perhaps the housing that might have been planned for that area was improperly located. Not to say that housing cannot coexist with a ballpark, but perhaps it should be on a smaller, more intimate scale such as above businesses, not in large apartment houses or complexes.

Parking is one of the major concerns related to the proposed ballpark. The City estimates that currently 87% of the Candlestick Park patrons arrive by automobile. The goal of the City is to reduce that number at the new ballpark to 80% on weekends and 70% on weekday games. The developer, Spectacor Management Group, who manages 19 other sports and special events facilities around the country, observed a vehicle occupancy of between 3.00 and 3.20 persons per vehicle at its facilities. Using these figures, 12,000 parking spaces are required for the ballpark alone. The City of San Francisco study maintains that 13,500 spaces will be provided, located in garages, lots, and surrounding core areas. Opponents argue that Candlestick Park, with 59,083 seats for baseball, has 20,000 parking spaces, and that the 13,500 spaces provided by the new ballpark plan are insufficient. The opponents claim this shortage will have severe impacts on adjacent neighborhoods during ballgames.

There is no doubt that the lack of parking and increased traffic
will have an impact on the neighborhood surrounding the ballpark. The residents must see to it that the City fulfills its promises that all forms of mass transportation will be available to the ballpark patrons on game days. There must be an effort to make sure no vacant lots remain as parking, thus encouraging people to drive to the ballpark on game days and destroying the careful planning that went into the Mission Bay Plan.

Impacts on traffic are another concern for nearby residents of the ballpark. The ballpark would be served primarily by the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (Interstate 80) to the East, and the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101) and the John F. Foran Freeway (Interstate 280) to the South. Traffic from Marin County, north of San Francisco, would reach the city via the Golden Gate Bridge, but would be dispersed through the city street system before reaching the ballpark.

The City report claims that with the new China Basin ballpark, access to these highways and bridges would be more convenient and will "result in less impact on the regional highway and bridge network than... an equal number of fans at Candlestick Park". The opponents argue that the ballpark will increase traffic congestion on all bridges and highways, sometimes causing traffic jams lasting up to five hours on game days.

However, the proposed development plan would greatly expand the public transit systems which would serve the downtown ballpark, possibly eliminating many unwelcome traffic problems. Phillip Bess, principal of Thursday Architects in Chicago, and member of the Society for American Baseball Research, says that a successful, traditional urban ballpark is accessible by foot and/or public transportation to some of its patrons. This is what distinguishes it from a suburban ballpark, which you must drive to. It is hoped by the developers and the City, that by increasing public transportation alternatives, fewer people will drive to the park eliminating the traffic and parking concerns of the Mission Bay district. The City proposes two rail and six bus routes for regular service, and special rail, bus, and trolley service as well as ferries to the east, north, and southbay regions on game days.

The people living and working near the stadium would be wise to take advantage of the fact that about 80 times each year there will be 20,000 people in the area. What opportunities would this create for a businessman if these people walked past his doorway? What are the potentials for free national advertising connected to broadcasting games on national television? The opportunities are there, the neighbors can either ignore or take advantage of them.

The San Franciscans for Planning Priorities claim the ballpark poses a threat to the proposed housing solutions; that the housing areas would be subject to "increased traffic congestion;... noise; glare from night lighting; significant shadows from a 100 foot high structure..." Once again referring to the Mission Bay plan, the immediate area surrounding the ballpark site is either currently
light industrial use, or is intended to be for office or hotel use, or open space. These uses should not be threatened by the ballpark and could possibly benefit from being located near it.

"Good cities are typified by a dense and complex arrangement of buildings distinguished by the proximity to one another of dwellings, places of work and commerce, recreational facilities, parks and gardens, and institutions... Streets and blocks permit diverse activities to coexist adjacent to one another in complex and satisfying ways."

Urban ballparks can fit into the fabric of the city becoming important civic enterprises, with which a neighborhood can relate to, helping to create a neighborhood with identity. The traditional urban ballpark, by conforming to the preexisting pattern of streets and blocks, forced early ballpark designers to respond to the surrounding neighborhood, preserving the character and density of the neighborhood. One only need to look at photographs of Shibe Park in Philadelphia, Wrigley Field in Chicago, Fenway Park in Boston, and Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to see how the urban ballpark can enhance a neighborhood, not threaten it. In keeping with the modest scale of the neighborhood, the urban ballpark would be smaller and simpler to construct, resulting in a more intimate park, with the idiosyncracies and character of the old ballparks.

It is often claimed that an urban stadium can bring an increase in land values (such is the case at Wrigley Field) and economic vitality to its neighborhood.

"While stadium 'trickle-down'benefits to the neighborhood represent an important component of the orthodox stadium rationale... A stadium is not usually enough of a significant development to anchor an area's economy alone. Rather, in considering the revitalization of an urban neighborhood, a number of potential economic anchors should be developed simultaneously...Commercial ventures require (pedestrian traffic. The Stadium can provide infusions of people, but residential development incorporated with commercial development will ensure a balanced, non-seasonal clientele for businesses in the stadium neighborhood.

Accordingly the China Basin ballpark will only be successful in creating a neighborhood identity if it is built as part of the Mission Bay project. The City of San Francisco was short-sighted, but politically tactful in not providing for the ballpark in the Mission Bay Master Plan.

The City would be required to purchase and supply, at no cost to Spectacor, the land for the proposed ballpark. Currently the site is owned by the Port of San Francisco and the California Department of Transportation. The City is hoping to acquire the parcel in a land swap to minimize the cost.

It is estimated by Spectacor that the ballpark will cost $95.9
million to construct. The financing of the structure would be from three sources: (1) the proposal calls for cash (equity) of approximately $19.2 million from Spectacor Management Group, derived from the sale of concession rights, advertising interests, and transactions with scoreboard manufacturers, and $12.8 million from prepaid deposits on luxury seating, (2) $52 million in tax exempt public bonds, and (3) $42.2 million in loans on taxable bonds. In addition, the City will be required to lease the ballpark for $2.0 million per year for 10 years. This $20 million will cover deficiencies in cash flow and income. "Spectacor Management Group is further prepared to treat any payments made pursuant to the... lease as a loan from the City... to be repaid from a portion of the net cash flow of the Stadium. We (Spectacor) would further propose that such cash flows be split 75% to Spectacor Management Group and 25% to the City."

In other words, after the City provides $94.2 million from the sale of public bonds for the construction of the ballpark, it must also provide an additional $20 million over ten years to keep Spectacor from operating the ballpark at a loss. The $20 million will be repaid each year out of the cash flow of the ballpark, provided it is a positive one, and after Spectacor takes it's 75%. However Spectacor does not foresee such a profit for the first ten years of operation.

The construction loans are based on a 30 year debt. The outstanding balance due the City at the end of that period would be approximately $81.4 million. Spectacor is prepared, at that time, to transfer title to and ownership of the ballpark to the City in consideration for cancellation of the loan balance.

"The economics of stadiums are such that two things can be said for certain: stadiums cost piles of money and they don't pay for themselves". The costs of construction are so high, a team must rely on high attendance and sometimes concession sales to break even. Stadiums need support from other sources, both internal and external. Most stadiums in the country are big money losers.

Spectacor's figures illustrate that the ballpark will not be a lucrative venture for the City of San Francisco. Opponents of the ballpark argue that the City's money could be better spent building much-needed housing in the Mission Bay project and rebuilding areas damaged by the October 17, 1989 earthquake.

Some San Franciscans believe the earthquake was a major factor in defeating the China Basin ballpark initiative. Occurring two weeks before the election, the earthquake took attention away from the ballpark campaign. It wasn't until October 23 that articles, once a daily issue, began appearing in the Chronicle again.

A last-minute flyer opposing Proposition P, and favoring Proposition V, an initiative to study renovating Candlestick Park, is credited with dealing the China Basin ballpark it's final blow. It was later discovered that Gregg Lukenbill, a Sacramento
developed, had sponsored the flyer in an attempt to draw the Giants to Sacramento. (Sacramento is currently building a baseball-only stadium and has not yet secured a team to play in it.) Lukenbill and four others were indicted in April 1990 for alleged campaign-law violation in connection with the last-minute flyer. On November 7, 1989 Proposition P was rejected by the voters of San Francisco, 86,732 against, 84,755 supporting it.

"Stadiums are like pyramids. There is a political demand to have them around with no regard for their return on investment". A stadium can be a source of civic pride (or resentment). It is surely a landmark which every visitor to the city will see. It is often thought that a world-class city must have the arts-opera, ballet, symphony, theater; good libraries and museums; and it must be home to one or more major league professional sports teams. The sports teams are the one thing that unites the most people from across the social spectrum. In order to promote their city as a major-league player, many municipalities have proposed building stadiums to entice teams to move (St. Petersburg's new $103 million Suncoast Dome has no team to play in it yet). Unfortunately this means that the city government will usually foot the bill for the stadium, with no help from the team who calls it home.

Relying on public monies to build the ballpark in San Francisco, the Giants are not being asked to provide any funds for their new home. A privately funded ballpark, perhaps paid for by the team, like Joe Robbie and Dodger Stadiums, would make the team less likely to move in search of a better offer. This would also relieve the local government of an incredible financial burden. There are many who think private financing of stadia is the way of the future. With a privately financed ballpark the community still receives the benefit of "the commercial spinoff from the games. The public treasury receives revenue from property taxes that the team pays on its facility, and the team is tied to the community through financial self-interest. It cannot walk away from a stadium that it owns". Perhaps private financing is the best hope for keeping the Giants in San Francisco. This would make the project much more attractive to many voters, however with intense competition among cities for major league baseball teams, it would only be love of the City which keeps Bob Lurie's Giants in San Francisco.

Perhaps the biggest stumbling block for this project is public fear. While not yet having a neighborhood to be disrupted, potential neighbors of the China Basin ballpark are concerned that the park will cause a deterioration of the neighborhood. They only need look to Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum's (the architects of the proposed China Basin ballpark) New Comiskey Park in Chicago to see their fears justified. The replacement to the oldest ballpark in the country sits in a 115-acre parking lot which used to be a 120-year-old district. Businesses and low-income housing were demolished in order to make room for the parking." Such a condition could easily happen in San Francisco if the master plan is not adhered to. The Giants could demand parking; would the City
give in to this demand, bending over backwards to accommodate the team?

The fears of neighborhood deterioration are further justified when Rick deFlon, of HOK, project designer for the new Comiskey Park, says "I'm a dinky stadium architect. I'm not trying to design cities". What about civic monuments, urban space and the scale of cities? How can anybody think that a project as large and costly as a ballpark will not affect the city around it? The first thing to realize is that the ballpark will have a far-reaching effect on the city and then to act responsibly towards the city's needs.

Urban ballparks can either contribute or take away from their context. They shape space around them, and at the same time their shapes are derived from their surroundings, much the same way an office building or apartment house does. If the ballpark is built as soon as the Giants would like, then it will become a focal point. Most of the old urban ballparks were built in areas that saw the city grow around them. There is no reason this can't happen in China Basin. Being at the south terminus of The Embarcadero, the ballpark could and should become a similar counterpart to Fisherman's Wharf and The Cannery, both popular destination points at the northern end. With the much-hated double-decker Embarcadero Freeway currently being torn down after suffering damage in the 1989 earthquake, we should expect that the tourist/shopping district will extend south to China Basin.

When a project of this nature is proposed, it is natural for the public to be uneasy. The most recent examples of urban ballparks are good reason to be concerned. History illustrates how a ballpark can become a boon to a neighborhood, and the residents should be demanding that the new park be as responsive to the area as the parks of yesteryear. Any change in a community can be a threat, but it can also be a positive force in the viability of the community. A ballpark can be that force, provided the designers understand what the implications are. The values placed on such things as place, scale, identity, and context are what should ultimately be behind all civic monuments, baseball parks included.


GENERAL NOTES

LEGEND

- BASE LINES, BATTER'S BOX, CATCHER'S BOX, FOUL LINE
- COACHES' BOX, PITCHER'S PLATE, HOME BASE
- NEXT BATTER'S BOX
- BASE LINES 1 to 2 1/2 to 3 1/2
- GRASS LINES
- DIMENSION LINES
- DIMENSION LINES

OFFICIAL MEASUREMENTS
FOR LAYING OUT BASEBALL FIELD

USE THIS DRAWING IN CONNECTION WITH DETAILED LAYOUT DRAWING SHEET

DIAGRAM NO. 1
BALLPARK DESIGN PROGRAM

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this program is to outline the general requirements for the construction of a baseball stadium in downtown San Francisco, California. The ballpark shall be designed to accommodate major league professional baseball.

This facility shall be competitive in all respects with professional ballparks constructed or under construction. The design shall meet the requirements of all applicable building codes and ordinances.

The basic form of the structure shall provide seating related to the desirable for viewing of baseball. The seating shall be as close to the playing as desirable, sightlines shall be optimum, and viewing unobstructed by the structure. The ballpark shall have a minimum of two seating levels and shall have a seating capacity that can accommodate 45,000 fans for baseball. Each level shall be served by concessions stands, vendors' commissaries, and toilets. Additional stadium facilities shall be provided as outlined in the Ballpark Requirements.

Areas designated in the program as tenant finish are not to be finished and equipped within the initial budget for the ballpark construction. These areas are assumed to be finished and equipped under separate budgets of the Owner or a third party such as a concessionaire or resident team. The program assumes the tenant finish areas are funded in a timely manner that allows construction of the tenant finish areas to proceed in conjunction with the basic ballpark construction.

SITE REQUIREMENTS

1. An easily understandable circulation and pedestrian movement system focusing on the ballpark entrances shall be strongly delineated and allow maximum flexibility, efficient movement, and freedom of choice of entrance at the perimeter. Clearly defined pedestrian walks leading to the ballpark shall be provided. Reinforcement of the circulation system shall be achieved with street furniture, flagpoles, landscaping and lighting.

2. An emergency vehicle access drive shall be provided entirely around the ballpark structure.

3. Appropriate graphics, safety and control devices, and equipment to aid vehicular and pedestrian movement shall be provided.
4. All storm drainage and utilities shall be provided in accordance with applicable codes and ordinances.

BALLPARK REQUIREMENTS

1. SPECTATOR FACILITIES

A. Seating

Approximately 45,000 seats shall be attached to concrete risers. All seats shall be self-rising with arms. The minimum seat width shall be 19 inches for armchair seating.

Minimum sightline clearance shall be 2-1/2 inches above the eye level of the spectator in the preceding row. Minimum tread width in seating areas shall be 32 inches. The first row of seats shall be no less than 2'-0" above the field for baseball. Riser height shall vary from 6 inches minimum to 21 inches maximum. The maximum number of seats per row between two aisles shall be 24. The minimum aisle width with seats on both sides shall be 44 inches.

Handrails shall be provided at all vertical aisles in the upper level stands, at portals, and at the front of all seating sections.

B. Public Toilets

Toilet rooms shall be provided for men and women at every concourse level and be appropriately distributed. The ratio of spectators to fixtures shall be based on 50% male and 50% female attendance. Fixtures shall be provided based on the following ratios:

(1) Lavatories: 1 per 300 men  
1 per 200 women

(2) Waterclosets: 1 per 500 men  
1 per 100 women

(3) Urinals: 1 per 125 men

Mirrors with shelves, soap dispenser, shelves above lavatories, paper dispensers, and toilet partitions shall be provided in the public toilets. Purse holders in women's units shall be provided. An attendant closet with a service sink, hot and cold water, and storage shall be provided for every public toilet room.

Appropriate toilet facilities, including grab bars, etc. shall be provided adjacent to wheelchair seating areas.

All toilet rooms shall be equipped with general lighting and exhaust. Cold water service only shall be provided for all public toilet rooms. Electrical heat units shall be provided.
C. Concession Stands (Tenant Finish)

The following shall be subject to the recommendations and/or reasonable desires of the concessionaire. The finishes and equipment at these spaces shall be provided as a separate contract by the Owner. However, the following are concession requirements for the ballpark design:

(1) The following items shall be included in the base contract for the Ballpark Construction:

a. Concession stands shall be located at all concourse levels and appropriately distributed and shall consist of three wall enclosures and roofs. The wall construction shall not be provided on the concourse side of the concession stands. Space for one serving station of approximately 5 linear feet shall be provided for each 300 spectators.

b. Each concession stand shall be provided with floor drains, cold water taps and sanitary drain taps.

c. Electrical service will be available at the nearest accessible electrical room. Empty conduit risers from the main switch board to the electrical rooms shall be provided.

d. Exhaust risers will be provided for future exhaust systems.

(2) The following items are included under separate contract:

a. Completion of the concession stand including a counter and security door or screen as may be required on the concourse side.

b. Equipment such as cookers, warmers, beverage storage, freezers, coolers, plumbing fixtures, and the hook-up of same.

c. The extension and completion of the required exhaust systems.

d. General lighting, space heating, and water heating equipment.

e. The extension and completion of the plumbing and electrical services.

f. Other equipment as may be necessary to provide a workable operation.

D. Novelty Stands (Tenant Finish)

Permanent novelty stands shall be appropriately distributed throughout the facility.

E. Vendors Commissaries (Tenant Finish)

These facilities for food handling and storage shall be located on all concourse levels and appropriately distributed. The
Commissaries shall be designed to provide service based on one vendor per 200 spectators and a minimum of 15 square feet per vendor.

(1) The following items shall be included in the base contract for the Ballpark Construction:

a. Each vendor's commissary unit shall consist of four walls with roof.

b. Each unit shall contain floor drains, cold water taps, and sanitary drain taps.

c. Electrical service will be available at the nearest accessible electrical room. Empty conduit risers from main switch board to the electrical room shall be provided.

d. Exhaust risers will be provided for future exhaust systems.

(2) The following items shall be provided under separate contract:

a. Fixed equipment such as cookers, warmers, beverage storage, freezers, coolers, plumbing fixtures, and the hook-up of same.

b. The extension and completion of the required exhaust systems.

c. General lighting, space heating, and water heating as may be required.

d. The extension and completion of electrical services.

e. Other equipment as may be required to provide a workable operation.

F. Public Telephones

Space and conduit for public telephones shall be provide at all concourse levels.

G. Ticket Windows

A minimum of 30 windows for event ticket sales shall be provided for baseball events. Handrails for crowd control shall be provided.

Ticket window spaces shall include work areas, counters, cash drawers, changeable letter panels, heating, cooling, lighting and electrical outlets. Toilet facilities for sale personnel shall be provided convenient to window spaces.

An additional 6 windows for advanced ticket sales shall be included. Advance sale windows shall be conveniently located, accessible from within the stadium, and adjacent to the ticket office where appropriate.
H. Turnstiles

Reversible, registering turnstiles and space for ticket takers shall be provided. One turnstile for each 1500 seats shall be provided. Turnstiles shall be covered to provide protection from precipitation. Railings for crowd control shall be provided. Storage space for checking or confiscation of items not permitted in the ballpark shall be provided. An exit turnstile shall be provided at each major entrance.

I. Ballpark Suites (Tenant Finish)

A minimum of 72 suites shall be provided at the suite level. These facilities shall be enclosed lounge spaces, with operable glazing on the field side. Cold water taps, sanitary riser taps, capacities for individually controlled fan coil units, electrical panel board capacity, television cable and stadium audio system provisions shall all be provided under base contract and completed under a separate suite construction contract.


Provided office facilities for the permanent ballpark security force as well as a command post for the game day security force. This space shall be equipped with two small temporary detention rooms, capable of holding 10 persons each, and a toilet room.

K. First Aid - 2000 Sq. Ft.

A facility for emergency medical treatment shall contain office spaces for a physician and nurse, cot room to accommodate patients, waiting room, toilet and storage rooms. Medical equipment and supplies are not included. access to ambulance parking through non public areas shall be provided.

L. Drinking Fountains

Frostproof, non-refrigerated drinking fountains shall be provided at all concourse levels. Refrigerated drinking fountains shall be provided for the team locker rooms, press and administration areas.

M. Sound Systems

A complete sound system shall serve the entire ballpark to include distributed loudspeaker system, auxiliary speakers for concourses, lockers, offices, etc., for event announcing, paging, music, and broadcasting. Tenant finish spaces will be provided with conduit feed for extension of sound system under separate contracts. Video time delay controls shall be provided as part of the scoreboard systems.

N. Elevators

Elevators (freight and passenger) shall serve all levels of the
ballpark. The freight elevator shall be approximately 8'-4" X 12'-0", 10,000 pounds capacity, and 75 F.P.M. speed. Passenger elevators shall be approximately 5'-4" X 8'-5", 4,500 pounds capacity, and 350 F.P.M.

O. Graphics

Coordinated graphics and signage shall be included for the entire ballpark. Provide signing as follows:

1. Identification of ballpark entrances, including ticket booths, turnstiles, and special entrances.
2. Signage within the ballpark to indicate concourse levels, seating sections, aisles, rows, and seat numbers.
3. Identification of toilet rooms, first aid, exits, and other public facilities.
4. Identification of concession facilities is not included; however, concession stand signage shall be coordinated with the total graphics program.
5. Site signage is included in Site Requirements.

P. Lighting

Adequate general illumination shall be provided throughout the ballpark for concourses, stairs, portals, etc.

2. PRESS FACILITIES

Press box facilities accommodating the news media shall be provided. Permanent facilities will be oriented within the ballpark for baseball.

The press box facilities shall be provided with appropriate HVAC systems, electrical systems, telephone systems, television systems and sound systems.

Open-tray conduit for TV cables shall be provided from all TV camera and broadcasting booth locations to TV van parking locations.

The following areas shall be included in the press box:

A. Working Press - 3,000 Sq. Ft.

Stations for approximately 100 writers shall be provided. This area shall contain built-in writing counters, electrical outlets, telephone outlets, sound system, and closed circuit television. Coat racks, chairs and book lockers for writers will be provided.

B. TV Broadcasting - 320 Sq. Ft. (4 required)
Four TV broadcasting booths with built-in counters, electrical outlets, telephone outlets, special acoustical treatment on walls and ceiling. Space for two home plate cameras.

C. Radio Broadcasting - 100 Sq. Ft. (3 required)

Three broadcasting booths with built-in counters, electrical outlets, special acoustical treatment on walls and ceiling.

D. Team executives - 120 Sq. Ft. (2 required)

Enclosed spaces for home and visiting Team Executives shall contain built-in writing counter and phone connections.

E. Film - 250 Sq. Ft. (10 spaces 2 required)

Spaces for press and team photographers shall be part of the working press space.

F. Owner's Box - 400 Sq. Ft. (Tenant Finish)

For use by the baseball tenant, this space shall be adjacent to the press box and provide seating for approximately 20 people. All special interior finishes shall be provided by the team owner.

G. VIP Box - 320 Sq. Ft.

For use by the visiting team owners and guests, shall be adjacent to the press box and provided space for 20 people.

H. Scoreboard Operator - 240 Sq. Ft.

Space only shall be provided. All wiring, control panels, and other equipment required for operation of the scoreboard equipment shall be provided by the scoreboard company.

I. Public Address - 100 Sq. Ft.

This area shall include space for announcer with another space for the public address engineer, assistants, and public address equipment. The spaces shall contain built-in counter and all controls and miscellaneous equipment required for the public address system serving the entire ballpark.

J. Workroom - 240 Sq. Ft.

Space adjacent to the working press shall be provided for statisticians, document reproduction and telecopy equipment.

K. Press Club - 1,750 Sq. Ft.

For press personnel, this facility shall contain a dining room seating approximately 100 persons and rough-in plumbing and electrical service for food and beverage service. Equipment and
hook-up of same shall be provided by the Concessionaire.

L. Toilets

Separate toilet facilities for men, and women press shall be provided.

The following areas shall be provided at appropriate locations within the facility:

A. Darkroom/Photographers Work Room - 200 Sq. Ft. (2 required)

Located at field level, darkrooms are to be provided with rough-in electrical and plumbing. Additional equipment shall be provided by others.

B. Player Interview Room - 300 Sq. Ft. each (2 required)

Spaces for interview for TV broadcasts shall be provided at field level convenient to both home and visitor locker rooms. These rooms shall be accessible by TV cable tray and electrical requirements shall be provided.

C. Camera Platforms

Platforms for television cameras for home plate, base paths, and other key locations as appropriate.

D. TV Van Parking

Parking for TV vans shall be provided adjacent to the stadium as close as possible to the press box facilities as feasible. Adjacent electrical and telephone terminal cabinets and cable tray access shall be provided. The TV networks shall be consulted.

E. TV Studio Production Facilities - 1,200 Sq. Ft.

Space adjacent to TV van parking shall be provided.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

A. Baseball Management - 20,000 Sq. Ft. (Tenant Finish)

Administrative office with electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning.

(1) Baseball Tenant
(2) Baseball Ticket Sales

B. Ballpark Management

Finished administrative space and lobby complete with finish walls, floors, ceilings, general lighting, heating and air conditioning shall be provided.
4. **STADIUM CLUB**

The construction of a Stadium Club (membership restaurant) shall be provided within the ballpark in addition to the concession stands. The Stadium Club shall provide facilities for a minimum of 300 patrons.

5. **TEAM FACILITIES**

All team facilities shall be located at the field level and have direct access to the playing field. Passenger elevators shall provide direct access to the Press Box and Administrative Offices. Visiting locker rooms shall be complete unless otherwise indicated to include heating, air conditioning, finished walls, carpeted floors, ceilings, and general lighting. Space only with electrical, plumbing and HVAC capacities shall be provided for home baseball locker rooms.

A service tunnel for access by truck or bus (minimum 11'-0 clear) shall be provided to the team locker facilities shall be provided.

A. **Home Baseball Clubhouse - 12,000 Sq. Ft. (Tenant Finish)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>Locker room (50 lockers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Shower and toilet room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Player Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Training room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>Coaches' locker room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Equipment storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>Laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Meeting Room for coaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Managers Office and locker room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Video Coaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **Visitor's Clubhouse - (2) each at 4,600 Sq. Ft.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>Locker room (50 lockers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>Shower and toilet room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Training room - training equipment by others</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Coaches' locker room</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) General Storage</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Manager</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Umpires' Locker Room - 600 Sq. Ft.
Separate locker rooms shall be provided for umpires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square Feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Locker room including lockers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Shower and toilet room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Internal Batting Tunnel - 2,500 Sq. Ft.
Provide space for two internal batting tunnels at the service level with free access to the home baseball locker and dugout.

E. X-Ray Room - 200 Sq. Ft.
Provide space only adjacent to team facilities with direct access from the field. Provisions to be made for x-ray equipment.

F. Family Waiting Room - 500 Sq. Ft.
Space to be provided for lounge and toilet to be used by player relatives.

6. BALLPARK SERVICE FACILITIES

The ballpark service facilities shall be located within the ballpark, as appropriate. Access by service vehicles shall be provided to all facilities including the freight elevators.

A. Commissary - 17,000 Sq. Ft. (Tenant Finish)
Enclosed space for development of offices, food handling, food preparation, and storage facilities. Finishing and equipment for this space and equipment hook-up shall be provided by the Concessionaire.

B. Commissary Lockers - 2,000 Sq. Ft. (Tenant Finish)
Space for toilet and dressing facilities and uniform storage for male and female employees. Finishing of this area by the Concession contract.
C. Ballpark Personnel Lockers - 2,000 Sq. Ft.
Adequate toilet, dressing areas, lockers, and uniform storage facilities for male and female ballpark employees such as ushers as usherettes, guards and ticket sellers.

D. Ballpark Maintenance - 5,000 Sq. Ft.
Facilities for general maintenance of the Ballpark. Electrical outlets and plumbing are included.

E. Maintenance Locker - 1,000 Sq. Ft.
Lockers and toilet/shower facilities for ballpark maintenance personnel and field maintenance personnel.

F. Field Maintenance Storage - 5,000 Sq. Ft.
Provided for storage of equipment and materials required for maintenance of the playing field. General lighting and security fence shall be provided. This area must be within the ballpark and adjacent to the playing field.

G. Field Maintenance Office - 200 Sq. Ft.
Office for field maintenance supervisor with adjacent toilet and locker facilities. The space shall be enclosed, finished, heated, air conditioned, and lighted. A janitor closet with service sink shall be adjacent to the office.

H. Loading Dock
A truck dock with manual dock levelers shall be provided at the entrance to the service facilities. The dock shall be adjacent to the concessions facilities, the freight elevators and available for use by maintenance personnel.

I. Trash Compactor/Trash Container
Space for a mechanical, self-loading trash compactor/container permanently located at the exterior loading dock for processing all refuse.

J. Miscellaneous Equipment
Space for mechanical, electrical, plumbing, sound, scoreboard, and telephone equipment shall be provided, as required, throughout the ballpark. Hose bibs for cleaning ballpark seating and all concourses shall be included. All enclosed spaces shall be weatherproofed. Fire protection equipment such as sprinklers, standpipes, etc., shall be provided as required by applicable building and safety codes.

K. Tenant Storage - 20,000 Sq. Ft.
Unfinished space will be available for general storage or future expansion of other facilities.

7. PLAYING FIELD FACILITIES

A. Playing Field

A natural turf playing surface system shall be provided for baseball. The professional team tenant shall approve of turf system.

The baseball playing field area shall be designed for 325 feet at right and left foul lines, 410 feet at center field and 60 feet behind home plate. A warning track surrounding the entire playing field 20'-0" wide in the outfield from foul pole to foul pole and 15'-0" wide in the infield shall be provided.

B. Pitcher's Bull Pens

Warm-up bull pens for both home and visiting baseball teams shall be provided. Toilets shall be provided at both bull pens.

C. Game Equipment

Foul ball poles, batter's eye, foul ball screen behind home plate, and telephone conduit for baseball team benches, shall be provided.

D. Covered Dugouts

Covered dugouts with direct access to the team locker rooms to be provided for home and visiting baseball teams. Each dugout will include bench seating, refrigerated drinking fountain, bat and helmet racks, toilet, and adjacent storage.

E. Field Entrances

Gates shall provide access to the playing field from the ballpark exterior. One entrance shall be provided, adequate for large trucks with a minimum 16 foot high clearance. The openings shall include overhead doors. A pedestrian door shall be provided adjacent to each ballpark entrance.

F. Field Lighting

A complete field lighting system providing adequate illumination for color TV coverage of baseball shall be provided.

G. Scoreboard

Space will be provided for a complete, electrically-operated, remote controlled, illuminated scoreboard system with instant replay capability. The scoreboard system includes all remote control equipment located in the Press Box, control wiring conduit from the Press Box to the scoreboards, the scoreboards and
supporting structures. Electrical service for operation of the scoreboards will be provided to the base of the scoreboard supports. Provisions for one major scoreboard with full color video capabilities and six supplemental scoreboards shall be provided to properly serve baseball.

H. Security

Appropriate security against illegal entry to or improper access within the ballpark to include fencing, walls, gates, and doors shall be provided. No electronic intrusion alarm or general security system will be provided except at the guard station.

Peanuts at the Opener

Boy, I'd sure like to manage a team in a ball park like this!

Good! What a stadium!

This is going to be especially thrilling for me... I've never seen the New York Giants play!

Good grief!
THE REACH BALL
REFERENCES


Ballpark and Arena at China Basin: An Analysis of Traffic and Parking, Department of City Planning, City and County of San Francisco, July 1989.


San Francisco Department of City Planning and Santa Fe Pacific Realty Corp. Mission Bay. Informational color brochure. Not dated.


