

STEALING HOME: HOW AMERICAN SOCIETY PRESERVES
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUMS, BALLPARKS, & FIELDS

by

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THESIS ABSTRACT

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This study focuses on a cultural phenomenon that is driven by the demolition of Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields. Prompted by their inherent role in the evolution of the sport and the inadequacies of the existing historic preservation framework, this study examines how American society preserves this utilitarian form, after their demolition, through observations, data collection, and analysis. In doing so, this study exposes that Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields are preserved through the use of nine overlapping preservation methods, which memorialize five significant features. However, though these preservation methods do not prevent Major League Baseball stadiums from being demolished, they do illustrate how our society alternatively preserves historically and culturally significant resources when the existing historic preservation framework is rendered incompatible.

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Hard Work & Victory

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are three often overlapping functions dimensions to any object: technomic (Utilitarian) sociotechnic (Social), and ideotechnic (Symbolic). Objects are utilitarian in the sense of 'coping directly with the physical environment,' the signification of social relationships, and the codification of the cultural ideology. More to the point, however, is the implication that objects exist in multiple, simultaneous functions contexts – that the purely utilitarian always enjoys some measure of the symbolic.¹

– Lewis Binford, American Archeologist

Over the course of 145 years, since the inception of Major League Baseball, there have been multiple changes made to the sport: the baseball has been corked, home plate has been reshaped, and its stadiums have been demolished. However, much about the sport has stayed the same: the baseball is still round, home plate is still made of rubber, and its stadiums are still demolished. Although the demolition of Major League Baseball stadiums is a seemingly inevitable part of the sport, at a rate of one every two years, they continue to act as one of the most significant aspects within our society: "home."

Since 1869, Major League Baseball stadiums have and continue to express the sentiments of "home" within American society, because of their ability to create, shape, and strengthen cultural identity through their form, ritualistic expressions, and frequency of use. Given this combination of culture, sport, and history, Major League Baseball stadiums acquire a cultural patina that no other aspect of the sport can achieve, taking this utilitarian form from the profane to the symbolic. Over time, these

¹ Lu Ann De Cunzo, *Historical Archaeology: Study of American Culture* (Winterthur: Winterthur Museum, 1997), 28.

aspects of “home” have made this form the most culturally significant aspect of Major League Baseball and one of our nation’s most iconic structures. However, as this architectural form has grown beyond the purely utilitarian, its demolition has been met with ceremonial acts and a variety of preservation practices by a culture that continues to share an intimate relationship in defining its significance.

This is the story of that culture and its unwavering efforts to preserve its “home” through the memorialization of Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields, when the evolution of a sport promotes, and the existing historic preservation framework offers little protection from, the demolition of one of America’s most truthful forms of architecture.

Problem Statement

Seven years after the initial foundation of Major League Baseball in 1869, the National League was founded, marking the inception of the existing Major League Baseball framework as it is observed today. Since this point of origin, Major League Baseball introduced the American League in 1901, endorsed the expansion of seventeen new markets and fourteen franchises, sustained four defining periods that yielded 109 stadiums, and subsequently witnessed the demolition of 63 (57.8%) of them. This percentage of demolished Major League Baseball stadiums over the course of 138 years may seem trivial, but when excluding the 30 (27.5%) stadiums currently in use by one of the existing Major League Baseball franchises, the 7 (6.4%) that were lost to fire, and the 8 (7.3%) currently used by other professional sports

franchises, this statistic almost doubles to 98.4%, leaving a slim 1.6% survival rate for this architectural form when it does not host a permanent resident or is otherwise functionless (Figure 1).

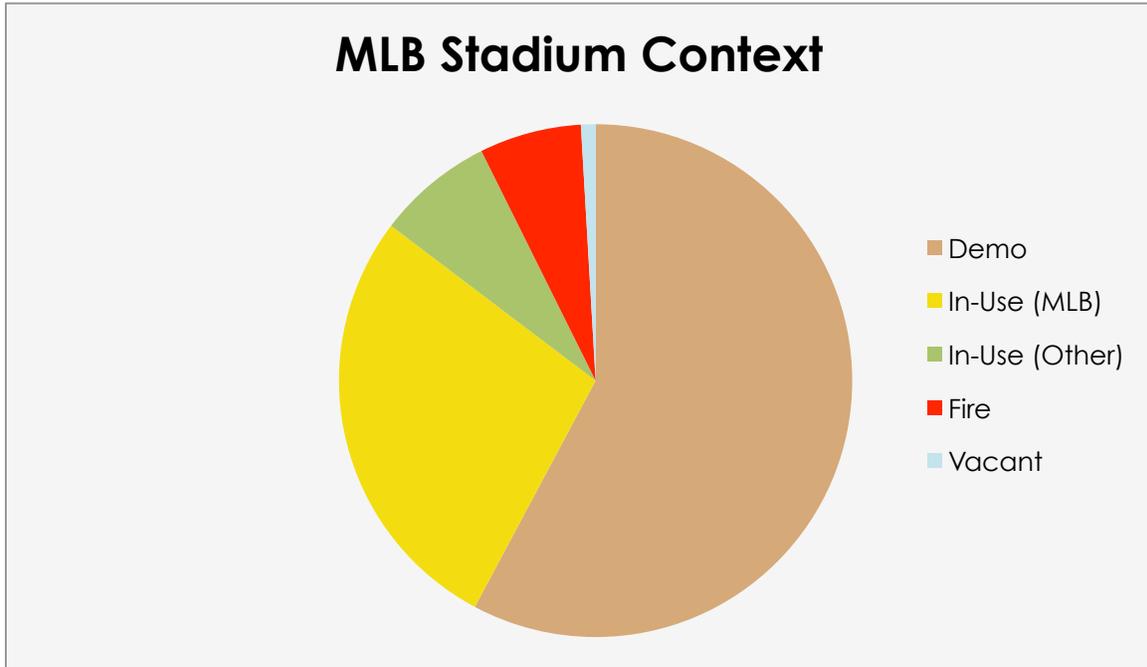


Figure 1. MLB Stadium Context illustrates the existing and historical state of MLB stadiums since 1876.

After looking more closely at the existing 39 (35.7%) Major League Baseball stadiums currently or once used by one of the thirty existing franchises, only 12 (30.7%) have surpassed the average age of demolition at thirty-eight years old. And of the twelve that have defied the statistical odds, only 6 (15.4%) are currently used by Major League Baseball franchises, as the remaining half are used by other professional sports or are left vacant. As this filter becomes more refined, by looking at the Major League Baseball stadiums that have reached the age of fifty, the statistical rate of survival becomes even more limited, as only 23 (21.1%) have ever reached this historic benchmark, and only 8 (7.3%) of those stadiums still exist today.

Of these eight, only 3 (2.8%) are currently used by a Major League Baseball franchise: Fenway Park (1912), Wrigley Field (1914), and Dodger Stadium (1962).

Overall, these statistics not only help to quantify the magnitude of this issue, the rate in which Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished, and the limited probability of their prolonged survival, but they show the importance of functionalism within our built environment, especially for the utilitarian form. However, this is not the only reason Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished, as the question of accountability that these statistics allude to can be explained by two predominant factors: Major League Baseball stadiums' inherent role in the evolution of the sport and the inability of the existing historic preservation framework to preserve this specific type of architecture.

The Evolution of Major League Baseball Through Its Architecture

Since the first enclosed ballpark was created in 1862,² ballparks have continued to act as a utilitarian form of expression that reflects the changes in the sport from social, cultural, and technological perspectives. However, this constant evolution of both sport and architecture has made preserving this architectural form problematic, as observed in each of the sport's four defining periods: Pre-Classic (1871-1909), Classic (1909-1953), Modern (1953-1992), and Retro (1992-2012).³

² Michael Gershman, *Diamonds: The Evolution of the Ballpark, From Elysian Fields to Camden Yards* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993), 12.

³ Larry Gormley, "The Evolution of Major League Ballparks," print, 2014.

During the Pre-Classic period, Major League Baseball stadiums reflected the transformation of the sport from a fraternity to a professional business. These stadiums, commonly referred to as ballparks, grounds, or fields, depending on regional location,⁴ were constructed quickly and cheaply out of wood, located in dense urban settings, and had asymmetrical shapes and design characteristics taken from common domestic architectural styles of the time⁵ (Figure 2). They also expressed typical, centralized, covered, single- or double-decked, U-shaped grandstands with uncovered bleachers along the first and third baselines, and a short, single-layered, wood fence that enclosed the grounds. As much as these stadiums reflected the growth of Major League Baseball during the time, they also expressed how the game was played, as homeruns and outfield play were uncommon, which explains the elaborate centralized grandstand around the infield and extended outfields that bordered urban streets.⁶ Unfortunately, these stadiums were not designed to last. Not only were these stadiums built quickly and cheaply to capitalize on the growth of the sport and its professionalism, but they were also prone to fire, rendering them unsafe and inadequate for Major League Baseball's rapid development.⁷ Even the later examples during this period that exercised fireproof construction materials, were eventually

⁴ David Q. Voigt, *Baseball: An Illustrated History* (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University, 1987), 208.

⁵ Gersham, *Diamonds: The Evolution of the Ballpark, From Elysian Fields to Camden Yards*, 28.

⁶ G. Edward White, *Creating the National Pastime: Baseball Transforms Itself, 1903-1953* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), 28.

⁷ John Pastier, *Ballparks: Yesterday and Today* (Edison: Chartwell Books, Inc., 2007), 19.

phased out, due to their size, the rise of new building methods, and the continued growth in popularity of the sport. Provided this collection of factors, all 38 (34.9%) of these stadiums were either demolished within this period or shortly after when Major League Baseball franchises built larger, more permanent stadiums that defined the sport for forty-four years.



Figure 2. Pre-Classic MLB stadium, League Park (1891), Cleveland, Ohio. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog).

Constructed out of steel, reinforced concrete, and masonry, Major League Baseball stadiums during the Classic period, were a direct representation of a growing nation and its obsession with baseball. As a reflection of this national phenomenon, these stadiums were commonly designed with a double- or triple-decked, covered grandstand that extended down the first and third baselines, outfield bleachers, and elevated outfield walls (Figure 3). Like their predecessors, they were also located within an urban context, accessible by public transportation, and had asymmetrical

shapes, but for the first time, they transitioned from contemporary architectural trends towards a more utilitarian aesthetic, giving them a distinctively different style of their own.⁸



Figure 3. Classic MLB stadium, Shibe Park (1909), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog).

Though these stadiums addressed the growing demands of the sport through their increased seating capacity and required athletic amenities,⁹ they also reflected modern building methods and how the game was played, which helps explain their size, outfield bleachers, and legendary stature. Unfortunately, due to national demographic shifts experienced after World War II, these stadiums eventually became outdated, as their size and urban location became restrictive in an expanding sports

⁸ Ibid., 24.

⁹ Benjamin G. Rader, *Baseball: A History of America's Game* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992), 33.

landscape.¹⁰ Given this combination of social and cultural perspectives, 18 (16.5%) of these stadiums were demolished within the subsequent years after 1953, when Major League Baseball franchises started moving to new untapped markets and larger, publicly-funded Modern period stadiums.

Major League Baseball stadiums during the Modern Period were defined by their multi-functional design, expressed a changing national identity, and personified an architectural movement that transformed stadium architecture. Constructed out of pre-cast and reinforced concrete, steel, and plastics, these stadiums were located within a suburban context, symmetrical in shape, reflected contemporary Modern styles, and were often built to accommodate the increased duality of the professional sports landscape (Figure 4).

Due to their multi-functional design to host both football and baseball, these stadiums were two-times larger in scale than their predecessors, had two- and three-decked, cantilevered seating levels, and, in some cases, were completely enclosed with fixed or retractable roofs. Although these stadiums clearly reflected the growth in professional sports and the logic of a municipality, they also expressed the increased suburban demographics and relevancy of the automobile, as many of them were strategically located next to major thoroughfares on the peripherals of the city limits. Unfortunately, due to their size and multi-functional design, these stadiums lacked fundamental elements needed to support Major League Baseball, such as orientation,

¹⁰ White, *Creating the National Pastime: Baseball Transforms Itself, 1903-1953*, 45.

accessibility, and convenience,¹¹ which eventually led to their abandonment by Major League Baseball franchises. On the other hand, their inherent flexibility has given these stadiums great resiliency, as over half of them are currently in use today and have surpassed the average age of demolition for this architectural form. However, 14 (12.8%) of these stadiums were demolished in light of smaller, more intimate, publicly-funded, Retro period stadiums that went on to redefine the existing Major League Baseball landscape.

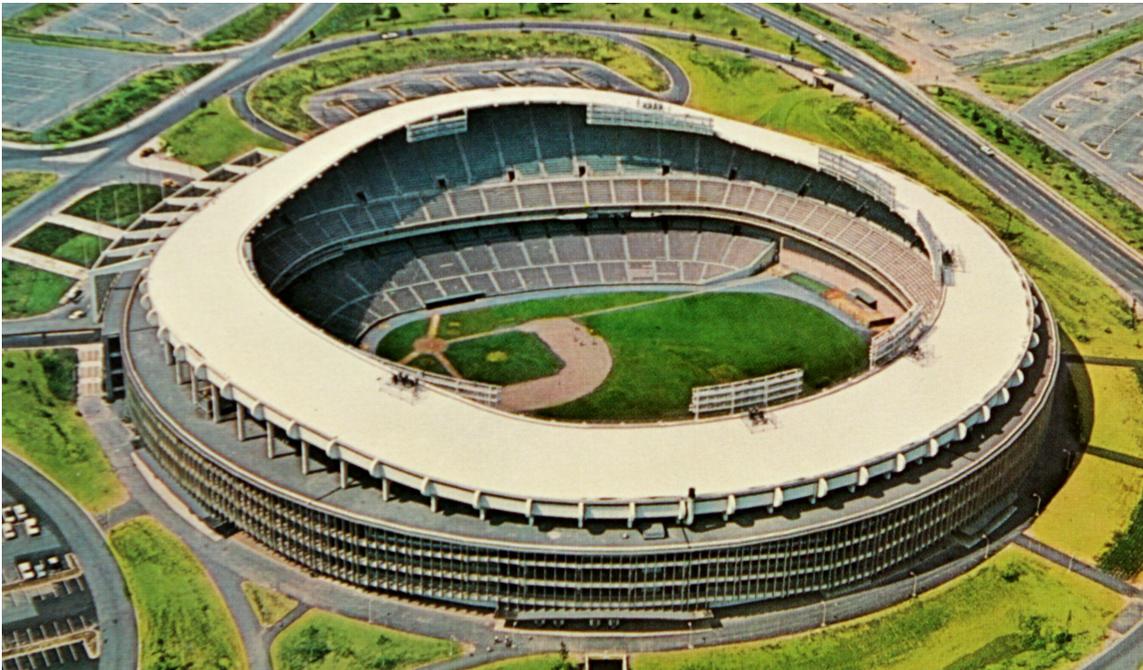


Figure 4. Modern MLB stadium, RFK Stadium (1961), Washington D.C. (Courtesy of *Stadiafile*).

Inspired by the Classic period ballparks, Major League Baseball stadiums during the Retro period reflected a compromise between a changing sports culture and its historic past. In an attempt to combine the two, these stadiums were

¹¹ William N. Woodbury, *Grandstand and Stadium Design* (New York: American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., 1947), 12.

constructed out of reinforced concrete and steel, reintroduced into an urban context, and mono-functional in design (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Retro MLB stadium, Oriole Park at Camden Yards (1992), Baltimore, Maryland. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog).

These stadiums also expressed a common two- or three-decked, boomerang-shaped grandstand, outfield bleachers, idiosyncratic field dimensions and stadium characteristics, and exposed building materials, such as brick, steel, and wrought iron. Although these stadiums appeared to be historic in their aesthetic, they also focused on new aspects in sports culture, such as entertainment in the form of restaurants, clubs, and, in some cases, pools, water fountains, and hot tubs. However, with the addition of Marlins Park (2012), Major League Baseball was introduced to its newest architectural style, which references Neo-modern design characteristics, such as steel, glass, and uninterrupted exterior façades (Figure 6). Given this deviation from the characteristics that define Retro period stadiums, the period itself can arguably be

described as over. Nevertheless, due to their relative youth, these Retro period stadiums continue to express the existing Major League Baseball landscape, as 20 (66.7%) of these stadiums are currently used by one of the thirty Major League Baseball franchises.



Figure 6. Neo-Modern MLB stadium, Marlins Park (2012), Miami, Florida. (Courtesy of USA TODAY, photo by Steve Mitchell).

Overall, though it may seem that Major League Baseball stadiums are being demolished more frequently, the fact is that they play an inherent role in the evolution of the sport and have always been demolished, so traditionally that each period has experienced a similar architectural purge (Figure 7). Prompted by social, cultural, and technological influences, the evolution of Major League Baseball and its intimate relationship with its architecture has made preserving its stadiums difficult. This is not only because their demolition is an inevitable part of the sport, but also because the

only form of regulated preservation used in this country to protect our cultural resources is inefficient when applied to preserving this utilitarian form.

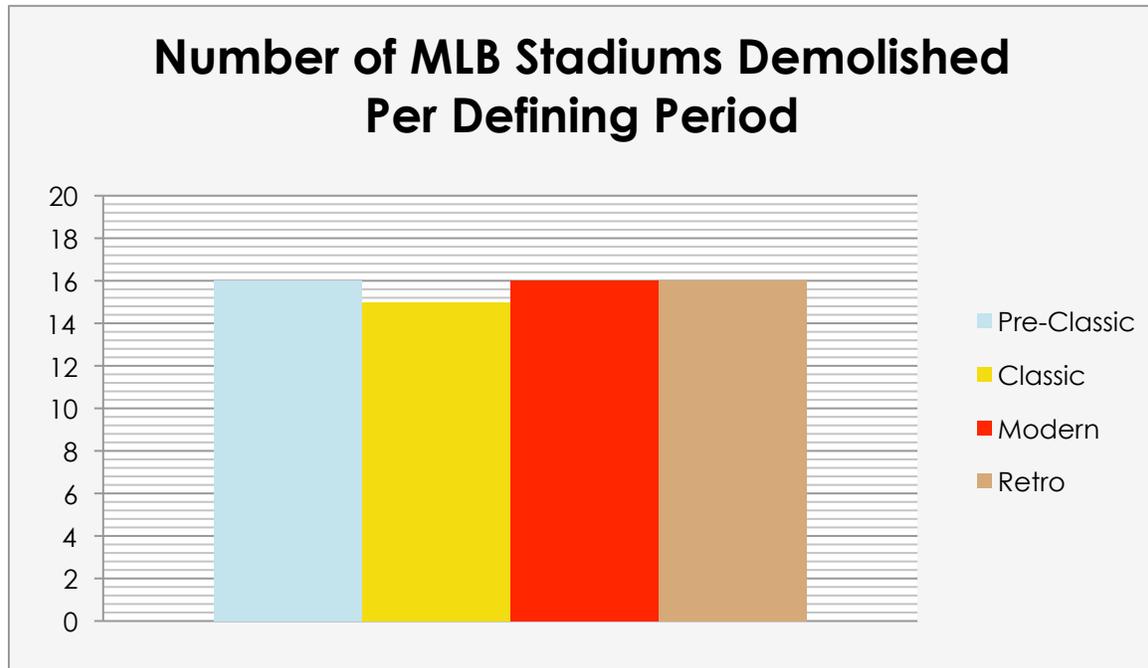


Figure 7. Number of MLB Stadiums Demolished Per Defining Period illustrates that MLB stadiums have gone through similar purges in each of the four MLB defining periods.

The National Register of Historic Places: A Functionless Framework

The existing historic preservation framework, which was founded in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act, is predominately observed and applied through its use of the National Register of Historic Places and its standardized criteria for determining historical and cultural significance. This framework, defined by the National Register, not only recognizes and designates historic and culturally significant resources, but also acts as the basis for determining preservation practices explained in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic*

Properties and the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program.¹² Though this framework has become the most generally accepted, taught, and applied form of preservation in the United States and has been used successfully when applied to domestic and high-style architecture, it continues to express a variety of issues that have rendered its application towards Major League Baseball stadiums ineffective.

The first and most obvious issue with the application of the existing historic preservation framework towards Major League Baseball stadiums is that it was created in 1966. By 1966, Major League Baseball was ninety-seven years old, was in its third defining period, and had already demolished 37 (34%) of its stadiums. Though, to no fault of its own, its relatively late introduction has accounted for this framework's limited success when applied towards this utilitarian form, as over half of all Major League Baseball stadiums were already demolished when it was founded.

Another problem with the existing historic preservation framework when applied towards Major League Baseball stadiums exists within its standardized criteria used to identify what is considered historically and culturally significant. One of the criteria needed be considered an "irreplaceable cultural resource"¹³ without special exemption is to be fifty years of age.¹⁴ Based on their average demolition rate, most

¹² United States, National Park Service, *Historic Preservation Tax Incentive* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2009), 6.

¹³ United States, National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings: Choosing an Appropriate Treatment for the Historic Building*, http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/standguide/overview/choose_treat.htm.

¹⁴ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, *National Register Evaluation Criteria*, <http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html>.

Major League Baseball stadiums never have and never will reach this benchmark. However, of the 23 (21.1%) Major League Baseball stadiums that have reached this standard, only 6 (5.5%) have ever been designated historic through the application of this framework. Of those six, only 1 (.9%) is currently used by a Major League Baseball franchise: Fenway Park (1912).

Another criterion within this framework that has shown to be problematic when applied to this particular architectural form is its evaluation of integrity. Subjective in nature, this essential part of determining historical and cultural significance states “to retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects,”¹⁵ which include Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association. Given their existing context, the retention of most of these aspects of integrity is challenging, as Major League Baseball stadiums have traditionally sacrificed Design, Materials, Workmanship, and Setting due to their need to adapt to compete with the changes in sports culture and its expectations, and their location within an evolving urban context, as observed with Yankee Stadium (1923) and Braves Field (1915). Yankee Stadium, which was eighty-seven when it was demolished, was declined for historical designation due to its substantial 1970s alterations that included demolishing a portion of the stadium, adding new seating and amenities, alterations to its façade, removal of original elements, and the construction of the

¹⁵ United States, National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Cultural Resources, National Register History And Education, 1997), 44.

elevator/escalator towers.¹⁶ On the other hand, Braves Field continues to express its original intent through its ninety-nine year-old right field pavilion and office building, which function as part of the Boston University's, Nickerson Field. However, due to the significant physical and contextual changes made to the stadium and the surrounding neighborhood starting in 1955, Braves Field is not recommended for historic designation.¹⁷ Additionally, the only two aspects of integrity, Feeling and Association, which measure intangible qualities that give these stadiums their cultural patina, are not alone sufficient in supporting historical designation.¹⁸ Other issues within this framework's standardized criterion when applied to Major League Baseball stadiums are its need for owners' consent and proper historic evaluation. Without an owner's consent¹⁹ and a historic evaluation, in addition to being less than fifty years old or not retaining most aspects of integrity, a Major League Baseball stadium, regardless of how important it is to a culture or its history, cannot be designated as historically or culturally significant, in accordance with the existing historic preservation framework. This renders it ineligible for the only aspect of this framework that monetarily

¹⁶ Amy Diehl, *Historic Resource Inventory Form: Yankee Stadium* (New York: Office of Park, Recreation, Historic Preservation, 2005), 4.

¹⁷ Tonya Loveday, e-mail message to author, February 19, 2014.

¹⁸ United States, National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 45.

¹⁹ California Department of Parks and Recreation, *National Register of Historic Places*, http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21237.

incentivizes its preservation, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program.²⁰

Lastly, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program, which has been a viable solution for promoting preservation within the existing historic preservation framework, offers a critical concern when used for the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums. The concern is whether or not a Major League Baseball stadium is considered a building. According to the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program, tax credits are only available to buildings, which they define as “any structure or edifice enclosing a space within its walls, and usually covered by a roof, the purpose of which is, to provide shelter or housing, or to provide working, office, parking, display, or sales space.”²¹ Most existing Major League Baseball stadiums do not meet this definition of a building, as 23 (77%) of them are open-air stadiums with no formal roof. In addition to a roofless design, others may have a hard time fitting into this definition of a structure that provides working, office, parking, display, or sales space, when this architectural form is only used temporarily throughout the year. This lack of financial support based on these conditions is not only a concern for incentivizing historic preservation, but neglects Major League Baseball stadiums due to its utilitarian form and function.

Overall, the existing historic preservation framework was created to help protect our nation’s “irreplaceable cultural resource” by regulating what is determined

²⁰ United States, National Park Service, *Tax Incentives, Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service*, <http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>.

²¹ United States, National Park Service, *Additional Eligibility Requirements, Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service*, <http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/before-apply/additional-eligibility.htm>.

historically and culturally significant, and incentivizing its preservation. However, due to its relatively late foundation and rigid criterion and definitions, this framework clearly expresses limitations when it is applied to Major League Baseball stadiums. And even though this framework has been used in recognizing Major League Baseball stadiums, its rate and effectiveness have rendered this framework functionless, which has ultimately contributed to their lack of protection and high rate of demolition. Between this functionless framework and the inherent role that Major League Baseball stadiums play in the evolution of a sport, this utilitarian form is demolished at rates that would be incomprehensible if it were anything but inevitable.

Methodology

Traditionally, the field of historic preservation, as it is taught, practiced, and advocated, focuses on preserving tangible historical and cultural resources; however, due to the intimate relationship that the Major League Baseball stadium has with the sport, its constant evolution, and the inability of the existing historic preservation framework to actually preserve, Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished. Nevertheless, in light of these circumstances, Major League Baseball stadiums continue to be preserved through a variety of overlapping preservation methods by a culture that is as old as the game itself. Though this perspective tends to sit on the peripherals of the field itself, it is how these stadiums are preserved given their existing context.

In an attempt to best understand and present how and why this culture preserves Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields, this research uses

Intrasite, which is “description and analysis by establishing the relationship between the historical phases contained within the site being scrutinized,” and *Intersite* research perspectives, which is the analysis that “seeks to establish broader sets of relationships by looking at the relationships established between whole sites and the discrete historical periods identified within those sites.”²² In doing so, this research employs an ethnographic approach that includes identifying cultural trends and creating scientific “generalizations about human behavior and the operation of social and cultural systems.”²³ Observations, and primary and secondary sources, are also used in an attempt to uncover the motives and importance behind this cultural phenomenon in hopes of bringing legitimacy to a culture’s unconditional efforts to preserve what they find historically and culturally significant.

Primary Sources

The primary sources used in this research include in-field and second-party observations, and online newspaper articles. These sources have provided great insight into the existing Major League Baseball landscape, including stadium design trends and changes over time, the diversity of preservation methods used to preserve stadiums, and intangible information, such as motivations for preserving stadiums that could not be collected without personal interaction. Due to the national scale of this research and the time in which it was conducted, personal in-field observations of the

²² Lu Ann De Cunzo, *Historical Archaeology: Study of American Culture*, 28.

²³ United States, National Park Service, *NPS Ethnography: African American Heritage & Ethnography*, <http://www.nps.gov/ethnography/aah/aaheritage/ERCb.htm>.

109 Major League Baseball stadiums that are or were once used by an existing Major League Baseball franchise was unreasonable. However, through a collection of blogs, which are personal websites or web pages, this research documents the existing state of all Major League Baseball stadiums, current and demolished, since 1876. The primary blogs used in this research include: deadballbaseball.com, openstance.com, stadiumpage.com, projectballpark.org, sabr.org, ballparksofbaseball.com, andrewclem.com, and baseballpilgrimages.com.

Secondary Sources

This research also includes secondary sources, such as books and online resources. These sources have helped create the fundamental foundation of histories and unaccounted stories that otherwise could not have been gathered, which was imperative to creating the Major League Baseball stadium database. The primary books used during this research were: *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of All Major League Ballparks*, *Ballparks: Yesterday and Today*, and *Ballparks of North America: A Comprehensive Historical Reference to Baseball Grounds, Yards and Stadiums, 1845 to Present*. And the primary online resources included all thirty Major League Baseball franchise websites, which detailed their team and stadium chronologies.

Major League Baseball Stadium Database

The Major League Baseball Stadium Database was created to help provide structure and control to this research. Built upon the primary and secondary sources, its creation has helped expose common trends and practices for how Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved and has allowed for the statistical analysis used throughout this thesis.

Parameters

This database has set the parameters of the depth of this study by focusing on Major League Baseball stadiums, currently or once used by the existing thirty Major League Baseball franchises since 1876. Though Major League Baseball was founded in 1869, the creation of the National League in 1876 and the subsequent American League in 1901 currently act as the existing Major League Baseball framework as it is observed today. And because this research is inductive in nature, this research started by observing the existing Major League Baseball framework and working backwards. Based on this approach, this database has documented all thirty Major League Baseball franchises' existing and once used Major League Baseball stadiums, regardless of age, time used, or original design intent, based on their direct lineage, excluding team names and cities occupied, totaling 109 examples.

Other information that this database controls for is location, year built, current age or age when demolished or destroyed, franchise association, number of seasons used, current use if active, current use of the former site, and how it is preserved. This

information has been invaluable for observing existing trends and supports the in-depth statistical analysis of understanding how American society preserves Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields.

Results

Based on the parameters and analysis of the Major League Baseball Stadium Database, this research has exposed a variety of practices that explain how Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved, who preserves them, and what aspects they preserve. These findings have indicated that 52 (47.7%) of all Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields have been preserved by one of nine observed preservation methods, which memorialize their sites, objects, design, historic events, and relics. These methods include: the memorialization of the original structure in its original location, the reuse of original objects in a new related structure, the reproduction of original objects in their original location, the replication of original design elements in a new related structure, the memorialization of a historical event or record at its original location, the preservation of original objects in their original location, the presentation of original objects in a museum, the dedication of the original structure in a new unrelated context, and the reuse of original objects in an unrelated structure. Neither exclusive nor collective in their application, these preservation methods memorialize five different features associated with this utilitarian form: the site, objects, design, historic events, and relics.

The Site

The most commonly used preservation method practiced within this culture is the memorialization of the original structure in its original location. This method includes the use of commemorative plaques, historical, and informational markers, which describe the significance of a Major League Baseball stadium through the use of images and brief written histories on non-perishable mediums, such as bronze, iron, and durable plastic, at the original location of a demolished or repurposed Major League Baseball stadium. This act of preservation has been applied 26 (23.8%) times and is predominately practiced by national baseball advocacy organizations, Major League Baseball franchises, state and governmental agencies, and private baseball advocates.

The Objects

Another preservation method used is the reuse of original objects in a new related structure. This method consists of the act of a Major League Baseball franchise removing and reusing specific objects, such as home plate, infield dirt, sod, the pitching rubber, lights, foul poles, flagpoles, statues, turf, signage, plaques, bleachers, and other idiosyncratic objects in a new related Major League Baseball stadium with the object's original intent. This act is exclusively practiced by Major League Baseball franchises after playing their last home game in a stadium that they will be vacating and is generally met with excessive ceremonial acts of removing and transferring specific objects, such as home plate.

The reproduction of objects in their original location is another preservation method used to memorialize Major League Baseball stadiums. This practice is commonly applied after a Major League Baseball stadium has been demolished and includes the placement of a replica home plate, base path outline, batter's box, pitching rubber, bases, or, in some cases, walls and façades, in their original location. These replica markers are primarily made of bronze, granite, and other non-perishable mediums, such as paint, and have been dedicated in parking lots, allies, department stores, shopping centers, universities, and medical centers. This preservation method is frequently practiced by Major League Baseball franchises, national baseball advocacy organizations, local historical societies, and other private baseball advocates. These two practices have collectively been applied 43 (39.4%) times to 31 (28.4%) of all Major League Baseball stadiums.

The Design

Another preservation method used to uphold the identity of a Major League Baseball stadium is the replication of original design elements in a new related structure. This practice is exclusively performed by a Major League Baseball franchise in collaboration with architectural firms and consists of these groups using design elements from past and present Major League Baseball stadiums in the design of a new Major League Baseball stadium. These design elements generally imitate elements from Classic period Major League Baseball stadiums, which include the replication in location, scale, views, construction materials, field dimensions, colors, signage, seating

configuration, and scoreboards. This act of preservation, which has been executed at least 16 (14.7%) times, is generally practiced in the construction and design of new Major League Baseball stadiums; however, it has also been used in the rehabilitation of existing stadiums.

Historic Events

The memorialization of a historical event or record at its original location is another preservation method used to preserve the identity of a Major League Baseball stadium and its cultural significance. This method is predominantly practiced by Major League Baseball franchises and private baseball advocates by placing objects at the original location of the historical event, such as a seat where the baseball of a record-breaking homerun landed, the replication of a portion of the outfield wall where the record breaking baseball was hit over, and other markers that signify a record breaking event. Though this preservation method has only been applied 4 (3.6%) times, it continues to offer one of the most unique ways that Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved, as these markers have been found in shopping centers and parking lots.

The Relics

The least commonly used preservation methods include: the presentation of original objects in a museum, the preservation of original objects in their original location, such as a remaining wall, flagpole, signage, and staircases, the dedication of

a Major League Baseball stadium in a new unrelated context, such as the naming of an apartment complex or street sign, and the reuse of original objects in an unrelated structure, such as a flagpole. Though these preservation methods are less frequently implemented, in comparison to the other methods, they have collectively been applied at least 31 (28.4%) times to 23 (21.1%) Major League Baseball stadiums.

Overall, Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields, are preserved, through the use of nine overlapping preservation methods, by Major League Baseball franchises, national baseball advocacy organizations, state and governmental agencies, local historical societies, private baseball advocates, and architectural firms. These preservation methods, which memorialize five significant features associated with this utilitarian form, are practiced by a culture that does not abide by the benchmarks, criteria, or standards as described in the existing historic preservation framework. Rather reactionary in nature, given the existing context in which Major League Baseball stadiums reside, these preservation methods are a collection of organic practices that not only show how and what this culture preserves, but reflect the sentiment that these stadiums continue to project after they are demolished. However, even though these preservation methods express this culture's attachment to this utilitarian form, it is their unconditional preservation of this utilitarian form that suggests its power of place, which is explained in their historical and cultural significance as a physical and symbolic representation of "home."

CHAPTER II

“HOME”

In 1860, at the onset of one of our country’s most polarizing periods in its history, the sport of baseball was first dubbed the “national game.” Originally coined in a cartoon by Currier & Ives acknowledging the political turmoil confronting the United States, this phrase expressed a sport that had “captured the imagination of a significant segment of the American populace.”²⁴ Though this phrase was unsuccessful in strengthening our antebellum identity after the election of the 16th President, it does reflect the beginnings of a culture that has since embedded itself within our American society. Yet, it was not until years after the American Civil War that this culture was introduced to its most defining feature, the ballpark.

Created by definition in 1862, the ballpark was a puzzling vernacular construct, as many fans would willingly elect to stand outside of its enclosure.²⁵ However, with the rise in popularity of the sport after the inception of Major League Baseball in 1869 and its existing framework in 1876, this once confusing vernacular form has not only become a permanent resident within the American sports landscape, but the physical and symbolic representation of “home,” to one of our nation’s oldest cultures. Defined by their ability to create, shape, and strengthen cultural identity through their form, norms, rituals, and frequency of use, Major League Baseball

²⁴ Jules Tygiel, *Past Time: Baseball as History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 4.

²⁵ Gersham, *Diamonds: The Evolution of the Ballpark, From Elysian Fields to Camden Yards*, 12.

stadiums act as “home” to this culture, like a hall to a fraternity or a church to a congregation, in that they provoke a sense of belonging and community. However, though these aspects of “home” have given Major League Baseball stadiums greater significance within this culture, it is their inherent ability to create cultural identity that begins this symbolic transformation.

Defined as a person’s individual sense of self, which is oriented first and foremost to the group,²⁶ cultural identity is created, within this architectural form, by “the group’s norms, that is, those patterns of behavior or thought that emerge from the membership’s interaction and are sanctioned by the group.”²⁷ These norms, which include the many unwritten rules and codes exercised within the game, and the ritualistic practices of the game itself, have been accepted by the culture, which is observed through its collective understanding and exercise of these norms without formal direction. Over time, Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields create, shape, and strengthen cultural identity through their form, which provides a tangible representation of “home,” the ritualistic practices that occur within their confines, and their frequency of use, which allows this culture’s identity to be reaffirmed.

²⁶ Garrett G. Fagan, *The Lure of the Arena: Social Psychology and the Crowd at the Roman Games* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 81.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

Form and Identity

Since the first of their kind, dating back 152 years, ballparks have undergone multiple variations, including the four predominate styles within each of the sport's defining periods, and its newest, Neo-modern adaptation. However, though many aspects of Major League Baseball stadiums have changed over the years, their design intent and function have stayed the same.

Through their primary function and defining shapes, Major League Baseball stadiums create cultural identity by providing a platform for spectators to gather over a common interest. Like that of their ancestral prototypes, Major League Baseball stadiums, create this identity through a "basic feature of human existence": conformity.²⁸ Essentially, stadiums, given their inherent function and design intent, provide the boundaries of a culture, which creates identity by interacting within its confines. Given time and ritual, this identity is shaped and strengthened to a point that it is in constant discourse with this architectural form, as each is shaped by the other.

Additionally, through their inherent function, Major League Baseball stadiums provided a forum for spectators to experience "feelings, impressions, and emotions that addressed themselves to such core human needs as connectedness, validations, belonging, and empowerment."²⁹ This is supported by their ability to continually act as a "retreat from urban [and suburban] life as much as a confirmation of its vitality, a vicarious experience as much as an observational experience for the [fans] who

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid., 145.

attended games...it appeared to become a spectacle that was socially desirable, as well as emotionally uplifting, to attend."³⁰ And as "people order their social universe according to group membership,"³¹ the Major League Baseball stadium acts as the center of that universe for a sport and its culture, which have made this utilitarian form the most culturally significant aspect in Major League Baseball and "home" to a culture created within.

Overall, Major League Baseball stadiums have become a cultural residence, because they continue to fulfill a basic aspect of human existence in their innate ability to create cultural identity, which "symbolically permit[s] an immediate sense of belonging to a larger American community in ways that few other sportive experiences provided."³² Though this ability to create cultural identity can be argued for all stadiums, what makes Major League Baseball stadiums exceptionally unique and unmatched in their preservation is that these stadiums not only create cultural identity, but shape it through the ritualistic expression held within.

Ritualistic Practice

Dating back to 1842, nineteen years before the American Civil War and sixty-six years after the United States signed its declaration of independence, the ritualistic

³⁰ White, *Creating the National Pastime: Baseball Transforms Itself, 1903-1953*, 23.

³¹ Fagan, *The Lure of the Arena: Social Psychology and the Crowd at the Roman Games*, 81.

³² S.W. Pope, *Patriotic Games: Sporting Traditions in the American Imagination 1876-1926* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 73.

expression that is the game of baseball was founded.³³ Ritualistic in the sense that it involves two or more people in an understood communication that is structured, repetitive over time, and “results in greater coordination of conspecifics toward some social action, purpose or goal,”³⁴ this game and its later professional interpretation have become embedded within our American society. Acting as a form of Americana, Major League Baseball has provided this country with one of its most truthful forms of architecture and its national pastime. However, even though these aspects of the sport contribute to the significance of Major League Baseball stadiums, it is the ritualistic acts of the game held within the confines of this utilitarian form that shape the cultural identity they create.

Based on “repetition, regularity, emotionality, drama, and symbolism,”³⁵ the sport of baseball is deeply rooted in pageantry and tradition. From its early Pre-Classic period post-game parades³⁶ to the ways in which its stadiums are currently preserved, the sport of baseball has always had an element of ritual that has helped define it. This aspect of the sport is expressed through the collective interactions of a culture over the ritualistic acts of the game, which is observed in the norms and customs that have transpired within Major League Baseball stadiums. These norms and

³³ Stefan Szymanski, *National Pastime: How Americans Play Baseball and the Rest of the World Plays Soccer* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2005), 16.

³⁴ John M. Cater, ed. *Ritual And Record: Sports Records and Quantification in Pre-Modern Societies*. (New York: Greenwood Press, 1990), 141.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Rader, *Baseball: A History of America's Game*, 33.

customs include, but are not limited to: the playing of the United States national anthem, which by 1945 became common practice before each game, in reflection of WWII,³⁷ the exchanging of line up cards by the managers at home plate, the ceremonial first pitch, which was introduced to the sport in 1910,³⁸ the playing of “*Take Me Out The Ball Game*” and “*God Bless America*” during the seventh-inning stretch, and the seventh-inning stretch itself. This list continues with a series of unwritten rules and codes exercised within the game, such as not mentioning a no-hitter, never stealing a base when substantially leading a game, or always running onto the field when a fight breaks out.³⁹ However, though these norms and customs help define this culture and this utilitarian form on a national level, there are countless others practiced regionally by individual franchises that allow more familiarity, such as playing “*Deep in the Heart of Texas*” by Perry Como at Minute Made Park (2000), home of the Houston Astros, or “*Sweet Caroline*” by Neil Diamond at Fenway Park (1912), home of the Boston Red Sox. Reflecting both national and regional interpretations of “home,” these norms allow this culture to express itself collectively, within which one can find solitude in conformity, unity, and identity.

Overall, the ritual of baseball and its collectively-embraced norms and customs, have tied together culture, sport, and architecture through their ability to provide

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 156.

³⁸ Paul Duggan, “Balking at the First Pitch,” *The Washington Post*, April 2, 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/01/AR2007040101262.html>.

³⁹ San Francisco State University, *Unwritten Rules of Baseball*, http://bfc.sfsu.edu/cgi-bin/unwritten.pl?Unwritten_Rules_of_Baseball.

consistency and conformity, which address our basic need for conformity. Yet, it is with the addition of time, which reinforces this triad.

Frequency of Use

Unlike any other form of architecture within the existing American sports landscape, Major League Baseball stadiums host more home games per season, per year. This deviation from other sports and their related architecture provides this utilitarian form with the unparalleled ability to not only create cultural identity more often, but to strengthen it, which helps bond this culture to the sport and its architecture.

Since the foundation of the sport's existing framework in 1876, Major League Baseball franchises have played at least thirty-five home games per season. However, with the addition of the American League in 1901 and fourteen new franchises over the course of 122 years, this rate has more than doubled. Currently scheduled with a 162-game season, Major League Baseball stadiums now host at least eighty-one home games a year, not including Post-season play. In comparison to the other four most popular professional sports in the United States, Major League Baseball stadiums provide cultural engagement almost twice as often as the National Hockey League and National Basketball Association arenas, which host the second most home games per season at forty-one, five times more frequently than Major League Soccer venues, and nine times more often than stadiums used by the National Football League (Figure 8). With these existing schedules, it would take at least two seasons for any other

American sport's architecture to acquire the same amount of experience, by one culture that Major League Baseball stadiums acquire in one season. This frequency of use per season not only demonstrates that these stadiums provide the opportunity to create cultural identity more often, but also suggests that, unlike related architecture, it can be created over shorter periods of time, which helps to explain how this "home" can be preserved after only a few years of hosting a Major League Baseball franchise.

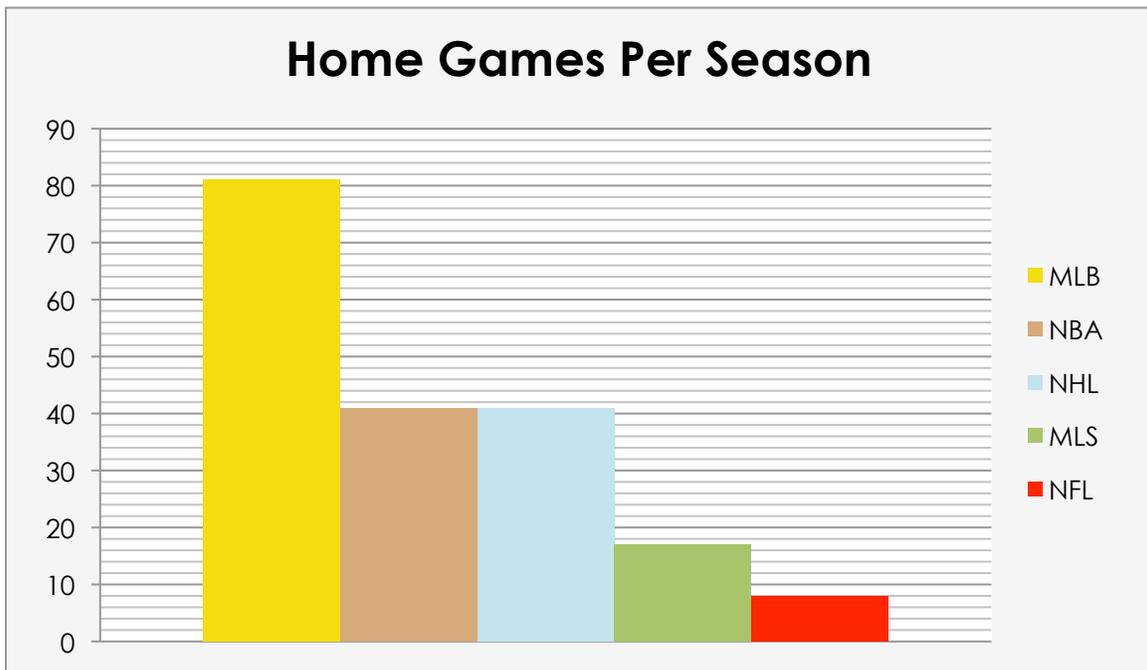


Figure 8. Home Games Per Season illustrates the number of home games per season per professional sport.

Proving the cultural significance of this utilitarian form, there are four observed cases in which a Major League Baseball stadium that hosted no more than two seasons by one of the thirty existing Major League Baseball franchises, was preserved by one of the nine preservation methods used to memorialize this architectural form. These four stadiums are: Sick's Stadium (1938), Wrigley Field (1925), Roosevelt Stadium (1937), and Mile High Stadium (1948). Major League Baseball stadiums'

ability to quickly transcend perception, from the purely utilitarian to the symbolic, is demonstrated more specifically in the case of Mile High Stadium. Unlike the other three stadiums, Mile High Stadium was a multi-functional stadium that hosted a National Football League franchise for forty years. However, after its demolition in 2000, Mile High Stadium was only preserved to memorialize the two seasons that it acted as “home” to the Major League Baseball franchise, Colorado Rockies. These examples, though rare, not only illustrate how a culture can quickly become emotionally invested in this utilitarian form, as observed through their preservation, but how this specific utilitarian form holds precedence over other sports architecture with longer histories, thus supporting Major League Baseball stadiums’ intimate relationship with this culture.

Overall, due to the nature of the game, Major League Baseball stadiums are used more frequently than any other American sports architecture. And while this repetition in use has helped support this architectural form’s longstanding residency within the American sports landscape, it has also provided a culture the opportunity to strengthen its identity and relationship with Major League Baseball stadiums.

Preserving a “Home”

Within the existing and historic context of the sport, Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished; however, due to their ability to create, shape, and strengthen this culture’s identity this architectural form has become embedded within a culture’s consciousness. This has not only attributed to their extensive preservation, but

also their persistent preservation campaigns, as observed in relation to Fenway Park (1912), Tiger Stadium (1912), and Cleveland Stadium (1931), where, not only did these stadiums represent a culture, but “community self-esteem and community collective conscience.”⁴⁰ Out of this constant evolution of both sport and architecture, this culture has shown its sentiment to their “home” under the banner of preservation advocacy organizations, like Navin Field Grounds Crew, The Committee to Commemorate Old Yankee Stadium, and Save Fenway Park!, which sought to educate fans, taxpayers, team owners, and politicians, and defend Fenway Park from demolition in 1999.⁴¹ Acting as a cultural identifier in establishing place, Major League Baseball stadiums, like other sports stadiums, help to define how a culture and a community perceive themselves, as well as how others perceive them.⁴² This pursuit of identity from both cultural and social perspectives has attributed to the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums and a culture’s preservation of “home.”

Overall, Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields act as “home,” to a culture due to their inherent ability to create, shape, and strengthen cultural identity, through their basic function and design, relationship with an American ritualistic practice, and frequency of use. Over time, these aspects of “home” have eternally linked this culture to this specific architectural form, as well as its deeply-

⁴⁰ Kevin J. Delaney, *Public Dollars, Private Stadiums: The Battle Over Building Sports Stadiums* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2003), 38.

⁴¹ Leslie Donovan, *National Register of Historic Places Form: Fenway Park* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 2012), 27.

⁴² Delaney, *Public Dollars, Private Stadiums: The Battle Over Building Sports Stadiums*, 39.

rooted American heritage. At the same time, these aspects of "home" help justify why a culture works to uphold the memory of this architectural form through its unwavering preservation. Created and defined by the norms and customs held within this utilitarian form, this culture's identity, time, and rituals are embodied within; thus, when these stadiums are demolished, so to are their identity, history, heritage, and sense of belonging. This combination of factors, both personal and symbolic, helps to explain their persistent efforts to preserve this symbolic form. Conformity to this form allows one to fill a basic human need, and Major League Baseball stadiums act as the pedestal for this part of life. It is this reason that makes Major League Baseball stadiums significant, and it is for this reason that this culture, which this utilitarian form conceives, rears, and conditions, preserves them after they are demolished. Because, not only are they preserving their "home," they are preserving their identity, their culture, and a basic feature of human existence.

CHAPTER III

PRESERVING THE UNPRESERVABLE

Given the combined factors that make Major League Baseball stadiums the physical and symbolic representations of “home,” it is easy to understand why a culture that is created, shaped, and strengthened by this utilitarian form would act to preserve it. However, due to their inherent role in the evolution of the sport and the inadequacies of the existing historic preservation framework, Major League Baseball stadiums are not preserved in the traditional application of the term. Defined in *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, Preservation is “to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property.”⁴³ Of the 109 Major League Baseball stadiums constructed from 1871 – 2012 only 6 (5.5%) have ever been preserved according to this definition, of which only 1 (.9%) is currently used by one of the existing thirty Major League Baseball franchises today. Although impressive in its endurance, while others have been demolished or left vacant, this one example is a deviation from the inevitable demolition of this utilitarian form within its existing and historical context. Even though Major League Baseball stadiums are not preserved according to the existing historic preservation framework and its definitions, they are preserved by a culture that views

⁴³ United States, National Park Service, *Standards for Preservation and Guidelines for Preserving Historic Buildings: Home Page*, http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/standguide/preserve/preserve_index.htm.

these stadiums as equally significant to those that are; only it is how they are preserved that differs.

Ballpark Preservation

Sitting outside of the existing historic preservation framework's perspective, on the peripherals of the field itself, Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields are preserved in our society through the practice of nine overlapping methods used to uphold their cultural and historical significance. Defined by the context in which this utilitarian form resides, these preservation methods have memorialized former and existing Major League Baseball stadiums, are both anticipatory and reactionary, range in practice from the ritualistic to the formal, and are neither exclusive nor mutual in their application. Collectively, these preservation methods have been applied at least 100 times to 52 (47.7%) of all 109 Major League Baseball stadiums, and to 45 (71.4%) of the 63 stadiums that were demolished.

After looking more closely at the fifty-two Major League Baseball stadiums preserved by one of these nine methods, 18 Classic (85.7%), 18 Modern (64%), 14 Pre-Classic (36.8%), and 2 Retro (10%) period ballparks have been preserved. Of the significant features memorialized through preserving these 52 Major League Baseball stadiums, the Site has been designated 26 times (23.8%), Objects have been preserved 43 times (39.4%), Design has been replicated 16 times (14.7%), Historic Events have been memorialized 4 times (3.6%), and Relics have been preserved 31 times (28.4%) (Figure 9). Additionally, these examples have been observed in 16 of

the 17 (94.1%) states with a current or former Major League Baseball franchise, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces. Although these statistics help measure the reach of this cultural phenomena, it is the variety in context and application of these methods that helps to express this culture's sentiment towards the preservation of this inherently demolished, utilitarian form.

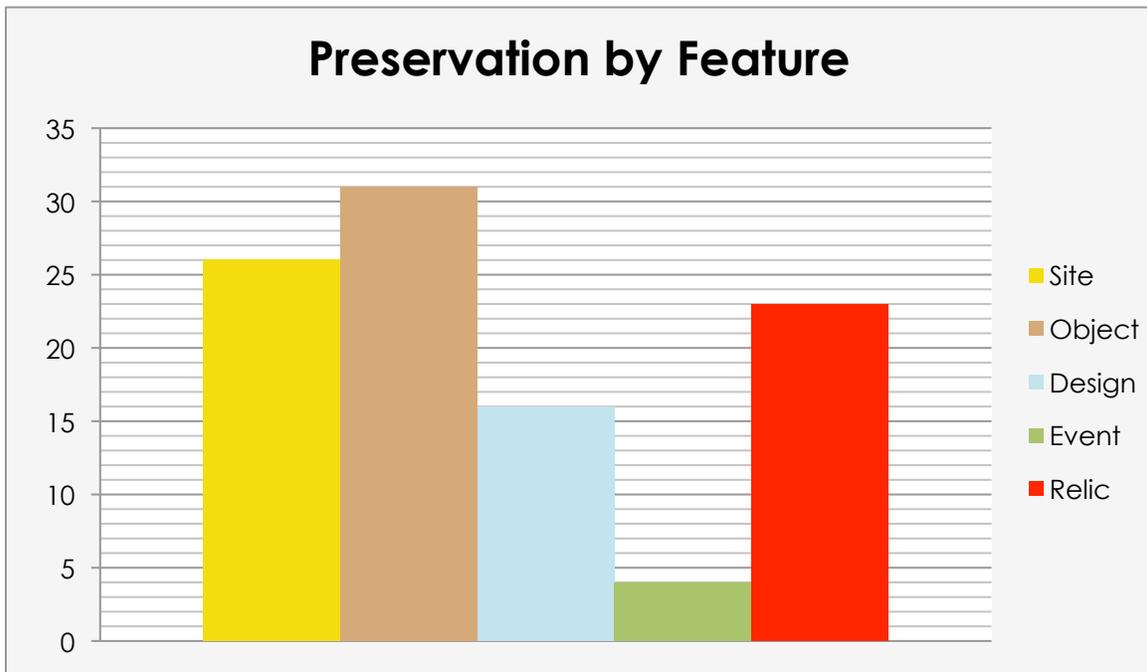


Figure 9. Preservation by Feature illustrates the number of documented preservation methods used per five significant feature memorialized.

Though these methods are equally significant within their respective contexts, there are specific cases that help illustrate how Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved, such as Forbes Field (1909), Ebbets Field (1913), and Polo Grounds (1911). Chosen to act as defining examples of how our society preserves this architectural form, these three examples are not intended to represent best practices, but are rather meant to act as a foundation to express the greater context of this cultural phenomena, from which scientific generalization can be derived, such as

motivations and range of implementation that help to define this culture's unconditional and persistent efforts to preserve its "home." The first example selected to demonstrate how Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved is the former home of the Major League Baseball franchise Pittsburgh Pirates, Forbes Field.

Forbes Field

Built in 1909 by Barney Dreyfuss and designed by Charles W. Leavitt Jr. as a modern ballpark, ⁴⁴ Forbes Field was the sport's second Major League Baseball stadium to be constructed completely out of concrete and steel (Figure 10). Though missing its opportunity to be the first of its kind by only three months,⁴⁵ this stadium proceeded to make an impact on the sport. It helped to define the Classic period through its steel, reinforced concrete, and masonry construction, mono-functional design, asymmetrical shape, elevated outfield walls, urban location, and common domestic architectural style, which hosted "ornate carvings and design, deep vertical windows and a porch roof covering arched doorways."⁴⁶ While acting as a precedent for its generation, this stadium also helped to progress this utilitarian form, as it was one of the only Classic period stadiums to host a three-decked grandstand, which has since become a common feature in Major League Baseball stadium design. Yet, as

⁴⁴ Philip J. Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks* (New York: Walker Publishing Company, Inc., 2006), 185.

⁴⁵ Lawrence S. Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields* (New York: Viking Penguin, 1992), 63.

⁴⁶ Ron Smith, *The Ballpark Book* (St. Louis: Sporting News, 2000), 272.

inspirational as it was in its construction and design, this ballpark was equally impressive in its endurance and association with Major League Baseball history.



Figure 10. Forbes Field (1909), Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog).

Home to the Pittsburgh Pirates for sixty-two seasons, Forbes Field hosted the last Major League Baseball tripleheader on October 2, 1920,⁴⁷ three World Series titles, four National League pennants, and produced eight National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees, including some of the sport's more legendary heroes, such as Honus Wagner, Roberto Clemente, and Bill Mazeroski. Regardless of its impact on Major League Baseball stadium design and its contributions to the sport, it eventually surrendered to its inevitable fate and was demolished in 1971.⁴⁸ Razed at the age sixty-two, due to its ageing infrastructure and the expansion of the University of

⁴⁷ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, 70.

⁴⁸ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 188.

Pittsburgh,⁴⁹ Forbes Field is the 9th longest-lived stadium in Major League Baseball history.

Currently located in between the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, the site of Forbes Field now acts as a confluence between the past and the present, as Forbes Field is only survived through its preservation, which includes the memorialization of all five features associated with this utilitarian form: site, objects, design, historic events, and relics. Though holistic in its representation of features memorialized, it is the preservation of its site and historic events that act as primary examples of how other Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved through the use of these methods.

The Preservation of a Site

Unlike other memorialized features of Major League Baseball stadiums, the site consists of one preservation method, the memorialization of the original structure in its original location. Predominantly practiced by national baseball advocacy organizations, Major League Baseball franchises, state and governmental agencies, and private baseball advocates, this method is implemented through the use of images and brief written histories on commemorative plaques, or historical and informational markers at the site of a Major League Baseball stadium's original location. And though Forbes Field does not host all three types of markers used within the practice, it does host the most formal, the historic marker.

⁴⁹ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, 69.

Erected in 2006, the Forbes Field historic marker reads: "The first all steel and concrete ballparks in the nation, Forbes Field was home to the Pirates, site of four World Series in 1909, 1925, 1927, & 1960 and two All-Star games. Hosted the Homestead Greys, Steelers, and Pitt Panthers, as well as political rallies and boxing matches. Site of Bill Mazeroski's game seven, ninth inning, World Series winning home run on October 13, 1960 and Babe Ruth's last three home runs. Damaged by fire, razed 1972"⁵⁰ (Figure 11). Whether or not it was the first all steel and concrete ballpark in the nation is debatable, but the fact is that this Major League Baseball stadium is preserved through the application of this method, which continues to express the importance of this utilitarian form at a location that still holds significance. Like that of a road side memorial or a burial marker, this tangible identifier allows this culture to dedicate a place of importance, or a "home," as it states, where it would otherwise go unrecognized for its historical and cultural importance.

According to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which sponsored this historic marker through their Historic Marker Program, historic markers are intended to "capture the memory of people, places, events, and innovation that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians" and "are dedicated in public events featuring public officials, local historians, community representatives, and others."⁵¹ Designed to embrace local history, the practice of this preservation method includes

⁵⁰ David B. Stinson, *Forbes Field, Game Over*, <http://deadballbaseball.com/?cat=18>.

⁵¹ The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, *Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program*, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania_historical_marker_program/2539.

an application process, which is instigated by the public and formally evaluated. As explained by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, “nominations for historical markers may be submitted by any person or organization,” and go through an “evaluation by a panel of independent experts.”⁵²



Figure 11. Forbes Field historic marker dedicated to Forbes Field located on its former site. (Courtesy of PBase).

In this regard, this preservation method parallels that of the existing historic preservation framework in its standardized application, historical evaluation, formal designation, and that citizens have the opportunity to designate what they find culturally and historically important. However, unlike the existing historic preservation framework, the memorialization of the original structure in its original location is more applicable towards this utilitarian form due to its accessibility and Major League Baseball stadiums' limited survival.

⁵² Ibid.

Applied to 26 (41.4%) of the sport's demolished Major League Baseball stadiums, this preservation method is this culture's most frequently used, due to its accessibility and reactionary process, given the existing and historical context that has and continues to lead to the extensive demolition of this architectural form. As stated in the *Criteria For Approval of State Historical Markers*, a historic marker can be erected for any person, place, event, or innovation if it has substantial connection to the state and is "historic and dated to at least ten years prior to the nomination."⁵³ Along with other logical criteria used to ensure historical relevance these two aspects serve as the primary factors needed for the implementation of this preservation method. In contrast to the existing historic preservation framework, which has been unsuccessfully applied to Major League Baseball stadiums due, in part, to its rigid criteria and definitions, this preservation method excels because of its limited conditions. In addition to being more accessible, this method is also more appropriate because of its reactionary application towards historical and cultural resources after their demolition. Therefore, the historic marker, which is applied through memorialization of the original structure in its original location, is a significant way that our society preserves Major League Baseball stadiums.

Though this is just one example of how this preservation method is practiced, it can be generalized that, with a 41.4% application rate to demolished Major League Baseball stadiums, this culture has applied this method to other examples due to the limited standardized criteria and its inductive application. While this method signifies

⁵³ The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, *Criteria For Approval of State Historical Markers* (Harrisburg: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2012), 1.

the importance of place through its formal and non-perishable medium, its frequency of use reinforces this culture's expansive involvement and emotional attachment in preserving this architectural form, which alludes to the great significance it holds within this culture. Yet, this preservation method is only one of many that continue to express this cultural phenomenon.

The Preservation of a Historic Event

Another preservation method used to uphold the memory of Major League Baseball stadiums is the memorialization of a historical event or record at its original location. Focused on preserving isolated events that took place within this utilitarian form, this method is predominantly practiced by Major League Baseball franchises and private baseball advocates, through the placement of markers, such as walls, colored stadium seats, and plaques at the original location where the historical event or record took place. Though this method has primarily been used to dedicate historic or record breaking home runs, it offers one of the most interesting ways that Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved, as its application has been observed in the middle of vacant parking lots and in the Mall of America. This method's application at Forbes Field gives insight into how this culture memorializes this feature associated with Major League Baseball stadiums.

Located at the original site of Forbes Field wall, where Bill Mazeroski hit his historic game seven, ninth inning, World Series winning home run, lies a plaque that reads: "this marks the spot where Bill Mazeroski's home run ball cleared the left

center field wall of Forbes Field on October 13, 1960 thereby winning the World Series title for the Pittsburgh Pirates - the historic hit came in the ninth inning of the seventh game, to beat the New York Yankees by a score of 10-9"⁵⁴ (Figure 12).

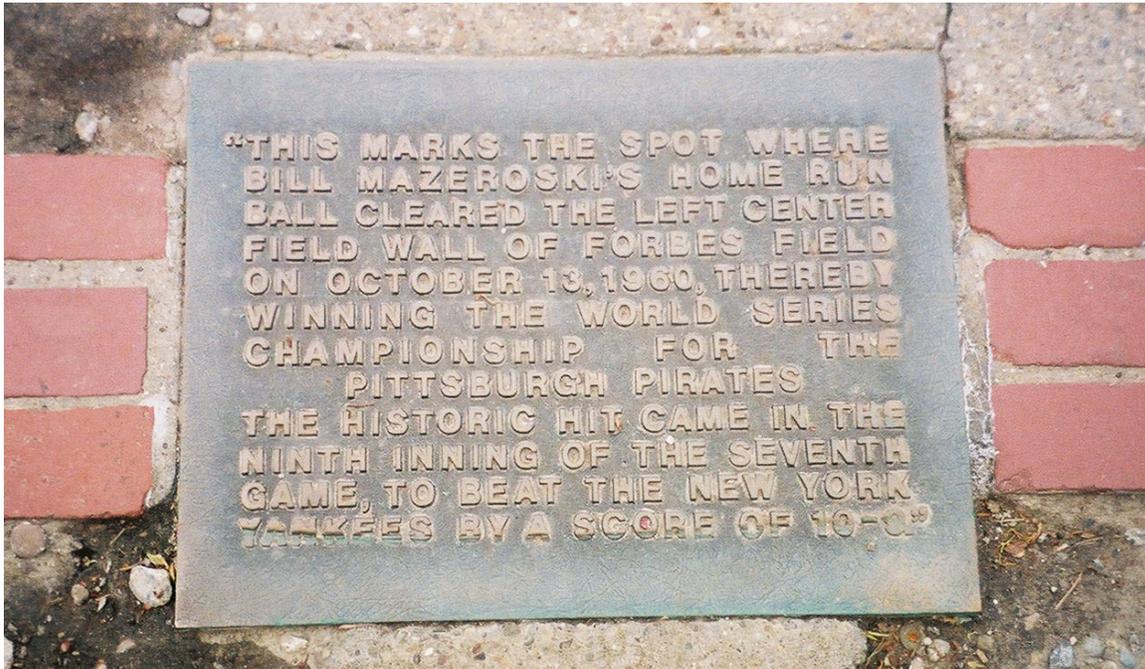


Figure 12. Forbes Field historic event marker located at the point of Bill Mazeroski's 1960 World Series home run on the former site of Forbes Field. (Courtesy of Deadball Baseball, photo by David Stinson).

Though simple in its implementation, as an indicator of where this event took place, this preservation method symbolizes more than just a spot; it represents a point in time that captivated a culture, which it continues to uphold through its memory-evoking message, much like the historic marker. However, unlike the historic marker and its similarities to the existing historic preservation framework, the application of this method does not need its historical significance evaluated by an impartial body because it recognizes historic moments that are already determined to be significant

⁵⁴ Stinson, *Forbes Field, Game Over*.

within this culture by the fact that they are events that mark a point of change within Major League Baseball history. However, this is only one of the conditions associated with the application of the memorialization of a historic event or record at its original location.

In 2010, Forbes Field was once again preserved through the implementation of this method, as another plaque was dedicated to recognize this historically significant home run in Major League Baseball (Figure 13). The bronze, circular plaque depicts Bill Mazeroski rounding third base as he heads for home to score the winning run. However, unlike the first marker, which is dedicated at the point where an ordinary baseball became famous, this second marker is located on a sidewalk on the remaining grounds along with other features that continue to embody this symbolic form. Though this additional marker is not located at the event's original location, like its counterpart, its engraved illustration and ceremonial dedication help to validate the culture's application of this method in their effort to preserve this utilitarian form. Met with celebration and pageantry that expressed the cultural sentiment for this utilitarian form and a moment in its history, the application of this method was cited as being a "magic moment," which evoked a nostalgia of place, as it brought "back so many memories of such a wonderful time."⁵⁵ In addition to the emotions raised through the practice of this preservation method, the ceremonial act entered into the ritualistic, as it hosted a replaying of the 50-year-old game to hundreds of fans, which reenacted

⁵⁵ Robert Dvorchak, "Game 7 'still feels like it happened yesterday'," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, October 14, 2010, <http://www.post-gazette.com/neighborhoods-city/2010/10/14/Game-7-still-feels-like-it-happened-yesterday/stories/201010140472>.

this significant point in this culture's history.⁵⁶ This act within the implementation of the method only reinforces the symbolic nuances that help define this sport, but also endures the legacy of this stadium through its preservation.

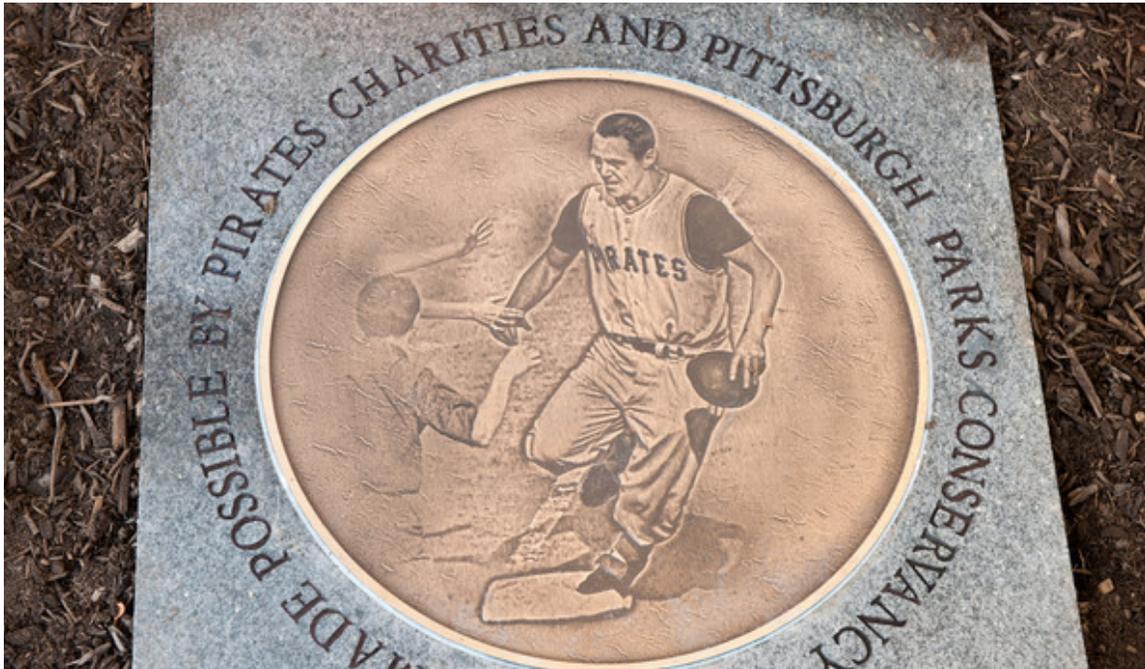


Figure 13. Forbes Field historic event marker dedicated to Bill Mazeroski's 1960 World Series home run at the former site of Forbes Field. (Courtesy of Pratt Photo, photo by Jon Pratt).

Overall, the memorialization of a historical event or record at its original location, like the other preservation methods used within this culture, is powerful in its application. And though it has only been applied to 4 (6.3%) demolished Major League Baseball stadiums, it is moments like the one experienced during the practice of this method that allows this utilitarian form to continue its transformation from only its primary function to a place from which a culture draws memory and nostalgia, to a "home." Granted this is just one of four observed examples of this preservation method, it is proposed that, given the rarity of this method's implementation, when it

⁵⁶ Ibid.

does happen, it is met with equally significant formality and honor, as expressed at Forbes Field. Nevertheless, this is only one way that our society preserves Major League Baseball stadiums. Others can be observed in the preservation of Polo Grounds, the once home of the Major League Baseball franchise New York Giants, Yankees, and Mets.

Polo Grounds

Originally constructed in 1890 during the Pre-Classic period, Polo Grounds was once a wooden ballpark that helped define its generation. However, after it burnt down in 1911 it was quickly rebuilt as a Classic period ballpark for which it became known.⁵⁷ Designed by Architect Harry B. Hearts and Osborn Engineering,⁵⁸ the new Polo Grounds expressed its generation through its concrete and steel construction, U-shaped, covered, double-decked grandstand, uncovered outfield bleachers, and early 20th century aesthetic, which featured “coats of arms of NL teams displayed with Roman Coliseum faced frescoes”⁵⁹ (Figure 14). Yet, as imposing as this ballpark already was in comparison to its former self, it was the extension of its grandstand and a center field backdrop, which consisted of a single-decked, uncovered bleacher,

⁵⁷ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, 160.

⁵⁸ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 153.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 155.

player's clubhouse, and administrative offices, that gave it its memorable aesthetic.⁶⁰

Although it serves as another primary example of Classic period construction and design, Polo Grounds also holds significance in its contributions to the sport.



Figure 14. Polo Grounds (1911), New York, New York. (Courtesy of Ballparks of Baseball).

After its reconstruction in 1911, Polo Grounds became a turnstile of a ballpark, as it hosted the New York Giants from 1911–1957, the New York Yankees from 1913–1922, and the New York Mets from 1962–1963. Although each of these three franchises helped contribute to its significance within the sport, it was its association with the New York Giants that reinforced its place in Major League Baseball history. Acting as home to the New York Giants for forty-seven seasons, Polo Grounds produced four World Series titles, thirteen National League pennants, and nine Hall of Fame inductees, including some of the sport's most legendary players, such as Christy

⁶⁰ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, 162.

Mathewson, Willy Howard Mays, and Mel Ott. Nevertheless, after it was rendered functionless when the New York Mets left for Shea Stadium (1964) in 1964, this multigenerational ballpark was demolished at the age of fifty-three, making it the sport's 17th longest survived Major League Baseball stadium in history.

Considered one of the "most storied ballparks in baseball history,"⁶¹ Polo Grounds now serves as a constant reminder of this utilitarian form's intimate relationship with the evolution of Major League Baseball, as it has survived through the application of five preservation methods, which include the memorialization of its site, objects, design, and relics. However, even though all of these methods have been applied to uphold its historical and cultural significance, it is the preservation of its objects and relics that illustrate how this culture preserves its "home."

The Preservation of an Object

Other features memorialized through the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums are the objects associated with this utilitarian form. Practiced by Major League Baseball franchises, national baseball advocacy organizations, and local historical societies, the memorialization of objects consists of two different preservation methods, the reuse of original objects in a new, related structure and the reproduction of objects in their original location. Although these two preservation methods are different in their approach, they are equal in purpose, which is to sustain

⁶¹ Ibid., 157.

the memory of place, time, and emotion that this utilitarian form has retained over time, as observed in their application at Polo Grounds.

Traditionally accompanied by a ritualistic ceremony during the last home game of a Major League Baseball stadium before it is either demolished or vacated, the reuse of original objects in a new, related structure is a preservation method that involves a Major League Baseball franchise removing objects from one ballpark to be reused in another. This is generally how this preservation method is practiced, but Polo Grounds experienced it through a different perspective.

During the New York Giants' last home game at Polo Grounds on September 29, 1957, this preservation method was met with its traditional ceremony and pageantry, as there were former managers, players, and Hall of Fame inductees in the audience to witness this historic farewell.⁶² However, with the emotional tension surrounding the New York Giants' departure to San Francisco, this preservation method assumed a broader meaning after the game concluded, as fans rushed the field to take as much of the ballpark as they could.⁶³ Within minutes, Polo Grounds' original objects were ripped up and stolen, including the home plate, pitching rubber, bases, outfield grass, signs, parts of the outfield wall, and telephones.⁶⁴ Yet, beyond this act, fueled by groupthink and heavy hearts, the New York Giants were able to

⁶² David M. Jordan, *Closing 'Em Down: Final Games at Thirteen Classic Ballparks* (Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2002), 66.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 19.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

salvage two sq. ft. of sod that was later transferred to San Francisco in 1957,⁶⁵ while the rest of Polo Grounds' commonly preserved objects were gone.

Though this is not how this preservation method is traditionally practiced, this example does reaffirm the emotional connection that this utilitarian form has to those associated with it, most importantly the fans. However, when this preservation method is practiced according to definition, it is an act that, in some ways, defies logic, but is rehearsed anyway as a symbolic gesture to transfer the collective history of a "home" into inanimate objects that have, over time, become synonymous with the sport and its architectural form. Once this preservation method is practiced, these objects take on a symbolic meaning that is only understood within this culture, which, like the unwritten rules of the sport, bonds them through exclusivity and understanding.

Although this is only one example of how this preservation method is applied within this culture, it does reinforce the emotion that is created within this architectural form, as observed by the act of fans rushing the field to take anything they can to remember a place that has become a part of their identity. In addition to this individual example, this method has been applied to 25 (22.9%) Major League Baseball stadiums, making it the second most frequently used. However, this is only one of two preservation methods used to memorialize Major League Baseball stadiums' objects.

The other preservation method used to memorialize objects associated with Major League Baseball stadiums is the reproduction of objects in their original location.

⁶⁵ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 157.

Like the reuse of original objects in a new, related structure, this method focuses on memorializing Major League Baseball stadiums through their symbolic objects, such as home plate, the base path outline, batter's box, pitching rubber, and bases. However, where this preservation method differs is that it is reactionary in its practice, as it is applied to Major League Baseball stadiums after they have been demolished, as observed in its application to Polo Grounds.

On the former site of the Polo Grounds stands the Polo Grounds Towers housing complex and positioned on the side of the building is a bronze plaque with an engraving of home plate and the inscription: "Polo Grounds approximate location of home plate. Home of the New York Giants, National Baseball League 1890 - 1957. World Champions 1904 - 1905 - 1921 - 1922 - 1933 - 1954. The Giants shared this field with the New York Yankees 1912 - 1922. The New York Mets played here 1962 - 1963"⁶⁶ (Figure 15). Designated at the approximate locations of these symbolic objects, this preservation method, like that of the memorialization of the original structure in its original location, is practiced by applying nonperishable markers in the original locations of the objects to identify and express the significance of this architectural form. However, unlike the memorialization of a site, this method signifies this utilitarian form through the replication of its objects, which act as an identifier of place, as opposed to a historical narrative. Regardless of how it is practiced, this method illustrates a culture's commitment to preserving this architectural form through the objects that have become greater than their logistical function.

⁶⁶ David B. Stinson, *The Polo Grounds, Coogan's Bluff, and the Brush Memorial Stairway*, <http://deadballbaseball.com/?p=2009>.

Similar to a religious symbol or a nation's flag, the images and shapes of these objects take on significant meaning, then are accepted by a culture to represent their identity, as observed through their preservation. The preservation of these significant objects reaffirms this and takes them from the ordinary to the symbolic.



Figure 15. Polo Grounds marker indicating the original location of home plate on the former site of Polo Grounds. (Courtesy of Now Such Thing As Was, photo by Joe Bonomo).

Overall, this example of the reproduction of objects in their original location helps to express the cultural importance of an object placed specifically at its point of origin, in a ritualistic attempt to symbolize the heart of a “home.” This preservation method’s significance is reinforced by its application to 18 (28.6%) of all demolished Major League Baseball stadiums. Together, these two preservation methods, the reuse of original objects in a new, related structure and the reproduction of objects in their original location provide both anticipatory and reactionary methods of dealing with these tangible objects that have assumed metaphorical and symbolic meaning. In

doing so, they defy the existing historic preservation framework, which focuses on sustaining the existing form. Yet, as observed in their implementation to 43 (39.4%) Major League Baseball stadiums, they are effective in creating the embodiment of a cultural identity, as these objects have been designated.

The Preservation of a Relic

Consisting of several preservation methods, including the presentation of original objects in a museum, the preservation of original objects in their original location, the dedication of a Major League Baseball stadium in a new, unrelated context, and the reuse of original objects in an unrelated structure, the memorialization of Major League Baseball stadium relics, essentially consists of recognizing anything associated with this utilitarian form. And like the other preservation methods applied within this culture, these too are meant to uphold the historical and cultural significance of Major League Baseball stadiums by acknowledging the intangible value of these relics, as they are dedicated within their respective applications. Practiced by Major League Baseball franchises, private baseball advocates, local historical societies, and other unrelated groups, these four methods have been applied at least 31 (28.4%) times to 23 (21.1%) Major League Baseball stadiums. Though the preservation of Polo Grounds does not express all four of these methods, it does host the most frequently implemented, the preservation of original objects in their original location.

The preservation of original objects in their original location has been applied to Major League Baseball stadiums' survived relics, such as their walls, flagpole, signage, and, in the case of Polo Grounds, staircases. Constructed in 1913, and named after former New York Giants owner, John T. Brush, Polo Grounds' 100-year-old relic, the John T. Brush Stairway, was finally preserved through the application of this method in 2011⁶⁷ (Figure 16). Funded by the San Francisco Giants, New York Yankees, New York Mets and two National Football League franchises, the New York Jets and Giants, this preservation method was applied to completely restore this historic staircase by the New York City Parks and Recreation Department. As mentioned by Gary Mintz of the New York Giants Preservation Society, "this is the last piece of real evidence that the Polo Grounds existed, other than the plaque that indicates where the approximate location of home plate was."⁶⁸ Though the plaque that indicates the location of Polo Grounds' home plate is just as significant in its application to recognize this Major League Baseball stadium, the preservation of this original staircase in its original location allows the culture to reenact history through this relic's original design intent. It provokes memory through physical engagement as opposed to the mere visual appreciation expressed in other features memorialized.

⁶⁷ Paul Post, *Stairway to heaven: Polo Grounds steps coming back*, http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20130205&content_id=41404846&vkey=news_nyy&c_id=nyy.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*



Figure 16. The John T. Brush Stairway preservation project on the former site of Polo Grounds. (Courtesy of New York Giants Preservation Society).

Overall, the application of these two preservation methods to Polo Grounds illustrates how our society preserves Major League Baseball stadiums. Though these methods focus on one example, the range and outcome of how they have been applied to Polo Grounds reinforces this culture's commitment to preserve this utilitarian form. In comparison to the existing historic preservation framework, these two methods continue to appreciate the historical and cultural significance of architecture after it has been demolished for people to experience a place, if only through its survived relics, replicated objects, and original objects in a new ballpark. However, these are only a few methods that illustrate how this culture preserves this utilitarian form. Another can be observed in the preservation of once home of the Major League Baseball franchise Brooklyn Dodgers, Ebbets Field.

Ebbets Field

Constructed in 1913 by Charles Ebbets and designed by Clarence Randall Van Buskirk,⁶⁹ Ebbets Field was built to accommodate the growth of the sport and exceed the limitations of Pre-Classic period ballpark design.⁷⁰ Though intentionally built for these reasons, like other early Classic period stadiums, it helped define its generation through its concrete and steel construction, mono-functional design, covered, double-decked grandstand, uncovered outfield bleachers, and its early 20th century façade, which hosted a porch roof, covered doorway, an arcade of Corinthian style pilasters, and a domed rotunda entrance⁷¹ (Figure 17). However, as much as its construction and design helped characterize the Classic period, it was its interior features, such as its baseball-inspired chandelier and Italian marble floors that made it unique.⁷² Nevertheless, even though Ebbets Field played a fundamental role in shaping the Classic period through its aesthetic, it also contributed to the sport's historical and cultural significance through its forty-five-year-long relationship with Major League Baseball.

⁶⁹ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 38.

⁷⁰ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball's Legendary Fields*, 51.

⁷¹ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 40.

⁷² *Ibid.*



Figure 17. Ebbets Field (1913), Brooklyn, New York. (Courtesy of Photobucket, photo by alpineinc).

Acting as the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1913 – 1957, Ebbets Field fixed its place in Major League Baseball history through its association with three historical innovations. These innovations included the introduction of a yellow baseball on August 2, 1938, the sport’s first televised game on August 26, 1939, and one of the most influential moments in all of American sports, the breaking of the color line with the introduction of Jackie Robinson on April 15, 1947.⁷³ In addition to these three historic moments, Ebbets Field also produced three World Series titles, nine National League pennants, and eleven National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees, including Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, and Sandy Koufax. Regardless of its elaborate Classic period design and multiple historic events, Ebbets Field was eventually demolished. Prompted by the Brooklyn Dodgers’ move to Los Angeles in 1957, Ebbets

⁷³ Ritter, *Lost Ballparks: A Celebration of Baseball’s Legendary Fields*, 57.

Field was razed in 1960 at the age of forty-seven, making it the 27th longest-lived ballpark in Major League Baseball history.⁷⁴

Though one of the most romanticized ballparks in the sport,⁷⁵ Ebbets Field is now remembered through its four preservation methods, which have memorialized three of its features: its site, design, and relics. However, despite the fact that these four preservation methods bear equal significance in their attempt to uphold this utilitarian form's historical and cultural significance, it is the memorialization of this ballpark's design that acts as a precedent for how our society uses this method to preserve Major League Baseball stadiums.

The Preservation of Design

Like that of the site and historic events, the memorialization of design is practiced through the use of one preservation method, the replication of original design elements in a new, related structure. Practiced exclusively by a Major League Baseball franchise in collaboration with architectural firms, this preservation method is applied to uphold the identity of this utilitarian form through replicating design elements from past and present Major League Baseball stadiums in the design of a new one. Since its practice, which became widely used during the Retro period from 1992 - 2012, this method has been applied at least 16 times (14.7%) and has commonly used location, scale, views, construction materials, field dimensions, colors,

⁷⁴ Ibid., 60.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 51.

signage, seating configuration, and scoreboards, to express the significance of this architectural form. Even though this method has been applied to sixteen Major League Baseball stadiums, there is one historic ballpark that continues to be referenced, Ebbets Field.

Currently, of the sixteen documented Major league Baseball stadiums that host this preservation method, four of them have taken elements directly from Ebbets Field. These four Major League Baseball stadiums are Tropicana Field (1990), Oriole Park at Camden Yards (1992), Safeco Field (1999), and Citi Field (2009). Within each of these stadiums, this preservation method has been applied through the replication of Ebbets Field's rotunda entrance, arcade, and outfield dimensions.

According to the Major League Baseball franchise, Tampa Bay Rays, "Ebbets Field was an influence for Tropicana Field. The ballpark's grand, eight-story-high rotunda entrance is designed from the very blueprints used for the rotunda at Ebbets Field, built in 1913."⁷⁶ Acknowledging this link between the past and the present, Tropicana Field is only one of four Major League Baseball stadiums to exercise this preservation method; Oriole Park at Camden Yards is another. Built in 1992, Oriole Park at Camden Yards expresses this preservation method by taking inspiration from Ebbets Field, as the Major League Baseball franchise Baltimore Orioles stated that Ebbets Field, among others, was "a powerful influence in the design of Oriole Park."⁷⁷ In addition to these two stadiums that have used Ebbets Field as a precedent in their

⁷⁶ Tampa Bay Rays, *Tropicana Field Information, Tropicana Field Facts*, <http://tampabay.rays.mlb.com/tb/ballpark/information/index.jsp?content=facts>.

⁷⁷ Baltimore Orioles, *Camden Yards History*, <http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com/bal/oriolepark/history.jsp>.

design, this preservation method has been applied to another Major League Baseball stadium, Safeco Field. According to NBBJ architects, who designed Safeco Field, Ebbets Field was replicated through “the mostly brick facade and curved entry behind home plate.”⁷⁸ Referencing Ebbets Field’s elaborate rotunda design, Safeco Field was the closest recreation of Ebbets Field, until the construction of Citi Field in 2009, which has taken the replication of original design elements in a new related structure to almost a complete reconstruction. According to the Major League Baseball franchise New York Mets, Citi Field was “inspired by tradition,” as it hosts “brick closely resembling the masonry used at Ebbets Field, both in color and texture”⁷⁹ (Figure 18).



Figure 18. Citi Field (2009) illustrating the replication of Ebbets Field’s rotunda. (Courtesy of Baseball Ahead).

⁷⁸ NBBJ, *Batting A Thousand*, <http://nbbj.com/work/safeco-field/>.

⁷⁹ New York Mets, *Citi Field Overview*, http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/nym/ballpark/citifield_overview.jsp.

In addition to hosting a brick façade, Citi Field also hosts a rotunda entrance with polished marble floors and massive seventy-foot archways that continue down the façade as an arcade, giving it an appearance that strongly resembles Ebbets Field.

Overall, as much as these four Major League Baseball stadiums have expressed this preservation method through their respective examples, this method stretched beyond replicating design elements of Ebbets Field, as it helped define the Retro period. Implemented by architecture firms like Populous, HKS, and NBBJ, this preservation method has been practiced in an attempt to create nostalgia,⁸⁰ a distinctive way that we relate to our past, present, and future; “like long-term memory, like reminiscence, like daydreaming,” it is associated with “who we are, what we are about.”⁸¹ The application of this method has also been cited by Phil Trexler, author of *Ballparks: Yesterday and Today*, as an attempt to “recapture some of the charm” and has provided a “warm home feeling,” as stated by former player, Joe Cater.⁸² Though these quotes describe this preservation method’s intentions and reactions, Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved through the application of this method for the same reasons as the other methods, to uphold the significance of this utilitarian form and to carry on an identity of a culture that considers this architectural form “home.”

⁸⁰ *Behind the Seams: The Ballpark Factor*, MLB Network (New York, NY: MLB Productions, 2013).

⁸¹ Fred Davis, *Yearning for Yesterday: A Sociology of Nostalgia* (New York: Free Press, 1979), 31.

⁸² *Behind the Seams: The Ballpark Factor*.

The Unpreservable Preserved

Despite being deemed unpreservable, according to the existing historic preservation framework's definition of Preservation, these three examples illustrate that Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved. After looking at the histories of these three examples, it is determined that, regardless of the differences between them, such as World Series titles, Major League pennants, Hall of Fame inductees, seasons played, and years aged, this culture preserves this architectural form. Additionally, after determining that the preservation of these examples illustrated little to no bias, it can be derived that the 71.4% preservation rate that defines this culture's preservation efforts, was also implemented with little to no bias. Though the unconditional preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums helps reinforce the symbolic power that this utilitarian form carries within this culture, the effects of preserving Major League Baseball stadiums is also impressive.

Acting like a ghost of a former building in urban landscape, the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums has inspired the desire to learn about the past, as it has spawned multiple documented pilgrimages. These pilgrimages have appeared in blogs that track individuals' visits to existing and demolished Major League Baseball stadiums. Douglas T. Dinsmoor, who documents his journeys from ballpark to ballpark in his blog, *Open Stance*, was motivated by the desire to reconnect with the history of the sport by visiting "lost ballparks and their current landmarks."⁸³ An attempt to find a "portal into baseball's past" drove David B. Stinson to visit over 100 Major League

⁸³ Douglas T. Dinsmoor, *Ballpark Relics*, <http://www.openstance.com/relics/index.html>.

Baseball stadiums in his journey, as stated in his blog, *Deadball Baseball*.⁸⁴ These ballpark pilgrimages help to support the efforts of a culture that preserves this architectural form by advocating for its heritage tourism.

Overall, the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums is more than the preservation of an architectural form; it is the preservation of a culture, its identity, and its "home." As observed in the three examples that illustrate how Major League Baseball stadiums are preserved and the cultural pilgrimages that have followed, it can be determined that the preservation of Major League Baseball stadiums, though not technically preservation, holds the same cultural and historical significance as the existing historic preservation framework and its preservation methods. Yet, regardless of the existing historic preservation framework's minimal application towards Major League Baseball stadiums, this culture has found a way to express their emotional sentiment towards this utilitarian form, demonstrating that it is not how we preserve, but why we preserve that makes the field of historic preservation and the act of preserving significant, regardless of its form.

⁸⁴ David B. Stinson, *Deadball Baseball: Baseball Outside The Time And Space Continuum*, <http://deadballbaseball.com>.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The game of baseball, like the stadiums in which it is played, is filled with a mystery that can take years for some to completely understand. From the unwritten rules, to some of the rules themselves, this sport requires a culture to have patience, curiosity, and discipline, which, for many, is hard to completely grasp. Yet, at the same time, the sport of baseball is a simple game, weighted with tradition and repetition. Between these two opposites of the game lies the structure in which it is played. As a reflection of these extremes, the Major League Baseball stadium shares the mystery of the sport in its idiosyncratic design features, like the men who live behind scoreboards, and the discipline, or functionality, in its utilitarian form. Bounded by these two opposites are those that have grown to accept the sport with conviction, in all of its complexity. And over time, this conviction has turned into dedication from which a culture has transpired.

This culture, though loosely defined, is one that, like the game, respects history and protects its "home." Take, for example, the act of stealing a base. It is a relatively simple act by definition, to run ninety feet from one base to the next without being thrown out by the opposing team, but when practiced in the game, it is an act of discipline, that requires patience and training, like that of what shapes this culture and its architectural form. Yet, it is when this act of stealing a base is applied to home plate that the game, culture, and architecture unite. Though this act is rare and even more

complex, it involves the one point of the game that defines the sport, home plate. And as the sport itself revolves around this white rubber pentagon, it becomes extremely protected, especially when it is stolen. It is protected to a point that a player is willing to sacrifice his body to preserve it from the opposing player who is hurling himself at it in attempt to take it. And at this point of collision, only one walks away the victor. Yet, this act, regardless of which player it favors, does not define the game. Home plate still exists and is always coveted or protected. Symbolizing the power of place, the act of stealing home represents the fragile balance of preserving a form, where on one hand there is a constant motion of stealing it, or the haunting inevitability of demolition, and on the other, a player trying to protect it, or a culture that wishes to preserve it. However, as this thesis has shown, this collision at the plate, regardless of its outcome, does not necessary mean the game is over.

Overall, Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished. From the despised to the legendary, this architectural form is a seemingly temporary structure that has been demolished since its invention in 1862. Aided by its intimate relationship in progressing the sport and the inability of the existing historic preservation framework to preserve this specific utilitarian form, Major League Baseball stadiums are demolished at a rate of one every two years. However, because these stadiums play an inseparable role in the sport by creating cultural identity, they have gained symbolic importance to a point that they are considered cathedrals, icons, and, most importantly, "homes."

Given the cultural importance that Major League Baseball stadiums have gained since their modest foundation 152 years ago, and the inevitable fate that they face, this culture has worked unconditionally to preserve them since its first documented application in 1912, when the Major League Baseball franchise, Boston Red Sox transferred sod from Huntington Avenue Grounds (1888) to their newly-constructed ballpark, Fenway Park (1912).⁸⁵ Since this independent act of preservation, this culture has preserved 52 (47.7%) Major League Baseball stadiums through the implementation of nine preservation methods that range in formality and frequency in over 100 documented examples. Motivated by their bond with this utilitarian form, which has been created by their interaction with it over time, this culture preserves Major League Baseball stadiums to uphold their historical and cultural significance, like that of the existing historic preservation framework.

However, unlike the existing historic preservation framework, these preservation methods do not abide by strict guidelines and regulations. Rather, these preservation methods are predominately organic in nature, as a reactionary device, which allows for mourning, closure, and remembrance. And given this culture's preservation rate when applied to demolished Major League Baseball stadiums, it becomes apparent that, though the existing historic preservation framework is appreciated, it is not needed. This is determined, in addition to the fact that, not only are these preservation methods frequently used by this culture, but they have also been effective in their application, as they have led to documented cultural

⁸⁵ Lowry, *Green Cathedrals: The Ultimate Celebration of Major League and Negro League Ballparks*, 31.

pilgrimages, historic markers, and other identifiers that symbolize this architectural form's importance.

Though this aspect of the sport is not the most romanticized, the efforts afforded by this culture to sustain the memory of their "home" and one of our nation's most iconic forms of architecture is unprecedented. But this is expected from a culture that understands the implications of stealing home.

APPENDIX A

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM DATABASE

The Major League Baseball Stadium Database documents all 109 Major League Baseball stadiums, ballparks, and fields currently or once associated with one of the existing thirty Major League Baseball franchises since 1876. Ranging from the oldest Major League Baseball stadium at the time of the sport's inception of the National League, 23rd Street Grounds (1872), to the most recent, Marlins Park (2012), the Major League Baseball Stadium Database controls for: location, including state and city, name, age, including year built and year demolished, vacated, or lost to fire, Major League Baseball franchise, seasons used by a Major League Baseball franchise, current use, preservation, and style. This database also documents the average lifespan of a Major League Baseball stadium, the age of each of the sport's defining periods, the number of Major League Baseball franchises demolished or lost to fire within each defining period, and the number of preservation acts per significant feature memorialized. Overall, the Major League Baseball Stadium Database has been an invaluable asset in shaping this research and its statistical analysis.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Current, past, and present Major League Baseball stadium, ballpark, and field statistic sources are referenced in APPENDIX B. The Major League Baseball database does not include Major League Baseball stadiums only used for Sunday games.

State	City	Stadium (Built)	Age	MLB Team	Seasons	Status (Year)	Current Use	Site	Object	Design	Event	Relic	Style
AZ	Phoenix	Chase Field (1998)	16	D-Backs	16	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
CA	Los Angeles	Memorial Coliseum (1923)	91	Dodgers	4	In-Use	NCAA						Classic
CA	San Francisco	Seals Stadium (1931)	28	Giants	2	Demo (1959)	Safeway/Auto Shop	X				X	Classic
CA	San Francisco	Candlestick Park (1960)	54	Giants	40	In-Use	NFL		X				Modern
CA	Los Angeles	Wrigley Field (1925)	44	Angels	1	Demo (1969)	Health Center/Park					X	Classic
CA	Los Angeles	Dodger Stadium (1962)	52	Dodgers	52	In-Use	MLB						Modern
CA	Los Angeles	Dodger Stadium (1962)	52	Angels	4	In-Use	MLB						Modern
CA	Anaheim	Angels Stadium (1966)	48	Angels	48	In-Use	MLB						Modern
CA	Oakland	Oakland Coliseum (1966)	48	Athletics	46	In-Use	MLB						Modern
CA	San Diego	QUALCOMM Stadium (1967)	47	Padres	35	In-Use	NFL		X				Modern
CA	San Francisco	AT&T Park (2000)	14	Giants	14	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
CA	San Diego	PETCO Park (2004)	10	Padres	10	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
CO	Denver	Mile High Stadium (1948)	54	Rockies	2	Demo (2002)	Parking Lot	X	X				Modern
CO	Denver	Coors Field (1995)	19	Rockies	19	In-Use	MLB			X			Retro Classic
DC	District of Columbia	American League Park I (1901)	3	"Twins"	3	Demo (1904)	Housing						Pre-Classic
DC	District of Columbia	American League Park II (1904)	7	"Twins"	7	Fire (1911)	Medical Center						Pre-Classic
DC	District of Columbia	Griffith Stadium (1911)	54	"Twins"	50	Demo (1965)	Medical Center	X		X		X	Classic
DC	District of Columbia	Griffith Stadium (1911)	54	"Rangers"	1	Demo (1965)	Medical Center	X		X		X	Classic
DC	District of Columbia	RFK Stadium (1961)	53	"Rangers"	10	In-Use	MLS/NCAA		X			X	Modern
DC	District of Columbia	RFK Stadium (1961)	53	Nationals	3	In-Use	MLS/NCAA		X			X	Modern
DC	District of Columbia	Nationals Park (2008)	6	Nationals	6	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
FL	Miami	Sun Life Stadium (1987)	27	Marlins	19	In-Use	NFL/NCAA						Modern
FL	Miami	Marlins Park (2012)	2	Marlins	2	In-Use	MLB						Neo Modern
FL	St. Petersburg	Tropicana Field (1990)	24	Rays	16	In-Use	MLB						Modern
GA	Atlanta	Atlanta Stadium (1966)	31	Braves	31	Demo (1997)	Parking Lot		X		X	X	Modern
GA	Atlanta	Turner Field (1996)	18	Braves	17	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
IL	Chicago	23rd Street Grounds (1872)	5	"Cubs"	2	Demo (1877)	Apartments						Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	White Stocking Park (1878)	7	"Cubs"	7	Demo (1885)	Post Office/Park/Library						Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	West Side Park (1885)	8	"Cubs"	8	Demo (1893)	Language Academy						Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	South Side Park II (1890)	3	"Cubs"	3	Demo (1893)	Parking Lot/Freeway						Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	West Side Grounds (1893)	27	"Cubs"	23	Demo (1920)	Hospital/Medical Center	X					Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	South Side Park III (1900)	41	White Sox	10	Fire (1941)	Housing						Pre-Classic
IL	Chicago	Comiskey Park (1910)	81	White Sox	81	Demo (1991)	Parking Lot		X	X		X	Classic
IL	Chicago	Wrigley Field (1914)	100	Cubs	98	In-Use	MLB			X			Classic
IL	Chicago	US Cellular Field (1991)	23	White Sox	23	In-Use	MLB						Modern

State	City	Stadium (Built)	Age	MLB Team	Seasons	Status (Year)	Current Use						Style
MD	Baltimore	American League Park (1901)	14	"Yankees"	2	Demo (1915)	Fast Food Restaurant						Pre-Classic
MD	Baltimore	Memorial Stadium (1950)	52	Orioles	38	Demo (2002)	Youth Baseball Field	X	X			X	Classic
MD	Baltimore	Camden Yards (1992)	22	Orioles	22	In-Use	MLB			X			Retro Classic
MA	Boston	South End Grounds I (1871)	16	"Braves"	12	Demo (1887)	Subway Station	X					Pre-Classic
MA	Boston	Huntington Ave. Baseball Grounds (1888)	24	"Red Sox"	11	Demo (1912)	Education Center	X	X				Pre-Classic
MA	Boston	South End Grounds II (1888)	6	"Braves"	6	Fire (1894)	Subway Station	X					Pre-Classic
MA	Boston	Congress Street Grounds (1890)	6	"Braves"	1	Demo (1896)	Commercial Buildings						Pre-Classic
MA	Boston	South End Grounds III (1894)	20	Braves	20	Demo (1914)	Subway Station	X					Pre-Classic
MA	Boston	Fenway Park (1912)	102	Red Sox	102	In-Use	MLB			X			Classic
MA	Boston	Fenway Park (1912)	102	Braves	1	In-Use	MLB			X			Classic
MA	Boston	Braves Field (1915)	38	Braves	38	Demo (1955)	NCAA/WUSA	X				X	Classic
MI	Detroit	Bennett Park (1896)	16	Tigers	11	Demo (1912)	Vacant Public Land						Pre-Classic
MI	Detroit	Tiger Stadium (1912)	97	Tigers	88	Demo (2009)	Vacant Public Land		X	X		X	Classic
MI	Detroit	Comerica Park (2000)	14	Tigers	14	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
MN	Bloomington	Metropolitan Stadium (1956)	29	Twins	21	Demo (1985)	Mall of America	X	X			X	Modern
MN	Minneapolis	Metrodome (1982)	32	Twins	29	In-Use	NFL			X			Modern
MN	Minneapolis	Target Field (2010)	4	Twins	4	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
MO	St. Louis	Sportsman's Park II (1881)	21	"Cardinals"	1	Demo (1902)	Boys & Girls Club	X					Pre-Classic
MO	St. Louis	Robison Field (1893)	32	Cardinals	28	Demo (1925)	Beaumont HS	X					Pre-Classic
MO	St. Louis	Sportsman's Park III (1902)	6	"Orioles"	7	Demo (1908)	Boys & Girls Club		X				Pre-Classic
MO	St. Louis	Sportsman's Park IV (1909)	57	Cardinals	47	Demo (1966)	Boys & Girls Club	X	X				Classic
MO	St. Louis	Sportsman's Park IV (1909)	57	"Orioles"	45	Demo (1966)	Boys & Girls Club	X	X				Classic
MO	Kansas City	Municipal Stadium (1923)	53	Athletics	13	Demo (1976)	Public Green Space	X					Classic
MO	Kansas City	Municipal Stadium (1923)	53	Royals	4	Demo (1976)	Public Green Space	X					Classic
MO	St. Louis	Busch Memorial Stadium (1966)	39	Cardinals	40	Demo (2005)	Ballpark Village/MLB	X	X				Modern
MO	Kansas City	Kauffman Stadium (1973)	41	Royals	41	In-Use	MLB						Modern
MO	St. Louis	Busch Stadium (2006)	8	Cardinals	8	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
NJ	Jersey City	Roosevelt Stadium (1937)	47	Dodgers	1	Demo (1984)	Housing	X					Classic
NJ	Jersey City	Oakdale Park (1889)*	1	Giants	1	Demo (1900)	Housing						Pre-Classic
NY	New York	St. George Grounds (1853)*	47	Giants	1	Demo (1900)	Mlib						Pre-Classic
NY	New York	Polo Grounds I (1880)	9	"Giants"	6	Fire (1889)	Public School						Pre-Classic
NY	New York	New Polo Grounds I (1889)	22	Giants	2	Demo (1911)	Housing/Park						Pre-Classic
NY	Brooklyn	Washington Park II (1889)	4	"Dodgers"	1	Demo (1893)	Public Park						Pre-Classic
NY	New York	New Polo Grounds II (1890)	21	Giants	21	Fire (1911)	Housing/Park		X			X	Pre-Classic
NY	Brooklyn	Eastern Park (1890)	9	"Dodgers"	7	Demo (1899)	Junkyard						Pre-Classic

State	City	Stadium (Built)	Age	MLB Team	Seasons	Status (Year)	Current Use						Style
NY	Brooklyn	Washington Park III (1898)	16	"Dodgers"	15	Demo (1914)	Parking Lot						Pre-Classic
NY	Brooklyn	Ebbets Field (1913)	47	Dodgers	45	Demo (1960)	Housing	X		X		X	Classic
NY	New York	Hilltop Park (1903)	11	Yankees	10	Demo (1914)	Medical Center		X				Pre-Classic
NY	New York	Hilltop Park (1903)	11	Giants	1	Demo (1914)	Medical Center		X				Pre-Classic
NY	New York	Polo Grounds (1911)	53	Giants	47	Demo (1964)	Housing/Park	X	X	X		X	Classic
NY	New York	Polo Grounds (1911)	53	Yankees	10	Demo (1964)	Housing/Park	X	X	X		X	Classic
NY	New York	Polo Grounds (1911)	53	Mets	2	Demo (1964)	Housing/Park	X	X	X		X	Classic
NY	New York	Yankee Stadium I-II (1923)	87	Yankees	87	Demo (2010)	Park/MLB		X	X		X	Classic
NY	New York	Shea Stadium (1964)	45	Mets	45	Demo (2009)	Parking Lot	X	X	X		X	Modern
NY	New York	Shea Stadium (1964)	45	Yankees	2	Demo (2009)	Parking Lot	X	X	X		X	Modern
NY	New York	Citi Field (2009)	5	Mets	5	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
NY	New York	Yankee Stadium (2009)	5	Yankees	5	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
OH	Cincinnati	League Park I-II (1884)	17	Reds	12	Fire (1901)	Industrial Park						Pre-Classic
OH	Cleveland	League Park III-IV (1891)	60	Indians	30	Demo (1951)	Public Park	X				X	Pre-Classic
OH	Cincinnati	Palace of the Fans (1902)	9	Reds	10	Demo (1911)	Industrial Park						Pre-Classic
OH	Cincinnati	Crosley Field (1912)	60	Reds	59	Demo (1972)	Industrial Park	X	X	X		X	Classic
OH	Cleveland	Cleveland Stadium (1931)	65	Indians	62	Demo (1996)	NFL		X				Classic
OH	Cincinnati	Riverfront Stadium (1970)	32	Reds	33	Demo (2002)	Rose Garden/MLB		X				Modern
OH	Cleveland	Progressive Field (1994)	20	Indians	20	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
OH	Cincinnati	Great American Ball Park (2003)	11	Reds	11	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
ON	Toronto	Exhibition Stadium (1959) F	40	Blue Jays	13	Demo (1999)	MLS					X	Modern
ON	Toronto	Rogers Center (1989)	25	Blue Jays	25	In-Use	MLB						Modern
PA	Philadelphia	Recreation Park (1882)	8	"Phillies"	4	Demo (1890)	Housing/Parking Lot						Pre-Classic
PA	Pittsburgh	Recreation Park (1884)	21	"Pirates"	4	Demo (1905)	MLB/NFL Park						Pre-Classic
PA	Philadelphia	National League Park I-II (1887)	7	Phillies	8	Fire (1894)	Parking Lot						Pre-Classic
PA	Philadelphia	U of Penn Athletic Field (1894)	76	Phillies	1	Demo (1920)	University						Pre-Classic
PA	Pittsburgh	Exposition Park III (1890)	25	Pirates	18	Demo (1915)	Parking Lot	X	X				Pre-Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Baker Bowl (1895)	55	Phillies	33	Demo (1950)	Parking Lot	X		X			Pre-Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Columbia Park II (1901)	11	Phillies	1	Demo (1912)	Housing/Auto Shop		X				Pre-Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Columbia Park II (1901)	11	Athletics	8	Demo (1912)	Housing/Auto Shop		X				Pre-Classic
PA	Pittsburgh	Forbes Field (1909)	62	Pirates	62	Demo (1971)	University	X	X	X	X	X	Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Shibe Park (1909)	67	Athletics	46	Demo (1976)	Church	X	X	X			Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Shibe Park (1909)	67	Phillies	33	Demo (1976)	Church	X	X	X			Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Veterans Stadium (1969)	35	Phillies	33	Demo (2004)	Parking Lot	X	X			X	Modern
PA	Pittsburgh	Three Rivers Stadium (1970)	31	Pirates	31	Demo (2001)	Parking Lot	X	X			X	Modern

State	City	Stadium (Built)	Age	MLB Team	Seasons	Status (Year)	Current Use						Style
PA	Pittsburgh	PNC Park (2001)	13	Pirates	13	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
PA	Philadelphia	Citizens Bank Park (2004)	10	Phillies	10	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
PR	San Jaun	Hiram Bithorn Stadium (1962)	52	"Nationals"	1	In-Use	PRSL						Modern
QU	Montreal	Parc Jarry (1969)	26	"Nationals"	8	Demo (1995)	Tennis					X	Modern
QU	Montreal	Stade Olympique (1976)	38	"Nationals"	28	In-Use	MLS						Modern
TX	Arlington	Arlington Stadium (1965)	29	Rangers	22	Demo (1994)	Vacant Public Land		X				Modern
TX	Arlington	Globe Life Park (1994)	20	Rangers	20	In-Use	MLB						Retro Classic
TX	Houston	Colt Stadium (1962)	11	"Astros"	3	Demo (1973)	Parking Lot						Modern
TX	Houston	Astrodome (1964)	50	Astros	35	N/A	N/A		X				Modern
TX	Houston	Minute Maid Park (2000)	14	Astros	14	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
WA	Seattle	Sicks' Stadium (1938)	41	"Brewers"	1	Demo (1979)	Hardware Store	X	X				Classic
WA	Seattle	Kingdome (1976)	24	Mariners	22	Demo (2000)	NFL					X	Modern
WA	Seattle	Safeco Field (1999)	15	Mariners	15	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
WI	Milwaukee	Lloyd Street Grounds (1894)	9	"Orioles"	1	Demo (1904)	Housing						Pre-Classical
WI	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County Stadium (1953)	48	Brewers	31	Demo (2001)	MLB		X		X	X	Modern
WI	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County Stadium (1953)	48	Braves	13	Demo (2001)	MLB		X		X	X	Modern
WI	Milwaukee	Miller Park (2001)	13	Brewers	13	In-Use	MLB						Retro Modern
109		Average Ballpark Life = 38.6 yrs.				Demolished		26	31	16	4	23	
		Pre-Classical Ballparks 1871-1909 (38yrs)	38			31							
		Classic Ballparks 1909-1953 (44yrs)	21			18							
		Modern Ballparks 1953-1992 (39yrs)	29			14							
		Retro Ballparks 1992-2012 (20 yrs.)	20			0							
		Neo-Modern Ballparks 2012-Present	1			0							
	Duplicate	Data not included											
	Heritage Site	Current MLB franchise former stadium											
	Estimate	Data not Included											
	Partial Season	Rounded up to 1 full season											
	"Team Name"	Current MLB franchise name											
	In-Use												

APPENDIX B

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