

PALACES OF THE FANS

The Newsletter of the SABR Ballparks Committee

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THE NEWSLETTER: This is the first issue of the Ballparks Committee Newsletter since June 2005. It is our intent to issue two to three newsletters per year depending on the response from the committee members. Many of the features of the past newsletters we do not intend to keep. These include research requests, membership lists, references to ballpark articles that members have sent in, and articles of the past. These can be handled quicker and easier using the SABR web site, SABRnation or SABR-L. We intend to publish the status of committee projects, major and minor league ballpark news, convention planning and summaries, activities in ballpark preservation and activities to place plaques at ballpark sites. We will also add new features. First will be short research articles on ballparks. For longer articles and ballpark data, we will publish summaries or introductions and the full articles will be available on the Ballpark Committee website for downloading. There are two of these in this issue: a ballpark bibliography by Dave Mitchell and The Future of Baseball Parks by Stan Meradith. The Committee currently has 1,534 members. If your email address is in the SABR Directory, you should have received the newsletter by email. If it is not, you should receive it by mail. We desire your feedback. Please email me or the other committee co-chairs with your comments and suggestions on this newsletter and what you would like to see in future newsletters.

ANNUAL CONVENTION: SABR 42 will be held in Minneapolis from June 27 through July 1, 2012. The Ballparks Committee will have a joint meeting with the Business of Baseball Committee on Wednesday, June 27 from 5 to 6:30 pm. This will be a panel discussion of the development and financing of Target Field. The panel is scheduled to include: **Dan Kenny**, Minnesota Ballpark Authority Executive Director, **Tom Goldstein**, community activist and

lawyer who opposes public subsidies for sports stadiums, **Gary Gillette**, Co-author of *Big League Ballparks* and Editor of the *ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, and **Stan Meradith**, AIA, Principal of the DLR Group, a national integrated design firm with experience building ballparks. This promises to a very exciting discussion. After the panel, we will hold the Ballparks Committee meeting. Topics will include potential projects and research, the state of historical preservation of ballparks, what the members want to see from the committee and plans for next year. Please arrange your travel schedule to attend.

BALLPARKS COMMITTEE: This committee was founded about 30 years ago with the goals of assisting historical preservation of ballparks, working to place plaques or markers at ballpark sites and being a repository and a dissemination point for ballpark information. The committee was led by Bob Bluthardt for most of these years and he continues to serve as chairman emeritus. The committee ran a number of successful projects. Most of the committee's work was done before the internet age. The availability of online information and rapid communication has obviated some of what the committee did but also allows us new freedom in length and content that we plan to exploit.

BALLPARK CORRESPONDENTS: Last month I sent out an announcement asking for people to be ballpark correspondents for each of the major league parks. Unfortunately, the response was underwhelming. I want one or two members to send in what is new or happening at each park. This could include changes in the field or dimensions, advertising, photos or statues, food, prices, ambiance or anything else that you think the members would like to see. I did get volunteers for Fenway, Camden Yards, Nationals Park, Rogers Centre, Comerica, Dodger Stadium and Angel Stadium. This leaves 23 parks including the new ballpark in Miami. Please volunteer. We also want information on minor league parks to circulate. Please send that type of information to me as you see it or attend games.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS: In December, we held a conference call for Ballpark Committee members to discuss reinvigorating our activities and how to go ahead. Ideas for several potential projects were discussed. These included: (1) helping with the ballparks portion of the SABR minor league database, (2) updating the major league ballparks photo index, (3) start a minor league ballparks photo index, (4) help with the Negro Leagues ballparks project, (5) help with the WPA ballparks project, (6) start an ongoing discussion about the future of major league ballparks as well as upgrades to the retro ballparks to improve both the fan experience and the revenue stream, (7) create a national index to historic markers and plaques that have been placed, and (8) identify appropriate ballpark sites that do not currently have markers for potential placement. The committee had four projects in progress when activity diminished. These were

documentation of 19th century ballparks, major league ballpark photo library, minor league ballpark photo library, and ballparks in movies and television. These could be restarted in there is interest. Each project will need a project leader. We will be seeking volunteers. Please submit other ideas for projects that you believe the committee should undertake.

NEW MEMBERS:

Joel Hammer, San Francisco CA and Joe Loskywitz, Bronxville NY

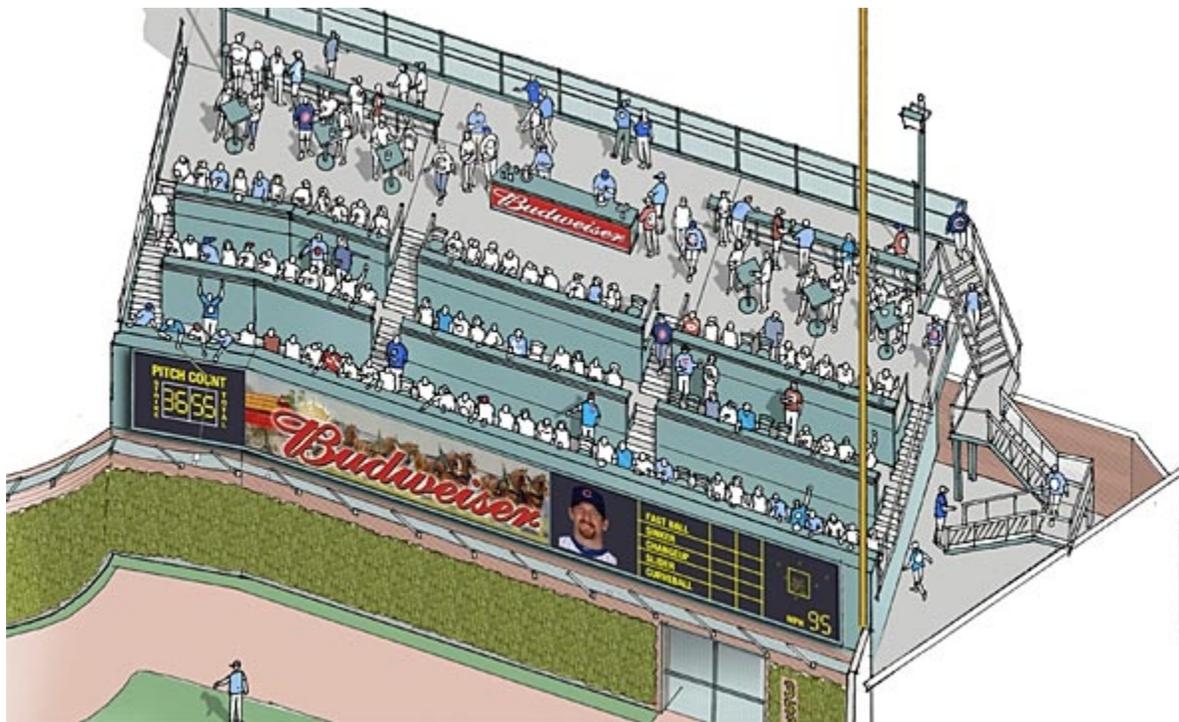
DENVER BASEBALL MUSEUM: If you are in Denver, a very worthwhile experience is to visit B's Ballpark Museum located on Blake Street about a half a block from Coors Field. The museum is owned and operated by Bruce Hellerstein, formerly a member of the Ballparks Committee. It is open from noon to 6 PM on Saturdays and by appointment. Last December, I was treated to a visit as a birthday present. There were six of us ranging in age from 8 to 70 and Bruce kept everyone intrigued with his explanation of the exhibits and quiz questions. It is a small museum but the collection is unique. Some of the significant collectibles are: the Yankee Stadium drainage cover that Mickey Mantle tripped over in the 1951 World Series, an arched window and cornerstone from Forbes Field, light fixtures from the marble rotunda at Ebbets Field, and a section of the "Green Monster." Information is available on the museum website, www.ballparkmuseum.com, or at (303)974-5835.

MAJOR LEAGUE PARKS:

CAMDEN YARDS: With 2012 being the 20th anniversary season of the famed Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the team announced a series of upgrades to improve the functionality of the stadium and pay tribute to the proud history of the franchise, most notably with a newly renovated area to honor the greatest Orioles of all time. Larger-than-life sculptures of the Orioles' six retired numbers and National Baseball Hall of Famers (Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson, Earl Weaver, Jim Palmer, Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr.) will be unveiled during the course of the season. The sculptures will be located in an improved bullpen picnic grove. The area, which will receive significant upgrades and additional landscaping, will be renovated to allow fans access during non-gameday hours, similar to the Orioles Hall of Fame plaques on Eutaw Street. "We are excited and proud to honor the six greatest Orioles of all time," said club director of communications Greg Bader in a press release. "These legends will now have a more visible

presence inside the ballpark, just as they are honored with retired number statues outside the gates." The six sculptures will each be dedicated at a different Orioles home game during the 2012 season. The six sculptures are being created by renowned Maryland sculptor Antonio Tobias "Toby" Mendez and will range from seven to eight feet in scale and weigh between 600 and 1,500 pounds each. In addition to the sculptures, the Orioles have also planned upgrades to the main concourse, Eutaw Street, flag court and upper deck at Camden Yards. There will be a new outfield overlook on top of the batter's eye wall in center field featuring casual seating, a bar and deck seating. Any fan with a game ticket will be able to enjoy this vantage point, which was previously inaccessible to fans, to watch all or a portion of the game. The out-of-town scoreboard on the right-field wall will be modified to reduce the height of the wall and improve views of the game from the Flag Court and Eutaw Street, and there will also be upgraded concessions in the upper deck.

WRIGLEY FIELD: The Cubs announced the addition of a patio in the right-field bleacher section at Wrigley Field, which will be ready for the 2012 season and create a rooftop-like atmosphere. The Budweiser Patio will include a 75-foot LED sign installed above the right-field wall with the capability to display game information, such as pitch count, photos of players and statistics. It will not have video replay because of the size. The new right-field configuration can handle a group of 150 people, or three groups of 50 each, or may be sold on an individual basis. Cubs team president Crane Kenney said the pricing was still to be determined. The Wrigley Field bleachers underwent a major renovation after the 2005 season when they were expanded and a restaurant was added in the batter's eye. The right-field configuration does not involve any of Wrigley's landmark status features, such as the ivy or the scoreboard. Kenney said fans have asked for more statistics and in-game information, and the new LED board will provide that. Wrigley Field does not have a video scoreboard to show replays.



COMERICA PARK: – Daktronics Inc. announced today that the Detroit Tigers have selected the company to design, manufacture and install a high-definition video upgrade to Comerica Park. Scheduled to be complete prior to Opening Day 2012, the integrated system will feature one of the largest LED video displays in Major League Baseball and all of sports. “Every year there are discussions with ownership to assess how to upgrade the ballpark and enhance the fan experience,” said Duane McLean, Tigers Executive Vice President, Business Operations. “The goal is to provide the best in-park atmosphere possible for the fans. The new HD video board and system integration is a significant upgrade to Comerica Park.” Incorporated into the existing left field structure, Daktronics will install a new state-of-the-art light emitting diode (LED) video display. Measuring approximately 48 feet high by 127 feet wide, the video display will utilize the latest in LED technology offering excellent clarity and contrast of video images. This technology and its control system allow for complete flexibility in programming. The video board can operate as a single giant display or be divided into multiple zones (windows) to show a wide variety of statistics, information, graphics, animation and live and recorded video. An additional 5 foot high by nearly 100 foot wide LED display will be positioned below the main video display to be used primarily for pitcher statistics. Along the first and third baselines at Comerica Park, Daktronics will provide its popular ribbon board displays mounted to the fascia. Each display will provide 75 feet of LED technology capable of showing game information, real-time team and player statistics, animation and cropped video clips to raise the crowd’s interest and

enthusiasm level. These displays can also be used in a variety of creative ways to recognize and activate sponsors.

DODGER STADIUM: In an attempt to recover their fan base, the Dodgers have lowered season ticket prices slightly for 2012. A Field Level Seat in the infield went from \$75 to \$70 per game. There were similar reductions in other areas. The team is celebrating the 50th anniversary season of Dodger Stadium with a number of events and promotions including bobbleheads of the greatest people in stadium history.

MINOR LEAGUE PARKS: INDIANAPOLIS (December) — IndyGo and the People for Urban Progress (PUP) are bringing a little baseball [nostalgia](#) to city bus stops. Seats from the old Bush Stadium on West 16th Street, where the Indianapolis Indians played for decades until moving Downtown to Victory Field, are being refurbished and used as bus stop seating. Pilot seating for the PUP stops was installed on Alabama Street south of Vermont Street. "Not only will these seats provide a comfortable resting place for transit riders, they will also become a form of repurposed public art," Samantha Cross, IndyGo director of [business](#) development, said in a statement. Plans call for installing four to five additional PUPstops in the spring. IndyGo and PUP will accept sponsorships for the seating.

COLLEGE PARKS: Texas A&M has completed a \$25M upgrade of their hallowed baseball grounds. It is now officially called Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park with a \$7M contribution from the ice cream company. The upgrade features a grand, red-brick façade with arches, a club lounge and a children's playground along the right-field wall.. The park's architect, HKS, studied old photos of the campus to design the façade. On a much more modest scale, UCLA's Steele Field at Jackie Robinson stadium added 580 permanent chairback seats increasing seating capacity to 1,820. These seats replaced grass berms. Temporary seating had been added for the 2010 and 2011 NCAA tournament.

BALLPARK BIBLIOGRAPHY:

“BIBLIOGRAPHY of BALLPARK BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS”

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

David H. Mitchell

When I was a kid, I collected everything baseball - gum cards, scorecards, magazines, *The Sporting News*, books, autographs, etc. As an adult, I learned this could become very expensive and decided to focus on ballparks and stadiums. I went to as many ballparks as possible (130, so far) on ballpark tours, family odysseys and business trips. I also gathered ballpark books. The Bibliography started first as an inventory of my ballpark book collection. Then I learned of books I didn't have but would like. I listed them, too, but marked the ones I had with a bullet at the end of their entry. Using data from bookseller catalogs, on-line bookstores, and other bibliographies, my list just grew & grew. The 2011 edition has over 3600 entries and is alphabetical by title).

Example:

- Ballparks: Then and Now [A] - Eric Enders, h, (2002), 160 pp, Thunder Bay Press, San Diego •
- [Paperback Edition: Same title, author, publisher; updated text] - p, (2007), 160 pp

My curse is Wikibooks – books that are merely a collection of Wikipedia entries on a given topic. I list Wikibooks, because they include obscure ballparks, but the number of them seems to be growing faster than I can keep up. This bibliography is available for downloading on the SABR website for anyone to use. The link is <https://sabr.box.com/shared/static/f1gzn9spyp1e9bklf6za.docx> . I only ask that users send any additions and/or corrections to dhmitchell@roadrunner.com.

(P.S. – I have an even longer Bibliography of Non-Baseball Stadium Books & Publications available on request)

THE FUTURE OF BALLPARKS: Stanley A. Meradith. As a young architect who ‘fell’ into the opportunity to design professional baseball facilities in the late 1980’s , I was attracted to writings of individuals regarding ballpark design. Well before the internet was commonplace, ballpark design standards were limited and relatively closely held to a few individuals. Sharing that information from design professionals to ‘interested others’, because of proprietary interests, just wasn’t done then (and even now for that matter). In 1989, I literally ‘stumbled’ upon the article City Baseball Magic in the Minneapolis Review of Baseball, volume 8, number

4, 1989. Along with that and writings referenced in Elysian Field Quarterly, the organization of SABR became known to me. Together with my chosen profession of being an architect, and my passion for the game I loved growing up, SABR was the catalyst that crystallized my focus on being a sports architect. SABR then, and the ballparks committee as one of its committees, is the safekeeper, the trustee, and the voice of reason of our national pastime, so vulnerable to the many faces of commercialism that attack it today. This paper is one person's attempt to center oneself in where ballpark design is today, where it's been and THE FUTURE OF BASEBALL PARKS. As a non-partisan force, SABR has and can continue to be a significant voice to safeguard the sport. It is my hope that this writing can contribute to the dialogue of successful ballpark design—not just historically, but into the future. In the spirit of Alan Kay, “The best way to predict the future is to invent it “. The complete paper is available for downloading on the SABR website. The link is:
<https://sabr.box.com/shared/static/o3d3dvqy33a7sr0ts1pn.docx>.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: Cleveland's League Park to get \$5 million renovation

Cleveland is finally set to restore League Park, at least two decades after city officials first discussed returning the piece of hallowed baseball ground to glory. The old ballpark, once home of the Cleveland Indians and the 1945 Negro League champion Cleveland Buckeyes, and adjacent parkland will undergo \$5 million in renovations. Work will begin late this spring or in early summer and be finished in about a year. League Park, at East 66th Street and Lexington Avenue in the Hough neighborhood, hosted its first baseball game in 1891, with pitching legend Cy Young on the mound for the Cleveland Spiders. The park is on the National Register of Historic Places. City Architecture is wrapping up plans that include restoring the ticket house and a bleacher wall and creating a Major League-size diamond in the same place as the original. Home plate will go in the exact spot where it rested the day that Babe Ruth whacked his 500th career home run in 1929. Plans also call for a community building with a museum, a youth baseball diamond and a field for football and soccer. If bids are low enough, the city could add a pavilion and splash park. Fans from around the world have expressed interest in visiting after the restoration is finished.

The Indians used League Park from 1900 through 1946, continuing to play some games there for 15 years after Municipal Stadium opened. It was the team's home field during the 1920 World Series. Besides Young and Ruth, greats such as Bob Feller, Ty Cobb, Napoleon Lajoie, Tris Speaker and Shoeless Joe Jackson passed through the park. Indians second-baseman Bill Wambsganss executed his famous unassisted triple play at League Park in the 1920 World Series. Yankee Joe DiMaggio stroked the last hit in his 56-game streak at the park in 1941. Alta Weiss, a teenage girl, pitched there for a men's semi-pro team in the early 1900s. The old Cleveland

Rams played professional football games at League Park in the 1940s, and it served as a practice field for the Browns until 1951, when the city bought the property and converted it into a community park. The park eventually disintegrated.

RESEARCH PAPER:

LEAGUE PARK III-Cleveland AL: 1901-1909

Ron Selter

There were four ballparks in Cleveland called League Park. The first (League Park I) was used by the NL Cleveland Spiders 1879-1884. This park was located at Silby (later Carnegie) St, Kennard (later East 46th) St, and Cedar St. The second park (League Park II) was used by the American Association Cleveland Spiders 1887-1888 and the NL Cleveland Spiders 1889-1890. This second park in Cleveland to be called League Park was at a different location (39th St, East 35th St, Euclid Ave, and Payne Ave). League Park III was at a third location (located in downtown Cleveland at East 70th St, Linwood Ave, Dunham-later East 66th St,-and Lexington Ave Northeast) ⁽¹⁾. League Park III was used by the little-lamented NL Cleveland Spiders for the 1891-1899 seasons, and was the first Cleveland ballpark used by the AL, starting as a minor league park in 1900. League Park IV was built of steel-and-concrete on the site of League Park III between the 1909 and 1910 seasons. This park was later used by the AL Cleveland Indians until mid-season 1932, and again for most home games from 1934 to 1946.

At League Park III, home plate and the grandstand were located in the northwest corner of the site. Dimensional data for this ballpark in *Green Cathedrals* are limited to RF (290) and the height of the RF fence (20 feet). The park, on Opening Day 1901 when it was first used by the AL as a major league park, consisted of a covered wooden grandstand in several sections from well beyond first base to well beyond third base. In addition, small bleachers were located far down the LF and RF foul lines. In 1901-02, there were no seats in the fair portion of the outfield. The seating capacity of the park in 1901 was about 9,000. For most of its existence (1891-1904), the ballpark's dimensions were constrained by the inability of the club to purchase several houses and a saloon on Lexington Ave, in what would have been the RF corner. Except for this aspect, the park site for 1891-1904 was rectangular. Because of the saloon property, the playing field was angled such that the RF foul line just hit the corner of the saloon property. As a result, there was a diagonal section of fence and screen that ran from the RF foul pole to the Lexington Ave perimeter fence. An extension of the RF line intersected the RF perimeter fence at 102 degrees, and the LF foul line therefore had to intersect the LF fence at 78 degrees. The LF and RF fences met in the CF corner (to the right of dead CF) at a right angle. One curious feature of the ballpark was the existence, starting with the 1903 season, of an enclosed pathway-dubbed the subway-located behind the LF fence that provided access to the RF bleachers from the third base bleachers ⁽²⁾.

Late in the 1904 season, the ballclub managed to acquire the properties along Lexington Ave and the ballpark could then be expanded. This acquisition meant the park site was now actually a rectangle. The additional space in RF was used to extend the first base bleachers to the Lexington Ave perimeter fence. In addition, the field was reoriented towards RF with the LF line now meeting the LF fence at 85 degrees and the RF line now intersecting the RF fence at 95 degrees. Before the 1908 season the capacity of the ballpark was increased by adding a new set of bleachers behind the LF-CF fence while the bleacher section at the CF end of the RF bleachers was removed. (Otherwise the RF bleachers would have blocked the view from the new LF-CF bleachers). Finally after the 1908 season all of the remaining RF bleachers were removed.

The Basis of the Park's Configurations and Dimensions

The knowledge of the park's original configuration and dimensions was based on three principal sources: (1) an 1892 Cleveland Ward Map, (2) a 1896 Sanborn fire insurance map and (3) the ballpark diagram from Baseball Memories 1900-1909⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾. The 1892 Ward Map showed the park site, the stands, the foul lines and the baselines. The 1892 Ward Map also showed the RF line terminating at the corner of the saloon property. The baselines and foul lines determined the location of home plate and the backstop distance (75 feet). This information was used to plot the location of home plate and the foul lines on the 1896 Sanborn map⁽⁴⁾. The Sanborn map was used as the basis of the park diagram as it showed additional stands built after 1892. All of the other ballpark dimensions were derived from this diagram. The resulting LF dimension was 353, dead CF was 409, and RF was 248. The deepest point in the ballpark was the CF corner (445), at the junction of the LF and RF fences, and was about halfway between dead CF and right-center. It was 304 in RF to the junction of the diagonal fence and the perimeter Lexington Ave fence. The definitive evidence regarding the existence of the diagonal fence section in RF was found as a result of research into home runs hit at League Park III. In the game of 9-29-1904 Napoleon Lajoie (the Cleveland captain and the reason the Cleveland team was known as the Naps) hit a home run to RF. The game account in the Boston Globe described the home run as being hit over the screen in RF, the ball dropping over the inside fence⁽⁶⁾.

The first configuration change was before the 1903 season. Capacity was increased with the building of bleachers in RF in front of the 20 foot high RF wall. These bleachers were located in RF and extended from the CF corner to within about 50 feet of the RF foul line. These bleachers, whose depth was estimated to have been 25-30 feet, reduced the straight-away RF distance from 323 to 286. The seating capacity of the park was again increased after the 1904 season when the saloon and houses along Lexington Ave were acquired and added to the park

site. This addition to the park site amounted to 10,000 square feet. At this time the playing field was rotated seven degrees towards RF and the first base stands were extended to the Lexington Ave fence.

Before the 1908 season, the park's capacity was again increased by the construction of an additional set of wooden bleachers behind the LF fence. The addition of these new bleachers increased the area of the park site by about 4500 square feet. These bleachers, as shown in the 1909 photo from the *Cleveland Leader*, extended from about straight-away left field all the way to the CF corner ⁽⁷⁾. Early in the 1908 season, a game account in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* referred to an inside-the-park-home-run to CF by Charlie Hickman as the first Cleveland home run on the enlarged grounds ⁽⁸⁾. This meant that the center field portion of the RF bleachers had been removed-most likely to unblock the sight lines from the new CF bleachers. Additional evidence, for the removal of the old CF bleachers, is that IPHRs to CF increased from 1.8 per season (1903-07) to six in 1908. The main portion of the RF bleachers remained in use for another season (1908) after which, they were removed as shown by the 1909 photo in the *Cleveland Leader* ⁽⁹⁾. Park data and dimensions for League Park III are shown below:

Dimensions (From Park Diagram)

Years	LF	SLF	LC	CF*	RC	SRF	RF
1901-02	353	347	362	409	390	323	248
1903-04	353	347	362	409	352	286	248
1905-07	356	364	390	400	315	308	290
1908	356	364	390	450	315	308	290
1909	356	364	390	450	348	308	290

* Deepest point was the CF corner 455 (1901-02), 439 (1903-07), 455 (1908-09)

Average Outfield Distances

Years	LF	CF	RF
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1901-02	351	402	322
1903-04	351	390	303
1905-07	369	385	301
1908	369	388	301
1909	369	396	312

Fence Heights (From *Green Cathedrals* and Estimated from Photos)

Years	LF	CF	RF
1901-02	10	10-20	20
1903-07	10	10-20	6-20
1908	10	6-20	6-20
1909	10	10-20	20

Capacity: 9,000 (1901), 11,200 (1903-04 Est.); 11,600 (1905-07 Est.); 12,600 (1908 Est.); 11,600; (1909 Est.)

Park Size-Composite Average Outfield Distance: 358 (1901-02); 348 (1903-04); 352 (1905-07); 353 (1908), 363 (1909)

Park Site Area: 3.9 acres (1901-04), 4.2 acres, (1905-07), 4.3 acres (1908-09)

Deadball Era Run Factor: 96 (Rank: AL 14)

The Impact of the Park's Configurations and Dimensions on Batting

For the 1901-02 seasons League Park was the second smallest AL ballpark. Despite this small

size, the batting park factors were unexceptional-in fact downright average-(See table of League Park III Batting Park Factors below). Only for doubles was the park factor above 100. In the 1901 season the Cleveland Bluebirds (as they were called that year); did set an unbreakable record-fewest home runs at home: NONE! Apparently that was not entirely due to the ballpark, as the visitors managed an even dozen home runs at League Park that season. With those numbers in mind, one concludes that unlike with today's ballparks, League Park's original AL configuration was not designed to suit the home team's sluggers. In the next season things turned out a lot better for Cleveland, now called either the Blues or the Broncos, as the team hit 15 home runs to the visitor's five in 60 home games at League Park, while at the same time compiling a .310 home batting average (the highest in the AL) ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The reconfiguration of the park for the 1903 season significantly reduced the size of RF. However, this change appears to have virtually no impact on batting except for home runs. The League Park batting park factors for 1901-02 vs. 1903-07 were virtually unchanged except for a small increase in doubles and a small decrease in triples (See Batting Park Factors at League Park III below). It is interesting to note that the short RF fence at League Park in 1903 resulted in only six Over-The-Fence (OTF) home runs to RF, while in that same season the short LF fence at Washington's AL Park was the scene of 30 OTF home runs. It would appear that the AL in general and the Cleveland team in particular did not have many power-hitting left-handed batters. In the six seasons (1903-08) with the RF bleachers in place, there were on average only five OTF home runs to RF per season. In the same six seasons in this configuration, the park was a very average hitter's park being a slightly above average park for doubles, and a slightly below average park for triples and home runs. The removal of the RF bleachers before the 1909 season had a negligible impact on batting except for triples (the park factor increased 35%) and home runs. Home runs fell from 15 in the 1908 season to only three in the 1909 season, while the park's home run park factor dropped from 81 to 20. Unlike many Deadball Era ballparks, League Park III was not a park conducive to Inside-the-Park-Home Runs (IPHR) as shown by the home run data below. The installation of the RF bleachers for the 1903 season led to a drop in IPHR from 5.5 per season for 1901-02 to 1.8 per season for the next five seasons. During the five seasons (1903-07) with the RF-CF bleachers in place, IPHR accounted for just 13% of the total home runs hit at League Park III. In the 1908 season with the removal of the CF portion of the RF-CF bleachers, IPHR accounted for 60% of total home runs at the park. In 1909, after the removal of the remaining RF bleachers, all three home runs hit that season were IPHR. The home run data and batting park factors are shown below in three tables:

Home Runs by Type at League Park III

Years	Total	OTF	Bounce	IP
1901-02	32	21	0	11
1903-07	71	62	4	9
1908	15	6	0	9
1909	3	0	0	3

Bounce: Bounce Home Runs

IP: Inside-the-Park-Home Runs

OTF: Over-The-Fence (Includes Bounce)

OTF Home Runs by Field at League Park III (Excluding Bounce)

Years	Total	LF	CF	RF	Unknown
1901-02	21	13	1	3	4
1903-07	58	29	4	24	1
1908	6	0	0	6	0
1909	0	0	0	0	0

Batting Park Factors at League Park III

Years	BA	OBP	SLUG	2B*	3B*	HR*	BB**
1901-02	100	99	100	118	83	82	91

1903-07	100	99	99	106	90	69	92
1908	103	101	102	111	84	81	94
1909	102	100	102	112	113	20	88

* Per AB

** Per Total Plate Appearance (AB+BB+HP)

Philip J. Lowry, *Green Cathedrals*, Revised Edition, Reading MA, Addison Wesley 1992

Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 16, 1905

Cleveland Ward Map 1892

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map, Cleveland 1896, Sheet 292

Okkonen, Marc, *Baseball Memories 1900-1909*, Sterling Publishing Co. Inc. New York NY, 1992; p. 49

Boston Globe, September 30, 1904

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Cleveland Leader, June 5, 1908

Op. cit. Plain Dealer July 6, 1909

Excluding five home games played at neutral sites



League Park

(Photo provided by Vic Pallos)