

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Whittier Field Athletic Complex  
 Other names/site number: Whittier Field, Hubbard Grandstand, and Class of 1903 Memorial Gate  
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Harpswell Road, Bowker Street, and Pine Street  
 City or town: Brunswick State: Maine County: Cumberland  
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"><i>Krist A. Mohrney, SHPO</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"><i>5/2/2017</i></p>
<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</b>                  State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span></p>	

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Tom Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*6.26.17*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

MIXED

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/Fieldstone; STONE/cast stone;  
STONE/Slate; BRICK; METAL/Iron; METAL/Steel; METAL/Copper; METAL/Aluminum;  
CONCRETE; ASPHALT; SYNTHETIC/track material

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Whittier Field Athletic Complex Historic District is located to the east of Bowdoin College campus in Brunswick, Maine. It is separated from the campus by Harpswell Road and the Bowdoin Pines grove of trees. An unpaved path through the grove is the main approach to the complex. Passing through the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate, the pathway opens into the southwest corner of the grass-covered field area, with the Hubbard Grandstand on the south side of the field. The complex is an approximately six-acre area containing an athletic field surrounded by a quarter-mile oval six-lane synthetic surface track with a 1903 roofed masonry grandstand facing the center of the oval track on the south side. The Neo-Classical gate structure on the west end of the site, built in 1928, provides access and egress to the complex. The field has goal posts and a scoreboard for football games and includes facilities and equipment for shot put, pole vault, jumping, and other typical field competition events. A modern steel and aluminum bleachers stand is located on the north side of the field, opposite the grandstand. The site is surrounded by a six-foot tall chain-link fence. A residential neighborhood along Bowker Street is located behind the grandstand on the south side of the property. Pine Street is the eastern boundary of the property and Pine Grove Cemetery is to

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

the north. Much of the perimeter of the property is lined with mature pine trees outside the fence, creating a sense of enclosure for the facility.

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**Narrative Description**

**01. Whittier Field**

**1896**

**No Survey**

**1 Contributing Site**

Whittier Field is a level open playing field surrounded by a quarter-mile six lane synthetic surface running track with a 220 yard eight lane straightaway extending east and west from the oval on the south side. The field surface is natural grass. Steel football goal posts are located at either end of the field with a scoreboard, erected in 2010, located outside the oval in the northwest corner of the property. A flagpole, erected in 1954, is located near the scoreboard. Hubbard Grandstand is located on the south side of the oval with a modern steel and aluminum bleacher opposite it. An area for discus competitions is located at the southeast corner of the property, outside the oval. Lanes and pits for pole vaulting are located just west of the grandstand. The Class of 1903 Memorial Gate is located a short distance west of the oval, at the edge of the Bowdoin Pines grove which separates Whittier Field from Harpswell Road and the rest of the Bowdoin Campus.

The goal posts, scoreboard, and other modern items related to the functioning of the field do not contribute to the significance of the site due to their age. The 1954 memorial flagpole does contribute to the significance of the site. These items are not separately identified as objects because they are minor resources that do not contribute strongly to the overall complex.

**02. Hubbard Grandstand**

**1904, 1940, 1952**

**No Survey**

**1 Contributing Building**

Hubbard Grandstand is 122 feet long by 37 feet wide. It combines elements of the Colonial Revival/Classical Revival and Craftsman styles with a feeling of the Shingle Style resort architecture of the late nineteenth century. It has a one-story fieldstone base beneath a tall tiered concrete and brick seating area. A hipped roof with deep copper-clad overhang eaves is supported on steel columns at the front (north) of the grandstand and brick piers at the rear (south). Two ½" thick steel "fins" have been welded to each of the tall columns, presumably to strengthen them. Ten bays of no-longer-operable wood panels, hinged at the sides, fill the openings between the piers along the top of the rear wall, with an identical bay on either end wall. Wrought iron railings are located on the inside of the wood panels, indicating that they swung out. Entrances into the base of the structure, which contains locker rooms, storage, restrooms, and offices, are located at the center of the north elevation, at three locations in the south elevation and in each end. There is a single door in the west elevation and two doors in the east. The wood doors are constructed of vertical v-groove boards with nearly full-width ornamental iron strap hinges and brass knobs. Carved into the granite cap stones above the

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

door on the north elevation, facing Whittier Field, are the words, "FAIR PLAY AND MAY THE BEST MAN WIN."

Exposed riveted steel trusses support the reinforced concrete roof. A staircase and steel catwalk provide access to the hipped roofed press box on the roof from the rear center of the structure. The press box on the roof was added to the structure in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; however, it burned in 2004 and was rebuilt in the same form. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, replacing the original green slate. The press box exterior is covered with green painted wood shingles. Eight large single-pane sash are located in the north elevation, overlooking the field. Two large spot lights are located on the roof of the press box. The interior walls are painted plywood. Within the open seating area of the grandstand, unpainted wood planks have been bolted to the concrete risers, in place of the original wood chair seating. In addition to the historic iron railings at the stairs on the sides of the seating area, modern steel handrails and guardrails have been added at the stairs and cross walkways.

The south elevation of the building is divided into three stories. The first story is fieldstone and contains three bays, each with a board door with iron strap hinges. A granite string course caps the fieldstone and provides a base for the brick above. The second story is of brick and contains fifteen bays. Bays one, two, fourteen, and fifteen contain wide arched openings with a pair of mullied six-over-six windows in each bay. Bay eight, the center bay, is also arch topped, but narrower, containing a single six-over-six window. All of the arched openings have slightly projecting brick lintels. The remaining bay openings are square topped with splayed brick lintels and each contains a single six-over-six window. The third story has ten bays, each of which contains a pair of hinged wood panels, which no longer operate. The deep overhang of the roof is coffered and clad is copper which continues onto the cornice.

The east and west ends of the building continue the fieldstone base, granite string course, and brick above. Fieldstone is also used for the original entry stairs to the grandstand, which remain in place under the later steel bleachers. Beyond the openings for the original stairs, the brick steps up to reflect the rise of the seating tiers within the upper portion of the grandstand before extending up to eave height for a single bay at the rear. These bays each contain an opening like those on the south elevation. Within the fieldstone base there is a single door on the west end and two doors on the east. These match the style and materials of the doors previously described.

The interior of the grandstand is a single story, divided in the center by a corridor that runs from north to south. At the north end of the corridor, a low-ceilinged room is located on either side. The room on the east is an office for the football coach and the room on west is a storage room. At the south end of the corridor, a locker room is located on either side, both connected to a shower room and a restroom. The restrooms are also accessed from the exterior through the doors in the ends of the building. The restrooms are several steps down from the locker rooms. A boiler room is located in the southeast corner and has its own wide door in the exterior wall. The boiler room floor is recessed below grade with a set of concrete steps down from the restroom level. Because of the space taken by the boiler room, the east locker room is noticeable smaller than the west locker room. The longer west locker room has two tall cast iron Doric columns supporting the concrete ceiling. Walls throughout the interior are brick,

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

painted everywhere except the boiler room. Floors are painted concrete, as are ceilings except in the office, which has a modern suspended ceiling with recessed fluorescent lighting. Interior doors are wood with a stained and varnished finish, except for several doors that have been painted over. Window sash are painted and trim is stained and varnished. The west locker room has metal lockers lining the north and south walls. Toilets, urinals, showers, and sinks appear to be largely from the time of construction. Overall, the interior retains a high degree of integrity with the suspended ceiling in the office being the only notable change since 1904.

Uncovered steel bleachers with wood plank seating were added to the building to expand seating in 1940 and 1952. They are located in front of the grandstand and at either end, partially wrapping around the building. Entrance to the covered seating in the grandstand is via the steel bleachers. The steel bleachers added in 1940 have a seven foot eight inch gap at center to allow access into the door at the center of the field stone base of the building. The section to the east of the gap is eighty four feet nine inches long. The section to the west of the gap is ninety feet nine inches long. The sections added in 1950 are forty eight feet long on the east and seventy eight feet eight inches on the west. A gap six feet wide was left between the lower part of the 1940 bleaches and the 1952 sections of the bleaches to provide access through the underside of the structure to the men's and lady's restrooms in the base of the grandstand. The steel bleachers have nine rows of benches in front of the grandstand and nineteen rows on either end where the structure wraps part way about the building. The original stone and concrete staircases accessing the grandstand at either end remain in place beneath the steel bleachers.

The gap in the steel bleachers at the center of the grandstand allows access to the door into the base of the building. In the fieldstone walls on either side of the door, now hidden by the steel bleachers, are five twelve-light windows in openings with shallow segmental arched tops. It is not apparent whether these are hinged casement windows or fixed sash. Heavy hardware wire screens with wood frames are mounted over the windows, apparently pre-dating the bleachers.

**03. Class of 1903 Memorial Gate  
1928**

**No Survey**

**1 Contributing Structure**

The Neo-Classical Class of 1903 Memorial Gate is composed of tall wrought iron gates supported by brick piers with flanking brick walls that terminate in piers. The structure is seventy feet wide and eighteen feet six inches tall to the top of the finial on the central crest. A nine foot four inch wide pair of gates is located at center, flanked by a single four foot six inch gate on either side. Shorter single gates of the same width are located in arched openings in the brick walls on either side. The brick walls have a cast stone cap and the piers have cast stone caps and finials. Shaped copper flashing covers the tops of the caps below the finials and appears to have been added at a later date. On the west side of the structure, the thirteen foot tall brick walls curve outward, creating spaces for ticket booths between the straight brick walls on the east and curved brick walls on the west at either side of the gates. Each booth has two arched ticket windows with iron grilles. The booth interiors are accessed through arched wood doors in the north and south end walls of the structure. The doors are constructed of

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

vertical v-grove boards. The gate at center is located below a wrought iron crest that contains the Bowdoin seal with a gilded sun face at center.

Two bronze plaques are mounted to the west side of the structure. The smaller, mounted on the south pier of the center gate, reads, "Presented June 1928 by the Class of 1903." A larger plaque mounted on the wall to the south of the gate openings, reads, "Whittier Field – Magee Track, The All Weather Track At Whittier Field Is Named In Memory Of John Joseph Magee, Teacher, Coach, and Director of Track and Field Athletics for Forty-Three Years." More than 200 individual donors and twelve institutional donors are named on the plaque, which was dedicated June 4, 1974.

**04. Steel and Aluminum Bleachers**

**c. 2000**

**No Survey**

**1 Non-Contributing Structure**

The modern steel and aluminum bleachers located on the north side of the oval, opposite Hubbard Grandstand are 130 feet long and 24 feet wide. They stand approximately 12 feet tall, with 10 tiers of seating. The supporting structure is fabricated from galvanized steel. The walkways, steps, and benches are mill finish aluminum.



**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1896-1967

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Henry Vaughan (1845-1817, architect  
Harry S. Coombs (1878-1939), architect

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Whittier Field Athletic Complex at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Cumberland County, Maine is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, Entertainment and Recreation, as a collegiate athletic facility and under Criterion C, Architecture, as a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The grouping of the three major components (field, grandstand, and gate) along with related secondary elements (goal posts, scoreboard, flagpole, etc.) creates an identifiable historic district at the local level. The gate retains a high degree of integrity, the grandstand a good degree of integrity, and the field has sufficient integrity to contribute. The track surface has changed from clay and cinders to a synthetic material, but the design, feeling, association, setting, and location of the field are sufficiently intact even with reduced integrity of workmanship and materials. The Whittier Field athletic complex at Bowdoin College includes Whittier Field (1896), Hubbard Grandstand (1904), and the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate (1928), a related group of facilities developed for intercollegiate football and track and field competitions at Bowdoin College. Hubbard Grandstand was designed by English-born Boston architect Henry Vaughan (1845 –1917) and the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate was designed by Bowdoin graduate and Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs (1878-1939). The period of significance is 1896 to 1967, extending from the construction date of the earliest contributing element of the complex until fifty years before the present.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A, Entertainment and Recreation as a collegiate athletic facility.

Whittier Field was developed by Bowdoin College in 1896, at a time when collegiate athletics were becoming increasingly structured and intercollegiate competitions were becoming more common, particularly in football, baseball, and track and field. At the time Bowdoin developed Whittier Field, Colby College in Waterville had recently completed a race track and Bates College in Lewiston and The University of Maine at Orono were planning similar facilities.

Up through the mid-1890's, athletic facilities at Bowdoin were limited to a gymnasium, a boat house on the Androscoggin River, and a rough field called the Delta on the edge of the campus next to the Bowdoin Pines. A set of wooden bleachers for spectators was built behind the Medical College, overlooking the Delta. An early 1890's photo shows the open bleachers without a roof at the Delta. The Medical College and Delta were located east of Harpswell Street, separated from the main campus by that street. The relocation of Harpswell Street to meet Federal Street in 1948 expanded the campus by incorporating the Medical College and Delta. The Delta was subsequently filled with additional campus buildings.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

The case for an improved athletic field was made in an eight page pamphlet titled "The Proposed Athletic Field at Bowdoin College" that appears to have been published in 1896.<sup>1</sup> It traces the history of efforts over several years to develop a plan for a new or improved athletic field for the college, including rejected proposals to increase the size of the Delta by cutting pines and installing a cinder track there or developing a new facility on the Brunswick Plains, more than a mile from campus. After the rejection of these options, the committee working on the problem looked at "every level piece of ground within a mile of the college" for suitable sites and settled on a triangle of land between New Meadows Road (now Pine Street) and Bowker Street, already partially owned by the college.<sup>2</sup>

Since the school-owned property was not large enough for a quarter-mile track, it was necessary to purchase additional property adjacent to it from the Bowker heirs, who were initially not interested in selling. Finally, in 1896, the Bowkers agreed to a price of \$800 for the necessary land and an additional strip of land from another abutter, necessary for the "straight-away" track, was purchased for \$100.<sup>3</sup>

With land secured, the proposal was for a "quarter-mile track of clay and cinders, and use the space inclosed [sic] by it for Base-ball and foot-ball. The parallel sides of the track will be 320 feet in length, and the one on the south can be extended to make a straight course for 220 yards. All races will have their finish opposite the grand stand." The estimated cost for this was \$5,000, including the land purchases.<sup>4</sup>

In making the case for the new field the pamphlet noted that the cost would be much less than the average cost of other college athletic fields, that it would be in a "beautiful spot" conveniently reached from the campus, and that, "Bowdoin is the only college without a running track that attempts to make a showing at the intercollegiate meet at Worcester. Of the colleges in the Maine league, Colby built a track last year. Cinder paths are being talked of at Bates and Orono; and unless Bowdoin is content to be the last in the list, some immediate action must be taken." It explained that the existing field on the Delta was ten yards too short for a football field, and "the pine trunks and roots, at the east end of the field, add an unnecessary element of danger to the game." Another limitation was that with only one field, only the varsity team could practice. Similar arguments were made for the use of the existing field for baseball.<sup>5</sup>

The pamphlet detailed donations from current students and alumni to-date, totaling \$1,800, and urged immediate action to raise another thousand dollars to allow the project to happen in the current year.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "The Proposed Athletic Field at Bowdoin College," 1896, 1.13.1: Subject Files, Box 3, Folder 1.31.1 College Buildings: Whittier Field and Grandstand, 1843-1914, 1952, The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 7.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

Apparently the effort was successful, as an unidentified newspaper clipping from September 12, 1896 reports that the new field and track are nearing completion:

Altogether biggest job of the vacation has been accomplished under the direction of Dr. F. N. Whittier, the gymnasium instructor. Down at the extreme eastern part of the college property in the midst of a pine grove one of the best athletic ovals in New England is being rushed to completion. At commencement time there was a howling wilderness of pine bottom. To-day, there is a smooth field on which the grass is beginning to crop out. Around the grass plot runs a quarter-mile track, built on the subsoil, coated thickly with clay and topped off with cinders furnished by the Maine Central Company. On the south side, joining the quarter-mile track at the turn is an eighth-mile, straight-away course for dashes and hurdle racing. This, too, is cinder topped. Inside the track will be the base ball diamond and the foot ball gridiron. An eight-foot fence with level top is being built about the field. The grand stand, now standing back of the medical building, will be moved onto the new field this fall, but later on Dr. Whittier says they will have a combination grand stand and club house, which will be as good as any in New England. The new field will be reached by a path through the woods, which is to be cut eight feet wide and made straight as a die. The grounds will be formally opened with a championship foot ball game about the first of October.<sup>7</sup>

An unidentified newspaper clipping from October 3<sup>rd</sup> of the same year headlined, "Bowdoin's New Athletic Field" reported that the work was completed and the grass was coming in on the field. The article states, "Bowdoin's list of famous and eminent alumni owes much of its glory to the fact that when a Bowdoin man makes up his mind to do a thing he usually does it well." It continues, "The work of Prof. Frank N. Whittier, M.D., this summer on the athletic field is an example of the truth of this general rule. To him the credit of the new field is mainly due and for him many think the field should be named, as a just reward for his unselfish labor in the cause of all athletics at Bowdoin." No documentation was found for the formal naming of the field for Whittier in researching this nomination, but it appears the field was likely named shortly after completion.<sup>8</sup>

The article describes the anticipated use of the field, stating:

The base ball diamond and foot ball gridiron are in the space inclosed by the quarter-mile oval. The varsity teams will use this field in their practice, while the old delta will be used by the second teams and class teams. Especially convenient will this be found in base ball, a sport which has never reached its height at Bowdoin for want of a strong second nine and a place to practice. The same thing was true of football. The system of recitation hours prevented any

<sup>7</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1896-97* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated September 12, 1896 "An Athletic Field Which Will Be Second to None in New England – Foot Ball Prospect," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>8</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1896-97* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated October 3, 1896, "Bowdoin's New Athletic Field," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

classes from playing until four o'clock and then there was but one field for varsity, second and class teams.<sup>9</sup>

The *Report of the President of Bowdoin College for the Academic Year 1896-97* includes information on the new athletic field:

During the past year the department of physical training has received an important addition in the new athletic field which is located just east of the old Delta, and only three minutes' walk from Sargent Gymnasium.

The field is about six acres in extent, giving room for foot-ball, base-ball, and track-athletics. It contains a quarter-mile circular track, a two hundred and twenty yard straight-away track, jumping paths for the broad jump, high jump, and pole vault, and circles for putting the shot and throwing the hammer. The tracks and jumping paths are built of clay and cinders, and are protected by edgeboards. The grand-stand, built on the Delta three years ago, has been moved to the new field and placed in such a position as to accommodate field-athletics, track athletics, foot-ball, and base-ball. The whole field has been inclosed by a high board fence.

The cost of the field is \$4,600, of which nearly \$4,300 has been paid by subscriptions received from alumni and friends of the college, leaving a debt of \$300, a part of which is covered by unpaid subscriptions. The Treasurer of the college, Ira P. Booker, Esq., receives all subscriptions for the field and audits the accounts.

The work of soliciting funds and making contracts for the building of the field has been under the direction of the Athletic Field Committee. The members of the committee are: Charles T. Hawes, '76; Barrett Potter, '78; Frank N. Whittier, '85; James W. Crawford, '95; John C. Minot, '96.

The engineering work was done by John E. Burbank, '96. The contractor was William Muir, Jr., of Brunswick.<sup>10</sup>

Development of the Complex

Further development of the field into a complex of related facilities began with the temporary relocation of the wooden bleachers from behind the Medical College building beside the Delta. A published line drawing from 1896 shows the wooden structure covered with a roof at the new location. News reports from the opening of the field in 1896 make clear that there was the intent to build a larger and more permanent grandstand with locker rooms in it from the outset. This occurred in 1903 with the

<sup>9</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1896-97* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated October 3, 1896, "Bowdoin's New Athletic Field," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>10</sup> *Report of the President of Bowdoin College for the Academic Year 1896-97*, Brunswick, Maine, 1897, 40.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

construction of the Hubbard Grandstand, a gift from Bowdoin graduate General Thomas H. Hubbard, Class of 1857. When he agreed to fund the construction of the grandstand, work was being completed on the Hubbard Library at Bowdoin, also his gift.

The final major component of the complex, the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate, was built in 1928, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Class. Other memorial gates had been recently constructed on the main campus and a ceremonial entry gate to Whittier Field had been promoted by Bowdoin President Kenneth Sills in 1920. A gate for Whittier field had been designed by Bowdoin graduate Felix Arnold Burton (Class of 1907) and given to the Bowdoin Museum of Art in 1915, but was not used for the actual gate.<sup>11</sup> Bowdoin graduate Harry S. Coombs (Class of 1901), a Lewiston architect, was chosen to design the gate that was built. The gate was completed in time for the class reunion at Bowdoin in June 1928. It is the largest and most elaborate of Bowdoin's memorial gateways.

In addition to its symbolic function as a grand entrance to the athletic complex, the gate design included ticket booths on either side to handle that functional aspect of the use of the complex.

Press reports indicate that the seating capacity of the Hubbard Grandstand was exceeded within several decades. A 1926 newspaper clipping reporting on the upcoming state football championship game between Bowdoin and the University of Maine stated that, "accommodations for a record attendance are being made as fast as possible on Whittier Field." It continued, "For over two weeks crews have been busy erecting bleachers..."<sup>12</sup> The article indicates that bleachers were constructed on both sides of the field and probably included the bleachers in front of Hubbard Grandstand that were replaced by the existing steel bleachers in 1940. This addition to the grandstand was expanded further to the east and west in 1952. The wooden bleacher sections were relocated to other positions around the field in 1940 and were later removed entirely. The newest addition to the complex is the aluminum bleacher structure on the north side of the track, opposite the Hubbard Grandstand, installed circa 2000.

Later Changes to Whittier Field

Whittier Field continued to host both baseball and football games as well as track and field meets until 1927, when Pickard Field, a second athletic facility with multiple practice fields and baseball diamonds was constructed by the college at another location. This allowed removal of the baseball diamond at Whittier Field. Since construction of Pickard Field, only football games and track meets have been held at Whittier Field.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, Patricia McGraw. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 184.

<sup>12</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1926-27* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated November 4, 1926, "Game of Whittier Field for State Championship," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>13</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1926-27* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated April 18, 1927, "Bowdoin Plans Mammoth Athletic Layout and Clubhouse; Work Starts Soon If Funds Are In" The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

Scrapbooks in the collections of the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives at the Bowdoin College Library contain hundreds of newspaper clippings documenting the use of Whittier Field for football games and track and field meets throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both uses continue at the facility in 2017. Given the facility's continued use as originally intended from the construction of the field in 1896 until the present, the period of significance is from 1896 until 1967, which is fifty years before the present. Its significance is at the local level.

It is not known when the existing goal posts were erected on the field, or when the modern chain-link fencing was installed. The aluminum bleacher on the north side of the field appears to date from circa 2000 and the existing scoreboard was given by a number of alumni and dedicated October 2, 2010. The flag pole was dedicated to Francis Smith Dane, Class of 1896, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 5, 1954, by members of his family.

**Criterion C, Architecture/Design**

The athletic field, track, grandstand and gate form a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The functionally related components of the district – landscape, building, structure and objects – create a facility which has a distinct and recognizable character within the Bowdoin College campus and the larger Brunswick community. This character is largely intact from the time of completion of the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate in 1928. The complex is not visible from the main campus, being separated from it by Harpswell Street and the Bowdoin Pines grove. Although outside the boundary of the district, the tunnel-like pathway through the Bowdoin Pines to the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate provides an important transition experience between the campus and Whittier Field. In addition to the trees in the grove on the west, mature pine trees are planted outside the chain-link fence along the cemetery north of the complex and along much of Pine and Bowker streets on the east and south, creating a sense of enclosure for the complex.

The relationships between the elements of the complex are intentional and clearly reflect the functional uses of the space, with the memorial gate providing access and egress for large numbers of attendees and the grandstand providing seating for the majority of them, focused on the track and field. Service access is from Bowker Street, including access for visiting teams arriving on busses. The south side of Bowker Street is lined with houses, but they are largely screened by the grandstand and trees and have minimal visual impact on the character of the complex.

**The Hubbard Grandstand, 1904**

Reports on the plans for the new athletic field and on its construction and completion make clear that the wooden grandstand relocated from the Delta was intended to be a temporary solution with the intent to replace it with a more substantial structure that included locker rooms as soon as possible. It was not until 1903 that efforts got underway to build a permanent grandstand, with the financial support of General Thomas Hamlin Hubbard, Bowdoin Class of 1857.



**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

General Hubbard had already given substantial sums of money to Bowdoin for the construction of the Hubbard Library, then nearing completion, and had been instrumental in securing the donation of funds for the Searles Science Building. The donor, Edward F. Searles was a client of Hubbard, an attorney in New York City. The English-born Boston architect Henry Vaughan (1845 –1917) had been the designer of both those buildings and he was retained to design the Grandstand as well. The fieldstone base, red brick, and broad hipped roof above the open seating stands create a character described by architectural historian Patricia Anderson as, "pastoral, related to large summer cottages and the Steven's Shingle Style."<sup>14</sup> Interestingly, 1904 was also the year Vaughan designed Stillwater Manor in Salem, NH, for Searles. This sprawling romantic mansion uses similar materials, with half-timbered gables above. It was one of six houses designed by Vaughan for Searles over a period of years.<sup>15</sup>

The structure was described in the *Bangor Commercial* newspaper on May 17, 1904:

Hubbard Grandstand, Bowdoin college, named for its donor, Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard, '57, of New York City, is one of the finest buildings of its kind in the country.

The architect is Henry Vaughan, Esq., of Boston, who designed both the Library and Searles Science buildings. The contractors are C.L. Fellows & Co., of Concord, NH, who are the builders of several new buildings at St. Paul's School, Concord. The contract price for the grandstand is \$30,180.

The grandstand has been constructed in the solid manner which marks all of Mr. Vaughan's buildings and is absolutely fireproof. It has a steel frame, granite underpinning, rubble stone work for the first ten feet from the ground and finest quality red brick above. It is 122 feet long and 37 feet wide – making it a little more than twice the size of the old wooden affair. The building is terraced from the level of the field and the open portion for the seats is high enough to allow a basement under the whole stand and a broad entrance in front upon the field which does not project up into the part reserved for seats. The basement contains two separate sets of dressing rooms, for home and the visiting teams, with baths and lockers in each. There are also rooms for keeping athletic supplies and apparatus, and a room for the athletic coach. To these apartments there are entrances in rear and ends. The basement is heated by hot water and lighted by electricity. The open part of the stand contains individual seats for 480. The roof is covered with slate.<sup>16</sup>

The grandstand was dedicated by General Hubbard on June 22, 1904. An accounting of the cost of the nearly completed structure is included in correspondence related to the construction of the Hubbard Library:

<sup>14</sup> Anderson, Patricia McGraw. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 156, 183.

<sup>15</sup> *The Down East Dilettante*, "Obsessive Building—More of Mr. Searles and His Castles," October 25, 2010. <https://downeastdilettante.wordpress.com/category/henry-vaughan/> accessed September 30, 2016.

<sup>16</sup> *Documentary History 1903-04, Volume 1* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping from the *Bangor Commercial* dated May 17, 1904, "Hubbard Grand Stand," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

C.L. Fellows & Co., Contract	\$30,184.00
Bolts for seats:	200.00
Fairfield Lawn Swing Co. Chairs	615.69
Paine Furniture Co.	639.91
Brunswick Electric Light & Power Co.	17.36
Henry Vaughan	1,584.00
Maine Water Company	28.77
Total	<u>\$33,269.73</u> <sup>17</sup>

A reply letter from Gen. Hubbard states, "The grand-stand account needs no comment, further than the statement that Prof. Whittier wants some additional things, which I shall probably consent to, and, therefore this account can hardly be called closed."<sup>18</sup> This suggests the final cost of the grandstand was somewhat more than \$33,270. An early photo shows wood chairs filling the grandstand, apparently bolted to the concrete risers based on the cost accounting documentation. The Fairfield Lawn Swing Company was a Brunswick business.

Additional seating was built at Whittier Field by the late 1920's. A photograph published in the *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald* on October 14, 1928, captioned, "Cameraman Catches Phil Chapman Starring for Bowdoin," was taken during a game and shows open bleachers beside the field, apparently on the north side in the vicinity of the existing aluminum bleachers. It is not possible to tell if they are wood or metal in the 1928 newspaper photo.<sup>19</sup>

Wooden bleachers were also constructed in front of Hubbard Grandstand at some point before 1940, when they were replaced by steel bleachers. An article in the *Lewiston Daily Sun*, published August 16, 1940, states that the new steel bleachers will be "nine rows high in front of the grandstand and nineteen rows high on either side." It also notes that entrance to the grandstands will be changed to the front because the new stands will block the existing side entrances. The new seating would seat approximately 1,300 people. Documentation for existing wooden bleachers in front of the grandstand is included in the article, which states that the new stands will, "make available several sections of wooden stands for use in the end zones and on the corners." The article estimates that overall capacity will be increased by approximately 1000, suggesting that the wooden bleachers had seated approximately 300 in front of the grandstand.<sup>20</sup> At some point, the wooden chair seating in the grandstand was removed, leaving the concrete risers to be used as seating.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from William N. Putnam to Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard, April 15, 1904. 1.13.1: Subject Files, Box 3, Folder 1.31.1 College Buildings: Hubbard Hall, 1903-1904, 1960, 1962. The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>18</sup> Letter from Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard to William N. Putnam, April 29, 1904. 1.13.1: Subject Files, Box 3, Folder 1.31.1 College Buildings: Hubbard Hall, 1903-1904, 1960, 1962. The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>19</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1927-28* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated October 14, 1928, "Cameraman Catches Phil Chapman Starring for Bowdoin," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>20</sup> *Lewiston Daily Sun*, "Bowdoin Modernizing, Improving Whittier Field Seating Plan," August 16, 1940, 15.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

Physical evidence and a July 7, 1952 contract with Hussey Manufacturing Company of North Berwick, document that two additional sections of steel bleachers were added to the grandstand bleachers at that time.<sup>21</sup>

At some point, a press box was constructed on the roof of the grandstand, using the same hipped roof form as the original structure. This press box was destroyed by fire in April 2004 and rebuilt in a similar form.<sup>22</sup> It is not clear when the original green slate roof was replaced by green asphalt shingles.

Class of 1903 Memorial Gate, 1928

The Class of 1903 Memorial Gate at the entrance to Whittier Field was given by the Class of 1903 for their 25<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1928. Bowdoin has a number of memorial gates at various entrances to the campus, given by alumni. The Class of 1903 Gate is the largest and most elaborate gate.

The first memorial gate at Bowdoin was the Class of 1875 Memorial Gate, designed by the New York architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White and constructed in 1902. The Class of 1878 Gateway by the Boston firm Kilham and Hopkins followed two years later. The Warren Eastman Robinson Gateway and Franklin Clement Robinson Gateway were both designed by Felix A. Burton and dedicated in 1920 and 1923, respectively. Following construction of the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate at Whittier Field in 1928, designed by Harry S. Coombs, Felix A. Burton designed the last two gates at Bowdoin. They are the President's Gate, 1932 and the Alpheus Spring Packard Gate of 1940.

A newspaper clipping from March 1928 headlined, "Memorial Gate to be Built at Whittier Field, Class of 1903 Donates Money for Handsome Entrance" describes the gate:

Whittier Field, Bowdoin College's athletic ground is to be improved with a set of memorial gates, the gift of the class of 1903. According to the present plans this addition to the field will be completed about the first of June and dedication exercises will be celebrated during commencement, at which time the class of 1903 will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The contracts for the gates have already been awarded and they will cost about \$8,000.

The entire gateway will be 60 feet wide and will contain [sic] a large double gate at the center with smaller ones on each side. The columns [sic] of the main gate will be 14 feet in height, will each be surrounded by a polar bear of cast stone, and a Bowdoin College seal in bronze will top the main gate. In the towers at each end of the gate provision will be made for their use as ticket windows.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Contract between Hussey Manufacturing Co. and Bowdoin College, July 7, 1952. 1.13.1: Subject Files, Box 3, Folder 1.31.1 College Buildings: Hubbard Grandstand. The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>22</sup> Roy, Alix. "Fire Guts Whittier Field Press Box," *The Bowdoin Orient*, April 2, 2004

<sup>23</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1927-28* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated March 26, 1928, "Memorial Gate to be Built at Whittier Field," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

As built, the gate was ten feet wider and four-and-a-half feet taller than this description indicated.

The concept for a gate at Whittier Field was not new. Alumni Felix Arnold Burton, Class of 1907, had designed one and donated a watercolor rendering of it to the Bowdoin Art Museum in 1915. Burton had been involved in the design of the Sargent Gymnasium, Dudley Coe Infirmary, and Hyde Hall at Bowdoin. He also designed the William E. Robinson Memorial Gate on the west side of the campus, built in 1920.<sup>24</sup>

It is not clear why the decision was made to go to Lewiston architect Harry S. Coombs for the design when a gate was finally built in 1928. Coombs (1878-1939) was the son of prominent Lewiston architect George Coombs and a Class of 1901 graduate of Bowdoin. He joined his father's practice upon graduation. The ironwork for the gates was done by Bath Welding Company, of nearby Bath, Maine, using 6,000 pounds of wrought iron.<sup>25</sup> The gateway remains intact as built, with no apparent alterations except for the installation of copper flashing on the cast stone pier caps.

#### The Architects

Henry Vaughan is noted primarily for his ecclesiastical and academic buildings in the Gothic Revival style, making Hubbard Grandstand unusual in his work although it has some relationship to Stillwater Manor, a residence in New Hampshire, designed the same year.

Harry S. Coombs designed a wide range of building types across Maine, including residences, commercial buildings, public schools, and institutional buildings. The Class of 1903 Gate is apparently the only gateway he designed.

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#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate.)**

##### History of Early Athletics at Bowdoin

Bowdoin College was chartered by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1794, while Maine was a part of that state, and named for former Governor James Bowdoin. The first building, Massachusetts Hall, was built between 1798 and 1802. Bowdoin was the first college in Maine.

Organized college athletics did not exist in the United State during the school's early years. In the early 1820's, a ninepin alley on the future site of Kings Chapel was the only physical activity available to students on the campus. In the later part of that decade, an out-door gymnasium was erected, featuring parallel bars, ropes suspended from cross bars, and a "rough sort of merry-go-round." This playground for young adult boys was the extent of the school's physical training facilities for more than thirty years. In the 1860's an indoor

<sup>24</sup> Anderson, Patricia. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 156, 183.

<sup>25</sup> *Welding Engineer*, Vol. 14, "Welded Ornamental Iron Gates Presented to Bowdoin College," American Welding Society, Chicago, 1929, 47.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

gymnasium was set up, under a gymnasium director. The second director was Dudley A. Sargent, class of 1875. Later, as Dr. Sargent, he developed a system of physical training at Harvard University that gained wide use. A series of gymnasium directors followed and the gymnasium moved to several locations in various buildings on the campus. Dr. Sargent returned to Bowdoin to present a lecture on "Physical Training" in 1885 and offered to donate the equipment for a modern gymnasium if the school would provide a building. The Sargent Gymnasium was built the next year.<sup>26</sup>

Following gymnastics, rowing was the next organized physical activity for students at Bowdoin, starting in 1858 when two boat clubs were formed. The rowing clubs were inactive during the Civil War but restarted in 1866, with the first college regatta held in 1871. Bowdoin began sending crews to intercollegiate regattas in Massachusetts and New York in 1871. In 1885 and again in 1886, Bowdoin's four-oared crews won, setting American intercollegiate records. Interest in rowing remained strong into the early 1890's but the rowing association was in debt and rowing produced no gate receipts to help offset the cost of the teams. The last race was rowed at Bowdoin in 1894.<sup>27</sup>

The first baseball match at Bowdoin was played in 1860, with students playing against a local Brunswick team. Through the 1860's games were primarily played against local town teams, but Bowdoin did play Harvard at Portland in the later 1860's. Colby and Bates colleges fielded baseball teams in the early 1870s, followed by Maine State College (later University of Maine) a few years later. Annual contests between the colleges began at this time.<sup>28</sup>

The first football game was played at Bowdoin in 1869, a Freshman-Sophomore contest played on the campus. This early form of the game was more like English rugby and involved the entire class on each side instead of eleven players on each side. This game developed into an annual tradition that continued for more than thirty years along with casual "pick up" football games on campus throughout the fall of each year. In the 1880's, efforts were made to replace the mob version of the game with a more structured rugby game, but these were unsuccessful. In 1889, the "modern game" was adopted and Bowdoin's first intercollegiate game was played against Tufts in October, 1889. Bowdoin played Bates for the first time later the same year, Colby for the first time in 1892, and Maine State in 1893. Football steadily increased in popularity at the school from the time the modern game was adopted.<sup>29</sup>

Bowdoin held its first track and field meet in 1874 on "the Delta," a field near the Bowdoin Pines where the northeast corner of the main campus is located in 2016. The second meet, the following year, was held at the Topsham Fair Grounds, across the river from Brunswick. The meets became established as annual "field days" in the spring and fall, a custom carried into the 1890's. In 1887, Bowdoin sent a team of three men to the New England Intercollegiate meet at Hartford, CT. Starting in 1893, Bowdoin sent teams to this meet annually and their early disappointing scores improved over time, winning the meet for the first time in 1899. The

<sup>26</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 7-9.

<sup>27</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 10-11.

<sup>28</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 11-12.

<sup>29</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 12-13.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

Maine Intercollegiate annual meets began in 1895, the year before Whittier Field was constructed.<sup>30</sup>

In the 1880's tennis was played at Bowdoin, with the first clay court built in 1884 – a year after the first intercollegiate tournament was played with Colby. There were no regular intercollegiate matches until the Athletic Association of Maine Colleges was formed in 1892. In 1903, Bowdoin won the New England College Tournament.<sup>31</sup>

An expanding student body resulted in the first Sargent Gymnasium becoming inadequate to the school's needs by 1912, when a larger Sargent Gymnasium was built next to it. The new gym was designed by the architectural firm of Allen and Collens. It opened in 1913 and the earlier gym was turned into a heating plant for the campus.

Interest in college athletics increased in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and by the mid-1920's the facilities at Whittier Field were inadequate to Bowdoin's needs. President Sills enunciated the need for new athletic facilities in his Report of the President of 1925-1926: "We are now definitely launched on a programme of athletics for all, and it is a question whether Whittier Field and the Delta furnish adequate facilities."<sup>32</sup>

In 1926, Frederick W. Pickard, class of 1894, a Bowdoin College Overseer and soon to become a Trustee gave the college 60 acres of land just to the south of the campus for development of new facilities, including athletic fields. Boston landscape architect Robert Washburn Beal developed a plan for the area which included fields for polo, lacrosse, baseball, soccer, and football; a three-hole golf course; twenty-one tennis courts; space for volleyball and handball; areas for track and field events; and a field house.<sup>33</sup>

Plans for this new and larger athletic complex were announced in the spring of 1927. The facility took of 35 acres of the donated land and was named Pickard Field. In addition to practice fields for football, the facility had baseball diamonds for both practice and games. Just days after the announcement of the plans for Pickard Field, the college announced that the indoor swimming pool under construction next to the Sargent Gymnasium would be completed by the first of October.<sup>34</sup> The fields were developed over the next nine years. In 1936 work began on the field house, another Pickard gift. Stevens and Stevens of Portland (John Calvin and John Howard Stevens) were chosen to design the new structure.<sup>35</sup>

In 1956, the New York City engineering and contracting firm of Barr, Gleason and Barr designed and built the Dayton Arena indoor ice skating rink for the Bowdoin hockey team. Nine years later, the Malcolm E. Morrell Gymnasium was built, designed by Hugh Stubbins and Associates, of New York. The William Farley Field House was built at Pickard Field, in 1987. It

<sup>30</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 13-14.

<sup>31</sup> Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, 1904, 15.

<sup>32</sup> Anderson, Patricia McGraw. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 177.

<sup>33</sup> Anderson, Patricia McGraw. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 177.

<sup>34</sup> *Documentary History of Bowdoin College 1927-28* scrapbook. Newspaper clipping dated April 21, 1927, "Bowdoin's Swimming Pool to be Completed," The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library.

<sup>35</sup> Anderson, Patricia McGraw. *The Architecture of Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, ME, 1988, 177.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

was designed by Sasaki Associates, Inc. of Boston. In 2009, the Peter Buck Center for Health and Wellness was opened.

Recent History of the Whittier Field Complex

The track around Whittier Field was rebuilt in 1970. In 1974 it was named for Jack Magee, head track and field coach at Bowdoin College from 1913 to 1955 and assistant coach of the United States Olympic track and field team in 1924, 1928 and 1932. Whittier Field has had two particularly important associations in the past fifty years. In 1972, it was the training track and field for the United States Olympic Track and Field Team including noted runner Steve Prefontaine as they trained for the 1972 Munich Olympics. In the late 1970's, it was the home field for future Olympic champion Joan Benoit (Samuelson), Bowdoin Class of 1979. Benoit won the gold medal for the inaugural woman's marathon at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The most recognizable athlete in Bowdoin College's history, Joan Benoit Samuelson is one of the most decorated runners in the world. A two-time champion at the Boston Marathon (setting world records in 1979 and 1983), she was presented with the Jesse Owens Award in 1984, and in 1985 earned the Sullivan Award as the top U.S. amateur athlete. She will forever be remembered for her dominating gold-medal performance in the inaugural women's marathon at the 1984 Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles. She has been inducted into the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America National Hall of Fame, the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame, the Bowdoin College Athletic Hall of Honor, and, most recently, the USATF National Track and Field Hall of Fame. A native of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Joan Benoit Samuelson now resides in Freeport with her husband, Scott Samuelson (Bowdoin Class of 1980), and their two children.<sup>36</sup>

In 2005, the Nike athletic shoe company funded the rebuilding of the track with synthetic material. Nike and Bowdoin rededicated the track in honor of Joan Benoit Samuelson. Upgrades to the facility included widening the straight-away track on the starting side from six to eight lanes, repairing the steeple chase and high jump areas, relocating the long jump and pole vault areas, and resurfacing the entire track. The material for the pole vault, steeple chase, long jump and high jump equipment incorporate Nike Grind material made from approximately 4,000 recycled athletic shoes as part of the company's Reuse-A-Shoe Program. Reuse-A-Shoe is an integral part of NikeGO, the company's long-term commitment to get kids active and give them the means to do it.

<sup>36</sup> *Nike News*, "Bowdoin and Nike Honor Joan Benoit Samuelson," October 17, 2005, <http://news.nike.com/news/bowdoin-and-nike-honor-joan-benoit-samuelson>, accessed September 28, 2016.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

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**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State

Roy, Alix. "Fire Guts Whittier Field Press Box," *The Bowdoin Orient*, April 2, 2004

*Welding Engineer*, Vol. 14, American Welding Society, Chicago, 1929.

Whittier, Frank N. Hubbard Grand Stand Dedication booklet, Brunswick, Maine, 1904.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Bowdoin College

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 6 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

Name of Property

County and State

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19 Easting: 423315 Northing: 4862091

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Boundary of the Whittier Field Athletic Complex at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine is defined by the 6' chain-link fence that surrounds the property and including the Class of 1903 Memorial Gateway that abuts the west end of the fence, all as shown by the red dashed boundary line on the attached tax map, bound by Pine and Bowker Streets, Pine Grove Cemetery and as indicated at the north side of lots 60 and 61.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Boundary includes the athletic field, track, grandstand, gate, fencing, and related objects that comprise the Whittier Field athletic facility. Pine Street, Bowker Street, Pine Grove Cemetery, and the Bowdoin Pines surround the facility and provide natural and logical boundaries for the district.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Scott T. Hanson, Architectural Historian  
organization: Sutherland Conservation & Consulting  
street & number: 295 Water Street, Suite 306  
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04330

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

e-mail: scotthanson@sutherlandcc.net  
telephone: 207 620-6291  
date: February 27, 2017

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Whittier Field Athletic Complex

City or Vicinity: Brunswick, Maine

County: Cumberland State: Maine

Photographer: Scott T. Hanson

Date Photographed: April 13-16, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

*All digital images are labeled as follows:  
ME\_Cumberland County\_Whittier Field Athletic Complex\_#.tif*

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

0001. View east from path through Bowdoin Pines to the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate.
0002. View east of the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate with the Hubbard Grandstand partially visible beyond.
0003. View northeast across the front of the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate.
0004. View northeast of the north ticket windows and single gate.
0005. View east through north single gate toward the Hubbard Grandstand.
0006. Detail view east of the wrought iron crest above the central double gate.
0007. View west of the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate.
0008. View east toward Whittier Field and the Hubbard Grandstand from inside the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate.
0009. View west toward the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate from the west end of the straight-away track.
0010. View southeast of the Hubbard Grandstand.
0011. View southeast of the Hubbard Grandstand interior.
0012. View west of the concrete roof and steel framing in the Hubbard Grandstand.
0013. View southeast showing interior details of the Hubbard Grandstand including copper work and hinged wood panels on openings.
0014. View northwest from Hubbard Grandstand with Class of 1903 Memorial Gate in far distance at left.
0015. View west within the Hubbard Grandstand.
0016. Detail view of inset brass nameplate from the concrete contractor in Hubbard Grandstand.
0017. View south showing entry door to the lower level in the north elevation of the Hubbard Grandstand.
0018. View south within the central corridor in the lower level of Hubbard Grandstand.
0019. View northeast in the lower level office in Hubbard Grandstand.
0020. View southwest into the west locker room in the lower level of the Hubbard Grandstand.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

0021. View north into the west restroom in Hubbard Grandstand.
0022. View east into the east locker room in Hubbard Grandstand.
0023. View north at the west door in the south elevation of Hubbard Grandstand.
0024. View northeast showing the west and south elevations of Hubbard Grandstand.
0025. View northwest showing the south and east elevations of Hubbard Grandstand from Bowker Street.
0026. View northeast showing entrance to west restroom and original entry stairs to seating area in grandstand.
0027. View southwest showing original east entry steps to seating area and fieldstone north elevation below the added steel bleachers.
0028. View west showing lower portion of east elevation of Hubbard Grandstand.
0029. View southwest showing Hubbard Grandstand, added bleachers, and track.
0030. View west from southeast corner of district showing Hubbard Grandstand at left.
0031. View northwest showing track, football field, and steel and aluminum bleachers.
0032. View south showing north elevation of Hubbard Grandstand from across the football field.
0033. View northwest showing scoreboard and flagpole.
0034. View northeast showing steel and aluminum bleachers on north side of field.
0035. View southeast showing football field and Hubbard Grandstand.
0036. View west behind steel bleachers, looking toward the Class of 1903 Memorial Gate.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

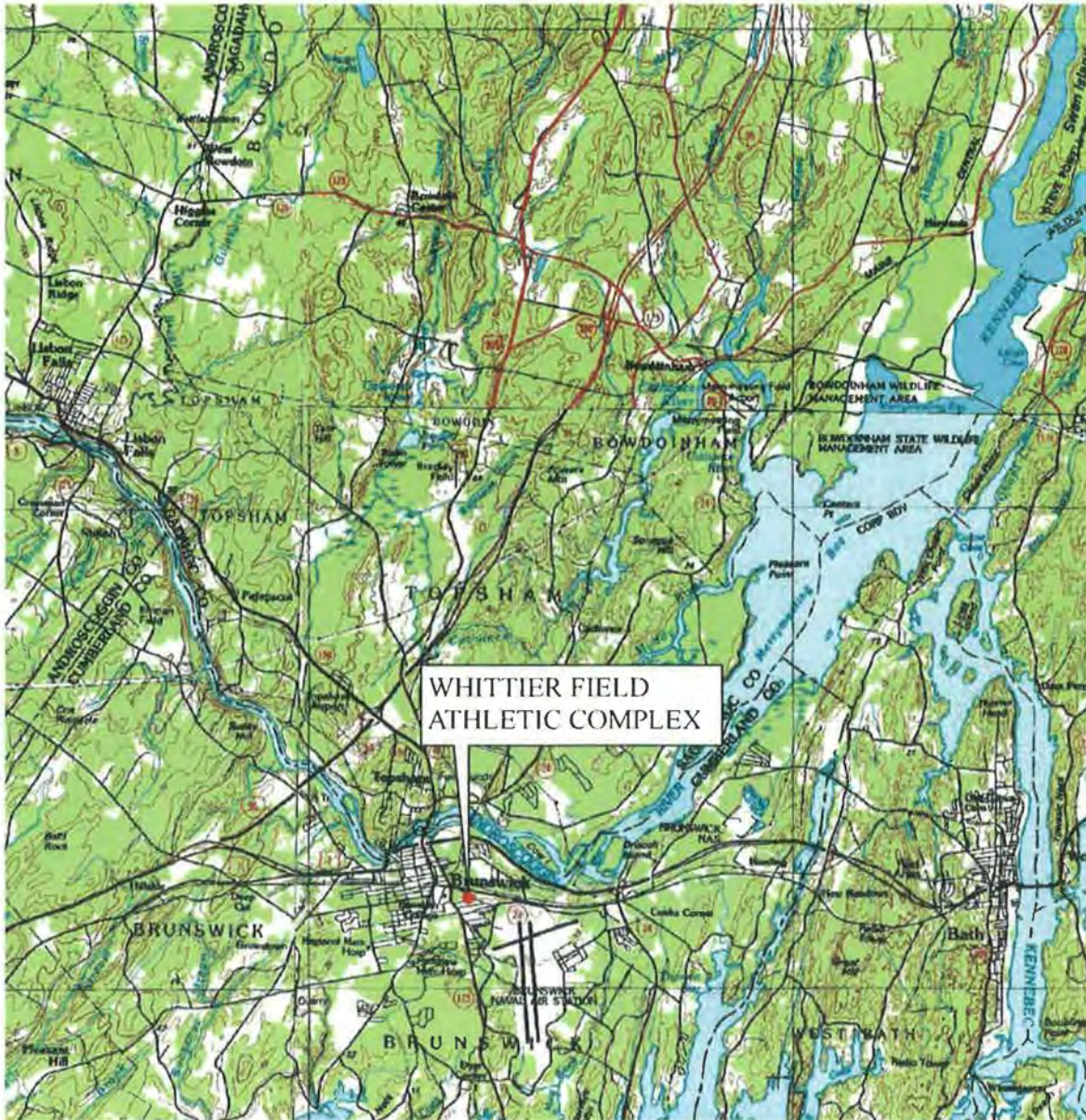
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Name of Property

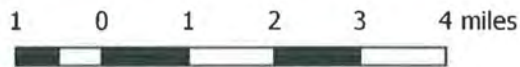
**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State



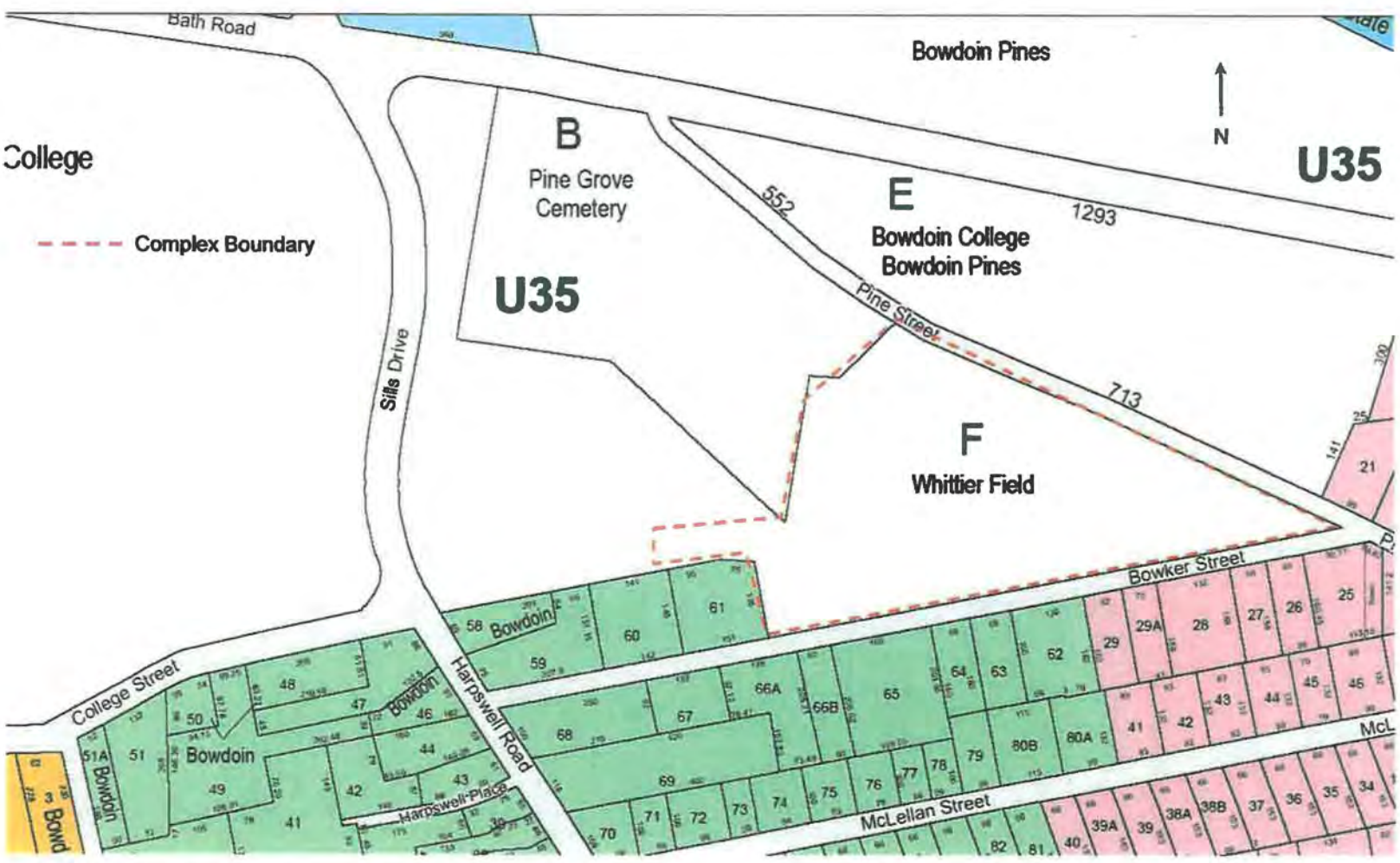
**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Burnswick, Cumberland County, Maine  
30 March 2017  
UTMs NAD 83 19 / 423315 / 4862091



**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
Name of Property

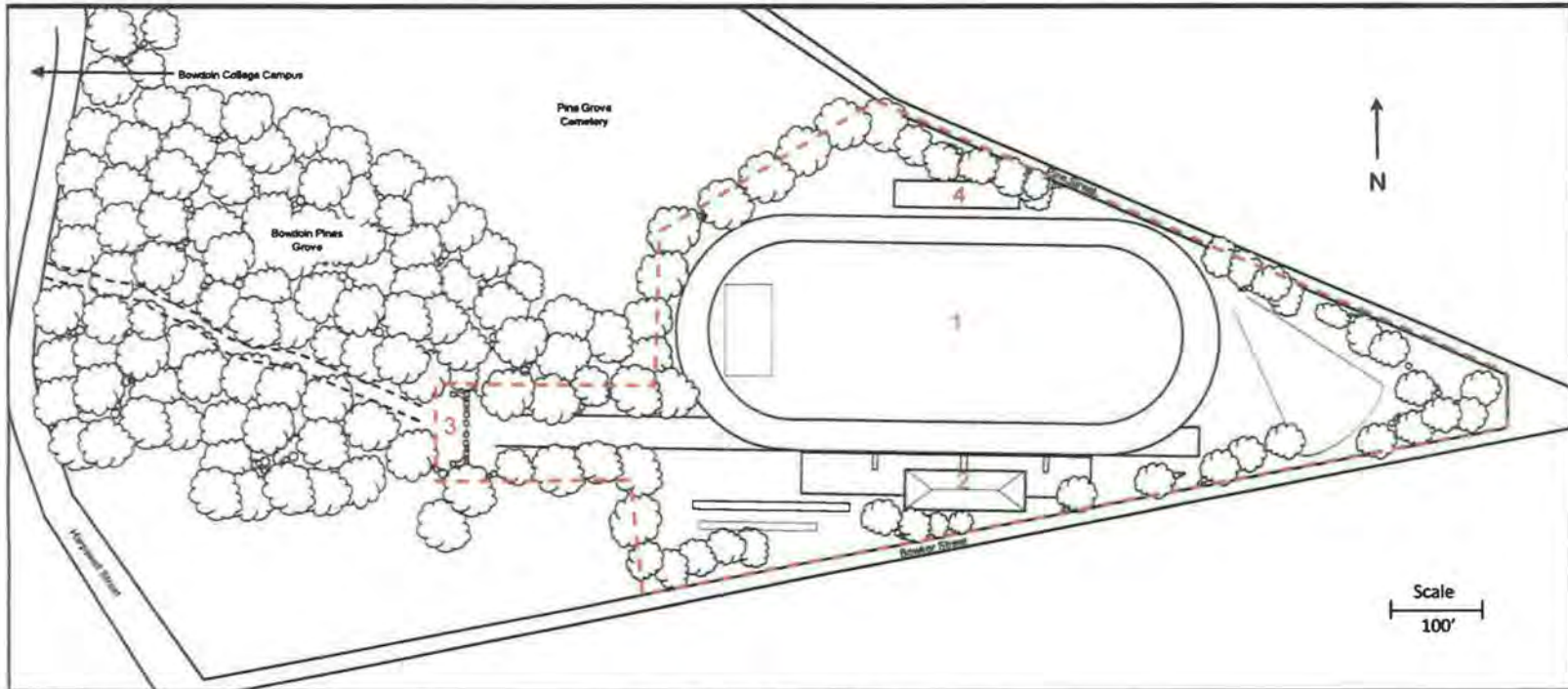
**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State



**Detail from Brunswick Tax Map U35**  
**Sutherland Conservation & Consulting – February 2017**

**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State



**Whittier Field Athletic Complex  
Bowdoin College – Brunswick, Maine**

**Contributing Resources:**

- 1. Whittier Field and Track – Site
- 2. Hubbard Grandstand and Bleachers - Building
- 3. Class of 1903 Memorial Gate - Structure

**Non-Contributing Resources**

- 4. Aluminum Bleachers - Structure
- Complex Boundary

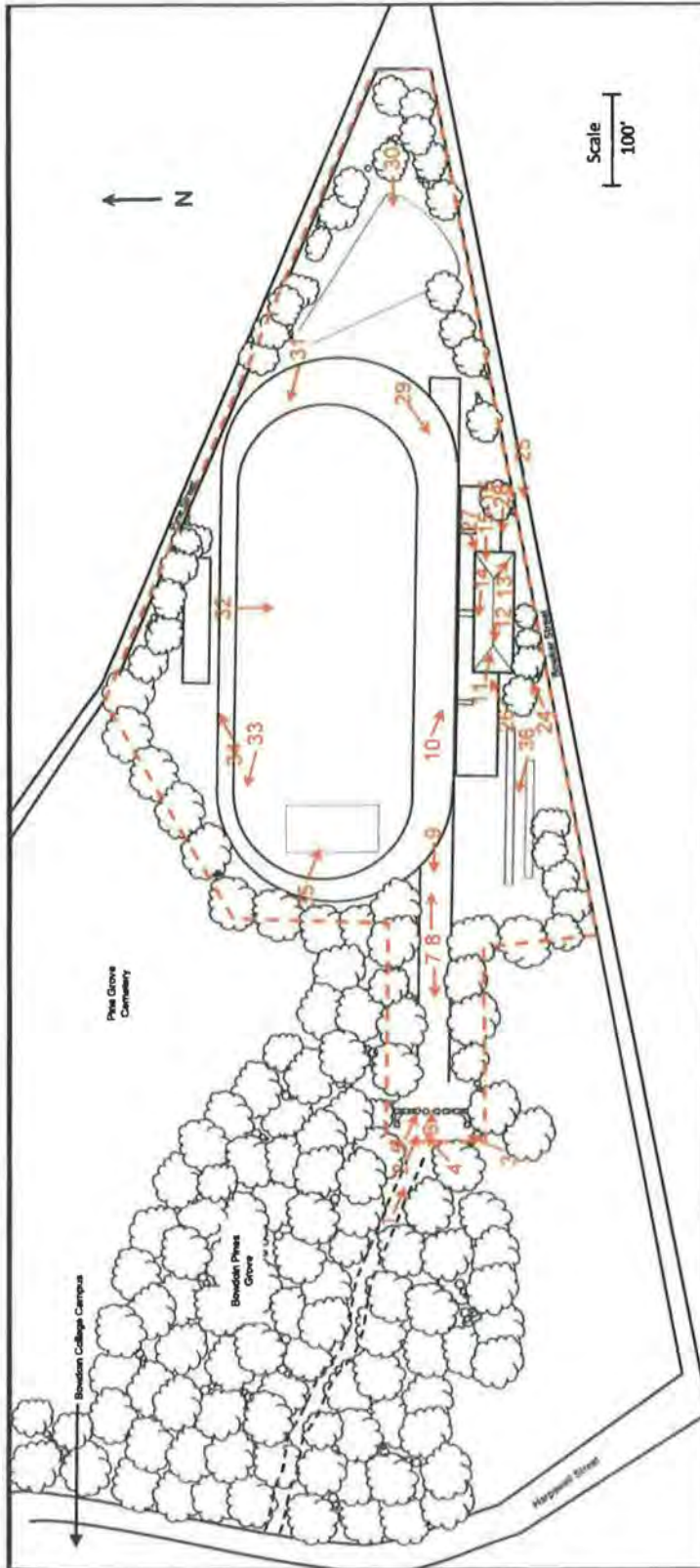
Scott T. Hanson, Sutherland Conservation & Consulting

January 2017



**WHITTIER FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX**  
Name of Property

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State



**Whittier Field Athletic Complex  
Bowdoin College – Brunswick, Maine**

National Register Nomination Photo Key

--- Complex Boundary

April 2017

Scott T. Hanson, Sutherland Conservation & Consulting







































TRADE MARK  
REG.

LAD B  
BOY

SIMPSON

BROS.  
CORPORATION

166 DEVONSHIRE ST.

1903

BOSTON



PLAY AND MAY THE BEST MAN

PLAYERS  
ONLY







No Smoking



























Scoreboard





BOWDOIN : GUEST  
DOWN TO GO BALL ON QTR  
T.O.L. T.O.L.









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/12/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 6/26/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      6/26/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date 6/24/17

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

9 May 2017

Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228,  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed please find five (5) National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine. Of the five, three (3) are new nominations and two (2) are additional documentation: one removal and one request for approval to move. No comment or objection letters were received regarding these properties.

Brick School, Oxford County  
Keen Hall, Waldo County  
Whittier Field Athletic Complex, Cumberland County  
Klir Beck House "The Gnomes" Additional Documentation – Removal, Kennebec County  
Starling Grange #156 (Former) Additional Documentation, Kennebec County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain  
Architectural Historian

Enc.