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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hinchliffe Stadium
other names/site number City Stadium, Municipal Stadium

2. Location

street & number Maple and Liberty Streets, overlooking the Great Falls of the Passaic not for publication
city or town Paterson City vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Passaic code 031 zip code 07512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 11/27/04
Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 3/22/04

Hinchliffe Stadium

Name of Property

Passaic Co., NJ

County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	3	structures
		objects
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION /sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Terra Cotta (tile)

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hinchliffe Stadium

Name of Property

Passaic Co., NJ

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**Library of Congress; Passaic Co. Hist. Soc.; Paterson
Library; Paterson HPC; Paterson Engin. Dept.**

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment / Recreation

Ethnic Heritage – African American

Period of Significance

1932-1949

Significant Dates

1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1939-45, 1947

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Larry Doby (1923-2003)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Shaw (architect, of Fanning & Shaw)

Olmsted Brothers (landscape architect)

Hinchliffe Stadium

Name of Property

Passaic Co., NJ

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	568922	4530031	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Flavia Alaya (consultant)
organization Paterson Historic Preservation Commission date July 2003
street & number 520 East 28th Street telephone (973) 278-6372
city or town Paterson state NJ zip code 07514

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Paterson Schools
street & number 35 Church Street telephone (973) 321-
city or town Paterson state NJ zip code 07501

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.470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County, NJ

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Narrative Description

Hinchliffe Stadium (1) in Paterson, New Jersey, is an open-air sports arena built of cast concrete, with a seating capacity (with temporary bleachers added) of about 11,000. Built on a commanding bluff above the Passaic River, it overlooks the rich historic landscape of the city's Great Falls/S.U.M. National Landmark District. Its principal frontages face Maple and Liberty Streets in the city's "Totowa" section [photographs 1-3]. The stadium was constructed 1931-32 above an abandoned quarry now known as the Valley of the Rocks on a parcel that combined (among other small pieces) a former Dutch Reformed church burial ground and a piece of Society for Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.) property, including a reclaimed "lower reservoir" of an earlier Passaic Valley Water Commission storage system. From this high vantage point, its viewsheds include both the Great Falls (a nationally famous natural landmark) and the Passaic River below as it runs from the Falls north-northeast toward Alfano ["City"] Island. The top of the stadium's distinctive seating curve looks toward City Hall tower and the civic center of Paterson, about a half-mile away.

The design, based on an Olmsted Brothers landscape-engineering layout (1931), is by the Paterson architectural firm of Fanning & Shaw. The structure is rectangular (originally very near square: 440' x 417' [4+ acres], now 590' x 417' [5.7+/- acres], with curvilinear corners to the west and some slight angular deviation along the eastern edge to accommodate the uneven cliff terrain). Its seating forms a horseshoe (or, more accurately, umbrella-handle) curve, a curve smoothly redefined by the concrete outer walls, with towers and field houses in the same materials. Walls and towers have been typically painted white or off-white, contrasting with their own decorative red trims as well as their darker industrial environs. [photographs 4 & 5] The use of contemporary materials, bold geometric contouring, stylized ceramic decorative elements, and colorful red-tile roofing and coping arguably place the stadium within the ample bounds of what is called Art Deco/ Moderne in the U.S. (2) Its unpretentious vigor and subdued classical references seem to have been intended to inspire young athletes in a sports-hungry Paterson during the Great Depression. Its playing fields, intended principally for football, baseball, and track and field events, have accommodated many other sports.

Perhaps among the longer-serving stadiums of its size and construction in the country, Hinchliffe was large relative to the city population at the time (about 130,000), and remains dominating. Yet it is set in a cultural landscape of great interest in its own right. The Great Falls, source of the power that made it the city's geopolitical birthplace, is as visible from many standpoints on the site as the stadium is from many parts of the historic district. To the east and southeast the area's wilder natural features meet the tree-lined greens and walkways of Mary Ellen Kramer/Great Falls Park, which flanks a portion of the enlarged stadium and shares a point of entrance at the bend in Maple Street. The ebullient Art Deco Public School #5 (1940; also by Fanning & Shaw architects) sits directly to the west and, although set back by a play-yard, shares the frontage along Liberty Street [photograph 6]. Some industrial buildings contributing to the historic district bracket the structure to the northwest, while to the north rises "Monument Heights," site of the former Civil War memorial park from which the stadium (then "Playground") borrowed its name while under construction (an area now an industrial site known to locals as "Crazy Horse"). Because the grade slopes upward to the north-northwest, the structure is in effect tucked into the hill, with much of its retaining north wall below grade with the exception of a few sections toward Liberty Street. Its river-facing easterly wall, once a plain low concrete barrier, is now a cyclone fence about 150' farther out at its farthest point, but both historical treatments of this boundary were designed to be open to the viewshed and not architecturally significant. (See historic plans and photographs)

The two walls of architectural interest are those behind the main seating decks, west along Liberty Street and south along Maple. These are distinguished by sweeping half-moon turns at the northwest and southeast corners (the Liberty/Jasper and Liberty/Maple corners). Each turn is flanked by two red-roofed tower blocks and two iron-gated entrance openings (that is, a street-level entrance beside each tower block). Above each entrance, inscribed in a modernist block-cap-letter style, are the words: HINCHLIFFE STADIUM. About 400' from the Maple/Liberty Street corner is the plain fifth tower like a stack, with a peaked decorative gable alongside it about 40' high, which used to signal the athletic entrance and ramp at the original southeast corner of the stadium [photographs 4 & 5]. The effect of this varied array of small towers is to lend height, color, dignity, and (especially when the dashing flagpoles atop the pilasters actually flew flags) a certain panache to the relatively plain, low-profile frontage walls, while creating visual landmarks for those approaching on foot from the surrounding streets.

The Liberty St. wall of the stadium, which changes in height from 7' to 10' with the changing grade, is cast in 10' sections, joined in groups of three by 3'-wide pilasters. Each section is embossed with a simple notched rectangle, and each 3'-wide

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linking pilaster (rising 3 1/2' above the tops of the wall sections) is gabled. The whole wall is topped with a running coping of red terracotta tile that gives striking outline to the fundamental rhythms of the structure. Below each gable is another repeating decorative feature: a faux-keystone and brilliantly-colored red-and-gold round ceramic tile plaque 2' in diameter.(3) Inside each round is a square frame of laurel leaves and within that, in low relief, the representation of an athlete performing one of the four field events of the classical Olympic games: relay, javelin, hammer, and discus. Largely dark red against the smooth concrete surface, these striking plaques look from a distance like "portholes" (enhancing the Deco effect), while from closer up the stylized athletic images convey (in similar Deco manner) the speed and power of the feats they represent [photograph 14]. (4)

Along Maple, the original south wall (which has been altered to add a handicapped ramp of recent but uncertain date) carries through the structural theme of cast-concrete sections (36' wide) divided by 7 pilasters (each 8' wide), the sections and pilasters increasing slightly in height to a maximum of 30' at the same time that they step down with the changing downgrade of the slope and climax (as previously described) at the fifth tower and the athletes' entrance [photograph 5]. (Lack of uniformity or pattern in 30 locker or utility windows in this wall suggests they are not all original.) Since 1964, the southeast entrance has become an 11' 6"-wide slatted metal-gate followed by a plain 150' concrete wall, about 30' high [photograph 19]. This wall defines the field's 1964 extension, created by landfill, and permitting a more competitive baseball outfield and a full quarter-mile track.(5) The penetration of this extension wall by a large utility door for vehicles stored in a concrete-block shed behind it may have come later, perhaps in 1983. Finally, a narrow path divides the (later) eastern-perimeter fence from the retaining wall, which drops down into the Valley of the Rocks.

Returning to the ticketing and entrance areas: these have a distinctive simplicity, allowing for a well-directed flow of patrons from street to wicket to gate to steps to either upper or lower tiers, or to walkways leading to the locker rooms [photographs 11 & 12]. But the ticket booths—two street-level windows side by side in the exposed wall surface of each tower—are arrestingly lively in design, each vertically-barred window with the word TICKETS above it in colored ceramic tile. Between the two windows are three offset decorative tiles, and set within a shallow arched recess above the windows is another relief tile/plaque in the style of the decorations on the outer walls (but square-in-curved-corner-square instead of square-in-round). Each of these again represents one of the same four stylized Olympic athletes: baton-relay and javelin on the north-and-west-facing booths, hammer and discus on the west-and-south-facing booths (in that order) [photograph 13].

Several interior sculptures were added in the early years, including a high-relief gladiatorial athlete striking a virile, arms-akimbo pose—an image that extends the classical theme from Greece to Rome [photograph 16]. This cast-stone sculpture (about 5'x2+'), built into the south-facing wall of the nearer of the two northwest towers, can be seen only looking backward and upward from inside the stadium. Although slightly damaged (part of the face is cracked off) and somewhat obscured by weed-tree overgrowth, it is largely intact, and has been authoritatively identified as "Roman Gladiator" (1936) by Italian-born Gaetano Federici (1880-1964). A Patersonian (and Schools commissioner) and one of the region's most prominent and popular sculptors, Federici had already created two other plaques in bronze for the interior walls of the stadium commemorating the accomplishments of two local world-class athletes: Eleanor Egg (a national champion runner), and Al Vande Weghe (a world-champion swimmer and later Olympic silver medalist). Egg's plaque had the distinction of being dedicated with the stadium in 1932; Vande Weghe's was dedicated in late 1934.(6) These two bronzes, slightly smaller than the gladiator and attached to central interior stadium walls near the concession stand, were recently stolen and are now the object of a police recovery effort. (7).

These very minor decorative elements do not alter the visual impression of the stadium interior as a spartan architectural sculpture in its own right, with concrete upper and lower stands appearing to unfold outward as they repeat the curve of the outer walls in long, smooth parallels [photographs 7-10]. The partial two-tier seating design (lower tier of 16 sections, upper of 6 sections, most 14 rows, with 10 rows in the center to accommodate the concession stand) can efficiently accommodate 7500 people. An additional 2000-2500 people can be (and have often been) seated in temporary bleachers set up in the south and east fields. The concession stand, integrated into the the west wall just above the lower tier, and a small red-shingle-roofed concrete lavatory structure above the north upper-tier were added as improvements (with federal funding) in 1934, soon after the stadium was opened. (8) A sided press box above the stands on the Maple Street Side is of later uncertain date [photograph 9]. Locker and team rooms occupy four sections below deck along the lower south wall [photographs 17 & 18].

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On the field, within a running track that retraces the curve of the stands, sits a regulation baseball diamond, with home plate (originally positioned symmetrically) within the seating curve) positioned to the northwest since 1964 [photograph 8]. Other sports, like soccer, football, and boxing have required the temporary revamping of the field and/or reorienting of the stadium's temporary bleachers. Despite some modification (including the installation of Astroturf over the entire field, presumably in 1983), the stadium retains its original simple and rather elegant resolution of a difficult space. It has proven a hardy athletic environment. Its fame and significance derive largely from its swift Depression-era recruitment as a major regional sports and entertainment venue that launched many star careers. But it has also long met its obligation to young Paterson students of all ethnicities and classes, fostering athletic excellence while subtly reminding them that they were emulating great athletic traditions of the past.

The repairs, enlargement, and refurbishing known to have occurred in 1964 and 1983 guaranteed the stadium's continued use without significant or irreversible alteration. A plaque (now also gone) once recorded the later event, called a "Renovation/Restoration," above a doorway near the concession stand [photograph 15]. Hard use has left its mark in wear and tear, and more recent and consistent lack of maintenance has left both stands and field severely suffering the entropy natural to such exposed environments. Yet these and the exterior walls and decorative elements retain a considerable proportion of their original fabric and of their integrity as defined by Register standards: of location, design, workmanship, setting, material, feeling, and associations.

Notes

- 1 It was known as Monument Heights Playground, then Stadium and Recreation Field or City Stadium while in its earliest design phases with Olmsted Brothers and under construction. At dedication in 1932 it was renamed both in memory of Paterson mayor John Hinchliffe (1897-1903), and to honor the civic spirit of his nephew, John V. Hinchliffe, Mayor at the time (1929-38). See the Significance statement.
- 2 See David Gebhard, *National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America* (1996), which provides a number of points at which the (admittedly vexed) definitions of Art Deco/Streamline Moderne style (or styles) intersect with this structure (see esp. pp. 4-7).
- 3 A central 8' pilaster has the same gabled terracotta coping with some additional decorative detail and no athlete medallion. It supports a stack that now serves as anchor for a cyclone-fence gate inside the stadium.
- 4 There are thirteen of these decorative reliefs in rather random order: Liberty Street from the north corner: discus, hammer, relay, javelin, discus, javelin, relay; Maple Street from the west corner: javelin, hammer, relay, discus, javelin, hammer). The popular attribution of these tiles, like the other sculptures on the stadium walls, to sculptor Gaetano Federici is unfounded. They are never mentioned in any inventory of the artist's work in his lifetime. They are also more modernist in feeling than figures in the typical realist Federici style (compare the Eleanor Egg).
- 5 *Paterson Evening News*, April 29, 1964. The original cinder track had been 1/5 mile. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining School District records, researchers have had some trouble establishing the nature of repairs undertaken in 1964 and 1983. K. Albert & Associates' "Review and Evaluation of Hinchliffe Stadium" (August 1994, rev. June 1995, an official study done for the Schools), appears to conclude (p. 2), though admittedly without documentation, that the expansion of the stadium occurred in 1983; but other authoritative officials think this may be wrong. In any case, the track could not have been extended in 1964 without an extension of the field. The photograph accompanying the above news article would appear to support this notion, but it falls short of being conclusive evidence.
- 6 See the Significance statement for details.
- 7 The date of the theft has not yet been established. The plaques were not discovered missing until they turned up in the shop of an antiques dealer in Monclair in 1998.
- 8 Mayor John V. Hinchliffe, Annual Report for 1934 (1935). This report (among other things) details the final costs of the stadium, and its completion with aid from Federal recovery programs as the nation entered the critical early years of the Depression. (See "History" section of this document.)

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Summary of Significance

Completed and dedicated in 1932, Hinchliffe Stadium is one of two surviving major athletic stadiums in New Jersey that predate World War II.^{*} For at least a dozen years, it was the regular home field of the New York Black Yankees, a Negro League baseball team. Although a number of places remain where Negro League teams played games, Hinchliffe stands out among such venues as perhaps the only surviving *regular home field* of a Negro League team in the mid-Atlantic region. Jackie Robinson evidently played there in 1945 as a member of the visiting Kansas City Monarchs team. For about twenty years, Hinchliffe also was a regular venue for minor-league and semi-pro baseball and football games, track-and-field meets, boxing events, and performances by touring entertainers, from the obscure to the famous. For a much longer period it also served the athletic requirements of the Paterson public schools. New Jersey's historic stadiums have fared badly in the last few decades. With the losses of Palmer Stadium[†] (1914) in Princeton, Ruppert Stadium[‡] (ca.1926) in Newark, and Roosevelt Stadium (1936) in Jersey City, the appreciation of Hinchliffe Stadium's importance in sports history has grown. The stadium meets National Register Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation and Criterion B for its association with Paterson native Larry Doby.

Introduction

Financed by a public bond issue, the construction of Hinchliffe Stadium was undertaken by the City of Paterson and pushed forward to completion as the nation endured the worst of the Great Depression. The project was based in part on a landscape plan for the Great Falls area developed for the Passaic County Parks Commission by the distinguished Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts and on a stadium design by Paterson architect John Shaw (of the local firm Fanning & Shaw). The building that resulted is a large cast-concrete horseshoe oval that provided an athletic field, a running track, and seating capacity (up to 10,000+) for a full range of outdoor amateur, semi-pro and professional sports.

It was built with an expectation that it would operate on a break-even or better basis, by bringing in paying attractions. With this need for leasing revenue, Hinchliffe Stadium instantly became a northern New Jersey regional center of cultural activities, and sometimes entered the national spotlight. These roles continued until after World War II. It helped to facilitate the careers of a number of world-class and Hall-of-Fame athletes (e.g., Josh Gibson and Larry Doby). The stadium was used as home field of the New York Black Yankees of the Negro National Baseball League from 1933-37 and 1939-45, and saw season-long Paterson Panthers (and professional league) football from 1933 until ca.1950. Throughout the wartime and early postwar period, it served key recreational and social functions for the diverse populations of the region. It was the venue for regular season, championship, and exhibition baseball; football, boxing, track and field; and

^{*} The other survivor is the City Stadium or Newark Schools Stadium, built in 1925, on Bloomfield Avenue in Newark. That stadium, somewhat larger than Hinchliffe in seating capacity, was primarily a football and track venue also, although baseball games were also routinely squeezed in. Smaller stadiums still exist in some cities, for example a high school football stadium in Asbury Park (1932), and a high-school football stadium (1936-37) in Union City. "Major stadium," as used here, denotes an outdoor athletic facility (as opposed to an indoor "arena"), with permanent seating for at least several thousand people. Venues created principally or exclusively for baseball are generally more properly called "fields," such as Wetzel Field (ca.1919) in Trenton. Such fields generally feature bleachers or small grandstands as their only seating, and their capacity is small. The Pop Lloyd Field in Atlantic City, which has received public attention recently, was built in 1949.

[†] The historic Palmer Stadium at Princeton University was demolished and a new Palmer Stadium constructed on the same site a few years ago. While a few elements of the old stadium were incorporated in the new one, they are vestiges only. But Princeton University football games are still played at the same location where they have been since 1914.

[‡] Ruppert Stadium, demolished in 1967, had been the home field of the Newark Bears baseball team, the Triple-A farm team of the New York Yankees, and of the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League, which won the Negro League World Series in 1946.

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auto- and motorcycle-racing, and became the site of popular and star-studded showbiz events that featured major celebrities and attracted crowds that sometimes exceeded capacity.

The "Stadium Movement" (1920-1932):

Part of the significance of Hinchliffe Stadium derives from the story of its creation, a story that certainly contributes to the saga of America's passion for sports, but which more deeply and in some ways uniquely forms a signifying chapter in the social, recreational, and cultural narrative of working-class America in the early twentieth century.

For at the down-end of Passaic County, in the tightly-clustered manufacturing towns of Clifton, Passaic, Little Falls, and Paterson area becoming more densely-populated and working-class as the twentieth century began, it may be fair to say that one industry everybody was engaged in was the making of athletes. With sports a national craze, baseball the "American pastime," and the great Honus Wagner the legendary hero of the local Paterson Silk Sox,¹ the demand for field-space was so intense that it is easy to believe, as one wag put it, that "boys played baseball" on the hallowed grounds of Paterson's old Sandy Hill cemeteries "with the bones of their departed relatives."² And no doubt cheers greeted Paterson's own State Senator Thomas McCran's proposal in 1916 to let cities reclaim old, unused, or abandoned cemeteries for "park purposes... and other public uses," like playgrounds and ballfields.³

Official Hinchliffe Stadium historian John J. O'Rourke, writing before its dedication in 1932, clearly enjoyed this link to McCran's legislation, neatly pitting young vitality against old mortality. But he also highlighted the irony of the city's first ignoring the very cemetery near the high bluff known as Monument Heights where the stadium would ultimately be built. With the popular focus on the Park Avenue-Market Street section of Sandy Hill, he told of Mayor Frank Van Noort (1920-23) promoting the city's first stadium in 1921 on a former Methodist-Presbyterian-Reformed cemetery in that location, a plan that roused such a frenzy of public subscription that \$20,000 was raised in an astonishing two-week campaign in which "the high school girls vied with the boys as collectors."

O'Rourke appropriately started his ten-year "stadium movement" from this moment, when about half the money was used for field and stands at the Sandy Hill site and the rest held in reserve for something better. The movement reached crisis when construction of Eastside High School on the site made the new field unusable for two full seasons (1923-25). Yet even when it was back and the city had spent heavily to create and maintain some thirty-one other fields and playgrounds, a sports-hungry public still clamored. New Mayor Raymond Newman appears to have made a campaign promise that he would create a stadium planning committee as soon as he took office in 1928.

Newman suddenly died within his first month as mayor. Yet almost without breaking stride, his successor, John V. Hinchliffe, appointed the Paterson Stadium Association to study a number of possible locations, sizes, costs, and configurations.⁴ According to news accounts (which diverge widely from O'Rourke's on this point), the PSA arrived at consensus by 1929, in less than a year. Their choice, which gained the endorsement first of the Recreation Commission and then of the Mayor himself, was for the "Almshouse site," between Redwood Avenue and West Broadway in the city's westmost Totowa section, some 110 relatively undeveloped city-owned acres ample enough to accommodate a tempting array of sports activities, including (said Recreation Commissioner, Vera Beggs) a 20,000 seat stadium and a 9-hole golf course!

But the idea met with dogged resistance from powerful leaders in the Parks and Finance departments who favored either East Side Park or a West Side site along the river left recently vacant by the razing of the Pennington mansion (now Pennington Park). Still others wanted a few smaller stadiums to spread sports access around the city. O'Rourke says that

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the Stadium Association "passed out" in early 1930, and it did, but more in frustrated unanimity, stalled by the typically conflicting personal and political agendas of city government, than in the babel of opinions he alleges.⁵

Again there is disagreement about just who revived the "movement," though clearly the spark came in the fall of 1930 when more untimely regrading and repair activities at the reconstructed Eastside stadium meant the embarrassment of moving Paterson's Thanksgiving Day football games to Passaic. O'Rourke says that Schools Commissioner Adrian Patmos was so frustrated that he went "on his own account" to look at the Monument Heights cemetery site, and then directed Mayor Hinchliffe's attention to it.

Till now, despite interest in the nearby Almshouse land, this Heights site seems not to have made any reported short list, possibly because it required assembling several parcels including one owned by the powerful (and hated) S.U.M. Still, O'Rourke alleges Hinchliffe's instant enthusiasm for it as an "admirable" location, which he thought could not only be readied for the coming games (just weeks away) but that stood "within fifteen minutes walk," as he quotably put it, "for seventy per cent of the population." At this point, said O'Rourke, Alfred Cappio (somewhat controversial new Recreation Commissioner) was quickly "called in" to review the site and bring in County Parks engineer Frederick W. Loede, Jr., all on the Mayor's behalf." And Loede, sufficiently "impressed," invited down their regular consultants, the "Olmstead [sic] Brothers" of Brookline, Massachusetts, to have a look.

That Mayor Hinchliffe's October 8 site visit actually gets press coverage is evidence by itself of its public relations significance.⁶ Equally significant is a much less public document, a simple two-page June 1932 memorandum by County engineer Loede that offers a less official scenario: Commissioner Cappio, says Loede, not Patmos, is actually first to look at the Heights site and immediately request Loede's advice, a request Loede dates September 8, 1930, a month before the Mayor's site visit in October. Loede also says that the County asked Olmsted down weeks before a rather skeptically-portrayed Mayor Hinchliffe was even drawn into the discussion.⁷

All accounts converge, however, as a convinced Mayor sells the proposal to Finance Board chairman William Dill (who'd earlier fulminated against the Almshouse site). Dill then takes on the reluctant dragons of the Taxpayers Association, pronouncing it "false economy" to oppose a stadium at the Heights. Despite an ominous economic downturn, the city commits to the \$23,000+ purchase of the S.U.M. piece (and other projected costs) via a substantial bond issue that promises to exceed \$200,000. The project was hammered home as a "paying investment," not just in a schools stadium but in a state-of-the-art "recreational facility," a notion that ironically replayed the community-oriented theme of the original Paterson Stadium Association for the public "selling" of the new plan.

Hinchliffe delivers. Within weeks, thanks to the County Parks Commission and Brooks Bros. the field was graded and readied. "Disregarding zero weather," writes O'Rourke, an astonishing twelve thousand people turned out on Thanksgiving, "the biggest crowd ever assembled at an athletic event in this city." Beneath a *Paterson Evening News* photo of the impressive crowd, the caption was swaggering: "Who said Patersonians don't want a stadium?"⁸

Even Loede's drab personal postscript two years onward stresses how clear the way had become, how eagerly, both at this point *and* at this site, "all sensed the possibility and desirability of building a permanent stadium" (2). Likewise O'Rourke: "There was no longer any question [or] doubt regarding the popularity and desirability of a City Stadium, modern in every sense." His "dream among the youth of Paterson" was about to become real. And he didn't have to add that, whoever had originated the idea, the right to the photo-finish belonged to the man in City Hall.

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But first, to build it. Again Loede, the ever-precise engineer, setting out the timeline of the project, as well as the moment when the County stepped aside and let the City take center stage:

On May 28, 1931, Olmsted Brothers presented to the City through Mr. Cappio their plans. Olmsted's presented two alternative plans. The Park Commission's interest and offer of cooperation was finished by the presentation of the plan. Subsequently Fanning and Shaw local architects were authorized by the city to proceed with construction plans for the stadium.

Yet before any key decisions were made, no one seems to have been left out of the discussion. Not only did Olmsted Bros. carefully set out the pros and cons of both "alternative plans" via elaborately detailed comparison charts, but the two plans actually appeared in the press, allowing full airing of all the issues and their most creative potential solutions. Olmsted's alternatives involved the orienting of the seating oval either symmetrically or at an angle within the limited site, taking into varying account its spatial limitations and the optimal parameters for play (away from the sun, etc.) The city accepted the more symmetrical seating orientation, but wide community discussion may account (among other things) for a significant variation from either Olmsted plan, the shift of the proposed baseball diamond from the southeast to a position that set home plate symmetrically within the seating curve, at the top of the stadium.⁹

The selection of Fanning & Shaw to design the stadium building was almost a foregone conclusion: they were simply the most successful school/stadium architects in the region. For Paterson, they'd designed both Central High School (1911) and Eastside High School and stadium (1925), plus several public elementary schools. The death in 1925 of William T. Fanning, the more lionized of the partners,¹⁰ did not diminish city loyalty to the firm, and yet may have set John Shaw free of some of the stylistic idiom of their previous work. Shaw's design takes its horizontal orientation in stride and offers cost-saving concrete construction (a recent development in stadium-building and a medium probably new to the firm) in a canny and elegant combination of its potential for smooth contouring and playful surface decoration. Using touches of the modern international styles embraced in the later terms, "art deco/moderne" (a vocabulary he would take to greater heights in his 1940 design for neighboring Public School 5), Shaw still gestures toward the traditional by way of gabled towers and toward the classical by way of relief representations of the Olympic sports tradition.

O'Rourke tells us that under a new contract with M. A. Carty, of Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, as general contractor, Brooks Brothers continued grading, with other regional firms handling concrete, iron, plumbing, and electrical work. Stadium construction moved along rapidly despite the deepening Depression, with its daily news of fiercely rising unemployment and relentless strikes at the local dye mills. Yet as times got harder the demand for cost-accounting grew hotter. It may have been to spread maintenance costs over several budgets, among other practical reasons, that the City passed stadium management to the Board of Education on June 9, 1932, virtually as soon as it was finished, well before the official dedication in September. The field was launched for celebrations of George Washington's birthday bicentennial on July 8, 9, and 11, 1932 (baseball, track and field, and ceremonies), with accompanying splash (and O'Rourke's July 7 "history") in the press. On July 24 the legendary bearded Michigan team, House of David, played the Paterson Professionals in a rousing barnstorming baseball doubleheader, the stadium's first major "outside" moneymaker event.¹¹

Official and immediate outcry over repairs to the field entailed by this and other such lease events means the Depression cost-accountants are still watching. Loud controversy ensues over adequate rental fees, especially for so-called "charity" or benefit games; the Mayor declares a "Paterson First" rule—priority for use of the stadium by the "people of Paterson."¹² In August, soon after Hall-of-Famer John Henry "Pop" Lloyd of the Bacharach Giants plays here in his very last season (August 14), and the Cuban Stars take on the Paterson Truckers in a match that makes history as the first floodlit ball game in the state (August 15), the field is suddenly found to be sinking—back, presumably, into the filled "lower reservoir" it

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had been built on. Final contractor payment is held back and the field declared off-limits, even as the City, in a budget vise, is forced to close all its other playgrounds early, even before Labor Day.¹³

Repairs made and bills settled, on the day before the opening the *Evening News* reported that (allegedly at the behest of Finance head Dill) the stadium would be named the "Hinchliffe City Stadium." Just *which* Hinchliffe this honored was a bit mystified, and still is: the present Mayor John V. was modestly said to take it to refer to his mayor-uncle, John (1897-1903), who'd seen the city through the double crisis of the Great Fire and flood of 1902 and declared with legendary pride, when outside communities offered help, that Paterson would "take care of its own." But the *News* article also stressed the present Mayor's like resolve in leading the city through current "trying times."¹⁴ We may also deduce from O'Rourke's official stadium history, which became part of the printed dedication booklet, that the Mayor did not mind being remembered as the "stadium movement" hero.

The press downplayed the disappointing turnout (slightly over 2000) and heavily reported the day's colorful ceremonies. These included the "presentation" of the stadium, hand over hand, from Finance Board chairman Dill to Mayor Hinchliffe to Board of Education President Vincent Duffy.¹⁵ Sculptor and School Commissioner Gaetano Federici sat in the honor stands as the Eleanor Egg Plaque Committee presented his bronze depiction of Paterson's world champion runner to the Chairman of the Stadium Committee for unveiling. A low-relief plaque, arguably one of Federici's finest (pictured in poster and cover art for the authoritative 1980 retrospective of this distinctive and accomplished Paterson sculptor [1880-1964]), this work of art honored Paterson's "heroine," Eleanor Marie Egg, considered "the world's fastest woman" at the time. Egg's combination of athletic prowess and personal humility have since been persuasively described as having helped sustain the morale of this working-class city in terrible times.¹⁶ Another woman, volleyball player Effie Oord from Newark, New Jersey, was at the end of the day's Championship Games (characterized by the Mayor as "the greatest athletic event in the city's history") to win the trophy for "Outstanding Athlete of the Games." It was thus not only a remarkable day for Hinchliffe, but for women's sports history in the U.S.

PERIOD OF SPORTS SIGNIFICANCE, 1932 TO ABOUT 1950:

I. Baseball and Football, 1932-c. 1945:

The small turnout at the dedication was no harbinger. The first Thanksgiving games saw an overflow crowd of 11,000 fill the new stadium, almost instant hub of city recreational and cultural life and precisely the "paying investment" Dill had promised. Mayor Hinchliffe, looking back via his 1935 "state of the city" address, could point proudly to the New Jersey State Track and Field Championships held at Hinchliffe in 1933. But he could also note not only that "372,000 men, women and children had attended or participated in athletic games at the stadium in 1934 alone, but that receipts for July 1932 to December 1934 had actually exceeded costs by \$4148.¹⁵ In striking departure from the self-sufficient mantra of his uncle, he would be forced to acknowledge CWA and ERA funds for stadium improvements between 1932 and 1934. But this work had employed 2046 otherwise unemployed men, and he unapologetically thanked the federal aid programs that had made it possible. The total cost of the stadium, estimated at about \$217,000 in 1932, was finally set at about \$244,000 when it was declared officially finished in 1934.¹⁷

In its first full baseball season (1933) Hinchliffe was already home to the New York Black Yankees, a relationship that was to last till 1937 (when the Yankees moved briefly to Triborough Stadium in New York City), then to resume in 1939 and continue till 1945. The Yankees lost to the Philadelphia Stars in the "Colored Championship of the Nation" in Hinchliffe, September 1933, but they opened with an eight-game winning streak at Hinchliffe the following season.

As host now to Negro (or "Colored") League regular season games, the stadium saw the Black Yankees up against the Pittsburgh Crawfords on July 28, 1934, a game in which future Hall-of-Famers Josh Gibson, Judy Johnson, James "Cool

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Papa" Bell, and Oscar Charleston *all* played, and where legendary pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige was listed on the Crawfords roster. This was the match (called for rain after 7 1/2 innings) that ended that eight-game Yankee winning streak, thanks to powerful home runs by Crawfords stars Josh Gibson and Bob Clark, Gibson's contributing to his League home-run championship that year.¹⁸

Arguably the incomparable "Satchel" Paige pitched here more than once, whether for the Crawfords in 1934, for the Kansas City Monarchs, with a team of invitational All-stars, or for the Black Yankees themselves, on whose Hinchliffe-based roster he appears again in 1941. In any case, as site of countless regular and invitational and barnstorming or "rouge" games, Hinchliffe can be said to have hosted some of the most distinguished Hall-of-Fame ballplayers in America, achieving significance as scene of some of the most prodigious baseball in America at a time when baseball was a game of prodigious players. This significance resonates not just in local and regional or even national *sports* history but in national social history, given the enormous social significance both of sports and of the racial segregation of sports at the time.

Such significance takes further luster from the associated history of Paterson's own hometown champion Larry Doby, for whom the sight of such brilliant black players on his own field must have helped inspire a career that made its own baseball history. At Eastside High School, Doby had lettered in football (where he was the only black student on the team), track, and basketball as well as baseball. He had led Eastside to the City of Paterson baseball title in 1941 and 1942, all at Hinchliffe Stadium. And it was at Hinchliffe in 1942, where he was scouted for the Newark Eagles and signed to his first professional contract (under the assumed name "Larry Walker," both because he was under-age and to preserve his amateur status at the time), that he effectively began his professional baseball career, enjoying what he himself has characterized as the most memorable Hinchliffe moment of his life.¹⁹ Doby, who became known as the "Silk City Slugger" for his association with Paterson ("Silk City of America"), was signed by the Cleveland Indians on July 5, 1947, becoming only the second black baseball player in history to break the major league color barrier and the first black player ever to play in the American League.

Some of the other teams playing ball here seasonally or regularly included, in baseball, the Paterson Truckers and the Cuban Stars; in soccer: the New Jersey Stallions and (later) the New Jersey Eagles; in football: the Paterson Giants (the first football team to make the stadium their season home), the Silk City Bears (who also played the Elizabeth Pros in the stadium's first football game, September 20, 1932), the Paterson Panthers, and the Paterson Nighthawks. Hall-of-Famer Earl "Dutch" Clark played here for the Portsmouth Spartans, Oct. 23, 1932, against the Paterson Giants, the first time Hinchliffe hosted a National Football League team. On September 14, 1939, Vince Lombardi played for the Brooklyn Eagles against the Paterson Panthers. On September 15, 1946, the Pittsburgh Steelers played the Paterson Panthers at Hinchliffe as Hall-of-Famer Bill Dudley led the Steelers to 55-0 rout of the home team, scoring two touchdowns and completing one touchdown pass.

The city never built the pool originally envisioned for the planned recreational "complex" at Monument Heights, but with enough dedication local athletes could still train to become champion swimmers. This was the case for Paterson's Al Vande Weghe, who trained in Newark and whose backstroke speed won him a gold medal at the Japanese Outdoor Nationals in 1934. When Vande Weghe came home from Japan that September, Hinchliffe Stadium gave him a hero's welcome; two months later, at the 1934 Thanksgiving Day games, the city honored him with a bronze plaque, companion to the *Eleanor Egg* already on the wall (also by Federici), complete with Japanese-inspired foliage and water motifs.²⁰ The accomplished young athlete went on to Princeton, and then to garner a silver medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympic games.

It is not merely a footnote to attention-grabbing sports events that on December 3, 1934, just a few days after the Vande Weghe celebration, Hinchliffe Stadium became the venue for a massive Dyers Union meeting, when thousands of workers

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from Paterson Local 1733, in winter coats and dark fedoras, staunchly marched through the hard cold up to the stadium with posters and pennants waving, and gathered to cheer the end of a bitter, months-long strike.²¹

Fans, too, went on cheering, even amid the dark news of a worsening world economy and the distant rumble of impending war, and it may in some sense be true to say of the stadium itself what has been said of its "heroine" runner, Eleanor Egg, that it helped sustain a city's morale through difficult times.

II. Racing, Boxing and other entertainment, 1940- about 1950:

Motorcycle and auto-racing were early arrivals at the stadium, their relentless roar (and even more the high-pitched snarl of midget cars) making a hell of weekend life for people who lived on Maple and Walnut Streets, even in the '30s.²² They came back in force after World War II, when midget stars Dutch Schaefer and Rex Records rode here in 1945 (a 75-lap midget-car championship) and 1946. "Sugar Blues," one of the most successful cars in the Kingsbridge Armory (and built for owner Jerry Willetts in Paterson in 1946) was driven by Rex Records in its first race at Hinchliffe Stadium on Easter Sunday, 1946. Ted Horn, the unique seven-time AAA champion who kept up his race cars in Paterson's "Gasoline Alley" on East 29th Street, rode here in 1947, the year before he was killed in a racing accident in Illinois. And on September 30, 1947, Bill Schindler won his 48th feature event of the year at Hinchliffe.²³

Boxing also came to Hinchliffe, not just as another opportunity for tough poor kids to try to beat the odds, but increasingly as a family spectator sport. The stadium was already hosting Diamond Gloves championship bouts--predecessors to the Golden Gloves-- in the '30s. Paterson's own Lou Duva won a championship here in 1940 in the bantamweight division, and went on to enable other champion careers as a world-class trainer and promoter. Well into the '40s Paterson native Lou Costello, legendary Hollywood comic and boxing enthusiast, could be found attending Diamond Glove matches with his chum Duva and their mutual friend Gaetano Federici, whose sculptural portraits of Lou, Ingrid Bergman, and "Jack Dempsey's Arms" had made him something of a sculptor to the stars.²⁴ Bouts were often guest-refereed, including by Jack Dempsey in '43 and Joe Louis in '49, boxing greats who might be joined in the stadium by other major sports celebrities like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Pee Wee Reese, Herman Franks, Max Baer, Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis, Rocky Graziano, Rocky Marciano, Jake LaMotta, and Dixie Walker. And this is not to mention Larry Doby and other hometown stars, who often returned to Hinchliffe to see and be seen, and who might find themselves sharing crowd and press attention with Frank Sinatra or other superstars of screen and radio.²⁵

Performers who knew the crowds Hinchliffe could draw came out to please them: Abbott and Costello in 1941 (with Benny Leonard and Abe Greene), and again in 1944 and 1947; Dick Jurgens in 1942. Ted Huesing opened to a crowd of 5000 in 1943, the same year that Henny Youngman delivered "139 one-liner 'knock-outs' to a capacity crowd."²⁶ The Andrews Sisters sang to 7000 in 1947. And on July 31, 1946, "sports history was made," the press said, as the first telecast of an athletic event in New Jersey took place at Hinchliffe: the semi-finals of the News-PBA Diamond Gloves Championships over Dumont Network Television Station WBAD (Channel 5).²⁷

THE POST-WAR: HINCHLIFFE STADIUM FROM THE 1950S TO THE PRESENT:

Hinchliffe Stadium as site of the first New Jersey sports telecast contains a powerful irony, since television is one of the principal forces blamed for the decline and (in some cases) demise post mid-century of certain venues Americans had relied on for large-crowd recreation and entertainment--movie palaces, drive-in theaters, and home-town stadiums or playing fields. Because they were routinely used for school athletics, stadiums may actually have survived longest, especially in working-class towns like Paterson.

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But a synergy of post-war forces was taking hold here as it did in other industrial cities and towns: deindustrialization and the disappearance of manufacturing-sector jobs as national social and economic priorities shifted, an automobile culture (and highway system) encouraging weekend getaways and suburbanization, "white flight," driven and accompanied by the GI Bill and new immigrations into Northeastern cities, and the beginnings of a broad shift of population to the Sun Belt. All of these effected nothing less than a transformation of urban America over the next generation. Paterson's loss of manufactures took ratables with it, but it also took workers, the stable urban factory middle-class whose patronage at weekerid events could once be counted on, and whose property taxes helped underwrite the costs of maintenance.

Maybe Hinchliffe Stadium's managers could see the social and demographic onslaught affecting them (including the critical loss of their black baseball pros when the majors were integrated), but not how to deal with it. Maybe once a "fifteen-minute walk" from most of the city, the stadium was now too far away to walk to, and hard to park at, for everyone with cars, which meant almost everyone. Even creative shifts in marketing and steep investments in upkeep and improvements might not have forestalled such devastating socio-economic trends.

There was also the somewhat misleading fact that Paterson did not suffer any net population loss during the period from 1950-1990, and certainly no loss in the schools population. Though intended from the outset as a community-wide resource, Hinchliffe could survive, if not necessarily thrive, on this population. The stadium continued to play host to occasional regional outdoor events, some of them—like motorcycle races and demolition derbies—catering to the rougher tastes of a diminishing (and aging) white ethnic working-class. At the same time. they put a heavy strain on the stadium field and facilities, while no longer guaranteeing the "paying investment" the facility had been.

The Paterson Schools, which had always managed the property, assumed full ownership in January 1963.²⁸ A successful fundraising effort by Board of Education secretary Charles Riley in 1963-1964 paid for refurbishing and improving the field and facilities. Without elaborating on the actual engineering of these changes, news stories in April '64 described the results, from lengthening the track to a full 1/4-mile and repairing the repaired bleacher seats, to the re-sodded and better-drained football field to the new infield for baseball, which gave it its present orientation. They applauded "increas[ing] the distance to the outfield fences [to]... 340 feet down the left-field line and 360 to center," and locating right field "...some 270 feet from home plate with a six-foot snow fence...."²⁹

Yet arguably no single municipal agency or entity could have justified major public reinvestment in stadium restoration over the '60s and '70s. The preservationist revival that helped create the Great Falls/S.U.M. Landmark brought the occasional fancy auto show in, appealing to the nostalgia of old-time (and former) Patersonians; events held in tandem with the Great Falls Festival included fireworks sometimes launched from the stadium for either July 4 or Labor Day. But ownership as well as management and maintenance of the stadium may not have been the most propitious role for an increasingly troubled school system at a time when apparently no one could afford to rescue it, and when the unrelenting urban slump meant that sometimes even city salaries would have to be postponed.

Another "repair and restoration" effort was nevertheless mounted in 1983 with support from the mayoral administration of Frank X. Graves (1982-90) and memorialized with another concession-stand plaque.³⁰ In an effort to modernize, Astro turf was laid on the entire field and a urethane running track installed. Graves's investment temporarily paid off when, soccer having become a major draw for some of the immigrant populations from Latin America, an American Soccer League team, the New Jersey Eagles, briefly (1988-89) made Hinchliffe their home. But the stadium's main feature remained the annual football rivalry between Eastside High School and Central High School (now renamed Kennedy and relocated to a new building in Totowa, not far from the stadium). Several generations onward, the principal originating reason for Hinchliffe's existence, to serve the youth of this working-class city, seemed, if barely, to justify its continuing existence.

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As if as a symbol of mounting despair, some time during this latter period the Federici bronze plaques disappeared, even as a sinkhole that had plagued the infield from the beginning returned and a new one in the extended outfield, probably the payback from poor 1964 landfill material, slowly but insidiously deepened. The Schools system, in receivership to the State of New Jersey by 1992, could feel no imperative to reinvest in maintenance, let alone notice the stolen artwork. The stadium was threatened with demolition under the superintendency of Dr. Laval Wilson in 1994. It was closed in 1996 under Dr. Edwin Duroy.

As in 1930, when the Thanksgiving games were about to be held in Passaic, so in the late '90s, Paterson's two rival high school teams had nowhere to go but out of town, this time to Wayne. Demolition talk continued, until at the urging of Paterson's Historic Preservation Commission in 1997, the statewide preservationist organization, Preservation New Jersey, declared Hinchliffe Stadium one of the state's Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites.

Hinchliffe Stadium has since been the subject of repeated news articles on its threatened condition. On Sept 17, 2002, the seventieth anniversary of its dedication, a citizens group announced the formation of Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium.³¹ A month later, Dr. Duroy announced a restoration and adaptive reuse of the stadium as a sports business academy and multipurpose arena. According to Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres,³² there is a possibility of the stadium's now being incorporated into a redevelopment plan for that portion of the Totowa section and Paterson's west side contiguous with the Great Falls/S.U.M. National Landmark.

Today the stadium structure is in obvious disrepair. It had served only for occasional high school football practice before it finally closed in 1996. The quarter-mile track is degraded and unusable, the field's Astroturf ragged and dilapidated, the field still plagued with sinkholes possibly arising from organic matter in the landfill. All entrances to the grounds are chained or boarded (not successfully: unauthorized access was still possible in 2002, even to the researchers for this application). A leprous web of graffiti has spread over the walls, more inside than outside the stadium, presumably because the exterior has been subject to the occasional cosmetic coat of paint. So far, like the stands and infrastructure, the red tile roofing and coping and the decorative ceramic detailing remain intact. Electricity and plumbing throughout the locker rooms and team rooms under the west stands were functional and seemingly sound in 2002. Some bleacher sections are decayed, but overall the concrete, though spalling in areas, is (according to a 1995 analysis) solid enough to restore, and the original permanent structure still whole. The exterior walls show signs of localized degradation, but remain solid. Interior walls, especially the retaining wall on the north side, continue to show ever more insidious wear and degradation, and wild vegetation growth is hastening the deterioration of the concrete.

The stadium has suffered badly since its glory days, but it is a remarkable survivor. Neither decay nor "renovation" over the years has yet significantly robbed it of its original fabric and basic architectural integrity. Nothing, of course, can take away the power in its remarkable weave of nationally significant history. Still to choose: whether to continue to interpret it as living history, or only in the dead pages of documents like these.

NOTES

1 The Paterson Silk Sox played at the Doherty Oval in Clifton, 1896-7.

2 Quoted without citation in John J. O'Rourke, "The Stadium Movement," an essay that forms part of the *Official Program: Dedication of the City Stadium, Monument Heights, Paterson, N.J.*, September 17, 1932, pp. 4-7; the essay also appeared in the *Paterson Evening News*, July 7, 1932. Further page citations from the program are in parenthesis in the text.

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3 McCran (1875-1925) rose from State Senator to State Attorney-General. His role in facilitating the creation of parks invited an expansive memorial plaza at the crest of the hill in Paterson's Eastside Park (bust by Gaetano Federici, 1927).

4 The *Paterson Evening News* (hereafter referred to as *PEN*) and *Paterson Morning Call* (hereafter referred to as *PMC*) both hammered at this theme through the first years of Hinchliffe's administration, initially crediting him with fulfilling Newman's intentions re: the stadium; *PEN* was often enough out front on stadium issues to justify getting some credit for sustaining the movement (See O'Rourke, p. 5. It was repeatedly noted that about \$10,000 remained from the 1921 campaign fund. See Hinchliffe Scrap Books, 1928-29, 1930, 1932: Passaic County Historical Society, Paterson, NJ.

5 O'Rourke's allegation that the Stadium Association offered "as many recommendations as there were members of the committee" (5) is unjustified. The unanimous report of the Stadium Association appeared in the press in July 1929, all signatories named. Six months later, Recreation head Vera Beggs (the City's first female commissioner), supported the PSA's recommendation before the Finance Board, engaging in vigorous debate with Commissioner Dill over the floating of a \$50,000 bond issue for what she characterized as a sports facility that would become a "magnet for industries." *PEN*: "Mrs Beggs and Dill Disagree on Site," January 23, 1930.

6 *PEN*, October 9, 1930.

7 Typescript memorandum, Frederick Loede, June 23, 1932. Specific citations are in parenthesis. Loede's memo, though belated, is brief, precise, and factual, and of course too discreet not to be thoroughly credible. In support of his timetable is a *PEN* story with a map of the proposed Heights site on September 10, 1930. Several verbal similarities between the two retrospective accounts (Loede and O'Rourke) suggest that Loede may actually have drawn up the memorandum at O'Rourke's request, or shared it with him before *PEN* published O'Rourke's history two weeks later. A passage on p. 2 of Loede's memo regarding "...the possibility of a stadium, a swimming pool, children's playground, and a general park including the preservation of the cliffs and natural rock formation with a marvelous view toward the center of the city," is almost identical with one on p. 5 of O'Rourke. Reasons for Cappio's sidelining in O'Rourke's official account are unclear—possibly a small battle in the ongoing Paterson class wars? Besides being a rookie in the supervisory ranks of City government, Cappio had been appointed amid controversy, having risen through the ranks of the Recreation Commission on a merit system possibly beating out candidates more favored by influential city leaders.

8 *PEN*, November 28, 1930; see also *New York Herald Tribune*, November 22, 1930.

9 File No. 9163, Olmsted Archive, Library of Congress.

10 Fanning had died just as the last touches were being put on Eastside High School. A temporary flagpole was installed just to fly a flag at half-mast in his honor. Obituary and funeral notices, *PEN*, October 2 and 5, 1925. See Alaya et al., *Gaetano Federici: The Artist as Historian* (1980), p. 93.

11 O'Rourke, Washington bicentennial, p. 4, Schools transfer, p. 7. For House of David information, See Joel Hawkins and Terry Bertolino, *The House of David Baseball Team* (Arcadia [Images of America series]: 2000). Interestingly, night-lighting would not enter the major leagues till 1935.)

12 "Paterson First, Stadium Policy," *PMC*, August 9, 1932.

13 *PMC*, August 31, 1932.

14 *PEN*, September 17, 1932.

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15 *PEN*, September 18, 1932; *PMC*, Sept. 18, 1932.

16 Egg (among other storied accomplishments as a runner) took first place in the 100-yard-dash at the National Track and Field Championships in Jersey City in 1931. For full details of her career, see Thomas Jable, "Eleanor Egg: Paterson's Track and Field Heroine," *New Jersey History* 102 (1984): 69-84; also the Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc., *Past and Promise* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1990), pp. 279-281. For additional details on the creation of the plaque, see Flavia Alaya, et al., *Gaetano Federici: The Artist as Historian* (Paterson: Passaic Co. Historical Society, 1980), pp. 65, 67.

17 Mayor John V. Hinchliffe, *Annual Message of the Mayor* (1935), p. 11. The total included the new construction between '32 and '34.

18 *PEN*, July 30, 1934.

19 Larry Doby, at induction into Hall of Fame, July 28, 1998; conversation with Brian LoPinto at dedication of Larry Doby Field, Eastside Park, Paterson, June 6, 2002. See also "Fifty Years: Commemorating the 1946 Negro League World Series," Reunion Program, Atlantic City, NJ, October 5-6, 1996.

20 *PMC*, August 15, Sept. 11, Sept. 20, November 30, 1934. Vande Weghe won the 100-, 200-, and 300-meter freestyle meets at the Japanese Outdoor Nationals in 1934 and the 100- and 200-meter backstroke at the 1936 Olympic Games. In a nice touch, Eleanor Egg was named vice chairman of the plaque committee: *PEN*, Sept. 11, 1934. Funds for the plaque were raised at the Vande Weghe testimonial dinner in September. For more details regarding the plaque, see Alaya, et al., p. 69.

21 *PMC* and *PEN*, December 4, 1934.

22 Claire Murphy and Ruth Knapp, both of Paterson, conversations with Flavia Alaya, May 23, 2003. Mrs. Murphy lived on Maple Street, alongside the stadium, in the '30s and '40s.

23 Many of these details come from a web-essay by Tom Avenengo, "A Step Back in Time to Paterson's 'Gasoline Alley' and Hinchliffe [sic] Stadium," [source dated 6-1-2003] accessed at <http://www.thevintageracer.comstepback.htm> 30 June 2003.

24 Lou Duva, conversation with Flavia Alaya, March 20, 2003.

25 Tom Lanier, conversation with Rob Tucher, February 27, 1999. Also, Henry Hascup, "Did You Know That...?," Program for the Third Annual Dinner Dance, New Jersey Diamond Glovers Association, Inc. (1988); and Lou Duva, conversation with Flavia Alaya, March 20, 2003.

26 Henry Hascup, conversation with Rob Tucher, March 5, 1999.

27 [First telecast documentation]

28 Passaic County, Deed, dated January 24, 1963. The 1962 and 1963 "Annual Reports of the City of Paterson Board Of Education" shows a sudden increase in attention to and expenditures on the stadium, though it contains no formal statement of the acquisition.

29 *PEN*, April 29, 1964.

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PassaicCounty, NJ

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30 See photograph 18 of the present packet.

§

31 See e.g., Roya Rafei, "Hinchliffe Stadium's Future Is in Doubt," *North Jersey Herald & News*, September 12, 1996; Scott Fallon, "Fans of Hinchliffe Stadium say it can be great once again," *North Jersey Herald & News*, September 26, 2002.

32 "A Shining Vision for a Tarnished Jewel," Editorial, *North Jersey Herald & News*, October 17, 2002.

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National Park Service

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

(The above history--again--owes some debt to the earlier draft application and preliminary research of Rob Tucher [1999]. It is underpinned throughout by Brian LoPinto's extensive sports research--and sports acumen. Research contributing to this narrative was done by Maria Cerda-Moreno. The director and librarian of the Passaic County Historical Society were both helpful with sources on the Hinchliffe "dynasty" and legacy, and with access to the Hinchliffe Scrap Books. Assistance with particular details was supplied by many others, particularly: County Historian Ed Smyk, Pat Dilanni, Esq., Mike Wing of the City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission, Mike Lemme, Frank Blesso, and others who found lost or buried items or contributed oral recollections of aspects of stadium history. Flavia Alaya)

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National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Hinchliffe Stadium occupies Block 128, Lot 2 as shown on the Tax Map of the City of Paterson. The nominated site encompasses approximately 5.7 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel of land historically associated with Hinchliffe Stadium.

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National Park Service

Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County, NJ

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Section number PHOTOS Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is the same for all photographs:

1. Hinchliffe Stadium
2. City of Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey
3. Rob Tucher, Photographer
4. March 1999
5. Negatives held by:
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Tel: (609)292-2023
6. View of stadium in context, looking north.
7. Photograph 1 of 18
6. Playing field, stands, all ticket booths, and School No. 5, looking northwest.
7. Photograph 2 of 18
6. West corner ticket booths and southwest wall along Maple Street, looking east.
7. Photograph 3 of 18
6. North corner ticket booths and northwest wall along Liberty Street, looking south.
7. Photograph 4 of 18
6. Southwest wall along Maple Street, looking north.
7. Photograph 5 of 18
6. View from south corner of southwest stands of press box, ticket booths, stands, and

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Section number PHOTOS Page 2

- 7. School No. 5, looking north.
Photograph 6 of 18
- 6. View of stadium in context with City of Paterson beyond southwest stands, looking southeast.
7. Photograph 7 of 18
- 6. North corner ticket booths and rest rooms above lower and upper tiers of stands, looking north.
7. Photograph 8 of 18
- 6. Southwest stands and press box, looking west.
7. Photograph 9 of 18
- 6. View from north entrance across concession stand and center stands at west ticket booths, looking southwest.
7. Photograph 10 of 18
- 6. West entrance and walkway behind upper tier stands, looking north.
7. Photograph 11 of 18
- 6. North ticket booth (facing northwest to Liberty Street) and entrance, looking northwest.
7. Photograph 12 of 18
- 6. Detail of ticket windows, athlete medallion, and recessed arch, looking northeast.
7. Photograph 13 of 18
- 6. Detail of top of pylon, terra cotta coping, and athlete medallion, looking northeast.
7. Photograph 14 of 18
- 6. Detail of "Renovation and Restoration, 1983," plaque and door to concession stand, looking northwest.
7. Photograph 15 of 18
- 6. Detail of Spartan athlete relief on northwest-facing ticket booth (north corner), looking northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

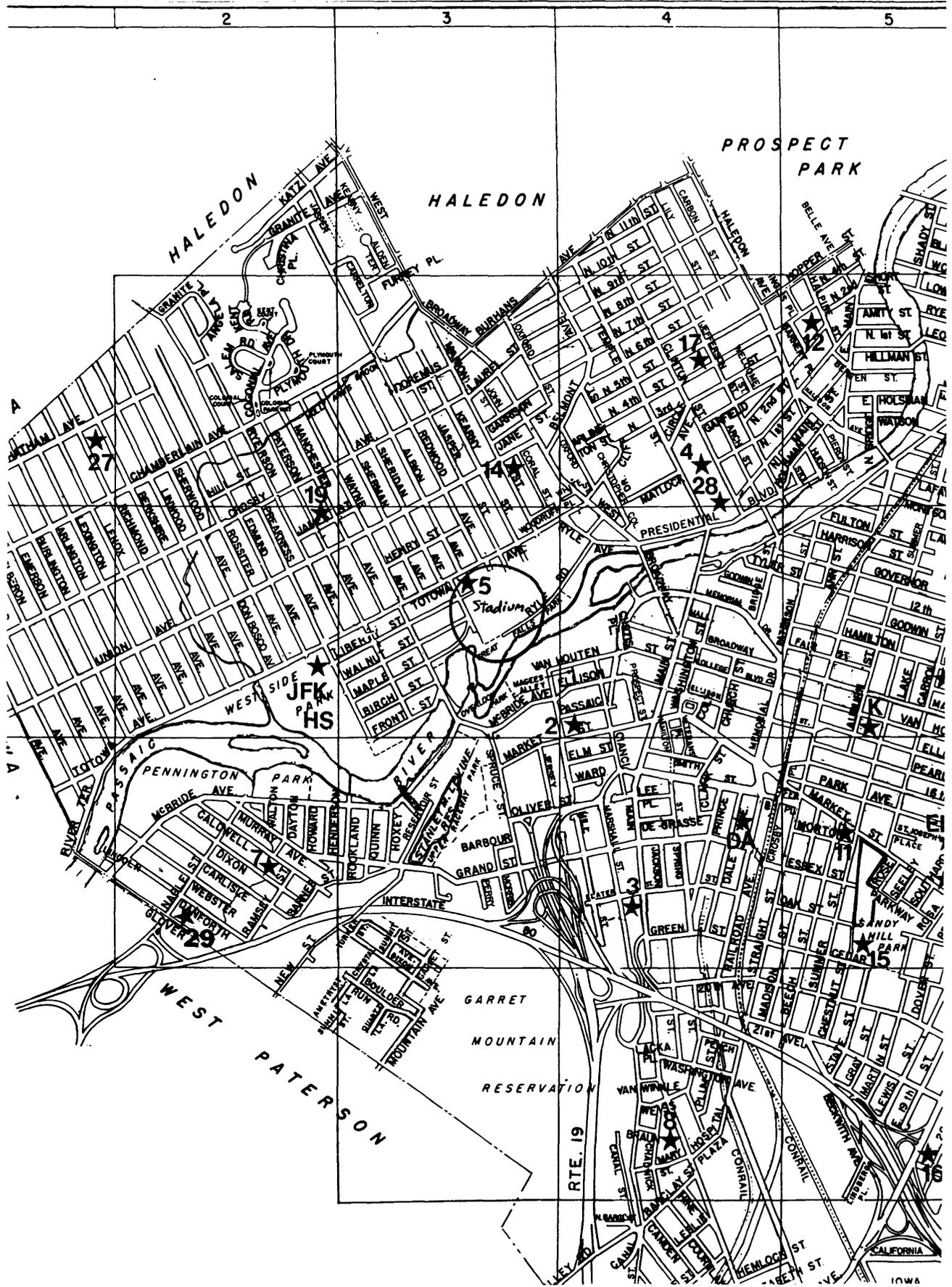
Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County, NJ

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 3

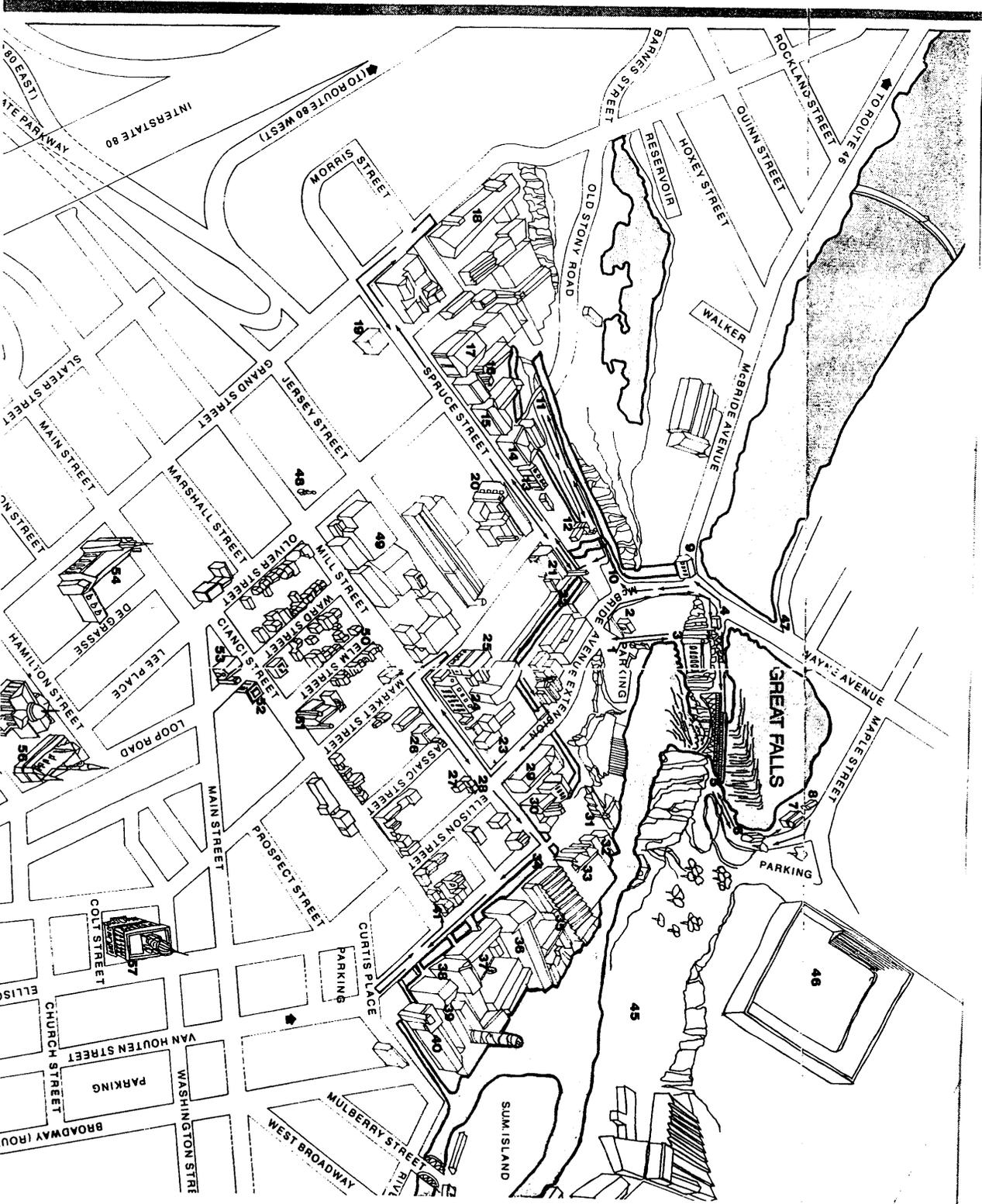
7. Photograph 16 of 18
6. Interior, underside of southwest stands and hallway that leads to locker rooms and team rooms, looking northwest.
7. Photograph 17 of 18
6. Interior of typical locker room, looking northwest.
7. Photograph 18 of 18

Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County



City of Paterson, NJ
July 1998

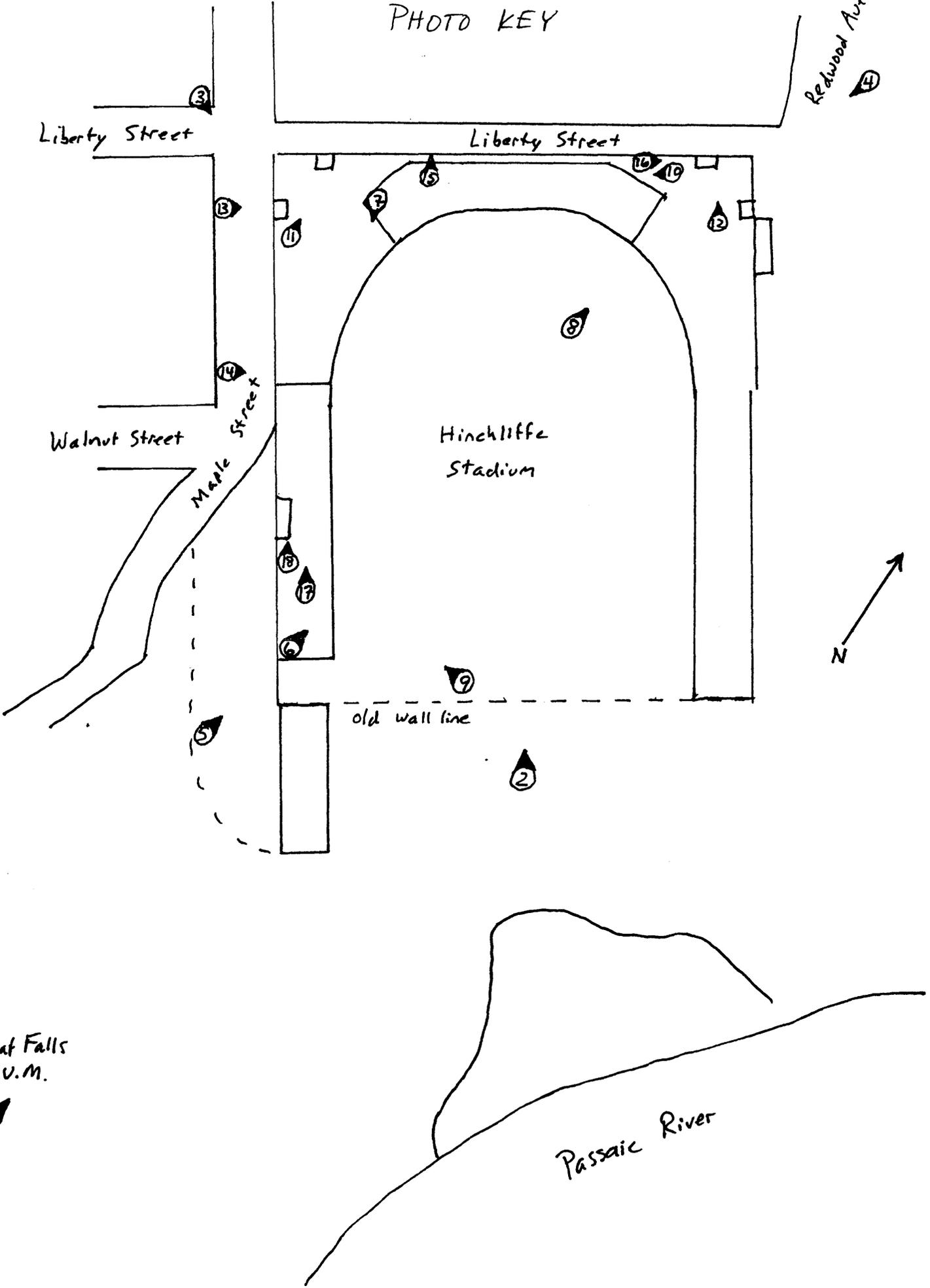
Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County



Paterson Historic District Tour Map, 1979
Hinchliffe Stadium #46

Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County

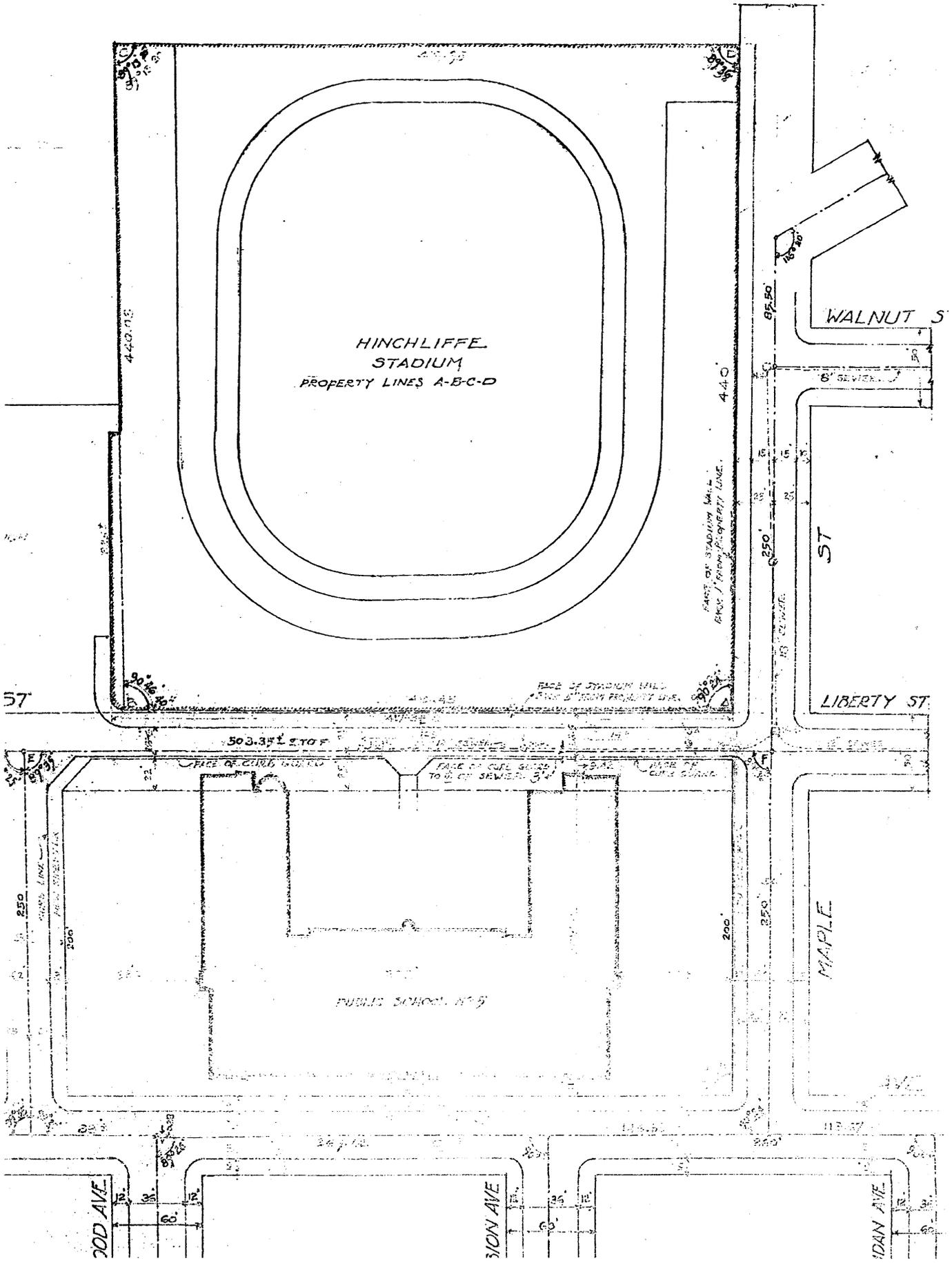
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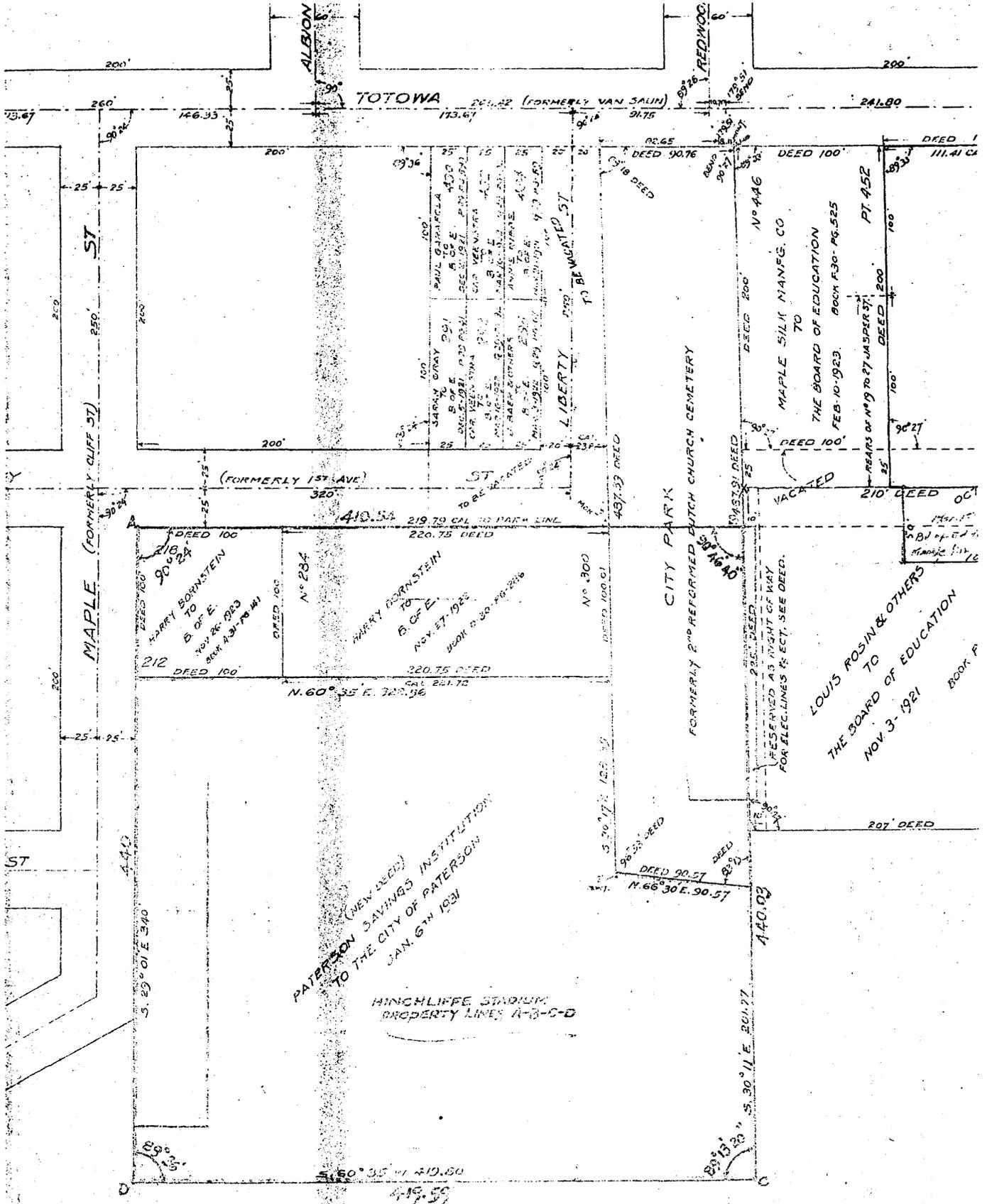


Great Falls
S.V.M.



Passaic River





TOTOWA (FORMERLY VAN SAUN)

MAPLE (FORMERLY CLIFF ST)

PATERSON SAVINGS INSTITUTION
TO THE CITY OF PATERSON
JAN. 6TH 1931

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM
PROPERTY LINES A-B-C-D

CITY PARK

FORMERLY 2nd REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH CEMETERY

LOUIS ROSIN & OTHERS
TO
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOV 3-1921
BOOK F

MAPLE SILK MANFG. CO
TO
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEB. 10-1923. BOOK F. 30-16.525

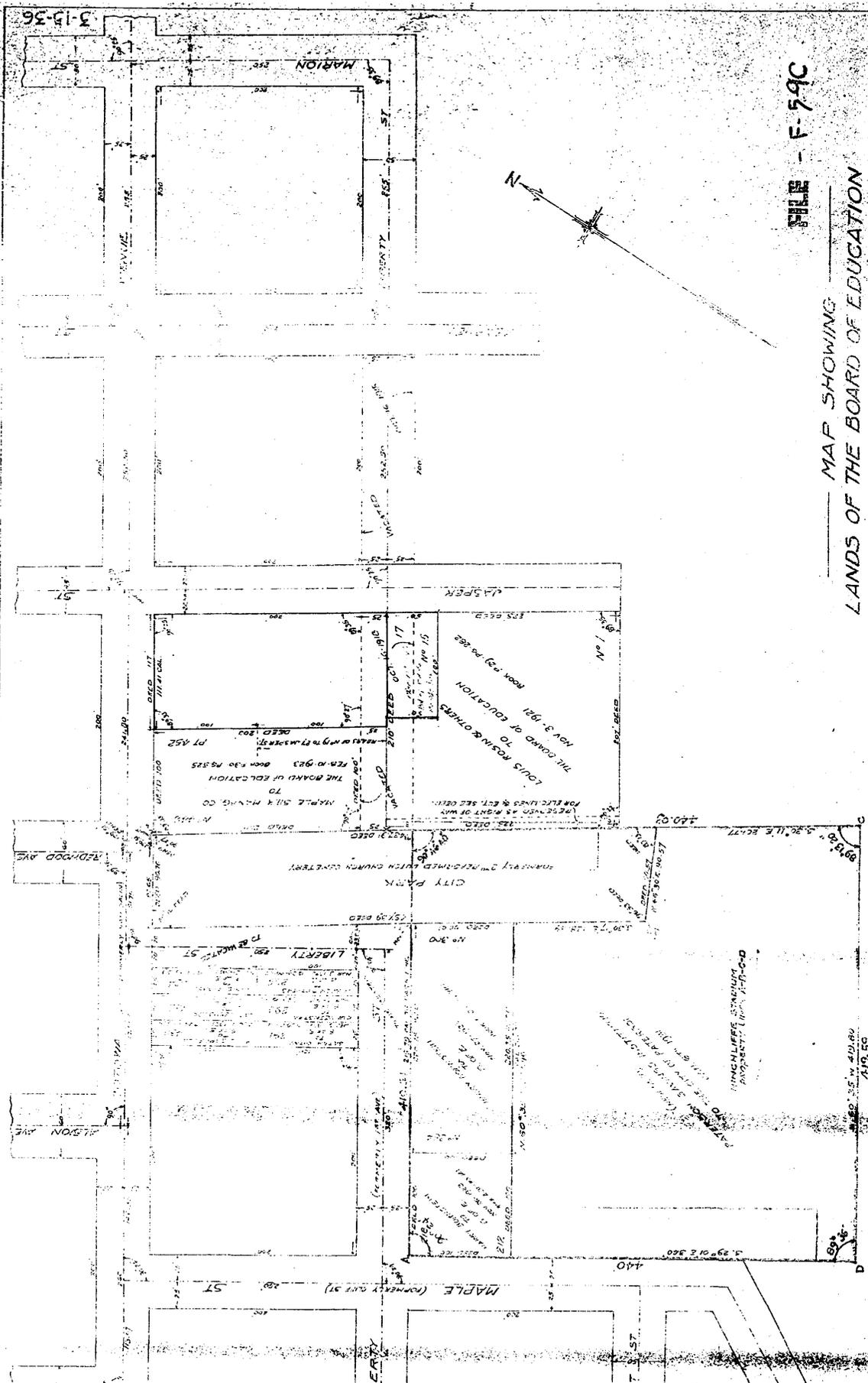
PT. 452

REARS OF N. 90° 27' JASPER ST.

RESERVED AS RIGHT OF WAY
FOR ELEC. LINES & ECT. SEE DEED.

207 DEED

DEED 90.57



3-13-36

FILE - F-59C

MAP SHOWING
LANDS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
INCLUDING THE HINCHLIFFE STADIUM

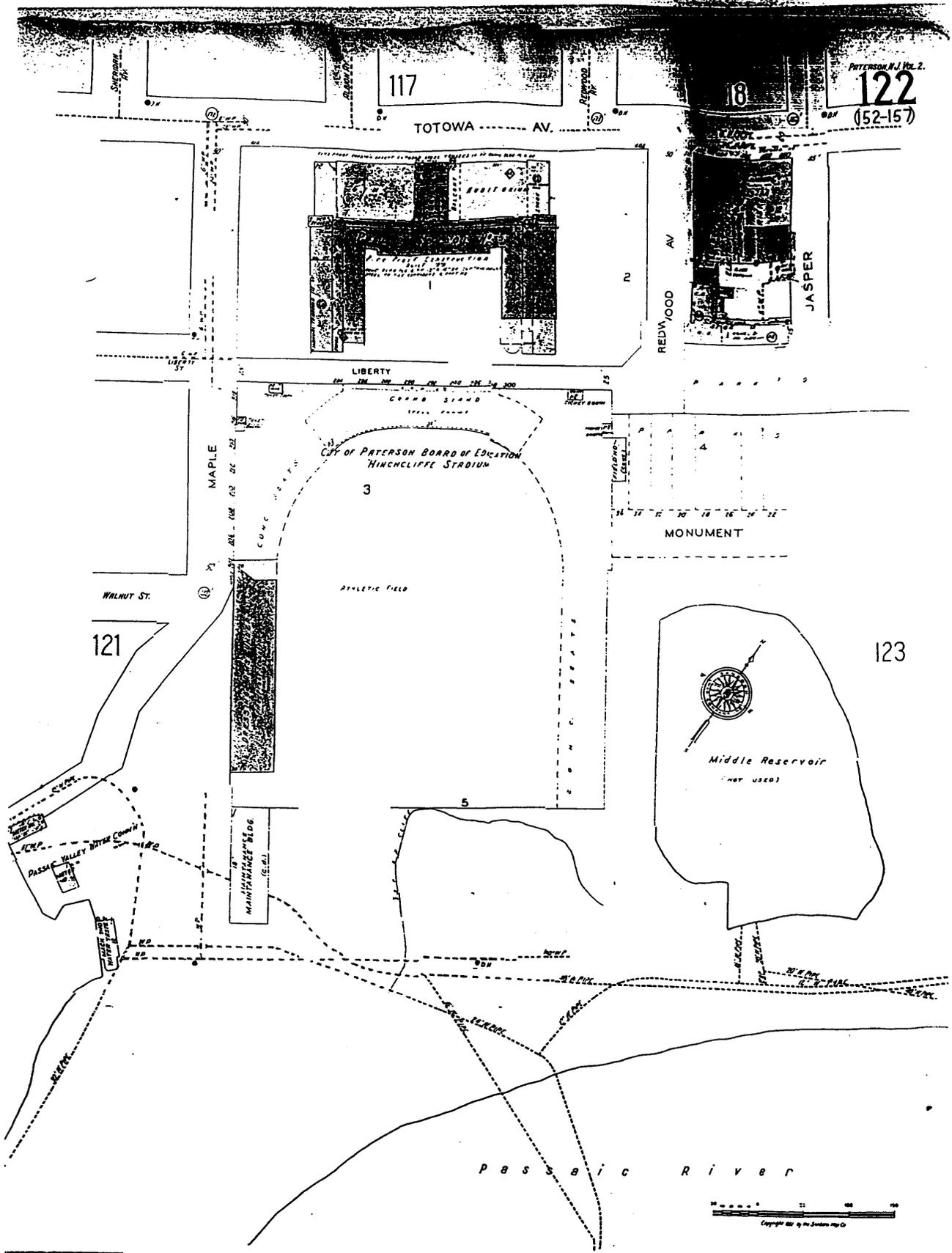
PATERSON, N.J.

OCT 31st 1933. SCALE 1"=50'

WARDEN CITY ENGINEER

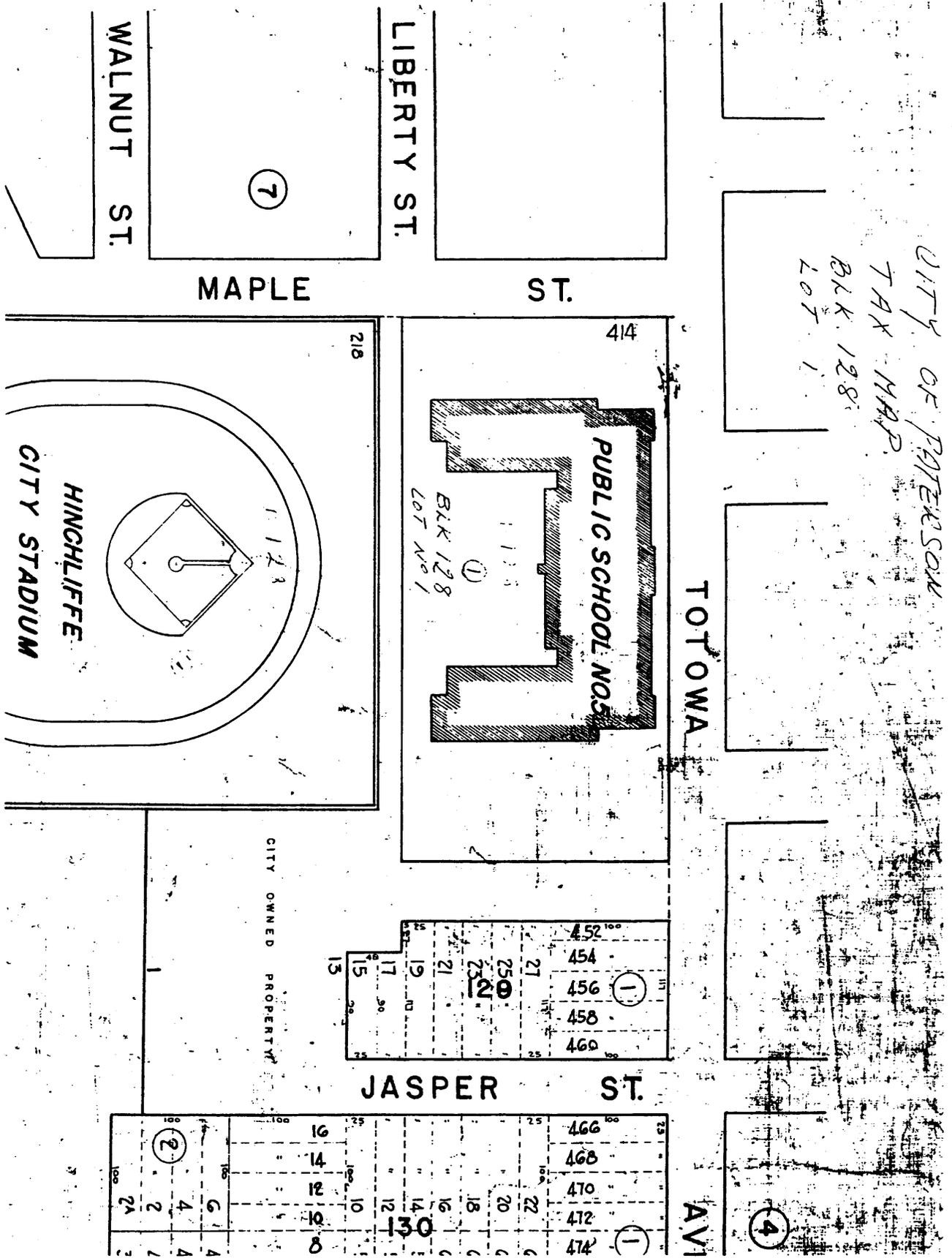
1933-19

Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County



Paterson, NJ Volume 2, Survey of Hinchliffe Stadium.

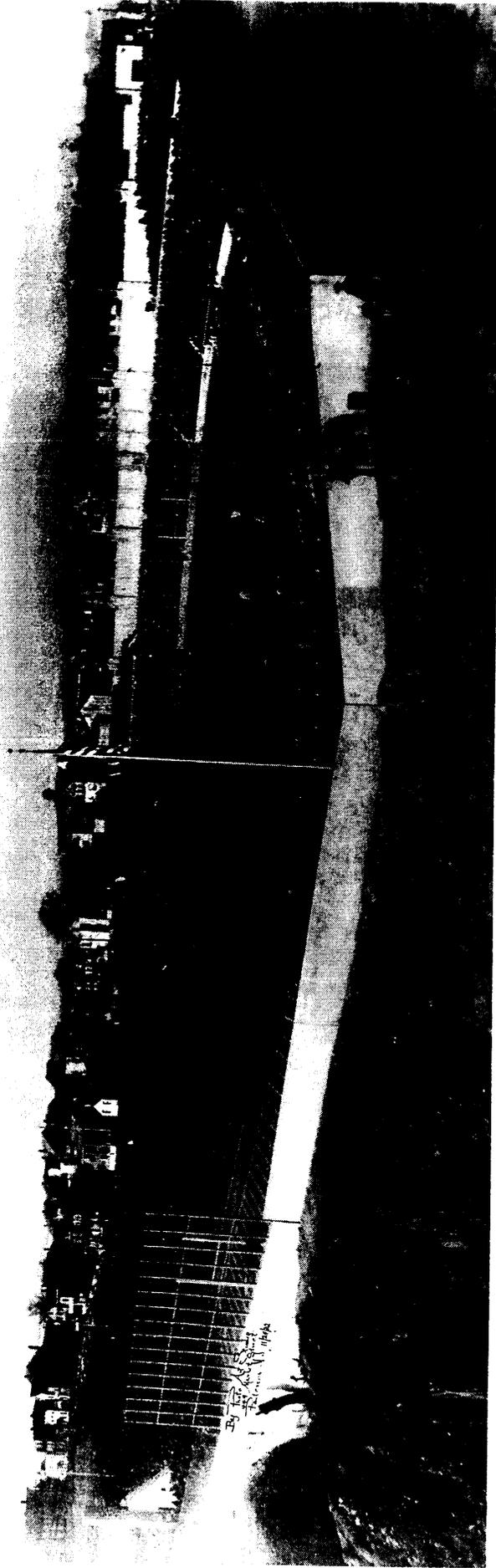
Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County



Tax Map of Passaic County, NJ. Revised Dec. 22, 1989
City of Paterson, Sheet 3, Block 128 / Lot 2

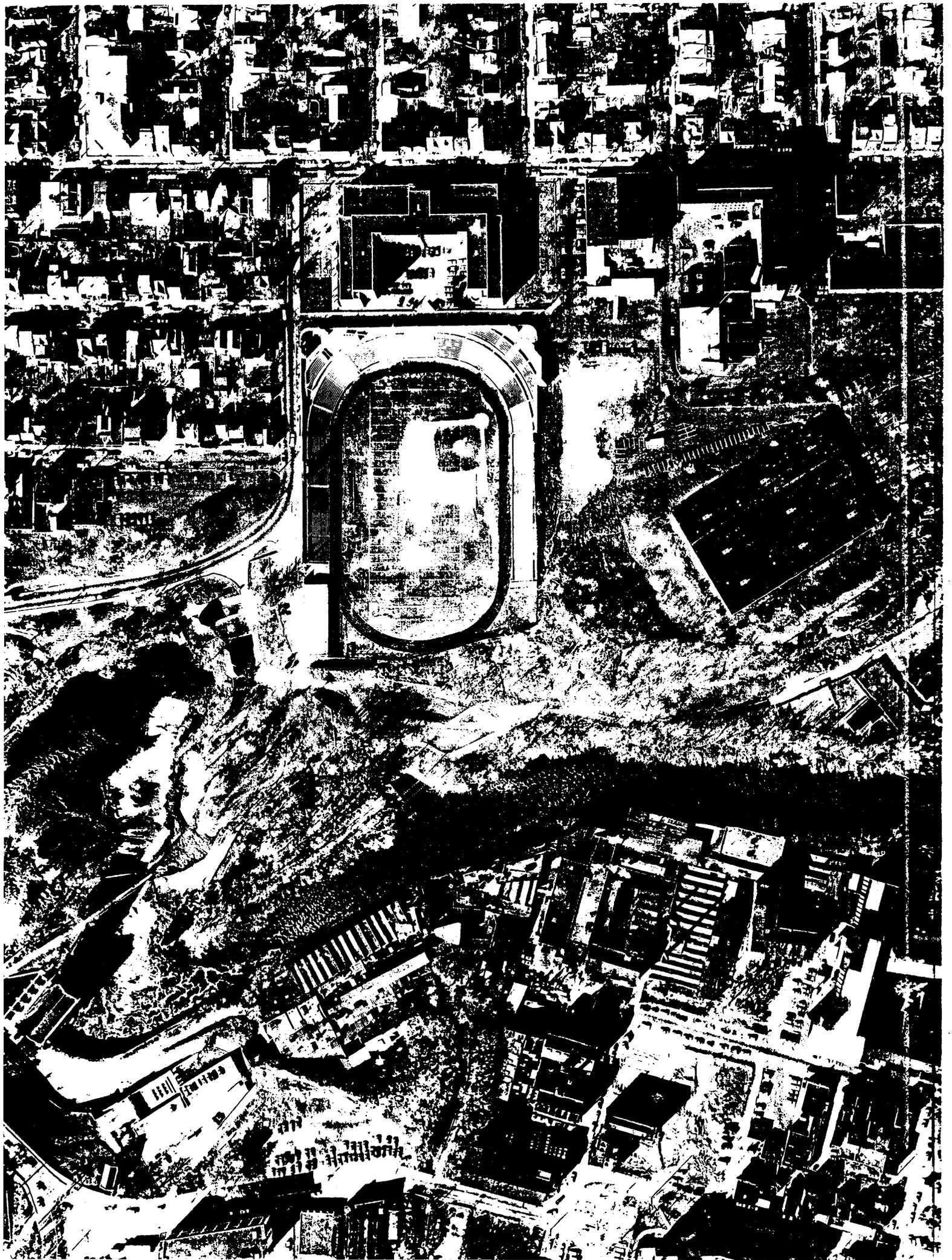


Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County



HINCHLIFFE STADIUM

BY PHOTO ART STUDIO OF 449 MARKET STREET
PATERSON, NJ ON 11/24/32, LOOKING WEST.
THANKSGIVING DAY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
OPENING DAY OF STADIUM (POST-DEDICATION)

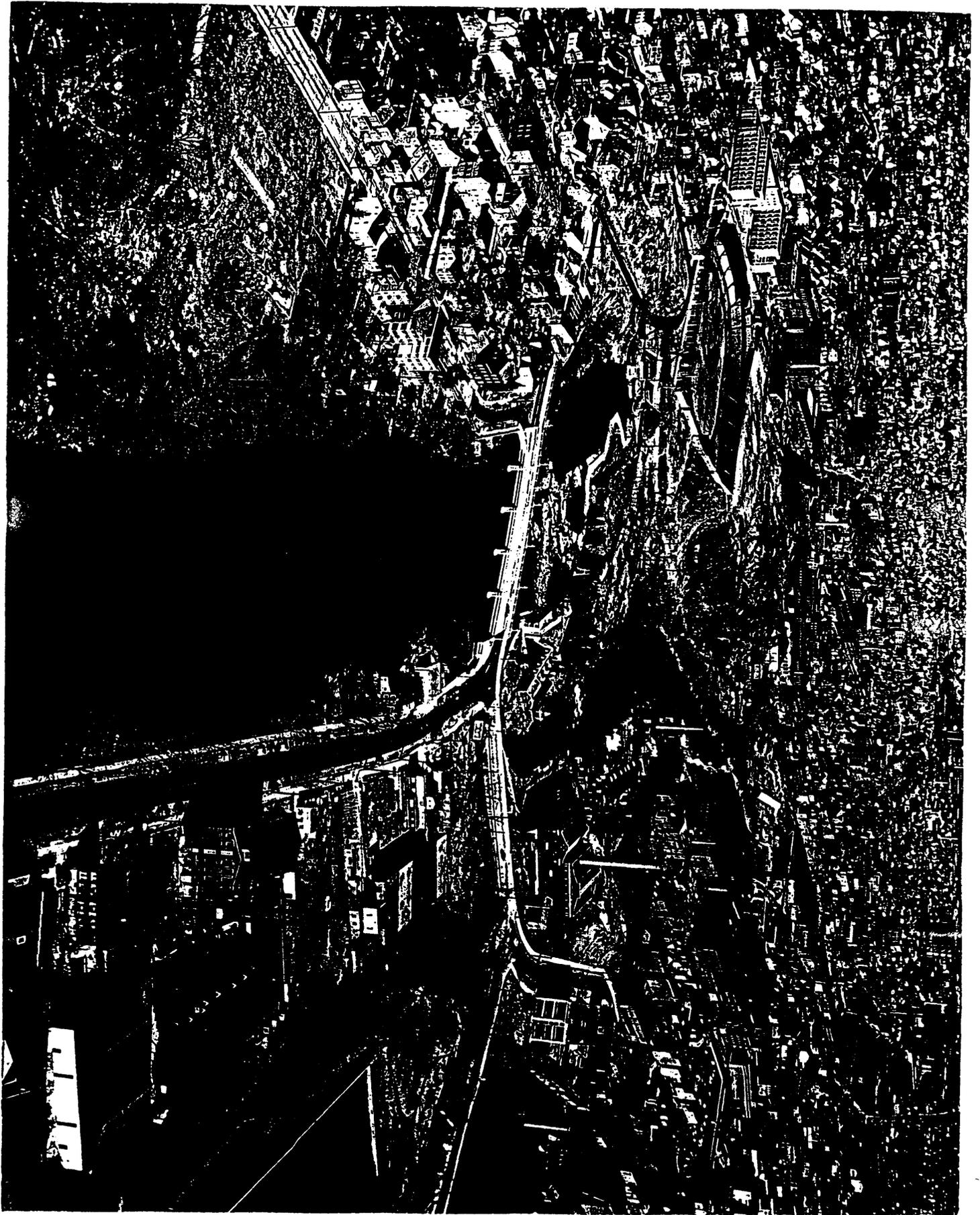


Hinchliffe Stadium
Passaic County
Paterson Quad
1955 (Photo revised 1981)





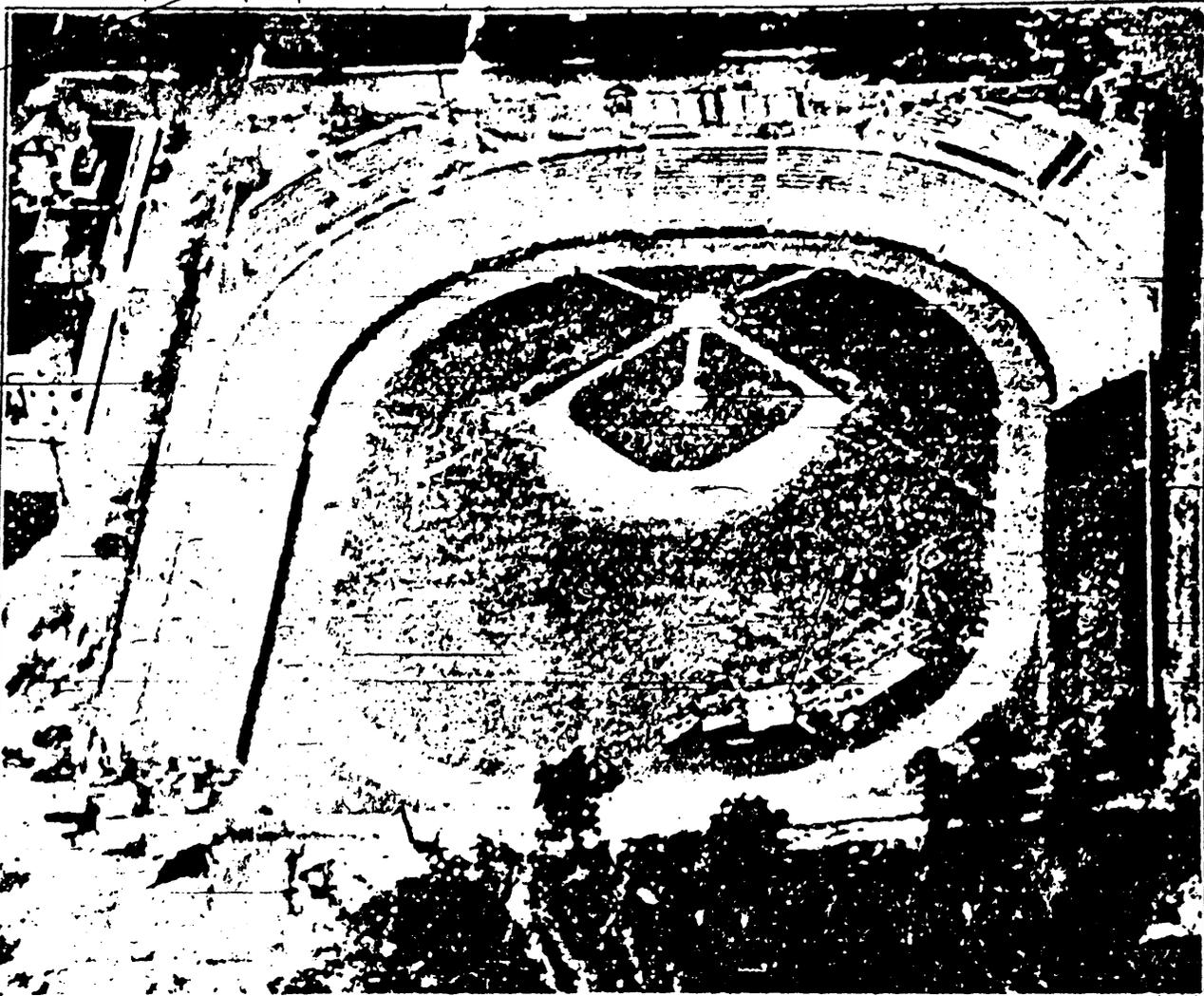
Architectural model 1971
G. Federici Appendix B-3



... of Years Comes True as Stadium

One

Bird's-Eye View of the New City Stadium



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NESTLED IN THE ROCKY DEPTHS OF TOTOWA, Paterson's new stadium presents a pretty picture to the News photographer soaring above in the News Curtis-Wright plane. The magnificent new struc-

ture, with its row upon row of concrete seats and its fine field layout, is ready for use by residents of Paterson, with the city's Bi-Centennial Pageant, scheduled for tomorrow night, the first official event in advance of formal dedication.

... (1923 when it had to be temporarily abandoned during the construction of the new high school. This undertaking made it necessary to do away with the track and establish a new grade. A board of trustees of the High School Athletic Field Fund had been organized meanwhile. This board was made up of Henry Macelli, John J. Fitzgerald, Francis K. North, Joseph F. Manley, L. R. Burnett, John J. Rumber, ... and James P. Humphrey representing the Board of Education. It held a deed of trust which was transferred to the Board of Education in April, 1920. The high school athletic activities of both schools were carried on without a serious hitch after the new high school was completed, but the demand for a city stadium with a seating capacity of 10,000 or more and every facility for athletic events of all

the probable cost of placing the grounds in condition for the next Thanksgiving Day game should be obtained. No time was lost. The mayor reported next day to the Finance commission. That body inspected the site on the same day.

Advice Asked

The Essex County Park commission was asked to give the service of its experts. Engineer Frederick W. Loede was impressed. On a later visit of inspection and study he was accompanied by Percy Gallagher, landscape engineer for Olmstead Brothers, of Brookline, Mass. These experts made a complete survey of the ground needed for a modern stadium, having in mind the possibilities for a swim-

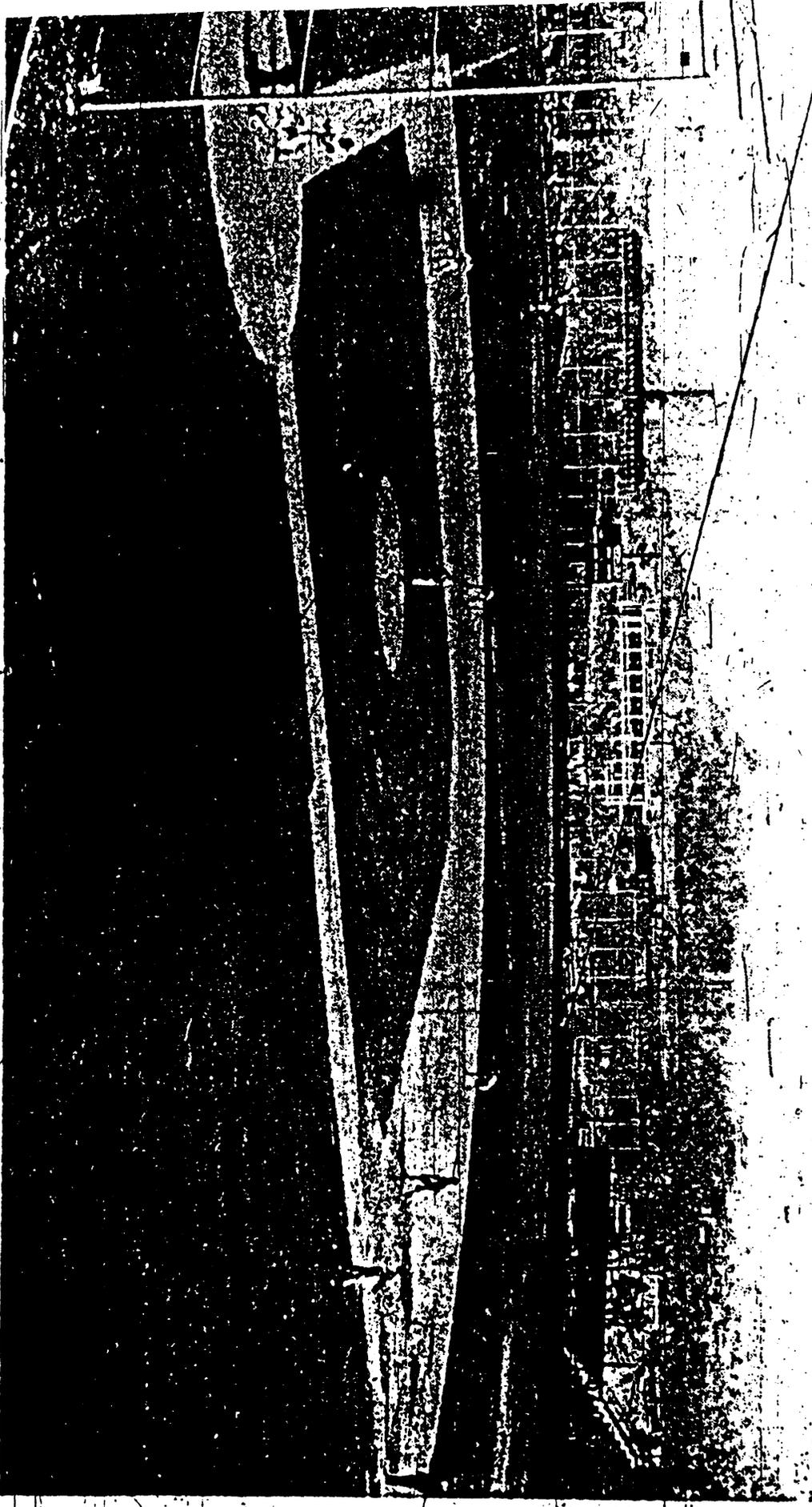
Description of Stadium

Extending along the entire frontage of Maple and Liberty streets and forming a part of the stands is a concrete wall averaging from seven to ten feet high above grade, cast in sections with recessed bush-hammered panels and surmounted by a concrete coping. Interspersed between these sections are concrete pylons seven on each street, four feet wide and running up about three feet six inches higher than the wall and surmounted with a red terra cotta coping. In the face of each pylon is a circular colored tile plaque, two feet in diameter, illustrating different sports. At the back of each pylon and extending twenty-five feet above the top is a steel flag pole surmounted with a gilded ball. Along the east and south sides a plain rein-

Football Gridiron

The football field is also laid out on the long axis of the field, the goal posts at the north end being fourteen feet north of the home plate as shown on the baseball diamond, or forty-six feet south of the north fence wall. The south goal post will be approximately the same distance north from the south wall. The sidelines will be approximately eighty feet east and west of westerly and easterly field walls respectively. The entire field has been graded in fourteen catch basins located at intervals along the inside edge of the track to insure proper drainage and with the exception of the base runners' lines, the pitchers' and catchers' boxes, which are of clay, has been sodded and seeded.

Palmer Evening News - Bid. June 24, 1969 942-5425



NORAMA PHOTO OF THE 'NEW LOOK' WAS TAKEN MONDAY AS EASTSIDE AND CENTRAL CLASHED WITH THE LATTER WINNING 1-2.

From News Photo

Grounds fell but Hinchliffe Stadium stayed. Ooganz's Bluff was a sad site last week when wreck-
tried demolishing the famous arena that existed
t of the century. Some 20 miles away, the city of
-preparing to rededicate a 30-year-old structure
ell victim of neglect.

Riley Delivers
center of sports activity in Pasasale County. Hinch-
lost its welcome-atmosphere by the mid-'50s. The
al started to deteriorate and the arena's black
lred with nicknames and the playing field was a

But a fellow-named Charles Riley, secretary of the Board
of Education, took the task of injecting a new life in the old sta-
dium.

It took months of deliberation, but Riley and his backers
worked on plans to renovate the home of Central and Eastside
High schools' sports activity.

Last September the first major steps were completed and
Central showed its appreciation by pulling an upset victory over
powerhouse Clifton in the football opener before a jam-packed
through.

With a 'new look' playing area grassed with adequate
drainage systems-the Erdmen were inspired. The revamped

layout included a quarter mile track and better facilities for
field events.

The final phase included a new baseball diamond. A new
outfield fence. The dimensions include 340 feet down the left-
field line and 360 to center. Rightfield is located some 370 feet
from home plate with a six-foot snow hedge sectioned.

Central and Eastside rededicated Hinchliffe Monday with
the Colts once again arising to the occasion. Even the spectators
doesn't have to frown at the old palace anymore. And those
splinters-forget-the seats are new.

n Halts Scholastic Athletes For Eighth Time

Appendix D-1