

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 *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 from 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 Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 917 East Mifflin Street N/A not for publication
city or town Madison N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

6/15/2015
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

See continuation sheet.

 removed from the National Register. other, (explain):

Edson H. Beall

8.3.15

Joe

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 structure
 Site
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
	3 buildings
	sites
3	structures
	objects
3	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property 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)

RECREATION/sports facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH/20TH Century Revival**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stone, brick

roof terra cotta, ceramic tile, asphalt

other brick

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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 the 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1925 - 1964

Significant Dates

1925
1933-1934

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Claude & Starck, Architects (1925)
Civil Works Administration (1934)

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

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.53 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>306,834</u>	<u>4,772,803</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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	Patricia A. Lacey	date	July 7, 2014
organization		telephone	715-743-4799
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10	zip code	54456
city or town	Neillsville	state	WI

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Section 7 Page 1

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Introduction

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field is located at 917 East Mifflin Street, just eight blocks east of the Wisconsin State Capitol Building. The field encompasses 4.53 acres of land (an entire city block) in an area of 19th and 20th century homes and light industry. It is bound on the south by East Washington Avenue, on the east by North Brearly Street, on the north by East Mifflin Street and on the west by North Paterson Street. The most prominent features of the Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field are: the C-shaped, canted, angled, brick grandstand designed in 1925 by Claude & Starck, and the concrete bleachers and perimeter stone wall built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration (CWA). The grandstand rests within the west, southwest and northwest portions of the field, bordering North Paterson Street. The concrete bleachers extend east from the east-facing edge of the grandstand, paralleling East Mifflin Street.

When constructed in 1925, the facility was composed of the grandstand and the playing field. In 1934, the Civil Works Administration made several additions to the field including bleachers and a perimeter wall. A large span of concrete bleachers was built on the north side of the field. The rear wall of the bleachers is an imposing twenty-foot high sandstone wall. The wall is of rough-cut sandstone laid in a random ashlar pattern. At the east end of the bleachers the stone wall drops to a height of eight feet and continues around the field as a perimeter wall. The CWA project also made changes to the exterior brick wall of the grandstand. The original small arched windows were removed and larger windows identical to those found on the north wall of the bleachers were added.

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field is the oldest city-owned and operated athletic field in the city of Madison. It is also the oldest extant masonry grandstand in Wisconsin.¹ This facility has been in continuous use since its opening day on May 5, 1926. Diverse events have been held within the facility ranging in nature from baseball to circuses. Currently, Breese Stevens Municipal Field is host to soccer and rugby games and tournaments. The 1925 grandstand, 1934 CWA bleachers and perimeter stone wall have been painstakingly restored and retain a high degree of historic integrity.

Description

Grandstand (1925) - Contributing

The foundation is composed of concrete pillars that support nine rows of reinforced formed concrete risers that provide the seating for the grandstand. The riser seating slab also forms the ceiling of the interior spaces. The plank marks of the concrete forms are still visible on the underside of each row.

¹ Eric J. Wheeler and Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, Carson Park Baseball Stadium, National Register of Historic Places nomination, May 2002, page 4.

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

A photograph, which is on file in the Madison Parks Office, shows that the nine-wide concrete riser rows originally supported wooded benches. The benches had a wood plank seat and a two-plank backrest. The wood bleacher benches rested on U-shaped metal legs that were bolted to the concrete. These benches have been removed due to their deteriorated condition. They will be replaced with benches similar to the benches found in the bleacher area. Current capacity for the facility is 3,700.

The low grandstand wall that parallels the playing field is constructed of concrete. A chain link fence rests on top of the concrete wall. It protects the spectators but still allows for a clear field of vision. Originally, several window openings and two dugouts were located along this wall. The window openings have been bricked in and the interior of the dugouts no longer exist. Currently, two stairways descend to openings which enter the lower grandstand. A main interior hall travels through the entire lower area and provides access to the locker rooms and other interior spaces. The interior floors and ramps are concrete.

The saltbox shaped roof that covers the grandstand rests on bolted steel truss framing. The entire roof rests on steel posts that rise above the brick walls. The open area between the top of the brick walls and the bottom of the roof is enclosed with chain link. The top of the steel roof framing is first covered with wood planking and then clad with asphalt shingles.

The outer walls and inner secondary walls of the grandstand are constructed of light red brick that is laid in American bond (six rows of stretchers per one header row). Some of the interior brick walls are covered with an additional square-ridged, orange terra cotta tile. On the exterior, two rows of cream-colored terra cotta tiles rest on top of the exterior brick walls. The first row of terra cotta is crafted to appear as cyma reversa molding with a smooth surface. The second row of terra cotta is rectangular, block-like, also having a smooth surface. Above the two rows of cream colored terra cotta tile is a narrow shed roof covered with two rows of barrel-shaped red ceramic tile.

The street facades of the C-shaped grandstand are divided into bays by brick pilasters. The brick pilasters extend from the ground to beneath the two rows of cream-colored terra cotta tiles at the top of the wall. The first row of cream-colored terra cotta forms a stylized capital around the top of each pilaster. Similar cream-colored terra cotta tiles are used to form the base of each pilaster. The southwest and northwest canted, angled walls are separated into six bays and the west wall, which parallels North Paterson Street, is separated into seven bays. Some of the bays are punctuated with undecorated window openings at the mid-level of the wall. Other bays have large Mediterranean style arched widow openings which begin at the base of the walls and have highly decorated terra cotta tile surrounds. Large, square, Mediterranean style visitor gate openings which access the grandstand are located within other bays (note elevation drawings).

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Section 7 Page 3Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

The voussoir arched window openings are trimmed with cream colored terra cotta tiles. Each tile has a bead and reel pattern embossed on the face of the tile. A large rosette is centered upon each tile. Within the tympanum of the arch is a cream-colored terra cotta sunburst motif that radiates from a cream-colored, semi-circular terra cotta tile. The semi-circular tile is embossed with a half-shell motif. The tympanum rests on a row of tiles that are a smaller version of the tiles which surround the opening. The entire terra cotta surround rests upon plain plinths. A row of cream-colored terra cotta tiles that are shaped like molding traverses the base of the window opening. Currently the arched openings of the west-facing façade are bricked in. The arched openings on the northwest and southwest facing facades are entrances. At the time of construction the northwest and southwest facades were mirror images of one another.

The gate openings on the northwest- and southwest- facing facades of the grandstand are surrounded with rectangular, undecorated, cream-colored terra cotta tiles. Each of these doors is closed with a metal overhead door.

The undecorated window openings of the 1925 grandstand contain steel windows that are divided into several combinations of lights, some with panes that have an operable awning or hopper sections. These windows are divided into four over three, five over three, or four over two windows units. When viewing the original 1925 Claude & Starck blueprint it appears that smaller arched windows, similar in nature to the larger arched window openings, were originally present.² Currently, larger steel windows have been cut into the masonry. Because the current steel windows of the 1925 grandstand are identical to the windows of the 1934 rear wall of the bleachers, it is presumed that these window changes were made at that time.

The concrete bleachers that are located on the northern portion of the field and a perimeter sandstone wall were constructed as part of the 1934 Civil Works Administration project. The massive amount of sandstone used in the project is said to have come from a quarry located in what is now, Madison's Hoyt Park. The north wall of the bleachers and the perimeter stone wall are constructed of irregular, rough-faced ashlar sandstone blocks that have an appearance of ruggedness.

The twenty-foot high sandstone wall that forms the rear of the bleachers, in many ways, mimics the design of the exterior walls of the grandstand, only in a much more rustic fashion. The rear north stone wall of the bleachers begins behind and slightly west of the bleachers. Here the stone wall meets and attaches to the northwest end of the brick wall of the grandstand. It is the same height as the bottom edge of the saltbox roof of the grandstand. From the point of attachment, the stone wall continues northeast at the same angle of the grandstand until it reaches the sidewalk which parallels

² Claude & Starck, Architects Madison, Wisconsin, "A Baseball Grandstand for the City Athletic Field", Sheet #5, Date 4-20-25(1925).

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

East Mifflin Street. At this point, the twenty-foot high stone wall makes a 45 degree turn to the east and continues eastward becoming the rear wall of the bleachers. The bleachers parallel East Mifflin Street and extend approximately three-quarters of the length of the block.

The portion of the twenty-foot high stone wall that extends from the brick wall of the grandstand to the corner of East Mifflin Street exhibits a single, square service door, a tall entry door, four steel windows and a ticket window. The steel windows are divided into several combinations of lights, some with panes that have operable awnings or hopper sections. Two stone pilasters, with limestone caps, rise three-quarters of the way up the wall separating the wall into bays. The square service door, three window units and the ticket window appear in one of the bays, and the tall door and two window units are located in the other bay. On what appears as a second story, two square openings are centered above the service door and three-window section of the stone wall.

The twenty-foot high, sandstone, north wall of the bleachers contains four square service doors and three spectator gates which access the rear of the grandstand from East Mifflin Street. Dispersed between the service doors and spectator gates are thirteen windows. The steel windows are divided into several combinations of lights, some with panes that have operable awnings or hopper sections. The windows rest on a limestone sill. Each window, service door or spectator gate is separated by a sandstone pilaster that rises three-quarters of the way up the wall. Each pilaster is topped with a limestone cap. The window and door openings found on the rear wall of the bleachers are starkly undecorated.

Bleachers (1934) - Contributing

The bleachers themselves are constructed of formed reinforced concrete, which is supported underneath by concrete pillars. This mimics the of construction of the 1925 grandstand. The bleachers are entered through three East Mifflin Street spectator gates. There are fourteen rows of wide concrete risers on which long plank benches are bolted. The CWA sandstone wall is visible behind the final top row of bleachers. The bleacher area is open-air seating. Three of the four large north-side field light poles, each of which supports eight floodlights, rise from the top of the grandstand in front of the stonewall. The bleachers are behind and above a concrete wall which parallels the field. A chain link fence rests on top of the concrete wall. It protects the spectators but still allows for a clear field of vision. Originally, home plate was centered in front of the grandstand. Once the bleachers were completed, home plate was moved to the corner created by the joining of the bleachers to the grandstand. This positioning placed the bleachers facing the third base line.

Interior spaces

The areas beneath the concrete seating of both the grandstand and the bleachers are utilitarian in nature. The exceptions are the players' locker rooms, the referees' locker rooms and the bathrooms, all of which have been updated. Many of the spaces under the grandstand and the bleachers are not

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

utilized for any specific purpose and remain empty (note the floor plans of the 1925 grandstand and the 1934 bleachers).

Sandstone perimeter wall (1934) - Contributing

A large, gated driveway opening is located at the east end of the 1934 CWA bleachers. The eight-foot high stone wall that extends completely around the field begins at a point on the east side of the driveway. The stone wall is constructed with a repetitive pattern of square columns that rise higher than the stone panels that are located between them. The wall is of solid masonry construction and feature irregular, rough-faced ashlar sandstone blocks. Rectangular coping blocks top the walls and rough cut caps top the columns.

The stone wall that parallels the remaining length of East Mifflin Street has no openings. The stone wall that parallels North Brearly Street has one centered wall opening. Along East Washington Avenue the wall has four evenly spaced openings. Each of the openings has either a lattice iron gate or a fixed lattice iron panel that resembles the iron gates.

The corner of the stone wall at East Washington Avenue and North Brearly Street and the corner of the stone wall at East Washington Avenue and Paterson Street are rounded. The East Washington Avenue and Paterson Street corner has a square opening similar to the square openings on the northwest facing bleacher wall. It is cut into the round portion of the corner. Just east of the round corner of the stone wall at East Washington Avenue and North Paterson Street is a marker. The marker rises above the eight foot height of the stone wall. It is rectangular and of smooth stone. The top of the marker is arched and is finished with a stone molded cornice. The base of the marker is supported by two stone brackets. In the center of the marker an eagle sits atop a cartouche. The cartouche is inscribed with "CWA/1934".

The stone wall continues at a canted angle from the corner at East Washington Avenue and Paterson Street until it reaches the southwest edge of the 1925 grandstand. There it attaches to the brick wall. Between the rounded corner of the stone wall and where the stone wall attaches to the brick wall of the grandstand is a large opening which contains an iron gate. This gate provides access to the field. The gate is flanked on either side by sandstone piers, which are taller than those of the rest of the stone wall. To the right of the gate a rectangular stone plaque is inset into the wall. It reads: Breese Stevens Field. To the left of the gate is a plaque that reads:

Breese Stevens Field

Madison's oldest sports park is named for Breese Stevens (1834 - 1903). A New York Native, he came to Wisconsin in 1856 to look after family land interests. Stevens became mayor of Madison in 1884, UW Regent in 1891, and Doctor of Law in 1902.

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Until the mid-1960's, this was the only city park with lights. Almost all major outdoor events took place here, including major and minor league baseball, all Madison High School football games and midget car racing.

The City purchased the land in 1923 and built the brick grandstand in 1925. The exterior surrounding stone wall was built in 1934 with quarry rock from Hoyt Park.

The field is covered entirely with grass. The areas between the grandstand and North Paterson Street are landscaped with concrete, trees and plantings, creating an inviting patio area complete with tables, benches and bicycle stands.

Noncontributing Resources

Located in the southeast corner of the field are two small sheds of recent construction that house the irrigation system and the mechanics for the cellular communications equipment. Midway along the East Washington Street soccer field boundary line is a rectangular press box which rests on tall iron posts. The press box was installed in 2011. The two sheds and the press box are non-contributing to this nomination.

Alterations

The alterations to the window openings in the brick walls of the 1925 Claude & Starck grandstand and the removal of the original wood grandstand bleachers have been discussed previously in the text. The configurations of the spaces beneath the grandstand and the bleachers have been changed over the years to accommodate modern locker rooms, code required bathrooms and concession areas.

Restorations and renovations have taken place at the facility during three specific time frames. In 1981, when the idea of demolition was rebuked by the Madison public, repairs were made to the grandstand and stonewall, and the electricity was updated. In 2007, a phase one stabilization process began. This included making repairs to the concrete risers to stop water infiltration, preventing further damage. New restrooms were also installed. In 2009, phase two of the stabilization included repairs to the brick, terra cotta surrounds and the stone wall. Locker rooms for referees were installed and the old wood press box was removed. The metal roof structure was repaired and new asphalt shingles installed. In 2011 the patio areas were created between the grandstand and North Paterson Street. Additionally, an elevated press box was installed along the south soccer field boundary. During 2013

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

and 2014, the remaining original light poles were replaced with new light poles and a new audio system was installed.³ Cellular communications panels have been co-located on an existing light pole.

Integrity

The 1925 Claude and Starck grandstand, the 1934 concrete bleachers, north bleacher wall and perimeter stone wall retain excellent historic integrity. In 1981, when the fate of Breese Stevens Municipal Field was in jeopardy, the citizens of Madison loudly spoke out that they did not want this field destroyed. As a result, the field has been retained and the City of Madison has undertaken restoration and maintenance of this historic field.

Part of the future plans for Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field is to remove the natural grass and install artificial turf. This is being done at the request of several venues who want to use the field for various events. Currently, the spring soccer activity damages the field to such an extent that the field must stand idle during part of the summer months to give the grass time to re-grow. The City of Madison would like to see high school football return to the facility as well as the return of the High School State Soccer Championships. The installation of artificial turf would also provide a home field for the Madison semi-pro football team, the Madison Mustangs. This decision to remove the grass is reversible should there be interest in returning the field to a natural surface.

The preservation and continued use of this facility is more assured today due to the willingness of the City of Madison to fully explore the full potential for using Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field.

³ Interview of Thomas J. Maglio, City of Madison Landscape Architect, Madison Parks Division, June 2014

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Section 8 Page 1

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Introduction

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Entertainment and Recreation, locally significant to the history of recreation in the city of Madison. Over the last eighty-eight years, the complex has served as a multi-purpose sport and entertainment venue. The field is located at 917 East Mifflin Street, just eight blocks east of Wisconsin's State Capitol. The complex encompasses an entire Madison city block, known as Block 159, which is found on the first plat of the *Town of Madison on the Four Lakes* dated July 1, 1836. The complex is bordered on the south by East Washington Avenue, on the west by North Paterson Street, on the north by East Mifflin Street and on the east by North Brearly Street. The areas to the north and to the east of the field are characterized by residential homes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The areas south and west of the field consist of commercial properties and light industry. Located between the walls of the field and the surrounding streets are sidewalks and tree lawns.

Summary of Significance

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field has been a part of Madison's history over the last eighty-eight years. Its importance to the city's citizens became very apparent in 1980 when the City of Madison budgeted \$60,000 to tear down the stadium. Madison citizens protested the field's imminent demolition and asked that their tax dollars be used to fund restoration and rehabilitation. As a result, the monies which were earmarked to demolish the field were instead expanded, and the grandstand and stone wall were repaired, the electricity was updated and the stands were made handicap accessible.

The facility was originally designed as a baseball stadium. In the 1920s baseball was America's favorite pastime and Madison was no different in their enthusiasm for the game. With the onset of the Great Depression and then World War II, baseball was the country's most popular social activity and many followed baseball as an escape from the reality of the times. This facility has been in continuous use since 1926 for baseball, high school football and soccer. Its use has expanded over time to include midget car racing, concerts, circuses, track and field events, religious services, and drum and bugle corps competitions at the field.

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field also holds historical interest as one of the small number of baseball facilities that were either built or expanded by the Civil Works Administration (CWA).⁴ The 1934 CWA project expanded seating, updated amenities and created a perimeter enclosure. The rustic sandstone wall provides security for the field and creates a boundary separating the field from the surrounding houses. Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field retains an extremely high degree of historic integrity.

Period of Significance

The period of significance begins with construction of the grandstand and field in 1925 and extends to 1964, the fifty year cutoff date. During this time, the field has remained in continuous use for the purpose for which it was constructed.

Brief Early History of Madison Wisconsin

James Duane Doty, a Wisconsin landowner and representative in the Michigan legislature, lobbied tirelessly for the creation of the Wisconsin Territory. On July 3, 1836, President Andrew Jackson created the Territory of Wisconsin with lands which eventually would become the states of Iowa, Minnesota and the eastern portions of North and South Dakota. Additional lobbying by James Duane Doty assured that the capital would be located in Madison, Wisconsin.⁵

When the Federal Government opened land sales in Wisconsin in 1835, one year prior to the creation of the Territory of Wisconsin, Doty and Michigan Governor Stevens Mason created the Four Lakes Land Company and purchased 1,000 acres of land in an area of Dane County known as Four Lakes (Sections 13, 14, 23, 24).⁶ Specifically, their land was located in the swamp and forest area between Lake Mendota (Fourth Lake) and Lake Monona (Third Lake). When former president James Madison died on June 28, 1836, Doty named the capital city in his honor. Doty was ingenious in implementing anything that would help him procure the favor from the board who would decide the placement of the Wisconsin Territory capital.⁷

James Duane Doty quickly hired surveyor John Suydam and together they created a hypothetical map of the city. Doty needed something to present to the board of delegates who would vote on the location

⁴ Eric J. Wheeler and Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, "Carson Park Baseball Stadium, Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, National Register Nomination, May 2002, Section 8, page 1.

⁵ *History of Dane County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1880), pages 41-51.

⁶ *History of Madison*, Daniel S. Durrie, librarian of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, (Atwood & Culver Printers, Madison, Wisconsin, 1874), page 46, 58.

⁷ Madison Magazine, "What's in a Name" by Adam J. Schragger, www.madisonmagazine.com/Madison-Magazine/May-2014/Whats-in-a-Name, page 1.

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

of the capital. If Madison was selected, Doty and Mason stood to make a big return on their investment.

In the summer of 1837, James Duane Doty hired surveyor Joshua Hatheway to survey the land designated to become the City of Madison in detail. Hatheway surveyed section lines which met and crossed in the center of Capitol Park. The city's streets and avenues were then laid out like the spokes in a wheel which is the same format used by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in platting Washington, D.C.⁸

In 1817, Major S. H. Long used the description *Four Lakes* when writing about the area now known as Madison, Wisconsin. The Ho-Chunk Indians called the area Tay-cho-pe-rah, a collective name referring to the four lakes.⁹ When Simeon Mills, one of Madison's early settlers, came to the area in 1849, the four Madison lakes were known as First, Second, Third and Fourth Lake by the Ho-Chunk Indians. Mills employed Frank Hudson to survey the University Addition to the Madison Plat. It is said that Hudson was an avid reader of Indian lore and named lakes Third and Fourth, Monona and Mendota, after Indian legends. Governor Leonard Farwell decided in 1854 that all of the lakes should have Indian names. With the help of the first secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Lyman Draper, the Ojibwa names Kegonsa and Waubesa were selected for First and Second Lakes and were made official on February 14, 1855.¹⁰

In 1838, by an appropriation of the United States Congress, a road known as the United States Road was commissioned to be built from Milwaukee to a point on the bank of the Mississippi opposite the city of Dubuque, Iowa. This new road passed directly through Madison and created a travel corridor, which opened up the southern Wisconsin prairies of Dane County for settlement.¹¹ Settlers eagerly purchased the fertile land and established prosperous farms. Silas Chapman wrote in the *Handbook of Wisconsin* in 1855 that Dane County was considered one of the best agricultural counties in the state.¹²

Madison was incorporated as a village on February 3, 1846 with a population of 283. After achieving statehood on May 29, 1848 the Wisconsin State capital remained in Madison.¹³ Further expansion

⁸ Turning Points in Wisconsin History, *Surveying In Wisconsin in 1837*, by Franklin Hatheway (Wisconsin Historic Collections Vol. XV), wisconsinhistory.org, page 390.

⁹ *French fort at Prairie du Chien and Tay-cho-pe-rah the Four Lakes County*, Professor J. D. Butler L.L.D., (Reprinted From Vol. X Wisconsin Historical Collection 1888) pages 64-67.

¹⁰ *Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns; being a history and guide to places of scenic beauty and historical note...early intercourse of the settlers with the Indians...with a complete list of county supervisors and officers and legislative members*, (W. J. Park & Co., 1877), pages 204-206.

¹¹ *History of Dane County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1880), pages 377-518.

¹² *Handbook of Wisconsin*, by Silas Chapman, (1855), pages 59-61.

¹³ *Handbook of Wisconsin*, by Silas Chapman, (1855), pages 59-61.

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occurred with the arrival of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad in 1854.¹⁴ The City of Madison was incorporated on February 2, 1856 and by this time the population of Madison had exploded to over 8,600 citizens.¹⁵

The City of Madison was prospering as the seat of Wisconsin government. It had become a boom town of commerce. On July 26, 1848 the University of Wisconsin was established. Culture and the sense of preserving history were addressed with the establishment of the Wisconsin State Historical Society on January 30, 1846. In such an expanding city, attorneys were needed for land transactions and legal claims. Madison welcomed the young attorney Breese J. Stevens to practice law in 1856.

Breese Jacob Stevens

Breese Jacob Stevens was born at Sconondoah, Oneida County, New York on March 22, 1834 to Elizabeth and Augustus C. Stevens. Breese Jacob Stevens is a direct descendant of Major John Burrowes, an officer in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. At twenty-two years of age, Burrowes and his brother-in-law Jonathan Forman organized the 1st New Jersey Company, mustering the 1st New Jersey Company out of the Burrowes' home. Major John Burrowes served under General Sullivan during which time he participated in the campaign against the Six Nations (six Indian nations siding with the British).

Stevens attended Oneida County's Whitesborg Academy and Cazenovia Seminary. In 1853, Stevens graduated from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. Three years later he received an additional Master of Arts degree from the same school. He began to pursue a law degree, first studying with the Honorable Timothy Jenkins in Oneida Castle, NY and then apprenticing with the firm of Graves & Wood in Syracuse, NY. In 1856 Stevens came to Madison, Wisconsin to handle the land interests of his uncle Sidney Breese. He immediately opened a law firm with J. W. Johnson and H. M. Lewis. J.W. Johnson left after one year and Stevens and H. M. Lewis continued to practice law together. In 1868 James M. Flowers was added as an additional partner. In 1870 the law firm became known as Stevens, Flowers & Morris with the addition of W. A. P. Morris who had been Breese's classmate at Hamilton College. After Flowers left, I. C. Sloan joined the firm and when Sloan retired, Stevens and Morris continued their partnership for several years.

Breese J. Stevens handled some of the most important railroad, land-grant and water litigations brought before the courts of Wisconsin and Michigan. Stevens was the attorney for the Fox & Wisconsin River Improvement Company and he was the President of the Green Bay & Mississippi Canal Company from 1866 to 1880. He was also solicitor general for the Madison & Portage Railroad

¹⁴ The Milwaukee Road A Brief History, www.oldmilwaukee.com/content/brief/page08.htm, page 1.

¹⁵ *Handbook of Wisconsin*, by Silas Chapman, (1855), pages 59-61.

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Company, the attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, the attorney for the Michigan Land & Iron Company, the director of the First National Bank of Madison, and the president of the Madison Land & Lumber Company and the Monona Land Company.¹⁶

In 1869, Breese J. Stevens married Emma Curtis Fuller (b. c1845). Emma died on September 18, 1870 due to child birth complications. Daughter Amelia Fuller Stevens survived, born six days earlier on September 12, 1870. On October 25, 1876, Breese J. Stevens married Mary Elizabeth Farmer. They had one child, Helen Elizabeth Breese Stevens, who was born on December 13, 1878.¹⁷

Breese J. Stevens served as the Mayor of Madison from 1884 to 1885. In 1891, Governor George W. Peck appointed him as the regent of the University of Wisconsin, where he continued in this capacity until his death on October 28, 1903 after a four month illness.¹⁸

In 1923, his widow, Mary Elizabeth, and daughters Amelia and Helen agreed to sell Block 159 to the City of Madison on a land contract for a price of \$35,000. The land contract for Block 159 was executed on November 10, 1923 and recorded on November 21, 1923 Vol. 62 of Miscellaneous Records page 256, Document 429613. When the land contract was satisfied by the City of Madison on December 1, 1936, the warranty deed was recorded on December 14, 1936, Vol. 379 of Deeds page 171, Document 591365. The final document contained a restrictive covenant from the grantors upon the City's use of the land. That covenant stated:

It is understood and agreed, as a condition of this agreement and as a part of the consideration thereof, that said block shall forever be known and designated as the "Breese Stevens Athletic Field" and that said premises shall never be used for any other purpose than that of an athletic field.

Mary Elizabeth, the widow of Breese J. Stevens, died in 1925. Their daughter Amelia never married and died in 1961. Their younger daughter, Helen, married Dr. Reginald H. Jackson Sr. on June 4, 1908. They had one son, Reginald H. Jackson Jr. who was born on May 15, 1909. Reginald H. Jackson Jr. never married and left no direct heirs upon his death in 1986.¹⁹

¹⁶ *History of Dane County Biographical and Genealogical Vol. 2*, (Western Historical Association, Madison, 1906), pages 846-851.

¹⁷ Doran Viste Assistant City Attorney Madison, Wisconsin, Legal Review of the Stevens' land covenant, January 20, 2012, Madison City Attorney's Office, pages 1-5.

¹⁸ *History of Dane County Wisconsin Biographical and Genealogical Vol. 2*, (Western Historical Association, Madison, 1906), pages 846-851.

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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field

The popularity of baseball in America had grown at all levels at which it was played. Babe Ruth debuted with the Boston Red Sox on July 11, 1914. Everyone followed their favorite team, both in person or over the radio. In 1922, the citizens of Madison presented a petition to the city containing 7,000 signatures in favor of constructing a baseball field. In October of that year, the City of Madison passed a budget of \$8,000 that was earmarked for creating a baseball field. In the spirit of the zeal of the citizens of Madison at wanting an athletic field, the widow and daughters of Breese J. Stevens sold Block 159 to the city on a land contract for \$35,000 in November of 1923.²⁰

On November 23, 1923, \$500 was appropriated to begin grading the field. John McDonald was hired by the city on October 24, 1924 at a cost of \$7,970 to complete the field preparation. In April of 1925, the finance committee recommended a budget of \$50,000 for the construction of a stadium which would parallel North Paterson Street at the west end of Block 159. The city passed an ordinance in 1925 to issue "Memorial Stadium Bonds" to fund the project. The Second Ward Security Company purchased 55,000 of the Memorial Stadium Bonds. Since 1924 was the ten-year anniversary of the onset of World War I, the City of Madison decided that the stadium would be built as a memorial to those who had served honorably in World War I.²¹

The City of Madison hired the Madison architectural firm of Claude and Starck to design a grandstand for Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. Construction began on the grandstand toward the end of 1925. The December 31, 1925 *Capital Times* wrote, "The erection of concrete stands and the beginning of an enclosing wall of architectural beauty, stamps this piece of civic construction as epoch-making." The article further stated that when the field was completed, "...it will give Madison the leading civic athletic field in the state".²²

Madison Architectural Firm of Claude & Starck 1896-1929

Wisconsin born architects, Louis Ward Claude and Edward F. Starck, began their architectural firm in Madison, Wisconsin in 1896. They are credited with designing over 175 buildings in the Madison area and over thirty Carnegie Libraries throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding states.

Louis Ward Claude was born in 1868 in Devils Lake, Wisconsin. He attended grade schools in Baraboo and Madison before graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in civil engineering. In the early 1890s he worked in the offices of architects Adler & Sullivan in Chicago and

²⁰ Breese Stevens Field Historic Structure Report, River Architects Inc., August 15, 2003, pages 6, 7, 54, and 55.

²¹ *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 21, 1925, "Council Committee Recommends \$50,000 for City Stadium".

²² *Capital Times*, December 31, 1925, "Architects See 1926 as Record Building Year", by John Culman.

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then, in 1893, with Chicago architects Burnham & Root who were the architects for the World's Columbian Exposition. Claude's life-long friends were Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.²³

Edward F. Starck was born in 1868 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a child, Starck attended public school in Madison, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school, Starck sought no higher education. Despite the lack of additional schooling, Starck was an accomplished draftsman. He worked in the offices of Madison architect D. R. Jones, Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix, and Chicago architects Handy & Cady.

The partnership of Claude & Starck continued until 1929 when they decided to dissolve the firm. Both remained living in Madison, Wisconsin until their deaths; Louis Ward Claude died in August of 1951 and Edward F. Starck died in October of 1947.²⁴

Mediterranean Revival Architecture

The Mediterranean Revival style is demonstrated in the design of the exterior of the Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field grandstand. It is a relatively rare form of architecture in Wisconsin. Claude & Starck built two other excellent examples of the Mediterranean Revival in Wisconsin; the 1924 Dwight T. Parker Library in Fennimore, Wisconsin and the 1916 Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin prior to the grandstand at Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field.

The Mediterranean Revival style is eclectic in nature and was first introduced in the United States at the turn of the 19th century. The style evolved from a rekindled interest in Italian Renaissance palaces and seaside villas that dated from the 16th century. Mediterranean Revival is characterized by stuccoed or brick wall surfaces, flat or low-pitched terra cotta tile roofs and arched openings framed in terra cotta.

The Mediterranean Revival style peaked in popularity in the late 1920s, especially in the coastal areas of California and Florida. (Architects August Geiger and Addison Mizner popularized this style in Florida, and architects Sumner Spaulding and Paul Williams did the same in California.²⁵)

The opening and dedication of Breese Stevens Municipal Field

When the grandstand and the playing field were completed in 1926, the City of Madison had spent a total of \$125,000 on the project.²⁶ Opening day celebrations began with a parade on May 5, 1926.

²³ Ruth Ann Montgomery, "Eager Free Public Library", <http://www.evansvillehistory.net/files/39WestMain.html>, page 1.

²⁴ Chase Sturos, "Claude & Starck", <http://www.ss.mtu.edu/CopperCountryArchitects/cs/html>, page 1.

²⁵ www.potiori.com/Mediterranean_Revival-architecture.html, Mediterranean Revival Style Architecture, page 1.

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Mayor Albert G. Schmedeman asked businesses to close at 3:30 so all citizens could attend the first baseball game and participate in the dedication of the field.²⁷ Nearly 4,000 people attended the game between the Madison Blues and the Beloit Fairies. Governor John Blaine threw the first pitch to the acting catcher Mayor Albert G. Schmedeman. Unfortunately, the Madison Blues lost a heartbreaker to the Beloit Fairies 7 – 5.²⁸ The Madison Blues were a local baseball team that played at Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field until 1939.

Wayne Iron Works built steel bleachers in the northwest corner of the field in March of 1931 for a cost of \$6,760.00. Floodlights were installed by Madison Electric Decoration Company that same year at a cost of \$29,100. In addition, a public address system was installed and two men were hired in full time positions to oversee the maintenance of the field.²⁹

On November 29, 1933, forty-five Madison men were employed through the Civil Works Administration (CWA) to begin construction of concrete bleachers, the ashlar sandstone wall behind the new bleachers and an ashlar sandstone wall that would enclosed Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. The construction of the first section of bleachers and the CWA stone masons working on the stone wall is visible on a 1934 photograph included with this nomination. The project was completed by mid-March of 1934.³⁰ The sandstone used in both the north wall of the bleachers and the wall that surrounds the field is said to have been quarried from the former city quarry at Hoyt Park.³¹

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing the CWA “jobs” program on November 8, 1933. The Great Depression was crushing the economy and with the onset of the winter of 1933-34, there were concerns of a social disaster, including starvation. The CWA’s mission was to create jobs that paid good wages and, in turn, those wages would stimulate the economy.

The program initially operated with monies from the Public Works Administration (PWA). While the PWA concentrated on larger projects such as improving city water works, constructing city halls and institutions, the CWA focused on parks and playgrounds. The program called for one-half of the jobs to go to those receiving relief and one-half of the jobs to go to anyone who needed work. The wages were union scale at \$15.00 per week and were paid equally to both black and white workers. By

²⁶ Daina Penkiunas, Madison Landmark Nomination Form, “Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field”, July 7, 1995.

²⁷ *Capital Times*, April 29, 1926, “Governor, Mayor Lift Diamond” and May 5, 1926 “City Dedicates New Field” by Bryn Casserly, *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 29, 1926.

²⁸ *Capital Times*, May 5, 1926, “Circuit Swats Thrill 4,000 as Beloit Fairies Down Blues 7 – 5” by Hank Casserly.

²⁹ Breese Stevens Field Historic Structure Report, River Architects Inc., August 15, 2003, pages 6, 7, 54, and 55.

³⁰ *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 29, 1933, “Jobs Pledged All Able Men on Relief List”.

³¹ Daina Penkiunas, Madison Landmark Nomination Form, “Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field”, July 7, 1995.

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January of 1934, the nation-wide CWA program was employing four million workers. Approximately one billion dollars was spent on 180,000 public property projects, such as improvement of school buildings, the hiring of 50,000 teachers, and the construction of 1,000 airports and 3,500 playgrounds.³²

In Wisconsin, the CWA employed 161,395 and spent \$35,160,000 on federally funded projects. Due to the rising cost of the program, Roosevelt dismantled the CWA in 1934.

After the completion of the bleachers and sandstone wall, eight metal-framed light towers were erected inside the walls of the field. The multiple lights provided a sufficient amount of lighting for nighttime baseball games. Until the 1960s, Breese Stevens Municipal Field was the only lighted field in Madison. Originally home plate was centered in front of the grandstand. After the concrete bleachers were installed, home plate was oriented within the northeast corner of the field, between the grandstand and the bleachers.³³ A press box of wood construction was installed on the north wall above the bleachers in 1939.³⁴

Over the years, Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field has hosted a myriad of events. Four Madison high schools: Wisconsin High School (closed 1964), East High School, Central High School (closed 1967) and Edgewood (Catholic) High School, played their football games on the field. Track and field events as well as softball, boxing and wrestling matches, ice skating, religious services, and concerts were held at the field. Even the circus came to Madison in the summer and put on performances at the field. The Madison Scouts also held their drum and bugle corps competitions at the field.

Sports reporter Tom Butler recalled that Olympic Gold Medalist, Jesse Owens, raced a thoroughbred horse on the Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field track.³⁵ After the 1936 Olympic Games, Owens had difficulty finding work and resorted to racing horses at fairs and baseball games. Earning as much as \$5,000 per event, Owens raced horses at these staged events over fifty times.³⁶

Midget car racing debuted on July 23, 1938. The field supported a quarter mile cinder track. Popular racers such as Bob Muhlke and Lloyd Axel battled for first place. Racing was discontinued in 1940 at

³² "This Week in History: November 7 – 13, 1933 The Civil Works Administration, http://www.schillerinstitute.org/educ/hist/eiw_this_week/vin35_nov7_1933.html, pages 1-4.

³³ Breese Stevens Field Historic Structure Report. River Architects Inc., August 15, 2003, pages 6, 7, 54, and 55.

³⁴ Historic Madison Inc. of Wisconsin, "Man Behind the Field", www.historicmadison.org/.../manbehindathleticfield.html, page 1-2.

³⁵ Historic Madison Inc. of Wisconsin, "Man Behind the Field", www.historicmadison.org/.../manbehindthefield.html, pages 1-2.

³⁶ United States History, "Jesse Owens", www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3746.html, page 1-2.

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the request of the local high school coaches who felt the car racing was damaging the field for other sports activities.³⁷

Everyone's favorite pastime, baseball, was played on the field at both the local and minor league level. Prior to the construction of the field, Madison had a minor league baseball team known as the Madison Senators who played their home games in Madison from 1907 to 1914. Madison did not have a minor league baseball team again until 1940. From 1940 to 1942, a minor league team known as the Madison Blues, who played in the Three-I League, played their home games at Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. The Madison Blues were a farm team affiliated with the Chicago Cubs. They played against teams within their league as well as teams from the Negro League. Summer try-outs were held at the field in the late 1940s for such teams as the Philadelphia Phillies and the St. Louis Cardinals.³⁸

The popular left-handed, hall-of-fame pitcher for the Milwaukee Braves, Warren Spahn, played for the Three-I League Evansville Bees during this time period. It is possible that Spahn may have pitched against the Madison Blues at Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. The outbreak of World War II brought a halt to the Three-I League.³⁹ After the end of the war, baseball teams from the city's Industrial League played at the field.

By the late 1960s, more modern facilities, such as the school district's Mansfield Stadium, caused Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field to be utilized less and less. Hoping that the Madison Area Technical College (MATC) would relocate to the area and assume the responsibility for the maintenance of the field, the city deferred spending tax payer dollars on the facility and the condition of the site declined. By early 1980 there was talk of demolishing the stadium and in 1981, the Madison Parks Department budgeted \$60,000 to demolish the Claude & Starck grandstand. Public outcry to save the field was overwhelming. Instead of demolishing the grandstand and the bleachers, ending the facility's legacy, the City of Madison decided to rehabilitate the grandstand and field. Structural repairs were made to the grandstand and the stone walls were repaired. The electrical systems were upgraded and handicap ramps were added. The cinder track and the baseball diamond were removed and grass was planted over the entire field.⁴⁰ On March 23, 1982, the city authorized the expenditure of \$97,200 for the purpose of completing the Breese Stevens Field restoration project.⁴¹

³⁷ "The Brief History of Midget Auto Racing at Breese Stevens Field, Madison, Wisconsin", www.bmara.com/archives/scrapbook.html, pages 1-4.

³⁸ Tom Fisher letter, dated March 22, 1949 from the Philadelphia Phillies, on file at the Madison Parks Department.

³⁹ "Three-I League", www.baseball-reference.com, pages 1-13.

⁴⁰ Daina Penkiunas, Madison Landmarks Nomination Form, "Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field", July 7, 1995.

⁴¹ Breese Stevens Field Historic Structure Report, River Architects Inc., August 15, 2003, pages 6, 7, 54, and 55.

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At this time there was a need for a facility for the rapidly growing sport of soccer. Soccer grew tremendously in popularity in the 1970s and 1980s. Thus the baseball field was converted to a soccer field, and Breese Stevens Municipal Field became the home field for the soccer teams of the University of Wisconsin, East and LaFollette High Schools, Edgewood College and Madison Area Technical College. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) played their state soccer tournaments at the field from 1989 to 2003.⁴² The Madison 56ers, who play in the National Premier Soccer League, have played their home games at Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic field since 1977.⁴³ This is also the home facility for the Wisconsin Adult Soccer Association (WASA).

Some recent activities, other than soccer, that have been held at the Breese Stevens Municipal Field are: the Madison Shakespeare Company's production of the play, *Anthony & Cleopatra*, which was held at the field in 2013; the USA Rugby Club hosted their national meet on May 31, 2014; and a free community concert was held at the field on July 8, 2014.

Conclusion: Criterion A – in the Area of Entertainment and Recreation

Most early baseball grandstands were rudimentary structures that were built entirely of wood. They either succumbed to the elements or, as tinder boxes of dry wood, burned to the ground. Grandstands constructed of concrete were much more likely to survive. The 1936 Carson Park Baseball Stadium in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, also a CWA project, is a concrete and masonry structure. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July of 2003.

Baseball has been America's pastime since the late 1800s. It has provided distraction from economic depression and war and has helped to lift the spirits of many, especially young boys who dreamed of playing in the big leagues. In the 1960s, television broadcasts of major league games created a shift in how people enjoyed baseball. Live fan attendance at smaller venues collapsed and the number of minor league teams declined. While the love of the game nationwide did not diminish, fans were more likely to watch a baseball game in the comfort of their own home than at a local grandstand. However, the varied events held at Breese Stevens Municipal Field secured the field financially and exposed more than just the baseball fan to a memorable day at the facility.

Thirty-four years ago, Madison residents spoke out that they did not want to see Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field destroyed. The City of Madison is very proud of its decision to preserve this facility, evidenced by its renovation and formal designation as a city landmark. Today, the City is

⁴² David Medaris, Isthmus The Daily Page, "Breese Stevens: Field of Dreams", September 11, 2008 www.thedailypage.com/isthmus/article.php?article=23730.

⁴³ Charles Billings, The 56er Striker Newsletter, "Breese Stevens Field Restoration on Schedule", Madison56ers.org/newsletter/Feb2008/article8.asp.

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seeking to commemorate its long history as a baseball stadium, entertainment facility and recreation center by nominating it to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is difficult to describe the relationship so many Madison residents have had with this athletic and recreational field. Over many years Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field has opened its doors to high school sports, college sports, municipal sports, minor league baseball, car racing, concerts, plays and circuses. Many people either attended these games and events or they participated in them. Those experiences have generated affection for Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field that reaches through many generations.

Everyone has at least one story to tell about their memories of Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. One resident spoke of his fond memory of the sounds of the drum and bugle competitions wafting in the summer air through the surrounding neighborhoods.

A poignant interview with the Madison Parks Division landscape architect revealed the story of his family's three generation relationship with Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field. As an eleven year old boy, he rode his bicycle through the streets of Madison to the field to watch matches of the Professional Wrestling Tour. During the early 1970s, the Professional Wrestling Tour had developed an intensive fan following due to their weekly television show. He even remembered the main event where he saw Chief White Owl fight Flying Fred Curry, complete with fake blood.

He went on to tell of his father's relationship with the field. His dad was a Madison fire fighter who played baseball at the field as part of a fire fighter baseball team. His grandfather tried out for the St. Louis Cardinals at a summer baseball camp held at the field.

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field derives additional historical interest due to the 1934 Civil Works Administration project. That project included the construction of concrete bleachers, the north stone wall behind the bleachers and the perimeter stonewall. The field benefited from the increase in seating. The men from the CWA demonstrated exceptional skill in the cutting and laying of the tons of sandstone rock quarried from Hoyt Park. These rustic stonewalls enhance the esthetics of the field and stand as a testament to the workers of the CWA era.

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field retains all of its essential physical features associated with the original facility and its early expansion. The resources contained within the property convey the property's history, character and essence of the time. When standing on the field facing the Claude & Starck grandstand and CWA bleachers one can almost hear the umpire shout "play ball!"

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Preservation Activities

Intensive architectural surveys were completed by the City of Madison in 1984, 1994 and 2013. The Madison Landmarks Commission placed Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field on their Local Landmark Register in 1995.

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This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section 9 Page 4

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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June 2014.

“Three-I League”, www.baseball-reference.com, pages 1-13, accessed June 2014.

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National Park Service

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Section 10 Page 1

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Legal Description: Block 159, Original Plat Lots 1 to 18 Inclusive. Parcel number 0709-131-2001-3.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Stevens, Breese Municipal Athletic Field
City or Vicinity:	Madison
County:	Dane
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Patricia Lacey
Date of Photograph:	June 2014
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society Historic Preservation Division, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706
Number of Photographs:	12

Photo 1
Rear of grandstand joining 1934 sandstone wall.
Camera looking northeast.

Photo 2
West facing grandstand.
Camera looking east.

Photo 3
Grandstand.
Camera looking west.

Photo 4
1934 Bleachers
Camera looking northeast

Photo 5
Bleachers connecting to grandstand.
Camera looking northwest.

Photo 6
Entire view of bleachers.
Camera looking northwest.

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National Park Service

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Section photos Page 2

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Photo 7

View of south side of the field.
Camera looking southwest.

Photo 8

North stone wall of the bleachers.
Camera looking west.

Photo 9

South perimeter stone wall.
Camera looking east.

Photo 10

Civil Works Administration Marker located at west end of the south perimeter wall.
Camera looking north.

Photo 11

West rounded corner of the south perimeter wall.
Camera looking northwest.

Photo 12

East facing perimeter wall.
Camera looking south.

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Section figures Page 1

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

List of Figures

1. Site Plan. Source: Historic Structure Report, 2003. River Architects, Inc.
2. Grandstand and Bleachers Plan Drawings. Source: Isthmus Architecture.
3. Grandstand Elevation Drawings. Source: Historic Structure Report, 2003. River Architects, Inc.
4. Bleachers Elevation Drawings. Source: Historic Structure Report, 2003. River Architects, Inc.
5. Historic Photograph, pre-1934. Shows small arched window originally located on all grandstand facades. Photograph courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society, WHS #20096.
6. Historic Photograph, 1934. Shows CWA working on stone wall and bleachers.
7. Historic Photograph, 1950. University of Wisconsin vs University of Michigan baseball game. Photograph courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society, WHS #65448.

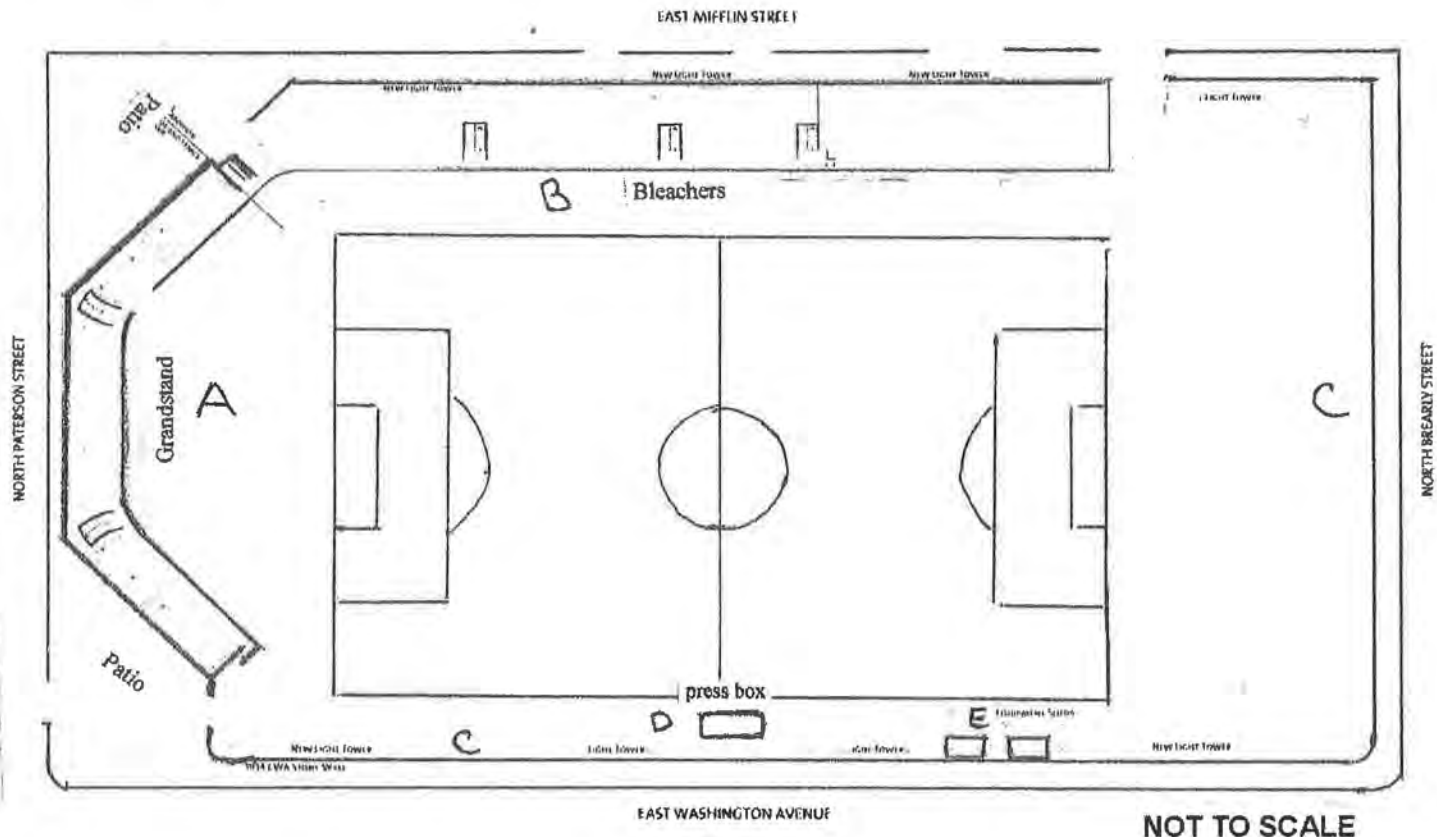
United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section figures Page 2

Figure 1: Site Plan



NOT TO SCALE

Contributing:
 A - Grandstand
 B - Bleachers
 C - Perimeter Wall

Non-contributing:
 D - Press Box
 E - Equipment Sheds (2)



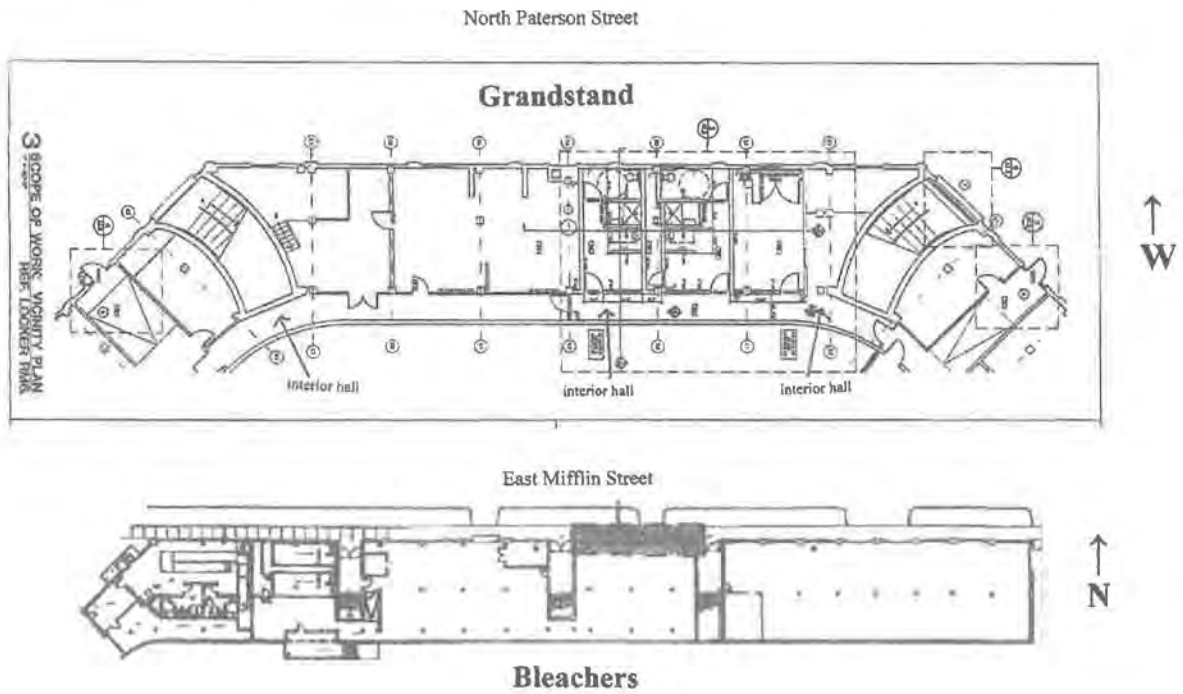
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Section figures Page 3

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: Grandstand and Bleachers Plan Drawings, undated.



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National Park Service**

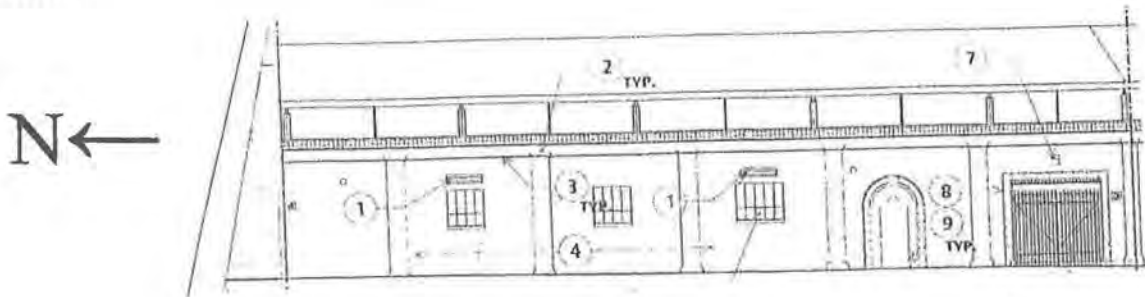
**National Register of Historic Places
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Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

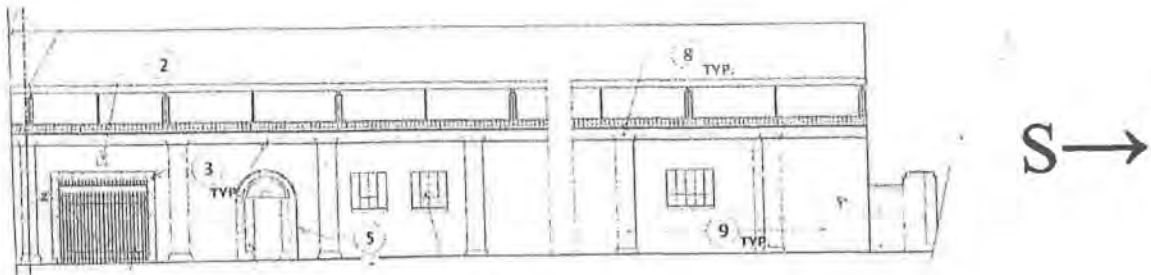
Section figures Page 4

Figure 3: Grandstand Elevation Drawings

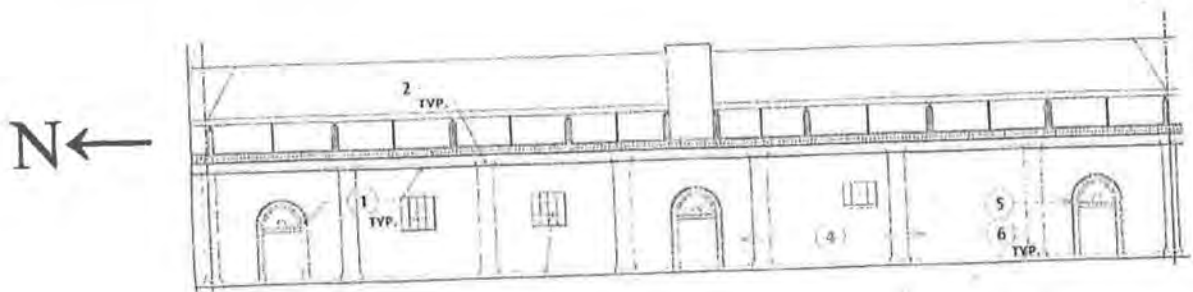
Northwest:



Southwest:



West:



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National Park Service

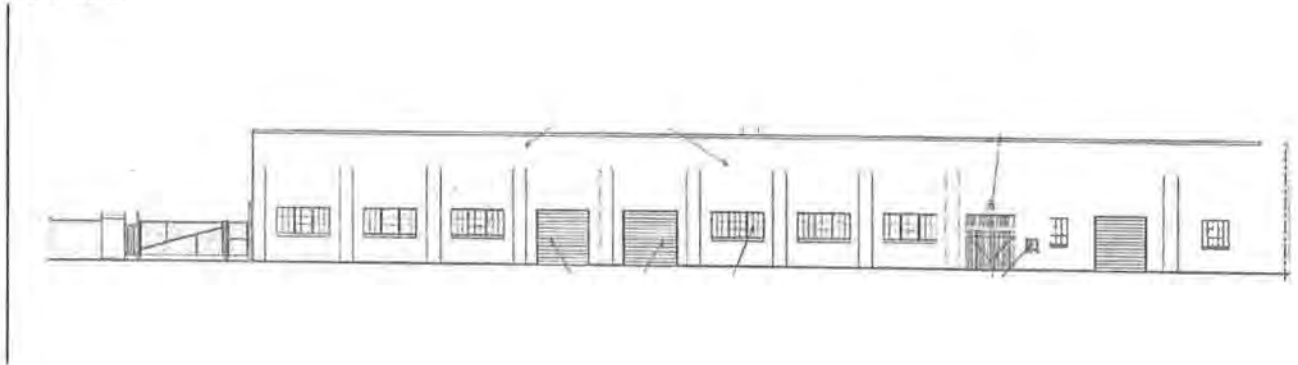
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Section figures Page 5

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Figure 4: Bleachers Elevation Drawings

East half:



West half:



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Section figures Page 6

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Figure 5: Historic Photograph, pre-1934



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Section figures Page 7

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Figure 6: Historic Photograph, 1934



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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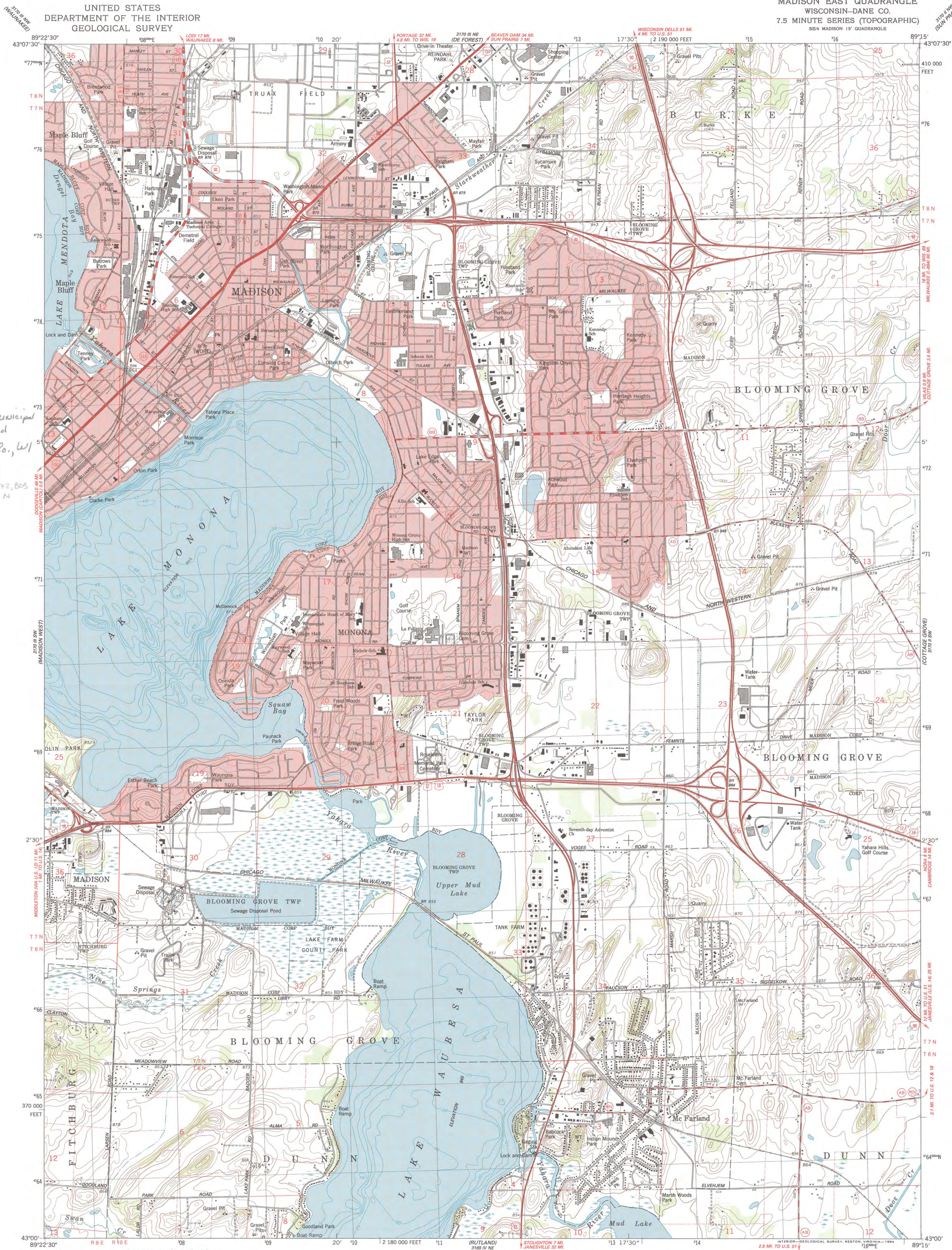
Section figures Page 8

Breese Stevens Municipal Athletic Field
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Figure 7: Historic Photograph, 1950

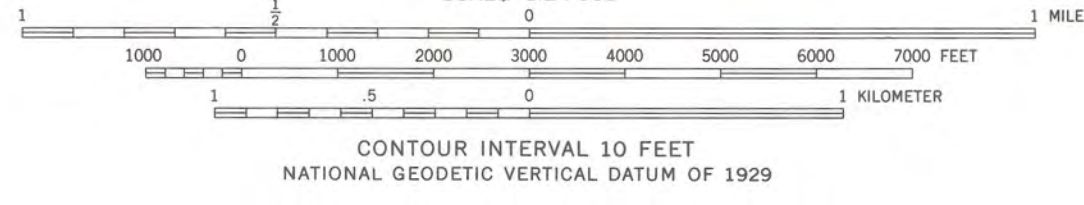
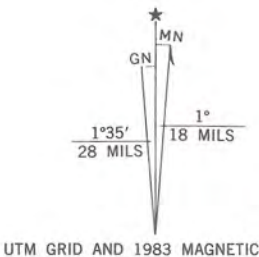


End figures



Stevens, Breese Municipal
Athletic Field
Madison, Dane Co., WI
UTM References:
10, 300, 834, 4, 772, 803
3 E N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1957. Field checked 1959. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1978 and 1980. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1983
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 4 meters north and
9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

MADISON EAST, WIS.
SE/4 MADISON 15' QUADRANGLE
43089-A3-TF-024
1983
DMA 3170 III SE-SERIES V861

ISBN 0-607-56649-7
9 780607 566497

















498-VXE





CWA
1934





NO PARKING
8 AM - 12 PM
THURSDAYS
MAY 1 - NOV 15

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Stevens, Breese, Municipal Athletic Field

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Dane

DATE RECEIVED: 6/19/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/22/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/04/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000502

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.3.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

