

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 University of Wisconsin Field House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1450 Monroe Street N/A not for publication
city or town Madison N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53706

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination _ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

Date

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

5/26/98

State or Federal agency and bureau

University of Wisconsin Field House

Dane

Wisconsin

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:)

Elson H. Beall

7.1.98

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

1

0 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0 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

is 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)

Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete

walls Sandstone

roof Terra Cotta

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 Page 1 University of Wisconsin Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

Introduction

The University of Wisconsin Field House is located at the intersection of Monroe Street, Regent Street, Oakland Avenue, and Breese Terrace on the southern edge of the sprawling University of Wisconsin campus in Madison. The Camp Randall Football Stadium is located immediately to the north of the Field House, while hard-surfaced parking lots abut its east and west sides. The Field House was begun in 1929 and completed in 1930, and is composed of a rectilinear plan steel frame sandstone-clad main block, to the north side of which is attached a set of sandstone-clad concrete bleachers that form the south end of the Camp Randall Stadium. The Field House was designed in the Renaissance Revival style by William F. Stevens and John Knudsen, members of the staff of the State Architect, Arthur Peabody, who supervised the project. The one-story-tall building is equivalent to a five-story building in overall height and contains a rectangular five-story-tall space that is used primarily as a basketball court and is ringed with three tiers of bleachers. The Field House is in very good condition and shows good integrity in that its post 1930 alterations have been limited to the addition of new tiers of bleachers (the first story tier is concrete, the other two are of steel), the building of new rooms and concession areas beneath the first story's concrete bleachers, and reroofing.

The Field House occupies the southernmost tip of a large trapezoidal-shaped piece of land that is bounded by Breese Terrace to the west, University Avenue to the north, Randall Street to the east, and the angled Monroe Street to the south. This land is mostly flat and was historically the site of the Civil War era Camp Randall. Subsequently, the land was occasionally used as the site of both State and Dane County Fairs and other activities of this kind until 1893, when the land was given to the University. In 1895, the University built its first football stadium (non-extant) on the northeast portion of the land, which was replaced by the original portions of the present Camp Randall Stadium beginning in 1915. Gradually, the north half of this portion of the campus was given over to the UW School of Engineering while the southeast corner became Camp Randall Park, a Civil War memorial. The remainder was given to the UW Athletic Department, which now operates four large buildings on its portion, including the UW Field House.

The portion of the UW campus described above is surrounded by single family residential developments to the west (University Heights Historic District,

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NRHP 12-17-82) and to the south, by a mixture of residential and campus buildings to the east, and by the main portion of the UW campus to the north. The massive bulk of the Field House, which dominates the corner on which it is located, has been a prominent campus and city landmark since it was built.

Description

The main block of the Field House is a very large rectangular plan Renaissance Revival style building whose main south-facing facade and north-facing rear elevation both measure 200-feet-long and whose east and west-facing side elevations measure 235-feet-long. Although technically the building contains only a single story, this story is equivalent to five regular stories in height. The Field House has a concrete foundation (there is no basement story), concrete walls that are clad in uncoursed Madison Sandstone rubble that is ornamented with dressed and carved limestone, and a gable roof whose ridgeline runs north-south and whose slopes are covered in red-colored clay tiles. Both the walls and the roof are supported by an internal steel framework and extensions of this framework support the two upper tiers of bleachers that encircle the principal space in the interior.

Several horizontal elements encircle all four elevations of the building. These include a tall limestone plinth that is placed at the base of each wall, a limestone beltcourse that is placed at the level of the heads of the first story exit doors, and a limestone-clad cornice that terminates both side elevations and forms the base of the tympanum of the main gable ends on the rear elevation and the main facade.

The main south-facing facade of the Field House is symmetrical in design and its wall surface is divided into five equal-width bays by six full-height pilaster strips. The two end pilaster strips are twice as wide as the other four and serve to frame the facade. The four thinner middle pilaster strips extend upward and divide the wall surface of the triangular tympanum of the main gable end into five equal-width segments. This massive rubble stone-clad tympanum is also crowned by a tall dressed limestone parapet wall and is decorated with a very large, beautifully modeled stone cartouche that bears a white terra cotta letter W on a red terra cotta field.

A triple entrance door group that is enframed with a massive limestone surround is placed in the first story of each of the two end bays of the

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facade and each of these groups is surmounted by a large semi-circular-arched steel sash, forty-four-light, eight-segment transom. A very large semi-circular-arched window opening that contains steel sash and 170 lights surmounts each of these two groups and a limestone balconet supported by limestone brackets is placed below each of these windows. Each of the three middle bays contains a much smaller flat-arched exit door in its first story (only a portion of the center one is original to the building). There are two small, narrow, flat-arched window openings in the story above each of these doors that each contain a pair of eight-light steel sash casement windows. Above each of these pairs is placed another of the very large 170-light semi-circular-arched windows (there are five of these large windows in all on the facade) and each of these windows is enframed with a limestone surround and has a limestone sill.

Both of the Field House's side elevations are identical with each other and are symmetrical in design. Projecting, full-height, rectilinear plan entrance pavilions are located at each end of these elevations. A triple entrance door group that is enframed with a massive limestone surround is placed in the first story of each pavilion and above each group is placed a very large semi-circular-arched window containing steel sash and ninety-six lights.

The wall surface in between these pavilions is divided by six full-height pilaster strips into five bays, which, because of the greater length of the side elevations, are wider than the bays on the main facade and rear elevation. Each of these five bays contains a small flat-arched exit door in its first story. Two small, narrow, flat-arched window openings in the story above each contain a pair of eight-light steel sash casement windows. The greater width of these bays, however, made it possible to place two of the ninety-six-light semi-circular-arched windows mentioned above in each bay.

The rear elevation of the Field House is, or would be, identical to the main facade were it not for the fact that its lower half is covered by a full-width concrete bleacher section that is the south end zone seating for Camp Randall Stadium. This section is a part of the original construction of the Field House and it is built of concrete and has triangular-shaped concrete side walls that are clad in uncoursed Madison Sandstone rubble. Because the space under the bleachers was originally occupied by two levels of locker rooms and offices, the asymmetrically

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designed side walls of this section are pierced by several flat-arched window openings that contain metal sash multi-light windows, and by service doors.

The portion of the rear elevation of the Field House that is visible above the bleacher section is essentially identical in design to same portion of the main facade, even to the inclusion of another stone cartouche of the type described earlier in its gable end. A later alteration to the rear elevation, however, was the placement of a very large electronic scoreboard across much of the center portion of the elevation beginning just above the top of the bleachers. This scoreboard serves the Camp Randall Stadium and the current one is the latest and the largest of several that have occupied this position for much of the history of the Field House..

The structural framework that supports the walls and the roof of the Field House was described as follows in a report written at the time of construction.

Vertical trussed [steel] frames that stiffen the walls and support the balconies are placed around the four sides of the building at intervals of about 32 feet. The roof is carried on trusses which span the width of the space between these frames.

The main trusses are 151 feet long, 24 feet deep in the center and 12 feet deep at the ends. These trusses are composed of 10 inch H sections. The vertical trussed frames are 19 feet wide and they are also composed of H sections.

The clay tile roof is supported on wooden plank which spans the 6 1/2 foot distance between the steel channel rafters. These rafters are supported on purlin trusses which connect the main roof trusses. The wooden balcony floor and seat planks are supported on the inclined balcony stringers. Horizontal girders carry the stringer loads to the columns.¹

The interior of the Field House is of strictly utilitarian design, the walls being concrete and the floors being of poured concrete. The building contains

¹ Willson, C. A. "Wisconsin's New University Field House." *The Wisconsin Engineer*, Vol. 34, No. 6. March, 1930, p. 1.

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a single enormous space that is five stories in height, is open all the way up to the rafters, and has exposed steel roof trusses. The focal point of the interior is a basketball court whose permanent wooden playing floor is surrounded by concrete bleachers that contain locker rooms and concession stands underneath. The room is also encircled by two tiers of 26-foot-deep steeply sloping balconies whose supporting steel framework is attached to the main building framework that is described above.

When the Field House was first built, only the lower tier of balconies was installed as a cost controlling measure and movable bleachers were used around the playing floor. By 1936, however, the need for more seating had grown acute so a second tier of balcony seats was installed at a cost of \$55,500, raising the seating capacity from 8000 to 12,000. The next change that affected the building occurred in 1940, when the building's original skylights (which leaked) were removed and the building was reroofed. Other changes were made over the years as well, the most comprehensive of which occurred in 1974.

In the fall of 1974 a remodeling by Potter, Lawson and Pawlowski, built permanent lower level bleachers, dressing rooms and concession areas below the bleachers, installed a permanent floor, and cosmetically refurbished the building. This \$671,000 remodeling cost more than the original construction cost [\$453, 756].²

In 1977 a new lighting system was installed as was a new audio system in 1984. In 1991 and 1992 a new four-sided electronic scoreboard was suspended from the center of the roof.

All of these were interior changes, however, and some actually consisted of work that completed the building's original design. These changes have not materially affected the architectural or historic significance of the building, which is well maintained and continues (for the moment) to house the same mix of University of Wisconsin functions and activities that it designed for. In addition, the exterior of the building is highly intact and is almost identical with the original design, the only significant changes to it being associated with the addition of more ground level exit doors and the consequent widening of several of the original exit door openings.

² Feldman, Jim. *The Buildings of the University of Wisconsin*. Madison: The University Archives, 1997, p. 216.

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

Architecture

Period of Significance

1930-1947

1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Peabody, Arthur

Christenson, William

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Significance

The University of Wisconsin Field House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under NR Criteria A and C. Research was undertaken to assess the potential for nominating the building to the NRHP utilizing the NR significance areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture, the last of which is a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP)*. The results of this research is detailed below and shows that the University of Wisconsin (UW) Field House is locally significant under both Criteria A and C as an architecturally and historically important resource on the UW's Madison campus. The Field House was expertly designed in the Renaissance Revival style by the staff of the State Architect's office and was intended to provide both physical training facilities for the UW student body and a place where some of the University's numerous sports-related activities could take place. The building was constructed in 1929-1930 and is best known as the home of the UW basketball team, but it has also housed innumerable other sporting events, including track and field, boxing, and wrestling competitions associated with both the UW and with the state's high schools.

The Field House was also designed to replace the UW Stock Pavilion (NRHP 7-11-85) as the principle center for the UW's large scale cultural events. Bands, symphony orchestras, and popular entertainers have all performed in this space and it has also been the scene of both UW and area high school graduation ceremonies and other public occasions.

Historical Context

As the UW student body grew in the latter part of the 19th century, so did the need for University sponsored and controlled extracurricular activities. Some of the most important of these recreational activities were competitive athletics. Physical conditioning was already a part of the military exercises that were required of the University's male students after the Civil War. Another factor was the rapidly emerging nation-wide interest and participation in organized sports that developed as the national population adjusted to an increasingly industrialized way of life.³ Organized sports at the UW began as

³ Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. *The University of Wisconsin: A History, 1848-1925*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949, vol. 1, p. 695.

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interclass competitions, organized and run by students. Not without controversy, the University eventually accepted and endorsed intercollegiate events along with the development of a physical education program. A combined gymnasium and armory was completed in 1892 (UW-Armory and Gymnasium (Old Red Gym) NHL 11-8-93) and Camp Randall was purchased as a site for playing fields in 1893.

Football was certainly the most popular of these intercollegiate sports. Interest in the sport increased rapidly in the 1890s and "it approached fanaticism in the early 1900s."⁴ Eligibility requirements and problems of professionalism plagued it from the start, to the point that the University felt it needed to take some measure of control over the previously student run and managed intercollegiate sports. The University became one of the charter members of the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives, which would later become known as the Western or Big Ten Conference.⁵ Eventually, rules were established curtailing the worst dangers and scandals of the game.

The money for the salaries of coaches and for the other costs of supporting a competitive team came from ticket receipts. Early on, deliberate attempts to attract alumni to the games and win their loyalty were successful. In 1921, the stadium at Camp Randall could accommodate 25,000 people, three times the total size of the student body, and in two years, it was expanded to a capacity of 36,000. In 1928-1929, football gate receipts totaled \$251,069. Football had become a major University business.

The campus-wide following and the funds that the UW's football program commanded were paralleled by the growth of the UW's basketball program. From its beginnings at the UW in 1898, when it was introduced by some students who had learned it at the YMCA, basketball grew in popularity among the students. Emmett D. Angell, a physical education instructor, acted as the UW's first basketball coach in 1904 and his team won its first championship title in 1905-06.⁶

In 1911, Dr. Walter Meanwell was hired as the basketball coach and his early years of coaching were glorious ones for the UW basketball team. In his first

⁴ Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. Op. Cit., vol. 2, p. 533.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Wisconsin Athletic Review", p. 22.

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ten years of coaching, his teams won 133 games and lost 35, taking seven championships.⁷ Meanwell became a national figure as a result and the games, which were held at the Old Red Gym, were packed, with thousands more fans crowding outside during the games.

Entertainment/Recreation

It was within this context the "Doc" Meanwell and George Little, then the UW Athletic Director, lobbied for the construction of a new field house.

When George Little took the job as the athletic director at the University of Wisconsin in 1925, he also became the football coach. Little had been an assistant to J. F. A. "Sunny" Pyre, the ex-football star and faculty chairman of the [UW] athletic council.

Little acted as coach for two years, before hiring coach Glenn Thistlewaite away from Northwestern, and turning strictly to administrative work. A hardworking and persuasive man, Little had a vision for the athletic facilities at the University. By 1927 he had developed a three-million dollar master plan for athletic facilities, including replacement of the armory, the gymnasium annex [non-extant] and the boathouse [non-extant]. His support for this enormous project was considerable. The legislature of 1927 approved an appropriation of \$350,000 to begin the project. Because of economic hardship, this bill was pocket vetoed by Governor Zimmerman. Rather than pursue this avenue of funding, Little turned to the regents. His plans had now shrunk considerably. He now asked only for \$350,000 for a field house without facilities for non-income-producing sports.

Football was well provided for at the Camp Randall Stadium; the real problem was with basketball. Wisconsin played basketball in the old red gym. The gym was built in 1892, and for basketball games held 2240 spectators. It was called "the little cigar box gym" by newspapermen, and complaints were heard about scalping of the scarce tickets. A new field house became Little's main priority. The

⁷ Cronon, E. David and John Jenkins. *The University of Wisconsin: A History, 1925-1945*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1994, p. 654.

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regents had been discussing a field house since 1925, and had decided to locate the field house at the south end of the stadium.

The regents were persuaded by Little to fund the field house through the University Building Corporation, the dummy corporation that had recently been used to fund the Van Hise dorms, and the furnishings of the Memorial Union. The regents approved a loan of \$350,000 at 4.5 percent for thirty years.⁸

The new UW Field House was dedicated in 1930, when over 9000 people attended the ceremony and dedicatory basketball game against Pennsylvania. H. Jamison Schwartz, the graduate manager of athletics at Pennsylvania said, "The east knows of Wisconsin in basketball. The name and fame of your coach, Dr. Meanwell, is no longer confined to the boundaries of your state. He has truly become a national figure in the fastest growing sport there is. Tonight is as good a time as any to re-affirm our belief in intercollegiate athletics: In dedicating this building, we should dedicate ourselves to the task of making competitive athletics a fine and vigorous and wholesome influence on our future generations."⁹

The Field House housed many famous games and was the site of continued basketball victories. When "Doc" Meanwell resigned as coach in 1934, he hired Harold "Bud" Foster, a former Wisconsin All-American player who led the team to both a Big Ten and an NCAA championship in 1940-41 and again in 1947. Today, the game continues to be associated with the University's tradition of excellence in this arena of competitive athletics.

Noteworthy UW boxing history was also made in the Field House. Boxing had begun at the University on an intramural basis but by 1933 had become a popular varsity sport. Shortly thereafter, the UW team became "the undisputed master of college boxing."¹⁰ Led by coach John Walsh, the boxers were undefeated and untied in nine out of sixteen seasons and many team members won individual national titles. Boxing became one of the UW's biggest spectator sports. The number and loyalty of fans rivaled and sometimes even surpassed the basketball turnouts. 3500 fans attended the first match in 1933, but soon

⁸ Feldman, Jim. Op. Cit., pp. 213-214.

⁹ *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*, Vol. 32(4): 148.

¹⁰ Cronon, E. David and John Jenkins. Op. Cit., p. 655.

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were filling the Field House to its then capacity of 15,000 for matches. However, the sport was terminated at Wisconsin in 1960 when a boxer tragically died as a result of a bout.

The role of intercollegiate athletics at the University has evolved into a fundamental component of the identity of the University. Some of the ethical questions of qualification and professionalism are still unresolved, but the importance of these sports to the University's idea of itself and to its public image is indisputable. The intercollegiate activities are both a public relations tool that binds the public to the University and also a revenue producer for the institution. The Field House embodies the history of that role on this campus. It has become a symbol of the competition for excellence for both the members of the University community and for the general public.

The Field House is also an historically significant building in Madison and on the campus as the site of significant non-athletic gatherings as well. From the time it was completed up to the present it housed important University-sponsored functions and performances. Concerts have been held there regularly, including performances by the UW's very popular marching band and performances by nationally known entertainers who performed as part of the UW's homecoming shows. Many graduation ceremonies have also been held there, including both those of the University and also of area high schools. The Field House was also the place where the president of the UW gathered the students to tell them about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. "A capacity crowd of students, faculty, and townspeople attended the gathering, broadcast throughout the state over radio." News of Germany's surrender resulted in another packed community gathering at the Field House, presided over by UW president E. B. Fred.¹¹

As both a University and community gathering place and as a symbol of the University and of University athletics, the Field House has historically played an important part in the life of the UW and the city of Madison and it continues to do so today. Consequently, it is believed that the University of Wisconsin Field House is of sufficient historic significance to justify listing in the NRHP at the local level within the significance area of

¹¹ Cronon, E. David and John Jenkins. Op. Cit., p. 461.

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Entertainment and Recreation for its important contributions to the life of the community.

Architecture

The University of Wisconsin Field House is also being nominated for listing in the NRHP for its local significance as an outstanding example of late Renaissance Revival style design as applied to a very large sports-related University facility. The Field House was designed during 1928-1929 by William F. Stevens and John Knudsen of the staff of the State Architect's office under the supervision of Arthur Peabody, the State Architect, and it was built between 1929-1930 by William Christenson, a Racine, Wisconsin-based general contractor. Its design is an excellent example of the numerous very fine Renaissance Revival style buildings that Peabody developed for the UW campus as an outgrowth of his collaboration with the nationally known University of Pennsylvania architects Warren Laird and Paul Cret, who together with Peabody had developed a master plan for the University campus in 1909.

The earliest buildings on the UW campus are still extant; Bascom Hall, designed by Indianapolis, Indiana architect William Tinsley, and North and South Halls, designed by architect John Rague (Bascom Hill Historic District NRHP 9-12-74). All three of these buildings are simple but beautifully proportioned examples of Italian Renaissance Revival style design and all three were built between 1851 and 1859 out of locally quarried Madison Sandstone. Gradually, as the campus began to grow in the second half of the nineteenth century, newer buildings in a bewildering variety of Late Victorian styles appeared throughout the campus, which, by the turn of the century was more notable for its stylistic diversity than for its stylistic coherence.

In order to plan for the future growth of the University, the UW regents commissioned a master plan for the future growth of the campus in 1908 and chose as their consultants the firm of Laird and Cret, whose principals were both nationally known architects and professors at the University of

Pennsylvania's School of Architecture, then as now one of the best schools of its kind in the country.

In an effort to bring order to the campus, Laird and Cret, in collaboration with Arthur Peabody, who was then the UW's Campus Architect, chose the

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Renaissance Revival style designs of the UW's earliest buildings as their chief source of inspiration. While the splendid Beaux Arts-inspired master plan that these three men ultimately developed for the campus was only partially implemented, the use of the Renaissance Revival style as the primary source of design inspiration for all new buildings constructed on the UW campus after 1909 was consistently adhered to until the end of World War II. That this was so was partly due to the inherent suitability of the style for institutional buildings and partly due to the fact that shortly after 1909, Arthur Peabody became the State Architect, a post that Peabody held until the late 1930s. He was thus in a position to either actually design himself or else strongly influence the design of every building built by the State of Wisconsin during his tenure, which also included all of the University of Wisconsin's buildings.

Besides producing the General Plan for the Future Growth of the Campus, Laird and Cret also designed a number of buildings for the campus during the next twenty years, several of which are among the campus' best buildings and are listed in the NRHP either individually (Agricultural Chemistry Building NRHP 6-19-85; Lathrop Hall NRHP 7-11-85; Stock Pavilion NRHP 7-11-85) or in the Bascom Hill Historic District (NRHP 9-12-74). All of these buildings were designed with the active participation of Arthur Peabody, who served as the supervising architect of the three, and the collaboration clearly left its mark on the man since the great majority of the many buildings that he designed for the UW campus after his formal collaboration with Laird and Cret ended clearly show the influence of the Renaissance Revival in their designs. As a result, the pre-World War II UW campus gradually achieved an overall stylistic unity that was to be one of the most important legacies of the Laird and Cret-Peabody collaboration.¹²

One of the best of the UW buildings that can be said to owe its appearance to the influence that Laird and Cret had on Peabody is the UW Field House. The inspiration of the Italian Renaissance in the design of the Field House can be seen in the simple basilican form of the building and in the overall design scheme of the exterior. Even though the interior of the building is actually just one large room that is entered at ground level, the exterior is treated as if the building had a ground story and a much grander second story or piano

¹² More detailed information about this collaboration is contained in the Henry Mall Historic District NRHP nomination form (NRHP 1-22-92).

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Madison, Dane County, WI

nobile. The exterior of what appears to be the first story contains entrance and exit door openings. Above many of these openings are small pairs of windows that form a kind of mezzanine story and above these in the *piano nobile* are the very large windows that provide most of the natural light that reaches the interior. This design scheme is classically derived and it is very typical of Renaissance and Renaissance-inspired design buildings.

In addition, all the wall surfaces of the Field House are divided into bays by pilaster strips, the building is encircled at the base of the walls by a tall limestone plinth, simple classically inspired limestone trim enframes the building's doors and windows, and the tall parapet walls that edge the gable ends of the building are clad in the same dressed limestone as the plinth at the base. All of these elements have as their inspiration classically derived design elements that are typically associated with the Italian Renaissance.

Also contributing to the architectural significance of the Field House is the use of Madison Sandstone to face its walls. The Field House is one of the last buildings in Madison to be faced with Madison Sandstone, which was the same beautiful locally quarried honey-colored stone that had been used to face the earliest campus buildings. This stone was also used to face the first state capitol building in Madison (ca.1839-1842) as well and it was quarried at several locations in and around Madison. Because it was used to face the first campus buildings, Laird and Cret specified in their 1909 campus master plan that all new buildings built on the east end of the UW campus should be faced in the same stone in order to give that portion of the campus a more uniform appearance. This was done, but as a consequence, the existing area quarries were close to exhaustion by the time the Field House was being planned. As a result, Peabody was forced to use rubble stone rather than dressed stone for the building's walls, but the end result is very nearly as handsome and it contrasts beautifully with the finely crafted dressed limestone that Peabody used for decorative accents on the exterior.¹³

The architectural significance of the Field House is further enhanced by its unique interior design, which called for two galleries around a central playing floor large enough for two practice basketball courts. This design

¹³ Tsu-gein S. Lin and John Gruber. "A Pioneer Industry: Stone Quarries in Madison." *The Journal of Historic Madison, Inc.* 6:25.

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UW Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

was so successful that it influenced the design and engineering of other field houses as well.¹⁴

The University of Wisconsin Field House is therefore being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places both because of the important locally significant role it has played in the history of organized sports at the University and because its design is an outstanding example of the application of a late Renaissance Revival style design to a large scale modern university building. This significance is further enhanced by the building's largely intact state and by its excellent condition.

¹⁴ Arthur Peabody Papers, UW Archives.

University of Wisconsin Field House
Name of Property

Dane
County and State

Wisconsin

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:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 Acres

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

1 1/6 3/0/3/5/7/0 4/7/7/1/0/5/0
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
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	Holly Smith-Middleton, edited by Tim Heggland		
organization		date	6/30/97
street & number	23 N. Baldwin St.	telephone	608/259-1326
city or town	Madison	state	Wisconsin
		zip code	53703

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Continuation Sheet

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UW Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

Major Bibliographical References

Arthur Peabody Papers, UW Archives.

Cronon, E. David and John Jenkins. *The University of Wisconsin: A History, 1925-1945*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1994.

Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. *The University of Wisconsin: A History, 1848-1925*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949.

Feldman, Jim. *The Buildings of the University of Wisconsin*. Madison: The University Archives. 1997.

Tsu-gein S. Lin and John Gruber. "A Pioneer Industry: Stone Quarries in Madison." *The Journal of Historic Madison, Inc.*

Willson, C. A. "Wisconsin's New University Field House." *The Wisconsin Engineer*, Vol. 34, No. 6. March, 1930.

Wisconsin Alumni Magazine.

Wisconsin Athletic Review.

University of Wisconsin Field House

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Board of Regents	date	6/30/97
organization	University of Wisconsin System	telephone	608/262-2324
street&number	1860 Van Hise Hall	zip code	53706
city or town	Madison	state	Wisconsin

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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Section Plans Page 1

UW Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

The following is a list of plans housed at the UW Office of Planning and Construction that document the original design of the Field House and the subsequent renovations and alterations.

- May 16, 1929: Set of 19 plans generated by the State Architect's Office under Arthur Peabody, which document the details of the original design of the Filed House
- December 1935: Of the above 19 plans, several show the renovations made when the second balcony was added.
- February 26, 1976: Set of 21 plans for remodeling of the Field house by: Potter Lawson & Pawlowsky, Inc., architects; Arnold & O'Sheridan, Inc., structural and mechanical consultants; and Goulet, Ruud and Assoc., Ltd., electrical consultants. The first eight plans are the architectural ones that delineate the spatial renovations.
- April 4, 1977: Set of structural and electrical plans done by Goulet, Ruud and Assoc., Ltd., for the audio replacement system.
- August 1, 1984: Set of electrical and structural plans by Goulet, Ruud and Assoc., Ltd., for the audio replacement system.
- October 4, 1991: Set of four plans for the Field House scoreboard.

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Section 10_ Page 1

UW Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description

Part of the SW1/4 of Section 15, T7N R9E, City of Madison, WI. A parcel of land on Monroe Street beginning at a point 45 feet east and then 108 feet northeast of the northeast curb at the corner of Regent Street and Breese Terrace. Proceed 210 feet northeast, then 45 feet northeast along Monroe Street, then 300 feet north, 280 feet west, and 425 feet south to the point of origin.

Verbal Boundary Justification

These boundaries include the entire parcel of land that is historically associated with the University of Wisconsin Field House.

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Section Photos Page 1

UW Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

Items a-d are the same for each photo.

Photo 1

- a) University of Wisconsin Field House
- b) Madison, Dane County, WI
- c) Holly Smith, 1995
- d) State Historical Society of Wisconsin
- e) Main facade, view looking N
- f) Photo 1 of 8

Photo 2

- e) Main facade, view looking N
- f) Photo 2 of 8

Photo 3

- e) Detail of standing lanterns, view looking N
- f) Photo 3 of 8

Photo 4

- e) Main facade and west elevation, view looking NE
- f) Photo 4 of 8

Photo 5

- e) Detail of west elevation, view looking NE
- f) Photo 5 of 8

Photo 6

- e) West elevation detail showing rear bleachers, view looking E
- f) Photo 6 of 8

Photo 7

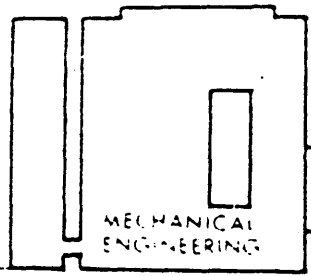
- e) East-facing side elevation, view looking W
- f) Photo 7 of 8

Photo 8

- e) Main facade, view looking NW
- f) Photo 8 of 8

HOUSE TERRACE
CAFETERIA

MECHANICAL AND MINERAL
ENGINEERING



MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

SOLAR
ENERGY
RESEARCH
LAB

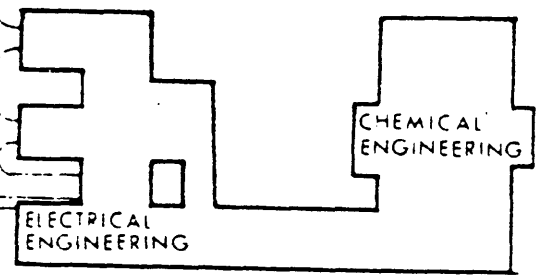
ENGINEERING
RESEARCH

STATE
HIGHWAY LAB

University of Wisconsin Field House
Madison, Dane County, WI

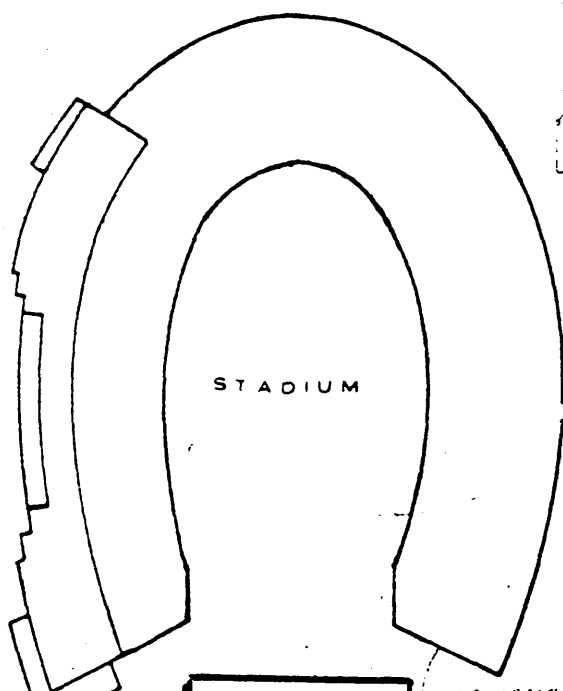
not to scale

— = Boundary

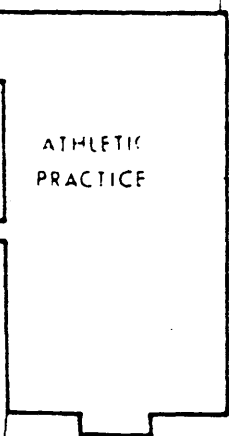


CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING

ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING



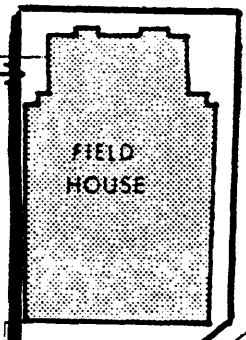
STADIUM



ATHLETIC
PRACTICE

ATHLETIC
TICKET
OFFICE

VEHICLE
ACCESS



FIELD
HOUSE

HOYT ST

CHADBOURNE

REGENT ST

BREESE

LITTLE ST

MONROE

STREET

AVENUE
RANDALL

North



Field House
Location Diagram