NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name FENWAY PARK

other names/site number JOHN B. SMITH BUILDING; JEANO BUILDING

## 2. Location

street & number 24 YAWKEY WAY AND 2–4 YAWKEY WAY, 64-76 BROOKLINE AVE., 70- 80 LANSDOWNE ST. ☐ not for publication

city or town BOSTON ☐ vicinity

state MA code MA county SUFFOLK code 025 zip code 02215

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ✓ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

✓ **national** ✓ **statewide** ✓ **local**

Brona Simon January 10, 2012

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Executive Director Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Patrick W. Andrus 3/7/2012

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

FENWAY PARK
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only one box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | | buildings |
| 0 | | district |
| 0 | | site |
| 1 | | structure |
| 0 | | object |
| 3 | | **Total** |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
INDUSTRY/communications facility
COMMERCE/business

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
COMMERCE/business
COMMERCE/restaurant

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Tapestry Brick
Other: Reinforced concrete

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Reinforced concrete
walls: brick
Reinforced concrete, cast stone
roof: rubber
other: Steel: trusses and columns
Metal: exterior sheathing

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1912 and renovated in 1934, Fenway Park is an irregular polygon in plan enclosing the 7.6-acre baseball field and stands. It adjoins a commercial building to the northwest, the John B. Smith Building (1914) at 64–78 Brookline Avenue. It occupies more than half of the block bounded by Brookline Avenue and Yawkey Way (formerly Jersey Street, renamed 1976) to the west, by Van Ness Street to the south, by the Fenway Garage (1912) to the east, and by Lansdowne Street to the north. The surrounding streets slope down slightly from west to east and from north to south.

The exterior elevations of the 1912 structure facing the street were designed by James E. McLaughlin, and are constructed of red brick, with cast-stone trim and stucco panels. Within the exterior walls, the structure, including the original stands and the subsequent 1933-1934 expansion of the stands, was designed by Osborn Engineering of Cleveland. The Yawkey Way elevation fronts the offices and a portion of the rear of the grandstand. Along Van Ness Street, the brick façade backs up to the rear of the grandstand. There is no wall at the east border behind the bleachers. The concrete, brick, and metal wall along Lansdowne Street encloses the north end of the bleachers and the back of the Green Monster. The west wall of Fenway Park abuts the Smith building at 64–78 Brookline Avenue.

**Area Development**

Fenway Park is located in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, in a section identified as West Fens/Fenway Park in the Boston Landmarks Commission historic resources survey. Named for the Back Bay Fens, which are part of the Emerald Necklace designed by noted landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted, this area was transformed by Olmsted's project, which drained the marshy area around the Muddy River and created a naturalistic public park.[1] The West Fens/Fenway, formerly an area of pasture and marsh, was the last of the Fenway neighborhoods to be developed. Brookline Avenue (also named Western Ave. on the 1874 atlas) was laid out in the early 19th century, but the streets between Park Drive and Boylston Street were not laid out until the mid-1890s. The East Fens, on the other side of the Olmsted-designed Back Bay Fens, were developed with primarily residential buildings in the 1880s. Meanwhile, there was streetcar service to Kenmore Square (formerly Governor's Square) by 1889, although it too was surrounded by vacant land. The streetcars were a catalyst to development in Boston, and Fenway Park also served as a catalyst to commercial development around Kenmore Square. When Fenway Park was completed in 1912, according to the 1912 Bromley atlas, there were two large garages, a riding school, and a private stable on Lansdowne Street. There was one brick commercial building across Brookline Avenue from Fenway Park, and otherwise the immediate vicinity was still vacant land. After this, new development appeared first near Fenway Park on Brookline Avenue. Through the 1910s and 1920s, open parcels along Brookline Avenue, Lansdowne Street, Ipswich Street, and Jersey Street were filled, and much of the north side of Boylston Street was developed. Garages were the predominant use, mixed with commercial buildings—the one notable exception was Fenway Studios (1924; NRIND 1978, NHL 1998), a building constructed as artist lofts. Change was evident by the 1930s; the garages on Lansdowne Street were occupied by liquor companies, and the riding stable was used by Buck Printing Co.

**Yawkey Way Façade**

The primary façade facing southwest on Yawkey Way is a three-part composition that comprises only a portion of the Yawkey Way elevation (Figure 1; Photos 1, 2). A central five-bay projecting pavilion is flanked by symmetrical, three-bay pavilions. Designed in the Tapestry Brick style, the façade is characteristically ornamented with patterned brick and contrasting stucco or concrete trim. The central pavilion is framed by bold, paneled pilasters and an ornamental frieze, trimmed with brick set in a diamond pattern, which is infilled with stucco. Projecting corner blocks are detailed with geometric patterned brick, with a central stucco-clad diamond. Blind brick panels framed by a pedimented brick surround project from each pilaster at eye level (Photographs 1, 2, 3). A bronze Art Deco plaque (Photograph 4) commemorating the 1934 "reconstruction" under owner Thomas Yawkey fills the panel

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[1] The Emerald Necklace (NRDIS) is a series of connected parks, green parkways, and waterways that extends in an approximate horseshoe alignment from the Boston Common to Franklin Park. Olmsted's plan, which he began in the 1870s, encompassed existing parks and his designs for new park areas, which together eventually included a variety of landscapes, from formal gardens to recreational areas to a country park designed for pleasure and contemplation.

on the eastern pilaster. (A bronze plaque honoring the current owners and recently completed renovations was installed in 2010 on the west pilaster.) The red-brick walls terminate at a concrete coping at the parapet.

At the first story, an arcade of eleven brick segmental arches frames the entrance gates into the park at Gate A (Photograph 1). Each opening is framed by a slightly projecting header course and each arch is detailed with a stone keystone. A single bronze light fixture is installed between each of the openings. The original light fixtures had been lost; the current fixtures (2007) were cast based on the original drawings and installed in their original locations. At the central pavilion, the spandrels between the first and second stories, which formerly held recessed brick panels, had been filled with paired, 1/1, aluminum windows in approximately the 1980s. Those windows were replaced with 3/1 double-hung aluminum windows in 2010. Projecting horizontal brick panels ornament the façade above these windows. The stepped parapet has a stepped pediment at the center with a stucco tympanum. Between two pedestals on either end, brick letters spelling "FENWAY PARK" contrast with the stucco panel, and the date "1912" sits atop the name (Photograph 2). The entrance gates originally contained paired gates with heavy metal grilles. Geometric wood tracery in the transoms remains at the main and east pavilions, and solid wood panels at the west pavilion are original.

The façades of the side pavilions are framed by shallow pilasters and stepped brick courses below the cornice (Photograph 3, 4). A brick dentil cornice is topped by a brick parapet with concrete coping. At the west pavilion, a narrow ornamental brick band set above the first story repeats the diamond pattern, with projecting brick diamonds offset by a stucco background. This detail has been replaced by paired 3/1 aluminum windows in the east pavilion. Original wood windows were 6/1 in the side pavilions, and the tri-part windows at the central pavilion had a 6/1 window flanked by 4/1 windows. All windows that had inappropriate aluminum replacements installed in the 1980s were replaced in 2010 with aluminum windows reflecting the original pattern of lights in each sash and the profile of the original brick mold (Photographs 1 – 4).

At the second story, paired window openings in the side pavilions are framed by brick segmental arches; the tri-part windows in the main pavilion have flat arches. Windows at the central pavilion were originally separated by wood mullions, while those at the side pavilions are separated by brick mullions.

**Yawkey Way Grandstand Elevation**
The elevation that continues southeast along Yawkey Way, from the entrance gates at Gate A to Gate D, is essentially a secondary elevation (Photographs 1, 5, 6). Constructed of red brick, it has a tall first story separated by a concrete sill course from a second story of open bays topped by a brick dentil cornice, with a brick parapet and concrete coping. This eight-bay section, articulated by brick pilasters, has two narrow end bays framing six wider, similar central bays. Each second-story bay is further divided by two brick pilasters. The pilasters are splayed at the top and a soldier course frames the top of the openings. The west bay contains the original entrance to the offices at 24 Jersey Street (Photograph 6). The existing wood door and transom were installed in 2009, based on historic photographs and the 1912 drawings.

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The flat-arched opening is set within a shallow, projecting brick surround with a projecting brick panel over the entry. The second and seventh bays in this series each contain three entrance gates (Photograph 5, 6). Bays four and five have narrow windows filled with louvers and set high in the wall at the first story. At the second story, the large open bays (which had been filled in the 1970s and 1980s and were reopened in 2009 and 2010) have ball-and-pipe railings with iron mesh panels, to match the original condition shown in the original drawings and in photographs dating prior to 1914. Shades with a "FP" logo based on historic photographs (Figure 1) were installed in the newly reopened second-story bays in 2010. The openings at the first bay are glazed, but still transparent, reestablishing the view in and out of the ballpark that had been lost for decades due to later brick infill.

The rear elevations of the rooftop structure rise above Yawkey Way and the Van Ness Street brick structure. The rooftop structure is clad in green metal panels and steps back to a sloped metal roof. The first story of the rooftop has long glass bays with narrow mullions. The second story has a fence at the edge of the façade, and the structure steps back, creating an outer walkway. The third story has a similar walkway with a fence on the street side, and a solid metal panel wall encloses much of this elevation. Toward the east end of the Van Ness Street elevation, the upper two levels are open, with a fence at the edge.

**Van Ness Street Elevation**
The Van Ness Street elevation essentially continues the architecture of the east end of the Yawkey Way elevation. It is multi-faceted, as the west end of the elevation follows the irregular early lot line of the property, set back from Van Ness Street (Photograph 7 – 10). Toward the center of this elevation there is an obvious jog (which today is only obvious at the third story, Photograph 8), and to the west, the depth of the grandstand widens. The jog denotes the change from the west end of this elevation, built in 1912, to the east end, which dates from the 1933-34 expansion and replaced the original wood grandstand and wooden bleachers. The 1912 portion of the south elevation, eleven bays in length, is difficult to view since the southeast corner of this elevation is covered by a large, steel-framed, switchback egress ramp (Photograph 7), which rises from street level to the back of the grandstand. At the east end of the ramp, a square, brick elevator tower rises two stories above the ramp. Similar to Yawkey Way, the end bays on the Van Ness elevation are narrow, and there is also one additional narrow bay (Photograph 9). The parapet steps up above each of the narrow bays and over bays four through six as well. The articulation of the bays with pilasters is continued here; however, the tops are not splayed as found on Yawkey Way. Windows at the first story are framed by flat brick arches that appear to have been altered from the original segmental arches. Aluminum industrial windows have been installed in the original openings. The second-story bays match those of Yawkey Way, with large openings and splayed pilasters, surmounted by a brick dentil cornice, brick parapet, and concrete coping. The openings in the bays adjacent to the egress ramp have been filled with brick. The center five bays of the façade have narrower bays, divided into three stories. The brick wall then drops to one story in height (Photographs 9, 10) with clerestory windows and a few oversized door openings. The last two bays of the Van Ness elevation consist of a brick wall with large, metal overhead loading doors (Gate D, Photograph 9). The wall extends to the southwest corner of the Fenway Garage, and closes off the property below the grandstand from the street.

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A one-story, 1984 weight room attached to the Van Ness Street elevation was replaced in 2005 with a two-story red brick structure that contains a new weight room, media room, and facilities for the Red Sox (Photograph 8). The brick walls are capped by stone coping. Wide pilasters mark the bays and aluminum, industrial hopper windows are set high in the wall.

**East Elevation**
Above the garage on the east elevation, the metal cladding is visible at the rear of the 2011 high-definition video board that rises above the bleachers at the northeast corner of the park. The light stanchions are also visible rising above the park when looking from the east.

**Lansdowne Street**
Unlike the other elevations, Lansdowne Street (1934) has almost no articulation (Photographs 11 – 14). The sidewalk is lined with a stepped brick wall topped by a metal-framed wall, and above the wall, a steel-framed, stepped seating structure cantilevers out over the sidewalk. The only ornament on the brick wall is two rows of burnt headers. Beginning at the east end, running west toward Brookline Avenue, the wall is very tall and is broken up by large louvered openings. The steel louvers were rebuilt based on existing conditions and the 1934 drawings (Photograph 12, 13). The brick wall steps down approximately twenty feet at the end of the bleachers, and then continues to step up as it runs west along Lansdowne. At the center of the Lansdowne elevation, which represents the rear of the Green Monster, the steel supports for the metal-clad wall sit inboard of the brick wall. Outboard of the wall, the bases of two heavy light stanchions placed in the sidewalk are wrapped in metal panels (Photograph 13). Above the wall, the stanchions rise above the top of the Green Monster seats. At the west end of the Lansdowne Street elevation, the brick wall rises again dramatically, enclosing the north end of the left-field seats.

**Field**
Inside the park, the central feature is the playing field measuring approximately 7.5 acres (Photographs 20, 21, 22, 25). Noted for its quirks and asymmetry, the field's current dimensions are: left-field foul line, 310 feet; left-center field, 379 feet; center field, 390 feet; deep center field, 420 feet; deepest right-center field, 380 feet, right-field foul line, 302 feet; and backstop. 52 feet. The left-field, metal-clad wall (the Green Monster, 1934, Photograph 22) defines the short left-field dimension and has a steel ladder running up the face of the wall. The bullpens (Photograph 21), constructed in front of the bleachers in 1940, shortened right and right-center fields to their current dimensions. At that time, the right-field wall was rebuilt in a curve to meet the corner of the new bullpens, replacing the angular alignment of the original wall in the right-field corner. Fenway Park's small foul territory is another of its distinctive characteristics. Portions of the left- (Photograph 23) and right-field foul lines run within inches of the field wall, which encloses the seating, thus adding to the intimacy of the game. Two features of the park well known to fans are the right-field foul pole, named in honor of shortstop Johnny Pesky, who, in his nineties, is still seen at games in uniform, and the left-field foul pole, named for Red Sox catcher Carlton Fisk, who won memorable game 6 of the 1975 World Series by hitting a home run off the foul pole in the twelfth inning.

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In 2005, the field was regraded and a new sand-based drainage system was installed. The improved drainage has made the field playable for longer periods in wet weather. The Red Sox and visitors' dugouts are located at the field edge of the right-field and left-field grandstand respectively; just beyond each dugout are the camera pits, renovated in 2004 (Photograph 21, 22, 23). The dugouts have flat roofs that slope to the back slightly, they are open on the front. Steps from the bottom of the dugout lead up to a wooden bench seat that runs along the back of the dugout shelter. Steps at the front of the dugout lead up to the field, a railing and net at the edge of the field shield part of the opening to provide some protection for the players. A metal overhead door recessed in the left-field grandstand wall (named the Yaz door after the left fielder, Carl Yastrzemski) can frustrate left fielders when the ball gets caught up in the door frame. Two windows on that wall are covered with metal grilles. Two similar metal door openings are located in the center-field wall: one opens into the former Red Sox batting cage (now used as the Bleacher Bar restaurant) and the second is a service door opening into the Concourse. The former batting cage door has a metal and glass overhead door, which is protected from the field by a metal grille, and the service door is a metal overhead door.

**Grandstand**
The field of play is surrounded by the stands, consisting of a reinforced concrete structure (the grandstand) from which rise steel columns that reach to a flat roof supported by steel trusses. The front edge of the grandstand is rimmed by a concrete wall, faced on the field side with a thick pad that is the full height of the wall (Figures 2, 3, 4, 6). The original roof truss (still visible at the east end of the right-field roof) delicately tapers as it reaches out from the steel column to the outer edge of the cantilevered roof.

The underside of the 1912 concrete structure is sloped concrete (Photographs 27, 28), while the 1934 sections of the grandstand have a stepped concrete structure underneath (Photograph 29). Concrete repair has been ongoing since 2002, with wood forms designed to recreate the texture of the wood forms that were used when the deck was originally poured. New concrete was added on top of the existing deck over the decades to extend or level the tiers; during the recent rehabilitation, the added concrete layers were removed, while the original grandstand deck was exposed and coated with a waterproof coating (completed in 2011).

The 1934 grandstand had an open passageway with no seats, which ran from the field to Van Ness Street, often referred to as "Canvas Alley" since that is where the canvas that protected the field from rain was stored. Canvas Alley was infilled with seats in two phases, and it can still be easily identified from the concourse below by the steel plates that span the former open space between the two sections of the concrete grandstand seating bowl. A second passageway (called the Cut) is found between the right-field grandstand and the bleachers (Photograph 24). That passageway remains open.

**Seats**
Typically, the seating located underneath the grandstand roof consists of wood-slat seats set in cast-iron frames. In unsheltered areas, replacement seats are typically plastic, formed seats set in metal stanchions. Field Box and Loge Box seating sections are enclosed by flat iron rails on hollow metal posts

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(Photograph 23). Two rows of seats, fronted by a concrete wall with thick padding on the field side, were added at the field level between the dugouts in 2002 and 2003, and beyond the camera pits in 2004. An additional front row was added behind home plate in 2009. The rooftop seating has been rebuilt between 2002 and 2009 (see Rooftop Structures). Seats were constructed above the Green Monster, supported on a steel structure on Lansdowne Street (2003). One of Fenway Park's quirks is that a triangle of center-field bleacher seats is covered during day games so that the batter can pick up the ball better when it leaves the pitcher's hand. This means the seating capacity is 37,065 for day games and 37,493 for night games.

**Concourses**

The concourses under the seating bowl run from Gate E around to Gate C, and are essentially exposed structure. The floors are concrete, the walls of enclosed spaces such as the restrooms and the Red Sox clubhouse are brick, and the underside of the bowl is concrete (Photographs 26 – 29). Square, concrete columns and beams are exposed in the concourses. Brick former ticket booths, which are polygonal in plan, remain at Gate A (Photograph 26), but are now used to display historic memorabilia. Concessions are located on both sides of the concourse, under the sloped seating bowl.

From the beginning, the Red Sox offices were located on Yawkey Way behind the main façade at the second story. The offices have access to the back of the left-field, 1912 grandstand. The office space was extended west in 1934 to the wall of the Smith Building, and in 1941, the mezzanine offices were added above the concourse and beneath the original offices. The mezzanine window openings on the façade were installed at this time.

**Scoreboard**

The original scoreboard, installed in March 1912, was replaced in 1934, and the new scoreboard was installed in the left-field wall. The existing scoreboard is a replica of the 1934 scoreboard, and is still operated manually (Photograph 22). A metal-clad board, it displays the American League East standings, the line score, hits and errors, and the scores of other American League and the National League games. The initials of longtime Red Sox owners Thomas A. Yawkey and Jean R. Yawkey are marked in Morse code in two vertical stripes on the face of the board. A door in the face of the board, toward the west end, provides access to the room within the wall where scorers work during the game. The walls behind the scoreboard are filled with signatures and graffiti of players and Fenway's visitors over the years.

New advertising signs have been installed inside the park during the rehabilitation (Photographs 21, 22). The typical sign format consists of individual, internally lit letters set on an open steel frame. One of these is a Coca-Cola sign installed at the back of the left-field stands. It is based on a historic sign formerly located on Storrow Drive. The font and scrolling of lights in the letters mimics the historic sign. Three fabric signs are installed on steel frames above the Green Monster seats. The 1976 video board set above the center-field bleachers was replaced in 2010 with a flat, high-definition video board (Photograph 21).

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**Rooftop Structures**
Long a single deck park, Fenway has seen various structures added above the original roof, creating a full additional level above the original grandstand. The rooftop structures have been replaced in the years from 2003 to 2009 with new structures and seats, and new areas of seating have been installed over the right-field roof, where there had been none. These include tiered table seating, open seats, seats at drink rails, luxury boxes, suites, a press box, and clubs. The roof deck was replaced on all of the grandstand, and steel reinforcement was added when each rooftop section was built, between 2003 and 2009. The 600 Club, located behind Home Plate above the original grandstand roof and temporarily renamed the .406 Club for Ted Williams' record batting average, was removed in 2006 and replaced with the EMC Club and the State Street Pavilion. Seven steel framed light stanchions, each holding an array of four or five rows of lights, were installed in 1947 to provide lighting for night games. The stanchions are visible from a distance rising above the ballpark and provide a reference point for fans approaching Fenway Park (Photographs 20-22).

**John B. Smith Building**
The John B. Smith Building, 1914 (Photographs 16-18), lies contiguous to the northwest wall of Fenway Park. The two-story, reinforced-concrete, red-brick building occupies its entire lot, which is irregular in plan. The pressed-brick cladding is offset by cast-stone detail. Three original entries in the Smith Building face west on Brookline Avenue, with secondary entrances on Lansdowne Street and Yawkey Way. There is a narrow areaway in front of bays one and two along Yawkey Way (Figure 12). An areaway shown in the drawings along Lansdowne Street is only partially extant at the east end. The western section of this areaway was filled in 1925.

The Smith Building is principally defined by a continuous street-level arcade of segmental-arched storefronts. The building is eight bays on Lansdowne Street, four bays plus a one-bay canted corner on Brookline Avenue, and four bays on Yawkey Way. The third bay on Lansdowne Street and the east bay on Yawkey Way each have a squared arch, marking the end of the primary facade. When the building was completed, the arches held large display windows, at least one of which served as a car showroom. At the first story, the brick piers rise from a tall granite plinth to a stilted segmental arch of cast stone. At the second story, there is a molded, cast-stone sill course; a flush cast-stone belt course that trims the piers between the windows; and a simple molded cornice above the second-story windows. A red-brick parapet is terminated with cast-stone coping. Cast-stone panels with raised moldings are set over the entry doors at Brookline Avenue. The cast-stone capitals at the piers consist of shallow, bracketed panels, each with a square floral ornament at the center.

The greatest change to the façade occurred in February 1987, with the application of buff brick over the first story at bays four through six on Lansdowne Street and on Brookline Avenue. An aluminum- and glass-enclosed vestibule and stair of the same date provided access to the basement. The buff brick was partially removed in 2002 from most of the Brookline Avenue elevation, and the remaining buff brick and aluminum and glass vestibule were removed in the winter of 2004-2005, exposing the original red

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pressed-brick and cast-stone arches. The entirety of bay four on Brookline Avenue was filled with brick in 1987. This brick was also removed in the winter of 2004-2005, reopening all of the original arches.

Each street-level entrance and present storefront is articulated by a simple molded surround. The three pedestrian-scale entries on Brookline Avenue have a square-arched surround. At the second story, there are shallow projecting pavilions over each of the three pedestrian entries. The windows are set in groups of three defined by the arched bays below, and are separated by a slightly larger pier with a low pilaster detail trimmed with cast stone. The arched pediment outlined in cast stone and set into the brick wall of the elevator enclosure on Yawkey Way (bay 4) is original. The arched, stepped pediments sitting on the parapet and the stepped corners of the building were all rebuilt in 2009, based on original drawings and historic photographs (Figure 12).

The first two bays on Lansdowne Street were designed as a secondary façade and have no cast-stone detail (Photograph 15). The first bay is set back from the street at an angle and once provided access to an oversized elevator (large enough to hold an automobile and similar to the elevator on Yawkey Way, bay four). The second bay enclosed a stair and has a simple facade with pedestrian doors and a triple window above.

According to the drawings, the original infill at the first-story arches consisted of a multilight transom, divided by wood mullions into three sections that line up with the second-story windows, a single large plate-glass window set on a low marble base, and a side-entry door for pedestrians. Today, the infill at the arches consists of new aluminum, multilight arched transoms, with glass accordion doors in an aluminum frame, suggesting the display windows. The east bay on Yawkey Way has been returned to its original opening dimensions (2009). A large paired window is set in the wall at the second story of this bay.

The original, wood, double-hung windows at the second story were replaced twice before the existing windows were installed (2007 and 2009). Similar to the original second-story windows, the existing replacements have 8/12 double-hung sash; the wider openings facing Brookline Avenue have 12/18 sash. Historic photographs and the original drawings were used to determine the number of lights. The brick mold profile for these windows is based on a remnant of a wood frame.

Paired mahogany doors with multilight upper panels were installed (2007) in the automobile elevator opening on Lansdowne Street. They are based on the original drawings. Paired mahogany doors with two transoms were installed in the Yawkey Way automobile elevator entrance (4 Yawkey Way, 2009). They are similar to historic photographs of the doors, but with changes to allow for proper structural support, and so that one door can be used as a pedestrian entrance.

The interior of the building has been largely altered over many decades of changing tenants. Changes from 2002–2009 have exposed the original structure. Concrete mushroom columns, which provided the building with a floor-load capacity for automobiles, are exposed in most spaces. A 1949 steel bridge that

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spanned a former light well (now covered) and connected the second floor of the Smith Building to the rear of Fenway Park's third-base grandstand has been rebuilt to meet code, using the original steel wall panels and some of the steel structure. Also at the back of the third-base grandstand, the east wall at the second floor has been opened up to Fenway Park (2007), new concessions have been installed, and the roof structure has been replaced. The first-floor wall between the Smith Building and Fenway Park also has been opened up at Gate E. Existing tenants in the remainder of the building include a restaurant at the first floor and basement, a club and ticket office at the first floor, and the Red Sox offices at the basement, first, and second floors.

Two metal-clad automobile elevator doors are hung inside the former north automobile elevator shaft, now a stair.

**(end)**

FENWAY PARK
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

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

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [X] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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

Architecture
Art
Engineering
Entertainment/Recreation
Literature

### Period of Significance

1912-1962

### Significant Dates

1912 (construction of Fenway Park); 1914 (construction of Smith Building);1934 (expansion/renovations); 1947 (addition of lights); 1949 (bridge to Smith Building)

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

Babe Ruth; Ted Williams; Carl Yastrzemski

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

James E. McLaughlin, Architect 1912
Osborn Engineering Company, Engineer 1912, 1934
Charles Logue Building Company, Builder 1912
Coleman Bros., Builder, 1934
Arthur Bowditch (architect of Smith Building), 1914
Janet Marie Smith, 2000s renovations

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the year Fenway Park opened (1912) until 1962, which is the typical 50-year cut-off to allow for historical perspective. Two significant dates are indicated: in 1934, a significant expansion of Fenway Park was completed. A connection was made to the back of the left- field grandstand at Fenway Park from the adjacent building by means of a steel bridge constructed in 1949.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Fenway Park
Fenway Park retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association, and is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local, state, and national levels, fulfilling Criteria A, B, and C. Built in 1912 during the "Golden Age of Ballparks," Fenway Park is the nation's oldest operating major league baseball stadium. In continuous use as a ballpark, it has been the home of the Boston Red Sox since its construction 100 years ago. Once the largest ballpark in the major leagues, it is now one of the smallest, a fact that contributes to a feeling of intimacy that has come to be highly valued by baseball fans. Fenway Park retains its original tapestry brick, two-story facade, its single-deck grandstand (1912 and 1934), general configuration of the original playing field, and urban setting. While it has been altered over the years to upgrade the facility and improve the quality of the baseball experience for the fans as well as the players, the appearance of Fenway Park today is remarkably similar to that of decades ago. For this reason, Fenway Park is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C at the local, state, and national levels as one of two remaining examples of an early 20th-century ballpark (Chicago's Wrigley Field is the other) and as a well-preserved example, in Tapestry Brick with cast-stone trim, of the work of architect James McLaughlin and Osborn Engineering Company. Fenway is also one of two ballparks in Massachusetts that has been in operation for over ninety years.[1]

Fenway Park is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local, state, and national levels under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation, for the leisure activities associated with the game of baseball and all the other related activities that have made the sport "America's pastime" throughout the period of significance. Fenway Park is a traditional cultural site for its association with a series of events that reflect a broad pattern of social activity. The significance of Fenway Park is derived from the role it plays in upholding the customs and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through the generations, both orally and through practice. The customs and practices involve going to Fenway Park, the experience of being there, and following the arc of the Red Sox's long history. Fenway Park is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Massachusetts. Fenway Park is also significant under Criterion A in the areas of Arts and Literature for the paintings, photography, poetry, prose, and other creative expressions that it has inspired. Fenway Park is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion B at the national level for its associations with significant major league baseball players, including Babe Ruth and Ted Williams.

**(continued)**

[1] Wahconah Park, Pittsfield, MA (NR 2005), built in 1919, started as a minor league ball park with seating for 3,500.

Fenway Park maintains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association. Important to a traditional cultural site, the park also has integrity of relationship to the cultural practices from which it derives its significance. It is at Fenway Park itself that the retention and transmittal of those cultural practices occurs. Fenway Park also maintains integrity of the condition of the property required to perform the cultural practices, despite the many alterations the building has undergone.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Boston's Early Ball Fields**
Major league baseball's relationship with Boston goes back to at least 1871, when Boston's first major league ballpark was constructed in the Roxbury section. Called the South End Grounds, it was bounded by Walpole Street, Tremont Street, and Columbus Avenue, a site now occupied by the Ruggles MBTA station. The South End Grounds, rebuilt several times, stood until 1914, and was the first home of the Boston Braves, who played in the National League. The Congress Street Grounds (1890), located in the South Boston neighborhood now known as Fort Point, was home to the Beaneaters for a single major league season, as well as other teams. Boston's third major league ballpark was the Huntington Avenue Grounds (1901), which was near the South End Grounds and operated from the inception of the American League in 1901 to 1911. The Huntington Avenue Grounds were the first home of the Boston Red Sox, who were initially called the Somersets, then the Pilgrims, and finally the Red Sox in 1907. The Huntington Avenue Grounds, located at the corner of Huntington and Rogers Avenues (now containing buildings owned by Northeastern University), featured a 9,000 seat wooden grandstand, and was the scene of the first game of the first World Series in 1903 (Boston Pilgrims vs. Pittsburgh Pirates). The National League (NL) Braves built a new home on Commonwealth Avenue (Braves Field 1915) which seated 40,000. The Red Sox played two of their World Series there in 1915 and 1916, due to a greater seating capacity, while the Braves played *their* World Series at Fenway in 1914 for the same reason.

**The Golden Age of Ballparks**
The so-called "Golden Age of Ballparks" began in 1909, with construction of the first reinforced concrete-and-steel ballparks, which allowed for substantially larger and more fireproof stadiums than had been possible with the earlier wood-frame grandstands. The first reinforced-concrete ballparks were Shibe Park (1909-1970) in Philadelphia and Forbes Field (1909-1970) in Pittsburgh. These were quickly followed by Comiskey Park (1910-1990) in Chicago, Griffith Stadium (1911-1961) in Washington, DC, the Polo Grounds (1911-1963) in New York, Ebbets Field in Brooklyn (1913-1958), and Wrigley Field (originally Weeghman Park, 1914). In 1912, Fenway Park, Crosley Field (Cincinnati; 1912-1970), and Tiger Stadium (originally Navin Field, Detroit; 1912-1999) were all constructed, followed by Braves Field, Boston (1915). The golden age ended with construction of Yankee Stadium (1923–2009) in New York, which was the last ballpark constructed for baseball until the mid-20th century, by which time team owners sought suburban locations with ample parking.

**Fenway Park**
The urban setting of Fenway Park is an essential character-defining feature of an historic ballpark. As opposed to the later regularly shaped, multipurpose stadiums, surfaced with Astroturf and surrounded by acres of parking, Fenway Park is sited near public transportation on what today is considered a relatively small and irregularly shaped parcel, which was bounded by streets on an existing street plan that dated prior to 1908.[2] The

**(continued)**

[2] The street plan appears on the 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map.

irregularities of the site, along with the need to protect property and passersby on the perimeter streets, provide Fenway Park with a variety of quirks (e.g. a short left field) that delight as well as frustrate fans and players, contributing to the excitement of the baseball game. The size and shape of the park also give it the distinction of having its average seat closer to the field than any other major league baseball park. The relatively close quarters translate into a sense of intimacy between the players and the fans. Some have gone so far as to call Fenway Park the best place in the world to watch baseball. Many would agree with Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver, when he exclaimed, "Fenway is the essence of baseball."[3]

Fenway Park stands on former marshland that was purchased from Nathaniel Walker by the Trustees of the Dana Lands in 1884. At the time, Brookline Avenue on the west, and the Boston & Albany Railroad, on the north, were the only transportation corridors shown on a plan by Fuller and Whitney, civil engineers and surveyors. By 1894, the 617,419-square-foot (14.17 acre) Dana parcel, as well as the surrounding land between Brookline Avenue, the railroad tracks, and the Back Bay Fens to the south, had been platted into a street grid that became the Fenway neighborhood. In 1898 and 1906, the Trustees of the Dana Lands mortgaged the property, defaulting in 1910. The mortgage holder, New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, acquired the property at auction for $20,000. On February 10, 1911, the insurance company sold the property to Charles H. Taylor, publisher of the *Boston Globe* and owner of the Boston Red Sox. According to the deed, Taylor set aside approximately 330,000 square feet along Lansdowne Street for Fenway Park, conveying the site to Fenway Realty Trust, of which he was a trustee along with Ashton L. Carr and Arthur C. Wise.

On September 29, 1911, Fenway Realty Trust leased the Fenway Park parcel, along with "the buildings and structures hereafter erected thereon," to the Boston American League Baseball Club (aka the Boston Red Sox), of which John I. Taylor, son of Charles, was the President. The term of the lease was nineteen years at $30,000 per year plus taxes, water rates, insurance, assessments, and public charges. Fenway Realty Trust owned the ballpark until 1923, when they sold it to the Boston American League Baseball Company.

While Fenway Park itself remained under the ownership of Fenway Realty Trust, the Taylors sold the Red Sox to James McAleer and Bob McKay for $150,000 in December of 1911. Thus the Taylor family remained involved in the ballpark, but did not own the team when Fenway Park opened in 1912.

**Charles H. Taylor and John I. Taylor**
A Civil War veteran born in Charlestown, MA, and educated in the public schools, Charles H. Taylor (1846–1921) had previous experience as a printer and with the *Boston Evening Traveler* when he was approached by Eben D. Jordan, one of the initial backers of the *Boston Globe*, to serve as its financial manager. Under Taylor's direction beginning in 1893, the paper broadened its readership by appealing to men and women. When Jordan died in 1895, Charles H. Taylor became the publisher and editor of the *Globe,* and maintained control until his death in 1921.

Charles Taylor also spent time in public service, including serving as Secretary to Governor William Claflin, (1869), being elected a state congressman from Somerville in 1872, and serving as Clerk of the House. Taylor was one of the founders of the Algonquin Club, where he lived toward the end of his life after the death of his wife, Georgiana, in 1919. He and his wife had five children, including a son, John I. Taylor.

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[3] Lane Hartill, "Farewell to Fenway," Christian Science Monitor, July 8, 1999.

In 1904, Charles Taylor bought the Boston Americans, a local baseball team that played at the Huntington Avenue Grounds. Taylor established his son John as president, apparently to provide him with a distraction. Known as a playboy, John had none of his father's business sense or ambition. Unfortunately, under John's direction, the team foundered, managers and players quit, and eventually his father stepped in and sent him to Europe. The team was eventually sold in 1911, but not before the father made a clever real estate maneuver. While John Taylor systematically deconstructed the World Series-winning team of 1903, his father was responsible for opening up development of the Fenway neighborhood.

John I. Taylor was responsible for renaming the team the Red Sox in 1907, and for adopting the namesake apparel. "As the *Boston Journal* noted, "It will be an aggressive, blazing color scheme that will be heard farther than the chortle of the fan when the home team wins out in the fifteenth inning." [Red Sox Century, p. 68]

The Taylor family sold shares of the team in 1911, with the agreement that John would stay on as a vice-president. Just as the grass from the Huntington Avenue Grounds was moved to the new ballpark, Taylor insisted that the orientation of the field must follow that of the Grounds with third base due north, keeping the sun out of the batter's eyes, thus creating a large outfield in center and right. As had been the tradition in Boston, the new ballpark was named for its location. John Taylor reportedly said, "It's in the Fenway section isn't it? Then call it Fenway Park."

In their first year at Fenway Park, 1912, the Red Sox won the World Series, beating the New York Giants.

**Fenway Park**
Construction of Fenway Park began on September 25, 1911.[4] Seven months later, it opened with a capacity of 24,400, not including standing room. The main concrete pavilion had a capacity of 11,400, dwarfing that of the Huntington Avenue Grounds. Boston Mayor John Francis "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald kicked off the first official game on April 20th, before a crowd of 27,000, by throwing the first ceremonial pitch. Newspaper coverage on Opening Day was sparse, due to the unfolding tragic news of the sinking of the *Titanic* on April 14.

**Architecture**
Designed by James E. McLaughlin, the Fenway Park façade is a good and intact example of the Tapestry Brick style. Typically built in red brick with cast-stone or stucco detail, Tapestry Brick is characterized by walls laid in decorative brick patterns, often in one plane, and ornamented by stucco accents that contrast with the brick. While at times Tapestry Brick was used as a modest architectural expression, Fenway Park exhibits more exuberant ornamentation, such as projecting and recessed courses or planes of brick, diamond patterns in brick and stucco, hood molds over the entrance arches, and the pedimented frames, which now hold commemorative plaques. Tapestry Brick was popular in the 1910s and 1920s in particular, and McLaughlin used the style on three Boston structures he designed in the same year, Fenway Park, the Fenway Garage (next door to Fenway Park), and the Benedict Fenwick School in Dorchester (NR, 2004).

**Early Years**
Built on landfill at a cost of $650,000, the dimensions of the original ballpark are remarkably consistent with those of today. Measuring from home plate, the original dimensions were: left-field foul line, 310 feet; left-center

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[4] Stout, *Fenway 1912* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2011), p. 23

field, 388 feet (today 379); center field, 488 feet (390); deepest right-center field, 402 feet (380); right-field foul line 302 feet; and backstop, 52 feet. The steel and concrete, single-deck grandstand was lined with dark-green oak seats. Additional seating consisted of a covered pavilion in right field and wooden bleachers in center field. The 1912 atlas shows a concrete grandstand in right field and wooden bleachers adjacent to Yawkey Way. However, a series of photos dated 9/28/1912, which together comprise a panorama, show the left-field open bleachers finished, the right-field grandstand with a roof, and right-field and center-field bleachers completed. A 1914 photo shows bench seats in the right-field, covered grandstand. It is reported that some of the original bleachers were moved to Fenway Park from the Huntington Avenue Grounds, along with the grass sod for the infield.[5] A 25-foot-high left-field fence rose along Lansdowne Street, behind a ten-foot embankment that soon became known as "Duffy's Cliff" in honor of Sox outfielder Duffy Lewis, who used it to great advantage during his years with the Red Sox (1910-1917). Fans also used the embankment as a place to picnic and watch the game before such unprotected proximity was discontinued in the 1930s, although, during the "dead ball" era prior to 1920 it was unlikely that fans were in danger. For the 1912 World Series, approximately six rows of benches were installed at Duffy's Cliff along Lansdowne Street.

**Architect, Engineers and Contractors**
The designers of Fenway Park were Osborn Engineering Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and Boston architect James E. McLaughlin. The builder was the Charles Logue Building Company in 1912, and Coleman Bros. in 1934.

Osborn Engineering Company, still in operation as Cleveland's oldest civil engineering firm, was founded in 1892 by Frank Chittendon Osborn (1857-1922). Initially specializing in bridge design, the company quickly expanded into industrial plants and stadium structures. The firm became one of the nation's foremost designers of major league, municipal, and collegiate stadiums and ballparks, and was a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete. According to a company history, "between 1909 and 1970, Osborn Engineering designed and monitored the construction of more stadiums and ballparks than any other company in the country."[6] The company's first stadium project was the replacement of the wooden grandstand at Cleveland's League Park (1891-1946) with a much larger and safer concrete and steel version in 1909. That project was followed by New York's Polo Grounds, Washington's Griffith Stadium (both in 1911), Detroit's Navin Field, and Fenway Park (both in 1912). In 1915, Osborn Engineering designed Boston's Braves Field, which, with a capacity of 40,000, was considered the country's first "Super Stadium." Other ballparks of the "Golden Age" designed by Osborn Engineering include New York's Yankee Stadium (1923-2009), the first in the country to have a three-deck grandstand.

Architect James E. McLaughlin, who also designed the abutting Fenway Garage Company building (1912; 175 Ipswich Street) for the Taylors, was born in Nova Scotia to Irish parents. By 1893, he was listed as a draughtsman in the Boston City Directory. In the 1910s, when he practiced independently as an architect, his commissions were published in the periodical *The American Architect*. A prolific architect, McLaughlin has been

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[5] ibid, p. 355
[6] A Century of Progress: Meeting the Challenges of the Times: A History of the Osborn Engineering Company, 1892-1992. Cleveland, OH: Osborn Engineering Co., 1992.

identified (MACRIS) as the designer of 39 buildings in the greater Boston area. His work includes libraries, schools, dormitories, armories, single and multifamily residences, town halls, hospitals, and commercial blocks. Among his Boston commissions are the Commonwealth Armory (BOS. 8068; 1916, demolished), South Terminal Station (1918), the Benedict Fenwick School (BOS.6538; 1912, NR 2004), Boston Public Latin High School (BOS.7517, 1922), and the Boston Trade School (BOS.7874; 1917). He also designed his own house in Brookline (now Brighton), where he lived from 1914 until his death in 1966. Fenway Park and the Fenway Garage Company building are both designed in the Tapestry Brick style, which enlivens and decorates the surface of brick buildings through the use of integral panels and patterns rather than the application of extraneous ornament.

The Charles Logue Building Company was founded by the Irish-born Charles Logue, who, it seems, was able to capitalize on his Irish connections. The company was commissioned by the Boston Archdiocese to build structures for the Boston College campus and churches elsewhere in the diocese. The firm also was favored by John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald when he was mayor of Boston. Coleman Brothers worked on several large public works projects including work for the MBTA, the Charles River Dam, water and sewer projects and repairs to Boston Drydock No. 1 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. The Coleman Brothers are listed in the MACRIS database as the builder for two buildings: Boston Elevated Railway Emergency Garage in Brookline, 1926 (BKL.2352), and a garage in the Leather District, 109–153 Lincoln Street, 1956 (BOS.1849). The firm is also noted as the contractor on the plaque on the Congress Street Bridge, in Boston. Now known as Coleman Engineering, it is managed by the fifth generation of the Coleman family.

**Improvements to Fenway Park**

In order to remain in use as a viable venue for major league baseball, Fenway Park has been repaired, altered, and upgraded many times over the past century. The wooden bleachers in right field burned in 1926 and were replaced with a concrete grandstand. However, the first significant renovation took place in 1934 under the ownership of Thomas Yawkey. The designer was again Osborn Engineering Company, and the builder was Coleman Brothers. It is said that a second deck was in the original design (1912) and was not built in order to meet the Opening Day deadline.[7] This may be an error since a second deck does appear on some of the 1933 Osborn drawings and a note on the building permit instructs that the drawings should "Show outline of future upper deck."[8] In addition, a fire in January 1934, in the middle of the expansion, disrupted the construction schedule and made it more difficult to complete all of the work for Opening Day, 1934. The 1938 Bromley atlas shows the property as "New Fenway Park."

Yawkey spent an estimated $1.25 million on the renovations, which included enlarging the grandstand by extending it along right field, replacing wooden bleachers with concrete and steel structures, painting the interior

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[7] According to Stout, *Fenway 1912*, the second deck was determined to be too expensive at the time, so the second deck was not built but the structure to support the deck was in place–p. 31.
[8] Building Permit, 2/19/1934.

of the ballpark light green, and constructing the enormous wall along left field (Figures 5) that later (1947) became popularly known as the "Green Monster." Rising 37 feet high and running 240 feet along Lansdowne Street, the new wall replaced its 25-foot predecessor (Figure 8), which was destroyed by a four-alarm fire on January 5, 1934, during the renovations. Nevertheless, the park was ready to open for the season on April 17, 1934. The new wall, consisting of a frame structure clad with tin, added excitement and unpredictability to the game. Balls hitting the wooden framework bounced back toward the infield, but those hitting the tin dropped straight down.

The manual scoreboard was incorporated into the new wall, which continues to be operated by hand to this day, displaying the line score and scores of other American League and National League games. One of the two oldest manual scoreboards in the majors (the other is at Wrigley Field in Chicago), it is manned from a long corridor that is accessed from the field by a small door in the wall. Inside, the concrete walls are covered with signatures of players and other baseball-related graffiti. Duffy's Cliff in front of the old wall was greatly reduced as part of the 1934 renovation, after which time fans were no longer allowed on the field during the game. In 1936, a 23-foot-high net was erected above the wall to further protect people and property on Lansdowne Street. A ladder near the upper-left corner of the scoreboard—thirteen feet above ground—rose to the top of the wall, and was used to provide access to the netting to remove lodged balls. The ladder remains to this day, and balls that hit the ladder are in play.

Another alteration included shortening right field to make room for bullpens (1939-40). The new bullpens were known as "Williamsburg" because they reduced the distance to the right-field fence, increasing the odds that the legendary left-hand hitter, Ted Williams, would hit more home runs. In 1946-47, rooftop boxes were added above the grandstand. The same year, the massive left-field wall, which had been covered with advertisements that made it difficult for players to see the ball, was painted green, acquiring its new name "The Green Monster." At the same time, the initials of owners Thomas A. Yawkey and his wife Jean R. Yawkey were written in Morse Code along the side of the scoreboard. Another 1947 improvement was the installation of lighting (at a cost of $90,000), allowing the first night game to be played at Fenway Park on June 13 of that year. Fenway Park was late to adopt this technology. Crosley Field in Cincinnati, the first major league ballpark to host a night game, was lit in 1935. By 1941, nine of the fourteen major league ballparks had lights for night games. Braves Field had lights installed in 1946.

Late 20th-century changes at Fenway Park include the installation of an electronic message/score board (24' by 40') above the centerfield bleachers and covering the Green Monster with hard plastic panels on the upper surface and rubber pads on the lower portion (1976). The original tin surface, cut into small rectangles and mounted on wood, was sold as souvenirs with proceeds going the Red Sox's official charity, the Jimmy Fund for children's cancer research. The 1980s saw reconstruction of the clubhouse, new rooftop boxes and private suites above the grandstand, and a glassed-in seating section called the 600 Club (and later renamed the .406 Club for Ted Williams' record batting average), along with a new press box behind home plate. Improvements to the ballpark, including service areas, expanded concourses, structural work, utilities, seats, rooftop seating, and modern club areas, have been ongoing since New England Sports Ventures, led by John W. Henry, Tom Werner, and Larry Lucchino, acquired the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park in 2002.

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**Rehabilitation 2002 - 2011**

The challenge going forward from 2002 was to preserve Fenway Park while creating a 21st-century facility with the amenities that would satisfy fans and players. The task required a deft touch, respecting the character-defining features of the historic ballpark, while making necessary improvements to the park's seating, facilities, and infrastructure. This was orchestrated by Janet Marie Smith, former Red Sox Vice President of planning and development, who understood the various pieces of the puzzle:

> Seldom has a building and its tenant been so intricately intertwined as Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox. Fenway Park has gone largely unchanged since 1912, at least from a baseball perspective. Baseball is one of the few sports where the playing field has no set dimensions. Shoe horned into an irregular city block a century ago, the asymmetrical park has literally shaped Red Sox games and is memorable due to fans' intimate relationship to the field. The 1934 addition of the left field wall has defined Boston Baseball ever since its creation. Major League sports and the economics that surround them have challenged venues to increase the opportunities for premium seating, television broadcasts, fan amenities and athletic expectations. Fenway Park has been elastic enough to absorb change without losing its significant character and appeal. This last decade of renovations, repairs, additions and subtractions by the Boston Red Sox, guided by the National Park Service, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Boston Landmarks Commission and the Boston Redevelopment Authority, is a stellar example of a creative reuse of a district of buildings and a renovation of a historic structure that will improve the chance that Fenway Park can host Red Sox baseball far into the future and compare favorably with new baseball parks. The project demonstrates the power of historic preservation from an economic, social, architectural and cultural perspective.[9]

**Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox Owners**

From its groundbreaking in 1911 to the present day, Fenway Park has been the home of the Boston Red Sox. Only Wrigley Field/Chicago Cubs, and, until recently, Yankee Stadium (demolished 2010)/New York Yankees, share the same longstanding association of a ballpark with a team. Charles Taylor, the man behind the building of Fenway Park, purchased the team from Henry Killilea in 1904. Taylor's son John held the title of President and handled the day-to-day operation of the ball club until it was sold in December of 1911 to a group headed by James McAleer (a former outfielder) and Bob McKay (secretary of the American League). Subsequent owners included Harry Frazee (1916-1923), John Quinn (1923-1932), and Thomas A. Yawkey/Jean R. Yawkey/Yawkey Trust (1933-2002). Thomas Yawkey, heir to a timber and ore fortune, is credited with rebuilding the team as well as the ballpark. He was active until his death in 1976, at which time Jersey Street, upon which the main façade of the ballpark faces, was renamed Yawkey Way in his honor. His widow Jean Yawkey owned the team until her death in 1992 and the current owners acquired the majority interest in the Red Sox and Fenway Park in 2002 from the Yawkey Trust, which at the time was led by John L. Harrington, CEO of the Red Sox. The current owners, John W. Henry, Thomas Werner, and Larry Lucchino,

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[9] Janet Marie Smith, conversation 10/20/2011.

committed themselves to bringing a world championship to Boston and to remaining at Fenway Park if they found that plan to be feasible. Their commitment to Fenway Park and the result of almost a decade of improvements have impressed even the most skeptical in the press and in the fan base. Conditions for both the fans and ballplayers have improved beyond expectation, and Fenway has been rewarded with more than 700 consecutive sellout crowds, dating back to May 2003.

**Significant Players**

Particularly significant players associated with Fenway Park include Smoky Joe Wood and Hall-of-Famers Tris Speaker, Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, and Carl Yastrzemski. Smoky Joe Wood, a Red Sox pitcher (1908-1915) achieved a record of 34–5 in 1912, and won three games in the 1912 World Series. Tris Speaker played great defensive center field for the Sox from 1908 to 1916, including his contributions to the 1912 and 1915 World Series victories. Babe Ruth, perhaps the best-known name in baseball, played for the Red Sox from 1914 to 1919, when he was sold to the Yankees by Sox owner Harry Frazee. Ruth played in three World Series for the Red Sox as a pitcher, and seven during his years with the Yankees (1920-1934). His record of 714 career home runs stood for almost forty years until the Atlanta Braves' Hank Aaron hit number 715 in 1974. Fenway Park is the only remaining home field associated with the career of Babe Ruth. In 1946, Williams (Figure 8), one of baseball's greatest batters and the last to hit over .400 in a season (.406 in 1941), hit the longest home run in Fenway Park history. The red seat at the location where the ball landed (section 42, row 37, seat 21) marks the spot amidst a sea of blue seats. Williams played for the Red Sox from 1939 through 1960, except for breaks when he served as a Marine pilot in World War II and Korea. In April 2004, the city of Boston and the Red Sox commemorated Williams with a large bronze statue that was installed on Van Ness Street outside Gate B. In 2010, another statue was installed on Van Ness Street. It features the teammates of the 1946 season, Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio, and Johnny Pesky.

Carl Yastrzemski won the most valuable player award and the Triple Crown (leading the league in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average) in 1967 as he carried the team to the World Series. It was that season that is credited with bringing a love of the Red Sox and Fenway Park back to life, as the team was moribund for many years prior to "The Impossible Dream" year in which the Red Sox rose from next-to-last to the World Series, winning the pennant on the final day of the season.

**The Cultural Significance of Fenway Park**

Fenway Park has acquired significance beyond its role as the place where the Boston Red Sox play baseball. It is tied to a certain mysterious symbiosis in the relationship between the team and Red Sox fans and an entire region, and Fenway Park has become a place of pilgrimage, a place to experience even when there is no baseball game underway. The crowds of more than 200,000 visitors that tour the ballpark each year do not take into account those who, when the ballpark is closed, walk by, come in tour buses or by car, get out, take pictures of the park, or take their own photo at Fenway Park. This phenomenon seems to justify its being called "New England's tribal meeting place."

The nature of the experience of Fenway Park derives from the intimacy of the space and the proximity of the fans to the team (as well as to each other,) and from the pleasure of being a part of the continuum in the team's history as well as the past longstanding agony of enduring the team's failures. All are participants in whatever transpires at Fenway. The tradition of attending Red Sox games at Fenway Park (and perhaps the actual tickets

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to the seats) is passed down through multiple generations, and the shared experience of children attending with their parents or grandparents creates a cherished memory. It is indeed something more than nostalgia. Marty Nolan, a *Boston Globe* reporter, described his experiences attending with his father: to him they were ". . . part of his gift to me, the gift of dreams."[10] In addition to the game itself, there are rituals (such as arriving at Fenway Park hours before the first pitch) that are repeated and passed from long-time fans to those who are at Fenway for their first time. For Nolan, they include, ". . . rituals of early arrival, preparing a scorecard, shutting off the outside world, nine innings of therapy, a precise liturgy of hope and redemption."[11]

The use of religious terminology when talking of Fenway Park is not uncommon. Michael Ian Boerer discussed Fenway Park as a public symbol:

> Walking around the outside of Fenway Park, even during the offseason or when the Red Sox are out of town, you get the feeling that you are treading on sacred ground, and that by being there you are doing something important. Of course, it might not be as important as, say, ending world hunger or halting global warming. But there is a certain buzz around Fenway that demands onlookers to take notice of it and recognize that it is a place that is important to the people of Boston who, since 1912, have invested not only time and money, but meaning and value into it. Sometimes a ballpark is more than just a place to watch baseball when there is nothing better to do. Sometimes it can be an important place, a symbol that signifies the culture of an entire city.[12]

Sam Allis of the *Boston Globe* seems to concur with Borer:

> The most sacred secular space in Boston is Fenway Park. No surprise here. You sense its aura every time you near it. It was not sacred when it opened, but through years of heartbreak and rare success . . . it burrowed deep into our psyche and forged a bond with us more profound than anything else in the city. This attachment transcends baseball.[13]

Red Sox fan Gary Holmes put it this way after the team shockingly failed to make the playoffs in 2011:

**(continued)**

[10] Nolan, Martin F., "Unforgettable Fenway. First Impressions Last Forever," *Boston Globe*, April 8, 1990, 41.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Borer, Michael Ian, "Important Places and Their Public Faces: Understanding Fenway Park as a Public Symbol." *The Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 39, no. 2 (April 2006), 205.
[13] Allis, Sam. 'Holy Hub's Hot Spots; Fenway Park and other Sacred Secular Spaces,' *Boston Globe*, December 4, 2005, p. 3.

> It's hard to unpack the emotional baggage that comes from rooting for a team, but for me there is the fact that the Red Sox are the one constant in my life. As a little boy I went to Fenway Park with my parents – always the most exciting night of the summer. As a teen I went there with friends and girlfriends. I brought my wife there, and then in a proud moment introduced my own son to Fenway Park. One of the highlights of my life was attending the 2007 World Series there. Strangers live in my childhood home, my church has been torn down and my elementary school has been converted into condominiums, but Fenway endures in all the key essentials. [14]

Fenway Park has been the venue for a variety of events throughout its history, including minor league baseball, football games, soccer and ice hockey matches, concerts, political and religious rallies, and personal celebrations. The Red Sox have recognized the intrinsic attraction that the park holds for fans, and provide guided tours of the empty ballpark throughout the year, as well as making the park available for corporate functions, birthday parties, and other special occasions. Just holding an event at Fenway makes that experience unique.

**Arts and Literature**

Fenway Park has been the subject of paintings and photographs and the muse for countless newspaper and magazine articles, blog posts, poems and prose, photographic and sociological studies, graduate school theses, films, as well as the model for recent ballparks—hugely successful Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore, in particular. Most quoted is John Updike's ode to Ted Williams' last game in a piece for the *New Yorker* in 1960. It begins, 'Fenway Park, in Boston, is a lyric little bandbox of a ballpark. Everything is painted green and seems in curiously sharp focus, like the inside of an old-fashioned peeping-type Easter Egg. It was built in 1912 and rebuilt in 1934, and offers as do most Boston artifacts, a compromise between Man's Euclidean determinations and Nature's beguiling irregularities."[15] Songs have been written, minor league and hometown ballparks around the world have been outfitted with "Green Monsters," people want to propose marriage on the pitcher's mound, and preservation groups have rallied to its defense. Fenway Park itself is a draw and elicits a response from people, fan or not, unlike any other ballpark in the United States.

**John B. Smith Building**

The Honorable John B. Smith (1838-1914) built the adjoining building at the west side of Fenway Park. Smith was born in Saxton's River, VT, where his father was a woolen manufacturer. John, after school in Hillsborough and at Francestown Academy, became a successful textile manufacturer in his own right (Contoocook Mills), as well as a prominent citizen, savings bank president, benefactor of his church, and property owner in New Hampshire and Boston, including the fine home he built for his family in 1891. His popularity earned him the Republican nomination for Governor in 1892, and he was successful in his campaign.[16]

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[14] Holmes, Gary, "Why We Love Baseball," http://garyholmes76-eisd.posterous.com/why-we-love-baseball Posted Sept. 29, 2011.

[15] Updike, John. "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu." *New Yorker*, October 22, 1960, 109.

[16] http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/glikeness/smitjohn.html
Publications - A Guide to Likenesses of New Hampshire Officials and Governors on Public Display at the Legislative Office Building and the State House Concord, New Hampshire, to 1998. Compiled by Russell Bastedo, State Curator,1998.

In 1926, his son Norman of Brookline, Massachusetts, sold the elegant family home to the town of Hillsborough for one dollar, with the condition that the structure be used as a community center. It currently houses the Fuller Public Library.

The land where the John B. Smith Building now stands changed hands many times from the late 19th century through the early 20th century. In 1884, according to a plan drawn by Fuller and Whitney, a civil engineering and surveying company, the land was owned by Cecil C. Barrett, and was a marsh bordered by Brookline Avenue and the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks. By 1894 the former marsh had been divided into approximately rectangular plots. The section where the Smith Building would be built was sold to John C. Haynes by the William W. Burrage Trustees (ca. 1884-1885). In 1911, the year Fenway Park was built, the Trustees of the estate of John C. Haynes controlled the land. In April 1911, Charles Taylor (owner of the adjacent Fenway Park site) sold a 54.5-square-foot parcel to the Haynes Trustees that was combined with the remainder of their parcel. On October 1, 1912, the Haynes Trustees sold the property as well as a plot across Lansdowne Street to J. Sumner Draper of Milton. Draper sold it soon afterwards, on January 20, 1913, to John B. Smith of Hillsborough, NH.

In 1914 the building was constructed for the Hon. John B. Smith, to the design of architect Arthur H. Bowditch, with the assistance of National Fireproofing Co., Engineers. Bowditch was a notable Boston architect with a long and prolific career. He designed a variety of buildings in Boston and Brookline, most notably the Lenox Hotel and Paramount Theatre. He also designed various apartment buildings, automobile showrooms, and numerous commercial buildings in Boston's downtown Commercial Palace District, as well as in Coolidge Corner in Brookline.

**Smith Building Occupants**

The Smith building was built on the 22,471-square-foot property, and housed the addresses 70-80 Lansdowne Street, 64-76 Brookline Avenue, and 2-6 Jersey Street. The earliest tenants included a number of automobile-related businesses and typically at least one auto dealer. Johns Manville, a roofing, siding, and insulation manufacturer, was located here in the first couple of years. It is assumed that Johns Manville had a sales office here. A series of car and car parts dealers moved in and out over the next years, businesses fueled by the rising popularity of the automobile and increasing suburbanization. Some of the businesses were listed in city directories as wholesale dealers, while others may have been retail or wholesale. Many of the businesses were there for only a short while, but when they left, they were replaced by other automobile companies with specialties from tires to motor parts to speedometers.

From the end of the 1920s through the 1930s, the tenants in the Smith Building diversified slightly, but remained primarily industrial. The New England Distributing Company, purveyors of Spartan radios, and Kayko neon signs moved in during the late 1920s. By 1942, while there were still three car-related businesses in the building, there were also tenants from other industries, including two law firms. Six Jersey Street was shared by the two law offices and Kinnear Manufacturing Company, makers of Rolling Steel Doors. The Brookline Avenue storefronts included battery manufacturers, pump manufacturers, the Boston Refrigerator Company, and the Read Machinery Company of New England. At 70 Lansdowne Street was the Great Eastern

**(continued)**

Bedding Company. Evidence of the first physical connection to Fenway Park is found in a building permit filed on January 15, 1948, which called for ". . . cutting thru one opening for fire doors from 6 Jersey St to Park Offices."

By the 1940s the building was also a media headquarters, with 70 Lansdowne Street housing WMEX Broadcasting Station, World-Wide Broadcasting Corporation, General Television Corporation Radio Research, and W One X G Broadcasting Station. As early as 1930, the city directory lists the Shortwave and Television Laboratory, Incorporated, at this address. The first simultaneous transmission of a radio and television signal originated from this building on February 5, 1930. Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1937 and 1951 indicate that the broadcasting studios were on the second floor of the building. This space was no doubt desirable for broadcasting because of its proximity to Fenway Park. On May 11, 1949, a building permit was filed to remodel the entrance of 4 Jersey Street and to construct a connecting steel passageway from the second floor to the Fenway Park grandstand, spanning an open light court to the Smith Building. Designed by architect Albert E. West, the steel bridge created a shortcut for the media to get from their offices into the ballpark without going outside and around to the Gate A or Gate E entrance. By 1991, the second-floor studios housed the Campbell Sports Network and the New England Sports Network.

Another long-term tenant was the candlepin bowling alley in the basement. While it is not listed in city directories before 1956, the Sanborn Insurance maps show a basement bowling alley as early as 1937. In 1956, Kenmore Bowladrome, with Morris Vigoda as treasurer, moved from 1260 Boylston Street to 82 Lansdowne Street and remained until the early 1980s. The Kenmore Bowladrome filed drawings for a bowling alley at the Smith building in November 1952, and it is assumed they may have operated from two locations until 1956. The bowling alley closed in 2004 under the name Ryan Family Amusements.

By 1950, the Smith building held no auto-related businesses, but the businesses were still primarily blue-collar. Two tool manufacturers, a wholesale bicycle distributor, and a commercial refrigeration company shared the building with the broadcasting studios and the bowling alley. On January 31, 1955, the estate of Norman B. Smith sold the property after 41 years in this family, to Jeano, Inc., a name that is still identified with this building. Directors of Jeano, Inc. included Tom and Jean Yawkey and others from the Red Sox organization. By 1960 the tenants were an eclectic mix: a tool supplier, meat canner, sign maker, tailor, shoe-repair company, stationery store, and the Charles River Press joined the broadcasting studio and bowling alley.

In 1962 Jeano, Inc. sold the real estate to Kenmore Square Realty, Inc., subject to several leases including those providing for office space for Thomas A. and Jean R. Yawkey. Through the 1970s the building continued its transition from one oriented towards cars and industry to one devoted to entertainment. In 1970 it held a technical school and motorcycle dealer as well as the same stationery store, the Boston Patriots Football Club, the Kings Row Lounge, and the Red Sox advance ticket sales office.

On February 12, 1980, Kenmore Square Realty, Incorporated, sold the building to the Boston Red Sox Baseball Club for $1.1 million. In 1981, 70 Brookline Avenue is listed in the Boston City Directory as Fenway Park. At 78 Lansdowne Street was the Lansdowne Shop, selling gifts and souvenirs. At 4 Yawkey Way were Red Sox advance ticket sales, and at 6 Yawkey Way was an electrical company, harkening back to the building's earlier character. Jersey Street was renamed Yawkey Way in 1976, after Tom Yawkey, owner

**(continued)**

of the Red Sox from 1933 until his death in 1976. The Yawkey Trust owned the team until 2002. By 1987 the building had left its industrial past behind, and was occupied by two souvenir shops, a bar, WMRE Radio, Campbell Sport Network, New England Sport Network, and three office supplies stores. With the exception of the office supplies stores, the same tenants remained in 1991, making the transition complete. In 2007, when the back wall of Fenway Park's left-field grandstand was opened up to the second floor of the Smith Building, the integration of the two structures was complete.

Today, the Red Sox offices are located on the basement, first, and second floors; the Red Sox ticket office and The Absolut Clubhouse are located on the first floor; a new visiting-team batting cage was excavated at the basement level; and New England Sports Network studios moved to Watertown, MA. A recent tenant in the building is the restaurant Game On!, which is located on the first floor and basement of the building.

**Fenway Park's Future at Risk 1960s-2002**

Fenway Park was perpetually under threat of demolition beginning as early as the 1960s. Favored ideas called for a new stadium built either in the suburbs or in South Boston as part of a megaplex, which would include a football stadium for the Boston (now New England) Patriots. The popular myth of the new-stadium proponents was that a stadium would first create jobs in its construction then bring new income to team owners, which would then be converted into star players, bringing the team success and the associated city the intangible benefits of supporting a winning team. Unfortunately, this generally takes the shape of buying the business a new home, at the expense of taxpayers, who pay twice: once through their taxes, and again at the stadium. The 1960s brought such a threat to Fenway, and in the late 1990s the threat almost became a reality.

Ironically, while Fenway Park was threatened, it became the prototype for many new ballparks that sought to imitate or capture some of the special aura of the historic park. In Baltimore, Oriole Park at Camden Yards (1992) was considered the first in the return to a ballpark, reversing the stadium building rush. Fenway Park was the inspiration for Camden Yards. Incorporated into the extant downtown architecture while recreating historic ballpark features in a structure that provides modern amenities, Camden Yards was praised and imitated throughout the decade. This recent trend is represented by celebrated new ballparks such as those in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, among other cities, which have become smaller and highlight their urban locations with views to downtown while offering a comfortable setting. Ironically, many of these newer parks have replaced stadiums built as recently as the 1970s. Imitation has gone so far that replicas of Fenway Park and of the Green Monster have been built for whiffleball and softball fields. What the Red Sox owners at the time did not appreciate was that they had the genuine article in their possession.

**Save Fenway Park!**

Those who did appreciate Fenway Park came together in 1997, not only to defend the ballpark from destruction, but also to educate fans, taxpayers, team owners, and politicians that Fenway could and should be renovated. Save Fenway Park! (SFP!), brainchild of the Boston Preservation Alliance, stood as advocates for the ballpark with rallies, research, public forums, a design symposium, and by speaking out whenever a threat to Fenway was reported in the news or was mentioned by the ownership. Threats to the historic ballpark frequently led the television news and appeared in the local papers for years, often on page one above the fold.

SFP!'s argument was that the requirements of a modern ballpark, which the owners claimed made a new structure a necessity (such as a certain number of luxury suites, improved concessions and fan services, larger

**(continued)**

clubhouses, and improved service access) could indeed be met in a renovated ballpark on site. While the team argued for the City of Boston to take land by eminent domain from Yawkey Way west to Kilmarnock Street and south to Boylston Street, SFP! countered with ideas for keeping Fenway right where it was. SFP! proposed either a historic preservation approach, or a more elaborate reconstruction. Neither plan was projected to cost anywhere near the $700 million plan presented by the Red Sox to the legislature in July 2000, when the team went to the State House in search of funds. Both the weight of the request and the need for a loan for the balance toppled the plan, as the Boston City Council was not interested in handing over the land, and the legislature was not going to go beyond the $100 million recently awarded to the New England Patriots for infrastructure at their new football stadium. As the Red Sox went up for sale, speculation about new owners was rabid as the team prepared to change ownership for the first time in 68 years. Ultimately, New England Sports Ventures— headed by John Henry, an owner of baseball's Florida Marlins, television producer Tom Werner, and Larry Lucchino, past owner of the Orioles and Padres—was chosen as the new team to become the stewards of the most treasured local institution.

The congruence of fans, preservationists, neighbors, and agencies coming together to fight for Fenway combined with the timing and absolute intolerance for taxpayer money to fund a private business that showed no evidence of future return to the taxpayers finally convinced the Yawkey ownership to sell the team and Fenway Park. New England Sports Ventures brought architect and urban planner Janet Marie Smith into the group. Responsible for restoring the nation's appreciation of the early 20th-century ballparks in her design for Camden Yards, she also had a love of Fenway Park. She was working for a group whose mantra was "do no harm" as it explored ways to improve conditions at the ballpark.

In 2000, Save Fenway Park! conducted a charrette, which proposed design alternatives to the looming new stadium, and in 2002 produced 'Homefield Advantage,' which outlined the potential financial success of retaining Fenway Park and the strong emotional connections of fans to the park. Armed with this data, SFP! met in early 2002 with the ownership group, which showed more respect for their ideas than had been shown by the previous owners, so intent on securing a new stadium at any cost. SFP!s ideas were a springboard to New England Sports Venture's plans to renovate. It took more than seven years from the founding of SFP! to the owners' announcement, in March of 2005, that Fenway Park would remain the home of the team for generations to come. They were years marked by dozens of Monday night meetings, cold pizzas, hours of strategizing and envelope stuffing, letter writing, research, and refuting any claims that Fenway could not be saved. Ultimately, ownership decided to take on a ten-year improvement program, which rejuvenated the ballpark and love of baseball in the region. The team went on to win the World Series in 2004, for the first time in 86 years, and again in 2007.

Fenway Park will celebrate its centennial in 2012. The players will change from this year to next, but fans will flock to a Fenway Park that has never stopped evolving and will be there seemingly forever.

**(continued)**

**ADDENDUM**

The cultural importance of Fenway Park is found in the relationship between the Boston Red Sox, one of the most storied teams in sport's history, and its legions of fans in Boston and throughout the region. Fenway Park is not associated with a traditional cultural group and is not being nominated for significance as a Traditional Cultural Property as defined in the National Register Bulletin "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties."

**(end)**

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

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

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Smith Building, 2-4 Yawkey Way
1629/199; 2515/163; 2705/369; 3517/91; 3674/267; 3702/522-3; 3702/523-24; 6210/581; 6575/268; 6857/339; 6916/356; 7030/171; 7030/173; 7671/392; 7671/398; 7671/402; 7720/96; 9390/280

**(continued)**

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The Boston Red Sox hold assorted Fenway Park drawings; most are blueprints and blacklines, from 1912-2011. Among these are:

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FENWAY PARK
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS): HPCA # 16,930**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
__X__ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _ MHC # BOS.7709

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 8.12 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

**BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE**

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 19T | 327127 | 4690407 |
| 2 | 19T | 327160 | 4690445 |
| 3 | 19T | 327367 | 4690435 |
| 4 | 19T | 327378 | 4690332 |
| 5. | 19T | 327172 | 4690272 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Includes parcels 0504199000 (Smith building) and 0504203000 (Fenway Park), and is bounded by Lansdowne Street, Brookline Avenue, Yawkey Way, and Van Ness Street

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundaries include the site of Fenway Park and the John B. Smith Building, which represent the buildings' original parcels when they were constructed.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Donovan, Rachel Consolloy Nugent, Erika Tarlin; with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2011

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

e-mail

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Fenway Park

**City or Vicinity:** Boston

**County:** Suffolk **State:** MA

**Photographer:** Erika Tarlin, Tremont Preservation Services

**Date Photographed:** September/October 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of 31. Yawkey Way façade, facing SE.
2 of 31. Yawkey Way façade, center pavilion, facing E.
3 of 31. Yawkey Way façade, north pavilion, facing E.
4 of 31. Yawkey Way façade, south pavilion, facing E.
5 of 31. Yawkey Way , west elevation, facing N.
6 of 31. Yawkey Way, west elevation, facing S.
7 of 31. Gate D ramp, corner of Yawkey Way and Van Ness Street, facing NE.
8 of 31. Van Ness Street, south elevation, facing NE.

9 of 31. Gate B, Van Ness and Ipswich streets, facing NW.
10 of 31. Van Ness Street, south elevation, facing W.
11 of 31. Gate C, Lansdowne Street elevation, facing S.
12 of 31. Lansdowne Street elevation, facing W.
13 of 31. Lansdowne Street elevation, facing W.
14 of 31. Lansdowne Street elevation, facing SE.
15 of 31. Gate E, Lansdowne Street elevation, facing S.
16 of 31. Smith Building, Lansdowne Street elevation, facing SE.
17 of 31. Smith Building, Brookline Avenue elevation, facing S.
18 of 31. Smith Building, Brookline Avenue elevation (L), Yawkey Way elevation (right), facing E.
19 of 31. Smith Building, Yawkey Way elevation, facing NE.
20 of 31. Ballpark with tiara façade, facing SW.
21 of 31. Ballpark, camera facing E.
22 of 31. Ballpark, camera facing N.
23 of 31. View from Left Field wall, facing S.
24 of 31. View at cut between right field pavilion and bleachers, facing W.
25 of 31. Ballpark at night, with lights, view from bleachers, facing W.
26 of 31. Left field concourse, ticket kiosks at Gate A, facing NE.
27 of 31. Concourse at Gate D, facing SE.
28 of 31. Right field concourse, facing NE.
29 of 31. Right field, underside of 1934 grandstand.
30 of 31. Bridge, facing E.
31 of 31. Bleacher Bar, facing NW

HISTORIC IMAGES

Figure 1. Yawkey Way (Jersey Street) elevation, ca. 1912.
Figure 2. Right field grandstand, looking SW, September 28, 1912,
Figures 3 and 4. Grandstand, left field bleachers, looking SW, September 28, 1912.
Figure 5. Construction of left field wall, October 27, 1933.
Figure 6. Rebuilding first base grandstand, December 6, 1933.
Figure 7. Aerial view, after 1940.
Figure 8. Ted Williams crosses the plate, 1940s.
Figure 9. Pitcher's mound, left field wall, looking NW, 1951.
Figures 10/11. Smith Building under construction during 1914 World Series.
Smith Building, from *The Romance and Reality of Television...*, 1930.
Figure 12. Smith Building and Fenway Park, 1949.
Figure 13. Fenway Park, key plan with gates, 2011.
Figures 14/15. G.W. Bromley atlas, 1908; 1912.
Figures 16/17. G.W. Bromley atlas, 1914; 1917.
Figure 18. Sanborn atlas, 1937.
Figure 19. G.W. Bromley atlas, 1938.

FENWAY PARK
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

**Property Owner:**

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

name Olde Town Team Realty LLC

street & number 4 Yawkey Way telephone

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02215

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1. Fenway Park, Yawkey Way (Jersey Street) elevation, ca. 1912.
Bain Collection, Library of Congress

Figure 2. Fenway Park, Right Field grandstand, looking southwest, 9/28/1912.
Bain Collection, Library of Congress. Panorama #1

Fenway Park, 24 Yawkey Way & the John B. Smith Building, 2 – 4 Yawkey Way, 64 - 76 Brookline Ave., 70 – 80 Lansdowne Street, BOSTON, MA 02215

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Figures 3 & 4. Fenway Park, Right Field grandstand, looking southwest, 9/28/1912. Bain Collection, Library of Congress. Panorama, 2 & 3

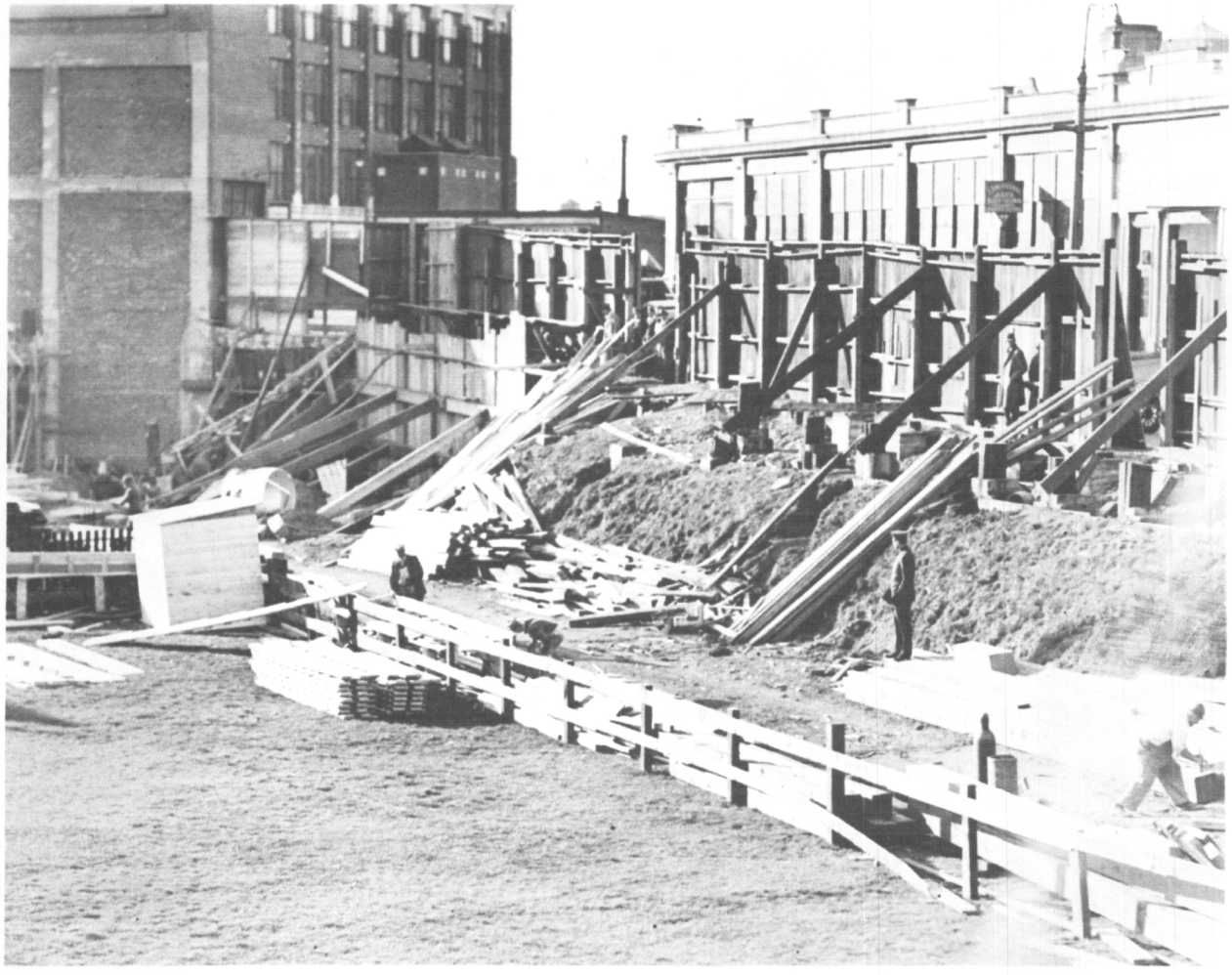


Figure 5. Construction of the left field wall at Fenway Park, Oct. 27, 1933. Boston Globe
Source: Bostonian Society

Figure 6. Rebuilding of Fenway Park, December 6, 1933. Boston Globe
Source: Bostonian Society

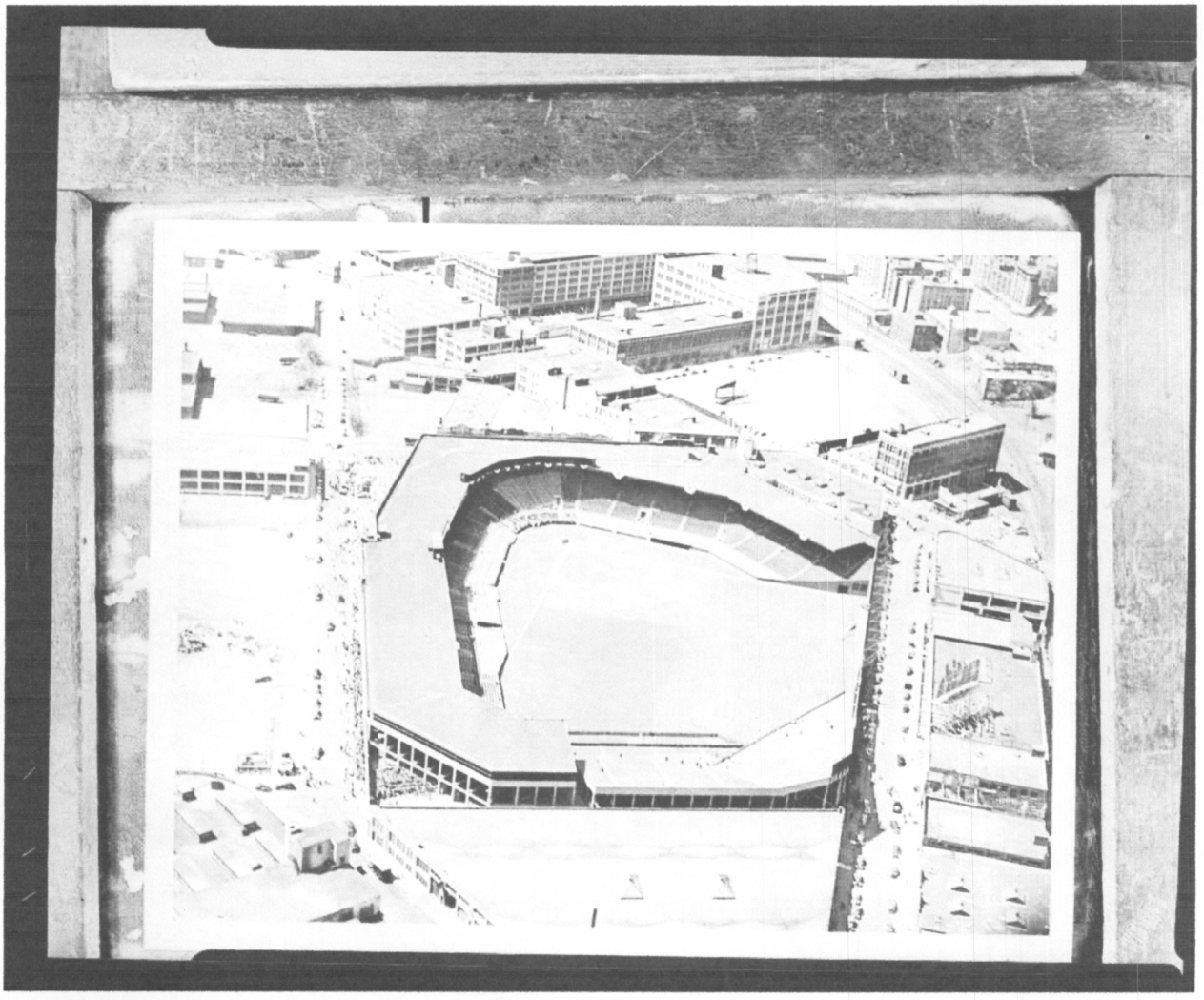


Figure 7. Fenway Park, Aerial View, date unknown (after 1940).
Leslie Jones, photographer. Boston Public Library, Boston Sports Temples. "Fenway Park." #45.

Figure 8. Fenway Park, Ted Williams crosses the plate at Fenway. The net is shown above the Green Monster.
Leslie Jones, photographer. Boston Public Library, Boston Sports Temples. "Fenway Park." #39

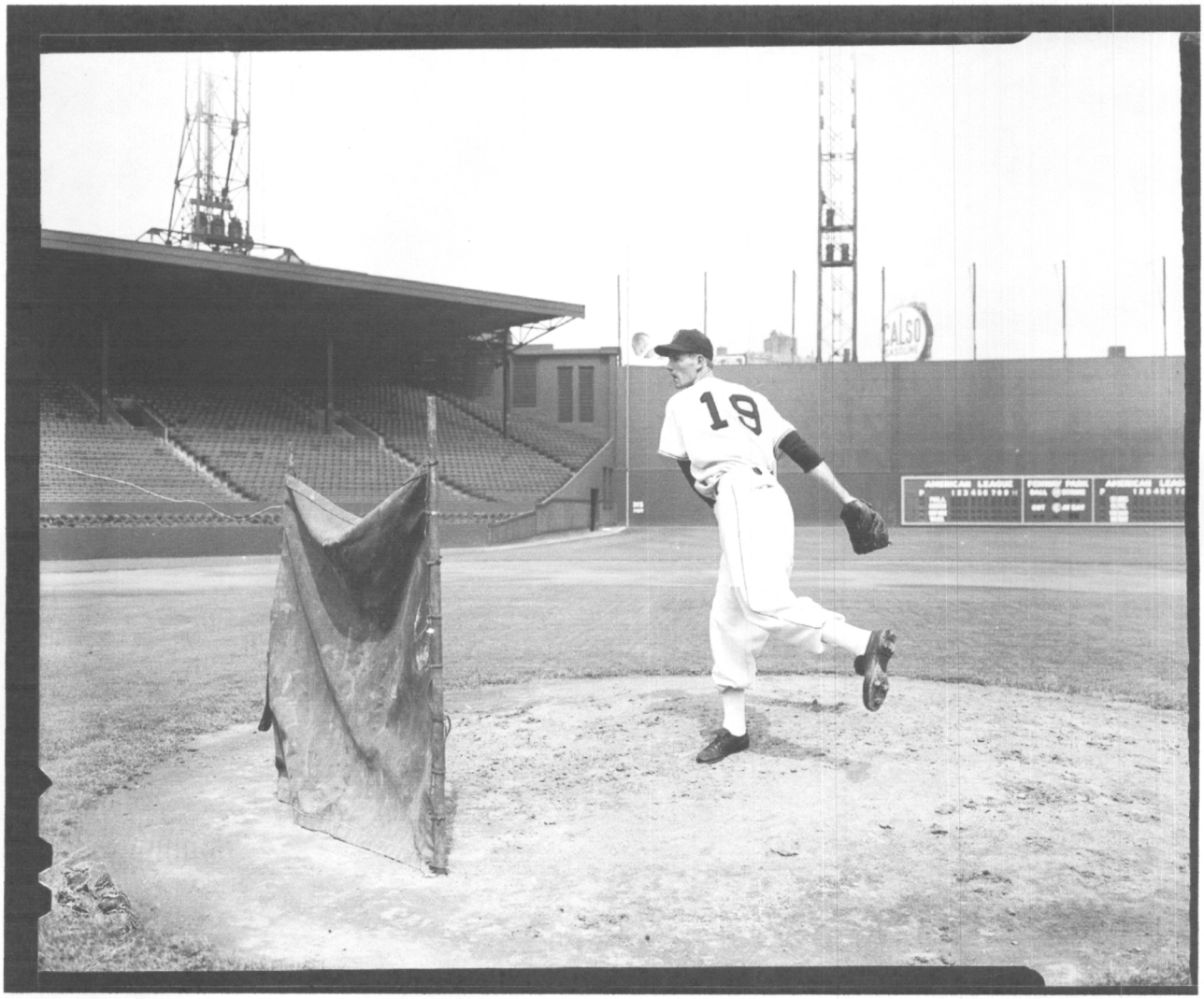



Figure 9. Fenway Park, Left Field, looking NW. 1951.
Leslie Jones, photographer. Boston Public Library, Boston Sports Temples. "Fenway Park." #163.

Figure 10. John B. Smith Building under construction in foreground, looking east, 1914. Braves vs. Philadelphia at Fenway, World Series, 1914.
Edmunds E. Bond, photographer. Boston Public Library, Boston Sports Temples. "Fenway Park." #284.

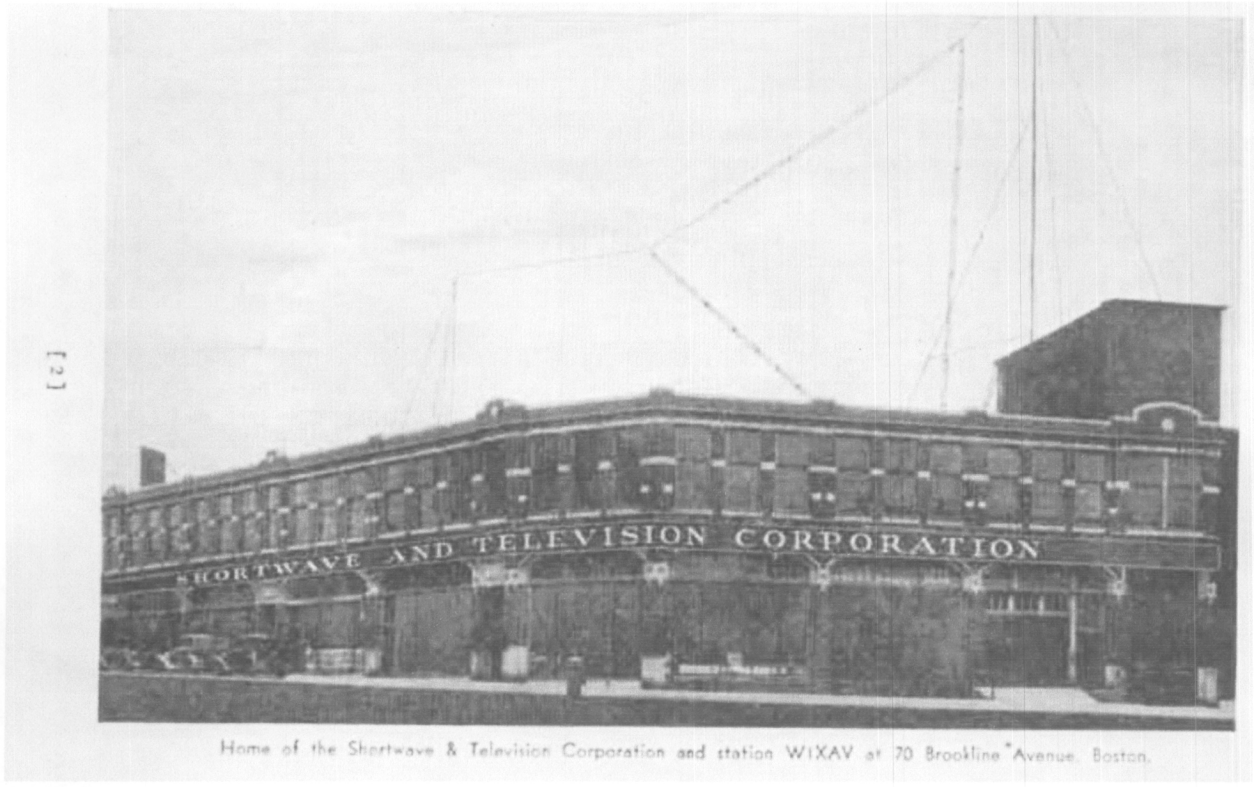



Figure 11. Source: *The Romance and Reality of Television*: *A Manual for the Construction and Operation of Shortwave and Television Receiving Sets.* Shortwave and Television Corp. 70 Brookline Ave. Boston, MA. Second Edition. 1930

Figure 12. Smith Building and Fenway Park, 2 – 24 Yawkey Way. Ca. 1949.
Source:

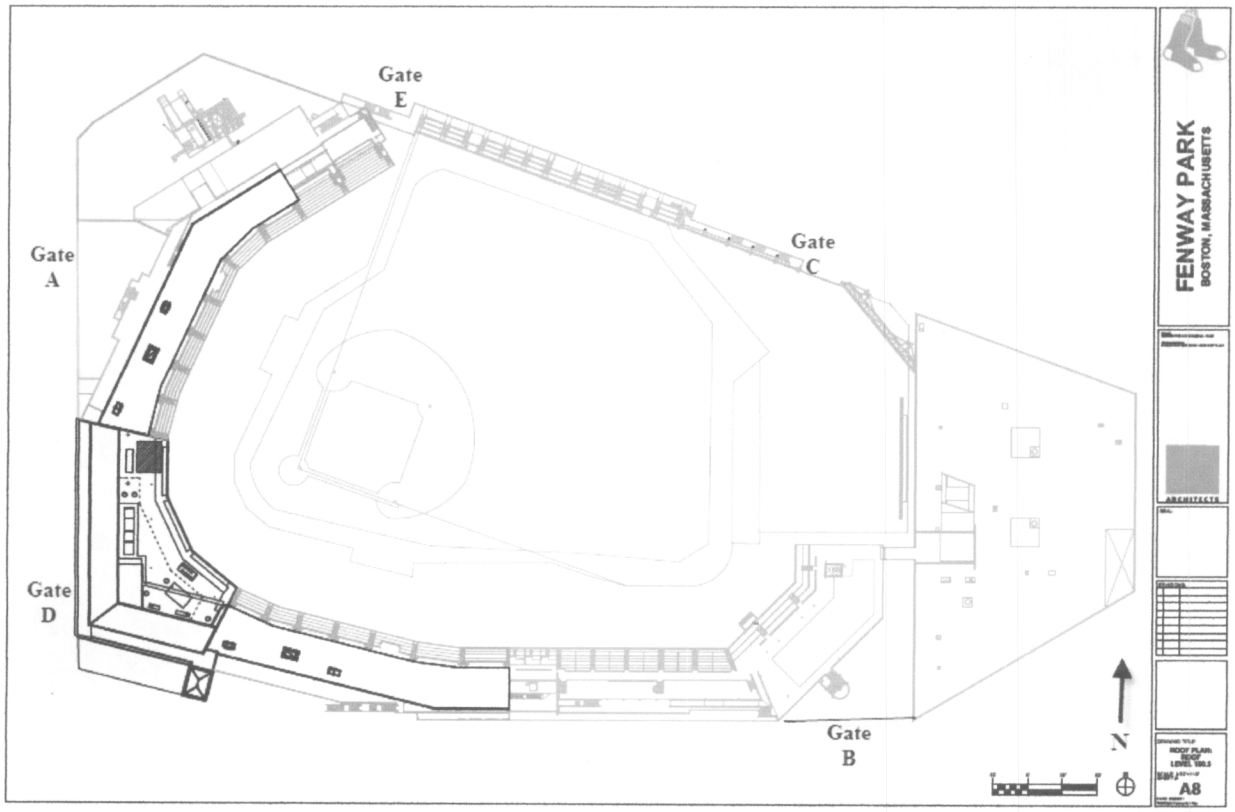



Figure 13. Fenway Park, 2011, Key Plan with Gates shown

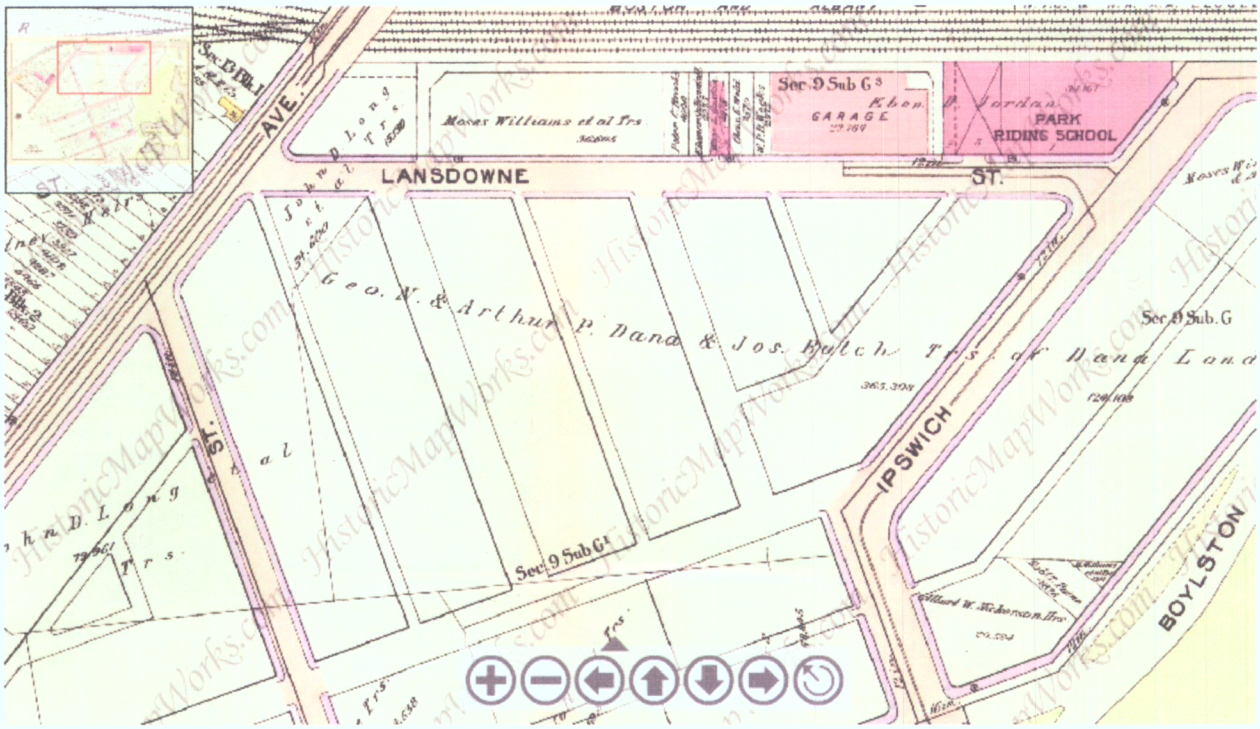



Figure 14. G. W. Bromley & Co., *Atlas of Boston, MA*. 1908.

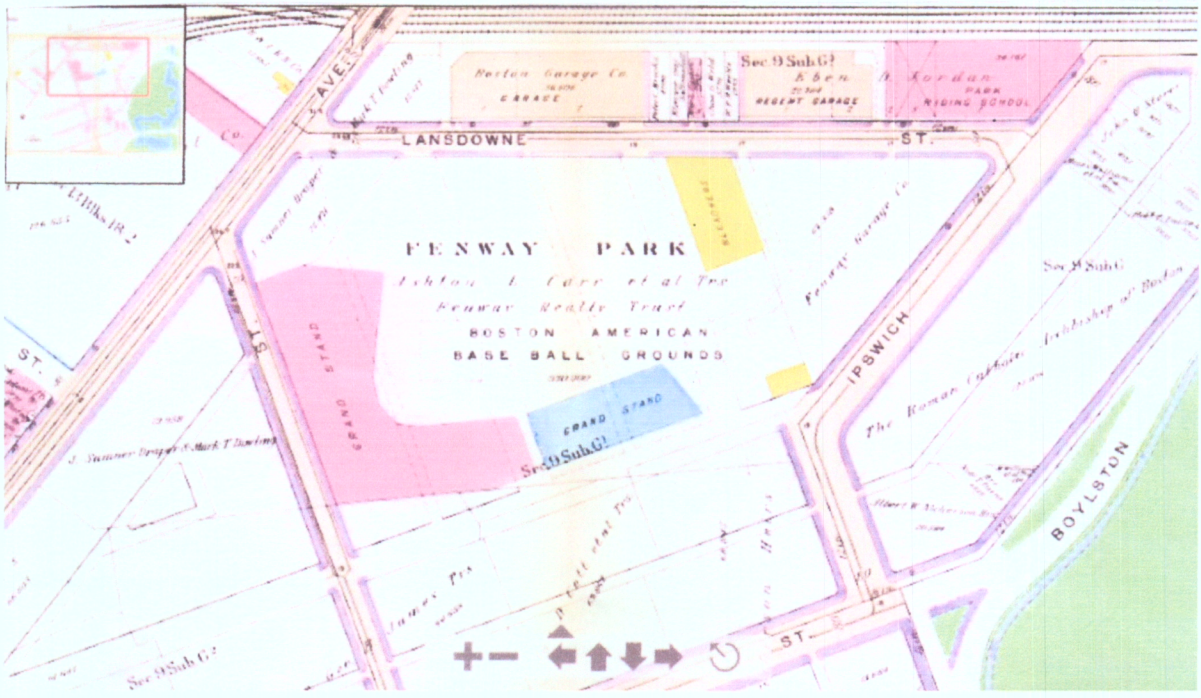



Figure 15. G. W. Bromley & Co. *Atlas of Boston, MA*. 1912, pl. 33

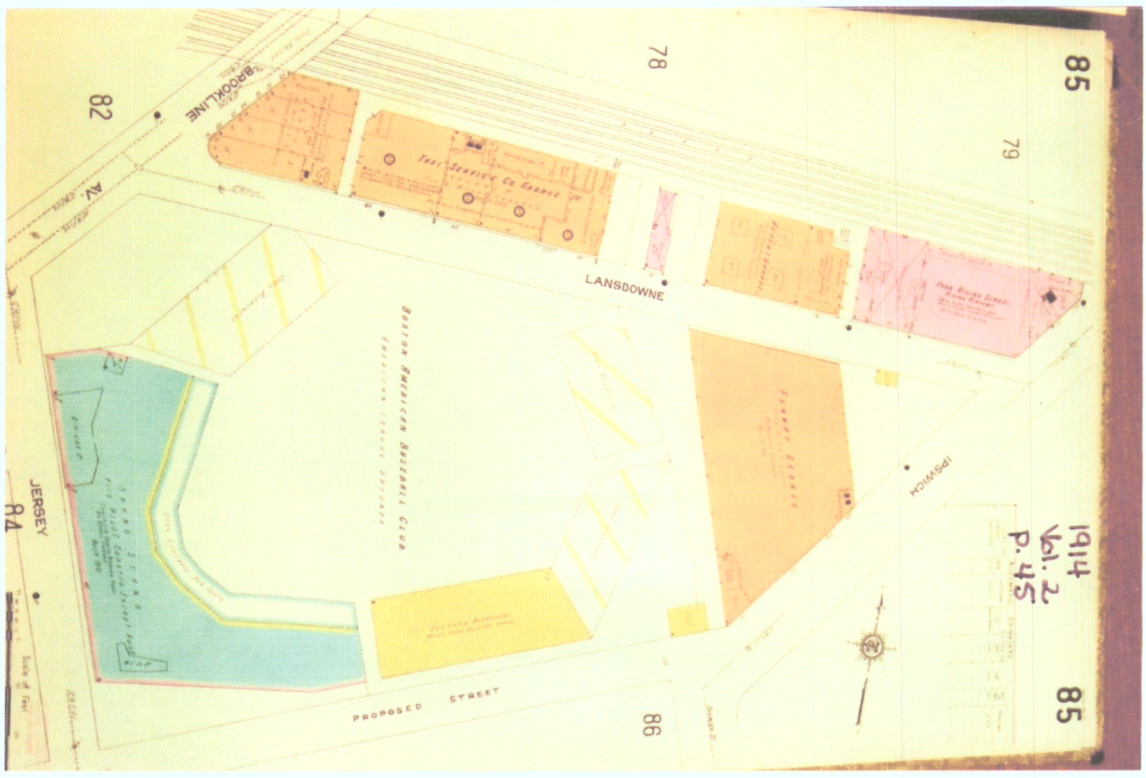



Figure 16. Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Boston, Massachusetts*. 1914. Vol. 2 pl. 85

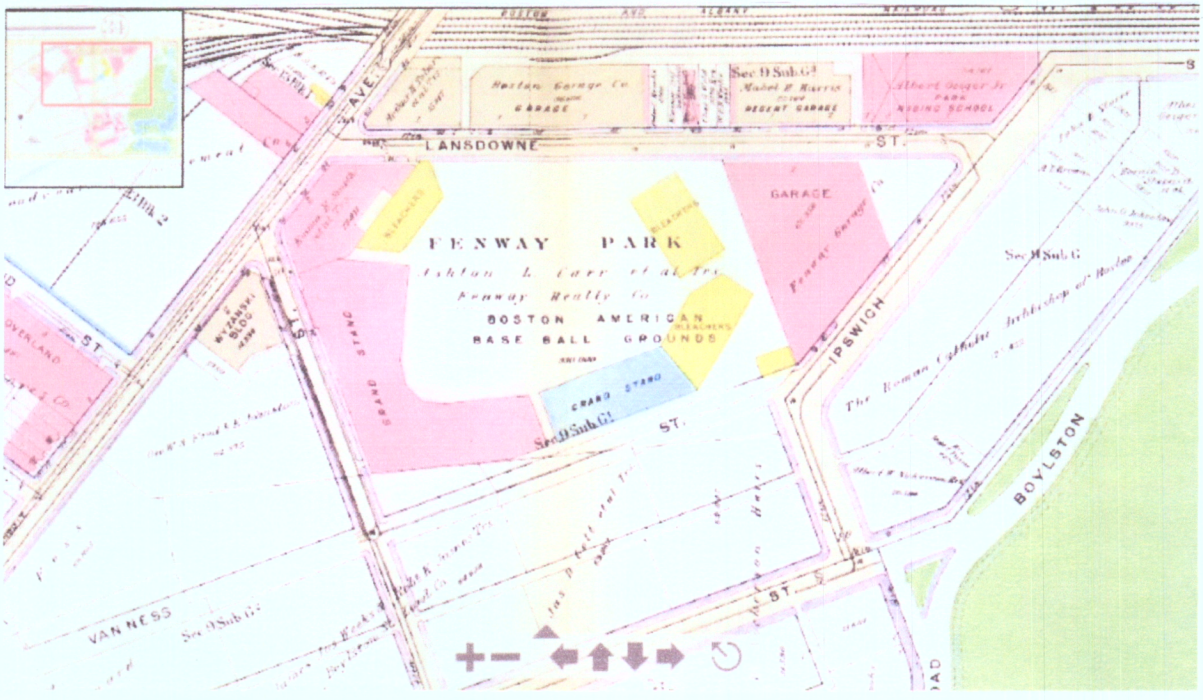



Figure 17. G. W. Bromley & Co., Atlas of Boston Proper and Back Bay, Massachusetts, 1917. pl. 33.

Fenway Park, 24 Yawkey Way & 2-4 Yawkey Way, 64 – 76 Brookline Ave. ,
70-80 Lansdowne Street, BOSTON, MA 02215

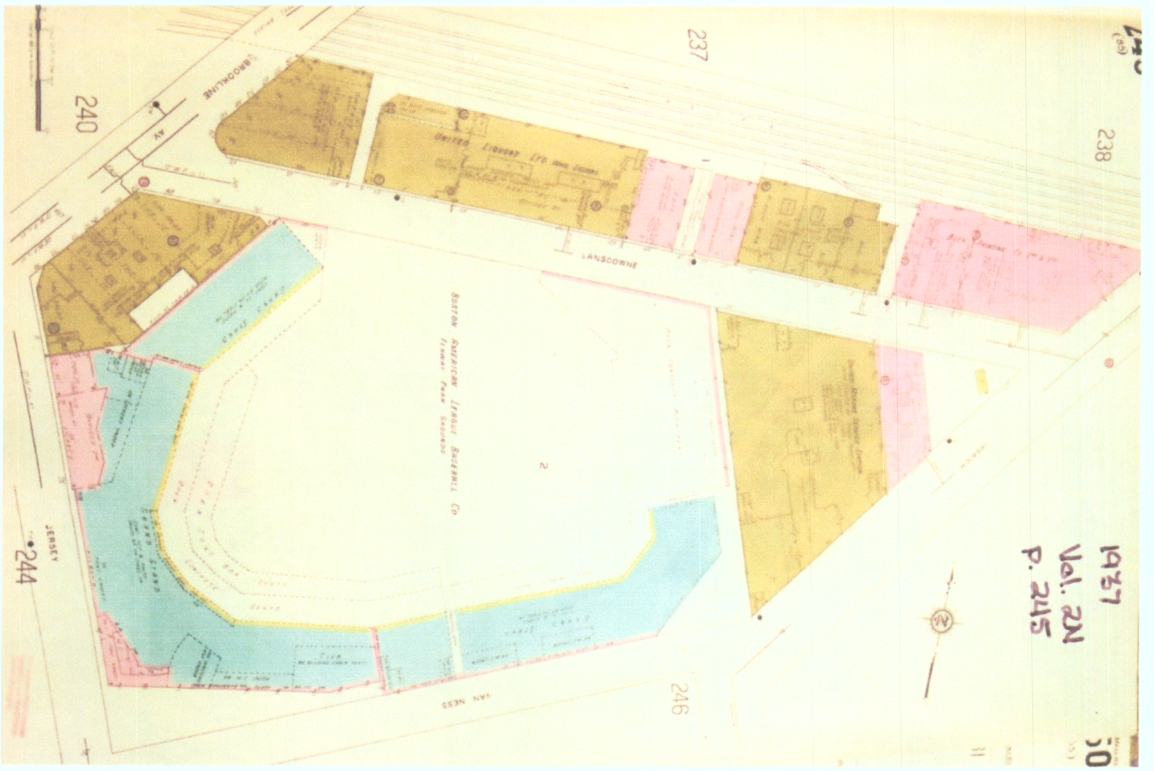



Figure 18. Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Boston, Massachusetts*. 1937. Vol. 2N, pl 245

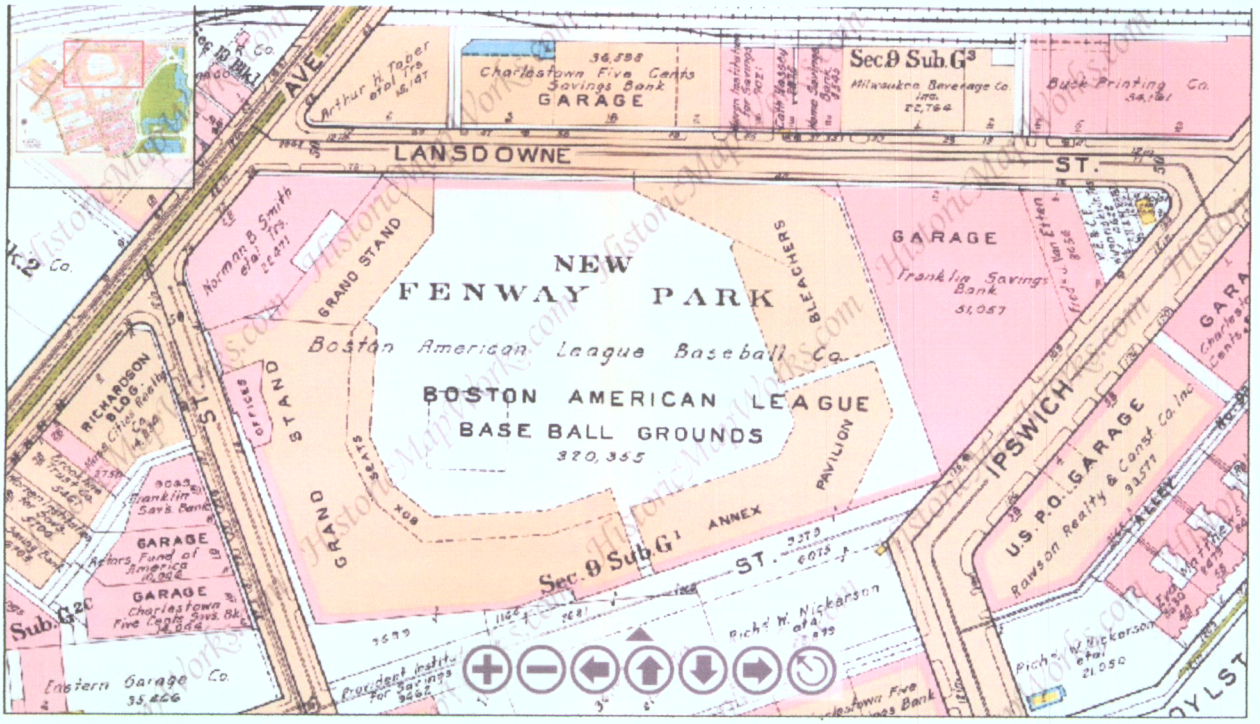



Figure 19. G. W. Bromley & Co., Atlas of Boston Proper and Back Bay, Massachusetts. 1938. Pl. 33

# Fenway Park

**Property Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Parcel ID** | 0504203000 |
| **Owner** | HENRY JOHN W TS |
| **Address** | 24 YAWKEY WY |
| **Property Type** | 0365 |
| **Building Value** | $59,892,700.00 |
| **Land Value** | $17,180,300.00 |
| **Total Value** | $77,073,000.00 |
| **Lot Size** | 331219 sq ft |
| **Land Use** | Commercial |

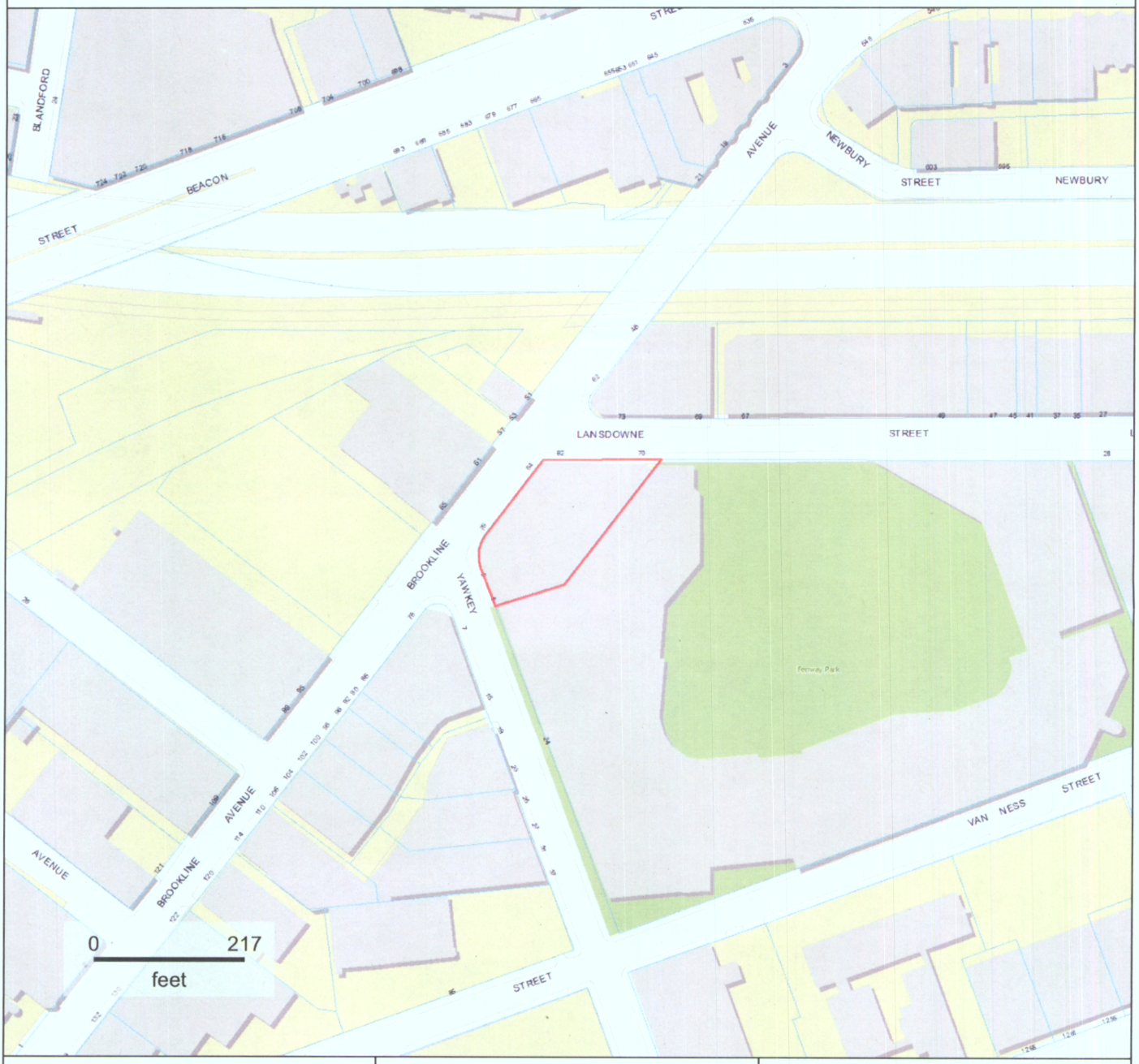
BOSTONIA CONDITA A.D. 1630.

City of Boston MAPS

MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

The City of Boston makes no claims, no representations, and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity (expressed or implied), the reliability, or the accuracy of the GIS data and GIS data products furnished by the City, including the implied validity of any uses of such data. The use of this data, in any such manner, shall not supercede any federal, state or local laws or regulations.

# Fenway Park




**Property Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Parcel ID** | 0504199000 |
| **Owner** | HENRY JOHN W TS |
| **Address** | 2 YAWKEY WY |
| **Property Type** | 0343 |
| **Building Value** | $5,447,600.00 |
| **Land Value** | $2,144,900.00 |
| **Total Value** | $7,592,500.00 |
| **Lot Size** | 22471 sq ft |
| **Land Use** | Commercial |

BOSTONIA. CONDITA A.D. 1630.

City of Boston MAPS

## MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

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FENWAY PARK
1912
GATE A
1903
1904
1912
1915
1918
1967
1975
1986
2004
2007
OPEN→
Sausage
Pizza
Hot Dogs
Steak Tips
Chicken
Cold Drinks

1912
FENWAY PARK
1903
1904
1912
1915
1918

WILL CALL ONLY
NO RE-ENTRY

1918
1946
Parking
2 Hour
Limit
TOW ZONE
NO
STOPPING

FENWAY PARK
AWKEY WAY
GATE D
2004
2007
TASTE of FENWAY

1918
1916
1967
AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
1975
1986
2004
2007
El Tiente

GATE
D
FENWAY PARK
GATE D STAIRS • ENTRANCE ALL SECTIONS
YAWKEY WAY • VAN NESS STREET
YAWKEY WAY
VAN NESS ST
Parking
2 Hour
Limit
NO
STOPPING

JIM BRICE

FENWAY
GATE B • ENTRANCE
VAN NESS STREET •
JIMMY COLLINS
CY YOUNG
TRIS SPEAKER
1903
1904
1912
TICKETS
VAN NESS ST
TEAMMATES

JIMMY COLLINS
1901-1907
CY YOUNG
1901-1908
TRIS SPEAKER
1907-1915
HARRY HOOPER
1909-1925
RICK FERRELL
1933-1937
LEFTY GROVE
JIMMIE FOXX
JOE CRONIN
4 6 8 9 14 27 42

GATE C
FENWAY PARK
GATE C • ENTRANCE ALL SECTIONS
IPSWICH STREET • LANSDOWNE STREET
NATION'S WAY
RED SOX NATION CITIZENS' ENTRANCE
SCALP FREE ZONE
TOW ZONE
NO STOPPING ANY TIME

ICE CREAM
TAKE OUT
BLEACHER BAR
LANSDOWNE AVE

BLEACHER BAR

4
5
6
7

PARK

GATE E • WILL CALL

ROOKLINE AVENUE

LES

WILL CALL

TICKETS

WILL CALL

STAIRS TO PAVILION

BOSTON
RED SOX
BOSTON
RED SOX
BOSTON
RED SOX
GAME ON!
GAME ON!
Burgers • Steak Tips • Wings • Pizza
Major League Batting Cage

BOSTON
GAME ON!
GAME ON!
Action Guaranteed!
Fantasy Sports Headquarters

TICKETS
ONE WAY

FENWAY PA
YAWKEY WAY
TICKETS
ONE WAY
DO NOT ENTER
GATE A
1903
1904
1912

FENWAY PARK

THE RED SOX,
WELCOME YOU TO
BUYERS VS SELLERS 2011
Bank of America
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Ford
new balance
Budweiser
THANK YOU
FANS
GIANT
GLASS
jetBlue
Nikon
xfinity
ACE TICKET
Budweiser
AMTRAK
WEBB
HYUNDAI

Coca-Cola
MAPFRE
Auto Insurance
SPORTS AUTHORITY
VOLVO
CITGO
Gulf
COVIDIEN
FENWAY PARK 99th ANNIVERSARY
THANK YOU FANS
minute clinic
V.F.W. MASON
F.W. WEBB
Since 1866
HYUNDAI

STATE STREET PAVILION
EMC LEVEL
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Northeastern University
Ninety Nine
GIANT GLASS 1-800-54 GIANT

FENWAY PARK
1
NO SMOKING
WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

BOOTH
TICKETS
2007

PISTACHIOS
6.50
PEANUTS
4.50
ICE PIZZA BEER
NO ENTRY

1950-1959
1976-2008
BOSTON
RED SOX
GRANDSTAND 1-13
RIGHT FIELD BOX 1-8, 87-97
LOGE BOX 98-106
FIELD BOX 9-20
STRAIGHT AHEAD
FENWAY FRANKS
COTTON CANDY

WOMEN
LICE
PIZZA

27
28

ROOF BOX 10-16
EXIT
the MONSTER BAR, AN INSIDE THE