

# Old Baseball Stadiums of Philadelphia

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# General Idea

- My goal for this project was to make one of my passions mean something. I have devoted much of my time over the past few years studying baseball analytics and general baseball history. But why does that matter, and how can I turn this passion into something that is parallel to the guidelines of this project but even more than that serves the purpose of education on a relatively unknown topic.
- From these self-imposed guidelines I came up with a topic that fit into the confines of what I wanted to do, what I needed to do, and the media aspect that I also hoped to achieve. This topic was to take pictures of the sites of old stadiums in Philadelphia and compare them to the stadiums in their heyday and showcase how these inner-city neighborhoods have changed over the years.

# Baker Bowl in the Past

The Baker Bowl is one of the most unique sports stadiums of all time. Built in 1887 and demolished in 1938, it almost exclusively held the Phillies but welcomed the Eagles for the first three seasons of their franchise from 1933-35.

Surrounded on all sides by the industry of the time, railroad tracks and factories that are still standing are to the north and row homes and storerooms to the south that have since been demolished. While the stadium itself had a reputation, the Phillies during their time there were awful. In 52 seasons at the Bowl they had only 13 winning seasons and one pennant. Another thing that it contributed to baseball was the common nickname of small stadiums, “Band Box”. Regardless of its popularity the stadium had a depressing ending on June 30th, 1938 as only 1500 fans watched the Phillies lose 15-1 to the New York Giants.



# Baker Bowl in the Present

Once considered one of the most prosperous areas of the city, North Philadelphia fell victim to redlining and institutional racism and has fallen onto much harder times. Through my photos I wish to exhibit the changes in this neighborhood, and how much different this place looks nearly 100 years after its destruction. (Pictures on the following slide)



# Baker Bowl in the Present cont.



# West Philadelphia High School Football Field (Pollock/Passon Field) In the Past

The current West Philly High football stadium located at 48th and Spruce seems to be your everyday high school football field. Sadly the rich history of the place seems to have been lost over the years. The legendary Negro League team the Philadelphia Stars actually played their games there for periods of time in the 1930s. A small grandstand was constructed and it became a multi-use recreational field before the Stars moved to the 44th and Parkside ballpark for the remainder of their lifespan.



# Pollock/Passon Field in the Present

Pollock/Passon field is still in use by many different sports teams and schools, but it's overall quality has declined same as the neighborhood around it. The former West Philly High building is in the background, it is now condominiums a true reflection of the gentrification of this area as it spreads West. The high school has moved to 49th and Chestnut but they still use both the field and the field house.



# Pollock/Passon Field cont.





# 44th and Parkside Ballpark in the Past

The ballpark at 44th and Parkside was used by the YMCA for assorted recreational activities in the early 20th century. After initially starting at the aforementioned Passon field the Philadelphia Stars then moved there in the 1930s and played there for the rest of their lifespan. The field was notoriously bad in quality but it was known for the high quality of baseball the Stars played.

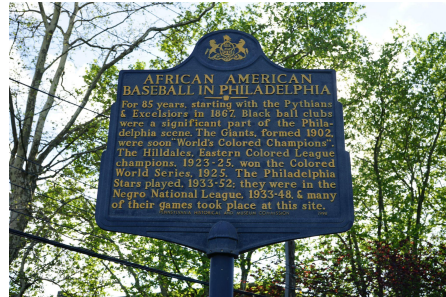


# 44th and Parkside Ballpark in the Present

Nearly 90 years after the last pitch was thrown at the 44th and Parkside ballpark the area surrounding the park has changed immensely. Where the field was itself has become blocks of row homes, with a mural of the some of the old players on the last one on the block. Just across the street is the memorial park, which has plaques and a statue honoring the Negro Leagues that was built by the Phillies in the early 2000s.



# 44th and Parkside cont.





# Sources

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