1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Wrigley Field

Other Name/Site Number: Weeghman Field

Determined Eligible for NHL Designation February 27, 1987;
Designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior September 17, 2020 after owner objection was withdrawn.

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Clark Street and Addison Road Not for publication:__

City/Town: Chicago Vicinity:__

State: Illinois County: Cook Code: 031 Zip Code:__

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
Private: X	Building(s):
Public-Local:	District:
Public-State:	Site:
Public-Federal:	Structure: X
	Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
buildings	0	buildings	0
sites	0	sites	0
structures	1	structures	0
objects	0	objects	0
Total	0	Total	0

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. 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):_____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Recreation Sub: Sports Facility

Current: Recreation Sub: Sports Facility

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

Materials:
Foundation:
Walls:
Roof:
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Summary

The principal portion of Wrigley Field is a double-decked "V"-shaped grandstand. The second deck is set back and covered, protecting patrons on that leve1 from the elements. Single level bleachers close in the arms of the "V" to form a crude rectangle. Wrigley Field is roughly 580 feet on the arms of the "V," which are joined near the intersection of Addison Road and Clark Street. From a player's perspective, the distances to the fences are 355 to left, 353 to right, and 400 to center field.

The original portion of the park was constructed in 1914. As modified, principally with the addition of the second deck in 1926–27, its seating capacity is just over 37,000. When built in 1914 for Charles H. Weeghman's Chicago Whales of the Federal League, the park was single-deck and seated 14,000.

Details of Changes

Other changes have occurred over tine without fundamentally marring the field's basic configuration.[1] In 1922–23, the stands were moved back several feet, increasing the seating capacity to 20,000. In 1926-27, when the stands were double-decked, the playing field was lowered several feet.

The construction of new bleachers and the installation of wider chairs in the boxes and grandstand, in 1937–38, reduced the park capacity by several thousand. About the same time, the tiers in the left-field stands were circled so that all its seats faced home plate. In 1950–51, a similar step was taken with the box seat tiers in right field. Later, a box seat deck extending from left field to first base was torn down and replaced with a new box seat deck of reinforced concrete.

The Wrigley scoreboard, 27 feet high and 75 feet long, is still hand-operated. It provides inning-by-inning scores of all major league games, as well as pitching changes. Situated atop the center-field bleachers, it was constructed in 1935–37 under the direction of a young Cub executive, Bill Veeck, Jr. Earlier the scoreboard was in the left-field corner. In 1982, an electronic message board was placed under the scoreboard.

Other recent changes have been made. In 1968–72, the upper decks were restructured. The dugouts were enlarged in 1977. In 1981–84, new offices were built and the old ones refurbished in the area behind home plate, a new ticket office was built directly behind home plate, and a new home clubhouse was finished under the third-base stands; the former home clubhouse now serves the grounds crew. As part of this refurbishing, the visitors' clubhouse has also been enlarged and the press box extended.

Wrigley is the only ball park in the major leagues that has no lights and is therefore restricted to daytime games. This tradition would not be so firmly established, however, except for events in 1941. In that year, equipment had been purchased and light towers were about to be erected, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The next day, Philip Wrigley, the owner, donated all the equipment and materials to the Government's war effort.[2]

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[1] This description and outline of changes to the park draws on the data in Lowell Reidenbaugh, *Take Me Out to the Ball Park* (St. Louis: The Sporting News, 1984), pp. 74-80, and Chicago Cubs, *1985 Chicago Cubs Media Guide* (Chicago: Chicago National League Ball Club, Inc., 1985), pp. 6-7.

[2] Reidenbaugh, *op. cit*., p. 80.

After the war, he chose never to install lights and appears to have expressed skepticism as to the desirability of their effect on the sport and the neighborhood.[3]

Other Wrigley traditions should also be noted, even in a brief summary. After a game, a flag is flown from a center-field pole. A Cubs win is denoted by a blue flag with a white "W," a white flag with a b1ue "L" denotes a loss. The ivy that adorns the walls was planted by Veeck in 1938.

Presently Wrigley Field is a well-tended dowager among ball parks although it has been suggested that there may be deterioration in the structural steel of its reinforced concrete.[4] No engineering studies are on hand to confirm or refute this assessment.

[3] Robert Heuer, "Neighbors, the Cubs and the Community, Seven Decades of Love and Pain," *Reader* [Chicago] 14, 28 (Friday, April 12, 1985), p. 27, cites a 1963 letter from Philip Wrigley to a community group on the issue.
[4] *Ibid*., p. 32.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide:__ Locally:__

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C__ D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

NHL Criteria: 1

NHL Criteria Exceptions:

NHL Theme(s): II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements
4. recreational activities

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation

Period(s) of Significance:

Significant Dates:

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: Davis, Zachary T.

Historic Contexts: XXXIV. Recreation
2. Baseball

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary

This ivy-studded baseball park, the home of the Chicago Cubs since 1916, on Chicago's near North Side, is one of major league baseball's most venerable structures; it is the oldest extant National League ball park.

It is also highly significant in the history of professional football, as the longtime playing field for the Chicago Bears, a major league professional football team that, first gained prominence in the 1920s. Professional football in that decade was just beginning to develop. Consequently, the clubs used whatever facilities were available. Baseball parks were ideal because the playing seasons did not conflict in a major way.

Thus it is that Wrigley Field is associated not only with Dizzy Dean, "Gabby" Hartnett, "Babe" Ruth, and dozens of other significant baseball players, but was also the site of "Red" Grange's first professional football game, the "T" formation heroics of Sid Luckman, and other memorable events associated with the Bears' preeminent football teams.

Baseball

The Chicago Cubs, the only charter National League team still playing in its original city, have been the primary tenants of Wrigley Field, at Clark and Addison Streets in Chicago, since 1916.[5] It was not, however, built for the team, nor did it originally bear the name of Wrigley Field.

Wrigley Field was built as Weeghnan Park in 1914, for Charles Weeghman and his Chicago Whales of the Federal League, a third and self-proclaimed major league that unsuccessfully contended with the established National (1876) and American (1900) Leagues. The so-called "Federal League War" of 1914–15 was settled partially by accommodations between the owners of the teams in the three leagues. As part of these negotiations, Weeghnan was offered an option on the Cubs. He raised the necessary money and moved them to the Whales' park. To buy the club, he recruited investors, including William Wrigley, the magnate of the chewing gum company of the same name. In 1918, Weeghman, financially embarrassed, sold out his interest to Wrigley. (The ballpark was officially renamed for Wrigley in 1926.)

Between 1876 and 1916, the Cubs (known before 1900 in succession as the White Stockings, the Colts, and the Orphans, until they adopted their present name in about 1900) had played at no fewer than four other Chicago locations, none of which are extant. Their last stop before Wrigley Field, between 1893 and 1916, was the West Side Grounds, at present Polk and Wolcott Streets, where they had a double-decked 16,000-seat grandstand. At that site, they had won the National League pennants of 1906-08 and l910 and brought home the World Series title in both 1907 and 1908.

In their new home, the Cubs, except in 1918,[6] did not win the National League championship again until 1929 and then lost the World Series to the Philadelphia Athletics. In the 1930s, the Cubs enjoyed better fortunes, winning the Pennants in 1932, 1935, and 1938. In the latter year, Cubs fans in Wrigley witnessed Gabby

[5] This account of Wrigley's baseball history is based on that appearing in Lowell Reidenbaugh, *Take Me Out to the Ball Park* (St. Louis: The Sporting News, 1984), pp. 74-80.

[6] The Cubs requested and received the use of Comiskey Park, a larger field at the time, for the 1918 World Series.

Hartnett's renowned "Homer in the Gloamin" that clinched the league lead for the Cubs on the next to last day of the season.

The club, however, lost the World Series in all three years. The third game of the 1932 Series, with the Cubs facing the New York Yankees at Wrigley, gave baseball one of its most immortal and vigorously debated episodes. Babe Ruth came to bat in the fifth inning, with the score tied 4-4. After each of two strikes off Cubs pitcher Charley Root, Ruth held up a finger—perhaps—the second tine pointing to the center-field corner over the fence of which he then proceeded to hit a home run.[7]

After 1938 the Cubs, except for a National League pennant in 1945, enjoyed no pronounced success until 1984, when they won the National League East title. Their die-hard fans, however, have never abandoned them.

Wrigley Field is noted for several interesting innovations in baseball history. Weeghman, in 1916, originated the custom of permitting fans to keep balls fouled into the stands, now a universal practice. He also placed refreshment booths behind the stands, reducing the number of vendors who plied the crowds, an innovation likewise extensively copied.[8]

The Wrigleys, besides periodic improvements that kept the park in tip-top shape during their 60-odd years of ownership, arranged to broadcast the club's games, beginning in 1925; this was the first occasion on which the new medium was used for this purpose. Rather than causing people to stay home, the broadcasts drew fans from all over the Middle West and contributed vastly to the club's popularity. For example, although the team finished fourth in 1927, its paid attendance set a league record of 1.2 million.[9]

The Cubs, although they have won few championships in recent years, have been blessed with gifted players, too numerous to honor in detail here. The following Wrigley-era players have been honored in the Baseball Hall of Fame:

Grover Cleveland Alexander (1918–26)
Louis Clark Brock (1961–64)
Jay Hanna ("Dizzy") Dean (1938–41)
Burleigh Grimes (1932–33)
Billy Herman (1931–41)
Monte Irvin (1956)
Ralph Kiner (1953–54)
Fred Lindstrom (1935)
Robin Roberts (1966)
Lewis ("Hack") Wilson (1926–31)
Ernie Banks (1953–71)
Hazen (Kiki) Cuyler (1928–35)
James ("Jimmie") Foxx (1942, 1944)
Charles ("Gabby") Hartnett (1922–40)
Roger Hornsby (1929–32)
George Kelly (1930)

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[7] Jack Miley, "Babe Ruth's Greatest Moment," in *Esquire's Great Men & Moments in Sports* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962), pp. 78-80.

[8] Michael Miner, "What Will Become of Wrigley Field?" *Reader* [Chicago] 14, 28 (Friday, April 12, 1985), p. 19.

[9] Robert Heuer, "Neighbors, the Cubs and the Community, Seven Decades of Love and Pain," *Reader* [Chicago] 14, 28 (Friday, April 12, 1985), p. 26.

Chuck Klein (1934–36)
Walter ("Rabbit") Maranville (1925)
Hoyt Wilhelm (1970)
Twelve others so honored played with the Cubs and their predecessor teams before they arrived in Wrigley.[10]

It is also appropriate to note that the 1947 and 1962 All-Stars Games were held in Wrigley Field.

Football

The Chicago Bears and George S. Halas, "Mr. Pro Football" whose name is synonymous with the Bears began their professional careers as the Decatur [Illinois] Staleys in 1920, the same year Halas helped found the National Football League. They played several games in Wrigley late that same year. (They became the Bears, based in Wrigley Field, the following year, because Halas thought that if Wrigley's baseball players were "cubs," then his football players should be "bears.") Halas was an active player until 1930, as well as an owner and coach. He continued to coach the club until 1967.[11]

The following summary evaluation of the Bears' career, penned in 1972, for the *Official Encyclopedia of Football*, well summarizes the importance of their role in the history of professional football:

Halas and his Monsters of the Midway dominated football. They won the most championships, [1933, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1963]; they won the most games, over 400; they scored the most points, more than 11,000; they gained the most yards, nearly 25 miles; they scored the most touchdowns, nearly 1,600; played to most fans, nearly 15,000,000. They probably made the most money. And they were definitely penalized the most.

The list of Bear players shines brighter than all the rest in the honor rolls of football.[12]

Halas also was responsible for invigorating the use of the T formation in professional football. Sidney ("Sid") Luckman, "Mr. Quarterback," helped Halas put his theories into practice during his 11 years with the team (1939–50).[13]

In addition to Halas and Luckman, the following players, who starred with the Bears in Wrigley Field before they moved to Soldier Field in the early 1970s, have been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame:

Guy Chamberlain (1921)
Daniel Fortmann (1936–43)
Edward Healey (1922–27)
Walter Kíesling (1934)
Williarn Roy ("Link") Lyman (1926–34)
Bronko Nagurski (1930–37, 1943)
Clyde ("Bulldog") Turner (1940–52)
John Driscoll (1926–29)
Harold "Red" Grange (1925, 1929–34)
William ("Big Bill") Hewitt (1932–36)
Robert ("Bobby") Layne (1948)

[10] Chicago Cubs, *1985 Chicago Cubs Media Guide* (Chicago: Chicago National League Ball Club, Inc., 1985), p. 137.
[11] George Halas, *Halas by Halas* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), pp. 55-71.
[12] Roger Treat, *Official Encyclopedia of Football* (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1972), p. 599.
[13] *Ibid.*

George McAfee (1940–41, 1945–50)
Joseph Stydahar (1936–42, 1945–46)

Several of these players, including Grange and Luckman, also contributed to the Bears' success by assisting Halas in coaching.[14]

[14] *Ibid.*, pp. 245-256.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ Previously Listed in the National Register.
__ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
__ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
__ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
__ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

__ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State Agency
__ Federal Agency
__ Local Government
__ University
__ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 10 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	16	445760	4644100
B.	16	445760	4643900
C.	16	445550	4643900
D.	16	445550	4644100

Verbal Boundary Description:

Wrigley Field occupies the block bounded by Waveland Street on the north, Sheffield Street on the east, Addison Street on the south, and the Chicago Rapid transit right-of-way on the west.

Boundary Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY[15]

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM

[15] The NHL nomination approved in 1987 for the determination of eligibility was placed on an updated form in 2020 with current photographs.



Photograph 1: Wrigley Field Main Entrance, Chicago, Illinois. 2020



Photograph 2: Wrigley Field, View of Outfield, Chicago, Illinois. 2020



Photograph 3: Wrigley Field, Ivy covered wall, Chicago, Illinois. 2020