

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 Original Little League Field

other names/site number Original League Field; Carl E. Stotz Field

2. Location

street & number 1695 West Fourth Street

N/A

not for publication

city or town Williamsport

N/A

vicinity

state PA code PA county Lycoming code 081 zip code 17701

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

Andrea McDonald

10/8/2014

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
9	1	structures
0	0	objects
11	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation & Culture/sports facility

Recreation & Culture/sports facility

Recreation & Culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation: Concrete

walls: Stone and cement

roof: Asphalt

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Original Little League Field, located on the south side of West Fourth Street in the City of Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, is a baseball field complex surrounded by a city park, a working-class neighborhood, and a flood control levee. The first playing field was defined in 1938, and the ball park was constructed incrementally between 1942 and 1951. Original Little League Field is located within the much larger (35-acre) Max M. Brown Memorial Park. Original Little League Field occupies about 1.14 acres and includes appurtenances of a baseball park, which includes; a diamond, bleachers, field house, dugouts, and fencing. The resource count consists of; 2 contributing buildings, 9 contributing structures, and 1 noncontributing structure. Original Little League Field retains all seven aspects of integrity. A distinguishing feature of the setting was, and still is, the presence of the flood protection levee which functions as a natural grandstand to accommodate the thousands of fans for the Little League National Tournament that evolved into the Little League World Series.

Narrative Expanded

Original Little League Field is a baseball field complex located in the southern section of the City of Williamsport's 35-acre Max M. Brown Memorial Park. The Park is defined as (Lycoming County) tax parcel 70-013-302, with Original Little League Field defined as a subsection of this tax parcel. Original Little League Field is located at 1695 West Fourth Street in Williamsport and is bounded on the north by State Route 2014 (West Fourth Street), and on the south by the Williamsport Flood Protection Levee (Levee) that lies adjacent to Lycoming Creek. To its east and west lie additional ball fields.

In 1942, the immediate setting surrounding Original Little League Field consisted of open fields to its east and west, the Levee to its south, and the majority of Max Brown Memorial Park to its north. The current neighborhood surrounding both Original Little League Field and the remainder of Max Brown Memorial Park includes working class homes and industrial facilities. Much of the industry has relocated, but the working class homes are very much a flashback to the late 1940s and early 1950s. Yet, the integrity of the Original Little League Field remains largely unchanged since its inception over 72 years ago. To the west of Original Little League Field is another baseball field used for skills development for younger players. Laid out in 1944-1945, this skills development site supported the Morning League. A T-Ball field was added to the east of Original Little League Field between 1994 and 1995. None of these changes have compromised the integrity of Original Little League Field. Memorial Park is also the site of historic Bowman Field—the second oldest active minor league park in the United States of America and the home of the Williamsport Crosscutters—a short season "Single A" franchise of the Philadelphia Phillies starting with the Williamsport Grays. Minor League teams have played ball at Bowman Field since 1926. Memorial Park has since added a swimming pool and playground on the north side of West Fourth Street.

Original Little League Field is laid out as a standard baseball field, except that the dimensions are two-thirds of the distance between the bases of major league fields. The field is placed in a low-lying flat between West Fourth Street and the Levee along Lycoming Creek.¹ The field is oriented southeast away from West Fourth Street, with a stone field house/museum that forms an axial pivot of the field, and the third base line axis parallels West Fourth Street. The field house is located behind the backstop. The ground slopes downward from West Fourth Avenue, so that the playing field

¹ The land upon which the levee was constructed is owned by the City of Williamsport. The levee itself was designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1942. The ongoing operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the City of Williamsport.

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surface is approximately 10-feet below the street level. Constructed on this slope, the field house is banked with the West Fourth Street elevation showing only one storey with the playing field elevation showing two full storeys. A concrete sidewalk runs along the west side of the field house from the street and along the first base line behind the bleachers. Across the sidewalk directly west of the field house is the original announcer's box/scorekeeper's shed. The playing field is surrounded by cyclone fencing running along first base line, around the backstop, and along third base line, separating the field from the bleachers and general spectator areas. Dugouts are located about mid-point along first and third base lines and have additional protective cyclone screening. Along the first base line axis there are two small bleachers that are located between home plate and first base; one is a small five-row metal stand and the other a larger metal twelve-row stand. The batter's cage (c. 1980) is located at the far end of the bleachers. Behind the bleachers on the other side of the sidewalk is the concession stand and picnic pavilion. (The pavilion is a modern construction serving the Little League field and the adjacent field to the west and is not included in the boundary.) Along the third base line axis there are broad concrete steps that extend from the field house to about third base; these steps hold park benches during the playing season. A wooden home run fence arcing from the foul pole on the base lines mark the perimeter of the playing area of the outfield. This home run fence extends along the foot of the slope of the Levee along the southern edge of the field. A one-storey cement block building, located at the foul pole along the third base line axis, is used to store field maintenance equipment.

In 1942, the field consisted of the Levee along the Lycoming Creek, a two-storey concrete block building along West Fourth Avenue, and the playing field. (See Figures 2 and 3) The Levee was completed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in 1942, just before Carl Edwin Stotz received permission from both the Corps and the Williamsport City Council to use the location. The Levee provided a natural grandstand with seating capacity for several thousand spectators. The lower level of the concrete block building was used by the Little League teams to store equipment and the upper level had public restrooms for visitors to the Max M. Brown Park. The playing field included; the backstop, a ball diamond with 60-foot base paths, pitcher's mound, and home plate/batter's box. When Carl E. Stotz first chose the location, it was adjacent to a set of cement steps leading down into the park area from West Fourth Street. A pair of two-storey banked cement block buildings containing public restrooms flanked the steps. A 1938 photo shows the experimental playing field oriented toward the southwest with the home plate backing up to the cement block buildings (See Figure 2). When Stotz laid out the 1942 field, he changed the orientation of the field toward the southeast. Thus, the left side of the outfield was the location where Carl E. Stotz experimented in 1938 with the dimensions for a little league diamond.

The following year, the wooden home run fence was constructed from foul pole to foul pole. It was made of ordinary pine planks at a height of 3.5 feet and spanning a length of 270 feet, the dimensions from home plate to the outfield fence are 160-feet along the first base line and 185-feet along the third base line. It was constructed with help from the County of Lycoming. Sponsor advertisements hang on the outfield (home run) fence, which are annually re-established. A 20-foot steel flagpole with the date inscribed "1943" was installed just outside the home run fence at its farthest point from home plate. The original wood scoreboard with hooks for manually hanging metal numbers was erected in 1943. The scorekeeper's shed was constructed adjacent to the backstop and included; a writing table, a sound system that included a record turntable, a microphone, and an amplifier. In 1948, the scorekeeper's shed was relocated to a location adjacent and slightly west of the field house (see Photograph no. 18). By 1945, electric cabling was laid underground to the centerfield scoreboard so that light bulbs could be installed to signal balls/strikes/outs and support a new sound system. Both the light bulbs and sound speakers were controlled from the scorekeeper's shed, which is located next to the backstop. Due to its deteriorated condition, the wood scoreboard was replaced by a metal scoreboard in 1993.

In 1945, metal bleachers were installed along the first baseline. They were expanded and extended along the first base line in the early 1950s, but scaled back in size following the departure of the World Series tournament in late 1958. Along the third base line, wood and metal-framed benches were also installed. From that point to the left field foul

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pole, wood bleachers were also originally constructed using scrap materials from the neighboring Bowman Field baseball park. These recycled wood bleachers were simply moved across Memorial Park from Bowman Field to the new Original Little League Field. For World Series events, additional wooden bleachers were erected along the first base and third base lines from the dugout all the way into right and left field, respectfully. After the World Series was concluded, the temporary wooden bleachers were removed. In 1948, when the field house was constructed, the bleachers along the third base line were removed. Broad concrete steps were included as part of the field house construction, running down from the sidewalk along West Fourth Street. The steps extended between the field house and third base, and during the playing season the park benches provided seating (see Photograph no. 14). A wooden canopy covered the area until the World Series moved from the field in 1958.

In 1945, in order to enhance the feeling of professional baseball, home and visiting team dugouts with concrete floors and internal drainage were constructed slightly below field level ("sunken") to allow fans who are seated behind the dugouts an unobstructed view of the playing field. An 8-foot high, metal chain link fence was installed from the backstop to the respective dugouts (protecting fans from foul balls). The fence also defined the batter's cage. In 1946, the left and right field sideline fences (approximately 3.5 feet high) were extended from dugouts to the home run fence, thus enclosing the field. In the mid-1970s, a permanent protective fence was installed between the dugouts and the playing field for added safety of players from foul balls.

In 1948-1949, a permanent field house, which housed a press box, office, equipment rooms, and bathrooms were constructed behind the home plate. The concession stand was the last building added to the field (see Photograph no. 17). It was constructed in 1951 to the west of the first base line. Food and beverages were sold at the stand, which was one of the means to help offset the costs of hosting a World Series tournament. Between 1947 and 1951, a make-shift tent had been erected during the annual tournament to serve food and beverages. Permission to use a space adjacent to the field for such a purpose, was granted during a meeting between the Max M. Brown family and Carl E. Stotz in 1946.

Resource Inventory

- Williamsport Flood Protection levee (c. 1942) within the nominated boundary. One contributing structure. Used by spectators as outfield stadium seating, the levee exists today as it did in the period of significance. (Photograph nos. 5 and 9)
- Little League playing field (1942). One contributing structure. Material for home plate and the batter's box is a sand-loam mixture; the rest of the bases path is clay. The same materials mix is present today. (Photograph nos. 1 and 2)
- Storage bunker (c. 1942). One contributing building. Originally a two-storey cement block building banked along the sidewalk on West Fourth Avenue. In the 1960s, the top storey containing public restrooms was removed.
- Home run outfield fence (1943). One contributing structure. Constructed of pine slats, paint and materials have been refreshed over time. (Photograph nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9)
- Scorekeeper's shed (1943). One contributing structure. A 7x15 foot plank wood building with an opening in the upper half of the long wall of the building. (Photograph nos. 18 and 19)
- Dugouts (1945). Two contributing structures. Reinforced concrete. In the mid-1970s, a permanent protective fence was installed between the dugout and the playing field for added safety of players from foul balls. The fence is an uncounted landscape feature. (Photograph nos. 10 and 15)
- Bleachers (1945/1946). Two contributing structures. (Photograph nos. 3, 10, and 11)

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- Field house. (1948-1949). One contributing building. Two and a half storey, banked, cement block building with a Perma-Stone veneer finish and a flat-topped hipped roof with a decorative lattice railing along the ridge. The entry elevation along West Fourth Avenue has a center door with a simple Colonial Revival surround, flanked by two small metal six-light casement windows; shallow cement steps lead to the entry. A sloped cement sidewalk on the west side of the building and tiered cement steps on the east side of the building lead down to the playing field. A second storey cement slab balcony extends across the rear width of the building. (Photograph nos. 1 and 2)
- Concession stand (1951). One contributing structure. 16 foot x 28 foot wood and concrete block building was constructed to the west of the first base line. (Photograph no. 17)
- Batting Cage (1970). One noncontributing structure. Metal poles and nylon netting. (Photograph no. 13)
- Scoreboard (1993). Uncounted landscape feature. Metal. Replaced the original deteriorated wooden scoreboard and is placed in the same location. (Photograph no. 5)
- Fencing (1945, 1993). Uncounted landscape features. The metal chain link fencing enclosing the field and forming the protective screen for the dugouts are considered uncounted landscape features.
- Flagpole (1943). Uncounted landscape feature. Steel, twenty feet height; inscribed with the date 1943. (Photograph nos. 8 and 9)

Integrity

Original Little League Field retains all seven aspects of integrity. All features within the nominated area date to the period of significance (1942 to 1958). Some of the contributing resources such as the bleachers have been repaired or replaced with safer, more maintainable material; some of the bleachers no longer extant were temporary structures only used during the World Series. There has been no alteration to the playing field or field house. These two resources appear today as they did when constructed by Stotz and his volunteers seven decades ago. Modifications to the Little League complex have been minor and do not affect any of the aspects of integrity.

The location remains the same as the date it was first constructed in 1942. Except for the addition of a Minor League baseball field and T-Ball field to the west and east of the nominated site, respectively, the setting is identical—preserved in large measure, due to the long term lease arrangement with the City of Williamsport—it still remains a designated part of the City’s Max M. Brown Memorial Park. The “blue collar-working class” neighborhood that is located northeast of the park remains largely unchanged over the past seven decades.

The design of the field in terms of dimensions and layout are true to the original construction over 72 years ago—field house, scorekeeper’s shed, dugouts are all original. The fence from the backstop to the outfield along both base paths has been brought closer to the playing field in order to better protect players and fans from line-drive foul balls.

Materials for the field, such as the sandy loam clay soil mixture for the pitcher’s mound and the batter’s box, continue to reflect the mixture first used over seven decades ago. Alterations to the original structures primarily include the normal maintenance and repair of sections of the wooden fence, scoreboard, bleachers, and batting cage netting.

Workmanship of the site reflects the attention to historic preservation. Given its setting in Max Brown Memorial Park, Original Little League Field offers the same feeling today to fans and players alike as when it was first constructed. Original Little League Field retains integrity of association. Today, the field is used by the “Original League” and supports baseball games for youth in the same manner as when the first pitch was thrown in the summer of 1942. The elements of the site are integrally related to, and associated with, each other. Together, these elements continue to reflect the creation and construction of the facility known in 1942 as Original Little League Field.

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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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1942 – 1958

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stotz, Carl E.

McCloskey, William F. "Mac"

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.

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Period of Significance

The period of significance begins in 1942 when Carl E. Stotz constructed the first Little League baseball field at this location. The period of significance ends in 1958 when the Little League World Series, which was held every August at this site, moved to a larger venue (Lamade Stadium) in the Borough of South Williamsport.

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

Original Little League Field is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Recreation/Entertainment for association with the creation and early development of Little League baseball. At this location during the summer of 1938, the official dimensions of the Little League playing field were determined. From 1939 through 1941, Carl E. Stotz moved his little league teams from one vacant and available lot to another—always in the vicinity of the nominated site. In 1942, Original Little League Field was established and became home to this 9-12 year old baseball for boys organization. Upon this field, the first National Little League Tournament (1947) was held, as well as, the first Little League World Series (1950). Through 1958, Original Little League Field continued to serve as the official playing field for the Little League World Series.

Little League owed its survival to its guiding philosophy of inclusion and its ability to embrace change. It owed its success to its ability to merge a popular sport with structured rules that fostered a sense of responsibility and fair play. At one time, Little League was described as one of the “greatest remedies for juvenile delinquency ever discovered.” At its core, Little League was about helping young boys to learn how to play the game of baseball. But, in a much broader sense, Little League was also about building relationships. Perhaps Stotz said it best when he proclaimed that Little League “makes dads of fathers.” By 1958, the end of the Period of Significance, Little League had grown from one league with three Williamsport teams to nearly 5,000 leagues around the globe, and the Little League World Series had become an important youth sports event receiving international coverage and attention.

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

Creation of Little League

Little League and Original Little League Field is the fulfillment of a vision born in the mind of Carl E. Stotz, the founder of Little League baseball. During a game of pitch and catch with his two young nephews in mid-summer 1938, Stotz tripped over a lilac bush in his back yard causing him to recollect a commitment he had made to himself during his youth—to “create a baseball team for boys, complete with uniforms and equipment... (and)...play on a real field.” At the age of 28, Stotz renewed that commitment with a promise to his nephews to make his dream, his vision a reality. The professional Baseball Team—the Williamsport Greys—had clearly created a culture for the sport within and around the city. Youngsters too poor to purchase a ticket to enter Bowman Field to see the Williamsport Grays play, would peer through knot holes in the outfield fence. The passion of these youngsters for baseball was insatiable. Stotz simply wanted to build upon the local baseball appetite and provide an opportunity for young boys to learn, play, and enjoy the sport we call the “national pastime.”

His nephews recruited neighborhood boys to become part of a ball team, which Stotz then took to an area in nearby Max M. Brown Memorial Park—the site that later became Original Little League Field. At that location, Stotz placed newspapers, folded into the shape of bases, and experimented with the size and scale of a field suitable for boys. He found that a 60-foot base path gave an equal opportunity for a batter to safely reach first base as it offered an infielder to throw the runner out. Other dimensions, such as the distance from home plate to the rubber on the pitcher’s mound, were adjusted or scaled to meet the skill level and physical capabilities of 9 to 12 year old boys. Games were capped at

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6 innings and other rules of play were established. Design of the field and support buildings and structures were conducted under the watchful eye of Carl E. Stotz with assistance primarily from Mac McCloskey, a member of the Founders Group – the first generation of Little League volunteers.

Stotz pursued an “all-volunteer” philosophy and was largely successful due to his tenacity and perseverance. From 1938 to late spring 1939, Stotz visited 56 Williamsport-area companies seeking sponsors for this boys’ baseball program with negative results. Pushing forward, he was able to finally secure the support of three companies who sponsored three teams: Lycoming Dairy, Lundy Lumber, and Jumbo Pretzel. Clothed in uniforms bearing the sponsoring company’s name, the young boys commenced play on “6 June 1939 and Little League baseball was born.”

It should be noted that Little League was not the first youth baseball organization. The Khoury Youth Baseball League in Ohio, for instance, got its start ca. 1932. Other youth leagues included local Sunday school leagues and Industrial leagues scattered throughout the country. These were separate and distinct entities with no discernible unifying set of rules and organization. None had the significant national and international impact that Little League, and the game established at Original Little League Field had.

Carl E. Stotz first approached Williamsport City Council in 1938 seeking permission to construct a baseball field in the southern section of Max M. Brown Memorial Park, but was turned down since some of the site was being used as a mobilization location for the new flood protection levee being constructed along Lycoming Creek. Between 1939 and 1941, Stotz’s Little League teams rotated or moved from one vacant lot to another in the neighboring community. These were transient sites that worked for a season, but were not suitable for the long-run. In late 1941, Stotz was informed of the need to vacate their current field – a site owned by Lycoming Engine’s manufacturing plant which was expanding the plant as a ramp up to WWII. Again, Stotz revisited the southern section of Max M. Brown Memorial Park since the flood protection levee had been recently completed. “The generally flat plot (he) had in mind lay about six feet below (the level of) West Fourth Street, the City’s main east-west highway. It was nestled between the street and the 20-foot high dike to the south...the site being more desirable than the one we were being forced to vacate....It was a site surrounded by stately maples and American elm trees.” A few of these trees still remain today.

In early 1942, the land for Original Little League Field was made available to Carl E. Stotz by a vote from the Williamsport City Council. Nine years later (1951), City Council adopted Ordinance 2290 which added Article 913 to the Codified Ordinance of the City. This Article provided “exclusive use of the field for play and tournaments by Original Little League, Inc.” thus rendering the site as the permanent home of the Original Little League. The property for the nominated site continues to be under the ownership of the City of Williamsport. The Williamsport Flood Protection Levee is owned by the City of Williamsport. The Corps constructed the levee as part of the recently constructed Lycoming Creek tie-back area of the new West Branch Susquehanna River levee system in early 1942.

Built during WW II and a half decade beyond, materials used for construction of the Original Little League Field were scarce and volunteer labor was the guiding principle; improvements were made during the autumn or “off season” following each summer. Jacob Lehn, a parent of one of the players, built a portable electronic scoreboard. Bob Stout, a Williamsport Technical Institute student, set up an amplifier system. Volunteers built the field house, dugouts, and seating. William F. “Mac” McCloskey, a personal friend of Stotz, was instrumental in designing the playing field and developing the rules of Little League with Carl Stotz. He was scorekeeper and announcer for more than twenty-seven years, and he built the remote controlled baseball scoreboard for the field (see Figure 1).

Beyond the challenge of finding and developing a baseball field suitable for Little League, the next overwhelming problem to solve was the need to scale or downsize all baseball equipment (except the baseball, itself) to meet the physical attributes of young boys. Since Little League was developed as a “neighborhood experience,” it was only

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natural that residential boundaries for each league were established predicated upon the location of the neighborhood school. Little League also established requirements for age eligibility (9-12), team size, even the name—Little League, the phrase being coined as early as 1940.

Growth of Little League

Stotz and McCloskey created scaled detailed drawings of the playing field which, in turn, became the “blueprint” for the thousands of Original Little League Fields built across America and in countries around the world. The field dimensions and design complemented the set of standardized rules and policies so that each little league was governed consistently. These two items—the field design and playing rules/policies—were the critical elements to the development of a national league organization. The Little League World Series provided the spectacle and publicity that attracted attention from the general public and media. (See Figures 9 and 10)

By 1946, Little League was beginning to receive international attention. Back in America, the *Williamsport Sun* reported that “leagues patterned after Stotz’s brainchild are springing up.”² But it was the next year, 1947, that was labeled as the “Great Turning Point” for the game. Little League decided to hold a tournament in late August to determine a champion of all 17 leagues within Little League. (See Figure 4) Twelve leagues agreed to participate. Each league provided a team roster that included the locally selected all-stars from that league (or, alternatively, its league champion). Over 2,500 fans watched the Maynard Midget League win the first national tournament. At first, the tournament was documented in newsreels; in 1953 CBS aired the tournament in its first national broadcast. More than 12,000 fans attended the 1958 World Series games. The need to accommodate the growing number of teams, fans, and associated facilities for the World Series event motivated the relocation of the World Series, itself, in 1959 to a much larger expanse of land (50 plus acres) in the nearby Borough of South Williamsport.

Due to its rapid growth and the increasing national interest, Little League elected to incorporate and did so in late 1949. At its first meeting, the Little League Board elected Carl E. Stotz as Board President and Little League Commissioner. In 1955, the Board of Directors of Little League Inc. under its new Chairman, Peter McGovern, clashed with Stotz on a number of topics. Sadly, differences of philosophy became irreconcilable. Carl Stotz left the Little League Board. In an out-of-court settlement in 1956, Stotz and Little League Inc. agreed that:

- Little League Inc. Headquarters and the World Series Tournament would forever remain in Williamsport, PA.
- Carl E. Stotz would be recognized as Little League’s founder.
- Volunteers (district delegates) at the local level would make, amend, and repeal playing rules for local leagues.

Modern Little League

When first conceived, Little League was intended strictly for young boys. Over the past 70 plus years, Little League has expanded in size and complexity, but has remained bed-rocked in the guiding principles Stotz established: character, courage, and loyalty. The success of Little League as an organization over the decades can be directly related to its

² The phrase “Original” entered the lexicon after 1943, in order to distinguish the first Little League from the growing number of leagues that were being chartered or franchised across the country. The name, Original Little League, was memorialized in the legal incorporation papers that were filed on the organization’s behalf in 1949 in the state of New York. In 1958, the nominated property was renamed as Original League Field and later in 1974 renamed Carl E. Stotz Field. While the field has experienced three name changes, it has always been regarded as the “Birthplace of Little League.” Little League is the only sports program in America granted a federal charter—Public Law 88-378. Signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 16, 1964, Little League was granted a Congressional Charter of Federal Incorporation.

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philosophy of inclusion. Beginning in 1974, girls could compete for a position on a boys little league team. An entire array of girls' soft ball leagues has been developed. A co-ed youngsters program – called Tee-Ball—was instituted in 1970 to teach the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. “Morning league” (ages 6-9) for skills development founded its roots in the mid-1940s. Beginning in 1961, junior league (ages 13-14), senior league (ages 15-16) and big league (ages 17-18) was added. In 1989, Little League also established its “challenger division” for physically and mentally challenged youngsters and today provides an athletic experience for more than 30,000 children. Sexual orientation, race, religion, economic status, family composition, etc. are deemed private and personal to the individual ball player; intolerance of these differences is considered unacceptable by Little League, Inc.

The most significant dimension of Little League is that it is the oldest youth sports organization to embrace all of the following distinguishing elements. Equally relevant is the central role that Little League has played and continues to have in the lives of families across the globe. For many of the multi-million youth players, their entire family is engaged in some capacity or another—either on the field of play or in a number of support roles. Baseball—the proverbial American Pastime—integrated into the lives of youngsters, continues to provide a gathering point where adults, children, values, work ethic, physical fitness, and competitive achievement are meshed together uniquely and very successfully.

- It's an all-volunteer-driven youth sports organization
- Around the world athletic leagues operate locally, but are governed by a standard set of rules and policies
- Local volunteers have a say in the running of the international organization by helping to establish and review rules
- Geographic boundaries for leagues were established to promote a level of competitive fairness
- Championed racial integration into youth baseball at a time when the nation was segregated and racially divided
- It's the largest youth athletic organization in the world today
- It maintains its fidelity to its core principles: character, courage, and loyalty

What made Original Little League Field such a special venue for watching ball games was the grassy-hill grand stand that bordered the right and center field fences. Offering a grassy seat to thousands of baseball fans, the levee slope at Original Little League Field was an important part of the Levee completed by the Corps in the 1942 timeframe. Much of the earth used in the construction of that Williamsport levee system was excavated from a mountain side in the Borough of South Williamsport. The terrain bowl created by this earth excavation activity in that Borough, in fact, had formed a natural building platform for the construction of the new, larger Little League Stadium.

Every August, the Original League hosts a local baseball tournament, named after Mac McCloskey, to enable Little League teams from throughout this region to experience the heritage and thrill of playing on the field where it all began. For the past several decades, the field has been maintained by the Original League board members who provide weekly, and sometimes daily, attention to the field complex.

In 2014, Little League has well over 7,000 chartered or franchised leagues spanning the globe. Through competitive post-season tournaments, the top sixteen teams—eight from the USA and eight from other countries—travel to South Williamsport in late August to play head-to-head six-inning games to determine an international champion, a U.S. champion, and a world champion. Little League World series is played at Howard Lamade Stadium and Volunteer Stadium in South Williamsport drawing a spectator crowd in excess of 150,000 each year and a world-wide viewing audience through the ESPN and ABC networks. (See Figures 16 and 17)

Comparisons

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Original Little League Field
Name of Property

Lycoming County, PA
County and State

Since there is no other Original Little League Field, comparisons are not possible. All Little League franchises conform to the Little League rules and all Little League playing fields, as well as equipment, and all countries conform to the Little League dimensions established at Original Little League Field. Support facilities may vary depending on the local league but the dimensions of the playing field are universal (see Figures 11 through 15).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

<http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu> accessed June 2, 2014.

- Aero Service Corporation. USDA Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Northeast Division. August 5, 1939, aqe-18-95.
- Keystone Aerial Surveys, Inc. USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services. October 4, 1969, aqe-2kk-256.
- Pennsylvania Aerial Surveys, Inc. USDA Commodity Stabilization Service. May 9, 1959, aqe-7w-27.

Kelly, William, R. Interview with Gary Parks, Executive Director and Scott Sagar, Curator of Collections (both from the Lycoming County Historical Society), April 25, 2014. Notes in possession of the preparer.

Kelly, William R. Interview with Karen Stotz Myers (daughter of Little League founder, Carl E. Stotz), December 6, 2013. Notes in possession of preparer.

Kelly, William R. Interview with Bertram Haag (last surviving member and chairman of the Founders Group), May 20, 2014. Notes in possession of the preparer.

Lycoming County. Aerial photograph AQE-9F-13 taken August 2, 1951.

Stotz, Carl, as told to Kenneth D. Loss. *A Promise Kept, The Story of the Founding of Little League Baseball*. Jersey Shore, PA: Zebrowski Historical Services Publishing Company, 1992.

Van Auken, Lance and Robin Van Suken. *Play Ball! The Story of Little League Baseball*. University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Little League Museum & Original League Archives, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

NA

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Original Little League Field
Name of Property

Lycoming County, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.1 acres

UTM References

Northing:

Easting:

Elevation: 520

Latitude: 41.240399

Longitude: -77.044300

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is delineated on the enclosed boundary map drawn to scale of 1inch = 35 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all land and buildings/features historically associated with Original Little League Field. The north face of the Williamsport Flood Protection Levee within the nominated boundary was historically used as a grandstand for spectators.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William R. Kelly
organization County of Lycoming date _____
street & number 48 West Third Street telephone 570-320-2130
city or town Williamsport state PA zip code 17701
e-mail bkelly@lyco.org

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.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Original Little League Field
Name of Property

Lycoming County, PA
County and State

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: Original Little League Field
City or Vicinity: Williamsport
County: Lycoming County State: Pennsylvania
Photographer: William Kelly and Bonnie Wilkinson Mark
Date Photographed: November 2013 and May 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Looking at the south elevation of the Field House
2. Looking north from levee to south elevation of the Field House
3. Looking north towards the first base dugout
4. Looking east towards outfield
5. From bleachers looking east towards the levee
6. From levee at right field looking northeast towards left field
7. From the levee looking northeast
8. From the levee looking northeast
9. Outfield looking southwest
10. From left field looking west towards right field. Bleachers are behind first base.
11. From levee looking northwest.
12. First base line bleachers looking south
13. Pitching and batting cages
14. Third base line benches
15. Visitor's dugout along third base line
16. From first line bleachers looking northeast towards visitor's dugout and third base line.
17. Concession stand
18. Scorekeeper's shed
19. Interior of scorekeepers shed
20. Signage
21. Interior of the top floor of the Field House

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.