

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Memorial Stadium
other names/site number Roosevelt Stadium

2. Location

street & number Intersection of East Main Street and Lonnie Lowe Lane N/A not for publication
city or town Johnson City N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Washington code 179 zip code 37601

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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patrick Nickels May 27, 2010
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other,

(explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Memorial Stadium
Name of Property

Washington County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	6	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
2	2	objects
5	8	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture—Sports Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture- Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cast Concrete
walls Cast Concrete, Concrete Masonry Walls

roof N/A

other Cast Concrete

Narrative Description

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

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.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1933-1956

Significant Dates

1933-Construction Begun by CWA

1935-Construction Completed by TERA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civil Works Administration, TN Emergency Relief Agency

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Memorial Stadium
Name of Property

Washington County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 Acres Johnson City 198 SE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>379692</u>	<u>4020265</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Justin D. Sanders, Preservationist, Heritage Alliance of Northeast TN and Southwest VA
organization On Behalf of Committee for Preservation and Responsible Spending date 09/15/2009
street & number 212 East Sabin Drive telephone
city or town Jonesborough state TN zip code 37659

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name City of Johnson City, Jane Myron, Mayor
street & number 601 East Main Street telephone
city or town Johnson City state TN zip code 37659

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN

Narrative Description

Built in the heart of the former city center of Johnson City, Tennessee (pop. 56,768), Memorial Stadium, constructed 1933-1935 as a New Deal project, has stood as a gathering place for community members for over 70 years. Aside from its prominent location, the features of the stadium set it apart from other gathering places throughout the city and the region. The sunken bowl playing field and concrete stands create an intimate atmosphere for enjoying sporting events and community gatherings. Strong building materials and simple building techniques characterize the agencies which were charged in constructing these projects in communities throughout the state and nation, and have stood the test and weathering of time. In addition to the sunken bowl field the stadium features entry gate posts with Art Deco designs and a memorial Spirit of the American Doughboy statue that was installed in 1935. Decades after its first use, the stadium still plays host to high school athletic events, but it beginning to show signs of deferred maintenance and neglect.

Memorial Stadium is part of a larger sporting complex that sits on approximately 17 acres near the downtown section of Johnson City, Tennessee and is bounded by East Main Street, Bert Street, and Lonnie Lowe Lane. The stadium was begun in 1933 by the Civil Works Administration. The Administration was formed to help the unemployed by supplying funds to local authorities for the completion of public works projects. The construction of Memorial Stadium was one of these projects, but was ultimately halted when the Civil Works Administration was phased out in 1934. In July of that year, the Tennessee Emergency Relief Administration took over stadium construction and ultimately completed the project in 1935.

The football stadium, named Memorial Stadium, comprises approximately 6 acres of the site, and is dominated by a large field and seating bleachers, which are contained within a large sunken bowl. The playing field itself in conjunction with the berms forming the bowl are a defining feature of the site and thus contribute greatly to the character and historic value of the property.

Playing Field – 1934 Contributing site

The central feature of Memorial Stadium is the sunken playing field and surrounding berms. The field is aligned along a northwest-southeast axis. The sunken playing field is immediately encircled by paved walkway. The walkway served as a running track, and was first paved in the 1970s. Outside of the track the land rises up to form an elongated oval berm that surrounds the field. A concrete walkway is located along the top of the berm. A chain link fence encircles the outer concrete walkway. Together the playing field and berm are a contributing site.

Northeast Stands – 1934 Contributing structure

A set of poured-in-place concrete stands stretches along the rise of the berm on the northeast side of the field. The seating area is divided into eight sections divided by six aisles and a central tunnel. Seats are composed of solid concrete benches that run the length of each section. At the top of the two central sections is a semi-enclosed seating area that is covered by a shed roof. The northeast stands retain much of their original appearance and have a high level of integrity.

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Southwest Stands - 1934, 1987 Contributing structure

The southwest stands were built in the same manner as the northeast stands. In 1987 the poured-in-place reinforced concrete stands were covered by metal bleachers that are divided into five sections. Atop the middle section is a two story, shed roof press box that was added in 1987.¹ Each story of the vinyl clad press box has seven sets of windows on its main facade. A section of the original concrete stands flanks each end of the metal bleachers. The remainder of the concrete stands is still in place beneath the metal bleachers.

Gate Posts - 1935 Contributing object

Access to the field complex is gained from a gated entrance on the northwest end of the stadium. The entrance is guarded by an iron gate supported by concrete support piers. The piers are carved with simple deco-inspired patterns which while simple, allude to the time period in which the stadium was built. A low brick wall extends from each concrete pier.

The Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue - 1935 Contributing object

The 1935 statue is called "The Spirit of the American Doughboy" and was erected on a walkway outside the entrance gates in honor of those who gave their lives during World War I. The statue was later rededicated to include veterans of World War II and others. Executed in copper plated cast zinc the statue depicts a World War I soldier in battle gear holding a rifle in his left hand and a grenade in his left. The statue stands on top of a concrete base. A plaque on the front of the base honors veterans on World War I, and a plaque on the opposite side commemorates veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The latter plaque was added to the base in 1974.

Memorial Statue - 1975 Noncontributing object

A memorial dedicated to veterans of the Vietnam War was placed in a grassy area west of The Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue in 1975. This memorial is a low granite obelisk set on a stepped base.

Ticket Booths - 1980s 2 Noncontributing buildings

Outside the north and south entrances are two square ticket booths. These simple structures have brick walls and a single opening for the exchange of money and tickets. The booths outside the north entrance have pyramidal roofs.

Concession Stand - 1980s Noncontributing building

The rectangular concrete block concession stand is located in the northwest corner of the stadium. It has a gable roof and a series of openings on its south facade.

Restroom - 1980s Noncontributing building

Located in the northwest corner of the stadium, the restroom is a simple rectangular concrete block building. It is covered by a gabled asphalt shingle roof.

¹ The current press box replaced an earlier press box that was built in 1947.

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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN

Players' Field House/Dressing Room – 1990s Noncontributing building

Also located in the northwest corner of the stadium is the players' field house/dressing room. This building is a simple rectangular concrete block building covered by a gabled asphalt shingle roof.

Scoreboard—1990s Noncontributing object

The metal scoreboard is found on the southern end of the playing field, and is supported by three metal posts which are driven into the ground. The current scoreboard, installed in the 1990s, replaced older boards from the 1980s and the 1960s.

South Concession Stand – 1980s Noncontributing building

Located immediately adjacent to the scoreboard the south concession is a rectangular concrete block building. It has a flat roof with wide overhanging eaves.

The landscape forms which form the bowl, coupled with the structural elements of the stadium and its location on the site truly create a unique atmosphere inside Memorial Stadium. The venue is an intimate setting, while accommodating a wide number of spectators. Its position at the heart of the city represents both its importance to the community, and serves as an example of community-based design practices that are often not seen in modern planning and design.

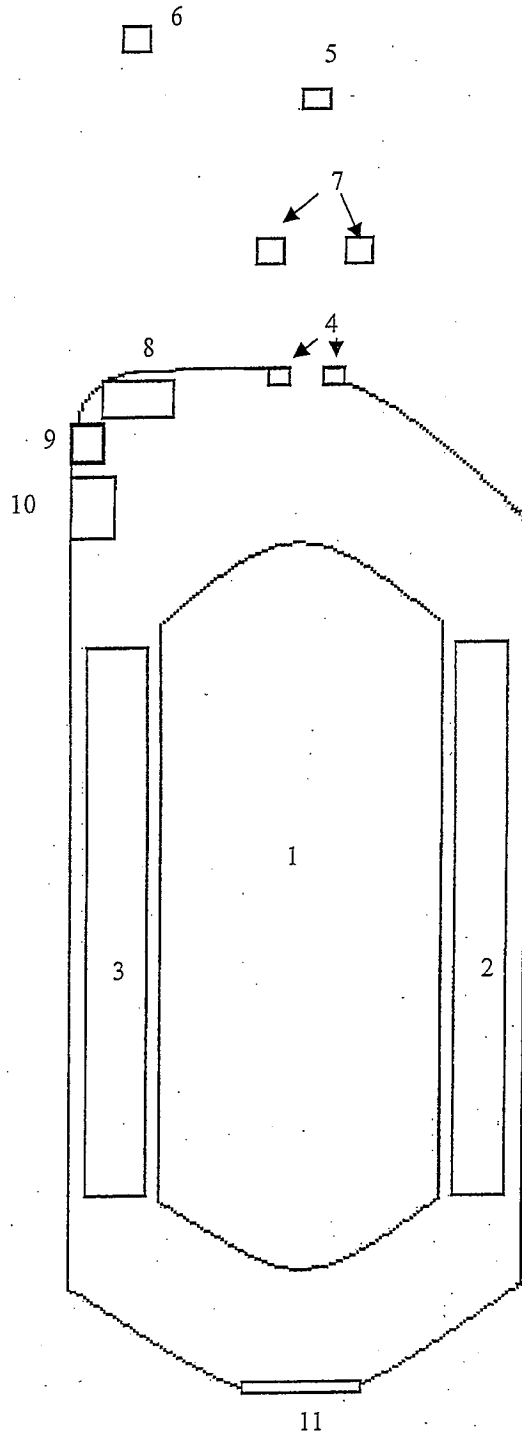
While the non-contributing elements outnumber the contributing elements, they are relatively small and unobtrusive. The sunken bowl playing field, stands, and gate posts are the main character defining resources and they retain a high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN



- 1 Playing Field
- 2 Northeast Stands
- 3 Southwest Stands
- 4 Gate Posts
- 5 Doughboy Statue
- 6 Memorial Statue
- 7 Ticket Booths
- 8 Concession Stand
- 9 Restrooms
- 10 Field House/Dressing Room
- 11 Scoreboard/Concession Stand

Not to Scale **N** 

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Washington County, TN

Narrative Statement of Significance

Built 1933-35, Memorial Stadium lies at the heart of the history of Johnson City, Tennessee. It is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its local significance in entertainment/recreation. Throughout the decades of its existence the stadium has played host not only to numerous high school and collegiate sporting events, but to the formation of a community identity rooted very deeply in the ground it occupies. The stadium has been utilized by Science Hill High School, Langston High School, and East Tennessee State University. The facility serves as a reminder of the changes in the construction of public venues from small and intimate community based facilities to the larger commercialized facilities of today. Its construction is a reminder of a time when innovative government programs (like the Civil Works Administration) worked to put hundreds of Americans and local citizens to work building infrastructure to support communities. As a visible reminder of CWA projects in Johnson City, and with its role as the home to many of Johnson City and the region's athletic teams, the complex was, and still is, an epicenter of social interaction for the region. The facility's long-standing position in the community has reinforced its role as both a stage for a diverse social history and as an instantly recognizable and locally significant symbol for many residents from its construction through the present day. The period of significance ranges from 1933, representing the beginning of its construction to 1956, the final year that the collegiate Burley Bowl was played in the stadium.

Land Acquisition and Construction

The land that would serve as home to Memorial Stadium was originally part of a thirty acre tract of property deeded to Johnson City on May 5, 1924. While the land sat vacant for nearly a decade, plans were considered to use the land near the city center for some form of public space. It was not until 1933 that funds and plans were available for a public stadium to be constructed on six acres of the site.

The stadium was built using federal funds provided by New Deal legislation. The Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933 distributed grants in aid to states who met the certain criteria, foremost of which was the creation of a state agency to oversee the disbursement of funds. In Tennessee, that agency was the Tennessee Emergency Relief Administration or TERA.

TERA oversaw funds based on the 1933 Federal legislation's guiding principles which mandated that relief must be work-related rather than "dole," that projects must be diverse enough to allow for the participation of many types of occupations, and that it must be adequate to the project proposed. Before these projects could get underway, however, it became obvious to the Roosevelt Administration that more drastic and immediate relief was required.

Thus the Civil Works Administration was created by Executive Order on November 9, 1933 with a monetary allocation of 400 million dollars. The 400 million dollars was taken from the 3.3 billion dollars that had been previously appropriated for public relief programs by the National Industrial Recovery Act which was passed in June, 1933. The sole task of the CWA was to gainfully employ individuals who were already

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receiving direct federal relief, "on the dole." Upon signing the Executive Order to create the CWA, Roosevelt wrote that, "Creation of the new agency constitutes a fundamental change in the Federal program to deal with unemployment aspects of the depression."² The CWA, administered by Harry Hopkins, became the first public employment program of the New Deal. It focused primarily on relatively small projects that could be started quickly and provide immediate employment.

In Tennessee, C.C. Menzler was named as the head administrator of CWA activities within the state. An estimated 59,000 people were employed by CWA projects in Tennessee and a total of \$12,743,212 of federal funds and \$816,511 of state funds were spent in the state during the short five month life of the program. A total of 1,150 projects were undertaken in Tennessee ranging in cost from \$136.50 for repairs to the courthouse clock in Jackson to \$245,000 for construction of Collierville School in Shelby County. "Most of the projects submitted dealt with repairing, painting, or building of state highways, county roads, city streets, schools, and other public buildings."³

The CWA was short-lived, however, and by the time it was discontinued on March 31, 1934 it had expended close to \$900 million dollars and was employing three and a half to four million people. Part of that money paid for the beginnings of Memorial Stadium and TERA funds completed the project in 1935. It was shortly after the stadium was completed that the Federal government created the Works Progress Administration, which was widely used in Washington County to build schools. Even though the CWA was short-lived it set a precedent and raised support for public work programs.⁴ Following the dissolution of the CWA reviews of the program were generally positive. *The Knoxville Journal* reported that "the government had done a magnanimous thing in giving jobs to so many people when they had no hope of employment."⁵

Memorials

Dedicated in the spring of 1935 as Roosevelt Stadium, the facility bore the namesake of the president whose innovative program made the construction possible. However, the facility also served to honor those Johnson City residents who had served in the nation's armed forces. In that same year, a statue known as the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" was erected outside the northern stadium gate. The King's Mountain Post #24 American Legion dedicated the statue by sculptor E.M. Viquesney that November. The statues, which can be found throughout the country, were later recognized as the official World War I national memorial.

E.M. Viquesney (1876-1946) completed and copyrighted his original design for the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" in 1920. Executed in copper plated cast zinc the statue depicts a doughboy walking with a rifle

² Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Remarks on Signing Executive Order Creating Civil Works Administration." The American Presidency Project. www.presidency.ucsb.edu. Web site accessed 2/4/2010.

³ John Dean Minton. *The New Deal in Tennessee, 1932-1938*. Garland Publishing, New York, 1979. pg 66.

⁴ "Civil Works Administration," www.novelguide.com. Web site accessed 10/28/2009.

⁵ Minton. pg 67.

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Memorial Stadium
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in one hand and a hand grenade in the other. It was composed of pressed copper or bronze alloy sheets welded together over a metal frame. This resulted in a relatively light and inexpensive statue. In 1934 Visquesney made some subtle changes to his design, the most notable of which are the tree stumps around the figure were made shorter and the name "SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DOUGHBOY" was molded on the front of the statue's base. Another notable difference is that the 1934 version was commonly made of copper plated cast zinc.⁶ The statue at Memorial Stadium is an example of the 1934 version and is the only known Spirit of the American Doughboy statue in Tennessee.⁷ About 139 known examples of the statue have been identified nationwide. Two Spirit of the American Doughboy statues, both located in Arkansas, are individually listed in the National Register (both listed 5/23/1997).

High School Athletics

Having served as the venue for numerous athletic events since its construction in the early 1930s, Memorial Stadium has played host to a variety of athletic teams, both from the high school and collegiate levels. The stadium has served as home to the Science Hill High School Hilltoppers since 1935, hosting a wide variety of local, regional, and statewide visiting teams. Langston High School, which served as the city's African-American high school during segregation, also shared the field with the Hilltoppers until integration. East Tennessee State University also used the facility for a period of time (1973-1976), when construction on the Johnson City campus prevented the use of the team's own stadium. Collegiate athletics also impacted life at Memorial Stadium from 1945 and 1956 for the "Burley Bowl," a nod to the region's agrarian roots. This event brought colleges together from throughout the region each Thanksgiving Day, with crowds gathering and filling each seat in the stadium and many more standing along the sidelines.

These athletic events factor greatly into the formation of the social history and culture of our region. High school and college athletic events are far more than just spectator sports in this region; they are part of the identifiable culture. Immense community pride associates these events, and the people who participate in them, as part of a larger community identity. As home to these events, Memorial Stadium serves as a quickly and easily identifiable center for these sentiments and as a strong connection to that social history.

Science Hill High School saw some successes in the stadium. The 1939 season saw the Hilltoppers compile an undefeated record of 10-0-1. The lone tie was a 0-0 outcome against rival Dobyns-Bennett who had previously dominated Science Hill.

In addition to serving as the home of the Science Hill Hilltoppers since its inception, Memorial Stadium also was the home field of Langston High School. Langston was Washington County's first African-American

⁶ "The Spirit of the American Doughboy", The E.M. Visquesney Spirit of the American Doughboy Database. www.doughboysearcher.tripod.com. Web site accessed 10/28/2009.

⁷ A stone version of the doughboy statue was developed by Viquesney in 1922. A similar stone doughboy statue in Clarksville was once thought to be a Viquesney design, but is now considered to be a reproduction.

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public high school. Located in Johnson City, the school was named for the first African American elected to public office in the United States, Congressman John Mercer Langston (Ohio, 1856).

Dr. Hezekiah B. Hankal established the school in 1893. Hankal, a noted physician, whose multi-racial practice flourished after his patients' survival rate exceeded that of the white physicians during the 1873 cholera epidemic, is thought to be the first African American certified to teach in the state of Tennessee. He was certified in Washington County in 1873. Langston graduated its first class in 1897. It continued to serve Washington County's African-American community until court-ordered desegregation in 1965.

Langston High athletic teams dominated in the region's "colored" divisions. The Langston Golden Tigers were state champions in 1936 and 1937, under the leadership of Coach Williams. They attracted a large and multi-racial following. A 1938 newspaper article reports that "seats are reserved at all games for the white Fans."⁸

Langston's football team also had great success in the 1950s and 60s. These teams were lead by Billy Gene Williams, who went on to play collegiately at Dillard University in New Orleans, and Johnny Russaw, who became the first African American scholarship football player for East Tennessee State University. Langston's success was highlighted by a 134-0 victory over Douglas High School of Elizabethton in 1955.

Design and Integrity

The design of the stadium is characteristic of rural public works projects of the time period. Simple construction forms and materials were used to create the stadium's concrete seating and a tunnel through the center of the eastern stands which provides access to the playing field. The northern entrance gates to the stadium, which sit on East Main Street, feature iron gates with concrete supports. The supports have simple, but distinct, Art Deco detailing. However, the stadium's most unique architectural characteristics are the landscape features which form the playing field itself, and surround the concrete bleachers. The sunken bowl, created by excavation and creation of a surrounding raised mound ring, creates the effect of being more removed from the surrounding area. The raised mound allows for access to the upper sections of the concrete stands as well as concession and restroom facilities and the main entrances to the north and south. Few projects of the short-lived Civil Works Administration still exist today, and even fewer examples, if any, of this type of stadium structure still exist to be seen and appreciated. These factors place Memorial Stadium as an archetype of structures of this time period, solidifying its significance to the community.

The facility was renamed Memorial Stadium in 1947, honoring both the memory of the late President Roosevelt and that of the local servicemen who had been lost in both World Wars. The name change, brought about by a change in ownership, also saw several improvements to the facility. Seating capacity was expanded, a new press box was built, and lighting was installed on the site for evening events.

⁸ "Stadium an Asset to Community," *Johnson City Press Chronicle*, Johnson City Tennessee. 12 March 1938.

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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN

As the decades passed, Memorial Stadium still maintained its role as a prime venue for sporting activities within Johnson City and the region. Maintenance and upgrades to the facility continued, as did the variety of athletic teams who utilized the facility for their practices and games. Additional memorials were added to the grounds of the stadium complex in 1974, as the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statue was rededicated to include those city and county residents who gave their lives during World War II, the Korean War, and the war in Vietnam. The final monument to be added to the site was placed by the Johnson City Jaycees the following year to memorialize the sacrifice of "those who gave their lives in service to their country in Indo-China 1961-1973."

While changes have been made to the stadium it still retains its characteristic sunken bowl design and concrete stands. The additions of modern buildings around the edge of the berms do not detract from the overall setting and feeling of the stadium, and the addition of the metal stands on the southwest side of the field is reversible.

Summary

As home to a variety of different educational institutions' sporting teams, teams from segregated high schools, colleges, and others, the facility represents a variety of themes and patterns of our region's heritage. It serves as a testament to the people and events that shaped the social history of our region throughout the twentieth century.

Architecturally, the structure represents an institutional form of construction by a government agency. Very few of this agency's architectural examples still stand, making the stadium distinguishable from others. While there is little architectural embellishment or order to the building, there are distinctive landscape architecture features that make it unique and worthy of distinction.

While deterioration and deferred maintenance now threaten this cultural treasure, renewed enthusiasm to restore and maintain the stadium now drives many to investigate its rich history, and encourage others to champion its revitalization.

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Memorial Stadium
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- “Memorial Stadium: It’s History is Long and Special.” Herald and Tribune. October 18, 1989.
- Minton, John Dean. *The New Deal in Tennessee, 1932-1938*. Garland Publishing, New York. 1979.
- “Stadium an Asset to Community.” Johnson City Press Chronicle. March 12, 1938.

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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for Memorial Stadium is a portion of parcel 045.00 located on Washington County tax map 46L, group F. The boundary follows the parcel line along East Main Street, then extends southeast along the exterior northeast wall of the stadium to the parcel line along Lonnie Lowe Lane. The southwest boundary line separates Memorial Stadium from the adjacent baseball field. The boundary represents the area currently associated with Memorial Stadium.



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Memorial Stadium
Washington County, TN

Name of Property: Memorial Stadium
City or Vicinity: Johnson City, Tennessee
County: Washington
State: Tennessee

Date of Photographs: June 2009

Photograph 1 of 12
Northern Entrance to Memorial Stadium facing South

Photograph 2 of 12
World War I Doughboy Statue facing South

Photograph 3 of 12
Ticket Booth facing South

Photograph 4 of 12
Main Entrance facing Southeast

Photograph 5 of 12
View of Playing Field and Stands facing South

Photograph 6 of 12
View of East Stands facing Southeast

Photograph 7 of 12
Close-up of East Stands facing North

Photograph 8 of 12
Entrance Tunnel in East Stands facing East

Photograph 9 of 12
View of West Stands facing South

Photograph 10 of 12
View of West Stands and Press Box facing Southeast

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Photograph 11 of 12
View of West Stands facing North

Photograph 12 of 12
Scoreboard and South Concession Stand facing East

CITY OF JOHNSON CITY
TENNESSEE

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2010
TN. HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

January 26, 2010

Mr. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Office
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

Re: Memorial Stadium
701 East Main Street
Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

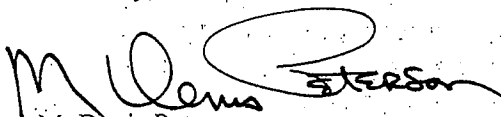
The city recognizes the interests of the Tennessee Historical Commission in the efforts of securing nomination on the National Register of Historic Places for Memorial Stadium

With the continuing growth of the City of Johnson City and the need for more up-to-date and comprehensive facilities and amenities, the city has embarked on a program to construct a new football stadium at Science Hill High School. The new stadium will better serve the students of the school, the residents of the city, and visiting teams. The site of the existing stadium will remain in the ownership of the city and is planned for a multi-generational civic campus that will serve all residents of Johnson City. The historic aspects of Memorial Stadium could be retained and identified through the use of plaques and possibly other methods and techniques, i.e. utilizing iron gate posts (constructed in 1935) as part of the new football stadium, or the civic campus.

The Johnson City Board of Commissioners voted on September 3, 2009 to build a new stadium at Science Hill and to redevelop the current location of Memorial Stadium into a multi-generational civic campus. The application of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was not prepared until September 15, 2009. We are unclear as to why this action is necessary since the City Commission had already taken action to demolish the stadium, and we cannot endorse or recommend approval of the nomination.

We appreciate your interests and concerns regarding historic preservation in the city and also in supporting the city's long-term goals and objectives. I will be unable to attend the State Review Board meeting for nomination on January 27, 2010.

Sincerely,


M. Denis Peterson
City Manager

February 4, 2010

Mr. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Office
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

Dear Sir:

Johnson City Manager Pete Peterson's letter to you dated January 26, 2010 is intentionally misleading and manipulative. Citizens for Preservation and Responsible Spending began the process of having Memorial Stadium placed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2009 long before the commission voted on demolition.

I'm enclosing a letter dated August 4, 2009 sent to Mayor Myron. We have other letters that are dated that were sent to our city commission and the State of Tennessee relating to our efforts. Your letter to Mr. Paduch confirms our efforts.

Mr. Peterson in his letter to you fails to mention our efforts. I request you forward copies of this letter to members of the Historical Commission. Mr. Peterson implies we started our efforts after the city commission made the decision to demolish Memorial Stadium which is incorrect. It's obvious the current city administration isn't overly concerned with preservation.

It's frustrating to have the Heritage Alliance and State Historical staff in agreement that all the information needed was presented only to have appointed commissioners delay the nomination. The delay now means that demolition on the stadium could take place before they meet in May. Their delay really damages any chance of saving the stadium because it is deemed historical.

Please forward my letter to the commissioners.

Sincerely,

Peter Paduch
(423) 676-3851 (cell)

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG: Johnson City
PROPERTY: Memorial Stadium
ADDRESS: East Main Street and Lonnie Lowe Lane

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION

NAME OF COMMISSION: *Johnson City Historic Zoning Commission*
DATE OF MEETING: *January 26, 2010*
HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING? *Yes*
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:
HZC decided to submit letter of support already sent to JC City Commission (attached)

SIGNATURE: *Wade [Signature]* DATE: *1/26/10*
TITLE: *Staff in HZC*

THC STAFF EVALUATION

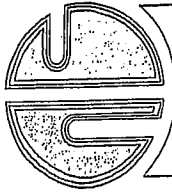
ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:
Built 1933-35, Memorial Stadium has served as a community gathering place as the home football stadium of Science Hill High School and Langston High School. In addition to high school athletics, Memorial Stadium was home to the collegiate Burley Bowl. The stadium was begun as a project of the short-lived Civil Works Administration, which served as a model for other large scale New Deal programs that followed.

SIGNATURE: *Brian Beadles* DATE: November 30, 2009
TITLE: Historic Preservation Specialist

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: January 27, 2010

RETURN FORM TO:
**BRIAN BEADLES
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214**



City of Johnson City Tennessee

601 East Main Street • P.O. Box 2150 • Johnson City, TN 37605 •

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 28, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Johnson City Commission
FROM: Johnson City Historic Zoning Commission
SUBJECT: Memorial Stadium

At its August 25th meeting, the Johnson City Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) discussed Memorial Stadium. The HZC is aware that the future of Memorial Stadium is ultimately is up to the City Commission to decide; however, they want the City Commission to keep in mind the historic significance of the structure when making that decision.

Memorial Stadium was constructed under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935 and was named Roosevelt Stadium. Since that time several schools have used the stadium for events including the following: East Tennessee State University, Milligan College, Science Hill High School, and Langston High School. The Burley Bowl was played at the stadium and was a highlight in the area. Also located outside the stadium off East Main Street is the Doughboy Statue, which is a memorial for veterans.

According to the Tennessee Historical Commission, Memorial Stadium is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Preservation. The Heritage Alliance is working with the Committee for the Preservation and Responsible Spending on the paperwork involved to have both the football and baseball stadiums listed on the National Register.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Jayne Bailey at 434-6073.

xc: Pete Peterson, City Manager

CITY OF JOHNSON CITY
TENNESSEE

May 24, 2010

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Brian Beadles
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville TN 37214

Dear Mr. Beadles:

It is understood that the State Review Board will be considering the nomination of the Memorial Stadium in Johnson City to the National Register on May 26th. The City would like to remind the Board that the City owns this property and is not in favor of this request. On September 3, 2009, the Johnson City Board of Commissioners voted to construct a new high school football stadium on the Science Hill High School campus and construction has already begun. Memorial Stadium will cease to be used after June 2, 2010. There are no events scheduled at this facility after June 2 and an architect has been retained to redevelop this site for a new community center complex which is already in progress.


The City does understand the historic significance of several aspects of Memorial Stadium and plans to incorporate the original gated entrance to the stadium situated off of East Main Street and the doughboy statue into the future design of the redeveloped site. These two existing features of the stadium are contributing to the significance of the stadium and will remain as a symbol of Memorial Stadium.

While the Memorial Stadium site has long been recognized as a focal point for Johnson City School athletic activities, the new community center campus to be situated on this redeveloped site will actually serve a cross section of the community for generations but still preserve the significant entrance features to the redeveloped site.

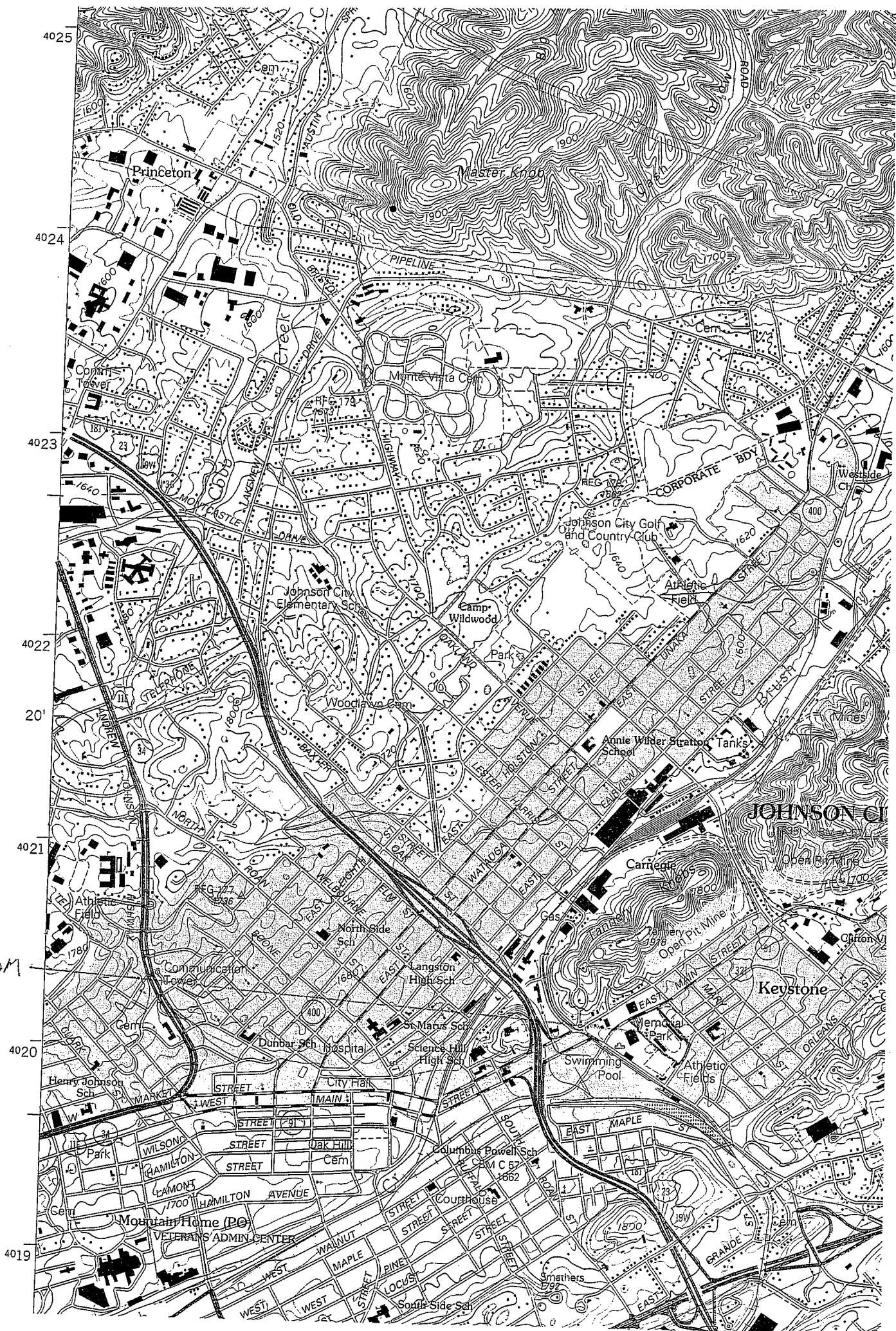
The City does not support the inclusion of this property for inclusion on the National Register and urges the State Review Board to decline this nomination.

If you have any questions please contact the city manager's office at 423-434-6003

Sincerely,



M. Denis Peterson
City Manager



EMOKIAL STADIUM

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