

**Collection Number**

BA MSS 25  
BL-480.2003

**Title**

Cincinnati Reds Ball Park Construction

**Abstract**

The collection of Cincinnati Reds Ball Park consists of architectural drawings for the new park located in Hamilton County, Ohio. This is a “consolidated set” of construction documents.

**Provenance**

The architectural drawings were donated to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 2003 by Justin G. Rehm. These drawings were the property of C.M.A. Supply Co., Inc. and given to Mr. Rehm. Collection described by Helen Stiles in May 2003, with assistance from Anne McFarland.

**Access**

By appointment during regular business hours, email [research@baseballhall.org](mailto:research@baseballhall.org).

**Historical Information**

The Cincinnati Base Ball Club (originally known as “Resolutes”) was organized as an amateur team on July 23, 1866. By 1868, the team had become known as the Cincinnati Red Stockings and had four paid players on the roster, although the team continued to consider them self an amateur organization. In 1869, the Red Stockings became the first admittedly professional team in America.

The Cincinnati Reds have played in several stadiums over their long history including Union Grounds (1869-70), Avenue Grounds (1876-79), and Bank Street Grounds (1880-84). On May 1, 1884, the team held their opening day game at Cincinnati Base Ball Park located at Findlay Street and Western Avenue along the Millcreek. The stadium was later renamed League Park and was remodeled in 1894.

Palace of the Fans was built in 1902, and the Reds played there until 1911 when the Palace burned. Redland Field was built on the site of Palace of the Fans and the first regular season game was played on April 11, 1912. Redlands Field was renamed Crosley Field in 1934, and the first night game in major league history was played at Crosley Field in 1935. Franklin D. Roosevelt had the honor of turning the lights on.

On June 30, 1970, the Reds moved to downtown Cincinnati and the banks of the Ohio River with the opening of Riverfront Stadium. Riverfront was the first outdoor stadium to have an all-Astro Turf field. Riverfront Stadium was renamed Cinergy Field in 1996.

In March of 1996, the Hamilton County voters approved a tax increase to build a new stadium. A site was chosen for the new stadium on July 1, 1998. The stadium would be

built between Cinergy Field and U.S. Bank Arena, still on the banks of the Ohio River. In July of 2000, Great American Insurance purchased naming rights for the ballpark and official groundbreaking ceremonies took place on October 4, 2000. The first regular season game was played there March 31, 2003. The ballpark has an historic feel and appearance with updated amenities and features. A pair of team mosaics pays tribute to two of the most well-known teams in franchise history, the World Champions 1975 Reds and the Cincinnati Red Stockings original nine.

### **Sources**

Allen, Lee. *The Cincinnati Reds*. New York: Putnam, 1948. p. 3-4, 8-9, 21.  
Benson, Michael. *Ballparks of North America: a comprehensive historical reference to baseball grounds, yards and stadiums, 1845 to present*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 1989. p. 98-103.  
Rhodes, Greg and John Erardi. *Cincinnati's Crosley Field: the illustrated history of a classic ballpark*. Cincinnati, OH: Road West Pub., 1995. p. 6, 14-23, 28-33, 40.  
Ringerling, Michael. *Cincinnati Reds 2003 Media Guide*. Cincinnati, OH: Cincinnati Reds, 2003. p. 5-7.  
Reds Communications Department. *2003 Reds Magazine*. Cincinnati, OH: Cincinnati Reds, 2003. Issue 1, p. 19-21.

### **Scope and Content**

Architectural drawings (consolidated set) consisting of four volumes and four oversized drawings.

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

Volume 1 contains the index to all four volumes along with general information, graphics, interior design, life safety and architectural plans.

Volume 2 contains architectural plans only.

#### **Box 2**

Volume 3 contains architectural plans and architectural materials.

Volume 4 contains structural, site development, general information and survey plans.

### **Folder - oversize**

The oversized drawings consist of two ballpark axonometric view and two building elevations, one for the North and East and one for the South and West.