

DuPont Manual Stadium

Draft Report on the Proposal for Designation as an Individual Landmark

(24-LANDMARK-0001)



**Metro Historic Landmarks and
Preservation Districts Commission**

May 28, 2024

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Case Information

Individual Landmark

As defined by the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances (LMCO) 32.250, an Individual Landmark is “a structure or site, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, designated as a local historic landmark by the Commission as provided in this subchapter or by action prior to the effect of this subchapter. A landmark structure or site is one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.”

24-LANDMARK-0001

This case was initiated by a resolution from Metro Council to conduct a review of the building for designation consideration. The resolution was sponsored by Councilwoman Jennifer Chappell to recognize sites in Council District 15.

Property Description

Location and Key Elements

Manual Stadium is located at 1230 E. Burnett Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. It is owned by Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS). The property is situated on the west side of E. Burnett Avenue, one block north of Eastern Parkway, within the Schnitzelburg Neighborhood (**Figure 1**). The property is bound by E. Burnett Avenue on the east, Wagner Street on the north, Pindell Avenue on the west, and Fetter Court on the south. Manual Stadium is comprised of one parcel totaling 7.2375 acres. The parcel contains the football field, north stands with press box, south stands, field house, a baseball field, and main entry gate (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1. Aerial view of the property with a purple dot showing the location (LOJIC).



Figure 2. Aerial view of the property with labels of features (LOJIC).

Structure Description

DuPont Manual Stadium has a brick main entry gate facing east at E. Burnett Avenue. There are four pedestrian openings with metal gates within the main entry gate. On either side, there are two small rectangular openings in the brick with metal grates. Above the entry gate, there is a metal sign that reads, “DuPont Manual Memorial Stadium Dedicated to Good Sportsmanship.” The year 1924 is also part of the sign, which is the original date of construction. A white “M” is situated in the masonry under the sign. On either side of the entry gate, the concrete block walls are clad in stucco and painted white (Figure 3 and Figure 4).



Figure 3. Front façade, or east elevation, looking northwest.



Figure 4. Detail view of the main entry gate, looking west.

To the north, the stucco clad wall terminates into a one-and-a-half-story bungalow building (**Figure 5** and **Figure 6**). The bungalow is completely clad in stucco painted white to match the stadium wall. It has a front gable roof clad in red standing seam metal. The front (east) façade features a full width porch with a foundation, knee wall, and rectangular columns clad in stucco. The porch roof is hipped and clad in asphalt shingles. There is a central, ¼-lite, replacement entry door. It is flanked on either side with two 1/1 single-hung vinyl windows. The upper half story features a vinyl Palladian window. The north elevation of the bungalow contains 13 6-lite awning windows. The upper half story has three gabled dormers each with two 1/1 single-hung vinyl windows (**Figure 6**). The rear of the building is not visible from the street as it terminates into the concrete block wall that wraps around the northern property line. There is a front gabled CMU addition on the rear elevation that is located inside the stadium. The addition roof is clad in red standing seam metal. The south elevation of the addition has six small window openings (**Figure 7**).

The south elevation of the bungalow is located inside the stadium (**Figure 7**). The first story of the elevation has a frame addition clad in lap siding. The addition is enclosed on the east side with a ½ lite entry door and a window opening infilled with a “M” feature. There is a 1/1 single-hung vinyl window on the east elevation of the addition. The unenclosed portion of the addition has a solid entry door into the bungalow building. On either side of the addition, the south elevation of the bungalow has five 6-lite awning windows. The upper half story has three gabled dormers each with two 1/1 single-hung vinyl windows.



Figure 5. South roofline and front façade, or east elevation, looking northwest.



Figure 6. Front façade and north elevation, looking southwest.



Figure 7. South elevation, looking north.

The block wall continues along the northern property line to the eastern property line where it meets chain-link fencing. There is about 300' of chain-link before the wall begins again and then wraps around the southern property line back to E. Burnett Avenue (**Figure 8**). There is a driveway and gate located in the eastern facing wall with access off Burnett (**Figure 9**). The block wall continues around the eastern property line back to the brick entry gate (**Figure 10**). The scoreboard can be seen over the top of wall.



Figure 8. Block wall details, looking south.



Figure 9. Driveway and gate, looking west.



Figure 10. Front façade, or east elevation, looking northwest.

On the interior of the stadium, the paths lead to the south stands and the north stands with the football field in the center (**Figure 11**, **Figure 12**, and **Figure 13**). The south stands are basic metal stands with light poles located behind. The north stands are a similar design and size. There is a rectangular press box near the top of the stands. Light poles are also situated behind the north stands. The bungalow field house is located northeast of the north stands (**Figure 14**). Upon entry into the stadium, there is a War Memorial (see **History of Manual Stadium**) (**Figure 15**).



Figure 11. Stadium interior, looking south toward south stands.



Figure 12. Stadium interior, looking northwest, with south stands on left and north stands on right.



Figure 13. Stadium interior, looking northwest toward north stands and field house.



Figure 14. Stadium interior, looking northwest toward War Memorial and field house.



Figure 15. Detail view of War Memorial, looking west.

Historic Context

Brief History of DuPont Manual High School

According to duPont Manual High School,

The school that is now duPont Manual High School is a combination of two separate older schools. The Louisville Girls High School and duPont Manual Training High School. The Louisville Girls High School began operation in April, 1856. Originally located in an old building at Center and Walnut Streets, it started with an enrollment of 69 and a faculty of 3. The Louisville Girls School moved three times during its history as it continued to grow. By 1923, the new building at 5th and Hill could comfortably house only 1,400 students but had more than 2,600. This overcrowding was somewhat relieved with the opening of Atherton and then Shawnee High Schools, but once again a new building was needed.

Architect J. Meerick Colley was hired to design a new facility to be located at 2nd and Lee. Built by the Rommel Co. in 1933, the massive Collegiate Gothic structure was named Reuben Post Halleck Hall after prominent local educator and textbook author, Reuben Post Halleck. It is one of the most ambitious school plants built in Louisville in the twentieth century. The front portion of the original structure is U-shaped with two rear projecting wings which form two courtyards. The central entry is marked by a five story tower framed by three double doors set between gothic pilasters with huge stone arched transoms.

DuPont Manual Training High School had been founded in October 1892. It was funded by a generous donation by Mr. A.V. duPont. The school was originally located at the corner of Brook and Oak Streets with an enrollment of 109 boys. The original purpose of the school was to provide young men with a system of education which would fit them, in a more direct and positive manner, for the actual duties of life. The school was to provide three years of high school and prepare a large number of boys with skills to earn their living in industrial pursuits.

During the years 1915-19, the school board decided that there was not sufficient funds to run two boys schools as separate units. Manual was merged with Louisville Boys High (Male) and ceased to exist except as an auxiliary unit under the guise of “economy and efficiency.” The consolidation remained in force until 1919.

In September 1950, the advent of coeducation brought about the merger of the Louisville Girls High School and duPont Manual Training High School. The new school was renamed duPont Manual High School.

Today Manual is a blend of traditional education and innovative trends. With a student body of 1,980 and a teaching faculty of 97, 3 assistant principals, a head principal, and 3 guidance counselors, Manual continues to thrive. In 1978, the Youth Performing Arts School became part of Manual. Manual became a magnet school in August 1984. Today, the school has five magnet programs: the Youth

Performing Arts School magnet, the Math, Science and Technology magnet, the Visual Arts magnet, the High School University magnet, and the Journalism + Communication magnet (duPont Manual High School n.d.).

History of Manual Stadium

According to McDaniel,

For the first five decades of the 20th century, there were only three annual sporting events of note in the state of Kentucky—the Derby, opening day of the Louisville Colonels baseball season, and the Male-Manual football game.

In its heyday the football game captured the hearts and minds of the entire community. Local papers ran banner headlines promoting and recapping each contest. Every Thanksgiving Louisvillians—whether directly involved or not—were forced to choose which school they favored. Purple and gold or red and white streamers were festooned on seemingly every vehicle; partisans battled each other on Brook Street—if not fisticuffs and brickbats on Wednesdays, it was the gracing of both buildings with paint and graffiti. On Thursdays families postponed their turkey dinners until after “The Game.”

The game is still played today, of course. Although it no longer takes place on Thanksgiving and no longer draws crowds of 20,000 people, it remains by far the biggest gate on the school’s schedule, according to Larry Wooldridge, Manual’s director of athletics. It also remains one of the most historic high school football games in the country. What has been lost—for bad or for good—is the intense disdain both schools once held for each other.

When Manual opened its doors in 1892, Male, or High School, had been in operation for 36 years and could boast of 333 graduates, many of whom were in important leadership positions in Louisville. It took four years of grueling study to graduate from High School. Its straight-laced, traditional, liberal arts curriculum, including four years of Latin, was an obstacle that made the four-year journey a difficult trek. On the other hand, even though students were faced with stiff academic challenges, one could graduate from Manual in only three years, a fact that not only perpetuated stereotypes but provided a distinct disadvantage when it came to football. For the first six years of the Rivalry, Manual’s oldest and most experienced players, using modern nomenclature, were “juniors.” Male had “seniors.” Manual could eke out only four wins in the first 16 tries. (Until 1903 the two played more than one game a season—a series where the ‘champion’ would have to win two of three.)

Though the Manual curriculum indeed included history, language, literature, math and science, it was still considered a school for the blue collar boy. If you wanted your son to be a doctor, lawyer, or dentist, the prevailing wisdom required that he attend Male and spend four years with “pure” academic.

Uncle Joe Dickson remembered what the schism was all about when he graduated from Manual in 1895: “We had no standing in the community—we were the blacksmiths, the carpenters, the trade learners. The general public had no conception of the ultimate end of a course of study at the school at Brook and Oak.” In 1897, reporting the second game of that series which Manual won 20-0, *The Louisville Post* echoed the same sentiment: “The Old Gold and Purple has always wave triumphant over the Red of the ‘blacksmiths’ as their more cultured opponents are wont to dub them.”

Make no mistake about it—the first Male-Manual football game was both the product of a serious class distinction and the attempt of one school to prove its students were just as good as those attending the other. From the beginning it was class warfare acted out on the gridiron, the art of sport imitating life. That class bias only began to fade away in the early fifties when the addition of female students to both schools changed curricula and finally did away with rigid stereotypes (McDaniel 2005).

On December 17, 1892, Manual played its first football game against the Louisville Athletic Club. They played at the Club’s field, and at the time, football was more like rugby than American football. Male students petitioned their principal for a football team. On November 18, 1893, the first Male-Manual football game was played at the National League baseball park at 28th and Broadway. Male won. In 1894, the Thanksgiving tradition began. Each year the rivalry continued to grow as the sport continued to grow. Newer rules were established, and the Thanksgiving tradition continued. In 1903, Male acquired its own football field at Brook and Breckinridge Streets; however, Manual did not have its own field.

From 1915-1919, the two schools were consolidated due to costs. Their rivalry somewhat waned as did the attendance to the football games. When consolidation ended, the rivalry resumed, and Manual did not want to share High School Field with Male. Manual’s football team had practiced and played on the commons at Preston and Oak Streets, National League baseball park, the Fairgrounds, Shelby Park, Eclipse Park, and makeshift fields at Brook and Woodbine Streets and Eighth and Magazine Streets. While parents and athletes complained about a lack of stadium, the idea did not become possible until Neal Arntson was hired as the football coach in 1921. Prior to Arntson’s hiring, the Manual Crimson had only beaten the Male Bulldogs eight times in 35 games. Under his leadership, the Crimson beat the Bulldogs two Thanksgivings in a row for the first time in 26 years. These wins spurred the school, its parents, and its alumni to seriously plan for a stadium. In May 1923, Manual PTA president J.N. Dennis chose a six acre site at the corner of Texas and Burnett Avenues, less than two miles from the school. The site was known as “Milkman’s Field” as it was leased to cattle owners for their grazing herds. In August 1923, he convinced the Board of Education to buy the land for \$10,000 (McDaniel 2005; Pisterman 2011).

A year later, Manual students, faculty, alumni, and friends, including the Mayor of Louisville, met on a Saturday to build a tall wooden fence around the field, which they completed in one day. Then the Manual alumni began a fundraising campaign to build Manual Stadium (**Figure 16** and **Figure 17**). The proposed stadium would be constructed of concrete and steel with a seating capacity of 15,000. It was estimated that the project would cost \$60,000. J.G. Hunt Isert, president of the

school's Alumni Association, created the stadium campaign committee. He found local business leaders to join the committee. In one month, they raised \$72,000 in pledges. These pledges were comprised of \$1,000, which offered annual rights to purchasing certain tickets; \$500, which were most common among alumni; and \$7 student pledges. Manual students pledged \$4,726 and Male students pledged \$1,000 (McDaniel 2005).

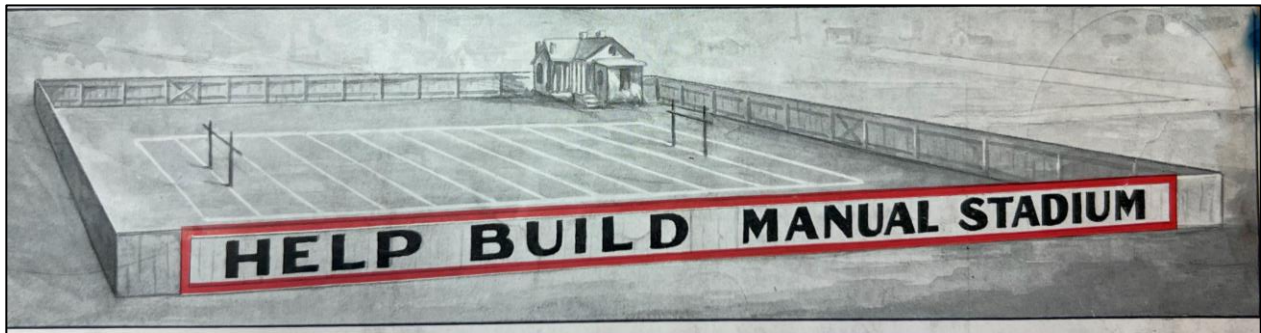


Figure 16. 1923 Drawing from a Fundraising Brochure (Jefferson County Public Schools).



Figure 17. 1923 Photograph of Manual Football Team marching to raise money for the stadium (Jefferson County Public Schools).

On March 12, 1924, the stadium committee selected Arthur G. Tafel, Sr., a Manual football alumnus, as the architect for the stadium. Tafel was the architect for the Jefferson County Board of Education, during which time he designed Valley High School. He is also known for designing University of Louisville's Grawemeyer Hall; Kentucky Printing House for the Blind; and the old Kentucky Country Day School (*Courier-Journal* 1924; *Courier-Journal* 1974; McDaniel 2005). With \$72,000 in pledges secured, the Board of Education approved the stadium plans in May 1924 and work began (**Figure 18**). The original design of the stadium included two parallel stands, one on the north side and one on the south side.



Figure 18. 1924 Photograph of construction of the south stands in the stadium (McDaniel 2005).

The first game in the stadium was actually played before construction was complete. On October 18, 1924, Manual lost to South High of Columbus, Ohio. Upon completion, the stadium boasted a seating capacity of 9,700. The *Courier-Journal* ran small ads explaining how to get to the stadium by car and by streetcar. When the stadium was formally dedicated on November 15, 1924, "it was considered the finest high school facility in the country" (McDaniel 2005). The dedication ceremony lasted an hour, which included

- raising college pennants around the stadium with strains of each college's song played by the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Co. Band;
- parade of groups and institutions that helped build the stadium: Manual's student body and alumni; Male High School band and faculty; Girls High School; Washington High School of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Atherton Girls High School; Richmond School; and football squads

of Male High School, St. Xavier College, New Albany High School, Jeffersonville High School, and DuPont Manual Training High School;

- singing of “America,” or “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee;”
- invocation by Rev. Dr. C.W. Welch;
- raising of the Stars and Stripes by Mary Bloom, granddaughter of Dr. I.N. Bloom, a school board member who supported the establishment of Manual; and,
- football game between Manual and Washington High School of Cedar Rapids, Iowa to “dedicate the stadium to clean athletes” (McDaniel 2005) (**Figure 19**).



Figure 19. 1924 Photograph of football game between Manual and Washington High School (Jefferson County Public Schools).

During the game’s half time, Joe Berge Sr. of the Stadium Committee, Edward Gottschalk of the Board of Education, and Louisville Mayor Huston Quin spoke. Additionally, Lucille Fessenden, great-niece of T. Coleman DuPont, helped raise the Manual flag in the stadium (**Figure 20**). According to Dudley, “Slowly the Manual family moved to their seats, but even more slowly did they leave the magic stadium, as if reveling all the more in each moment of lingering as memories surged on them. Here at last was Home. Home after thirty-three years of wandering and wondering. Their team from the earliest formation has been a team without a home, waifs at the mercy of landlords, no blade of grass to call theirs, and buffeted from one commons to another, always fighting on somebody else’s field—dang nigh outcasts when not objects of charity. They made their own uniforms in the shops, fastened their own improvised cleats to their shoes, fashioned their own pads and headgears, and played with every football granted them until it no longer could be patched. They were impoverished in everything but grit, but they were rich in this. They

accepted whatever coaching that was volunteered them, but the real development of the team was through the strength and character that gave du Pont Manual the will to go on and on, with nothing under them but borrowed soil; but over head was Faith, and back of them was Determination and Loyalty, and ahead was Vision” (Dudley 1924).



Figure 20. 1924 *Courier-Journal* photographs of the dedication (*Courier-Journal* 1924).

The stadium development also impacted the surrounding Schnitzelburg Neighborhood. What began as a streetcar suburb continued to grow in the 1920s with folks wanting to move near the new stadium. It was specifically mentioned in real estate ads in the *Courier-Journal* as an attractive neighbor and amenity. With the initial pieces of the stadium complete, the Alumni Association

continued to raise funds to improve it. In 1926, a two acre, adjacent parcel was acquired by the School Board for use as a practice field. Additionally, the wooden fence was replaced with a cinder block wall. A baseball field was also soon incorporated into the practice field. As the Male-Manual game continued to grow in popularity, the Alumni Association undertook expansion of the stadium in 1927. Seats were added to the west end, creating a horseshoe design. Tafel was chosen again as architect. When the expansion was completed, the stadium had a capacity of 14,021, which at that time was the largest high school stadium in the US (McDaniel 2005). In 1933, the School Board voted to build an entry gateway to the stadium. “The board has asked the du Pont Manual Training High School to design and place the iron grill work over the wooden gate. Plans call for grill work with a huge “M,” the name of the school, and the phrase ‘Dedicated to good sportsmanship’” (*Courier-Journal* 1933). The article also noted that in the summer of 1933, a quarter mile running track, restrooms, and a clubhouse with showers for visiting teams were added to the stadium.

In 1946, the Alumni Associations of both Male High School and Manual created a joint committee to fundraise \$160,000 for further stadium improvements (**Figure 21**). The goal was to create a war memorial gateway, add lights to the stadium, add 3,000 more seats, and create a practice field and field house for Male. The fundraising goal was not fully met. The war memorial gateway, a smaller war memorial, and lights were purchased. On September 21, 1946, at the opening game of the football season, a large bronze plaque set in a concrete marker was dedicated to Manual students and alumni who perished in World War I and World War II. The marker included 120 names. There had been two previous markers at the stadium since 1924. They reflected World War I casualties (McDaniel 2005). A late 1940s aerial photograph shows the entry gateway and the lights (**Figure 22**).



Figure 21. 1946 Fundraising Brochure (Jefferson County Public Schools).



Figure 22. Late 1940s Aerial of the Stadium (Jefferson County Public Schools).

Built of steel and concrete, which was exposed to the elements year round, the stadium began to deteriorate. After 28 years, the original structure was condemned and closed by the Board of Education on September 6, 1952, a week before the opening game. The season's games were relocated to Maxwell Field and Parkway Field. The School Board hired architect E.T. Hutchins to survey the facility and provide recommendations. Hutchins noted that the steel used to construct the stadium was not generally used for that purpose as it was not strong enough to support the concrete. The Board of Education was exploring costs for renovation; a completely new stadium on the site; and as a new stadium on their property at Hess Lane and Pindell Avenue. Hutchins recommended renovating the stadium as the more cost effective option (*Courier-Journal* 1952).

Renovating Manual Stadium was a big undertaking, and the construction bids were higher than anticipated, which threatened Manual's 1953 schedule as well. The School Board was receiving a lot of pushback on the amount of funds being directed at the stadium rather than schools. Ultimately, the Alumni Association took over the lease of the field from the School Board. They roped off all areas that were dangerous and erected 6,200 temporary bleachers on the north side. The 1953 season was played in Manual Stadium. Before the 1954 season though, the north and

south stands were finally replaced with the current solid steel deck, which cost \$184,000 (**Figure 23** and **Figure 24**). To help with financing, the property was deeded to the City of Louisville (deeded back to JCPS in 2000). Some of the cost was provided by the School Board, the Louisville Board of Alderman, and the Manual Alumni Association. The seating capacity was 10,000. In 1963, the west stands were demolished. They had been retained during the 1950s renovation to keep construction costs down (McDaniel 2005).

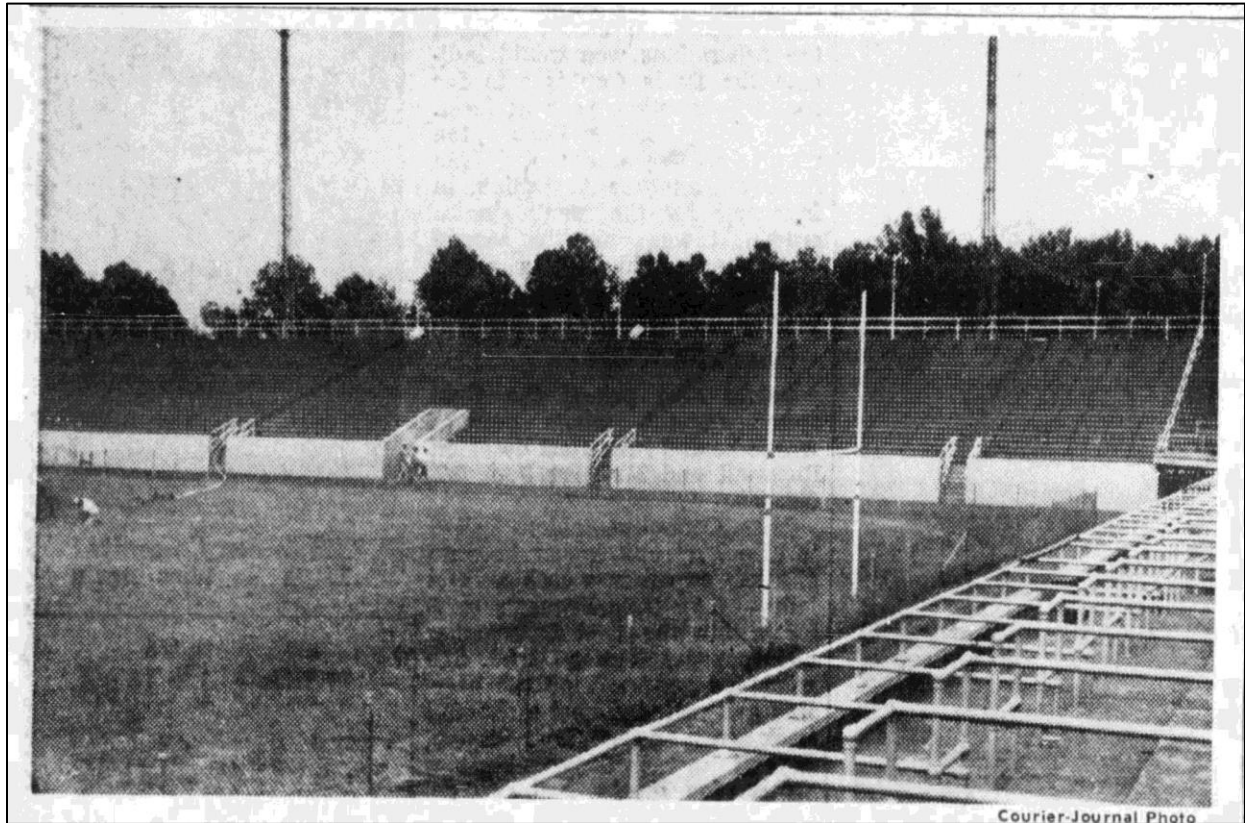


Figure 23. 1954 *Courier-Journal* photograph of the south stands (*Courier-Journal* 1954).



Figure 24. 1954 *Courier-Journal* photograph of the north stands (*Courier-Journal* 1954).

According to aerial photographs, the war memorial gateway, which had been installed in 1946, had been removed by 1971. It is unclear if that was a slipcover over the original gateway as the metal sign that exists today matches the 1933 *Courier-Journal* description of the sign made by the school. On October 27, 1984, the 100th Male-Manual game was played at Cardinal Stadium as a large attendance was expected. There were celebrations leading up to the game the week before. The program for the game featured history of both schools and the Old Rivalry as well as stories about the fans and the impact that the Old Rivalry had on the city. In 1985, the football field at Manual Stadium was named for Harvey Sanders, who maintained it from 1951 until his retirement in 1986. He lived on site in the house. In May 1991, the baseball field at the stadium was named for Coach Ralph C. Kimmel. According to McDaniel, “Manual Stadium remains a monument to its many alumni, to civic pride, and school spirit. But no one can disagree with what was printed in the 1925 *Crimson*: ‘It will in the minds of many alumni and friends, be considered a memorial to the energy, patience, skill and untiring efforts of J.G.H. Isert’” (McDaniel 2005).

Statement of Significance

Historic Significance

The DuPont Manual Stadium is historically significant for its association with the history of DuPont Manual High School and sports in Louisville. In the 20th century, Louisville highly anticipated three key sporting events: the Kentucky Derby, the Louisville Colonels opening day, and the Male-Manual game. The game was a big event in Louisville's history even for those who did not have connections to either school. The development of Manual Stadium is indicative of the importance of a football stadium in Louisville, not only for the Male-Manual game but for other events as well. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville both played games in the facility as it was the largest in the state at the time. Furthermore, the stadium was key to DuPont Manual High School, the second high school in Louisville's history. The Male-Manual rivalry "was both the product of a serious class distinction and the attempt of one school to prove its students were just as good as those attending the other. From the beginning it was class warfare acted out on the gridiron, the art of sport imitating life. That class bias only began to fade away in the early fifties when the addition of female students to both schools changed curricula and finally did away with rigid stereotypes" (McDaniel 2005). This rivalry between two of Louisville's oldest high schools is a unique piece of the city's history as it tells the story of those schools but also of class differences in general in Louisville. It's likely why the attendance to these games was so high even when no one had a direct connection to either school. Furthermore, this rivalry is a key piece of sports history in Louisville.

Character defining details to the site include brick entry gateway, metal sign over gateway, concrete block wall along Burnett Avenue, and field house front façade.

Archaeological Significance

The DuPont Manual Stadium site has potential to contain archaeological resources. It is unclear what developments were located on the property prior to the stadium as there are not many maps of this area. The site was used for cattle grazing during the 20th century, but it's unclear how it was used prior. The property has been a stadium for 100 years with not much deep ground disturbance. It is possible artifact middens associated with domestic activities are present on the property, as has been demonstrated by excavations conducted at historic properties throughout Jefferson County (Bader 1997; DiBlasi 1997; Slider 1998; Stallings and Stallings 1999; Stottman 2000; Stottman 2001; Stottman and Watts-Roy 1995; Stottman et al. 2004).

Integrity Assessment

As defined by the LMCO 32.250, integrity is “The authenticity of a structure or site’s historic integrity evidenced by survival of physical characteristics that existed during the structure or site’s historic or prehistoric period. To retain historic integrity a site must possess some of the following aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.” Note that the integrity as applied by the Landmarks Ordinance is for the exterior of the structure since that is the extent of regulation if designated.

The DuPont Manual Stadium retains its integrity in ***location*** and ***association*** to support the historic significance of the structure as it relates to the history of DuPont Manual High School and sports in Louisville. The building is in its original location, and it maintains its association with the Schnitzelburg neighborhood. The building retains its integrity in ***feeling*** and ***setting***. While the surrounding area is denser than when it was originally constructed, the connection between the stadium and the neighborhood has grown. These changes have increased the historic significance of the site, not negatively impacted the historic integrity.

The DuPont Manual Stadium retains its integrity in ***design***, ***materials***, and ***workmanship*** to support the historic significance of the structure as it relates to the history of DuPont Manual High School and sports in Louisville. The stadium has undergone numerous alterations over its 100 years. While some of the original materials and design are no longer present, the design and materials that are present are historic in their own right. There are still stands on the north and south sides of the field as originally designed. There is a concrete block wall around the majority of the property’s perimeter and the field house remains intact with minor alterations. The gateway off Burnett Avenue has been restored to its earliest appearance with a sign that is either original or a reproduction of the 1933 sign. The stadium is an open-air structure that must change over time as sports and material technology evolve. Despite any changes over the years, the structure still retains its historic integrity.

Designation Criteria Analysis

In consideration of a potential designation of an Individual Landmark, LMCO 32.250 defines an Individual Landmark structure or site as “one of significant importance to the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and which represents irreplaceable distinctive architectural features or historical associations that represent the historic character of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.”

In accordance with LMCO 32.260(O), considering the designation of any area, site, or structure in Louisville Metro as an Individual Landmark, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such structure, site, or area. An Individual Landmark shall possess sufficient integrity to meet criterion (a) and one or more of the other criteria (b) through (e).

A) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of the city, the Commonwealth, or the United States.

In the 20th century, Louisville highly anticipated three key sporting events: the Kentucky Derby, the Louisville Colonels opening day, and the Male-Manual football game. The game was a big event in Louisville’s history even for those who did not have connections to either school. The development of Manual Stadium is indicative of the importance of a football stadium in Louisville, not only for the Male-Manual game but for other events as well. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville both played games in the facility as it was the largest in the state at the time. Furthermore, the stadium was key to DuPont Manual High School, the second high school in Louisville’s history. The Male-Manual rivalry “was both the product of a serious class distinction and the attempt of one school to prove its students were just as good as those attending the other. From the beginning it was class warfare acted out on the gridiron, the art of sport imitating life. That class bias only began to fade away in the early fifties when the addition of female students to both schools changed curricula and finally did away with rigid stereotypes” (McDaniel 2005). This rivalry between two of Louisville’s oldest high schools is a unique piece of the city’s history as it tells the story of those schools but also of class differences in general in Louisville. It’s likely why the attendance to these games was so high even when no one had a direct connection to either school. Furthermore, this rivalry is a key piece of sports history in Louisville. Manual Stadium is important to the development and heritage of Louisville.

B) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.

There was an annual significant historic event that gave the site its historic significance: the Male-Manual game. From the stadium’s opening in 1924 through 2023, numerous Male-Manual football games have been played on that field. While some of the games were moved due to attendance issues or stadium issues, the majority were played at Manual Stadium. This rivalry and the Manual football team are why a stadium with a capacity of 9,700 was constructed in 1924. They’re why the stadium was expanded to 14,000 seats by 1927. They’re also why the School Board, the city, and the Alumni Association fought to renovate the stadium in 1953 when it was no longer safe and the construction costs were high. These annual events were significant cultural touchstones in Louisville’s history.

C) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, the commonwealth, or the nation.

In consideration of significance associated with a person or persons, the evaluation relates to whether an individual's period of significant contribution or productivity occurred while residing or occupying a building, structure, or site. While there are many people who have been associated with Manual Stadium, it does not derive its significance from any one person or persons.

D) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen; or its embodiment of a significant architectural innovation; or its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation.

Manual Stadium is not the embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.

The structure does not represent a significant architectural innovation.

Manual Stadium was designed by architect Arthur G. Tafel, Sr. Individually and with other partners, Tafel contributed greatly to the architectural history of Louisville. However, the current stadium does not fully represent Tafel's original design. The stadium has been modified multiple times over the years for maintenance and modernization. It does not derive its significance from its association with Tafel.

E) Its historic significance is based on its association with an underrepresented history within the city, the Commonwealth, or the nation and broadens our understanding of these underrepresented histories.

In consideration of significance associated with underrepresented histories, the evaluation relates to inclusion and telling a comprehensive history. Based on current research, the stadium does not appear to be associated with underrepresented histories.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for designation is located at 1230 E. Burnett Avenue. According to the Jefferson County PVA, the property (parcel number 026K00790000) contains a total 7.2375 acres of land. The Metro Council proposed boundaries for the DuPont Manual Stadium Individual Landmark designation includes the stadium proper but not the entire parcel (**Figure 25**).



Figure 25. LOJIC map showing location of the proposed designation boundary for the DuPont Manual Stadium Individual Landmark in red.

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