

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

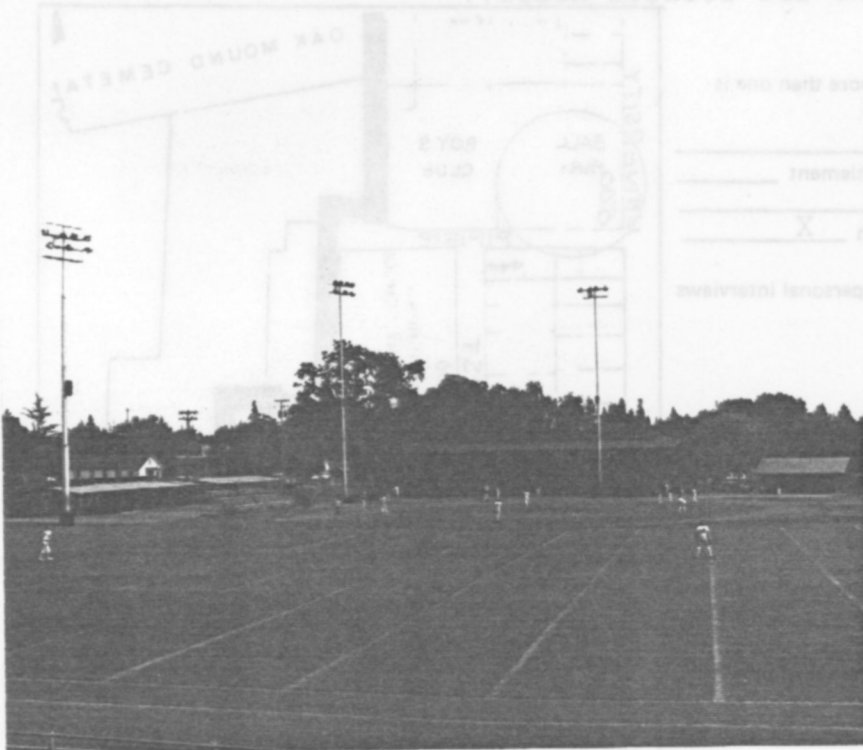
Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 5 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 10/512100/4274780B  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Recreation Park
2. Historic name: Recreation Park
3. Street or rural address: 500 University Street  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-131-03
5. Present Owner: City of Healdsburg Address: 126 Matheson Street  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public  Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Public Original use: Baseball field

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: None
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:  
Baseball Park



8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1923
9. Architect \_\_\_\_\_
10. Builder \_\_\_\_\_
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
or approx. acreage 4
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
8/83

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good X Fair \_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_ Densely built-up \_\_\_  
Residential X Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known \_\_\_ Private development X Zoning \_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? \_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_
18. Related features: Giorgi Park Playground

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)  
 Epitomizing small town America's passion for baseball is Recreation Park. Early records show that the town had a baseball team as early as 1867. This area, corner of Piper and University Streets was used by 1872 as the playing field. The early 1920's produced the town's most famous team, the Prune Packers, headed by Pop Arlett and managed by Bob Weston. They overwhelmed all of the county talent and went on to play professional teams in the Bay area. By 1923, Baseball was so popular that a group of 50 citizens purchased the Luce tract (this site) for \$3,000 to preserve the playing area from encroaching residential building. In 1927, these owners gave their ownership rights to the city with the provision that baseball have preference over other recreational uses. Baseball continues to be extremely popular in Healdsburg. Summer evening still find the town's folk coming out to cheer on their favorite team playing hardball, softball, and in these liberated times, even co-ed and women's softball. The Park hosts the Future Farmers Fair once a year and stock pens are located nearby.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
 Architecture \_\_\_ Arts & Leisure \_\_\_  
 Economic/Industrial \_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_  
 Government \_\_\_ Military \_\_\_  
 Religion \_\_\_ Social/Education X

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).  
 Diamond Jubilee 1940  
 Trib: 3/10/27  
 Ent.: 3/1/23

22. Date form prepared August 19, 1983  
 By (name) Langhart Museum (clm)  
 Organization City of Healdsburg  
 Address: 133 Matheson Street  
 City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448  
 Phone: (707) 433-4717

