

Perini Buys Braves Field: Ball Club to Stay On, Develop Allston Site ...

Daily Boston Globe (1928-1960); Jan 22, 1949;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Boston Globe (1872-1982)

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Ball Club to Stay On, Develop Allston Site

Railroad Station and Footbridge Figure in Plans

The Boston Braves yesterday arranged to buy their own ball park—Braves Field, which they have been leasing for years — and plan to make it their permanent baseball home.

After nearly five years of examining sites in other sections of Greater Boston, the Braves owners have decided to stick to their present site—and to make improvements during the next few years.

Louis R. Perini, president of Boston's National League pennant winners, yesterday signed an agreement with representatives of the Commonwealth Realty Trust, owners of the field, to acquire title to Braves Field on or about March 1.

The amount of the purchase price for the 10 acres of property was not revealed. The piece of land extends from Gaffney st. to Babcock st., in Boston's Commonwealth-av. area, and from the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks to the rear of commercial properties which front on Commonwealth av.

John Quinn, Braves general manager, estimated last night that the assessed valuation of the property was \$450,000.

Principal stockholders in Realty Trust are Mrs. Essie Gaffney, widow of James J. Gaffney who—as owner of the Braves—built the ball park in 1915, and Robert H. Davis, Gaffney's minor partner in the former ownership of the Braves. Mrs. Gaffney lives in New York city. Davis, who is retired, spends most of his time traveling.

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Braves

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The Braves owners last night said they plan to consult with the **Boston & Albany Railroad** about plans to build a "Braves Field" railroad station at the foot of Babcock st.

Also, they revealed, consideration is being given to the construction of a pedestrian bridge from Soldiers Field road, beside Charles River, over the railroad tracks to the ball park.

This would enable fans to reach Braves Field by automobile along the parkways of the Charles. A parking area beside Soldiers Field road, Braves officials believe, could be established.

The Braves announcement said the Braves Field railroad station plans are based **primarily** on serving the needs of **baseball** fans from the western part of the state. But they also might serve fans coming from the direction of South Station—with special trains being scheduled just before and after games.

Immediate steps will be taken to increase the number and quality of reserved seats, the new owners said.

More Boxes, Comfortable Seats

Six hundred box seats will be immediately added. These actually are the same 600 seats that were put up temporarily for the 1948 World Series, but work will begin within the next few weeks toward making them into permanent seats. Chairs providing greater comfort than heretofore will be placed not only in the new seats, but in all other box seats at the field, the owners announced.

C. Joseph Maney, Braves treasurer, said last night the three owners—Maney, Perini and Guido Rugo—plan to make further enlargements of the seating capacity. But he said the plans are indefinite and have not been decided upon specifically. The park now seats approximately 40,000. The pavilions, the Braves announced, will be "re-vamped."

Arrangements for the purchase of the property were made between Pres. Perini, on behalf of the Braves, and Arthur C. Wise of **Boston** and Frederick T. Kelsey of New York, on behalf of the **Gaffney** and Davus interests. The agreement was approved by the Braves owners at their annual directors' meeting yesterday.

After playing at the old Columbus-av. Grounds since the 1890s, the

Braves, in 1915, moved into Braves Field, which had been built by **Gaffney**. The first game there was played Aug. 18, 1915, with the Braves winning, 3 to 1, over the St. Louis Cardinals. The Braves reported that 47,000 persons, far more than the seating capacity, had crammed their way into the park on that occasion.