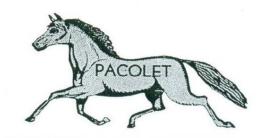


The Pacolet Mills Ballpark as it Exists Today
Album 19

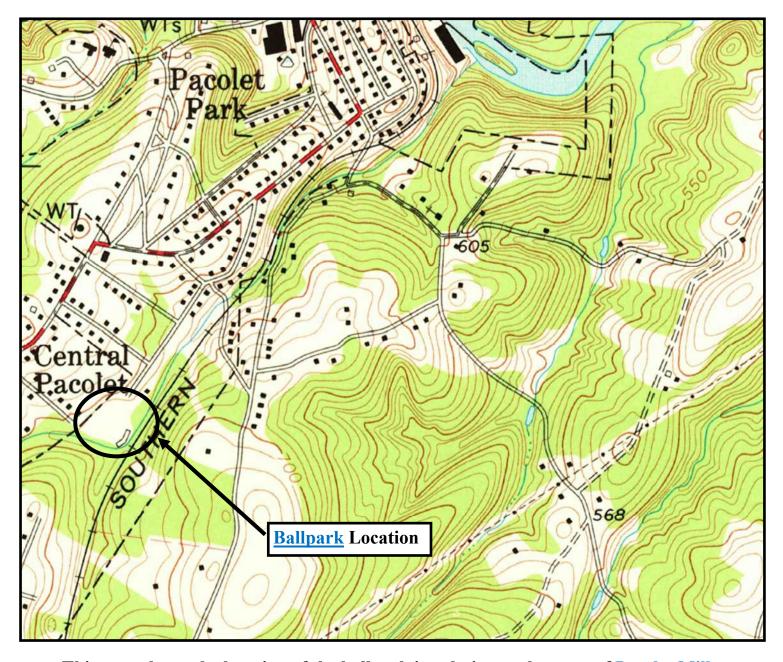


This album contains pictures furnished by the family of Mrs. Eloise Seay Mathis and others taken from the Internet. Mrs. Mathis grew up in the house located next to the Ballpark and it was an important part of her life. Unfortunately, she has witnessed an incredible change in the Ballpark during her lifetime. She has seen it go from one of the most important places in Pacolet Mills to an overgrown wooded area. Visiting the site now, in July, 2020, you would never know that once this was a thriving baseball field that often was home to fine baseball teams and hundreds of excited baseball fans.

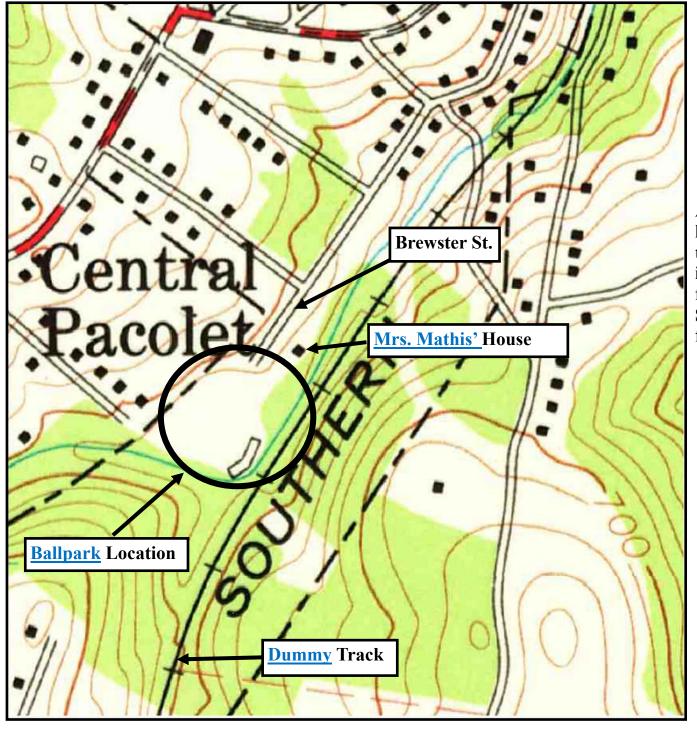
It is very difficult today to understand how important baseball once was to the little textile towns like Pacolet Mills. Before the coming of television and modern day transportation, recreation was largely homegrown. In the 1920's, 30's, 40's and into the 1950's, textile league baseball was extremely popular throughout the Piedmont.

The baseball teams were important to the adults of the textile towns but also to the young boys. Click on the following link for a story that describes how the Pacolet Trojans affected me as a child. Although written about the team at Pacolet Mills, the Trojans, the same can be said about the teams at Glendale, Clifton, Drayton and the other textile towns of the Upstate.

The Bases are Loaded - With Memories



This map shows the location of the ballpark in relation to the town of **Pacolet Mills**.



A close-up map of the <u>Ballpark</u> location. The structure within the circle showing the location is the grandstand. You can see from this map that Brewster Street ended a short distance from <u>Mrs. Mathis'</u> house.



This is a picture showing the crowd at a baseball game in the 1930s or early to mid 1940s. This was before the first base and third base bleachers were built, lighting for night games was installed and before the scoreboard was moved to center field. The wooden grandstand can be seen to the far right.



This is a picture taken in July, 2020, long after the Ballpark had been demolished. The view is from the middle of Brewster Street looking towards the Ballpark. The present Fuller Street, going right at the near intersection, did not exist when the Ballpark was there. Originally, Brewster Street ended before present intersection and the fence around the Ballpark was located just beyond the intersection. The area to the right of Brewster Street, before you get to the present Fuller Street, was a parking lot for spectators. This photo was taken from approximately in front of the house where Mrs. Mathis grew up.



Present day Brewster Street has been extended to run roughly along what was the first base line of the ball field. This photo was taken just inside the Ballpark fence looking down the first base line towards the grandstand. All the trees and brush to the right of the highway are growing in what was the playing field.



This picture of a game was taken looking back in the other direction from the photo on page 7. The wooden fence around the Ballpark can be seen in the distance. The first base line points to a gate in the fence that led to Brewster Street. This picture was made after 1948 or 1949 because it shows one of the tall power poles used for night game lights and also shows the scoreboard after it was moved to center field.



The grandstand was located in this area. It was made of wood with a wire screen all along the front. It probably could seat 300 or 400 spectators. There was a press box on the top of the grandstand where the public address announcer could describe the ballgame. The railroad tracks for the Dummy locomotive ran right behind the grandstand. There was a door in the fence at each end of the grandstand. After every foul ball that went behind the grandstand, these doors were flooded with boys, and sometimes men, making a mad dash to retrieve the baseball.



This is how the ball field playing area looks today. Home plate would have been located very roughly where the two roads intersect. This is generally the view that someone in the "on deck" batting circle of the <u>Pacolet Trojan's</u> home team dugout would have. When the field was in use, Brewster St. - to the right and Anderson Ave. - to the left, both stopped outside the ball field fence.



This power company substation is located inside what was the <u>Ballpark</u> fence and to the right of the first base line. It sits generally in part of the area that was used for cooking the <u>July 4 barbecue</u> and that is shown in <u>Album 7.</u>



A picture furnished by Mrs. Mathis and her granddaughter, Drenda, showing a close-up of the thick vegetation that now covers the former playing field.



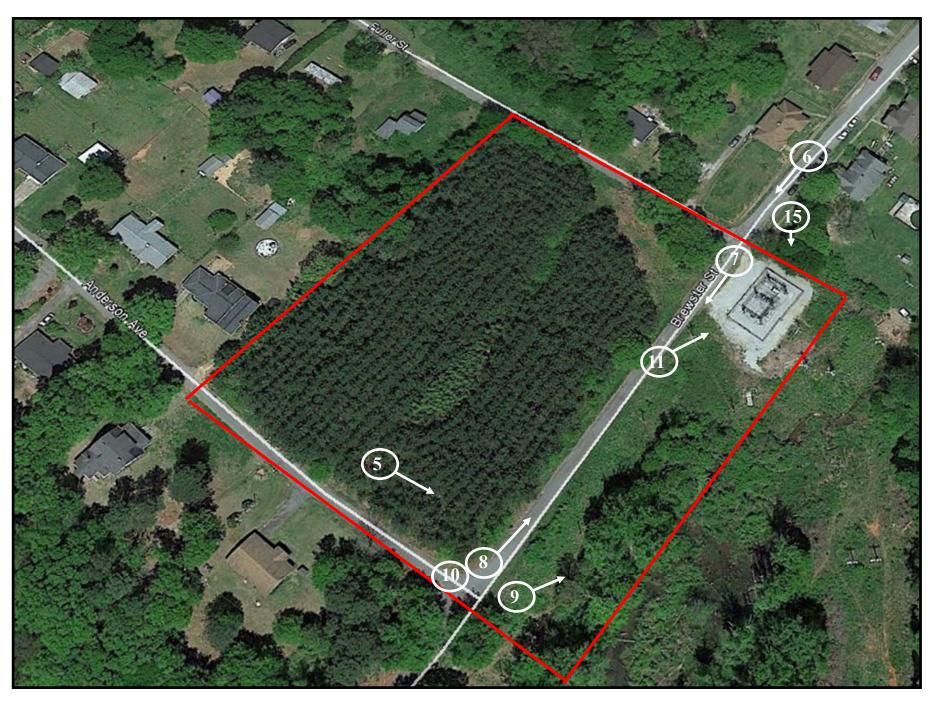
Another picture furnished by Mrs. Mathis and her granddaughter, Drenda, showing a close-up of the thick vegetation that now covers the former playing field.



Another picture furnished by Mrs. Mathis and her granddaughter, Drenda, showing a close-up of the thick vegetation that now covers the former playing field.



This picture furnished by Mrs. Mathis and her granddaughter, Drenda, shows the vicinity of where the spectators entered the Ballpark near the end of Brewster St.



The ballpark was roughly in the area bounded by the red lines. The circled page numbers show where most of the pictures were made and the arrows show the direction of the view.