Goodwin & Associates, Inc. conducted the large scale, multi-disciplinary urban mitigation for the Maryland Stadiums Project in Baltimore, Maryland in 1989-90. This project was unique in that it involved archaeological and architectural identification, evaluation, and mitigation in a continuous program of study under a tight construction schedule.

Historical research and, in particular, map research and analysis formed an important tool in our firm’s ability to evaluate and select sites for data recovery; the scale of the Baltimore Stadium Complex project (encompassing 71 city blocks) required a system to manipulate and interpret a vast body of information. This problem was solved through historic map acquisition, computer digitization of cartographic information, and scaling of cartographic materials for integration into representative base maps. Coverage favored the periods 1870 - 1930 and 1930 - present, because of the comprehensive nature of the Sanborn fire insurance maps of 1890, 1901, and 1914, and of the Baltimore City plan of 1940. Maps of the project area before 1768 were limited, because the site was located beyond the city limits. In a general sense, however, coverage for each period was adequate for the needs of the project. Digitization of the historic maps was accomplished, and historic maps were re-scaled for easy comparison of information.

Base maps were prepared for historical periods in which resources were identified. Those resources then were overlaid on their modern locations. The 1786 Maccubbin and 1792 Hart maps supplied information for land parcels and owners for the period of Early Settlement, 1668 - 1768. The Berthier series identified the encampments of Rochambeau's army in 1781 and 1782. The Folie and Warner and Hanna maps detailed farms, residences, and early industrial sites on the eve of the nineteenth century. The Poppleton, Sidney and Neff, and Martenet maps revealed building locations in 1823, 1851, and 1856, respectively. The Hopkins, Sanborn, and Baltimore City plan supplied detailed structural data for 1876, 1901, 1914, and 1940. The 1935 Mathews map delineated the shoreline of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco. Finally, the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles provided a modern base map.

In conjunction with the map research, selection of significant resources that deserved further archeological and historical investigation was guided by a three-tiered approach derived from The Maryland Historic Preservation Plan, promulgated by the Maryland Historical Trust. Resources were evaluated in relation to historic periods or contexts, historic themes, and type.

Historic contexts (periods) for the Maryland Stadiums Project were a refinement of the chronological/developmental periods found in the state plan: Early Settlement, 1668 – 1768; Growth of the Port, 1768 – 1815; Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870; Period of Industrial Dominance, 1870 – 1930; and the Modern Period, 1930 - present. Historic themes in the plan that were relevant to the project area included agriculture, architecture, community planning, commerce, industry, government, military, religion, society, education, culture, and transportation. This approach provided a framework for the identification of potentially significant areas, blocks, and individual structures. Locational and historical information was drawn from cartographic and primary data sets; that information was used to identify, catalog, and classify specific resources found in the project area.

Resources were identified according to their significance. Significance was measured by a resource's capacity to illustrate the major themes during each contextual period. Of primary importance were resources diagnostic of land uses or of processes of change within each contextual period in the project area. Of secondary importance were the ubiquitous resources -- common through time and across space -- that occurred in the project area and elsewhere in urban Baltimore.
The ultimate importance of this approach is that it worked as a comprehensive guide for field investigation. First, it strictly defined significance, targeting field investigations on particular and important types of resources. Second, where resources of either primary or secondary importance existed in more than one location, the digitized maps were capable of identifying the sites most conducive to archeological investigation, especially in light of the requirements of the larger project schedule. Finally, by eliminating classes of resources a priori, and by creating manageable groupings of significant resources in a manner that allowed practical decision-making, this approach helped us to accomplish the archeological objectives in a timely and cost-effective manner without impediment to the construction schedule.

Thirteen significant archeological sites were identified within the Maryland Stadium Authority project area. These included the remains of a variety of domestic, industrial, and commercial buildings dating from the late eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Several of these sites represented mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century residences; they illustrated the architectural and spatial growth and development of Camden Yards from a suburban community to an urban commercial/residential neighborhood influenced by the growth of the railroad and its associated services. Two industrial sites, the James Pawley Stoneware Kiln and the J. S. Berry Brickworks pug mill, were representative of the nineteenth century industrial development of Camden Yards.

Archeological investigations were undertaken in a manner sensitive to these important resources and sensitive to the tight construction schedule. In fact, through close coordination and cooperation with the Maryland Stadium Authority, it was possible to conduct Phase III excavations and to manage a public "open house" in the midst of construction without jeopardizing the site or public safety.

Structures and features subjected to intensive study included 18BC79, the Ruth Saloon; 18BC81, Privy 3; 18BC88, the stoneware kiln; and 18BC89 the J.S. Berry Pug Mill. These sites manifested an unusually high degree of preservation and large quantities of historic archeological materials and data. Privy 19AO1, from within site 18BC80, also was excavated completely. Study and comparison of the materials from this feature with those from Feature R-5, a privy within the Ruth Saloon site (18BC79), and from Privy 3 (18BC81), resulted in valuable insights into middle and late nineteenth century socioeconomic status and consumer behavior in Camden Yards.

Identified as 18BC89, the Ruth Saloon site was composed of the structure foundation and privy base associated with 406 West Conway Street. The property initially was the home of Frances Whittington, the wife of Thomas Whittington, an early nineteenth century Baltimore merchant. After Thomas died, sometime before 1829, the property was occupied by a tenant. By the end of the nineteenth century the house had become a multi-family dwelling with a saloon on the ground floor. Its occupants rented the premises and they tended to be first generation German immigrants or of German extraction. In 1880, Frederick Wendler and his wife, both first-generation German immigrants, operated the saloon, and Henry Woolf a German shoemaker, boarded upstairs with his wife, Henry Borcherding, also a first generation German immigrant, operated the saloon in 1900. George Herman Ruth, Sr. was the next saloon proprietor, and also was of German extraction. The Ruth family, including his wife and his son “Babe”, and his daughter “Mamie” occupied the dwelling between 1906 and 1912. Boarders occasionally were taken in to supplement the family’s income. “Babe” Ruth’s sister recalled that the lunch clientele at the saloon was made up primarily of the industrial workers from the neighborhood.

The James Pawley Stoneware Kiln and the J.S. Berry Brickworks pug mill were located outside of the immediate area of impact for the Camden Yards Stadium. They were situated in the footprint of the Raven’s (PSI-net) Football Stadium, and were subjected to Phase III data recovery prior to
construction of that stadium. The mitigation plan included archival research and archeological investigations aimed at answering specific research questions. Research questions and subsequent analysis for the Pawley kiln were concerned with the types of vessels produced, and the evidence of technology and production methods exhibited by kiln furniture and vessel wasters. Research questions for the J. S. Berry brick mill focused on an interpretation of the original form and function of the wooden structure. Subsequent research and analysis focused on recording the physical aspects of the mill, and interpreting the original form of the feature.

The public interpretive effort for this project was equally comprehensive and formed an integral part of the mitigative effort. Public education activities included an on-site "Open House" for the general public; a School Press day for local school newspapers; and preparation of brochures and other supportive literature.

Architectural mitigation also was undertaken as part of this project. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation was prepared for eight structural complexes. These built resources exemplified important construction and design techniques for commercial, industrial, religious, and public buildings dating from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. HABS short forms were prepared for the Diggs-Johnson School, a locally significant example of Neo-classical school architecture, and for Maryland Office Interiors, a locally-significant example of early twentieth century commercial architecture. HABS documentation also was prepared for Baltimore Thermal Energy Corporation, a technologically and historically significant light industrial building in Camden Yards, and for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Freight Office, an architecturally and historically significant warehouse constructed in 1905.

HAER forms were prepared for the Southern Seafood Cold Storage Warehouse, a technologically, architecturally, and historically significant light industrial building dating from 1928 – 1929, and for Monumental Hotel Supply Company, an example of light industrial design from the second half of the twentieth century. The Inland-Leidy Chemical Company complex and the W.B. Cassell Company Office and Warehouse were recorded as examples of warehousing and light industry in Camden Yards during the second and third quarters of the twentieth century.