

Fenway Park makes endangered list

Fenway Park was named one of the 10 most-endangered historic buildings in the state by a leading preservation group yesterday in a public relations blow to the Red Sox's plan to replace the 87-year-old ballpark with a new one.

Historic Massachusetts Inc., the statewide historic preservation group, put the Fenway facility on its endangered list because of the team's plans announced this spring to tear down nearly all of it after building a near-replica across the street.

While most people associate preservation with colonial-era struc-

tures, Fenway Park is an extremely important part of New England's social history, said Historic Massachusetts President Margaret Dyson.

"How many lives has that place been a part of? That's part of our history as well," Dyson said. "New ballpark development across the country is based on Fenway Park (as a model) and we've got the real thing."

Kathryn St. John, a spokeswoman for the Red Sox, said team officials agreed with the designation of the Fenway Park as one of the most-threatened historic struc-

tures in the state.

"We concur. That's why we worked so hard to come up with a unique plan to preserve large portions of the original ballpark" as part of the design of a \$550 million stadium complex, St. John said.

The team's scheme unveiled this spring calls for building a 45,000-seat ballpark across Yawkey Way. The design will replicate Fenway's field dimensions but include expanded concessions, luxury seating and amenities for ballplayers.

The plan also calls for leaving a section of the Green Monster in place to serve as an entryway to the stadium complex. Team representatives have also said they will "preserve" the infield but the plan calls for replacing the grass and clay with hard "pavers" and painting them green.

Dyson said the Red Sox's proposal for saving Fenway Park's infield "is emblematic of how they talk

about preserving things."

"It's that sense — 'We're preserving the infield by replacing it with green-painted asphalt' — that we find most troubling," Dyson said. "There's a difference between preserving the feel of Fenway and preserving the reality of Fenway."

The Red Sox have been quietly meeting with lawmakers to gather support for the scheme, which will involve eminent domain landtakings in the Fenway by the city and at least \$200 million in public subsidies.

A group called Save Fenway Park! has produced its own plan that would add about 10,000 seats to the existing ballpark and upgrade fan and player facilities.

Red Sox consultants have said the plan is too expensive. Save Fenway Park! leaders say their plan would be cheaper and avoid any private landtakings.

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