

TOUR

*Historic Allegheny Cemetery
To Visit Famous Gravesites*

Stephen C. Foster

"Rosey" Rowswell

Lillian Russell

Harry Kendall Thaw

Charles Avery

General John Neville

General James O'Hara

Commodore Joshua Barney

and

More of Pittsburgh's History



Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association

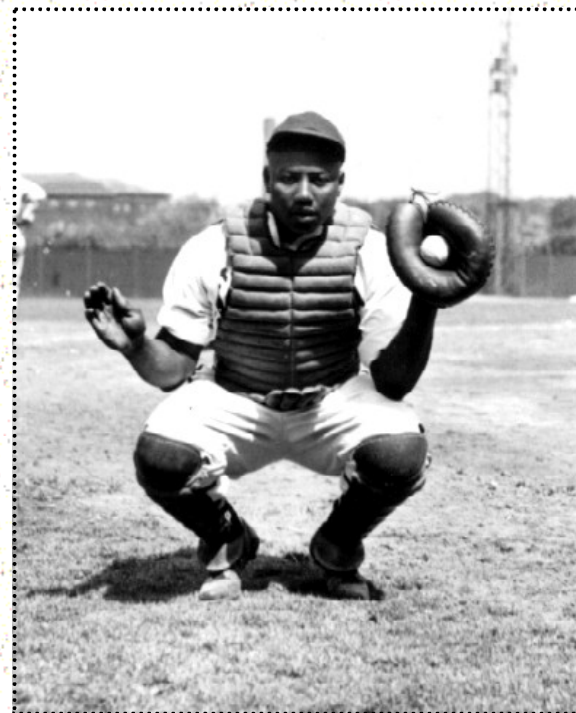
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www.alleghenycemetery.com

Josh Gibson Baseball Player



A Pittsburgh Legend

Section 50—Single Grave C-232

ALLEGHENY CEMETERY

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



Josh Gibson
A Legend From Pittsburgh
and Hall of Fame Inductee

Josh Gibson was a big man. At the age of eighteen he weighed 190 pounds, stood six feet two inches tall and had a barrel chest and strong powerful legs. He was a superb athlete with a keen batter's eye. He made history and spawned legends in his years with the *Pittsburgh Crawford's* and the *Homestead Grays*.

Born near Macon, Georgia in 1911, he came with his family to Pittsburgh to work in the mills. One of the legends was that he was called from near the stands, where he was eating a hot dog, to replace an injured catcher. In reality he had an excellent amateur reputation and the manager may have told him to be ready to come into the game.

Teams of the Negro leagues played in many ball parks, including Forbes Field (located in the Oakland District of Pittsburgh), Yankee Stadium and other baseball landmarks, playing strictly against their own.

The opening of baseball's big leagues to blacks was years away. It was in Yankee Stadium that Josh hit a 500 fothomer, a feat that brought him wide attention. Long hits became a trademark with him and writers began to call him the "*Colored Babe Ruth*". He once swung on a curve ball holding the bat with one hand, driving it 375 feet for a home run. His teammate *Satchel Paige* claimed that Josh's scoreboard hit in Wrigley Field would have been a 700 foot straight drive.



Through the 1930's and early 1940's, Josh Gibson played in Pittsburgh leagues, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. He suffered tragedy in his personal life when his first wife died leaving him to care for twins, a son and daughter. He encountered more troubles and estrangement because of his frequent absence from Pittsburgh, yet he continued to play — to catch brilliantly and bat powerfully. His achievements were eventually recognized by three Halls of Fame. During one season he batted a .526 average.

JOSH GIBSON

1911 - 1947

Legendary Baseball Player

During the 1940's his prowess declined. His knees were gone and his health was failing. He suffered severe hypertension and may have had a brain tumor. He died of a stroke in 1947 at the age of 36, impoverished and in pain.

For many years his grave was unmarked. There had not been enough for a stone. In 1975, *Ted Page* and *Pete Zorilla* sought out the grave and started gathering money for a marker. *Willie Stargell* pledged the first \$100 and offered more. When word reached the Commissioner of Baseball, a simple marker was provided and placed in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.



Note: *Just a short distance from Josh Gibson is the grave of the owner of the Pittsburgh Crawford's*

W. Gus Greenlee

but that is another story.....