

## Cleveland Architects

## Osborn Engineering Company

Birth/Established: 1892      Death/Dissolved: Present

**Biography:** Osborn Engineering Company, Cleveland's oldest engineering firm, was founded on July 1, 1892, by Frank C. Osborn, formerly the chief engineer for Cleveland's King Bridge Co. Osborn's new company offered a wide range of services, including the designs, plans, estimates, and construction supervision for roofs, buildings bridges, railways, and highways. Such diversity enabled the Osborn Co.- Civil Engineers to survive the severe economic depression of the 1890s. It was incorporated on May 16, 1900, as the Osborn Engineering Company. During its first 4 decades, Osborn built its reputation as the "stadium designers for the Nation". By the time of its selection as the project engineer for Cleveland Municipal Stadium in 1928, the company had designed more than 75 sports facilities, including New York's Yankee Stadium, Boston's Fenway Park, and Chicago's Comiskey Park. Osborn has continued to design stadiums, working on projects for professional sports teams, major universities, racetracks, fairgrounds, high schools, and municipalities. As early as 1959, Osborn Engineering had completed a design for domed stadiums. In 1958, the company was looking for a broader market for its services, particularly as domestic industrial construction and plant expansion decreased. It turned its attention toward domestic firms that were expanding their operations into international markets. The company designed factories for locations in South Africa, France, Saudi Arabia, and South America. This expansion enabled Osborn to recover from a postwar decline; in 1963 it began hiring additional employees. Business remained strong throughout the 1960s. As engineering became more competitive in the 1970s, Osborn expanded its range of services by forming partnerships. In 1971 it created Osborn Engineers Architects & Planners, and in 1974 both Osborn Co. Architects-Engineers and Osborn Co. Consulting Engineers. The company remains based in Cleveland with offices in the Penton Media Building.

## Building List

Structure	Date	Address	City	State	Status
Washington Carbon Company	1904		Clarksburg	WV	unknown
Pennsylvania Portland Cement	1904		New Castle	PA	unknown
Lincoln Stone Works	1907		Lorain	OH	Unknown
White Company	1907		Cleveland	OH	Unknown
Bay View Foundry	1907		Sandusky	OH	unknown
Powerhouse and Machine Shop for the Rauch & Lang Carriage Company	1907	2191-5 West 26th Street	Cleveland	OH	Standing
American Seeding Machine Company	1908		Richmond	IN	Unknown
League Park	1909	6601 Lexington Avenue	Cleveland	OH	Partially Demolished
Wooster Brush Works Manufacturing Plant and Powerplant	1909		Wooster	OH	Unknown
Addition for the Rauch & Lang Carriage Company	1909	2161-5 West 26th Street	Cleveland	OH	Standing
Addition for the Rauch & Lang Carriage Company	1909	2181 West 26th Street	Cleveland	OH	Standing
Machine Shop Addition for the Rauch & Lang Carriage Company	1909	2203 West 26th Street	Cleveland	OH	Standing
Griffith Stadium	1911	2041 Georgia Avenue	Washington	DC	Demolished 1965
Polo Grounds	1911		New York	NY	Demolished
Fenway Park	1912	4 Yawkey Way	Boston	MA	Standing
Tiger Stadium	1912	2121 Trumbull	Detroit	MI	Demolished 2009
Cleveland Akron Bag Company	1914	1860-86 East 40th Street	Cleveland	OH	Standing
Braves Field	1915	285 Babcock Street	Boston	MA	Partially Demolished 1955
Ashland Tire and Rubber	1915		Ashland	OH	unknown
Fruitless Rubber Company	1915		Ashland	OH	unknown
Century Rubber Works	1915		Chicago	IL	unknown
American Malleable Castings	1915		Marion	OH	unknown
National Tool Company	1917	11200 Madison Avenue	Cleveland	OH	Standing
National Tool Company Offices	1918		Cleveland	OH	Standing
Yankee Stadium	1923		New York	NY	Demolished
Kansas City Municipal Stadium	1923	2123 Brooklyn Avenue	Kansas City	MO	Demolished 1976
Memorial Stadium	1924		Minneapolis	MN	Standing

Structure	Date	Address	City	State	Status
Ross Ade Stadium	1924		West Lafayette	IN	Standing
University of Michigan Stadium	1927		Ann Arbor	MI	Standing
Cleveland Municipal Stadium (demolished)	1928		Cleveland	OH	Demolished
Notre Dame Stadium	1929		South Bend	IN	Standing
St. Wendelin Parish Hall	1936	2275 Columbus Road	Cleveland	OH	Standing

**Sources:**

Encyclopedia of Cleveland History  
Wikipedia.com