An aerial photograph of the East Potomac Golf Course, showing the green fairways, sand traps, and surrounding urban environment. The Potomac River is visible on the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the top right portion of the image.

East Potomac Golf Course

National Mall & Memorial Parks

East Potomac Park

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
National Park Service

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
University of Pennsylvania
July 2017

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Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information



Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

ational Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

utive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

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agement Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...
tural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

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- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape was created from the swampy marshland of the reclaimed Potomac River flats in the late 19th century. The reclamation project sought to address the siltation of the river, unclogging the flow of the tidal river to enable commercial traffic on the waterway. Improvement efforts began in 1857 with the publication of a report by civil engineer Alfred Landon Rives, who proposed the replacement of the river's Long Bridge (where the 14th Street bridges are today) and the reclamation of the mud flats along the shoals of the Washington Channel (Chapell 1973: 8-9). By the late 1860s, sediment accumulation in the Potomac River was so severe that Congress appropriated \$50,000 to improve the river between the Long Bridge and Georgetown; the first phase of the project was underway by 1871 (Chapell 1973: 17). By 1882, over 240,000 cubic yards of material had been dredged and dumped on the Potomac Flats, resulting in a new land mass above the water line. Subsequent plans and dredging campaigns conducted throughout the 1880s and 1890s would focus on transforming the new Potomac Flats landscape into useable terrain (Chapell 1973: 29-30).

The reclamation of the Potomac Flats coincided with a new movement to create greenspace in Washington, DC, and the 1902 publication of the McMillan Plan further bolstered the efforts to design a recreational infrastructure for the federal city. The final plan devoted an entire chapter to the newly-created Washington embankment and Potomac Park, which spanned 739 acres by this time (Moore 1902: 117, 164). The peninsula between the Washington Channel and the Potomac River offered a blank slate for recreational greenspace, and by 1911, reclamation was complete and the new East Potomac Park was transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds the following year.

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Although the McMillan Plan did not specify which recreational uses should be incorporated into East Potomac Park, the idea of a golf course on the peninsula emerged in 1911 and was incorporated into park plans by 1914 (The Washington Sunday Star [TWSS], March 23, 1913: 5).

In 1917, park officials hired former U.S. amateur golf champion, and renowned golf course architect, Walter J. Travis to design a course for East Potomac Park. Inspired by the landscape's proximity to the Washington Channel and the Potomac River, Travis designed a traditional links-style course with a reversible progression of play. Construction of the initial 9-hole course began in the spring of 1917, and by June 1920 (after a halt for World War I), the first nine holes, referred to as the A-C Course, and two wings of their fieldhouse were complete (The Washington Post [TWP], April 21, 1917: 4; The Washington Evening Star [TWES], May 20, 1918: 21). The back nine, called the B-D Course and also designed by Travis, was completed by June 1923 (TWP, April 15, 1923: 57).

The course proved so popular that the concessionaire, S.G. Leoffler, hired golf course architect William Flynn to design another nine holes almost immediately. Flynn's course was also influenced by the links-style design of Travis' course, and was also reversible. Called the E-F Course, it opened to the public in May 1925 (TWP, May 21, 1925: 15). By 1931, the course also included the 9-hole G Course, a driving range, practice putting green, and 18-hole miniature golf course.

The East Potomac Park Golf Course continued to be popular throughout the 1930s and 1940s, praised as "one of the scenic beauty spots in the District" (TWES, May 8, 1932: 9). During this time, the course's concessionaire continued to make improvements to the course, renovating facilities and addressing periodic floods that swamped the peninsula. The Civilian Conservation Corps was also responsible for some planting projects in the landscape (TWES, February 4, 1939: A15). In 1941, the addition of tennis courts and ballfields at the tourist camp resulted in alterations to several holes in the G Course; that same year, the United States Army took over a portion of the F Course, replacing several holes with four anti-aircraft guns. Given these events, gasoline rationing, and new flooding, Leoffler eventually closed East Potomac Park Golf Course for the duration of the war (TWP, March 25, 1941: 28; TWES, December 16, 1941: A19; TWP, March 19, 1943: 14; TWES, June 15, 1943: A15).

In the years after the war, William Flynn designed the rehabilitation of the F Course and improvements to the 18-hole Travis-designed course (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14). In 1950, William F. Gordon Co. redesigned the G Course, and in 1956, Gordon and his son reworked Flynn's F Course (Fitzgerald 1956: K5). Despite these upgrades, the popularity of the course declined through the 1960s and 1970s, compounded by ongoing drainage issues from flooding (TWP, November 2, 1975: 29). After several years of deteriorating conditions, the National Park Service commissioned a survey of the course conditions in the 1970s and oversaw renovations to the fieldhouse wings beginning in 1978 (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977: 28; McCoubrey 1977: D10; Bobeczko and Robinson 1998: 76).

In 1983, Golf Course Specialists Inc. (GCS) took over the concessionaire contract for East Potomac Park Golf Course. Soon after, the National Park Service demolished the F Course to create new picnic grounds, but amidst public outcry, the course was soon rebuilt (TWP, August 15, 1984: C3). GCS

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oversaw renovations to the course in the 1990s and 2000s, an improvement program estimated at \$1.5 million that included the redesign and modernization of the 18-hole Blue Course and the 9-hole Red Course (“Contract between the National Park Service and Golf Course Specialists Inc.” 1989). By 1995, a new driving range structure was in place west of the fieldhouse wings.

Today, the East Potomac Park Golf Course is situated on the peninsula encompassed by the Potomac River and the Washington Channel. The cultural landscape is bordered by Hains Point to the south, Ohio Drive to the east and west, and Buckeye Drive to the north. It comprises three different, adjacent courses totaling 36 holes. The courses are supplemented with a driving range, four practice putting greens, a miniature golf course, and two fieldhouse wings.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

East Potomac Park Golf Course was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 (updated in 2001), as a contributing site to the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. The National Register nomination identifies the district’s period of significance as 1882-1997. The district is listed under National Register Criterion A for its significance in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. This cultural landscape inventory proposes that the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape is individually eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and Ethnic (Black) Heritage, in recognition of the cultural landscape’s role in the development of public recreational facilities in Washington, DC in the early 20th century, as well as its significance in the desegregation of federally-owned golf courses. This cultural landscape inventory proposes that the period of significance for the cultural landscape should be specified as 1917-1941. The proposed period of significance for this cultural landscape begins in 1917, with the construction of the Blue Course’s original nine holes, and extends through 1941, by which time the three original courses, totaling 36 holes, and the associated miniature golf course were complete, and the course was desegregated.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

This cultural landscape inventory finds that East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape retains integrity from its period of significance (1917-1941). The landscape retains most of the significant features associated with land use, topography, views and vistas, vegetation patterns, buildings and structures, spatial organization, and circulation from its period of significance. It does not retain any contributing small-scale features from its period of significance.

The landscape displays six of the seven aspects that determine integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association), through the retention of significant landscape characteristics and features. The location of the East Potomac Park Golf Course is unchanged since the period of significance. The course’s setting, between the Potomac River and Washington Channel, within easy distance of downtown Washington, is likewise unchanged. The layouts of all three courses at East Potomac Park have been substantially altered since the end of the period of significance, but the overall landscape retains nearly all of the essential features present during that period that make it identifiable as a public golf course, designed during the early 20th century. Although many of the landscape’s original materials have been replaced since 1941 (as is

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typical of active recreational and golf landscapes), many of these were replaced in kind and some of the course's original plantings, as well as the structural materials of the course's fieldhouse wings, date to the period of significance. The integrity of all four of these aspects (location, setting, design and materials) as well as East Potomac's continued operation as a public golf course since its opening in 1920, contribute to the continued integrity of feeling and association.

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Site Plan

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Project Boundary for East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory. (2017 Google map image)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: East Potomac Golf Course

CLI Identification Number: 975994

Parent Landscape: 600105

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: National Mall & Memorial Parks - East Potomac Park - NAMA

Park Organization Code: 3494

Subunit/District Name Alpha Code: National Mall & Memorial Parks - East Potomac Park - NAMA

Park Administrative Unit: National Capital Parks-Central

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed by Shannon Garrison and Molly Lester, Research Associates, University of Pennsylvania. This cultural landscape inventory was researched and written as part of a project to document National Park Service-owned golf courses in Washington, DC. The work of Patti Kuhn Babin, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, was integral to the completion of the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape inventory. Her Historic Resource Study (HRS), "Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC," provided the basis for much of the historic information included in this cultural landscape inventory. In addition to the HRS, primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories were consulted and are listed in the bibliography. Additional assistance was provided by: Daniel Weldon, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Michael Commisso, Cultural Resources Program Manager, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Michael W. Stachowicz, Turf Management Specialist, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service; Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service; Randall Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania; Michael Fichman, GIS Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania; Ty Richardson, Cultural Landscapes Intern, University of Pennsylvania; and Mikayla Raymond, Cultural Landscapes Intern, University of Pennsylvania.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/20/2017

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory on INSERT DATE, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Statement of Concurrence
East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory

The preparation of this CL for East Potomac Park is part of the National Park Service's efforts to update cultural resource inventories, as required by Section 100 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- The D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) concurs with the overall findings of the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape, including its proposed Period of Significance of 1917-1945 which reflects the Golf Course's growth from an initial nine-hole course, to its expansion and disintegration in 1945.
- However, the DC SHPO notes that East Potomac Park Golf Course is a contributing resource of the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District whose Period of Significance extends from 1862-1997. Therefore, the DC SHPO may consider both Periods of Significance when evaluating the effects of future undertakings on the Golf Course and the larger historic district.



David McKinley
DC State Historic Preservation Officer

7/19/2007

Date

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Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Gay Vietzke, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the findings of the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory for, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained


CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the East Potomac Park Golf Course is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks Date *July 20, 2017*

Superintendent Concurrence for the findings of the East Potomac Golf Course CLI. Original signature was received on July 20th, 2017.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The study area of the East Potomac Park Golf Course is on Hains Point within the jurisdiction of the National Mall and Memorial Parks. The golf course is bound by Buckeye Drive, SW, on the north and Ohio Drive, SW, on the east and west.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 227.00

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Boundary Coordinates:

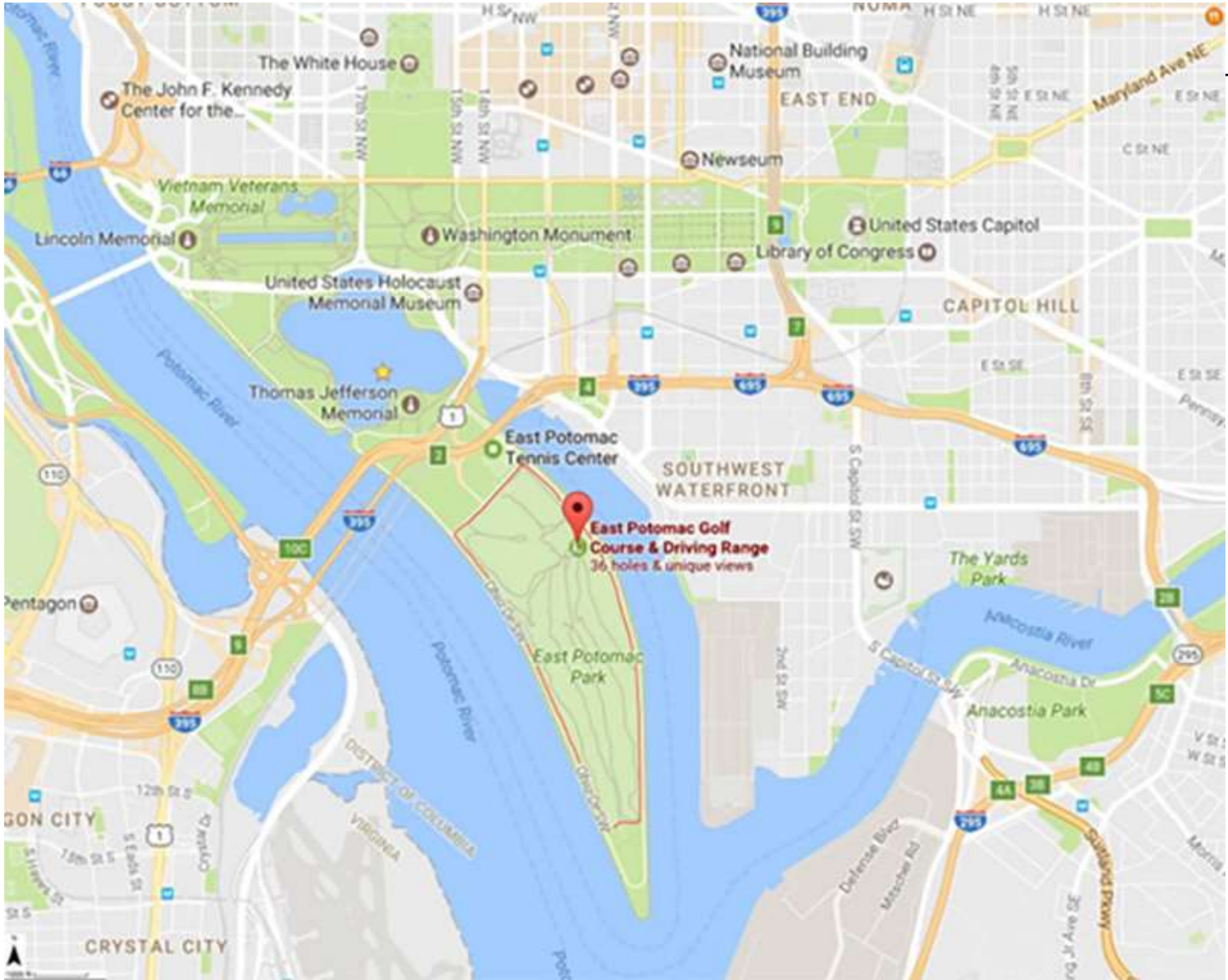
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0269210000
Longitude:	38.8748810000
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0295580000
Longitude:	38.8785210000
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0242940000
Longitude:	38.8735790000
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0222200000
Longitude:	38.8616240000
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0243900000
Longitude:	38.8612240000
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0303670000
Longitude:	38.8712940000

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Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0337550000
Longitude:	38.8751200000

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Location Map:



Map showing East Potomac Park Golf Course in relation to the National Mall. East Potomac Park Golf Course is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the U.S. Capitol Building. (Source: Google Maps, 2017)

Management Unit: NAMA- East Potomac Park
Tract Numbers: Reservation 333

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/20/2017

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The East Potomac Park Golf Course was listed within the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 (updated in 2001). The cultural landscape is located within the boundaries of East Potomac Park. It is managed by the National Mall and Memorial Parks and operated by a concessionaire.

The Management Category Date is the date this CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/2018

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The concession contract is between National Park Service (NPS), through the Director of the NPS and Regional Director, and Golf Course Specialists, Inc. The concessioner is required to provide certain visitor services for the public at East Potomac Golf Course within NAMA, from September 18, 1989 through December 31, 2008. The contract has been extended through December 31, 2016 until December 31, 2018, or the effective date of a new concession contract. At east Potomac Park Golf Course, the Concessioner is required to provide the following accommodations, facilities, and services:

- 36 hole golf course consisting of one 18-hole and two 9-hole courses;
- Miniature golf course;
- Food services;
- Golf equipment and supplies

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

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Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

The East Potomac Park Golf Course is open to the public year-round, with the exception of Christmas Day. Hours vary on a seasonal basis; the pro shop and fieldhouse is generally open from 7 am to 5 pm during the winter and from 5:30 am to 8:30 pm during the summer. A greens fee is required to play each of the three courses at East Potomac Park Golf Course. At the time of the completion of the original CLI, greens fees were as follows: Red Course, \$12 (weekday)/\$13 (weekend); White Course, 9 holes, \$15 (weekday)/\$18 (weekend); Blue Course, 9 holes, \$20 (weekday)/\$23 (weekend); Blue Course, 18 holes, \$30 (weekday)/\$34 (weekend)

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands are lands outside of the boundaries of the cultural landscape. Contributing adjacent lands include East Potomac Park (Reservation 333), which was created from the reclaimed Potomac Flats in the late 19th century. The park represents the overall greening of Washington, DC, in the late 19th and early 20th century, as the city bolstered its recreational infrastructure with public parks and resources. Other adjacent lands, located within East Potomac Park but outside the boundaries of the cultural landscape, include: the National Park Service National Capital Region Office, located north of the cultural landscape across Buckeye Drive; and Hains Point, located immediately southeast of the golf course at the southern tip of the peninsula bordered by the Washington Channel and the Potomac River. Hains Point was named in memory of Major General Peter Conover Hains, who designed the Tidal Basin nearby; it is another representative landscape of the movement to green Washington, DC in the early 20th century. Adjacent lands also include the East Potomac Pool and poolhouse, which is located west of the golf course's fieldhouse but is independently operated by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation.

Adjacent lands also include the Potomac River and the Washington Channel, which border the golf course's peninsula to the south and north, respectively. Although these waterways are not owned or maintained by the National Park Service, they are nevertheless significant natural resources associated with the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The East Potomac Park Golf Course was listed as a contributing site within the East and West Potomac Parks National Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 (NR #73000217). The nomination was subsequently updated in 2001. The National Register lists the district's period of significance as 1882-1997. It is designated for its significance in the areas of landscape architecture and architecture. The nomination identifies the following resources associated with the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape: the East Potomac Park Golf Course, listed as a contributing site; the associated fieldhouse (East Potomac Park Fieldhouse), listed as a contributing building; the East Potomac Park Miniature Golf Course, listed as a contributing site; and the East Potomac Park Driving Range Building, listed as a non-contributing building.

According to research conducted for this cultural landscape inventory and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the East Potomac Park Golf Course landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation. While most of the landscape's major buildings and structures have been documented, important historic resources and features related to topography, land use, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, views and vistas, and small-scale features have not yet been determined eligible for the National Register. Therefore, for purposes of the cultural landscape inventory, the property is considered "Entered-Inadequately Documented."

This cultural landscape inventory maintains that the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape is individually eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and Ethnic (Black) Heritage, and recommends that the period of significance be revised to 1917-1941 for the golf course cultural landscape in particular. These areas of significance will recognize East Potomac Park Golf Course's role in the development of parks and recreation for golfers in Washington, DC, and its role in the desegregation of the city's recreation facilities—particularly, as a recreational site under the ownership of the National Park Service. The period of significance begins with the 1917 construction of the course's first nine holes and extends through the completion of Travis' back nine in 1923, the construction of William Flynn's 9-hole course in 1925, the completion of the miniature golf course in 1931, and the desegregation of the golf course—and, by extension, all federally-owned golf courses—in 1941.

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Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register: East and West Potomac Parks
NRIS Number: 73000217
Other Names: East Potomac Park H. District
Primary Certification Date: 11/30/1973

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual: Contributing
National Register Classification: District
Significance Level: National
Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period: CE 1917 - 1941
Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme: Recreation
Facet: Sports (Active)
Other Facet: Golf Course
Time Period: CE 1917 - 1941
Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme: Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet: Civil Rights Movements
Other Facet: Equality

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Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Category Explanatory Narrative: African American

Statement of Significance:

The East Potomac Park Golf Course is located along the banks of the Potomac River, south of the Washington Monument, in Washington, DC. It is part of East Potomac Park (US Reservation 333). It consists of an 18-hole links-style course, designed by noted golf course architect Walter J. Travis, as well as two additional 9-hole courses, designed by William S. Flynn and William F. Gordon. Construction on the first nine holes and their associated fieldhouse wings (designed by Horace Whittier Peaslee) began in 1917. Additional courses and features, and alterations to the existing courses, were constructed on a nearly continuous basis through the 2000s. The course's first driving range was installed in 1927 (it was subsequently replaced and rebuilt in a different location in 1934). The 18-hole miniature golf course was erected in 1931; the miniature golf course in particular was constructed at the peak of the miniature golf trend in Washington, DC, and around the country.

East and West Potomac Parks were jointly listed as a National Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973; the nomination was updated in 2001. The nomination included the following resources of the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape: the East Potomac Park Golf Course, listed as a contributing site; the associated fieldhouse (East Potomac Park Fieldhouse), listed as a contributing building; the East Potomac Park Miniature Golf Course, listed as a contributing site; and the East Potomac Park Driving Range Building, listed as a non-contributing building. The period of significance for the full East and West Potomac Parks Historic District is 1882-1997.

This cultural landscape inventory finds that the East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, in the areas of Recreation and Ethnic (Black) Heritage. The East Potomac Park Golf Course represents a significant period in the history of golf in the United States, and the development of Washington, DC's municipal recreation system in the early 20th century. The cultural landscape is also significant for its role in the desegregation of federally-owned golf courses. The proposed period of significance for this cultural landscape begins in 1917, with the construction of the Blue Course's original nine holes, and extends through 1941, by which time the three original courses, totaling 36 holes, and the associated miniature golf course were both complete and desegregated.

CRITERION A
Local: Recreation

East Potomac Golf Course

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The East Potomac Park Golf Course Cultural Landscape derives local significance under Criterion A, in the area of Recreation, as one of the first public golf courses in the District of Columbia, and the first 18-hole course in the capital city. The cultural landscape's golf course and miniature golf course are key recreational features of East Potomac Park, which was established with the creation of Ohio Drive SW in 1916.

The East Potomac Park Golf Course is significant as a continuously public-owned golf course, signifying the municipal investment in greenspace and recreational infrastructure in Washington, DC in the early 20th century, under the direction of the McMillan Plan of 1901-02. The course was created under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and it has continually served as a public recreational amenity since its initial construction in 1917. At the time, most golf clubs were located in the suburbs and were primarily privately-owned, expensive, and patronized by the upper class. The East Potomac Park Golf Course offered a public alternative for city residents, accessible by public transportation and available to all levels of society. The golf course's design represents a shift in investment toward publicly-funded and publicly-owned active recreational amenities, and its construction is testament to the growing popularity of golf in the early 20th century's Golden Age of golf.

The 18-hole miniature golf course was constructed in 1931, when the popularity of miniature golf was at its peak around the country. The course was constructed adjacent to the fieldhouse, near the entrance to the cultural landscape. Its design was characteristic of miniature golf course design at the time, including bi-level holes and a metal loop-di-loop; several holes also originally featured miniature reproductions of Washington, DC landmarks—including many of the monuments visible from the main golf course.

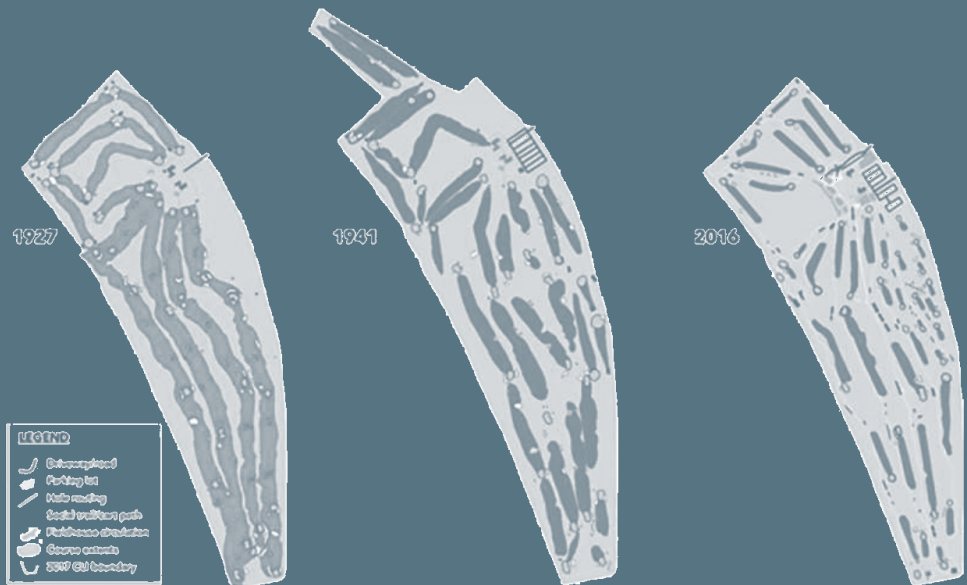
CRITERION A

National: Ethnic (Black) Heritage

The East Potomac Park Golf Course is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic (Black) Heritage for its role in desegregating Washington, DC's recreation facilities and, by extension, all National Park Service resources, beginning in 1941. Although East Potomac Park Golf Course and Rock Creek Golf Course were publicly-owned and accessible to all social classes, their implicit and explicit operating policies barred African-Americans for the first several years of their existence. Beginning in July 1921, black men and women could play at East Potomac Park Golf Course for limited hours one day a week; the facility remained completely segregated during this time, though, with whites and blacks forbidden to play at the same time on the course. Separate, Blacks-only courses were later built in West Potomac Park and elsewhere, but their design and maintenance were markedly poorer than the facilities at East Potomac Park.

By 1941, conditions on the Blacks-only courses were so deteriorated that three black golf players decided to challenge the segregation policy on publicly-owned golf courses by attempting to play East Potomac Park Golf Course, which was federally-owned and thus under the purview of the Secretary of the Interior. Subsequent protests and acts of civil disobedience in June and July 1941 prompted Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to prohibit any racial discrimination at all federally-owned golf courses. This shift in policy, implemented based on the events at East Potomac Park Golf Course, altered the access and discrimination policies for National Park Service-owned resources around the country.

Chronology + Physical History



Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Golf Course

Primary Current Use: Golf Course

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
East Potomac Park Golf Course	Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
9500 - 8000 BCE	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunt in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunt in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
8000 - 2200 BCE	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunt, fish, and seasonally camp along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunt, fish, and seasonally camp along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
2200 BCE - CE 1608	Farmed/Harvested	Native Americans, including the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe, cultivate crops and establish villages along the Potomac River.
	Farmed/Harvested	Native Americans, including the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe, cultivate crops and establish villages along the Potomac River.
CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch

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	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch
CE 1612	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes General Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1790	Planned	Pierre L'Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and includes the land east of the Anacostia as a buffer for military defense purposes.
CE 1791	Land Transfer	President George Washington signs an agreement on March 30, 1791, that establishes the District of Columbia on land from fifteen property owners and two different states (Virginia and Maryland).
CE 1809	Built	The Long Bridge is constructed over the Potomac, connecting Virginia and Washington, DC. The original bridge occupied the same position as today's 14th Street Bridges.
CE 1833		Engineers propose dredging the Potomac to clear increased silt and debris, the result of deforestation, farming, and construction projects.
CE 1857	Planned	Civil engineer Alfred Landon Rives submits plans to reclaim 166 acres of mudflats near the Long Bridge.
CE 1863 - 1870	Built	A new bridge across the Potomac River, located approximately 75 feet downstream from the Long Bridge. The area between the bridges becomes so silted that it is known as the Potomac Flats. The flats support a number of saltwater grass species.
CE 1870 - 1882	Built	The Army Corps of Engineers begins dredging the Potomac in order to remove silt and deepen the river to allow for improved ship access. The dredged material is dumped into the tidal flats along the Washington, DC waterfront.
CE 1882	Planned	The United States Congress officially authorizes the reclamation of the Potomac Flats and the excavation of the Tidal Basin on August 2, 1882. \$400,000 is appropriated for the project.

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CE 1882 - 1891	Built	Army officer Major Peter Conover Hains oversees the majority of dredging and the construction and reclamation of the Potomac Flats. Two separate tracts of land are created, comprising what is now East Potomac Park and West Potomac Park. The tract that now includes East Potomac Park is approximately two miles long and parallels the old shoreline of the Potomac River. The second tract, now known as West Potomac Park, is located west of the Washington Monument and separates Constitution Avenue from the water's edge.
CE 1893	Planned	Major E.L.B. Davis, who succeeded Major Peter Hains, advocates for the development of the Potomac Flats as a public park.
CE 1897	Planned	On March 3, 1897, an Act of Congress officially establishes the area formerly known as the Potomac Flats as a public park, to be called Potomac Park.
CE 1901	Planned	The McMillan Plan proposes East Potomac Park be developed as a space for recreational facilities.
CE 1904	Planned	The Commissioners of the District of Columbia begin to discuss plans for constructing a municipal golf course in Washington, DC.
CE 1912 - 1916	Planned	Officials begin to plan improvements for East Potomac Park. Their designs include the construction of a macadam roadway around the perimeter of the park, the reinforcement and filling of low places behind sea walls, the creation of bridle paths, the clearing of land, and the planting of additional cherry trees.
CE 1911 - 1912	Established	The reclamation of East Potomac Park is completed in 1911, and the park is subsequently transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds on August 24, 1912. The final area of reclaimed land totals 600 acres and is several feet above high tide and flood level.
CE 1911	Planned	A special committee to promote the establishment of a golf course in East Potomac Park is formed after a February meeting of the Board of Trade's committee on parks and reservations.

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CE 1912	Planted	Cherry trees, donated by the Mayor of Tokyo in 1911, are planted throughout Potomac Park, including in parts of East Potomac Park.
CE 1913	Planned	In April 1913, Colonel Spencer Cosby, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia promises that a public golf course will be built in East Potomac Park. A 50-acre site currently used by the USDA as an experiment ground is recommended as the site of the future course.
CE 1916	Planned	Colonel William W. Harts of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds publishes a plan for East Potomac Park that includes an 18-hole public course and a 9-hole amateur course.
CE 1917	Designed	Walter J. Travis, former national and British amateur golf champion, is hired to design the golf courses at East Potomac Park.
CE 1917 - 1918	Built	Construction begins on the 18-hole course at East Potomac Park. Travis' original design calls for a traditional links-style course that could accommodate reversible play. In addition to Travis, Dr. Walter Harban and Robert White also play a role in its design, in particular with overseeing the construction and development of the greens. In the spring of 1918, the fairways are cleared of willow trees and weeds. Thirty acres are plowed and harrowed, and construction of front nine fairways and greens is largely completed.
	Built	World War I halts construction on the East Potomac Park course. Boy Scouts are granted permission to use the area designated for the golf course for war gardens.
CE 1918 - 1919	Built	Golf course construction resumes in the fall of 1918. In 1919, the final 10th hole for the reversible front nine is completed. Fourteen sand pits and 19 hazards are added to the course. Over 2,750 feet of piping is laid for watering the course.
CE 1918 - 1920	Built	The two fieldhouse wings at the East Potomac Park Golf Course are constructed. The fieldhouse wings open concurrently with the golf course in July 1920. The center portion of the fieldhouse was never constructed.

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CE 1920	Built	On July, 8 1920, the first ten holes of the East Potomac Park Golf Course open to the public. They are located directly south of the field house, on the Washington Channel side of East Potomac Park. The holes are referred to as the A and B course.
CE 1921 - 1983	Maintained	Severine G. Leoffler takes over as concessionaire of the East Potomac Park Golf Course in July 1921. His company, first known as the Park Amusement Co. and later the S.G. Leoffler Co., serves in this capacity until 1983.
CE 1921	Established	<p>Lt. Colonel Clarence O. Sherrill announces that African Americans are allowed to play at the East Potomac Park Golf Course on Tuesdays from 3pm to the end of the day.</p> <p>A planting plan for East Potomac Golf Course is approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. It includes coniferous and broad-leveled evergreen plantings.</p>
CE 1922 - 1923	Built	Four holes on the back nine are completed in 1922. They open to the public in April 1923.
CE 1923	Built	The final five holes of the back nine, known as the C and D course, are finished in June 1923. The back nine parallels the front nine, but is arranged along the Potomac River side of the East Potomac peninsula.
CE 1925		Supervision of Potomac Park is transferred from the OPBG to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.
	Land Transfer	Supervision of Potomac Park is transferred from the OPBG to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.
	Built	A new nine-hole course at East Potomac Park, known as the E and F courses, opens on May 23, 1925. Designed by William Flynn, the course is located on the west side of the fieldhouse.
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CE 1927	Built	The driving range, located between Ohio Drive and Hole 1 of the A course, is constructed.
	Built	The driving range, located between Ohio Drive and Hole 1 of the A course, is constructed.
CE 1925	Built	A practice putting green is constructed on the east side of the East Potomac Park fieldhouse.
	Built	A practice putting green is constructed on the east side of the East Potomac Park fieldhouse.
CE 1928	Built	Bunkers are completed at E and F courses.
	Built	Bunkers are completed at E and F courses.
CE 1930 - 1931	Built	The landscape`s final nine holes, known as the G Course, are completed. The G Course includes five holes on the south side of the fieldhouse, along Ohio Drive and parallel to the front nine of the A and B courses. The remaining four holes are located north of the fieldhouse, extending along the east side of the tourist camp.
	Built	The landscape`s final nine holes, known as the G Course, are completed. The G Course includes five holes on the south side of the fieldhouse, along Ohio Drive and parallel to the front nine of the A and B courses. The remaining four holes are located north of the fieldhouse, extending along the east side of the tourist camp.
CE 1931	Built	The 18-hole miniature golf course is constructed. It features a ball house/ticket booth building, and several of the holes include stone features or miniature wooden reproductions of Washington, DC landmarks. Lights are added to practice putting green.
	Built	The 18-hole miniature golf course is constructed. It features a ball house/ticket booth building, and several of the holes include stone features or miniature wooden reproductions of Washington, DC landmarks. Lights are added to practice putting green.

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CE 1934	Altered	Loeffler makes changes to many existing courses. The A Course is eliminated in favor of one-way play on the B-course. The greens on courses C and E were also eliminated for one way play on courses D and F. A new 45-tee driving range, located west of the field house, required the elimination of the ninth green of the F course. Many of Travis`s original bunkers were likely removed during this time.
	Altered	Loeffler makes changes to many existing courses. The A Course is eliminated in favor of one-way play on the B-course. The greens on courses C and E were also eliminated for one way play on courses D and F. A new 45-tee driving range, located west of the field house, required the elimination of the ninth green of the F course. Many of Travis`s original bunkers were likely removed during this time.
CE 1933	Land Transfer	The National Park Service takes over the management of East Potomac Park in August 1933.
	Land Transfer	The National Park Service takes over the management of East Potomac Park in August 1933.
CE 1936 - 1937	Altered	A new swimming pool is constructed west of the fieldhouse wings, necessitating the relocation of the driving range to its current location, west of the fieldhouse. Other improvements include the enlargement of the parking area adjacent to the fieldhouse.
CE 1936	Damaged	Flooding in March on 1936 covers most of the B and D courses and part of G course.
CE 1939	Planted	The Civilian Conservation Corps plants 36 cedar trees in the roughs, two at 20 yards from each tee, to mark the distance of a well-hit tee shot. The CCC also rebuilds a number of putting greens.

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CE 1941	Established	On June 29, 1941, three black players challenge segregation on publicly-owned golf courses by attempting to play East Potomac Park Golf Course. On July 13, 1941, 40 black golfers are barred from entering the golf course fieldhouse. In response to these incidents, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes issues an order on July 19, 1941, mandating the desegregation of all Federally-owned golf courses.
	Demolished	The G Course at East Potomac Golf Course loses several holes to make room for tennis courts and baseball diamonds. Four anti-aircraft guns are installed on the F Course in December of 1941, resulting in the closure of the course and the driving range.
CE 1942 - 1943	Damaged	Flooding in East Potomac causes the entire course to close from October 1942 to May 1943. Damage to the course results in the rebuilding of several greens in 1943. Much of the course is also the rolled and seeded at this time.
CE 1943 - 1945	Rehabilitated	Loeffler closes the course again in June of 1943 to complete rehabilitation after flooding damage. The course remains closed for the remainder of World War II.
CE 1944 - 1945	Planned	William Flynn`s firm carries out a series of course improvements, designed by Flynn before his death in 1945. The F Course is completely rebuilt during the spring and summer of 1944. With the exception of holes 7 and 9, all of the greens on the B Course are rebuilt and replanted with seaside bent grass. Seven new, larger tees are built. On the D Course, all of the greens are reconstructed, the tees are enlarged, and several holes are redesigned and rebuilt.
CE 1949	Rehabilitated	The miniature golf course is renovated and regraded approximately 18 inches higher to address drainage issues. The original ticket booth/ball house is also rebuilt on the same site.
CE 1949 - 1950	Altered	The G Course is revamped by the firm of William F. Gordon Co. The new course is designed to accommodate beginning golfers. Gordon`s new layout moves all nine holes south of the field house, resulting in the shortening of the holes.

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CE 1955 - 1956	Designed	William F. Gordon Co. begins work on revamping the F Course. The design requires the construction of two new holes and four new greens. The final layout is very similar to the modern day White Course.
CE 1977 - 1979	Altered	The fieldhouse is renovated. Changes made to the dining areas include removing an existing lean-to and opening up the portico for outdoor dining. Concurrently, the DC Recreation Department constructs a new bathhouse for the swimming pool, freeing up the bathing rooms in the basement of the fieldhouses. The U.S. Park Police establishes a substation in the west wing of the fieldhouse.
CE 1980 - 1983	Demolished	The F Course is demolished as part of \$2 million plan to relieve traffic congestion and increase open recreation space in East Potomac Park.
CE 1983 - 1984	Planned	After outcry from East Potomac Park golfers, Congress appropriates \$500,000 to restore the nine-hole F course.
CE 1983	Established	Golf Course Specialists Inc. takes over the concessions contract at East Potomac Park Golf Course.
CE 1994 - 1995	Built	The driving range building at East Potomac Park Golf Course is completed. It is designed by the Washington, DC firm of Oehrlein & Associates Architects. Two new practice greens are constructed adjacent to the new driving range building.
CE 1996 - 2002	Built	GCS continues to make improvements to the course. Several new buildings are constructed, including a new golf course cart pavilion in 1996 and a new maintenance building and shed west of the fieldhouses in 1999. A three-hole practice course is constructed at the north end of the Red Course in 1998. In the winter of 2001-2002, the parking lot is expanded further south. The new practice course and parking lot result in the reworking of the Red Course.

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Physical History:

Note: The physical history for this cultural landscape inventory relies extensively on the research and contextual history found in the following Historic Resource Study: Patti Kuhn Babin, *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC* (East Potomac Park, Langston, and Rock Creek Park) (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2017). Additional information on the social context of East Potomac Park Golf Course is available in that report.

Note on Course Names: Naming conventions at East Potomac Park Golf Course has changed over time. Originally courses were referred to by lettered names. The 18-hole golf course designed by Walter Travis is referred to as the A-B Course in original plans, with A and B identifying different directions of play. Upon opening, the course was often played as two 9-hole courses, and universally referred to as the A-B Course (front nine) and the C-D Course (back nine) with different letters again referring to different directions of play. The William Flynn designed course, completed in 1925 was also reversible and originally referred to as the E-F Course. The cultural landscape's third and final course, called the G Course was completed in 1931. When the current concessionaire took over management of East Potomac, the course's names were changed to their current names: Blue, White and Red. The Blue Course is the original 18-hole course, designed by Travis and historically referred to as the A-B or A-B and C-D Courses. The White Course is the Flynn designed nine-hole course completed in 1925 and historically referred to as the E-F Course. The Red Course is the nine-hole course completed in the 1930s and designed by an unknown architect. For clarity, researchers have used current, color-coded naming conventions throughout this document. When referring to historic holes, letters have been added to identify original design and direction of play.

PRECOLONIAL HISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT, 15,000 BCE TO 1607 CE

East Potomac Park Golf Course is located on East Potomac Park, a human-made peninsula in the Potomac River that was constructed in the late 19th century. Though the landscape itself was non-existent until the 1890s, humans had arrived in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont by 11,000 BCE (Louis Berger 2016: 6). The Potomac River, meanwhile, has existed in the same approximate position for two million years. Approximately 33,000 years ago, it began incising the area below Great Falls on the west side of the current District of Columbia boundaries; this down-cutting ended around 8,000 years ago, coinciding with the sudden saline flux into the Chesapeake (Louis Berger 2016: 9).

The Lower Potomac River subsequently began to turn into a tidal estuary, with seawater mixing with fresh water and tides that affect the water level and currents (Louis Berger 2016: 9). The estuary initially comprised firm ground at the shoreline and at least twelve feet of draw in the river's tidal tributaries. As the area around the river saw increased settlement, however, the increased siltation of the river affected its tides and water-level rise (Louis Berger 2016: 9).

COLONIAL SETTLEMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL CITY, 1607-1800

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In the years immediately preceding European settlement in 1608, Eastern Algonquin tribes inhabited the area around present-day Washington. These people lived by combining agriculture with older traditions of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Their agricultural mainstay was corn, grown along with beans and squash, all plants originally imported from Mexico. Most of the tribes were centered on a single community of villages. By 1607, the tribes were coalescing into larger entities led by powerful chiefs, notably Powhatan, who ruled in southeastern Virginia, and the Piscataway Tayac, or Emperor, who dominated eastern Maryland (Louis Berger 2016: 24).

The English settler Captain John Smith, who explored the entire Chesapeake in 1608, recorded information related to a village near the mouth of the Anacostia River (then known as the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River); he called the village Nacotchtank, or Nacotchtant. Smith referred to the inhabitants as Necosts and estimated the Indians' strength in warriors at 80 men, with a total population of 200 to 300 (Berger 2016: 24). Smith included the Washington, DC region on his 1612 map, which became the basis for many later navigational charts of the area's waterways. He also mentioned the Potomac region and its Nacotchtank tribes and villages in his "General Historie of Virginia," detailing travels up the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (Burr 1920: 167). From their base in the central Nacotchtank village, inhabitants of the area were ideally situated to take advantage of trade routes and various resources found along the rivers. The inner coastal plain of the Potomac River—where the Potomac Flats were later dredged—attracted a wide range of species, including herring, shad, salmon, and sturgeon, which sustained local tribes. Subsistence among Algonquin-speaking people also included hunting and foraging and slash-and-burn agriculture. They cultivated corn, beans, gourds, pumpkins, and other crops, practices that continued before and after European contact (Louis Berger 2016: 24).

Colonial settlement of this area continued into the 18th century, and with the resolution of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the new government of the United States resolved to move its capital from Philadelphia to the area around the convergence of the Eastern and Potomac Rivers. When Pierre L'Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area between the two waterways was ceded by Maryland and included within the boundaries of the newly formed District of Columbia. The peninsula that hosts East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape would not exist for another hundred years, but the Potomac River was an increasingly important waterway in the new capital city.

THE POTOMAC RIVER AND THE LONG BRIDGE, 1800-1857

The Potomac River, a crucial commercial passage since the 17th century, grew in importance after 1800, when the nation's capital officially moved to Washington, DC. Alexandria, Georgetown and DC wharves were of critical importance to the new capital. In 1828, the launch of engineering work on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (constructed along the Maryland shore) increased the importance of the Potomac River as a navigable commercial route (Chapell 1973: 3).

The Potomac River began as a fast moving mountain stream north of the Little Falls (located at the intersection of Arlington County, Virginia; Montgomery County, Maryland; and Washington,

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DC). The Little Falls marks the crossing of the Potomac River at the Atlantic Seaboard fall line. South of the falls, the Potomac became a tidal river whose flow is affected by the tides of the Atlantic Ocean. As a tidal river, it included numerous stretches of shallow, shoal water traversed by deep channels. It consisted of “a soft bottom of mud, sand, pebbles, shells, and decaying vegetable matter,” maintaining that composition until it reached the mouth of the Eastern Branch (Chapell 1973: 1).

Above Little Falls, the Potomac collected runoff—and sediment—from about 20,000 square miles (Chapell 1973: 1). Where the river had a quickened pace, this accumulated silt remained moving and suspended in the water. As the pace slowed, south of the falls, the sediment settled around the river’s eddies, islands, and shallow shoals (Chapell 1973: 2). Throughout the 19th century, this accumulated sediment was made worse by increasing development in and around Washington, clogging the river and obstructing commercial traffic on the Potomac.

Historically, the Potomac River had three channels: the Virginia Channel (running upstream between Analostan Island (now Theodore Roosevelt Island) and the Virginia shore from Alexandria to the harbor in front of Georgetown); the Georgetown Channel (flowing from the harbor midstream down the north side of Analostan Island, merging with the Virginia Channel below the island); and the Washington or City Channel (along the east bank of the Potomac River), which opened in November 1815 (Chapell 1973: 4). As the city grew, the Tiber Creek (north of the Washington Channel) and a nearby canal accumulated debris and waste from the city’s residents that sent a combination of sewage and silt downstream, where they eventually blocked the northern mouth of the Washington Channel, obstructing it from through-traffic (Chapell 1973: 4). This forced ships and additional sediment into the Virginia Channel and the main branch of the Potomac River, causing further issues with navigation and commercial traffic on the river. (Chapell 1973: 5).

The problem with the Washington Channel’s circulation and its silted boundary grew over the course of the 19th century. Every heavy rain sent new debris and silt downstream, where it settled on the river bottom and made the river shallower by several feet (Chapell 1973: 5). Meanwhile, the city was growing in population and commercial activity, and ships required deeper channels each year to accommodate their heavy cargo (Chapell 1973: 6).

Compounding the challenge was the presence of the poorly-built Long Bridge (where the 14th Street Bridges are today), which was constructed in 1808 and opened in 1809. The bridge measured 4,984 feet in length, with more than half of the structure built over the shoals between the Washington and Virginia Channels (Chapell 1973: 7). In 1831, a flood destroyed a section of the bridge; in its place, Congress authorized the construction of a solid-earth causeway over the shoals. This proved to be a poor decision that would have ramifications for the Potomac River, the Washington Channel, and the shoals for decades to come. The river and its sediment could no longer flow over the shoals; instead, they reached the barricade of the solid-earth causeway and accumulated above it. Thus, the causeway increased, rather than diminished, the scale of the shoals over the course of the 19th century (Chapell 1973: 8).

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1851 Map of Washington, DC, showing location of the Long Bridge. (Library of Congress)

RECLAMATION OF THE POTOMAC FLATS, 1857-1901

In 1857, the Secretary of the Interior submitted one of the first comprehensive studies of the Potomac River to Congress; the report was conducted by civil engineer Alfred Landon Rives. Rives proposed the replacement of the existing solid-earth Long Bridge with an iron suspension

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bridge and stone arch piers. Rives' study emphasized that the navigation of the Potomac River depended on the proper design and construction of the bridge. As one part of the solution to both challenges, Rives called for the reclamation of the mud flats along the Washington Channel's shoals, using fill from the grading of Washington's streets to build up the flats (Chapell 1973: 8-9).

During the Civil War, the United States Army assumed control of the Long Bridge, retaining authority for the duration of the war. The army subsequently built an additional railroad-only pile bridge, 75 feet downstream from the Long Bridge, doubling the obstructions in this area of the Potomac River (Chapell 1973: 9). In 1867, the United States Congress transferred jurisdiction—including these bridges—from the Commissioner of Public Buildings to the United States Army Engineer Bureau. On March 13, 1867, Major Nathaniel Michler of the Corps of Engineers assumed responsibility for the structures. (Chapell 1973: 10). Faced with the recurring problem of poor navigation on the Potomac River, Michler focused on increasing the flow-rate of the river so that it maintained the velocity to flush sediment downstream. Michler also recommended dredging out the Washington Channel below the Long Bridge, but he stopped short of calling for the north end of the Channel to be reopened (Chapell 1973: 11).

By the late 1860s, the sediment south of the Long Bridge had accumulated to such a degree that the flats were now visible at low tide and even had a name—they were often referred to as the Potomac Flats (Chapell 1973: 15). Saltwater grass had taken root on them, and by 1870, Major Michler recorded the physical condition of the mud flats as follows:

At low water, the soil is entirely uncovered, and has become so firm as to support the weight of a man. This development, unless affected by high freshets or other strong natural causes, will continue more rapidly from year to year; the vegetable matter becoming more firmly rooted, will materially aid in checking any floating matter, and cause the material to be deposited in the river. (Chapell 1973: 15)

Consequently, Major Michler made the recommendation that the Army Corps of Engineers make the Potomac Flats a permanent landscape, building up the silted areas with additional fill and material from the Washington Channel. He further recommended that any outlets draining the flats should be blocked with stone retaining walls or with planted willows (Chapell 1973: 16).

Later that year, Congress appropriated \$50,000 to improve the Potomac River between the Long Bridge and Georgetown. Given the specified geography of Congress' allocation, the first phase of the project, conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers between July 1870 and December 1871, did not focus on the reclamation of the Potomac Flats. Instead, all dredged material was dumped with little long-term strategy on the banks of the river (Chapell 1973: 17). As a result, on March 5, 1872, Congress approved an act to prepare a plan for the permanent improvement of Washington and Georgetown's harbors—and, by extension, an appropriate and sustainable scheme for the dumping of dredged material (Chapell 1973: 18).

In 1878, the Potomac Flats spanned over 300 acres of sediment and aquatic grasses at low tide, and an even larger area was submerged by just a few feet of water. Civil engineer S.T. Abert

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solicited bids for the dredging of the Washington Channel, and work progressed into the 1880s, with dredged material dumped on the area now occupied by East Potomac Park. By 1882, over 240,000 cubic yards of material had been dredged and dumped on the Potomac Flats, resulting in an oval-shaped land mass that measured 1,200 feet long and 700 feet across. Soon after, the Army Corps of Engineers devised a system of inlet and outlet gates to allow the Washington Channel and the Flats' flushing ponds to drain in order to prevent the stagnation of the water around the Flats (Chapell 1973: 20-30). This phase marked the successful first step in the reclamation of the Potomac Flats and the improvement of circulation on the Potomac River and Washington Channel. Subsequent plans and dredging campaigns conducted throughout the 1880s would focus on transforming the new Potomac Flats landscape into useable terrain.

By 1890, over 621 acres of land had been reclaimed on the Potomac Flats. An additional 12,000,000 cubic yards of material was necessary to build the terrain above the water line, and a seawall to protect the land mass was constructed beginning in 1891 (Chapell 1973: 53-54). A report dated July 10, 1893, offers a description of the physical condition of the land at this time: The improvement has now reached a stage where some attention needs to be given to the maintenance and preservation of the reservation. The rich soil, of which the greater part of the reclaimed area is composed, induces and fosters a rapid and prolific growth of high weeds, willows, and other trees and underbrush, which, in the summer season especially, render access to the various parts of the work quite difficult. This growth should be cleared up each year, until the reservation is ready to be laid out, graded, and sown with grass seed. (Chapell 1973: 63) Although these reclaimed flats now featured rich soil and burgeoning vegetation, their future use had not yet been determined.

That changed in 1897, when Congress passed Senate Bill 3307, which decreed "the entire area formerly known as the Potomac Flats, and now being reclaimed, together with the tidal reservoirs, be, and the same are hereby, made and declared a public park, under the name of the Potomac Park, and to be forever held and used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people. (Chapell 1973: 66). On August 12, 1901, Colonel Charles J. Allen transferred the first 31 acres of Potomac Park to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds for development as public parkland (Chapell 1973: 66). The reclaimed Potomac Flats now constituted public greenspace, setting the stage for the 1901-1902 publication of the McMillan Plan, which established a vision for new recreational infrastructure throughout Washington, DC.

By the start of the 20th century, the topography of the reclaimed Potomac Flats was generally flat and clearcut. Vegetation concentrated along the shorelines of the Potomac River and the new Washington Channel, with a limited number of trees scattered throughout the southern portion of the peninsula. There were no buildings or structures on the landscape at this time, and no known small-scale features. The landscape retained views to nearby landmarks.

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1882 Map of Washington and Georgetown Harbors showing visible accumulation of sediment below the Long Bridge. (Library of Congress)

THE MCMILLAN PLAN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST POTOMAC PARK, 1901-1916

The McMillan Plan and Public Recreation in Washington, DC

In 1901, the United States Park Commission began a comprehensive study of the city's park

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system. Founded in 1900 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Washington, DC, the final plan was named for Senator James McMillan of Michigan, who oversaw the commission. Published in 1902, the McMillan Plan proposed redesigning much of downtown Washington and expanding Pierre L'Enfant's original plan of the city. It also called for the creation of waterfront parks, parkways, an improved National Mall, and new monuments and vistas (Robinson and Associates 2004: 48; National Park Service 2013). The final plan devoted an entire chapter to the newly created Washington embankment and Potomac Park, which spanned 739 acres by this time (Moore 1902: 117-119, 164). The Commission envisioned Potomac Park would "provide...a connection between the parks on the west and those on the east," and that it would "readily furnish sites for those memorials which history has shown to be worthy" (Moore 1902: 24).

With roots in the City Beautiful Movement, the McMillan Plan's focused on plans for monuments and memorials in and around the National Mall. The proximity of the newly-created Potomac Park made it an ideal location for future memorials, and the final McMillan Plan emphasized creating access roads to and from the park in order to maximize its connections to the city. Other suggestions for the site included locating a National Arboretum at the park, in order to take advantage of "the richness of the soil and other favorable conditions" (Moore 1902: 119).

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1907 Map of Washington DC showing future site of East Potomac Park, (Library of Congress)

Planning a Public Golf Course, 1911-1916

The reclamation of East Potomac Park was completed in 1911, and the park was subsequently transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) on August 24, 1912. The OPBG continued to make improvements to the park in the years before it opened to the public.

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In 1912, Congress appropriated \$25,000 for the construction of a macadam roadway (now Ohio Drive SE) around the perimeter of the peninsula. One year later, an additional \$25,000 (together with \$20,000 in 1914) funded a new water main, trees and shrubs, grading, and grass seeding (Chapell 1973: 113). Meanwhile, park officials cleared nearly 50 acres of cornfield and scrub-willow.

The decade-old McMillan Plan made no mention of specific recreational activities or spaces designed for Potomac Park. Nevertheless, the commission's work coincided with a national urban reform movement to influence park planning and design organized recreation areas. The demand for sports facilities reflected evolving ideas related to physical activity at the turn of the 20th century. As opportunities for white-collar work increased, a growing number of men found themselves with more free time and disposable income (Kirsch 2009: 24). Their new jobs required little (if any) manual labor, and they soon began to seek out opportunities for more vigorous activities during non-working hours. Organized sports such as baseball, golf, and tennis rose in popularity alongside more casual pursuits such as croquet, skating, and cycling. Unable to afford private sports clubs, middle-class urban dwellers increasingly looked to city parks to provide them with dedicated sports facilities (Riess 1991: 13). By the early 1900s, an increasing number of urban reformers believed that organized recreation was necessary in public parks.

While the idea for a golf course at East Potomac Park originated as early as 1911, actual plans did not materialize until 1914, when the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, Colonel William W. Harts, began developing his plan for the park. The sport had been growing in popularity since the 1890s, as private golf and country clubs multiplied throughout the United States, but the majority of Americans could not afford to pay fees to access these private courses (Kirsch 2009: 24). Eager to see the sport catch on among America's middle class, promoters of the game advocated for the construction of municipal courses in major cities around the country. In 1895, the first municipal course in the United States opened at Van Cortland Park in the Bronx and was an immediate success. Public courses soon opened in Boston and Chicago (Kirsch 2009: 28-29). Pressure for Washington, DC to follow suit was expressed in a 1907 Washington Post article, which voiced frustration with the lack of opportunities for recreation in the city's parks:

Is a public park a beautiful place to be merely looked at or is it a place to be used? This question has been answered by several American cities in whose parks public golf courses have been laid out...In nearly all city parks playing of lawn tennis, baseball, football, cricket, and croquet is permitted; but it is especially fitting that the public park provide a course for golf, for that is a game none can enjoy otherwise without belonging to a club. The public park can be put to no better use than to provide facilities for the people's pastimes (The Washington Post [TWP], March 10, 1907: R7).

In 1906, Commissioners of the District of Columbia had announced plans to establish the city's first public links (TWP, November 3, 1906: 9). They selected a location along the south side of the Brightwood Reservoir in Rock Creek Park, south of Military Road. Nine holes were built in 1907, but the project could not secure enough funds to finish the course could. Instead, it remained incomplete and never opened to the public (For more on the history of public golf in

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Washington, DC, see Chapter 1.1 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC.*)

By 1911, less than two years after the course at Rock Creek Park stalled, interest in a public golf course in the District once again gained momentum. The election of President William Howard Taft (1909-1913), an avid golfer and a strong supporter of municipal golf, helped to advance the effort. In March 1913, the city's Chamber of Commerce established a special committee for the creation of a public golf course and announced:

We believe excellent 9-hole links can be laid off on the lower Potomac Park at little cost, and if the proposition meets with the approval of Colonel Cosby, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, we will urge the Chamber of Commerce to recommend the establishment of public golf links in that place (*The Washington Sunday Star [TWSS]*, March 23, 1913: 5).

The committee recommended an area southeast of the Potomac Railroad Bridge in East Potomac Park for the golf course. Although the chairman of the committee acknowledged that the site was extremely rough and would require improvements, he maintained that "the laying of a golf course will cost but a trifle more than if the ground is maintained as a lawn...The cost of erecting bunkers would be a matter of but a few dollars" (*TWSS*, March 23, 1913: 5).

One month later, the committee met with Colonel Cosby to formally recommend the Potomac Park site. Cosby assured the committee that he supported the construction of the course and that the only reason a course did not yet exist was because efforts in the past had been "half-hearted." In the years before the construction of the golf course, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) used the 50-acre site as an experimental ground. Thus, the committee did not expect to begin construction on the course until after the transfer of the property in the fall. Despite these anticipated delays, officials expected the course to be "laid out, grass sown, and everything prepared so that next summer the course will be in excellent condition" (*TWP*, April 15, 1913: 9).

In reality, incorporating the golf course into the overall plan of Potomac Park took more time. In June 1913, under the direction of Colonel Cosby, the OPBG developed an initial plan for Potomac Park "East and West of the Rail-Road Embankment." This plan did not include the promised golf course (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds 1913). By July 1914, Colonel Harts updated the plans of East Potomac Park to include an 18-hole course. The map of the park created by George Burnap, OPBG landscape architect, imagined a parkland-style course, with the fairways edged by large clusters of trees and views directed toward the Washington Monument and the future Lincoln Memorial (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds 1913).

While plans for the golf course at East Potomac Park progressed, Colonel Harts opened a three-hole practice course in West Potomac Park, south of the Lincoln Memorial grounds (War Department 1914: 1528). This course was "not laid out scientifically, but was designed simply as a test of whether the [government workers] would patronize a public course if one were offered." The test was successful: the course was packed with players, and Harts decided that he would proceed with the construction of the course at East Potomac Park as soon as

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Congress appropriated the necessary funds (The Washington Evening Star [TWES], May 20, 1918: 21).

In October 1915, Harts presented an initial “comprehensive plan for the development of East Potomac Park as a public recreation ground” to the Commission of Fine Arts (Bobeczko and Robinson 1998: 68). The Commission approved the plan, which was published under the name Development of East Potomac Park, and presented the design to Congress in April 1916. The plan made explicit the need for organized recreation in the District, stating: Suitable public recreation facilities are now widely recognized as an essential factor in laying the foundation for good citizenship and for the healthful, moral, and physical development of the people. In recent years it has become more and more the duty of municipalities to provide wholesome outdoor recreation for the public in such a form as may be readily available for those who cannot otherwise have such opportunities (United States Congress, House of Representatives, 64th Congress, 1st Session 1916: 6).

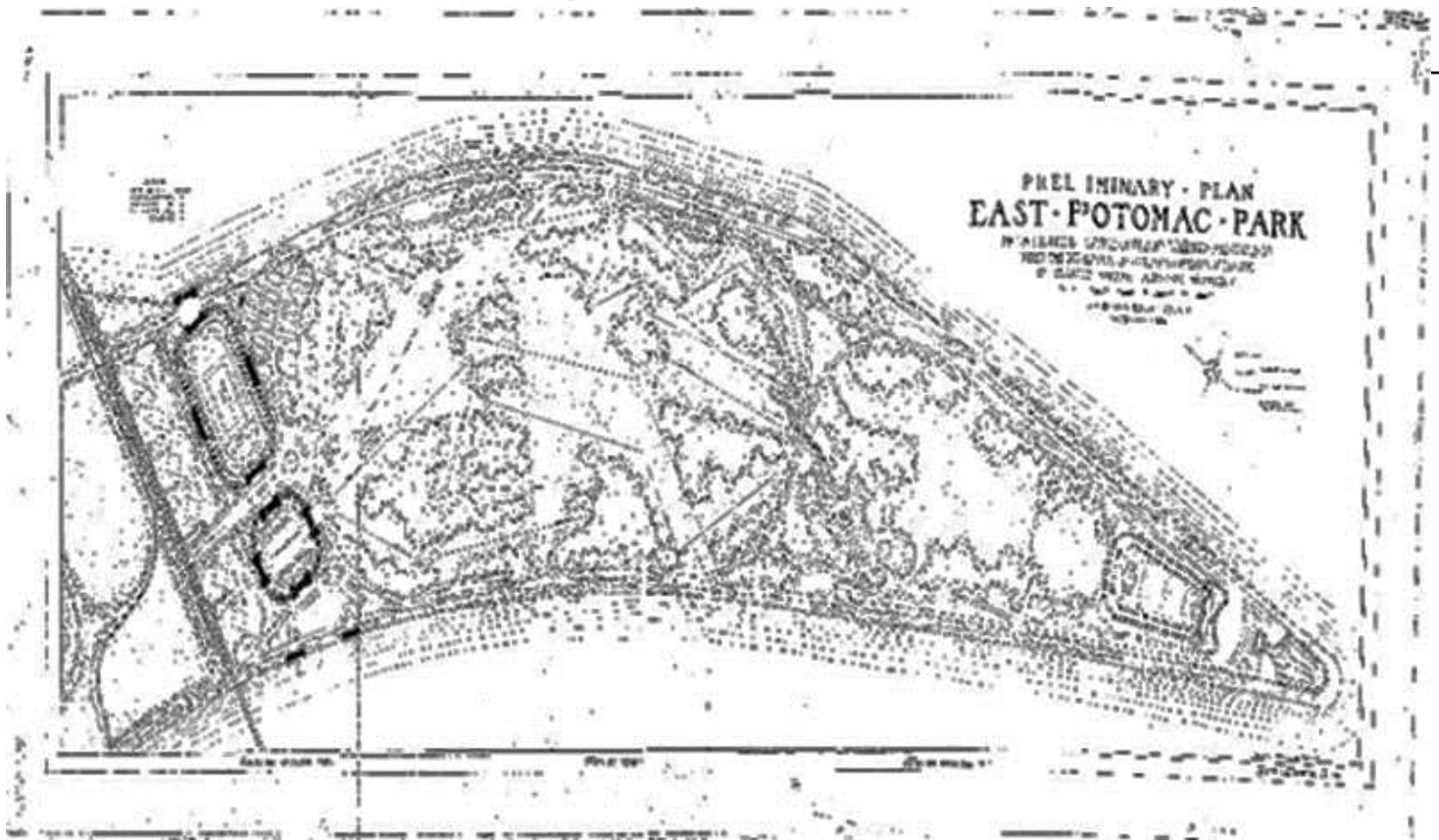
In addition to passive features such as scenic roadways, bridle paths, and picnic grounds, the plans for East Potomac Park featured numerous recreational areas. With plans that were both ambitious and comprehensive, East Potomac Park would be a model “public playground.” The design called for a large stadium for 14,000 people, two sand beaches with bathing pools, a children’s playground and wading pool, a 60-acre parade ground, a boat harbor, and four boat houses. In addition, Harts planned a canal for canoes and small boats that would cross the park from the Washington Channel to the Potomac River, linking the two waterways without directing boaters around Hains Point. The park’s recreation areas would be grouped around a fieldhouse, and they featured tennis courts, basketball courts, croquet courts, and roque courts (a form of croquet played on a hard surface). The plan called for three miles of bridle paths along the shores of the park and eight miles of walks (with shelters and seats) to connect the areas and its many “natural vistas and landscapes” (United States Congress, House of Representatives, 64th Congress, 1st Session, 1916: 6; Bobeczko and Robinson 1998: 69).

Colonel Harts’ plan specifically stated that the East Potomac Park Golf Course would include an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course for amateurs. He envisioned the courses as “taking advantage of the existing trees and those to be planted; portions of these courses are to weave in and about the groups of planting and groves of trees, presenting an appearance similar to natural countryside so desirable in every golf course” (United States Congress, House of Representatives, 64th Congress, 1st Session, 1916: 15). The total estimated cost for Harts’ plan was \$1.5 million, including \$2,400 for the golf courses and an additional \$7,200 for a “golf lake” (United States Congress, House of Representatives, 64th Congress, 1st Session, 1916: 17). This amount proved too ambitious for Congressional appropriations, as the start of World War I shifted funding elsewhere. Nevertheless, the plan successfully established the importance of a public golf course, paving the way for the eventual construction of the fieldhouse wings, recreation fields and courts, and golf course at East Potomac Park.

By 1917, when plans for the new golf course moved forward, the landscape was generally flat and grassy, with scattered trees and shrubs throughout. These conditions allowed for clear views to the nearby monuments, as early 20th-century aerial photographs confirm (Underwood

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and Underwood c. 1902). There were no extant permanent buildings or structures, and any social trails within the cultural landscape boundaries were informal.



Preliminary Plan for East Potomac Park showing earliest golf course proposal (Burnap 1914)

WALTER TRAVIS AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF GOLF, 1917-1923

The majority of Washington's public golf courses, including East Potomac Park's course, were developed during what is considered the "Golden Age" of golf architecture in America. The Golden Age of Golf is loosely defined as the early 1900s until the Great Depression, when the country's greatest course architects designed some of the best known and most influential golf courses in the United States. Many historians consider the era to be one of the most creative, daring, and innovative periods in golf history, aided by rapid economic expansion, technological developments, and the game's growing popularity. During this time, "early layouts were transformed from mundane and geometrically-edged mediocrities to grand-scaled, artistic, and strategically designed masterpieces" (Shackelford 1999: 2-3).

During the initial planning of the East Potomac Park Golf Course, Colonel Harts consulted with

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Dr. Walter S. Harban, who was instrumental in the 1917 redesign and construction of the course at Columbia Country Club, in Chevy Chase, Maryland. In addition to helping with the layout of the East Potomac Park course and the development of the greens, Harban recommended Walter J. Travis, former U.S. amateur golf champion and the architect responsible for the redesign of the Columbia Country Club, to design the new course (TWES, May 20, 1918: 21). (For more on Harban and his experimental methods for growing bent-grass at East Potomac, see Chapter 1.3 of Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC, and the Analysis and Evaluation: Vegetation chapter of this cultural landscape inventory.)

Australian-born Walter J. Travis (1862-1927) immigrated to the United States at age 23. Travis did not take up golf until he was 35, but by the age 39, he was the top amateur golfer in the country, gaining him the nickname “The Old Man” or the “Grand Old Man.” Travis won the title of U.S. Amateur in 1900, 1901, and 1903 (Kirsch 2009: 43). In 1904, Travis won the British Amateur Championship, becoming the first American to win a British national championship. In his later years, he devoted most of his time and energy to writing, editing the magazine *American Golfer* (which he founded in 1908), and designing golf courses (Kirsch 2009: 45). (For more on Travis, see Chapter 1.3 of Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC.)

Walter J. Travis as Golf Course Architect

The choice of Walter J. Travis as the architect of East Potomac Park is a testament to the importance of the course. Over the course of his career, Travis designed and redesigned approximately 50 known courses. Along with East Potomac Park, these include several well-known and respected courses such as the Westchester Country Club in New York, Round Hill Club in Connecticut, Ekwanok in Vermont, Garden City in New Jersey, Cape Arundel in Maine, and the Country Club of Scranton, Pennsylvania (Homsey n.d.; Cornish and Whitten 1993: 418). Many of Travis’ courses still demonstrate his admiration for “the undulating terrain of British links, their lack of trees, the numerous and strategically dispersed bunkers, and the greens defined by natural contours of the land.” These characteristics and features continue to define his legacy as a golf course architect (Homsey n.d.).

At East Potomac Park, Travis designed a traditional links-style course, a term that derives from ancient Scotland and refers to a rough, grassy area of land along the coastline that includes sand dunes and few, if any, trees. The game of golf originated on this type of land, as it was naturally well-suited for play. Modern links-style courses are typically located along a major body of water, often between the coastline and inland agricultural areas. The soil of the course is usually sandy, allowing for maximum drainage and a firm playing surface, and both the slopes and greens feature challenging undulations. In addition to having few trees, links-style courses do not have inland water hazards such as streams or ponds. Instead, hazards typically consist of deep, pothole bunkers like those that Travis favored. The courses feature subtle, rolling terrain and are typically laid out with the first nine holes going out to the furthest point of the course and the second nine playing back toward the fieldhouse (Scottish Golf History n.d.; Sandritter 2013).

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For the East Potomac Park Golf Course and just one other course, Travis designed the course to be reversible in play. An October 1919 article in *Golfers Magazine* described Travis' design of the reversible course at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York as follows:

It is a scientific golf course architecture. The idea is simplicity itself. It is sort of a double-barreled course but with a single barrel shooting both ways....In short, there are 36 different holes in practically the same area as occupied by a regulation 18-hole course....This necessarily means that the greens and the hazards are all designed especially to suit this going and coming, this play in contrary directions—although not of course at the same time (Kennedy 1919: 21).

Design and Construction of the Travis Course

In January 1917, Col. Harts secured funds for construction of the course and officially announced that Travis would design a golf course at East Potomac Park. Construction of the initial 9-hole course began that summer. The holes were built on the peninsula's southeastern side, along the Washington Channel and on a site previously used by the Boy Scouts as a vegetable garden. By spring 1918, nine greens were complete and required only seeding. Fairways had been cleared "of a wilderness of willow trees [and] spontaneous growth over an area of 67 acres, about 30 of which were plowed and harrowed." World War I put a halt to construction in June 1918, but construction resumed in the fall of 1918 (TWES, May 20, 1918: 21; U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, 1918: 1931).

The flat, human-made terrain contained no natural hazards, so Travis' signature sand traps and mounded bunkers needed to be artificially constructed (TWES, January 25, 1917: 17; TWES, May 20, 1918: 21). Travis and Harban recommended Robert White as the first greenkeeper at East Potomac Park and to oversee the construction of the hazards. Like both Travis and Harban, White had worked on the redesign of the Columbia Country Club. In December 1918, Francis F. Gillen, OPBG Superintendent, wrote to White asking if he would oversee the construction of the course (Gillen 1918a; Walter J. Travis Society n.d.). White accepted, and in February 1919, Ridley requested that White come to Washington as soon as possible to supervise the "construction of Sand Pits, Humps, Hollows, and Mounds." Ridley expected the work to take four weeks (Ridley 1919). (For more on White, see Chapter 1.3 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC.*)

On March 29, 1919, Walter J. Travis visited the East Potomac Park course to inspect the work completed to date. Travis confirmed that "[it] had been carried out in accordance with his design and that the result was exactly what he [wished], and was very pleasing to him" (Gillen 1919a). Inspired by traditional British courses such as the Old Course at St. Andrews, Travis' course at East Potomac was reversible. It included a 10th hole, completed in 1919, to allow for alternate play and prevent wear on the course (TWP, March 5, 1919: 10). All of the fairways were seeded in October 1919, and fourteen sand pits and nineteen hazards were added to the course that same year. An irrigation system with over 2,750 feet of water pipe watered the greens and other parts of the course (U.S. Army Chief of Engineers 1918: 2042; Gillen 1919a).

By June 1920, the first nine holes, referred to as the A-B Course, were complete. They extended southeast out and back along the length of the Washington Channel, covering

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approximately 80 acres (TWP, April 21, 1917: 4; TWES, May 20, 1918: 21). The fairways were plowed and sown with a mixture of blue grass, red top, and clover, and 44 hazards were in place (United States Congress, House, 66th Congress, 3rd Session, 1920: 4123). The Washington Sunday Star described the course as “a true Travis creation. It is characterized by the rolling, undulating, well-trapped greens peculiar to a Travis-built course” (TWSS, June 20, 1920: 27).

Two fieldhouse wings for locker rooms and other facilities were built concurrently with the front nine of the Travis course. Designed by OPBG Horace Whittier Peaslee (1884-1959), the L-shaped fieldhouse wings were originally intended to be connected by a rectangular central section, but the connecting wing was never built. The wings were built of exposed-aggregate concrete, a product of Washington, DC concrete craftsman John Joseph Earley (1881-1945). Earley’s process, viewed by the artist as a combination of science and art, created a concrete product that resembled more costly mosaic work. The process started with forms that were filled with a concrete mixture that was studded with colorful pebbles. After the forms were removed, the surface of the concrete was scrubbed with acid to highlight the colored aggregates. Earley used this process, patented in 1921, as the “Earley Process,” to create a wide range of products including murals, walls, and entire buildings like the fieldhouse wings at East Potomac (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 75). The east wing contained the men’s locker rooms, a dining room, lunch room, golf professional shop, and a kitchen, pantry, and cold storage area in the basement. The west wing contained the women’s locker rooms, offices, storage areas, and basement laundry facilities.

The fieldhouse wings and first nine holes of the East Potomac Park Golf Course opened to the public on July 8, 1920. The course proved immediately popular, with over 16,345 golfers in the first year alone and 65,345 golfers by 1921 (TWES, July 8, 1920: 10). The course even attracted the President of the United States. In April 1921, President Harding made headlines when he appeared unannounced at the fieldhouse, paid the quarter fee, and enjoyed a round of golf (TWP, April 6, 1921: 1). After his initial visit, Harding reportedly golfed at East Potomac Park as much as four times a week (TWSS, May 5, 1968: C7).

The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds operated the course between July 1920 and July 1921, but found that the total receipts from the operation earned only 50 percent of the cost of operation. Consequently, the office decided to outsource the course operations to a private concessionaire. Beginning on July 20, 1921, the OPBG entered a five-year contract with the Park Amusement Company, operated by Severine G. Leoffler (“A Brief History of Golf Courses in the National Capital Parks” 1950).

Work on the final nine holes of Travis’ design began that same year. By the end of December 1922, at least four holes were complete and the new course had attracted enough attention to be named the location of the United States Golf Association’s second annual Public Links Tournament, to be held in June 1923. The Washington Post noted that the “fact that this event will attract to the National Capital several hundred players who patronize public golf courses in various cities, and that will naturally expect to find perfect conditions in a course which is under government supervision, should be fully appreciated by Congress...Ample funds should be

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provided with the distinct understanding that they shall be used in placing the course in perfect condition” (TWP, December 31, 1922: 34). Col. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds by this time, promised that all 18 holes would be completed by the time of the tournament in the spring (TWP, December 31, 1922: 34).

The second nine holes were designed to parallel the first nine, but were arranged along the western side of the peninsula, bordering the Potomac River. As with the front nine, the course was designed for reversible play. The final holes were completed by June 1923, just in time for the public links tournament. The back nine was known as the C-D Course (TWP, April 15, 1923: 57). The full 18-hole course had a total yardage of 6,244 yards, with a par of 36 on the front nine and 37 on the back nine.

The newly-completed course was not considered “sporty,” primarily because of its flat terrain, but the course, and in particular the back nine, was not easy. Golfers described the greens as “wonderful,” “tricky,” “fast and splendidly grassed.” As one veteran golfer noted, “there are few courses so broken out with traps as East Potomac,” reflecting Travis’ role in the design of the course and his love of bunkers (The Baltimore Sun, June 29, 1923: 14). Reporting on the public links tournament, the Baltimore Sun described the new course as such:

There are bunkers to catch almost any deviation from the straight and narrow—traps for tops, half tops, hooks, slices, short approaches and over shots. The profusion of traps, perhaps, partly can be accounted for by the fact that there are four separate 9-hole courses, all in an acreage not larger than that devoted to an ordinary 18-hole course (The Baltimore Sun, June 29, 1923: 14).

In the years after the construction of the first nine holes at East Potomac Park Golf Course, the landscape’s overall topography and views remained consistent. The construction of Travis’ course introduced a new spatial organization to the landscape, and the new fieldhouse buildings served as an anchor along the eastern edge of the landscape. The vegetation pattern of Travis’ design was generally treeless—a characteristic feature of links-style courses—with cleared fairways and grassy turf. Additional buildings and structures by this time included Travis’ signature sand traps and mounded bunkers, which were added to the otherwise-flat landscape. Circulation features included the entrance driveway from Ohio Drive, which extended west into the site and terminated at the parking area between the fieldhouse wings. The progression of play on the course was reversible, and circulation between the holes was not prescribed by formal paths.

For maps showing the original layout and reversible play on the Blue Course see Appendix A, Images 1 and 2.

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Undated photo, c. 1920, showing one of Walter Travis' distinctly designed hazards. ("Textural Records," 1920)

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A View of the Travis-designed Blue Course, wide open fairways and numerous hazards. (Library of Congress)

WILLIAM FLYNN AND THE GROWTH OF GOLF AT EAST POTOMAC PARK, 1924-1929

The immediate popularity of Walter Travis' 18-hole course at East Potomac Park prompted concessionaire S.G. Leoffler to expand the course in 1924. With his contract about to expire, Leoffler offered to build the additional 9-hole course at his own expense; in return, the OPBG extended his contract to 1929 (TWP, July 1, 1928: SM3; "A Brief History of Golf Courses in the National Capital Parks" 1950). Announced in the spring of 1924, the new 9-hole course was designed by William S. Flynn, who was also working at that time for the OPBG on the

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design and expansion of the Rock Creek Golf Course. Considered “a protégé of Walter Travis,” Flynn had overseen the construction of Travis’ reversible course at the Westchester-Biltmore Country Club in 1920 (The Washington Herald, December 16, 1919: 10; Morrison and Paul 2015: 555). In August 1924, Flynn visited the East Potomac Park site and pronounced the course “in good shape to proceed with the work” (TWES, August 13, 1924: 27).

Flynn’s design was decidedly influenced by the design of the Travis courses at East Potomac Park. Located east and north of the fieldhouse wings, the new course at East Potomac Park was known as the E-F Course. Its construction relieved congestion on the original course and allowed the Travis course to be played as a continuous 18-hole course (TWP, May 13, 1924: S3). In keeping with Travis’ approach, the new E-F Course was reversible and had extra greens (11 total) to allow for change in the direction of play. The first and last greens were conveniently located adjacent to the fieldhouse, and the design was open, with wide fairways, a nod to Travis’ preference for tree-bare, links-like landscapes (TWP, May 13, 1924: S2). A pre-existing grove of Japanese flowering cherries, located near the southern end of the course, were incorporated into the design. The trees likely date to the USDA’s use of East Potomac Park as an experimental planting ground, prior to the construction of the golf course. The cherries are thought to be the sole surviving specimens of the first cherry trees donated by Japan from the city of Tokyo, which arrived in Washington, DC in January 1910 (Pliska 2008). (For more on Flynn and his work at East Potomac Park and Rock Creek Golf Courses, see Chapters 1.3, 2.1, and 2.2 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC.*)

The course opened to the public in May 1925. At the time, newspapers described Flynn’s course as “not as well-trapped as the first [courses built by Travis],” but “by far the most popular because lower scores can be made on them by the class of players who used the public courses (TWP, May 21, 1925: 15; TWSS, May 6, 1928: 2).

After the completion of the E-F Course, Leoffler further improved the East Potomac Golf Course. In 1927, he installed a new practice green on the south side of the east fieldhouse wing (TWES, April 24, 1931: D2). To further entice government workers, he also provided a bus service from the Treasury Department to the course (compensating for the planned streetcar line to East Potomac Park that was never built) (TWSS, July 19, 1925: 2). By 1927, the course also boasted a “practice driving course,” described as “the most commodious driving course in the city.” The driving range was initially located southeast of the fieldhouse and along Ohio Drive, on the east side of Hole 1 of the A Course (Hole 9 of the B Course) (TWES, July 1, 1930: C2). That year, the annual number of golfers at East Potomac Park Golf Course reached 155,318 players (TWP, July 1, 1928: SM3).

In 1928, the Washington Post commended the East Potomac Park Golf Course for its unparalleled scenery and its views of the monuments of the nation’s capital:
It is doubtful if there is any golf course anywhere that surpasses in the beauty of its surroundings [as] the golf course in East Potomac Park. It is within a mile and a half of the White House and the Capitol and much nearer to the Lincoln Memorial and the [Washington]

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Monument, all of them within plain sight from every tee and every green. The hills of Arlington, with the Lee Mansion, the Memorial Amphitheater and the wireless towers, loom up across the Potomac, and the river itself may be followed by the eye of a waiting golfer for many miles southward (TWP, July 1, 1928: SM3).

By 1929, the landscape featured 27 holes, distributed north, west, and south of the fieldhouse wings. Other buildings and structures included the sand traps and bunkers throughout Travis' and Flynn's courses, as well as the new practice green and driving range. In addition, a maintenance building was located west of the fieldhouse wings. The landscape was still generally treeless, although a limited number of trees delineated the fairways, and stands of trees were located northwest of the fieldhouse wings. The access driveway from Ohio Drive and the parking area remained in place. Other circulation features extant by this time were minimal, as there were few social trails within the course. Small-scale features included sections of post-and-chain fence around the parking area, and revolving bag racks and a flag pole near the fieldhouse wings.

For a map showing the original location and layout of the White Course, see Appendix A, Images 3 and 4.

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*1927 Aerial view of East Potomac Park Golf Course, showing original Blue and White Courses.
(Federal Projects Planning Division, National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1927)*

THE G COURSE, MINIATURE GOLF, AND MODERN IMPROVEMENTS, 1930-1940

Course Construction and Redesign

In 1930, Leoffler added a second 9-hole course, known as the G Course, on the former location of the driving range. Designed by an unknown architect, the G Course was to “match in difficulty the other layouts in East Potomac Park” and was designed to be “well trapped” (TWES, July 1, 1930: C2). Unlike the Travis and Flynn courses, the G Course was not reversible. It was routed with four holes on the south side of the fieldhouse, parallel to the A and B Courses. The remaining five holes were located on the north side of the fieldhouse, along the east side of a tourist camp, which had been built along the railroad bridge near the Potomac River in 1921.

In addition to the new G Course, Leoffler also added lights to the practice putting green and built a miniature golf course adjacent to the fieldhouse. The 18-hole miniature golf course at East Potomac Park officially opened in the summer of 1931, and quickly became one of the park’s most popular attractions (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 77). The course was lit for nighttime use and featured miniature reproductions of prominent buildings around Washington, including the White House, the United States Capitol, and Mount Vernon (Adams c. 1930). Several holes had stone features, including a wishing well, bridge, pond, and walls, and the

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course included bi-level holes and metal loop-di-loop hazards, as was typical of miniature golf courses at the time. A small wood-frame ball house or ticket booth was located on the western edge of the course (Adams c. 1930; *The Washington Post*, August 31, 1936: X8). (For more on miniature golf at East Potomac Park and other Washington, DC golf courses, see Chapters 1.1 and 2.1 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC*.)

For a 1931 map of East Potomac Park Golf Course, showing the location and layout of the G Course, see Appendix A, Image 5

A May 1932 *Evening Star* article praised the completed East Potomac Park Golf Course as “one of the scenic beauty spots in the District”:

Under foot is a grass turf of exceptional depth, watched and groomed as carefully as that of a country club. In the background are the lacy willows along the banks of the Potomac on one side, and the War College, with its orderly array of Washington barracks nearby, stands across the other side... The Washington Monument breaks into the scene along the opposite perspective that ends at the channel edge, where the soft smoke of waiting steams tells of a quiet activity below decks. The Potomac course is not difficult. There are lockers with shower baths and a cafeteria with a glorious outlook toward the city... There is a row of the cherry trees which makes the city so attractive in the Springtime near the caddy house. A resplendent miniature golf course with a picket fence enclosure lies adjacent to the entrance driveway. The time-keeping rack in the club house office has the cards of 36 men, who are working on the course steadily (*TWES*, May 8, 1932: 9).

In August 1933, the National Park Service took over the management of East Potomac Park, along with the other city parks, sites, and reservations formerly under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks. Leoffler continued to make improvements to the course throughout the 1930s. Because the G Course had replaced the former driving range, Leoffler built a new range in 1934 on the west side of the fieldhouse (*TWES*, May 1, 1934: D2). In May, Leoffler held a grand opening for the “extravagant” new range, hailed as the “newest and most complete range in this part of the country.” The range featured 45 tees and was flood-lighted for use at night (*TWES*, April 30, 1934: C3; *TWES*, May 4, 1934: D3; *TWES*, May 1, 1934: D2). (Leoffler later stated that the driving range had 66 driving tees, and a 1951 aerial photograph confirms this number. However, it is uncertain if the number changed when the driving range was shifted for the construction of the swimming pool in 1936. See “The Business Background and Experience of Mr. S.G. Leoffler” c. 1949.)

The addition of the new driving range coincided with other modernizations to the course. In 1934, Leoffler changed the A and B Courses for the first time in more than a decade, ending the two-way play original to Travis’ design. The greens of the course were rebuilt accordingly, and the final routing matched that of the original B Course. The greens on the C-D and E-F Courses were also eliminated for one-way play, on what would become strictly the D Course and the F Course. Since the new driving range necessitated the removal of the 9th green of the F Course, the 9th green of the D Course was used in its place and a new 9th green was constructed for the D Course. In addition, the first tee on the D Course was changed to play

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the old 9th green on the obsolete A Course (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

As part of the improvements, Travis' greens at the course were modernized and rebuilt for pitching, rather than run-up shots. The Evening Star reported that it was "just another sign of the changing times, but it will make for public links golf something like the brand afforded at our leading clubs, where the run-up is not as popular as the pitch." Run-up shots are typically played with a lower-lofted club (an 8-, 7-, or 6-iron, for example), rather than a wedge; as such, they produce a low trajectory, with the ball rolling along the ground and up to the hole (Kelley 2014). On the "lightning-fast greens" of East Potomac Park Golf Course, a run-up shot often caused balls to go bounding into the Washington Channel. On the new greens, "the lads will be able to fling 'em up according to the best country club traditions" (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

A number of Travis' original bunkers were likely removed when the redesign abandoned reversible play on the courses, as many of the hazards were irrelevant when played from one direction (McMartin 2008: 54). It is also possible that the March 1936 flooding of the Potomac River—one of the region's most destructive floods—greatly damaged the course. A photograph of the flood illustrates that most of the B and D Courses and part of the G Course were almost completely submerged underwater. Only the F Course was spared (Harris and Ewing 1936).

In 1936, a mere two years after Leoffler completed his new driving range, a swimming pool was built at East Potomac Park, requiring the relocation of the driving range further to the west. The construction of the swimming pool also forced the elimination of one of the holes near the fieldhouse on the G Course. A new hole was constructed closer to Hains Point in order to retain the course's 9-hole layout (TWES, February 29, 1936: C7).

Civilian Conservation Corps

Additional improvements were made to the East Potomac Park Golf Course in the fall and winter of 1939, many with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The men planted 36 cedar trees in the roughs, in pairs at 200 yards from each tee, to mark the distance of a well-hit tee shot. In addition, the CCC rebuilt a large number of the putting greens. Tommy Doerer, the manager at East Potomac Park at that time, noted:

We want to change around a lot of those greens that were built as two-way greens. They are humped in the middle and the trapping is obsolete. They get so hard in the summer that you can't pitch a ball to them, and in all they are way behind modern course construction ideals. We want to see most of the old ones rebuilt and we want to do some trapping around all of them. Personally I'd like to see two of these 9-hole layouts made into a really rugged 18-hole course, one that would come pretty close to country club standards (TWES, February 4, 1939: A15).

The improvements included the rebuilding of Green 4 of the B Course and the rebuilding of all the tees on the B Course, Tees 1-8 on the D Course, and Tee 1 on the G Course ("Memorandum for Mr. Gable" 1940). These improvements are the only documented projects that the CCC conducted at East Potomac Park Golf Course. (For more on CCC projects at other Washington, DC golf courses, see Chapters 1.1 and 2.1 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC*.)

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Deteriorating Conditions

Despite a decade of improvements, the condition at East Potomac Park was beginning to deteriorate by 1939. In a series of articles on the District's golf courses, Washington Evening Star reporter, Walter McCallum described the conditions at the East Potomac Park Golf Courses as "flat, uninteresting layouts which could be vastly improved under the supervision of a competent course architect. All have flinty-surfaced dirt tees, poorly trapped putting greens, and badly kept bunkers." McCullum noted that congestion was part of the problem, and that the course "takes a lot of beating...But the East Potomac Park course is outmoded and far behind the modern trend. It is too short, not well trapped, and in poor condition. The greens need complete rebuilding. All the tees should be sodded and elevated. Inadequate bunkering permits wild shots" (McCallum 1939: B1).

One year later, in December 1940, a memo to the National Park Service's Chief of the Park Operations Division echoed some of McCullum's criticisms:

Fairways too rough. Greens too hard, too small, improperly designed (due to the reversing of the courses in the past) with the result that the back part of most greens is pitched downward. Some of the greens are lower than the fairways and should be elevated....Traps appear to have no relationship to the holes and in many instances are located on the wrong side of the fairway so that a trapped ball, if played over the bunker, would be hit in a direction opposite to the direction of the green....Several new tees have been built or reconstructed during the years 1939 and 1940 and are in need of repair now. ("Memorandum for Mr. Gable" 1940)

These comments reflect the deterioration of conditions at East Potomac Park Golf Course after several years of hard use, as well as changing tastes among golfers and advances in golf-club technology. When Travis designed the first eighteen holes, hickory clubs were the norm; by the mid-1920s, they had been replaced by steel-shaft clubs that enabled the ball to fly much further. This necessitated the lengthening of course fairways around the country.

By 1940, the East Potomac Park Golf Course featured 36 holes that were distributed around the peninsula in the areas south, west, and north of the fieldhouse wings. The topography and vistas were consistent with earlier periods, with generally flat, grassy fairways that were interrupted only by limited trees, sand traps, and mounded bunkers. The fieldhouse wings remained in their original location, supplemented by this time by the driving range, a practice putting green, and the 18-hole miniature golf course with its ball house structure. Roads and driveways were concentrated around the fieldhouse wings and maintenance building, and fragments of informal social trails were extant throughout the course. Light standards were in place around the fieldhouse wings, driving range, and miniature golf course, and the practice putting green and miniature golf course each featured perimeter fencing.

For a map showing East Potomac Park Golf Course in 1941, see Appendix A, Image 5.

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1936 View of East Potomac Park, after completion of all three golf courses. (Harris and Ewing 1936)

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1936 Flooding at East Potomac Park (Harris and Ewing 1936)

SEGREGATION AT EAST POTOMAC PARK, 1941-1954

While public recreation facilities in the District of Columbia flourished in the early decades of the 20th century, the right and ability to use certain areas varied by age, sex, class, and race. Racial restrictions encompassed all municipal as well as many federal facilities. Most of the municipal facilities in the District of Columbia remained racially segregated throughout World

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War I and the following decades, either by social custom or administrative design (Verbrugge 2015: 111-12). In the early decades of the 20th century, the federal recreation facilities in the District were also segregated, a policy codified by the successive agencies responsible for this parkland, including the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, the National Capital Park Commission, and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, as well as various members of Congress (Verbrugge 2015: 112-13). Beginning with President Howard Taft and expanding dramatically through President Woodrow Wilson's administration, Jim Crow regulations increasingly restricted the opportunities of the District's black citizens. The East Potomac Park, West Potomac Park, and Rock Creek Golf Courses allowed all social classes the opportunity to golf, yet they were initially limited to white players. The Jim Crow practice of "separate but equal" that permeated the city's playgrounds and other recreation areas extended into the city's public golf courses.

However, soon after the opening of the golf courses at East Potomac, the city's black population began to request playing times. Beginning in July 1921, African American golfers could play at East Potomac Park on Tuesdays from 3pm to the end of the day; white players were excluded from playing at East Potomac Park Golf Course on these afternoons (The Baltimore Afro-American [BAA], July 22, 1921: 2). Eventually, this policy was discontinued, and a Blacks-only course was built near the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial in 1924, replaced in 1939 by the Langston Golf Course along the Anacostia River.

Eventually, in the summer of 1941, several members of the local Royal Golf Club—a club for black golfers in Washington, DC—challenged the unofficial policy of segregation at Washington, DC's golf courses. The trio attempted to play East Potomac Park on June 29, 1941, but they were denied admission (BAA, July 5, 1941: 1). Their protest eventually reached the attention of the US Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, who issued an order affirming that all federally-owned golf courses in the District of Columbia were open to all, regardless of race (BAA, July 19, 1941: 21). Despite Ickes' intervention, it was not until the 1954 Supreme Court ruling *Bolling v. Sharpe*, which invalidated the segregation of the District's schools, that the DC Recreation Board changed its policy to one of integrated recreation areas. That same day, the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education* marked a turning point for many of the country's municipal golf courses. This sequence of events resulted in the eventual desegregation of East Potomac Park Golf Course's facilities and, by extension, all federally-owned recreational facilities in the United States. For more on the history of segregation and Washington, DC's golf courses, see Chapter 1.2 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC*.

A map depicting the 1941 layout of all three courses and other conditions at East Potomac Park Golf Course is located in Appendix A, Image 6.

WORLD WAR II, 1941-1945

In the spring of 1941, the Welfare and Recreation Association was given permission to build tennis courts and ballfields on the northeast side of the tourist camp, to replace those lost by the construction of the Jefferson Memorial. As a result, five holes on the G Course were removed

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north of the fieldhouse. In order to make up for the loss, Leoffler divided one of the five-par holes on the south side of the fieldhouse into two holes. Instead of a nine-hole course, the small five-hole G Course was played twice as a 10-hole layout (TWP, March 25, 1941: 28; TWES, December 16, 1941: A19; TWES, March 21, 1941: D2). That winter, after the United States' entry into World War II, the US Army took over four holes of the F Course, installing four anti-aircraft guns and forcing Leoffler to close the course. The anti-aircraft guns also caused the closure of the driving range (TWES, December 16, 1941: A19). In addition to closure of the G and F Courses, Leoffler faced several challenges in operating the golf courses during wartime. Rationing impacted day-to-day operations (TWP, March 19, 1943: 14). Leoffler had difficulty securing enough gasoline to mow the fairways. Eventually, the federal government loaned 300 gallons of gasoline to cut the high grass at the course (TWES, June 15, 1943: A15).

Another flood in October 1942 caused major damage to the course, prompting the closure of East Potomac Park for nearly eight months. By March 1943, numerous "lakes" still dotted the peninsula, and mud covered a large portion of the course. Several greens needed to be rebuilt, and the course was rolled and seeded (TWP, March 19, 1943: 14; TWES, May 3, 1943: 12). The course reopened to the public in May 1943, only to be closed again in June for the remainder of the war as bans on public and private transportation isolated the course. Leoffler had already planned to close the course in August, in order to fully rehabilitate it (TWES, June 15, 1943: A15). The East Potomac Park Golf Course remained closed until the summer of 1945 (McCallum 1945: A10).

POSTWAR CHANGES, 1945-1959

The years following World War II brought East Potomac Park Golf Course back to 36 holes. In 1944, the War Department agreed to pay the National Park Service \$37,000 for the rehabilitation of the golf course and driving range, as a result of the damage caused by the Army's occupation during the war (General Accounting Office 1944). National Capital Parks retained golf course architect William S. Flynn to rehabilitate the courses. Flynn, the original designer of the E-F Course, redesigned the F Course, which had been shuttered during the war. The course was rebuilt during the spring and summer of 1945 (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14; Flynn 1944). The entire course was newly planted, and new greens, fairways, tees, and traps were constructed. In addition, Flynn's redesign added new drainage facilities to "make the course an all-weather affair." The 2,726-yard course "was considered by Mr. Flynn to be one of the best flat courses in the country." All of the changes were planned and designed by Flynn and carried out by his assistant, after Flynn's death in January 1945. The newly rebuilt course opened in September 1945 (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14; Flynn 1944; "Press Release" 1945).

Flynn also designed improvements to Travis' B and D Courses, and work on that section of East Potomac Park Golf Course was carried out in the fall and winter of 1945. All of the greens on the B Course, with the exceptions of Holes 7 and 9, were rebuilt and planted with seaside bent grass. Seven new tees, larger than the old tees, were built. On the D Course, all of the greens were reconstructed and new tees were installed. A new Hole 1 was built, playing to the old Green 2 and measuring 300 yards in length. A new Hole 2 was built with a length of 225 yards, with the green opposite the Tee 3. A new Hole 3 was also built. Formerly 475 yards and

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par 5, the new Hole 3 played at 525 yards and was also a par 5 (TWES, December 4, 1945: A15).

Flooding continued to be a problem at East Potomac Park. In the fall of 1948, the Army Corps of Engineers began dredging the Potomac River and pumping the silt into the northwest section of Hains Point, hoping to build up the low spots in the park (TWP, September 15, 1948: 14). In 1949, the Washington Post reported that East Potomac Park had settled six feet since the 1890s and that “flood conditions in the city’s most frequented park have become so serious in recent years that park officials say control measures should be applied to the whole area.” Leoffler was forced to make drainage improvements at the course at the cost of around \$7,000 (TWES, March 1, 1949: B1).

In 1950, the Doylestown, Pennsylvania firm of William F. Gordon Co. was hired to rework the G Course, which had been reduced to five holes when anti-aircraft guns were mounted north of the fieldhouse during World War II (TWP, March 7, 1948: L6). Originally, four of the course’s holes were on the south side of the fieldhouse, and the remaining five were to the north. Gordon’s new design rearranged the layout to allow for all nine holes to be on the south side of the fieldhouse. As a result, most of the holes were shortened in length (Gordon 1950).

See Appendix A, Image 6 for a map of East Potomac Park showing the redesigned White and Rec Courses in 1955.

In 1956, Gordon, along with his son David, began work on redesigning Flynn’s decade-old F Course; plans called for two completely new holes and four new greens (Fitzgerald 1956: K5). Gordon’s plans included changing the layout of the course by rerouting several of the holes over the area immediately north of the fieldhouse, which had been used since the end of WWII as a landing pad for model airplanes. The redesign added one new hole, Hole 7, along the channel (Gordon and Gordon 1956). Gordon’s layout was slightly modified between 1959 and 1963 with the construction of Buckeye Drive, which cut along the northern end of the course. Consequently, Holes 5 and 6 were rerouted. A new green was constructed for Hole 5 and the former green for Hole 5 became the green for the new Hole 6 (Department of Highways and Traffic, Design Engineering and Research Street Design Section 1959).

By 1959, the course once again featured 36 holes, along with the fieldhouse wings, miniature golf course, practice putting green, and driving range. Although the recurring floods on the peninsula periodically washed out the course, the topography was not otherwise altered during this time. The parking lot was expanded to the south during this time, and additional walks and driveways connected the features around the fieldhouse wings with the starting points of each course. Within the courses themselves, circulation features remained minimal, consistent with earlier periods.

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Construction of tennis courts and a model airplane landing pad, north of the fieldhouse, resulted in the loss of holes on the Red Course. (United States Geological Survey 1951)

A PERIOD OF DECLINE, 1960-1984

A 1975 Washington Post article reported that the use of the golf course at East Potomac Park had declined by 12 percent since 1967. The driving range was down 37 percent, and miniature golf was also down by 37 percent. The National Park Service began to question if the land

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occupied by the golf courses might be better used for other recreational purposes. Planners at National Capital Parks pointed out that “golf uses more land for fewer people than almost any sport. At peak use, there are perhaps two or three golfers per acre of course. Picnickers go about 50 to the acre. And the East Potomac courses are used only 58 percent of their capacity, compared to 86 percent for the tennis courts, 92 percent for the pool, 100 percent for the softball fields.” National Capital Parks did recognize, however, that there were only three public golf courses left in the city, and that no one wanted “to see the public courses wiped away” (TWP, August 7, 1975: C7).

The courses at East Potomac continued to be plagued by drainage issues. After a heavy rainstorm in late October 1975, the course had “lakes” on the course for nine days. The roof on the fieldhouse wings leaked. Despite these issues, Severine G. Leoffler Sr. stated, “I won’t give up the Washington public courses. We feel we owe the public courses something because they have been good to our family. Besides, we have some two dozen employees who have been with us for more than 20 years and we have to think of them too” (TWP, November 2, 1975: 29).

In 1977, the National Park Service completed a marketing and economic overview of all NPS-owned golf courses in DC. The study noted that both the East Potomac Park and Rock Creek courses were in “less than acceptable condition for player use and overall appearance because of poor maintenance.” An inadequate number of sand traps existed on the courses and existing traps were in poor condition, with more patches than bunkers. Tees were often just bare ground. Improper use of herbicides, seeds, and fertilizers, as well as poor turf maintenance programs allowed major infestation of foreign grasses and weeds on the fairways and greens. The report specifically noted that at East Potomac Park, “approximately a half-acre area in the center of the [course] has been used as a dumping ground for cut grasses, tree limbs, and assorted junk. In addition, it is badly overgrown with weeds and is unsightly, distracting from the overall appearance of the area” (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977: 28). Lack of grading and fill, maintenance, and repair over the years caused swales and potholes to form on the golf courses, creating drainage problems in several areas (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977: 42-46). Most of the needed improvements required little or no capital investment, but rather just proper maintenance from a “competent operator.”

The report recommended that improved course maintenance, a general improvement program, and renovations to the fieldhouse (described as in “deplorable condition”) would have a beneficial impact on player use. It also recommended that the course be shortened to 27 holes. Since the F Course had the most problems with potholes and swales, particularly after rainstorms, one of the report’s recommendations was to eliminate the 9-hole F Course and use the area for increased parking and to build a lake for drainage and irrigation (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977: 42-46).

In response to the 1977 study, the fieldhouse was renovated in 1978, with upgrades to the food and concession area and the creation of a new pro shop and concessionaire’s office. The project cost \$165,000 and provided year-round dining inside the fieldhouse, with additional outdoor dining underneath the portico. Concurrently, the DC Recreation Department

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constructed a bathhouse on the open land between the two fieldhouse wings, freeing up the former bathing rooms in the basement of the fieldhouse. Beginning in 1979, the west wing of the fieldhouse became the District One Substation for the U.S. Park Police (McCoubrey 1977: D10; Bobeczko and Robinson 1998: 76).

According to the Washington Post, a 1979 study conducted by an independent consultant concluded that the East Potomac Park, Langston, and Rock Creek Golf Courses “[had] all been allowed to deteriorate over the last 10-15 years.” Unless the federal government was willing to invest at least \$2.1 million in improvements, the report concluded that the courses “[constituted] a real investment risk” to any concessionaire. At the time, the cost for a round of golf at the courses was still among the lowest in the country. The study concluded that each course had to attract at least 41,000 golfers to make a profit. While 79,200 played at East Potomac in 1980 (up 11,100 from 1979), the East Potomac Park profits were necessary to cover losses at the Rock Creek and Langston courses, also operated by S.G. Leoffler Co.

In 1983, Golf Course Specialists Inc. (GCS) bought out Leoffler’s interest in East Potomac Park Golf Course for between \$300,000 to \$400,000 (TWP, May 5, 1982: DC10; TWP, January 5, 1983: DC7). The new concessionaire planned “to make East Potomac a distinctive Scottish seaside-style course, more difficult and interesting than it is now, with new bunkers and greens,” all while keeping the course’s fees low. At that time, East Potomac Park was among the least expensive golf courses in the nation (TWP, January 5, 1983: DC7).

In January 1983, shortly after the change in management, the National Park Service eliminated the 9-hole F Course. The removal was part of a \$2-million plan to relieve traffic congestion and increase open recreation space in the park. The National Park Service also chose to remove the F Course because of its location close to the park entrance that allowed part of its land to be used for a new road that would help divert traffic off of Ohio Drive SW, the main road running through the park. Around 150 additional parking spaces would be created on the new road as part of a plan to add nearly 500 parking spaces throughout the entire park (TWP, June 6, 1983: D3). Plans for the area illustrated new ballfields in the northeast corner of the former course, at the intersection of Ohio Drive and Buckeye Drive. In the interim, the NPS created a picnic area at the location of the former course.

With its easy access to the fieldhouse and intermediate-length fairways, the 9-hole F Course was a favorite among the city’s retired and senior golfers. Shortly after the removal of the course, a group of golfers organized the East Potomac Golf Association and began a campaign to have NPS restore the course. The group circulated petitions, wrote letters, and made personal appeals to Congressional representatives (TWP, June 6, 1983: D3). In March 1984, Illinois Congressman Sidney R. Yates, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of the Interior, wrote to NPS Director Manus J. Fish asking that the Park Service halt construction activities on the former F Course. In August 1984, Congress backed the golfers and appropriated \$500,000 to restore the F Course. NPS officials estimated that it would take over a year to restore the course; in that time, they assessed alternate locations for the much-needed ballfields and picnic areas. Part of the appropriated funds went toward a consultant to redesign the course, and the remaining funds went to rebuilding the course (TWP,

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August 15, 1984: C3).

By 1984, the restoration of the F Course was underway, returning the East Potomac Park Golf Course to 36 holes. During this period, a new parking lot was introduced north of the west fieldhouse wing, which now served as the U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation. The social trails throughout the course remained informal and unpaved.

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*1984 aerial imagery of East Potomac Park Golf Course; image has been recolored for legibility.
(United States Geological Survey 1984)*

EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE TODAY, 1984-2017

Given the increase in the popularity of golf, and the inadequate number of public golf courses in the Washington, DC region, GCS made several improvements to the East Potomac Park Golf Course in the 1990s, as part of its long-term contract with the National Park Service that extended from 1989 to 2008. The improvement program was estimated at \$1.5 million, and the contract specified the design and construction of twelve new tees and the rebuilding of six old tees on the Blue Course (formerly the B and D Course). The scope of work also included: the renovation of all 36 fairways; the rebuilding of 15 existing sand traps; the design and construction of 35 new traps; and the design and construction of mounds and swales throughout all three courses. It also specified that the concessionaire would redesign, rebuild, and modernize the 18-hole Blue Course and the 9-hole Red Course (formerly the G Course) (“Contract between the National Park Service and Golf Course Specialists, Inc.” 1989).

Between 1994 and 1995, GCS improved the practice facilities at East Potomac Park by adding a new two-tiered driving range building west of the fieldhouse wings. Designed by the Washington, DC firm of Oehrlein & Associates, the facility was lighted for night play and provided 100 stalls, doubling the previous number. GCS also added two additional practice greens adjacent to the driving range, totaling an area of 40,000 square feet (TWP, August 4, 1995: 56). In 1996, GCS expanded the riverside dike along the course in 1996 to protect the course from flooding of the Potomac River. Several new buildings were constructed during this time, including a new golf course cart pavilion in 1996 and a new maintenance building and shed west of the fieldhouse wings in 1999. Additional practice facilities were constructed in 1998 when a three-hole developmental golf course was built on the northern end of the Red Course for use by students of the Capital City Golf School (“Contract between the National Park Service and Golf Course Specialists, Inc.” 1989). During the winter of 2001-2002, a new parking lot was constructed at the southern end of the existing lot. The combination of the new practice course and the expanded parking lot necessitated the reworking of the Red Course (DigitalGlobe/Google Earth 2002).

In August 1998, the magazine *Washington Golf Monthly* highlighted East Potomac Park Golf

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Course's ongoing appeal as a public course in the heart of Washington DC: "For all the talk about exclusive country clubs and luxurious new upscale layouts charging \$100 a round, venues like East Potomac remain the face of golf for a majority of the country's hackers." The magazine referred to the cultural landscape as "a green place of golf populism, a 36-hole island of egalitarianism...the home of the five-hour round and the wide-open fairways" (Kirsch 2009: 229-30).

Today, the East Potomac Park Golf Course comprises three different, adjacent courses: the 18-hole Blue Course, located on the southwestern portion of the cultural landscape; the 9-hole White Course, located on the western and northern area of the cultural landscape; and the 9-hole Red Course (with three additional practice holes), located on the southeastern portion of the cultural landscape. The topography remains generally flat, and the courses retain views toward several significant Washington, DC landmarks, including the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, and others. Trees throughout the landscape have continued to mature; in some cases, this has changed the character of the course's original treeless, links-style design.

The courses' holes and hazards are supplemented with the fieldhouse wings, driving range, miniature golf course, four practice putting greens, maintenance buildings, and rain shelters throughout the course. The second fieldhouse wing, located adjacent to the maintenance area, serves as the District 1 Substation for U.S. Park Police. Between the two fieldhouse buildings, a swimming pool and bathhouse are extant; they are under separate management, and are addressed in the adjacent lands section of this cultural landscape inventory. The miniature golf course retains its original configuration, although none of the wooden reproductions are extant. (It is not clear when these features were removed, but aerial photographs suggest it was sometime after 1968.) While the original wooden borders of the holes have been replaced with aggregate concrete, the original geometric shapes of the holes, as well as some stone features including the bridge and well, are consistent with the course's original construction. The 1949 ball house/ticket booth remains in place at the southwest corner of the course. Social trails throughout the course are more extensive than in previous periods—and several are treated with crushed stone—but they remain informal features of the landscape. Small-scale features include lightstands, regulatory and wayfinding signage, portable toilets, water stations, and fencing throughout the course.

For a map showing East Potomac Park Golf Course in 2017, see Appendix A, Image 7.

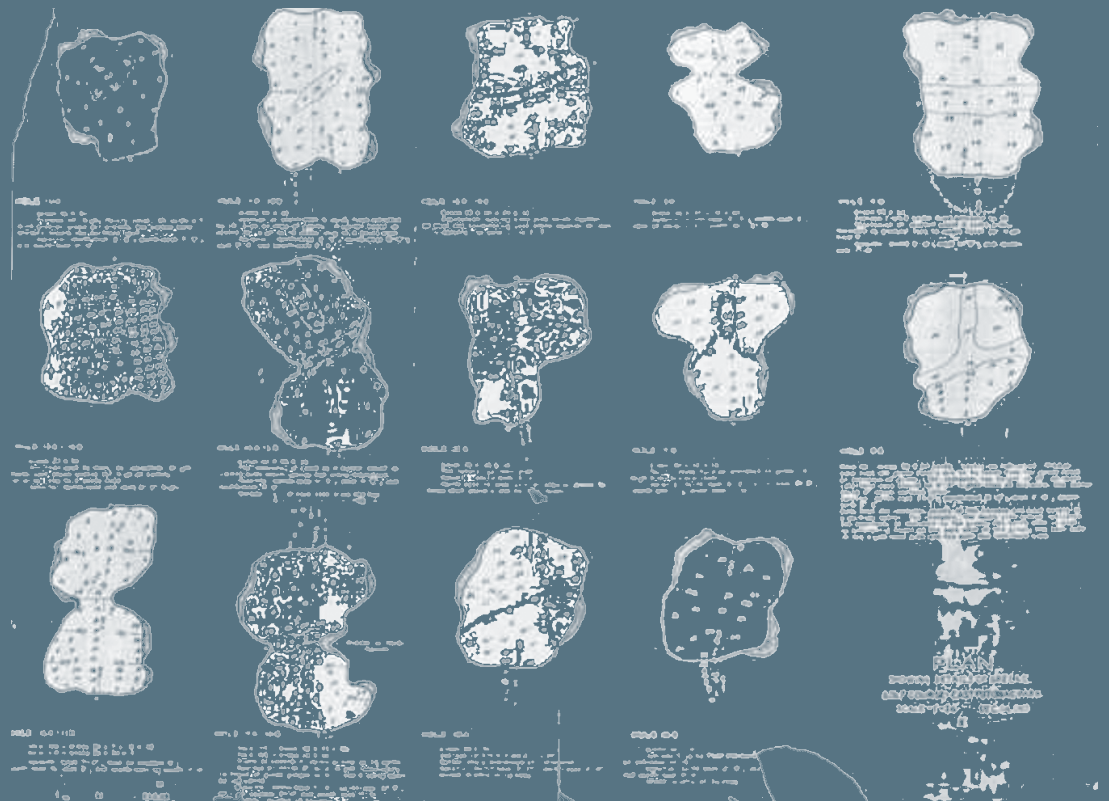
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Satellite imagery of East Potomac Park golf courses in 2016. (ESRI World Imagery)

Analysis + Evaluation of Integrity



Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Note on Course Names: Naming conventions at East Potomac Park Golf Course have changed over time. Historically, courses were referred to by lettered names. In original plans, the 18-hole golf course designed by Walter Travis was referred to as the A-B Course, with A and B identifying different directions of play. Upon opening, the course was often played as two 9-hole courses; it was universally referred to as the A-B Course (front nine) and the C-D Course (back nine), with different letters again referring to different directions of play. The William Flynn-designed course, completed in 1925, was also reversible and originally referred to as the E-F Course. The landscape's third and final course, called the G Course, was completed in 1930. When the current concessionaire took over management of East Potomac Park Golf Course, the course's names were changed to their current names: Blue, White, and Red. The Blue Course is the original 18-hole course, designed by Travis and historically referred to as the A-B or A-B and C-D Courses. The White Course is the Flynn-designed 9-hole course, completed in 1925 and historically referred to as the E-F Course. The Red Course is the 9-hole course completed in the 1930s and designed by an unknown architect. For clarity, researchers have used current, color-coded naming conventions throughout this document. When referring to historic holes, letters have been added to identify original design and direction of play.

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity, landscape characteristics and features of East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape, as researched and surveyed between the summer of 2016 and spring of 2017. To document all visible aboveground features, on-the-ground field observations and site research supplemented existing historic documentation, surveys and GIS data. All relevant information was converted into a GIS-database and existing conditions compared with those of landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1917-1941).

Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness.

Each characteristic or feature is classified as either contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance. Landscape characteristics and features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's periods of significance and non-contributing if they were not present during those periods. Non-contributing features may be considered "compatible" if they are determined to fit within the physical context of the historic period and match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods or design strategies of the historic period. Features designated as "incompatible" are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and are not historic. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this cultural landscape inventory, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National

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Register criteria. As defined by the National Register, historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property must be shown to have significance under one or more criteria and retain integrity to the period of significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape are: land use, topography, spatial organization, buildings and structures, vegetation, and views and vistas. Non-contributing landscape characteristics include circulation and small-scale features.

Land use: The use and purpose of the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape has not changed since the period of significance, when the site opened as a public golf course. It has served as a municipal golf course ever since and is open to play by anyone, for a fee. It retains integrity of land use.

Topography: The topography of East Potomac Park is human-made and was created during reclamation of the Potomac flats in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As reclaimed land, the park's topography was generally flat, rising only four feet above sea-level at its highest point. The site's lowest point was 1.5 feet above sea level. During the period of significance, the topography of the site was somewhat manipulated. Walter Travis called for the creation of approximately 190 mounded bunkers, 170 sand traps and 35 combination, or "hump and hollow" hazards as part of his design for the site's 18-hole golf course. Additional hazards were added throughout the site during construction of the White Course (1925) and the Red Course (1930). While hazard construction affected the site's topography slightly, they are considered part of the overall design and layout of each course, and as such, are discussed in detail in the Buildings and Structures section of the Analysis and Evaluation. For the purpose of this cultural landscape inventory, hazards are considered part of the landscape's buildings and structures. This is because they in general, the site's current topography, remains flat, as it was when Travis laid out the course's first eighteen holes. As such, it retains integrity of topography to the period of significance.

Spatial Organization: The spatial organization of the historic courses centered on the fieldhouse as the anchor of the landscape and the starting point for each course. The layout of each course changed throughout the 20th century, altering the progression of play within the historic courses. Nevertheless, the arrangement of the three historic courses in relation to the Washington Channel, Potomac River, and each other is consistent with the general spatial organization of today's Blue Course, White Course, and Red Course. They remain centered around the fieldhouse, which continues to serve as the entry and exit point for the overall cultural landscape. East Potomac Park Golf Course thus retains most of the character-defining features of its historic spatial organization.

Circulation: East Potomac Park Golf Course does not retain integrity of circulation. The course featured few circulation elements during the period of significance, including sidewalks and social

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trails, and most of those features were altered or relocated throughout the 20th century. The only contributing feature is the north section of the main parking lot, which is consistent with the original construction of the course. The remaining circulation features—including progression of play for two the three courses, as well as driveways, secondary parking lots, and social trails or cart paths throughout the course—do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape. The only contributing circulation feature is the Blue Course progression of play.

Buildings and Structures: For the purpose of this CLI, the three East Potomac Golf Courses and their individual layouts are treated as single structures; the description of each structure includes the overall approach to each course's design, as well as the design of individual holes (including tees, fairways, greens and hazards). The three courses, along with other extant buildings and structures, including the fieldhouse and miniature golf course, collectively contribute to the overall integrity of the East Potomac Golf Course as a public recreational landscape.

Though the layout of all three courses at East Potomac Park has been substantially altered since the end of the period of significance, the overall landscape retains nearly all of the essential features present during that period that make it identifiable as a public golf course, designed during the early 20th century. Among these features are: three golf courses, totaling 36 holes, which offer golfers of different abilities a variety of options for play; open, relatively flat fairways surrounded by very few trees; a central fieldhouse used as a starting and ending point for play on all three courses; and a miniature golf course designed and built in the early 1930s during the period of the game's peak popularity (1926-1930). As such, the entire East Potomac Golf Course Cultural Landscape, including all three golf courses, the east and west fieldhouse wings, the miniature golf course and Practice Putting Green 1, retains integrity of buildings and structures, as relates to National Register Criterion A, for importance in the area of Recreation, as one of the earliest and most popular public golf courses in the District of Columbia.

The swimming pool and poolhouse building, located west of the fieldhouse wings, were not evaluated for this cultural landscape inventory, as they are managed by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. They are included within the description of adjacent lands.

Small Scale Features: East Potomac Park Golf Course's small-scale features do not have integrity. The cultural landscape's earliest small-scale features, such as benches and fencing, have been replaced by non-historic features, while a historic bird house and other fixtures have been removed altogether. Additional non-contributing features include interpretive and wayfinding signs, picnic tables, light stands, trashcans, and water stations. The construction date for an additional concrete water fountain has not been confirmed, but historic photographs and drawings do not definitively place it at the site until 1993; it was likely added in the 1980s or early 1990s. The small-scale features of East Potomac Park Golf Course therefore do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

Vegetation: Character-defining vegetation at East Potomac includes: a wide open, treeless landscape, with borders of trees around the perimeter of the courses; a variety of turf grass maintained as fairways, rough and greens; a group of historic cherry trees on the White Course; and a row of trees

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separating the front nine and back nine on the Blue Course, near Hains Point. The open landscape envisioned by Walter Travis during the period of significance has been affected by successive planting of trees throughout East Potomac. Maturation of vegetation and additional planting since the period of significance, has resulted in the loss of view sheds and changed the feeling of playing the course, designed in the relatively treeless links style. These developments are reversible and the course retains a sense of openness, especially in the holes located along the center of peninsula, and on much of the White Course, north of the fieldhouse. Replacement of turf grass since the period of significance reflects regular golf course maintenance practices and advancements in turf technology. Current varieties that match those used during the period of significance include bent grass, bluegrass, and fine fescue, and are considered contributing landscape features. Varieties introduced since the period of significance such as bermuda, tall fescue, rye, and poa annua are considered non-contributing, but compatible. As such, integrity to the original landscape design remains partially intact and is considered contributing.

Views and Vistas: Based on the topography, spatial organization, and vegetation patterns of the site, significant vistas during the period of significance included views to the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, United States Capitol, National Defense University, Washington Channel, and Potomac River. In addition, views to the fieldhouse wings historically served as a visual anchor in the landscape to orient golfers as they moved through the course. Although some vistas have become obstructed over time by maturing vegetation, views of each of these landmarks are still available from multiple points in the course. The views and vistas of the cultural landscape retain integrity.

INTEGRITY

Location: Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed and/or where historic events occurred. The boundaries of the East Potomac Park Golf Course have expanded and contracted slightly since the period of significance. Changes have occurred along the northern border, which was originally defined by the fieldhouse, expanded north, with construction of the White Course in 1925 and further north in 1930, when the Red Course, was completed. Prior to WWII the construction of tennis courts resulted in the partial loss of the Red Course and reduction of the site's northern boundary. Parts of the course were rebuilt after the war, but the northern boundary was again reduced in the 1960s, with construction of Buckeye Drive. Despite these changes, the course continues to be defined on three sides, as it was during the period of significance, by the perimeter road along Hains Point. The 18-hole Blue Course is located in the same location as Travis' original course, which played up and down the length of the peninsula, south of the fieldhouse. The 9-hole White Course is still located north and west of the fieldhouse, as it was when Flynn first laid it out in 1925. The Red Course originally played north and south of the fieldhouse, on the eastern edge of the peninsula, but is now located entirely southeast. Despite some changes to the individual location of holes and course layouts, as a whole, the East Potomac Park Golf Course retains integrity of location.

Design: Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Discussions involving integrity of design of the East Potomac Golf Course refers to the design of the overall course as a whole, rather than a focused review of the individual Red, White, and Blue courses. The individual layout of the three courses at East Potomac

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Park has been substantially altered since the end of the period of significance with no retention of specific design, workmanship, or materials endemic to the Travis or Flynn plans. However, the overall design and layout of the East Potomac Golf Course cultural landscape retains nearly all of the essential features present during the period of significance that make it identifiable as a public golf course, designed during the early 20th century. The character of a links style golf course and essential landscape features are still evident in the landscape. Among these features are: three golf courses, totaling 36 holes, which offer golfers of different abilities a variety of options for play; open, relatively flat fairways surrounded by very few trees; a central fieldhouse used as a starting and ending point for play on all three courses; and a miniature golf course designed and built in the early 1930s during the period of the game's peak popularity (1926-1930). These features are discussed in detail in the Buildings and Structures section, below. More detailed changes to the original design and layout of each of the three golf courses are addressed in Appendix B. Overall, the East Potomac Park Golf Course retains integrity of design to the period of significance.

Setting: Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape. During the period of significance, East Potomac Park Golf Course was planned as part of an active recreational space within the larger East Potomac Park. The human-made peninsula, bordered by the Washington Channel to the east, and Potomac River to the west, was free of historic association or prior development, being only recently created out of land reclaimed from the Potomac River. The waterfront setting with views toward many of the capital's major monuments, remains the same as during the period of significance. The park was built to provide recreational opportunities in central Washington, and continues to do so. It, retains integrity to the period of significance.

Materials: Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants and other landscape features. Many of the original landscape materials at East Potomac Golf Course have been replaced since the period of significance, as is typical of both golf course and other active recreational landscapes. Turf grass for greens, fairways and tee boxes requires regular, seasonal replanting. The types of grass planted throughout the site have partially changed since the period of significance, when Dr. Walter Harban and USDA scientists Dr. Russell A. Oakley and Dr. Charles V. Piper experimented with new strains of bent grass and green technology, but in many cases, landscape material has been replaced in kind. Current varieties that match those used during the period of significance include bent grass, bluegrass, and fine fescue.

Some original plantings and a number of pre-existing trees that were incorporated into Travis, and later, Flynn's, course designs remain extant. The inventive Earley-process concrete used by fieldhouse architect Horace Whittier Peaslee Jr., is unchanged. As such, the East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape retains partial integrity of materials to the period of significance.

Workmanship: Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the craft of a particular culture or period. Much of the original workmanship at East Potomac Park Golf Course was lost during successive redesigns of all three golf courses. Travis' distinctive hazard construction and reversible green designs are no longer extant, and both of the original 9-hole courses were reconstructed in the 1950s. Though individual features in the cultural landscape, especially the fieldhouse, retain cultural integrity of workmanship, the collective cultural landscape does not exhibit this aspect of integrity.

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Feeling: Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Changes made to the original Travis course have affected the overall feeling of the landscape as representative of early 20th century golf course design. The current 18-hole Blue Course, as well as the 9-hole White and Red Courses, are reflective of more recent tastes in golf course design. Still, East Potomac Park's continued use as a public golf course and consideration of public taste and expectations, contributes to the integrity of feeling at East Potomac. Despite the loss of feeling related to the original design of Travis course, the preservation of the original fieldhouse, the continued operation of three separate courses, designed to appeal to golfers of varying styles and skill levels, and updates to amenities original to the course, like the double-decker driving range, all reflect the original, democratic intentions of the landscape. East Potomac Park Golf Course was built to accommodate golfers of all skill levels and serve local Washington, DC residents. It continues to attract novices and experienced golfers alike, and most players are Washington locals, who live or work in the surrounding neighborhoods. The course retains integrity of feeling to the period of significance.

Association: Association is the direct link between an historic event or persons and a cultural landscape. East Potomac Park Golf Course has been associated with public golf in Washington, DC and owned by the federal government since its opening, in 1921. It was the first operational course in the city and has remained such throughout its nearly 100 years. The cultural landscape retains physical characteristics, including the three courses and the fieldhouse, to convey the property's historic character as a public golf course. As such, it retains integrity of association.

CONCLUSION

This cultural landscape inventory finds that East Potomac Park Golf Course retains integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling and association to the period of significance. Subsequent changes have altered the landscape, but the site continues to evoke its historic significance as a public golf course that appeals to amateurs and novices alike.

- Aspects of Integrity:**
- Location
 - Setting
 - Materials
 - Feeling
 - Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Land Use

Historic Condition

Land use refers to the principle activities conducted upon the landscape and how these uses organized, shaped and formed the land. Before the establishment of East Potomac Park Golf Course, the land consisted of an undeveloped island, reclaimed from the Potomac River in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Sediment accumulation, the result of blocked channels and poor bridge construction, led to the creation of a roughly 300-acre island in the Potomac, just

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south of the National Mall. By the 1870s, the land, referred to as the Potomac Flats, was visible at low tide. Dredging of the Washington Channel in the 1880s increased the size of the Potomac Flats, which grew to over 621 acres by the end of that decade. Work commenced to build the terrain over the water line and protect the landmass with a seawall and in 1897 Congress decreed “the entire area formerly known as the Potomac Flats...made and declared a public park, under the name Potomac Park” (Chapell 1973:66).

The reclamation of East Potomac Park was completed in 1911 and transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds on August 24, 1912. The idea for a golf course at East Potomac Park first originated as early as 1911, though actual plans did not materialize until 1914. During this time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture used 50-aces of the land as experimental planting ground. In 1917, the OPBG hired Walter Travis to design an 18-hole golf course. The first nine holes opened to the public in 1920. An additional nine holes were completed in 1923. The course’s popularity resulted in the construction of two more 9-hole courses, which opened in 1925 and 1931. The main effect of land use on the existing landscape was planting of various types turf grass to create fairways, rough, tee boxes and greens, the movement of earth to create mounded bunkers and sand traps and general landscaping throughout the courses and around the fieldhouse. With the exception of a brief period during World War II, when anti-aircraft guns were installed on a section of the Red Course, the East Potomac Park Golf Course has consistently functioned as a public golf course.

Existing Condition

The first nine holes of East Potomac Park were completed in 1920. Since that time the land has consistently functioned as a public golf course, and has been in near continuous operation. Changes to the course, including the completion of the full eighteen holes in 1923, the addition of two 9-hole courses in 1925 and 1930 and renovations and redesigns to all three courses since the end of the period of significance, in 1941, have not altered the way in which the landscape is organized or used. As it did when it first opened, East Potomac Park Golf Course still serves golfers of all skill levels, most of whom live or work in Washington, DC. In 2016, golfers played 88,762 rounds of golf at East Potomac Park Golf Course; in 2015, they played 86,145 rounds of golf; and in 2014, there were 89,806 rounds played (per Karl Gallo, concessions management specialist for the National Mall and Memorial Parks).

Analysis

The use and purpose of East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape has not changed since the period of significance, when the site was established as a public golf course. The site retains integrity of land use.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Continual use as a public golf course
Feature Identification Number: 180968
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Topography

Historic Condition

Topography refers to the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features such as slope and articulation, and orientation such as elevation. East Potomac Park is located on a human-made peninsula in the Potomac River. The Army Corps of Engineers reclaimed the land between 1870 and 1900, after sediment buildup resulted in a visible landmass south of Washington's Long Bridge. Since the 1890s, when the terrain was built up over the waterline, the topography at East Potomac has always been flat, with the highest point on the peninsula at approximately four-feet above sea level.

As the Washington Board of Trade began searching for a new location on which to build a public course, the large open land at East Potomac presented an obvious opportunity. Plans for a course in the area date to 1911. That year, Walter Travis' magazine, *The American Golfer*, called the spot "ideal...as the ground resembles 'links' and is flat" ("*Middle Atlantic Notes*" 1911). In golf terminology, "links" is defined as a "seaside golf course constructed on a naturally sandy landscape that has been shaped by the wind and receding tides" it is also used, more as "a synonym for a seaside golf course" (Richardson 2013).

Construction of the East Potomac Park Golf Course began in 1917, when Walter Travis laid out eighteen holes in the links style considered most suited to the flat, waterfront site. As the site had no naturally occurring hazards, such as sand dunes or swales, mounded bunkers and sand traps were built throughout the course to a height of six-feet, in the case of mounds, and depth of four-feet for sand traps. These did not dramatically alter the human-made landscape, which was still described as "flat as a billfold" (TWP, April 3, 1940: X18). While hazard construction affected the site's topography slightly, they are considered part of the overall design and layout of each course, and as such, are discussed in detail in the Buildings and Structures section of the Analysis and Evaluation. Two additional 9-hole courses were added to the site, completed in 1925 and 1931, respectively. The design of these courses did not call for any major earth moving and neither affected the human-made topography of the site.

Existing Condition

East Potomac Park's topography remains much the same as it was in 1917, when the golf course was initially designed. Renovation of the 18-hole Travis course and reconstruction of the two original 9-hole courses have not dramatically altered the park's human-made, flat topography. Developments in modern golf course design, which are heavily reliant on earth-moving equipment and the building of landforms, have had little effect on East Potomac. All three courses remain relatively flat, with no major elevation changes. Regular redesign of greens and the demolition, construction and reshaping of bunkers and sand traps has resulted in slight changes in the topography of individual holes. These changes are considered an inherent part of the golf course landscape and are addressed further in the Buildings and Structures section.

Analysis

The topography of East Potomac Park Golf Course has changed very little since the period of

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significance. The course's highest point has changed only slightly, from 12 feet above sea level in 1931 to 16 feet, at the tallest bunker, in 2016. The course's lowest point remains 0 feet above sea level. The land itself is human-made, reclaimed from the Potomac River by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1890s until reclamation efforts were complete in 1911. No major changes in elevation or topographic features have been introduced since that time. As such, East Potomac Park Golf Course retains integrity of topography to the first period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flat, human-made topography

Feature Identification Number: 180970

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

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Topography of East Potomac Park in 2017. Topo lines on above map are spaced at 1-foot intervals. A larger version of this graphic is located in Appendix A. (Graphic by Garrison and Lester 2017, from base imagery: ArcGIS World Imagery 2017)

Spatial Organization

Historic Condition

Since its original construction in 1917, East Potomac Park Golf Course has occupied the southern portion of the peninsula between the Potomac River and the Washington Channel. Its overall footprint has expanded and contracted based on the addition and removal of holes throughout the 20th century, but it has consistently remained anchored by the course entrance and fieldhouse wings on the east side of the cultural landscape, along Ohio Drive and the Washington Channel. The general progression of play has also changed over time, as the course evolved from its original 9-hole, reversible-play course to the current configuration of three courses.

The first nine holes of the course, referred to as the A-B Course, were completed in 1920. They were constructed immediately south of the fieldhouse, on the east side of the cultural landscape. This spatial arrangement in relation to the waterways that bound the peninsula—between a river and a channel, in the case of the East Potomac Park Golf Course—was characteristic of a links-style course. Travis’ design for the course incorporated a reversible progression of play, which began at the fieldhouse and extended southeast (“East Potomac Park: Details of Golf Course” 1918). The course did not extend to the southernmost tip of the peninsula. Instead, after Hole 5, the course pivoted northwest and reversed the direction of play for Holes 6 through 9, returning toward the east fieldhouse wing.

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The second nine holes, known as the C-D Course, were completed on the western side of the peninsula in 1923, adhering to Travis' design (The Baltimore Sun, June 23, 1923: 12). As with the first nine holes, the fieldhouse wings served as the spatial anchor of the new course, and the progression of play for the new back nine was once again reversible. It paralleled the original front nine, playing generally southward for Holes 10 through 14 before turning north for the remaining holes in this course ("East Potomac Park: Details of Golf Course" 1918).

The eighteen holes constructed according to Travis' design proved so popular that the concessionaire decided to add a new 9-hole course in 1924. The holes were completed in 1925 (TWP, May 21, 1925: 15). The new holes of this White Course (historically known as the E-F Course) were located east and north of the fieldhouse wings. This altered the fieldhouse's position in the overall landscape, but it remained the spatial anchor as the start and end point of play for all three courses. The White Course was reversible with eleven greens, in keeping with the Blue Course (A-B and C-D Courses, historically). It began on the north side of the west fieldhouse wing and extended north along the western edge of the landscape before pivoting south back toward the fieldhouse wings (TWES, December 31, 1931: B3).

In 1927, Leoffler installed a new practice putting green immediately south of the east fieldhouse wing. That same year, he added a new driving range southeast of the fieldhouse wings, and in 1931, he built a miniature golf course on the northeast side of the fieldhouse wings (TWES, July 1, 1930: C2; TWES, April 24, 1931: D2). Although the driving range was replaced in 1930-1931 by the G Course (it was later rebuilt nearby), these additions reinforced the fieldhouse area as the physical anchor of the landscape for golfers entering and leaving the course.

Between 1930 and 1931, Leoffler added a new 9-hole "G" Course to East Potomac Park, supplanting the original driving range southeast of the east fieldhouse wing. This was the only course that was not designed to be reversible. (It was also the only course constructed without the involvement of a noted golf course architect.) The nine holes for this course were divided between the areas southeast and north of the fieldhouse area (TWES, July 1, 1930: C2; TWP, July 3, 1932: M12).

The addition of the G Course resulted in changes to the spatial organization of the E, F, and G Courses, as two of the E-F holes became part of the new G Course and two new holes were constructed for the E-F Course along the northeastern edge of the tourist camp ("East Potomac Park Golf Course Relocation 1930"). It is also possible that the E-F Course was modified for one-way play at this time; a 1931 article in the Evening Star reported that "Course E is not a reversible course, nor is the new 9-hole layout [Course G] that was opened last May" (Babin 2017: Chapter 2.1; TWES, December 31, 1931: B3).

In 1934, a new driving range was constructed on the west side of the fieldhouse (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2). Spatially, this extended the central east-west axis of the course, so that the fieldhouse wings and the driving range served as the anchors of the landscape and the

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beginning and end points of the progression of play. Also during this time, the progression of play for the original Blue Course was converted to one-directional play. When the renovations were complete, the Blue, White, and Red Courses were arranged as separate but adjacent one-directional courses.

In 1936, a swimming pool was added to the landscape, resulting in the partial reconfiguration of the G Course. (For more information on these changes, see the Analysis and Evaluation section on Buildings and Structures.) The G Course retained its south-then-north progression of play (TWES, February 29, 1936: C7).

In 1941, the Welfare and Recreation Association added tennis courts and ballfields on the northeast side of the tourist camp. Later that year, at the start of World War II, the U.S. Army took over a portion of East Potomac Park Golf Course and installed four anti-aircraft guns (TWES, December 16, 1941: A19; TWP, March 25, 1941: 28; TWES, December 16, 1941: A19; TWES, March 21, 1941: D2). These changes primarily affected the F and G Courses, in the area of the cultural landscape located north of the fieldhouse wings. This constituted the spatial organization by the end of the period of significance (1917-1941).

After the war, the National Park Service rehabilitated East Potomac Park Golf Course, reclaiming the land used by the U.S. Army during the war for a redesigned F Course (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14; Flynn 1944). The spatial organization within the D Course was also slightly reconfigured at this time (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14). Overall, the arrangement of the four 9-hole courses was as follows: the B Course was located south of the east fieldhouse wing, along the central north-south axis of the peninsula; the D Course was located west of the B Course, along the western edge of the peninsula; the F Course was located north and west of the field wings and the driving range, occupying the northern half of the cultural landscape; and the G Course (reduced to five holes by the wartime alterations) was located south of the fieldhouse and parking lot, east of the B Course and along the eastern edge of the peninsula (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1949).

Several alterations implemented during the 1950s and 1960s affected the design of individual holes and courses. However, throughout this time, the overall spatial organization of the four courses in relation to each other remained intact. Renovations implemented during this time included: the 1950 rehabilitation of the G Course to once again include nine holes, concentrated south of the fieldhouse; the 1956 renovations of the F Course, which concentrated on the area north of the driving range and fieldhouse wings; and the addition of Buckeye Drive between 1959 and 1963, establishing a new northern boundary of the course (Gordon and Gordon 1956; Department of Highways and Traffic, Design Engineering and Research Street Design Section 1959). Despite these changes to specific holes and courses, the general spatial configuration of the B, D, F, and G Courses remained relatively consistent in relation to each other.

This spatial organization remained consistent until 1983, when the National Park Service removed the 9-hole F Course, creating open recreation space and a picnic area north of the

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fieldhouse wings (TWP, June 6, 1983: D3). Without the F Course, the fieldhouse wings and the driving range represented the northern edge of the courses. The removal of the course was unpopular, however, and the National Park Service quickly moved to restore its nine holes and, in turn, the modern spatial arrangement of the East Potomac Park Golf Course. The F Course was restored beginning in 1984 (TWP, August 15, 1984: C3).

In the 1990s, the concessionaire (Golf Course Specialists, Inc.) oversaw renovations to the Blue Course; the spatial organization of the course remained intact. A new driving range structure was constructed in 1994, but it replaced the previous driving range stalls, preserving the same east-west central axis with the fieldhouse wings that had been in place since 1936 (TWP, August 4, 1995: 56).

Existing Condition

The fieldhouse wings remain the anchor of the spatial organization of the cultural landscape. The east fieldhouse wing, in particular, serves as the entrance and exit for the East Potomac Park Golf Course. It serves as the center point of all three extant courses, which total 36 holes. (An additional three practice holes fall within the extant Red Course, but they are not full-scale holes.) Although the layout and progression of play within each of the three courses have changed several times in the 20th century, this arrangement of 36 holes to the north, west, and south of the fieldhouse is generally consistent with the spatial organization during the period of significance (1917-1941). The historic condition is further reinforced in the extant cultural landscape by the ongoing spatial relationship with the Washington Channel to the east and the Potomac River to the west; this close proximity to the water was a characteristic feature of Walter Travis' original links-style design for the A-B and C-D Courses.

The 18-hole Blue Course occupies the southwestern portion of the peninsula, south of the driving range and east fieldhouse wing and west of the Red Course. The Blue Course front nine begins and ends at the east fieldhouse wing, playing south-then-north. The back nine's progression of play doglegs southwest-south before turning north-northwest. The Blue Course back nine terminates by the driving range and fieldhouse.

The 9-hole White Course (former F Course) is located north of the fieldhouse-driving range axis, occupying the northern portion of the cultural landscape. Its play generally alternates between northward and southward directions. The course terminates north of the west fieldhouse wing and miniature golf course.

The 9-hole Red Course (former G Course) includes three additional practice holes; together, these twelve holes are concentrated on the eastern side of the peninsula, overlooking the Washington Channel. The holes alternate between northward and southward directions, and the course terminates immediately south of the east fieldhouse wing.

Analysis

The alterations to the course's progression of play and the addition of the driving range west of

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the fieldhouse wings have somewhat detracted from the integrity of the landscape's general layout. However, these alterations do not diminish the character of the golf course's overall spatial organization from the period of significance. The cultural landscape's proximity to, and relationship with, the adjacent waterways is consistent with the period of significance, as is the general layout and adjacency of multiple courses within the overall East Potomac Park Golf Course. The fieldhouse wings remain the visual and physical anchor of the landscape, defining the entrance and exit to the golf course as well as the start and end points of the individual courses within the cultural landscape. Spatial organization remains a contributing feature of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Arrangement of the cultural landscape in relation to Washington Channel and Potomac River

Feature Identification Number: 180972

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Fieldhouse wings as anchor at eastern edge of cultural landscape

Feature Identification Number: 180974

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General layout and adjacency of multiple courses

Feature Identification Number: 180976

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Blue Course spatial organization

Feature Identification Number: 180978

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0263920000 38.8689700000

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Feature: White Course spatial organization
Feature Identification Number: 180980
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0298610000 38.8764220000

Feature: Red Course spatial organization
Feature Identification Number: 180982
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0241220000 38.8717820000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Spatial Organization, Historic (left and center) and Existing (right). The bold green dots represent the starting points of play for each course, and the bold red dot indicates the ending points of play; the light red and light green dots represent the en

Circulation

Circulation is defined by the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Historic circulation at East Potomac Park Golf Course consists of: the progression of play within each of the three courses (that is, the route that golfers take through the course in order to circulate from hole to hole); vehicular circulation, in the form of access driveways and parking areas; social trails and paths around the fieldhouse wings, miniature golf course, and driving range; and social trails throughout the course, many of which function as cart paths but are unpaved and informal.

Progression of Play
Historic Condition

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“Progression of play” refers to the route that golfers circulate through the course, in order to play each hole in order. Historically, the progression of play varied between courses, both during and after the period of significance. The original progression of play for the A-B Course was reversible, beginning at the fieldhouse and proceeding south for nine holes (with ten greens, to allow for reverse play). Individual holes doglegged east or west, but the general progression of play for Holes 1 through 9 was southeast, toward the end of the peninsula. After the 9th hole, the play turned 180 degrees, proceeding back through the greens in a generally northward direction. When the second nine holes (known as the C-D Courses) were constructed between 1922 and 1923, they played parallel to the front nine, running south/southeast down the peninsula (along the western side this time) for four holes before playing back toward the fieldhouse along a northward trajectory (Ridley 1919).

The E-F Course, constructed between 1924 and 1925, also featured a reversible progression of play, with eleven greens to enable play for the 9-hole course and allow the 18-hole A-B Course to be played continuously (TWP, May 13, 1924: S3). The E-F Course was located east and north of the fieldhouse wings; play began at the fieldhouse and progressed along a generally circular trajectory (rather than playing out and back).

The progression of play continued to be altered in the ensuing decades, in keeping with the near-constant construction and renovations throughout the period of significance (1917-1941). The 9-hole G Course was completed in 1931. It was built south of the fieldhouse, along the eastern edge of the cultural landscape. It was the only course that was not reversible by this time, and its construction required the alteration of the E-F Course’s progression of play, since two of the original E-F holes were incorporated into the G Course. It is also possible that the E-F Course was modified for one-way play at this time (TWES, December 31, 1931: B3; Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital n.d.). When completed, the progression of play for the G Course began at the fieldhouse wing and continued through the four holes located south of the fieldhouse: Holes 1 and 2 played south, while Hole 3 reversed direction and played north (east of Holes 1 and 2); Hole 4 was located north of the other three holes and played east, toward Ohio Drive SE. Play then continued north of the fieldhouse wings: Holes 5 and 6 played north, ending at the tee box for Hole 7, which played west. Holes 8 and 9 played south, ending at the fieldhouse, where the progression of play began (Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital n.d.).

In 1934, the concessionaire ended the reversible play on the A-B Course and C-D Course, modifying Travis’ original design for two-way play. The E Course was also eliminated in favor of one-way play on the F Course. In addition, as the courses shifted routing and design, some holes were repurposed within other courses, altering the progression of play. This was true of Hole 9 in the D Course, which was incorporated into the F Course, and Hole 9 on the obsolete A Course, which became Hole 1 on the D Course (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

In 1942, after the period of significance, five holes of the G Course on the north side of the fieldhouse were removed for the construction of new tennis courts. Consequently, one of the

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holes on the south side of the fieldhouse was redesigned into two holes, making the G Course 5 holes. After World War II, the G Course was redesigned and relocated all of its nine holes south of the fieldhouse. The redesigned G Course played south for Holes 1, 2, and 3 (with a southeastern dogleg on Hole 3). Holes 4 and 5 then played north, before turning south again for Holes 6 and 7. Finally, Hole 8 and 9 played north, returning to the fieldhouse (Gordon 1950).

In 1945, William Flynn designed improvements to the B and D Courses, including the addition of a new D Course Hole 1, which played south to the old Hole 2 green. In 1956, the F Course was redesigned, altering the routing of the course. The resulting progression of play began at the driving range and played west for Hole 1, then turned north on the west side of the driving range for Hole 2. Hole 3 played south, with a southeast dogleg. Hole 4 played northwest, Hole 5 played east along the northern edge of the course, and Hole 6 played southeast. Hole 7 played south along the eastern edge of the course, Hole 8 reversed direction and played north, and Hole 9 played south, returning to the driving range/fieldhouse area (Gordon and Gordon 1956). When Buckeye Drive was added in 1960, trimming the northern edge of the course, Holes 5 and 6 were relocated, so that Hole 5 played east, then Hole 6 played west (Guthrie 1964).

In 1983, the F Course was demolished. After public outcry, however, it was reconstructed in 1984, adhering to the same general progression of play as its condition before its removal (Torchio 1989). In the 1990s, the B and D Courses were reconfigured as one 18-hole course, known as the Blue Course. The hole designs did not change, but this adjustment formalized the progression of play between the former B and D Courses. (Historically, golfers could play the two 9-hole courses as one 18-hole course, but the 1990s alteration made this progression of play official.) At this same time, the G Course was renamed the Red Course, and the F Course became the White Course; the progression of play did not change on these 9-hole courses.

Existing Condition

As was true historically, the progression of play varies based on the layout of the course. The Blue Course (former B and D Courses) begins at the fieldhouse and proceeds southward down the peninsula for Hole 1 through 4, before reversing direction and proceeding northward for Holes 5 through 9. From Hole 9, play proceeds west to connect with Hole 10 (west of Holes 1 and 18). Hole 10 plays south, and Hole 11 plays north. Holes 12 through 14 then play south again, along the western edge of the course, before returning north through Holes 15, 16, 17, and 18, ending at the fieldhouse. This extant progression of play deviates from the historic condition, particularly in the back nine of the Blue Course.

The White Course (former F Course) begins south of the driving range, playing west for Hole 1 before turning north for Hole 2, located west of the driving range. The remaining holes are located north of the driving range: Hole 3 plays southeast, Hole 4 plays northwest, parallel to Hole 3; Holes 5 and 6 play east toward the northeast corner of the course; Hole 7 plays south along the eastern edge of the course; Hole 8 reverses direction and plays north; and Hole 9 turns south, ending at the northwest corner of the fieldhouse/maintenance area. The White

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Course have been extensively altered since the period of significance, so the extant progression of play is significantly different from the historic condition.

The Red Course (former G Course) includes three practice holes immediately south of Practice Putting Green 2; Practice Hole 1 plays south, while Practice Holes 2 and 3 play north. Play for the Red Course plays south for Hole 1 through 4, while Holes 5 and 6 play north. Hole 7 extends briefly south, before Holes 8 and 9 play north again, returning to the fieldhouse. The Red Course has been redesigned since the period of significance to accommodate the three practice holes, and the progression of play deviates from the historic condition as a result.

Access Driveways and Parking Areas

Historic Condition

Roads, parking areas, and driveways were minimal when the course was first constructed, and were generally concentrated on the eastern edge of the course, adjacent to the fieldhouse wings. (Ohio Drive SE around the perimeter of the site predates the construction of the course and Buckeye Drive was constructed in 1960, but these features are outside the boundaries of the cultural landscape and are addressed in the adjacent lands section of the cultural landscape inventory.) For access to the course, Walter Travis' 1918 design for the course provided for a park drive that would deviate from Ohio Drive and cross in front of the fieldhouse wings. His plan was not implemented exactly as designed, but the golf course entrance driveway was ultimately constructed where Travis envisioned it, east of the fieldhouse wings (Ridley 1919). In the decades since the period of significance, the entrance driveway has shifted location somewhat, although it continues to extend from Ohio Drive SE into the course toward the fieldhouse area. Historically, the driveway was aligned with the central axis between the fieldhouse wings, terminating in a roundabout between the wings and asymmetrically flanked by parking aisles for vehicles. Historically, just two aisles of parking were located north of the entrance driveway, between the access drive and the miniature golf course, while up to twelve aisles were located south of the driveway. Over the course of the 20th century, the driveway was relocated slightly south.

From the access driveway, visitors reached a parking area located between the fieldhouse wings and Ohio Drive on the east side of the course. A photograph taken in 1922 confirms that a parking area was located east of the fieldhouse, at a lower grade than the fieldhouse wings and extending toward the Ohio Drive entrance ("Textural Records," 1920). The parking lot was extended to the south at some point between 1927 and 1937; it likely took place c. 1936, in tandem with the construction of the swimming pool (TWES, February 29, 1936: C7). The expansion of the parking lot nearly doubled the parking area between the fieldhouse and Ohio Drive (Federal Projects Planning Division, National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1927; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1949). The parking lot has remained in this location since the period of significance, although its footprint and layout have changed somewhat to accommodate changing vehicles and capacities. In 2001, the parking lot was expanded further south, cutting into the footprint of the Red Course. By 2002, the golf course entrance driveway from Ohio Drive SE was relocated slightly south, at the center of the

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expanded parking lots, and the roundabout between the fieldhouse wings was removed and replaced with planted areas and sidewalks.

A second, small parking lot was added north of the miniature golf course and the west fieldhouse wing sometime between 1970 and 1983 (United States Geological Survey 1970; United States Geological Survey 1983). It was likely added around 1979, when the U.S. Park Police moved into the west fieldhouse wing, converting it to use as the District One sub-station (Bobeczo and Robinson 1998: 76). Prior to 2002, this parking lot was accessed via a driveway from the main parking lot; by March 2002, a new driveway was added from Ohio Drive SE directly to the U.S. Park Police parking lot (Google Earth/DigitalGlobe 2002). Both the secondary driveway and the smaller parking lot were paved and striped.

During the period of significance, an informal driveway began at the west fieldhouse wing and extended west to the original maintenance building. Over the course of the 20th century, as the position of the maintenance buildings shifted slightly and the circulation around the fieldhouse wings changed, this driveway disappeared from the landscape. However, beginning in the 1970s or 1980s, the open area around the current maintenance buildings, accessed via the secondary parking lot, has served as a third parking lot for maintenance vehicles (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1979, 1980, 1988). This parking area was generally accessed via the secondary parking lot north of the west fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation. In 2001, however, a new driveway was added to the site, beginning at Ohio Drive SE and extending west between the White Course and the secondary parking lot until it terminated at the maintenance area parking lot.

Existing Condition

The extant driveways and parking areas remain concentrated on the eastern side of the course, between the fieldhouse wings and Ohio Drive SE. The main parking lot's northern section has been enlarged considerably since the period of significance, and is thus a non-contributing feature. This lot is paved and striped.

It is accessed by a paved entrance driveway from Ohio Drive SE. The current entrance driveway is located south of the original entrance drive location. It is a non-contributing feature. The southern section of the main parking lot, located south of the extant entrance driveway, was added in 2001 to expand the historic parking lot. It does not contribute to the significance of the site.

The secondary parking lot is still located north of the west fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation. It is paved and has restricted access, with security checkpoints at both of its entrance driveways, from Ohio Drive SE and the main parking lot. This parking lot and its access driveways postdate the period of significance and are non-contributing features.

The area around the maintenance buildings is still used as a third parking lot for service vehicles. It is unpaved and unstriped, and is accessed via an unpaved driveway from the U.S.

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Park Police entrance driveway (rather than directly from Ohio Drive SE, as it was between 2001 and 2003). This feature is non-contributing.

Fieldhouse Circulation

Historic Condition

During the period of significance (1917-1941), circulation features around the fieldhouse wings were minimal. The fieldhouse buildings were essentially planted in the landscape, with few sidewalks or pathways around them to mitigate the transition from building to landscape (Library of Congress n.d.).

It was not until the 1940s that a network of sidewalks and paths was formalized around the fieldhouse wings, providing circulation from the fieldhouse to the practice putting greens, the miniature golf course, and the driving range (United States Geological Survey 1949). These circulation features were generally arranged in a rectilinear plan from the 1940s through the 1970s, extending on both sides of the fieldhouse wings and connecting the parking lot to the fieldhouse wings and the swimming pool (United States Geological Survey 1973; United States Geological Survey 1983). By the 1980s, as the number of features and structures around the fieldhouse grew to include the new driving range building and additional practice putting greens, the network of sidewalks became less rigidly rectilinear. Instead, new paths curved to connect features in the most direct ways possible, rather than adhering to a geometric footprint (United States Geological Survey 1983). This network of sidewalks remained consistent through the end of the 20th century. At some point in the 1990s, curvilinear concrete retaining walls were inserted along the curvilinear sidewalks in front of the fieldhouse, enclosing the planting beds adjacent to the fieldhouse and associated circulation features (Dewberry and Davis 1993; District of Columbia GIS [DCGIS]/Google Earth 1999).

Existing Condition

The fieldhouse wings are encompassed by a network of sidewalks and paths, connecting the fieldhouse buildings with the driving range, practice putting greens, miniature golf course, and (unrelated) swimming pool. The sidewalks that connect the two fieldhouse wing are still generally rectilinear, but the other paths south and west of the fieldhouse area are curvilinear. They are generally paved and fairly broad, connecting with the social trails that begin near the fieldhouse and radiate through the courses to serve as cart paths. The concrete retaining walls are still in place along the sidewalks in front of the fieldhouse.

Social Trails and Cart Paths

Historic Condition

East Potomac Park Golf Course's social trails, including any paths between holes, were informal and liminal throughout the period of significance (1917-1941). They were unpaved and generally dirt, and their location and trajectories have been irregular since the initial construction of the A-B Course beginning in 1917. Aerial and on-the-ground photographs taken throughout the period of significance indicate a limited number of informal social trails that were clearly established through repeated use by pedestrians, rather than paved or otherwise formalized in

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the landscape. The earliest plans for the course, including Walter Travis' 1918 design and a 1934 plan, do not include any circulation features in the form of trails or paths around or between holes (Ridley 1919; National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1934). However, Travis' writings indicate that paths between greens and neighboring tees were designed. In a letter to Superintendent Francis F. Gillen on December 13, 1918, Travis requested the construction of trails "to facilitate egress from greens and avoid their mutilation." Describing the egresses, Travis instructed that "care should be taken to avoid making them look like walks, but rather that they just happened that way naturally... vary the widths and general outlines so as to harmonize with the greens. Whatever you do, don't make them formal in appearance" (Ridley 1919).

These fragments of social trails and paths were not continuous or consistent from hole to hole. At times, they were barely even visible in the landscape, as a photograph taken in 1936 demonstrates. One social trail begins at the fieldhouse and parking area and extends south before disappearing (Harris & Ewing 1936). No other social trails or paths were clear features of the landscape at this time.

As of 1949, the course's social trails remained minimal (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1949). The most pronounced fragment began on the west side of the course, at Ohio Drive SE, and cut into the D Course for a short distance near the tee boxes for D Course Holes 2 and 3. The trail faded near the midpoint of the peninsula, however. No other social trails were evident throughout the courses at this time; the primary circulation features remained concentrated around the fieldhouse wings and the driving range.

Two years later, the social trail in the D Course remained in place, with additional fragments scattered through portions of the F and G Courses (United States Geological Survey 1951). Although some of the paths around or across fairways were more pronounced than others, these trails rarely extended longer than one hole before dissolving in the landscape. Aerial and perspective photographs confirm this condition throughout the 1950s (Rowe 1950).

This condition and character of the cultural landscape's social trails did not change in the latter decades of the 20th century. It is unclear when electric golf carts were introduced to East Potomac Park Golf Course, but a photograph taken in 1960 indicates that they were used at the course by that time (TWP, June 8, 1960: C1). Despite the presence of the new vehicles, aerial photographs from the 1960s confirm that there was no effort to formalize or pave the network of social trails as cart paths (United States Geological Survey 1968). Rather, the paths continued to emerge and recede based on changes in maintenance and use. An existing conditions survey conducted in 1993 indicated that the social trails were surfaced with dirt and crushed stone by that time (Dewberry and Davis 1993). This treatment is consistent with the current condition of the landscape's social trails.

Existing Condition

The landscape's social trails continue to vary in width, material, and length. Most of the site's

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paths, particularly on the Red and White Courses, are unpaved or gravel fragments that extend only a short distance between or through holes. The Blue Course's social trails are more pronounced, substantial, and regularly visible in the landscape, including five paths that begin at the fieldhouse area and radiate south, extending to the end of the Blue Course between each line of fairways. These social trails, which function as cart paths, are treated with dirt or crushed stone. The circulation pattern through the Blue Course is nearly continuous, which is not consistent with the condition of the cultural landscape during the period of significance, when Travis specified that the social trails between the greens be informal, fragmentary, and naturalistic.

Additional pronounced social trails separate the Red and Blue Courses and continue around the driving range, through the White Course. These paths are generally curvilinear trails of gravel and dirt, with no edging material. They are more considerable than other fragments of cart path and social trails throughout the site, but they are not demarcated, signed, or otherwise formalized in the course, and they are not consistent with the historic condition of the cultural landscape.

Analysis

East Potomac Park Golf Course featured minimal circulation elements during the period of significance (1917-1941), and its circulation patterns changed extensively over time. As such, there are no contributing circulation features within the cultural landscape. The extant features, including the progression of play for each course, the social trails and sidewalks around the fieldhouse wings and throughout the course, and the secondary parking lots and driveways, do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape. East Potomac Park Golf Course does not retain integrity of circulation.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Blue Course progression of play

Feature Identification Number: 180984

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: White Course progression of play

Feature Identification Number: 180986

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Red Course progression of play

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Feature Identification Number: 180988

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Social trails and sidewalks around fieldhouse wings, driving range, and practice putting greens

Feature Identification Number: 180990

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Main parking lot (north section)

Feature Identification Number: 180992

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0261210000 38.8751660000

Feature: Main parking lot (south section)

Feature Identification Number: 180994

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0253210000 38.8741090000

Feature: Main access driveway from Ohio Drive SE

Feature Identification Number: 180996

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0257780000 38.8474809000

Feature: Secondary parking lot (north of west fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation) and access driveway

Feature Identification Number: 180998

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Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing
Latitude	Longitude
-77.0271350000	38.8755510000

Feature: Maintenance area parking lot, vehicular circulation, and access driveway

Feature Identification Number:	181000
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing
Latitude	Longitude
-77.0283770000	38.8751230000

Feature: Social trails and cart paths throughout courses

Feature Identification Number:	181002
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing
Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Analysis & Evaluation: Circulation

Drawn by M. Föhnman and S. Gerritsen, 2017
Graphics by M. Lester, 2017



Circulation, Historic (left and center) and Existing (right). A larger version of this graphic is located in Appendix A. (Graphic by Lester 2017, from base imagery: [top] United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957; United States Geological Survey

Buildings and Structures

Golf Courses

For the purpose of this CLI, the East Potomac golf courses and their individual layouts, consisting of the overall approach to each course's design, as well as the design of individual holes (including tees, fairways, greens and hazards), are treated as single structures. The three structures (Blue, White and Red Courses) are evaluated separately, but the ways in which they related to one another, and the options for play they provided should also be considered as an important part of the East Potomac Park landscape. The relationship between the three courses, and their relationship to other landscape features, is covered extensively in the spatial organization section, and is also addressed further in the analysis section below.

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Blue Course

Historic Condition

In 1917, Col. William W. Harts, officer in charge of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, announced the hiring of Walter J. Travis to design an 18-hole course at East Potomac Park. Travis, a former U.S. amateur golf champion and the first American to win a British national championship, began designing golf courses around 1900. In 1917, he was still among the most prominent figures in the sport, and his choice as the architect of East Potomac Park was a testament to the importance of the course.

Construction of the initial nine holes began in the summer of 1917 (TWES, May 20, 1918: 21). They were built on the East Potomac Park peninsula's east side, along the Washington Channel, on a site previously used as a Boy Scout vegetable garden. By spring 1918, nine greens were complete and only required seeding. Fairways had been cleared "of a wilderness of willow trees [and] spontaneous growth over an area of 67 acres, about 30 of which were plowed and harrowed." World War I put a halt to construction in the summer of 1918, but building resumed in the fall (TWES, May 20, 1918: 21; U.S. Army Chief of Engineers 1918). On March 29, 1919, Travis visited the East Potomac Park course to inspect the work. Travis "stated that [it] had been carried out in accordance with his design and that the result was exactly what he wishes, and was very pleasing to him." (Gillen 1919a).

Like most golf architects of his era, Travis' designs were inspired by traditional British and Scottish courses, like the Old Course at St. Andrews. These courses, built in the 19th century, exploited naturally rugged coastal terrain known as "linksland." Their pitted landscapes were shaped by fierce winds that "tossed sand into gently rolling duneland... fancifully shaped knolls [were] interlaced with gullies, sharp declivities, hollows and whorls of all shapes" (Helphand 74). Faced with a completely artificial landscape, only recently reclaimed from the Potomac River, Travis had little in the way of natural features to guide his design. Still, the waterfront location and open, exposed site lent itself to the links-style Travis preferred. Following newly emerging conventions for the design of public courses, he laid out eighteen holes to play in two loops, the first starting from the fieldhouse and playing down the eastern edge of the peninsula before doubling back toward the fieldhouse along the interior. The second loop repeated the pattern on the site's western perimeter. By returning golfers to the fieldhouse at the end of nine holes, Travis presented them the option of playing only half a full round, a consideration of the many novices that would be using the public course, and may prefer to play only nine holes.

Multiple options for play was one of the defining characteristics of the original Travis design. Like the Old Course at St. Andrews, the course at East Potomac was reversible and included a 10th hole, completed in 1919, to allow for alternate play and prevent wear on the course. (TWP, April 21, 1917: 4) Reversible play required twice the number of hazards, a feature for which Travis was particularly known. He had a certain set of principles in his approach to hazard design and placement. "Humps and hollows" were "groups of irregularly shaped mounds of varying heights, with space in between running from one yard to three or four. Sometimes they had depressions and were surrounded by sand pockets, on the outsides." A

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mound was “an isolated heap of earth, not several, but just one.” Sand pits were “depressions of varying depth, with a deposit of sand” and raised faces along one side. Sometimes sand traps were alone, though more often, at East Potomac, they were designed in connection with humps and hollows (Travis 1918; TWES, January 25, 1917: 17; TWES, May 20, 1918: 21). As the East Potomac site lacked naturally occurring hazards, the numerous traps and mounded bunkers had to be artificially constructed. Travis considered the construction of hazards a particular art, and recommended the OPBG hire Robert White to oversee their construction and serve as East Potomac’s greenskeeper. White accepted, and in 1919-1920 managed the construction of 44 hazards on the front nine (Blue Course) (Gillen 1918b; Walter J. Travis Society n.d.).

Another Travis signature, present at East Potomac, was attention to the shaping of greens. In a letter to Park Superintendent Francis F. Gillen in December 1918, Travis called for: “raised surfaces at various points. These are put in not only with an eye to the landscape effect – to break up the flat monotony of the surface – but also to add to the playing qualities of the holes...Minor grade levels should be put in before plowing...if sufficient “fill” from adjacent sand pits is not available then a scoop may be used and depressions made on a large scale...covering a large space, so as not to form small hollows. Small hollows are objectionable.” (Travis 1918)

The desired effect was an undulating green that would “gradually merge into the neighboring fairway” (Travis 1918). Travis, a renowned putter, personally supervised construction of the greens on East Potomac’s front nine (Blue Course). Upon their completion, Charles V. Piper, of the USDA, “stated that in all his experience he had never seen greens constructed with such care and such excellent results and the greens in East Potomac Park.” (Travis 1918).

A total of 2,752 feet of water pipe was laid down for use in watering the greens and other parts of the course (U.S. Army Chief of Engineers 1918: 2042). OPBG seeded the fairways on the front nine in October 1919, and by June 1920, the first nine holes at East Potomac’s Blue Course, referred to as the A-B Course, were complete. They extended southeast along the Washington Channel, covering approximately 80 acres.

The Evening Star described the 9-hole course as “a true Travis creation. It is characterized by the rolling, undulating, well-trapped greens peculiar to a Travis-built course,” noting “these type of greens make for a very attractive course, but one that will be quite severe in the duffer.” (TWSS, June 20, 1920: 27). Even though the course was only half finished, its reversibility made 18-hole play available on some days.

Work on the final nine holes of the Blue Course (historically referred to as the C-D Course) began in 1922. The full eighteen holes opened in June 1923, in time for East Potomac to host the United States Golf Association’s second annual public links tournament. The final design, with two additional greens, could be played a variety of ways, essentially providing East Potomac golfers with 36 holes in the space of a regular eighteen-hole course. When played in the primary direction, the full course was 3,168 yards long, with a par of 34 on the front nine

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and 36 on the back nine. When played in reverse, the course was 3,402 yards long with a par of 33 on the front and 37 on the back.

For maps depicting the original design of the Blue Course, including play in both the A/C and B/D directions, refer to Images 1 and 2 in Appendix A.

Blue Course
Approximate Original 1923 Yardage, A/C Direction

A Course (front nine):

Hole 1A: 317 yards, par 4
Hole 2A: 152 yards, par 3
Hole 3A: 472 yards, par 4
Hole 4A: 442 yards, par 4
Hole 5A: 263 yards, par 3
Hole 6A: 200 yards, par 3
Hole 7A: 533 yards, par 5
Hole 8A: 415 yards, par 4
Hole 9A: 374 yards, par 4
Total: 3,168 yards

C Course (back nine):

Hole 10C: 367 yards, par 4
Hole 11C: 208 yards, par 3
Hole 12C: 486 yards, par 5
Hole 13C: 392 yards, par 4
Hole 14C: 366 yards, par 4
Hole 15C: 133 yards, par 3
Hole 16C: 466 yards, par 5
Hole 17A: 533 yards, par 5
Hole 18A: 421 yards, par 4
Total: 3,372 yards

Blue Course
Approximate Original 1923 Yardage, B/D Direction

B Course (front nine):

Hole 1B: 340 yards, par 4
Hole 2B: 440 yards, par 4
Hole 3B: 508 yards, par 5
Hole 4B: 209 yards, par 3
Hole 5B: 262 yards, par 3
Hole 6B: 458 yards, par 4

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Hole 7B: 404 yards, par 4
Hole 8B: 152 yards, par 3
Hole 9B: 270 yards, par 3
Total: 3,043 yards

D Course (back nine):
Hole 10D: 489 yards, par 4
Hole 11D: 572 yards, par 5
Hole 12D: 425 yards, par 4
Hole 13D: 168 yards, par 3
Hole 14D: 358 yards, par 4
Hole 15D: 392 yards, par 4
Hole 16D: 487 yards, par 5
Hole 17D: 162 yards, par 3
Hole 18D: 365 yards, par 4
Total: 3,359 yards

Travis' design for the back nine paralleled the layout on the front. The holes played down and back along the Potomac River side of the peninsula. Like the front nine, they were designed to be reversible, and were replete with hazards. Period photographs, drawings of individual holes and plans for the entire course illustrate the sheer number of sand traps, bunkers and "humps and hollows" included in Travis' design. This was partially the result of the course's reversibility, which required hazard placement on the fairway in both directions. But the design also reflected Travis' belief that hazards were "an integral part of the game" (Travis 1902: 245). The negotiation of the hazards and the tricky greens added a strategic element to an otherwise flat, straight playing design. The result was a course described "as one of the best public courses in the country" (West 1923: 54). Reporting on the public links tournament, the Baltimore Sun described the new course as such:

There are bunkers to catch almost any deviation from the straight and narrow – traps for tops, half tops, hooks, slices, short approaches and over shots. The profusion of traps, perhaps, partly can be accounted for by the fact that there are four separate 9-hole courses, all in an acreage not larger than that devoted to an ordinary 18-hole course." (Baltimore Sun June 29, 1923:14)

Descriptions of Travis' 1917 design of each individual hole, in both directions of play, are included in Appendix B. Additional images and plans from this period are also found in Appendix B.

Leoffler made some minor changes to the Blue Course shortly after it was completed. Changes seem to have been limited to the front nine and included the construction of new traps on three fairways and the redesign of at least three new greens (TWP, March 21, 1924: 9; TWP, March 11, 1925: S1). Many considered Travis' reversible, "humpback" greens too challenging (West 1923: 54). Leoffler may have rebuilt some of them at this time to suit the taste for flatter surfaces and more predictable putting.

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Leoffler continued tinkering with the course through the 1930s. His various improvements were not always in keeping with Travis' original designs, but rather, reflected changing tastes among golfers, as well as advances in golf technology. When Travis designed the first eighteen holes at East Potomac, hickory clubs were the norm. By the mid-1920s, they had been replaced with steel shafts that allowed the ball to fly much farther. The growing popularity of parkland style courses resulted in the planting of additional trees throughout East Potomac, a development discussed further in the Vegetation section.

In 1934, Leoffler ended the two-way play original to Travis' design. The greens on the Blue Course were rebuilt accordingly. The final routing matched that of the original B-D Direction. A new driving range, completed in 1934 necessitated the removal of the 9th green of the White Course. The 18th green on the Blue Course (originally 18D) was redesigned for use on the White Course and a new green was constructed for the Blue Course. In addition, the 10th tee on the Blue Course was changed to play to the old 9th green on the obsolete A direction (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

As part of Leoffler's 1934 improvements, Travis' original greens were modernized and rebuilt for pitching instead of run-up shots. The Evening Star reported that it was "just another sign of the changing times, but it will make for public links golf something like the brand afforded at our leading clubs, where the run-up is not as popular as the pitch." Run-up shots, which are typically played with a lower-lofted club (an 8-, 7-, or 6-iron for example) rather than a wedge, produce a low trajectory, with the ball rolling along the ground and up to the hole. At East Potomac Park, the course's "lightning-fast greens," often caused these run-up shots to go bounding into the Washington Channel. The new greens were designed to allow "the lads will be able to fling 'em up according to the beset country club traditions" (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

Comparison of plans from this period with historic aerials and Travis' original drawings suggest that a number of Travis' original bunkers were removed when reversible play on the courses was abandoned. Many of these were no longer relevant when the course was played from one direction (McMartin 2008: 54). It is also likely that the flooding of the Potomac River in March 1936, one of the region's most destructive floods, greatly damaged the course. A photograph of the flood shows most of the Blue Course underwater (Harris and Ewing 1936).

See Image 6 in Appendix A for map showing changes made to the Blue Course between 1932 and 1941.

Additional redesign of greens and removal of bunkers took place in 1938-1940, under the supervision of course manager Tommy Doerer. Doerer considered the remaining Travis greens "way behind modern course construction ideals." and the hazards were described as "obsolete." Despite a decade of improvements, by 1939, the condition at East Potomac Park was beginning to deteriorate. In a series of articles on the District's golf courses, Washington Evening Star reporter Walter McCallum described the conditions at the East Potomac Park

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Golf Courses as “flat, uninteresting layouts which could be vastly improved under the supervision of a competent course architect. All have flinty-surfaced dirt tees, poorly trapped putting greens, and badly kept bunkers.” McCullum noted that congestion was part of the problem, and that the course “takes a lot of beating...But the East Potomac Park course is outmoded and far behind the modern trend. It is too short, not well trapped, and in poor condition. The greens need complete rebuilding. All the tees should be sodded and elevated. Inadequate bunkering permits wild shots.” (McCallum 1939: B1). Doerer’s improvements to the Blue Course, completed in 1940, lengthened it slightly, from 6,402 yards to 6,486. The new par was 72.

After World War II, William Flynn, hired to redesign the White Course, also designed improvements to Travis’ Blue Course. Work on that section of East Potomac was carried out in the fall and winter of 1945. All of the greens on the front nine, with the exceptions of Holes 7 and 9, were rebuilt and planted with seaside bent grass. Seven new, larger tees, were added. On the back nine, all of the greens were reconstructed and new tees installed. Newspaper reports, GIS mapping, and comparison of plans and historic aerials suggests that at least four new holes were built at this time and play on the back nine was reversed. A new Hole 10, doglegged southwest the old Hole 16 green. A new Hole 11 played north toward a new green, located near the White Course. A new Hole 12 was also built. Formerly 475 yards, the new Hole 12 played at 525 yards. A new Hole 18 which played northeast to a green just south of the driving range, was also built during this time.

For a map showing changes to the Blue Course, made between 1942 and 1955, see Appendix A, Image 6.

Conditions at East Potomac Park Golf Course deteriorated between 1960 and 1983. In 1983 a new concessionaire, Golf Course Specialists Inc. (GCS) bought out Leoffler’s interest in the course. GCS planned to restore East Potomac’s original “distinctive Scottish seaside-style” design (TWP, January 5, 1983: DC7). The contract between GCS and the National Park Service specified a number improvements on the Blue Course, including the design and construction of twelve new tees and the rebuilding of six old tees. The scope of work also included: the renovation of all 36 fairways at East Potomac; the rebuilding of 15 existing sand traps; the design and construction of 35 new traps; and the design and construction of mounds and swales throughout all three courses. It also specified that the concessionaire would redesign, rebuild, and modernize the 18-hole Blue Course (“Contract between the National Park Service and Golf Course Specialists, Inc.” 1989).

While the overall condition of the Blue Course improved under GCS, and many of the smaller items stipulated in the concessionaire contract, including reconstruction of tees and greens and construction of new hazards were completed, a full-scale redesign of the Blue Course was never undertaken. A comparison of maps, plans and historic aerials from the period between 1950 and 2016 shows no major changes were made to the Blue Course after Flynn’s redesign of several holes on the back nine in the late 1940s.

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For a 2017 map of East Potomac Park Golf Course, see Appendix A, Image 8.

Blue Course

Existing Condition

The Blue Course remains in the same location as Walter Travis's original 1923 layout, and is still an eighteen-hole course, comprised of two nine-hole loops that play down and back between the East Potomac Peninsula, beginning and ending at the fieldhouse. The eighteen holes are made up of flat, wide fairways, exposed to the elements and offering views of downtown Washington. Most of the Blue Course plays relatively straight and the primary direction of holes is south or north. The fairways themselves are longer than those on the other two courses, with lengthier par 4s and more par 5s. Greens are large and flat and generally raised slightly above the fairway. Most are bordered by multiple sand traps. Mounding around the perimeter of Blue Course greens is also common. In some cases these mounding have been planted with flowering trees, all of the same species, a trend in golf course design that is further discussed in the vegetation section of this CLI. Large mounded bunkers, both mowed and covered in rough vegetation, border many Blue Course fairways. With longer holes and more hazards than the other two courses, the Blue Course continues to attract East Potomac's more advanced golfers. In 2016, the course's total yardage was 6,599, par 72.

A hole-by-hole description and photos of existing conditions at the Blue Course is listed in Appendix B.

White Course

Historic Condition

The immediate popularity of Walter Travis' eighteen-hole course at East Potomac prompted concessionaire S.G. Leoffler to expand the course in 1924. Leoffler hired William Flynn, the architect responsible for Rock Creek Golf Course, to design an additional nine-holes. The new course was historically known as the E-F Course and was located northeast of the fieldhouse. In keeping with Travis' design, Flynn's course was reversible, with two extra greens to allow for change in the direction of play. Like Travis's Blue Course, the original White Course played out from the fieldhouse in both directions, looping golfers around the northern half of the site, returning to the fieldhouse on Holes 9E and 9F. Further similarities between the new and existing course included an open landscape design. Though Flynn was known for his parkland style courses, which incorporated mature trees and lush vegetation between fairways, at East Potomac he remained faithful to Travis' preferred links style landscape. The White Course had very few trees, except for a grove Japanese flowering cherries located near the southern end of the course, which remained from the USDA's use of East Potomac Park as an experimental planting ground.

Flynn's design contained far fewer hazards than Travis' Blue Course—sand traps and mounded bunkers appear to have been limited to the area immediately surrounding the green—resulting in a course that was more suitable for beginners. When it opened in May 1925, the *Washington Sunday Star* described it as “not as well trapped as the first [courses] but “far

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more popular because lower scores can be made on them by the class of players who used public courses” (TWSS, May 6, 1928: 2).

White Course

Approximate Original 1925 Yardage, E Direction

Hole 1: 290 yards, par 3

Hole 2: 160 yards, par 3

Hole 3: 300 yards, par 4

Hole 4: 420 yards, par 4

Hole 5: 380 yards, par 4

Hole 6: 295 yards, par 4

Hole 7: 300 yards, par 4

Hole 8: 215 yards, par 3

Hole 9: 340 yards, par 4

Approximate Original 1925 Yardage, F Direction

Hole 1: 340 yards, par 4

Hole 2: 140 yards, par 3

Hole 3: 290 yards, par 4

Hole 4: 294 yards, par 4

Hole 5: 380 yards, par 4

Hole 6: 400 yards, par 4

Hole 7: 320 yards, par 4

Hole 8: 135 yards, par 3

Hole 9: 260 yards, par 4

For a map of the original White Course, as designed by William Flynn in 1925, see Images 3 and 4 in Appendix A.

For a hole by hole description of the original White Course, see Appendix B.

The construction of the G Course, in 1930, appears to have required modifications to the original routing of the White Course. A 1930 map of the courses illustrates that the White Course’s two easternmost holes (Hole 5E/5F and Hole 6E/4F) were repurposed for use as part of the G Course. These holes were replaced with two new holes, built along the east side of the tourist camp, a pre-existing structure located immediately northwest of the original course and dating to 1921. There is some evidence that Leoffler ended two-way play on the White Course at this time. A 1931 article in *The Evening Star* reported, “Course E is not a reversible course, nor is the new nine-hole layout that was opened last May.” Two way play was definitely abandoned by 1934, when Leoffler also ended the practice on Travis’ Blue Course. At this time, greens on the White Course were redesigned for one-way play in the F Direction. The F routing played north from the fieldhouse looping west, curving back east, playing up and back along the tourist camp, then further west before turning south playing along the site’s western

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perimeter and ending immediately northeast of the fieldhouse (Figure 21). A new driving range, completed in 1934, necessitated the removal of the original 9th green. The 18th green on the Blue Course (originally 18D) was redesigned for use on the White Course and a new green was constructed for the Blue Course (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2).

In the winter of 1942, following the United States' entry into World War II, the Army installed four anti-aircraft guns on the White Course. (TWES, December 16, 1941: A19). In 1944, the War Department agreed to pay the National Park Service \$37,000 for the rehabilitation of the golf course and driving range due to the damage caused during Army occupation. National Capital Parks retained William S. Flynn to rehabilitate the courses. Flynn redesigned his original White Course, in the same location as the original course. In 1944, new greens, fairways, tees, and traps were constructed, and drainage facilities installed to "make the course an all-weather affair." The 2,726-yard course was re-routed with play beginning and ending north of the fieldhouse. Some fairways from the original White Course were partially or entirely reused. The new Hole 1 was located in the exact same location as Flynn's original Hole 4F and the new Hole 5 was the same layout and location as the original 7F. Upon completion the course "was considered by Mr. Flynn to be one of the best flat courses in the country." All of the changes were planned and designed by Flynn and carried out by his assistant, after Flynn's death in January 1945. The newly rebuilt course opened in September 1945 (TWES, December 4, 1945: A14; Flynn 1944).

In 1956, William F. Gordon, along with his son David, began work on redesigning Flynn's decade-old White Course. Fresh from completing work on the new Red Course, Gordon reversed the routing of the White Course. The new design played immediately west of the fieldhouse, below the driving range, then headed north where it zigzagged up and down the area between the fieldhouse and the tourist camp, ending immediately north of the fieldhouse, an area which had been used as a landing pad for model airplanes since the end of WWII. Gordon's design called for two completely new holes (Holes 1 and 7) and four new greens (Fitzgerald 1956: K5). The layout was slightly modified between 1959 and 1963 when construction of Buckeye Drive cut through the northern end of the course, which resulted in the re-routing of Holes 5 and . A new green was constructed for Hole 5 and the former green for Hole 5 became the green for the new Hole 6 (Department of Highways and Traffic, Design Engineering and Research Street Design Section 1959).

In January 1983, shortly after GCS took over as East Potomac Park concessionaire, the National Park Service eliminated the nine-hole White Course. The removal was part of a \$2 million dollar plan to relieve traffic congestion and increase open recreation space in the park. Plans for the area illustrated new ball fields located on the northeast corner at the intersection of Ohio Drive and Buckeye Drive, and new road. In the interim, the NPS created a picnic area in the location of the former course.

With its easy access to the fieldhouse and intermediate-length fairways, the nine-hole White Course was a favorite among the city's retired and senior golfers. Shortly after its removal, a

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group of golfers organized the East Potomac Golf Association and began a campaign to have NPS restore the course. In August 1984, Congress backed the golfers and provided \$500,000 in the supplemental appropriations bill to rebuild the White Course, using Gordon's 1956 design (TWP, August 15, 1984: C3).

White Course

Existing Condition

The White Course remains in the same general location as William Flynn's original 1925 layout for the course. Similar to that course, the current White Course plays along the site's northern perimeter. Further similarities with the original design include wide, very flat fairways that are generally straight, with few hazards except around greens, and relatively few trees between fairways. The current layout is nearly identical to William Gordon's 1950 redesign of the course, which restored a routing that was in keeping with William Flynn's original progression of play in the E direction. The White Course was faithfully reconstructed in the early 1980s, after its demolition caused an uproar with many of East Potomac's older golfers. Four holes remain in the same general location as when they were first laid out 1925.

With shorter holes and fewer hazards, the White Course has historically been favored by less competitive golfers. It continues to be a popular among senior golfer and families, offering a more relaxed pace of play than the Blue Course. It is occasionally used for footgolf. In 2017, the total yardage of the White Course is 2,420. It is comprised of three- and four-par holes, for a total of par 33.

A hole-by-hole description with photos of the White Course is listed in Appendix B.

Red Course

Historic Condition

In 1930, Leoffler began construction on a second 9-hole course, the Red Course, which was historically referred to as the G Course. This course was probably built by the concessionaire without the aid of an architect. The G Course was routed north and south of the fieldhouse with four holes playing on the south side of the fieldhouse, parallel to the front nine of the Blue Course, and five holes north of the fieldhouse, along the eastern perimeter of the site. The course was simple and very flat, with sand traps located throughout the length of the fairways, and surrounding greens. Though no documentation of original yardage was found during the course of research for this cultural landscape inventory, mapping suggests the following approximate lengths:

Red Course

Approximate 1930 Yardage

Hole 1: 307 yards, par 4

Hole 2: 322 yards, par 4

Hole 3: 195 yards, par 3

Hole 4: 462 yards, par 5

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Hole 5: 339 yards, par 4
Hole 6: 146 yards, par 3
Hole 7: 296 yards, par 4
Hole 8: 339 yards, par 4
Hole 9: 329 yards, par 4

Documentation of the original Red Course is scarce, and what exists is confusing and often conflicting. Plans of the entire East Potomac Park course, dating to 1934 show Holes 1-4 of the Red Course were wedged into a small sliver of land south of the fieldhouse. Holes 1 and 2 played south, bordering Blue Course Holes 7-9B. Red Course Holes 3 and 4 played back north, along the Washington Channel. North of the fieldhouse, two of the William Flynn designed holes on the White Course, Holes 5E and 6E, were repurposed for play on the Red Course. Five new holes were constructed east of the tourist camp, with the three eastern most holes part of the new Red Course layout and the two along the western border, near the tourist camp, incorporated into the White Course as Holes 5 and 6. It seems that Hole 5 of the Red Course picked up north of the White Course's 5th green. From there, the course seems to have zig zagged back and forth, with fairways playing in a mostly north south direction, before ending, on Hole 9, immediately east of the tourist camp and above the White Course's Hole 6.

Construction of tennis courts east of the tourist camp, completed in 1941, resulted in the loss of all five Red Course holes north of the fieldhouse (TWP, March 25, 1941: 28). After the loss of the northern half of the course, one hole on the south side of the fieldhouse was divided in two. The result was a partial Red Course comprised of five holes, all located south of the fieldhouse, along the site's eastern perimeter (TWES, March 21, 1941: D2).

In 1950, the Doylestown, Pennsylvania firm of William F. Gordon Co. was hired to rework the Red Course, restoring it to its original nine holes. Gordon's new design rearranged the layout and located all nine holes on the south side of the fieldhouse. As a result, the length of most of the holes was shortened. (TWP, March 7, 1948: L6; Gordon 1950).

A comparison of aerial imagery between 1968 and 1983 suggests the Red Course was left relatively unchanged until the East Potomac Park Golf Course concessions contract was awarded to Golf Course Specialists in 1983. A redesign of the Red Course was included in as part of the new contract. In the early 1990s as part of several upgrades at East Potomac, the Red Course was partially redesigned and shortened. Three practice holes were installed on part of the ninth fairway and Holes 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were redesigned and rerouted to fit within the remaining space.

For a map of the Red Course in 2016, see Appendix A, Image 7.

Red Course

Existing Condition

The Red Course is located southeast of the fieldhouse, south of Practice Putting Green 1 and

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the parking lot. It parallels Holes 7 through 9 on the Blue Course. It is in the same general location of four of the original holes on the 1930s-era course. The course was restored to nine holes in the 1950s, when William Gordon moved the entire course south of the fieldhouse. The current course is slightly smaller than Gordon's design, due to the expansion of the parking lot south of the fieldhouse, in 1936-1937. Existing fairways are fairly lumpy, but greens are not raised, as they are on most Blue and White holes, lending the course an overall flatter feeling than the other two. The Red Course's short straight holes (all par 3s), and lack of hazards make it ideal for beginners, and in the summer it is primarily used for lessons and children's golf camps. The course's total yardage is 1,142, par 27.

A hole-by-hole description of existing conditions on the Red Course is located in Appendix B.

Fieldhouse (East and West Wings)

Historic Condition

Concurrent with the construction of the A-B Course, two L-shaped wings of the fieldhouse were built between 1917 and 1920. The center section, intended to link the wings in a U-shaped footprint, was never erected as planned; instead, the two wings were constructed parallel to each other and separated by a small courtyard. The buildings were designed by landscape architect Horace Whittier Peaslee, Jr., who worked for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and used sculptural concrete aggregate that was developed and patented by local craftsman John J. Earley (Williams 2015). (For more information on the club, see Chapter 1.2 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC.*) Peaslee's design for the fieldhouse and its wing exhibited a monumental Neoclassical style that was juxtaposed with the modern concrete aggregate surface of the buildings. Each of the buildings featured large open porches with Corinthian columns on the side elevations (Various plans of the fieldhouse, 1917, on file NCRO). The wings were constructed of stucco on terra cotta tile, with precast concrete porticos. The stucco and precast concrete shared the same color and texture, achieved by filling forms with a concrete mixture that was studded with colorful pebbles. After the forms were removed, the surface was then scrubbed with acid (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 76).

The fieldhouse wings have served various purposes since their construction. Originally, the east wing hosted the men's changing rooms, a dining room, lunchroom, and a golf professional shop on the ground floor, with a kitchen, pantry, and cold storage area in the basement. The west wing hosted the women's changing rooms, offices, and storage rooms on the ground floor, and laundry and storage in the basement (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 75-76).

Early photographs of the east fieldhouse wing indicate that the open porch was enclosed by large wood-framed windows (Babin 2017: Chapter 1.3). Both wings were later remodeled in 1936 by the Public Works Administration (PWA), as part of a construction project that also included the addition of a pool to the site (outside the cultural landscape boundaries) (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 76). The renovations included the addition of basement dressing rooms for the swimming pool. By the late 1930s, the wings were occupied by the golf course

East Potomac Golf Course

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concessionaire, the Leoffler Company, and the swimming pool concessionaire, the Welfare and Recreational Association of Public Buildings and Grounds (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 76). This space-sharing arrangement remained in place until 1978, when a new pool house was constructed. In 1979, the west wing was converted to use as the District One Sub-Station for the U.S. Park Police. Subsequent alterations to the west wing have focused on the building's windows (Babin 2017: Chapter 1.3).

Other alterations to the east fieldhouse wing included the addition of a lean-to on the southeast elevation in the 1960s; the addition enclosed the porch and expanded the interior seating area for the dining room. The lean-to was removed during the 1978 renovation of the building, which also removed the swimming pool dressing rooms from the building's basement (Babin 2017: Chapter 1.3). The 1977-1978 renovations also upgraded the food and concession area in the building, providing year-round indoor dining, and created a new pro shop and concessionaire's office (McCoubrey 1977: D10; Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 76).

Existing Condition

Both the east fieldhouse wing and the west wing remain extant on the site, separated by a grassy area. The buildings retain their character-defining exterior features, including Peaslee's neoclassical design and Early's concrete finishes. Although both buildings have been remodeled on the interior several times, exterior alterations have been primarily limited to changes in fenestration and doors. The buildings' design, materials, and workmanship remain consistent with the period of significance.

Miniature Golf Course and Shed

Historic Condition

The miniature golf course at East Potomac was constructed in 1931 and placed adjacent to the west wing of the fieldhouse ("The Business Background and Experience of Mr. S.G. Leoffler" c. 1949). The course's holes were framed by wood borders. Their hazards included miniature reproductions of various Washington, DC landmarks, including the White House and the United States Capitol. Several holes were also designed with stone features, such as a wishing well, bridge, pond, and walls, or bi-level playing surfaces (where the player sent the ball into a cup, which funneled the ball down a pipe to a lower level where the hole was located). A small wood-frame ball house or ticket booth was located on the western edge of the course (Babin 2017: Chapter 2.1). Play began at the southwest corner of the course, next to the ticket booth, and continued in a generally counterclockwise direction around the course, returning to the ticket booth for Hole 18.

The East Potomac miniature golf course remained popular and extant long after most other miniature golf courses in Washington, DC. (For more information on the course's use, see Chapter 2.1 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC*.) As a result of its heavy use, Leoffler oversaw the complete renovation of the course in 1949 at a cost of \$15,000. The holes were reconstructed, but historic photos indicate that the original features and layout were retained (This Week

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Magazine, June 19, 1949). The project also included the elevation of the course by eighteen inches due to the “sunken condition of the grounds” that often resulted in flooding (TWP, March 2, 1949: 18; TWP, March 15, 1949: 1). The ticket booth was also replaced with a new, larger structure (TWES, April 27, 1949: B1).

A second renovation campaign occurred in the early 1960s. The aggregate concrete borders around the holes were likely introduced at this time, replacing the original wood borders (Babin 2017: Chapter 2.1). At some point during the late 20th century, the wooden reproductions were removed from the miniature golf course; they are no longer visible in aerial photographs by 1999.

Existing Condition

The miniature golf course remains in place in its original location immediately northeast of the west fieldhouse wing, enclosed by a fence. The holes retain their concrete borders, and they are separated by areas of grass, paved walkways, or gravel. Some holes retain a bi-level design, and additional hazards include slopes, hills, and bridges that are typically faced with brick or stone. A limited number of trees are planted throughout the course, functioning at times as indirect hazards around which the holes are designed. The ticket booth building dates to the 1949 renovations of the course.

Historic images and a hole by hole description of the miniature golf course are located in Appendix B.

Other Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition

By 1927, the course included a driving range, located southeast of the east fieldhouse wing along Ohio Drive, east of Hole 1 of the A Course/Hole 9 of the B Course. When the G Course was constructed in 1930, however, it supplanted the driving range (TWES, July 1, 1930: C2; TWP, July 3, 1932: M12). Leoffler rebuilt a new “extravagant,” 45-tee driving range in 1934 on the west side of the east fieldhouse wing (TWES, May 1, 1934: D2). In 1936, however, the addition of a swimming pool to the site necessitated the relocation of the driving range once again; it was moved slightly west, with the tees directed southwest toward the Potomac River (TWES, February 29, 1936: C7). When the U.S. Army occupied the course during World War II, it installed four anti-aircraft guns on the F Course and at the 300-yard mark of the driving range, forcing the temporary closure of the range (TWES, December 16, 1941: A19). As the war drew to a close, the War Department agreed in 1944 to pay for the rehabilitation of the driving range (General Accounting Office 1944). The structure remained in place until 1994, when it was replaced by a new two-story, 100-stall driving range structure that was designed by the firm of Oehrlein & Associates (TWP, August 4, 1995: 56). This is the driving range structure that currently stands on the southwest of the east and west fieldhouse wings.

The first practice putting green at East Potomac Park Golf Course was added by Severine G. Leoffler in 1927. The green was installed on the south side of the east fieldhouse wing; it

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occupied a roughly rectangular footprint measuring approximately 150 feet by 50 feet (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 50; TWES, April 7, 1927: 43). Although its perimeter and layout shifted somewhat, Practice Putting Green 1 remained in the same location adjacent to the fieldhouse through the 20th century. It was likely rebuilt at least once during the various renovation campaigns that repaired and upgraded the course after floods, including one particularly massive flood in 1942 (“Memorandum for Mr. Gable” 1940; TWES, June 15, 1943: A15).

According to aerial photographs of the site, a second practice putting green was added in the late 1980s or early 1990s immediately adjacent to the earlier green; it was in place by 1993 at the latest (Dewberry and Davis 1993). Practice Putting Green 2 was located northeast of Practice Putting Green 1, between the first practice putting green and the parking lot (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1979, 1980).

Practice Putting Greens 3 and 4 were added to the course after the driving range was rebuilt in 1994-1995 (Dewberry and Davis 1993; District of Columbia [DC GIS] [Google Earth] 1999). They are located between the driving range and the swimming pool and occupy egg-shaped footprints. Practice Putting Green 3 is located southeast of Practice Putting Green 4, which is closest to the maintenance area. Three practice holes were also added to the area immediately south of the parking lot, on the Red Course’s ninth fairway at this time. The Red Course was shortened and several holes were redesigned as a result.

East Potomac Park Golf Course has typically had rain shelters and other small structures throughout the course. A 1927 drawing for a rain shelter suggests that the wood structures featured a hipped roof and a U-shaped slatted bench (“Shelter for Golf Course” 1927). By 1934, drawings of the course indicate that there were at least eight shelters scattered around East Potomac Park Golf Course (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1934). The 1934 drawing also shows a hedge tool shed and a second, unidentified shed in the middle of the course. At least three shelters were still present on the course by 1951, but they appear to be both larger and squarer than the footprint of earlier shelters (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). The quantity, location, and design of the rain shelters and other sheds continued to change as the layout of East Potomac’s various courses shifted in the mid- to late-20th century. Nevertheless, historic and recent aerial photographs alike demonstrate that the course typically featured multiple shelters in various locations (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth/DigitalGlobe] 1999, 2000).

The golf course’s oldest maintenance building was located northwest of the fieldhouse wings, occupying an L-shaped footprint. It is unclear when this building was constructed, but it was in place by 1934 (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1934). It remained consistent in footprint and location until at least 1951 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). By 1956, however, it is no longer included on plans of the area around the fieldhouse and its west wing (Gordon and Gordon 1956). The current maintenance area, including three primary structures and several sheds, was built between 1999 and 2000, northwest of the

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swimming pool and the fieldhouse wings (District of Columbia [DC GIS] [Google Earth] 1999; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth/DigitalGlobe] 2000).

The golf cart storage building was added to the site around 1996 (District of Columbia [DC GIS] [Google Earth] 1999). A structure (which serves as office space for the concessionaire) was installed outside the pool area by that same year; a trailer or similar structure has remained in place since that time (District of Columbia [DC GIS] [Google Earth] 1999). The current trailer was added to the site in early 2015 (Google Earth 2015). A registration hut was also in place by 1999, adjacent to Practice Putting Green 1.

Existing Condition

In addition to the Blue, White, and Red golf courses, fieldhouse wings, and the miniature golf course and ticket booth, extant buildings and structures within East Potomac Park Golf Course cultural landscape include: the driving range; four practice putting greens; three practice holes, rain shelters throughout the course; three buildings and additional sheds in the maintenance area; the golf cart storage building; a trailer west of the east fieldhouse wing; the registration hut; and portable toilets and screens throughout the course. Practice Putting Green 1 is the only additional structure that dates to the period of significance (1917-1941) and is a contributing feature to the cultural landscape. Additional buildings and structures are located within the swimming pool area, adjacent to the golf course fieldhouse, but that parcel is under separate ownership and is addressed within the adjacent lands section of this cultural landscape inventory.

The driving range remains in place west of the fieldhouse and U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation. It retains the two-tier design from its 1994 construction, with tee stalls that are directed southwest.

Practice Putting Green 1 remains in place on the south side of the east fieldhouse wing, consistent with its original construction in 1927, during the period of significance (1917-1941). Its footprint has changed somewhat since the period of significance—in part to accommodate the addition of the adjacent Practice Putting Green 2—but it remains generally rectangular in shape. Practice Putting Green 2 is extant immediately northeast of Practice Putting Green 1, between the fieldhouse area and the main parking lot. Practice Putting Greens 3 and 4 are located between the fieldhouse and the driving range, separated by a walkway to the driving range; Practice Putting Green 4 is located closest to the maintenance area. The three practice holes are located east of Hole 1 and north of Hole 9 on the Red Course, along the site's eastern edge.

Nine rain shelters are located throughout the course. They are open-sided and feature wood frames and benches and asphalt-shingle hipped roofs. Although the course featured rain shelters of similar (but not identical) design during the period of significance (1917-1941), the extant shelters are of recent construction and are non-contributing features within the landscape. The same is true of the two portable toilets and screens that are located at Blue

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Course Hole 16 and White Course Hole 6; these structures are recent additions to the course and do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

The maintenance area includes three buildings and additional temporary sheds and trailers, all of which are of recent construction and do not contribute to the significance of the site. The primary maintenance building occupies a large, rectangular footprint and features a concrete and stucco exterior. The two-story building hosts large equipment storage at the first floor and concessionaire offices at the second floor. The primary maintenance building is arranged in a U-shaped configuration with two additional maintenance structures. A second maintenance shed, northeast of the primary maintenance building, features four open bays on its southeast elevation; large equipment and materials are stored in this building. The third structure in the U-shaped arrangement features four open bays on its northwest elevation, facing Maintenance Shed 2.

The golf cart storage building is located at the southern end of the driving range, by White Course Hole 1 and Blue Course Hole 1. It was Practice Putting Green 1, and the concessionaire trailer located outside the swimming pool area are also non-historic structures that do not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

Analysis

Golf Course

The landscape at East Potomac Park Golf Course retains many historic elements that contribute to its overall significance as a public golf course, built during the early 20th century, to serve central Washington, DC. These features include the continued existence of three separate golf courses, totaling 36-holes, its association with public golf, as a course that is open to play by anyone, year round, for a one time greens fee. Though all three courses have lost important original design features since their initial periods of construction, the overall layout of the Blue, White and Red Courses remains intact. As a whole, these courses are still characterized by their wide, flat fairways, which are open to the elements and offer views of downtown Washington. As such, the feeling and setting of the original East Potomac Golf Course landscape is intact. The three different courses offer a variety of options for golfers of all skill levels, an important feature of a public course. The original fieldhouse continues to be the organizing principle around which play on all three courses is organized. As such, the three golf courses at East Potomac Park retain integrity to the period of significance.

Blue Course

The Blue Course is still in the same location as Walter Travis' original course and retains Travis's overall routing and layout, with two 9-hole loops playing up and down the peninsula, towards Hains Point, each beginning and ending at the fieldhouse. The eighteen holes are links style and generally flat, with wide fairways that are open to the elements and offer views of downtown Washington. Most of the holes are relatively straight. The fairways themselves are

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longer than those on the other two courses, with more hazards, located along the length of the fairway as well as around the green. Since the period of significance the Blue Course's longer, more difficult holes, have made it appealing to more competitive golfers. This continues to be the case. As such, the Blue Course layout retains integrity to the period of significance.

White Course

The White Course is in the same general location as William Flynn's original course, and still retains much of Flynn's original routing and layout. Further extant features of the course include: play organized around the fieldhouse; wide, flat fairways that are generally straight; relatively few trees between fairways; and few hazards, except around greens. During the period of significance, the White Course was built to offer an additional option for golfers at East Potomac, and was immediately popular with less competitive golfers, as an alternative to the more challenging Blue Course. The current White Course continues to serve that function today. The White Course layout retains integrity to the period of significance.

Red Course

The current Red Course is located on the southern half of the original course. It has been partially moved and shortened since the period of significance, but still retains integrity of layout as its extant features include: play organized around the fieldhouse; flat, straight holes playing along the site's eastern boundary; open fairways with few hazards, except around greens; and the variety of play offered on the course Red Course, when compared with the White and Blue Courses.

Fieldhouse and Miniature Golf Course

The fieldhouse and its west wing, now used as the U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation, are contributing buildings that date to the period of significance (1917-1941). Their character-defining features—including their neoclassical design, concrete aggregate finish, and open porches—have been minimally altered since their original construction. The miniature golf course is a contributing feature; its associated ticket booth, however, postdates the period of significance. The only other contributing structure is Practice Putting Green 1, which has been consistent in location and generally consistent in design since its original construction in 1927.

None of the other extant buildings and structures date to the period of significance. The three other practice putting greens, driving range, maintenance buildings, rain shelters, portable toilets, golf cart storage building, and registration hut are all non-contributing features.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Three separate golf courses at East Potomac Park, totaling 36 holes

Feature Identification Number: 180902

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

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Feature: Blue Course layout

Feature Identification Number: 180904

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0263920000 38.8689700000

Feature: White Course layout

Feature Identification Number: 180906

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0298610000 38.8764220000

Feature: Red Course layout

Feature Identification Number: 180908

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0241220000 38.8717820000

Feature: East fieldhouse wing

Feature Identification Number: 180910

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0268060000 38.8745520000

IDLCS Number: 46854

LCS Structure Name: East Potomac Golf Course - Clubhouse - Res. 333

LCS Structure Number: 333

Feature: West fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation

Feature Identification Number: 180912

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0271490000 38.8753230000

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IDLCS Number: 46860
LCS Structure Name: East Potomac Park - Police Substation- Res. 333
LCS Structure Number: 333

Feature: Miniature Golf Course

Feature Identification Number: 180914
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0265210000 38.8756230000

IDLCS Number: 626927
LCS Structure Name: East Potomac Park Miniature Golf Course
LCS Structure Number: x1

Feature: Practice putting green 1 (east of east fieldhouse wing)

Feature Identification Number: 180926
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0263920000 38.8743800000

Feature: Miniature Golf Course Ticket Booth Shed

Feature Identification Number: 180916
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

IDLCS Number: 627026
LCS Structure Name: East Potomac Park Miniature Golf Course - Building
LCS Structure Number: x2

Feature: Driving range

Feature Identification Number: 180920
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0287910000 38.8741230000

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Feature: Driving range

Feature Identification Number: 180924

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Practice putting green 2 (adjacent to practice putting green 1, northeast of east fieldhouse wing)

Feature Identification Number: 180928

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Practice putting green 3 (adjacent to driving range)

Feature Identification Number: 180930

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Practice putting green 4 (adjacent to practice putting green 3 and maintenance building)

Feature Identification Number: 180932

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Rain shelters throughout cultural landscape

Feature Identification Number: 180934

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Portable toilets and screens throughout cultural landscape

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Feature Identification Number: 180936
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Primary maintenance building
Feature Identification Number: 180938
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0282340000 38.8749090000

Feature: Metal maintenance shed
Feature Identification Number: 180940
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0279910000 38.8751800000

Feature: Wood fuel/oil shed
Feature Identification Number: 180942
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Golf cart storage building
Feature Identification Number: 180944
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
-77.0274630000 38.8740090000

Feature: Registration hut
Feature Identification Number: 180946
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude

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0.0000000000

Feature: Management trailer

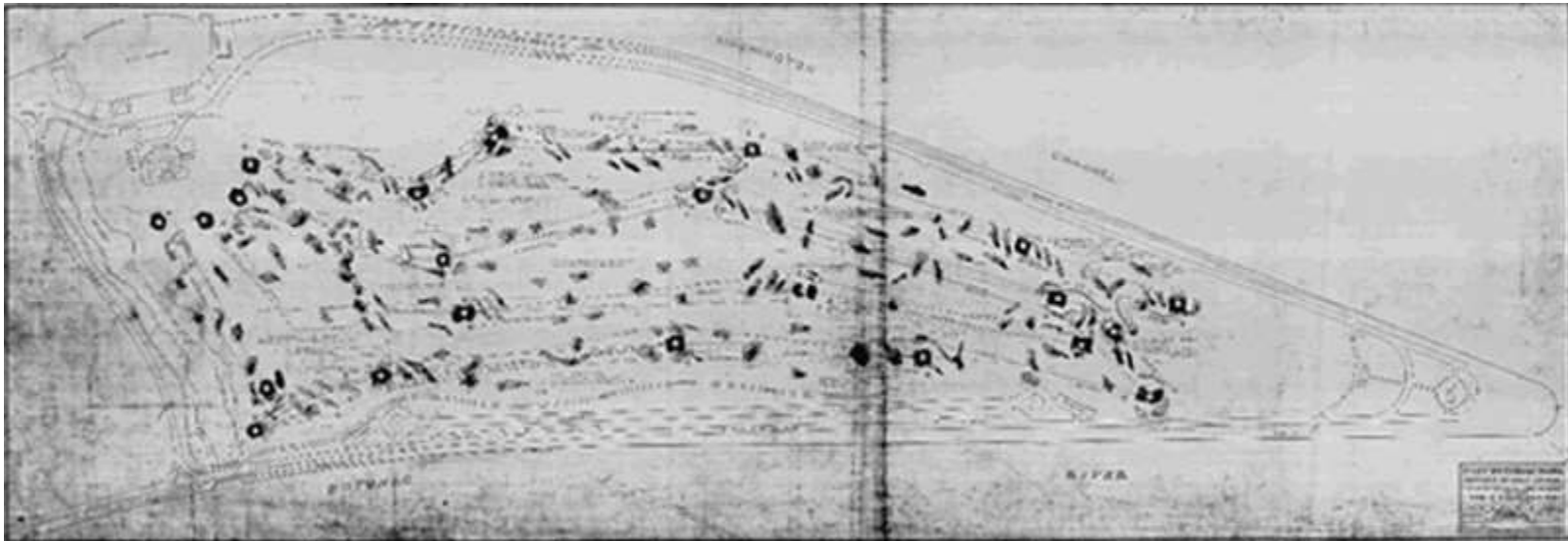
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Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

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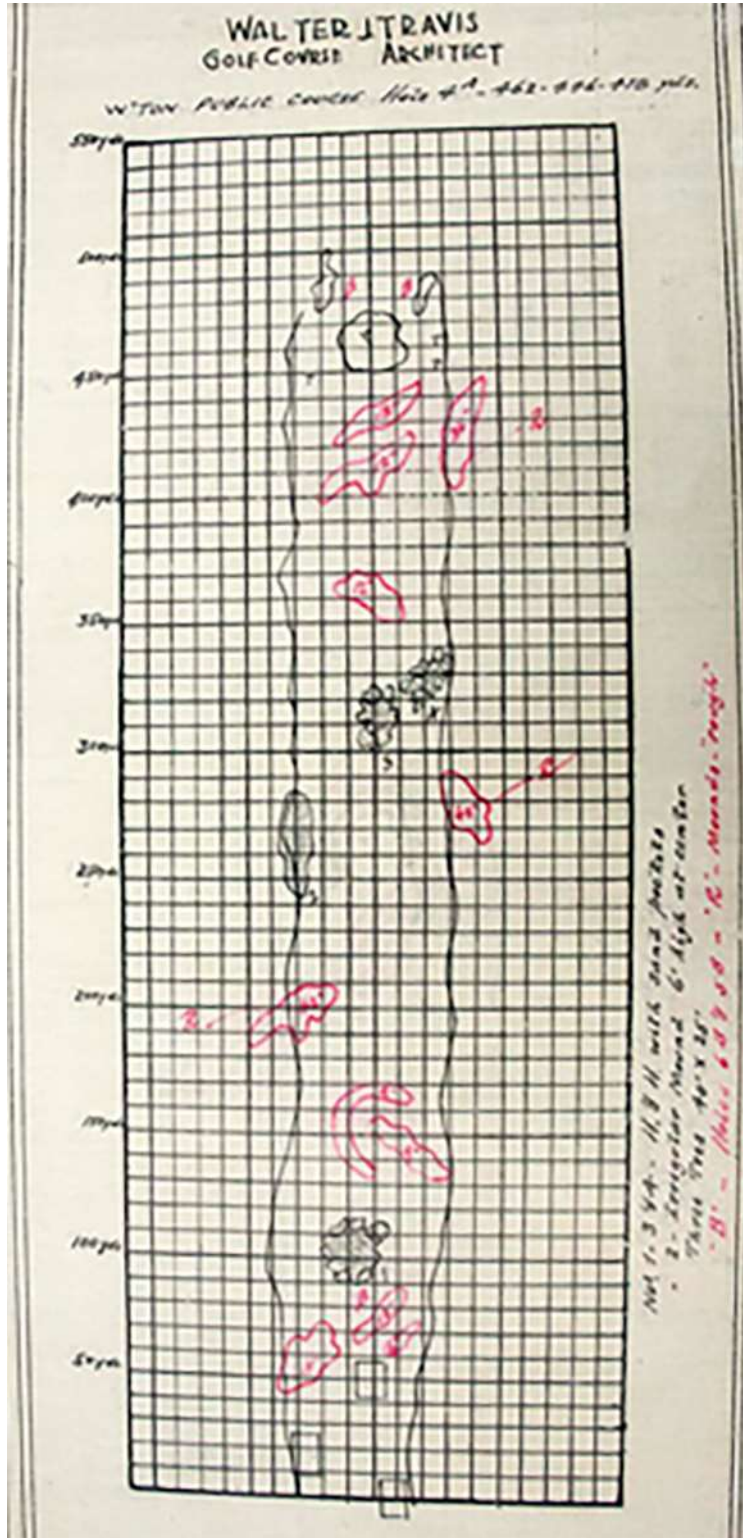
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Walter Travis' 1917 design for the Blue Course at East Potomac Park. For a larger version of this image, see Appendix B. ("East Potomac Park: Details of Golf Course" 1918)

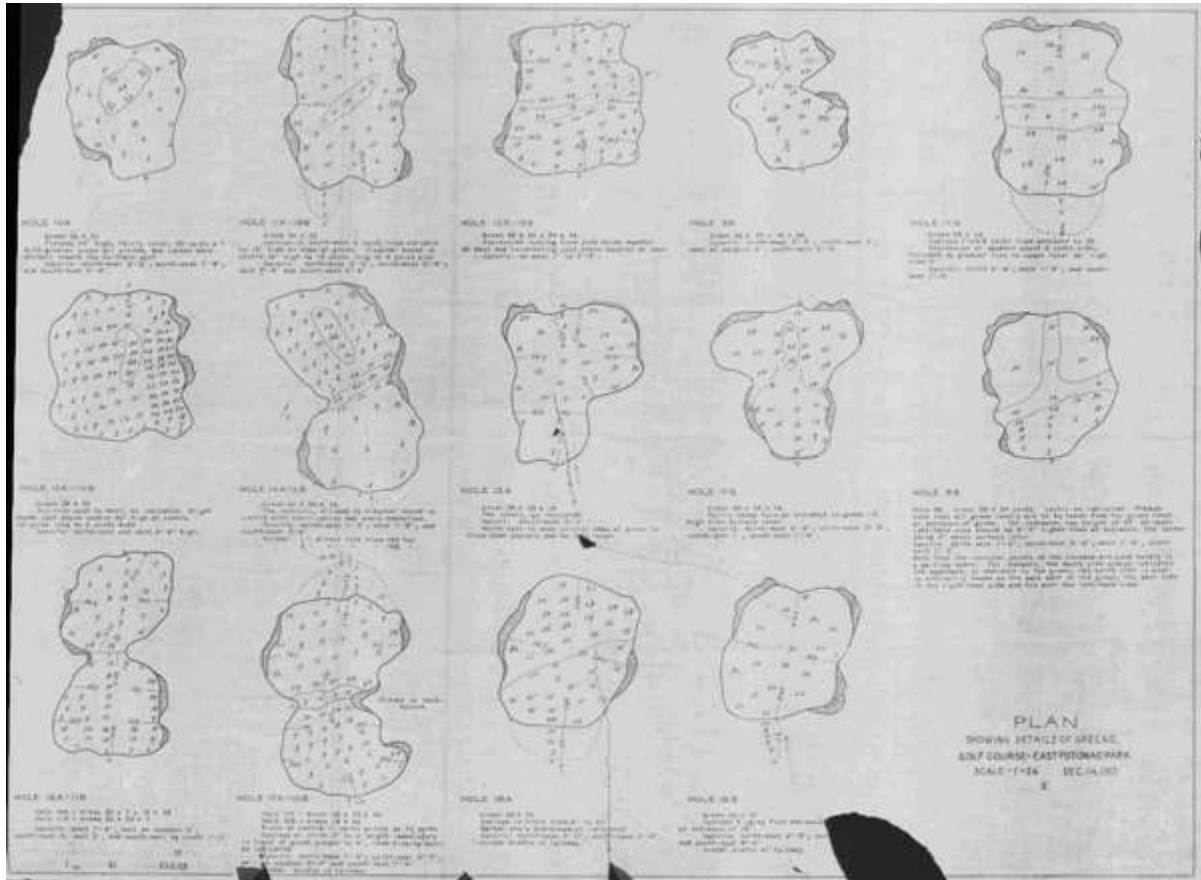
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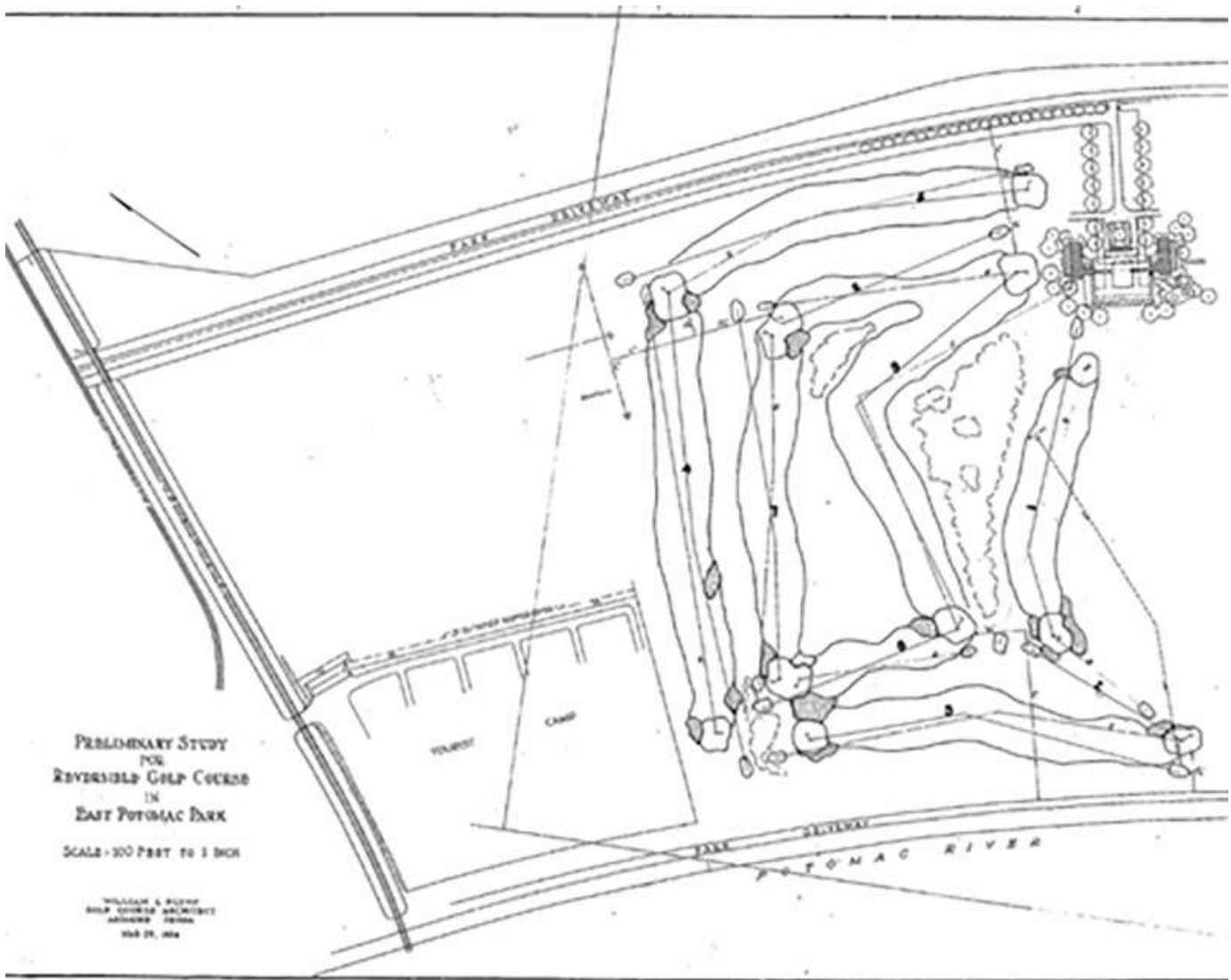
Travis design of Hole 4A showing large number of hazards constructed as part of the original design of the Blue Course. (National Archives, Record Group 79)

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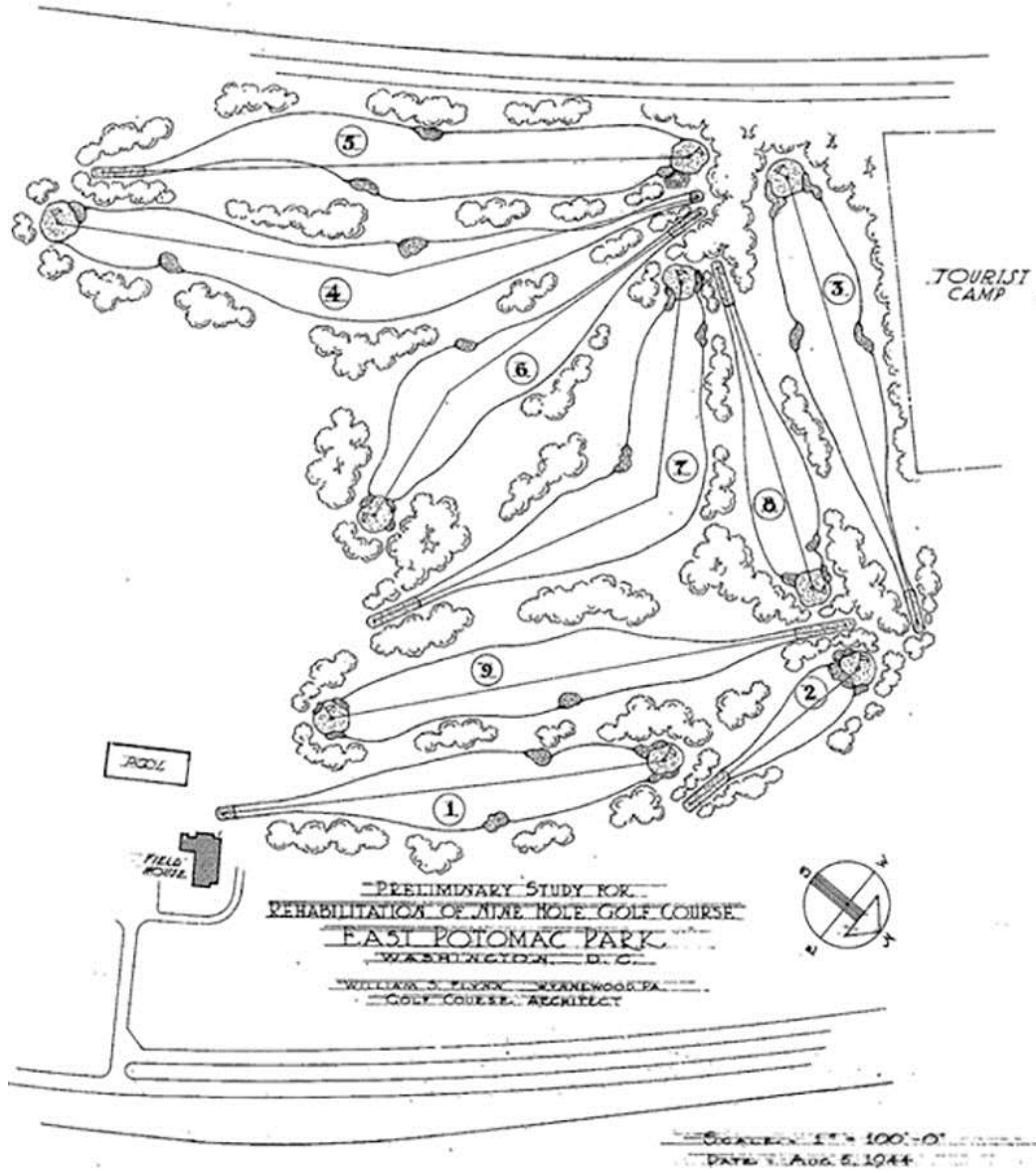
Walter Travis' design for reversible greens at East Potomac Park, Blue Course, 1917. ("Plan Showing Details of Greens, Golf Course – East Potomac Park" 1917)

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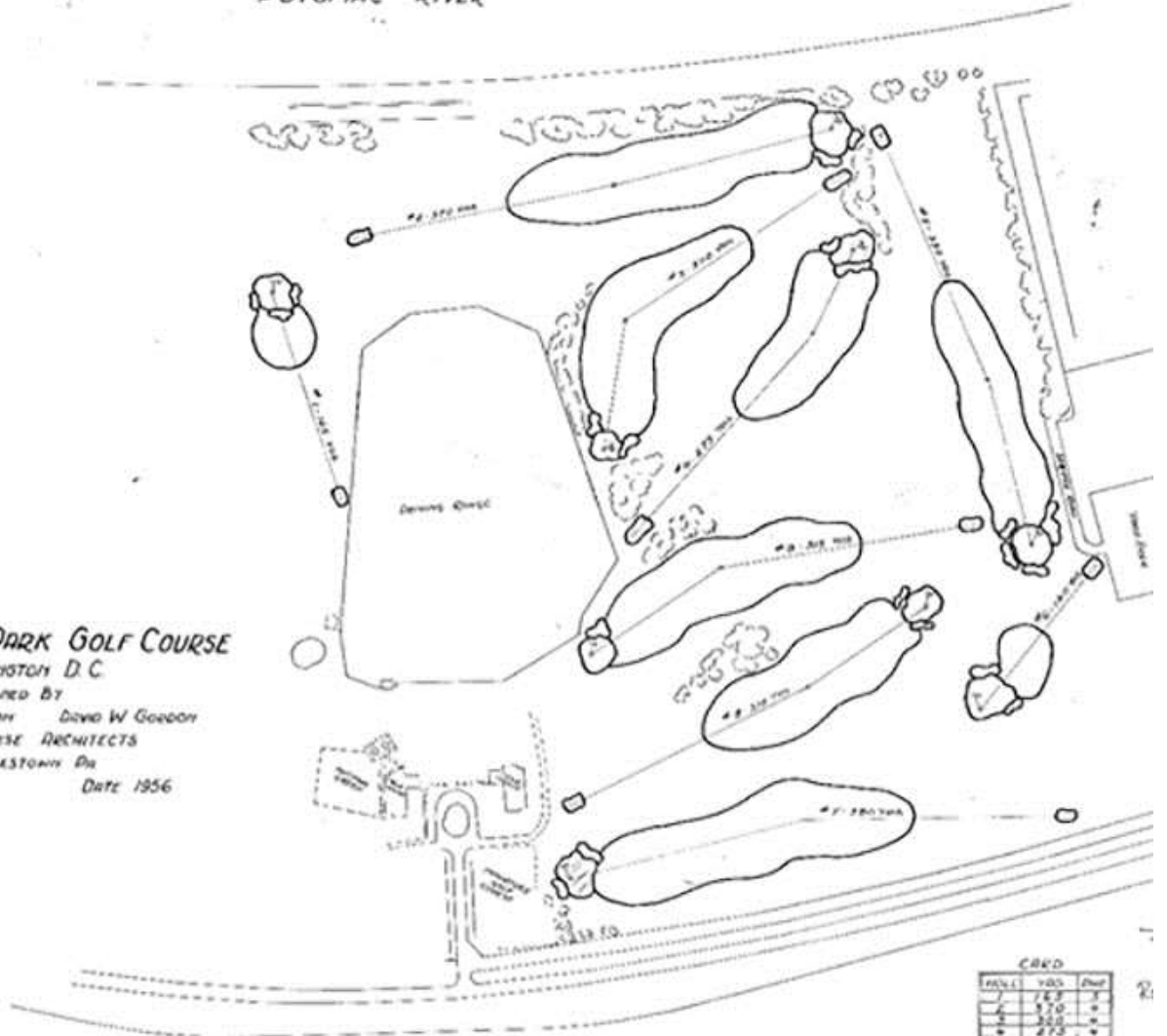
Original 1924 Plan of William Flynn's White Course. (Flynn 1924)

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William Flynn's 1944 redesign of the White Course. (Flynn 1944)

DOTOMAC RIVER



EAST DOTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE

WASHINGTON D. C.

DESIGNED BY

WILLIAM F. GORDON DAVID W. GORDON

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

DOTLESTOWN PA

SCALE 1" = 100'

DATE 1956

CARD

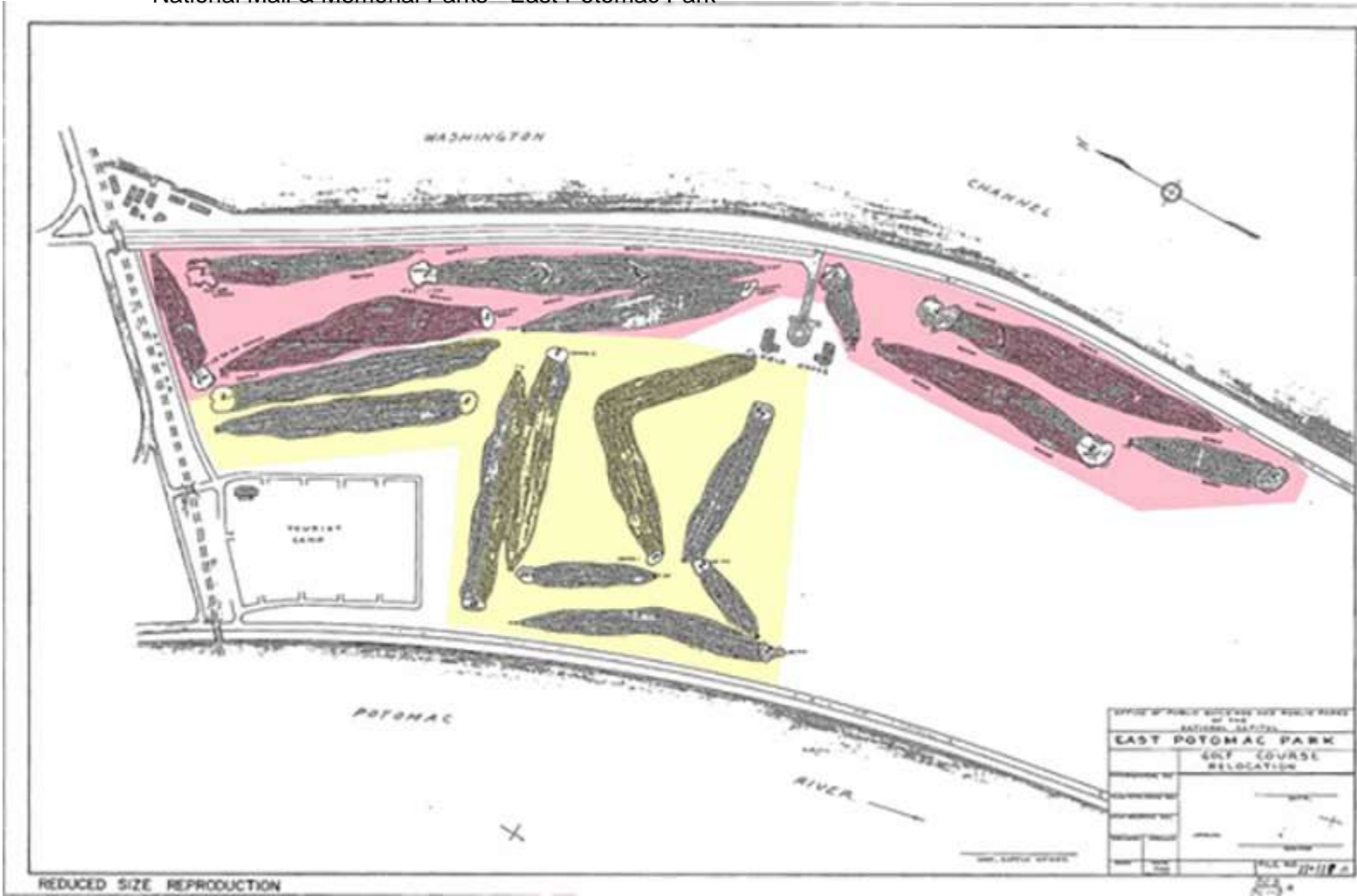
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13	310	•
14	310	•
15	310	•
16	310	•
17	310	•
18	310	•

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William F. Gordon's 1956 redesign of the White Course. (Gordon and Gordon 1956)

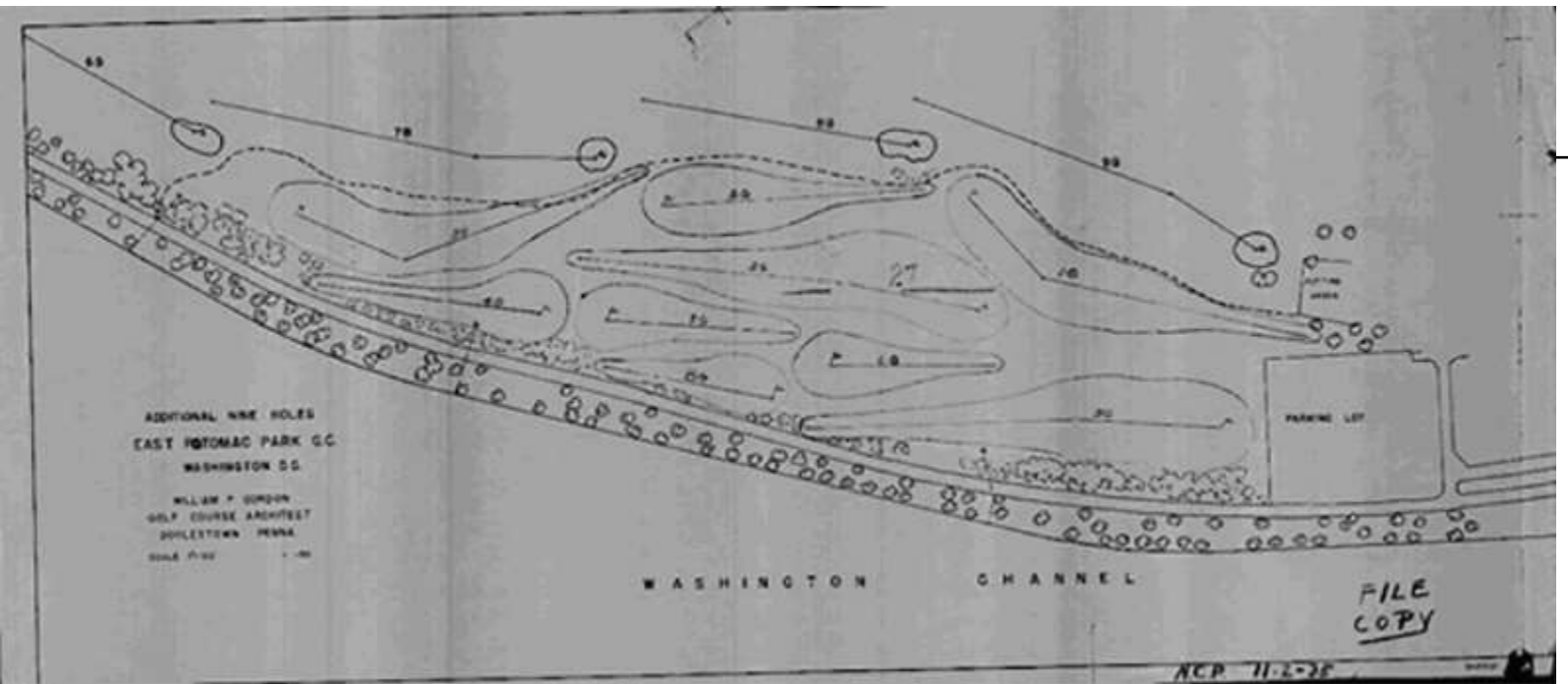
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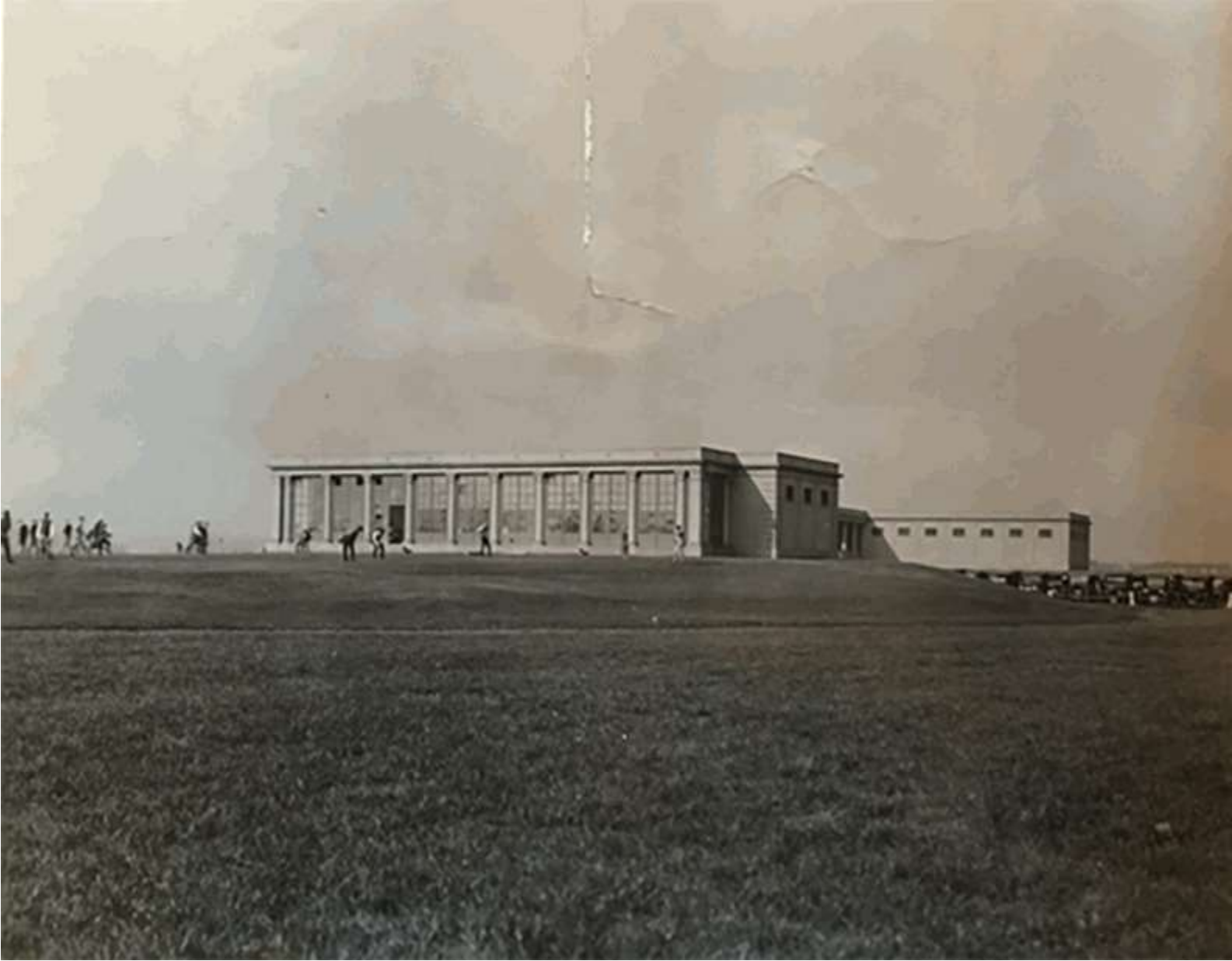


Undated plan of East Potomac, showing probable original location of Red Course and rerouted White Course (highlighted in yellow). (Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital n.d.)

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1950 Gordon plan of redesigned Red Course. (Gordon 1950)



Early photograph of fieldhouse. ("Textural Records," 1920)

Vegetation

Historic Condition

The earliest vegetation at East Potomac was the tall salt-water grasses and willow trees that took root in muddy Potomac Flats, in the late 19th Century. By the time plans for a golf course were under consideration, in 1911, naturally occurring vegetation covered much of the site. Historic photos show much of the peninsula covered with thick brush and young trees, especially around the perimeter. In 1911, the Japanese government gave 3,000 cherry trees to the United States as a gesture of friendship. A number of them were planted in East Potomac

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Park, north of the current fieldhouse, in an area that was also the site of experimental planting by the USDA. Boy Scouts used an area south of the current fieldhouse, along the Washington Channel, for gardening.

The majority of the existing vegetation was removed in 1917, to make way for planned recreational use of the park. By the time construction of the course began in 1917, only a small number of trees and brush remained on site. There was no turf. During construction of the course, in 1918, Walter Harban, an influential figure in Washington golf (who had recommended Walter Travis for the job at East Potomac), along with USDA scientists, began experimenting with new turf strains and propagation techniques on several of the course's greens.

During World War I, Harban recognized that the blockade of German shipping would result in a shortage of European bent grass seeds, believed to be the only practical grasses for putting greens in the northern United States. Working with USDA agrostologists Charles Vancouver Piper and Dr. Russell A. Oakley, Harban suggested that the scientists test if strains of creeping bent grass could be planted by stolonizing, a form of vegetative propagation that is commonly used in place of seeding for grass varieties that produce poor quality seed or insufficient amounts of seed. The USDA scientists soon found that it was a much easier process than anticipated (Labbance 2000: 181).

By 1918, a sufficient amount of turf had been developed to plant five of the new greens at East Potomac Park, the first putting greens to be planted with this method (Oakley 1923: 119). While the greens at East Potomac Park provided additional evidence on the feasibility and advantages of the stolon method, the greens ultimately failed after improper maintenance. One of the problems was brown patch, a turfgrass disease caused by fungus. Dr. Oakley reported in 1923 that Hole 9A, "The first green planted, promises to stage a comeback that will surprise some who thought is successfully dead and buried" (Oakley 1923: 119). Harban, Oakley and Piper continued their experiments at the Columbia Country Club, where different methods of planting and upkeep resulted in success. By 1920, the stolon method for propagating bent grass was generally accepted throughout the golfing community.

Letters between Piper, Oakley, and Superintendent Gillen indicate that both Piper and Oakley also provided advice to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds on the seeding of the East Potomac Park course's fairways and that both men showed much interest in the construction of the course (Gillen 1918b). Ultimately, the fairways at East Potomac were planted a mixture of blue grass, red top and clover (United States Congress, House, 66th Congress, 3rd Session 1920: 4123).

Walter Travis' design for the first eighteen holes at East Potomac was a links style course. This type of golf course is inspired by the original seaside courses in Britain, where swales, sand dunes and exposure to wind, rain and light define open, treeless landscapes. No vegetation appears on any early drawings or plans for the course. Many early golf course architects believed trees to be inappropriate within a golf landscape. Wide open vistas of grass and views

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toward the water, were the desired effect at East Potomac. Still, aerial photography suggests some existing trees were ultimately incorporated into the final course. Most notably, a line of trees visually separated the front and back nine and a number of trees were retained along the course's perimeter.

This may have been a reflection of changing tastes within the American golf community. As the popularity of the game grew, and golf moved inland from the coasts, a new style of course, carved out of woodland emerged. The essential features of these courses still aped Scottish links with their undulating fairways, diversity of grasses and bunkers and sand traps mimicking dunes. But "parkland" courses, as they were called, introduced "park-like" elements, to the game, elements such as mature trees and designed water features. Playing these forested courses felt like walk through the woods, and their proliferation in the 1920s and 1930s affected expectations of how a course should look and feel (Helphand 1995: 76). The popularity of televised golf in the 1950s and 1960s intensified the demand for lush, tree-lined fairways. Images of Augusta National—the ur-parkland style course, shown in full bloom every April during the yearly Masters tournament—resulted in the planting of thousands of trees and flowering shrubs, on courses throughout the country including on links-style courses such as East Potomac, where they were never intended.

The discussion of adding trees to the landscape at East Potomac seems to have begun even before Travis' course was complete. In 1921, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approved a planting plan for East Potomac that called for the planting of a "pleasing variety of evergreen species varying in height, habit, texture, and color, in order to secure the most harmonious planting composition possible." The planting plan was mainly characterized by the use of American Holly, Austrian Pine, White Pine, and Douglas Spruce and in lesser amounts by the use of Canadian Hemlock, Western Hemlock, and Red Cedar (Commission of Fine Arts 1921).

It is unclear what, if any, immediate effect this planting plan had at East Potomac. Through the 1920s, it seems that Travis' overall philosophy of design was respected throughout the landscape. William Flynn, the architect of the 1925 E-F Course, was known for his tree-filled parkland-style courses, but at East Potomac, in deference to Travis, he designed wide treeless fairways and existing plans from that period do not include directions for any plantings. Flynn did, however, incorporate a grove of existing cherry trees, part of the initial gift of Japanese cherry trees planted throughout Washington in 1911. Like Travis, he also incorporated a number of existing trees along the White Course's western perimeter.

Plantings around the fieldhouse were originally limited to a double row of trees south of the entrance drive, another row of trees located north of the drive rows of trees in the courtyard, between the fieldhouse wings.

A 1925 planting plan proposed installing hundreds of trees between Travis' fairways, but aerial photography from 1927 and 1941 suggests the plan was never implemented. A comparison of these two aerial images shows the number of trees around the site's perimeter grew between

East Potomac Golf Course

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1927 and 1941. It is unclear whether these trees were purposefully planted or if the growth was naturally occurring. Another notable change between 1927 and 1941 is a number of trees that were planted throughout the Blue Course. In 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted 36 cedar trees on the Travis course. The trees were planted in pairs, in the rough, 200 yards from the tee, to mark the distance of a well-hit shot. Additional plantings were installed south of the fieldhouse, around the practice putting green.

Over the next decade, changing tastes had had an even greater effect on the course. Aerial images from 1950 show lines of trees planted between most of Travis' fairways, though the E-F and G Courses remain sparsely planted (United States Geological Survey 1951). Subsequent plantings in the 1960s and 1970s included the addition of flowering cherry and crabapple trees, as borders around the back of greens on all three courses.

The late 1960s and 1970s marked a period of decline for East Potomac Park Golf Course. A 1975 Washington Post article reported that the use of the golf course at East Potomac Park had declined by 12 percent since 1967. The driving range was down 37 percent, and miniature golf was also down by 37 percent. The National Park Service began to question if the land occupied by the golf courses might be better used for other recreational purposes. In 1977, the National Park Service completed a marketing and economic overview of all NPS owned golf courses in DC. The study noted that both the Potomac Park and Rock Creek were in "less than acceptable condition for player use and overall appearance because of poor maintenance." An inadequate number of sand traps existed on the courses and existing traps were in poor condition, were more patches than bunkers, and were not well-designed. Tees were often just bare ground. Improper use of herbicides, seeds, and fertilizers as well as poor turf maintenance programs allowed major infestation of foreign grasses and weeds on the fairways and greens. The report specifically noted that at East Potomac Park, "Approximately a half-acre area in the center of the [course] has been used as a dumping ground for cut grasses, tree limbs, and assorted junk. In addition, it is badly overgrown with weeds and is unsightly, distracting from the overall appearance of the area (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977). Lack of grading and fill, maintenance, and repair over the years caused swales and potholes to form on the golf courses, which in turn created drainage problems in several areas (National Capital Region, National Park Service 1977). Most of the needed improvements needed little or no capital investment, but rather just proper maintenance from a "competent operator."

Existing Condition

After 60 years under the S.G. Leoffler Co., the East Potomac Park came under new management in 1983 when Golf Course Specialists bought out S.G. Leoffler's interest in the golf course. GCS continues to manage the park and current turf maintenance practices include the seasonal planting of Bermuda, rye, fine fescue, poa annua and blue grasses throughout all fairways, and spot seeding greens with bentgrass every spring and fall.

Throughout the course, many trees, incorporated as part of the Travis and Flynn's original designs, still survive, especially along the perimeter of the Blue Course and on the White

East Potomac Golf Course

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Course. A full list of trees has been captured as part of GIS mapping of the course's vegetation, but dominant species include pines, willows, elms, oaks and flowering fruit trees, mainly cherry. A number of large wolf trees, many of which date to the period of significance are located throughout the Blue Course. Notable examples include large willow oaks along the Blue Course's western perimeter. Other trees dating to the period of significance include a row of willows along the eastern edge of the White Course, a large American Elm near the entrance to the fieldhouse and flowering cherry trees located throughout all three courses, but particularly the group on the White Course, between the fourth and ninth fairways. There are believed to be among the original group of cherries gifted by Japan to Washington, DC and planted in 1911. .

Despite the survival of a number of historic trees throughout East Potomac, the piecemeal nature of planting that occurred after the period of significance has had an effect on the landscape. The result is a variety of mature trees and shrubs scattered throughout the landscape without no overall harmony of species or design. Some areas in between holes and along the course's perimeter have grown unchecked, and are currently used to disguise equipment and storage spaced or maintained as wildlife areas.

Plantings around the fieldhouse mostly date to the GCS management of the site and include flowering wax and crepe myrtle, holly trees and some Japanese maples planted around the driving range and near the GCS office trailer. Islands in the parking lot are planted with a combination of wax myrtles and white oak. A number of oaks are located throughout the miniature golf course. None of these are believed to be historic. The only tree in the area that dates to the period of significance is the large American elm located southeast of the fieldhouse.

Analysis

Character-defining vegetation at East Potomac includes: a wide open, treeless landscape, with borders of trees around the perimeter of the courses; a variety of turf grass maintained as fairways, rough and greens; a group of historic cherry trees on the White Course; a row of trees separating the front nine and back nine on the Blue Course, near Hains Point; and a row of trees surrounding the perimeter of the entire East Potomac landscape, separating the course from surrounding Ohio Drive.

The open landscape envisioned by Walter Travis during the period of significance has been affected by successive planting of trees throughout East Potomac. Maturation of vegetation and additional planting since the period of significance, has resulted in the loss of view sheds and changed the feeling of playing the course, designed in the relatively treeless links style. These developments are reversible and the course retains a sense of openness, especially in the holes located in the center of peninsula, and on much of the White Course, north of the fieldhouse. Replacement of turf grass since the period of significance reflects regular golf course maintenance practices and advancements in turf technology. Current varieties that match those used during the period of significance include bent grass, bluegrass, and fine

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fescue, and are considered contributing landscape features. Varieties introduced since the period of significance such as bermuda, tall fescue, rye, and poa annua are considered non-contributing, but compatible. As such, integrity to the original landscape design remains partially intact and is considered contributing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Turf grass throughout course, including bent grass bluegrass and fine fescue, maintained as greens, fairways, tee boxes and rough

Feature Identification Number: 180950

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Open links-style landscape, with few trees between fairways or lining greens

Feature Identification Number: 180952

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Historic cherry trees on White Course

Feature Identification Number: 180954

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-77.0295900000 38.8754650000

Feature: Historic trees bordering site boundaries along Ohio Drive

Feature Identification Number: 180956

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Turf grass throughout course, including Bermuda, Rye, and poa annua, maintained as greens, fairways, tee boxes, and rough

Feature Identification Number: 180958

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

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Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Non-deciduous trees along fairways on all three courses

Feature Identification Number: 180960

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Pairs of cedars along Blue Course fairways

Feature Identification Number: 180962

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Flowering trees planted behind greens throughout all three courses

Feature Identification Number: 180964

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Flowering trees planted around fieldhouse wings and driving range

Feature Identification Number: 180966

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

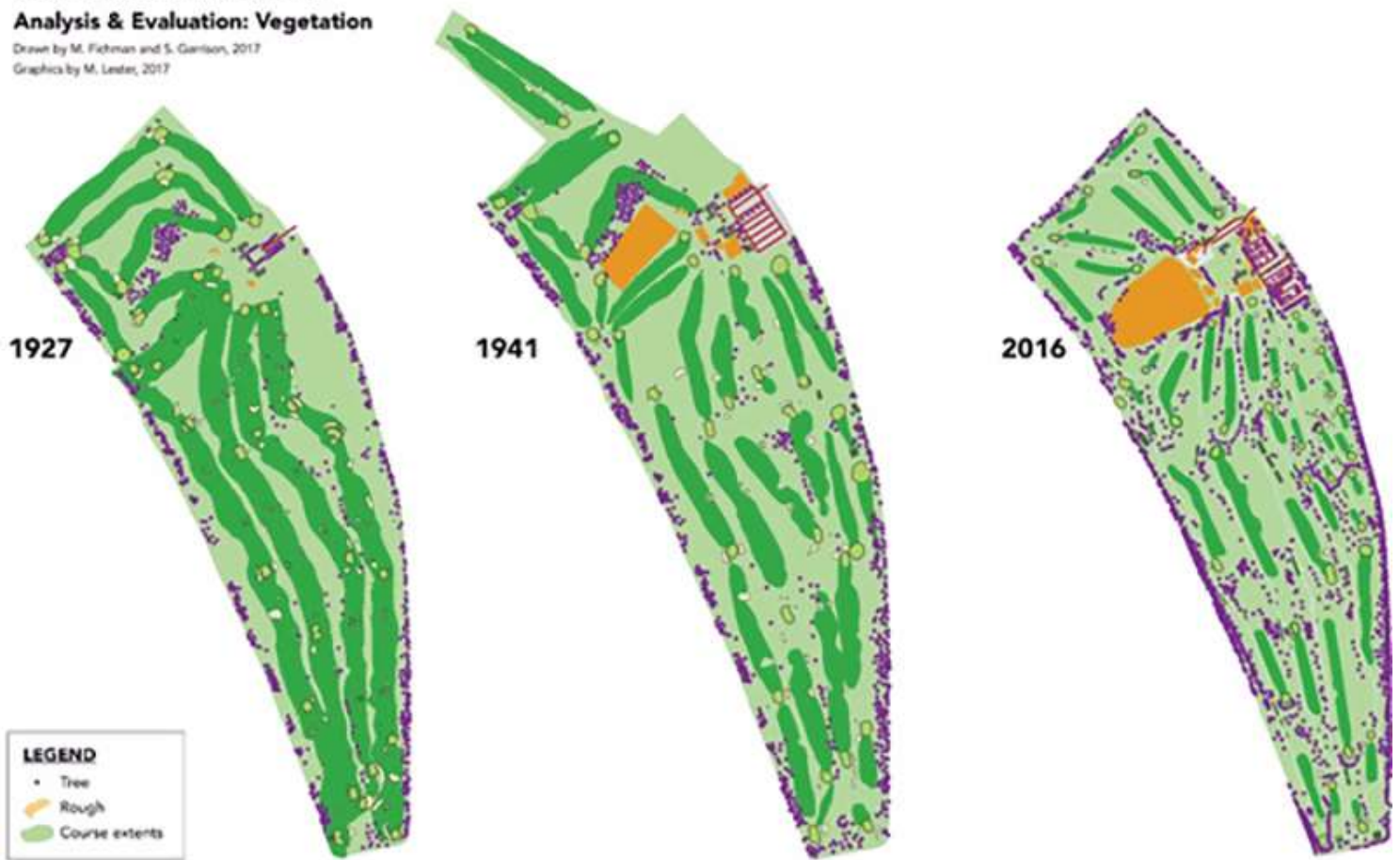
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Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Analysis & Evaluation: Vegetation

Drawn by M. Fichman and S. Garrison, 2017
Graphics by M. Lester, 2017



Vegetation, Historic (left and center) and Existing (right). A larger version of this graphic is located in Appendix A. (Graphic by Lester 2017, from base imagery: [top] United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1927 and 1957; United States Geological

Views and Vistas

Historic Condition

The earliest plans for a golf course in East Potomac Park recognized the course's potential for sweeping vistas of Washington, DC, building on the views that were already available from the park (Harris and Ewing 1917). The 1914 design that was drawn by George Burnap and developed by Colonel William W. Harts, Officer in Charge of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, envisioned a parkland-style course with vegetation that would frame views not only along the fairways, but also toward the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial (Burnap 1914).

Although Walter J. Travis' official 1917 plans for the 18-hole course ultimately adopted a

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links-style design, with less vegetation than a traditional parkland-style course, his plans nevertheless reinforced the landscape's outward views as a design feature. Beginning with the construction of the A-B Course in 1917, East Potomac Park Golf Course capitalized on its geography, topography, and vegetation to offer general views and vistas to the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the United States Capitol Building, and other landmarks of the Federal City. (Due to its height, the Washington Monument was most readily visible throughout the course.) The course was constructed on the south side of the peninsula, along the Washington Channel, where the fairways were cleared "of a wilderness of willow trees [and] spontaneous growth over an area of 67 acres," allowing for views beyond the Washington Channel and the Potomac River to the monuments of downtown Washington, DC and Arlington, Virginia. (TWES, May 20, 1918: 21).

Between 1921 and 1923, the back nine was constructed on the southern end of the peninsula, parallel to the front nine and placed along the Potomac River. These holes, known as the C-D Course, were also designed by Travis, and their links-style design was characterized by Travis' typical, generally-treeless landscape, which allowed for broad views to the waterways, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, United States Capitol, National War College, and other landmarks, much like the vistas that the original A-B Course enjoyed. Within the course, views to the two fieldhouse wings remained generally clear, serving as a visual anchor to orient golfers as they progressed through the courses. The few trees that were retained from the pre-existing landscape were used to separate the fairways and frame the views from tee box to green of each hole (Commission of Fine Arts 1921). Travis' courses were also known for their abundance of hazards, in the form of humps and hollows. However, such obstructions were not substantial enough to interrupt the views within or beyond East Potomac Park Golf Course's original eighteen holes.

William S. Flynn's design for an additional 9-hole course was influenced by the landscape and vistas of Travis' original courses. This course, known as the E-F Course, was designed and constructed between 1924 and 1925. It was placed near the fieldhouse and retained a pre-existing stand of trees near the southern end of the course. This grove was one of the few obstructions on the E-F Course, as the design introduced no additional plantings that would have blocked any general views toward the fieldhouse, river, or monuments from the E-F Course (TWES, December 31, 1931: B3; Pliska 2008). By the time hazards for the E-F Course were completed in 1928, the Washington Post described the unparalleled views from the overall course as follows:

It is doubtful if there is any golf course anywhere that surpass in the beauty of its surroundings [as] the golf course in East Potomac Park. It is within a mile and a half to the White House and the Capitol and much nearer to the Lincoln Memorial and the [Washington] Monument, all of them within plain sight from every tee and every green. The hills of Arlington, with the Lee Mansion, the Memorial Amphitheater and the wireless towers, loom up across the Potomac, and the river itself may be followed by the eye of a waiting golfer for many miles southward. (TWP, July 1, 1928: SM3)

East Potomac Golf Course

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Although modifications were made to the courses later in the 1930s—including the addition of a 9-hole “G” course and a swimming pool, and the redesign of portions of the other courses—the alterations did not disturb the general views within the course to the fieldhouse and beyond the course to the major monuments in the area. The concessionaire, Severine Leoffler, did introduce new plantings between 1939 and 1940 with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps. These new trees were planted in pairs in the roughs at a distance of 200 yards from each tee; thus, they served as yardage markers when viewed from the tee boxes (TWES, February 4, 1939: A15). These new plantings marked the only alterations to the course’s vistas in the years before the course’s temporary closure during World War II, and they primarily affected the views along the fairways, rather than the vistas from the course to the fieldhouse and surrounding landmarks. This characterized the views and vistas from East Potomac Park Golf Course by the end of the period of significance (1917-1941).

In the postwar decades, the views and vistas from East Potomac Park Golf Course remained relatively constant, although the maturation of trees within and around the course did begin to obstruct views to some of the smaller landmarks. At some point in the late 1960s or early 1970s, Leoffler implemented renovations to the course that included the planting of trees around the greens of a limited holes (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964, 1979). This had the effect of hemming in the views from those holes, limiting the vistas along the fairways toward the greens and obstructing the views from the greens to any monuments. The cultural landscape’s views and vistas remained otherwise intact through the end of the 20th century, even as alteration campaigns undertaken by Leoffler and later by GCS affected the design of several holes.

Existing Condition

The course still enjoys general views to the Washington Monument (most prominently, given its height), Jefferson Memorial, United States Capitol, National Defense University, Washington Channel, and Potomac River. In some areas of the cultural landscape, the maturation of trees throughout and outside the course have partially or fully obstructed these views. However, each of these landmarks remains visible from multiple viewpoints within the cultural landscape, and views and vistas toward these monuments remain character-defining features of the cultural landscape.

Within the course, the fieldhouse and its second wing (now the U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation) are also generally visible throughout the cultural landscape, and in particular from the front nine of the Blue Course. These views provide visual anchors and orientation points as golfers move through each of the three courses. The non-contributing trees planted around a limited number of holes (discussed in more detail in the Vegetation Analysis & Evaluation section) disturb the views from the holes to the surrounding landscape. However, these obstructed views do not diminish the cultural landscape’s overall integrity of views and vistas.

Analysis

East Potomac Golf Course
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East Potomac Park Golf Course retains its integrity of views and vistas. The general views along the fairways and to the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, United States Capitol, National Defense University, Washington Channel, and Potomac River are limited in some areas by the growth of trees throughout the course. However, these general views remain intact as character-defining features of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: General views to Washington Monument

Feature Identification Number: 181042

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to Jefferson Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 181044

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to United States Capitol

Feature Identification Number: 181046

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to National Defense University

Feature Identification Number: 181048

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to Washington Channel

Feature Identification Number: 181050

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

East Potomac Golf Course
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Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to Potomac River

Feature Identification Number: 181052

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to east fieldhouse wing

Feature Identification Number: 181054

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to west fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation

Feature Identification Number: 181056

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

East Potomac Golf Course
National Mall & Memorial Parks - East Potomac Park



East Potomac Golf Course
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Extant views and vistas from the Blue Course front nine (top); Blue Course back nine (second from top); White Course (second from bottom); and Red Course (bottom). (Photographs by M. Lester 2016)

Small Scale Features

Historic Condition

The earliest plans for East Potomac Park included small-scale features such as benches in the overall site designs (Bobeczco and Robinson 1998: 69). Once the golf course and the miniature golf course were added to the park, small-scale features in place by the end of the period of significance (1917-1941) also included: light stands for the practice putting green (Practice Putting Green 1), the miniature golf course, and the driving range; a picket fence around the miniature golf course; a post-and-chain fence around the parking lot; a flag pole adjacent to the east fieldhouse wing; a bird house, located west of the fieldhouse; and two revolving bag racks located behind the flag pole, at the southwest corner of the east fieldhouse wing (TWES, March 12, 1923: 23; TWES, May 8, 1932: 9). Within the course, early photographs (taken before 1934) indicate that metal pipe fencing separated some holes, and benches, ball washers, and flags were present at the tee boxes, likely before the end of the period of significance (United States Army Air Service, Third Section, n.d. [c. 1934]).

When the driving range was relocated and reconstructed in 1934, concessionaire Severine G. Leoffler added flood lights to enable play at night (“The Business Background and Experience of Mr. S.G. Leoffler” c. 1949). That same year, plans indicate that a bird house was present west of the fieldhouse, next to Hole 18 of the A Course, but it is unclear when this feature was constructed (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1934). The 1934 plan also reinforces that fencing was present in various areas of the cultural landscape by the end of the period of significance, and primarily around the miniature golf course, parking lot, and fieldhouse wings.

A 1944 plan of the course once again shows the bird house in the same location west of the east fieldhouse wing (Flynn 1944). Other small-scale features on the course at this time included light standards around the fieldhouse wings, and a flagpole immediately west of the

East Potomac Golf Course

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east fieldhouse wing, adjacent to Practice Putting Green 1. Two years later, plans of the course indicate that the light stands around Practice Putting Green 1 were still in place. The practice putting green was also enclosed by new post-and-chain fencing. On June 7, 1946, National Capital Parks approved the construction of chain-link fencing around the perimeter of the driving range, and by 1949, the work was complete (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1949). One year later, in 1950, aerial photographs do not clearly indicate whether the birdhouse was still in place west of the east fieldhouse wing and driving range (Rowe 1950).

By 1964, some or all of the perimeter of the course was demarcated by a chain-link fence, and regulatory signage was in place on the course (Rowe 1950; National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1963). Other alterations in the late 20th century include the removal of the bird house and the addition of new fences and gates near the fieldhouse (as of 1979), timber edging around planting beds and some paths (by 1993), and a concrete water fountain near the northwest corner of the cultural landscape (National Capital Parks, National Park Service 1979; Dewberry and Davis 1993). The construction date for the water fountain in particular is undetermined: although it is consistent in style with typical NPS water fountains from the 1930s or 1960s, it does not appear to be in aerial photographs prior to the 1990s, and the first drawing to definitively confirm its presence is a 1993 existing conditions drawing (Dewberry and Davis 1993). It was likely added to the landscape when the F Course was replaced by a picnic area and subsequently reconstructed in the 1980s, but further research is necessary to confirm.

Existing Condition

The cultural landscape features several non-historic and non-contributing small-scale features that postdate the period of significance (1917-1941). Most of the current features at the holes—including the benches, ball washers, and tee markers—are owned by the course concessionaire and are not permanent. Additional non-contributing features include: water stations, timber steps and walls, NPS wayfinding and regulatory signage, benches, picnic tables, and trash cans. The concrete water fountain is extant near White Course Hole 2; although its construction date has not been confirmed, it is not clearly represented on drawings or aerial photographs until 1993. The post-and-chain fencing around Practice Putting Green 1 and various planting beds around the fieldhouse appears to be generally consistent with the historic fencing design for that area of the course, but it is likely a reconstructed feature. Although fencing has typically been a feature of the cultural landscape, the current fencing (including around the parking lot, driving range, fieldhouse planting beds, maintenance area, and miniature golf course) is non-historic and does not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

Analysis

None of the existing small-scale features at East Potomac Park Golf Course date to the period of significance. These features are all non-contributing; however, because they are both moveable and compatible with the use of the site, they do not diminish the integrity of the cultural landscape overall. East Potomac Park Golf Course does not retain integrity with respect to small-scale features.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Concrete water fountain by White Course Hole 2

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Feature Identification Number: 181004
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Perimeter chain-link fencing around cultural landscape
Feature Identification Number: 181006
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Parking lot and entrance driveway chain-link fencing
Feature Identification Number: 181008
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Parking lot light stands
Feature Identification Number: 181010
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Post-and-chain fencing around practice putting greens and fieldhouse planting beds
Feature Identification Number: 181012
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Driving range fencing and netting
Feature Identification Number: 181014
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

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Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Driving range light stands

Feature Identification Number: 181016

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Chain-link fencing around west fieldhouse wing/U.S. Park Police District 1 Substation

Feature Identification Number: 181018

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Chain-link fencing around miniature golf course

Feature Identification Number: 181020

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Miniature golf light stands

Feature Identification Number: 181022

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Chain-link fencing around maintenance area

Feature Identification Number: 181024

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

East Potomac Golf Course
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Feature: Segment of fence between Red Course Practice Hole 2 and Red Course Hole 9

Feature Identification Number: 181026

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Red Course fencing

Feature Identification Number: 181028

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Water stations throughout cultural landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181030

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Timber steps and walls throughout cultural landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181032

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: NPS wayfinding signage

Feature Identification Number: 181034

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: NPS regulatory signage

Feature Identification Number: 181036

East Potomac Golf Course
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Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Benches and picnic tables by fieldhouse

Feature Identification Number: 181038

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Trash cans throughout cultural landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181040

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

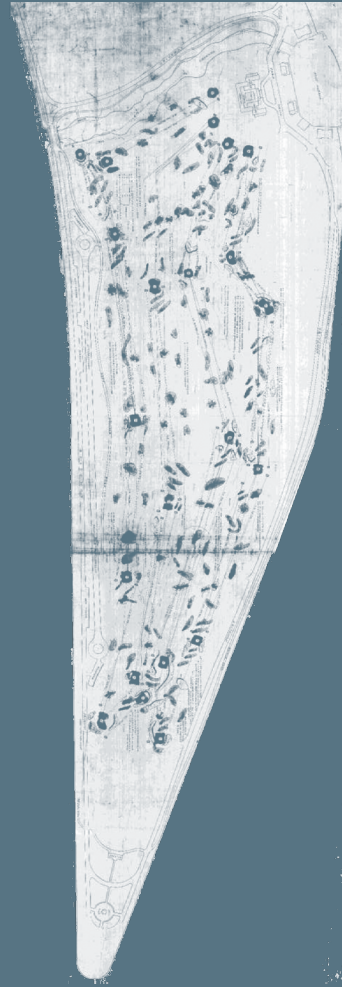
East Potomac Golf Course
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East Potomac Golf Course
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Existing, non-contributing small-scale features include timber steps and walls throughout the course (top); water stations and trash cans (bottom left); and regulatory and wayfinding signage (bottom right). (Photographs by M. Lester 2016)

Condition



Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

A Condition Assessment of Fair indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and buildings situated therein. Although no immediate corrective action is needed at this time to maintain its current condition, the following impacts should be addressed in order to improve the cultural landscape to good condition.

The following actions should be taken in order to improve the condition of the landscape to good:

- Conduct routine maintenance on contributing resources
- Implement plans that retain the historic character of the golf course
- Conduct routine monitoring of the cultural landscape
- Address social trails that have developed in the cultural landscape

Impacts

Type of Impact: Visitation

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The continuous use of East Potomac Golf Course throughout the year contributes to the deterioration of the landscape's vegetation—particularly the turf of the tee boxes, fairways, and greens.

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: The landscape exhibits wear and tear that can be partially attributed to weather damage and exposure.

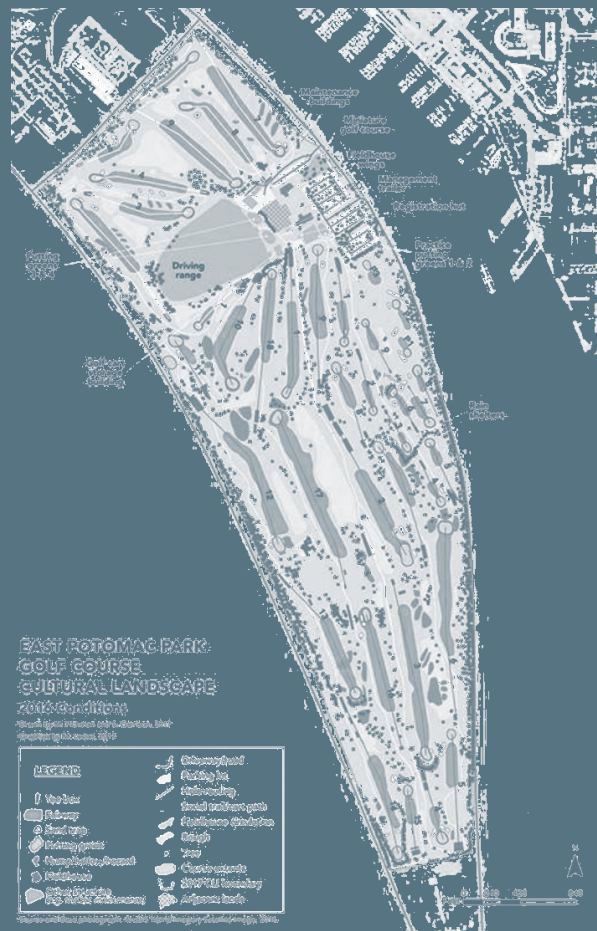
Type of Impact: Other

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Other Impact:	Climate Change
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Sea level rise and tidal flooding, exacerbated by climate change, will impact the shorelines of the peninsula and Hains Point
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	East Potomac Golf Course Club House (Field House): Concrete shows cracks, spalling, and/or crumbling due to a combination of factors; including corrosion of the reinforcement, freeze-thaw cycling, and physical stresses. Additionally, in some areas, where concrete was been repaired in the past; the poor patchwork becomes an issue itself.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Invasive Vegetation: Invasive weed populations, including <i>Morus alba</i> (white mulberry), (<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>) paper mulberry, various <i>Lonicera</i> shrubs (honeysuckle), <i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Japanese honeysuckle), <i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> (mile-a-minute), <i>Celastrus orbiculata</i> (Oriental Bittersweet) have built up on Hains Point over the past five to ten years and are the result of deferred maintenance. In particular, invasive vegetation is found along the fence line that surrounds the East Potomac Park Golf Course. Removal is necessary as invasive vines and trees are damaging the cherry trees. The cherry trees are both an important cultural resource for the park and a natural resource that are declining due to this situation.

Treatment

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Citation Publisher: Washington Printing Office, Washington, DC

East Potomac Golf Course
National Mall & Memorial Parks - East Potomac Park

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Citation Title: Satellite Photography of Washington, DC
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Citation Location: Google Earth, DigitalGlobe
- Citation Author:** Verbrugge, Martha
Citation Title: Exercising Civil Rights: Public Recreation and Racial Segregation in Washington, DC 1900-1949
Year of Publication: 2015
Citation Publisher: University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, AR
- Citation Author:** Walter J. Travis Society
Citation Title: Travis Course Projects: A Chronological Listing of Travis Projects
Citation Publisher: The Walter J. Travis Society, Rochester, NY; www.travissociety.com/directory-of-
- Citation Author:** War Department
Citation Title: Report of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1914, Part 1
Year of Publication: 1914
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East Potomac Golf Course
National Mall & Memorial Parks - East Potomac Park

Citation Author: West, Henry Litchfield
Citation Title: From Tee to Green
Year of Publication: 1923
Citation Publisher: The Washington Post, Washington, DC

Citation Author: Williams, Kim
Citation Title: Historic Preservation Review Board, Historic Landmark Case No. 15-15: 3020 Albemarle Street NW
Year of Publication: 2015
Citation Publisher: Historic Preservation Review Board, Washington, DC
Citation Number: Historic Landmark Case No. 15-15

Supplemental Information

Title: Appendix A- Mapping

Appendix A: Mapping Analysis

This appendix includes maps of East Potomac Park at various periods between 1917-2016. All source material for drawings is listed within the map. In some cases, not all features known to be present during the period were depicted or visible in existing plans or historic aerials. In such cases, the location of the feature was determined through textual references and might not be exact.

















EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Historic and Existing Progression of Play

Drawn by M. Fichman and S. Garrison, 2017
Graphics by M. Lester, 2017



EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Analysis & Evaluation: Circulation

Drawn by M. Fichman and S. Garrison, 2017
Graphics by M. Lester, 2017



EAST POTOMAC PARK GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Analysis & Evaluation: Vegetation

Drawn by M. Fichman and S. Garrison, 2017
Graphics by M. Lester, 2017



Appendix B: Buildings and Structures Detailed Golf Course Descriptive Analysis

Appendix B

This appendix includes hole by hole descriptions of all three courses at East Potomac Park, dating from their period of initial construction and the completion of fieldwork conducted as part of this CLI, in 2016-2017. Supplemental images and large scale maps and plans of each course are also included in the relevant sections.

Blue Course

Historic Condition

Walter J. Travis designed the first eighteen holes of the East Potomac Park Golf Course in 1917. The first nine holes were completed and opened to the public in 1920 and the remaining holes were completed by the summer of 1923. The front nine was built directly south of the field house (constructed in 1918-1920) on the Washington Channel side of the peninsula. They extended southeast out and back along the length of the Washington Channel. The back nine holes were designed to parallel the first nine, but were arranged along the Potomac River side of the peninsula.

East Potomac Park's exposed landscape and waterfront location lent itself to the links-style design Travis preferred. The wide open site also presented Travis with an opportunity to experiment with a reversible play course. This design feature was almost certainly inspired by the reversibility of the Old Course at St. Andrews, one of the game's oldest and most admired courses. Travis's course at East Potomac included a tenth hole, completed in 1919, to allow for alternate play and prevent wear on the course. (*Washington Post*, April 21, 1917:4). Reversible play required twice the number of hazards and specifically designed shared greens. Travis was known for his particular attention to the design of these features, and developed a set of principles that guided his approach to both hazard and green design. These included the belief that greens should be undulating, rather than flat and no two should resemble one another. When it came to hazards, Travis preferred small, deep pot bunkers. In his 1901 book *Practical Golf*, Travis said that bunkers "should be arranged so as to compel a player to drive both far and sure, and yet to give the weaker player a change to avoid being bunkered, provided he can play his ball wisely" (Travis 1901:187). This reflected Travis's own skills as a golfer, as he spent his entire career as a "notoriously short hitter" and "kept himself alive in countless matches by keeping himself in play and mastering a deadly putting stroke" (Cornish:54)

Historically, the course was referred to by letters, reflecting the direction of play on the front (A-B) and back nine (C-D). Today the course is simply known as the "Blue Course."

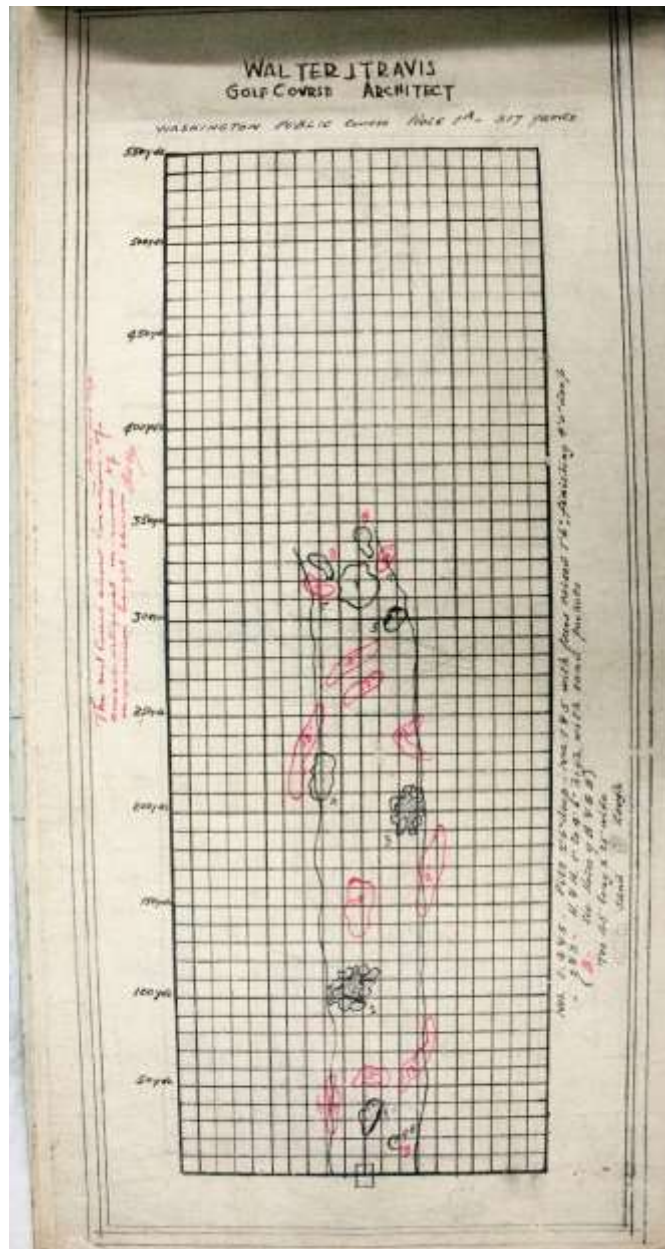
A hole by hole description of the original Walter Travis designed Blue Course is below. Individual holes are listed in both directions of play, with A/C direction described first, and the B/D direction following. For an understanding of the entire course layout refer to the 1917 plan of the course at the end of this section. Travis's drawings of individual holes are on file with the National Park Service, National Capital Region.

HISTORIC A/C COURSE

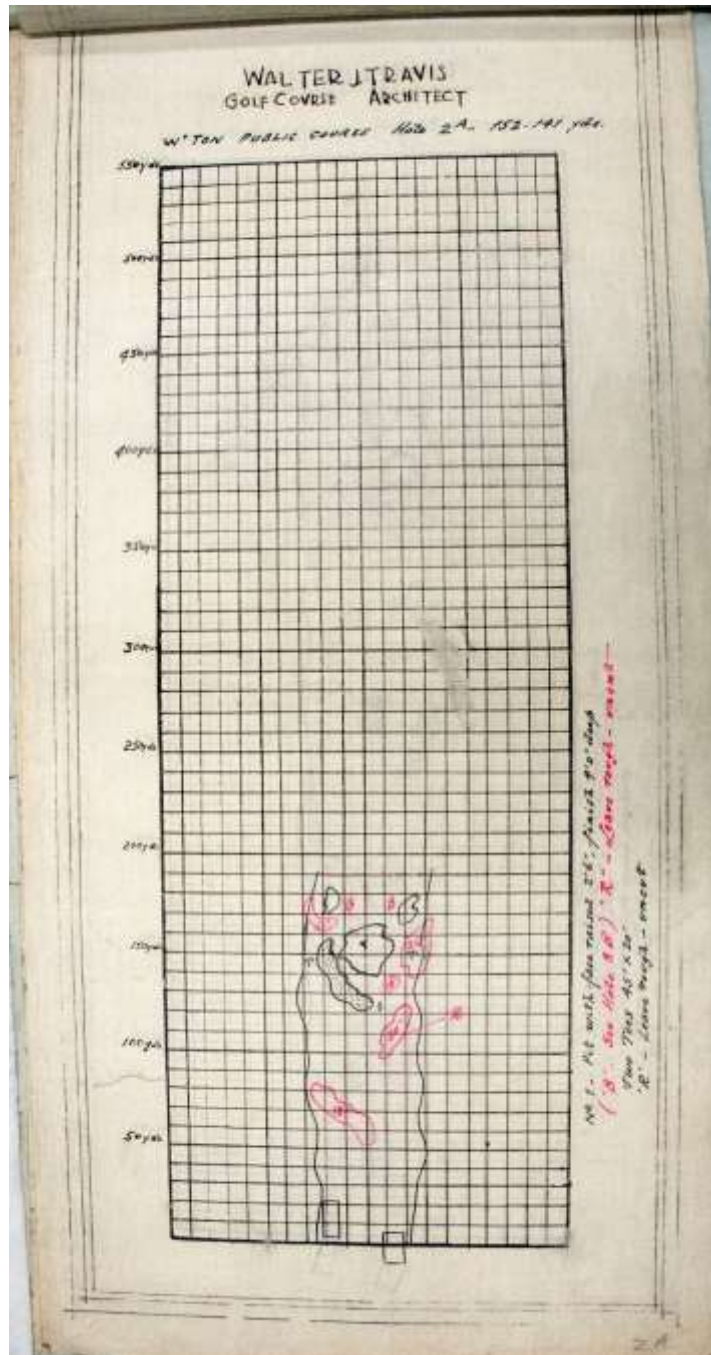
Note: For all images of Travis's drawings below, features depicted in red are smaller hazards, generally mounded bunkers with heights ranging between 9 and 42-inches. Images depicted in black are larger hazards, including sand traps of hump and hollows.

A Course – Front Nine, 1923

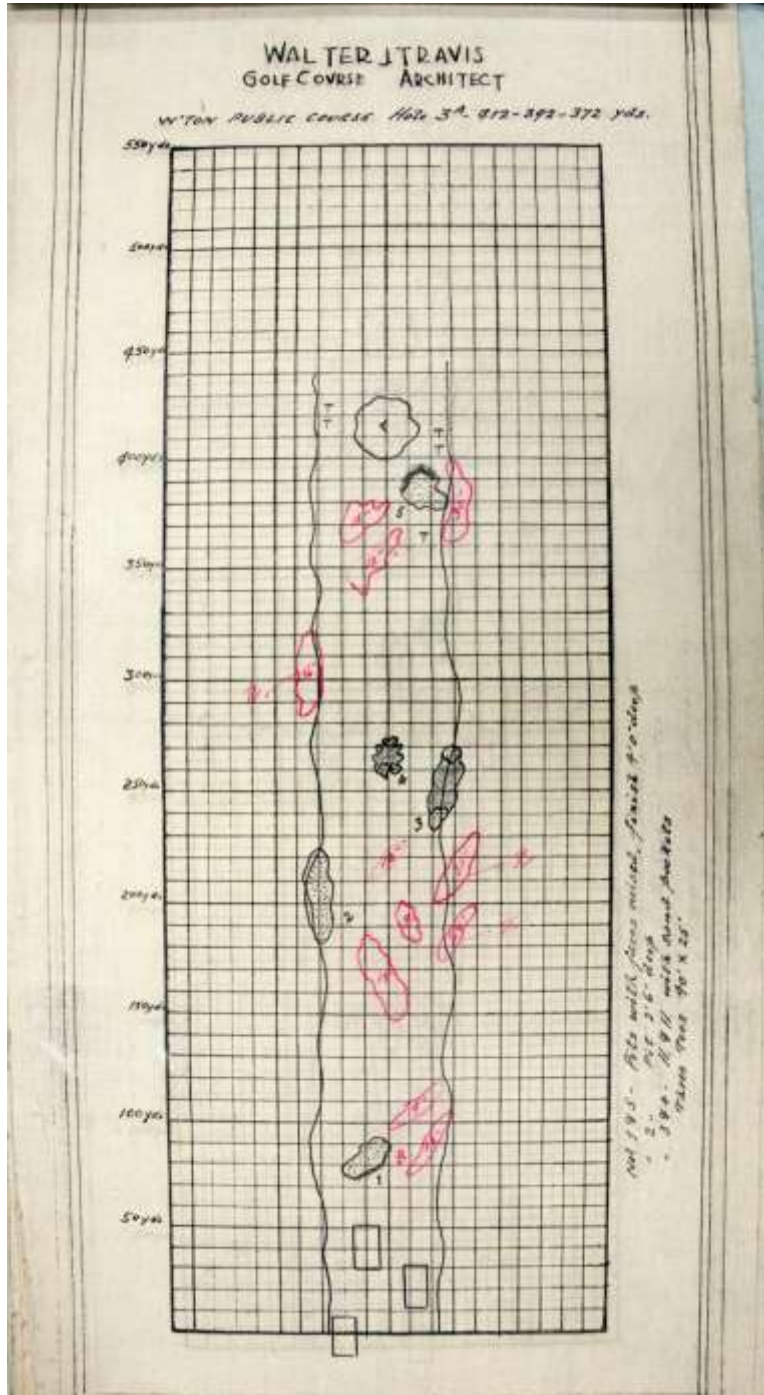
Hole 1A: 317 yards, par 4. Hole 1A played down a straight fairway, south from the fieldhouse, along the eastern edge of the peninsula, over a deep sand trap located fifteen yards in front of the tee. “Humps and hollow” hazards with sand pockets bordered the fairway to the east, at 100 yards, and west, at 200 yards. Additional hazards included eleven mounded bunkers throughout the length of the fairway and surrounding the green, and three sand traps, one located approximately 10 yards north of the green and two immediately southeast and southwest of the green. These hazards were designed for play as part of Hole 8B, but included as part of Travis’s drawing for Hole 1A as they would have affected play on this hole as well. The green was shared with Hole 8B.



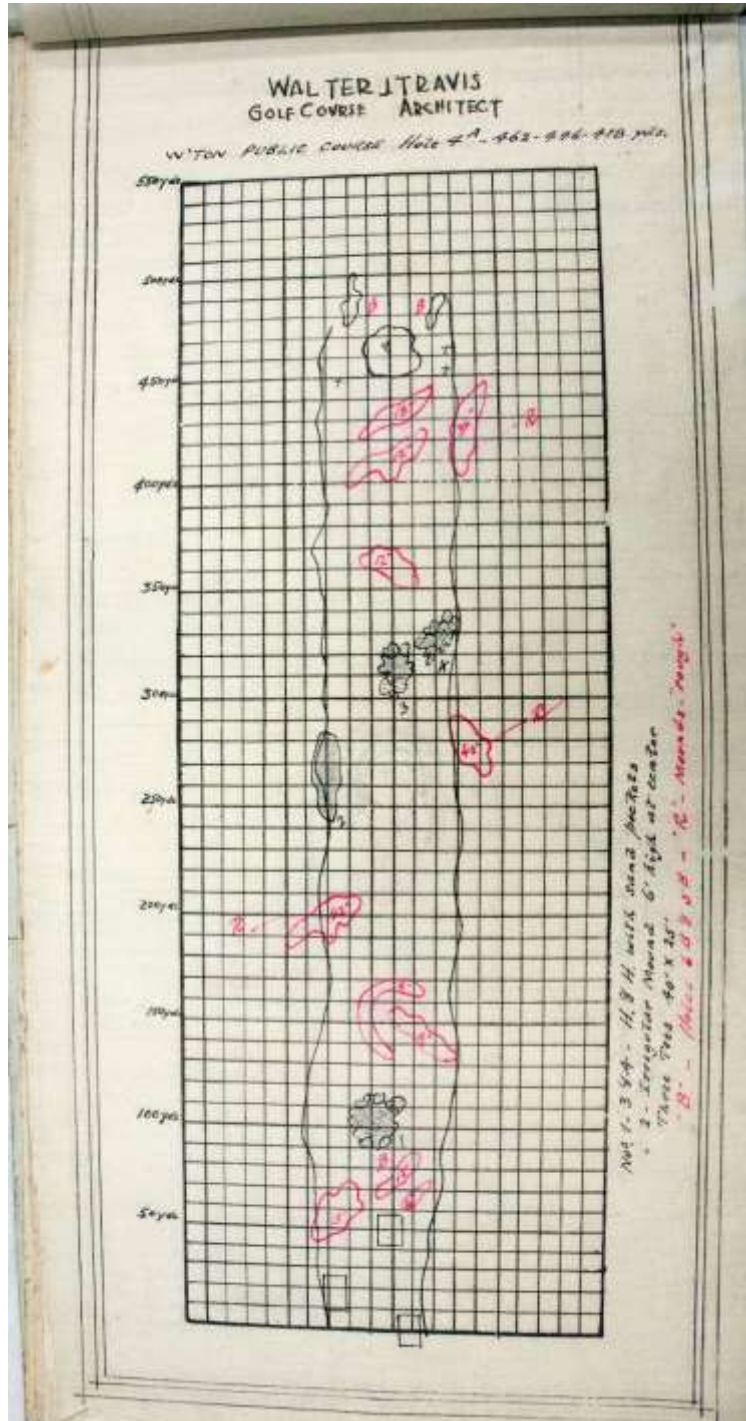
Hole 2A: 152 yards, par 3. A short hole that played straight, slightly southeast along the eastern edge of the peninsula. One eighteen inch high mounded bunkers along east side of fairway, between 50 and 80 yards off the tee. A second mounded bunkers covered in uncut rough and designed for play on Hole 8B, was located on the west side of the fairway at 110 yards. Two smaller mounded bunkers 18" and 26" high) covered the northwest side of the green. One large sand trap covered the northeast side of the green, beginning about twenty yards north of the green itself. The hole shared a green with Hole 7B. Sand traps designed for Hole 7B, located behind the green, might have also come into play.



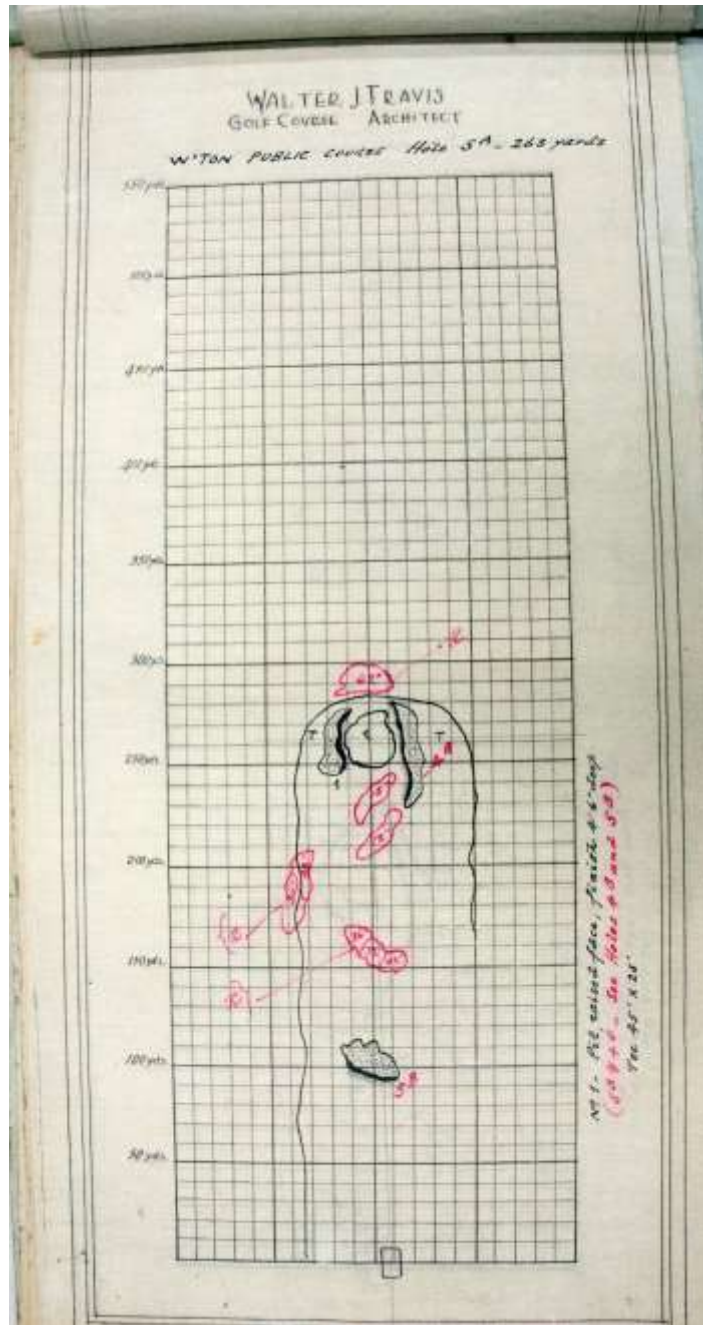
Hole 3A: 472 yards, par 5. A straight hole that played directly south. Three sand traps dotted the course, one in the center of the fairway at 75 yards, one off to the east at 200 yards and one slightly west of the approach to the green, at 375 yards. Two humps and hazards with sand pockets were located at 250 yards, one in the center and another slightly west on the fairway. Ten mounded bunkers of varying heights (9"-36" high), some of which were designed for play on Hole 7B, were located throughout the length of the fairway, primarily down the center and along the west side. Hole 3A shared a green with Hole 6B.



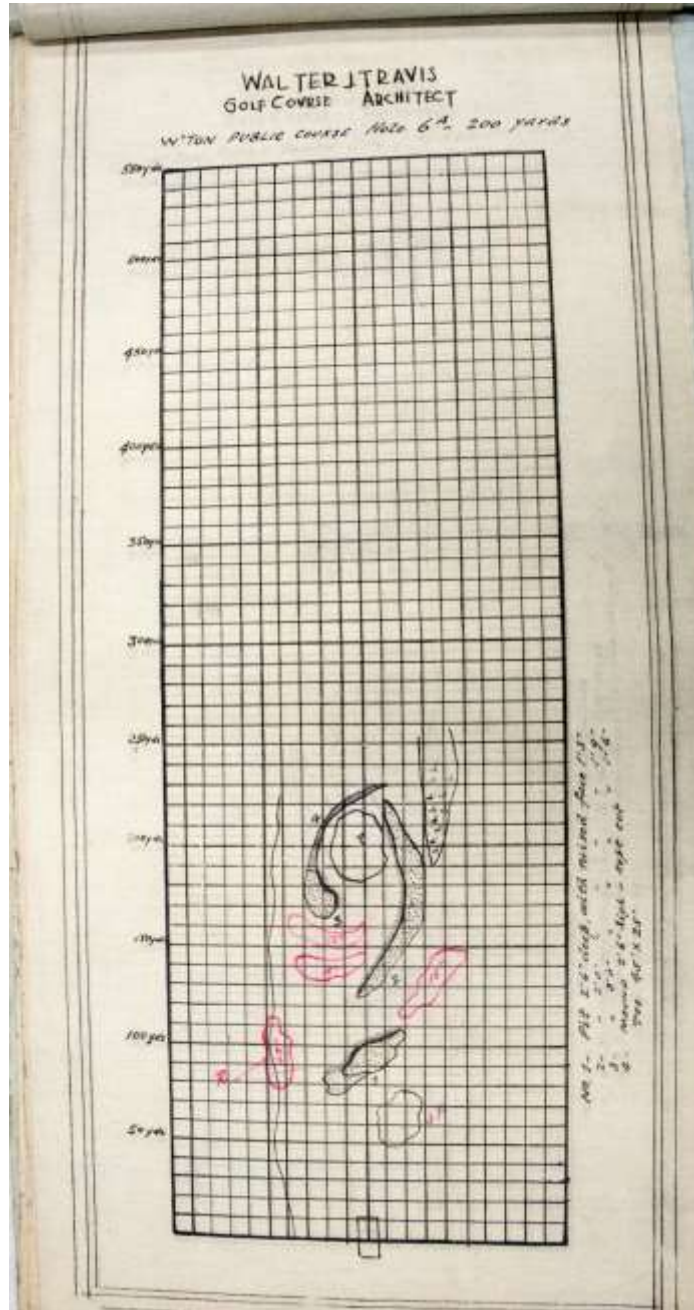
Hole 4A: 442 yards, par 4. Hole 4A played straight south over three humps and hazards with sand pockets, one in the center of the fairway, 100 yards off the tee, the other two located slightly west, at 300 and 325 yards. Eleven mounded bunkers of varying heights (9"-36"), some covered in rough, bordered the fairway on either side, with several located in the center. Hole 4A shared a green with Hole 5B. Two sand pits north of the green designed for reverse play on Hole 5B may have come into play.



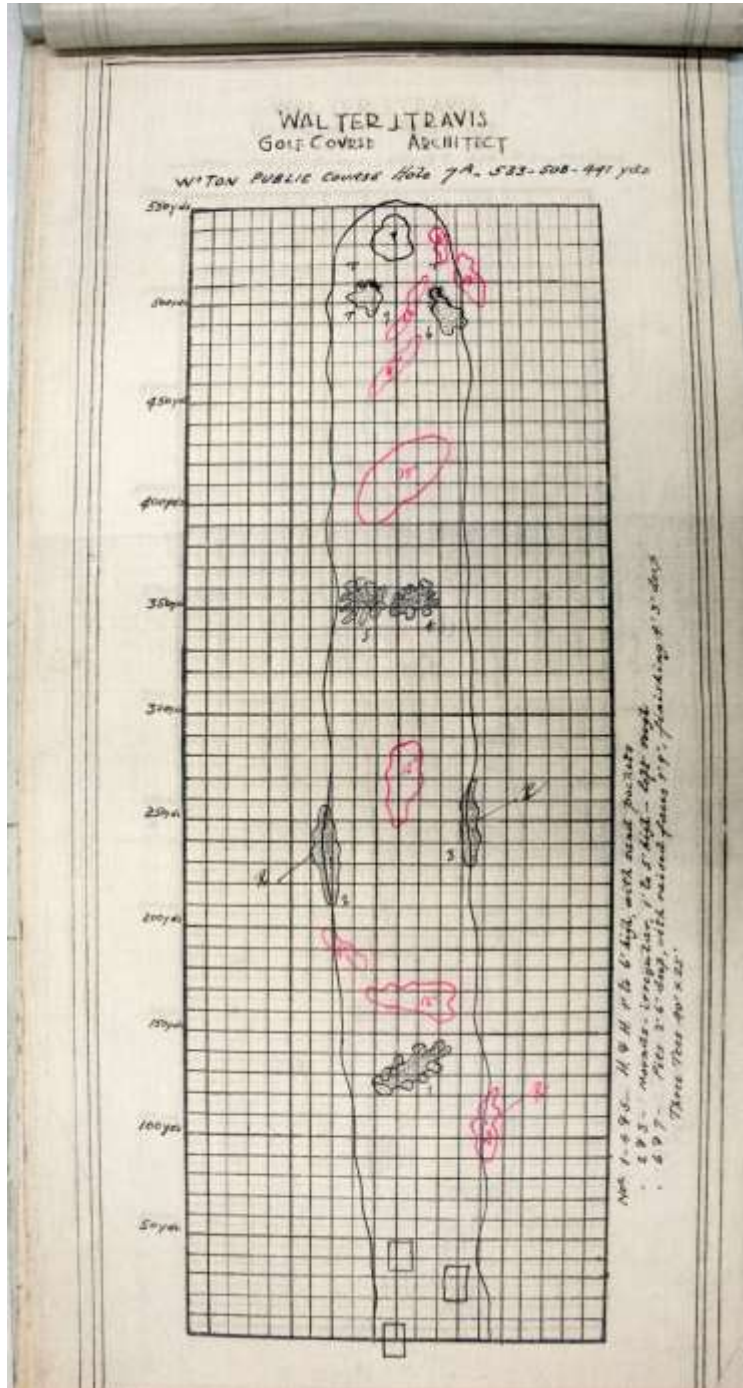
Hole 5A: 263 yards, par 4. Hole 5A played straight south toward the tip of Hains Point. Three sand traps were designed for the hole. One large trap covered much of the fairway 100 yard from the tee and was also designed for play on Hole 5B. Two additional traps were located along the eastern and western perimeters of the green. Two rough hump and hollow hazards were located in the center of the fairway at 150 yards and along the eastern edge of the hole between 170 and 200 yards. Three mounded bunkers surrounded the green to the north and south, with two 12" and 15" mounds located ten and twenty feet north, on the fairway approach, and a 42" bunker approximately fifteen feet behind, south of the green. The green was shared with Hole 4.



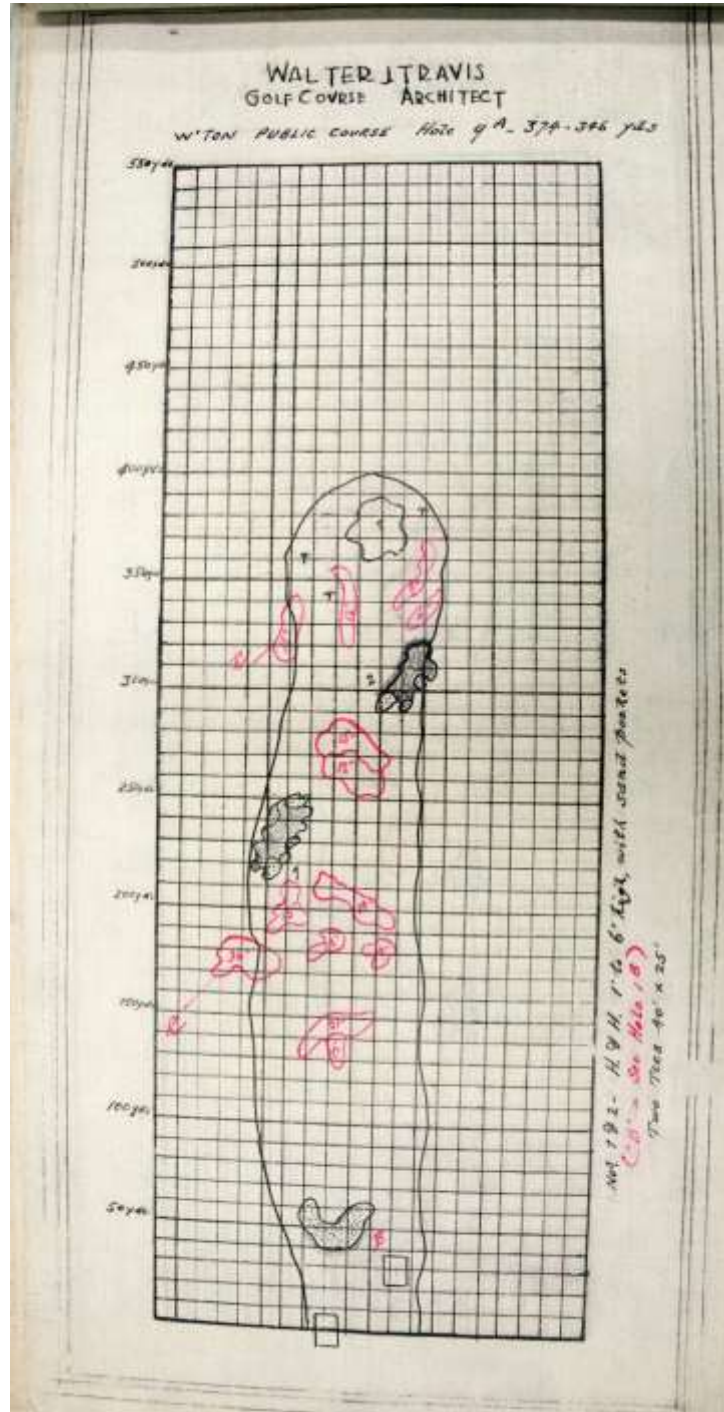
Hole 6A: 200 yards, par 3. Hole 6A played straight, northwest, down the center of the peninsula, back toward the field house and across a large sand trap covering the width of the fairway, 100 yards off the tee. Another large, crescent shaped sand trap covered the eastern half of the fairway from 125 yards off the tee to the eastern side of the green. A third trap, covered approximately twenty yards along the southwest side of the green. The result must have felt as if the hole was composed more of sand than of grass. Some small mounded bunkers were located in south of each trap, two to the southwest 130 and 150 yards off the tee and another to the south east, approximately 140 yards from the tee. A hump and hollow hazard designed for play on Hole 4B was located 60 yards off the tee. The green was shared with Hole 3B.



Hole 7A: 533 yards, par 5. Hole 7A played straight north over a multitude of hazards, laid out in a symmetrical arrangement throughout the fairway. Three six-foot high humps and hollows with sand pockets were located in the center of the fairway, one at 75 yards and two at 350 yards, two rough irregular mounds bordered the fairway on either side at 225 yards, and in front of the green two sand traps were located to the east and west at 500 yards. Five mounded bunkers were located in the center of the fairway. The green was shared with Hole 2B.

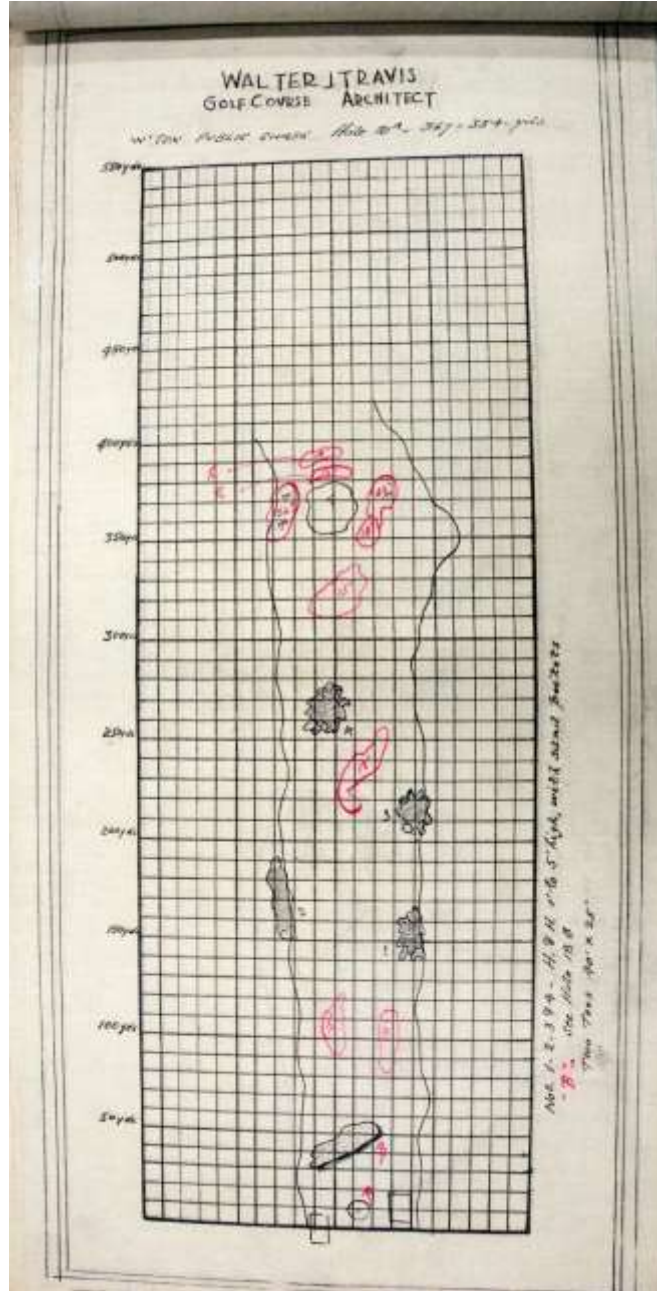


Hole 9A: 374 yards, par 4. A dogleg north and then slightly east, returning golfers to the front of the fieldhouse. A large sand trap covered the width of the fairway 50 yards in front of the tee. Two humps and hollows with sand pockets, were located at 225 yards off the tee, along the fairways western edge and 300 yards along the eastern edge..Twelve mounded bunkers of various shapes and sizes were placed throughout the fairway, mainly down the center. Green was not shared.

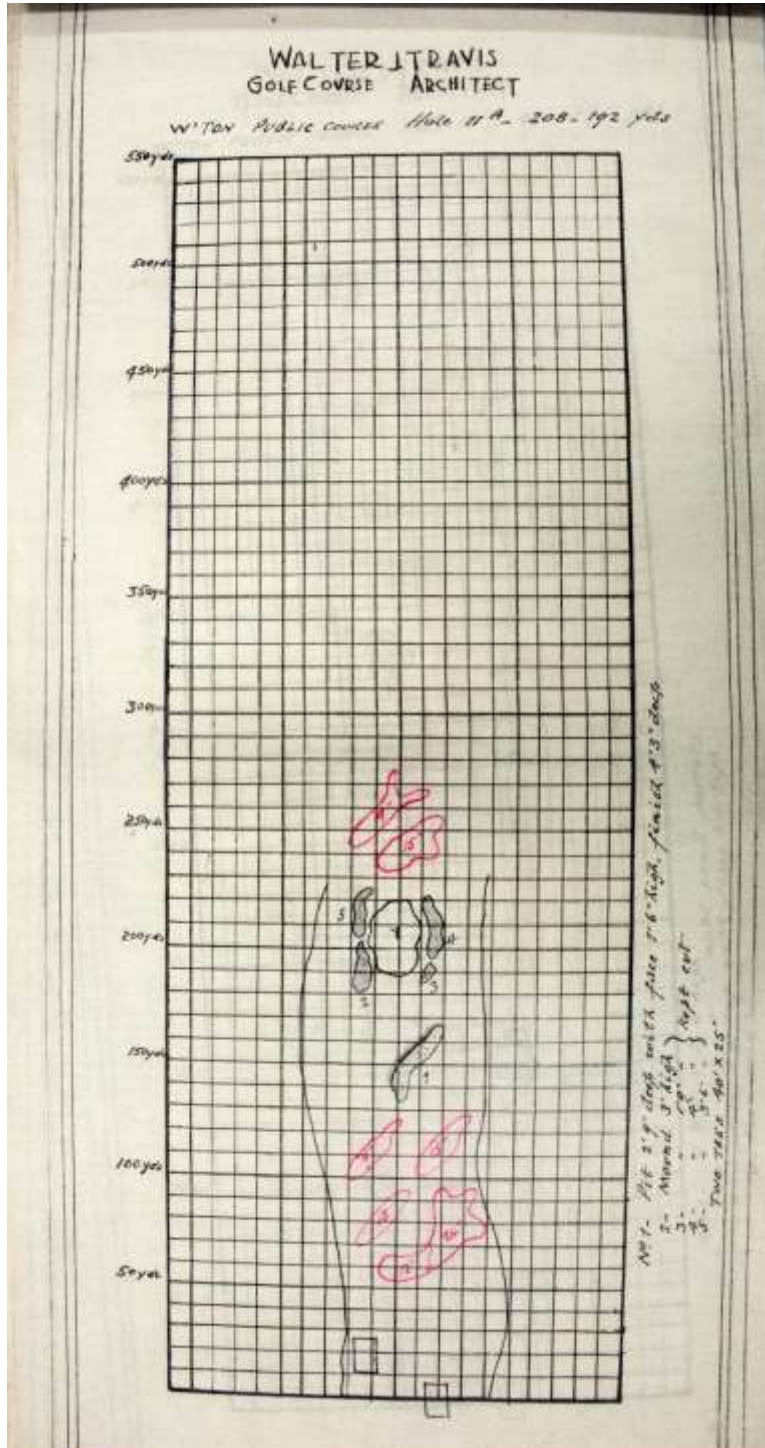


C COURSE – Back Nine, 1923

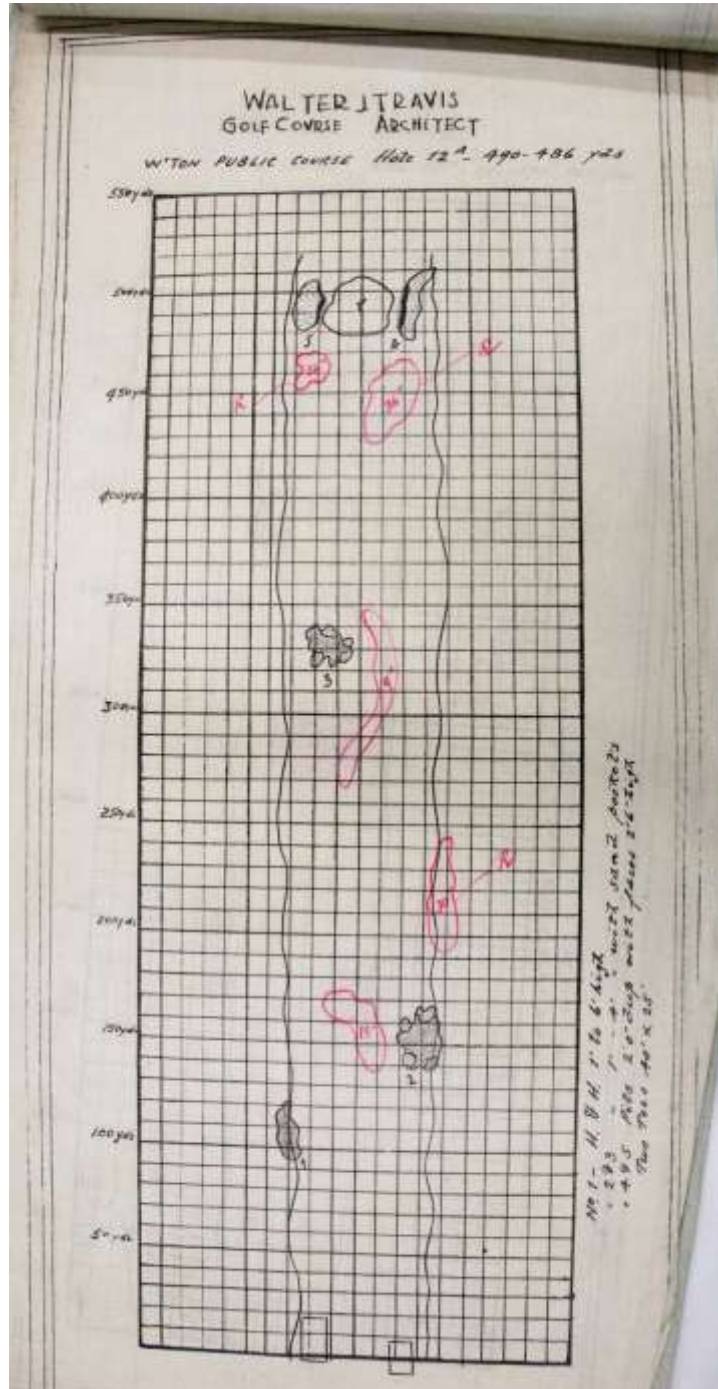
Hole 10C: 367 yards, par 4. Hole 10C was a straight hole that played back out from the clubhouse, to the southwest, toward the peninsula's perimeter. A large sand trap covering the fairway 50 yards off the tee and was built for reverse play on Hole 18B. Two humps and hazards with sand pockets were located along the south side of fairway at 150 and 200 yards, a third hump and hazard with sand pockets was located in the center of the fairway, at 260 yards. A large mounded bunker separated fairway 10C from 18D. Three smaller mounded bunkers were located on the fairway at approximate 100 yards and 230 yards. Small mounded bunkers surrounded the green on all four sides. Green was not shared.



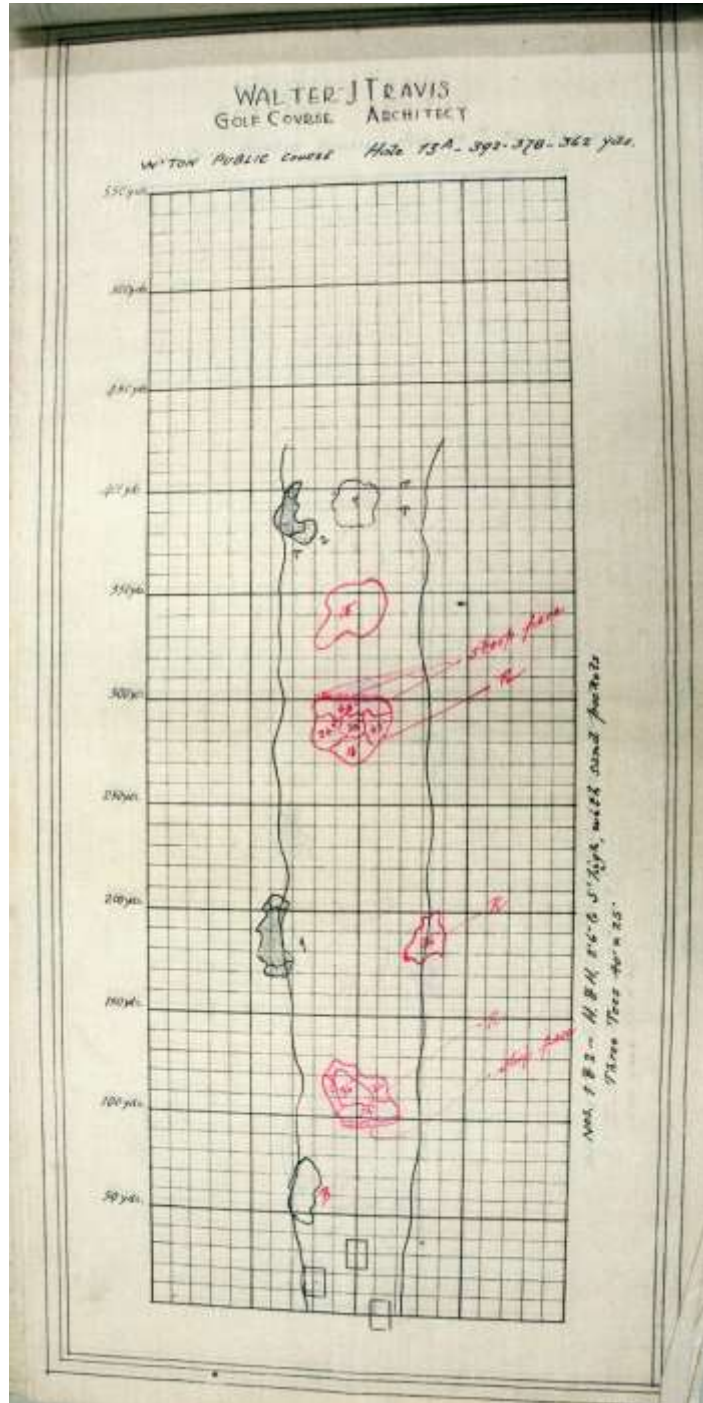
Hole 11C: 208 yards, par 3. Hole played straight south along the Potomac River edge of the peninsula, over a single sand trap, covering most of the fairway in front of the green at 150 yards. Green was also surrounded by several 3-foot high mounded bunkers, to the east and west. Smaller mounded bunkers were located in the center of the fairway and south of the green. Hole 11C shared a green with Hole 16B.



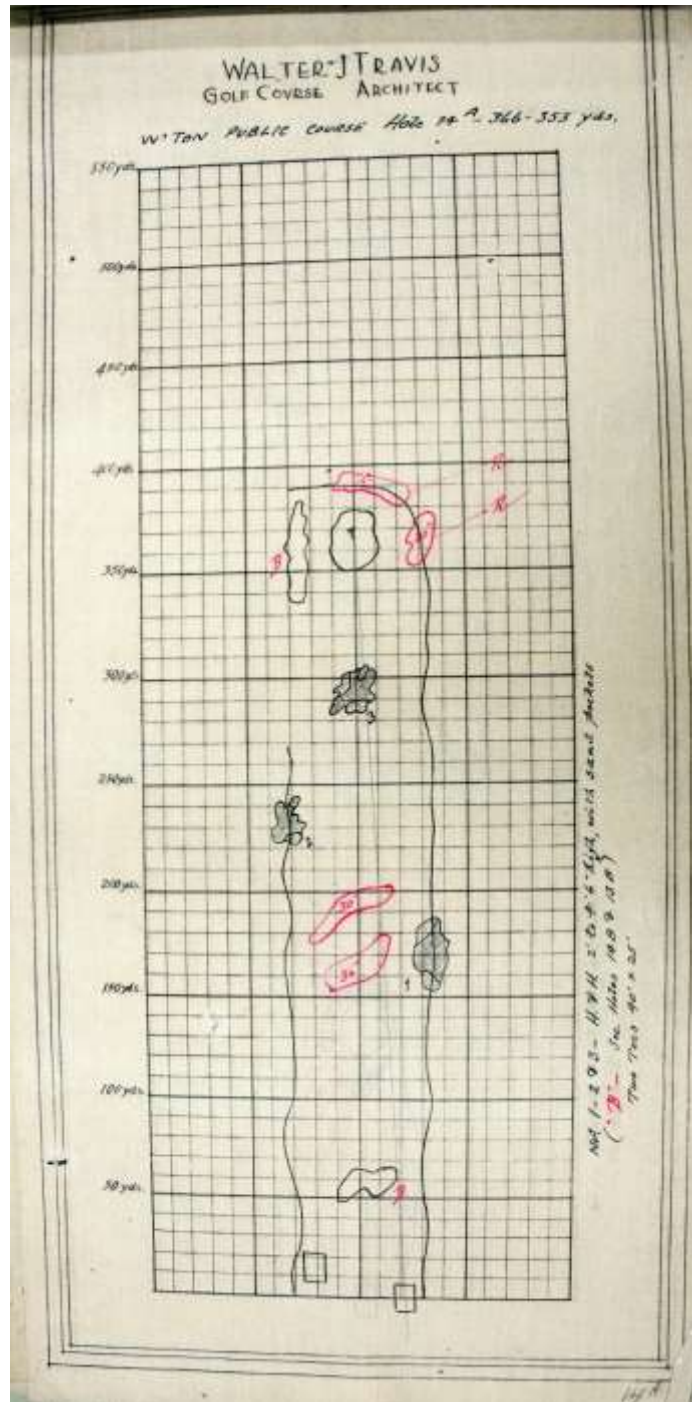
Hole 12C: 486 yards, par 5. Hole 12C played southeast. A large hump and hollow bunker (1'-6' high) was located east of the fairway at 100 yards. Two hump and hollows with sand pockets were located along the western perimeter of the fairway at 150 yards and slightly east of the center of the fairway 325 yards. Five smaller mounded bunkers were placed throughout the fairway. The Green bordered by two sand traps to east and west and was shared with Hole 15B.



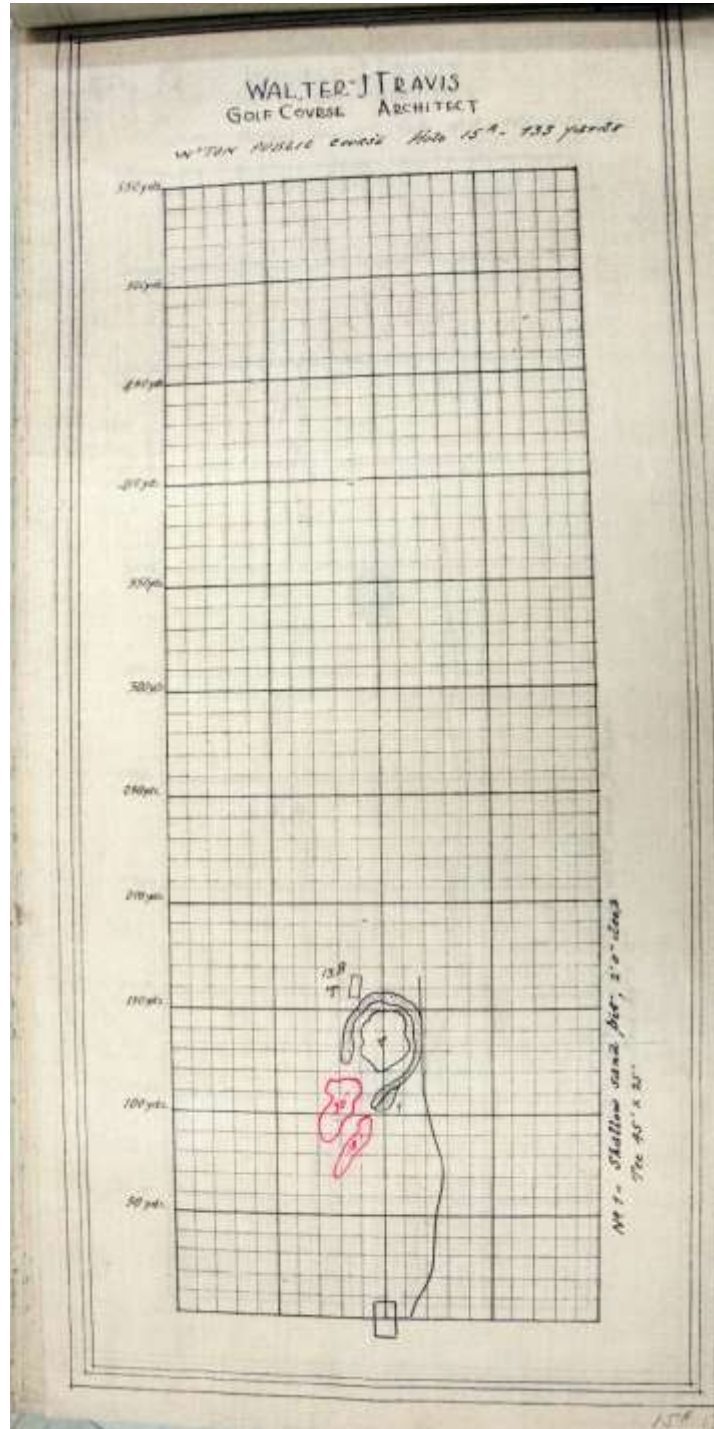
Hole 13C: 392 yard, par 4. Hole 13C played straight south over steep hump and hollow bunkers, located in the center of the fairway 100 and 300 yards off the tee. Two hump and hollow hazards with sand pockets bordered the fairway to the east, one at 175 yards and one at 400 yards, alongside the green. A sand trap designed for play on 15B was located 60 yards off the tee and two small mounded bunkers, 36" and 18" high were located along the western edge of the fairway at 190 yards and in the center of the fairway at 340 yards, respectively. The green was shared with 14B.



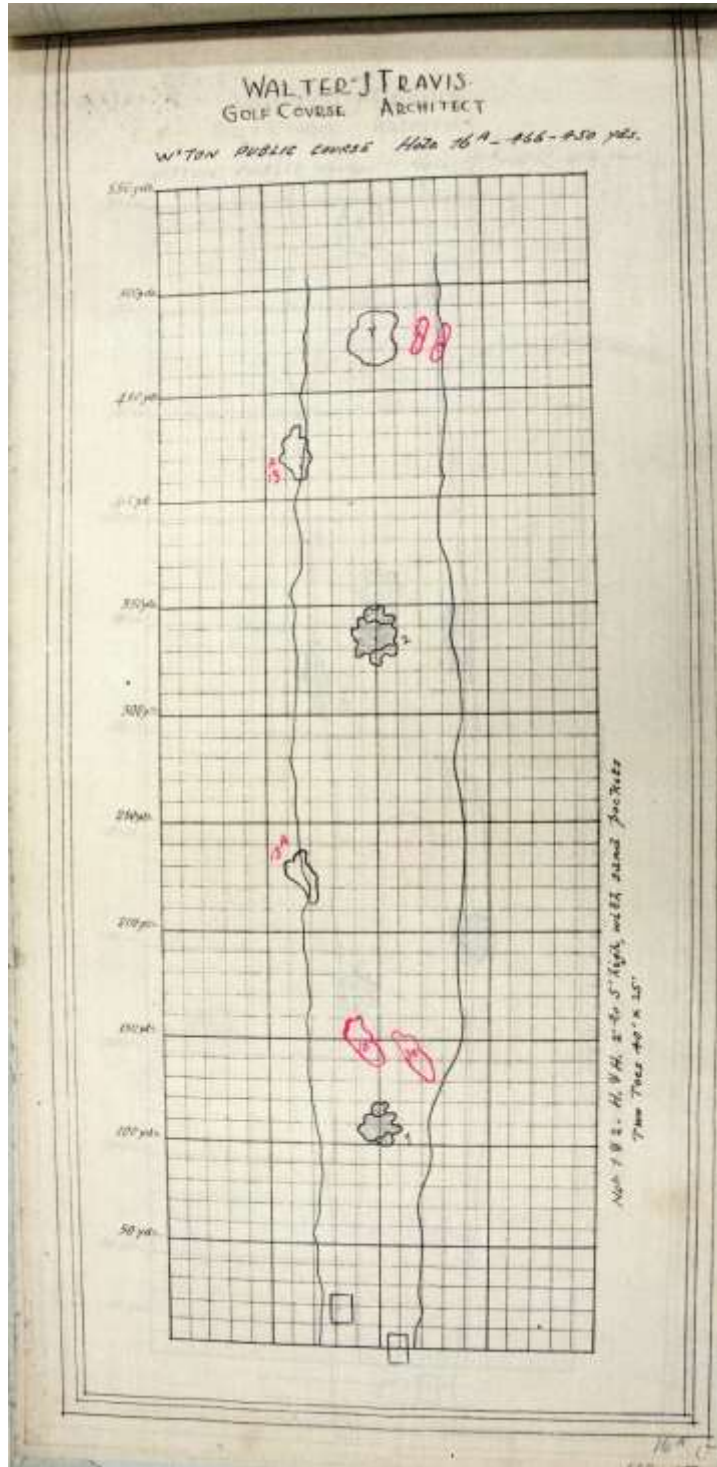
Hole 14C: 366 yards, par 4. 14C was a straight hole that played southwest. Three hump and hollows with sand pockets were located on the fairway, one on western edge at 175 yards, another along the eastern edge at 225 yards and a third in the center of the fairway at 300 yards. Mounded bunkers are located in the center of the fairway at a 150 and 200 yards and also surround the southwestern side of the green. A large sand trap designed for reverse play on Hole 13B is located to the east.



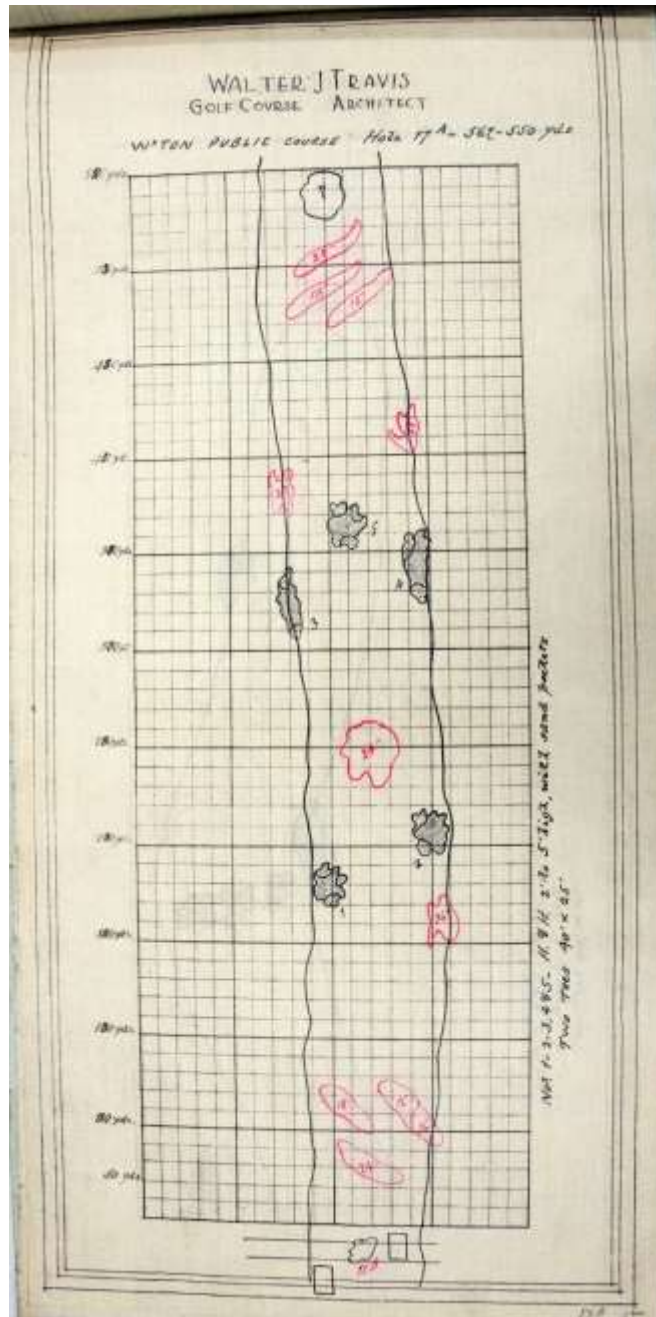
Hole 15C: 133 yards, par 3. A short hole that played northeast, down the center of the peninsula, back toward the field house. The Fairway traversed part of sand trap built for reverse play on hole 13 B. Two mounded bunkers, 18" and 30" high, fronted the green at 75 and 100 yards, respectively. The green was surrounded by a long collar-shaped sand trap, 2-feet deep. It was not shared with another hole.



Hole 16C: 466 yards, par 5. Hole 16C was a slight dogleg with the fairway laid out to the north, then northeast. Two hump and hollows were located in the center of the fairway, at 120 and 330 yards. Two sand traps were located along the western perimeter at 225 and 425 yards off the tee. Four mounded bunkers, two sets of two, were located at 150 yards and 475 yards, alongside the green. The green was shared with Hole 11B.



Hole 17C: 567 yards, par 5. A long straight hole that played northwest. 17C had five humps and hollows, two on either side of fairway at 225 yards, two on either side of fairway at 350 yards, and one in the center of the fairway at 400 yards. Ten mounded bunkers of various heights were located throughout the fairway. A group of three ranging from 12"-35" were located in the center of the fairway, 50 yards off the tee. A 30" bunker bordered the fairway to the west at 400 yards and a 24" bunkers bordered the eastern side at 450 yards. A group of three bunkers, 12" 18" and 24" high, were located approximately 40 yards in front of the green. The green was shared with Hole 10B.



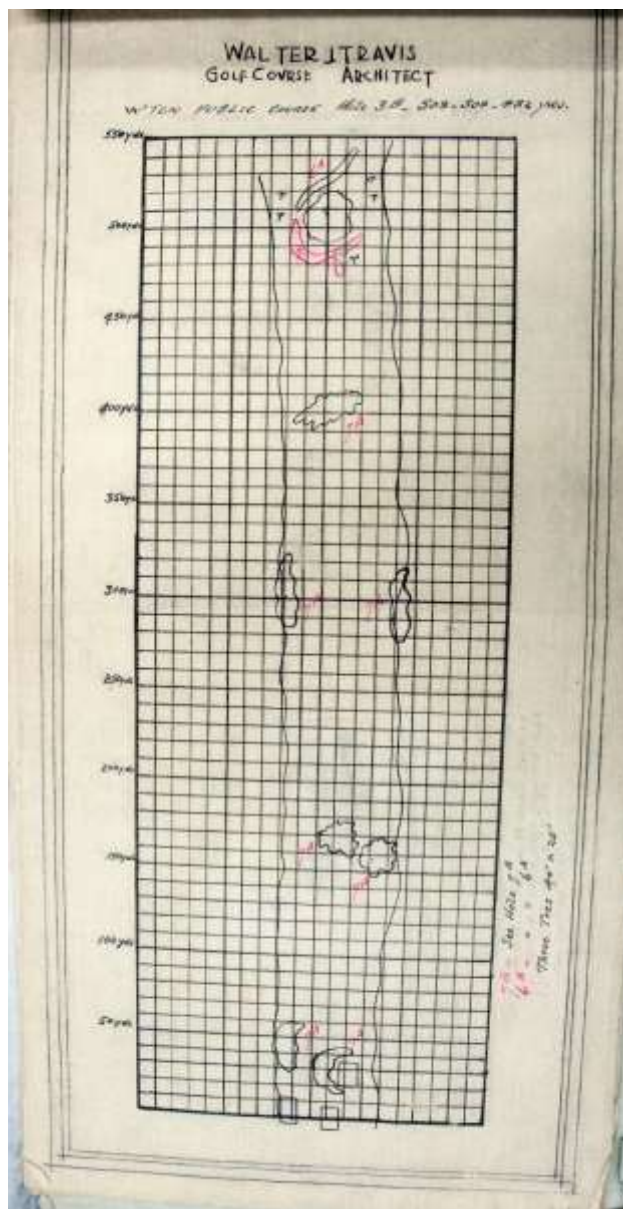
HISTORIC B/D COURSE

B Course – Front Nine, 1923

Hole 1B: 340 yards, par 4. 1B was a dogleg with the fairway laid out to the southwest, then south over several mounded bunkers, located in the center of the fairway, at approximately 180 yards off the tee. According to the 1918 Plan, these bunkers were originally designed for play on Hole 9A but would have affected play on hole 1B as well. Two more mounded bunkers were located along the eastern and western perimeter of the green. Two hump and hollows, one with sand pits and one without, were located off the tee at 50 and 100 yards, respectively. A large sand trap covered the center of the fairway, approximately 50 yards in front of the green. The green was shared with Hole 8A.

[Travis's drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

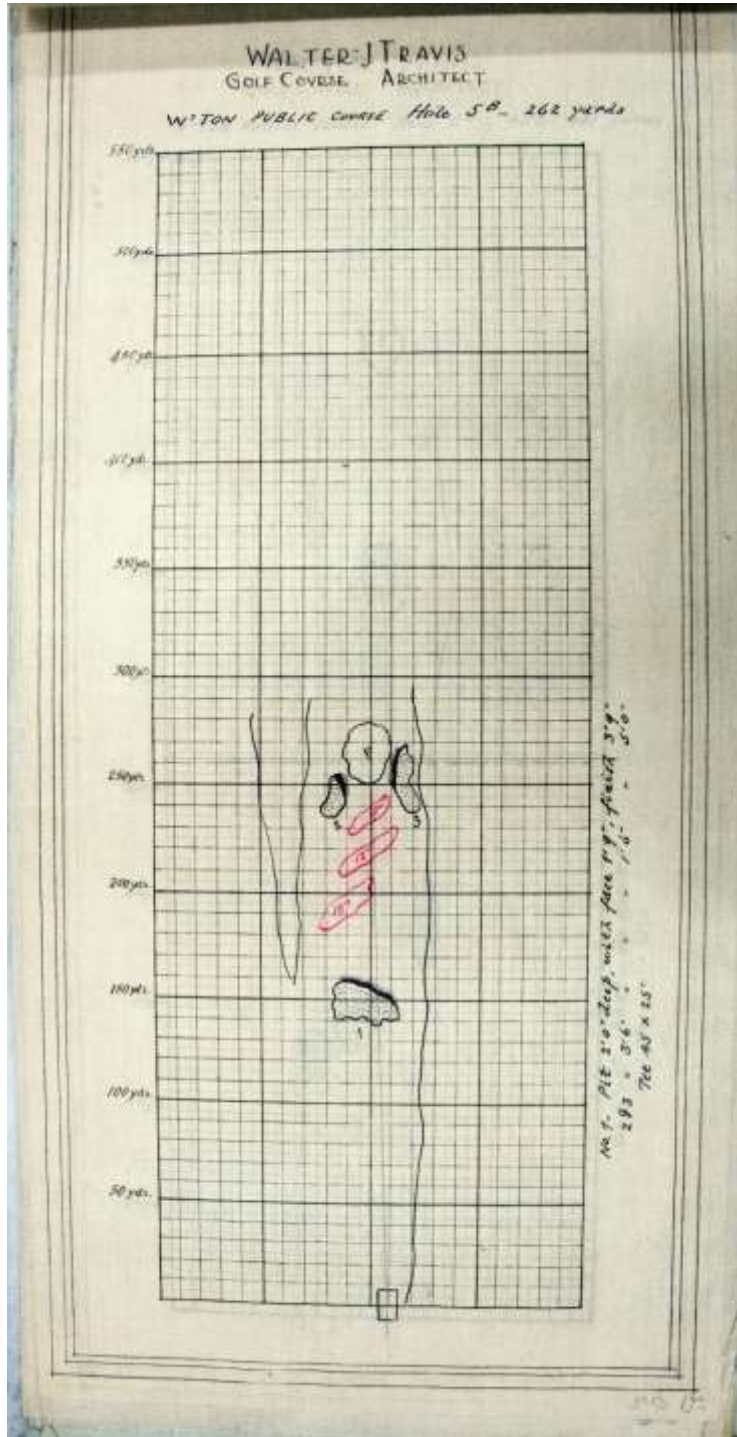
Hole 3B: 577 yards, par 5. A straight hole that played south, around approximately 21 hazards. Many of these were designed for the reverse play of the Holes 6A and 7A, but also affected play on Hole 3B. Two sand traps, designed for Hole 7A, were located directly in front of the tee box at approximately 50 yards. Two humps and hollows with sand pits, also designed for 7A, were located in the center of the fairway, at 150 yards. Additional mounded bunkers bordered both sides of the fairway at 300 yards. A third mounded bunker was located in the center of the fairway at 400 yards. The green itself was surrounded by two crescent shaped hazards: a 9" high mounded bunker along the northeastern approach and an enormous sand trap built for play on Hole 6A, along the entire eastern length of the green. And combination mounded bunker/sand trap, also designed for play on Hole 6A was located to the west of the green. The green was shared with Hole 6A.



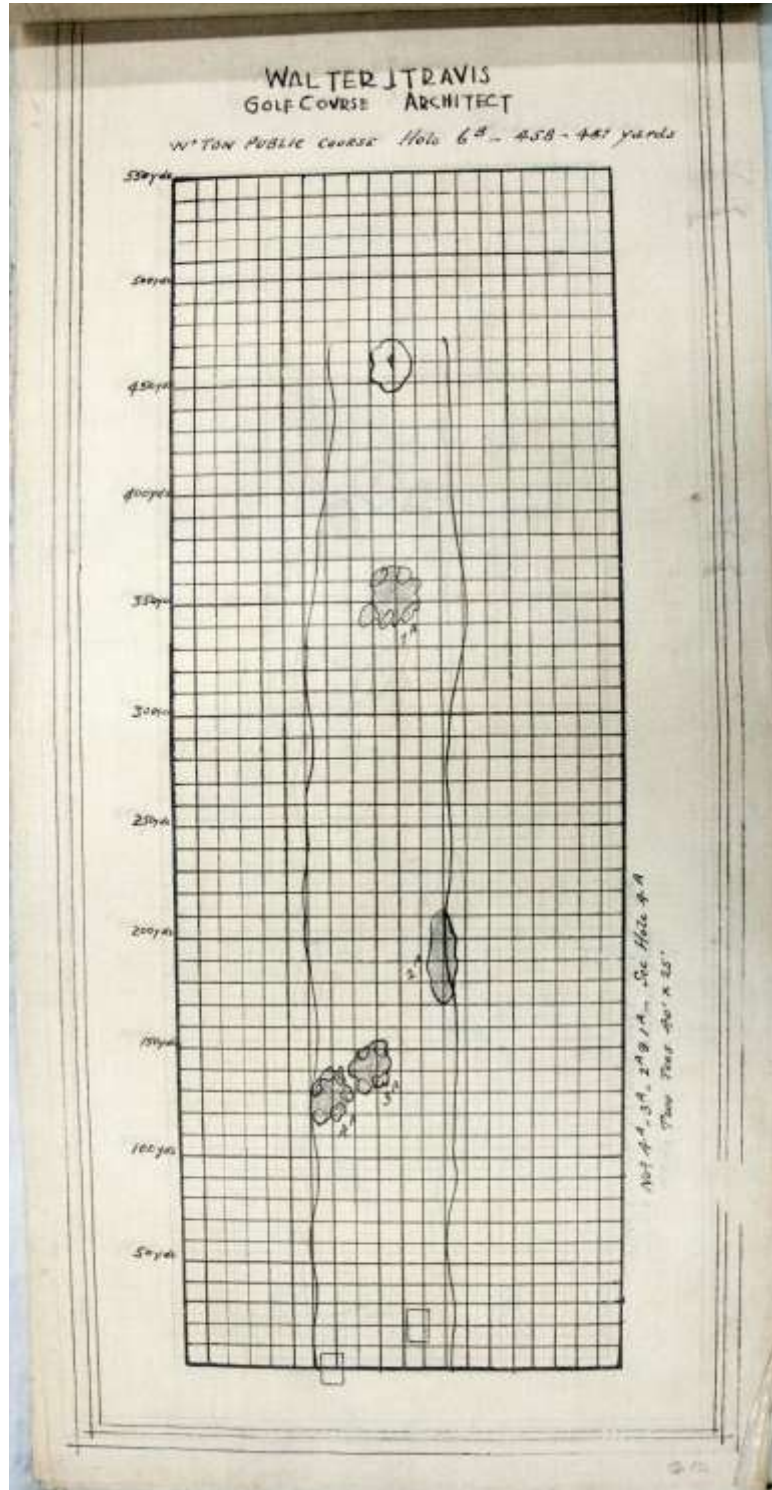
Hole 4B: 209 yards, par 3. A short hole played straight to the southeast, towards the course's southernmost boundary. A number of hazards, including a large crescent-shaped sand trap located directly in front of one of the tee boxes, were designed for play on Hole 6A. A second large sand trap designed for Hole 6A crossed the fairway at approximately 125 yards. A hump and hollow with sand pits was designed specifically for Hole 4B and was located at approximately 175 yards. Two additional sand traps flanked the green to the east and west and a mounded bunker was located to the south. The green was shared with Hole 5A.

[Travis's drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

Hole 5B: 262 yards, par 3. 5B was a straight hole that played north. A two-foot deep sand trap covered the width of the fairway 150 yards. The green was bordered by two sand traps, to the southeast and southwest, each 3'6" deep with 1'6" to 5-foot faces along the green. Three parallel mounded bunkers were located in the center of the fairways, directly in front of the green at 200 – 250 yards. The bunkers ranged from 7"-18" high.



Hole 6B: 458 yards, par 5. Hole 6B played straight north. Hazards included two humps and hollows, both surrounded by sand pockets and located 125 yards off the tee, to the west. At 350 yards, in the center of the fairway another hump and hollow was surrounded by five sand pockets. A six foot high mound was located in the rough, east of the fairway, approximately 200 yards from the tee.



Hole 7B: 404 yards, par 4. This hole played straight in a northeast direction. Hazards included several mounded bunkers located throughout the fairway, many designed for play on Hole 3A. Two humps and hazards with sand pockets, also designed for play on Hole 3A, were located approximately 120 yards off the tee, one in the center of the fairway, and one to the west. A large sand trap, designed for play on Hole 3a was located in the center of the fairway, approximately 300 yards from the tee. Two sand traps located along the southeast and southwest sides of the green were specifically designed for play on Hole 7B. Three more sand traps, designed for play on Hole 2A, surrounded the green to the north, east and west. Three mounded bunkers were also located to the east and west of the greens, in between the sand traps. This hole shared a green with Hole 2A.

[Travis's drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

Hole 8B: 152 yards, par 3. A short, straight hole that playing northwest, over a large sand trap designed for the 2A green, located directly in front of the 8B tee box. A large hump and hollow hazard covered the center of the fairway, approximately 100 yards from the tee. Two sand traps were located directly in front and alongside part of the green to the southeast and southwest.

[Travis's drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

Hole 9B: 270 yards, par 4. The hole had a straight fairway, that played northeast and returned golfers to the field house, over a hump and hollow with sand pockets, located in the middle of the fairway, approximately 125 yards off the tee. This hazard was surrounded by a 12”-high mounded bunker to the south and a 9”high mounded bunker to the west. An 18” high mounded bunker was located in the center of the fairway, approximately 50 yards south of the green. The 9B green was not shared, it was designed only for play on this hole.

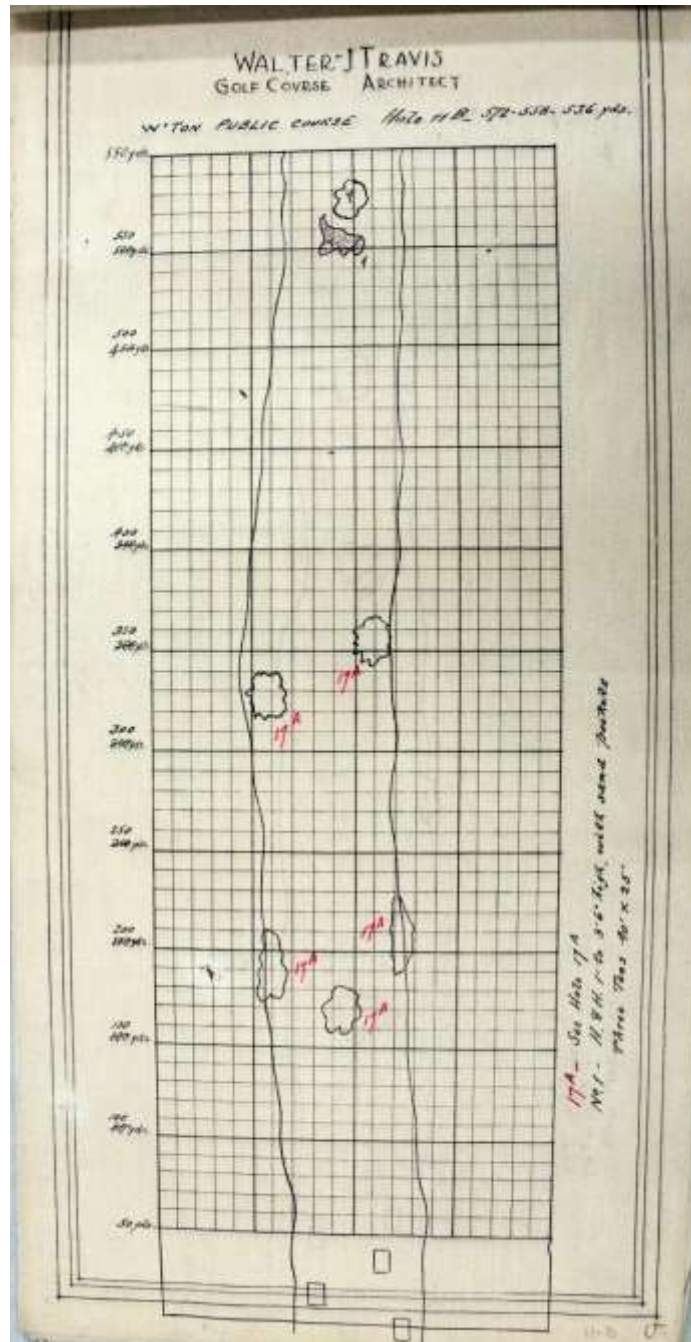
[Travis’s drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

D Course – Back Nine. 1923

Hole 10D: 489 yards, par 5. Hole 10D was a dogleg playing southwest and then south, over a 36” high mounded bunker designed for play on Hole 18C and located approximately 225 yards off the tee. A pair of hump and hollow bunkers, also designed of 18C, were located in the center of the fairway, at approximately 275 yards. Behind them, at approximately 325 yards were two more mounded bunkers These were designed for play on Hole 10D. Two additional mounded bunkers were located approximately 50 yards in front of the green, to the northeast and northwest and were also designed specifically for play on this hole. The green was shared with Hole 17C.

[Travis’s drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

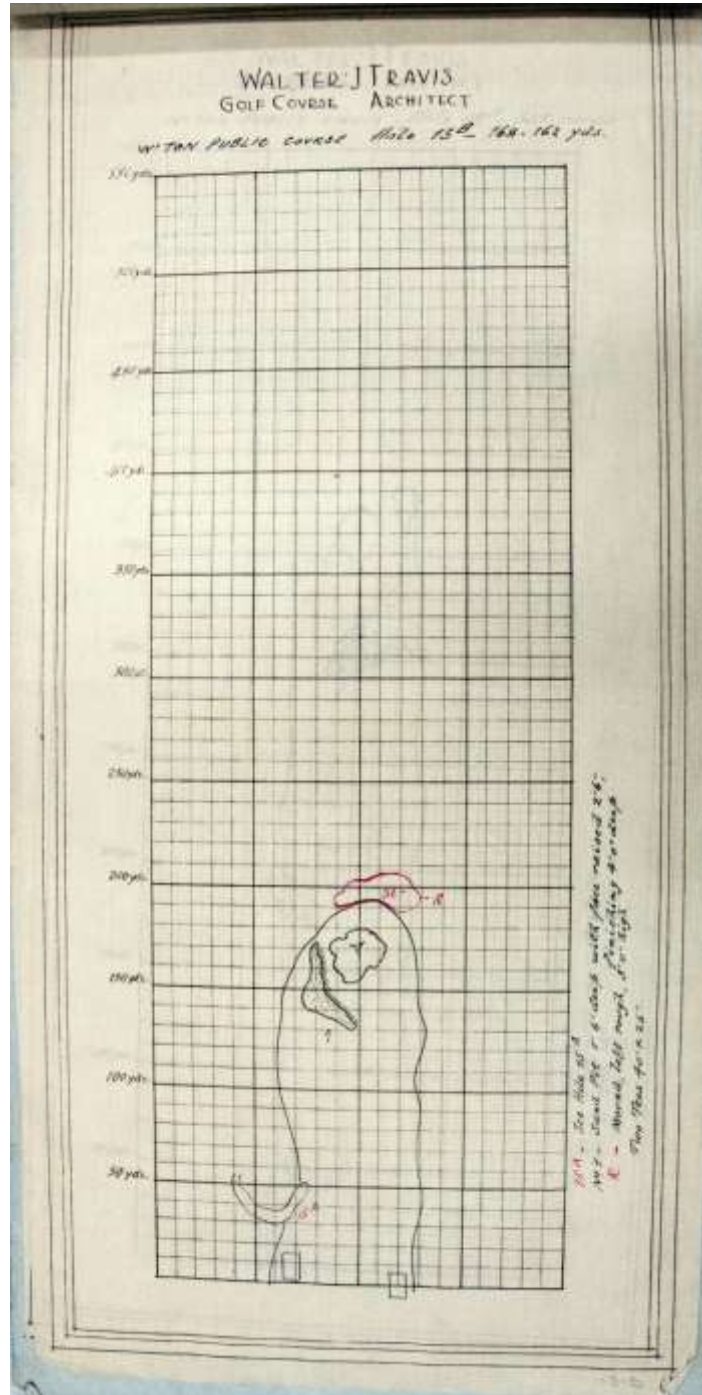
Hole 11D: 575 yards, par 5. 11D played straight south down the center of the peninsula. Three five-foot tall hump and hollow hazards, with surrounding sand pits were designed for reverse play on 17C and sat approximately 200 yards from the tee. At 325 yards another five-foot hump and hollow plus sand pockets bordered the rough, east of the fairway. A fifth hump and hazards with sand pockets was placed in the center of the fairway at 350 yards. Like the other hazards, these were designed as part of Hole 17C but would have come into play on Hole 11D as well. A sixth hump and hazard, 3'6" high, was specifically designed for play on Hole 11D and located approximately 25 yards in front of the green. The green was shared with Hole 16C.



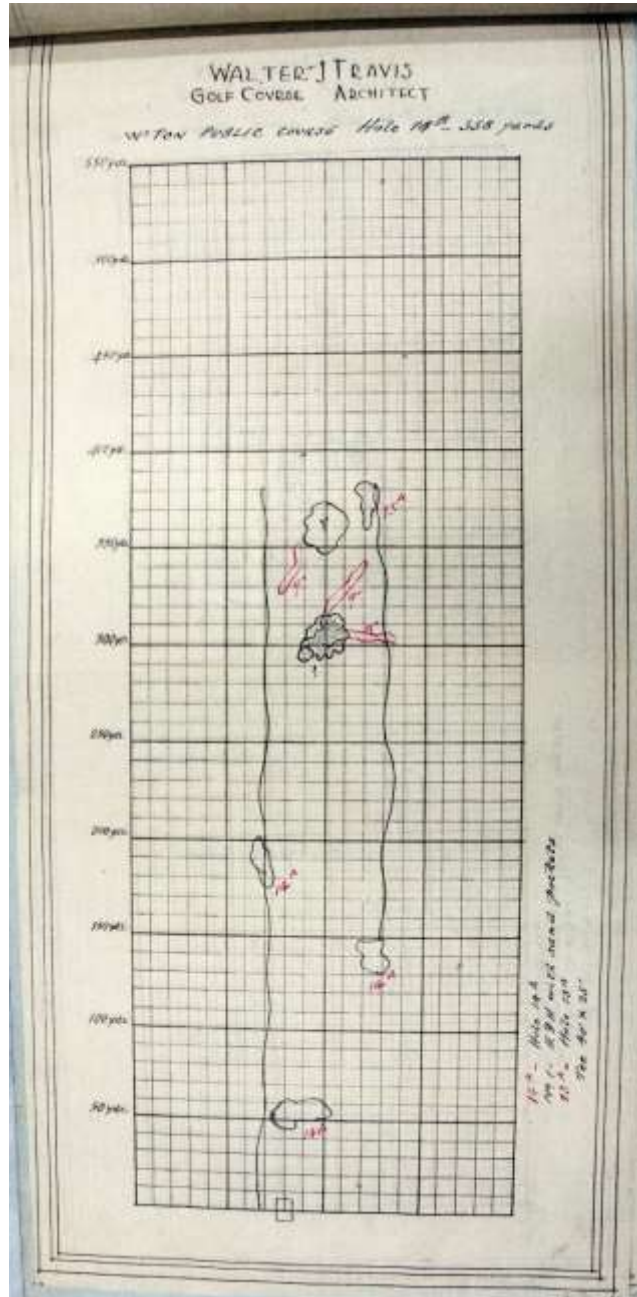
Hole 12D: 425 yards, par 4. Hole 12D was a straight hole that played south, over a hump and hazard with sand pockets, located in the center of the fairway, approximately 125 yards off the tee. This hazard was designed of play on Hole 16C. A pair of mounded bunkers, approximately 325 yards up the fairway were also designed as part of Hole 16C. A second hump and hollow on the east side of the fairway at approximately 350 yards and two mounded bunkers to the northeast and northwest of the green at approximately 380 yards were designed specifically for play on Hole 12D. The green was not shared with any other holes.

[Travis's drawing for this hole was not located during the course of research for this CLI]

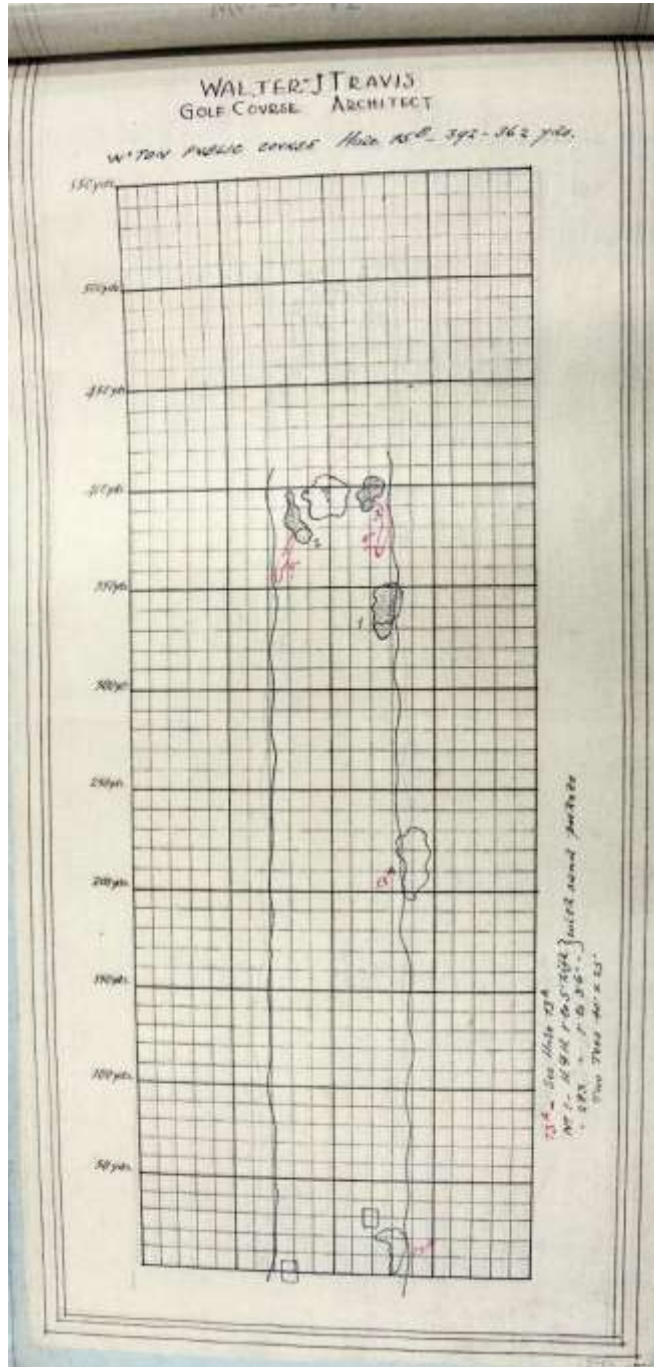
Hole 13D: 168 yards, par 3. Hole 13D played straight, southwest toward a green located at the site's southernmost point. Part of a sand trap designed for the green on 15A is included in Travis's drawing of the hole, as a hazard that might come into play on Hole 13D. The specific hazards designed for 13D included a 1'6" deep sand pit with a 2'6" high face was located northeast of the green and rough 3" high mounds south of the green. Mounded bunkers to the west of the green, designed for play on Hole 14C may have come into play as well. Hole 13D shared a green with Hole 14C.



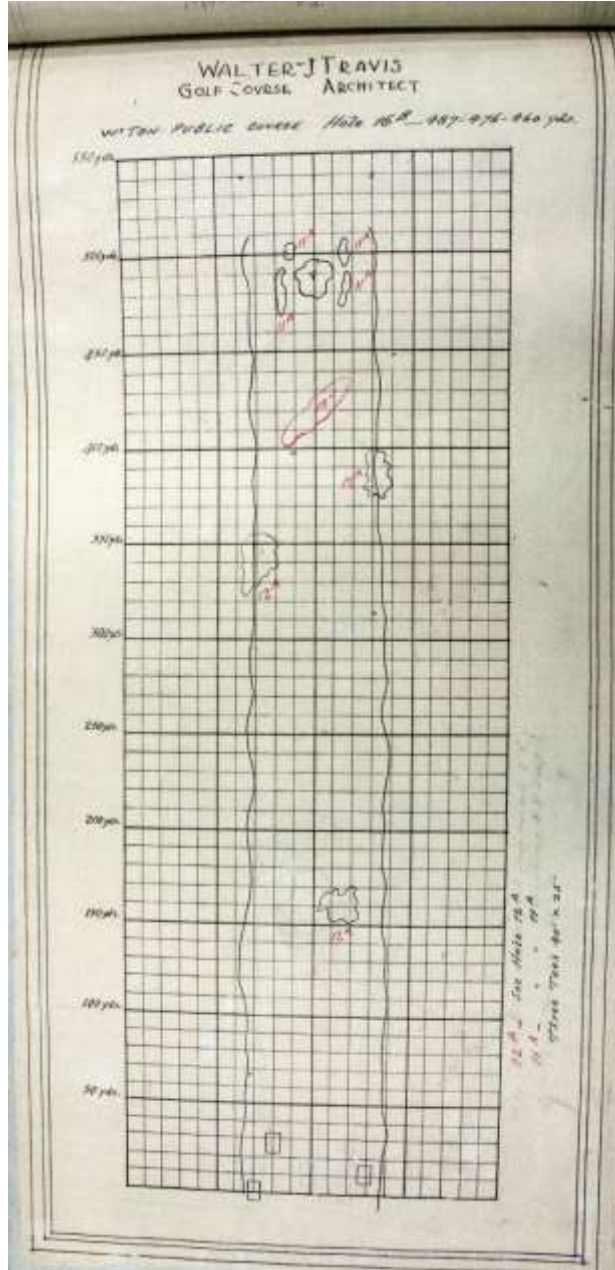
Hole 14D: 329 yards, par 4. 14D was a dogleg that played northeast, then north. A hump and hollow with sand pits and mounded bunker, designed for play on Hole 14C, were located along the east side of the fairway at 50 and 100 yards, respectively. Another hump and hollow with sand pits, also designed for 14C but in play on 14D, was located along the western edge of the fairway at 200 yards. A third hump and hollow with sand pits, designed specifically for 14 D was located at 300 yards, in the center of the fairway. Mounded bunkers were located to the southwest and southeast of the green and immediately east of the hump and hazard. A hump and hazard designed for play on 13C was located immediately east of the green. The green was shared with Hole 13C.



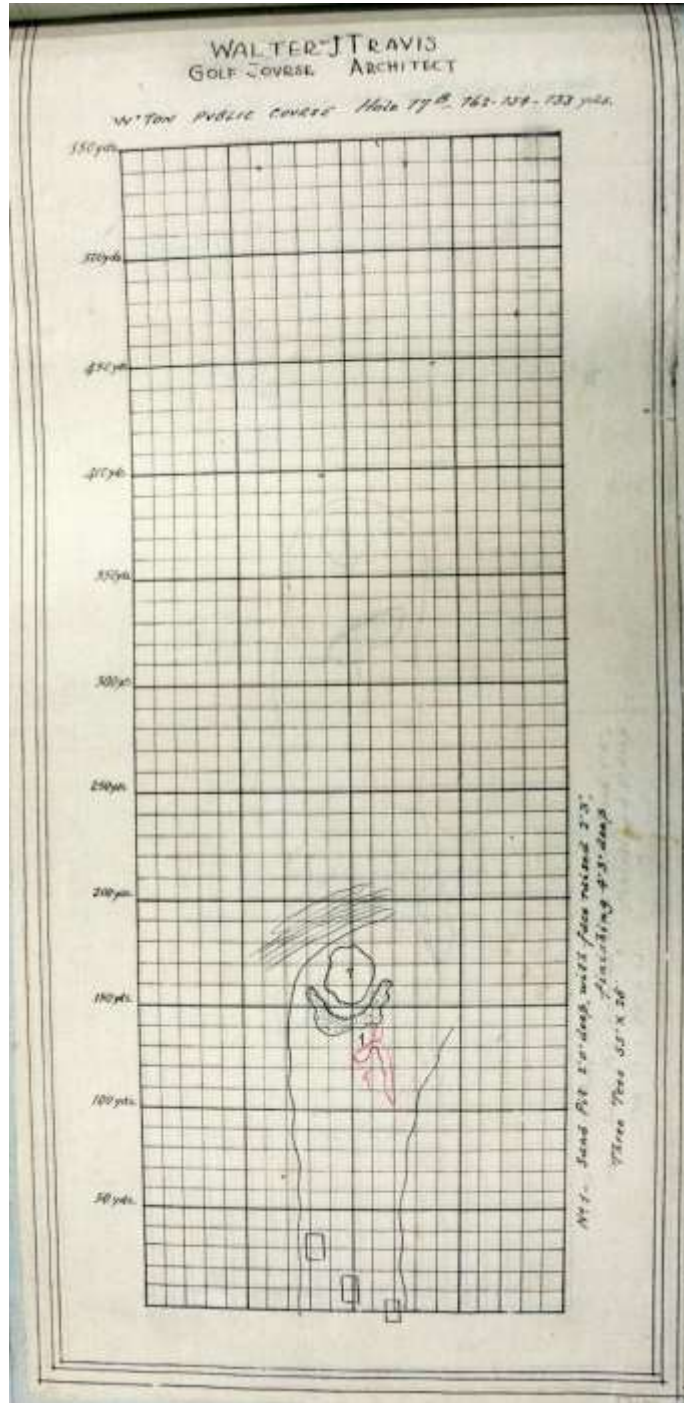
Hole 15D: 402 yards, par 4. Hole 15D played straight north over a fairway with a steep faced hump and hazard designed for play on Hole 13C and located in the center of the fairway, approximately 300 yards off the tee. Other hazards included a hump and hazard with sandpits, designed specifically for Hole 15D and located 325 yards up the fairway, southeast of the green. Mounded bunkers bordered the fairway immediately southeast and southwest of the green and two sand traps, designed for play on Hole 15D or Hole 12C were located along the green's eastern and western perimeters. The hole shared a green with Hole 12C.



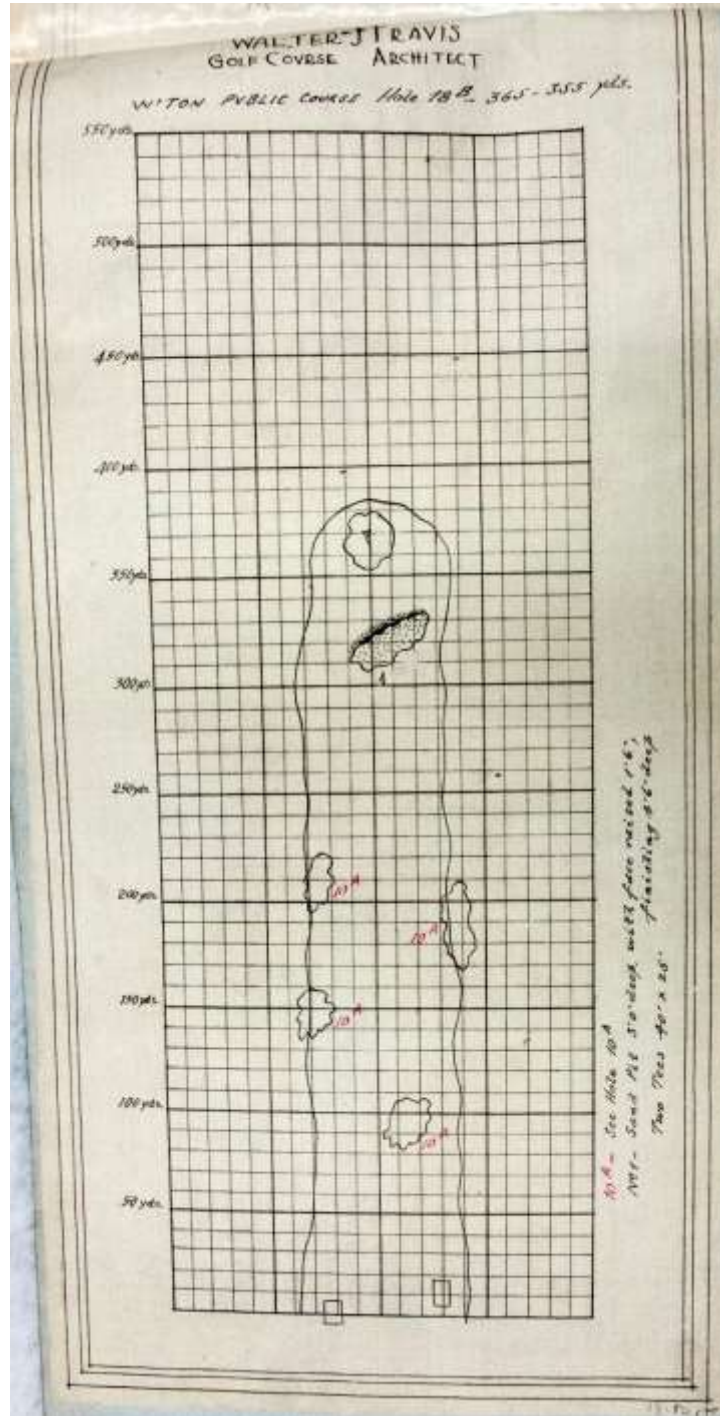
Hole 16D: 487 yards, par 5. A straight hole that played northwest. Accordingly to Travis's drawings nearly all the hazards were originally designed for play on Hole 12C but would have also come into play on 16D. The 12C/16D hazards included: a hump and hazard with sand pits designed for play on Hole 12C in the center of the fairway 150 yards of the tee; a second hump and hazard with sand pits located west of the fairway at 350 yards; and a mounded bunker located on the eastern edge of the fairway at 400 yards. Four sand traps, two to along the eastern perimeter of the green and two along the western perimeter are identified as designed for play on Hole 11A. The only feature specifically designed for this hole was a mounded bunker 50 yards south of the green, in the center of the fairway. The green was shared with Hole 11A.

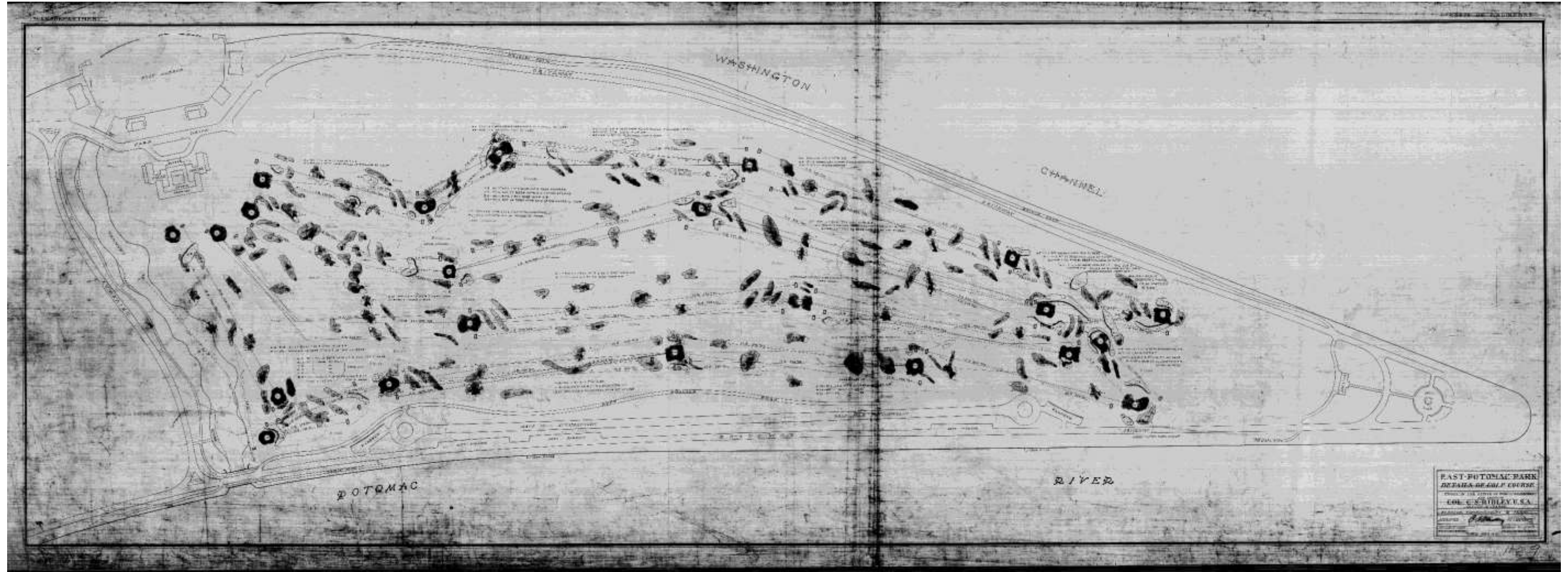


Hole 17D: 162 yards, par 3. Hole 17D was a short, straight hole that played northwest over a large two-foot deep sand trap covering the width of the fairway immediately in front of the green. A mounded bunker was located immediately southeast of the sand trap, at 125 yards. The 1918 Plan of the entire Blue Course show several mounded bunkers, designed for play on Hole 11A might also have come into play on Hole 17D. These bunkers were located in the center of the fairway, at approximately 50 to 100 yards. Hole 17D did not share a green.



Hole 18D: 365 yards, par 4. Hole 18D was a dogleg that played east, then northeast ending near the fieldhouse. Four hump and hollow bunkers with sand pits, designed for play on Hole 10C, were located on the fairway: one in the center at 100 yards; one along the western edge at 150 yards and two bordering either side at 200 yards. A 3-foot deep sand trap specifically designed for 18D was located directly in front of green, in the center of the fairway at 325 yards. The green was not shared with any other holes.





Blue Course

Existing Condition

Many changes have been made to the courses at East Potomac since their initial period of construction. These changes include the movement of tee boxes and hazards and redesign of greens, all considered a normal part of golf course maintenance and management, as well as more significant redesigns. Updates to the layout of the 1923 Blue Course have not always been in keeping with the architect's vision. The loss of reversible play, undulating greens and nearly all of Travis' original hazards, combined with additional plantings between holes and around greens, have affected the overall feeling of playing the course. The result is a series of straight playing holes, with a typical number of standard hazards, in the form of mounded bunkers along fairways and sand traps surrounding greens. Since the period of initial construction, the difficult rolling greens characteristic of Walter Travis designed courses, were replaced with the "pool-table" smooth greens that modern golfers prefer. Despite these changes, the general layout of the Blue Course is very similar to that present during the period of significance. The Blue Course still retains Travis' overall routing and layout for an eighteen hole course, with two nine-hole loops playing up and down the East Potomac peninsula, between Haines Point and the fieldhouse. Thirteen fairways are in the same or nearly the same location as Travis' original fairways. And with longer, more difficult holes and more hazards than the other two East Potomac courses, the Blue Course continues to cater to the more advanced golfer, as it did during the period of significance. As such, it retains integrity to Criterion A, as an important recreational landscape, and one of the first public golf courses in the District of Columbia.

In 2017, the course's total yardage was 6,599, par 72. A hole by hole description of the Blue Course, as observed during fieldwork conducted in the summer and fall of 2016, is below. For an understanding of the entire course layout refer to the 2016 plan of the course at the end of this section. All photos were taken in August 2016 and are on file with the National Park Service, National Capital Region.

BLUE COURSE

Front Nine. 2016

Hole 1: 360 yards, par 4, straight, flat fairway playing south with a slight hook west, at green. Bordered by rows of trees on both sides, and several mounded bunkers east of the fairway. The fairway is in generally the same location as Travis' Fairway 1B. Small mounding near beginning of fairway may be remnant of Travis era hazard. Original 1923 green location was directly east of current green. Topography suggests remnants of original green may still be extant.



2016 Photo from Hole 1 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 2: 418 yards, par 4, flat, straight fairway plays south, with a slight hook east at green. Bordered by wildlife area/maintenance yard to the west. Row of non-deciduous trees along eastern border. One sand trap along east side of green. Two sand traps along east side of fairway cover original location of Travis green for Hole 2B. Hole has been lengthened but fairway is in same general location as fairway of original 1923 Hole 2B. One-foot high bunkers near beginning of fairway may be remnants of original Travis-era hazards.



2016 Photo from Hole 2 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 3: 596 yards, par 5: long straight fairway playing south, surrounded by large, rough mounded bunkers to the east, three traps around green, two on the west side, one on the east. Fairway is in the same location as Travis' Hole 3B. One-foot high bunker along west side of fairway may be remnant of Travis era mounded bunker.



2016 Photo from Hole 3 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 4: 169 yards, par 3: short, straight hole, very flat, playing south toward a green fronted by three sand traps. Mounded bunkers east of green. Fairway is in the same general location as Travis fairway for Hole 4B.



2016 Photo from Hole 4 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 5: 291 yards, par 4: straight, flat fairway plays back north towards the fieldhouse. A drainage ditch runs through part of the fairway. Two sand traps along western edge. Green and fairway are in same location as Travis' design for Hole 5B. Tee box is in same location as Travis' original Green 4B. Topography suggests remnants of original green may be present.



2016 Photo from Hole 5 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 6: 547 yards, par 5: straight flat fairway plays north along the site's eastern perimeter. Series of mounded, rough bunkers along west side of fairway. Fairway is in same location as Travis-era fairway for Hole 6B. Hole has been lengthened but topography suggests remnants of original green are still present in front of current green location. 3-foot high bunker along east side of fairway may be remnant of original Travis mounded bunker.



2016 Photo from Hole 6 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 7: 308 yards, par 4: straight, flat, plays northeast. Mounded bunkers on east side between Blue and Red Course. No Travis-era features present.



2016 Photo of Hole 7 green, Blue Course.

Hole 8: 210 yards, par 3: plays straight north, one sand trap in front of hole, just to the west of green. Green is in the exact same place as Travis' green location or Hole 8B, the rest of hole has been completely redesigned since the period of significance.



2016 Photo from Hole 8 tee box, Blue Course.

Back Nine, 2016

Hole 9: 356 yards, par 4: plays straight and flat, north, returning to fieldhouse. Line of mounded bunkers along east side of fairway. Two sand traps on either side of green. Green is in same general location as that of Travis' Green 9B. Sand trap east of green is in same location as Travis era sand trap. Fairway is practically the same as Travis' Fairway 9B.



2016 Photo from Hole 9 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 10: 311 yards, par 4, wide, open fairway, slight dogleg playing west then south, several large mounded bunkers on east side of green. No Travis-era features appear to be present.



2016 Photo from Hole 10 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 11: 191 yards, par 3, short hole playing back north, flat, one sand trap west of green. No Travis era features appear to be present, though fairway is in same general location as Travis' original layout for Hole 17B.



2016 Photo from Hole 10 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 12: 499 yards, par 5, dogleg east then south, plays along heavily wooded wildlife area to the east. Drainage ditch in front of tee box, large mounded bunkers along eastern length of fairway. Several large trees along western edge, near fence line. Two sand traps on either side of green. Drainage ditch along eastern side of green. Fairway is in same location as Travis original fairway for Hole 12A currently plays in direction corresponding with 12A layout. One-foot high bunker west of fairway may be remnant of original Travis mounded bunker.



2016 Photo from Hole 12 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 13: 371 yards, par 4, flat southern playing hole, bordered by large wildlife area east of tee box. Giant tree directly in front of tee, approximately 75 yards up fairway. Fairway curves slightly east off the tee; speed bump-like bunker runs the length of the fairway, at approximately 130 yards. Green surrounded by several mounded bunkers. Fairway is in same location as original Hole 13A fairway. Current green is close to original location of Green 13A. Several remnants of Travis-era mounded bunkers may be present along fairway.



2016 Photo from Hole 13 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 14: 410 yards, par 4, straight hole, plays south. Rough mounded bunkers around tee box. Large sand trap along eastern edge of fairway, approximately 100 yards off the tee. Two more traps in front of the hole, on both sides of fairway. Raised green surrounded by large mounded bunker on three sides. Fairway and green are in same location as Travis' original Hole 14C.



2016 Photo from Hole 14 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 15: 174 yards, par 3, short, flat hole, plays straight back north toward clubhouse. One sand trap and mounded bunkers behind green. Green is in same general location as Travis' original green for Hole 12D. No other Travis features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 15 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 16: 432 yards, par 4, straight, flat fairway playing north, surrounded by rough mounded bunkers and areas of heavy vegetation to the west. Three sand traps to the west of green. Fairway and green are in same location as Travis' original Hole 16C.



2016 Photo from Hole 16 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 17: 563 yards, par 5, flat, wide open fairway, slight dogleg, playing north. Western side of fairway is bordered by wildlife area. Maintenance yard located along fairway's east side. Mounding along east side and behind green. Fairway and green are in same location as Travis' Hole 17C. Several remnants of Travis era mounded bunkers may be present along fairway.



2016 Photo from Hole 17 tee box, Blue Course.

Hole 18: 393 yards, par 4, wide open hole playing north, straight back toward clubhouse. Large, rough mounded bunkers along west side of fairway. One sand trap on eastern side of green. One-foot-high bunker in front of green may be Travis-era remnant.



2016 Photo from Hole 18 tee box, Blue Course.



White Course

Historic Condition

In 1924, golf course concessionaire, S.G. Loeffler, hired William Flynn to design an additional nine-holes for East Potomac. The new course was historically known as the E-F Course and was located northeast of the fieldhouse. In keeping with Travis' design for the Blue Course, Flynn's course was reversible, with two extra greens to allow for change in the direction of play. Like Travis's Blue Course, the original White Course played out from the fieldhouse in a loop, returning to the fieldhouse on the final hole. Further similarities between the White and Blue courses included an open landscape design. Though Flynn was known for his parkland style courses, which incorporated mature trees and lush vegetation between fairways, at East Potomac he remained faithful to Travis' preferred links style landscape. The White Course had very few trees, except for a grove Japanese flowering cherries located near the southern end of the course, which remained from the USDA's use of East Potomac Park as an experimental planting ground.

Flynn's design contained far fewer hazards than Travis' Blue Course—sand traps and mounded bunkers appear to have been limited to the area immediately surrounding the green—resulting in a course that was more suitable for beginners. When it opened in May 1925, the *Washington Sunday Star* described it as “not as well trapped as the first [courses] but “far more popular because lower scores can be made on them by the class of players who used public courses” (*Washington Sunday Star*, May 6, 1928:2).

Historically, the course was referred to by letters E-F, reflecting the direction of play. Today the course is known simply as the “White Course.”

A hole by hole description of the original William Flynn designed White Course is below. Individual holes are listed in both directions of play, with E direction described first, and the F direction following. For an understanding of the entire course layout, refer to the 19XX plan of the course at the end of this section. Individual drawings of the holes for the original White Course were not located during the course of research for this CLI. Descriptions are based off of William Flynn's 1924 Preliminary Plan for a Reversible Golf Course at East Potomac Park, on file with the National Park Service, National Capital Region, and study of USGS aerial photography, dating to 1927 and available at the National Archives, Collage Park.

HISTORIC E/F COURSE

E Course, 1925

Hole 1E: 290 yards, par 3. A dogleg that played northwest from the fieldhouse, then west. The northern side of the fairway was bordered by a grove of cherry trees. Three sand traps surrounded green to the south and north. The green was shared with Hole 8F.

Hole 2E: 160 yards, par 3. A short hole that played southwest. One sand trap was located immediately northeast of the green, which was shared with Hole 7F.

Hole 3E: 300 yards, par 4. A dogleg hole that played northeast then north, along the site's western perimeter. Two sand traps bordered the green to the east and west. The green was not shared.

Hole 4E: 420 yards, par 4. The course's longest hole played straight east, alongside tourist camp and the site's northern perimeter. There were four sand traps total, including two that were probably designed for reverse play on Hole 6E, located approximately 75 and 175 yards off the tee, along the southern end of the fairway. Two more sand traps were located along the northwest and southwest perimeter of the green. The green was shared with Hole 5F.

Hole 5E: 380 yards, par 4. 5E was a slight dogleg that played southeast and then slightly southwest along the site's eastern perimeter. There are no hazards depicted on Flynn's 1924 plan of the site. The green was not shared.

Hole 6E: 295 yards, par 4. Hole 6E played straight north. One sand trap was located southwest of the green, which was shared with Hole 3F.

Hole 7E: 300 yards, par 4. Hole 7E was a slight dogleg, which played east and then slightly northeast. The green was surrounded by three sand traps, one to the northeast, one to the southeast and one large trap to the west that also bordered the green on Hole 3E. The green was shared with Hole 2F.

Hole 8E: 215 yards, par 3. A short, straight hole that played south. One sand trap was located northeast of the green, which was shared with Hole 1F.

Hole 9E: 340 yards, par 4. A sharp dogleg hole that played east then northeast, returning golfers to the north wing of the fieldhouse. The southern edge of the fairway was bordered by a grove of cherry trees. No hazards appear on Flynn's 1924 plan. The green was shared with Hole 4F.

1925 F Course, 1925

Hole 1F: 340 yards, par 4. A long hole for the White Course, which played north from the fieldhouse then east. The southern edge of the fairway was bordered by a grove of cherry trees. One sand trap was located immediately northeast of the green, which was shared with Hole 8E.

Hole 2F: 140 yards, par 3. A short straight hole that played north. The green was surrounded by three sand traps, one to the northeast, one to the southeast and one large trap to the west that also bordered the green on Hole 3E. The green was shared with Hole 7E.

Hole 3F: 290 yards, par 4. Hole 3F played straight southeast. One sand trap was located immediately southwest of the green, which was shared with Hole 6E.

Hole 4F: 295 yards, par 4. Hole 4F played straight south. No hazards appear on Flynn's 1924 plan of the course. The green was shared with Hole 9E.

Hole 5F: 380 yards, par 4. Hole 5F played slightly northeast, then doglegged slightly northwest. The green was bordered by two sand traps immediately north and south and was shared with Hole 4E.

Hole 6F: 400 yards, par 4. The longest hole in this direction of play, Hole 6F played straight west. One sand trap, designed for Hole 4E, was located immediately in front of the tee. Two more traps were located along the southern edge of the fairway, at approximately 300 and 375 yards. A third trap was located directly north of the green, which was shared with Hole 3E.

Hole 7F: 320 yards, par 4. Hole 7F played south, then doglegged slightly southwest. One sand trap was located northeast of the green. The green was shared with Hole 2E.

Hole 8F: 135 yards, par 3. The shortest hole in this direction of play, 8F had a straight fairway laid out to the northeast. Three sand traps surrounded green, one to the south and two to the north. The green was shared with Hole 1E.

Hole 9F: 260 yards, par 4. Hole 9F played straight southeast, toward a green located immediately west of the northern wing of the fieldhouse. One sand trap was located along the northeast perimeter of the green, which was not shared with any other holes.

White Course

Existing Condition

The current White Course was designed by William Gordon in the 1950s, to replace William Flynn's original 1925 course, which had been updated by Flynn in 1944. Design changes in the intervening years included the loss of two original holes during construction of the Red (G) Course and the end of reversible play. Despite changes to the course's original layout, the existing White course retains many of the features that are essential to its historic importance as part of the East Potomac Park Golf Course landscape. The course is still made up of nine holes, most of which are located north of the fieldhouse and play along the site's northern perimeter. The holes are shorter with more open fairways and fewer hazards than those on the Blue Course. As such, the White Course continues to appeal to less competitive golfers and is a particular favorite of senior and families, who prefer its shorter holes and more relaxed pace of play. It is also occasionally used for foot golf.

The current layout is nearly identical to Gordon's 1950 redesign. The course was faithfully reconstructed in the early 1980s, after its demolition caused an uproar with many of East Potomac's older golfers. Five holes remain in the same general location as when they were first laid out 1925. Several more holes retain elements of Flynn's 1944 redesign.

In 2017, the total yardage of the White Course is 2,420. It is comprised of three and four par holes for a total of par 33. A hole-by-hole description of the course is below.

White Course

Hole 1: 156 yards, par 3, short straight hole, flat. Plays west along rough, unmown area to the north, along driving range. No original features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 1 tee box, White Course.

Hole 2: 381 yards, par 4, straight fairway plays north, bordered by several mounded bunkers and sand traps, one to the west, approximately 140 yards off the tee and two more along the east side of the green. Rough wildlife area east tee, behind driving range. Large mounded bunkers surround green, two sand traps along green's east side. Fairway and green are in same general location as original White Course Hole 3E. Fairway has been lengthened and green slightly north of original location. Sand trap north of green in same location as original course sand trap.



2016 Photo from Hole 2 tee box, White Course.

Hole 3: 266 yards, par 4, generally straight, open fairway playing south with a slight curve toward the east. Wildlife area just off tee. Row of three mounded bunkers along east side of fairway. Smaller bunkers located in front of green. No original features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 3 tee box, White Course.

Hole 4: 285 yards, par 4, plays northeast, parallel to Hole 3. Straight, very flat fairway. Historic cherry trees located near tee box. Three mounded bunkers with sand traps along western edge of fairway and three sand traps in front of green. Green is also surrounded by mounded bunkers on three sides. Current green is immediately east of original Flynn designed green for Hole 2F. No remnants of original green appear extant.



2016 Photo from Hole 5 tee box, White Course.

Hole 5: 174 yards, par 3 short, elbow-shaped fairway plays east. Two sand traps with high faces along north side of fairway, two more sand traps in front of the green. Number of historic cherry trees near tee box. Row of three bunkers, with sand traps west of fairway. Mounded bunkers surround green on three sides. Fairway is in same location as original White Course Fairway 4E/6F. Current fairway is only half the size of the original, which played the entire width of the peninsula.



2016 Photo from Hole 5 tee box, White Course.

Hole 6: 190 yards, par 3, straight, flat hole playing east. Fairway is in the same location as the original White Course Fairway 4E/6F. Current fairway is only half the size of the original, which played the entire width of the peninsula. Green is located in the same location as green for original Hole 4E. Remnants of original green may be present.



2016 Photo from Hole 6 tee box, White Course.

Hole 7: par 355, straight flat hole playing south, toward fieldhouse. Open fairway with series of three mounded bunkers along fairway, approaching green. Two sand traps on eastern edge of green and large bunker behind green. Fairway is in same general location as fairway for original Hole 5E/5F. Hole is of similar length as original Hole 5E/5F, although green is north east of original green location. Topography suggests remnants of original green may be present.



2016 Photo from Hole 7 tee box, White Course.

Hole 8: par 286, straight, open fairway, very flat. Plays north, up to a raised green, slightly west of the fairway. One mounded bunker and sand trap in front of green, to the west. A second mounded bunker runs the western length of green. Hole is in same location as original White Course Hole 6E/4F. Green appears slightly north of original Hole 6E green.



2016 Photo from Hole 8 tee box, White Course.

Hole 9: par 327, straight open hole playing back toward fieldhouse. Very flat except for several mounded bunkers on either side of fairway. One sand trap is located behind green. Historic cherry trees border west side of fairway. No original features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 9 tee box, White Course.



Red Course

Historic Condition

In 1930, Leoffler began construction of a second nine-hole course, the Red Course, which was historically referred to as the G Course. This course was probably built by the concessionaire without the aid of an architect. The G Course was routed north and south of the fieldhouse with four holes playing on the south side of the fieldhouse, parallel to the front nine of the Blue Course, and five holes north of the fieldhouse, along the eastern perimeter of the site. The course was simple and very flat, with sand traps located throughout the length of the fairways, and surrounding greens.

HISTORIC G COURSE

All yardage is approximate

Hole 1: 307 yards, par 4. Hole 1 played straight south from the southern side of the fieldhouse. Two sand traps were located to the east and west of the fairway, at 275 and 175 yards, respectively. Two sand traps surrounded the green to the south and west.

Hole 2: 322 yards, par 4. Hole played straight south with no hazards.

Hole 3: 195 yards, par 3. A short, straight hole that played north. A large sand trap was located immediately south of the putting green. Two more sand traps were located north of the green.

Hole 4: 462 yards, par 5. A straight hole, playing north, over a number of sand traps. Two bordered the fairway to the east and west at 225 yards. Another sand trap was located on the east side of the fairway at approximately 350 yards, and a fourth was located on the west side, at approximately 400 yards. Two more sand traps bordered the green to the east and west.

Hole 5: 339 yards, par 4. Located north of the fieldhouse, Hole 5 played straight northwest. Two sand traps were located to the east and west of the green. This hole was originally part of William Flynn's 1925 design for the White Course.

Hole 6: 146 yards, par 3. Hole 6 played straight northwest over five fairway hazards: three sand traps located along the western edge of the fairway, at approximately 50, 75 and 80 yards, and two sand traps located along the western side of the fairway, at approximately 80 and 125 yards. Two more sand traps flanked the green to the east and west.

Hole 7: 296 yards, par 4. Hole 7 played straight southwest along the site's northern perimeter. Two sand traps were located immediately east of the putting green.

Hole 8: 339 yards, par 4. Hole 8G played straight southeast, back in the direction of the fieldhouse.. Three sand traps were located on the western half of the fairway at approximately 100, 170 and 190 yards. Two more sand traps were located to the east and west of the green.

Hole 9: 329 yards, par 4. This hole was originally part of William Flynn's 1925 White Course. It returned golfer to the northern wing of the field house and played straight southeast, with no hazards.

Red Course

Existing Condition

The Red Course is located southeast of the fieldhouse, south of the practice putting green and parking lot. It parallels Holes 7-9 on the Blue Course. It is in the same general location of five of the original holes on the 1930s-era course, which were redesigned by William Gordon in the 1950s. The current course is slightly smaller than the 1950 Gordon course due to the expansion of the parking lot south, in 1936-1937, and the addition of three practice holes on the former ninth green, which were built by Golf Course Specialists in the 1990s. The Red Course's short straight holes (all par 3s) and lack of hazards make the course ideal for beginners, and in the summer it is primarily used for lessons and children's golf camps. The course's total yardage is 1,142, par 27.

A hole-by-hole description of the Red Course is below.

No specific features from the original G Course are thought to exist.

RED COURSE, 2016

Hole 1: 208 yards, par 3, plays straight south, flat, one sand trap northeast of green. Some mounding to the west side of fairway. Tiny bunkers along east side. No original Red Course features present. One-foot high mounded bunker east of fairway may be remnant of original Walter Travis designed hazard.



2016 Photo from Hole 1 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 2: 154, par 3 yards, plays straight south. Fairway is quite lumpy. Two large mounded bunkers planted with trees along west side of hole, approaching green. No original Red Course feature present. Two-foot mounded bunkers along east side of fairway may be remnants of Travis designed hazards for original Blue Course.



2016 Photo from Hole 2 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 3: 102, par 3 yards, plays straight south. Very short, slightly lumpy fairway defined by closely planted row of non-deciduous trees along east side of green. One sand trap in front of green, on east side of fairway. No features from period of significance present.



2016 Photo from Hole 3 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 4: 108 yards, par 3, straight, short hole. Flat, plays south. Mounded bunkers along east side of fairway separate play from Blue Course. Two sand traps along eastern edge of green. No features from period of significance present.



2016 Photo from Hole 4 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 5: 171 yards, par 3, straight, flat fairway. Tee box bordered by densely planted row of non-deciduous trees. Plays back north towards the clubhouse along the perimeter of the site. Several hollows in fairway, planted mounded bunker along back of green. Fairway is located in same location as original Red Course Fairway 3G. Current hole is shorter, original Hole 3G played to a green located where current Green 7 is located.



2016 Photo from Hole 5 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 6: 64 yards, par 3, tiny, lumpy hole, plays north toward a green with a mounded bunker planted with holly along the north side. Wetland-type wildlife area in front of green. No original features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 6 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 7: 66 yards, par 3, another short hole, playing back south straight to a green with one sand trap and mounded bunker along the northeast edge. Current green is in same location as original Red Course Green 3G. Remnants of original green may be present.



2016 Photo from Hole 7 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 8: 111 yards, par 3, straight, flat fairway plays back north toward fieldhouse. Green has two sand traps, one along the eastern perimeter and a smaller one in front, slightly southeast. Green is partially located on original location of Blue Course Green 7B. No other historic features present.



2016 Photo from Hole 8 tee box, Red Course.

Hole 9: 158 yards, par 3, straight lumpy fairway, plays north, returning golfers to the fieldhouse, in front of the practice green. Original green for Red Course Hole 1G was located immediately south of current fairway. Topography suggests remnants of green may still be extant.



2016 Photo from Hole 9 tee box, Red Course.

Miniature Golf Course

Historic

The miniature golf course at East Potomac was constructed in 1931. It was located adjacent to the west wing of the fieldhouse. The course's holes were framed by wood borders. Their hazards included miniature reproductions of various Washington, DC landmarks, including the White House and the United States Capitol. Several holes were also designed with stone features, such as a wishing well, bridge, pond, and walls, or bi-level playing surfaces (where the player sent the ball into a cup, which funneled the ball down a pipe to a lower level where the hole was located). A small wood-frame ball house or ticket booth was located on the western edge of the course. Play began at the southwest corner of the course, next to the ticket booth, and continued in a generally counterclockwise direction around the course, returning to the ticket booth for Hole 18.

The East Potomac miniature golf course remained popular and extant long after most other miniature golf courses in Washington, DC. (For more information on the course's use, see Chapter 2.1 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, DC*.) As a result of its heavy use, Leoffler oversaw the complete renovation of the course in 1949 at a cost of \$15,000. The holes were reconstructed, but historic photos indicate that the original features and layout were retained. The project also included the elevation of the course by eighteen inches due to the "sunken condition of the grounds" that often resulted in flooding.

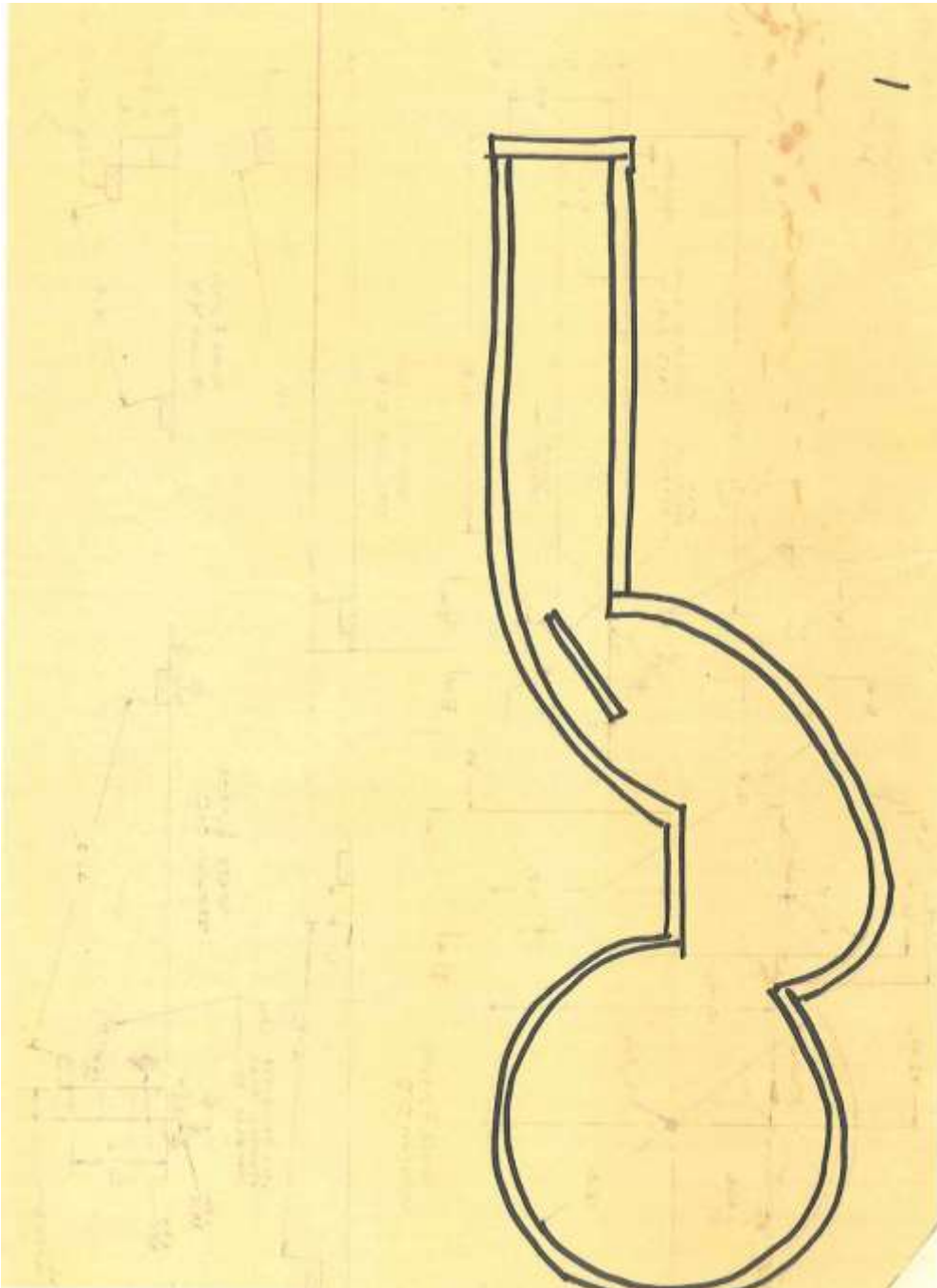
A second renovation campaign occurred in the early 1960s. The aggregate concrete borders around the holes were likely introduced at this time, replacing the original wood borders. At some point during the late 20th century, the wooden reproductions were removed from the miniature golf course; they are no longer visible in aerial photographs by 1999.

Existing Condition

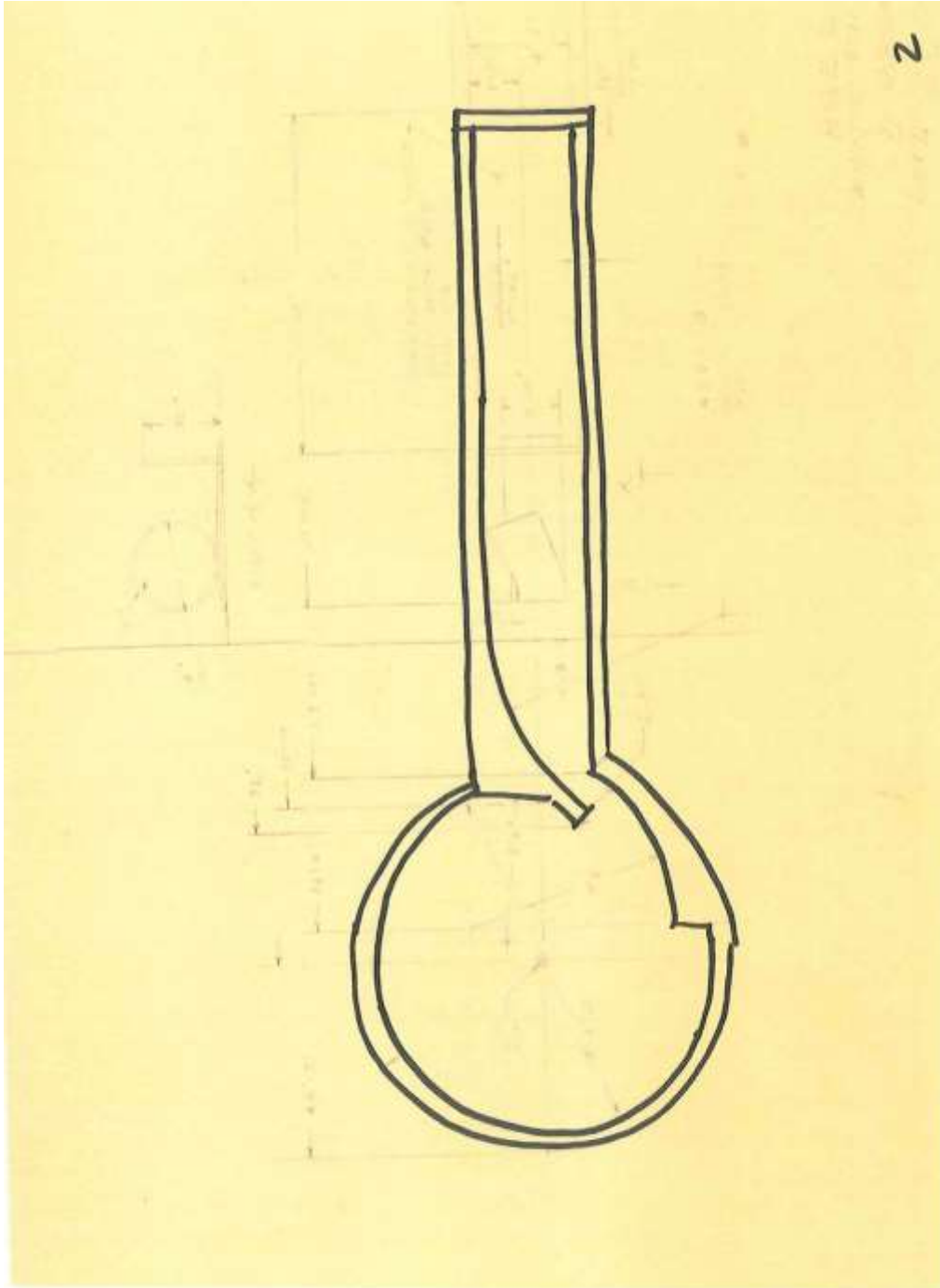
The miniature golf course remains in its original location immediately northeast of the west fieldhouse wing, enclosed by a fence. The holes retain their concrete borders, and they are separated by areas of grass, paved walkways, or gravel. Some holes retain a bi-level design, and additional hazards include slopes, hills, and bridges that are typically faced with brick or stone. A limited number of trees are planted throughout the course, functioning at times as indirect hazards around which the holes are designed. The ticket booth building dates to the 1949 renovations of the course.

A hole by hole comparison of historic and current conditions at the miniature golf course is below.

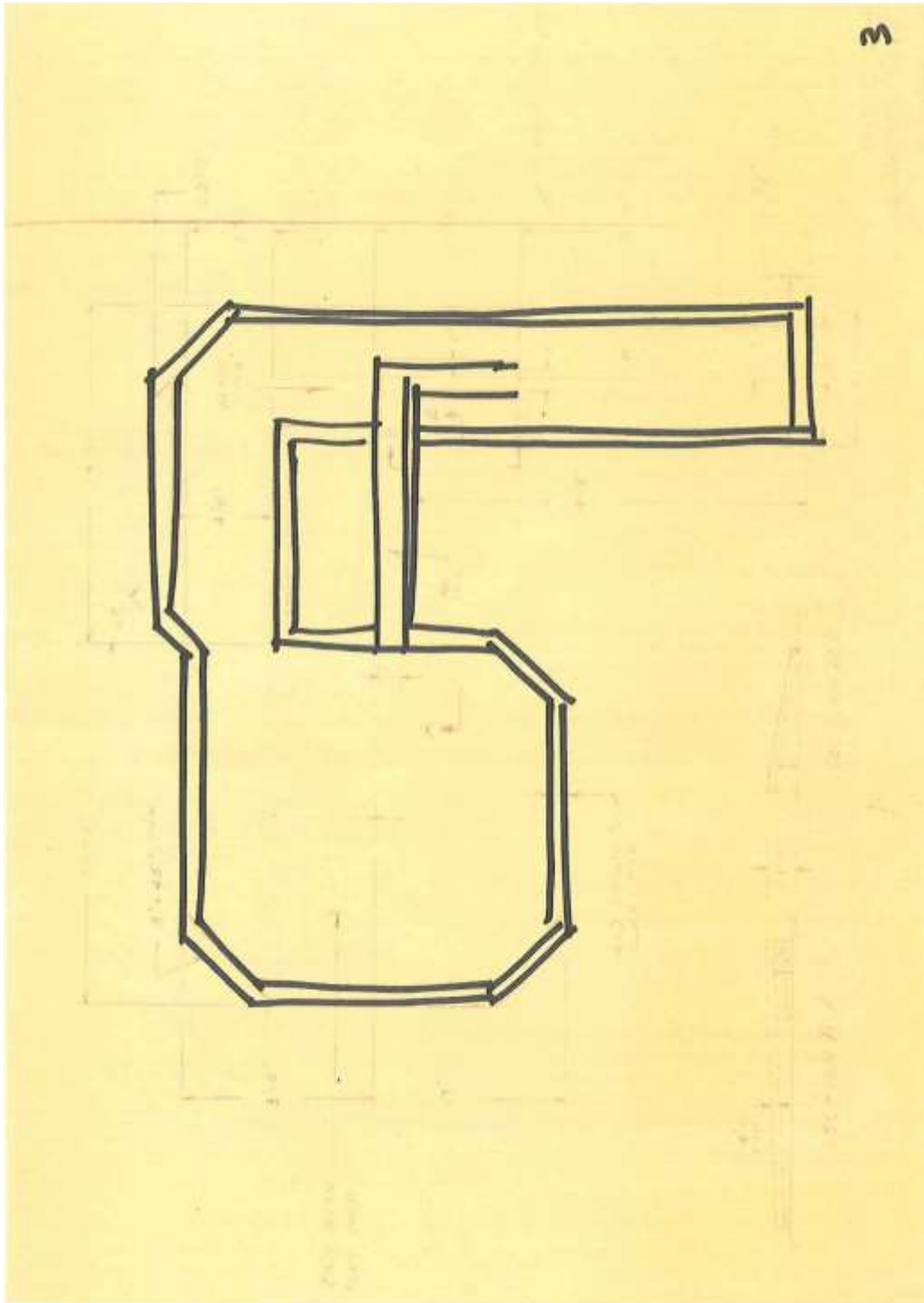
Hole 1: Currently plays east from the ticket stand. Current hole is the same as the original 1931 design for Hole 1, a drawing of which is located below.



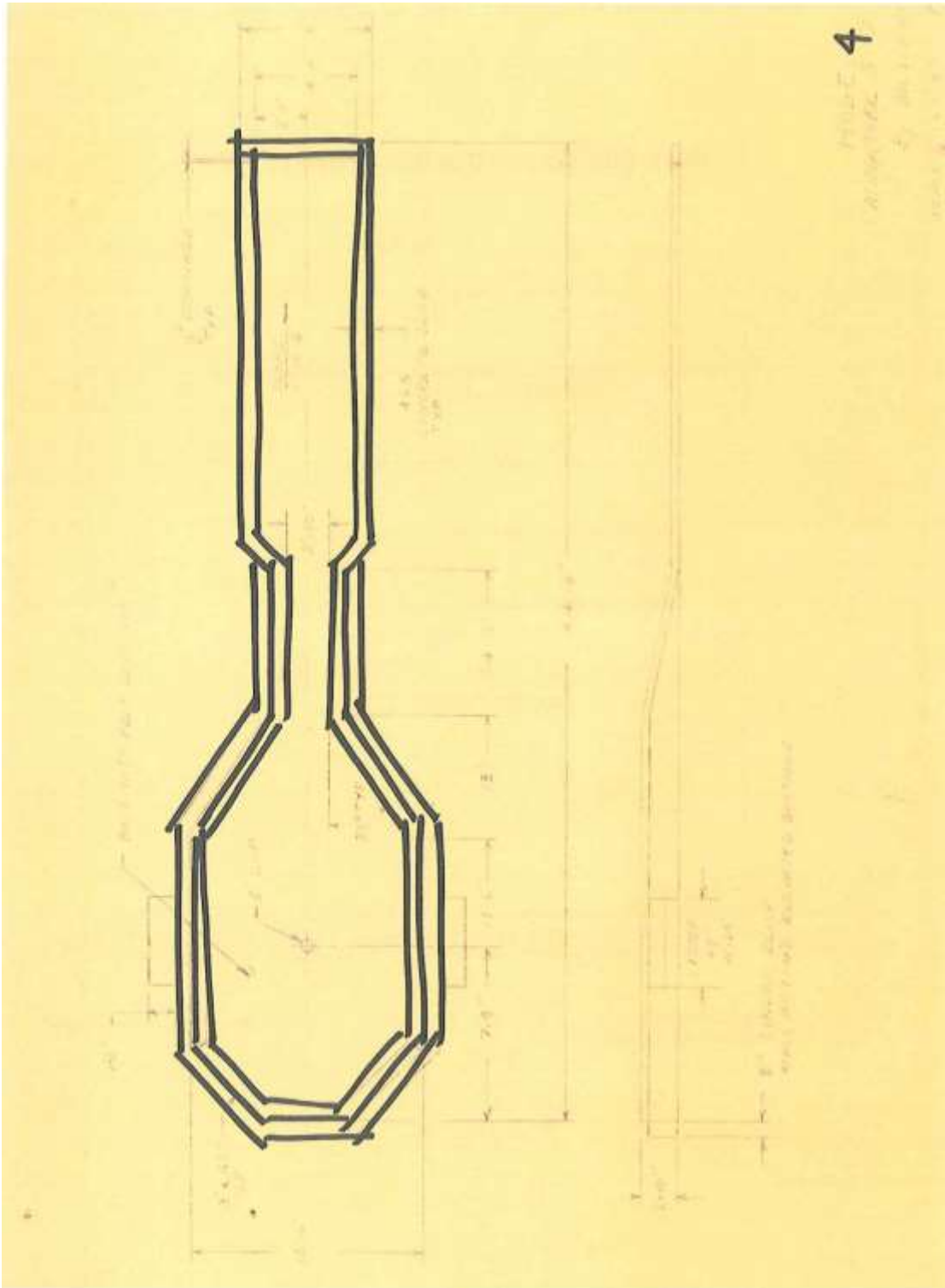
Hole 2: Currently plays east. The hole is the same as the original 1931 design for Hole 2, a drawing of which is located below.



Hole 3: Plays south than east with a bridge option. The current Hole 3 is the same as the original 1931 design, a drawing of which is located below.

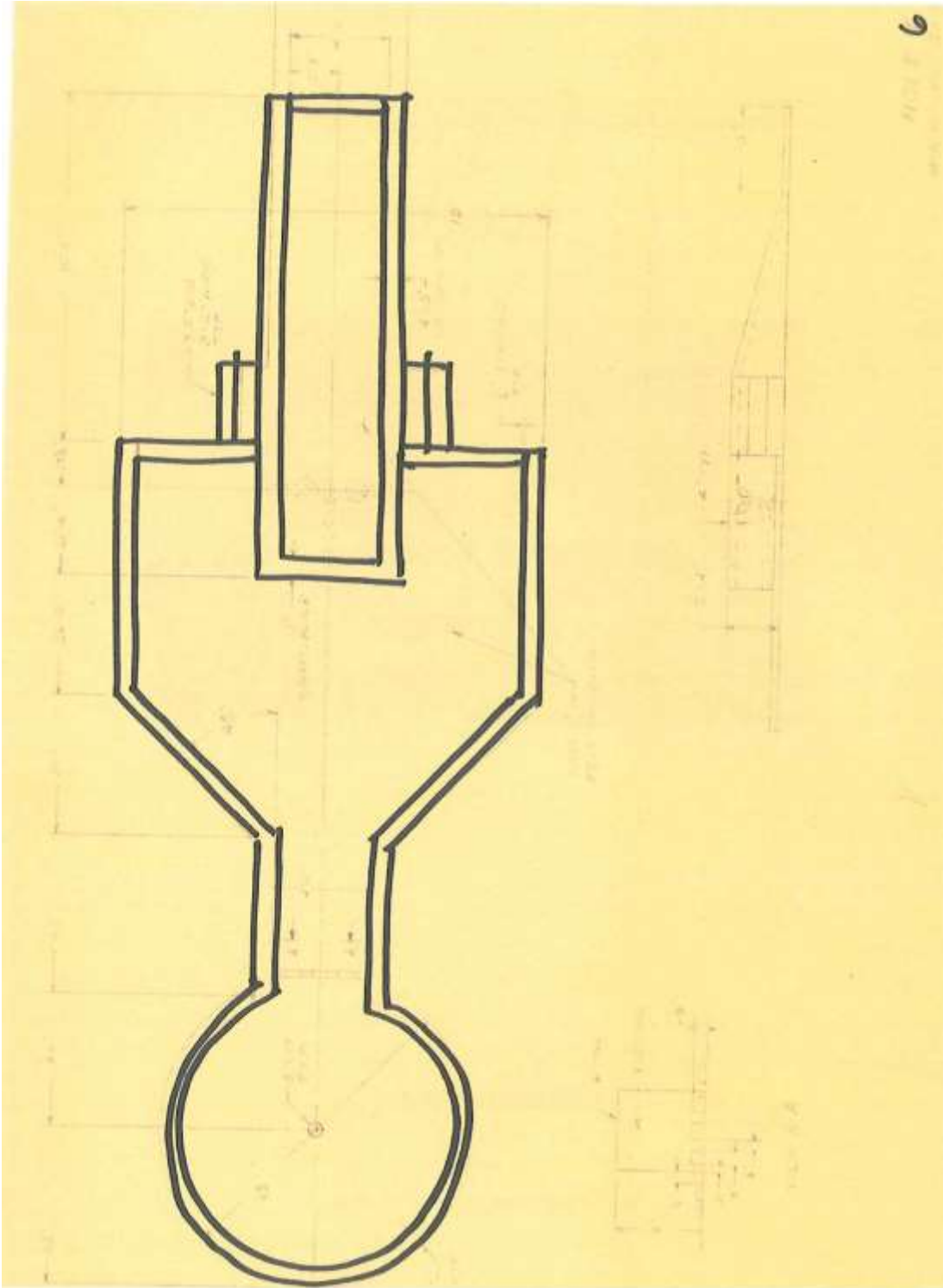


Hole 4: Currently plays east. The hole is the same as the original 1931 design for Hole 4, a drawing of which is located below.

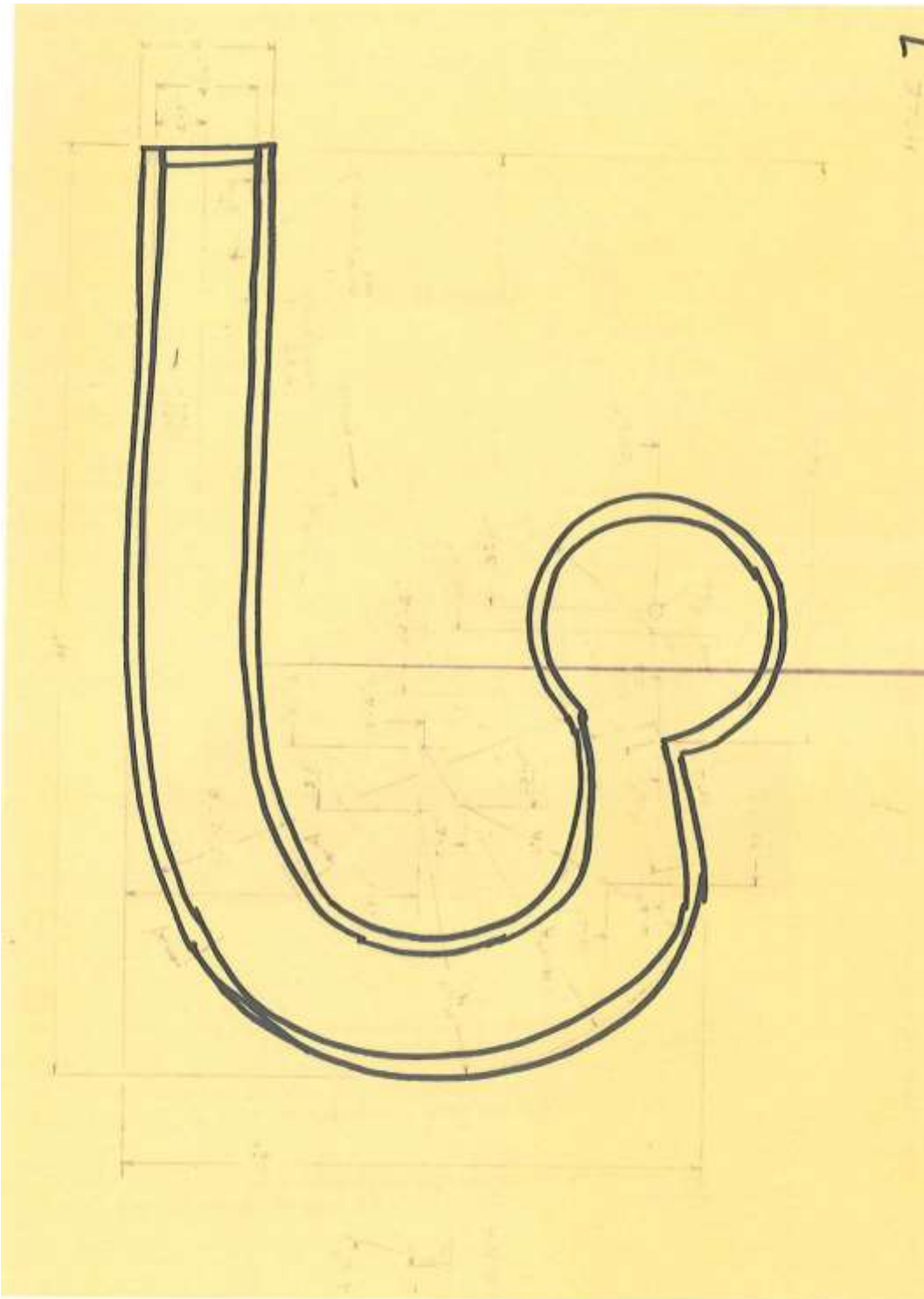


Hole 6:

Hole 6 plays north. Current hole matches original design, of which a drawing is copied below.

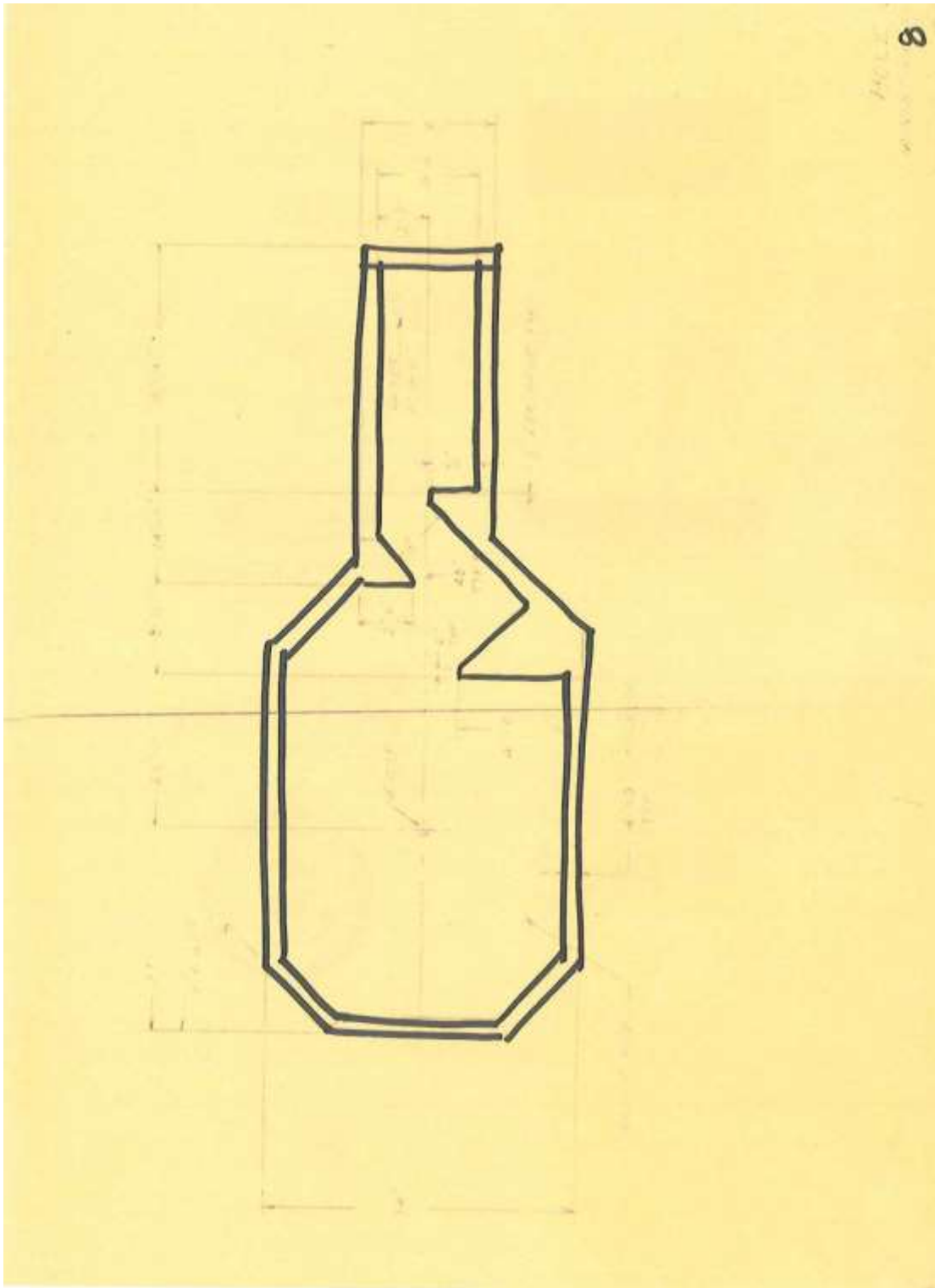


Hole 7: Curving hole that loops west then back east. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

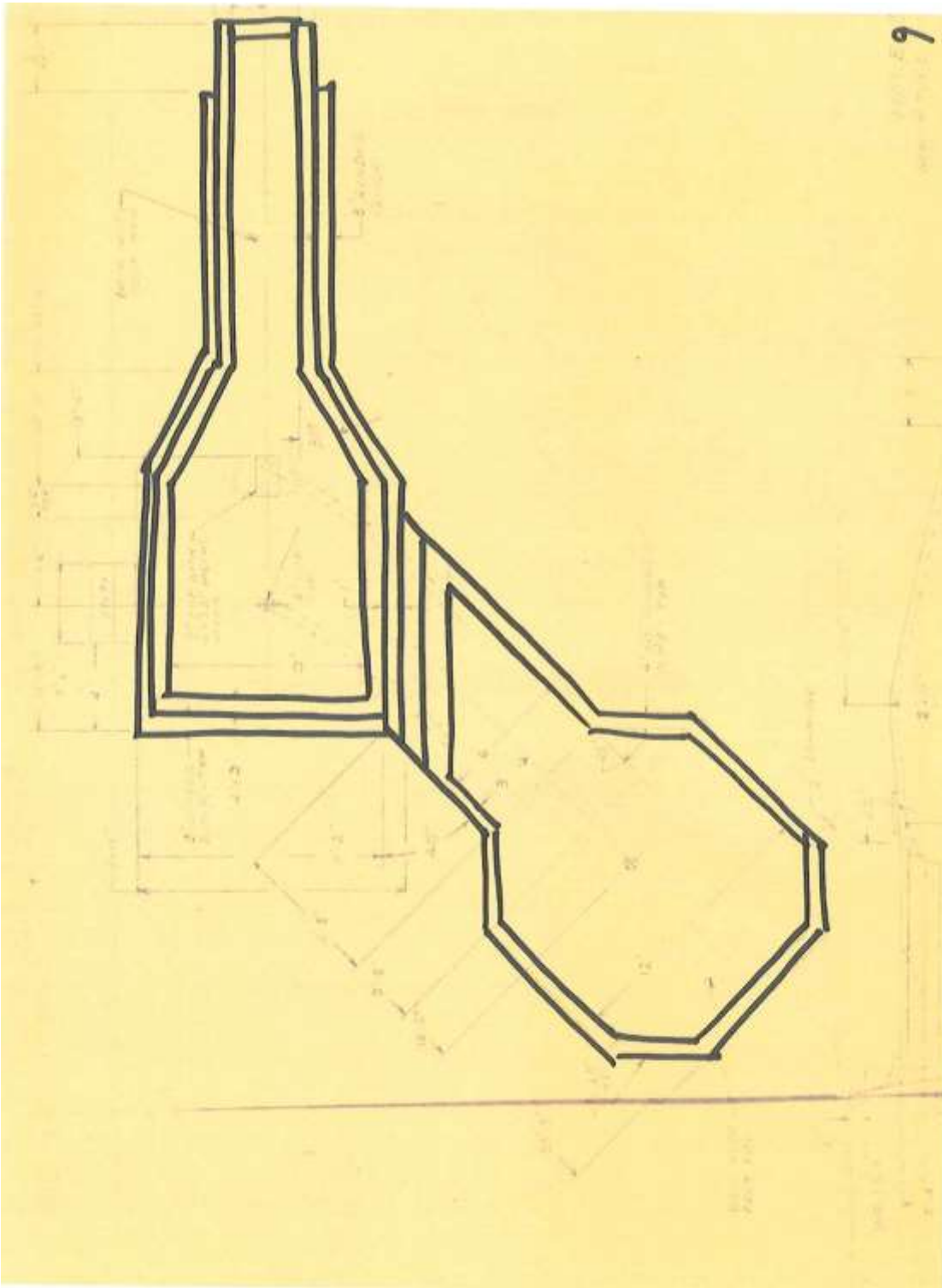


Hole 8:

Paddle shaped hole that plays south. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

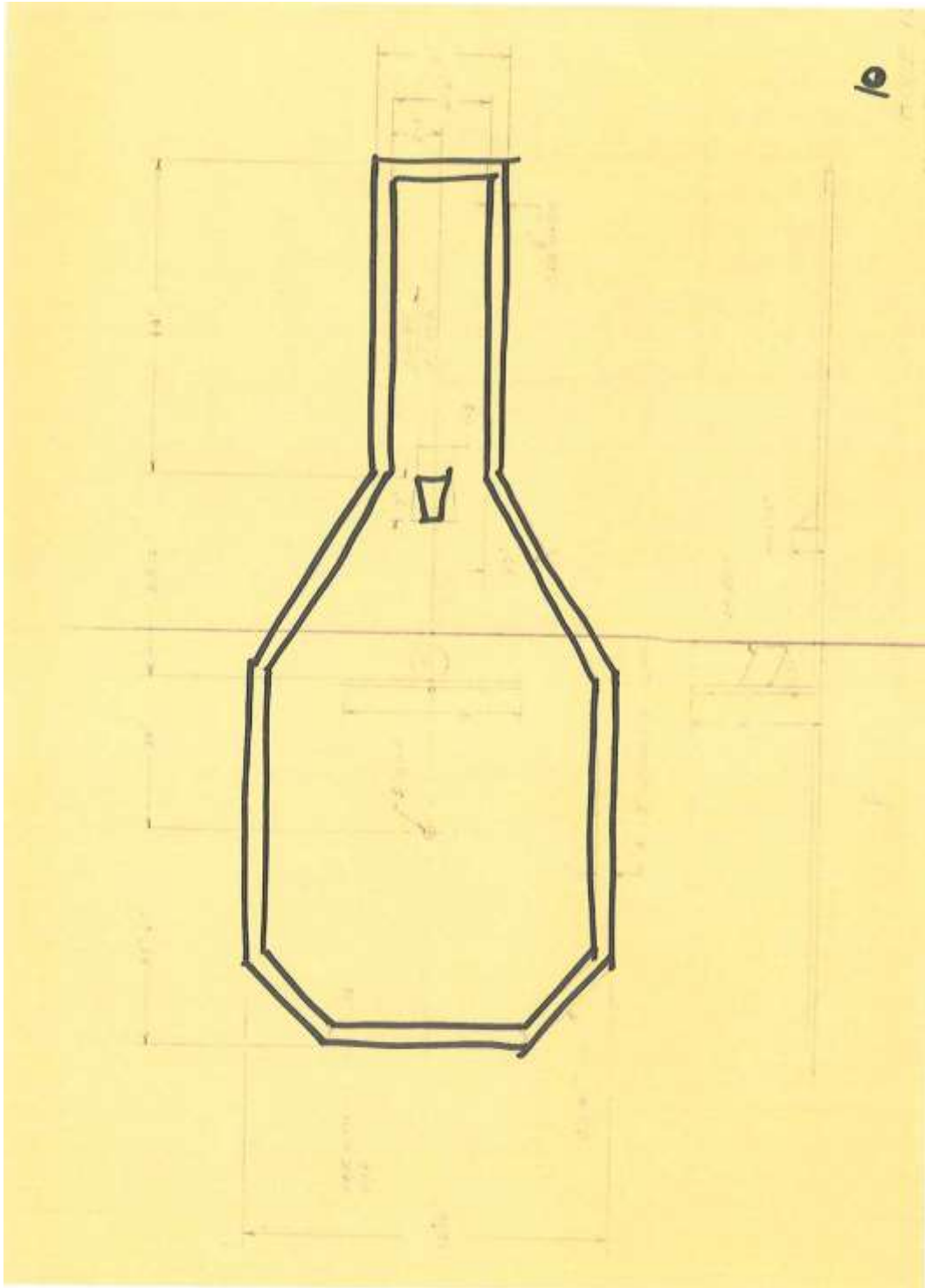


Hole 9: Angled hole playing west then south. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

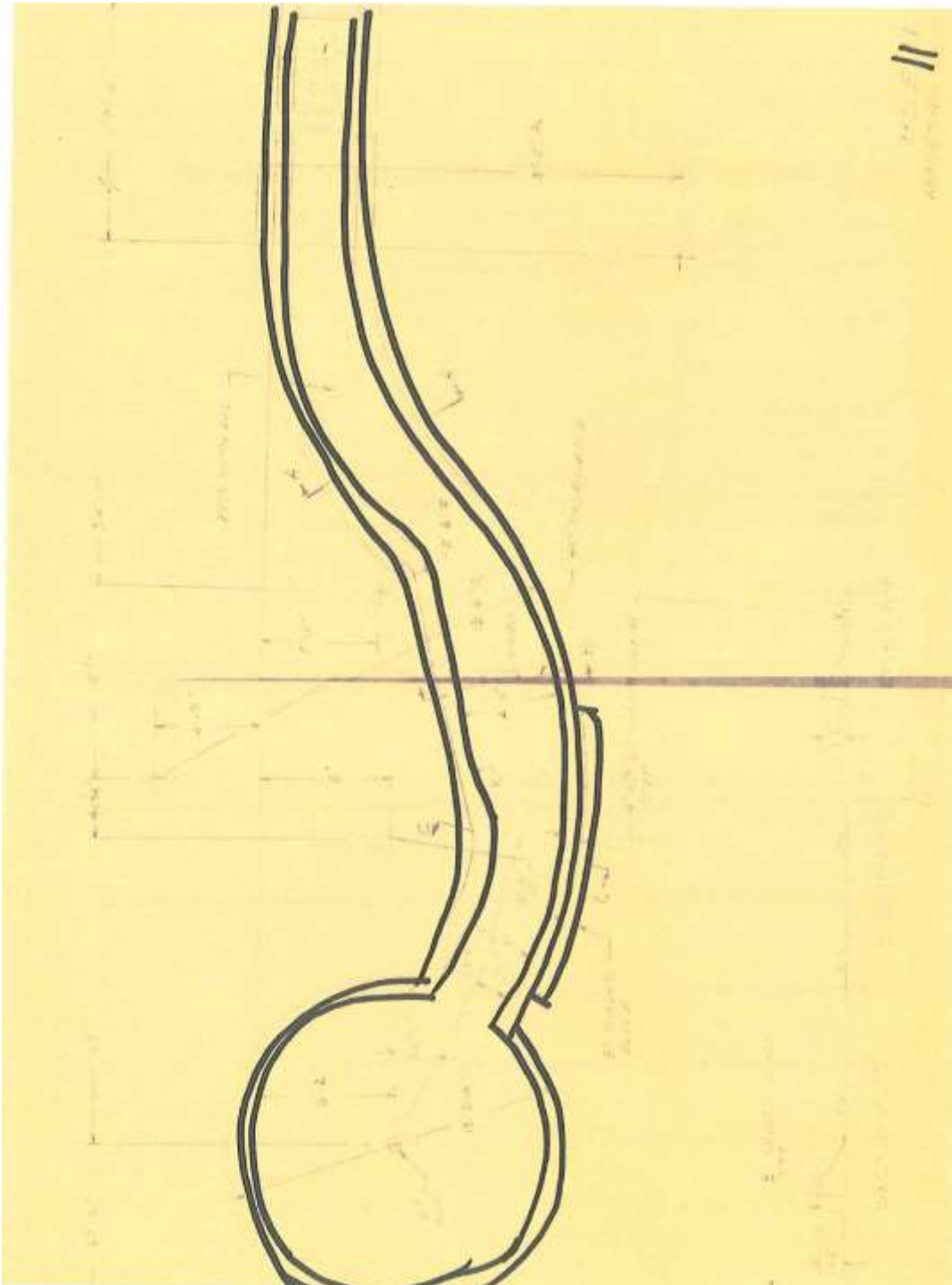


Hole 10:

Paddle shaped hole playing northwest. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

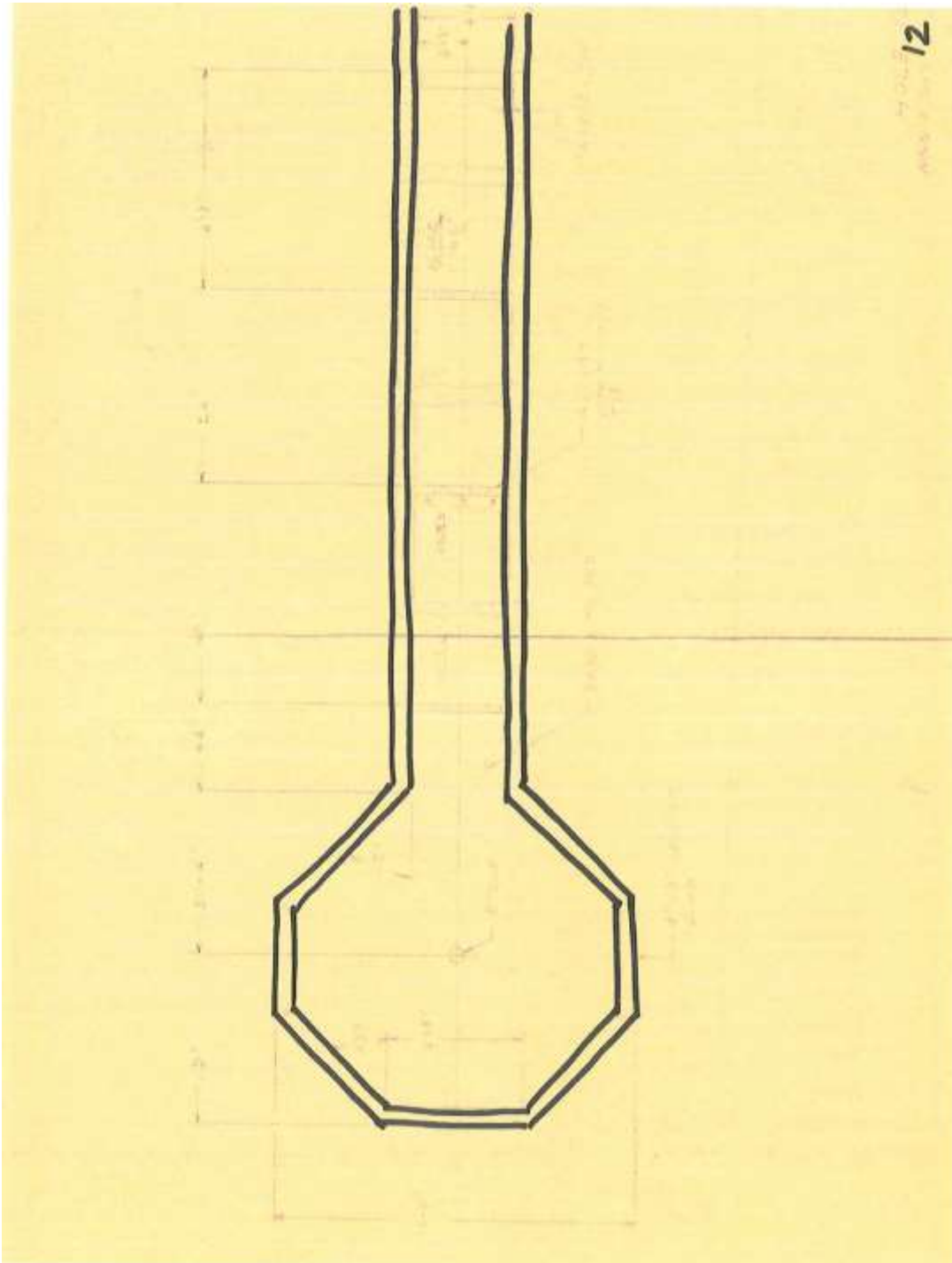


Hole 11: Hole snakes southeast. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



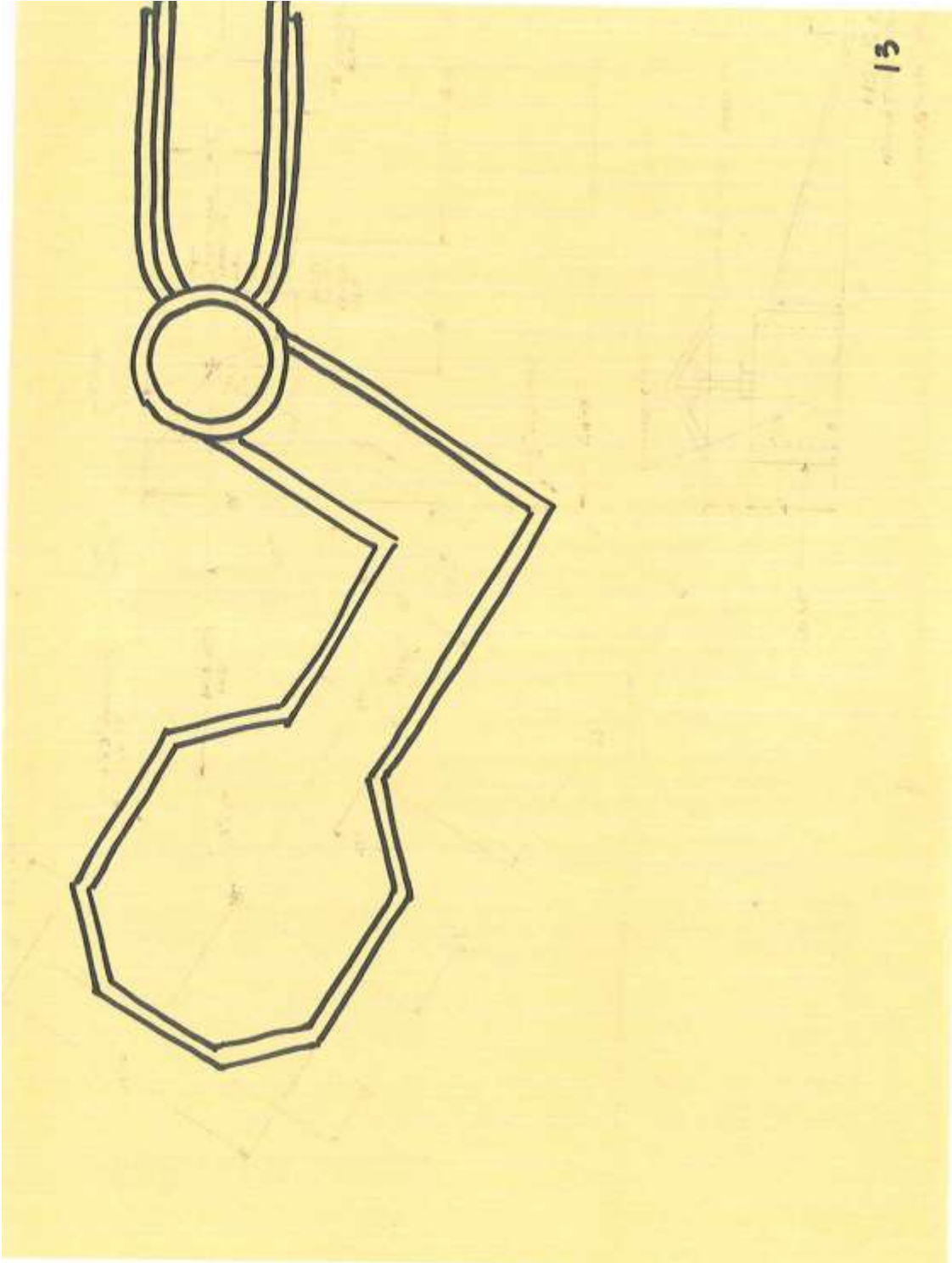
Hole 12:

Stop-sign shaped hole playing west. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



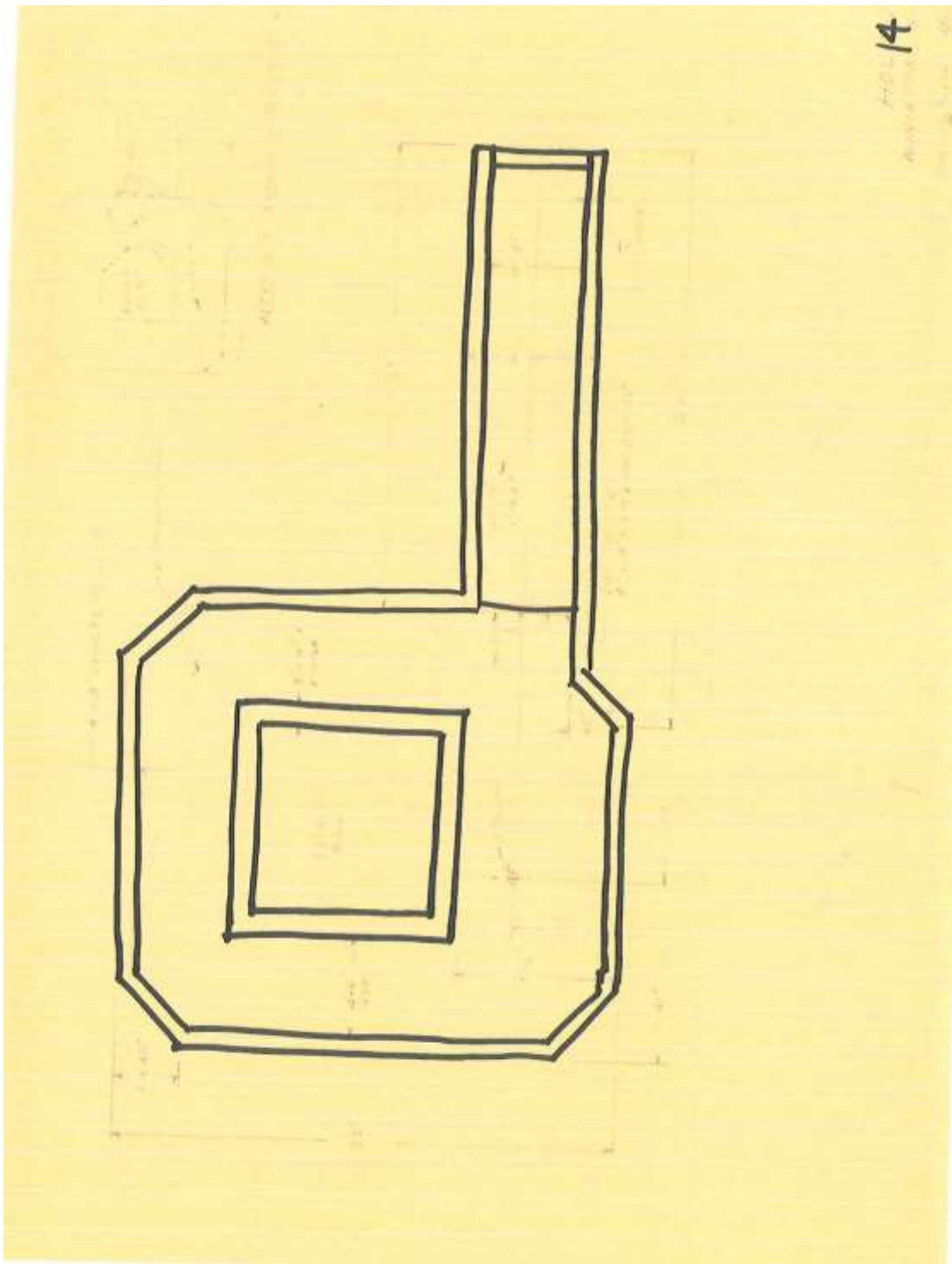
Hole 13:

Elbow shaped hole playing west. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

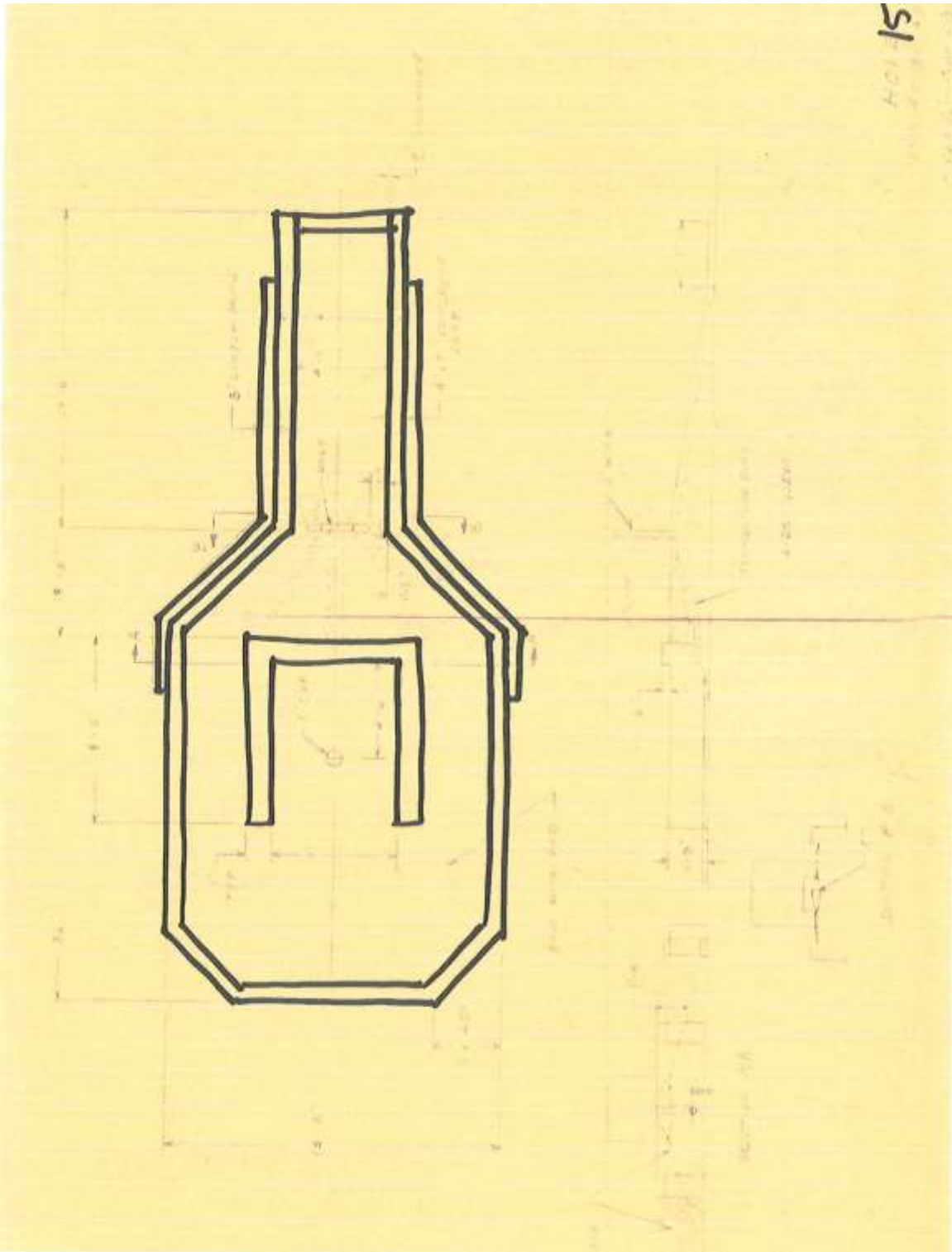


Hole 14:

Square hole playing east. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.

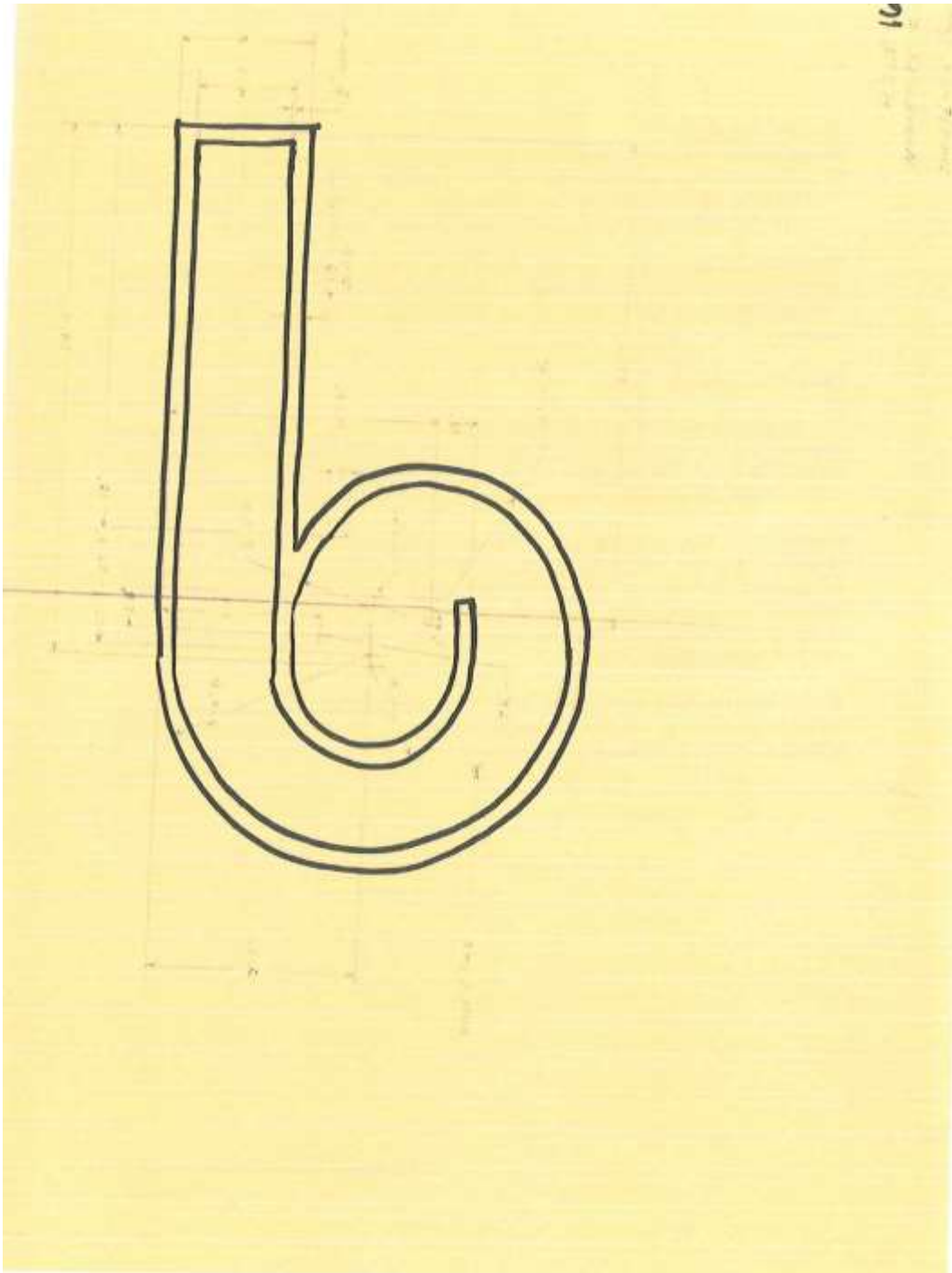


Hole 15: Paddle shaped hole plays west. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



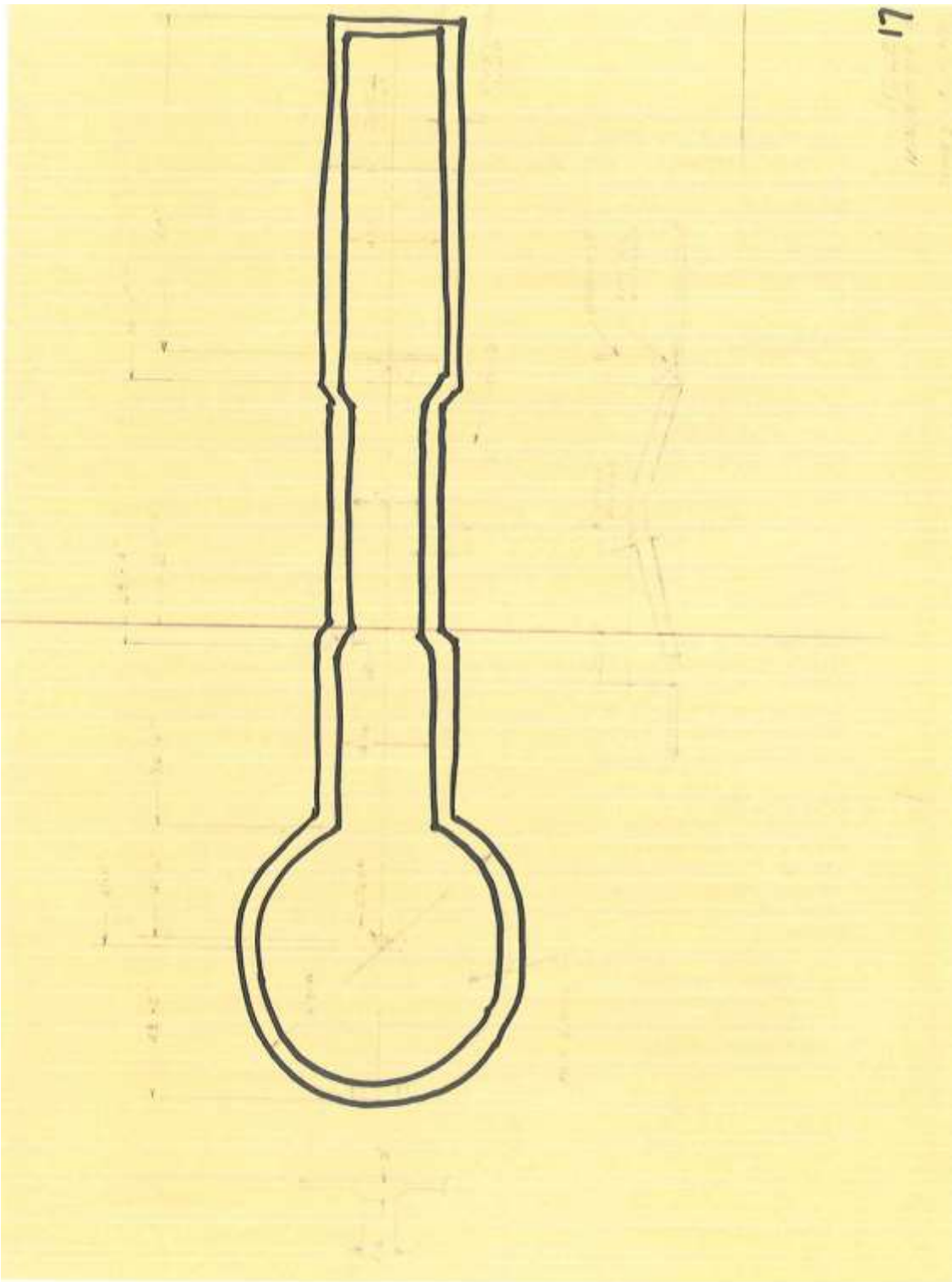
Hole 16:

Spiral shaped hole playing west then back east. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



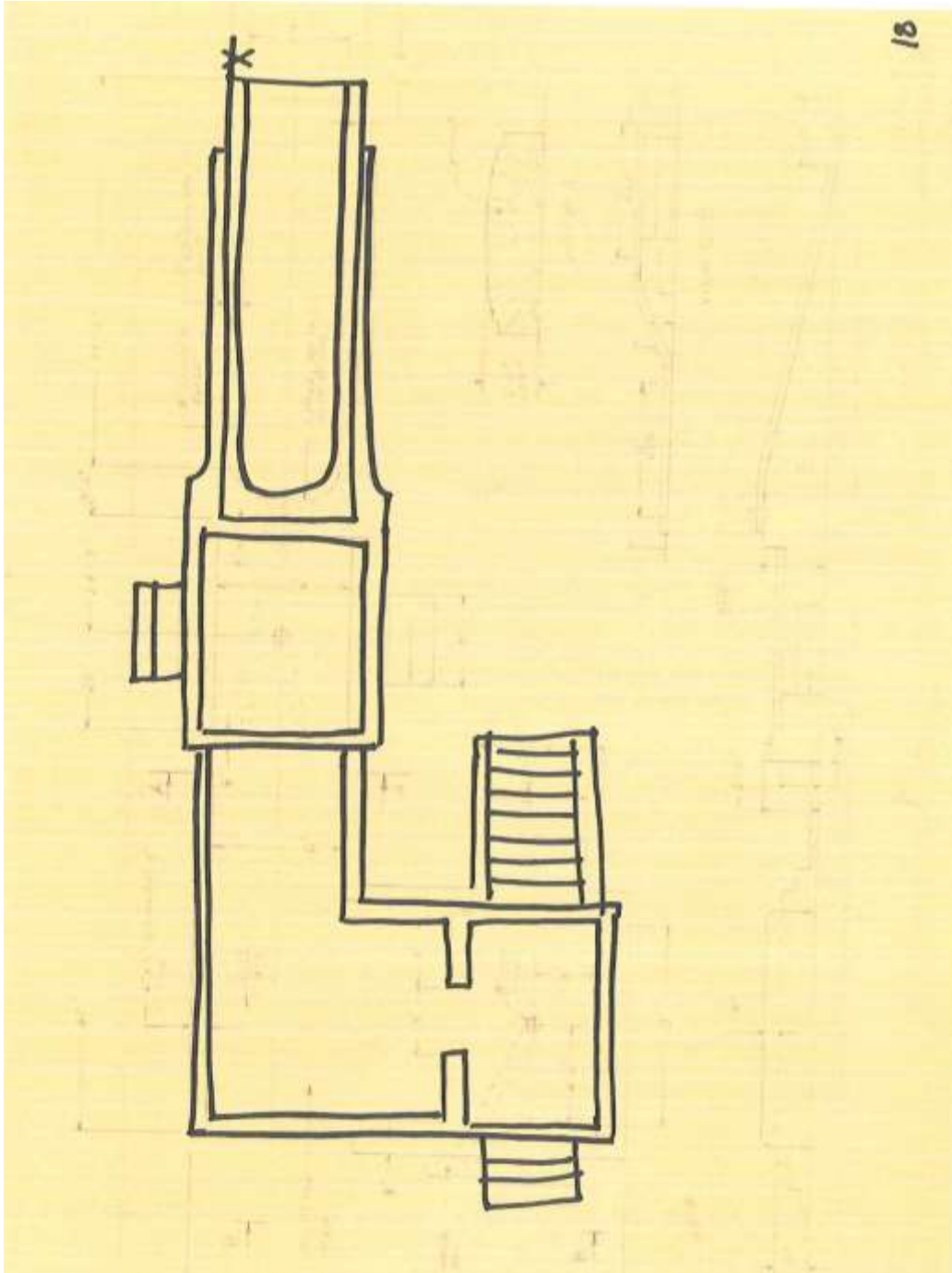
Hole 17:

A lamppost shaped hole that plays east. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



Hole 18:

Multi-leveled hole with ramps that plays west. The current hole matches the original design, a drawing of which is below.



Appendix C: Glossary

Appendix C

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

Note: The following terms were primarily taken from PGA, "Golf Glossary and Golf Terms," accessed February 22, 2017, at <http://www.pga.com/golf-instruction/instruction-feature/fundamentals/golf-glossary-and-golf-terms>; "Murdo Frazer Golf Course, Golf Glossary," accessed February 22, 2017, at <http://murdofrazer.com/golf-glossary>; Forrest Richardson & Assoc., Golf Course Architects, "Golf Course Terminology," accessed February 22, 2017, at http://www.golfgroupltd.com/golf_course_terms.html#l

A

Amateur: Amateurs or amateur golfers in golf play for pleasure, so they don't earn their keep as golfer. They are not even allowed to accept money for any activity, so nor for tournament winnings, neither for teaching golf sports. As a result it is the direct opposite to professional players who do so.

Approach: A shot hit towards the green or towards the hole.

Artificial feature: A feature created by construction means.

Artificial hazard: Any hazard created by construction means.

Artificial hole: A golf hole constructed entirely, or nearly so, by shaping or earthmoving efforts as opposed to being configured into a naturally occurring landscape with minimal or almost no grading effort.

B

Back Nine: In an 18-hole course the last nine holes a golfer plays are called back nine, back side or last nine. Most of the time the round starts at hole one, so the back nine are the holes 10-18.

Bent: Used in British Isles to refer to clumps and areas of sea lyme grass growing with or without other varieties of links grasses intermixed.

Biarritz green: A biarritz, or biarritz green, is a putting green that features a deep gully, or swale, bisecting its middle. The name "biarritz" come from the golf course in France where the first-known biarritz was constructed, Biarritz Golf Club.

Bump and run: A pitch shot around the green in which the player hits the ball into a slope to deaden its speed before settling on the green and rolling towards the hole.

Bunker: A hollow comprised of sand or grass or both that exists as an obstacle and, in some cases, a hazard.

C

Caddie: A person hired to carry clubs and provide other assistance.

Carry: The distance a ball will fly in the air, usually to carry a hazard or safely reach a target.

Cart path: Improved surface on which motorized carts are intended to travel; typically gravel, asphalt or concrete.

Chip and run: A low-running shot played around the greens where the ball spends more time on the ground than in the air.

Chocolate drop: A mound with a pointed apex resembling a drop of chocolate but much larger.

Country club: Private club that only allows members and their guests to use facilities.

Course furnishings: The equipment used on a golf course for the purpose of playing the game of golf; examples are tee markers, flagsticks, flags, ball washers, hazard markers, etc.

Course par: The score standard for a golf course comprised of the total of all of the pars assigned to each hole; the number of strokes that a scratch player may be expected to take in order to complete a round.

Cross-bunker: Sand bunker that lies at a ninety-degree angle to the line of play, usually requiring a shot to carry it.

D

Divot: The turf displaced when the club strikes the ball on a descending path. (Her divot flew into the pond.) It also refers to the hole left after play.

Dog-leg: Descriptive of the shape of a dog's leg used to communicate the angled alignment of a golf hole.

Drive: A shot played from the tee to start a golf hole to any fairway other than that of par-3 hole.

Driving range: Another term for a practice area. Also known as a golf range, practice range or learning center.

Duffer: A person inexperienced at something, especially at playing golf.

E

Earthwork: All operations that include the act of moving or shaping earth.

Executive-length course: Courses with an 18-hole par between 55 and 68; derived from the expectation that "executives" would be able to enjoy a round of golf within the business day and still meet their commitments.

F

Fairway: Expanse of grass which serves as the connection between a tee and a green; the primary target for any shot that is not an approach shot to a green.

Fairway bunker: Sand bunker that has a direct impact on the play of a golf shot other than an approach to the green

Feature: Any hazard, mound, depression, natural condition, area or portion of a golf hole or course which may be individually referenced.

Fore: Occurring before another, or coming before; warning yelled by golfers when a struck ball may endanger another golfer or spectator on a golf course.

Forward tee: The tee of a golf hole which is closest to the green (used now to replace "ladies tee", a mostly archaic term).

Front nine: The first nine holes of an 18-hole golf course; derived from the holes position on the "front" of a scorecard.

G

Geometric: Term used to describe the look of many American golf course designs with their angular and hard-edged slopes and feature shaping; typically prior to 1915.

Golden Age of Golf Course Architecture: Began with the opening of The National Golf Links in 1911 by C.B. Macdonald and lasted until stock market crash of 1929.

Grading: The process of relocating dirt from one place to another with mechanized or hand tools; the result of such activity.

Green: Smooth grassy area at the end of a fairway especially prepared for putting and positioning the hole; all ground of a hole which is specifically prepared for putting.

Green-side bunker: Sand bunker that has a direct strategic or penal impact on the play of a shot to a green

Greenkeeper: An older, outdated term for the course superintendent.

H

Hazard: Area of a golf course containing water, sand or other terrain which is subject to The Rules of Golf pertaining to play from such areas; also a term used loosely to describe features which are in the path of a shot (i.e., trees, hillsides, etc.).

Heathland: An expansive area of interior land, usually wasteland that is relatively flat and poorly drained.

Hole length: The distance as measured along the centerline of a given hole from any tee center point to the green center point.

Hollow: Depressed or low point of a surface; small valley or basin; usually subtle and fitting harmoniously into surrounding slopes or mounds; hollows are not always fully depressed and may drain to other areas.

Hump: An abrupt rise in elevation concentrated on an isolated area.

I

Inland golf course: Golf course not located within the vicinity of a sea or ocean.

L

Links: A seaside golf course constructed on a natural sandy landscape that has been shaped by the wind and receding tides (from the Old English “lincas”, meaning the plural of a ridge, a Scottish term to mean the undulating sandy ground near a shore); also used more generally as a synonym for a “seaside golf course” or a golf course that is configured with nine holes extending outward and nine holes returning to the clubhouse; often incorrectly used to describe any golf course. The Old Course at St. Andrews is the most famous links in the world.

Linksland: Land located proximal to an open sea, or bay connected directly to an open sea, and possessing the characteristics of dunes or seaside vegetation that is composed of naturally rolling sand dunes formed by the wind and the ocean.

M

Maintenance facility: The entirety of the facilities required to care for a golf course; usually a building and grounds for storage of equipment and supplies, and space for offices and maintenance of equipment

Maintenance road: Improved road or path alignment developed only for use by maintenance personnel for their access to and around the golf course and maintenance facility.

Mashie: Classic golf term for a middle iron with the loft of a 5, 6 or 7-iron.

Mound: A single raised area of earth created by shaping; seldom used in reference to a natural rise in the ground, unless specifically a “natural mound.”

Municipal golf course: Golf facility owned by local or city government and open to the public.

N

Natural feature: Any individual feature or collective features of a course or hole which was not manufactured

Natural hazard: Feature that existed on the site before the construction of the golf course and was incorporated into the design as a hazard; usually a body of water or natural sandy area.

O

Obstacle: Any feature, tree or condition in the way of a golfer’s pursuit of a target or lower score.

Old course: Shorter and common reference to Royal St. Andrews Golf Links Old Course.

P

Par: The score an accomplished player is expected to make on a hole, either a three, four or five.

Parkland: Land located inland and partially wooded, but open enough to resemble a park area.

Parkland course: Course located on parkland or in such a setting.

Partial paths: Cart trails which are limited to only certain parts of a course and require use of fairways and roughs for cart traffic, such as from greens to tees.

Penal design: Golf course design focusing on penalizing a golfer for a poor or miss-hit shot in the form of either forced carries or fairways lined with hazards; a penal design is characterized by a lack of strategic concept other than to not miss-hit.

Philadelphia School of Design: Born out of a supply of talented golfers in the Philadelphia area with little or no skilled golf course architects; considered one of the more daring and creative schools; architects: Billy Bell, George Crump, William S. Flynn, A.W. Tillinghast, George Thomas, Hugh and Merion Wilson.

Pitch-and-putt course: A course on which all of the holes are significantly shorter than most par-3 holes and require “pitch” shots to reach a green or area defined for putting; such courses generally have holes ranging from 10 to 100 yards.

Pitch-and-run: A shot from around the green, usually with a middle or short iron, where the ball carries in the air for a short distance before running towards the hole.

Pitch shot: A "pitch shot" (or just "pitch") is a shot played with a highly lofted club that is designed to go a relatively short distance with a steep ascent and steep descent. Pitch shots are played into the green, typically from 40-50 yards and closer.

Pot bunker: Small and round, especially deep sand bunker.

Putt: Stroking a golf ball in such a manner that it rolls the entire distance it travels, usually in an attempt to achieve the final goal of hitting the ball into the hole either from the surface of a putting green or near proximity to one.

Putting green: An improved surface for putting (see "green"); often used to refer to a practice green for putting, but the term can mean any green where putting takes place.

R

Railroad tie embankment: A wall or slope stabilized with railroad ties which creates a formal appearance along a bunker or other slope.

Rain shelter: A small structure provided in regions prone to rain outbursts in order to provide refuge to golfers during a round; typically located in areas accessible from multiple holes and often provided every few holes.

Redesign: A hole or course that undergoes a new design.

Renovation: Change(s) made to a golf course or hole to improve conditions.

Restoration: Careful rebuilding of a golf course, hole or area to return it to the form and character as designed and constructed originally.

Roughs: All parts of a golf course excluding greens, tees, fairways, hazards, and areas out-of-bonus which, with the tees and tee banks, greens and green banks, fairways, sand traps and lakes make up the total area of the golf course.

Routing: The path of golf holes from the first tee of the first hole to the last green of the last hole of a given golf course; also used to describe the alignment of cart paths.

Run-up: A shot played purposefully to run along the ground and "up" to the green.

S

Sand green: Putting surface constructed of compacted sand and no turf, the surface is often oiled to keep the sand in place; sand greens are constructed where no water is available or where no means exist to finance standard turfgrass greens.

Sand trap: Sand-filled depression strategically placed as a hazard and a deterrent to making an unimpeded recovery shot; term used regionally in place of bunker (see "bunker").

Short course: Usually a par-3 or executive-length course, but occasionally a regulation course that is shorter than average.

Strategic design: Golf course design concept focusing on alternate routes from which a golfer may choose to proceed based on risk versus the reward; this approach also allows for players with different skills to negotiate a hole commensurate with their particular skill level.

Stolonizing: The process of taking the stolon of the turfgrass plant which is a reproductive structure and spreading them over the surface of the dirt much like seeding. This type of propagation only works with grasses that are stoloniferous. The most common stoloniferous grass is the Bermuda grass and bent grass.

T

Target: An area at which the golfer is expected to aim, land or end up; sometimes used interchangeably with “pin” or “flag.”

Target golf: Coined in mid-1960s to define courses on which play is from area to area and the emphasis on the roll of the ball is diminished as a result of such lush conditions; also interchanged now with “target course.”

Tee box: The area where players tee to start a hole.

Temporary green: A green or moderately improved area delineated for use as a green under the rules of golf that is temporary in play while the regular green is repaired or altered.

Tile drainage: Drainage by means of a series of tile lines laid at a specific depth and grade.

Tree line: The edge of a group of trees that defines a wooded area, especially so after clearing for a fairway or following growth of planted trees to maturity.

Tree lined: A fairway lined with dense trees.

Turfgrass: Grass specifically developed to serve as a playing surface for a recreational activity or for a residential or commercial law.

V

Variety: The quality or state of having different forms or types of views, strategies and experiences on a course.

W

Well-Trapped: Hole, green or fairway that has many bunkers or bunkers which are especially well place.

Woodlands: Land covered with trees and shrubs (woody vegetation); usually a forest, but also plantations, farmland and other lands on which woody vegetation is established and maintained for any purpose.

Y

Yardage: Length of a golf hole or point to point measurement on a golf course or golf facility.

