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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ORIGINAL ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE SITE

other names/site number Rogers Park Golf Course; FMSF HI11709

2. Location

street & number 7801 North 30th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Tampa N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33610

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert F. Bendus 9/17/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Jim [Signature] 11-12-2014
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	15	structures
0	1	objects
1	18	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ETHNIC HERITAGE (BLACK)

Period of Significance

1947-1952

Significant Dates

1947

1952

1963

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: N/A

Blder: Black, Willie

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 52 apprx.**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	5	9	7	4	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
2	1	7	3	6	0	3	6	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0

3	1	7	3	6	0	3	6	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
4	1	7	3	5	9	7	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Elaine Lund, Historic Preservation Specialist/W. Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationistorganization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 2012street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Herb Fecker Jr., CCIM, Manager, Real Estate Division, City of Tampastreet & number 306 East Jackson Street N telephone (813) 274-7852city or town Tampa state Florida zip code 33602**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

ORIGINAL ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE SITE
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Original Rogers Park Golf Course Site found at 7801 North 30th Street in Tampa, Florida, consists of that parcel of land which formed the original 9-hole course designed by Willie Black, amid the larger surrounding Rogers Park Golf Course, modified in 1977 and 2002 respectively, to an 18-hole par 71 championship golf course. The area of land covered by this nomination proposal is generally bounded by the Hillsborough River on the north and east, North 30th Street (Willie Black Drive) on the west, and East Veve Lane on the south and southeast. (Photo 1). The original 9-hole course laid out by former golf caddie Willie Black from 1947 to 1952, occupies approximately 52 acres of land bordered by the Hillsborough River, which wraps around the jutting parcel of land from the northwest extending around the tip to the southeast. By 1954, the course was expanded westward to 18 holes under Black's direction, and subsequently opened to all golfers in 1963 when the city of Tampa desegregated all public facilities. The area nominated within this proposal historically featured the Willie Black-designed course of 9 holes, a baseball field, and picnic area—all on land donated by successful African American local businessman Garfield Devoe Rogers, for whom the park is named. These amenities were instrumental in providing African American families access to golf and recreational activities during a period where they were marginalized by segregationist law. The golf course underwent major renovations in 1977 and 2002 so it could meet United States Golf Association (USGA) standards for a professional golf circuit. Although lacking physical integrity due to these modifications, the site maintains a continuity of use as a golf course and, in the memory of many local African Americans, embodies the opportunities they were able to achieve during the Segregation Period.

SETTING

Tampa is a city of approximately 300,000 residents and part of a major metropolitan area in west Florida having a population of about 2,000,000. The nearby beaches and other attractions, the sporting facilities and the climate bring thousands of tourists to the area each year, adding to the economic vitality of the area. Tampa is located in the western part of central Florida and sits at the mouth of the Hillsborough River, which empties into Tampa Bay, an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico. Tampa is the seat of Hillsborough County and a major seaport. It is a financial center of the state, and light manufacturing plays an important role in the economy, as does tourism and sports. Cigar manufacturing, which once employed thousands of workers, no longer contributes significantly to the economic life of the city; however, the industry has left its mark on the population, with a high percentage of residents with a Latin or Cuban background.

DESCRIPTION

The Willie Black Side of the Rogers Park Golf Course occupies nearly all of the peninsula of land east of 30th Avenue (Willie Black Drive) and north of Veve Lane extending into horseshoe shaped portion of land bordered

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by the Hillsborough River. The course was acquired by the City of Tampa in 1960.¹ The golf course came under the management of the Tampa Sports Authority in 1976. In 1977, the course layout was redesigned by Ronald M. Garl, a golf course architect from Lakeland, Florida, in response to the ponding that occurred on the course during Tampa's rainy summers.² Garl also designed the Avila Golf and Country Club in Tampa and remodeled the Babe Zaharias Golf Course. In 2000, the Tampa Sports Authority undertook another renovation. The four million dollar renovation included the improvement of the irrigation and drainage systems and modification of the greens to meet United States Golf Association (USGA) specifications, imperative in maintaining the course's standing in the professional golf circuit. A three-hole short-game practice area was added to the Willie Black Side of the course by Ron Garl. The new landscaping, including native grasses and trees, and re-shaping of the greens was intended to convey a traditional Florida landscape. A pro shop constructed in 1964 was demolished to build a new clubhouse which was completed in 2002.³

No drawing or description of the original layout of the Willie Black designed golf course as completed in 1952 is available. The present course layout; therefore, must be considered noncontributing as do all of the existing buildings and structures now found within the original boundaries of the golf course. Also, nothing remains of the original the facilities that included a tennis court, a baseball diamond, a mini-golf course, a playground, and a picnic pavilion. Nevertheless, to clarify the present appearance of the Willie Black Side, the map accompanying the National Register nomination proposal shows the layout of the course and keyed to photographs of the tees, holes, and landscape features of the course. Since the courses were constructed to include the tees, fairways; and greens, they are considered structures. The three-hole short course is also composed of structures. Photos were also taken of the buildings and structures associated with the Willie Black Side, even though it is only the site of the original course that is considered eligible for listing in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black.

Building the Original Golf Course

The physical development of the Willie Black Side of the golf course partly can be seen in three aerial photographs of the area taken between 1938 and 1968. The 1938 aerial view (Figure 1) shows the undeveloped peninsula formed by the horseshoe of the Hillsborough River. Both 30th Avenue and the beginnings of Veve Lane already exist. Small trees, probably pines, cover much of the south half of the peninsula, whereas the upper part of the land is mainly bare of trees but features a couple of small lakes or sinkholes. The 1957 aerial photo (Figure 2) shows that trails and fairways have been cleared through the woods. A recreation and picnic area has been created on the eastern bank of the river, northwest of which is a baseball field. The northern half of the peninsula seems to have been little developed at this point; however, the course has been extended west

¹ Tom Jackson, "'This is the best game in town' - Rogers Park is the course for Everygolfer. What it lacks in snob appeal, it makes up for in amiability," Tampa Tribune, June 17, 1993.

² Richard Murdy, "Rogers Park facelift nearly done," Tampa Times, June 27, 1977.

³ Mick Elliott, "Rogers Park will offer slice of Florida," Tampa Tribune, May 18, 2000.

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of 30th Avenue. The 1968 aerial photo (Figure 3) shows that all of the Willie Black Side of the course has been developed. The fairways, stretches of woods, water hazards, and sand traps are clearly visible. The ball field now bordered by picnic pavilions is still extant, and a new addition is the 1960 clubhouse which has cars parked on both sides of 30th Avenue. Automobiles can also be faintly seen in the parking areas for the picnic and recreational area, and there appears to be piers for the docking of boats.

Today, the 18-hole golf course features slightly rolling, grass-covered hills dotted with ornamental grasses and a variety of trees, including pine, oak, cedar, and palm trees, among others. Scattered sand traps and five ponds edged by tall grasses distinguish the holes of the Willie Black Side of the course, which features asphalt golf cart paths. While the original layout of the Rogers Park Golf Course has been modified and upgraded to accommodate modern golfing standards, its association with the segregation era remains significant as a historic resource both to Tampa's African American community and the City of Tampa as a whole. The original 9-hole section of the Rogers Park Golf Course represents the development of segregation-era public parks and golfing in Tampa and the growth of golf as a popular and professional sport for African Americans.

The Present Willie Black Side Layout Shown on the Map

Hole 8 (Photos 2-4) : This is a 204 yard par 3 hole bordered by trees, no doglegs or sand traps, and only one water hazard located just beyond the green.

Hole 9 (Photos 5-8): This is a 509 yard par 5 hole bordered by only a few trees, but featuring a major sand trap and a large water hazard.

Hole 10 (Photos 9-10): This 375 yard par 4 hole has only a slight dogleg and on only one small sand trap located near the green.

Hole 11 (Photos 11-12): This 371 yard par 4 hole has a relatively straight shot to the green with no major water hazards or sand traps.

Hole 12 (Photos 13-14): This 202 yard par 3 hole has is a relatively easy hole without traps or other hazards.

Hole 13 (Photos 15-18): This 399 yard par 4 hole presents a challenge to the golfer, having a strong dogleg, sand traps, and a large water hazard near the green.

Hole 14 (Photos 19-21): This 525 par 5 hole challenges the golfer with a narrow fairway near the tee, a strong dogleg to the north and two large water hazards midway to the green. There is also a sand trap just in front of the large raised green.

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Hole 15 (Photos 22-23): This 205 yard par 3 hole presents a narrow fairway with large water hazards on both sides of the fairway, one of which borders the green.

Hole 16 (Photos 24-25): This 380 yard par 4 hole features a narrow fairway flanked by water hazards just off the tee and a strong dogleg to the southwest. The golfer faces small sand traps before reaching the green.

Hole 17 (Photos 26-28): This 422 yard par 4 hole has the third longest fairway on the course. This hole also has a narrow fairway and a dogleg. Water and sand trap hazards flank the fairway, and the terrain rolls just short of the green.

Hole 18 (Photos 29-30): This 427 yard par four hole is the second longest on the course and has a large water hazard just behind the green.

Noncontributing buildings and structures

The c.1960 masonry clubhouse (Photos 31-32) on the west side of North 30th Street does not contribute to the nomination proposal. This clubhouse was constructed during the expansion of the course from nine to 18 holes and was substantially remodeled as part of the overall golf course renovation in 1977.⁴ The building was remodeled again in 2008 to accommodate the First Tee program run by the YMCA.

Across the street from the c.1960 clubhouse is the newer c. 2002 masonry clubhouse (Photo 33). The hipped roof of this clubhouse is covered in clay tiles and accented by a square clock tower. The recessed main entrance is found on the west facade, which faces Willie Black Drive and contains a single-light metal-framed swing door surrounded by fixed metal sidelights and transom windows. A porch extends from this entrance, and its hipped roof is supported by double square columns that rest on rectangular piers. The east facade faces the golf course and features three large multiple-pane fixed windows and a porch with a hipped-roof supported by square columns on rectangular piers. The stucco on the clubhouse facade is scored in large rectangular patterns. A molded stringcourse runs around the building above the doorways, and a molded cornice runs below the eaves. Decorative eight-pointed stars are set in panels above the stringcourse on the primary facade. A breezeway connects the northern wing, which contains restrooms, and a wall on the northeastern corner of the building shields mechanical equipment.

Located in the midst of the Willie Black Side of the golf course is a noncontributing c. 2002 pavilion (Photo 34), frequently used for group picnics and other social gatherings. Twelve painted concrete block columns rise from a poured concrete foundation and support the gabled roof of the pavilion. The roof features an exposed wood truss, exposed rafter tails, asphalt shingles, and vertically grooved plywood siding in the gable ends. A

⁴ Murdy, 27 June 1977.

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noncontributing c.2002 concrete block building containing restroom facilities (Photo 35) is south of the pavilion, near Hole 12. Painted concrete block walls screen the restroom entrances. The low-pitched gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and aluminum vents are located in the gable ends. A noncontributing wood frame shelter (Photo 36) is found near Holes 15, 16, and 17. Four square wood posts support the asphalt-shingle clad hipped roof of this c.2002 structure. A wood bench stretches between the posts on the west side. Willie Black died on November 27, 1993, at the age of 78. He was a member of the Black Golfers Association and was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame in 1987.⁵ The Willie Black monument (Photos 37-38), a noncontributing resource, is located on the Willie Black Side, facing North 30th Street (Willie Black Drive). This square granite pillar rests on a poured concrete pad surrounded by Mexican petunias. This monument was presented to the Rogers Park Golf Course by the Tampa Golf Club in 1994. Photos of Willie Black and the First Men's Golf Association at Rogers Park Golf Course in 1952 are displayed on the angled top of the monument. The inscription on the west side of the marker reads, "Willie Black Side Honoring the late Willie Black, Sr. for his dedication and contributions to golf and development of Rogers Park Golf Course."

Although the whole 18-hole golf course is shown on the aerial map of the of the Original Rogers Park Golf Course, the nomination proposal does not contain a hole by hole description of the layout of the western half of the course, as its features all post-date the construction of the course originally laid out by Willie Black and constructed largely by volunteers between 1947 and 1952.

⁵ Tampa Tribune, December 1, 1993.

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ORIGINAL ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE SITE
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

Named after African American businessman and philanthropist Garfield Devoe Rogers who donated the land for a park and golf course to serve the African American community in Tampa, the Original Rogers Park Golf Course is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Black Ethnic History, Social History, and Entertainment/Recreation. The original 9-hole golf course was designed by Willie Black, an African American caddie who worked at the private, segregated Palma Ceia Golf Course in South Tampa. He constructed the course with the help of volunteers, some of whom were also golf caddies. Work began on the course in 1947, and Rogers Park Golf Course opened in 1952, with Black as the head golf professional.⁶ Other amenities of the original golf course constructed for the use of African Americans were a tennis court, a baseball diamond, a mini-golf course, a playground, and a picnic pavilion. In 1954, the course was expanded to 18 holes when an additional 9 holes were constructed on an adjacent parcel of property to the west. During the era of segregation Rogers Park and Golf Course attracted African American golfers and families who also enjoyed the recreational facilities. The course attracted black golfers from all over the country and many other African American sports and entertainment celebrities. After the golf course was desegregated in 1963, it became a golfing destination for amateur and professional golfers throughout the nation.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

African Americans in Tampa

Florida officially became a United States territory in 1821, but Americans did not settle in the Tampa area until the U.S. Army established Fort Brooke at the mouth of the Hillsborough River in 1824. Tampa was officially incorporated in 1855. Although the population consisted mainly of military personnel, Tampa had about 1,000 inhabitants by 1858, and the town in the vicinity of the fort was dotted with houses, churches, and businesses. The population included slave families, the exact number of which is not known. The men were used in the activities of loading ships, construction, and the hauling of goods by wagon. At the end of the Civil War in 1865, Fort Brooke was deactivated, and the population of Tampa began to decline, and stood at only 720 residents in 1880.⁷ Several subsequent events launched Tampa on its course to becoming a large modern city.

In 1883, the old Fort Brooke military reservation was opened to civilian settlement, causing a flurry of real estate speculation.⁸ Henry Bradley Plant brought the South Florida Railroad to Tampa in 1884 and built the Tampa Bay Hotel on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. The discovery of phosphate in the vicinity, of

⁶ Lisa Frederick, "Rogers is special golf course to blacks," *St. Petersburg Times*, October 24, 1993.

⁷ Durwood Long, "The Historical Beginnings of Ybor City and Modern Tampa," *Florida Historical Quarterly* XLV: 9.

⁸ Karl Hiram Grismer, *A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida* (St. Petersburg, Florida: St. Petersburg Print Company, 1950), 169.

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brought about the construction port facilities at nearby Port Tampa. However, the migration of Vicente Martinez-Ybor and other major cigar manufacturers to Tampa was far more important to the rapid growth of Tampa after 1885. Ybor was a Spanish citizen who began manufacturing cigars in Cuba in 1856. At the outbreak of the Cuban Ten Years' War in 1868, Ybor was forced to flee Cuba and reestablish his cigar operations in Key West. In 1885, Ybor decided to relocate to Tampa, heavily influenced by the availability of transportation and incentives offered by Tampa businessmen who provided him with a large tract of land northeast of town. Independently incorporated Ybor City quickly flourished. The arrival of Spanish-speaking Afro-Cubans brought a new cultural facet to the existing black community. In 1887, Tampa annexed Ybor City, and its population rose to 5,000 residents.⁹ Tampa's population increased dramatically over the next several decades, especially after a second cigar-producing center was established in West Tampa on the western side of the Hillsborough River. The City of West Tampa was incorporated in 1895 and remained independent of the City of Tampa until 1925. At the beginning of the 20th century, a third cigar-producing neighborhood called Palmetto Beach was founded south of Ybor City.

For Tampa, the 1890s were a time of phenomenal growth. Henry Bradley Plant brought the railroad to Tampa in 1884 and built the Tampa Bay Hotel on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. In 1897, Plant hired J. Hamilton Gillespie, a Scottish immigrant, to build a small golf course on the front lawn of the hotel. Gillespie is credited with bringing the game of golf to Florida, having built the state's first course at his home in Sarasota 11 years earlier.¹⁰ Golf flourished during its early years in Florida as hoteliers like Plant and Henry Flagler built courses to attract wealthy tourists.

Tampa was a major staging area for the training and embarkation of military forces during the Spanish-American War in 1898, prompting the U.S. Congress to provide funding for the improvement of the city's downtown steamship docking facilities. Tampa became a major deepwater port and a major phosphate shipping port, with warehouses lining the railroad spurs that ran along the harbor. By the turn of the century, Tampa was a thriving community. The expanding Tampa business district spread into the old Fort Brooke area. In the downtown area, masonry buildings began replacing the old wooden structures, and Tampa's first "skyscrapers" were constructed.

By the late 1890s, most southern states had codified laws and state constitutional provisions known as "Jim Crow" laws that were intended to subordinate African Americans to separate public facilities and spaces, thus reinforcing the system of white supremacy that predated the Civil War. In 1896, the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* was upheld in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court concluded that a state's requirement to provide separate facilities for the races did not in and of itself violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the

⁹ Long, 38-39.

¹⁰ Richard Moorhead and Nick Wynne, *Golf in Florida 1886-1950* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 9.

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United States Constitution.¹¹ This case established the practice of providing separate but equal public facilities for the races. In Florida, segregation laws covered a wide array of situations from segregated public transportation, facilities, education, and voting rights. During this time, integrative practices in Tampa and Ybor City were under close scrutiny, and citizens were well advised to pick their affiliations carefully, as evidenced by increasing attacks on African American residents and their associates, regardless of race.¹²

Tampa's black population multiplied significantly in the early years of the 20th century as it grew from 4,382 in 1900, to 8,951 in 1910, to 11,531 in 1920, and 21,172 in 1930. Even so, it clearly grew at a slower rate than the white population, declining from about 28 percent of the total in 1900 to some 21 percent in 1930. The black community located nearest to downtown Tampa at the beginning of the 20th century was known as "the Scrub," which got its name from the scrub palmettos that covered the area. When Ybor City was established in 1886, the black community found itself sandwiched between white Tampa on one side and the Latin village of Ybor City on the other. In time, Tampa and Ybor City began to grow in all directions, leaving "the Scrub" isolated and having to fend for itself.¹³ In response to social, economic, and religious segregation, the black community in Tampa created a complete, separate physical and social structure. The Central Avenue Business District, located on the western edge of The Scrub, was the heartbeat of the black community and provided all the services to its restricted audience necessary for daily life.

The black business district in Tampa developed around Central Avenue and its adjacent streets in the 1890s. In 1893 there were only five black-owned businesses there, but that number grew to over 80 by 1910. Just east of the bustling Central Avenue business district was The Scrub. At that point, Tampa's northern boundary reached present-day Michigan Avenue, nearly a mile north of the original downtown. Ybor City also had grown, wedging The Scrub between two profoundly different cultures. Physical conditions in The Scrub were modest at best, and deterioration was rapid. Segregation aside, business on Central Avenue was booming. The Williams Cigar Company opened in 1906 on Scott Street.¹⁴ In 1912, the first black dentist in the area, Dr. G. Coffee, bought property on Central Avenue and Scott Street to build his office. Dr. Jacob White, Sr., also had his office on Central Avenue and Scott Street. Walter Armwood opened the first black-owned Gem Drug Store, in 1913 on Central Avenue in 1913.¹⁵ Clara Frye opened a hospital on Lamar Avenue that served the poor, regardless of race. Established in 1914, The Tampa Bulletin, located on Orange Avenue, became one of the leading black-owned newspapers in the country. The year 1914 also saw the organization of the Negro Board of Trade arise from a meeting at the Central Avenue Odd Fellows Hall.

¹¹ *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896).

¹² Susan Greenbaum, More than Black, Afro-Cubans in Tampa (Tampa, Florida: University of Florida, 2002), 88-92.

¹³ Rowena F. Brady, Things Remembered, an Album of African Americans in Tampa (Tampa, FL: University of Tampa Press, 1997), p. 73.

¹⁴ The Freeman, June 6, 1914.

¹⁵ Blanch Armwood, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blanche_Armwood.

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When government funding fell short, the Tampa Urban League and the Community Chest sponsored The Helping Hand Day Nursery and Kindergarten at Lamar Avenue and Kay Street. The Tampa Urban League, headed by Blanche Armwood, and the Harlem Branch of the Tampa Public Library were two very important community organizations of the 1920s. For most of the 1920s, the Tampa Urban League and the Harlem Branch were housed at 1310 Marion Street, the home of the Reverend and Mrs. Ferrell, while Reverend Ferrell was pastoring a church out of town. By 1922, Armwood was supervisor of Negro Schools in Tampa, while Christina Meacham was principal at the Harlem Elementary School. Even with the government sources furnishing inadequate assistance, the desire for formal education was so strong in the African American community that by 1927 nine churches had schools, that taught children without blackboards and basic supplies and used the streets or vacant lots as playgrounds.¹⁶ Due to the end of the Florida land boom in 1929, bad investments, over-speculation, two major hurricanes, and the Great Depression, Tampa's growth came to a sudden halt. The Great Depression of the early 1930s brought hard times for all, particularly the black community. Even during the hard times of the 1930s, Central Avenue continued to be a center of activities for the African American community.

African Americans and the Game of Golf

It is unlikely that we shall ever discover the identity of the first African American to swing a golf club on the North American mainland. Over the next few decades, golf enjoyed a fair degree of popularity in both South Carolina and Georgia. Slaves probably were used for two main purposes. Since there were no greens as we know of them today, the slaves were used as "finders." In this role they were required to determine the position of the hole and mark it with a suitable object so that an upcoming player would know its location.

For reasons not thoroughly understood, golf's popularity with the South Carolinians and Georgians began to wane by the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century. In the 1890s, events occurred which rekindled American interest in golf. By 1896, Albert G. Spalding had begun large-scale manufacturing and selling of golf clubs. About the same time, George Wright, an importer of golf equipment from England, started to promote the sport by petitioning the Boston Parks Commissioner for a permit giving him "... the privilege to play in Franklin Park the game of golf." A year earlier, Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, the nation's first public golf facility, opened in the Riverdale section of New York City's borough of The Bronx. Thomas Bendelow, the Scottish-born architect who designed the course, was a former employee of the Spalding Company. In the fourth year after the course opened, 1,892 permits were issued for golfers to line up on the first tee. Before 1900, boxing, track and field, horse racing, and cycling were the sports with the greatest following in the African American community. It was evident that now that golf was regaining its appeal and coming into its

¹⁶ Brady, 69.

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own as a popular American sport—one that African Americans would also begin to play in gradually increasing numbers.¹⁷

Throughout the nation at this time, African American involvement in golf was limited to serving as a caddy, a groundskeeper, or tending the pro shop. As golf developed as a sport as well as a leisure activity of the wealthy, servants and hired help, most often black men, toted the golf bags around for their employers. But as these caddies sharpened their own golfing skills by playing the game after hours without official permission, their advice became a valuable tool as to the best approach to the challenges of the course. A skilled caddy was recognized and his counsel was in great demand. The role of the caddy as a companion and confidant in professional golf continued and the golfer and the caddy were acknowledged as a team.¹⁸ While racial barriers may have barred these black men from the clubhouse, it did provide the opportunity to train and hone their skills at the best golf courses in the U.S. Many of the young black men employed at segregated country clubs and public golf courses took an enthusiastic interest in the game and often competed against each other. These men formed the base of black amateur golfers.¹⁹ In 1939, there were an estimated 5,500 golf courses in the United States; however, fewer than twenty were open to minority players.²⁰

The Arrival of Golf in Florida

The game of golf came to Florida when John Hamilton Gillespie (1852-1923) arrived in Sarasota from Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1886. He came to assist in saving the failing Florida Mortgage and Investment Company which had enticed a group of Scottish colonists to Sarasota in 1885 to help settle its 50,000-acre holdings, which included most of the land constituting the present City of Sarasota. The settlers arrived to find most of the company's promises unfulfilled. Gillespie was dispatched to improve the situation. Many disillusioned colonists left, and the company entered liquidation proceedings. Gillespie remained in Sarasota after the court appointed him to manage the assets of the company.

In May 1886, Gillespie built a practice golf course consisting of two greens and one long fairway. This miniature course was located on present-day Main Street. Gillespie practiced there daily for many years. In 1905, he laid out a nine-hole golf course on a 110-acre tract east of his old practice course and built a clubhouse. He maintained the course at his own expense until he sold the course to Owen Burns (1869-1937), a major Sarasota property developer and future mayor in, 1910.²¹

¹⁷ Forbidden Fairways, African Americans and the Game of Golf, 5-6.

¹⁸ National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Langston Golf Course, Washington, DC, Section 8, p.3.

¹⁹ National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Lakeside Municipal Golf Course, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA, 2005, p.8.

²⁰ Forbidden Fairways, 26-27.

²¹ Ted Curtis, "Playing through history: Sunshine State boasts a rich golf heritage," <http://www.golfflorida.com/departments/features/florida-golf-heritage-559.htm>.

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In December 1913, Gillespie came up with the idea of organizing a golf club to help with expenses. He held a meeting at the Sarasota Yacht and Automobile Club to organize the Sarasota Golf Club. The group agreed to pay \$10 per person to become charter members, and the money would go toward the upkeep of the course. Burns would also allow members to play for free, with the use of the clubhouse, as long as they made necessary repairs to course's facilities. The club drew up rules for the organization and by-laws for playing golf on the course. To play golf for the winter season cost \$10. For those who did not want to commit to an entire season, the fee structure was \$5 for one month, \$2 for one week and 50 cents for one day. Although Gillespie encouraged everyone to play, the course was rarely crowded. Gillespie continued to play on his course until his death in 1923. Although he knew that the game would grow in popularity, it was not until the Florida Land Boom of the mid-1920s that it became a popular sport in Sarasota. Two new 18-hole courses were built in Sarasota during the boom. Gillespie's old course was sold in 1924 for development and no traces of it remain today.²²

The next earliest golf course in Florida was constructed in 1897 when Henry Flagler hired Alexander Findlay, Scottish immigrant and golf course designer to build a golf course for the railroad tycoon's magnificent Palm Beach Hotel (later named The Breakers). Many experts agree that Ocean Course at The Breakers was the first regulation 18-hole golf course in Florida. The Breakers quickly built a reputation of excellence and soon Palm Beach and all of Florida was recognized not as a swamp-filled nothingness, but as a viable tourist destination. As word spread of Florida's golf possibilities, other courses began to spring up. Tarpon Springs Golf Club opened on Florida's west coast in 1908. Designed by Scottish course designer Charles Clarke, the El Campeon Golf Course at Orlando's Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort opened in 1926. Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club's original nine holes opened in the 1920s in what is now swanky downtown Naples. The amazing work of design legend Donald Ross is evident at more than a half-dozen courses. In 1916, the architect of such gems as Pinehurst No. 2 built what is now the Eighteen Course at St. Augustine's Ponce de Leon Golf & Conference Resort. He followed that up with designs at Delray Beach Golf Club (1923), Clearwater's Belleview Biltmore Resort (1926) and Ft. Myers Country Club (1928). All but the St. Augustine course are open for public play.²³

By the early 1920s, Tampa was becoming a thriving modern commercial center for the state of Florida with development occurring throughout the entire city. Florida's Boom Times, the early to mid-1920s, saw explosive growth in Tampa and the surrounding area. The population of Tampa nearly doubled to over 100,000 by the end of the 1920s. Land developers designed new subdivisions, and sometimes entire towns, with amenities to attract as many buyers as possible. These new neighborhoods, like Davis Islands and Temple Terrace, were built with golf courses and country clubs included as the centerpieces of these luxury developments.²⁴

²² Ibid.

²³ Ted Curtis.

²⁴ Moorhead and Wynne, 28-38.

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Golf during the Great Depression

Florida's real estate speculation and building boom reached its peak in mid-1920s, but collapsed from poor investment practices and hurricanes that devastated the economy. The Great Depression did not bring an end to interest in golf in the United States. In fact, the sport exhibited a period of unprecedented growth and popularity as new courses were constructed by men toiling for the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the New Deal agencies created to provide jobs and income to the unemployed. It was an unprecedented endeavor that allowed golf to play a role in the nation's economic recovery and helped change the nature and perception of the game across the land. With unemployment hovering at 25%, shortly after Franklin Delano Roosevelt became president in March 1933, the country had 16 million Americans—from unskilled hands to former bank presidents—to put back to work, which he began to do immediately through an aggressive program of civil works projects. Roads, bridges and dams were staples, as were schools and airports. But so, too, were parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, tennis courts—and golf courses.²⁵

In addition to putting people back on their feet with jobs, there was a kind of egalitarian impulse that was part of Roosevelt's vision to make things—like golf—available to people. Building a golf course was labor intensive. Men—lots of men, skilled and unskilled, were needed to read plans, test soil, dig bunkers and ditches, float greens, grade fairways, lay irrigation lines, grow grass, string electric wires, smooth parking lots, build clubhouses and carve access roads. Not every course would be a gem. Some were hardly more sophisticated than nine or eighteen stakes in the ground, some barely grew grass.²⁶ The construction of new golf courses for use by the "ordinary citizen," however, did not appreciably benefit African Americans, since Jim Crow laws kept them segregated, despite the fact that the new facilities had been financed with taxpayer money.²⁷

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Garfield Devoe Rogers

In the era of segregation, Tampa's golf courses were constructed for the use of its white citizens. Prior to the opening of the golf course at Rogers Park, black golfers in Tampa had to seek out vacant land for their games. One such site, known as the Cesspool, was in West Tampa, and others were located in Seffner and north Tampa. However, none of these sites became actual courses, as the players were inevitably made white

²⁵ Sports Illustrated, Golf during the Great Depression, <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1156523/index.htm>.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Marvin P. Dawkins and Graham C. Kinloch, African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era (Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2000), 28-29.

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segregationists to abandon these lands.²⁸ Garfield Devoe Rogers, for whom the golf course was named, donated the land for a park and golf course with the intention that it would remain accessible for recreational use by the African American community. Rogers, born in Bradenton, Florida, was a self-made successful businessman and benefactor, piloting entrepreneurship and civic and personal commitment toward excellence, and was regarded as a leader and mentor in the black community in Tampa.²⁹ Rogers fought to establish facilities that would accommodate the members of the African American community through constant and active involvement.

In Tampa, Rogers' business successes included the co-founding the Central Life Insurance Company with Mary McLeod Bethune and C. Blythe Andrews in 1922. When Rogers took over as president in 1933, he turned that small company with assets of \$75,000 into a million dollar corporation. Rogers was also one of the founding fathers of the Florida Mortician Association. The Rogers Funeral Homes made final arrangements for the poor, regardless of race. Garfield Devoe Rogers was an astute businessman who shared his success liberally with his community. He established the Negro Business League and worked to register black voters in the face of strong opposition by white segregationists.³⁰ "When Rogers died in 1951, the funeral procession traveled nearly 50 miles, a convoy of autos streamed through Tampa's black neighborhoods before reaching a little Methodist church in Bradenton."³¹

Willie Black, Golf Course Designer

The original 9-hole Rogers Park Golf Course was designed by Willie Black, an African American who worked as a caddie at the private, segregated Palma Ceia Golf Course in South Tampa. Black began work on the golf course in 1947 clearing just enough land for just two holes of golf. In 1948, Tampa Mayor Curtis Hixon agreed to allow Black, heading a group of 65 volunteers, some of whom were also caddies, to build a nine-hole golf course on site provided by Rogers.³² Eventually, the number of volunteers shrunk to two, but Black kept shaping the land, designing the course as it was being built. Every effort, from tree removal to contouring the land was done by hand. Eventually, other volunteers joined Black in the effort, and businessmen from the African American community contributed financially to the success of completing Rogers Park Golf Course.³³ Rogers Park Golf Course opened in 1952, with Black as the head golf professional.³⁴

²⁸ Tom McEwen, "From Dumpy Beginning To A Beautiful Miracle." The Tampa Tribune, September 2, 1997.

²⁹ "Beyond Racial Boundaries," St. Petersburg Times, 10 January 2003.

³⁰ Sarasota Herald Tribune, 11 April 2008.

³¹ Garfield Devoe Rogers, <http://meacswacsports.blogspot.com/2008/04/bradenton-residents-work-honored-black.html>.

³² Nicole Barry, interview by Historic Preservation and Urban Design Staff, April 2009. City of Tampa, Florida.

³³ Black Golf Hall of Fame Inductee Ceremony, 12 July 2008.

³⁴ Lisa Frederick, "Rogers is special golf course to blacks," St. Petersburg Times, October 24, 1993.

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In 1954, Black and his helpers expanded the course to 18 holes when an additional 9 holes were constructed on an the parcel of property immediately west of 30th Avenue.³⁵ Amenities constructed on the site of the original 9 hole golf course by Black and his team were a recreational park for the use of African Americans. The facilities included a tennis court, a baseball diamond, a mini-golf course, a playground, and a picnic pavilion, none of which are still extant. The course was acquired by the City of Tampa in 1960 and came under the management of the Tampa Sports Authority in 1976.³⁶ In 1977, the course layout for the entire 18-hole course was redesigned by Ronald M. Garl, a golf course architect from Lakeland, Florida, in response to the ponding of the fairways that occurred on the course during Tampa's rainy summers.³⁷

When Rogers Park Golf Course finally opened, golfers flocked there to play on a real golf course.. The Reverend Francis Davis who as a teenager helped Willie Black lay out the golf course recalled that many African American golfers and other persons of note came to Tampa to play at the Rogers Park course. "Jackie Robinson used to play here, and Joe Louis, Jim Thorpe and his brother Chuck. Charlie Sifford used to call this his winter home."³⁸ From January through March this place was filled with people, including black actors and singers. You could go anywhere in the country and find out how powerful this golf course was to people." Hundreds of spectators lined up behind the practice tee in those days, watching the players hit balls "People from Chicago, New York and California were there watching," Davis said "Practicing golf was a major thing then." Eddie Smith, who also helped construct the course, credits Rogers Park's welcoming atmosphere for its meaningful place in golfers' lives. "People come back because they appreciate being accepted with open arms," Smith said.³⁹ "Althea Gibson used to come here to hang with Jimmy Taylor, who had a golf school in Harlem. He helped organize the Mid-Winter Classic with Eldorado Long and Herman Dubois." As much as "The Park" means to today's golfers, it meant even more in the 1950s.⁴⁰

World War II had introduced many enlisted servicemen to the game of golf as part of the military's recreational program, which led to a post-war rise in golf's popularity among the general public. While primarily white servicemen were given the opportunity to play golf during the war, there also was a noticeable increase in the game's popularity among black veterans.⁴¹ African Americans were active agents in the post war golf boom in the United States as the desegregation of the armed forces and the civil rights movement spurred increased participation in the sport among black servicemen and civilians. During and after the war, black soldiers and

³⁵ It is unclear whether or not this parcel of land also belonged to Rogers.

³⁶ Tom Jackson, "'This is the best game in town' - Rogers Park is the course for Everygolfer. What it lacks in snob appeal, it makes up for in amiability," Tampa Tribune, June 17, 1993.

³⁷ Richard Murdy, "Rogers Park facelift nearly done," Tampa Times, June 27, 1977.

³⁸ Rhonda Glenn, "Willie Black's Dream: Rogers Park, <http://www.usga.org/news/2010/September/Willie-Black-s-Dream--Rogers-Park/>.

³⁹ Rhonda Glenn, "Willie Black's Dream: Rogers Park, <http://www.usga.org/news/2010/September/Willie-Black-s-Dream--Rogers-Park/>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Calvin H. Sinnette, 79, 84.

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sailors enjoyed more access to courses on military bases, while black middle-class citizens joined a growing number of private (though still segregated) clubs.⁴² The opening of Rogers Park Golf Course in 1952 provided the opportunity for war veteran African American golf enthusiasts to fully participate in the game and the culture of golf. This was of particular importance as a black middle class emerged and, like its white counterpart, aspired to golf and the social standing that the game implied.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*,⁴³ which concluded that racially segregated schools were inherently unequal and therefore a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.⁴⁴ However, with no official timeline, school desegregation proceeded slowly throughout the South. Hillsborough County public schools were placed under various court desegregation orders beginning in 1962 (these orders remained in effect until 2001).⁴⁵ In general, the Civil Rights Movement was slow to reach Tampa and recreational opportunities remained limited. Rogers Park Golf Course, which was located outside the city, offered some relief from the unpleasant business of facing daily segregation.

While the integration of public schools in the South took several years, if not decades, the integration of other public facilities came about faster. In lawsuits regarding the segregation of public facilities prior to *Brown*, federal judges' rulings had been consistent with the "separate but equal" doctrine.⁴⁶ A similar ruling was affirmed by the Florida Supreme Court in 1950, after the Cosmopolitan Golf Club attempted to desegregate the city-owned course at Miami Springs Country Club, which thereafter permitted African American golfers to use its facilities one day per week.⁴⁷ In 1955, the U.S. Supreme Court expanded its application of the Equal Protection Clause to include public recreational facilities. Of particular note is the lawsuit brought forth by Alfred "Tup" Holmes, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and their father, Dr. H.M. Holmes, after they were denied the use of a public golf course in Atlanta. The Court held in *Holmes v. City of Atlanta* that it was improper to operate a golf course that was open to different races on different days, thereby maintaining the practice of segregation.⁴⁸ Atlanta was ordered to desegregate its golf courses "immediately," and the Holmes family and friends played without incident on an Atlanta course on December 24, 1955.⁴⁹ Over the next few years, the Court issued and affirmed similar opinions regarding public beaches, bathhouses, and swimming pools,⁵⁰ as well as public parks.⁵¹

⁴² George B. Kirsh, *Golf In America*, 150.

⁴³ *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

⁴⁴ U.S. Constitution, amend. 14, sec. 1.

⁴⁵ *Manning v. School Board of Hillsborough County*. 244 F.3d 927 (2001).

⁴⁶ George B. Kirsch, *Golf in America* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2009), 152.

⁴⁷ *Rice v. Arnold*, 45 So.2d 195 (1950).

⁴⁸ *Holmes v. City of Atlanta*, 350 U.S. 879 (1955).

⁴⁹ Ken Liebskind, "40 years ago: A drive down the fairway for integration," *New York Times*, 5 November 1995.

⁵⁰ *Mayor of Baltimore v. Dawson*, 350 U.S. 877 (1955).

⁵¹ *New Orleans City Park Improvement Ass'n v. Detiege*, 358 U.S. 54 (1958).

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In Florida, various lawsuits brought forth by individuals and the NAACP ended in court-ordered integration of public facilities. Usually, local municipalities were slow to comply with the order and sought loopholes. The city of St. Petersburg was ordered to integrate Spa Beach in 1956, but this case remained in appeals courts for another two years.⁵² In opposition to legally mandated integration, golf courses throughout the state were sold or leased to private management so that they could not be considered public facilities and therefore could not be compelled to comply with the law. The cities of Lakeland and Fort Lauderdale were ordered by federal judges to integrate their municipal golf courses in 1956 and 1957, respectively. Both cities opted to sell their courses to private companies, which could not be forced to integrate their facilities.⁵³ This same scenario was repeated in the city of Jacksonville in 1958, when the city put its two municipal golf courses up for sale following a court order to integrate them.⁵⁴

In 1960, Henry Cabot Lodge Bohler, a former Tuskegee Airman, after being denied admission to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, filed a lawsuit to prevent the City of Tampa from operating public parks and recreation facilities on a racially segregated basis. The court decreed that "the plaintiffs, and other Negro residents of Tampa, have the absolute and unqualified right to use and enjoy the playgrounds, parks and recreational facilities ... on an equal basis with the white citizens and residents of the defendant city."⁵⁵ Tampa, with the help of its Community Relations Board, a biracial committee composed of black and white community leaders appointed by Mayor Julian Lane, desegregated all of its public facilities by 1963.⁵⁶ This order included Rogers Park Golf Course, which became accessible to golfers of all races.

Although finally integrated Rogers Park Golf Course had played a significant role in the history of African Americans in Tampa by establishing a recreational facility that eventually helped to end the segregation of all public places in Tampa and provided a golfing destination for all Americans. The Original Rogers Park Golf Course Site is eligible for listing in the National Register as a major example of one of Tampa's few prominent segregation-era community gathering places and as a rare public recreation facility constructed specifically for the African American community.

⁵² "Pressure mounts for integrated public play areas," *St. Petersburg Times*, 28 October 1959.

⁵³ Bobby Norris, "Fort Lauderdale has golf problem," *The Miami News*, 23 February 1957.

⁵⁴ *St. Petersburg Times*, 28 October 1959.

⁵⁵ *Henry Cabot Lodge Bohler, for himself and as next friend of George Alessandro Bohler, et al. v. Honorables Julian Lane, et al.* 204 F. Supp. 168 (1962).

⁵⁶ *UT Journal*, (Tampa, FL: University of Tampa, Winter 2007), 6.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Description

Verbal Boundary Description

THAT PART OF THE FOLLOWING THAT INCLUDES HOLES 8-18 OF THE WILLIE BLACK SIDE OF THE ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE: NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4--- W 3/4 OF N 1/2 LESS RR R/W AND LESS S R & SE 1/4 LESS THAT PART OF S 659 FT W OF RIVER AND LESS THAT PART DESC AS BEG AT SE COR OF NW 1/4 AND RUN W 1844.26 FT N 21 DEG 47 MIN 30 SEC 5W 177.45 FT E 350.86 FT N 79 DEG 07 MIN 50 SEC E 6182.56 FT S 46 DEG 44 MIN 20 SEC E 167 FT E 71259.19 FT AND S 85 FT TO BEG LESS FOLLOWING TRACT 8 THAT PART OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 LYING EAST OF RIVER 9 AND WEST OF 37 TH STREET

Pin #A-29-28-19-ZZZ-000005-60700.0; Tax Parcel #: Folio 148856.0000

The boundaries of the original Rogers Park Golf Course are shown by a dashed line on the accompanying aerial map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the site of the original the nine-hole golf course and park that were constructed under the direction of former caddy Willie Black between 1947 and 1952.

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Description _____

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Rogers Park and Golf Course, Willie Black Side
2. 7801 North 30th Street, Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Elaine Lund
4. February 2012
5. City of Tampa, Historic Preservation and Urban Design
6. Northeast Corner of North 30th Street and Veve Lane, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 1 of 38

The above information applies to all photographs, except where noted.

1. Hole 8
6. Looking North toward Hole
7. Photo 2 of 38

1. Pond near Hole 8
6. Looking Northeast
7. Photo 3 of 38

1. Hole 8, Looking toward Tee
6. Looking South
7. Photo 4 of 38

1. Hole 9, Looking toward Hole
6. Looking South
7. Photo 5 of 38

1. Sand Trap near Hole 9
6. Looking North
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1. Hole 9, Looking toward Tee
6. Looking Northeast
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Description

1. Pond near Hole 9
6. Looking East
7. Photo 8 of 38

1. Hole 10, Looking toward Hole
6. Looking East
7. Photo 9 of 38

1. Hole 10, Looking toward Tee
6. Looking West
7. Photo 10 of 38

1. Hole 11, Looking toward Hole
6. Looking Nothwest
7. Photo11 of 38

1. Hole 11, Looking toward Tee
6. Looking Southeast
7. Photo 12 of 38

1. Hole 12, Looking toward Hole
6. Looking East
7. Photo 13 of 38

1. Hole 12, Looking toward Tee
6. Looking West
7. Photo 14 of 38

1. Hole 13, Looking toward Hole
6. Looking North
7. Photo 15 of 38

1. Midpoint of Hole 13
6. Looking East
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Description

- 1. Hole 13, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 38

- 1. Pond near Hole 13
- 6. Looking North
- 7. Photo 18 of 38

- 1. Hole 14, Looking toward Hole
- 6. Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 19 of 38

- 1. Pond near Hole 14
- 6. Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 20 of 38

- 1. Hole 14, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 21 of 38

- 1. Hole 15, Looking toward Hole
- 6. Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 22 of 38

- 1. Hole 15, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 23 of 38

- 1. Hole 16, Looking toward Hole
- 6. Photo South
- 7. Photo 24 of 38

- 1. Hole 16, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking North
- 7. Photo 25 of 38

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Description

- 1. Hole 17, Looking toward Hole
- 6. Looking North
- 7. Photo 26 of 38

- 1. Hole 17, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking South
- 7. Photo 27 of 38

- 1. Pond between Holes 17 and 18
- 6. Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 28 of 38

- 1. Hole 18, Looking toward Hole
- 6. Looking South
- 7. Photo 29 of 38

- 1. Hole 18, Looking toward Tee
- 6. Looking North
- 7. Photo 30 of 38

- 1. c.1960 Clubhouse
- 6. Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 31 of 38

- 1. c.1960 Clubhouse
- 6. Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 32 of 38

- 1. c.2002 Clubhouse
- 6. Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 33 of 38

- 1. c.2002 Pavilion
- 6. Looking Northwest
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Description

1. c.2002 Restroom Facility
6. Looking Northwest
7. Photo 35 of 38

1. c.2002 Shelter
6. Looking North
7. Photo 36 of 38

1. c.1994 Willie Black Monument
6. Looking East
7. Photo 37 of 38

1. c.1994 Willie Black Monument
6. Photo of Willie Black and Caddies
7. Photo 38 of 38

Historic Aerial Photographs

1. Willie Black Side, Rogers Park Golf Course
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture
4. November 28, 1938, Photo No. BQF 299
5. University of Florida Map and Digital Library
6. Aerial Photo Looking at Area between 30th Avenue and Hillsborough River
7. Figure 1 of 3

1. Willie Black Side, Rogers Park Golf Course
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture
4. March 27, 1957, Photo No. BQF 4T97
5. University of Florida Map and Digital Library
6. Aerial Photo Looking at Area between 30th Avenue and Hillsborough River
7. Figure 2 of 3

1. Willie Black Side, Rogers Park Golf Course
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture
4. January 21, 1968, Photo No. BQF 3JJ 146
5. University of Florida Map and Digital Library
6. Aerial Photo Looking at Area between 30th Avenue and Hillsborough River
7. Figure 3 of 3



ORIGINAL ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE SITE

7801 NORTH 30TH STREET, TAMPA, FLORIDA
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

1. Latitude: 28.019734°
Longitude: -82.431088°

3. Latitude: 28.025949°
Longitude: -82.421338°

UTMS

UTMS

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	359743	3100972

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	360290	3100925

2. Latitude: 28.026764°
Longitude: -82.421233°

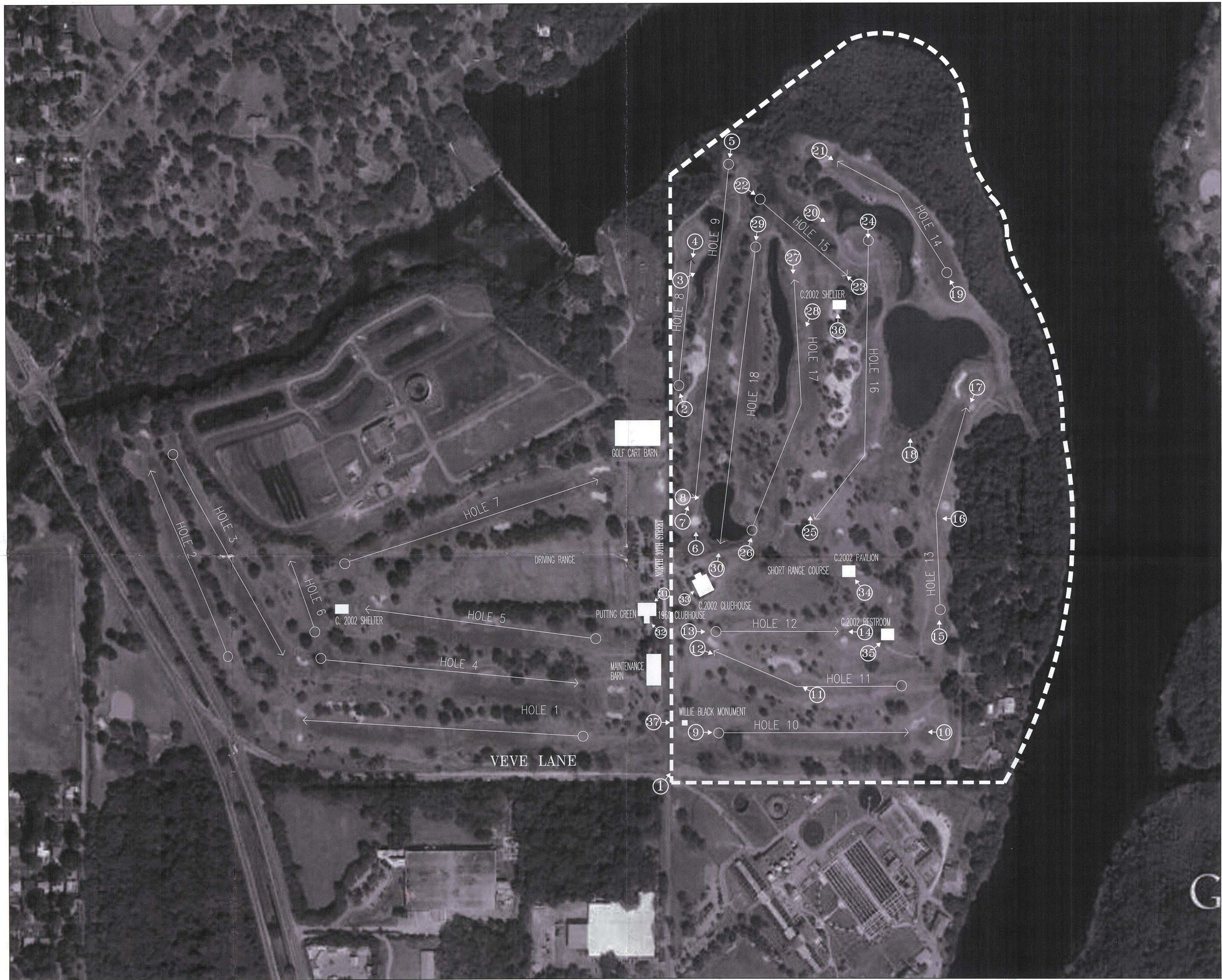
4. Latitude: 28.017986°
Longitude: -82.421014°

UTMS

UTMS

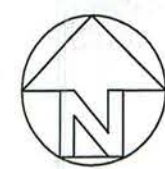
Zone	Easting	Northing
17	360298	3100976

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	360302	3100006



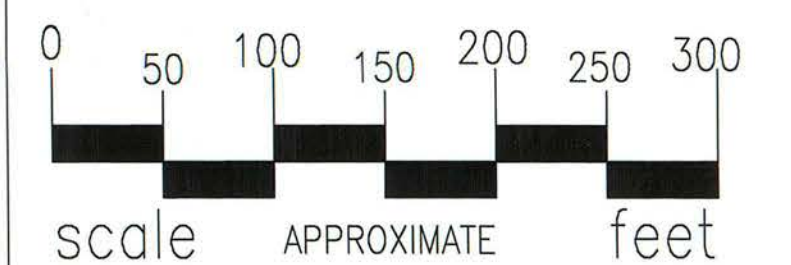
ORIGINAL ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE SITE
 7801 NORTH 30TH STREET
 TAMPA (HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY), FLORIDA

MAP DRAWN BY:
 ELAINE LUND
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN
 306 EAST JACKSON STREET
 CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602
 TELEPHONE: (904) 824-5178
 DATE: FEBRUARY 2013



MAP REVIEWED & EDITED BY:
 W. CARL SHIVER, HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST
 FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 500 S. BRONOUGH STREET
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0250
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-6333
 DATE: JULY 2014

LEGEND	
STREET NAMES	VEVE LANE
HISTORIC BOUNDARY	-----
PHOTO NUMBERS	32





ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE

Member of the
PGA of America
and
PGA TOUR

Driving Range • Banquets & Parties • Open To The Public























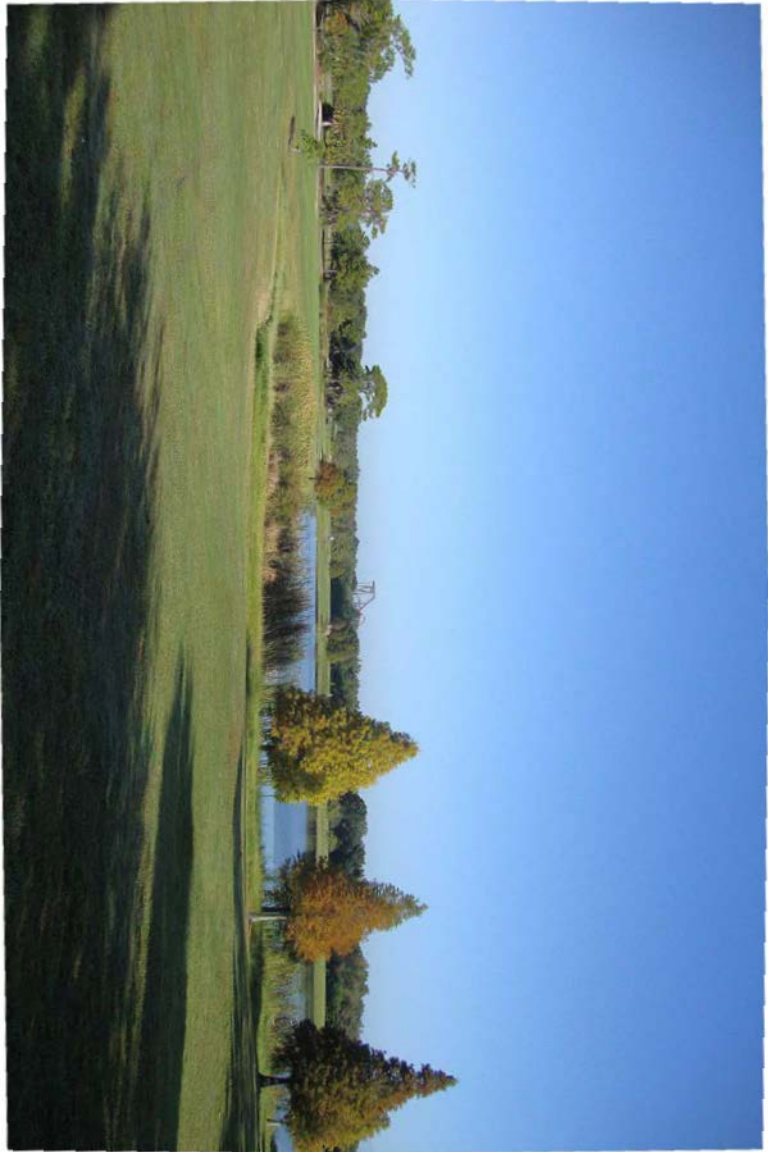


















































WILLIE BLACK SIDE

HONORING THE LATE
WILLIE BLACK SR FOR
HIS DEDICATION AND
CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOLF
AND DEVELOPMENT OF
ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE

1991









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Original Rogers Park Golf Course Site
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Hillsborough

DATE RECEIVED: 9/26/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/12/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000901

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-12-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant Rec Facility for African-American
Community of Tampa, esp. during enforced segregation

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Giddens DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor



KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

September 17, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a submission of the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, digital images and disk) for:

Rogers Park Golf Course Site (FMSF #8HI11079), Hillsborough County

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Desiree Estabrook".

Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation



Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org

