

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Lakeside Municipal Golf Course, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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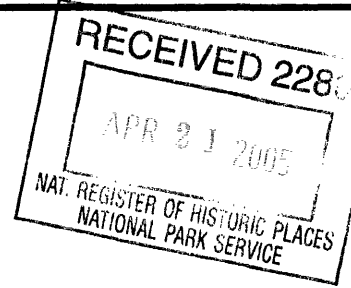
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Lakeside Municipal Golf Course

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 2200 Milam

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Shreveport

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Caddo Code: 017

Zip Code: 71103

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: x

Jonathan Fricker (handwritten signature)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

April 20, 2005

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper: [Handwritten Signature]

Date of Action: 6/1/05

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private:
Public-Local: x
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s):
District:
Site: x
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing

1

Non contributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: recreation and culture

Sub: sports facility

Current: recreation and culture

Sub: sports facility

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: NA

Materials: NA

Foundation: NA

Walls: NA

Roof: NA

Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Lakeside Municipal Golf Course opened in late 1952 as the first African-American golf course in a region known as the Ark-La-Tex. It is located in a modest mixed commercial/residential area west of downtown Shreveport. (Shreveport is located in northwest Louisiana, quite near Arkansas and Texas.) The lake in question (Cross Lake) is actually about a mile away. The course is a medium length, relatively difficult, 33 par, nine-hole course whose design takes advantage of a hilly site. Despite some alterations, the course substantially retains its 1952 configuration, features and appearance. Hence it retains its National Register eligibility.

The course traces its origins to 1925. Between 1925 and 1943 the city maintained a property known as Lakeside Park which included a nine-hole golf course for whites. A 1946 Shreveport City Council ordinance refers to the park and the course as "abandoned." That year, the city sold almost half the property (33 acres on the eastern side) to the Caddo Parish School Board for the development and construction of Booker T. Washington High School. Construction of an African-American golf course on the remainder of the site began in the summer of 1952. The course opened in November of that year. Although it is impossible to verify, it seems likely that the remnants of the old 1925 course formed much of the basis for the design of the new 1952 course. A period newspaper refers to the old course as being "reconditioned." Another reference in the same paper indicates that some of the course was actually built in 1952.

The present course occupies a roughly square parcel of land. It is bounded by Milam Street on the south, Hearne Avenue on the west, a property line with a fence and partial tree-line on the north and a non-historic city-owned recreational complex and Booker T. Washington High on the east. The nominated acreage is roughly 38 acres. The small, utilitarian clubhouse is not historic. It and the other non-historic park-related buildings in the southeast corner are being excluded from the nominated acreage. (When the course opened in late 1952, there were various recreational facilities

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Assessment of Integrity

These changes should be considered minor given the total scope of the course's overall landscape. In addition, five of the nine holes were not altered at all. Of the four that were, in only two cases (holes 7 & 8) did it involve physical changes to the landscape. The property is still obviously an established nine-hole golf course located at the intersection of Milam Street and Hearne Avenue. There is no doubt that an African-American golfer from the historic period would easily recognize it.

Information common to all photos:

Photographer: Donna Fricker
Location of negatives: LA SHPO
Date taken: February 2005

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance: recreation; ethnic history

Period(s) of Significance: 1952-55

Significant Dates: 1952

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawkins, Marvin P. and Kinloch, Graham, C. *African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era*. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000.

The Shreveport Sun, various issues in 1952 and 1953. Copies in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Shreveport City Council, Ordinance #103 of 1946.

Sinnette, Calvin H. *Forbidden Fairways: African-Americans and the Game of Golf*. Chelsea, Minnesota: Sleeping Bear Press, 1998.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)

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 (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approx. 38 acres

UTM References:

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-----|------|---------|----------|
| (1) | 15 | 426720 | 3596720 |
| (2) | 15 | 427220 | 3596720 |
| (3) | 15 | 427220 | 3596340 |
| (4) | 15 | 426720 | 3596340 |

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is shown as a solid line on the enclosed USGS map.

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Boundary Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the golf course, while excluding non-historic recreational facilities in the southeast corner. The boundary cuts in at the northwest corner to exclude a non-historic YMCA under separate ownership.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Address: P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Telephone: 225-342-8160

Date: February 2005

PROPERTY OWNERS

City of Shreveport

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in the southeast corner already in existence. None of these historic resources survive.)

The design takes advantage of natural features to produce a challenging course. There is a deep gully with a stream in the southwest corner that meanders in a north-northeasterly direction. This creates a water hazard and an out-of-bounds feature on several fairways. The design also exploits the hilly terrain to create fairways with near-drastic changes in elevation. Fairways are separated by stands of mature deciduous oaks that provide for generous "rough" areas as well as "oak hazards." In keeping with its naturalistic approach, the design does not make use of manmade looking features such as sand traps or highly mounded greens.

The layout is shown on the attached map. Holes will be described proceeding from tee to green, with features noted on the right or left hand side as the golfer approaches the green. Unlike some courses, the tee boxes are not mounded above grade.

The following inventory will describe the nine holes in their present appearance. Alterations will be discussed subsequently.

Hole #1

This is a long, 394 yard, par 4, sharp left dogleg. The fairway drops sharply from the tee with a broad oak hazard on the left. The dogleg's approximately 45 degree turn occurs almost halfway toward the green and is set on a modest hill. The back half of the fairway slopes more gently and continuously to the slightly mounded, flat green.

Hole #2

This is a medium length, more or less straight, par 4 of 276 yards. The fairway ascends in a continuous rise and curves slightly to the left. It is guarded on both sides by oak hazards. The rounded green is flat and not mounded at all.

Hole #3

This is a short, straight, par 3 of 136 yards. Its challenge stems from the gulch-like descent of the fairway from the tee and its precipitous ascent to the flat level green, which is carved into the hillside.

Hole #4

This is a long, 360 yard, par 4 left dogleg. The fairway dips to a swale after the tee and is guarded on the left by an oak hazard. The turn of the approximately 30 degree dogleg is set on a modest rise. The fairway then falls away gradually to the two-foot high flat mounded green.

Hole #5

This is a long, slight right dogleg of 420 yards. Land falls away from the tee to descend to a level fairway bisected at an angle by the previously mentioned gully, creating a water hazard. Beyond the gully, the upper fairway rises, more or less steadily, to the low mounded green. It is

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guarded on both sides by oak hazards. The green itself is sculpted to slope to the north, making for putts that break.

Hole #6

This is a short, straight, par 3 of 152 yards. The fairway descends more or less steadily to the flat un-mounded green. It is guarded on the left by a severe oak hazard. The green is guarded on the rear by the previously mentioned gully which provides a sharp dropoff and a water hazard for golfers that overshoot.

Hole #7

This is a medium length, straight par 4 of 240 yards. The tee is isolated, cut off from the fairway by the previously noted gully that cuts across the golfer's drive at an acute angle, creating a severe water hazard. Beyond the gully the fairway is level, with an oak hazard on the left near the flat, slightly mounded green.

Hole #8

This is a long straight par 4 of 345 yards. The fairway falls away from the tee to be traversed at a right angle by the gully, creating a water hazard. The main portion of the fairway is beyond the gully. It rises, more or less steadily, to a high hilltop crowned by an un-mounded green. The green itself is sculpted with an overall saucer shape, making for putts that break.

Hole #9

This is a short, straight, par 3 of 189 yards. The fairway slopes moderately away from the tee and is almost level much of the way. But it dips sharply to form a swale before the elevated flat green.

Alterations

In 1968 a YMCA was built in the extreme northwest corner of the course. The resulting loss of land caused some reconfiguration (see below). In the ensuing years other changes were made as well, including re-numbering the holes. Of course re-numbering the holes, in and of itself, is not an integrity issue. What are important are the physical changes that were made to the fabric of the landscape. These will be described in the sequence of the present hole numbering system. 1) The 5th hole has been extended by moving the tee back approximately 60 yards. This moved the tee to a higher elevation. 2) The 7th tee was moved back approximately 50 yards. This kept it on the same side of the gully/water hazard (see description), just further back. In addition, the entire fairway (beyond the water hazard) was moved approximately 100 feet to the east. This included relocating the green. The purpose was to move the fairway further away from increasingly busy Hearne Avenue (see map) where errant golf balls could create a safety issue. 3) The 8th hole was shortened when the tee was moved approximately 30 yards to the east (because of the YMCA). 4) The 9th hole was not adjusted in length, but its tee was moved approximately 30 yards to the east, to a somewhat lower elevation. (Because the fairway was wide, this did not involve wholesale reconfiguration.)

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Lakeside Municipal Golf Course is of local significance in the areas of ethnic history and entertainment/recreation. Its opening in 1952 as the first golf course for African-Americans in Shreveport and the general Ark-La-Tex region represented a breakthrough. For the first time local African-American golfing enthusiasts could participate fully in the game and culture of golf, rather than being relegated to the status of caddies and other menials on courses for whites only.

Golf began in the United States as a rich (white) man's game. Its precise origins are just as disputed as its birth in Europe. It is generally agreed that the first courses, crude as they were, appeared in the 1870s and '80s. The sport moved fairly quickly from a rich amateur's hobby played on rough open ground to an organized game on a designed course (but still a plaything of the Gilded Age wealthy). John Reid, a Scottish immigrant turned industrialist living in Yonkers, New York, is considered the father of American golf. Prosperous enough to have free time for leisure activities, he turned his attention to golf, and in 1887 obtained equipment from the legendary links at St. Andrews in Scotland. In 1888 he and some friends formed the St. Andrew's Golf Club, the nation's first permanent golf club. Its course was a 3-hole affair laid out in a cow pasture.

Like Reid's three holes in a cow pasture, early courses were equally haphazard. But by the early years of the twentieth century, numerous Britishers, seeing an opportunity, came to the United States to design courses. And design they did. The Roaring Twenties, "The Golden Age of Golf," witnessed rapid interest in the game, and courses, both public and private, were being built at a dizzying pace. By 1930, there were 2.25 million Americans playing the game. In 1916 there were 742 golf courses in the United States. By 1930, the number had shot up to 5,691 – an almost 800% increase. But be it in an exclusive private club or a public course, African-Americans were excluded from the picture.

During these years, African-American involvement in golf was limited strictly to serving as caddies, greenskeepers or attendants in pro-shops. Caddying was a particularly prolific calling for young African American males in urban areas. Yet despite their lowly status in connection with golf, many blacks took an avid interest in the game, practicing shots during "downtime" and building their skills. And they had opportunities. According to golf historian Calvin Sennette,

"Once a week, usually Monday mornings, a large number of private clubs allowed employees to play the course. Those were the occasions when caddies, most likely playing with incomplete sets of hand-me-down clubs, took on their peers with an intensity... that rivaled that of the top amateurs ... It was not uncommon for the best-playing caddies to shoot sub-par rounds during these Monday matches. At times, club members placed bets on the outcomes."

Veterans of these matches became part of a growing base of black amateur golfers as former caddies found better paying employment. Another part of the base came from a growing black middle class which, like its white counterpart, aspired to golf.

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Records are sketchy but the earliest African-American golf clubs seem to date from about the time of WWI. On October 7, 1915, what was billed as the "first Negro National Golf Tournament" took place at the Marquet Park Golf Course in Chicago. 1926 saw the founding of the United Golfers Association (U.G.A.), a nationwide organization dedicated to promoting and advancing black golf. In the ensuing years the "black elite" took an active role in establishing clubs and pushing for public courses for African-Americans. These efforts received a considerable boost in the 1940s and 50s through the support of Joe Louis, boxing heavyweight champion of the world. Louis was an avid amateur golfer and an active patron of the sport. His mass appeal did much to popularize golf among blacks. Between 1941 and 1951 he sponsored eight Joe Louis Open Tournaments that attracted top-flight black golf professionals from across the country.

The world of African-American golf developed and ultimately thrived alongside its larger white counterpart. But throughout the historic period it remained a world apart. Golf was among the last of American sports to break the color barrier. Indeed, the "Caucasian only" clause in the charter of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) was not lifted until 1961.

Thus, for African-Americans in golf, the historic period may be summed up as the ascent from "caddydom" on segregated courses to a viable amateur and professional golfing establishment of their own. The development of the Lakeside Course was a prime example of this and a breakthrough for blacks in the Shreveport area. (There were roughly 50,000 African-Americans living in city.) Indeed, the course drew African-American golf enthusiasts from Arkansas and Texas as well as Louisiana communities as distant as Monroe (100 miles to the east). According to interviews and *The Shreveport Sun* (the area's weekly African-American newspaper), the course saw heavy use from the first with numerous tournaments and events as well as regular play.

The Lakeside course traces its origins to a petition circulated and presented to the City Recreation Committee by a local organization called the Cavaliers Social Club (*The Shreveport Sun*, August 9, 1952). The course opened to the public November 17, 1952 with only seven holes available for play. The formal opening occurred on December 1. Fees at that time were 50 cents during the week and 75 cents on weekends and holidays.

The *Sun* launched a column known as "Golfer's Digest" soon after the course was dedicated. The January 17, 1953 issue proclaimed "Golfing is big business." "Golfers from everywhere are out there in all types of weather. It seems as if the course is not only going to serve the golfers of Shreveport, but those of the La., Ark., and Texas areas also. Golfers were there from Dallas, Pine Bluff (Ark.) and Monroe (La.)." "Golfer's Digest" also noted the many local African-American women who enjoyed playing the course. Following the many varied events and goings-on at the course, as reported in the *Sun*, it becomes clear that Lakeside had emerged as the black golfing mecca of the Ark-La-Tex, and continued so through the close of the historic period (1955, following the Register's 50 year cutoff) and beyond.