

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SG-2521

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Reading Country Club
Other names/site number: n/a
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

2. Location

Street & number: 5311 Perkiomen Avenue
City or town: Exeter Township State: PA County: Berks
Not for publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Andrea MacDonald</u>	<u>4/16/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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:)

<u>Leslie Dennis</u>	<u>5/31/18</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Recreation and Cultural – sports facility (golf course)

Social - clubhouse

Commerce/Trade – restaurant/banquet facility

Current Functions

Recreation and Cultural – sports facility (golf course)

Social - clubhouse

Commerce/Trade – restaurant/banquet facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

Clubhouse: Late 19th and 20th Century revival – Norman/Tudor style

Golf course: classic Scottish design following the contours of the land

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: stone and masonry; walls: stone and stucco; roof: slate; other: wood roof supports

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 134-acre Reading Country Club property consists of a 1923-1925 18-hole golf course designed by Alexander Findlay, a Scottish native and prolific course designer; a centrally-located 1931 Tudor Revival clubhouse designed by Reading-based architect Harry Maurer; and a 1931 golf shop, all considered contributing resources, and a c.1970 maintenance building, a storage shed, and a pump house, all non-contributing. The property is east of the City of Reading in Exeter Township, and is bordered on the southern side by US Route 422 (aka Perkiomen Avenue), a busy highway. The general area is a mixture of residential subdivisions, office or institutional complexes, and retail shopping plazas. The Reading Country Club (RCC) was originally a private facility but was purchased by Exeter Township in 2006 and now operates as a public course, restaurant, and special event location. The golf course is influenced by the natural rolling landscape, marked by the Antietam Creek on the east side of the property. While some changes have been made to the course, and the clubhouse and golf shop were recently renovated, overall the property retains integrity and readily reflects the period of significance, 1925-1931. Excluded from the nominated boundary is a stone colonial-era house that served as the clubhouse prior to 1931, located at the entrance to the property from US 422; this building has been excluded as it has lost integrity from the RCC's period of significance. The building (the Bishop House) has been restored to its pre-1925 appearance and is individually listed in the National Register.

Narrative Description

Reading Country Club

The 134-acre Reading Country Club is bordered on the south by U.S. Route 422 (also known as Perkiomen Avenue and, previously, Philadelphia Pike) and on the east by Shelbourne Road. The north border is formed by modern housing developments built on approximately 93 acres formerly owned by the country club and now the site of a housing development that began in 1979. A public road, Gibraltar Road, runs through the western portion of the golf course, dividing the 12th and 13th holes from the bulk of the property. Other neighboring properties include medical offices and a nursing home (built on three lots of 5.2 acres, 2.4 acres and 1.9 acres formerly owned by the country club and sold in 1983 [Source: Berks County Recorder of Deeds, PLN Volume 124, page 39]) and Exeter Township property, the site of

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the township municipal building, township police department and township highway maintenance facilities.

The clubhouse is located in a central position within the course, located on a rise so that it would be prominently visible along the long curving driveway that leads from the entrance at Route 422. In front of the clubhouse is a large planter with fountain inside a circular drop-off area. The golf shop is located immediately behind the clubhouse. A maintenance shop is located on the far side of the parking area, visually separated from the clubhouse. Large trees are located along the drive and scattered across the course.

The golf course (classified as a contributing site) is considered the primary resource on the property, which also includes five buildings:

- a large Tudor-style clubhouse located in the center of the course; opened in 1931 and renovated most recently in 2015
- a small storage shed used by the restaurant operations on the west side of the clubhouse (date unknown)
- a golf shop, also opened in 1931 and expanded c.1960, that sits just to the east of the clubhouse
- a maintenance building, constructed c.1970, located at the west side of the parking lot
- a pump house for the irrigation system constructed in 2009, located near the 4th tee

A privately owned building at the club entrance on US Route 422 was used as the RCC clubhouse from 1923 to 1931 when the current clubhouse was completed. The building was part of the original parcel purchased by RCC. It was renovated and enlarged in 1923 to accommodate the club members. The addition burned in 1930. The building that remains, now used as a law office, was the residence of John Bishop, who in 1761 purchased the grist mill located on east side of the RCC property. The *Reading Eagle*, in an article published March 9, 1969, stated that the mill was demolished in 1926. The lot on which the house sits (1 acre) was subdivided from the RCC property, and sold in 1983 (Source: Berks County Recorder of Deeds, Volume 2829, page 2201), and subsequently restored. The restored house was listed in the National Register in 1985 (#85001390) for its architectural significance.

A *Reading Eagle* article from October 22, 1922, included this description of the renovated Bishop's house: "Muhlenberg Brothers, architects, also have charge of the remodeling of the old stone farmhouse and the old fort, dating back to the Indian days, which are to be used as a temporary home for the club until the new house is built. The old house is well worth a visit, being a charming example of the old Pennsylvania colonial style. The changes were all carried out to harmonize with the old work, and the club members and visitors express themselves as being more than pleased with the results attained."

From *The Passing Scene, Volume 13*, page 204: "When the new clubhouse was erected [in 1931] a block northwest of the building shown [the Bishop house], the old structure fell into disrepair. It was on the verge of demolition when architect and Berks Historical Society trustee Richard Levensgood – fully appreciative of its historical status and intrinsic architectural significance – took steps to have it excised from the club's property and negotiated its purchase for the sake of preservation."

The primary resource on the RCC property is the golf course. In an article in the *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922, Alexander Findlay wrote a description of the property and the golf course as he designed it. Findlay's commentary, and a description of the holes as they appear today, follows below.

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On October 22, 1922, the *Reading Eagle* devoted two pages (10 and 11) to a progress report on the Reading Country Club course that included numerous photos. The article includes comments from course architect Alexander H. Findlay, who even in 1923 was considered ‘the father of American golf’ (*Reading Eagle*, March 16, 1923, in an article about RCC’s first membership dinner; Findlay was also described as ‘the father of American golf’ in numerous articles following his death in 1942: Associated Press, April 18, 1942, *Reading Eagle*, April 24, 1942). The article provides insight into the thinking that drove his design of the golf course and his hole-by-hole description of the golf course. Below is his description of the course; changes to the holes Findlay describes are noted in bold text at the end his description of each hole.

“An 18-hole golf course has been laid out and when completed will compare favorably with any in the state. The land is quite undulating and abounds in natural hazards, is surrounded by huge trees and a swift running stream adds beauty to the course and many of the putting greens are placed in the most unique and sporty way.

Golfers meandering around in quest of golf land are usually eager to find brooks or rivers. The Reading Country Club was fortunate in securing the Esterly estate, with its numerous water hazards. The stream is crossed eight times. Every well placed shot will find its just rewards. The steam, of course, awaits the poorly played shots. The course is not too long, neither is it too short. On a very long course the golfer may have to use his brassy at every hole except the short ones. If the wind blows strongly, the game is apt to become tiresome. The most of these holes are of the drive and iron-shot order. Holes between 285 and 385 yards, respectively, are quite prevalent, and a joy to play; the short holes are exceptionally sporty and nice to shoot at. There are no two holes alike. The long holes are easy and each in the right place. The soil is rich, which assures and abundant growth of grass. The watering system installed by the house of E.C. Worrell, engineer, Moorestown, N.J., Clarence E. Worrell, manager, has given entire satisfaction. The Worrells have installed water systems at many points throughout the country and have been eminently successful.

A.H. Findlay was the golf architect. He also laid out the Berkshire Country Club [in Berks County, about 10 miles from RCC]. Fred Findlay, the Australian architect, assisted in laying out of Reading Country Club and is now on the job supervising construction. What he does not know about the laying out of a golf hole or the royal and ancient game of golf is not worth learning, it is said. [Fred was one of Alexander Findlay’s seven brothers. He came to the United States in 1922, having lived the previous 13 years in Australia.]

The members of the club are an interesting lot of business men and have pushed the work along without the semblance of a hitch. Strange to relate, few thereof have been inoculated with the golf germ, but woe betide them next spring. It will be the same old, old story: “Why were we so late in starting?”

Lengths of the Holes

The lengths of the holes are as follows: [Note: When the 18-hole course opened in 1925, the course routing was such that today’s second hole was the first and today’s first hole was the 18th. This was done because the original clubhouse, which still stands, was at the club entrance on US 422. The tee for the current second hole was adjacent to the old clubhouse,

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which made it the ideal starting hole. The current first green is about 100 yards from the old clubhouse, which made it the ideal finishing hole. The current routing, which is as Findlay described, was initiated when the current clubhouse was opened in May 1931. The pre-1931 hole designations are provided at the end of this document.]

No 1, 385 yards – Slightly dog-legged, a good tee shot will land on a beautiful plateau, a nice iron shot should reach the green which is nicely contoured. Terraced on a rock ledge, deep trays for the slice and pulled shots are at each side. The fairway is wide; a pulled drive will reach the base of a huge gully; an easy 4, which is par, should be recorded. **The hole plays the same today; hole 18 before 1931.**

No. 2, 365 yards – The tee is elevated in order to give the player a chance to see his ball sailing in the middle of a nice valley paralleling the Philadelphia Pike. A large mound will catch the topped or half-topped iron shot to the green, which is built up within close touch of a cluster of trees. No player should find any difficulty in registering a par 4 at this easy hole. There are numerous nicely placed sand traps near the green, not too difficult to play out of. **The hole plays the same today; hole 1 before 1931.**

No. 3, 330 yards – Calls for a well-placed drive up a slight incline. The second, an iron shot, should reach home. The putting green is very large and rolling, surrounded by grass and sand mounds. There are a few nice fruit trees at the sides, it is well elevated and one of the nicest holes to play. The first three holes are roomy and quite long enough; giving players a chance to limber up, at the same time minimizing congestion. **The hole plays the same today; hole 12 before 1931.**

No. 4, 265 yards – The drive may effect the weak-hearted mentally, inasmuch as the shot must be placed between large trees, 50 feet apart and over a nice wide babbling brook; both hazards being at least 300 feet from the tee. A mashy pitch should be lobbed onto the green, where a 4 will be recorded. This is the easiest par on the links, providing the tee shot is hit. Birds will be made and also eagles. The drive reaches a flat and the pitch to a nicely trapped green by the “Old Mill Dam site.” **Although Findlay describes the 4th hole as a short par 4, no evidence has been found that it was built as a par 4. An article in the *Reading Eagle*, July 14, 1931, reporting on a match played at RCC between golf professionals Walter Hagan and Tommy Armour included a score card showing the 4th hole as a par 3. An aerial photo from 1923 is inconclusive; the resolution of the photo is not fine enough for an observer to locate a 4th tee to support a 265-yard hole and no trace of an old tee is visible today. According to Jim Nagle, a design associate with Forse Design, Inc., the current green is not the one designed and build by the Findlays. Hole 13 before 1931.**

No. 5, 520 yards – The long hole calls for a drive, a brassy over the creek and a pitch onto a large terraced green over the wide part of the stream. A vista cut out of the woods shows the green surrounded by water. A long hitter may be tempted to reach home with a long second shot, but he won't be in a hurry to attempt it a second time. The mouth of the green is narrow and calls for an accurate pitch, a 5 should easily be registered, which is par. **The hole plays the same today; hole 14 before 1931. See photo 14.**

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No. 6, 160 yards – An iron shot over the stream and valley to the hill-top, large trees to right, deep trap in front and pits at each side of green. A well placed shot will reach the flag on the fly, a grand test of golf and a nice par 3. **The only change is the removal of a sand trap in front of the green. This hole was reviewed by famed golf architect A.W. Tillinghast in a visit to RCC in 1935. At some point, a tee was constructed at the top of the hill along Shelburne Road; the dates of construction and abandonment are not known. Although overgrown, the area of this tee is evident today. Hole 7 before 1931. See photos 15 and 16.**

No. 7, 445 yards – A good drive will land on a plateau within 30 yards of the stream, a clean brassy should reach the green, which is nicely placed in the meadow, elevated and surrounded by an array of shallow sand traps and mounds. This hole will help the long hitter to score a bird below par 5. **Note: the only change to this hole is that the creek was re-routed in the 1980s to make it farther from the tee. Hole 8 before 1931.**

No. 8, 180 yards – A midiron shot, the creek rushes by at the foot of the green, which will catch topped tee shots. Trees will kill the pull, also hurt the slice. A nicely placed tee shot, however, will land on a rare (sic) putting green, and with the orthodox allowance of two putts, one should experience little difficulty in scoring a par 3. Near the Clubhouse. **The hole plays the same today; hole 9 before 1931.**

No. 9, 335 yards – A drive should be placed on a nice reach at the top of a huge hill, and a well played mashie pitch will reach the pin; this green is quite adjacent to the clubhouse; hole is slightly dog-legged, with huge trees as a background, traps at sides, and in front of the green, a first-class hole and nice to look at from the tee. Par 4. **The hole plays the same today; hole 10 before 1931.**

No. 10, 295 yards – Tee in front of clubhouse, a nice drive and pitch hole with few obstacles in the way. The putting green is scientifically trapped and lies within close touch of a beautiful cluster of trees. Par 4. **This hole was changed to a par 3 so the former fairway could be used as a practice area. The hole plays to the green that Findlay designed and built; hole 11 before 1931.**

No. 11, 400 yards – An extreme dog-leg two shotter, a drive and full spoon or cleek shot will reach the pin; each shot must be placed with unerring accuracy in order to secure a par 4. The green is large, as all two full shot holes should be; nice mounds protect the corners and there are numerous traps all the way home. **Note: The hole plays the same today although for a period of time, it was a dog-leg right. At that time, the current fairway was used as a practice area. The land that served as the 11th fairway is now occupied by medical offices and a nursing home. Hole 2 before 1931.**

No. 12, 430 yards – Over an old patch of pasture land and though an apple orchard, quite a wide fairway. The scratch or plus player should reach the pin nicely with a well-placed second or brassy shot. This is one of the most difficult par 4 holes on the course, but a joy to play. **This hole was shortened in 1986 to accommodate a change to Gibraltar Road. It now plays as a 360-yard par 4. The green is unchanged; hole 3 before 1931.**

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No 13, 385 yards – A plain easy drive and a midiron will place one near to score par figures. The green nestles at the foot of very large trees, numerous fruit trees skirt the fairway boundary. One must play straight, as punishment awaits the wayward. Par 4. **The hole plays the same today; hole 4 before 1931.**

No. 14, 510 yards – Two screaming wood shots will reach foot of the green; a mashy niblick pitch is necessary in order to overcome the numerous difficulties surrounding the pin. The green is scooped out of the face of a large hill and faces the pitch; a very sporty hole to play but just about impossible to get home in 2, owing to the hog back fairway in front of the green; the third shot is one of the dog-leg order. This is one of the nicest long holes in the United States. Par 5. **The hole plays the same today; hole 5 before 1931.**

No 15, 175 yards – The third and last of the one shot holes, the tee is at the top of a high hill, the green is over a stream. Numerous picturesque trees are at sides and back thereof, is well built up and quite undulating. The triumvirate of iron shot holes compare favorably with that of the famous Tavistock Country Club, Tavistock, N.J., [Findlay designed Tavistock in 1921] and that is going some as Tavistock when two years older will be one of the finest tests of golf in this golfing country; in fact it is not yet two years old and a gem to play. Reading Country Club in a year or two will be likewise blest. Think it over! Trouble galore awaits the misplaced tee shot whereas a good shot will net anyone a par 3. Beauty Unsurpassed. **The hole plays the same today with the exception of a back tee added to make it a 225-yard par 3. Hole 6 before 1931.**

No. 16, 340 yards – A drive over the creek and a nice iron shot will land on the green, which is up a nice gradual sloping hill nicely trapped on all sides. If in match play, one wins by 3 and 2, one simply struts through the woods to the clubhouse, which is less than 50 yards away from the green. The 16th is an easy par 4. **The hole plays the same today; hole 15 before 1931.**

No 17, 420 yards – A fine two shotter, a delightful view is afforded one standing on the tee; the drive is down hill; a long straight brassy will reach home, which is open and wide, inviting a wood shot to the pin; the green is properly bunkered and calls for accurate golf. Par 4. **A new tee added after 1953 created a 500-yard par 5. The green and fairway remain as Findlay designed and built them. Hole 16 before 1931.**

No. 18, 345 yards – Drive and an iron shot to the hole; the green is on an up-grade, located quite near trees and the clubhouse, making a fine finish to this splendid course. The green is well trapped and mounded. Par 4. **The hole plays the same today; hole 17 before 1931.**

The beauty of this course is unsurpassed. All the greens and pins are visible from the tee, there are no blind pitches and all face the shot. Players are ever eager to have the 9th and 18th holes at the clubhouse. This we will have, plus the 6th and the 16th, which are within 50 yards of same.

No one can miss a shot at any one of the 18 holes and make amends; therefore, as a matter of fact, Reading Country Club links are first-class in every respect. It will be ready for play in early June at which time a full membership is practically assured.”

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The course Findlay describes would yield the following score card:

Outward 9 Par 4 4 4 4 5 3 5 3 4 – 36 (2985 yards)
Inward 9 Par 4 4 4 4 5 3 4 4 4 – 36 – 72 (3300 yards; 6285 yards total)

Here is today's scorecard:

Outward 9 Par 4 4 4 3 5 3 4 3 4 – 34 (2944 yards)
Inward 9 Par 3 4 4 4 5 3 4 5 4 – 36 – 70 (3218 yards; 6162 yards total – blue tees)

Before the Civil War, the stream that runs through the eastern section of Reading Country Club was known as Stony Creek because of the numerous boulders found along its upper course. The name Antietam was adopted to honor Berks County soldiers who participated in the battle fought at the Antietam Creek in Maryland on September 16 and 17, 1862. (Source: *Reading Eagle*, January 20, 1918, page 18) The word Antietam is believed to come from an Algonquin phrase meaning "swift-flowing stream". The creek is a valuable natural resource that is home to assorted wildlife (fish, foxes, reptiles, birds) and is a source of frustration to the golfers.

A portion of the creek was re-routed in the 1980s when the Filippini family owned RCC. The Antietam was shifted to the south where it crosses the 5th and 7th fairways. The most feasible explanation for the change is that golfers playing the 7th had difficulty hitting their tee ball over the old creek position; they were forced to hit a lay-up, leaving a shot of 200 yards to the green. The re-positioned creek provides more fairway and a shorter second shot. Alex Findlay probably would not approve, because he designed the 7th as a par 5. But then Findlay built the golf course in the era of hickory-shafted clubs and balls that did not carry nearly as far as today's computer-designed wonders.

Although the creek flows just 10 miles from Alsace Township to the Schuylkill River, it was once an economic powerhouse in Berks County. An 1836 map of the Reading area (exhibit 1) shows 16 mills and forges on the Antietam from Spies Church to the Philadelphia Pike, a length of about nine miles. The creek's flowing water powered a variety of manufacturing sites, including the mill associated with the Bishop House at the entrance to the RCC property.

The Buildings

The clubhouse is prominently located in the center of the property, accessed by visitors via a long drive from US Route 422. The location was selected when the club was planned in 1922 (Source: *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922, and April 26, 1931). The clubhouse is positioned near the 1st and 10th tees and the 9th and 18th greens. From the *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922: "The location selected [for the clubhouse], after consultation with A.H. Findlay, who laid out the golf course, is ideal. It has as a background a fringe of woods and rocks as charming as any in the county, and a magnificent view south, east and west over the beautiful Schuylkill Valley."

A parking lot for the clubhouse has always been located immediately southeast of the structure; the parking area has been expanded over the years. The clubhouse was designed in the Tudor style by Reading-based architect Harry Maurer, who also designed the Tudor style Yuengling Mansion in Pottsville (listed in the National Register).

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The clubhouse retains the same look as when it opened in 1931. An all-weather room added to the front of the building in 2015 is designed to blend with the existing stone and stucco exterior. The interior renovation in 2015 retains the traditional club look and feel of the original design. The bar was enlarged, large-screen TVs were added and the walls and floors were refreshed. The ball room and meeting rooms on the second floor retain their original look and feel.

The golf shop is adjacent to the clubhouse on the southeast side. The golf shop was constructed at the same time as the clubhouse and its design mirrors that of the clubhouse. The building was expanded, with a club storage room added to the east side c.1960.

The two-level maintenance shop is located at the west end of the parking lot. The building is constructed of corrugated metal on a concrete slab. The upper level includes storage space used by both the golf and restaurant operations. It also has restrooms. The lower level is used to park the equipment used to maintain the golf course and includes a workshop. A pre-fab storage shed is located on the west side of the clubhouse, adjacent to a side door that leads to the kitchen. The pump house building is on a concrete pad. Its purpose is to protect the irrigation system pump controls from the elements. These three resources are all non-contributing.

Integrity Assessment

Jim Nagle, a current golf course architect who specializes in course restoration, has assessed this course and found that overall, with the exception of the 4th, 10th and portions of the 12th holes, the Reading Country Club golf course remains intact. The 4th green was rebuilt and the addition of the practice area altered the original 10th hole from a par 4 to a par 3, but the original green is intact. The 12th hole was shortened in the 1980s when Gibraltar Road was re-routed. There are bunkers that are no longer filled with sand yet the earthworks remain to this day, and could be restored.

The changes made over the years take nothing away from the Scotsman's design. The course plays pretty much as he described in 1922. Reading Country Club was a challenge in the era of hickory-shafted brassies, mashies and niblicks and soft-cover, rubber core balls. [Note: The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, golf's governing body, approved metal shafts in 1929.] The golf course remains a challenge in today's age of over-sized, exotic-metal clubs and computer-designed balls. Alex Findlay's genius stands the test of time.

At one time the RCC also offered other recreational activities to their members. Although the swimming pool and tennis courts once part of the property no longer exist, their absence has no impact on the golf course, which was always the highlight.

The property was also the site of the Reading Country Club Riding Stables, which were located on land adjacent to the 13th hole. The country club did not operate the stables; it was leased, first in 1925 to Frederick W. Hannon, who had been master of the Detroit Riding and Hunt Club. The club erected a barn with stables for 80 horses and provided a house for Hannon and his wife, who gave riding lessons. The stables were not exclusive to county club members. The proprietors of the stables boarded horses, taught riding and put on horse shows that attracted competitors from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and thousands of spectators. RCC staged its first horse show, The Autumn Leaf Horse Show and Gymkhana, on October 17, 1925, as reported in the *Reading Eagle* on October 18. According to the *Eagle*, this show represented "...a revival of horse shows in the vicinity." The event attracted 1,200 spectators and featured

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seven classes of competition. The stable was last operated in the early 1970s. According to records from the Berks County Recorder of Deeds, the riding academy land was sold for a housing development, Country Club Estates, in 1978.

There have been a few substantial changes to the tees, but they do not diminish the integrity of Findley's overall design. The exclusion of the Bishop House from the boundary is not considered to be a detriment as the house does not reflect the appearance it had during the period of significance, and the original design for the property always intended for a substantial new clubhouse to be located prominently in the center of the course, eliminating the future role of the Bishop House following complete implementation of the course design (*Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922, and April 26, 1931, and Reading Country Club 1923 membership brochure.). The loss of the additional acreage to the north of the course, which included the riding stables, is unfortunate but those acres were not part of the course, and the riding stable was always leased separately and operated independently of the golf course facility. The new houses now located on this acreage are shielded from the course by mature trees and shrubbery.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1922-1931

Significant Dates

c.1920—Land acquired in Exeter Township for Reading Country Club

1921-1923—Golf Course constructed

1923-1925—Golf course opened in phases (9-hole course transitioning to 18-hole course)

1931—Clubhouse completed and opened

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Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Golf course architect: Alexander H. Findlay

Clubhouse architect: Harry Maurer

Golf course builders: Alexander and Frederick Findlay

Clubhouse builder: Charles H. Schlegel, General Contractor

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Reading Country Club golf course is an important example of an Alexander Findlay-designed golf course, and is eligible under Criterion C for Landscape Architecture. Findlay's design at RCC is among the best examples of his work and one of the few Findlay courses that has maintained his design with little change. The period of significance begins in 1922, with the installation of the first nine holes, and extends to 1931, when the existing clubhouse was completed, and the primary portion of the property's landscape essentially took its final form.

Alexander Findlay and his Impact on Golf in the US

Findlay (1865-1942), emigrated from his native Scotland to Omaha, Nebraska, in the mid-1880s. He was an accomplished golfer and is credited with shooting the sport's first score of 72 in competition, this occurring in 1886 at the Royal Montrose Golf Club, Scotland. In 1887, he built a 6-hole golf course west of Omaha, considered the first golf course west of the Mississippi River. From there, he became one of America's pioneers of the game.

Findlay at one time was in charge of designing and building golf courses for the Florida East Coast Railway. In 1897, Findlay was hired by the Wright and Ditson Company, Boston, to design a line of golf clubs (see exhibit 3). Wright and Ditson, founded in 1871, was acquired by A.G. Spaulding in 1892. In 1900, he brought Harry Vardon, the great British professional, to the United States for a series of exhibition matches, often playing against the Englishman. The matches garnered wide-spread newspaper coverage, which helped popularize golf in America at the turn of the 20th century.

In the early 1920s, when he designed Reading Country Club's golf course, Findlay was associated with the Wanamakers department store in Philadelphia, retiring in 1936 following a 27-year career. Findlay also wrote a column for the now-defunct Philadelphia newspaper, *The Evening Telegraph*. His column was titled "Breezy News About Golf And Golfers; Tales of the Links as Told by an Expert Whose Fame Spreads Over Two Continents".

In *The Architects of Golf*, by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten, Findlay is credited with designing more than 100 courses. According to Cornish and Whitten, Findlay played more than 2,400 courses during his lifetime. In 1926, he visited Pope Pious XI and evidently was unable to convince the Pontiff to allow him to build a six-hole golf course on the Vatican grounds.

The number of courses Findlay designed has also been reported as 223 (*Miami News*, April 17, 1942) and "...more than 200..." (*Reading Eagle*, April 24, 1942).

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Many Findlay-designed courses no longer exist, having been sold for development or redesigned and expanded. RCC is the only identified course Alex and his brother, Fred, worked together. Following completion of RCC, Fred moved to Virginia and established his own golf course design business in Richmond. Alex continued to work from his home in Philadelphia.

The prolific Alex Findlay designed golf courses in Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia and in the Bahamas. Many of his courses were at resorts, including the first nine holes at the Greenbrier, WV, resort; the first nine holes at The Breakers resort in Miami, Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Rye, NH; and Galen Hall Golf Club in Berks County, PA.

Findlay designed 20 known courses in Pennsylvania, including the original Aronimink Golf Club (golf course relocated in 1913, Findlay's course no longer exists); Coatesville Country Club; Galen Hall Golf Club (Berks County); Green Pond Country Club; Langhorne Country Club (now known as Middletown); Llanerch Country Club; Luden Riverside Golf Club (Berks County, no longer exists); Manor Golf Club (Berks County); Pittsburgh Field Club; and Walnut Lane Golf Club. He also consulted in the design of Berkshire Country Club, also in Berks County.

Findlay's first course design—aside from his rudimentary 1887 six-hole layout in Nebraska—was Sicaonset Golf Club on Nantucket Island, 1894. His final course design was Walnut Lane Golf Club in Philadelphia, 1935. Alex Findlay died on April 17, 1942, age 75.

Alex Findlay's design at RCC is among the best examples of his work and one of the few Findlay courses that has maintained his design with little change. The following comments are from Jim Nagle, Registered Landscape Architect, regarding Alex Findlay's golf course design work in general and at Reading Country Club specifically. Mr. Nagle is a design associate at Forse Design, Inc., Hopwood, PA, a firm that specializes in design for new golf courses and course restoration. He has consulted with A&M Golf on projects at RCC.

- 1) What aspects of RCC or other Findlay are unique to him, and not typical of other designers of the period?

JN: Findlay used a combination of mounds and bunkers independently of themselves and in combination. His use of the mound and bunker complexes around greens was unique and genius at the time of his most expert work.

- 2) Did Findlay's designs evolve over the years?

JN: Like most architects of that era, Findlay continued to evolve as the game of golf grew in the United States. His early work was somewhat rudimentary in design and seemed more in line with the "steeplechase" or geometric designs found in the U.S. in the late 1890s and early 1900s. His designs began to evolve and improve as the game grew. His work in the late teens and early 1920s are very fine examples of classic golf architecture (1900-1960 era). Much of his work in the eastern U.S., New England and upstate New York is worthy of study and make for enjoyable, challenging golf. I believe his work at Tavistock C.C., Haddonfield, N.J., is his best example of strategic design, expert greens complexes and genius design and locations of bunkers.

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- 3) Many of his designs have been altered and renovated or no longer exist. Are there others that are as intact as Reading? Do you consider Reading to be relatively intact?

JN: With the exception of the 4th, 10th and portions of the 12th hole, the Reading Country Club golf course remains intact. The 4th green is not original and the addition of the practice area altered the original 10th hole from a par 4 to a par 3, but the original green is intact. The 12th hole was shortened in the 1980s when Gibraltar Road was re-routed. There are bunkers that are no longer filled with sand yet the earthworks remain to this day.

What I have always found fascinating are the 3rd, 5th, 7th greensites and their bunkers. Having been involved with restoration efforts at two prominent Findlay courses, Lebanon (Pa.) C.C. and Tavistock, I have looked at these holes for inspiration.

- 4) Did Findlay make an effort in his designs to incorporate natural features similar to the usage of the creek at Reading?

JN: Yes. Findlay, like many of his peers of the classic design era, used the land much more naturally than today's golf architects. They had an ability to minimize the influence of man upon the land and create golf courses that transitioned seamlessly with the land. Findlay would make some very abrupt features on his courses that at first glance may seem unnatural. As you study the features and their surrounds, you begin to appreciate their very natural feel and appearance. Many of Findlay's greens flowed beautifully into and out of the natural hillsides and low lying lands upon which they sit. As he evolved and better sites became available his course routing skills (placement of the holes on the land in a sequential order) also improved.

- 5) How do you judge Alex Findlay's contributions to golf in America?

JN: It is my opinion that Alexander Findlay does not get the credit due him in terms of his desire to introduce the game of golf to America as he did. He was one of the first immigrants to introduce the game to many in New York and the West. He persisted and was able to help grow the game. Many of his earliest designs were 9-hole courses close to metropolitan areas, and some of these courses no longer exist. As the game grew in the early 1900s, many of those courses were plowed under for a newer 18-hole course or were abandoned as private clubs decided to move further from the cities.

Other Individuals Associated with RCC

Fred Findlay was born in 1872 in Montrose, Scotland, the youngest of eight boys. The Findlays also had two daughters. Father Findlay was a professional soldier so it is not surprising that Fred followed that path. Following a 22-year military career, Fred settled in Montrose and turned to a career in golf and music. Fred was an accomplished golfer, having set the course record score of 70 at Montrose Golf Course (*The Dundee Courier*, May 17, 1909). On September 24, 1909, *The Dundee Courier* announced that Fred, the professional at Montrose Royal Albert Golf Club, was moving to Australia.

Two reasons for Fred's move to the antipodes have been proffered. One is that the Findlay's went to Australia hoping that the mild climate would benefit their son, Freddie, who was believed to suffer from tuberculosis. The second is that Fred was encouraged by the two Findlay brothers who were by 1909 established in the Australian golf business.

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Fred began his career in golf course architecture in Australia, designing three courses, none of which survive today. Fred's son died in 1912 at age 16. The child was buried in Australia, but at some point the body was disinterred and returned to Scotland where he was laid to rest under the auld sod. Fred's wife, Georgina, accompanied the body. She never returned to Australia or to Fred.

Fred's remaining child, daughter Ruth, married an American, Raymond Loving, in Australia. The Lovings moved to the United States and Fred, at age 51, followed them in April 1922. Fred arrived in San Francisco on May 1 and by October, he was at work in Exeter Township supervising the golf course construction at Reading Country Club, as reported in the *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922.

Fred established a residence in Exeter Township. Records on file with the Berks County Recorder of Deeds show that Fred acquired two properties totaling about 1.5 acres on Philadelphia Pike in Exeter Township in November and December 1922. A brief article in the *Reading Eagle*, July 10, 1923, reported that "Fred Findlay, proprietor of the auto service station, is contemplating disposing of the property and spending his time in layout out golf links."

Findlay moved to Richmond, Virginia, where he established his golf business with his son-in-law. The Harrisonburg (Virginia) *Daily News Record*, June 25, 1925, reporting on progress at a 9-hole golf course Fred was building, stated that Mr. Findlay was visiting the construction site, taking time off from supervising work in Reading, Pa. This, of course, was Reading Country Club.

Fred Findlay died at the age of 94 in 1966.

Another well-known golf personality associated with RCC is **Byron Nelson**, a native Texan and a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, served as RCC's head professional in 1937, '38 and '39. His stature as perhaps the world's best golfer brought national media attention to RCC and the Reading area.

During his tenure at Reading, Nelson won numerous tournaments, including the 1937 Masters tournament at Augusta National Golf Club, Georgia, and the 1939 U.S. Open played at the Spring Mill course of Philadelphia Country Club. He also won the 1937 Central Pennsylvania Open played at RCC and was a member of the United States Ryder Cup team in 1937. Nelson stated that he used the \$1,500 prize money he won at the 1937 Masters to buy merchandise to stock the RCC golf shop (*How I Played the Game*, by Byron Nelson, 1993, Taylor Trade Publishing, page 65).

On August 24, 1938, Nelson shot a 63 at RCC (*Reading Eagle*, August 25, 1938). The round was not played during competition, so it is not considered the course record. That distinction goes to professional Sam Snead, also a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, who carded a 63 in the first round of the 1949 Reading Open. Both of these rounds were played on the intact Findlay-designed golf course. In 1945, Nelson set two records that still stand: he won 18 PGA tour events and 11 tournaments in a row.

Nelson left RCC at the end of the 1939 golf season to take the head professional job at Inverness Country Club, Toledo, Oh. He was succeeded by North Carolinian Henry Clay Poe, who was at RCC for 23 years. During his tenure, Poe was elected president of the PGA. Byron Nelson died on September 26, 2006, at age 94.

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Reading Country Club's Founding

Golf was just starting to attract participants in the United States in the 1890s. The St. Andrews Golf Club, Yonkers, N.Y., a six-hole layout, is considered the country's first true golf club, having been opened in 1888. The Chicago Golf Club, opened in 1893, was the country's first 18-hole course. (Source: "The Beginning of Golf in Berks County", published by the Historical Society of Berks County, 1930.) When Alex Findlay brought the great British professional Harry Vardon to the U.S. for a series of exhibition matches in 1900, the game was known to very few. Because of the efforts of Findlay and others like him, the game grew in popularity.

There were about 100 golf courses in the United States at the beginning of the Roaring Twenties. Of this total, two were in Berks County: Berkshire Country Club, a private club established in 1895 and chartered in 1900, and Galen Hall Golf Club, a resort course opened in 1911. Alex Findlay had a hand in both courses: he consulted in the design of Berkshire's first nine holes (*Reading Eagle*, April 24, 1942) and designed Galen Hall's first nine holes (*Reading Eagle*, April 30, 1939).

Although the articles reporting on the formation of Reading Country Club do not state explicitly, the founding members no doubt saw the need for another golf club, given the game's growing popularity. The evidence suggests they were correct. The *Reading Eagle* reported on June 19, 1922, that "A charter has been granted by the court to the new Reading Country Club." The article goes on: "...work will be started on the location along the Philadelphia Pike, near Wamsher's Mill, in a month or more". The article noted that Mr. Findlay had been hired to lay out the golf course. An article in the *Reading Eagle* of April 15, 1925, reported that the club had 413 members. The club was initially owned by the members, who purchased stock for \$200 per share and paid a \$100 initiation fee, as reported in the *Reading Eagle*, March 16, 1923.

RCC's founders had plans to make the club a premiere facility and to that end, they consulted with people who had expertise in building and managing country clubs. They hired Alexander H. Findlay, one of the most celebrated golf architects of his day, to design the course. The board of governors was also most appreciative of the counsel they received from the members of Berkshire Country Club "...for their courteous and helpful assistance in many ways. The new club has much to learn from its local senior and welcomes all assistance by suggestion or criticism."

By October 1922, nine holes had been built, with the greens and tees shaped and seeded. Work was progressing on the remaining nine holes. A temporary five-hole golf course had been open for members in 1922. The track was described as "...not a good course but sufficient to afford golfing novices an opportunity to 'get their eye on the ball.'"

An article in the *Reading Eagle*, March 13, 1923, reported on the club's first annual dinner, held at The Berkshire. Fred Findlay, Alex Findlay's brother and the golf course construction manager, was quoted as saying he expected half of the 18-hole course would be open by early June. Later in the same article, Joseph F. Morris, club vice president, stated that 14 holes would be completed and ready for play by May 1. Paul N. Schaefer, club secretary, presented a resolution to have members pay a \$100 initiation plus purchase \$200 in stock. The resolution would be put to a vote at the club's annual meeting on April 10. The 125 members in attendance also heard a presentation from Alexander Findlay, the golf course architect.

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Despite these expectations, no record of play in 1923 has been found in the *Reading Eagle*. The search encompassed newspapers published on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions from May to October, the most likely editions that would include reports of local golfing activity. There are numerous articles on events involving nearby Berkshire Country Club golfers, but nothing for RCC. That doesn't mean no golf was played at RCC in 1923. It does, however, seem odd that the golf course would not have opened in 1923, given the progress made by October 1922. Indeed, an aerial photo from 1923 shows a completed front 9 and the 10th hole and work in progress on the back 9 (see supplemental photos).

An article from May 24, 1924, states that Memorial Day would mark the opening of the Reading Country Club's new nine-hole golf course. Indeed, the first club championship was played in the fall of 1924 on the nine-hole course. By 1925, matches involving RCC golfers were a regular feature in the *Reading Eagle*. In 1935, A.W. Tillinghast, considered one of golf's greatest course architects, visited RCC as a consulting architect for the Professional Golfers Association

The property was also the site of the Reading Country Club Riding Stables, which were located on land adjacent to the 13th hole. The country club did not operate the stables; it was leased, first in 1925 to Frederick W. Hannon, who had been master of the Detroit Riding and Hunt Club. The club erected a barn with stables for 80 horses and provided a house for Hannon and his wife, who gave riding lessons. The stables were not exclusive to county club members. The proprietors of the stables boarded horses, taught riding and put on horse shows that attracted competitors from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and thousands of spectators. RCC staged its first horse show, The Autumn Leaf Horse Show and Gymkhana, on October 17, 1925, as reported in the *Reading Eagle* on October 18. According to the *Eagle*, this show represented "...a revival of horse shows in the vicinity." The event attracted 1,200 spectators and featured seven classes of competition. The stable was last operated in the early 1970s. According to records from the Berks County Recorder of Deeds, the riding academy land was sold for a housing development, Country Club Estates, in 1978.

From its original equity-based beginning, the club fell into bankruptcy during the Great Depression and World War 2, and in 1944, a group of 20 local businessmen bought it. In 1969, the club was sold to an ownership group based in Philadelphia consisting of Judge Francis J. Catania, John Bosacco and Dale Reese. This ownership group retained the land to the north, a portion of which had been used for the RCC Riding Stables into the 1970s and which is now the Country Club Estates development, and sold the remaining property to the Filippini family of Berks County in 1979. The Filippinis sold two-thirds of the property to golf professionals Robert Thatcher and Joseph Dahl in 1987, but not before selling approximately 9.5 acres in 1983, land that is now home to a nursing home and medical office buildings. Allentown businessman Larry Beans bought the Filippinis' remaining two-thirds share in 1990 and gained total ownership when he bought out Thatcher and Dahl in 1999.

In 2005, Larry Beans announced an agreement to sell the land to a developer, who intended to build 525 townhomes on the property. Exeter Township purchased the club through eminent domain in January 2006 in response to public opposition to the proposed housing development and the desire to control development. The action was taken to avoid the cost of infrastructure improvements (roads and public utilities) that would have been required, reduce the likelihood of flooding from storm water runoff in a flood plain area, and avoid added costs to the school district (new buildings or additions to existing buildings, additional staff, additional asset purchases). (Source: *Reading Eagle*, September 15, 2005) As a result of township ownership, the golf course is now open to the public.

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As noted above in Section 7, the golf course has changed little over the years. The changes that have been made have had no effect on the golf course's integrity. As the game has evolved, RCC has stood up to the challenges of the modern golfer. Sam Snead's record score of 63 set in 1949 still stands. Further, golfers competing in the Berks County Amateur Championship at RCC have never broken par for the 54-hole event. The lowest score in RCC's annual club championship is -4 for 54 holes in 1985.

Significant Golf Events at RCC

Reading Country Club has hosted numerous club and Berks County tournaments since its opening in 1923. The club has also hosted professional events, none more important than the 1949 Reading Open and the 1953 Ryder Cup Challenge. Both events were sanctioned by the Professional Golfers Association. The Reading Open was played in 1947 and 1948 at Berkshire Country Club, the sponsor of the event. The club turned down an opportunity to hold the event in 1949 for financial reasons. In 1948, the PGA required a minimum purse of \$15,000 (*Reading Eagle*, January 1, 1948), a condition that Berkshire met. The club declined the 1949 tournament because members did not want to finance the purse, so the tournament was moved to RCC, under sponsorship of the Berks County Golf Association. The tournament returned to Berkshire in 1950. In 1951, the final Reading Open was played at Berkleigh Country Club. A *Reading Eagle* article of December 31, 1951, speculated that the 1952 Reading Open would be played at RCC, but the writer, the sports editor Bill Reedy, stated that the BCGA had not determined if it would renew the tournament sponsorship. When the PGA released its 1952 tournament schedule, the Reading Open was not included. The *Reading Eagle* reported on April 17, 1952, that the Reading Open sponsors rejected the date offered, September 18-21.

The 1953 Ryder Cup Challenge event was contested at Reading most likely through the influence of the club's golf professional, Henry Clay Poe. Poe was well-connected within the PGA and would later become President of the organization. The pros were familiar with RCC and Berkshire Country Club, where the event's pro-am tournament was held.

RCC hosted the Central Pennsylvania Open from 1934 to 1941. The 36-hole tournament was played the first Monday of August and attracted leading professionals from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The tournament was discontinued during World War 2 and was not renewed thereafter. Winners include Byron Nelson (twice), Ed Dudley and Ed Oliver (twice).

The Reading Open was played five times between 1947 and 1951. The first three events were at Berkshire Country Club (about nine miles from RCC), the fourth at RCC and the fifth and last at Berkleigh Country Club (about 23 miles from RCC).

The 1949 Reading Open was played from July 7 to July 10 (see program cover, exhibit 10). It attracted professionals from around the country and a few international stars. There was also a large contingent of amateurs, most from Berks and surrounding counties. The purse of \$15,000 was more than the purse of the Masters (\$11,000) and U.S. Open (\$10,000).

In the first round played on July 7, Sam Snead set a competitive course record of 63, a mark that still stands. (Note: On August 24, 1938, Byron Nelson, who was then RCC's head golf professional, shot eight-under 63, par was 71 at the time, in a non-competitive round. The *Reading Eagle* reported that Nelson beat the record of 65 he shared with "Lighthorse" Harry Cooper, the English professional who won 31 PGA tournaments, including seven in 1937.)

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Snead would go on to a hall-of-fame career and is considered one of the top five golfers of all time. Cary Middlecoff, another hall-of-fame golfer, won the tournament by one stroke over Snead, winning \$2,650. The tournament attracted large galleries to RCC. It also garnered attention for RCC and Berks County through national news coverage.

On September 19 and 20, 1953, RCC hosted a two-day Ryder Cup Challenge Match between the United States Ryder Cup team and a team of PGA professionals (see program cover, exhibit 11). The matches were conducted as a warm-up for the Ryder Cup matches that were played at Wentworth, England on October 2 and 3. The event also provided the professionals with an opportunity to earn money to replace earnings they would lose during the trip to England. Golfers are not paid to play Ryder Cup and, in the 1950s, the professionals' earning power was not as robust as it is today.

The Ryder Cup team included Fred Hass, Jr.; Jim Turnesa; Sam Snead; Walter Burkemo; Dave Douglass; Lloyd Mangram; Ed Oliver; Jack Burke, Jr.; Ted Kroll and Cary Middlecoff. The Challenge Team included George Fazio, Henry Williams, Jr.; Pete Cooper; Claude Harmon; Johnny Palmer, Jimmy Demaret; Al Besselink, Lew Worsham; Tommy Bolt and Doug Ford. The Ryder Cup team won the two-day competition at RCC, 12 ½ to 7 ½. They would go on to defeat the Great Britain and Ireland team, 6 ½ to 5 ½.

In 1956, RCC hosted the Pennsylvania State Women's Amateur Championship. The tournament attracted 98 players from across the state.

The layout of the course played in 1949 is shown in exhibit 12. The course played for the 1953 and 1956 events is shown in exhibit 13. The 11th hole was changed between 1949 and 1953 from a dogleg left to a dogleg right hole. The hole is now plays as shown in the 1949 layout. The fairway shown in the 1953 layout is now a nursing home and medical offices. Also, the back 9 course was rerouted. The routing played today is the same as 1949. The course as played today is shown in exhibit 14.

Byron Nelson served as head golf professional for three years, 1937, '38 and '39. During his tenure, Byron won the Masters in 1937 and the United States Open in 1939. Nelson, a Texas native, is considered one of golf's greatest players. Nelson devoted a chapter ("Reading and Some Major Wins", pps. 63-98) to his years at RCC in his book, *How I Played the Game* (Taylor Trade Publishing, 1993).

Near as can be determined, golfers who played at RCC won 99 major championships (15 on the senior tour). And that does not include Chip Lutz, who won the British Senior Amateur Championship in 2011 and 2012, the RCC club championship in 1979 and 1990 and the United States Golf Association Senior Amateur Championship in 2015. Johnny McDermott (U.S. Open winner in 1911 and 1912) visited RCC. McDermott, a Philadelphian and the first American-born player to win the National Open – as it was then named – was a spectator at the 1949 Reading Open, a tidbit reported in the *Reading Eagle*. Every Masters champion from the tournament's inception in 1934 to 1960, save three, played at RCC. The no-shows are Gene Sarazin (1935), Ralph Guldahl (1939) and Arnold Palmer (1958 and 1960). Two of golf's foremost course architects are on the guest list. Alex Findlay designed the course; let's assume he hit a few shots. George Fazio, the first of the renowned Fazio family of golf architects, played several events at RCC.

Here are the major champions who golfed their ball at Reading Country Club.

- Sam Snead – 13 (PGA '42, '49, '51; Masters '49, '52, '54; British Open '46; PGA Seniors '64, '65, '67, '70, '72, '73)

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- Walter Hagan – 11 (PGA '21, '24, '25, '26, '27; U.S. Open '14, '19; British Open '22, '24, '28, '29)
- Ben Hogan – 9 (PGA '46, '48; Masters '48, '51, '53; U.S. Open '48, '50, '51, '53; British Open '53)
- Betsy King – 6 (LPGA '92; Dinah Shore '87, '90, '97; U.S. Open '89, '90)
- Miller Barber – 5 (PGA Seniors '81; U.S. Senior Open '82, '84, 85; Senior TPC '83)
- Lawson Little – 5 (U.S. Amateur '34, '35; British Amateur '34, '35; U.S. Open '40)
- Byron Nelson – 5 (PGA '40, '45; Masters '37, '42; U.S. Open '39)
- Bobby Locke – 4 (British Open '49, '50, '52, '57)
- Tommy Armour – 3 (PGA '30; U.S. Open '27; British Open '31)
- Billy Casper – 5 (Masters '70; U.S. Open '59, '66; U.S. Senior Open '83; Senior TPC '88)
- Jimmy Demaret – 3 (Masters '40, '47, '50)
- Cary Middlecoff – 3 (Masters '55; U.S. Open '49, '56)
- Tommy Bolt – 2 (U.S. Open '58; PGA Seniors '69)
- Jack Burke – 2 (PGA '56; Masters '56)
- Doug Ford – 2 (PGA '55; Masters '57)
- Don January – 2 (PGA '67; PGA Seniors '82)
- Henry Picard – 2 ('39 PGA; '38 Masters)
- Horton Smith – 2 (Masters '34 [known then as the Augusta National Invitational], '36)
- Craig Wood – 2 (Masters '41; U.S. Open '41)
- Jerry Barber – 1 (PGA '61)
- Gay Brewer – 1 (Masters '67)
- Walter Burkemo – 1 (PGA '43)
- Jim Ferrier – 1 (PGA '47)
- Ed Furgol – 1 (U.S. Open '54)
- Vic Ghezzi – 1 (PGA '41)
- Chick Harbert – 1 (PGA '54)
- Claude Harmon – 1 (Masters '58)
- Herman Keiser – 1 (Masters '46)
- Lloyd Mangrum – 1 (U.S. Open '46)
- Corey Pavin – 1 (U.S. Open '95)
- Art Wall – 1 (Masters '59)
- Lew Worsham – 1 (U.S. Open '47)

9. Major Bibliographical References

How I Played the Game, by Byron Nelson, Taylor Trade Publishing, 1993; Chapter 5: Reading and Some Major Wins

The Architects of Golf, by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten; HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1993, pages 36, 38, 29, 259.

Reading Eagle, many citations

Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume XIX, printed in 1890.

Reading Country Club property appraisal, prepared by Thomas J. Bellairs, GRI GAA RAA, May 4, 2015

The Passing Scene, Volume 13, by George M. Meiser IX and Gloria J. Meiser

1949 Reading Open Golf Tournament program book

1953 Ryder Cup Challenge Matches program book

Trenhan Golf History, www.trenhangolfhistory.org

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 134

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

A -75.859037	40.310772
B -75.843802	40.305437
C -75.846591	40.298531
D -75.850582	40.299481
E -75.853543	40.301804
F -75.852213	40.304292
G -75.860710	40.309986

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary matches the current RCC property today, as shown in Exeter Township's online tax parcel mapping (2018). (See figures 1 and 2)

Boundary Justification

The country club's founders purchased approximately 240 acres in the early 1920s. Over the years, various ownership groups sold parcels that are now used for a housing development, medical offices and a nursing home. Those parcels are excluded as this formerly open space has lost integrity due to development, and cannot reflect the period of significance. Additionally, this acreage was never part of the golf course design for which the property is significant. The Bishop House on the west side of the entrance to the property, at US 422, is excluded from the boundary as it has lost the appropriate

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integrity to reflect the period of significance. The Bishop House served as the original clubhouse during construction of the course, with additions, until the planned clubhouse was complete. The Bishop House was not part of the long-term design for the property as defined by Findlay. It has been restored to an earlier appearance and is individually listed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Thomas R. Walker, private citizen
 organization: n/a
 street & number: 5008 Stony Run Drive
 city or town: Reading state: PA zip code: 19606
 e-mail trw1028@hotmail.com telephone: 610-468-4204
 date: October 2017

Additional Documentation

Photo Log

Name of Property: Reading Country Club
 City or Vicinity: Reading
 County: Berks State: PA

Digital tif images Photographer: April Frantz

Date Photographed: May, 2017

(Digital tif images are submitted separately, not embedded within the original nomination.)

Photo #	Description	Camera Facing
1	Primary façade of the clubhouse; the 1 st floor porch was extended but does not impact the contributing status of the building.	N
2	View from the clubhouse toward the main entry, along the long curving drive	S
3	East wing of clubhouse	SW
4	Golf pro shop	N
5	Rear porch of clubhouse, entry to main dining room	S
6	Bunker, showing evidence of earthworks illustrating Findlay's original design.	SW
7	Bishop House, individually listed; originally part of RCC and used to create clubhouse until the intended building was open; does not retain integrity from that period, and is no longer associated with the property	NE
8	View from the bottom of the drive, facing toward the clubhouse; the clubhouse was positioned at a high point on the property so that it would be visible across the course; views are now partially obscured by trees	N
9	Typical view of the course from the southeast portion of the property	NW
10	View of the course showing elevation variation	E

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11	View of the course North of the clubhouse	E
12	View of the course in the northwest portion of the property; suburban housing is visible in the area formerly used as part of the riding stables	NW
13	The clubhouse's main dining/banquet room	W
14	The clubhouse's main dining/banquet room	NE
15	Stair and trim details in the turret alcove between dining rooms	
16	Ceiling details in the turret alcove between dining rooms	
17	Small dining room in the western wing of the clubhouse	

Supplemental Photos Photographer: Thomas R. Walker

Date Photographed: Between August 2015 and June 2016

(Supplemental photos and figures appear at the end of the document, as part of the nomination.)

Supplemental Photo #	Description	Camera Facing
1	Aerial photo, 1923	north
2	Aerial photo, 1934	north
3	Google Maps aerial photo, c2012	overhead
4	Original clubhouse (John Bishop house), 1928	east
5	Original clubhouse (John Bishop house), 2016	northeast
6	Construction crew, 1922	unknown
7	Surveyor at construction site, 1922	north
8	Construction crew eating, 1922	unknown
9	Front exterior of clubhouse, 1931	north
10	Front exterior of clubhouse, 2016	northwest
11	Rear exterior of clubhouse, 1931	south
12	Rear exterior of clubhouse, 2016	south
13	Front exterior of the golf shop, 2016	northwest
14	5 th green, 2016	north
15	6 th green, 2016	west
16	6 th green, 2016	southeast
17	7 th tee, 2016	south
18	8 th green, 7 th fairway, Antietam Creek	east
19	9 th hole, 2016	northeast
20	11 th fairway, 2016	west
21	13 th green, 2016	northwest
22	15 th green, Antietam Creek	southeast

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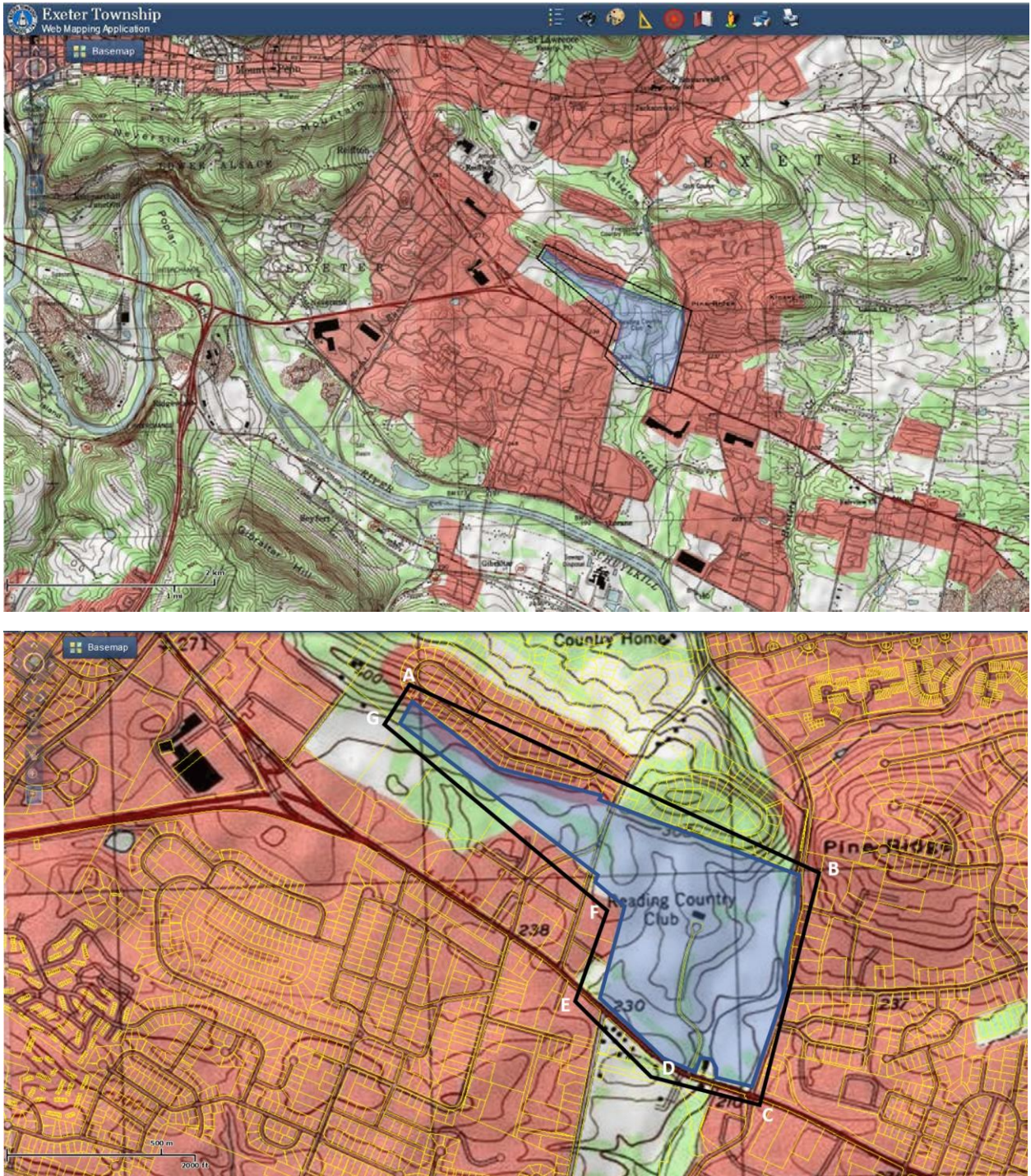


Figure 1: USGS Map, showing RCC property boundary shaded in blue, surrounded by polygon.

A -75.859037 40.310772 B -75.843802 40.305437 C -75.846591 40.298531
D -75.850582 40.299481 E -75.853543 40.301804 F -75.852213 40.304292
G -75.860710 40.309986

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Figure 2: Property boundary shown in red on Exeter Township’s online tax parcel map (2018). Roadways are excluded from the tax parcel layer shown, but the NR boundary should include the drive from the main entrance to the clubhouse, and the appropriate portion of Fairlane Road that bisects the western part of the property. The Bishop House (on the west side of the main entrance from US 422) is a separate tax parcel, notched out of the Reading Country Club’s property in the 1980s, and is excluded from the nominated boundary. That property is individually listed; it does not retain integrity from the Reading Country Club’s period of significance.

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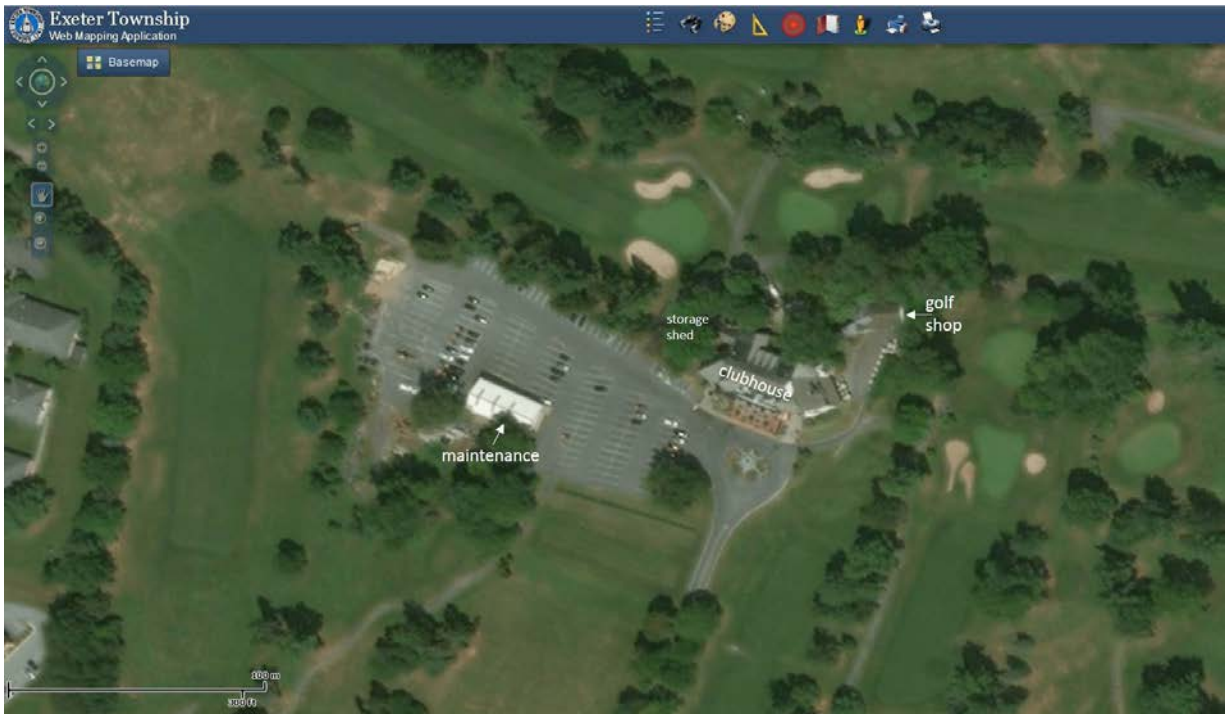


Figure 3: Aerial views showing the complex of buildings in the center of the course, including the Clubhouse, and the entrance from US Rt 422, which includes the individually-listed Bishop House, which has been excluded from this nomination's boundary. The maintenance building, storage shed, and pump house are non-contributing.

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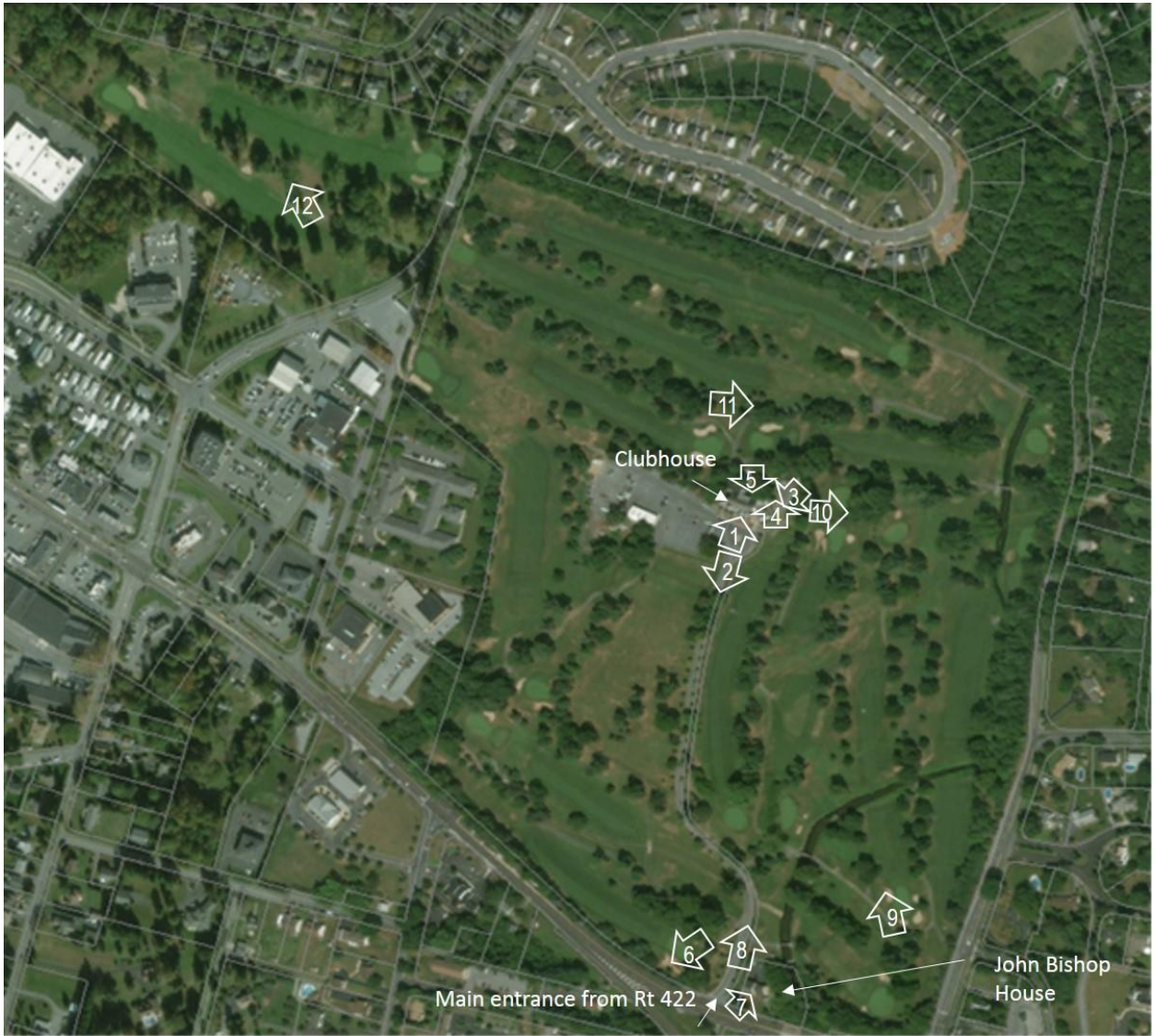


Figure 4: Photo Key for digital tif images; see also Supplemental Photos that follow at the end of the document, which have a separate key.

Reading Country Club
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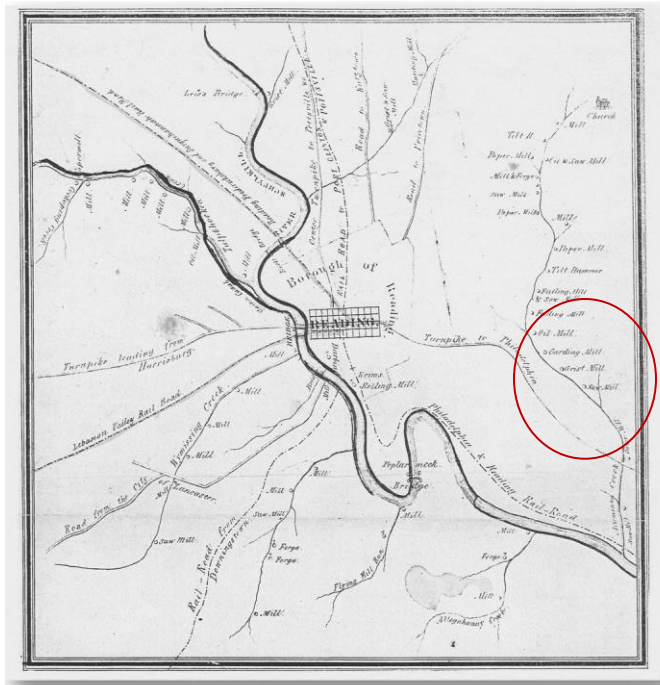


Figure 5: Future area of the Reading Country Club inside circle; 1836 map showing 16 mills on the Antietam Creek.



Figure 6: Future area of the Reading Country Club; 1876 map with location of Bishop's Mine indicated.

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WRIGHT & DITSON
 Headquarters for Everything Pertaining to **GOLF GOODS** Wholesale and Retail

The A. H. Findlay CLUBS

WRIGHT & DITSON MAKERS.
 BOSTON - MASS.

SPECIALTIES:
 A. H. Findlay Model Golf Clubs, Wright & Ditson Golf Clubs, Standard Golf Clubs, Dormie, Wright & Ditson, O. K., Silvertown, Vardon Flyer, and other leading Golf Balls.

FINE LAWN TENNIS, CROQUET, AND GENERAL ATHLETIC GOODS
 Send for Catalogue. **WRIGHT & DITSON, 344 Washington St., BOSTON, MASS.**

BREEZY NEWS ABOUT GOLF AND GOLFERS

Tales of the Links as Told by an Expert Whose Fame Spreads Over Two Continents.



A. H. FINDLAY.

The Green Committee of the Huntingdon Valley Country Club are busy as bees improving their already nice course. Many of the holes are being stiffened up considerably. A new tee to the ninth is being constructed in an adjoining field close to the eighth green. One can now play a full tee shot and also a full second to reach the green. Heretofore it was a cleek and a pitch. It has also an additional feature, inasmuch as it will now be their first dog-leg hole. Another immense improvement is the placing of the eleventh tee back in new property making this also a dog-leg and a full brassie to clear the ditch for one's second.

The best kind of tee shot is that provided by such dog-leg holes as exist in so goodly a number on the many nice links abroad. The fourth at Myopia, Mass., is a fine example of the dog-leg, and one of the prettiest in America. Such tee shots are fair and interesting to all, and good golf under all conditions of wind. They provide a really fine test of driving by giving a proper advantage to the man who can hit a long-carrying ball. It is, of course, easily possible to overdo the dog-leg principle. There is such a thing as allowing a long carrier to gain so much ground as to give himself nothing at all to do with his second shot, but H. V. C. C. is not like this.

Lack of space is the one great drawback to the establishment of dog-leg holes on most inland greens, for unfortunately, this type of hole requires rather more room than is always available. We can, however, get the principle of the dog-leg hole with running ones as alternative tee shots can be arranged for by cutting a bunker about half way across the course on one side and making the approach easier from that side. This sort of thing must not be carried too far, as it is not a good principle to allow a specially good drive an easy approach

shot. The approach shot should be, as a rule, somewhat difficult, no matter how excellent the drive has been.

The seventeenth green has been improved, traps await the players who had a fondness of sneaking onto the green at the right of the "muckle" pit, and there are hillocks at the back, and traps will eventually be placed at the left hand side of the green. Keep it up, H. V. C. C., there is no reason why you should not have a first-class course in every particular. The popular "pro," Davis Outbert, is so happy anent the improvements, and the arrival of his young wife and Bonnie, bairnie, Harold, a five-year-old golfer, that he does not know what to do with himself. They arrived here last week, and so far are quite fond of their new surroundings at Abington.

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS.

It is maintained that the present conditions admit of the better player being defeated, in that eighteen holes are not a sufficiently severe test. But those who argue thus appear to forget that the golf match is a sporting event, in which the element of luck plays a by no means inconspicuous part. Would anyone seek to level all the hillocks and hollows on a golf course, so that no player should be called upon to play the ball from hanging lies while the other got a perfect stance for every stroke?

The best golfer is he who can on the greatest number of occasions play the best golf, and get in, who can now and again play a round of exceptional brilliance.

A golfer who insists that because the matches are decided over only eighteen holes a good deal of luck enters into the amateur championship, says that the event is not so much a question of gaining a great number of victories as of avoiding one defeat. His adda that the best man is by no means sure to triumph, but he runs the least risk of being conquered. But is not this very necessary on the part of the competitor to keep himself at concert pitch all the time so that a chance defeat may not come his way? Is this not what brings into the final the pick of the field?

THE BASIS OF HANDICAPPING.

If the average player were asked to explain the basis of his handicap rating one thinks a great many would be unable to give a satisfactory or intelligent reply. At some clubs the basis is the bogey score, and at other clubs where there is a liberal bogey allowance, it is several points lower; and, again, there are other systems of handicapping which are scientific calculations.

A. H. FINDLAY.

Figure 7 and 8: Left: Advertisement for the A.H. Findlay line of golf clubs manufactured by Wright and Ditson. (Date and source unknown); Right: An Alex Findlay column that appeared in the Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, c.1912.

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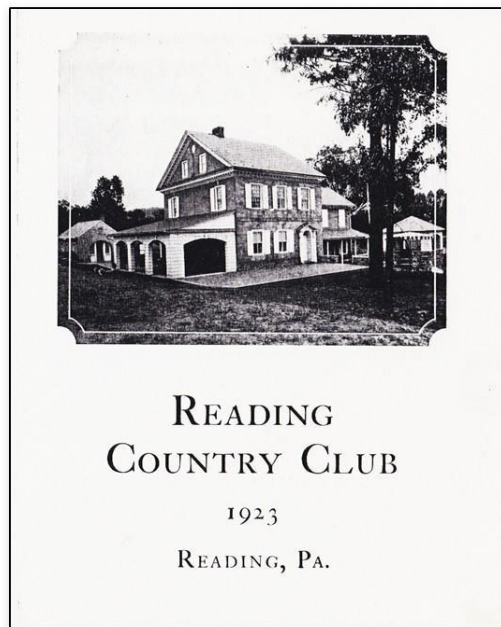


Figure 9: Cover of a membership brochure, 1923. The building pictured was the temporary clubhouse, which remains adjacent to the RCC's entrance, though it is no longer associated.

THE READING EAGLE, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1931.

Builders of the New Reading Country Club

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO Create and Execute THE INTERIORS FOR THE Reading Country Club

leinbach & leinbach
 interior decorators
 458 court street reading, pa.

Charles H. Schlegel
 General Contractor
 528 WASHINGTON ST., READING, PA.

CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICE
 Your Building Problems, We Handle Them Efficiently.
 Will Be Solved and Executed by Experts.

ARCHITECT

For the New Home of the Reading Country Club

Harry Maurer
 (Registered Architect)
 221 North 5th St. Dial 3-7275

again—

STRAUB CINDER UNITS also a most important part in the better type construction of the modern...
Berks Building Block Company
 NORTHMONT, READING, PA.
STRAUB CINDER UNITS
 In the Better Built Buildings You'll Find Them

LUMBER

Used in the New READING COUNTRY CLUB from **Merritt Lumber Yards, Inc.**
 Fourth and Spruce Sts., Reading
 Saws—FIBS and Walnut Saws
 Branch: Berwyn
 Fire Good Construction, You Want Us—Good Material
 "It Pays to Use Materials of Merit"

Lathing, Plastering and Ornamental Work

On Reading Country Club Building Done by **Edgar E. Kegerise**
 Contracting Plasterer
 Stucco Specialist
 2513 Parklawn Ave.
 Reading, Pa.
 Dial 908, 9100

Automatic Sprinkler System

Installed in the New Reading Country Club by **Reading Heating & Sprinkler Co., Inc.**
 441 Water Street Dial 3-2451

Painting and Decorating

Of the New Beautiful READING COUNTRY CLUB

By—**EDW. J. HANNAHOE**
 And His Organization
Reading Decorating Company
 128 NORTH TENTH STREET

Figure 10: Reading Eagle advertisement, April 30, 1931, featuring the opening of the RCC clubhouse and local firms associated with its construction.

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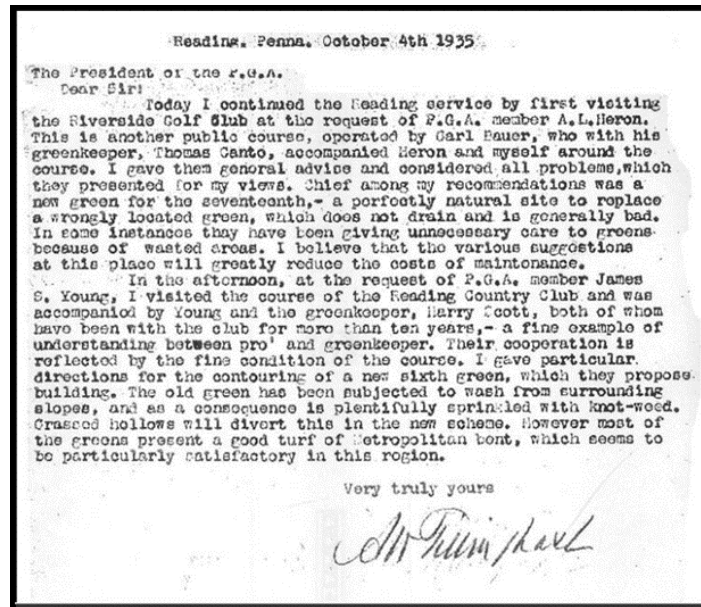


Figure 11: Report from A.W. Tillinghast, prominent golf architect, who visited RCC in 1935, as a consultant for the PGA. There is no record that a new green was built, as he recommended, although the green designed and built by the Findlays may have been recontoured to improve drainage. (www.trenhamgolfhistory.org).

**Come In and Meet
The United States Open
Golf Champion**

Byron Nelson
*Will Be In Our Store
Tomorrow
and Thursday
between
11:30 and 1:30 o'Clock*

Get His Picture
*With Our Compliments
Personally Autographed*

Meet Him
*Ask About Golf and
the Big Tournaments*

*See the
National Open
Golf Trophy*

Here are some of the major Tournaments he has won while Professional at the Reading Country Club since 1937. . . . Master's Tournament at Augusta, Ga.; Central Pennsylvania Open; \$10,000 Belmont Open; Thomasville, Georgia, Open; Phoenix, Arizona, Open; North and South Open, and the National Open.

CROLL & KECK

Figure 12: An ad in the *Reading Eagle* promotes a personal appearance by Byron Nelson, head professional at RCC, following his victory in the 1939 U.S. Open on June 12 at the Philadelphia Country Club. Nelson won the 1937 Masters Tournament during his tenure at RCC.

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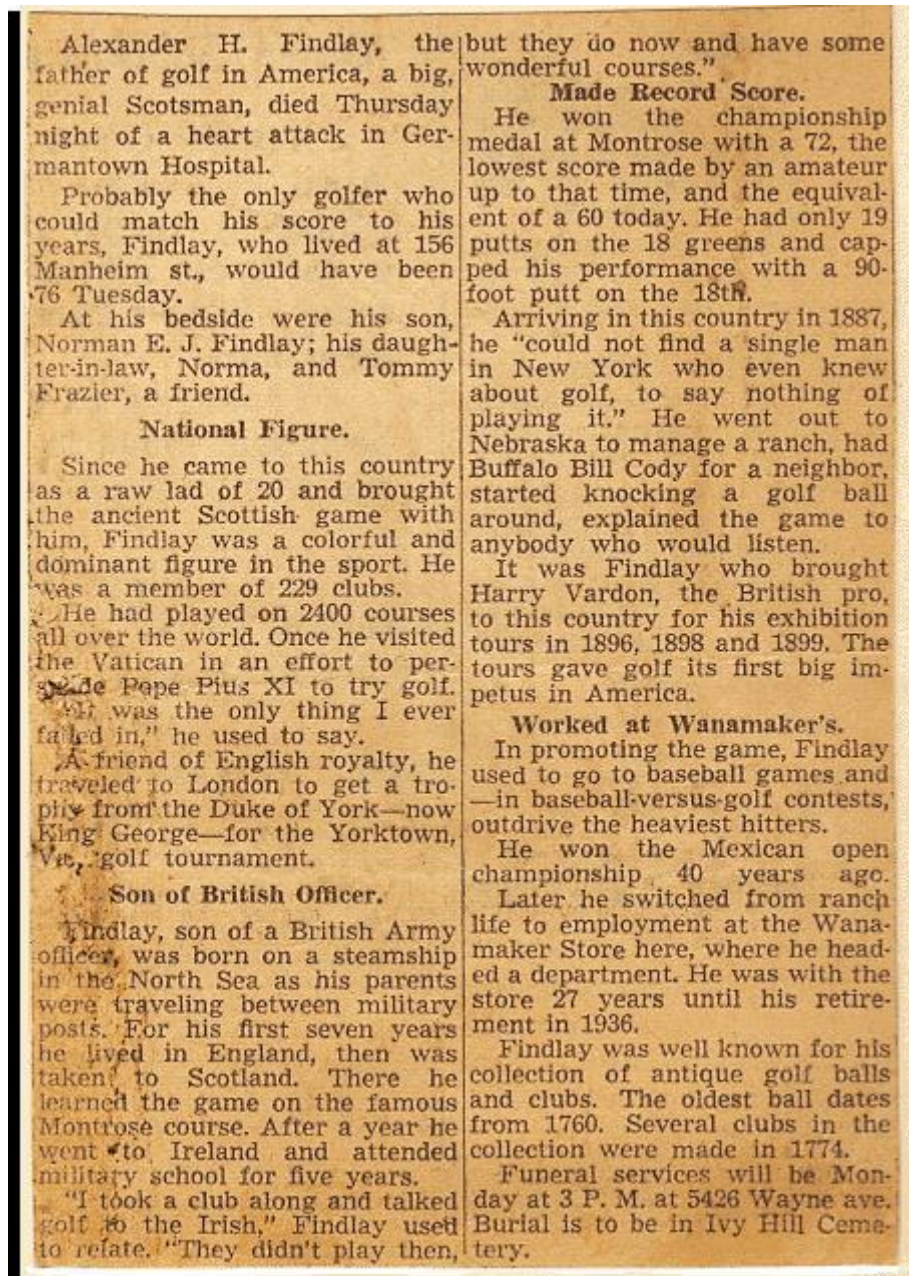
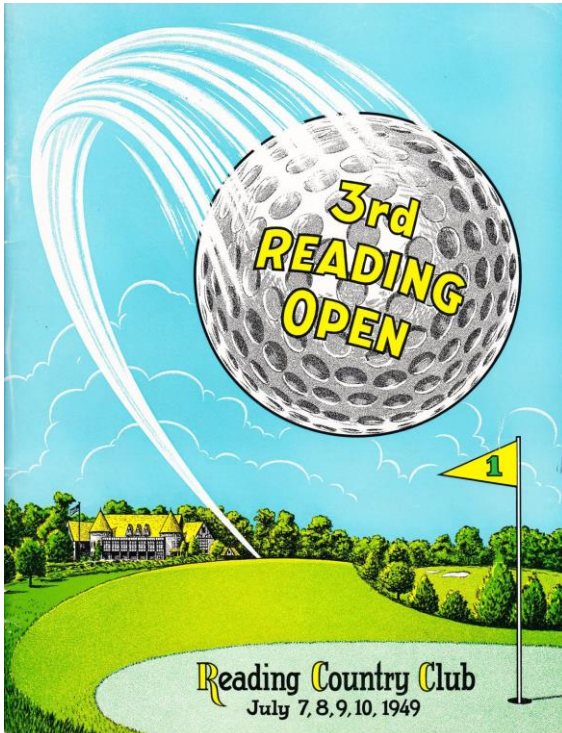


Figure 13: Alex Findlay's obituary. He died April 16, 1942.

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Figures 14 & 15: Left: Program cover from the 1949 Reading Open, a PGA-sanctioned tournament played at RCC. Cary Middlecoff defeated Sam Snead by one stroke for the championship. Right: Program cover from the 1953 matches between the US Ryder Cup team and a team of PGA professionals played at RCC. The Ryder Cup team won the two-day event and then defeated the Great Britain and Ireland team a month later in England.

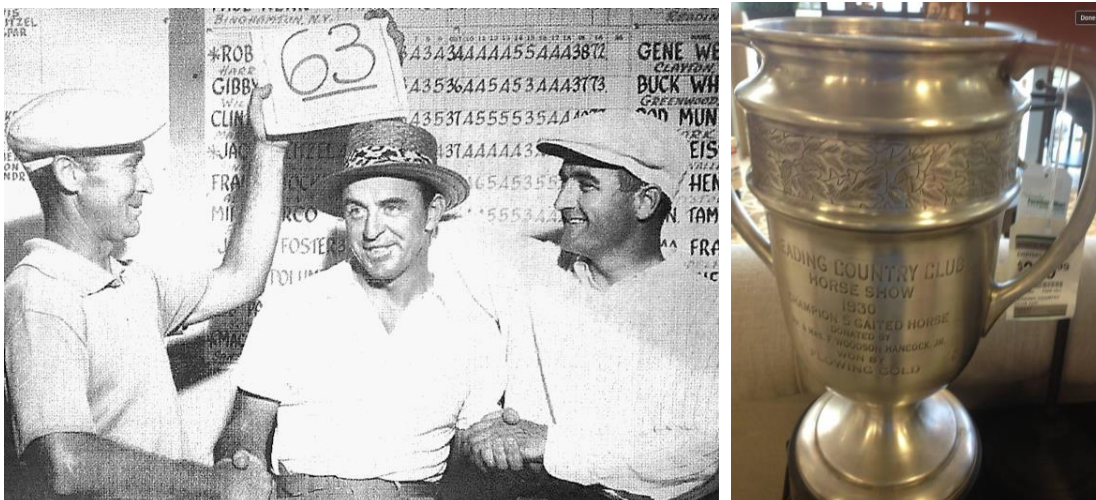


Figure 16: (left) Sam Snead is congratulated by Henry Ranson(left) and Jack Grout following his course-record 63 in the first round of the Reading Open at RCC on July 7, 1949. (*Reading Eagle*) (right) A cup won by Flowing Gold, a champion horse from the 1930 Reading Country Club Horse Show; the cup was spotted in 2015 in a Florida antiques shop.

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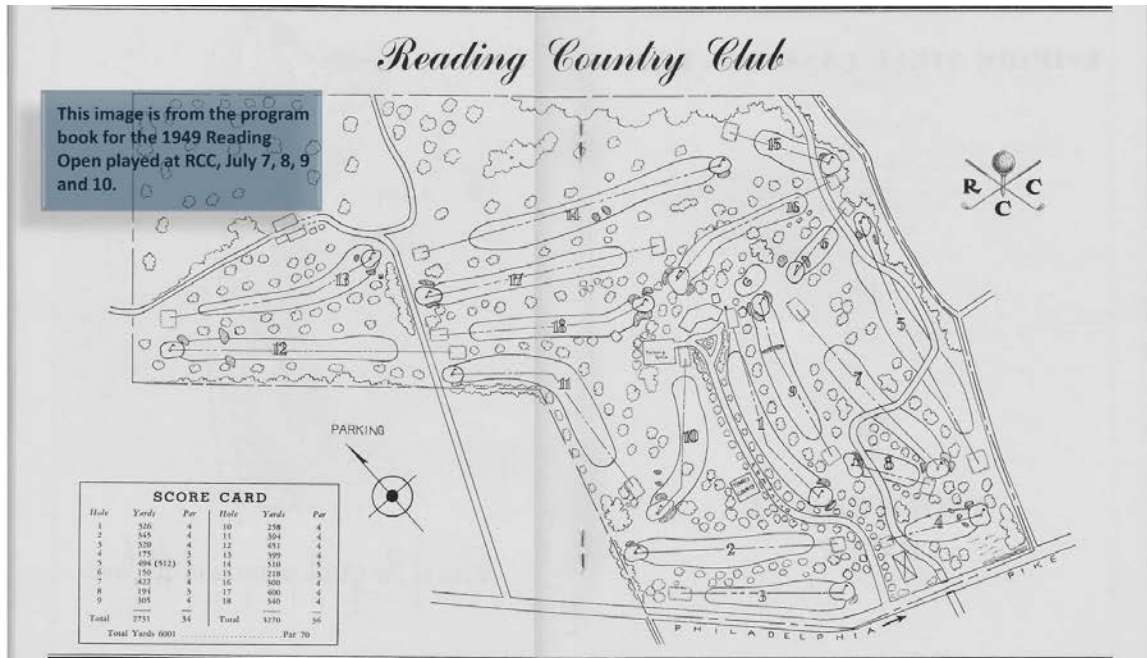


Figure 17: Course layout, from the 1949 Reading Open program book.

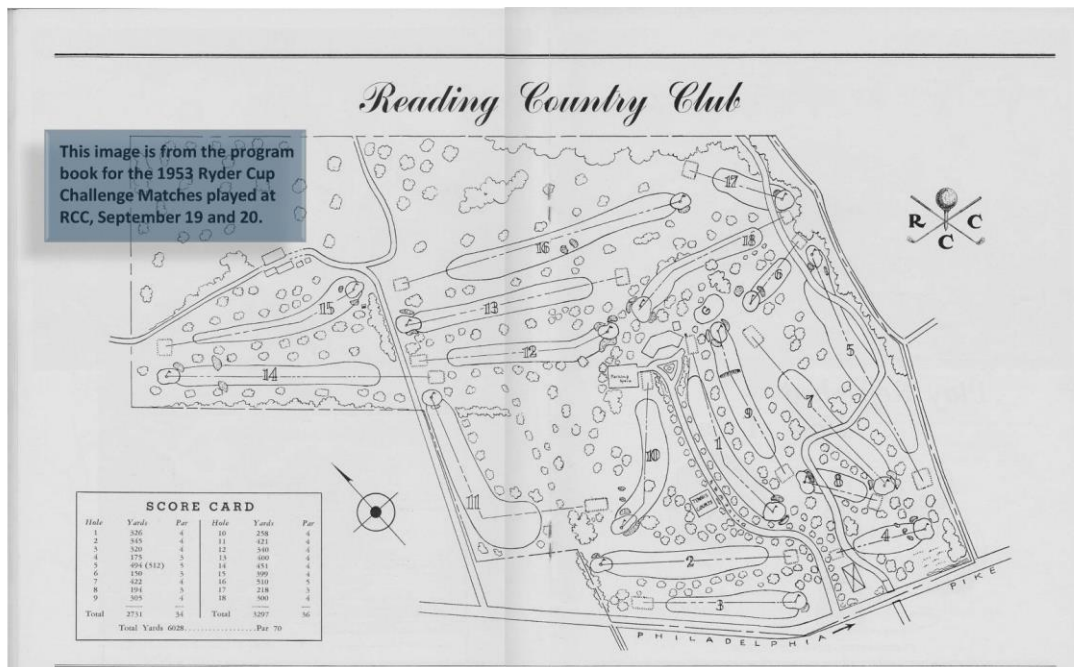



Figure 18: Course layout, from the 1953 Ryder Cup Challenge program book. The back 9 routing differs from the course played in 1949. This routing was played for several years in the 1950s.

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5311 Perkiomen Ave.
 Reading, PA 19606
 www.readingcountryclub.com
 610.779.1626

Managed by A&M Golf

Alex Findlay
 Architect
 1923

Course Rating/Slope

Blue	70.2/131
White	68.6/129
Gold	65.8/123
Red	70.2/121

DATE _____
 SCORE _____
 ATTEST _____

U.S.G.A. AND THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES SHALL GOVERN PLAY

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by white stakes. A ball coming to rest across a public road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on club property. On holes #2 and #10, if your ball is in bounds and the driving range net interferes with your stance, swing or line of sight, you may take relief without penalty.

WATER HAZARDS: Defined by yellow stakes.

LATERAL WATER HAZARDS: Defined by red stakes.

DRAINAGE DITCH: Between #2 and #3 is a lateral hazard.

HOLES: #5, 8 and 15: Creek retaining walls are part of the hazard and an integral part of the course. No relief without penalty.

EMBEDDED BALL: Relief without penalty "through the green."

Stones in bunkers are moveable obstructions.

TREES: Protected by wires, collars or stakes are free relief.

IF A BALL STRIKES AN ELEVATED POWER LINE: The stroke shall be canceled and replayed, without penalty.

RULES OF GOLF ETIQUETTE: Golf carts must remain on paths around all tees and greens and under no circumstances driven closer than 30 feet of either. **Replace all divots. Repair ball marks** on the greens. **Rake bunkers** after use. **Avoid slow play.** At no time shall a group be more than one and one-half shots behind the group ahead.

If lightning occurs please seek shelter immediately.

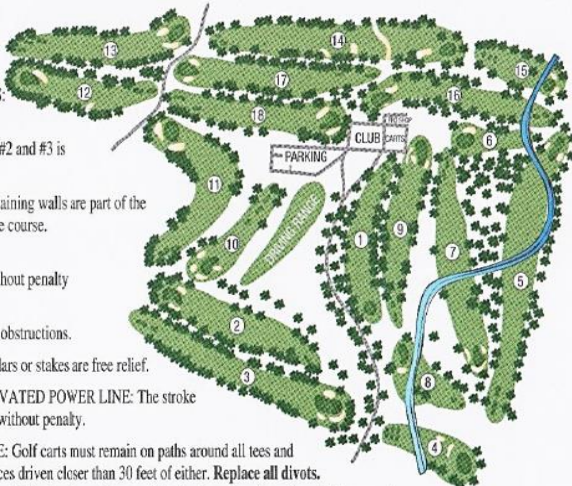
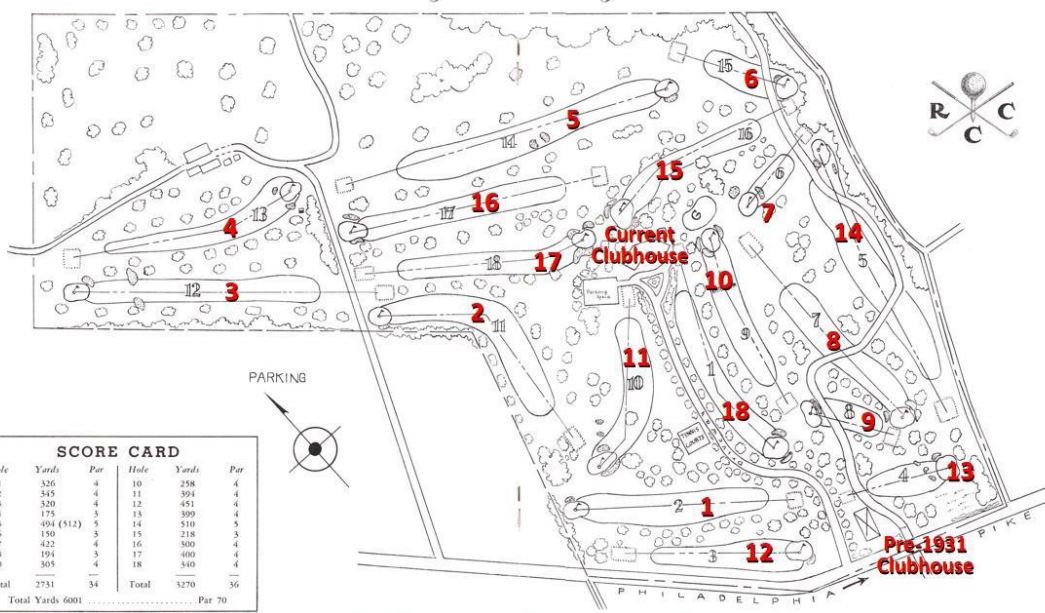


Figure 19: Current course layout.

Reading Country Club



SCORE CARD					
Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	326	4	10	258	4
2	345	4	11	304	4
3	320	4	12	451	4
4	175	3	13	399	4
5	404 (512)	5	14	510	5
6	150	3	15	218	3
7	422	4	16	300	4
8	194	3	17	400	4
9	305	4	18	340	4
Total	2731	34	Total	3270	36
Total Yards 6001		Par 70			

Figure 20: The red numbers indicate the course routing before 1931 when the clubhouse was adjacent to the property entrance on the Philadelphia Pike (later known as Route 422).

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Figure 21: The Clubhouse, historic postcard, found online at www.indianabasketmakers.com (5/2017)

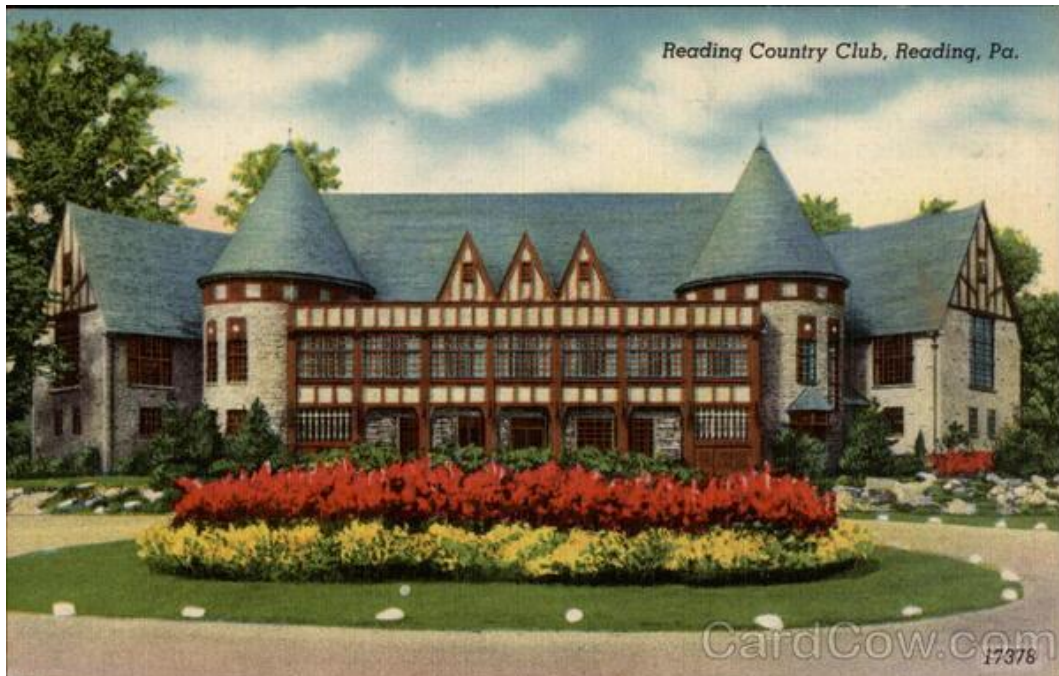


Figure 22: The Clubhouse, historic postcard, found online at www.CardCow.com (5/2017).

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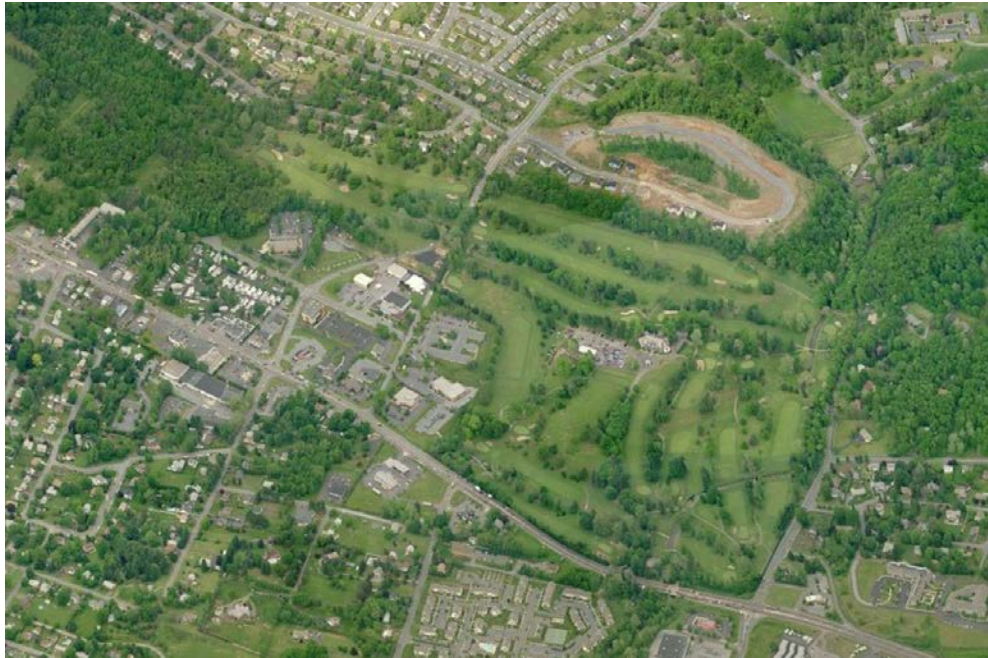


Figure 23: Current aerial view (above) compared to the 1932 view (Dallin Aerial Survey, Hagley Museum).

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Figure 24: Historic aerial views from USDA surveys, available via www.pennpilot.psu.edu.
Top, 1937; Bottom left, 1958; Bottom right, 1971



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 to amend existing 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.460 et seq.).

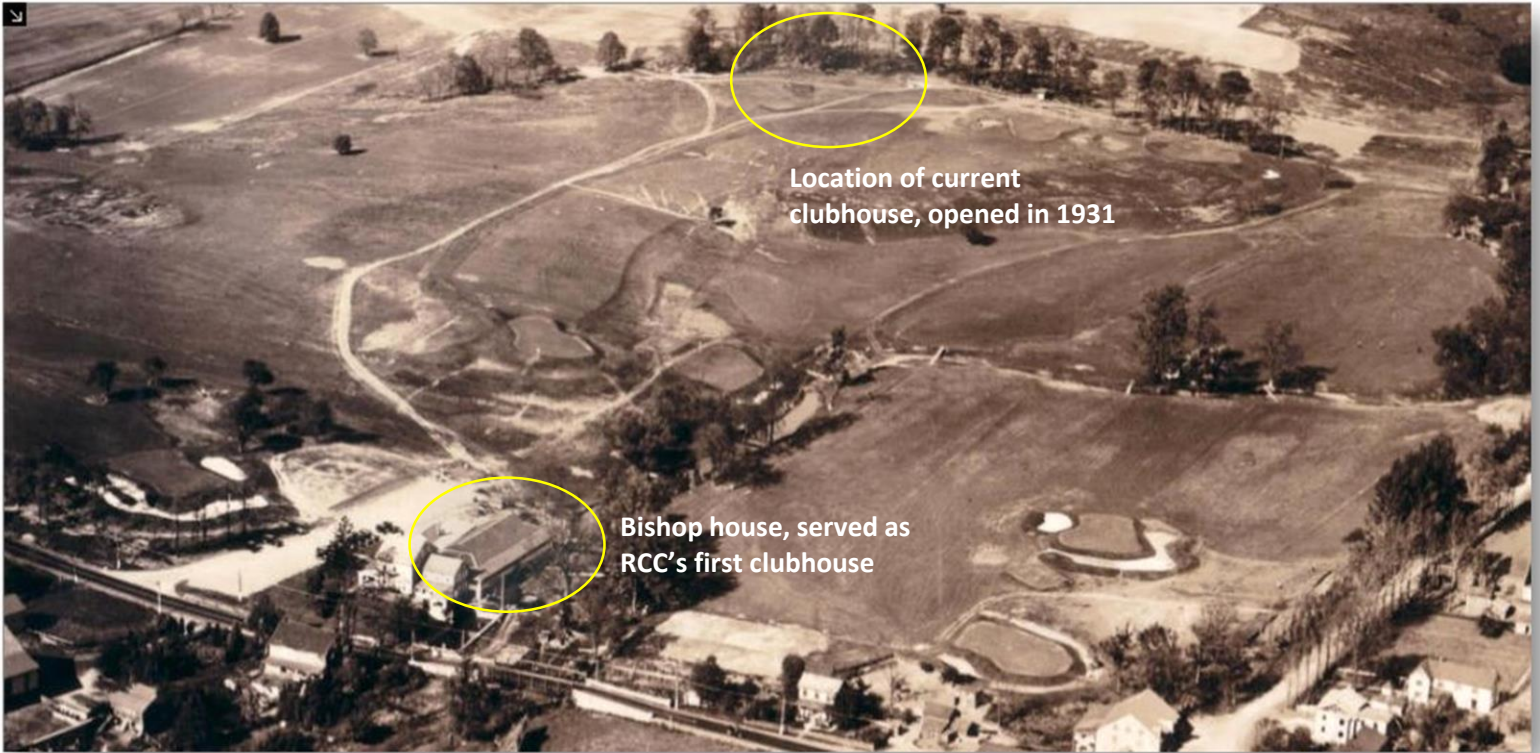
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The photo number shows where the photographer was standing when taking the photo. The arrow next to the photo number indicates the direction the camera was pointed.



Photo 1

An aerial photo from 1923 shows a completed front 9 and the 10th hole. The area at the top and left show the back 9 under construction.



Reading Country Club

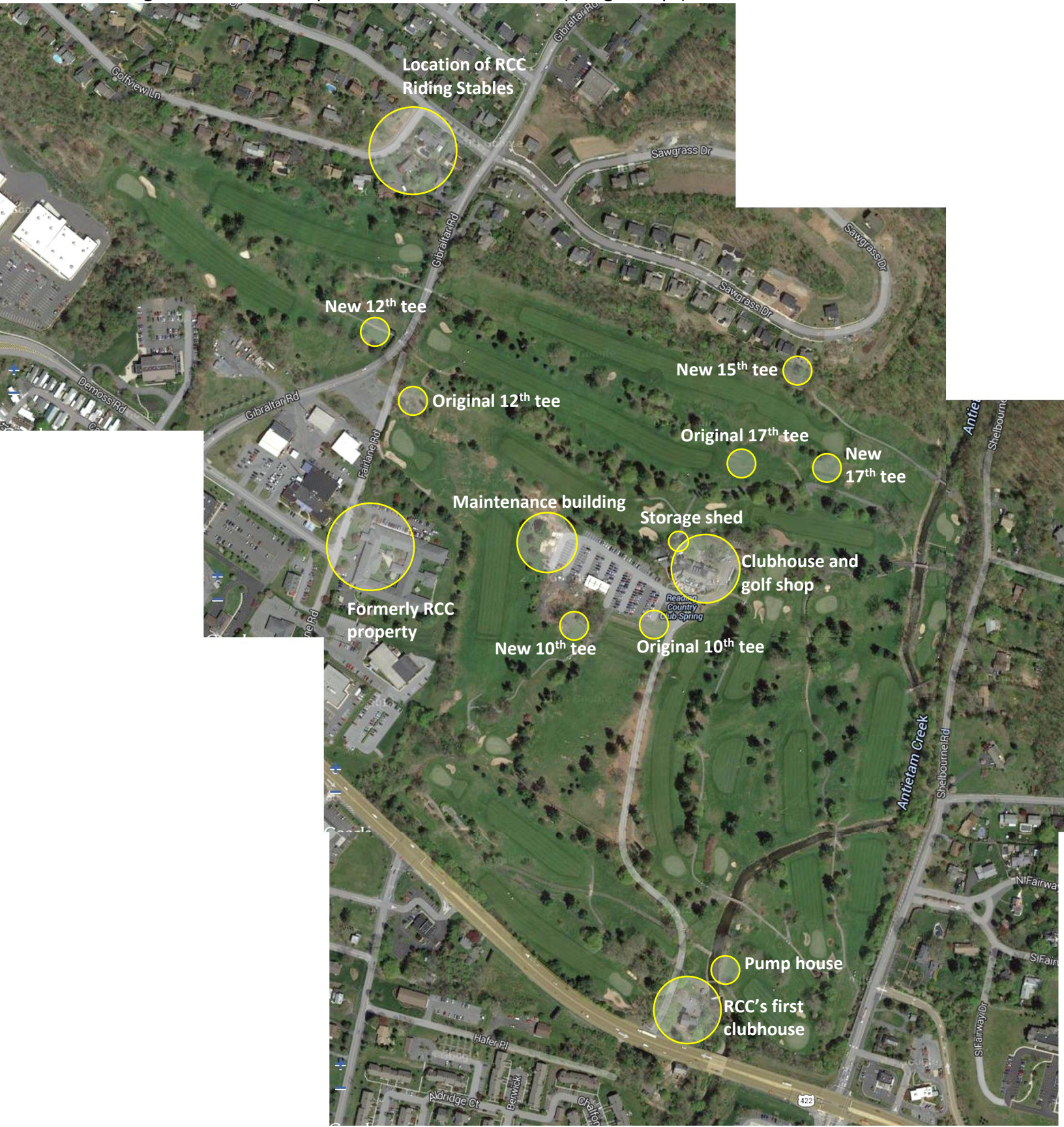
Photo 2

An aerial photo from 1934 shows the clubhouse opened in 1931. Although the area around the golf course has changed from a rural/agricultural zone to today's commercial/residential zone, the golf course retains most of its original features (see photo 10).



Photo 3

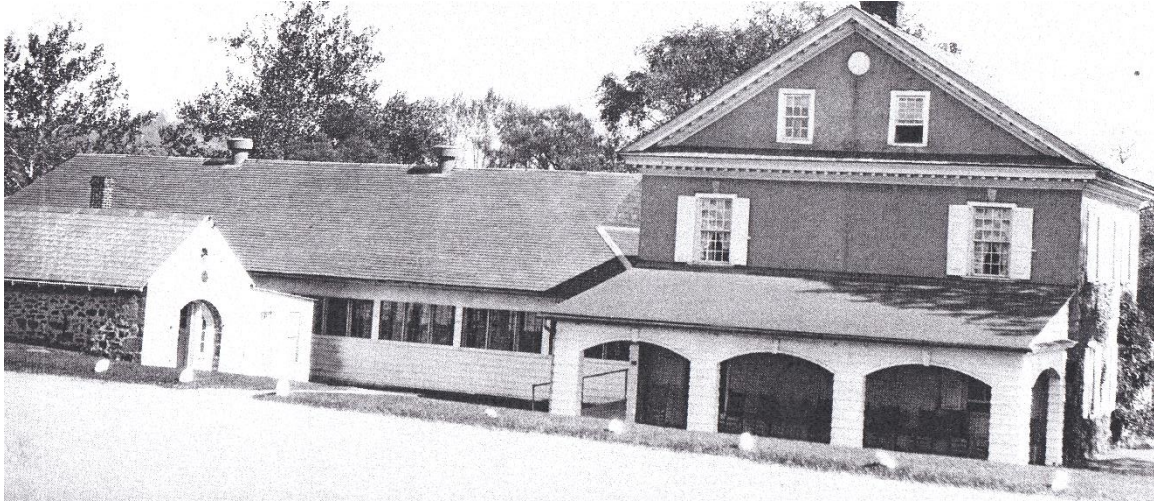
An recent aerial photo shows how RCC fits into today's suburban landscape. Revisions made to the golf course since it opened in 1923 are indicated. (Google Maps)



Reading Country Club

Photo 4

A 1928 photo shows the John Bishop House as it appeared after being renovated for use as RCC's clubhouse. The building is on Rte. 422 (Perkiomen Avenue) at the club entrance. The addition to the left burned in 1930 and was removed. The porch was also removed. The portion with the peaked roof is in use today as a law office. Photo from *The Passing Scene*, Volume 13.



Reading Country Club

Photo 5

The John Bishop house today as an attorney's office. (Tom Walker)



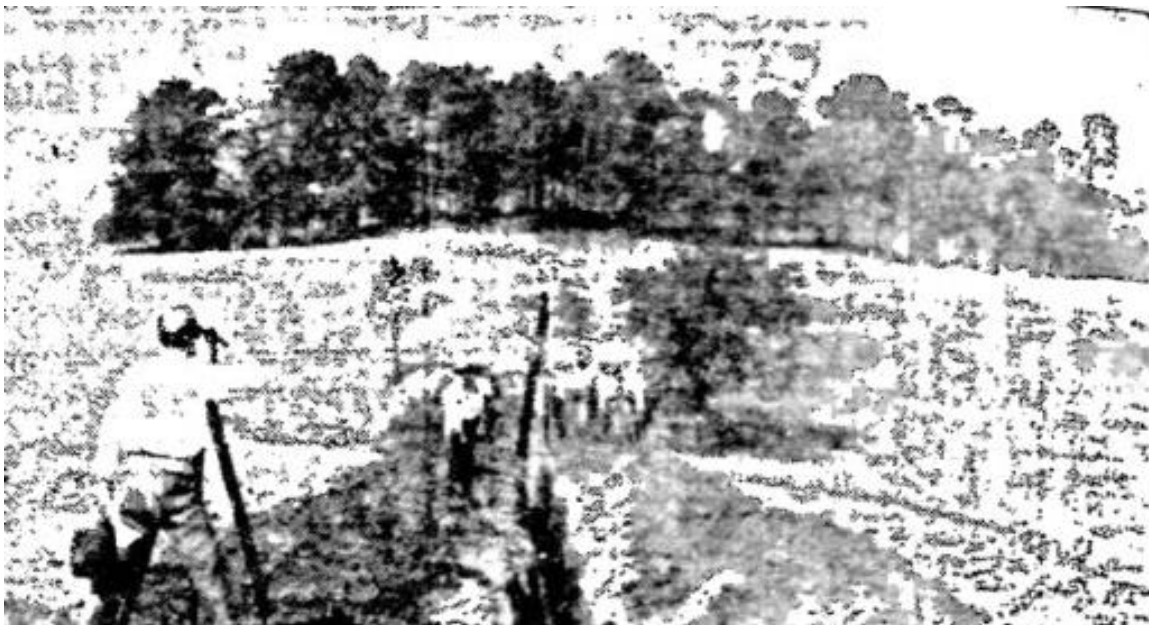
Reading Country Club

Photo 6

A *Reading Eagle* article on October 22, 1922, shows a photo of the workers building the golf course at Reading Country Club

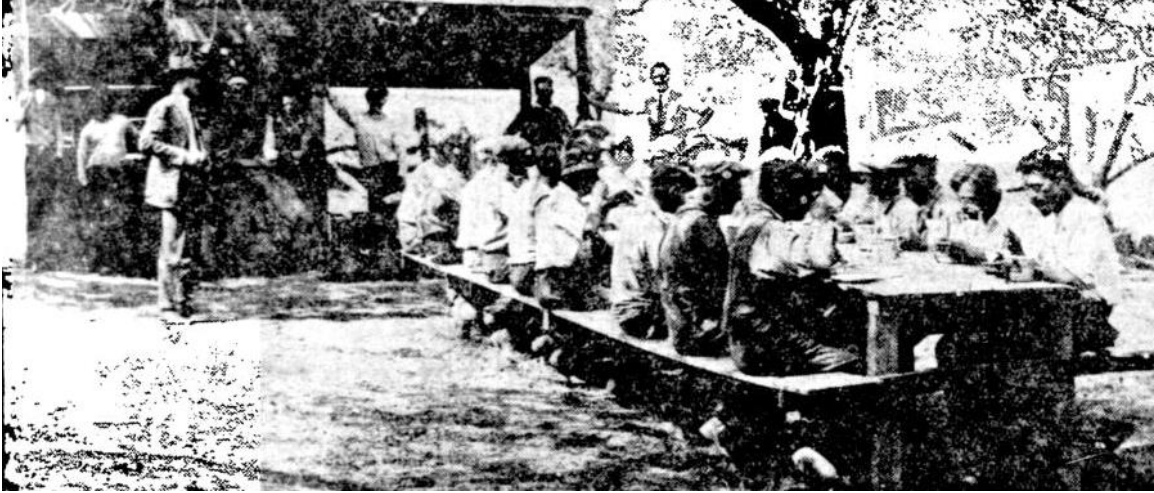


Photo 7: A surveyor lays out holes on the golf course. In 1931, the clubhouse would be built on the knoll in front of the trees in the background.



Reading Country Club
Photo 8

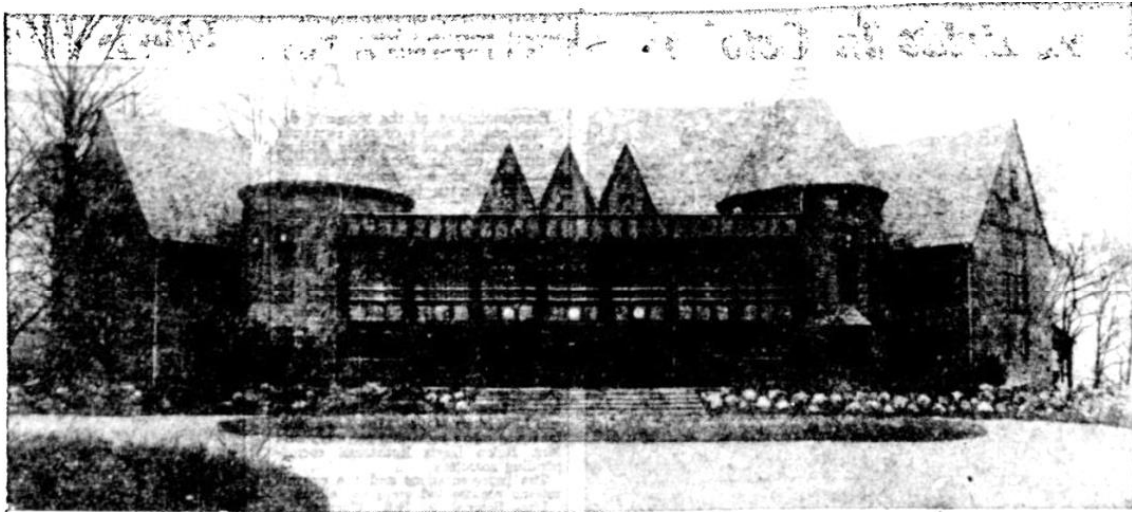
A *Reading Eagle* article on October 22, 1922, shows the work crew enjoying a meal.



Reading Country Club

Photo 9

Clubhouse photo from 1931. (*Reading Eagle*)



Reading Country Club

Photo 10

Front view of the clubhouse in 2016. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country Club

Photo 11

Back view of the clubhouse: left (*Reading Eagle*), 1931

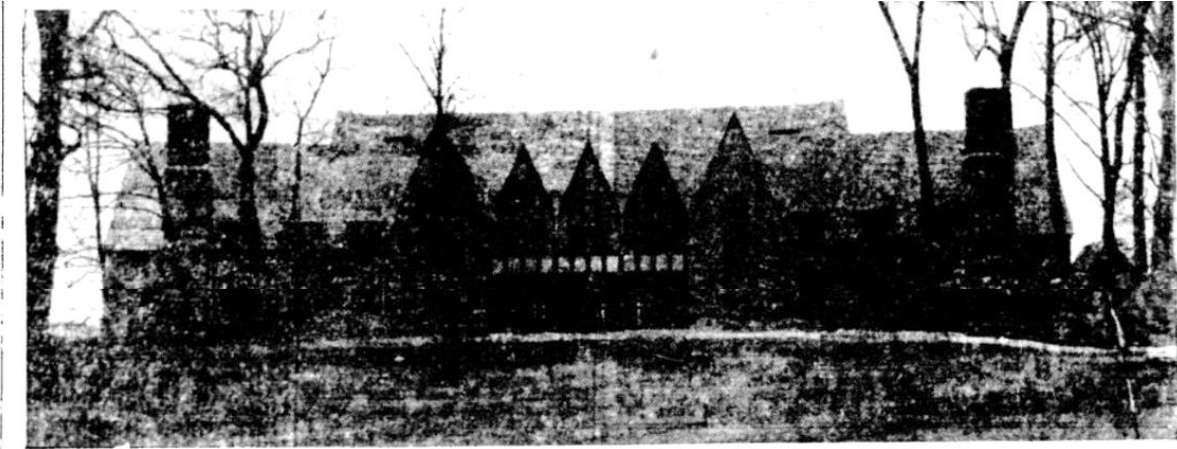


Photo 12: Back view of the clubhouse, 2016 (Tom Walker).



Reading Country Club

Photo 13

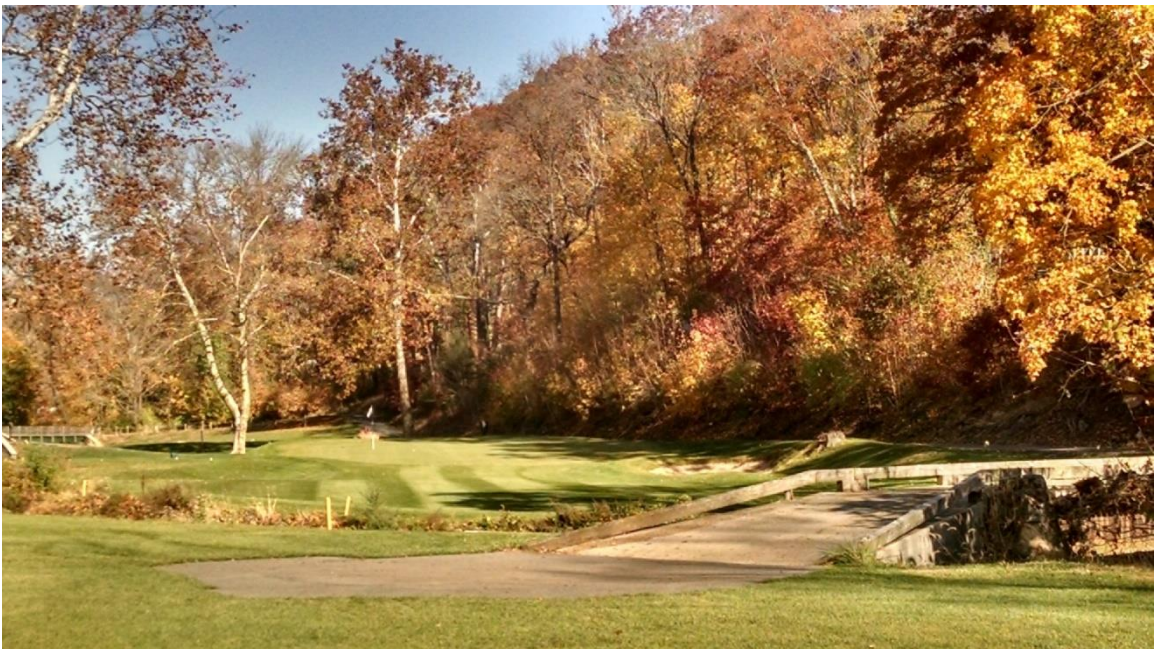
The golf shop is on the east side of the club house. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country Club

Photo 14

This 5th green shows the Antietam Creek crossing in front of and to the left of the green. This hole has not changed since the golf course opened in 1923. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country Club

Photo 15

The 6th green that was examined by noted golf course Architect A.W. Tillinghast in his 1935 visit to RCC. The area to the front left was once a sand trap. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country Club

Photo 16

Another view of the 6th green.



Reading Country Club

Photo 17

View from the 7th tee. Antietam Creek crosses the fairway about 250 yards out. The creek was re-routed in the 1980s, moving it farther from the tee.



Reading Country Club

Photo 18

This view from the 8th green shows the Antietam Creek crossing the 7th fairway. The creek was rerouted in the 1980s. The natural flow of the creek was about 50 yards to the north, or to the left in this photo, of its present location. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country club

Photo 19

The 9th hole, unchanged since the golf course opened in 1923. (Tom Walker)



Reading Country Club

Photo 20

This view from the 11th fairway shows how Findlay incorporated the natural land formations into the golf course design. The striped pole marks 150 yards to the center of the green, which is left of the telephone pole in the distance.



Reading Country club

Photo 21

View of the 13th green. The riding stables were located about 100 yards north of this point, about where the house now stands.



Reading Country Club

Photo 22

Antietam Creek runs through the eastern side of RCC. Golfers must hit over the creek on seven holes. This photo shows the 15th green. (Tom Walker)











PRO
SHOP



R

C

C

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Reading Country Club

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Berks

Date Received: 4/16/2018 Date of Pending List: 5/4/2018 Date of 16th Day: 5/21/2018 Date of 45th Day: 5/31/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002521

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/31/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Landscape Architecture, POS: 1922-1931, LOS: Local, Golf course architect: Alexander H. Findlay

Recommendation/ Criteria: Criterion C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 5/31/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION



April 13, 2018

Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

Re: East Center City Commercial District Historic District Additional
Documentation, Boundary Increase, and Boundary Decrease; Reading Country
Club; St. Joseph's Parish Complex

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find three National Register nominations for your review. Included are the signed first pages, CDs containing the true and correct copies of the nominations, and CDs with tif images. Copies of correspondence are enclosed as well. Please note that objections were received for the East Center City Boundary Increase.

The proposed actions are listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board members support these nominations. If you have any questions please contact me at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of these properties.

Sincerely,


April E. Frantz
NR Reviewer/Eastern Region

enc.