



# 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: Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Other names/site number: Findlay Country Club

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1500 Country Club Dr.

City or town: Findlay State: OH County: Hancock

Not For Publication:  n/a Vicinity:  n/a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:

  X   A     B   X   C     D

<u>Barbara Power</u>	
DSHPO Inventory & Registration	<u>September 27, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection _____	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

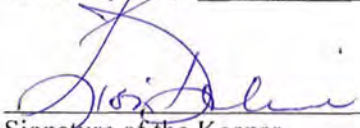
Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/2/19  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object



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### **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.)

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### **Summary Paragraph**

The Findlay Country Club Golf Course is located on the Blanchard River in a suburban area near a large city park, east of downtown Findlay, Ohio. Findlay is the county seat of Hancock County, in northwest Ohio, and is about 60 miles southwest of Lake Erie. The Findlay Country Club Golf Course is a private course. Although housing development has sprung up primarily along the north and east edges of the course, otherwise the setting and feeling at the course are much like they would have been when it was developed from 1908 to 1929, with the Blanchard River forming a natural boundary on two sides and mature trees masking much of the surrounding development. The course retains high integrity as a site comprised of the 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Bendelow in 1929. The course was first designed by Bendelow as a 9-hole course in 1908-09 and then expanded by him to 18 holes in 1929. It retains integrity of design from that later period with only one minor alteration of part of one hole (Hole 10). It also retains a high level of workmanship and materials, retaining the native materials that Bendelow used to form greens, and the 1929 routing with bunkers, rough, and fairways as laid out. The 6,722-yard course retains its integrity of location and has not been expanded since Bendelow finished the 1929 design. There are six non-contributing resources adjacent to the course within the boundary; four buildings and two structures. These include: a modern club house (1 non-contributing (NC) building). Expanding northwest from the club house are a modern swimming pool constructed as a replacement for the 1961 pool (1 NC structure), a recent pool house (1 NC building), and tennis courts (1 NC structure); these elements are on land that belonged to the country club historically and are adjacent to the course on the northwest side. Two modern maintenance buildings (2 NC buildings) in the practice area where a groundskeeper's house and other maintenance buildings were previously located.

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### **Narrative Description**

Tom Bendelow designed Finley Country Club's first nine-hole golf course in 1908-09. Two decades later, members of the Findlay Country Club purchased additional acreage in 1928. An article in the *Findlay Morning Republican* in 1929 notes that the club hired American Park Builders, where Tom Bendelow was golf course designer, to lay out an 18-hole course on the expanded acreage.<sup>1</sup>

Findlay Country Club Golf Course is accessed by Country Club Drive with an entrance on Woodworth Drive (Photo 1). Once on the club's drive, the course is on the left, on the opposite side of a white fence. The pool house, swimming pool, tennis courts, parking lot, and country club are on the right separate from the golf course but in the vicinity of the location of the original frame clubhouse that served the club until it was destroyed by fire in 1943. The one-story concrete block pool house is painted brick red. It has a porte cochere

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<sup>1</sup> *The Morning Republican*, February 28, 1929.



supported by Tuscan columns and rounded eyebrow dormers. It replaced the 1961 pool house. The rectilinear pool replaced an original kidney-shaped pool (Photo 2 shows pool house and pool) post 1969. Tennis courts were added post 1969. The second clubhouse stood until 1995, when the club constructed the current building.<sup>2</sup> The clubhouse is an expansive two-story building in a Neo-Colonial style. It has a linear plan and is clad in brick on the first story and in vinyl siding on the upper story. The two main entrances face the golf course and feature porte cocheres with Tuscan columns (See façade of modern club house in Photo 3, rear in Photo 28, and a historic photo of original club house at the end of this nomination (Section 9, p. 32).

The course routing is typically referred to as a “returning nines” design. It returns a player to the vicinity of where play started after the 9th and 18th holes, making the course conducive to the walking golfers of Bendelow’s day, and to those choosing to play less than a traditional 9- or 18-hole round. This “returning nines” design—a course with two loops of nine holes, each beginning and ending at the clubhouse – is one of the standard golf course routings and was used by Bendelow at other long yardage courses, such as the National Register-listed Temple Terrace course that he designed in Florida.<sup>3</sup> The Findlay course is also similar in length to the Temple Terrace course, with Findlay at 6,722 yards and Temple Terrace at just over 6,600. At Findlay, the front nine is located on the interior of the property with back nine lining the exterior/perimeter of the property.

The 18-hole course that Tom Bendelow laid out (routed) at Findlay Country Club in 1929 remains today. The narrow fairways, small greens that were pushed up or contoured with native soil from traps, and numerous relatively flat “feathered” bunkers are all still in place in original locations are all Bendelow trademarks and all remain in place at Findlay. Even bunkers that are no longer normally in play now that new equipment allows for longer shots are retained on the course. See 1951 and current aerial for comparison below (Section 9, pages 33-34).

Speaking to integrity of design, it should be noted that Findlay Country Club’s course is not altered with heavy tree plantings flanking every fairway, a common change made to other historic courses in the 1970s through the 2000s.<sup>4</sup> Aside from adding cart paths and bridges to allow for easier cart play and maintenance buildings, none of which affect the routing, the course looks much the same on a recent aerial as it does on the earliest-found historic aerial from 1951, a little over 20 years after it opened. The only notable change to the course since the 1929 design was undertaken recently. That change moved the Hole 10 tee several yards farther away from the parking area for safety reasons. Even with this change, the hole remains largely as laid out by

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<sup>2</sup> Dave Hanneman, “Findlay Country Club celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Year,” *The Courier*, April 5, 2008. Extra supplement.

<sup>3</sup> “Featured Golf Course,” *Florida Department of State*  
<http://floridahistoricgolftrail.com/courses/temple-terrace-golf-country-club/>  
(accessed April 3, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> The National Register of Historic Places nomination for Wing Park Golf Course in Kane, Ohio, for instance, specifically notes trees that were added to that course over time to “define the fairways,” however this was a mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> Century alteration made to many courses and not an original feature of most courses designed in the 1920s.

Bendelow, retaining the original fairway and green layout. Bendelow's original design remains almost wholly intact at Findlay Country Club.

Chadwick Bain PGA, current Findlay Country Club's Director of Golf, says that Bendelow's course features bunkers that are relatively flat without "flashing," that is, the bunkers are flat-bottomed, and sand does not extend up the side of the bunker. Most bunkers here are sand-filled and they are demonstrably in the same locations and configuration as seen on the 1951 aerial. The few bunkers that no longer have sand in them retain the scooped-out interiors as planned by Bendelow. Working to create a course that new players could enjoy but that also challenged experienced players, Bendelow placed some bunkers in locations that are not visible from the tees, creating hidden obstacles for those who do not place their shots strategically or are unfamiliar with the course. Bain noted that greens were pushed up with existing soils. Some of the green complexes, notably holes #3, 5, 7, 14, 15, feature classic Bendelow 'chocolate-drop' construction with the chocolate-drop configuration constructed of small soil-covered mounds that provide challenging play around the green. These features also sometimes make the greens more difficult to maintain in terms of drainage and have therefore been eliminated at some courses, but Findlay County Club has purposely retained these original Bendelow contours and materials. A high number of bunkers is also found on this course, as was common with most Bendelow courses, notably Hole 4 has six bunkers in play and holes 5 and 7 each have four bunkers in play and Hole 15 has five; several other holes have at least four bunkers each.<sup>5</sup>

The course's trees are a collection of oaks, lindens, and pines, some large enough to seemingly date to the early years. Ash trees have fallen victim to the Emerald Ash Borer over the years and the club has intentionally thinned out some trees added in the mid to late years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, maintaining a feel and setting more like it would have had in its earlier years.

The course has four par 3 and four par 5 holes, the remaining holes are par 4s. Play begins at Hole 1 from the tees located behind the clubhouse, starting the course with a 492-yard, 5 par hole that has a fairway with a sweeping dog leg right around the rough and across a drainage stream from the Blanchard River. A modern, shelter is placed near the Hole 1 tees (Photos 4, 5).

Hole 2 is a short straight 156 yards from tee to green and a par 3 (Photo 6).

Hole 3 is a par 4 and an almost straight shot from tee to green with bunkers and the rough flanking the fairway.

Hole 4 doglegs right and has several bunkers surrounding the green of the par 5 hole. A comfort station is near the Hole 4 green (Photos 8, 9).

Hole 5, a par 4, dog legs left with bunkers located near the fairway and the green.

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<sup>5</sup> "Richard Mandell nears completion of first phase of Lake Forest project," *Golf Course Architecture*, <http://www.golfcoursearchitecture.net/content/richard-mandell-nears-completion-of-first-phase-of-lake-forest-project#> (accessed April 3, 2019).

Hole 6 crosses the swale; it is another short, straight par 3 (Photo 6).

Hole 7, a par 4, has a serpentine fairway that crosses the swale, and a large bunker pushing out into the fairway.

Hole 8 has very slight dogleg right and it crosses an oxbow of the Blanchard River twice with the green on the east side of the river; it is a par 4 (Photo 10, 11, 12, 13).

Hole 9 crosses back across the river's oxbow with a relatively straight fairway but, according to the course superintendent, this hole's green has a severe slope, requiring that players land their shot accurately (Photo 14, 15, 16). Bain noted that Findlay's 9<sup>th</sup> hole presents the greatest challenge to a player. While the hole is a par 4 and does not offer a challenge in length, at 200 yards, golfers who are not alert may miss the narrow fairway and hit into the rough. The slope of the green makes it extra challenging as players can spin their balls off the green.

Hole 10, a par 4, has a slight curve left toward the green that has bunkers on three sides. Another bunker is located on the east side of the fairway near the rough (Photos 17, 18). Note that this is the only hole on the course which has an altered layout. The tee for this hole was moved to the east, away from the parking lot, to diminish the chance of errant balls hitting cars or visitors. The fairway, bunkers and green remain in their original layout.

Hole 11 is a par 4 with a dogleg right and rough and a midway bunker in play. This hole is on the highest topography of the course (Photo 19).

Hole 12, a par 3 is a 137-yard straight shot (Photo 20).

Hole 13, a par 4, has a very slight dogleg left with bunkers around the green.

Hole 14, another par 4, has bunkers that press in on the fairway and surround the rear and two sides of the green (Photos 21, 22).

Hole 15 has a relatively straight fairway but is a long hole with a par 5 and a comfort station is located near the tee (Photos 23, 24).

Hole 16 is a straight short par 4 with one bunker on the fairway and two near the green (Photo 25).

Hole 17, a par 3, tees off from behind trees and has a 30-foot wide green (Photos 26, 27).

Hole 18 has a very mild dogleg right with woods on the left; it is the course's longest hole at 517 feet, and it is a par 5 that finishes with the backdrop of the Clubhouse in the distance.

Eleven stone bridges cross the course over a small drainage stream from the Blanchard River and two wood-and-steel bridges carry carts across the Blanchard River, all were constructed in the last decade or so (See Photos 6 and 7). None interferes with the original routing of the course or

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

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Hancock County, OH

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changes in any way the play of the course as planned by Bendelow. These elements are not significant or sufficient in size to call out and are referenced as part of the contributing site. The club house, pool, pool house, tennis courts and two maintenance buildings are all within the historic boundary and are considered non-contributing – all were constructed after the period of significance. The 1990s clubhouse is in the general area of the original club house, and the other buildings and structures are located on empty land owned by the club historically.

The current day maintenance buildings constructed circa 1980s are one and one-half story rectilinear buildings clad in vinyl siding and are located where earlier maintenance buildings and a former house for the groundskeeper [no longer extant] stood near the practice area on the north side of the course. None of these buildings and structures detract from the significance of the course and in no way affect the 1929 layout or route of play.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

- 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



Findlay Country Club Golf Course

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1929-1969

**Significant Dates**

1929

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Bendelow, Thomas G.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Findlay Country Club Golf Course is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a site with high integrity of its 1929 design. The course is significant at the local level for its landscape architecture design under Criterion C and for its association with the history of recreation/golf in Findlay, Ohio, under Criterion A. The period of significance is from 1929 to 1969. In 1929 the original 1908 course was redesigned and expanded by designer, Tom Bendelow; that course remains intact today. The period of significance extends to the end of the historic period, 1969 (50 years prior to the current date), as a location of historic significance for its association with the history of outdoor recreation, specifically golf, in Findlay, Ohio.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion C: Landscape Architecture Significance:**

*Tom Bendelow's Career and Significance*

The Findlay Country Club golf course was first laid out in 1908-09 by Thomas G. (Tom) Bendelow. A biography of Bendelow lists him as the course designer.<sup>6</sup> Although no contemporary source was located that confirmed that Bendelow did this early design, club members have an oral tradition that names him as the original 1908-09 designer and circumstantial evidence suggests that this is a reasonable assumption. Bendelow was the nation's most prolific course designer of his time; in several newspaper articles he claimed to have designed more than 500 courses by 1909. Newspaper articles show that Bendelow, then based in New York City, was planting courses and refereeing championships in Ohio around the time that he is purported to lay out the Findlay course. In early 1909, he designed Coshocton Town and Country Club course, for instance.<sup>7</sup>

During this time Bendelow was working for the A. G. Spaulding & Brothers Sporting Goods Manufacturing Company, to lay out a simple nine-hole course for the club. Golf had been played in Scotland for centuries by this time and most of the early golf course "designers" were Scottish players who could lay out a simple course quickly for novice American players.<sup>8</sup> Bendelow had made a name for himself already by the turn of the century for opening the first indoor school for golf in New York City. Spaulding had expanded into golf from its original baseball focus and the firm used Bendelow to help them create new markets for their golf equipment, advertising both his school and his expertise in "laying out golf courses."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Stuart W. Bendelow, *Thomas (Tom) Bendelow: The Johnny Appleseed of American Golf*, Savannah, Geo.: Williams & Company Publishers, 1969), 204.

<sup>7</sup> "Bendelow was the Referee," *Coshocton Daily Age*, August 2, 1909, 6.

<sup>8</sup> Stuart W. Bendelow, *Thomas 'Tom' Bendelow: The Johnny Appleseed of American Golf*, Savannah, Georgia: Williams & Company Publishers, 2006), 38.

<sup>9</sup> Spaulding advertisement quoted in *Ibid.* 56-57.

Bendelow was a proselytizer of golf in his adopted homeland. In addition to his school, which spawned imitators, and his work for Spaulding, he also wrote articles about golfing. *Metropolitan Magazine* published an early Bendelow article in 1898, and others followed. A newspaper article in the *Sandusky Star* in 1899 claimed that he had, by that time, set a world record by having laid out 150 golf courses.<sup>10</sup> The numbers would continue to rise and by 1909, a year after the time he came to Findlay to route the course there, he had designed more than 500 courses across the nation.<sup>11</sup> According to a biography of Bendelow, he was “without question the most active designer of golf courses in the U.S and is thought to have been responsible for a large proportion of U. S. courses then in existence.”<sup>12</sup>

The course designer for the Findlay Country Club in 1909, would have laid it out in the same way that Scottish course designers had done--by walking the land, noting the natural topography, the wind and water, and staking the locations of green and tees as he walked. Mules and manpower were probably employed to build the course after being routed, which included “two river holes,” probable prototypes for the later design of holes 8 and 9 (see historic (pre-1943) photo of players on these holes below, Section 9, page 32).<sup>13</sup>

When the Findlay Country Club members purchased an additional 119 acres in 1928 to expand the course, they hired the firm of American Park Builders (APB), where then Bendelow was the golf course designer, to redesign the course and expand it to 18 holes. The new course was completed and open for play by 1930.

The expansion and redesign of Findlay Country Club’s golf course in 1929, took place two years before APB closed its doors due to the Great Depression, and a just a handful of years before Bendelow quit working in 1934.<sup>14</sup> It was designed during his later career, in what his biographer has called the time of his best work.<sup>15</sup>

After his death in 1936 and over the ensuing years, Bendelow’s designs were usually replaced by up-and-coming course designers. Golf writers scoffed at the early walk-and-stake process followed by the game’s most prolific course designer early in his career and disregarded his later-career courses in the process. But during his active years, Bendelow was famous in his field and much-admired.<sup>16</sup> In more recent years, appreciation for his work has again risen with clubs

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<sup>10</sup> *Sandusky Star* [Ohio], January 18, 1899, 2. Quoted in Bendelow, *Thomas (Tom) Bendelow.*, 61.

<sup>11</sup> “Golf History: Lost then found Again,” The Hickory Golf Hub <https://golfclubatlas.com/feature-interview/stuart-bendelow-september-2002/> (accessed April 20, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 57.

<sup>13</sup> “Country Club to have 18-hole Golf Course; Buys More Ground,” *The Morning Republican*, December 14, 1928, 15.

<sup>14</sup> Bendelow, *Thomas (Tom) Bendelow*, 160.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 155.

<sup>16</sup> See, for instance: “Praise for the New Golf Links,” *Detroit Free Press*, March 23, 1909, 9; “Work rushed on New Home of Highland Club: Planned by Tom Bendelow,” *Indianapolis News*, April 2, 1909, 23; “Noted Golf Architect Here to layout Local Course,” *Benton Harbor News Palladium*, August 3, 1923, 17; Edited by Tom Bendelow, *Spaulding’s Official Golf Guide*, 1914.

now touting their Tom Bendelow courses. Bendelow's work has been recognized by listings on the National Register of Historic Places (Temple Terrace Golf Course, Florida, NR #12000888; Wing Park Golf Course, Illinois, NR #09000027).

Bendelow was extraordinarily prolific during his working life in the U. S., from 1894 – 1934, and has been called the “Johnny Appleseed of Golf” for his role in planting courses across the nation. He designed hundreds of courses over a nearly 40-year career, but many of his courses have been altered. Findlay Country Club's golf course was a relatively early course for the U. S., in 1890 there were reportedly only 26 golf clubs in this country.<sup>17</sup> The honor of being the first golf course in Ohio seems to belong to the Cleveland Golf Club, established in 1895.<sup>18</sup> Other early courses in the state included the Piqua Country Club and the Dayton Country Club, established in 1896 and 1897, respectively.<sup>19</sup> None of these 19<sup>th</sup> Century courses remain extant in Ohio.

By 1900 or so, the game had caught on, but only about 1,000 courses had been laid out across the country, mostly for private clubs and individuals. Golf became popular in the Midwest in general and it was growing in Ohio, with more than a handful of course laid out just after the turn of the century, including several in the Cleveland area. But again, these early 1900s courses are no longer extant.<sup>20</sup>

Findlay Country Club members and their visitors played on the nine-hole Bendelow-designed course for two decades. By 1928, the club realized that it needed to expand its membership, and that in order to attract new members, it needed to expand the golf course. That year they purchased an additional 119 acres of “rich farm and wood land” adjacent to their existing property.<sup>21</sup> Their plans for the new property included the expansion of their original course and they also planned for a “revamping” of the existing nine holes to eliminate “over-lapping fairways due to cramped conditions.”<sup>22</sup>

Club president, Frank J. Collingwood, noted that “at least three short holes will find a place on the golf map when the 18 holes are built. Short holes test the skill of golfers and call for true and accurate pitch shots,” he said. In further explanation Collingwood revealed that he understood the more modern thinking about golf course design that had taken hold in the U.S. and elsewhere in the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He said: “[m]any players can drive the ball down the

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<sup>17</sup> Stuart W. Bendelow, *Thomas 'Tom' Bendelow: The Johnny Appleseed of American Golf*, Savannah, Georgia: Williams & Company Publishers, 2006), 38.

<sup>18</sup> Golf, Encyclopedia of Cleveland History <https://case.edu/ech/articles/g/golf> (accessed April 8, 2019).

<sup>19</sup> Piqua Country Club, <https://hampton.golf/clubs/piqua-country-club> (accessed April 8, 2019); “Where Golf Began in Dayton,” *Dayton Daily News* <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/where-golf-began-dayton-the-area-oldest-club-marks-121-years/szf04LsiDkfRX7uw8OwPrL/> (accessed April 8, 2019).

<sup>20</sup> Kenneth L. Hopkins, *Cleveland Area Golf*, (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Lib Ed, 2004), Introduction.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

fairway on a long hole, but it's that pitch shot in the end that determines the difference between a dub and the player who has mastered the finer points of the game."<sup>23</sup>

Nineteenth- and early Twentieth-century golf courses were laid out to penalize players who could not hit long, straight shots. By 1929, this earlier "penal" school of design had been replaced by the "strategic school," which guided Bendelow's layout of the expanded course at Findlay Country Club. At a strategic course the experienced and thinking player, not necessarily the longest hitter, gets the low score.

The difference between the two types of design, is summed up well on a golf design website:

With penal course design "there is a right way to play a hole. Hit the required shots, which are typically straight down the middle, and get rewarded. Errant shots are punished proportionate to the degree of error. . . [Whereas strategic design meant that] taking on risk by flirting with a hazard or challenging a contour, and pulling off the shot, gains the player an advantage on the next shot. Safe play is an option but comes at the cost of disadvantage."<sup>24</sup>

A golf historian wrote about strategic course design; "a lower scoring possibility should be more dangerous than the longer, safer route."<sup>25</sup> Strategic courses and their designers are now considered some of the best in golf history. The period between 1920 and 1937, during which Bendelow redesigned and expanded the original course at Findlay Country Club, has been called the "golden age" of golf course design by golf historians.

By 1929, Bendelow had been golf course designer for the Chicago firm of American Park Builders (APB) for nine years. The *Findlay Morning Republican*, on February 28, 1929, reported that the Findlay Country Club hired American Park Builders to design their new course. The last sentence in the article mentions that the firm [with Bendelow as designer] had planned and built "more than 20 percent of the golf courses in this country."<sup>26</sup>

He had also conducted an annual series of lectures about golf course design at the University of Illinois for more than a decade by the time he redesigned Findlay Country Club's course.<sup>27</sup> Teaching design to the next generation meant that he had to be up-to-date on the latest technologies and designs for courses. Advances in civil engineering, agronomy, landscape design, and irrigation made golf course design more intricate and the taste and experience of golfers spurred designers to make them more elaborate and challenging. Technology made it easier for Bendelow and other course designers to devise more elaborate courses, making

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Jason Way, "The different schools of golf design," *The Fried Egg*, <http://www.friedegg.co/golf-courses/schools-golf-design> (Accessed December 20, 2019).

<sup>25</sup> Geoff Shackelford, *Grounds for Golf*, (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martins Press, 2003), 281.

<sup>26</sup> *Morning Republican*, February 28, 1929.

<sup>27</sup> Bendelow, *Thomas (Tom) Bendelow*, 134.



obsolete the walk-and-stake types they had routed a decade earlier. Bendelow began to employ topographic mapping to aid in layouts and model-making to aid in construction.<sup>28</sup>

Stuart Bendelow, who wrote a biography of his grandfather, claims that the later-period course designs were the best of Tom Bendelow's career. In the years after he joined APB in 1920, he could spend more time on design and his later courses became more challenging and "demanded more of player skills." As always though, he continued to keep pleasurable play at the forefront of his work.<sup>29</sup>

Bendelow laid out an excellent late-career course here. Like many Golden Age golf course designers, Bendelow was known for using existing topography rather than needlessly fabricating changes in elevation. That is visible at the Findlay course. Here, the sloping fairways that mark Bendelow's designs are evident throughout the course, most notably on holes #1, #16 and #18. On Findlay's relatively flat landscape, Bendelow used some of the limited topography on the property to put an emphasis on shot value and create odd stances if a player hit to the wrong side of the fairway. The most challenging may be the fairway on the finishing hole #18 with a significant right-to-left slope creating a difficult approach shot in which the ball on the fairway lies above the feet of a right-handed player. Bendelow also designed his narrow fairways with serpentine and dog-leg (angled) configurations to create a challenging course without overmuch land manipulation. He included short holes that require exacting placement of the golfer's shot to keep a ball in play and out of the rough, rather than bowing to the player's common desire to hit the long shot. At Findlay he used the more dramatic natural topography found on the holes near the clubhouse, crossing a swale that drains from the river here. In some of his later courses he sometimes added water hazards, but here he took advantage of the unusual and excellent natural hazard of the Blanchard River, which oxbows beside the course, allowing for him to create two holes where golfers had to shoot over the river and across the oxbow twice on both holes. Many of the green complexes exemplify trademark Bendelow "chocolate drop mounding design" (small mounds), most noticeably those at holes #3, 5, 7, 14, and 15. The relatively flat sand traps at the base of mounded bunkers found here were unmistakably part of Bendelow's repertoire, found on this course, at the National Register-listed course in Temple Terrace, Florida, as well as at the former Town and Country Club course at Coschocton, Ohio.

Old trees in locations that would have been specified by Bendelow remain on the course: a large oak behind the Hole #5 green and a giant sycamore on Hole #6 are notable. Many of the trees that Bendelow might have specified in the 1920s have fallen victim to time, but replacement trees were placed in the same locations or very near to the locations where old trees stood in order to maintain the routing and play of the course as it was originally.

The 1929 course at Findlay Country Club appears to be the most intact and significant of his designs in Ohio, where he designed at least seven other courses. He also designed the course at the Coschocton Town and Country Club in 1909, the year after he laid out the first course at

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<sup>28</sup> "Golf History: Lost then found Again," The Hickory Golf Hub  
<https://golfclubatlas.com/feature-interview/stuart-bendelow-september-2002/>  
(accessed April 20, 2018).

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 155.

Findlay Country Club.<sup>30</sup> Like the original Findlay course, the Coschocton course had only nine holes. The Coschocton course remained a nine-hole course and was likely the oldest original Bendelow design in the state for many years, but the course and the country club closed sometime after the 2012 season. According to photographs on a Coschocton history Facebook page, the club house was demolished in 2014 to make way for senior housing and the course was by then no longer maintained.<sup>31</sup> Other courses designed by Bendelow in the state included Vista del Lago Country Club Crystal Lake (near Akron), Western Hills and Mount Vernon Country Club in Cincinnati, all of which have been redesigned. Bendelow routed the Hamilton County course, later renamed Maketewah Country Club in 1910, which was later redesigned as an 18-hole course by Donald Ross.<sup>32</sup> The Troy Country Club course was laid out by Bendelow in 1922, but was later redesigned by Jack Kidwell.<sup>33</sup> The Plum Brook Country Club Course in Sandusky, Ohio, was laid out in 1914 and claims Tom Bendelow as designer on an older version of its webpage, but other sources, including the club's 2018 webpage state other initial designers and note that the course was redesigned by Arthur Hills in 1994.<sup>34</sup>

Although Bendelow designed other Ohio courses, Findlay's course is the only 18-hole golden age course in the state by him that retains high integrity of his work. Findlay Country Club's golf course was laid out by the master designer during golf's golden age. It is the state's only Tom Bendelow-designed golf course that retains high integrity with virtually no alterations. Findlay Country Club Golf Course is eligible for the National Register for the design of Tom Bendelow, a master designer.

### **Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation Significance**

In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a new appreciation for nature and its importance in creating a healthier citizenry gave birth to an increasing interest in physical culture. This manifested on the landscape with the establishment of national and city parks, and an explosion of golf courses across the nation. In Findlay, Ohio, these impulses brought about Findlay Country Club and resulted in the establishment of Findlay's first city park, Riverside Park, opened in 1906 at the site of a former mechanized amusement park and located just down river from the land that would become Findlay Country Club two years later.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "Bendelow was the Referee," *Coschocton Daily Age*, August 2, 1909, 6.

<sup>31</sup> "If you grew up in Coschocton" <https://www.facebook.com/If-you-grew-up-in-Coschocton-County-Ohio-then-you-remember-111385162292420/> (accessed April 8, 2019).

<sup>32</sup> Maketewah Country Club, <http://www.maketewah.com/public/golf> (accessed March 3, 2019).

<sup>33</sup> Golf Now, <https://www.golfnow.com/courses/1035271-troy-country-club-details> (accessed April 8, 2019).

<sup>34</sup> Ohio Golf Clubs, <https://www.ohiogolf.org/clubs/plum-brook-country-club-sandusky-oh> (accessed April 8, 2019); Plum Book Country Club <https://plumbrookcountryclub.com/history> (accessed April 8, 2019).

<sup>35</sup> City of Findlay, "City Parks," <https://www.findlayohio.com/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/10/138> (accessed January 1, 2019).

Following this trend, aspiring golfers established the Findlay Country Club in August 1908 with 144 founding members. In October 1908, the club purchased 30 acres of the former Delmont Park property on which they planned to build a club house and Findlay's first golf course.<sup>36</sup> Founding board members of the club included influential businessmen O. D. Donnell (president of Ohio Oil Co.), M. V. Hickox, C. E. Yost (Secretary and Treasurer of the Findlay Casket Co. and partner in Burlingame and Yost), J. O. Reed (Superintendent of the Wopsonnock Railroad RR, and Karl Swartz.<sup>37</sup> Although the professions of all the founding members could not be tracked in the historical record, it is clear that this group included some of the most influential businessmen in the Findlay area.

The official opening date was August 12, 1909. By that time Bendelow had laid out the club's original nine-hole course. According to his biography, Bendelow favored nine-hole courses for beginning clubs because it was easier to maintain and required a smaller land purchase. Most golf courses in the United States began as nine-hole courses.<sup>38</sup> On that day, "the club's three golfing members played nine holes to celebrate."<sup>39</sup> Located along the Blanchard River, the club and course were originally accessible only by boat from the Main Street Bridge to a landing located near the present-day Hole 8's tee.<sup>40</sup> These were dedicated golfers.

Findlay Country Club members like to tell visitors that William "Tell" Taylor wrote the song "Down by the Old Mill Stream" about time he spent on a section of the Blanchard River just downstream from the present-day golf course. But Findlay Country Club's golf course is significant for its associations with the history of outdoor recreation in the United States.

The cultural impulses that spurred the establishment of parks also sparked an interest in golf. Golf courses offered salubrious environments, as well as good exercise—two things that became important in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Americans' views of a good life. Bendelow promoted the establishment of municipal courses to give all Americans a chance to play the game, but most of his clients were private golfing clubs, such as Findlay Country Club.<sup>41</sup> Although caddies might carry the clubs, golfers walked these courses. Members of exclusive country clubs, the birthplaces of American golf, could consider themselves both healthy and wealthy, and membership was an expression of achievement in both areas. Findlay Country Club golf course established golf as a playable sport in Findlay, Ohio.

Findlay Country Club's course played an important role in and had a well-deserved reputation for nurturing the game of golf even before the course expansion in 1929. It was an important golfing destination in its home city and the state of Ohio. In 1925 the *Dayton Daily News* reported that "Harold Jordan, local boy, knocked off a real 'plumb' as far as positions as golf professionals are concerned" when he landed the job as club pro at Findlay's course that year.

<sup>36</sup> "Country Club's Purchase," *Morning Republican*, October 23, 1908.

<sup>37</sup> "Country Club Incorporates: Club of Findlay Men Capitalized at Ten Thousand Dollars," [Findlay] *The Morning Republican*, August 19, 1908, 6; *Salem News*, Salem OH, December 15, 1908, 6; 1909 *City Directory*, 324; *Evening Review* September 3, 1901, 5.

<sup>38</sup> Bendelow, *Tom Bendelow*, 112-113.

<sup>39</sup> "Bidding Farewell to an Era," *The Courier*, August 18, 1994, A8.

<sup>40</sup> "Findlay Country Club 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," booklet, 2008.

<sup>41</sup> See Bendelow, *Tom Bendelow*, 180-210.

The “course is a nine-hole affair but is supposed to be of the classy type. It is a real tribute to Harold to get a position of that type,” the paper reported. The club had about 200 members at the time that Harold Jordan became golf pro in 1925.<sup>42</sup>

The popularity of golf continued to escalate in the late 1920s, but not everyone in Findlay could afford to join the private country club. In August 1928, more than 1,600 golfers petitioned Findlay’s City Council to build a municipal course. “Many of the local golfers, who are not members of Findlay Country Club have been forced to play on the links of nearby cities” reported the Findlay *Morning Republican*.<sup>43</sup> Alas the petition did not result in the establishment of a municipal course at that time. In fact, it would be almost 30 years before local golfers would have an opportunity to golf in their home city on a course other than the Findlay Country Club’s. Until the nine-hole Broken Birdie Golf Club public course opened in Findlay in 1957, golfers who wanted to play the game locally had to play at Findlay Country Club.<sup>44</sup>

By 1928, the club’s membership wanted to capture more members by expanding the course. Club president, Frank J. Collingwood, an executive at Standard Oil told the local newspaper that “the nine-hole course last summer was crowded virtually every afternoon.”<sup>45</sup> Other board members at that time were O. D. Donnell (listed in 1920 census as “oil producer”), Berry A. Bloomingdale, W.A. Hollington (listed as bank cashier in the 1930 Census), W. H. Hugh Houck (listed as purchasing agent for Differential Steel Car Co., in 1933 City Directory), D. Kirk, Jr. (father of Peg Kirk who would become the course’s most famous hometown player) and J. E. Fennerty (listed as treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce in 1933 City Directory), H. A. Bish (accountant at Oil Co. Office according to the 1930 census); A. E. Eoff (Cashier at American First National Bank and a partner in the General Insurance Co., according to the 1927 City Directory)<sup>46</sup>

After Bendelow’s redesign and expansion of the course, completed in early 1930, Findlay added 200 members. Activities on the new course, such as tournament winners and team play were reported in the local *Morning Republican*, guaranteeing that Findlay Country Club’s course was familiar even to residents who were not members. Numerous articles about intramural play can be found in these years soon after the course was expanded.<sup>47</sup> By the time Findlay Country Club’s board hired American Park Builder’s Tom Bendelow to redesign and expand their course in 1929, America had fully embraced golf. Improved course design and exploding numbers of

<sup>42</sup> “Dayton Daily News, February 6, 1925, 30.

<sup>43</sup> “City Golf Links asked for Council,” [Findlay] *Morning Republican*, August 8, 1928, 3.

<sup>44</sup> “Golf Ohio,” <http://www.golfohio.com/courses/findlay/wayside-gc/> (accessed April 2, 2019).

<sup>45</sup> “Country Club to have 18-hole Golf Course; Buys more Ground,” *Morning Republican* December 14, 1928; 1906 City Directory, 83.

<sup>46</sup> Census of Population, 1920, 1930. *City Directories* for 1933 and 1927.

<sup>47</sup> See “F.B. Firmin wins Flag Tourney,” *Morning Republican*, May 31, 1930, 10; “Driving Contest to Feature Golf Flat Tournament,” *Ibid.*, July 30, 1930, 13; “New Handicaps in Effect at Country Club Golf Course,” *Ibid.*, August 14, 1930, 7; “Ortwein Wins his Semi-Final Match,” *Ibid.*, September 19, 1930, 13.

players made this period, in the second and third decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Golden Age of golf. Bendelow's redesign and expansion of the course made it even more popular in the area. As soon as it opened the course here became the location of daily recreational play of members. In July 1930, the golf committee and pro, set new handicaps for the expanded club.<sup>48</sup> The first tournament played on the course took place on July 5, 1930. Robert H. Fletcher won that day's contest with a 56 on the par 72 course. The "golf course was populated all day with tournament players," reported the *Morning Republican*, "some were on their game, while others encountered all kinds of trouble in the tangled patches of rough and dog-legged fairways."<sup>49</sup>

A few days later, the Findlay High School team hosted the team from Tiffin Ohio in a match. The *Morning Republican* reported that "Findlay beats Tiffin Golfers over New Course Here, 54-2," a happy occasion for the home team.<sup>50</sup>

As golf became more popular, women joined the game. This was true across the nation and, according to the local newspaper, it was also true at Findlay Country Club. In August 1930, the course hosted a co-ed tournament. The *Morning Republican* reported that 25 or 30 men and women would compete in the "mixed two-ball foursome."<sup>51</sup>

About month later, Findlay Country Club was the location of the "city public links competition." The somewhat misleading title did not mean that there was a public links course, but rather that the country club course opened to the public for the tournament, allowing both members and nonmembers alike to play. The club's golf pro, Bud Orthwein played the tournament winner.<sup>52</sup>

Golf courses and their related country clubs were centers of social life for the community's upper-middle class and more affluent. These were the places where movers and shakers met to incubate relationships and business deals over a round of golf. They were also the places where young and old players learned the game and established their golfing credentials in tournaments with other clubs and golfers.

In 1936, business met pleasure in an occasion that demonstrates the dual purposes of a golf course. The headline in the local newspaper read: "Findlay Man host to 300 Executives." The article went on to claim that "Findlay's country club became the industrial capital of America today as more than 300 of the country's most prominent executives strode over the course as guest of the annual golf party of O. D. Donnell, president of the Ohio Oil Co."<sup>53</sup> An informal dinner party at the country club followed the golf outing and the newspaper reported that "Most of the business leaders came to Findlay for the one-day event in special [railroad] cars, 33 of these being spotted on special sidings." Among that day's movers and shakers were the president

<sup>48</sup> "Flag Tourney at Golf Course" *Morning Republican*, July 2, 1930, 13.

<sup>49</sup> "Fletcher First in Flag Tourney," *Morning Republican*, July 5, 1930, 9.

<sup>50</sup> *The Morning Republican*, July 11, 1930, 13.

<sup>51</sup> "New Handicaps in Effect at Country Club Golf Course," *Morning Republican*, August 14, 1930, 7.

<sup>52</sup> "Four Survive Initial Test in City Public Links Meet," *Morning Republican*, September 26, 1930, 13.

<sup>53</sup> "Findlay Man host to 300 Executives," *Morning Republican*, June 24, 1936, 12.



of the Erie Railroad and the vice president of New York's Guaranty Trust Co.<sup>54</sup> Donnell was one of many to recognize that a game of golf at the Findlay Country Club course could grease the wheels of any number of future business deals.

By 1945 Findlay Country Club was hosting the Ohio Open Golf Tournament, in which all players were welcome, and the state's finest players ultimately competed for the trophy.<sup>55</sup> Over the years the course hosted numerous tournaments. Several competitive amateur golfers were mentored here, also. For instance, junior match players, Dave Slough, runner-up in Ohio Juniors tournament in 1950, called Findlay Country Club his home base.<sup>56</sup> In the 1930s and '40s it was the home course of three-time winner of the Ohio Women's Amateur tournament, Peg Kirk Bell. Peggy Kirk, who became the country club's sweetheart as she brought acclaim, not only to women's golf but to her hometown course.<sup>57</sup> By 1950, Peg Kirk Bell was playing women's professional golf. She helped establish the Women's Professional Golf Association, along with a more widely known female golfer, Babe Didrickson Zaharias.<sup>58</sup> Peg Kirk brought acclaim to the Findlay's club, and, according to some of the club's players even hosted Babe Didrickson, her friend and the most famous woman golfer of her day, at the course.<sup>59</sup>

In the late 1950s through the 1960s golf became an even more popular game in the United States. The evidence of this in and around Findlay, Ohio, is apparent in the number of new golf courses laid out in this period. The Broken Birdie Golf Club in Findlay opened as a public nine-hole golf course in 1957.<sup>60</sup> Shady Grove Golf Course opened as an 18-hole course in 1965, after operating for a few years prior with a miniature golf course and driving range only.<sup>61</sup> The 18-hole course at Hillcrest Golf Club facility designed by Ed Rettig and Gene Cleary opened in 1963.<sup>62</sup> Despite this growing local competition for golfers, Findlay Country Club remained the locus of local and regional play in Findlay. The Ohio State Junior Championships were held at Findlay Country Club in 1961.<sup>63</sup> Throughout the decade the course continued to host high school golf games with Findlay's team counting the course as their home turf.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> "Lockbourne Golfer Leads," [Mansfield, Ohio] *News-Journal*, August 8, 1945, 10.

<sup>56</sup> Tom Drake, "Historical Highlights," self-published article.

<sup>57</sup> See for instance, "Findlay Girl Upsets Defending Champion in Doherty Cup Play," *Sandusky Register-Star News*, January 29, 1947, 10; "Findlay Girl Medalist in Palm Beach Play," *Sandusky Register*, February 11, 1947, 13.

<sup>58</sup> "Peg Kirk out of Golf Play," [Dayton, Ohio] *Journal Herald*, July 12, 1950, 7; "Here's why Peg Kirk Bell held such a Unique Place in Golf," *Golf Digest* <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/heres-why-peggy-kirk-bell-held-such-a-unique-place-in-golf> Drake (accessed January 3, 2019).

<sup>59</sup> Drake, "Historical Highlights."

<sup>60</sup> "Golf Ohio," <http://www.golfohio.com/courses/findlay/wayside-gc/> (accessed April 2, 2019).

<sup>61</sup> Shady Grove <https://www.shadygrovegolf.com/about> (accessed April 13, 2019).

<sup>62</sup> Welcome to Hillcrest Golf Club, <https://www.findlayhillcrestgc.com/> (accessed April 2, 2019).

<sup>63</sup> "Varied Sports Cards Await Fans," *Chillicothe Gazette*, June 1, 1961, 12.

<sup>64</sup> "Improvement Not Enough," *News-Messenger*, April 11, 1968.

In 1962, the Findlay *Republican-Courier* reported that a kidney-shaped pool, wading pool, and pool house were added to the country club in 1961 [not the current pool or pool house] and that the fairways were irrigated in 1960. The course “is still considered one of the country’s top courses and many famous golfers have played here, including Findlay’s Peggy Kirk, as well as Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg, the Bower twins, Sam Snead, Carol Diringer, and others. . . many of Findlay’s community functions are held there as well as the various programmed events for club members.”<sup>65</sup> In June 1961, Findlay Country Club’s course hosted the Ohio Golf Association’s junior championship for players 19 and under from all over the state.<sup>66</sup> In 1964, newspapers reported that the club’s course was the host of the PGA’s pro-amateur tournament.<sup>67</sup> And youth tournaments continued to be held here regularly during these years as reported in newspapers across locally and across the state.<sup>68</sup>

From its earliest days in 1908-09 and especially after the course’s expansion and redesign in 1929 and continuing to the end of the period of significance in 1969, the Findlay Country Club Golf Course was significant in the history of golf as outdoor recreation in Ohio. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for that association. The course is also eligible under Criterion C for its landscape design by Tom Bendelow.

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<sup>65</sup> “Findlay Country Club offers Outstanding Facilities: Golf Course, Club house and Swimming Found” *Republican-Courier*, July 21, 1962, 14.

<sup>66</sup> “Varied Sports Card Awaits Fans,” *Chillicothe Gazette*, June 1, 1961, 12.

<sup>67</sup> “Logan-Wolf Duo cops Golf Honors,” *Sandusky Register*, August 25, 1964, 12.

<sup>68</sup> “Findlay Returns to Top Golf Spot,” [Mansfield, OH] *News-Journal*, April 30, 1968, 20.

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\_\_\_\_\_ February 28, 1929.

\_\_\_\_\_ July 11, 1930, 13.

\_\_\_\_\_ July 30, 1930, 13.

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

\_\_\_\_\_ "Findlay Man host to 300 Executives," June 24, 1936, 12.

\_\_\_\_\_ "New Handicaps in Effect at Country Club Golf Course," August 14,  
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\_\_\_\_\_ "Orthwein Wins his Semi-Final Match," *Ibid.*, September 19, 1930,  
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Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

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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: \_\_\_\_\_



Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**     N/A    

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property**     approx. 159 acres    

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |             |                  |                   |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 279205  | Northing: 4547120 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting: 280355  | Northing: 4547114 |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting: 280375  | Northing: 4546100 |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting : 279215 | Northing: 4546397 |

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property consists of parcel number 210001029040. According to the legal description on the parcel card, the course is in Township 1 North, Range 11, Section 17 South part of the east half of the northwest quarter and parts of the southeast quarter and southwest quarter.<sup>69</sup>

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire Findlay Country Club golf course, and all structures and objects located on the site of the course and land historically associated with the course.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Connie Zeigler  
organization: C. Resources  
street & number: 8814 S. Pleasure Valley Road  
city or town: Waldron state: IN zip code: 46182  
e-mail connie@cresourcesinc.com  
telephone: 317.908.6046  
date: 1/10/2019

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

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<sup>69</sup> Parcel Card, <https://hancockoh-auditor.ddti.net/Data.aspx?ParcelID=210001029040> (accessed January 2, 2019).

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Hancock County, OH

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Findlay Country Club Golf Course

City or Vicinity: Findlay

County: Hancock

State: Ohio

Date taken: September 17, 2018

Photographer: Connie Zeigler

0001. Looking south at Findlay Country Club sign toward Country Club Road.  
1 of 29

0002. Looking south at Pool house and pool.  
2 of 29

0003. Looking southwest at entrance to club house.  
3 of 29

0004. Looking east at swale near Hole 1 tees.  
4 of 29

0005. Looking southeast at shelter and Hole 1.  
5 of 29

0006. Looking east at bridges near Hole 2 and Hole 6.  
6 of 29

0007. Looking northwest at bridges and Hole 7.  
7 of 29

0008. Looking east northeast at bunker on Hole 4.  
8 of 29

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

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Hancock County, OH

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0009. Looking east northeast at green on Hole 4.  
9 of 29

0010. Looking west at bridge to Holes 8 and 9.  
10 of 29

0011. Looking northeast at river and bridge on Hole 8.  
11 of 29

0012. Looking northeast at second bridge from Hole 8.  
12 of 29

0013. Looking southwest at river from bridge on Hole 8.  
13 of 29

0014. Looking south southeast at Hole 9 green.  
14 of 29

0015. Looking east southeast at bridge on Hole 9.  
15 of 29

0016. Looking east from Hole 9, bridge on right.  
16 of 29

0017. Looking north at Hole 10 bunker from fence in front of country club building.  
17 of 29

0018. Looking east southeast at Hole 10 green from Country Club Road/Woodworth Drive.  
18 of 29

0019. Looking southwest between holes 12 and 11. Hole 11 green on right.  
19 of 29

0020. Looking west across Hole 12 with country club on right.  
20 of 29

0021. Looking east toward green of Hole 14  
21 of 29

0022. Looking north, close-up of Green 14.  
22 of 29

0023. Looking north at comfort station near Hole 15 tee.  
23 of 29

0024. Looking east southeast across Hole 4 at Hole 15, bunkers and traps.  
24 of 29

Findlay Country Club Golf Course

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Hancock County, OH

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0025. Looking northwest toward Hole 16 green from Hole 16 fairway.  
25 of 29

0026. Looking southwest at Hole 17 green close-up.  
26 of 29

0027. Looking west northwest at Hole 17 with #18 tee behind the trees and the golfers standing on the green of Hole #1.  
27 of 29

0028. Looking north at rear of country club.  
28 of 29

0029. Looking east southeast at the course near Hole 10 from the parking lot.  
29 of 29

#### Figures List

Historic Postcards c. 1920 and prior to 1943, Findlay and Hancock County Public Library

1951 Aerial from Historic Aerials from Netronline, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>

2017 Aerial from Hancock County Auditor's office, <https://hancockoh-auditor.ddti.net/Data.aspx?ParcelID=210001029040>

Photo View Map

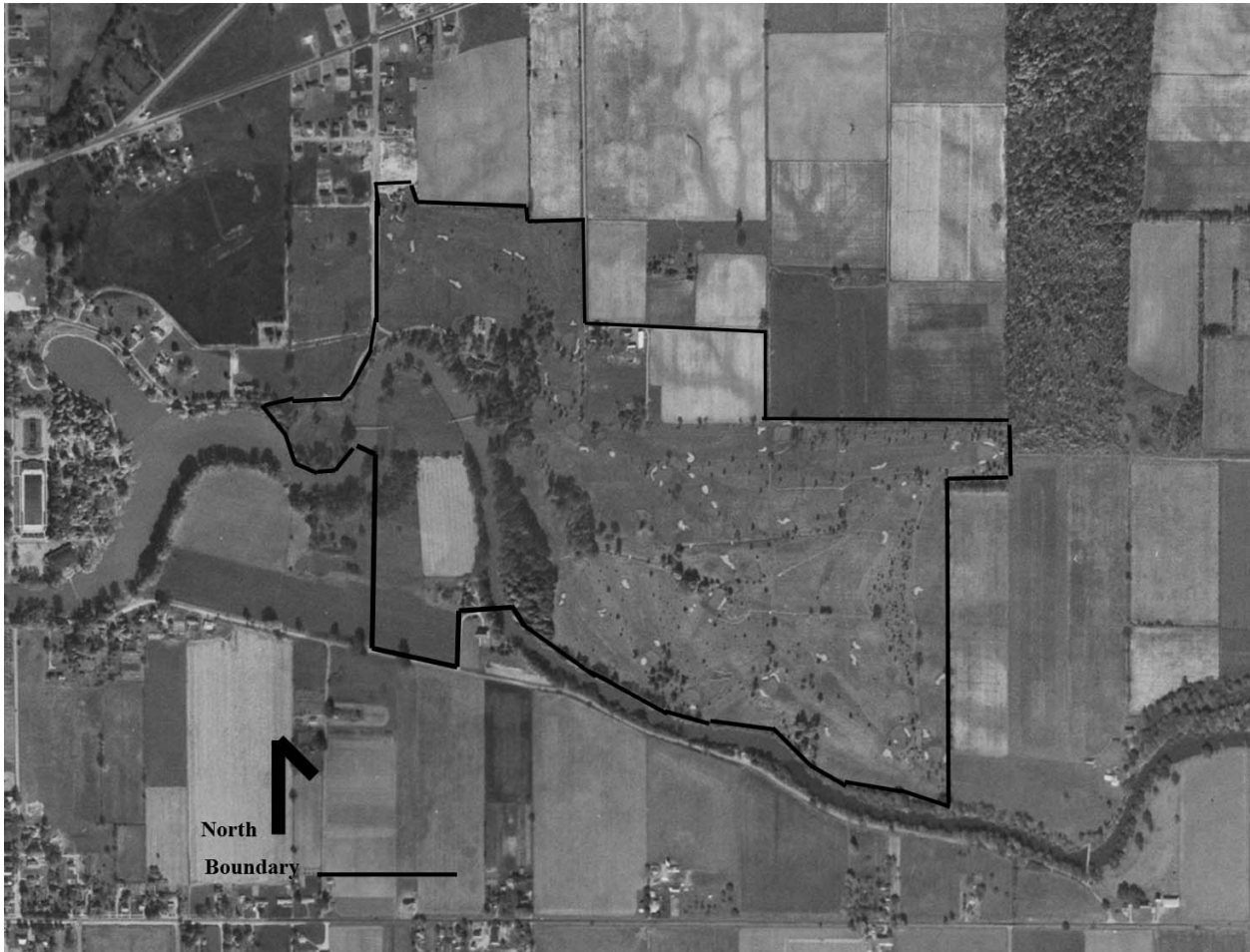
Photograph — Undated



Photograph — Undated



Postcards showing original clubhouse, c. 1920 (upper) and Holes 8 and 9, prior to 1943, (note original clubhouse in background), from Findlay-Hancock County Library Collection



1951 Aerial," Historic Aerials" from Netronline, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>





**National Register Boundary in black. 2017 Aerial, Hancock County Auditor's Office website, <https://hancockoh-auditor.ddti.net/Data.aspx?ParcelID=210001029040>**



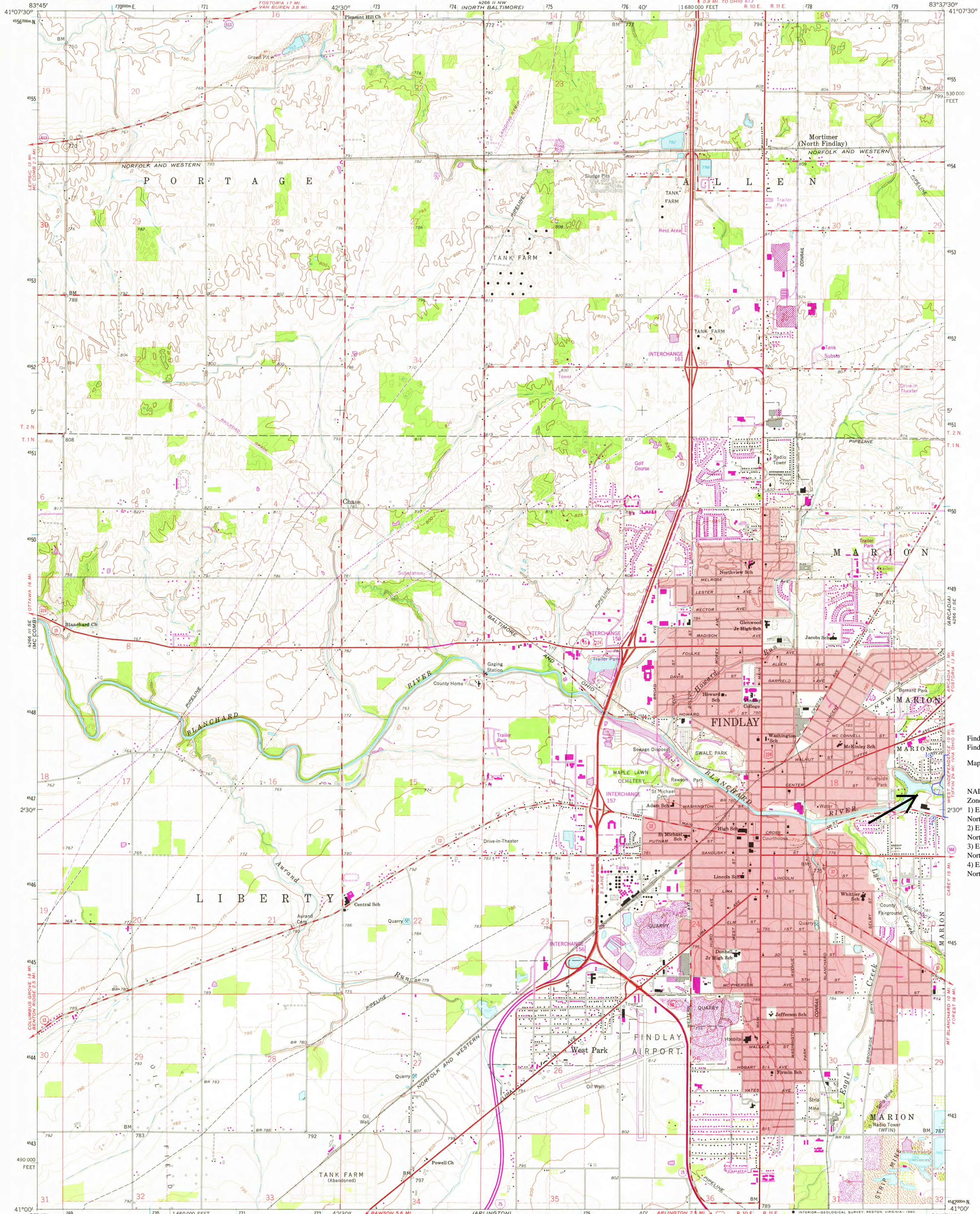


CC = Clubhouse; P = Pool; PH = Pool House; TC = Tennis Courts; MB = Maintenance Building, all are Non Contributing

Map not to Scale

Photo View Map





Findlay Country Club Golf Course,  
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

Map 1 of 2

- NAD 27  
Zone 17  
1) East 279205  
North 4547120  
2) East 280355  
North 4547114  
3) East 280375  
North 4546100  
4) East 279215  
North 4546397

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1959 and by plane-table surveys 1960

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue

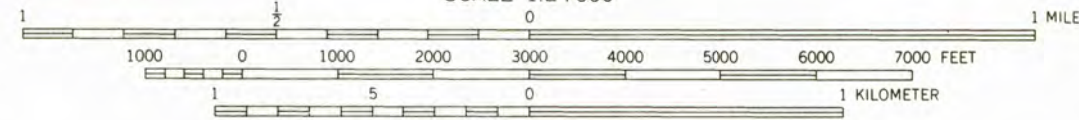
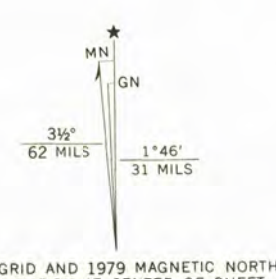
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 1 meter south and  
7 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Entire area lies within Congress Lands

Land lines based on First Principal Meridian

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

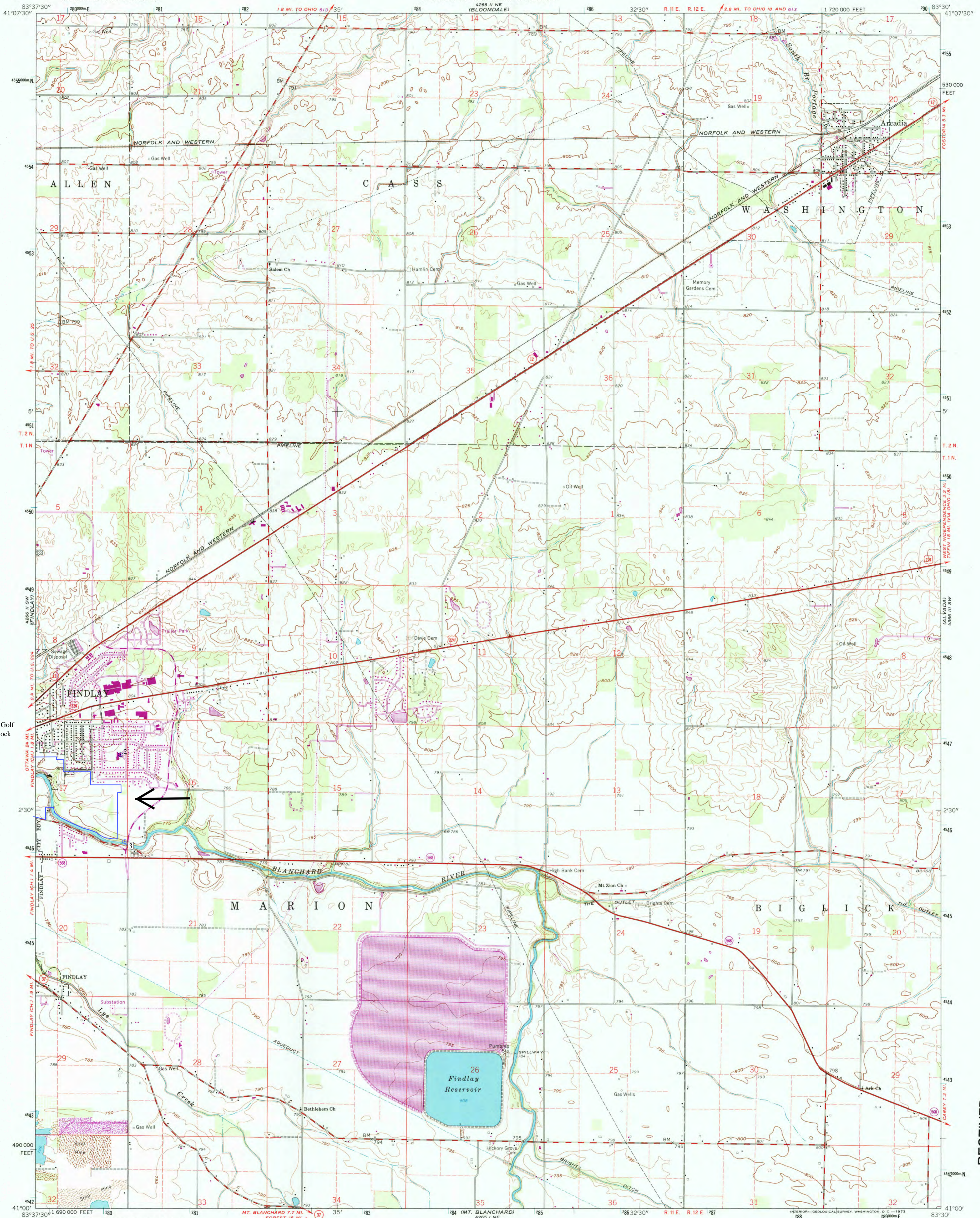
USGS  
Historical File  
Topographic Division

FINDLAY, OHIO  
N4100—W8337.5/7.5  
1960  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
DMA 4266 II SW—SERIES V852

FEB 13 1980

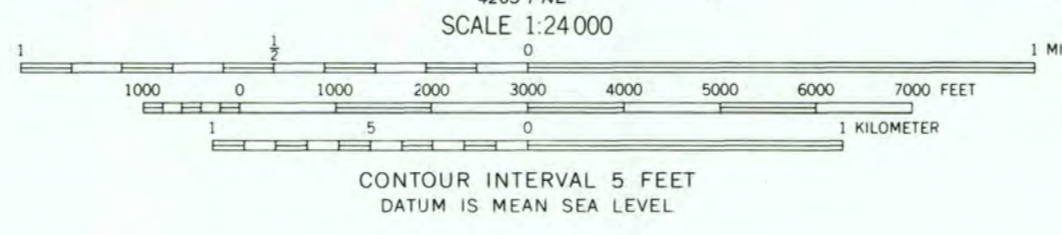
1300





Findlay Country Club Golf Course, Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio  
Map 2 of 2  
NAD 27  
Zone 17  
1) East 279205  
North 4547120  
2) East 280355  
North 4547114  
3) East 280375  
North 4546100  
4) East 279215  
North 4546397

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1960. Aerial photographs taken 1959  
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum, 10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue  
Entire area lies within Congress Lands  
Land lines based on the First Principal Meridian  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

ARCADIA, OHIO  
N4100—W8330/7.5  
1960  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
AMS 4266 II SE—SERIES V852

RECEIVED  
OCT 31 1998  
USGS NMD  
HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES



















































































































**FINDLAY**  
— COUNTRY CLUB —







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Findlay Country Club Golf Course

Multiple Name:

State & County: OHIO, Hancock

Date Received: 10/16/2019      Date of Pending List: 11/12/2019      Date of 16th Day: 11/27/2019      Date of 45th Day: 12/2/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004705

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      12/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary      NR Criteria: A and C.  
Comments:

Recommendation/      AOS: Landscape Architecture, Recreation; POS: 1929-1969; LOS: local. Golf course  
Criteria      designer: Tom Bendelow.

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 12/2/19

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.





October 11, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find three new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATIONS

Castalia Trout Club  
Findlay Country Club Golf Course  
University Club


COUNTY

Erie  
Hancock  
Summit

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for Findlay Country Club Golf Course and University Club.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

*for* 

Lox A. Logan, Jr.  
Executive Director and CEO  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211  
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on Oct. 11, 2019  
For nomination of the Findley Country Club to the National Register of  
Historic Places: Golf Course, Hancock County, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form  
\_\_\_ Paper  PDF
- \_\_\_ Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document  
\_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_ PDF
- \_\_\_ Multiple Property Nomination form  
\_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_ PDF
- Photographs  
\_\_\_ Prints  TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)  
\_\_\_ Paper  Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)  
\_\_\_ Paper  PDF
- \_\_\_ Piece(s) of correspondence  
\_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_ PDF
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

- \_\_\_ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- \_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_ The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_ do not \_\_\_  
Constitute a majority of property owners
- \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_