Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

2 5 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

NAME				
HISTORIC Fruitlands	Augusta National Gol	f Club		
AND/OR COMMON	tional Golf Club			<u> </u>
LOCATION		<u></u>	<u> </u>	
street & NUMBER 2604 Washin				
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ІСТ
Augusta	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u>Tenth - Rep. Ba</u>	
state Georgia		code 13	COUNTY Richmond	CODE 245
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT _XBUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	PUBLIC X_PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	Xoccupied UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE XYES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENC RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION X-OTHER Sports
NAME Augusta Nat STREET & NUMBER				
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CITY, TOWN	Augusta		state Georgia	
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	deorgru	
τίτιε Richmor	nd County Architectura			
DATE 1977		-	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS GE	eorgia Dept. of Natura		ric Preservation S	ection
CITY, TOWN			STATE	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION CHECK ONE CHECK ONE UNALTERED X_EXCELLENT ___DETERIORATED ___G00D ___MOVED __RUINS ___UNEXPOSED ----FAIR

X_ORIGINAL SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1854 by an indigo planter, Dennis Redmond, Fruitlands is stylistically reminiscent of the Louisiana plantation house, with broad, two-story peripheral verandas topped by a hipped roof and cupola, characteristics thought to be influenced by the architecture of the West Indies. The details of original construction methods, costs, room uses and plans are described fully by Mr. Redmond in an 1857 article published in the Southern Cultivator, a monthly journal devoted to the interests of Southern agriculture.

Fruitlands is nearly square, measuring fifty feet wide and fifty-five feet long and is two stories high with an eleven-foot first floor and nine-foot second floor. An eleven-foot, square cupola surmounts the roof and was originally built as an observation post for the plantation. A gallery nine and one-half feet wide encircles the house on both stories, with twenty square pillars supporting the gallery and roof.

Constructed of concrete, made of lime from a nearby source and sand and gravel from the site, Fruitlands is considered to be the first such house built in the South. The first-floor walls are eighteen inches thick and the second-story walls are twelve inches thick.

The original plan and mention of room uses is described in the Southern Cultivator. It says: The lower story or basement contains the dining room, pantry, storeroom, office, bathing room, fruit room and ice house -- in short, all the working rooms, or apartments for every-day practical use; while the second story contains the library, parlor bedrooms, closets, etc. Two large halls, fifty-three feet by ten feet, run directly through the building, securing perfect ventilation, especially to the second story, where transom lights over each door and opposite the outer windows admit the freest possible circulation of pure air. The basement floor is raised several inches above the surface, filled in with pounded rock and gravel and laid in cement, which adheres firmly to the walls, thus affording the perfect security against fire, dampness, and the depredation of rats and other vermin. By a very simple arrangement, the stairs leading from the basement to the second floor, and thence to the observatory or cupola, are removed from their usual position in the halls, leaving the latter entirely free and unobstructed. All other details are sufficiently obvious in the plan. The lower division walls, separating the hall from the dining room, office, etc., are built of concrete, one foot thick, but all the partitions, above and below, are lathed and plastered. Two inside chimneys give us six good fireplaces and flues for stovepipes, thus confining all the heat where it is wanted, and avoiding the unsightliness of outside chimneys.

The original plan of Fruitlands has been modified considerably since the Augusta National Golf Club acquired the house. The main entrance to the structure now is actually the former rear of the plantation house; the original front

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

with the stairs shown on the original plan now faces the golf course. The interior stairs have been moved directly across the hall and changed to an oval shape.

On the lower floor, where the storeroom was originally, is now the main desk area and offices, with switchboard and room for secretarial and office help. Adjacent, in part of the old pantry, are files and additional office and storage space. Across the hall, in the former fruit room and dairy, are executive offices. The former bathing room is now more storage.

The main room of the lower floor is the Club Room, running the entire width of the house and comprising the former dining room, office and the southern portion of the central hall. The walls of the former hall have been removed at that point, but ceiling beams mark their former location. A simple wooden trim is the only cornice decoration. A fairly elaborate, ten-inchtall floor board decoration runs around the four walls.

There are twin fireplaces in the room, one in each of the former two rooms. The mantels are wooden and quite ornate. Ionic columns support the mantel. The upper portion has an ornate, cornice-like decoration and the top is slightly curvilinear. Each half of the room is almost identically furnished with the fireplaces as focal points. The furniture used throughout the room is traditional, though not of the period. Around the room are watercolor pictures of all the trees and shrubs of the eighteen named holes.

The upstairs is reserved "For Gentlemen Only." The former library and parlor are now the Game Room, decorated in the traditional green that is a symbol of the Augusta National. The doorway from the hall is slightly arched, and beams mark the placement of the original walls. The upstairs mantels are simpler in design. The top is straight and rests on a large wooden cornice. There are no columns, rather two ornamental pilasters. One of the bedrooms on the second floor has been converted into a bath, and the fireplace has been removed.

The other bedroom has been converted into a bar-service area. A counter opens into the hall at the top of the stairs. The fireplace in this room has also been removed.

The cupola has also been modified. Old photographs, probably circa 1900, and the 1857 sketch show that the cupola had two windows several inches apart.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

They were about three feet wide and five feet tall. They were multipaned, but the arrangement was obscure. The siding was vertical, and there were no shutters. There was a six-foot lightning rod on top. However, the present cupola has two windows with twelve panes each. They measure three by four and are placed immediately adjacent so as to appear to be one large window. The present siding is horizontal. Shutters are on the windows but are only half the width required of functional shutters.

The two chimneys, one at either side of the cupola, are reduced in height from the earlier photographs. The brick chimneys have also been simplified, now being almost straight and unadorned. The earlier ones had ornate brick work with classical details and brick capitols.

The <u>Southern Cultivator</u> article places the exterior stairs to the second floor in two different locations. The plan shows twin flights, one at each end of the front porch. An accompanying sketch shows only one central stair. A photograph of the house in the 1907-1908 Berckmans' Nursery catalog shows a set of stairs at the front left corner of the house. It did not show whether there was a complementary set on the other front corner. The present design of the clubhouse does not have exterior stairs to the second floor, but rather, entry is directly on the first floor.

The Fruitlands mansion serves as the central portion of the clubhouse complex. On both sides are extensive wings. As you approach up Magnolia Avenue, the east wing, containing kitchen, dining and lounge rooms, is on the left. This addition joins the ground floor of the clubhouse directly, i.e., there is no covered walkway. This wing is about 125 feet long and is partly screened by vegetation. The west wing, to the right, is about 200 feet long and is not screened. It contains lounges, bars, barbershop, pro shop and restrooms. There are several sections to it that appear to have been built at different times. The architecture of each section is slightly different. All of the wings are basically one and one-half stories with dormers and square posts supporting a shed-type porch. Like the Fruitlands mansion, they are painted white with green shutters. The west wing is built on a slope so that the last building section is some twenty feet below the level of the clubhouse. The main entrance is a long driveway approaching from the north. It is lined with magnolias that date to the early Berckmans period.

The southern side of the complex opens directly onto the golf course. There are magnificent vistas in all directions. In the front of the main club

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

house, on the golf-course side, are several large live oaks. There is also a monstrous wisteria vine which, according to the placecard, is the original plant imported in the United States.

About 200 feet southeast of the clubhouse area is the Eisenhower Cottage, where the late President and Mrs. Eisenhower used to stay and which was built for their use. It is a simple white frame one-and-one-half-story building with a small, one-story pedimented portico supported by four square columns. Two dormer windows are above the pediment and there is a central brick chimney. The architecture is similar to that of the clubhouse additions and to other cottages on the grounds, but its special use is indicated by a bronze eagle in the pediment and furniture and memorabilia of the Eisenhowers on the interior.

The course itself is beautifully landscaped. Each hole is named for the dominant shrub or tree nearby, many of which are remnants of the Berckmans nursery. There are banks of azaleas, stands of large pines, camellias and other shrubs originated by the Berckmans nurseries. The course covers some 365 acres. Landscaped by Dr. Alistair Mackenzie and golfer Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., the scape as a golf course retains much of the flavor and components of the Fruitlands estate. The combined talents of the Berckmans, Mackenzie and Jones have made this one of the most beautiful and famous golf courses in the world.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	$\underline{X}_{LANDSCAPE}$ ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Augusta National Golf Club house and course, originally named Fruitlands, is significant architecturally as an early concrete structure, and historically as the home of the reknowned mid-nineteenth-century Belgian horticulturists L.E.M. and P.J.A. Berckmans and their famous nursery, and, since 1930, as the home of the Augusta National Golf Course. The early estate was landscaped to include the plant specimens developed by the Berckmans. Parts of the early landscape were retained when the golf course was added. The design of the course, attributed to Dr. Alistair Mackenzie and golfer Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., is significant in its own right, and its association with the Masters' Golf Tournament is well-established.

In 1853, Dennis Redmond purchased 315 acres (current survey shows 344.82 acres) from Benjamin H. Warren. An indigo planter, Redmond named the property "Fruitlands." In 1854, he built his plantation house of concrete, the first such house in the South. As stated in his article, "Southern Country Houses," in the <u>Southern Cultivator</u>, when designing this house, he adopted the method of construction "after a careful study of the requirements of our climate." He reasoned that comfort was more necessary in Augusta than architectural style. He proclaimed concrete's advantages over brick in insulating against the heat and the cold, vermin control, cost, ease of construction and availability. Being of French Louisiana Plantation style and of a new material made Fruitlands unique from the many frame, Greek Revival mansions being built in the late 1850s.

In 1857, a Belgian horticulturist, L.E.M. Berckmans purchased half interest in the property and an additional fifty acres adjoining. He became sole owner in 1858 and started a nursery that was to become the most famous in the South. The reputation of the Berckmans Nursery is due mostly to a son, Prosper Julius Alphonse Berckmans. The son was the first president of the State Horticulture Society when it was established on August 16, 1876. A brother, L.A. Berckmans, was also involved in the Berckmans Nursery.

Some of the most common Southern shrubs and trees were developed at Fruitlands. Many of the original plantings are still extant. The Spanish Cork Oak was developed there and received a patent in 1860. Berckmans' Golden Arbor Vitae, the evergreen plant in front of the cabins, was originated by

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL REFER	ENCES	
Ibid., "Original Nurs	ational on Historic ery Plants Remain Mu	Site," Masters Edition, Ap uch in Evidence," Masters I	Edition, April 3-10,
T960. Redmond, Dennis. "Sout	hern Country Houses	" The Southern Cultivator	1960. Augusta, Vol. XV,
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LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	SOVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY	BOUNDARIES
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Berckmans in 1887. It is now one of the most popular dwarf conifers and is found in the temperate zone throughout the world. The Hardy Lemon Hedge which outlines the National property was developed from an original plant sent to the Berckmans from Japan in 1870.

The Amur Privet Hedge along the road to the kitchen was grown from ten original plants received from France about 1860. This ornamental hedge soon became very popular and was propagated in large quantities throughout the South. All of the privet planted by the millions in the South came from this mother hedge.

There are two Chinese Firs on the property, one opposite the Spanish Cork Oak on the main driveway and the other on the road to the service entrance. These trees are believed to be the oldest and finest specimens of their kind in the United States.

The magnolias along Magnolia Avenue leading to the clubhouse were grown from seed sent to the Berckmans from Athens, Georgia, in 1858 and 1859. A very rare wing nut tree stands in front of the clubhouse. The Berckmans imported the tree from Asia, where it originated. It is believed to be the only tree of its kind in the United States.

The Berckmans imported over forty varieties of azaleas prior to 1861. They have been given major credit for popularizing the azaleas in this country.

Through their efforts, the Berckmans have contributed many firsts in horticulture in the South and are largely responsible for use of many of the shrubs and trees commonly seen in Southern gardens today.

In 1930, Bobby Jones, the famed golfing great from Atlanta, and some of his friends, purchased the Fruitlands estate of 365 acres for the construction of a golf course. Work began under the direction of Jones and the world-famous architect Dr. Alistair Mackenzie in 1931. The golf course is considered one of the finest and most beautiful in the country. The layout has been and still is a prototype for modern golf-course construction and has been copied many times. The names of the holes recall the historical background of the land, as each hole is named for a dominant plant nearby: White Pine, Woodbine, Flowering Peach, Palm, Magnolia, Juniper, Pampas, Yellow Jasmine, Carolina Cherry

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Laurel, Camellia, Flowering Dogwood, Golden Bell, Azalea, Spanish Dagger, Fire Thorn, Red Bud, Nandina and Holly.

The Augusta National Golf Club has become one of the most exclusive clubs in the world. Every year in the first week of April it plays host to the Masters Golf Tournament. This tournament is one of the four tournaments in golfing's Grand Slam, along with the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Tournament.

The late President Dwight D. Eisenhower visited the course often and circa 1952 a cottage was built for him adjacent to the tenth hole. The cottage still stands and contains furniture and mementoes of the Eisenhower years there.

The Fruitlands mansion remains as an outstanding example of early concrete structures and of a house designed as much for convenience as for style. In addition, its association with the Berckmans family, Southern horticulture and, in more recent years, golf and golf-course design make it continually significant from its construction in 1854. The course itself combines horticulture, landscape architecture and prominence in the world of golf that make it an outstanding site on a national level.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

SUPPLEMENT

FRUITLANDS (AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB) AUGUSTA, RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

Statement of Significance:

The Augusta National Golf Club, which is being nominated at a national level of significance, was once an indigo plantation of the same acreage. The plantation's unique cement "big house" is still used as the golf clubhouse. Later, the Berckmans Nursery operated on the site with its various plants and shrubs, many of them brought from all over the world, and others that were developed on the site. This nursery encompassed the entire plantation acreage. The present golf course includes all the acreage that was once the plantation and nursery and draws its initial significance from the antebellum importance and its later significance as the site, since 1934, of the Augusta National Invitation Tournament (after 1938 known as "The Masters"). Shortly after its inception, "The Masters," the championship of champions, became one of the four golf tournaments of the "Grand Slam," If the four tournaments are won by the same person in the same year, they are considered the world's foremost golfer. Of the present four tournaments in the "Grand Slam," the other two in the United States and the one in Great Britain are held at different courses each year making "The Masters" the only one held annually at a permanent site.

The only "Grand Slam" winner has been Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, Jr. (1902-1971) of Atlanta who was considered the golf champion of the world at the time of his competitive retirement in 1930 at age 28. That year he won all four tournaments then in the "Grand Slam" and remains the only person to do so.

Jones and several friends formed the Augusta National, Incorporated, and bought the Berckmans Nursery. The golf course which they developed opened in January, 1933. Jones advised on the layout of each hole and practiced each as they were laid out. The course was further tied to the nursery when the two Berckmans brothers were invited to return to Augusta to advise on the landscaping of the course which was designed to incorporate as much as possible of the existing nursery. Each hole was named for one of the plants or shrubs that grew there. The Berckmans, one of whom had landscaped Radio City in New York, spent the last decade of their lives at the club. One became the club's first manager.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Supplement ITEM NUMBER PAGE 2

Robert Trent Jones (not to be confused with Bobby Jones), America's outstanding golf-course architect, wrote in <u>The Complete Golfer</u> in 1954 that "due to having incorporated the old nursery stock" the Augusta National's "setting is the last word in skillfully nurtured natural beauty...(A) natural amphitheater, The Augusta National is the epitome of the type of course which appeals most keenly to the American tastes, the meadowland course...The (Bobby) Jones conception, incarnate in Augusta, was that the course should be a true test of championship golf, but, more than that, that it should be a pleasure for all classes of golfers to play...the course is unmatched in the physical facilities it affords for watching a major tournament."

Dr. Alister Mackenzie changed American golf courses by reverting from penalizing a player for the slightest error to the "strategic" theory, that is, eliminating, as had the British, the large number of traps. Bobby Jones gave impetus to the new concept by combining his own theories with Dr. Mackenzie's at the Augusta National.

The Masters tournament is further intertwined with the historical heritage of the site by its use of the "big house" as the clubhouse, with necessary additions to accomodate the changing activities of the club. A silver replica of the house is the official "Masters" permanent trophy and the medal given the annual winner includes a view of the house.

On August 19, 1935, the Augusta National, Inc. purchased the 365.64 acre site from the Fruitland Manor Corporation. The difference in acreage between the 365.64 acres purchased and the 344.82 acres shown on the current tax digest is due to boundary changes caused by road widenings, creek meanderings and a resurvey.

Bibliography:

Evans, Webster, comp. <u>Encyclopaedia of Golf</u> (New York, 1972). Wind, Herbert W., comp. <u>The Complete Golfer</u> (New York, 1954).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Supplement ITEM NUMBER PAGE

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April 12, 1979

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4/13/79 Date

3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Bibliography & Bibliography & CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

Candler, Allen D., and Clement A. Evans, eds. <u>Cyclopedia of Georgia</u>, Vol. II. Atlanta, 1906, p. 307.

Clerk of the Superior Court, Richmond County, Deed Book 12Z, p. 461.

Tax Assessor, Richmond County, Mapping Section, Tax Map 19, Parcels 61 and 62.

Berckmans, L.A. and P.J.A. "Historical Sketch of Fruitlands, The First Nursery in the South, and Now the Home of the Augusta National Golf Club." Augusta, 1932.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

intersection of Washington Road and Berckman Road and including 344.82 acres more or less and further described, in part, in a deed from The Fruitlands Manor Corporation to the Augusta National, Inc., dated August 19, 1935, and found in Richmond County <u>Deed Book 127</u>, p. 461. Form No. 10-300a (Ĥev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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