

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shady Rest Golf and Country Club

other names/site number Ephraim Tucker Farmhouse, Westfield Country Club

2. Location

street & number 820 Jerusalem Road not for publication

city or town Township of Scotch Plains vicinity

state New Jersey code 039 County Union zip code 07076

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy SHPO Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.		
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____		

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club
Name of Property

Union County, New Jersey
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSITENCE/storage, agricultural fields
SOCIAL/clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/parking lot, forest, natural resources

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/parking lot, forest, natural resources

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick, stone
walls Wood: clapboard

roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1921-1964

Significant Dates

1921, 1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Shippen, John

Cultural Affiliation

African American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository: Shady Rest Clubhouse, John Shippen Museum

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club

Name of Property

Union County, New Jersey

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 30.25 acres

Latitude / Longitude Coordinates

(Note to Preparers: NJ HPO will complete this portion of the Registration Form for all Preparers, based on the coordinates derived from the Site Map or District Map that HPO produces.)

1. Lat 40.659865 Long -74.379467
2. Lat 40.659047 Long -74.377021
3. Lat 40.655194 Long -74.370628
4. Lat 40.658283 Long -74.379694
5. Lat 40.659184 Long -74.380303

(NJ HPO will place additional coordinates, if needed, on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

Boundary Justification Statement

(Explain, on the section sheet following the Verbal Boundary Description, how the chosen boundaries meet the requirements for boundary selection and are the most appropriate boundaries for the nominated property or district.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Newman

organization With Barton Ross and Partners, LLC date July 29, 2020

street & number PO Box 222 telephone 609.273.7003

city or town Carversville state PA zip code 18913

Additional Documentation

(Submit the additional items with the completed form that are outlined in the "Standard Order of Presentation" that NJ HPO provides. Each page must contain the name of the nominated property or district, and the State and the county in which the property or district is located. Consult with NJ HPO if you have questions.)

Property Owner

(Either provide the name and address of the property owner here or provide the information separately to NJ HPO. Check with NJ HPO for other requirements. All owners' names and addresses must be provided, including public and non-profit owners, but their presence on the form, itself, is not required).

name Township of Scotch Plains

street & number 430 Park Avenue telephone 908-322-6700

city or town Scotch Plains state NJ zip code 07076

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. The proper completion of this form and the related requirements is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Direct questions regarding the proper completion of this form or questions about related matters to the Registration Section, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club
Township of Scotch Plains, Union County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

Description Narrative

Summary Paragraph

Shady Rest Golf & Country Club is located at 820 Jerusalem Road, Township of Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey. Originally a 30-acre 18th century farm, in 1921, it became the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, one of the first African American country clubs in the United States and home of John Shippen, an African American golf pioneer, from 1931-1964. Today's Shady Rest at the Scotch Hill Golf Course is a 9-hole golf course set on a narrow swath of land amid a mixed-use residential and light industrial neighborhood. Contributing resources include the clubhouse which stands on the eastern side along Jerusalem Road. Built by the Tucker family in the 18th century, the farmhouse underwent several phases of construction until its conversion to a clubhouse at the turn of the 20th century. The 9-hole course dominates the site. It was created in the early 1900s and is also contributing. At the southern end of the site, sit a non-contributing mini-golf course and late-20th century building used as a pro-shop.

Setting

Sandwiched between Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue, the 29-acre Shady Rest Golf and Country Club now stands in suburban Scotch Plains Township. While Jerusalem Road was a part of the 18th century road network that connected the western villages of Scotch Plains and Westfield to the eastern towns of Rahway, Elizabeth and Woodbridge, the Shady Rest clubhouse is the only remaining vestige of the road's early history. The surrounding communities are mostly residential with dense, compact housing dating from the early 20th century through the 1950s. Immediately adjacent to the site along the opposite sides of Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue stand later 20th century small scale light industries (Photo 1).

The long narrow oblong site runs northwest to southeast. It is dominated by the 2,247, 33-par, 9-hole golf course which fills most of the site except for its southeast end. The entrance off of Jerusalem Road is in the eastern corner of the southern end; it leads to a parking lot that dominates the eastern side. To the southwest, anchoring the southern end, sits the non-contributing mini-golf course and adjacent non-contributing pro-shop (Photo 2). At the northern end of the parking lot at the high point of the site stands the Shady Rest Clubhouse with an adjacent putting green (Photo 3). The clubhouse envelops an 18th century vernacular farmhouse that became a grander 5-bay 2 ½ story building in the 1830s; ca. 1900 wings were added when it became the clubhouse for the Westfield Golf Club (Photo 4). The surrounding golf course, designed and constructed ca. 1900, slopes away from the clubhouse to the northwest with copses of mature trees, fairways and greens (Photo 5).

The Shady Rest Clubhouse

Standing along Jerusalem Road and oriented southeast, the Shady Rest Clubhouse has a 5-bay, 2 ½ story frame main section surrounded on three sides by 1-story wings with clapboard sheathing, asphalt on the gable roof and 6-over-6 and 3-light wood sash. Originally built in the 18th century, the building evolved into a symmetrical 5-bay house ca. 1830. The wings and portico were added in the 20th century, when the farmhouse became the clubhouse for a country club. The building was rehabilitated in 2018; three historic sash were able to be reused. The rest of the sash are wood and date to the rehabilitation. The siding mostly dates to 1900. Aluminum siding was added ca. 1964; when it was removed in 2018, the majority of the 1900 clapboard and the portico was patched and restored.

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The south façade is dominated by the 2 ½ story, 2 bay deep, center entrance 18th and 19th century main center section. Standing on a brick foundation, the symmetrical building has a center paneled wood composite door which dates to 2018 with flanking 19th century sidelights. Two windows flank each side of the door at the first floor. This is topped by five windows at the second floor. All the sash are wood, 6-over-6 and date to the 2018 rehabilitation with the exception of one on the ground floor to the east of the door; this one dates to the 19th century. At the upper ½ story, the sash are 3-light wood, dating to the 19th century. An overhanging flared roof eave supported by four plain columns forms a full length two-story porch; this was added ca. 1900 when this farmhouse became the clubhouse of the Westfield Golf Club. 1830s brick chimneys anchor either end of the gable roof.

The center section is flanked by one-story wings standing on concrete foundations with flat roofs with plain fascia boards. The eastern wing has centered windows—three ganged wood 6-over-6 sash. The western wing is unfenestrated. Both wings were added ca. 1900 when the farmhouse became a clubhouse; the western wing was the dining room while the eastern wing was a large multi-purpose gathering space. A small plywood storage shed on a concrete foundation stands to the east (Photos 6-8).

The east elevation, along Jerusalem Road, is dominated by the ca. 1900 multi-purpose room with a raised concrete foundation punched with windows. At the center of this elevation, a concrete exterior chimney bisects a protruding center bay; the sides of the bay contain three, ganged, 4-light fixed wood sash. To the south and north of this bay are two, wood, 6-over-6 sash. The north corner of the elevation is beveled and contains one, 6-over-6 wood sash. All of the sash date to 2018.

Beyond the ca. 1900 wing is the east elevation of the original farmhouse. Two, arched wood sash pierce the upper half-story. The flared eaves of the gable roof frame this end (Photos 9, 10).

The north elevation expresses three generations of construction campaign. The east end is the beveled end of the 1900 wing. Centered on this are three wood windows—6-over-6 flanking an 8-over-8 center sash. Below this, in the raised foundation are two wood windows; the center window has been covered over. To the west is the blank expanse of the commercial kitchen added by 1925 after the building was the clubhouse of the Shady Rest Gold and Country Club. Small wood windows anchor each end; a metal stair accesses a rear door. Moving west, the next section was a porch that was enclosed in 1964. It is dominated by six, 6-over-6 wood sash at the western end. Most of the windows date to 2018 although some of the enclosed porch sash date to 1964. A 2018 multi-light wood door to a deck which fronts this wing anchors its eastern end (Photos 11, 12).

The west elevation includes the 1964 enclosed porch to the north and the ca. 1900 wing to the south. The north wing includes three, 6-over-6 wood sash which abut a series of multi-light wood casement windows finished by a multi-light wood door. The south wing, which is slightly taller than the north, houses a center, wood paneled door flanked by two, 6-over-6 wood sash. A wood deck encloses this elevation, wrapping around to the north.

Beyond the later wings stands the west elevation of the earlier farmhouse with its two, arched wood sash. On this end, they are topped by two, four light wood sash in the upper gable end; they date to the 19th century (Photos 13, 14).

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The interior of the Shady Rest Clubhouse reflects its long history and evolution from farmhouse to clubhouse. The main entrance accesses the earliest part of the structure (Room 101). With wide pine flooring (dating to 1830 and originally located on the third floor), a low ceiling with 18th century exposed second floor joists, turned balusters and newel post of the original Georgian stair and 19th century wood 6-over-6 sash including on the north wall, this entrance lobby retains the feel of an earlier time. The walls are a mix of plaster and plaster board (Photos 15, 16).

To the west, within the 19th century farmhouse, stands the museum to John Shippen (Room 106). It has plasterboard walls and ceilings with new wood floors. Two, 6-over-6 wood windows grace the south wall. A single multi-light wood door accesses the lobby to the east (Photo 16) with double, multi-light glass doors on the north wall into a hall. All the materials date to 2018.

While the Osborne Room (Room 105) was once a separate space in the 19th century house, today it feels like a passage because of the insertion of the bathroom block to the west. An 1839 fireplace stands on the south wall with 6-over-6 wood sash on the north. The ceiling is exposed 19th century second floor joists (Photo 17). The floor is new wood. The end of the 18th century farmhouse is exposed in the gable roof framing. 21st century bathrooms anchor the western end of this section. This section was originally added ca. 1900 by the Westfield Country Club. It was used as a dining room by Shady Rest.

To the north of the bathrooms in the space that was a porch when the building was the Shady Rest Clubhouse. It is now a dining room (Room 104). This space was enclosed in 1964 and rehabilitated in 2018. The floor is new wood and the walls and ceilings are new plasterboard. The multi-light wood sash are a mix of new and mid-20th century (Photo 18). The south wall is the exposed clapboard and 6-over-6 wood sash of the 19th century farmhouse and the ca. 1900 clubhouse wing (Photo 19).

To the east is the commercial kitchen (Room 103). This room was added for a kitchen by Shady Rest but updated in 2018; all materials date to 2018 including vinyl tile floor, plasterboard walls and ceilings. Stainless steel kitchen equipment line the north and south walls with stainless steel sinks standing on the west wall. These replaced 1960s materials and equipment; it is unclear what the original finishes were.

Finally, anchoring the east end of the first floor is the large, multi-purpose room that was first added ca. 1900 (Room 102) and used for dining and dancing by Shady Rest. The plaster coated fireplace and benches are original as is the narrow gauge flooring. Most of the plaster remains on the walls and the wood chair rail is an original feature. The plasterboard ceiling under a wood trellis date to the 2018 rehabilitation (Photo 20) as do the wood sash.

The upper floors of the Shady Rest Clubhouse have been abandoned since the 1960s. Both floors house four rooms—one at each corner—and a bathroom centered on the south. The second floor is now used to house the ducting for the central air system but retains 19th century fabric including wide wood flooring, plaster walls and ceilings and door trim with 4-paneled wood doors or tongue and groove wood doors with original 19th century porcelain door knobs and box locks. The sash are wood, dating to 2018; some window trim remains but most has been removed. Beaded board walls remain in the bathroom.

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The third floor is unused but was the apartment of John Shippen from 1931-1964 (Photo 21). A narrow stair with beaded board walls leads to a landing; the bathroom stands to the south (Room 301). It contains a bathtub, toilet and sink which are dated to 1921 and are believed to be the bathroom set used by Shippen. The other four rooms (Rooms 302-305) remain with plaster walls and ceilings. Many original doors and trim also remain, although most of the doors have been removed and now lean against the walls. Wide wood flooring remains in three of the four rooms. The flooring in the southwest room (Room 303, Photo 21) has been removed and used for floor repairs on the first floor. The arched wood sash on the east and west walls date to 2018 while the 3-light awning wood windows in the knee walls on the south are original, dating to 1830s. Above the third floor sits an enclosed attic with in situ 1830s roof framing.

The basement is a complicated series of rooms representing each construction phase. Sections of the original 18th century dressed stone, 20x26 foundation remain with evidence of doorways, window frames and a bulkhead on the south façade. Parts of the 19th century brick foundation are also in situ which are whitewashed. A fireplace remains in the west wall as does an exterior stair from the south. These sections now house mechanical equipment. The floors are dirt or concrete and the ceilings are the exposed first floor joists (Photo 22).

At the east in the 1900s wing stands a bar room, created by Shady Rest. It retains sections of diagonal tongue and groove flooring with painted concrete walls and a pressed tin ceiling (Photo 23). The separate basement stair entrance off the south façade also is extant. Within the other 1920s sections, the floors and walls are concrete with plasterboard ceilings.

The Golf Course, contributing

The 9-hole golf course was established in 1900 as a 2,340 yard course for the Westfield Golf Club. While most accounts attribute its design to the members themselves, a 1913 newspaper article stated that the course was laid out in 1899 by David Smith Hunter, a Scottish golf professional. The course was planned to the northwest of the clubhouse, the original farmhouse, along Jerusalem Road with the first hole starting at the southwest, across what would become Plainfield Avenue. In 1913, the course was reconfigured and enlarged by a few hundred yards.¹ Additional changes were made in 1964.

Today, the course stands roughly in its original location; it features 2,247 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 33 with a slope rating of 106 (Slope rating is a number, from 55 to 155, used to determine the level of difficulty of a golf course for a bogey golfer. An “average” course has a slope rating of 113). The grade is classified as gently-sloping to moderately steep with a maximum slope of about 6% grade. The grade change increases after the second hole with the course growing steeper to the northwest, down for Hole 5 and up for the 6th hole.² The course is a long and narrow ribbon of green, winding through the sloping terrain with fairways, roughs and greens among man-made

¹ Stacy Spies, “Shady Rest Golf and Country Club,” Historic American Landscapes Survey, on file at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, 4; “To Change Westfield Links,” *Westfield Leader* (January 1, 1913), 8; “Fine Golf at Baltusrol,” *New York Times* (September 5, 1899), 10; “David S. Hunter: Baltusrol/Orange” Antique Golf Clubs from Scotland, <https://www.antiquegolfscotland.com/antiquegolf/maker.php3?makerid=1137>

² Ibid, 2.

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sand traps and natural water hazards. Expansive vistas exist at many of the tees with large shade trees framing the fairways. Denser vegetation surrounds most of the course, screening traffic from the adjacent roads. Marshlands border the northern end

In 1964, when Scotch Plains took over management of the course, there were two open brooks that traversed the course. One was near the clubhouse. Remnants of another, conveyed through a pipe under an asphalt path, are visible between the second and third holes but are obscured by an island of dense vegetation. A pond also once existed, another hazard of the course. These water features have been reduced; the pond was drained by the Township.³

With the exception of the reduced water hazards, the course retains most of its historic layout from when it was Shady Rest, as confirmed by comparing today's course to historic aerial photographs.⁴

A putting green is located adjacent to the clubhouse to its south; it was installed by Scotch Plains in 1964.⁵ (Photo 3).

Hole 1, 298 yards, Par 4, medium length

Hole 1 begins to the west of the clubhouse and runs north, bordering Plainfield Avenue. When the course was originally laid out, the first hole was located on the south side of Plainfield Avenue. The hole was moved to the north side of Plainfield before 1917. While in use by Shady Rest, Hole 1 may have been shortened to accommodate a baseball diamond that was installed at the southwest corner of the site. As evidenced by an historic aerial photograph, the existing first green remains as it was in 1931 with the same traps framing the green.

Hole 2, 324 yards, Par 4, long

Hole 2 runs roughly in the middle of the course both latitudinally and longitudinally. The trees that dominate this hole, and thus, the center of the course, have been standing since 1931. The green lies in the same location as 1957. The course begins to slope down at this hole.

Hole 3, 164 yards, Par 3, short

Hole 3 runs to the west of Hole 2 with the obscured creek running between them. The green flanked by sand traps remain in the same location as 1957. Trees rise to the north, between it and the green of Hole 6; they appear to have been planted in the 1970s.

Hole 4, 309 yards, Par 4, long

Hole 4 lies to the west of Hole 3, along Plainfield Avenue with a dogleg that bends to the east. The green stands in the same location as 1957. A sand trap anchors the green to the north; this trap has been there since 1931.

Hole 5, 230 yards, Par 4, medium

³ "Golfers Rush to Join Club," *The Courier News* (March 16, 1964).

⁴ Historic Aerials, 820 Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>

⁵ "New Course Dedicated as Mayor Drives First Ball" *The Courier News* (May 25, 1964).

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Hole 5 begins along Plainfield Avenue and runs diagonally to the east, ending at the base of the course. Trees planted between this green and the Hole 6 tee have been there since 1954. The slope is steepest at this end of the course.

Hole 6, 210 yards, Par 4, medium

Hole 6 starts along Jerusalem Road and continues behind the light industry that line the west side of the road. The hole turns and runs up the hill south. The green has been in the same location since 1957.

Hole 7, 166 yards, Par 3, short

Hole 7 runs behind the trees along Jerusalem Road. The green with its sand trap to the south have been there since 1957.

Hole 8, 358 yards, Par 4, long

Hole 8 lines Jerusalem Road. Its green stands to the north of the clubhouse which has been there since 1954; the sand trap to the west arrived by 1956.

Hole 9, 188 yards, Par 3, short

Hole 9 runs to the east of Hole 8, roughly centered latitudinally in the course. It ends to the southwest of the clubhouse. This green stands where the Shady Rest tennis courts were located.

Miniature Golf Course and Pro Shop with machine/cart storage, noncontributing

The 18-hole miniature golf course and small building that houses the pro shop stand at the southeastern end of the site. They were built ca. 2004 and are non-contributing (Photos 2, 4, 5). Under Westfield Golf Club, tennis courts were located where the miniature golf course now stands.⁶

Previous Shady Rest Golf and Country Club Amenities

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club had six tennis courts, a baseball diamond, skeet shooting and horseback riding. It is unclear where the skeet shooting and horseback riding occurred; review of historic aerial photographs did not reveal a stable or riding trails, although the 1906 map (Map 7) shows another building near the clubhouse which may have been a barn. The tennis courts were to southwest of the clubhouse, where the green of the 9th hole is located. Adjacent to the courts, to the southwest along Plainfield Avenue was the baseball diamond. Both were abandoned after 1964 when Scotch Plains took over the site. They are no longer evident by 1970.

Construction Chronology of Shady Rest

Phase I, mid-18th-1779, Tucker family member

While it is unknown exactly when the site was first occupied and by which Tucker family member, it is clear that an early foundation, possibly as early as the mid-18th century but definitely by 1779, stands within the foundation of the existing farmhouse. With an approximately 20x26 footprint of heavy coarsed fieldstone roughly 2-feet thick, the north and south walls are in situ. The east and west walls were dismantled and portions were reused in later foundation walls.

⁶ Spies, 3.

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Phase II, ca. 1798, Ephraim Tucker (Jr.)

In 1798, Ephraim Tucker (Sr.) sold his 30-acre farm to his son, Ephraim Tucker (Jr.). Evidence suggests that upon acquiring the property, the son tore down his father's house and built a new house, reusing the existing foundation and adding to it a brick foundation. This is based on architectural evidence and dendrochronology. As the existing stair is believed to date from this construction phase, Tucker's house was two stories and contained two lateral sections.

Phase III, ca. 1830, Benjamin Locey

In 1830, John Locey died and through his will, gave his house to his son, Benjamin. It is believed that soon after he became the owner, Benjamin built the 5-bay, 2 ½ story house that is the extant main section of the clubhouse. He reused much of the ca. 1798 roof framing and established a larger mostly brick foundation but with areas of reused stone from earlier foundations. The extant architectural fabric on the 2nd and 3rd floors is Greek Revival. This along with the eyebrow windows and date of John Locey's death, puts construction of this section to the 1830s.

Phase IV, 1900, Westfield Country Club

When this ca. 1830 farmhouse became the clubhouse for the Westfield Country Club, the building was updated. Two, one-story frame wings were added, framing the earlier house: to the west was a dining room; to the east a large multi-purpose meeting space. Connecting them, running the full length of the north elevation of the farmhouse ran a porch. To unify the three sections, the entire building was re-clapboarded. The building was re-oriented and the south elevation became the front façade. It was embellished with a flared eave supported by four large columns to create a grand front porch between the two new wings.

The original 30-acre parcel that was owned by the Tucker Family was converted to a golf course. The club members designed the new course. Two sets of 3 tennis courts were added as was an area for skeet shooting and a baseball field.

Phase V, ca. 1925, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club

A new catering kitchen and dining room were added at the rear elevation with a large porch wrapped around the new dining room.

Phase VI, post 1964, Scotch Hills Golf Club

Aluminum siding was added to the exterior and most of the windows were removed and aluminum sash installed. The third floor wood sash were covered over by siding as were others at the second floor. A concrete accessible ramp was added with concrete installed at the porch. The wrap around porch was enclosed at the north and became part of the dining room. The west porch was demolished.

On the interior within the first floor, much of the historic finishes were removed or covered up including new flooring, wall board and dropped acoustic tile ceilings. In the lobby, the original stair remained as did the exposed second floor floor joists. The fireplace and historic framing remained in today's Osborne Room (Room 105). In the dining room, the floor remained; the rest of the finishes were covered over. In the ballroom, much of the historic

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wood floor remained as did the fireplace but the rest of the finishes were covered with wallboard and acoustic tiles. The second and third floors were abandoned and left untouched keeping all of their 19th and early 20th century finishes intact. Eventually the second floor became the location of the ducting for the central air conditioning system but the third floor remained unused.

Within the site, the mini-golf course and pro shop were constructed at the southeast end of the site ca. 2004

Phase VII, 2018, Shady Rest Clubhouse

The building was rehabilitated in 2018. On the exterior, all efforts were made to restore most of the building to its ca. 1925 appearance as Shady Rest's Clubhouse. Based on historic photographs, the front was restored as was the east. At the northwest corner, the enlarged dining room was retained, even though it post-dated the period of significance. Exterior work included the removal of the aluminum siding and aluminum windows; the 1900s siding was patched and repaired. New wood windows were installed and the few existing historic sash were restored including the eyebrow windows at the third floor. A new asphalt roof replaced the existing deteriorated asphalt and the 1830s chimneys were repointed. The concrete accessible ramp and porch floor were removed from the front, a new wood porch floor was installed and an accessible wood ramp was added to the west elevation along with open deck on the building's northwest corner.

The first floor interior was updated. Wood from the third floor was relocated to the lobby. In the ball room, the historic walls were restored; the fireplace was replastered per the historic photos. In the dining room, the exterior north wall of the 1830s house which had been covered up in the 1960s, was revealed again, matching its configuration when it was Shady Rest showing the clapboard and window sash. The fireplace was restored and the framing exposed. The rest of the finishes were new.

The basement and second and third floors were untouched with the exception of removing the wood floor from the third floor bedroom.

Integrity Assessment of Shady Rest Golf and Country Club

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club retains integrity as one of the earliest African American country club in the United States, 1921-1964. Established at a 30-acre, 18th century farm that was converted to a white country club in 1900, it remains a club and golf course today. Shady Rest stands in its original location. Its setting remains unchanged from the period of significance; it remains a narrow green island surrounded by an early, through mid-20th century mixed-use, dense neighborhood. The design and workmanship of the golf course retains integrity. It was first designed by the members of Westfield Country Club and then maintained and updated by Shady Rest. This continuity of design and workmanship is clear in historic aerial photographs. The materials of golf course including grass, trees, greens and manmade and natural hazards also remain intact.

The clubhouse retains its design as added unto by the Shady Rest Club. While its materials and workmanship largely date to the 2018 rehabilitation, this does not negatively impact Criteria A and B nominations. Also, it is important to note that many states have adopted a more liberal approach to traditional measures of integrity for African American resources. This is due to the socio-economic conditions that have largely shaped the built

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environment of African American communities as well as the rarity of examples of resources associated with African American settlement patterns.⁷ With this in mind, because the overall form of the clubhouse retains integrity, the reduced integrity of the details becomes less important.

The addition of the mini-golf course and pro shop which stand separated from the clubhouse and the golf course by a parking lot do not mar the integrity of the site. Shady Rest continues to feel like a mid-20th century country club. While the loss of the tennis courts impacts this, the historic clubhouse set immediately next to the golf course makes up for this, giving the site the aesthetic feel and association as the African American country club, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club.

DRAFT

⁷ Pennsylvania Museum and Historic Commission, "The Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political Legacy of African Americans in Pennsylvania, 1690-2010," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (2009).

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Significance Statement

Summary Paragraph

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club is significant under Criterion A as one of the first African American county clubs established in the United States. Founded in 1921 at a time when separate black institutions were surging in an increasingly segregated America, Shady Rest was a country club for the local and regional black middle class with an elite membership. Shady Rest founders and members knew they were founding something new and took this pioneering role seriously by establishing a club that looked beyond its membership and became a center of African American recreation and culture. Hosting such luminaries as W.E.B. Du Bois, Count Basie, and Althea Gibson, Shady Rest was a community organization for the local, regional and national African American population. Not only was Shady Rest one of the first African American clubs, it was also the longest lived. Shady Rest Golf and Country Club outlasted all of its counterparts; it remained a black club through 1964.

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club also is significant under Criterion B for its association with African American golfer John Shippen (1879-1968). Shippen was the first African American to compete in a U.S. Open; he played in the second Open in 1896. Shippen was also the first American golf professional. Prior to him, all golf pros in the U.S. were foreigners, mostly Scottish and British golfers who came to the U.S. looking for financial gain from the wealthy patrons of the burgeoning world of American golf. John Shippen was the golf pro and groundskeeper at Shady Rest, living on the third floor of the clubhouse from 1931-1964.

The period of significance for Shady Rest Country Club begins with its founding in 1921 and ends when it became Scotch Hills Golf Course in 1964, a public course for Scotch Hill residents.

History of Golf and Golf Clubs in the US

In the last quarter of the 19th century, industrialization and urbanization, suburbanization, recreation and leisure time came together in the U.S. and a new institution began: the American country club. One of the first, the Country Club located in Brookline, a suburb of Boston, was founded in 1882. These clubs were a combination of urban men's clubs and resort culture; they were exclusive, private, social and recreational. These private clubs were segregated by class due to their cost and by race; they were the domain of wealthy white America. Typically, they centered on elite sports; the earliest were equestrian like polo and fox hunting. However, horse-based sports were expensive, even for elites, and not universally enjoyed. While tennis was making headway in resort culture, many players formed private tennis clubs. Instead, it was golf that became the sport of choice for these burgeoning country clubs.¹

With early origins in Scotland, golf arrived in the U.S. in the 19th century. The sport moved fairly quickly from a rich amateur's hobby, played on rough open ground, to an organized game on a designed course. John Reid, a Scottish immigrant turned industrialist living in Yonkers, New York, is considered the father of American golf. Prosperous enough to have free time for leisure activities, he turned his attention to golf, and in 1887 obtained equipment from

¹ James M. Mayo, "The American Country Club: An Evolving Elite Landscape," *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* 15:1 (Spring 1998), 24-28.

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the legendary St. Andrews in Scotland. In 1888, he and some friends formed the St. Andrew's Golf Club, the nation's first permanent golf club. Its course was a 3-hole course laid out in a cow pasture.

Through the last quarter of the 19th century, private courses were constructed at golf and country clubs. Shinnecock Hills, Long Island followed St. Andrew's in 1891; in 1893, the Newport Golf Club in Rhode Island was built, and in 1894, both Brookline's Country Club, and the Chicago Golf Club were constructed.² By 1894, golf had increased in popularity in the U.S. to the point that many players began calling for an organizing body. In December, delegates from these first five golf clubs met to form the Amateur Golf Association of the United States, later the U.S. Golf Association (USGA), with Theodore Havemeyer (of the Newport club) as its first president. Within a year, the association had organized the first national Open and Amateur Championships played at Newport in 1895. By 1900, the explosion of the game in America was complete; there were more golf clubs in the United States than there were in Britain.³ New York City opened the nation's first public course in 1895 at Van Cortlandt Park. The City of Chicago opened its first public course in Jackson Park in 1899 with two more, including Marquette Park constructed by 1913 while Cobbs Creek, Philadelphia's first public course, opened in Philadelphia in 1916.

The popularity of golf exploded in the first half of the 20th century. Suburbanization led to a growth of private courses. Increased leisure time also ensured its success. The Roaring Twenties, "The Golden Age of Golf," witnessed rapid interest in the game, and courses, both public and private, were being built at a dizzying pace. By 1930, there were 2.25 million Americans playing the game. In 1916 there were 742 golf courses in the United States. By 1930, there 4,500 private courses in the U.S. but there were also over 1,000 public courses. It was the spreading of golf from the privileged upper classes to middle and working class Americans that caused the true boom in American golf. This trend continued following World War II. By the early 1960s, the U.S. had 3,330 country clubs with 1.7 million members but there were far more public courses than private. During the 1990s and Tiger Wood's ascendance, golf enjoyed a 20-year period of growth. There were more than 5,000 country clubs and twice as many public courses.⁴

The Great Recession changed golf's fortunes. According to a *Business Journals* analysis of 449 U.S. counties, the number of golf courses and country clubs declined by 5 percent between 2005 and 2015. A generational shift is resulting in fewer golfers. However, Americans still play a lot of golf. In 2019, of the 16,300 golf courses in the U.S., 75% of the them are open to the public with 24.3 million Americans playing the game.⁵

Racial Segregation in United States

Following the Civil War and the end of slavery during the Reconstruction Era, freedom still eluded most African Americans throughout the United States. In the South, a series of repressive laws were enacted that limited the rights of black people and exploited them as a labor source. Known as black codes, these laws took advantage of a loophole in the 1865-enacted 13th Amendment which prohibited slavery and servitude "except as a punishment for crime." The

² Charles McGrath, David McCormick, *The Ultimate Golf Book: A History and a Celebration of the World's Greatest Game* (New York: Hilltown Press, 2002), 35-37.

³ Celebrating 120 Years of the USGA (Part 1): 1894-1924, USGA, <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/articles/2014/12/celebrating-120-years-of-the-usga-part-1-a-nation-is-introduced-to-golf-21474873960.html>

⁴ Lane Demas, *The Game of Privilege* (Chapel Hill: the University of North Carolina Press, 2017); David K. Wiggins and Ryan Swanson, ed. *Separate Games: African American Sport Behind the Walls of Segregation* (Little Rock: University of Arkansas Press, 2016), 179.

⁵ National Golf Foundation, Golf Industry Facts, <https://www.ngf.org/golf-industry-research/>; Charles F. McElwee, "Death of the Country Club," *City Journal* (June 7, 2019), <https://www.city-journal.org/country-clubs>.

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black codes criminalized lawful behaviors, making it easy to imprison African Americans. In South Carolina and Mississippi, for instance, groups of black men standing around and talking could be jailed for loitering or vagrancy. The codes prohibited blacks from buying or even renting land. They criminalized joblessness while at the same time requiring African Americans to sign annual labor contracts that both ensured they received the lowest pay possible for their work but also required them to stay on the job for years. Grouped together, these laws kept African Americans in virtual bondage.⁶ Equally making African American life difficult during this period in the south, the Ku Klux Klan was founded in the 1860s. Its members sought to continue white rule through intimidation and violence against African Americans.

Discriminatory laws were not exclusive to the south. In northern states like New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, legal codes promoted black people's racial segregation and political disenfranchisement. Throughout the north, there was broad base support for the continuation of white supremacy; many working class whites feared equality for blacks would put them out of work. So, while African-American and their white allies fought to desegregate public institutions in places like New England, widespread racism continued and the majority of African-Americans continued to be mired in poverty preventing full equality.

While the passing of the 14th and 15th amendments gave African Americans some hope—ratified in 1868, the 14th Amendment granted citizenship and “equal protection of the laws” to Black people, while the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, gave Black men suffrage—this was short-lived. Black codes in the south shifted over to “Jim Crow” laws (“Jim Crow” was a fictional character developed in minstrel shows from the 1830s that evolved to become a derogatory name for African Americans and eventually, a blanket term for anti-black laws) which continued structural discrimination against African Americans. These laws existed in the north as well. Black Americans weren't “separate but equal,” as the states enforcing Jim Crow laws claimed. Instead, their communities had fewer resources, fewer opportunities and remained unequal.

The “Compromise of 1877” which made Rutherford B. Hayes president after a hotly disputed 1876 election in exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the South under Reconstruction put an end to any remaining efforts to protect the civil rights of African Americans. Across the South, disenfranchisement, and segregationist laws proliferated. In addition, perpetual violence against African Americans was common and largely accepted. Finally, these different state laws became federal law in 1896 with the Supreme Court decision of Plessy v. Ferguson, a case involving the legality of separate railroad cars in Louisiana. This ruling effectively legitimized the “separate but equal” foundation of the Jim Crow era.

Writing for the majority, Justice Henry Brown held that this law had nothing to do with slavery and therefore it did not violate the 13th Amendment. He also ruled that the 14th Amendment was not intended to enforce the social equality of the races in America. He maintained that laws requiring the separation of the races implied no inferiority of either race. They were, he argued, merely passed to protect the common good, not to annoy or oppress anyone. Brown stated that if black people regarded such laws as a badge of inferiority, that was merely their interpretation. He ruled that segregated facilities in public transportation and other areas of life, including education, were constitutionally

⁶ The Southern Black Codes of 1865-66, Constitutional Rights Foundation, <https://www.crf-usa.org/brown-v-board-50th-anniversary/southern-black-codes.html>

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permissible, as long such facilities were equal. This case created the “separate but equal” doctrine, which lasted until 1954.⁷

The Jim Crow system of separate black and white America intensified in the north at the end of the 19th century when Southern blacks, oppressed and terrorized, began to migrate northward in increasing numbers. While more jobs were open to black men in plants, mills and on assembly lines in northern cities, discrimination continued socially, educationally and commercially. Because of these separate but very unequal facilities, blacks were impelled to create their own institutions which they could control and manage. The establishment of primarily black-owned businesses and institutions to serve the segregated African-American community began in the second decade of the 20th century, as Jim Crow laws became stricter. Successive waves of southern blacks followed through the 1940s resulted in increased separation of the races. Segregation in education, transportation, commercial services, and entertainment venues became the accepted norm throughout much of the United States.

Black-owned businesses catered to black consumers; black schools in black neighborhoods educated black students. Black and white America became parallel societies. There were differing views within the African-American community about this. Booker T. Washington, an educator and influential black thinker, believed African-Americans should remain separate, emphasizing economic self-determination over political and civil rights. W.E.B. Du Bois argued the opposite. As one of the founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Du Bois opposed segregation and supported black integration and equal rights through activism.

These black-owned businesses and institutions were a source of pride for the community and established a growing African American middle class where black culture blossomed. Musicians like Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, and King Oliver brought their music north from New Orleans. In the sophisticated urban atmosphere of Chicago, these jazz pioneers took advantage of improvements in musical instruments and new recording technologies to become celebrities in the Roaring ‘20s, also known as the Jazz Age. Harlem drew black migrants from the South resulting in thriving black commerce and culture. After World War I, a group of black writers, artists, and intellectuals gathered there, resulting in the Harlem Renaissance. The success of blacks caused increased racism. The Ku Klux Klan was rejuvenated in the early 20th century. Pseudo-scientific theories like eugenics were promoted. Immigration was restricted with the unstated goal of keeping America white. Segregation deepened throughout the U.S.

Over the course of the 20th century, U.S. laws, policies and policing strategies deepened and cemented Jim Crow. Gradually, the stance of parallel worlds of separate and equal as viewed by Booker T. Washington grew to be seen as accommodationist and naïve as the stark reality of the inequality blacks faced became undeniable. African Americans had always fought for their civil rights. The 1896 decision of Plessy v Ferguson was named for Homer Plessy, an African American who was arrested and convicted for refusing to sit in the “colored only” section of the train. Following World War I, black veterans returning home were met with increasing inequality; this was particularly unjust after over 350,000 African Americans had fought for their country. In the summer of 1919, there were race riots in 20 cities across America including three night in Washington DC where 2,000 federal troops were needed to intervene. African Americans were protesting their unequal treatment.

⁷ Paula S. Reed, “Hinchcliffe Stadium National Historic Landmark Nomination” (August 2012), 17; “In the Courts from Plessy to Brown,” Constitutional Rights Foundation, <https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/in-the-courts>

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Racism continued as did lynching. White Americans used lynching to terrorize and control Black people in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1918, Congressman Leonidas Dyer of Missouri first introduced his Anti-Lynching Bill — known as the Dyer Bill — into Congress. NAACP supported passage of the bill from 1919 onward. In 1922, the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill was passed by the House of Representatives. It was given a favorable report by the Senate Committee but its passage was halted by a filibuster in the Senate. Efforts to pass similar legislation weren't taken up again until 1935 as the Costigan-Wagner bill. It was also defeated.⁸

Through legal challenges, often led by the NAACP, slowly the laws that codified racism were dismantled from the 1940s culminating in 1968. In 1946, *Morgan v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court struck down segregation on interstate transportation. In 1948 in *Shelley v. Kraemer*, the court struck down racial restrictive covenants. Common in many parts of the country, these were agreements, often recorded in deeds, that an owner would not sell land to specified minorities. Efforts continued. In 1950 in *Sweatt v. Painter*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ordered the admission of a black law student, Herman Sweatt, to the University of Texas by rejecting the state's argument that the newly established black law school was even remotely equal to the facilities for white law students. In 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled by unanimous decision that the segregation of children in American public schools violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution which guarantees equal protection of the law. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 guaranteed equal voter registration requirements and prohibited discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and education. Finally, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination in housing. With these laws, the legal barriers for equality began to be removed.⁹

Racial Segregation in Professional Sports

Like other places in American society, professional sports were often initially integrated until the Jim Crow laws became more entrenched and they became segregated. Baseball is one such example. The rules of the first professional leagues contained no formal prohibition against black players. These early leagues didn't need such written rule because the vast majority of black athletes were excluded from the outset on the basis of an unwritten regulation that came to be known as the "Gentlemen's Agreement." However, because no absolute color ban existed, blacks did play in white professional leagues in the final quarter of the 19th century. Between 1883 and 1899, more than 70 African-Americans played in white professional leagues and at different times three minor leagues featured all-black teams playing against all white opponents. However, by the early 1890's, it was clear that a color ban was slowly being imposed on all of organized baseball. In April of 1891, the *Sporting Life*, a weekly newspaper that covered national sports noted, "[p]robably in no other business in America is the color line so finely drawn as in baseball. An African who attempts to put on a uniform and go in among a lot of white players is taking his life into his hands."¹⁰ Negro professional baseball developed in response to the segregation of blacks and grew to include both independent professional teams and teams affiliated with various black leagues. By the late 1930s, most professional black baseball was played within the framework of the seven regional leagues, although exhibition or "barnstorming" games, played

⁸ NAACP History: Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, <https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-dyer-anti-lynching-bill/>; NAACP History: Costigan Wagner Bill, <https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-costigan-wagner-act/>

⁹ <https://www.history.com/news/deeper-roots-of-northern-slavery-uneearthed>; <http://slavenorth.com/>; <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/01/books/review/gateway-to-freedom-by-eric-foner.html>; <https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/in-the-courts>; <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/inhuman-bondage-9780195339444?prevNumResPerPage=20&prevSortField=9&q=slaves%20in%20the%20north&start=20&lang=en&cc=us>

¹⁰ J. Gordon Hylton, "American Civil Rights Laws and the Legacy of Jackie Robinson," *Marquette Sports Law Review*, Volume 8, Issue 2 (1998), 398-391, <https://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1255&context=sportslaw&q>

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outside the league game schedule, remained a financial necessity for all black teams. Black baseball remained separate until 1945 when Jackie Robinson was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers and African Americans began to be integrated into Major League Baseball. By 1952, the separate African American leagues had been dismantled.¹¹

In basketball, a separate black league lasted for over 40 years. Basketball was invented in 1891 and remained a white game until 1904 when Edwin Bancroft Henderson, a black gym teacher from Washington, D.C., took a summer course at Harvard and brought the game back to black segregated schools. From there, it went to YMCAs, and eventually to professional black teams known as “Black Fives,” including the Washington Bears and the New York Renaissance. There were “dozens and dozens” of Black Five teams that played, creating a separate league. This remained until 1950, when the National Basketball Association was integrated.¹²

Unlike baseball and basketball where separate leagues existed, although football remained closed to the majority of black players, no separate black league ever existed. Blacks played but were a small fraction. Only 13 African-American played professional football from its founding in 1920 into the 1940s. True integration of the sport did not begin until 1946 when the Los Angeles Rams and the Cleveland Browns both signed two black athletes. By 1949, 3 of the 10 National Football League teams had black players. By 1955, the Redskins were the lone holdout with no African Americans on the team within the 12-team league.¹³

Racial Segregation in Professional Golf

Golf arrived in the U.S. from Scotland. Its earliest devotees were wealthy, predominately white, men while the first professionals were Scots and English. The first U.S. Open in 1895 was exclusively white and the professionals were all British. At the second U.S. Open tournament, there were exceptions to both of these categories. Two Americans people of color competed: Native American, amateur golfer, Oscar Bunn and African American John Shippen who as a professional golfer was also the first American professional golfer to compete in a U.S. Open. The rest of the players were white—American, Canadian and British. Remarkably, this continued for decades. The only people of color who played in the U.S. Open, considered America’s national championship, were John Shippen, who played in four Opens and Oscar Bunn who played in two. In 1899, they were joined by Shippen’s brother, Cyrus Shippen. These three players—the Shippen brothers and Oscar Bunn—were the only non-white competitors from 1913, when John Shippen made his last appearance until 1948 when Ted Rhodes played in the U.S. Open at the Rivera Country Club. This was three years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball. The 35-year hiatus in golf was the result of the 1916 founding of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) which stated in its bi-laws that blacks were banned from membership; this officially codified the discrimination that with only three minority players in the history of the game, obviously had existed.

Like with other professional sports, African Americans established their own golf league. In Chicago in 1910, a group of African American men led by Walter Speedy were banned from entering the Chicago Parks Championship at Jackson Park because of their race. They sued the City of Chicago and lost, leading them to found a separate black

¹¹ Ibid., 1; Reed, 15.

¹² Margot Adler, “Before The NBA Was Integrated, We Had The Black Fives,” Code Switch, *Weekend Edition Saturday* (March 15, 2014), <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/03/15/290117181/before-the-nba-was-integrated-we-had-the-black-fives>

¹³ Ryan Basen, “Fifty Years Ago, Last Outpost of Segregation in N.F.L. Fell” *The New York Times* (October 6, 2012).

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club, the Alpha Golf Club who sponsored the first black national tournament at Marquette Park on October 7, 1915. In the ensuing years local black golfers and clubs took an active role in establishing tournaments and pushing for public courses for African-Americans. Following World War I and the growing prosperity of the 1920s, African American interest in golf continued to grow. Private country clubs were established as were blacks-only municipal courses. With golf's growing popularity, the United Golfers Association (UGA) was founded in 1925, a nationwide organization dedicated to promoting and advancing black golf. From the beginning, the organization sought to provide a unified voice for black golfers to improve playing conditions in the segregated sport and also to sponsor large-scale events to provide a social, competitive and cultural experience for the African American community that would parallel those of white golf.¹⁴ In 1936, the UGA founded *United Golfer*, the official magazine of the organization.

Following World War II, the UGA began to strongly protest against the PGA's segregationist policies. From the beginning, most players couldn't make a living on the UGA circuit so wanted a chance to compete in the more lucrative PGA. The UGA was joined in this effort by African American newspapers who decried the inequality of black institutions. In 1948, three black players qualified for entry to a minor PGA tournament only to have the PGA cancel their spots because of the organization's Caucasian only clause. The three black players—Teddy Rhodes, Charlie Sifford and Bill Spiller—prepared to file a lawsuit against the PGA which officials tried to settle out of court to keep it quiet. Ultimately, Teddy Rhodes was allowed to compete; but this was a limited victory as the PGA continued to deny black access.

Similarly in women's golf, African American women began making small inroads into the sport in the mid-20th century. In 1947, Ann Gregory, a champion of black women's golf, played in the all-white Tam O'Shanter Tournament in Chicago. In 1956, she became the first African-American player to compete on the national stage at the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship in Indiana. However, although she was allowed to compete, her access continued to be limited. In 1959, for instance, while she was allowed to compete in the USGA Women's Amateur Tournament at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, she wasn't allowed to join the players' dinner. The club policy barred African Americans from the clubhouse. She was often mistaken for a maid by the other white players and had to deal with hostilities from black athletes when she chose to compete in white tournaments instead of black. But she continued to fight. In the early 1960s, having played for years on the segregated 9-hole course in Gleason Park in her hometown of Gary, Indiana, Gregory, "The Queen of Negro Women's Golf," went to the whites only 18 hole layout and told them she would be playing, "My tax dollars are taking care of the big course," she is said to have told them, "and there is no way you can bar me from it."¹⁵

The ongoing attacks on the PGA's policies by black newspapers and the UGA became more widespread especially in 1952 when popular heavy weight champion Joe Louis was denied entry into the San Diego Open. He was an amateur golfer who, using his fame as a boxer, talked to major newspapers all across the country. To defuse the situation, the PGA allowed him to compete as a special invitee while still denying Bill Spiller a chance to compete even though he had qualified in earlier rounds. The national uproar continued and the PGA conceded to allowing one black pro and one black amateur to play in each PGA-sponsored tournament. This allowed the top African American players entrance but still kept the vast majority out. This was not limited to professionals; black amateurs continued to be

¹⁴ Wiggins, 187

¹⁵ Natasha Frost, "Meet Ann Gregory, who Shattered Racist and Sexist Barriers in the Golf World," *Atlas Obscura* (November 15, 2017).

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banned through the 1950s. Finally, in early 1960, California attorney general Stanley Mosk informed the PGA that if its discriminatory practices continued, it would no longer be able to play its tournaments on California's public courses. Retaliating, the PGA informed Mosk it would only hold its tournaments on private courses. Mosk countered that he had jurisdiction there as well and began to enlist attorney's general from other states to support his campaign. With the civil rights movement gaining momentum nationally as well as the increasing number of lawsuits being brought against states and municipalities that were attempting to maintain segregated public courses, the PGA relented. At its annual meeting in 1961, the Caucasian only clause was removed from its constitution. After fulfilling the qualification requirements, Charlie Sifford—5-time winner of the UGA National Open—became the first African American playing member of the PGA in 1965. He went on to win the 1967 Greater Hartford Open and the 1969 Los Angeles Open.

Through the 1960s, the UGA included 89 member clubs and nearly 40,000 members with over 400 black pros. However, with 10 African American players competing in the PGA tour by 1974, black readers wanted to read about the PGA and press coverage of the UGA began to abate. This resulted in reduced prize money and by 1975, the difficulty in raising prize money led to the discontinuation of the UGA National Open. In the spring of 1975, Lee Elder, a major champion of the UGA who competed for over 20 years, became the first African American to play in the Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club, the pinnacle of exclusive, whites-only country clubs in America. Although the UGA has disbanded, its former member clubs continue to focus on local golf events, charitable fundraisers and bringing young African American players into the sport.¹⁶

African Americans and Golf

Like wealthy whites, a small number of elite blacks took up golf at the end of the 19th century. Because of their race private clubs were closed to them, some found ways to play the game anyway. For example, Dr. George Grant, a Harvard graduate and dentist, was a keen player. While Grant's big contribution to the game was that he invented the golf tee, patented in 1899, he also regularly played at a "course" in his neighborhood of Arlington, a Boston suburb. His daughter recalled, "Golf courses were rather primitive in those days; just a big open meadow. All you had to do was worry about the cows."¹⁷ African Americans with enough disposable income necessary to maintain an interest in the time-consuming and expensive sport of golf were a tiny minority, however.

Most African Americans came to the game through positions of service. At white country clubs, this could include working in the kitchen or being the head chef or club steward. But many got their start as caddies. This included ground breaking players like John Shippen, Walter Speedy, Dewey and Joe Bartholomew who all caddied as young boys. Caddies were common features on America's first golf courses, particularly at exclusive clubs and private courses where players were required to employ them. Caddies were students of the game and played a critical role in a golfer's performance. Often working up to three, 18-round games, they knew their courses much better than most of the players and understood the way to use different clubs to handle the terrain. Caddies were able to work on their short game between rounds and private clubs often had one morning a week, often Mondays, when the course would be open to employees. It was in this way, that the majority of black America was introduced to the game of golf. Caddying was not fundamentally racialized; most American clubs employed white caddies. However, as this work

¹⁶ Wiggins, 196-201.

¹⁷ Calvin H. Sennette, *Forbidden Fairways: African Americans and the Game of Golf* (Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 1998), 10.

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was seen as particularly suitable for black boys, the image of the black child as caddie became firmly entrenched in American popular culture.

Like Americans in general, golf began to emerge as a popular sport among the non-caddie African American population in the early 1900s. While private clubs were closed to African Americans, in the north, many urban centers like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Detroit had public courses that were open to blacks. An important early course was established in the majority black town of Buxton, Iowa by the Consolidation Coal Company. Having a hard time recruiting white miners, Consolidation Coal sent agents to southern states to hire African-American workers. In 1873, it founded the town of Buxton and opened nearby mines. It grew quickly and, according to one source, became the largest coal town west of the Mississippi. In the 1905 census, the town boasted 2,700 African American and 1,991 whites. By 1904, the town had an integrated YMCA and golf course.¹⁸

While integrated courses existed in the north and Midwest, in the south, this was not the case. Even the public courses were closed to African Americans. African Americans fought these restrictions which in some places, provided them with limited access at separate times from whites. In 1921 in Washington DC, for instance, African Americans fought for the rights to play on the public courses. While they won, their success was limited. They were allowed to play the East Potomac course exclusively after 3:00 PM each Tuesday and the 3-hole West Potomac Park after noon on Wednesdays.¹⁹ At the Municipal Course in Asheville, North Carolina's first public course which opened in 1927, African Americans were allowed to play the course only on Mondays; this later was expanded to include Tuesdays. This 2-day-a-week policy remained in effect until 1954. With the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the "Muni" legally became fully integrated. However, "Despite the change in law, the acceptance of the African Americans on the course at the time was not looked upon favorably. Amid much ridicule and harassment, African Americans continued to play, and gradually the integration of the course became an accepted policy."²⁰

While in the early years many cities chose to provide limited access, as Jim Crow laws became more embedded in society, rather than integrate their existing courses, many cities established new blacks-only courses. These first black courses often were carved from park spaces in predominately black neighborhoods. For instance, in Indianapolis, Douglass Park opened in 1922; it stood adjacent to several predominately black neighborhoods. In 1926, the northern portion of the park was turned into an experimental 6-hole course, the Douglass Park Golf Course. Originally, the course amounted to a few tomato cans buried in the ground, but by 1936, it was expanded to nine holes. Well into the 1930s, it was the only golf course open to blacks in the entire state of Indiana.²¹

Following World War I, black veterans returned home to be met with increasing inequality; this caused unrest in the African American community and protests for equality. Among other protests for equality, public golf courses were on the front line of African American battle against segregation. African Americans argued that public courses were

¹⁸ Demas, 20; "Buxton: A Lost Utopia," Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Iowa.gov, <https://iowaculture.gov/history/education/educator-resources/primary-source-sets/buxton-lost-utopia>

¹⁹ "Golf and Civil Rights in Washington, DC: A History of Public Golf in the Nation's Capital," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/gis/storymaps/cascade/v1/index.html?appid=a2e315494beb47d4bbbad369ae8e7ff3>

²⁰ Sybil Argintar Bowers, "Municipal Golf Course," National Register of Historic Places Nomination (December 6, 2004), 8-16.

²¹ "In the Park: Douglass Park," Historic Indianapolis, <https://historicindianapolis.com/in-the-park-douglass-park/>; Pete McDaniel, *Uneven Lies: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf* (Greenwich, CT: The American Golfer, 2000), 53.

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paid through the taxes of all and therefore, should be open to all. In DC, for instance, after continued petitioning by African American leaders for greater access to the existing public courses, a blacks-only, 9-hole course opened north of the Lincoln Memorial in 1924, opposite the white course of West Potomac. This was far from an equitable course, however. The “greens” of the course were sand and the fairways were exceedingly inferior and not maintained. While during the first three-months of its existence, 1,000 rounds were played at the Lincoln Memorial course, it still remained a far inferior course to its white counterparts. Importantly, by providing this course to DC blacks, the city no longer allowed black players on its other public courses. When construction of the Memorial Bridge over the Potomac began in 1929, things became far worse at the Lincoln Memorial course. “Black golfers played through ‘piles of dirt, pipe and building materials on the fairways; and such a curtailment of playing space that the entire nine holes does not represent space generally allotted for one hole on the course provided for the white group.’”²²

Because of the inadequate condition of the only course open to them, in 1938, the African American men’s Royal Golf Club and the women’s Wake Robin Golf Club joined forces to lobby the federal government to desegregate Washington DC’s public golf courses. In 1938, they petitioned Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes for access to public courses funded by their federal taxes. Instead, Ickes permitted construction of a golf course for blacks on an abandoned trash site. Langston Golf Course opened in 1939; it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

What happened in Washington DC was indicative of what was occurring across the U.S. where separate but very unequal blacks-only courses were established in major cities throughout the country in the 1920s and 30s. These courses were assailed by the black media and were divisive in the African American community. Some felt that their establishment marked success for blacks, a step on the journey for equal rights. While others were critical, saying that patronizing these inferior courses was hurting the overall cause. As stated by the *Baltimore Afro-American*, playing these courses were “making ineffective the protests of others.”²³ This debate and fight continued through the 1940s and 50s; golf courses were a battleground for many anti-discrimination lawsuits centered on both the inequality of black courses as well as African American’s inability to use “public” whites-only courses. Meanwhile, African Americans continued to play golf. Between 1941 and 1951, heavy weight champion Joe Louis, an avid amateur golfer and an active patron of the sport, sponsored eight Joe Louis Open Tournaments that attracted top-flight black golf professionals from across the country. His mass appeal did much to popularize golf among blacks. The world of African-American golf developed and ultimately thrived alongside its larger white counterpart.

Ultimately, the advocating and court fights culminated in the Supreme Court decision of *Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka* of 1954 which mandated integration of all public institutions. This coupled with the successful push by black golfers for the PGA to remove its whites only clause in 1961 led to the integration of the sport. Although golf and golf courses were legally integrated, blacks continued to be at a major disadvantage. While arguably the “shaggy layouts” of the blacks-only courses helped them become more adept and creative, they “set the black golfer even

²² “Golf and Civil Rights in Washington, DC,”; “Langston Golf Course and Driving Range, African American Heritage Trail,” Cultural Tourism DC, <https://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/web/portal%20/langston-golf-course-and-driving-range-african-american-heritage-trail>

²³ “Golf and Civil Rights in Washington, DC”; George B. Kirsch, “Municipal Golf and Civil Rights in the United States, 1910-1965” *The Journal of African American History*, Vol 92, No 3 (Summer 2007), 375.

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further from their white counterpart.”²⁴ African Americans continue to be dramatically underrepresented in the sport. For instance, in 1999, of the roughly 16,000 golf courses in the US, only four were owned by African Americans.²⁵

African American Golf Clubs

The dramatic increases in African American populations in northern industrial cities beginning around 1915 and continuing through the 1920s created the black population for golf. The inferiority of the public courses available to them caused middle class African Americans to begin to establish their own private golf courses. Black country clubs were founded throughout the U.S. in the 1920s including New England, the Mid-Atlantic, the South, the Midwest and the West. According to Lane Demas, black golf clubs existed as early as 1898 and all black resort communities that had golf courses were founded in the 1910s. Idlewild Michigan was the nation’s first African American resort town. It was established in 1912 and to attract middle class black vacationers from nearby cities like Detroit and Chicago, added a golf course in 1916.²⁶

Identifying the first African American golf club is difficult. Founding dates aren’t fully clear, the histories aren’t fully recorded and some clubs were short-lived. An example of this is the Cheshire Country Club which opened outside of Hartford, Connecticut in the summer of 1917. Johnstone L. Haile of Waterbury purchased a 22-acre lot and house in the town of Cheshire in January 1917 and opened the club in July 1917. Within one year, tennis courts and a 5-hole golf course were added. There is no press coverage of its opening. It isn’t reported on until October when *The New York Age* (an African American newspaper) featured an article on its founding and current membership of 200. The local papers don’t appear to have mentioned the club’s existence until an article in *The Meriden Daily Journal* in 1929 when the Cheshire Club was the location of a political meeting.²⁷ This was after 12 years of existence. There is nothing written about its closing but evidence indicates it occurred in the 1940s. This lack of coverage in traditional media coupled with the lack of local white knowledge of these African American institutions also led them to be forgotten. The Cheshire Club’s existence was uncovered by a local blogger but no reference to its existence is found in the Connecticut State Historical Society Archives.²⁸ This makes tracing African American history difficult.

While evidence indicates that the actual first black-owned club was the Cheshire Country Club, Shady Rest is arguably the first true country club because on opening day, it had all the amenities that traditional white clubs possessed. On July 28, 1921, the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club opened in Scotch Plains, New Jersey with nearly 2,000 people in attendance. With six tennis courts, a 9-hole golf course, croquet, horseback riding, a baseball diamond, skeet shooting and clubhouse with locker rooms, a ballroom, club rooms and rooms for guests, it was a complete country club, mirroring its white counterparts.²⁹ Contemporaneous newspaper accounts of the opening of Shady Rest laud it as the first independently owned and operated African American country club in the U.S. The event was covered in local papers and nationally in black newspapers. Through the 1920s, other private African American golf

²⁴ Pete McDaniel, 63.

²⁵ Ibid., 59; A.S. Young, *Negro Firsts in Sports* (Chicago: Johnson Publishing Co., 1963), 166-171; Encyclopedia of African American History; https://www.espn.com/espnw/culture/feature/story/_/id/18743507/the-wake-robin-golf-club-oldest-african-american-women-club-united-states

²⁶ Demas, 20-21.

²⁷ “Cong. DePriest is to Speak at Hartford, Aug 18: Negroes from all over State to Take Part in Festivities” *The Journal* (Meriden, Connecticut), (26 July 1929), 1.

²⁸ Raechel Guest, “Cheshire Country Club,” Waterbury Thoughts (January 27, 2014), <http://waterburythoughts.blogspot.com/2014/01/cheshire-country-club.html>; Demas, 21.

²⁹ “Shady Rest Park Opens for Season,” *The Courier-News* (July 29, 1921)

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courses and country clubs were founded: the Acorn Country Club in Richmond VA, the Booker T. Washington in Buckingham, PA, the Manaqua Club in Amityville, Long Island and the Val Verde Resort in Val Verde, CA. All of these were opened in 1924. In 1925, the National Capital Country Club opened in Laurel, MD while in 1926, Robert Hawkins, a black entrepreneur, followed Johnstone Haile's lead in Cheshire and bought a 196-acre estate in Stow, MA. Dubbing it Mapledale Country Club, Hawkins built a 9-hole course and featured horseback riding and tennis at the newly created country club.³⁰ The Lincoln Golf and Country Club, developed in Jacksonville FL in 1926, became the pride and showcase of southern black golf. The Lincoln Country Club in Atlanta GA became a major course in the black golf circuit after its establishment in 1930.³¹ In 1936, the Rising Sun Golf and Country Club opened in Westchester NY in a former white club.³²

Like their white counter parts, these early African American country clubs seem to have been located in rural and suburban locations outside metro areas, usually near a trolley or train line. For African American, the growth of the automobile and road networks made membership more attractive; cars allowed blacks to travel without the discrimination and sometimes danger of public travel. However, many of these new institutions were short-lived. The Great Depression of the early 1930s impacted large segments of the nation's laboring population, hitting African-American workers hardest. Many of the black country club folded by the end of the 1930s.

Many of these black country clubs faced hostilities and racism. In 1936, Westchester's Rising Sun Golf and Country Club, faced opposition. "With dramatic suddenness, this town began seething over the race issue."³³ The protests did not succeed. The Rising Sun opened and was in operation until 1982.³⁴

In 1951 in Bridgeport, CT, white property owners protested that the presence of a black country club, which had been in existence for 8 year, gave the neighborhood, "a bad tone." The Bridgeport Zoning Board sided with the white neighbors and ordered the Pleasant Heights Country Club to ends its operations immediately. According to Grantville T. Smith, the club's owner, "There is an ulterior motive in this whole movement. There is no question that the real estate interests here are trying to drive Negroes out of that neighborhood so they can put up development for whites."³⁵ Evidently it worked; no additional information was uncovered about the Pleasant Heights Country Club including a *CT Post* article on the history of golf in Fairfield County.³⁶

Similarly in Marshall, TX in 1957, the local government made operation of the country club so onerous that the club closed. The District Attorney charged the club with 41 separate violations and said it was a public nuisance. The club manager was arrested for selling beer.³⁷ These incidents were covered by the black press but did not usually make the local media coverage.

³⁰ "Mapledale Country Club," Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, <http://freedomsway.org/mapledale-country-club/>

³¹ Demas, 47; Marvin P. Dawkins and Graham C. Kinloch, *African American Golfers during the Jim Crow Era* (Westport, CT: Praeger, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000), 24.

³² Dave Donelson, "History of Gold in America: Westchester, the Birthplace of Golf," *Westchester Magazine* (April 11, 2013), <https://westchestermagazine.com/life-style/golf/history-of-golf-in-america-westchester-the-birthplace-of-golf/>

³³ "Oppose Colored Golf Club in Westchester," *The Omaha Guide* (December 5, 1936), 8,

³⁴ Donelson

³⁵ "Move to Oust Negro Country Club in Conn." *Jackson Advocate* (September 29, 1951), 4,

³⁶ Lidia Ryan, "A Brief History of Golf in Fairfield County," *CT Post*, (June 2, 2015, updated October 5, 2018),

³⁷ "Negro Country Club Closed," *Arizona Sun* (August 15, 1957), 1

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Several new African American country clubs came into existence in the mid-20th century. Clearview Golf Course in East Canton Ohio was established in 1946 when William Powell encountering racism after returning home from World War II decided to build his own course. He built it by hand out of farmland. Opened to the public in 1948 and expanded to 18 holes in 1978, Clearview is listed on the National Register. Meadowbrook Country Club in Garner, NC was founded in 1959; the 9-hole course was added in 1966. It was listed on the National Register in 2009. In 1967, four black businessmen came together to purchase Freeway Golf Course, a sprawling 150-acre property in Sicklerville, NJ; this was the first African American owned 18-hole course. It became a model for other black-owned golf courses across the nation. The course closed in 2016.

Of the earliest African American clubs that were founded, most, like the Cheshire Country Club, have been lost to time. The names can be found in secondary sources about the history of African American golf but little else. While this is because many were short-lived—Mapledale only lasted three years, closing in 1929—it is also because of lack of media coverage and the lack of interest of white Americans, the standard recorders of history, in the separate, parallel worlds of black America. While it is known that the Lincoln in Jacksonville closed in 1947 and that the Lincoln in Atlanta is gradually being consumed by the neighboring graveyard and that Val Verde remains but is now a white-dominated resort community, no other information was found about other early black clubs. Another thing to note, while these early African American private courses and country clubs were ground breaking, they were the exception to a very skewed rule. In 1939, there were 5,209 golf courses in the U.S. Most were private, roughly 3,000. 700 were municipally owned and 1,200 were daily fee courses. Fewer than 20 were open to blacks.³⁸

Jerseyland

In 1900, a group of white residents organized the Westfield Country Club at the Osborn Farm in Scotch Plains. They leased the farm from the Intra-Urban Realty Co. who were developing a trolley line that would connect Westfield and Scotch Plains to the West Jersey and Elmora branch of North Jersey Traction Company. By 1906, the trolley line was in place; it ran to the east of Westfield's 9-hole golf course (Map 7). When the club was first established in 1900, the area around it was farmland. But over its years of existence, a community arose around Jerusalem Road; the origins of which can be seen in the 1906 map. Cross referencing the names on the map with the 1900 census indicates that this neighborhood was first inhabited by white residents in 1906.³⁹

However, there was a local African American population. After years of traveling to Bethel Chapel Church in Westfield, several African American residents in Scotch Plains decided they wanted their own Baptist Church. Working with Bethel's Rev. Preston Ross, the Kates, Webb and White family founded St. John's Baptist Church in the spring of 1909, headed by Rev. Parsons. Worship was held in congregation members' houses. The second pastor called was Rev. Gatewell who began a building campaign. A building and nine lots were purchased on Park Place adjacent to Westfield Country Club. With the death of Gatewell, the third Pastor was Grant W. Hamlette who arrived in 1911. With the continued growth of the congregation, more space was needed and a new church was constructed

³⁸ McDaniel, 59.

³⁹ 1900 Federal Census

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in 1915 at 2414 Park Place.⁴⁰ By this time, the community around the new church was known as Jerseyland or Jerseyland Park.

In the second decade of the 20th century, Jerseyland developed rapidly with the Great Migration when southern blacks came to the north fleeing inequality and abuse in the south and seeking economic opportunities. Newspapers at the time called it a “cottage colony,” which seems to have meant it was a second home for some well-to-do blacks. An early resident was Dr. Howard Brock who was credited with growing the community by establishing a second home here and bringing his friends and former patients. Brock was born to a prominent African American family in Westchester PA. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and from the Howard University Medical School. He moved to Westfield and set up his practice on West Broad Street in 1915.⁴¹ Brock lived in Westfield but seems to have had a cottage in Jerseyland. Brock was a prominent local figure; he was a politician, served on many boards and he and his wife were often reported on in the social sections of African American newspapers.⁴² By 1918, Jerseyland seems to have had its own Junior Progressive League; Dr. Brock addressed the Junior League of Jerseyland Park at a patriotic pageant, “Our Stainless Flag.”⁴³ With the exception of St. John’s Baptist Church, it is unclear what other African American amenities drew people to this neighborhood.

By 1921, the members of the Westfield Country Club realized that this black cottage community surrounding their club was permanent not just a transient fad. This along with their desire for an 18-hole course drove them to want to sell their club. The Jerseyland community wanted a club as more and more people including many Harlem elite were moving here. These factors came together and caused the “absorption of the Westfield Country Club, which lay in the midst of the colony.”⁴⁴

Jerseyland grew, as can be seen on a 1923 map (Map 9) and evolved into a year round community. In 1929, residents petitioned for a public park; Jerseyland Park remains today with a baseball diamond and tennis courts. The Jersey Park Community Center Inc. was established in 1932. Located at 783 Jerusalem Road, it continues to serve as a neighborhood civic and recreational center.⁴⁵

History of Shady Rest Golf and Country Club

Beginning in the summer of 1921, some Jerseyland residents and other prominent African American investors founded the Progressive Realty Corporation to lease the Westfield Country Club (Historic Photos 1 and 2). Westfield had recently merged with the Cranford Golf Club members to become the Echo Lake Country Club in Cranford. Led by

⁴⁰ St. John’s Pastoral History and Early Church History,” St. John’s Baptist Church, Scotch Plains,

https://www.stjohnsscotchplains.org/assets/church_historyb.pdf

⁴¹ “Local Doctor gets Commission,” *The Westfield Leader* (27 February 1918), 2; “Americans in Westfield, New Jersey from 1720-2020” a walking tour from the Westfield Historical Society,

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57c5de389de4bb98fcbc00ab/t/5f8719eaabee36386c4a27bf/1602689516096/African+American+Tour+of+Westfield+brochure.pdf>; Rachel Jones Williams, “Reviving—and Revising—the Reputation of Ralph Elwood Brock,” *Pennsylvania Heritage* (Fall 2007),

<http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/reviving-revising-reputation-ralph-elwood-brock/>

⁴² “At the Seashore,” *The Pittsburgh Courier* (13 August 1927), 12.

⁴³ “Dr. Howard Brock to Address Junior League,” *The Westfield Leader* (13 November 1918), 10.

⁴⁴ “Harlem Sends Members to Colony Formed by Physician,” *New York Herald* (12 July 1922), 21; “Golf Links for Colored Folks: Course is Situated at Westfield, N.J.—Howard Brock is Founder” *The Morning Call* (12 July 1922), 3; “Only Negro Golf Course in U.S. is Thriving in Suburban New Jersey,” *The Miami Herald* (16 June 1922), 15.

⁴⁵ “History,” Jerseyland Park Community Center, <https://www.jerseyland.org/history/>

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board president Dr. Howard F. Brock (1889-1969), a general practice doctor who had a house in Jerseyland and his neighbor Treasurer Robert L. Robinson, a self-employed architect,⁴⁶ Progressive Realty dubbed the new club, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club which opened on July 28, 1921. Among the founding members of the new club were local residents of Jerseyland, like Brock and Robinson, Scotch Plains residents like prominent businessman Henry Willis as well as regional blacks from Newark, the Oranges, Montclair, Summit, etc. Harlem's elite golfers also joined Shady Rest, some of whom were Jerseyland residents and many of whom were leading patrons of the period's cultural movement: the Harlem Renaissance.⁴⁷

Nearly 2,000 people attended the opening day celebration which included a baseball game, speeches by local officials, dinner and dancing.⁴⁸ With its 9-hole course, six tennis courts, croquet, horseback riding, a baseball diamond and skeet shooting, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club likely was the first African American country club established with the same amenities as its white counterparts. Whether it was the first or second black country club established, it was definitely the premiere African American country club in the country and the first with a 9-hole golf course.

On September 21, 1921, the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club was officially organized. Within a year, Shady Rest had 200 members. Members included doctors, lawyers, contractors, clerks and government employees. Actors, musicians and composers were also members.⁴⁹ Annual dues for individuals living within 50-miles of the club were \$25; those who lived beyond this radius paid \$10. Social members, those with no golfing privileges, paid \$15 a year.⁵⁰ Shady Rest was an elite club and did have a reputation for exclusivity. The membership committee conducted background checks on all prospective members; only those with appropriate social standing were allowed in. In Barbara J. Kukla's book, *Swing City: Newark Nightlife, 1925-1950*, Shady Rest was described as the place "where all the rich black folks used to go."⁵¹ This reputation for snobbery was well-known. In 1931, a front page news story focused on the selectness of the club when a member was told not to bring his escort to a party as she didn't measure up. This elitism seemed to have continued for years although a 1938 article indicated restrictions had eased.⁵²

Besides the outdoor recreation, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club a large dining room that could seat 150 people (Historic Photo 8), a reception hall, a downstairs bar and several meeting rooms. There were substantial locker room facilities. There were "sleeping quarters" for out of town guests.⁵³ According to the president of the club Mr. B.C. Gordon, "The object is to provide and maintain a Country Club for the recreation for young and old; where respectable men and women can come and enjoy the real outdoor country life, and indulge in wholesome, healthful sports, as golf, tennis, croquet, horseback riding and shooting. A country club house and golf course on thirty-one acres of fine rolling green; far enough away from the hustle and bustle of a great city's life to give relaxation to tired and over-wrought

⁴⁶ Spies, 4.

⁴⁷ "Negroes Buy Golf Club and Call it Shady Rest," *Savannah Tribune* (July 20, 1922); Barton Ross, "Shady Rest Golf & Country Club Preservation Plan" (June 2014), 2.37

⁴⁸ "Shady Rest Park Opens for Season," *The Courier-News* (July 29, 1921)

⁴⁹ "Shady Rest Golf and Country Club of New Jersey," *Pittsburgh Courier* (June 23, 1923), 9.

⁵⁰ "Photo Gallery," Preserve the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, <http://www.preserveshadyrest.org/shady-rest-gallery.html>

⁵¹ Barbara J. Kukla, *Swing City: Newark Nightlife, 1925-1950* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2002), 103.

⁵² "White Player Fights to Enter Jersey Net Tournament: Unique Issue Created as Eastern Open Begins on Shady Rest's Courts Claim Barring of Edward Grazing of Englewood Would Violate ATA's Constitution," *New York Amsterdam News* (13 July 1940), 18; "Big Wigs No Longer Control Society In Jersey, Yuletide Review Reveals: "Pedigree" Not Necessary To Attend Swell Dances, and Social Feuds Are Things of the Past," *The Pittsburgh Courier* (15 Jan 1938), 13.

⁵³ "Social Snapshots at Shady Rest, July 4" *The Pittsburgh Courier* (July 4, 1926)

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nerves.”⁵⁴ 2,500 people attended the 4th of July festivities in 1922. In 1923, the Progressive Realty Company purchased the 30-acre golf course from the Westfield Golf Club Realty Company after two years of leasing.⁵⁵

The opening of Shady Rest was a source of pride for the African American community; it was well-covered in black newspapers throughout the county. While there was local support for the club, there was also derision. William Allen White, the editor of the *Emporia Gazette* of Emporia, Kansas, derided white American’s reaction. Black newspapers from as far as Texas reprinted the editorial.⁵⁶ In his syndicated article, White wrote,

A Colored golf club has been established...[it] will cause a million giggles to sizzle across the country. Cartoonists will make funny pictures of it. Vaudeville artists will do sketches about it. Something exquisitely funny seems to excite the white race when it sees the Colored race doing things which are ordinary parts of the day’s work and play to the white people. It is as though the elephant should drive an auto or a horse play the piano. The reason for this risibility of the white man at the black man’s human activities is obvious, and it is no credit to the white man. He thinks it funny to see the black man doing things that normal human beings do, because the white man does not think of his dark-skinned fellow traveler on the planet as a human companion. Why should not the black man play golf if his economic status gives him leisure for golf? What’s the joke if he develops the same desires and aspirations as we do? And who in God’s name are we, anyway?⁵⁷

Locally, in addition to support, there also was backlash. According to an article printed in *The Sun* (a prominent New York City paper) and reprinted across the country, some in the local white population railed against Westfield’s white members for agreeing to sell to blacks. They claimed property values were depreciating and “society propriety was outraged.” One of the directors of Shady Rest admitted the Club received frequent noise complaints, especially on Sundays. Through negotiations with the local community, Shady Rest conceded to no baseball games on Sundays, which could provoke loud outbursts. They would not, however, give up golf, another local request. “But, said Baker firmly, Shady Rest would insist on its right to play golf on Sunday.”⁵⁸

Members spent their free time at the Club, playing golf and tennis, skeet shooting and maybe riding a horse. Dinner occurred in the dining room. The bar was in the basement. Drinks were served on the porches. There were frequent dances with live music.

Said to be the first black country club in the U.S., the founders of Shady Rest embraced this responsibility of the club’s public function as a community, state and even national resource for African Americans.⁵⁹ Believing separate was the way to equal, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club purposely stood outside of white America. Unlike its white counterparts that typically were insular institutions established for the sole purpose of member enjoyment and entertainment, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club was founded with a higher purpose. The founders and first members

⁵⁴ “With all Modern Features New Jersey Club, Started Three Years Ago, a Success,” *The Pittsburgh Courier* (May 31, 1924),

⁵⁵ Union County Deed Book 893f, page 307

⁵⁶ McDaniel, 42.

⁵⁷ “White Editor Flays Own Race and Tells Them ‘Where to Get Off’ as to Ridiculing of Colored People,” *The Northwestern Bulletin* (August 12, 1922), 1.

⁵⁸ *The Miami Herald* (16 June 1922)

⁵⁹ “Shady Rest Golf and Country Club of New Jersey.”

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of Shady Rest knew they were founding something new. "The Shady Rest Club was established to offset the propaganda by white people that colored people are not developed to where they can appreciate high-class diversion and entertainment which such an establishment would offer."⁶⁰ Owned and operated by an emerging black middle class, its club policies were a curious combination of elitism and populism. It became a meeting place for the African American social set of the East Coast and was "one of the most magnificent barometers of racial progress...the atmosphere indicates an intention to have a place of quite respectable enjoyment as behooves the class of persons who constitute the membership...In no single day in my life have I talked with a more metropolitan...well-informed group of men."⁶¹ However, Shady Rest this elitism was counterbalanced. Shady Rest was mindful of its responsibility to respond to the social and recreational needs to all classes of the African American community. This unusual degree of social consciousness prompted the reporter to note, "the fact that Saturdays are given to visitors at 75 cents admission is in itself an indication that the club is inclined to democratic policies..."⁶²

However, Shady Rest was also exclusive and not just by class. It was for blacks only. Local neighbors reminisce about white friends that were not able to come in for the music shows and had to listen from outside the property on Jerusalem Road.⁶³

After only a few years in operation, a dispute arose in 1925, pitting a New York group, led by club president Henry C. Parker against a local contingency. The local group won and voted out the New York-led management.⁶⁴ However, Parker and his set were reinstated after challenges in court. Ultimately, according to local lore, Parker fled, stealing money, leaving Shady Rest in debt. By 1929, William Willis, Sr., a local man, took over management of the club and brought it closer to financial health. Under Willis, Shady Rest featured prominently on the musical circuit, drawing big names.

However, the rift and theft caused permanent financial damage to Shady Rest. After running a deficit on and off since 1927 coupled with municipal assessment to pave the adjoining roads proved too costly for the club to absorb; a tax lien was placed on the property. Eventually, this mounting tax burden and the Great Depression made a bad situation worse. In 1938, Scotch Plains Township acquired the property through a tax lien foreclosure. But Shady Rest continued. Through a gentleman's agreement, the Township agreed to allow Shady Rest to operate as it had, as a private country club. Willis continued to manage it and it remained a focal point of African-American social life (Historic Photo 9). Shady Rest hosted national and regional golf and tennis tournaments through the 1950s.⁶⁵ The club remained a center of life for its members and for the local African American community for the working class and professionals. It was where they celebrated milestone occasions like birthdays, weddings, and graduation and retirement parties. Shady Rest continued to have local concerts, dances, 4th of July celebrations, NAACP dinners, fraternal order meetings, and host to frequent conventions.

⁶⁰ "Beverly C. Gordon Here Seeking Aid for Shady Rest Golf Club," *The Pittsburgh Courier* (April 26, 1924),

⁶¹ "Shady Rest Golf and Country Club of New Jersey."

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ Lawrence Londino, "A Place for Us," Documentary Film (1995).

⁶⁴ "Stormy Session at Shady Rest Club" *The Courier-News* (7 January 1925), 2.

⁶⁵ "Miss Gibson Scores Three Wins in Shady Rest Tennis," *The Courier-News* (August 5, 1950),

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By 1964, the Township of Scotch Plains had begun looking for alternate uses for Shady Rest. While neighborhood opposition ultimately protected the club, Scotch Plains ended its arrangement with the leadership of Shady Rest and turned it into a public golf course, renaming it the Scotch Hills Country Club. Following the landmark *Brown vs. the Board of Education* and several court decisions requiring integration of public facilities in general and golf courses in particular, Scotch Hills was open to all Scotch Plains residents. It remains a public course today while the Shady Rest Clubhouse is used regularly by senior groups and is available for rental.

Sports at Shady Rest

In 1921 when Progressive Realty began leasing the Westfield Country Club, the 9-hole golf course was a major draw. Many of the founders and members were avid golfers; a mission of the club was to develop the sport for the black community.⁶⁶ Shady Rest was the first private 9-hole course for African Americans in the country. From the outset, Shady Rest had a blacks only policy that included tournament play. They hosted the first United States Colored Golf Association Championship in 1925. Harry Jackson of Washington, DC led a field of 30 golfers, shooting a 299 for 72 holes. John Shippen was second, three shots back. For the next few years, this tournament was held at Mapledale, another African American country club in Stow, Massachusetts. Unlike at Shady Rest, the competition at Mapledale was not restricted to only black players, as Chairman Norris Horton explained, “We knew what it was like to be excluded and we didn’t want to do the same to anybody else, so blacks, whites, anybody who qualified and paid the entry fee could play.”⁶⁷

In 1929, the national golf organization changed its name to the United Golfers Association (UGA). It held its first Championship Open under its new name at Shady Rest with 80 golfers competing. Over the years, Shady Rest hosted many UGA tournaments including its Championship Open. In its 40 year history, Shady Rest was also the location of local, state and regional tournaments for men, women and young players.⁶⁸ Most importantly, Shady Rest was the home course for its members. In the movie “A Place for Us,” past members reminisce fondly about the course where generations of African Americans spent long summer days.⁶⁹

Shady Rest was also important in African American tennis. The New Jersey Tennis Association (NJTA) was formed in 1922 and was headquartered at Shady Rest which hosted many of their state championships. Shady Rest also hosted national events. For instance, in August 1932, Shady Rest hosted the national tennis championship of the American Tennis Association (ATA). The ATA was founded in 1916 after the US Lawn Tennis Association issued a policy statement formally barring African-American tennis players from its competitions. The ATA set up a separate tournament circuit, holding its first championship at Baltimore’s Druid Hill Park in 1917. Most ATA tournaments were held at historically Black Colleges and Universities because large groups of blacks would not be accommodated at most hotels, especially in the south.⁷⁰ However, in 1932, Shady Rest was the location of the National Championship. Reigning champions, Reginald Weir and Ora Washington were there to defend their titles. Grand stands were erected to seat 1,500 spectators. Social events around the tournament included a get-acquainted party on Monday, a card party on Tuesday and the annual meeting of the association on Wednesday, a dance on Thursday and the official reception

⁶⁶ “Golf Grows in Favor in East, West,” *The Pittsburgh Courier* (April 13, 1927).

⁶⁷ <http://freedomsway.org/mapledale-country-club/>

⁶⁸ “Golf at Shady Rest” *The New York Age* (1 August 1936)

⁶⁹ Londino

⁷⁰ “History,” United Tennis Association, <https://www.yourata.org/history>

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of the tennis association on Friday.⁷¹ Shady Rest hosted the 18th annual NJTA men's singles championship in 1940.⁷² During this tournament, Shady Rest's blacks only policy was fought by a local white player; Shady Rest maintained its policy.⁷³ Shady Rest hosted the ATA's Eastern Championships in 1949.⁷⁴ Through the 1950s, Shady Rest was the pre-eminent African American tennis venue.⁷⁵

Trailblazing athlete Althea Gibson became the first great African-American player in women's tennis. Born in 1927 in South Carolina, she grew up in Harlem. She began playing tennis in 1940 and within a few years, she captured ATA junior national championships at 17-and-18 years old. In 1947, Gibson won the first of ten straight ATA national women's titles.⁷⁶ In 1950, she became the first African American to compete in the U.S. Championship of the US Lawn Tennis Association played at Forest Hills. Between 1956 and 1958, Althea Gibson was the world's dominant female player. She won nine Grand Slam titles including on clay at the French Open in 1956, as well as the Wimbledon's All-England Lawn Tennis Women's Single's championship in 1957 and 1958 and the U.S. Open in both 1957 and 1958. She was also a finalist in the 1957 Australian Open. She broke the color barrier in all of these tournaments.⁷⁷

Althea Gibson spent significant time at Shady Rest; she was a frequent winner here at state and national tennis tournaments (Historic Photos 3-5). Locals remember watching the skinny girl from Harlem who had a lightning hard and fast serve.⁷⁸ In 1947, Gibson came in second at the NJTA's 25th anniversary Eastern Championships at Shady Rest. In 1950, Gibson competed in the National Negro Eastern Open Tennis Tournament at Shady Rest and won the women's singles tournament as well as the mixed doubles with her coach Sidney Llewellyn of New York City.⁷⁹ Gibson continued with the ATA even as she was rising in the white tennis world. In 1959, she was the No. 1 ranked player in the world. She retired from tennis and turned professional. However, there wasn't much money to be made in professional women's tennis, so Gibson turned her attention to professional golf, and in 1964, at age 37, became the first African-American woman to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour. Again, she spent time at Shady Rest; this time on the golf course while also playing the white courses of the national circuit.⁸⁰

Shady Rest as Civic and Cultural Center

Shady Rest was more than just a golf and tennis club. From the beginning, Shady Rest was a popular venue for a broad range of cultural events that attracted middle class and well-to-do black members as well as all classes of the public. From its onset, Shady Rest was used for political meetings. In the fall of 1921, Shady Rest was the location for several political meetings by African American Republicans.⁸¹ Another important meeting occurred in 1924 when over 200

⁷¹ "National Tennis Meet in East," *The Indianapolis Recorder* (August 20, 1932), 2; "Weir is Tennis Victor," *The New York Times* (August 16, 1932), 21.

⁷² "Darkness Halts Men's Final at Shady Rest Club" *The Courier-News* (8 July 1940), 13

⁷³ "White Player Fights to Enter Jersey Net Tournament: Unique Issue Created as Eastern Open Begins on Shady Rest's Courts Claim Barring of Edward Grazing of Englewood Would Violate ATA's Constitution," *New York Amsterdam News* (13 July 1940), 18.

⁷⁴ "Field Set for National Net Tourney: Winners in Eastern Tennis Championships Held at Shady Rest Country Club in Westfield, N.J.," *Afro-American* (20 Aug 1949), 16.

⁷⁵ "Shady Rest Country Club is Known as the 'Forest Hills' of Tan Tennis Starts," *Afro-American* (14 Dec 1957), 15.

⁷⁶ International Tennis Hall of Fame, Althea Gibson, <https://www.tennisfame.com/hall-of-famers/inductees/althea-gibson>

⁷⁷ <https://www.yourata.org/history>

⁷⁸ Londino

⁷⁹ "Miss Gibson Scores Three Wins in Shady Rest Tennis," *The Courier-News* (August 5, 1950),

⁸⁰ "Althea Gibson," History Channel, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/althea-gibson>

⁸¹ "Colored Republicans Meet at Shady Rest," *The Courier-News* (13 October 1921), 10.

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black republicans met at Shady Rest for the reelection of Walter E. Edge for US Senate. Edge, a former two-time governor of the state, was a huge political figure in New Jersey. Importantly, African-Americans and the NAACP were able to get Edge to support the Dyer Anti-Lynching bill.⁸² Other civic events were held at Shady Rest. On Memorial Day weekend in 1923, W.E.B. DuBois, scholar and activist, spoke before an overflow crowd at Shady Rest; the parking lot was jammed with over 500 cars from all over the Northeast.⁸³ In 1941, A.J. White from the New Jersey Society for the Social Betterment of the Negro spoke to a group of 300.⁸⁴

In addition to these civic engagements, Shady Rest hosted regular social events for members and for the public. For members, there were club dances every Thursday night where the house band played. For the regional public, there were concerts. St. Mark's church choir gave a concert at the clubhouse in 1923, for instance.⁸⁵ But Shady Rest is best known for its weekend dances. They attracted blacks from all over the region. According to a 1925 article, Shady Rest was the "largest social organization of its kind for negroes in the United States."⁸⁶

From the beginning but especially after 1929 when William Willis took over management of the club, Jazz Era greats played at Shady Rest. Among the long list of legendary entertainers who performing at the club were Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and Sarah Vaughn. Many locals remember hearing young Ella Fitzgerald with Chick Webb and His Orchestra at Shady Rest, delighting the crowd with "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," released in 1938. Another remembers Miss Fitzgerald giving his sister a silver dollar when she arrived at Shady Rest.⁸⁷ According to local lore, Shady Rest also was the site of after-parties for many of these great musicians after their gigs in New York City venues like the Cotton Club where they were not welcome to stay after their performances concluded.

Shady Rest was a private club that also was a community asset. It was the center of regional conventions, hosting black fraternal organizations like the Elks and Local Knights. Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity held a large gathering at Shady Rest in 1923 (Historic Photo 6). For its members, Shady Rest hosted weddings and birthday parties. Through the 1960s, the society pages of the local papers covered weddings and receptions at Shady Rest for the black community.⁸⁸ Shady Rest remained a community resource for the local African American community hosting VFW parties.⁸⁹

Shady Rest also was a destination included in *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. Beginning with the second edition of the guide in 1938, Shady Rest continued to be listed as a country club in the annual guidebook until 1953.⁹⁰ (The Green Book Guides are organized by state then by city or town then by amenity within each town. There is no overall index. There also isn't an overall category list. Although a perusal of these guides indicate that Shady Rest was the

⁸² "Colored Voters Here Endorse Sen. Edge at Big Conference," *The Westfield Leader* (July 23, 1924), 1; "Color Voters Endorse Edge at Gathering Shady Rest Club," *The Courier-News* (21 July 1924), 2.

⁸³ Lawrence J. Londino, *Tiger Woods: A Biography* (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006), 43.

⁸⁴ Spies, 6; "Speaks at Shady Rest," *Plainfield Courier News* (March 3, 1941), 16.

⁸⁵ Concert at Shady Rest Clubhouse," *The Courier-News* (25 May 1923), 23.

⁸⁶ "In New York," *Indianapolis Times* (February 11, 1925), 4.

⁸⁷ Londino

⁸⁸ "St. Mark's Church Scene of Wedding," *The Courier News* (February 17, 1964).

⁸⁹ "Post 7474 Plans Christmas Party," *The Courier News* (December 15, 1960).

⁹⁰ Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library. "The Negro Travelers' Green Book: 1938", "The Negro Travelers' Green Book: 1954" The New York Public Library Digital Collections.

<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/3c85ba30-9374-0132-9292-58d385a7b928>

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only “country club” listed, there is a chance that another was missed.) Shady Rest was an important resource for traveling African Americans as it was for the local and regional community.

Shady Rest after 1964

In 1964, the Township of Scotch Plains ended its arrangement with Shady Rest and officially took over operations of the club, renaming it the Scotch Hills Country Club. However, for years prior to this, Scotch Plains had been looking into other uses for Shady Rest and its surrounding neighborhood. In the early 1950s, Scotch Plains rezoned the club and the surrounding neighborhood for industrial use. In 1961, at a Planning Board meeting regarding a proposed redevelopment plan, Reverend Frank W. Allen, president of the Plainfield NAACP, accused Scotch Plains of trying to drive out black citizens. He cited the 1950 Census when blacks made up 12% of the 9,000 Scotch Plains residents while in 1960, they were only 6% of 18,500. He argued that Shady Rest area had been rezoned for industrial use as a way to prevent blacks from buying or building houses there. Over 600 people attended this meeting in opposition to the plan.⁹¹ The fight continued for years. The 1963 Scotch Plains Master Plan proposed the Shady Rest and neighboring Kramer Manor areas for urban renewal with the Shady Rest Country Club as an area conducive for a “campus-type industry.” Over 200 people attended a planning board hearing to fight these proposals.⁹² By August, however, these plans were scrapped. While opposition to this plan undoubtedly helped, ultimately it was cost that scuttled the plan. In the summer of 1963, the planning consultants ended up not recommending urban renewal of Shady Rest and its surrounding neighborhoods. Urban renewal required relocating families that would be displaced within the municipality. The consultants realized that relocating the families within Scotch Plains, a middle class suburb, would be too expensive. Shady Rest was saved.⁹³

The residents of the Shady Rest neighborhood did succeed at convincing the municipality to preserve Shady Rest Country Club. By the spring of 1964, Scotch Plains announced they would open Shady Rest as a municipal course. What is so striking about this is how quickly the white community embraced its “new” resource. Within two weeks, over 300 people had requested membership. The Tucker House was immediately embraced as a historic asset and added to a local women’s club tour of historic Scotch Plains houses.⁹⁴ Very quickly, the previous 40 years of African American community history was erased and the 18th century white history was embraced. Tellingly, in the local paper the article reporting about the opening of the new municipal course sat alongside another article: “Bias Charge is Leveled in Westfield.” Parents of black students described discrimination in one of the local schools.⁹⁵

In May of 1964, Scotch Hills Country Club opened. 250 people attended opening day. Membership was restricted to Scotch Plains residents; on opening day there were 500 members. Scotch Hills was the second municipally owned course in New Jersey.⁹⁶ The first golf pro was John Capello from a golfing family. His father and brothers were golf pros for various clubs on the East Coast. Pictures of the opening weekend show a vast majority white membership. Few, if any, black faces are seen.⁹⁷

⁹¹ “Clergyman Claims Jersey Town Aims to Oust Negroes,” *The New York Times* (August 30, 1961), 35,

⁹² “Scotch Plains Plans for Industry Zone Meet Opposition,” *The Courier News* (March 26, 1963).

⁹³ “Relocation Task Brings Change In Renewal Plan,” *The Westfield Leader* (August 8, 1963), 5

⁹⁴ “Golfers Rush to Join Club,” *The Courier News* (March 16, 1964).

⁹⁵ “Shift of Negro Students Sought by Civic Group,” *The Courier News* (May 25, 1964).

⁹⁶ “New Course Dedicated as Mayor Drives First Ball,” *The Courier News* (May 25, 1964).

⁹⁷ *Swinging Around Golf* (May 1964), 131, <https://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/golfd/article/1964may3.pdf>

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While Shady Rest was preserved, the neighboring community continued to fight the encroaching industrial use. In 1968, Malverse Martin, Jr. Chairman of the Plainfield Area Chapter of CORE (Congress of Racial Equity) issued a statement concerning racial problems in Scotch Plains. "...the Scotch Plains power structure has little regard for its Black citizens who make up a significant part of the community especially the people who live in the Shady Rest Area who are being threatened with an expanding industrial build up. They talked beautifully but said nothing and they (city officials) have little knowledge of Black peoples' needs and problems in the community."⁹⁸

While Scotch Hills Country Club may have succeeded for a few years, by 1975, Scotch Plains was considered turning the golf course into a swimming pool and/or recreation complex with paddle tennis, tennis courts and pitch and putt. According to the newspaper, the golf course lost money annually and membership was in decline. Again, area residents came out in mass to object. Reverend Kelmo Porter of St. John the Baptist Church said the black residents of Shady Rest did not want a pool and worried about increased traffic. Residents wanted to preserve the golf course and green space.⁹⁹

Ultimately, area residents succeeded in preserving Shady Rest Golf and Country Club. In 1990, prompted by a newspaper article about John Shippen's life that had appeared in a Newark newspaper, a small group of towns people from Scotch Plains and nearby communities came together to explore the possibility of developing a project to honor his memory. After a few meetings, the John Shippen African American Commemorative Committee was formed. The following year, thanks to a modest contribution provided by the Merck Pharmaceutical Company, the Committee sponsored its first golf tournament with the proceeds used to provide a scholarship to a deserving minority high school athlete. Annual tournaments have been held each year since, with subsequent scholarships awarded to minority high school students for academic achievement. In 1993 the Committee bought a head stone for John Shippen's grave at the Rosedale Cemetery in Linden, New Jersey. In 1995, now established as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, the Committee was reorganized as the John Shippen Memorial Golf Foundation.

A documentary film about the historic significance of Shady Rest was created and produced by Dr. Lawrence Londino of Montclair State University in 1993. It has been screened periodically and very successfully at the Scotch Hills Country Club and is posted on the town's website. The film, "A Place for Us," features John Shippen (1879-1968), the legendary golfer who was the first American-born and first African-American professional golfer. Shippen served as Shady Rest's longtime golf professional and greens supervisor.

In 2008, Scotch Plains began discussing demolition of the clubhouse, citing the desire for a new senior citizens center. As a result, the Preservation New Jersey placed had the clubhouse and golf course listed on its 10-Most Endangered Site in 2008. In 2013, the non-profit Preserve Shady Rest Committee was founded to facilitate the preservation of the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club. Led by Sylvia Hicks, the group successfully petitioned the municipal government to hire a preservation architect. A Preservation Plan followed in 2014 and the building was rehabilitated in 2018. The

⁹⁸ "Core' Area Chairman Lists Complaints," *The Times* (Scotch Plains-Fanwood) (May 2, 1968), 16

⁹⁹ "Recreation Complex Proposal Stirs Ire of Plains Citizens: 200 Vocal Objectors Prolong Council Meeting Till Midnight," *The Times* (Scotch Plains-Fanwood) (May 8, 1975), 1

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New Jersey Historic Preservation Office awarded Barton Ross & Partners LLC, the Township of Scotch Plains and the Preserve Shady Rest Committee a preservation award for the rehabilitation of the clubhouse in 2021.

Criterion A: Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, an early African American county club

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club is significant under Criterion A as one of the first country club founded by and for African Americans. It definitely was the first private 9-hole golf course for blacks in the U.S. Its period of significance begins in 1921 when the Progressive Realty Company began leasing the club from the Westfield Country Club and ends in 1964 when the course became public as the Scotch Hills Country Club. Shady Rest is an important symbol of African American middle class achievement.

From the beginning, Shady Rest Golf and Country Club was founded with two goals. It was a country club for prominent members of the African American middle and upper classes, serving as a vital social and recreational center for its elite membership. But it combined this elitism with populism and was more than a private country club. As the first African American club in the region, it was a center for the African Americans community from all classes and from all over the East Coast. It was a cultural center. Nationally prominent musicians and speakers attracted audiences from geographically and economically diverse backgrounds. It was a national sports venue. Local, regional and national black athletes competed at Shady Rest in tennis and golf regardless of their economic status. The founders and first members of Shady Rest knew they were founding something that went beyond their membership needs and embraced this leadership role.

For almost 50 years, Shady Rest was a center for the African American community. It is an attestation to the perseverance and persistence of its membership. Black country clubs were found throughout the U.S. in the 1920s including New England, the Mid-Atlantic, the South, the Midwest and the West. By 1940s few had survived. Like Shady Rest, the 1939 Langston Golf Course in Washington DC is one that that did survive; Langston was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.¹⁰⁰ However, Langston Golf was a public course; it was and continues to be supported by tax payer dollars. Shady Rest was private. Although it was publicly owned after 1938, it remained a private club, financed by the members.

Several new African American private clubs are listed on the National Register. Clearview Golf Club, founded in 1946 in East Canton, Ohio was listed on the National Register in 2001.¹⁰¹ Meadowbrook Country Club in Garner, NC was founded in 1959; it was listed on the National Register in 2009.

Other National Register golf clubs in New Jersey include Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield. The club was founded in 1895 with a golf course designed by A.W. Tillinghast. It was listed on the National Register in 2005 and became a National Historic Landmark in 2014 in recognition of its importance to Tillinghast's career as a course designer. Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus was listed on the National Register in 2015; it too was designed by A.W. Tillinghast.

¹⁰⁰ Langston Golf Course and Driving Range, African American Heritage Trail

¹⁰¹ Course History, Clearview Golf Club, <https://www.clearviewgolfclub.com/coursehistory> <https://diverseeducation.com/article/1336/>

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Other black recreational facilities in New Jersey on the National Register include Hinchliffe Stadium. Built by the City of Paterson from 1932-33, it was a Negro League Baseball stadium until 1945 and was a major venue for black athletes including boxing. It was later owned by the Paterson Public Schools and hosted professional baseball and football games, high school athletic contests, auto racing, and rock concerts. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2013.

Criterion B: John Matthew Shippen, Jr.

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club is also significant under Criterion B for its association with John Matthew Shippen, Jr. (1879-1968) the first American professional golfer and the first African American golfer to compete in the U.S. Open. Shippen was the golf professional for Shady Rest from 1931 until 1964, living on the third floor of the clubhouse for over 30 years.

John Matthew Shippen, Jr. was born on December 2, 1879 in Washington DC. He was the fourth child of Eliza Spottswood and John M. Shippen. His parents were both former slaves. His mother was born in Culpeper County, Virginia around 1849. Following emancipation, she came to Washington DC and bought a house lot on Nichols Avenue in the burgeoning community of Barry Farm-Hillsdale in Anacostia, the outskirts of the capital. Barry Farm-Hillsdale Barry Farm-Hillsdale was created under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau. Using money provided by her father, a cobbler whose owner allowed him to save part of the money he earned, Spottswood and her mother built a house. According to the 1870 census, Spottswood, in her late teens, was living with her mother, Susan, in a household headed by Louis Bryan. "Most likely Bryan was a lodger and the census taker would not believe that young Miss Spottswood was the owner of the house."¹⁰² Eliza Spottswood married John M. Shippen on September 30, 1874 at Shiloh Baptist Church. He was born in Hayfield, Caroline County, Virginia around 1848. Shippen was a teacher and principal of the African American school in the Reno neighborhood of northwest DC. The Shippens moved to Alabama where their first daughter, Clara, was born. By 1880, the family was back in Washington DC living with four children, including 1-year old John Shippen (Jr.). Shippen (Sr.) earned a theology degree from Howard University and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1883.¹⁰³

In 1888, John Shippen (Sr.) was assigned to the Presbyterian mission on the Shinnecock Indian reservation in Southampton, Long Island, New York where he served as pastor and taught at the one-room school for grades 1-8. While some of the older children remained on Nichols Avenue in Barry Farm-Hillsdale, most of the family moved to Shinnecock. This is where young John Shippen was introduced to the new sport of golf. He along with two of his brothers—Cyrus and Henry—all worked as caddies as young boys at the new golf course, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club which opened in 1891.

Education was obviously important to the middle class Shippens. One daughter, Eliza graduated from Oberlin in 1897 then Howard University in 1912, received a Master's degree from Columbia in 1928 and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1944. Cyrus graduated from Yale in 1899. Henry went to Howard University. Bessie, Eliza and Carrie were teachers.

¹⁰² Alcione M. Amos, Barry Farm—Hillsdale in Anacostia: A Historic African American Community (Arcadia Publishing, January 4, 2021), 38.

¹⁰³ 1880 Federal Census; U.S.; Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874 for John M Shippen

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The Shippen family returned to DC in October 1898 and John Shippen (Sr) opened a grocery store. Sadly, Shippen Sr. committed suicide on December 26, 1901. The newspaper reported it was due to “ill health and misfortune in business affairs.” The family eventually moved away from Barry Farm-Hillsdale except for Henry who continued to run the family grocery store on Nichols Avenue. His descendants owned the property his mother had built until the 1950s. “Although the Shippen family were struck by tragedy, they also represented the successful history of two people who emerged from enslavement and were able to acquire property and provide for their children with the means to obtain higher education.”¹⁰⁴

Shinnecock Golf Hills Golf Course opened in 1891 when a group of wealthy Southampton summer residents purchased 80 acres near the Shinnecock Reservation to establish a golf course. They hired Willie Davis, a Scottish golfer, to design the original 12 holes. By 1895, Davis had been replaced by fellow-Scotsman Willie Dunn and the course was expanded to 18 holes. Dunn began to teach some of the local youth to caddie including the Shippen brothers. Among his more promising students were 15-year old John Shippen and his friend, Oscar Bunn, a Shinnecock Indian.¹⁰⁵

John Shippen and Oscar Bunn were both talented golfers. As young teenagers, they were better players than any of the club members. Shippen particularly excelled and Willie Dunn elevated him to his assistant; Shippen began giving lessons, repairing clubs and was a starter and scorekeeper at club tournaments. In July 1896, Shinnecock hosted the 2nd U.S. Golf Open Championship (for professionals and amateurs) and U.S. Amateur (for amateurs only). Because of their prowess as golfers and the prestige the club would receive by fielding quality players, many of the Shinnecock club members encouraged Shippen and Bunn to enter the professional dominated Open. According to some sources, the members paid the boys’ entrance fees.¹⁰⁶ Shippen and Bunn competed with 33 other players, mostly professionals from England and Scotland. As a paid golf instructor, Shippen was considered a professional; his entry into the tournament made him the first American professional to compete in the U.S. Open.

Shippen was also the first African American to compete in the tournament and this resulted in controversy. Some of the other competitors refused to play against Shippen. Shippen discussed this event with long time sports reporter, Harry Grayson, in 1963, “There was some slight objection by the field of Scottish and English pros to my playing. They held a meeting, but Theodore A. Havermeyer, the sugar king and first president of the U.S. Golf Association, told them the championship would go on no matter what their decision.” According to legend, Havermeyer eased the professionals’ qualms by stating that Shippen was part Shinnecock, rather than black, which may have been seen as less offensive.¹⁰⁷ As this story has been retold, it has evolved into claims that John Shippen may have been bi-racial. This is not true. Both of his parents were enslaved. In addition, Havermeyer may never have claimed that Shippen was Shinnecock. By this time, Shippen was fairly well-known as an African American player. By the spring of 1896, the spring before the Open, Shippen was being lauded as one of the best American golfers.¹⁰⁸ One article that was reprinted throughout the U.S. stated:

¹⁰⁴ Amos, 36-39; Washington DC, City Directory, 1890-1891 on Ancestry; 1892 New York State Census
¹⁰⁵ History, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, <https://www.shinnecockhillsgolfclub.org/history>; Barton Ross, 2.06
¹⁰⁶ Amos, 39.
¹⁰⁷ McDaniel, 23-25.
¹⁰⁸ “Negro the Crack Golf Player,” *Chicago Tribune* (May 14, 1896)

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Since the introduction of the game of golf in the United States the impatience to see the great American golfer has become almost as strong as awaiting the great American novelist...There is an American golfer either in the first class or certain to be in it before very long. He is a young negro boy named John Shippen, 16 years old, a caddy at the Shinnecock Hills Golf club at Southampton, L.I. If he sticks to golf he is destined to make a pretty broad mark on the American record...John can to-day beat any amateur in the country, and very probably some of the lesser professionals....It would not be at all surprising if before long John Shippen, the negro boy, appeared in the open championship as one of the most threatening candidates for honors.¹⁰⁹

The first time this article was found was on May 5, 1896 in Buffalo, New York. It spread. It appeared throughout June 1896 in places like Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri papers. An offshoot appeared in the *Fort Wayne News* in Indiana, using much of the same verbiage but also stating, "It was expected that the great American golfer would come from the ranks of the upper classes, as the sport is most affected by them. It seems, however, that one of the best, if not the best, of all players of golf in this country is a little 16-year-old colored boy, named John Shippen."¹¹⁰

With Havermeyer's commitment to letting everyone play, the tournament began. On the first day of competition at Shinnecock, Shippen was paired with Charles Blair Macdonald, a leading force in American golf and Havermeyer's vice president of the USGA. Macdonald, Canadian born to a Scottish father, championed the western faction of the USGA from his home base of Chicago while Havermeyer led the eastern half. Macdonald considered himself the best player in America, having won the Amateur tournament the year before. However, Shippen outplayed him the first day and shot a 78; with a score of 83, Macdonald withdrew from competition. With his 78, Shippen was in the lead, tied with three other players. As one of the leaders, Shippen started the second round as the first black American ever to hold the U.S. Open lead; a feat unmatched until Jim Thorpe at Medinah in 1913. Unfortunately, Shippen struggled on the second day. He did poorly on the 13th hole, shooting an 11 at a par-4 hole. John Shippen ultimately finished 5th, winning \$10 in prize money. Newspaper accounts that covered the tournament discussed the "considerable novelty" of the professional Scottish players playing against the young black caddie and added that Shippen was "the most remarkable player in the United States."¹¹¹

Immediately following this first tournament, Shippen was hired as the first head professional at Maidstone Club in Easthampton, New York, another Long Island golf club.¹¹² In 1899, Shippen was hired as second head professional at Aronimink Golf Club outside of Philadelphia. He brought his brother, Cyrus who had recently graduated from Yale, as his assistant. Both represented Aronimink in the 1899 U.S. Open at Baltimore Country Club; John Shippen tied for 24th.¹¹³ The Shippen brothers were likely the last two African Americans to play this course until well after WWII.

¹⁰⁹ *The Buffalo Commercial* (May 5, 1896),

¹¹⁰ "The Great American Golfer: He is a Colored Caddy at a Long Island Golf Club," *The Fort Wayne News* (May 28, 1896)

¹¹¹ "Is a Double Victory," *Chicago Tribune* (July 19, 1896)

¹¹² "Shippen Beat Wilson," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (August 29, 1896)

¹¹³ Bob Denney, "PGA Professional John Shippen and the Preservation of a Pioneering Legacy," PGA.com, <https://www.pga.com/story/pga-professional-john-shippen-and-the-preservation-of-a-pioneering-legacy>; Golf, an Official Bulletin of the United States Golf Association, Vol. 5, No. 4 (October 1899), https://www.digifind-it.com/njhistoricalportal/data/usga/books/golf_new_york/1890s/1899/Vol%205_4.pdf

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By 1899, Shippen was 19, his family had moved back to DC and he was married. On January 8, 1899, Shippen married Effie Walker in Manhattan. According to secondary sources, Walker was a member of the Shinnecock Tribe but this couldn't be confirmed. Unfortunately, Effie didn't live long. By May 27, 1901 Shippen married a second time to Maud E. Lee, a member of Shinnecock tribe; they were married on the Shinnecock Reservation.¹¹⁴ Shippen returned to Maidstone from 1902-1913. According to the 1910 census, Shippen and Maud were living in Southampton on the Shinnecock Reservation with five children: three daughters and a son between the ages 3-9. At some point in 1910, Shippen was the professional at the Marine and Field Club in Brooklyn where he had served as greenskeeper in 1910.¹¹⁵

Shippen continued to compete professionally. He played four more U.S. Opens after his first in 1896—1899, 1900, 1902 and 1913. His best showing was in 1902 at the Garden City Golf Club in New York, when he tied for 4th. In 1913, he came in 41st place (Historic Photo 11). Like other professional golfers of this time, Shippen also spent time as a private golf teacher for wealthy patrons. Among other clients, he worked for the Cromwell family of Bernardsville, NJ and Henry Clay Frick. It was a tough way to make a living. He never earned more than \$4,000 a year. His biggest prize winning year was when he earned \$200; the rest of his income came from “selling balls and clubs and giving lessons.”¹¹⁶

It is unclear what Shippen was doing in the late 19-teens but he continued to live on the Shinnecock Reservation. In 1920-21, he was the greenskeeper at Shinnecock Hills and then the course maintenance foreman at the National Golf Links, another prestigious private club in Southampton, Long Island. At some point after 1921, Shippen and his family (now 6 children, an additional son was born in 1911) left the Shinnecock Reservation and moved to Washington DC. Shippen continued to be a professional golfer but now in the increasingly segregated world of American golf, he no longer worked for the premier country clubs of the white elite but rather at segregated black courses. He was the professional with the Citizen Golf Club in DC from 1921-1926 and with the National Capital Golf Club in Maryland from 1927-1931.¹¹⁷ In 1930, he and his wife Maude were living on T Street NW with their three daughters; in an increasingly racialized American society, Maude, a Native Shinnecock, was now considered “black” by the census taker.

In 1931, John Shippen left his family in DC to move to Shady Rest Golf and Country Club while Maude and the girls moved into an apartment with Cyrus Shippen, John's brother.¹¹⁸ Shippen became the golf professional at Shady Rest; he was 54 (Historic Photo 12). He remained there for 30 years, largely estranged from his family.¹¹⁹ While at Shady Rest, he was known as “Ship.” He was a small man. 5'7” and less than 145 pounds. He had a three-quarter swing that was a remnant of the 1890s; his drives were famous for being dead straight. He was also a great putter, using the same putter since 1896. Local people remember his arranging money matches with local amateurs and pros.¹²⁰ During his 30-year tenure at Shady Rest, Shippen was a respected golf professional but was little known and not very close to

¹¹⁴ New York State Marriage Records on Ancestry

¹¹⁵ Denney

¹¹⁶ Harry Grayson, Newspaper Enterprise Assn., *Hawaii Tribune-Herald* (June 16, 1963), page 8.

¹¹⁷ 1920 Federal Census; “John Shippen 1879-1968” encyclopedia.com, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/education/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/shippen-john-1879-1968>

¹¹⁸ 1930 Federal Census; Mrs. Maude L. Shippen in US City Directories, 1822-1995, Washington DC (1931)

¹¹⁹ Demas, 38.

¹²⁰ Hank Gola, “Ahead of his Time: Little-known Linkster was first to Break the Color Barrier,” *New York Daily News* (June 17, 2004), 34.

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most of his fellow golfers; he was an alcoholic and reclusive, seen as aloof by many at Shady Rest. It is unclear whether he attended his wife's funeral in 1957 but towards the end of his life, he seems to have somewhat reconciled with his children.

John Shippen remained at Shady Rest until 1964; he died four years later at a nursing home in Newark, at the age of 86. Shippen was survived by four daughters, a son, three sisters and five grandchildren.¹²¹ There were many tragedies in his life including the suicide of his father and the death of his first wife. "John Shippen had come from a family of middle class, well-educated, high-achieving African Americans, and he was a bit of a misfit—a fact that was probably a source of mutual disappointment."¹²² Added to these personal issues were the impediments thrown up at him as an African American in a white-dominated, insular and systemically racist world of golf. In the 1963 interview with Grayson, Shippen lamented that he came to golf "50 years too soon"¹²³ at a time when it was impossible for a black athlete to compete professionally. However, Shippen ultimately couldn't deny his love for the sport. According to a 1969 *Tuesday Magazine* article, Shippen once said, "I wonder if I did the right thing when I quit school and went into golf," Shippen said. "Maybe I should have kept going and gone to Yale like my brother, who's a teacher. I wonder until I look out the window and see that golf course. Then I realize how much enjoyment I've gotten out of the game, and I don't wonder anymore."¹²⁴

John Shippen's role as a golf pioneer was not known even by Shady Rest golfers. Following a 1990 newspaper article about Shippen's role in early golf history, a small group of Scotch Plains residents formed the John Shippen African American Commemorative Committee that began to sponsor a golf tournament with the proceeds used to provide a scholarship to a deserving minority high school athlete. Annual tournaments have been held each year since. In 2009, the PGA of America granted posthumous membership to John Shippen, who was denied the opportunity to become a PGA member during his professional career.

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club is the appropriate place to honor John Shippen. While the Shinnecock course was the location where he was the first African American to play in a U.S. Open, Shippen went on to play in four more Opens, making his play the remarkable feat not the location. He was the golf professional at several leading white courses but only for short stints; he was also one of many pros in the various clubs' histories. He was itinerant for most of his life and thus finding the physical addresses of most of his houses almost impossible. He worked and lived at Shady Rest for 30 years, making it both his longest job and his longest residence. Because of this, Shady Rest is where his accomplishments as the first African American golfer and first American golf professional should be acknowledged and celebrated.

Early History of Shady Rest, Before the Period of Significance

The Tucker Family (mid-18th century-1808)

¹²¹ "John M. Shippen, 90, Early Negro Golfer," *The New York Times* (May 22, 1968), 47.

¹²² Sinnette, 24.

¹²³ Grayson

¹²⁴ Denney

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In the historic Elizabethtown Purchase of 1664, English colonists from Connecticut and Long Island negotiated with the local Native Americans for title to an immense tract of land that extended from the Raritan to the Passaic Rivers, and westward for over thirty miles encompassing 500,000 acres. In 1683, the General Assembly, meeting in Elizabethtown, divided East New Jersey into four counties: Bergen, Essex, Middlesex and Monmouth. What is now Union County was originally a part of Essex County. With the growth in population and continuous division and sale of land parcels, Elizabethtown's boundary lines continued to expand and divide. State legislature created the towns of Springfield (1793), Westfield (1794), Rahway (1804), Union (1808) and New Providence (1809). Shady Rest was part of Westfield Township which first began to be settled by Europeans about 1720 when it was the "West Field" of Elizabethtown. Expansion and divisions continued through the first half of 19th century until the creation of Plainfield in 1847 fueled the movement to secede from Essex County, to create a new county better equipped to meet the needs of the southernmost towns. In 1857, Union County was established. Through continued growth the Township of Fanwood was formed in 1877; this included Scotch Plains. In 1895 the one square mile Borough of Fanwood was separated from the township; Fanwood Township became the Township of Scotch Plains in 1917, changing its name back to its original colonial name.

The Tucker Family were early settlers of Elizabethtown and Westfield, likely coming from England by way of New England. A Charles Tooker (later Tucker) was an original associate who signed the first oath of allegiance to Elizabethtown in 1665.¹²⁵ While it is known that the Tuckers were early residents and the original occupants of the house that would become the Shady Rest Clubhouse, it is unclear exactly how Ephraim Tucker (Sr.) came to own the 30-acres of land that he sold to his son, Ephraim Tucker (Jr.) in 1798. One theory is that it came through inheritance from Charles Tooker (Jr., son of the original associate, Charles). In his will dated 1735 and proved in 1740, Charles gave to his youngest son, John Tooker, "all that farm or Plantation Containing by Estimation one hundred acres of land be the same more or less lying on the southwest side of the Road leading to the grist mill of Samuel Oliver late...which said plantation of lands I purchased of several persons at several times and by several parcels as by their several Deeds..." He went on to give his grandson, Warner Tucker, one heifer. In this document, he also appointed his beloved brother, Joseph Tooker, one of his executors.¹²⁶ Charles Tucker's numerous land purchases can be seen in early deeds beginning in 1675.¹²⁷ John Tucker, the son, died intestate four years later in 1745. In his estate papers, his wife was mentioned as administratrix as was Joseph Tucker, presumably his uncle, mentioned in his father's deed as John did not have a known son named Joseph.¹²⁸

The other theory is that the land was purchased by Warner Tucker, Charles' grandson and the father of Ephraim Tucker (Sr.) . Warner Tucker was born in Westfield in 1719 and married Elizabeth Lambert (1718-1785 died in Westfield). According to the *History of Union County*, Warner Tucker bought his land from Mr. Hinds in 1742 and built a small house. According to this 19th century history, this house was eventually owned by Mr. Robert French.¹²⁹

¹²⁵ "Tuckers from Long Island, New York," <http://ingenweb.org/ingrant/SDW/tucker.htm>; W. Woodward Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1882), 20.

¹²⁶ Essex County Will Liber C, p. 335

¹²⁷ Early Land Records of New Jersey, New Jersey State Archives

¹²⁸ Essex County Will Liber D, p. 315,

¹²⁹ Clayton, 329-331

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Warner Tucker and his wife, Elizabeth, had a son, Ephraim Tucker (Sr.), who was born in Westfield in 1744. In 1765, this Ephraim Tucker married Sarah Miller at the Westfield Presbyterian Church and their first child, Hannah, was baptized there in 1767. A son, Ephraim (Jr.), followed and was baptized in 1770.¹³⁰ It is a transaction between this father Ephraim Tucker (Sr.) to his son Ephraim Tucker (Jr.) where the land and a house that later became Shady Rest is first recorded in 1798.

While this event doesn't occur until 1798, there is evidence that the house existed before then. A house is shown on a 1779 map when it was owned by "Joseph Tucker" (Map 1). It is unclear who this was. The known Joseph Tucker, the brother of Charles Tucker, was born before 1680 and would no longer be living in 1779. Attempts to track down his life and potential heirs were unsuccessful. Interestingly, on this same 1779 map, there is another house, just down Jerusalem Road, owned by Robert French. This could be the house built by Warner Tucker, mentioned in the 1882 Union County history. This could corroborate that the 100-acres of land given to John Tooker by his father, Charles when he died, was developed soon after his death. His son, John, built a house that later became Shady Rest, as did his grandson Warner, ca. 1740. As both John and Warner died intestate, it is unclear what happened to their estates.¹³¹

The other evidence important evidence of a pre-1779 date of construction is the existing foundation of the Shady Rest clubhouse. It is an early foundation; its size, stonework and keyed in corners indicate a mid-18th century date. From this, it seems that the original house on the property was built by John Tucker, ca. 1740 when he inherited the land from his father. Another possibility is that the original house was built by John's son, Ephraim Tucker (Sr.), soon after his marriage in 1765. Ephraim (Sr.), who either built the house or could have inherited it, was taxed for land in Essex County in 1781.¹³² He was an inhabitant of Elizabeth Township in 1790, when he signed a petition asking to repeal the act of incorporating the wards of Elizabeth.¹³³

Regardless of when it was built and by whom, it is clear that by 1779, there was a house on the property that became Shady Rest. In 1798, Ephraim Tucker (Sr.) sold this property, containing 30 acres of land, to his son, Ephraim Tucker (Jr.) of Bernard Town, Somerset County. Ephraim Tucker (Jr.) was 28 and married to Phoebe Hand of Somerset; they married in 1791. They had five children when they moved in. Extant architectural evidence in the house indicates that they rebuilt the house they acquired, reusing the existing stone foundation for one section and constructing a second section laterally. This would make sense as their family was significantly larger than their predecessors (either Ephraim Sr. or John Tucker). Ephraim and Phoebe had four more children while living in the house. They owned the property for seven years, selling it in 1808 when the family moved west to Ohio.¹³⁴

The Locey Family (1808-1862)

¹³⁰ Marriages Westfield Presbyterian Church 1759 – 1840, Westfield, New Jersey, <https://www.westfieldnjhistory.com/files/lr14.htm>; <https://www.westfieldnjhistory.com/files/lr13.htm>

¹³¹ Essex County Will Book Lib k p 450

¹³² Ephraim Tucker, in the New Jersey, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1643-1890

¹³³ Ephraim Tucker, Name on 1 of 9 petitions (February 7, 1790)

¹³⁴ <http://ingenweb.org/ingrant/SDW/tucker.htm>; <https://longislandsurnames.com/getperson.php?personID=I05290&tree=Tooker>

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In 1808, Ephraim Tucker sold the property to John Losey and his wife, Sarah. They were a local family; they had three children, all baptized at the Westfield Presbyterian Church: Nancy in 1796, Sarah in 1801 and Benjamin in 1803.¹³⁵ John Locey was taxed in Westfield in 1814.¹³⁶

In his will written in 1827, John Losey gave to his wife, the best room in the house, the best furniture and a cow. He gave money to his three daughters and to his son, Benjamin, he gave the remainder of his estate including his house. He died in 1830, when his wife, Sarah Locey, was listed as the head of the household in the Federal Census, living with three white people, presumably her children and two free “colored” boys under the age of 10.¹³⁷ It appears from architectural evidence that Benjamin greatly enlarged the house in the 1830s making it the 5 bay, 2-bay deep, 2 ½ stories center section still extant today.

Unfortunately, very little information was found about either of the Locey owners. In 1840, Benjamin Losey lived there with four other people; all were white and two were involved in agriculture. In 1850, Benjamin Lacey was living with his mom, Sarah, his sister Sarah and William Stansbury, a 14-year black boy; his other sisters were married and living elsewhere. He was a farmer whose real estate was valued at \$5,000; B. Locey was shown as the property owner on an 1850 map (Map 4).¹³⁸ At some point before 1860, he had sold the property to Robert Rhea Johnston. By 1865, Benjamin Locey was living in Elizabeth; he died there in 1876. His property was probated through Orphan’s court with Hannah E. Miller, his sister, as the administratrix.¹³⁹ His mother also died in 1876; she lived in Cranford.¹⁴⁰

The Johnston Family (ca. 1860-1882)

Robert Rhea Johnston was born in Herkimer County, New York in 1796. At some point before 1860, he was living at Shady Rest. He was a farmer, living with his wife, Mary, and two daughters, Hannah and Emma. Edward C. Townley, a farm laborer, also lived with them. Johnston’s real estate was valued at \$5,000 while his personal estate was listed as \$600. In 1870, Robert, 74, was living at the house as a farmer with his wife, Mary, 68, with his daughter, grandson and John H. Patterson, an 18 year old white farm laborer. His real estate was \$800 while his personal estate was listed as \$2,000. It isn’t clear why the value of his estate was so reduced.¹⁴¹ Johnston was shown as the property owner on maps from 1868 and one that is undated but attributed to the 1870s.¹⁴² Johnston died in 1871, leaving money to his daughters and the estate to his wife.¹⁴³ Mary Sears Johnston died in Union County in 1879.¹⁴⁴

The Osborn Family (1882-1895)

In 1882, the estate of Mary Johnston sold the property to George B. Osborn and his wife, Ellenora (born 1835). Osborn was born in 1833 in Kingston, New York. They lived in Nebraska before coming to New Jersey. They had seven children, two were born in Nebraska.¹⁴⁵ By 1880, the Osborns were living in Cranford. He was a “dealer in wooden

¹³⁵ Baptisms Westfield Presbyterian Church 1801 – 1850, <https://www.westfieldnjhistory.com/files/lr22.htm>

¹³⁶ “John Lacey, in the New Jersey, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1643-1890

¹³⁷ Will of John Losey,

¹³⁸ 1840 Federal Census,

¹³⁹ Administrators’ Bond for Benjamin Losey,

¹⁴⁰ Unrecorded Estate Papers of Sarah Locey,

¹⁴¹ 1860 and 1870 Federal Census,

¹⁴² Ross, 2.19-2.20.

¹⁴³ Robert Rhea Johnston Will,

¹⁴⁴ Union County Unrecorded Estate Papers,

¹⁴⁵ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101148772/george-b_-osborn

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ware.”¹⁴⁶ He bought the property in 1882 and lived there until his death. According to the 1895 New Jersey census, the Osborns lived with two of their children and Philip Ball, a black male aged 5 to 30 and Henry Lane who was white and over 60.¹⁴⁷

George Osborn died in 1895; he is buried in Westfield. According to the New Jersey Deaths and Burials Records, he was a merchant¹⁴⁸ who gave all his property to his wife Ellenora who sold it in 1899.¹⁴⁹ While there has long been local lore that under Osborn’s ownership the house was a tavern, no evidence was found to confirm this. From the census records, it appears that Osborn sold wooden goods; he was not a tavern keeper. Additionally, all contemporaneous accounts referred to the property as a farm including a reference in a 1901 newspaper stating that the Westfield Golf club was now using the “Osborn farm.”¹⁵⁰ Also, Ellenora Osborn’s obituary stated, “Mrs. Osborn had been a resident of Westfield for many years being the owner and at one time residing on the farm now occupied by the Westfield Golf Club.”¹⁵¹

Westfield Country Club (1900-1921)

In 1899, Ellenora Osborn sold her 30 acre property to Edward Cutler who immediately sold it to Cortlandt Riker; Riker was buying up local properties. In 1900 when Riker sold the properties to the Inter-Urban Realty Co., he had amassed about 75 acres.¹⁵² These land acquisitions had to do with the development of a trolley connecting Westfield and Scotch Plains to the West Jersey and Elmora branch of North Jersey Traction Company.¹⁵³ This line became the Westfield and Elizabeth Street Railway and was in place by 1906 (Map 7) and later became Plainfield Avenue.

At the same time as the trolley was being laid, a group of local residents organized a golf club at the Osborn farm using the farmhouse as their clubhouse. The club was organized on September 16, 1900 and incorporated October 8, 1900 with 102 active members.¹⁵⁴ On October 16, 1900, they leased the land from Inter-Urban. While most sources indicate that the members designed the 2,340-yard, 9-hole course themselves, a 1913 newspaper article stated that the course was laid out in 1899 by David Smith Hunter, a Scottish golf professional. Hunter was a Scotsman who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1890s to become a professional golfer. He was first associated with the Oakland Club in Queens but by 1899, he was the professional at Baltusrol in Springfield, NJ. Through the 1930s, he was the professional for clubs in New York and New Jersey and competed in many national tournaments including the U.S. Open.¹⁵⁵

¹⁴⁶ 1880 Federal Census

¹⁴⁷ 1895 New Jersey Census

¹⁴⁸ New Jersey Deaths and Burials Records, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZ8P-8MZ>

¹⁴⁹ Will of George B. Osborn

¹⁵⁰ “A New Recreation Spot” *Asbury Park Press* (May 8, 1901)

¹⁵¹ *The Westfield Leader* (March 20, 1912)

¹⁵² Union County Deed Book 354f, page 541-545; Union County Deed Book 374f, page 31.

¹⁵³ *Engineering News and American Railway Journal*, Volume 42, No. 19 (November 9, 1899)

¹⁵⁴ Harper & Brothers, *Harper’s Official Golf Guide* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1901), 213.

¹⁵⁵ Stacy Spies, “Shady Rest Golf and Country Club,” Historic American Landscapes Survey, on file at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office; “To Change Westfield Links,” *Westfield Leader* (January 1, 1913), 8; “Fine Golf at Baltusrol,” *New York Times* (September 5, 1899), 10; “David S. Hunter: Baltusrol/Orange” Antique Golf Clubs from Scotland, <https://www.antiquegolfscotland.com/antiquegolf/maker.php3?makerid=1137>

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In 1912, Inter-Urban Realty sold the historic 30-acre parcel to the Westfield Country Club for \$1, who acquired ownership of the land they had been renting for 12 years.¹⁵⁶ A year later, the Westfield Country Club increased the size of the course and reconfigured Holes 5-9. In 1919, they did additional work to the course, especially the seventh hole.¹⁵⁷ According to one source, the course eventually grew to 3,312 yards and was called “the best 9 hole course in the eastern states.”¹⁵⁸

The Westfield Country Club thrived for over 15 years but by the end of WWI, the membership had begun to falter. Attempts to expand to an 18-hole course were determined infeasible because of the trolley line that had emerged as the club was being created and the neighborhood that arose after its creation. When the club was first established in 1900, the area around it was farmland. But over its years of existence, a community arose around Jerusalem Road; the origins of which can be seen in the 1906 map. Known as Jerseyland, the community was primarily African-American; it developed rapidly after 1915 and the Great Migration when southern blacks came to the north fleeing inequality and abuse in the south and seeking economic opportunities in the north. This growth can be seen a 1923 map (Map 9) which also shows that the golf course was in between the fledging black community and the trolley line. Because the golf course originally spanned the trolley line,¹⁵⁹ Jerseyland residents had to travel through the golf course to get to the trolley as well as to visit neighbors on the other side. This established a type of easement known as “right to travel.” This right to travel—or in this case, right to access travel on the trolley line—was considered a civil right and therefore was protected by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. After many months of debate, the Westfield Country Club determined expansion would result in a legal battle with their black neighbors over this civil right. They decided not to get embroiled in a legal dispute. In addition, it must be said, that the surrounding neighborhood around the Westfield Club had changed since its founding. It was increasingly African American. This impacted the club’s decision to merge with another local club who already had an 18-hole course and was located in a majority white area. The Cranford Golf Club and the Westfield Golf Club joined on April 5, 1921 and became the Echo Lake Country Club.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁶ Union County Deed Book 593, page 149.

¹⁵⁷ “To Change Westfield Links;” “Golf Club Plans for Many Improvements,” *Westfield Leader* (August 27, 1919), 3.

¹⁵⁸ Echo Lake Golf Club History, <https://www.echolakecc.org/history>

¹⁵⁹ “History of Westfield” *The Westfield Leader* (June 29, 1989), 5

¹⁶⁰ History, Echo Lake Country Club, <https://www.echolakecc.org/history>

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Verbal Boundary Description

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club consists of most of Block 6401, Lot 1 in Scotch Plains Township, Union County, New Jersey.

Boundary Justification Statement

The nominated property is 30.25 acres which is the part of the property that retains integrity from the period of significance when the property was used by the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club. The northwest corner of Block 6401, Lot 1 has been removed between Lat 40.658283 Lon -74.37964 and Lat 40.659184 and Long-74.380303 because it now contains a municipal garage, built in the late 1960s, after the period of significance. Per historic aerial images, this corner of the property was wooded during the period of significance.

DRAFT



Shady Rest Golf and Country Club




New Jersey and National Registers Nomination
 Township of Scotch Plains,
 Union County,
 New Jersey

Boundary and tax map



Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane New Jersey

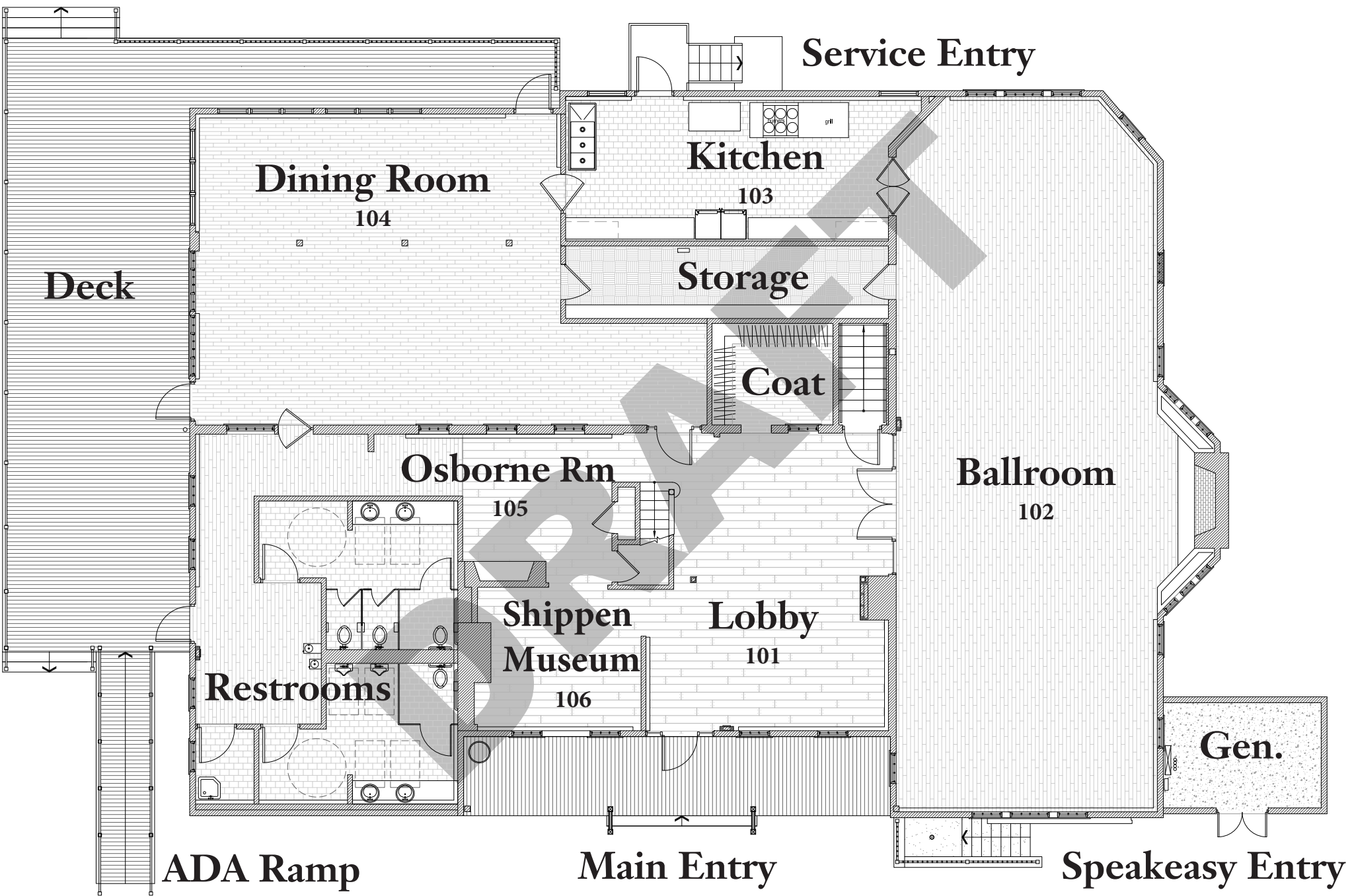
Legend

-  NJ & NR Nomination
-  Coordinates
-  Parcels Data (Block and Lot)

30.25 Acres



NJDEP,
 Historic Preservation Office
 December 2021



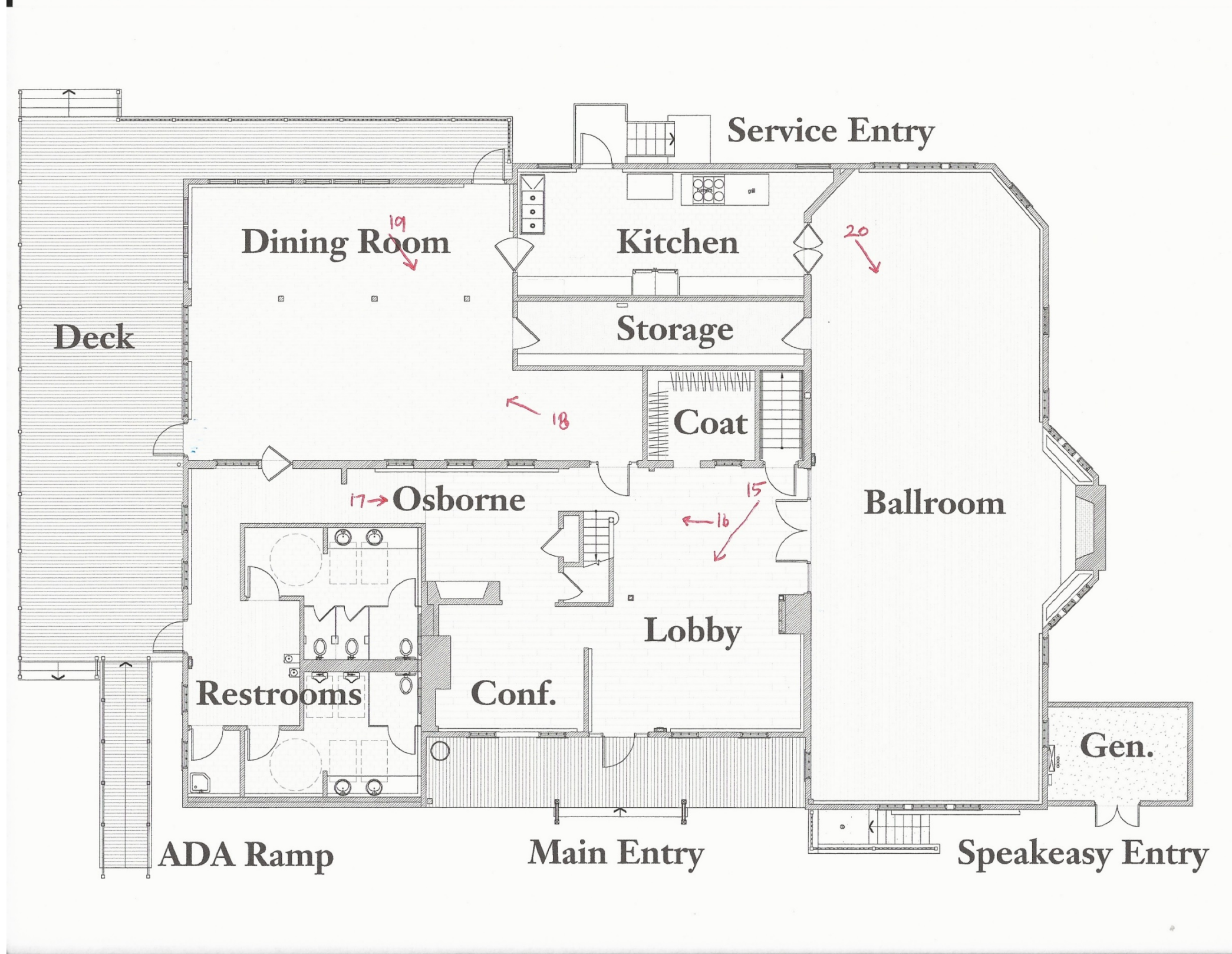


Figure 6: Interior photo locations

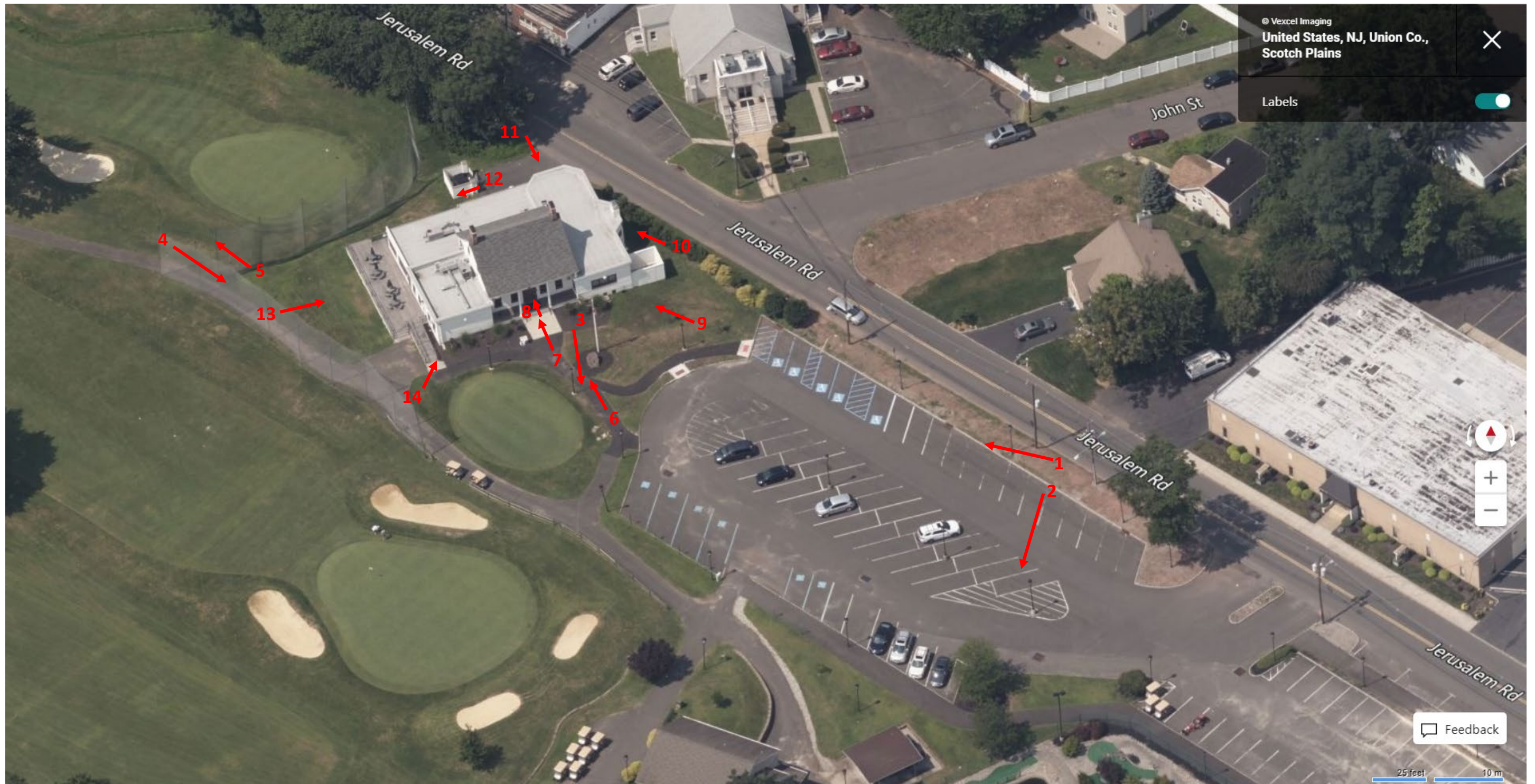
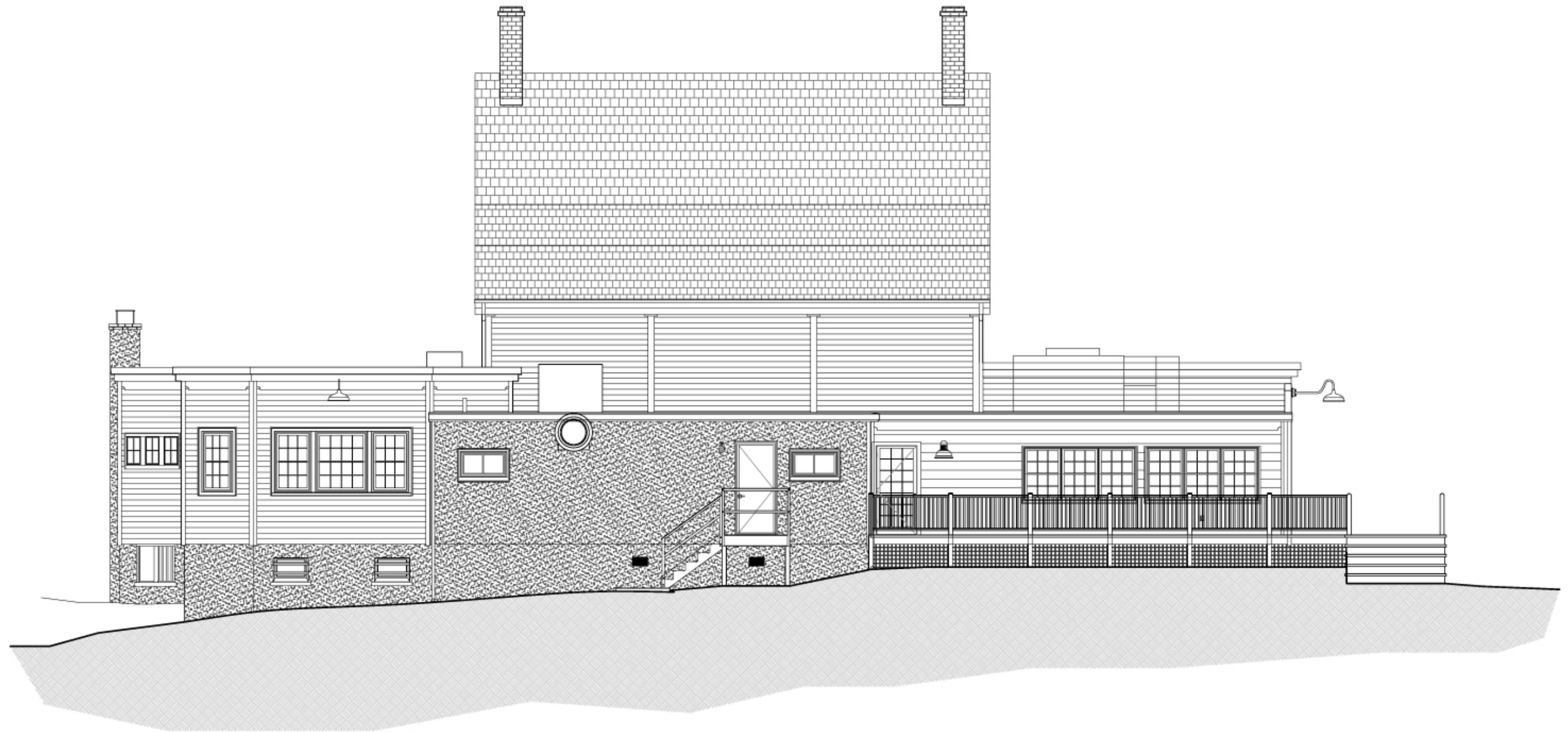


Figure 5: Exterior photo locations







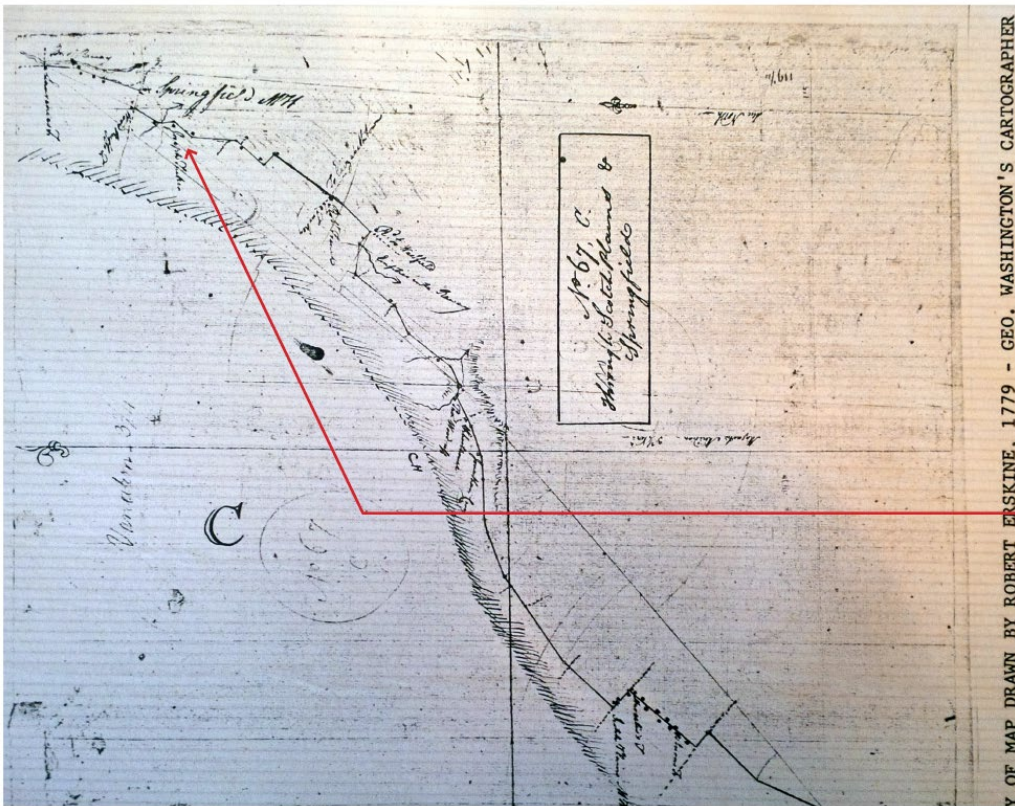


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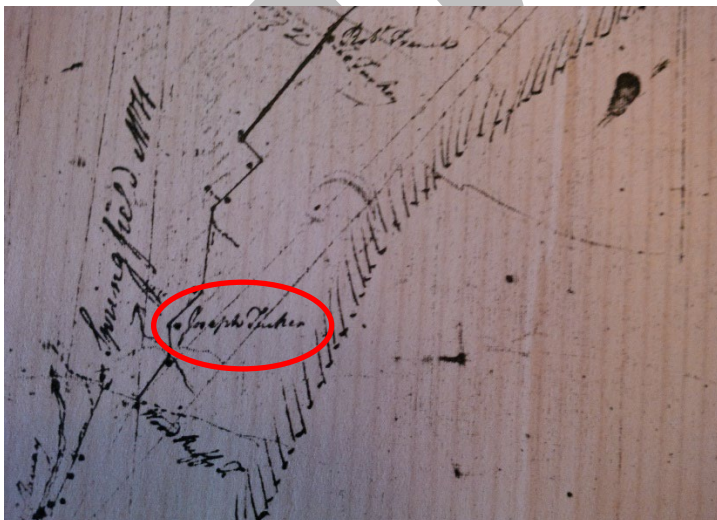
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Map 1: Robert Erskine, "Through Scotch Plains & Springfield. No 67, C" (1779), New-York Historical Society, <http://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/islandora/object/islandora%3A343937#page/1/mode/2up>



Map 2: 1779 Map Inset, Joseph Tucker House is noted

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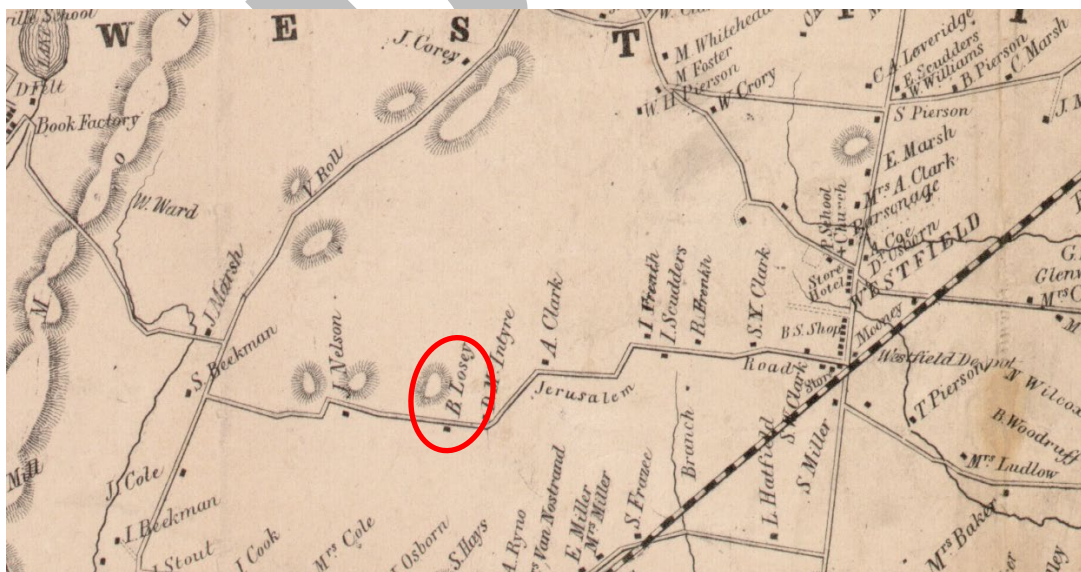
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Map 3: Lieutenant John Hills, "Sketch of the Northern Parts of New Jersey," (1781), <https://www.loc.gov/collections/american-revolutionary-war-maps/?fa=location:new+jersey%7Ccontributor:hills,+john&st=slideshow#slide-2>



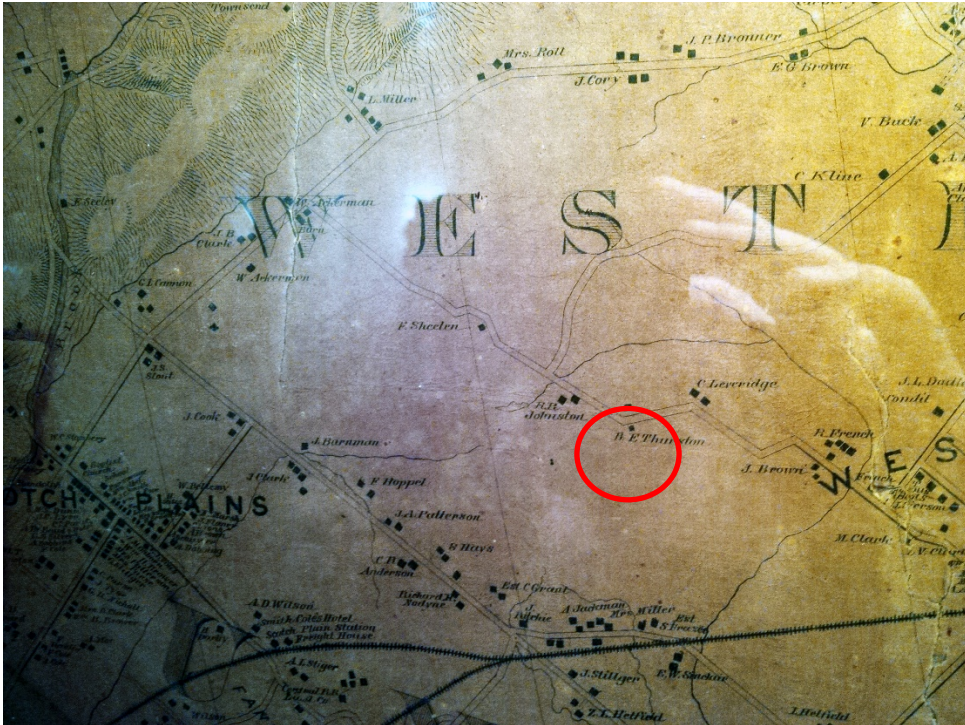
Map 4: J.C. Sydney, Atlas of Essex County, New Jersey (1850). Benjamin Locey is the homeowner.

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Map 5: M. Hughes, "Map from Newark Bay to Washington Rock" (1868), Scotch Plains Historical Society. RR Johnston is the property owner



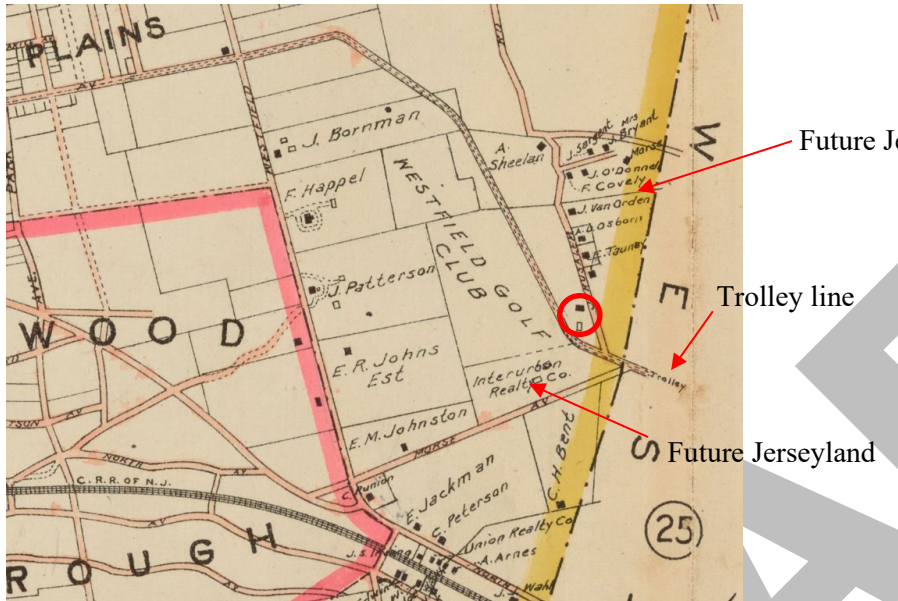
Map 6: undated map but likely from 1870 from the Scotch Plains Historical Society. RR Johnston remains the property owner

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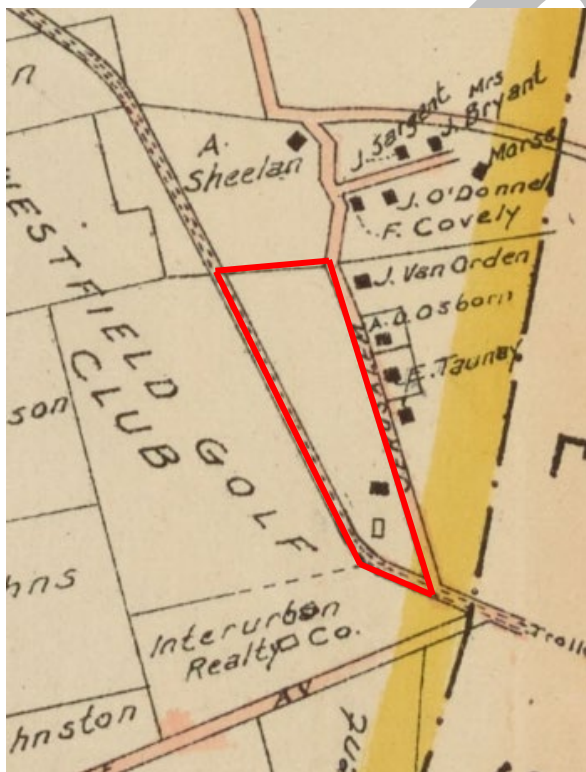
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Map 7: E. Robinson, Atlas of Union County (1906). Westfield Golf Club owns the property. The Clubhouse is circled; the trolley line is also indicated.



Map 8: 1906 map with Shady Rest Golf Course outlined.

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Map 9: Jacob Bauer, *Map of Union County, New Jersey* (1923). Note the development of Jerseyland.

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Historic Photo 1: Westfield Golf Club, ca. 1920 (Ross, 3.02)



**Shady Rest Golf and Country
Club Logo c. 1921**

Historic Photo 2: The Shady Rest Golf and Country Club logo was created soon after the club was founded

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Historic Photo 3: Ca. 1925 photo from the University of South Carolina Archives (Ross, 2.04)



Historic Photo 4: Golfers at Shady Rest, ca. 1930s, University of South Carolina archives (Ross, 2.10)

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Historic Photo 5: Undated photo (Ross, 2.14)



THE ZETA BOULE (NEW YORK) ENTERTAINS THE GRAND BOULE O' THE SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY AT THE SHADY REST COUNTRY CLUB, WESTFIELD, N. J.

Historic Photo 6: 1923 Reunion of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity (Ross, 2.04)

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Historic Photo 7: Ca. 1930 postcard (Ross, 3.01)



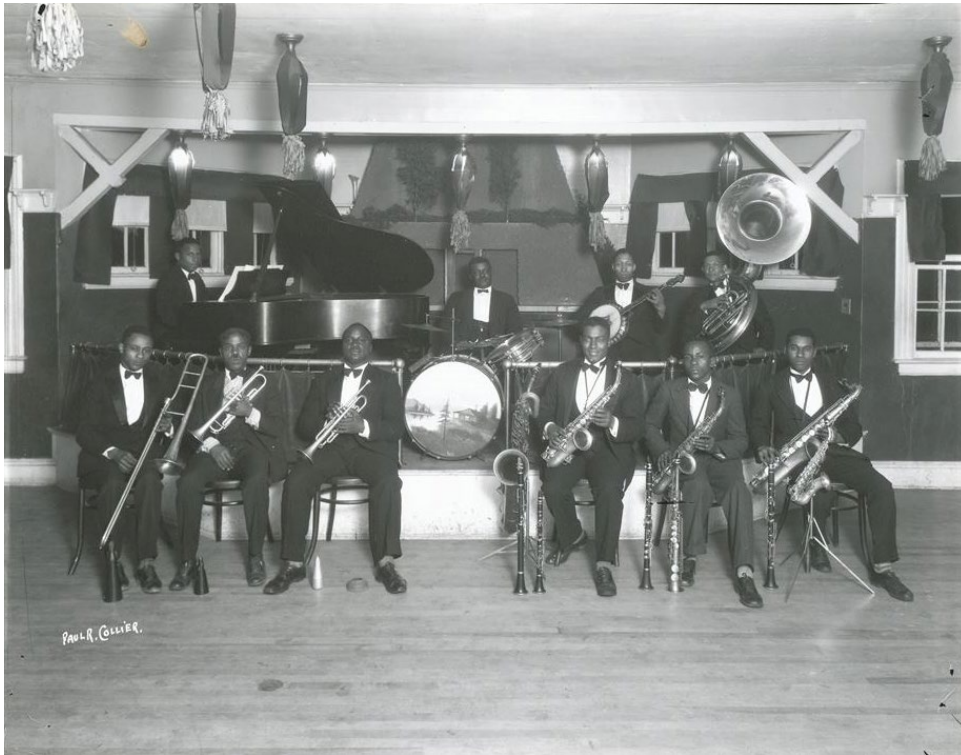
Historic Photo 8: Ca. 1930 postcard (Ross, 3.01)

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Historic Photo 9: Undated photo of a band at Shady Rest



Historic Photo 10: John Shippen, The Fort Wayne News (May 26, 1896)

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Historic Photo 11: John Shippen, ca. 1913 (Sinnette, 21)



Historic Photo 12: John Shippen at Shady Rest in the 1930s (Ross, 2.08)

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1	Looking north at Shady Rest Golf and Country Club with Jerusalem Road to the east	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
2	Looking south at the non-contributing Pro Shop building to the west and the mini golf course behind the dumpster	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
3	Looking south with the putting green in the foreground and the Pro Shop in the distance	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
4	Looking south from the golf course with the clubhouse to the east and 9 th tee and Pro Shop on the west in the distance	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
5	Looking north at the Golf Course	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
6	The south façade of the Shady Rest Clubhouse. Originally built in the 18 th century, the building evolved into a symmetrical 5-bay house ca. 1830. The wings were added in the 20 th century, when the farmhouse became the clubhouse for a country club.	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
7	The small, 18 th century vernacular house was added onto ca. 1830 to become a grander Greek Revival-influenced 5-bay house	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
8	The eyebrow windows are indicative of the Greek Revival. They were cut off when the flared eave and columned front porch was added when the house became a clubhouse in 1900	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
9	The east elevation run along Jerusalem Road. The one-story wing was added in 1900. The arched windows of the upper gable end of the 1830s farmhouse stands behind	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
10	The eastern wing houses a large multi-purpose room that during the period of significance was the ballroom where famous musicians such as Cab Calloway and Ella Fitzgerald performed. The extended bay houses a big fireplace with window seats	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
11	The north elevation includes the north end of the ballroom and a catering kitchen added in the 1920s	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
12	The western end of the north elevation was an open porch. It was enclosed in 1964 to become a dining room	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
13	The west elevation shows several construction phases including the 1830s farmhouse, the 1960s enclosed porch and the one-story 1900 wing	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
14	The southwest corner of Shady Rest clubhouse	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020

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15	The main entrance accesses the earliest part of the structure (Room 101, the lobby). With wide pine flooring, a low ceiling with exposed second floor floor joists, and 19 th century 6-over-6 sash including on the north wall, this entrance lobby retains the feel of an earlier time	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
16	The Georgian stair has turned balusters and newel post and dates to ca. 1798. To the south, through the glass door, stands the museum to John Shippen (Room 106)	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
17	The gable roof framing of the 18 th century farmhouse remains within the ca. 1830 farmhouse in Room 105. To the south (right) is modern bathroom block; to the north (left) is the dining room which was an open porch during the period of significance	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
18	The dining room (Room 104) on the north side of the building was an open porch during the period of significance. It was enclosed in 1964	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
19	The clapboard of the north wall of the ca. 1830 farmhouse remains in the dining room, Room 104.	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
20	This wing was added in 1900. During the period of significance, Room 102 was the ballroom where famous Harlem Renaissance jazz and big band musicians played	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
21	The second and third floors were abandoned in 1964 as can be seen in southwest room of the third floor (Room 303).	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
22	In the basement, sections of the original 18 th century dressed stone, 20x26 foundation remain	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020
23	In the basement of the 1900s wing stands a bar room, created by Shady Rest. It retains sections of diagonal tongue and groove flooring with painted concrete walls and a pressed tin ceiling and decorative crown molding	Margaret Newman	June 26, 2020

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Photo 1



Photo 2

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Photo 3



Photo 4

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Photo 5



Photo 6

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Photo 7



Photo 8

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Photo 9



Photo 10

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Photo 11



Photo 12

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Photo 13



Photo 14

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Photo 15



Photo 16

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Photo 17



Photo 18

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Photo 19



Photo 20

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Photo 21



Photo 22

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