NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Forest Hills Country Club
Other names/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 2169 S. 23rd Street
City or town: Richmond State: Indiana IN County: Wayne
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property __X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide __x_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X__A ___B __X_C ___D

Paul C Diehl 10.26.15

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson N. Beall — 12.15.15

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	x
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☐
District	☐
Site	x
Structure	☐
Object	☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
1		sites
1	3	structures
		objects
7	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION and CULTURE/outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/ golf course

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION and CULTURE/outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/golf course

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS;_Tudor Revival_____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: _CONCRETE_____
walls: _STUCCO___
_STONE;limestone
WOOD; weatherboard_____
roof: _ASBESTOS_
other: _STONE; slate__

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

Summary Paragraph

Forest Hills Country Club is located on the south side of the City of Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. The club, including a grand club house and golf course, has been at this location since 1927. The Tudor Revival style club house stands at the top of the rise to the north. It marks the southern edge of the golf course which rolls and undulates away from the club house to the north, northwest and northeast. Small open-sided shelters are located on the 1st and the 8th holes of the golf course. These date to the historic period. Slightly southeast of the club house are steps down to a tennis court placed in a significant dip in the terrain. The tennis court was added in 1967. Northeast of the club house is the pool house and swimming pool; the pool was added before 1961 and the smaller section of pool house was constructed by then; a large addition to the pool house is not historic. Although some changes have been made over time, the club house

retains good integrity both outside and inside. Forest Hills club house and golf course generally retain high integrity and these are by far the most significant features of the property. The property looks much as it would have in 1965 at the end of the historic period; the club house and course would look very familiar to a member who joined the club in the 1930s. The clubhouse (building), golf course (site), swimming pool (structure), two maintenance buildings (buildings) and two shelters (buildings) are contributing. The pool house (building), tennis court (structure), and two bridges (structures) are non-contributing.

Narrative Description

The rolling terrain of Forest Hills Country Club hides the club house and most of the course from the view of travelers along the two streets that border the club, 23rd Street and Wernle Road. Along Wernle, the northern boundary, breaks in the deciduous tree line offer glimpses of a few holes; along 23rd Street a long row of arborvitae mark the western border and generally block the view from the road, while providing a measure of protection from errant balls for passers-by. A non-contributing monument sign marks the entrance to Forest Hills Country Club at the left turn off of 23rd Street. A pond is on the left as you turn onto the club lane. The club house is reached down a winding, climbing asphalt lane framed by woods on both sides. Glimpses of the course are rare from the lane even in winter, due to the dense foliage here. A left turn from the climbing lane takes one to the drive to the club house and course. Parking is directly ahead and on the right.

The club house rises two stories but its placement just slightly over the top of the rise allows it to lie organically on the site and become unobtrusive (Photo 1). The foundation is poured concrete. The walls of the façade are stucco. The cross-gable roof is clad in composite shingles. The building has six façade sections. The entry is in the projecting section, which is stucco with decorative half timbering on the second story. The door is beneath a cloth awning and recessed behind a cut-stone arch. Two single casement windows with six lights each flank arched entry on both sides (Photo 2). The half-timbered second story of this projecting section holds a central double-hung sash window flanked by two narrower double-hung sash windows. These are original. The window is framed in the half-timbering and has a wooden broken-pediment lintel. The gable front of this section rises to a jerkin-head roof. The other sections on this façade, are described from east to west, respectively. The easternmost section is recessed with stucco walls and a first story wooden double casement window with eight lights in each casement and a metal entry door. On the second story there are three double casement windows with six lights in each

casement. The sills here are wooden and unadorned. The windows are slightly recessed into the wall and there are no lintels. There is a shallow overhang at the cornice line. The next section projects and holds a pair of tall wooden casement windows and then a single tall casement window, each with eight large lights. This may have originally been an open porch area with a balustrade across the front, if it was constructed as designed (a portion of balustrade remains inside the room). If this enclosure was made after the building was constructed, it appears to have occurred in the historic period, probably in the 1940s or 1950s. West of these windows is a pedestrian entry door reached at the top of a set of four steps and a landing. The wooden door appears to be original with a cross buck design on the bottom half and multiple diamond-shaped lights on the top (Photo 3). Another narrow window with three fixed lights is just west of the door. The next section holds two service doors hidden from view behind a relatively new addition wall which forms a service area in front of the doors. Extending from this wall to the west is a one-story office addition with two new double casement windows with eight lights in each casement (Photo 4). The walls of this addition are clad in stucco panels and rise to a flat roof. A dormer is on the roof above this section and an original stone chimney pierces the center of the roof above this section. The next section is the projecting entry section. West of the entry section is a section holding a sunroom. The openings are five multi-light doors. These appear to have replaced windows or to be replacements that match the original; the plans show this sunroom enclosed as it is now. This section has a flat roof. The final façade section, the westernmost one, is recessed and holds a pair of French doors with a multi-light transom window above. Again these doors may have replaced windows or may be replacements. The transom window appears to be original. The stucco walls of this section rise to a slightly belled overhang at the roof.

The west side of the building has one prominent projecting section between the recessed sections of the sunroom and the rear addition to the dining room (Photo 5). The sunroom section has three wooden, multi-light casement windows in a ribbon on a stucco wall. The projecting section is one and one-half stories with stucco on the first story and decorative half-timbering and stucco on the second story. A wide external coursed rubble chimney is the most prominent feature of this section and it bisects the section rising above the gable-end roof where it is capped with two original decorative chimney pots. Flanking this chimney on the first story are two ribbon windows with three wooden, multi-light casement windows in each ribbon configuration. Louvered vents flank the chimney on the second story. The final section of this side is recessed and rises from a random -coursed limestone ashlar foundation and water table to wooden vertical board walls. There are no openings on this section, which holds the dining room addition on the interior.

The north side (rear) of the building has a complicated layout with a number of additions, none of which are visible from the façade (Photo 6) The north side original elevation drawing shows that this side of the building originally held numerous multi-light doors looking out onto the golf course from the original dining room (see attached photo of original plans showing elevations). The current north-side façade retains few elements of this design as most of this façade has been altered with additions appended to the original building. One of the original doors with multi-light transom remains in the first recessed section of the north façade. The next section is a projecting addition with nine, fixed sash single-light windows with a continuous slate sill above

a limestone ashlar foundation and water table (Photo 7). The walls above the limestone are clad in wooden vertical-board siding rising to a boxed cornice and a hipped roof with a slight bell. A long staircase extends out from french doors at approximately the middle of the section and makes a ninety-degree turn to the cart path along the rear of the building. This addition and staircase were added after the historic period. East of this addition is a raised patio with ashlar limestone foundation and wall and a concrete slab deck projecting out from a recessed section holding another slightly earlier addition (also constructed after the historic period). Random ashlar foundation and wall rise to the second story of this section, where the walls comprise nearly floor-to-ceiling ribbon windows in sets of four with mullions dividing the sets. The windows rise to a boxed cornice and then to a low hipped roof with a slight bell. The next section is recessed with random ashlar foundation and water table rising to vertical board on the first story and then to stucco with decorative half-timbering on the second story (Photo 8). Five pairs of single-light casement windows are spaced on the first story, along with three cross buck doors with multiple lights on the top half of each door. The second story is slightly cantilevered above this story and holds five floor-to-ceiling single light windows flanked by two short eight-light casement windows. East of this configuration of windows are two additional single light casement windows. The walls rise to a wide cornice and then to a low-pitched hipped roof.

The east side of the building was intended to be used as a service entrance and it retains this simple design (Photo 9). The northern most section is the east side of the rear addition, with random-ashlar water table rising to vertical-board walls pierced with only one cross buck style door and then rising on the second story to stucco and half timbering and no openings. The next section holds a single door in a stucco wall. The wall rises to the shallow overhang of the original hipped roof.

Interior

The interior of the club house retains high integrity in the areas that are original to the building. The entry foyer holds restroom to the southeast and southwest. The foyer opens to the north and to the west. To the west is the original enclosed “Loggia”, a long narrow room with multiple french doors on the south wall. To the east is the office addition, through an opening in the walls of this addition one can see the original exterior wall with its original windows still in place. The ballroom is north of this room visible through numerous large square openings. Entering the ballroom to the north of the first room, one steps down. A huge fireplace is on the western wall. The hipped ceiling is supported by cased beams which extend down for several feet onto the western wall. The floor is maple and original (Photo 10). North of the ballroom is the original enclosed porch which has been expanded into a dining room addition. Moveable walls fill openings on the north wall, which originally held french doors. There is one set of original wooden french doors opening into the dining room from the foyer which extends along the east side of the ballroom. There are two sets of original doors opening to the exterior on the west end of the ballroom on both the north and south walls. From the current dining room addition, on the south end of the east wall, there are five original multi-light doors opening into the bar, which was the original dining room. There is also a new door opening onto the exterior patio from this wall. The dining room addition has acoustic tile on the ceiling and carpeted floor. Southeast of this room, directly east of the ballroom is the original dining room, now a bar. It is entered through original multi-light french doors. This room has pine paneling on the walls and the

hipped sides of the ceiling. The ceiling is clad in acoustic tile. There are pine built-in cabinets on the south wall (Photo 11). A pine paneled baffle wall creates a pathway into the room. A huge brick with stone hearth is placed the angled northeast wall (Photo 12). Cased beams support the doorway into a rear addition of this room, which opens onto the exterior patio. To the east of this room is a new bar addition. What had been an exterior stone chimney is visible on the north end of the east wall of this addition next to the doors opening into the original dining room. A curved bar top is on the south wall; a wall of windows is on the north wall. The ceiling is covered in acoustic tile. Another new bar/lunchroom addition is east of this room. It has a wall of windows on the south side. Jeff Martin, the country club supervisor, said that while this room was being renovated recently some of the plasterboard walls were removed on the south side and the original roof line of the rear of the building was visible behind the walls. The kitchen is south of this addition and entered through double doors off of the entry foyer. It generally retains its original linear layout, plaster walls and woodwork. On the east side of the kitchen a staircase on the south walls leads to the upstairs space. This space contains attic storage space and two apartments off of a south hall. The chef originally lived in one of these apartments on the north side of the hall. Built-in cabinets remain from the historic use as does the original painted wood floor (Photo 13). A bathroom was in each apartment. Shared living room space was in the larger room at the west end of the hall. This room retains original windows. Back downstairs and east of the kitchen is a foyer leading to the men's' locker room. The men's locker room has been renovated recently. The women's locker room, which is downstairs from the foyer east of the kitchen, was moved here to allow for expansion of storage space in the kitchen in the historic period. The women's locker retains a circa 1960 renovation with walls covered in yellow ceramic tile (Photo 14). East of the women's locker room is the proshop addition to the ground floor in what had originally been basement. The club house retains significant interior integrity in the portions of the building that are original. Additions are primarily along the rear of the building. A small addition has been made on the front of the building to house the offices and to create a screen of the service area, but this addition could be removed, which would reveal the still-intact façade and original windows.

Northeast of the club house is the swimming pool and pool house (Photo 15). The pool was originally constructed circa 1945 nearer the clubhouse, but it was moved by 1961 (as seen in the 1961 aerial) to its current location and is a contributing structure. Before the pool was moved, the flat roof pool house was constructed. It remains today with a more modern (but period-looking) larger addition; the building is non-contributing due to the large addition.

William H. (Bill) Diddel designed a nine-hole golf course for the Forest Hills Country Club in 1927. In 1931, the club brought Diddel back to add another nine holes. After the redesign the original nine holes became holes 10 through 18. The eighteen-hole course that Diddel completed in 1931 is essentially the course that members and guests play today.

The most notable change since 1931 is the maturation and addition of trees lining the fairways. The 1940 aerial shows a course with a fair number of trees; many of these have matured into large trees, others have been replaced as they have died. Other trees were added as trees became a popular addition to golf courses in the 1950s. In 1959, a newspaper article noted that 35 trees

were planted on the course that year.[1] That year the Number 3 Hole was made 40-feet longer by moving the tee farther away from the pin. In 1959, Hole 10's tee was enlarged. Other changes are typical of those on aging golf courses, bent grass was added after the historic period, and a stream running through the course has become wider after irrigation was added in the late 1960s. Two bridges for golf carts were added after the historic period and are non-contributing structures. These are few changes compared to most courses of the 1930s. Diddel's original design remains at Forest Hills. The changes made are typical of those needed to keep courses in existence in the modern era.

According to the Forest Hills General Manager and Golf Course Superintendent, Jeff Martin, the course is known for its "punishing greens." The greens Diddel designed here are "severe" with slopes that require careful placement of the ball to reach the cup. The course is a 6,328 yards total, a par 71. There are four par 3s and four par 5s.[2] The course is considered one of the most challenging in the state with narrow fairways requiring strategic play to take the fewest shots to the holes.

Play begins at Hole 1 which is immediately west of the Country Club. As on most of the holes, trees line both sides of the fairway as the golfer hits north to the pin (Photo 16). According to the website, *Golf Nation,* "the signature hole is #2, a 406-yard, par 4 with a severely undulating green. Water hazards come into play on eight holes. Shot accuracy is essential…"[3] Hole 4 is played to the north with aged arborvitae bushes lining the fairway to the west (Photo 17). Hole 7 retains a very large mature tree near a pond, both dating to the original course (Photo 18). Hole 9, a par 3, is shot south toward the clubhouse. Hole 14 has a grass bunker and sand traps, all part of the original design (Photo 19). Hole 11 takes full advantage of the topography of the course with an impressive increase in elevation as the player shoots north to the green (Photo 20). Hole 17 dog legs left and the green has multiple slopes and undulations sending the ball away from the pin (Photo 21). The down slope requires exacting placement to prevent the ball from rolling off the green.

Shelters are placed on holes 1 and 8; although it is not known if these date to the original design, they are clearly older and were constructed in the historic period; these are contributing buildings (Photo 22). A practice area/driving range was added by 1959 though the rough on Hole 16. Two maintenance buildings from the historic period are located between holes 17 and 18, one of these buildings retains a dirt floor and probably dates to circa 1930s. The other appears to have been constructed circa 1950 (Photo 23). According to Jeff Martin, horseshoes have been found in the area of these buildings, harkening back to the era of horse drawn equipment.[4]

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[1] "Forest Hills Course adds New Tile, 40-Yard Longer No. 3," *Palladium-Item*, April 6, 1959, in file at Forest Hills Country Club.
[2] "Forest Hills Country Club," http://www.fhcclub.com/aboutourgolfcourse.shtm (accessed July 30, 2013).
[3] Golf Nation, http://indianapolis.golfnation.org/course314/forest-hills-country-club (accessed August 7, 2013).
[4] Interview with Jeff Martin, Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana, August 8, 2013.

In addition to the club house, course and other elements of the site previously mentioned, the tennis court was added after the historic era and is a non-contributing structure.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1927-1965

Significant Dates
1927
1931

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Schenck (Harry) and Williams (Harry)
Diddel, William H.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the new country club and the first nine-hole golf course at this location in 1927. An important year is 1931, when the course was expanded to 18 holes. The club incorporated in 1961. Because the country club and the golf course have remained important aspects of recreation in Richmond throughout the historic period, the period of significance ends in 1965, the end of the historic period.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Forest Hills Country Club is locally significant under Criterion C for its architecture, originally designed by the well-known firm of Schenck & Williams. It is also significant under Criterion C for its golf course designed by William H. (Bill) Diddel, a master designer. The country club is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the recreation and culture of Richmond, Indiana. The club house and first nine-hole course were constructed in 1927, which is when the period of significance begins. Because the social and recreation aspect of the course continues even today the period of significance ends at the end of the historic period, 1965.

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

Architecture and Landscape Architecture Significance:
The Forest Hills Country Club membership decided to build a new club house on some rolling land south of Richmond, Indiana, in 1926. They made a smart choice when they hired the Dayton, Ohio, firm Schenck and Williams. Harry J. Schenck and Harry I. Williams had been practicing for more than a decade by then and had become the architects of choice for moneyed Buckeyes. Their collaboration had produced the Tudor Revival home of Charles F. Kettering, founder of Delco and head of research activities at General Motors, in Kettering, Ohio, and Hawthorn Hill, an impressive Colonial Revival mansion for the famous flyer, Orville Wright's home in Oakwood, Ohio, in 1914.[5] In 1919 their Renaissance Revival style Engineers' Club in Dayton, Ohio, made the pages of a photo spread in *Architectural Record*.[6] How Forest Hills members knew about Schenck and Williams is not known but their choice of the firm was a wise one. The Dayton architects designed a fine Tudor Revival style clubhouse that looked like a grand English country home nestled into the rise and fall of the landscape of Forest Hills.

Schenck and Williams' known designs were all completed in popular revival styles of the period after World War I. Tudor Revival architecture was loosely based on the Medieval and Early Renaissance English forms ranging from small folk cottages to grand manors. Early Tudor mansions and churches were constructed in the United States in the 19th century. During the Arts and Crafts era, beginning in the U.S. in the early 1900s, medieval influences were expressed in elements such as decorative half-timbering like that found on many Tudor style buildings. All of these styles had medieval prototypes, architecture which also inspired American troops fighting overseas in the war. These young men carried the memories of these picturesque houses back home with them inspiring a generation of Tudor Revival, French Eclectic, Mediterranean Revival and other European styles in the United States.[7] The Tudor Revival style was popular in domestic architecture including estates of the wealthy in places like Newport, Rhode Island.

Here at Forest Hills, Schenck and Williams used hallmarks of the style. Massive stone chimneys, the elaborate stone arch entry, grouped multi-light casement windows and a cross-gable roof with a jerkin-head on the front gable are all elements of Tudor Revival style found at Forest Hills (Photos 25 and 26, plans).[8] The original building designed by Schenck and Williams remains remarkable intact here. Only a small addition on the front—appended to the front façade for an

[5] National Park Service, http://www.nps.gov/daav/learn/historyculture/orvillewrightslifestory.htm (accessed July 19, 2015); Hawthorne Hill was listed on the National Register in 1974 and is also a National Historic Landmark. National Register of Historic Places, http://www.nps.gov/nr/ (accessed August 13, 2013).
[6] *Architectural Record*, January-June 1919, 494.
[7] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006),358.
[8] *Ibid*, 358-61.

office area and constructed leaving the original façade and windows in place behind the interior walls, has altered the facade. The original floor plan is also extant throughout most of the original building, although walls have been removed at the rear to allow for openings into the additions, these changes are clearly demarked to show old from new with cased openings, sometimes even leaving original exterior or interior doors in place. Although additions were added along the rear of the building, none of these is visible from the front of the club house. The Schenck and Williams-designed Forest Hills Country Club building opened in 1927. It retains good integrity and contributes to the site.

Forest Hills Golf Course Design and William Diddel. The wooded undulating landscape of Forest Hills provided a challenge that Bill Diddel may not have experienced in most of the courses he designed in the flatter land of Central Indiana. It was a challenge that he was up to. By 1927, Diddel had designed the Ulen Country Club's nine-hole course and then had expanded it into a full 18-hole course; he had also redesigned the Kokomo Country Club's first course into an 18-hole course and had designed the Avalon Country Club course in Indianapolis, now called the Hillcrest Country Club.[9] In 1927, he routed a nine hole course at Forest Hills (today these are the back nine) up and down the rolling hills behind the new clubhouse.

Unlike the courses laid out on the flatter plains of Indiana, which required Diddel to push up the greens and create manmade topography, the land at Forest Hills provided topographic change in abundance. Diddel laid out holes in valleys and up hills. He created sand and grass bunkers which are as clearly visible today as they were in the first aerial photographs of the course shot in 1940.[10] With mules pulling pans to scrape up dirt he crafted greens meant to challenge players and reward those who approached the course strategically.

Diddel took up golf first as a player and later as player/designer. In his era of work there were no degrees in course design. Diddel learned how to route a golf course by playing on them. And he was a fine player. He won the Indiana Amateur golf championship three years in a row while attending Wabash College, which did not have a golf team. Eventually he was a five-time winner of the championship. He became famous in golf circles for continuing to score below his age into his 90s, playing until he could no longer grip a club.[11]

The period between 1920 and 1937, during which Diddel designed Forest Hills, has been called the "golden age" of golf course design by golf historians. Earlier golf courses were laid out to punish players who could not hit long, straight shots. This "penal" design was replaced in the 1920s by "strategic" designs. Strategic courses rewarded the golfers who could "decipher" the course, those who were able to gauge where to hit their first shot so that they could achieve the optimum location for the second shot and so on into the cup. To achieve the lowest score a

[9] Kokomo Country Club National Register of Historic Places nomination form; Hillcrest Country Club National Register of Historic Places nomination form.
[10] Historic aerial photography, 1940.
[11] Kokomo Country Club National Register of Historic Places nomination form.

successful golfer playing a strategic course had to take risks: "a lower scoring possibility should be more dangerous than the longer, safer route."[12]

Strategic courses, like Forest Hills, were part of a growing American appreciation for the natural environment and a new interest in physical culture. Like the new national parks, golf courses offered salubrious environments as well as good exercise. Although caddies might carry the clubs, golfers walked these courses. Members of country clubs considered themselves both healthy and wealthy and membership was an expression of achievement in both areas.

Playing the rolling course at Forest Hills was a physical challenge. And like all of Diddel's courses it was also an intellectual one. Golfers had to think about how to hit their ball to avoid the bunkers and traps on 14; how to manage in the fewest shots the dog leg of 17. Bill Diddel said that "every hole should present a challenge to a golfer."[13] Forest Hills is a good example of a challenging course of the strategic school. Like the few other Diddel courses with integrity, it makes use of bunkering of more than one type. In the undulations of Forest Hills, Diddel's bunkers are rounded and amoebic in shape. Unlike the flat bottom bunkers of Kokomo Country Club, they are more like the rounded ones found at Hillcrest Country Club. At Forest Hills, with 162 acres of land to work with, Diddel stretched out a course that does not reveal that it started as a nine-hole course. Unlike at Kokomo Country Club, he did not have to compress the new nine to fit it into the available space.

Diddel designed a course at Forest Hills that was unique to this spot. But he used signature elements found on all Diddel courses, including those severe greens with that exquisitely tuned sloping and clever routing that made the ultimate use of the natural topography and required a thoughtful approach to the game.

Forest Hills "strategic" course design was laid out by Indiana's master designer during golf's golden age. It is one of few Diddel-designed golf courses that retains high integrity and with few alterations it remains a challenge to golfers more than 80 years after Diddel placed the last mark on his plans. It is a contributing element to the site. Although trees have been planted to delineate the fairways at Forest Hills two other Diddel courses already listed on the National Register of historic places, the Kokomo Country Club and Hillcrest Country Club, also had trees added to line the fairways. Hillcrest Country Club, in Indianapolis had a hole redesigned and completely changed by course designer, Pete Dye, after the historic period.[14] Compared to Hillcrest Country Club's course, the one at Forest Hills retains higher integrity.

[12] Geoff Shackelford, *Grounds for Golf*, (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martins Press, 2003), 281.
[13] Norm Shortridge, "Golf," *Indianapolis Magazine*, June 1972, 2.
[14] Hillcrest Country Club National Register of Historic Places Nomination form; Kokomo Country Club National Register of Historic Places Nomination form.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

By the 1890s railroads had turned Richmond into a manufacturing hub. It was primarily this industrial base that accounted for Richmond's residents' description of their hometown as the "City of Millionaires." New mansions housed the wealthy in neighborhoods along West Main and North Tenth streets and these affluent citizens began to seek new, trendy recreation outlets to display their wealth and social standing.[15] The elite joined service and/or social clubs, such as the Atlantis Club in Richmond. Then, Will Reeves, one of the members of Richmond's "smart set" visited Scotland and returned to his hometown with an idea for a golf club. In 1896 a few young residents laid out a small course of holes south of Richmond. In 1898, they laid out a nine-hole course and formed the Richmond Golf Club, perhaps the first golf club in the state. Both men and women members joined the club from its inception.[16] By 1901 the 50-plus members of the golf club formed the Richmond Country Club and had new golf links laid out on a former farm west of Earlham Cemetery. Their clubhouse was a renovated farmhouse. Members could golf, play tennis and socialize at their new club and the club soon attracted 200 members.[17] In 1915, the Richmond Country Club clubhouse burned. The next year, the organization built a new clubhouse for $12,500 and laid out a course on 55 acres of land on the northeast side of Richmond, near Glen Miller Park.[18]

John Brookbank was president of the club in 1922. He was the manager of International Harvester. It may have been during Brookbank's tenure that the club began to look again for a new location. In 1923, Forest Hills Realty Co., whose principals were Richmond Country Club members, bought 162 acres southeast of Richmond. The plat map of Wayne Township published in the mid-1920s shows the 160 acres owned by Forest Hill Realty Co., of which the country club was the controlling stock holder.[19] William Hibbard, president of Forest Hill Realty, was chairman of the country club's greens committee. He had convinced the club to form the realty company a few years earlier to seek out a large plot of land for future expansion.[20] In 1926 the club sold its existing property to the Elks Club of Richmond. [21]

[15] Monte Muff, "Early History of Golf in Richmond," *Preserve Richmond Journal* September/October 2000, 1.
[16] *Ibid*., 2.
[17] "The Way our Club Began," manuscript located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.
[18] Susan E. King, *Richmond* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2005), 94.
[19] Plat Map of Indiana, Wayne County.
[20] "Country Club Golf," June 25, 1927, located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.
[21] Records located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana; Abstract of Title.

The club hired the architectural firm of Schenck and Williams and course designer, Bill Diddel, and by 1927 the Richmond Country Club had become the Forest Hills Country Club at its new location southeast of Richmond. The membership book in the first year after the new club opened shows page after page of names from the upper crust of Richmond society. Men and women were listed as individual members, as couple members, or as junior members. These were the most affluent citizens of Richmond and the nearby area. Among the many members were James A. Carr, the president of American Seeding Machinery; Percy Sprague, Division Freight Agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad; George Seidel, president of the Pilot Motor Car Company; the former president of both the country club and the Richmond Commercial Club, Dr. and Mrs. Louis F. Ross; wife of a local doctor, Mrs. Ellen B. Reed, who lived at the swanky Keystone Apartments; Wilson Magaw, owner of Magaw Paving Company, who lived at 515 National Road; and Mr. and Mrs. William Haberkern, prominent in the German American Trust Company.[22]

In the 1940s the club was continuing to attract a large membership of the city's influential and affluent. It is easy to imagine that business deals were made on the golf links and in the barroom here. By the middle of the 1940s World War II was finally over and soldiers and sailors returned home, married their sweethearts and began to start families. These young families called out for more housing, more schools and more leisure time activities. In 1946, Forest Hills answered the call by adding a swimming pool just off the northeast side of the club house to cater to young families. While the club's primary reason for being was the golf course, adult social activities became a secondary focus and a primary money maker at the club from the 1940s on. For instance, in 1946 golf dues amounted to nearly $4,000; "social dues" made the club nearly $12,700.[23] Forest Hills was clearly an important force in the social life of its members and social activities were a moneymaker for the club.

While golfers played regularly on the links and members dined and drank in the club, other purely social activities were also being planned. The June Dance in the mid-1940s featured the John Hedges Orchestra. Duffy's Tavern Party held on St. Paddy's Day in 1945 was thrown by club members with decidedly Irish-sounding surnames, perhaps adopted just for the day: George F. Grogan, Mignon Murphy, Roland K. Rafferty, Mildred K. O'Connell, Fred S. Finnigan, Miriam S. Kelly, Herb S. Harrigan, Katie B. O'Neill, Mary B. McPherson, Bob B. Bogan, Joanne K. Fitzgibbons, and Mark K. McCarthy. The Tom Shields, the John Lemons, the Fred Becks, the Dr. Morris Snyders, Reverend and Mrs. Pfeiffer, the Earl Clarks and Mary Thomas formed the committee for the annual Easter egg hunt held in 1949.[24]

Activities continued apace in the 1950s. Along with club golf tournaments, including the "men's sweepstakes" and city tournaments held at the club, family swimming, formal dining, and, of course, informal drinking, members participated in a host of purely social activities planned by

[22] Membership list, located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana; Obituaries, located at Forest Hills, *National Road Traveler*, January 13, 1955.
[23] Tally sheet located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.
[24] Party flyers located in file "40s" at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.

their cohorts. In 1953 the annual Ladies Luncheon was held in May and featured cocktails before lunch and a program of popular Broadway show reviews from Mrs. Bibbs, "all of which she has personally attended." The committee included Mrs. Walter Rudolphson, Mrs. M. M. Kipfer, Mrs. Howard Sweet, and a number of Misses: Ruth Harrington, Stella Knode and Chair, Mary Elizabeth Smith. In 1956 the Ladies Luncheon was held on June 20th, a prime rib dinner and dancing celebrated Flag Day on the 14th.[25] In 1959 the course underwent some sprucing up with the lengthening of the Number 3 Hole, the replacement of old drainage tile to eliminate "soggy spots," and the planting of several new trees, all of which kept the course interesting and exciting for the golfing members.

In the 1960s, the club had much to celebrate. A junior golf program was underway. There were about 160 men and 80 women golfers regularly playing the course. In 1961, Forest Hills Realty Co., which had held the ownership of the property since the 1920s, incorporated as Forest Hills Country Club, Inc. The list of Board of Directors was a Who's Who of Richmond's affluent industrialists and businessmen.[26] Among them were Harrison Scott, Jr., the owner of a casket shell manufacturing firm; Harry Bockoff, owner of the National Automatic Tool Corporation; Jack Clemons, owner of Kemper Brothers Cabinet Company; Tim Gomez, owner of the bus body manufacturing firm, Wayne Works; James Phelps, owner of an insurance firm; J. Ray Witherby, owner of the Coca Cola plant; Otto Meuser, vice president of Kemper Cabinets; and Harry Chenoweth, the local Cadillac dealer.[27]

The serious business of incorporating was only one of the activities taking place at Forest Hills in this decade. In 1960 the spring dance featured prime rib and Woody Herman's band. Invitations were sent as Western Union telegrams. Caribbean Night, a German Dinner Party, with Dutch Heiger on the piano, and the annual Easter egg hunt were all part of the fun of membership at Forest Hills in the 1960s. These activities made the country club relevant to a much wider audience than it might have been as a golf club alone. They are also a microcosm of the sorts of expansions into social life that Country Clubs made across the nation as they sought to broaden their appeal and remain relevant to the upper crust audiences they sought. Forest Hills is representative of this phenomenon on a local level.

The Richmond Country Club became the Forest Hills Country Club in 1926. A new location and new club house and golf course marked this new beginning. Tournaments, club championships, and regular play represented an important part of the club's purpose. The social aspect of the club was equally important. The 1961 incorporation papers acknowledge the club's dual focus explicitly, the "Country Club shall provide athletic and social entertainment and recreation for the benefit of its members." The ongoing activities at the country club in both outdoor recreation at the golf course and the swimming pool, and social activities made it significant in the social and recreation history of Richmond, Indiana. The Forest Hills Country Club is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for this area of significance.

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[25] *Ibid*, "50s".
[26] Incorporation Papers, located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.
[27] Connie Zeigler phone interview with Ed Dintaman, August 19, 2013.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Party flyers located in file "40s" at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.

Plat Map of Indiana, Wayne County.

Shackelford, Geoff. *Grounds for Golf*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martins Press. 2003.

Shortridge, Norm. "Golf," *Indianapolis Magazine.* June 1972.

Tally sheet located at Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana.

"The Way our Club Began," manuscript located at Forest Hills Country Club. Richmond, Indiana.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 161

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 682228	Northing: 4408516
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 683063	Northing: 4408514
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 683064	Northing: 4408492
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 682226	Northing: 4408468

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

The boundary is described specifically in the abstract of title as the SW ¼ of Section 10, Township 13N, Range 1W beginning at the northwest corner of said quarter section; thence south along the section line 161.92 rods, more or less, to the southwest corner of said section; thence east along the section line 57.5 rods; thence north parallel with the section line to the north line of said quarter section; thence west 57.5 rods to the place of the beginning (containing 58 acres more or less). Also, that part of the SW ¼ of Section 10, Township 13N, Range 1W beginning 57.5 rods east of the northwest quarter of said quarter, running thence

east 99.75 rods, more or less to the northeast corner of said quarter; thence south along the quarter section 161.40 rods to the southeast corner of said quarter; thence west 99.75 rods; thence north 161.40 rods to the place of beginning (containing 104 acres more or less). excepting beginning at a point in the north line of said quarter section 1,112 feet east of the northwest corner of said quarter section; thence south 166.5 feet; thence west 150 feet; thence north 166.5 feet to said quarter section line; thence east along said quarter section a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning, real estate conveyed to William D. Williams.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Forest Hills Country Club site includes all of the 162 acres of property identified as 2169 S. 23rd St. Richmond, Indiana, Wayne Township, Wayne County, Indiana. 47374 and is described specifically above with the legal description found in the abstract of title. The exception described above is a parcel of land along the north side of the property that was sold by Forest Hills Realty Co. to William D. Williams in 1923. The boundaries include the entire site, all buildings, objects, structures and sites included within the historic Forest Hills Country Club site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Connie Zeigler, owner
organization: C. Resources
street & number: 963 Hosbrook
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46203
e-mail connie@cresourcesinc.com
telephone: 317.908.6046
date: 8/15/2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Information below is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Forest Hills Country Club

City or Vicinity: Richmond

County: Wayne State: Indiana

Photographer: Connie Zeigler

Date Photographed: August 8, 2013

Photo 0001: Looking north at the country club building from the drive.
1 of 24.

Photo 0002: Looking north at stone arch entry.
2 of 24.

Photo 0003: Looking northeast at the side entry on the façade.
3 of 24.

Photo 0004: Looking north at addition to façade.
4 of 24.

Photo 0005: Looking east at western façade.
5 of 24.

Photo 0006: Looking southwest at rear façade.
6 of 24.

Photo 0007: Looking southeast at dining room addition to rear façade.
7 of 24.

Photo 0008: Looking southeast and earlier addition to rear of building.
8 of 24.

Photo 0009: Looking west at east side of building.
9 of 24.

Photo 0010: Looking west at ballroom.
10 of 24.

Photo 0011: Looking west from original dining room toward ballroom at original built-in cabinets.
11 of 24.

Photo 0012: Looking northeast at fireplace in original dining room.
12 of 24.

Photo 0013: Looking northeast at built-in in one of the upstairs apartments.
13 of 24.

Photo 0014: Looking northeast at shower and dressing room in Women's locker room.
14 of 24.

Photo 0015: Looking southeast at swimming pool and pool house.
15 of 24.

Photo 0016: Looking north at Hole 1.
16 of 24.

Photo 0017: Looking north at Hole 4 with arborvitae on left (west).
17 of 24.

Photo 0018: Looking north at pond and mature tree on Hole 6.
18 of 24.

Photo 0019: Looking southwest at Hole 14 bunkers.
19 of 24.

Photo 0020: Looking north at fairway of Hole 11 from the tee.
20 of 24.

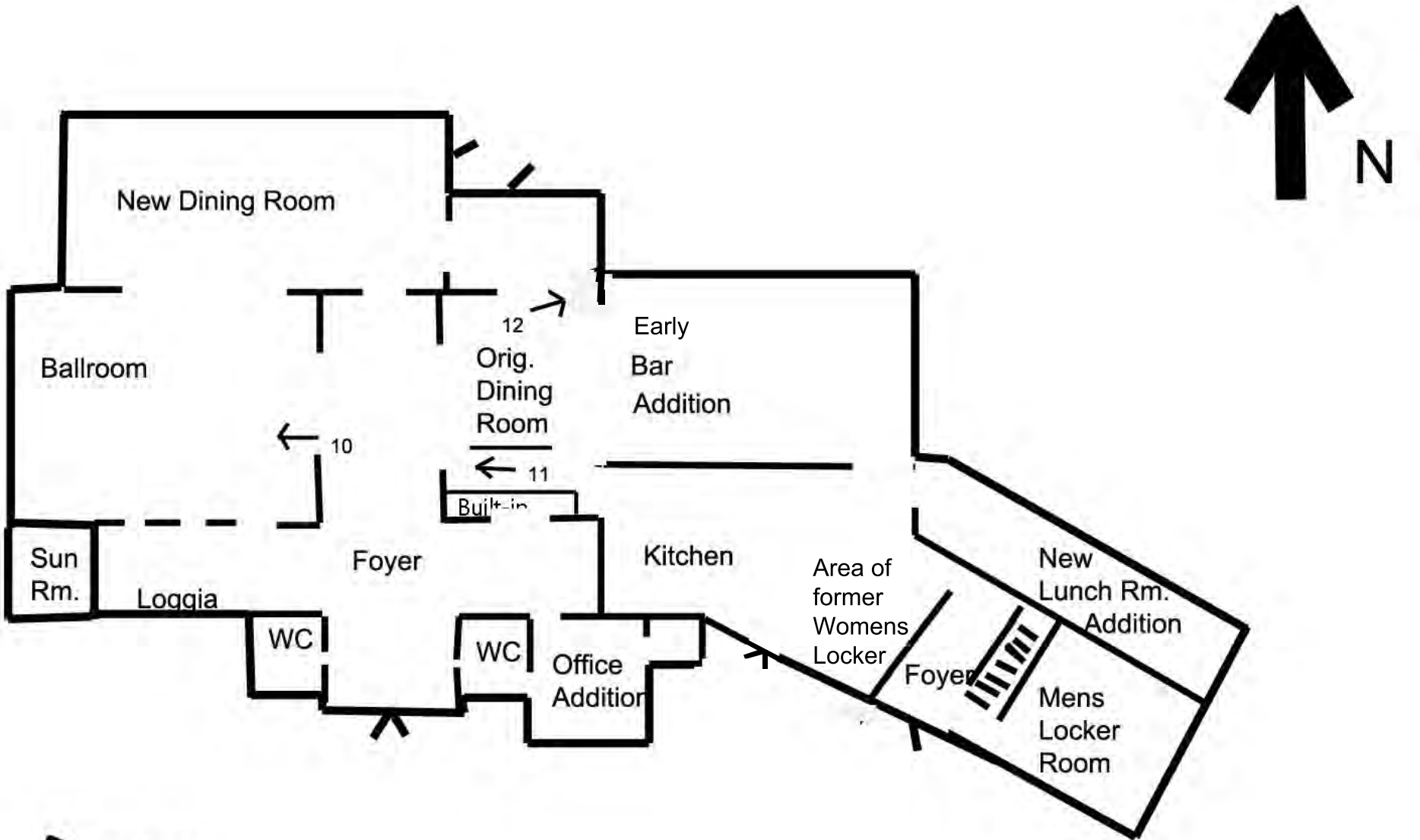
Photo 0021: Looking south at the sloping green of Hole 17.
21 of 24.

Photo 0022: Looking west at shelter on Hole 8.
22 of 24.

Photo 0023: Looking north at maintenance buildings.
23 of 24.

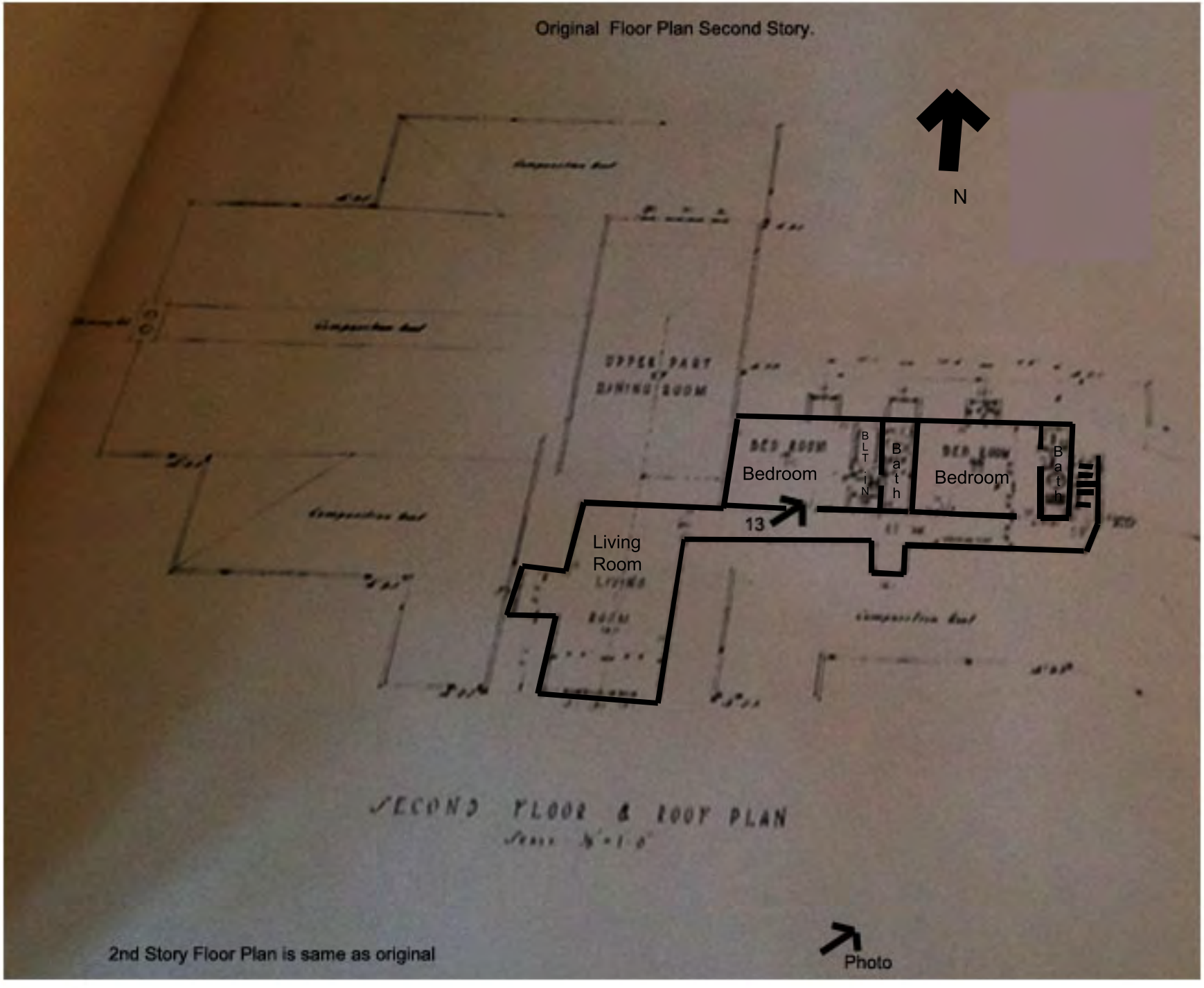
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Forest Hills Country Club, Floor Plan 1st floor

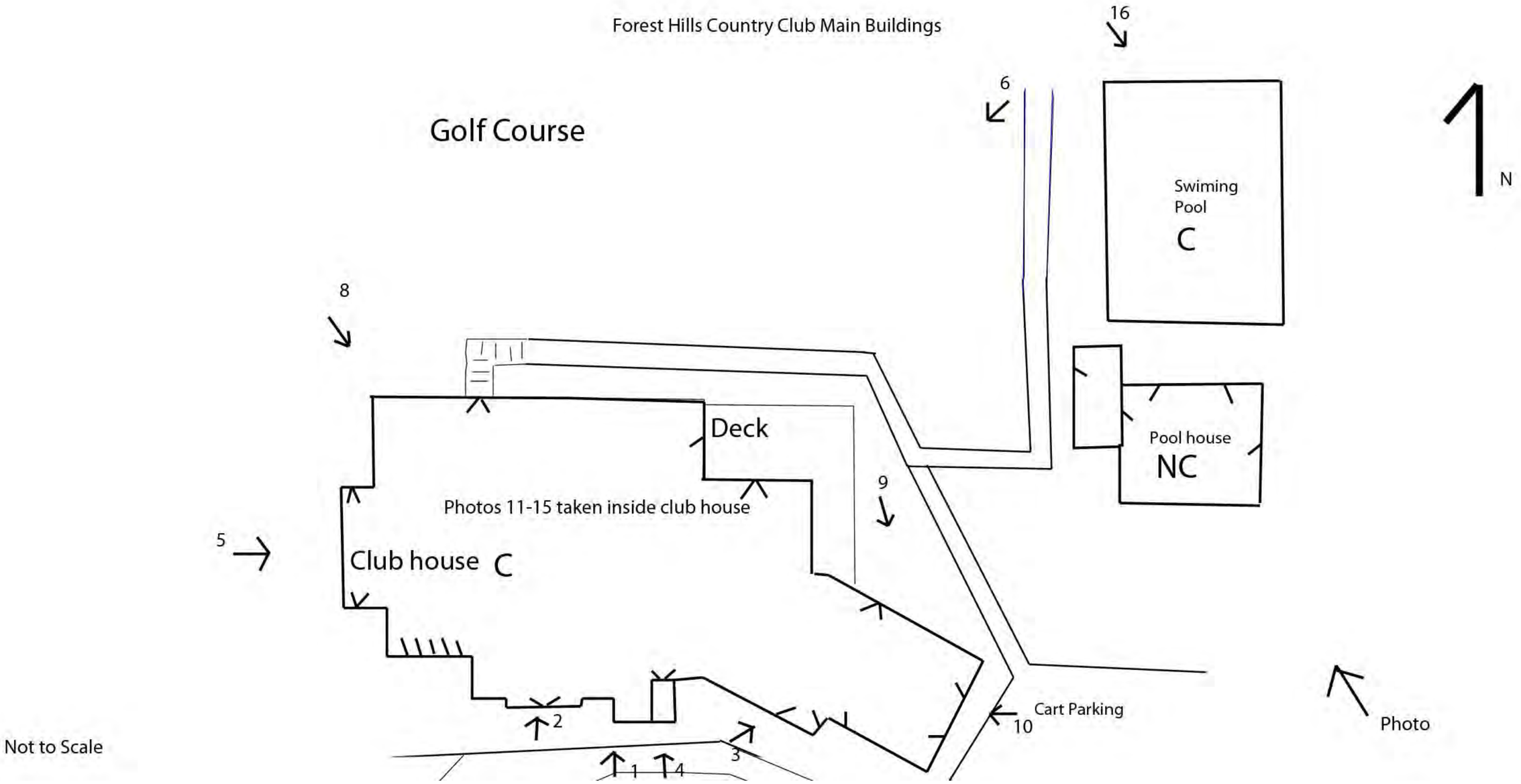


Not to Scale.

Forest Hills Country Club, Wayne County, Indiana



Forest Hills Country Club Main Buildings



Not to Scale

Forest Hills Country Club Site Plan

N

Wernle Road

S 23rd St.

Golf Course - C
Site - C

Shelter -- C

Shelter-C

Creek

Bridge - NC

Bridge - NC

Pond

Pond

Clubhouse C

Pool -C

Poolhouse -NC

Tennis NC

Parking

Drive

Sign

Green with Hole No.

Photo Location

Boundary

Maintenance Trails

Bunkers and Traps

Not to Scale

See Site Plan 2 for Photos 1-16

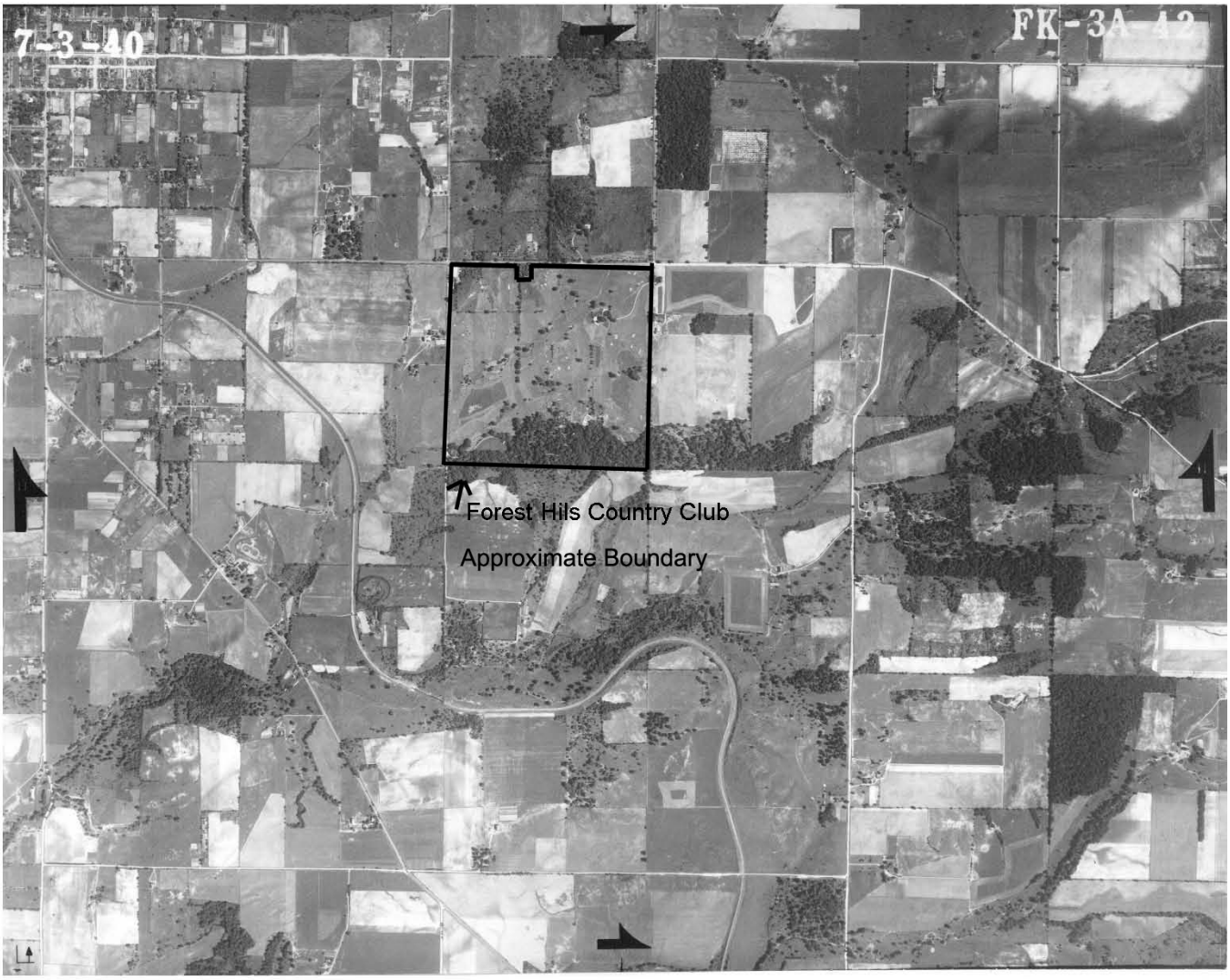
Continuation Page

2011 Bing Aerial of Forest Hills Country Club Site

Approximate Boundary

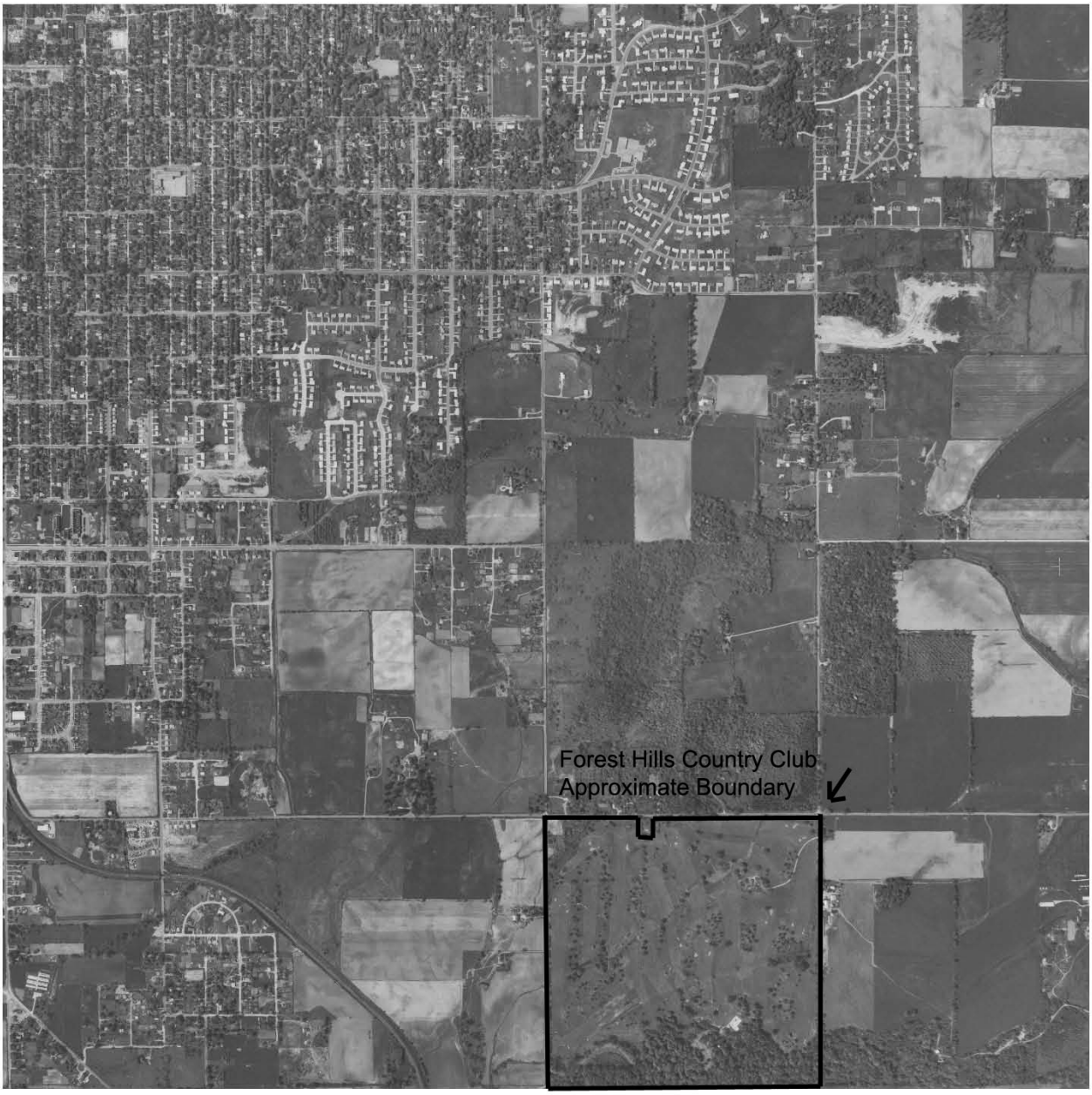
Continuation Sheet

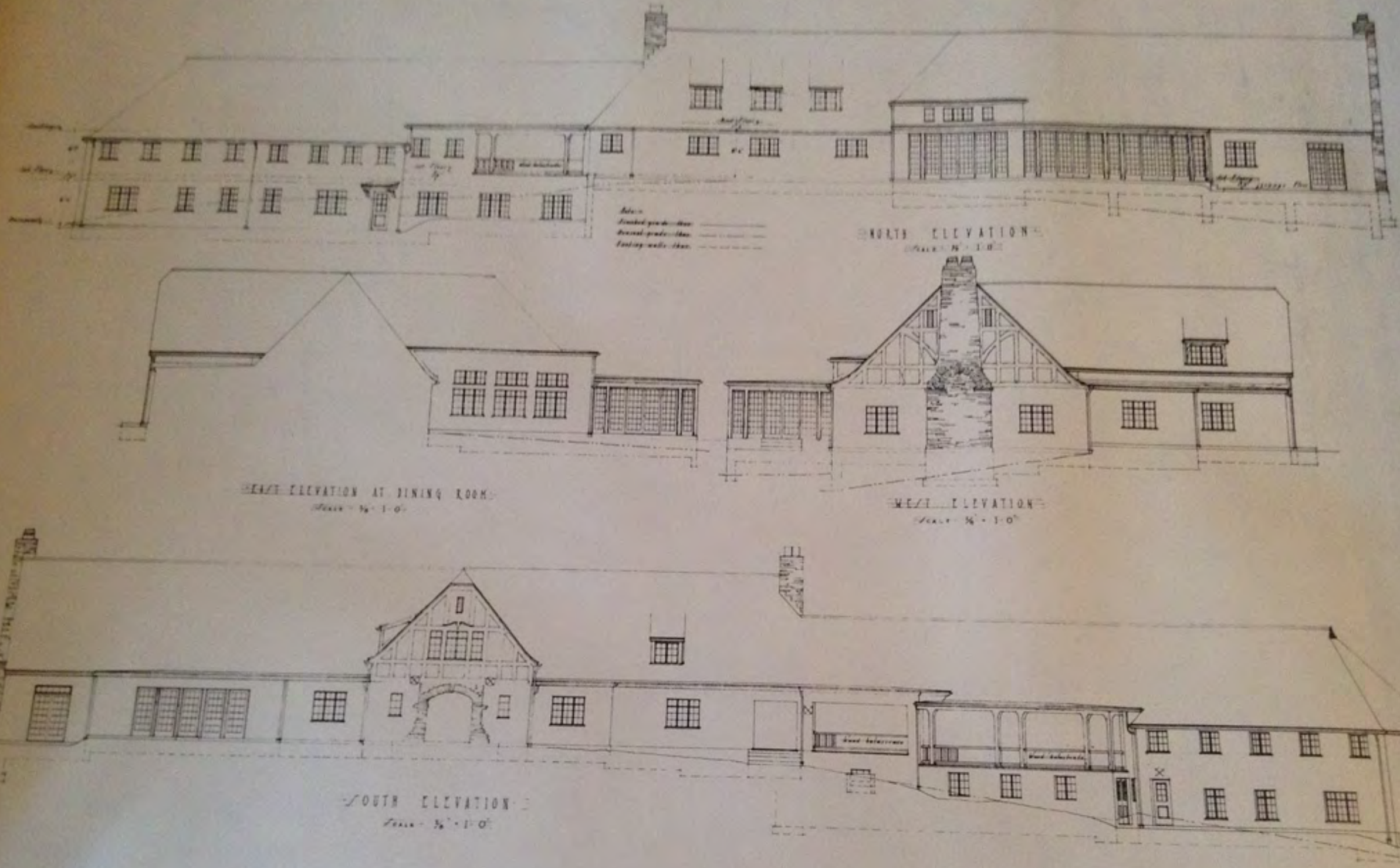
1940 Aerial Photograph of Forest Hills Country Club Site



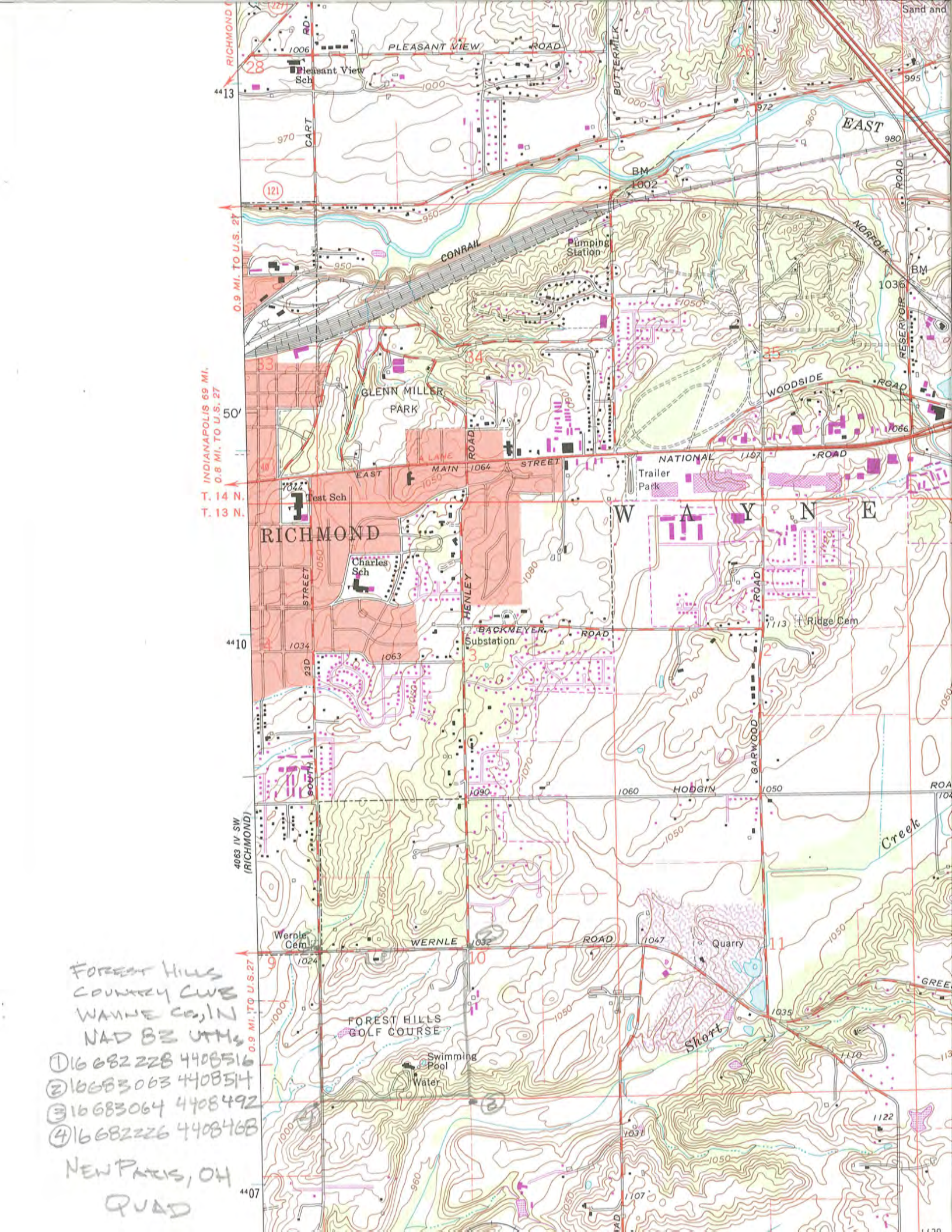
Continuation Page

1961 Aerial of Forest Hills Country Club site





Photograph of Original Drawings Forest Hills Country Club, Richmond, Indiana



FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
WAYNE CO, IN
NAD 83 UTMs
① 16 682228 4408516
② 16683063 4408514
③ 16683064 4408492
④ 16682226 4408468

NEW PARIS, OH
QUAD

FHCC

EXIT

AMOUR
FAIT
BEAUCOUP

TORO