

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Meadowbrook Country Club

Garner vicinity, Wake County, WA5104, Listed 12/16/2009

Nomination by Sybil Argintar

Photographs by Sybil Argintar, November 2008, August 2009 – putt-putt course



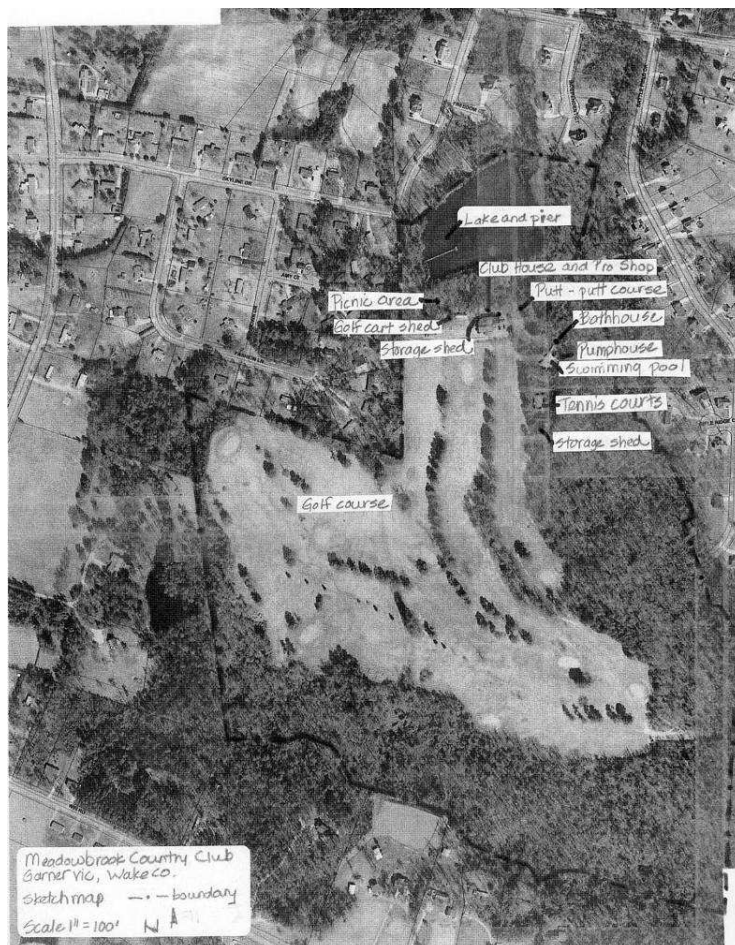
Golf course, view southeast



Clubhouse



Putt-putt course, during rehabilitation



Aerial View

**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 for individual properties and 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 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. 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 Meadowbrook Country Club

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8025 Country Club Drive not for publication N/A

city or town Garner vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27529

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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
 ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural 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 commenting or other official 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
___ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Meadowbrook Country Club
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u>7</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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: outdoor recreation
Recreation and Culture sports facility
Social clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: outdoor recreation
Recreation and Culture sports facility
Social clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation concrete
roof asphalt
walls concrete
brick
other wood

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Black Ethnic Heritage

Social History

Period of Significance

1961 – 1970

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hamm, Gene

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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: Western Office, Archives and History

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Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 120.81 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 720140 3949500
2 17 720410 3948820

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 720390 3948460
4 17 720170 3948500
x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sybil H. Argintar, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization Southeastern Preservation Services date August 1, 2009

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 230-3773

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Saint Augustine's College (attn: Clarendia Stanley)

street & number 1315 Oakwood Avenue telephone (919) 516-4515

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27610-2247

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Meadowbrook Country Club
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Summary

Meadowbrook Country Club is located in the southeastern part of Wake County, just outside the city limits of Garner, North Carolina. The club property of approximately 120 acres, which generally is buffered on all sides by wooded areas and some residential lots, is roughly bordered by White Oak Road to the north, Country Club Drive to the west, Battlefield Drive to the east, and several residential properties to the south and northwest. Originally, the country club property extended farther north, including what is now a small residential subdivision known as Meadowbrook Park. These lots were sold to members in the 1970s to help raise money for the club, and have not been part of the club since that time. The south side of the property is buffered from the residential properties by a wooded area, but houses to the northwest of the property are adjacent to the golf course. The topography is generally flat, with gently rolling hills within the golf course on the south side of the property. Country Club Drive serves as the approach road into the club, winding along the western edge of the property, with trees on both sides, and turning east to end in front of the clubhouse. Meadowbrook Country Club contains several elements, including the lake at the north end of the property, the picnic area, the putt-putt golf course, the driving range, and the nine-hole golf course, the most prominent component of the property, located in the southern portion of the property. The buildings at the country club, all of which are clustered together north and east of the golf course and south of the lake, include the clubhouse, the most prominent building on the property, a bathhouse, and two storage sheds. Several auxiliary structures are located at the club, including the pier on the west side of the lake, the swimming pool, the tennis courts, a golf cart shed, and the pump house, all of which are also clustered on the north and east side of the golf course.

The inventory is arranged as one views the country club on entry, beginning at the north end of the property, then to the east, and, finally, south.

Lake. Contributing site. 1961.

The lake, one of the first features built at the club after its founding in 1959, is located on the north end of the property, with a wood pier located on the west side projecting into the lake. Surrounding the lake are woodlands and a dirt walking path.

Pier. Contributing structure. 1961.

The wood pier, located on the west side of the lake, was built by club member John Kay. Extending approximately 100 feet into the lake, it is constructed entirely of wood with wood decking and railing. There is a shallow-gable-roof covering over an open-structure pavilion at the east end. Since its construction, some decking boards and railing have been selectively replaced through the years.

Picnic area. Contributing site. 1962.

This wooded area with three concrete block grills scattered across the hillside, is located just south of the lake, extending to the road and the clubhouse.

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Driving Range. Contributing site. 1966.

Located southwest of the clubhouse, at the northwest corner of the golf course, is a level driving range approximately seventy-five yards by three hundred yards, with eight stations. The range can accommodate up to forty golfers at one time.

Golf cart shed. Non-contributing structure. 1972.

The one-story structure located to the west of the clubhouse has a metal-covered side-gable roof supported by square wood posts. It is in use for storage of golf carts. Built by Herbert Harris, a club member.

Golf course. Contributing site. 1966.

This nine-hole course, with a total of 2,771 yards, and a par of 36, was designed by prolific North Carolina golf course architect Gene Hamm.¹ Surrounded on three sides by woods, the course is unchanged except for the extension of some tee areas for more advanced golfers and the creation of shorter tee areas for women and youth using the course. Aerial photographs show the development of the course within a former tobacco field and a small portion of cleared woods on the east side. The course had become overgrown, but it was cleared in the last two years and is once again in use. A detailed description of each hole follows, based upon the easiest of the men's tee yardages:²

The course is located in a compact area, with many of the fairways paralleling each other to fit within the space. It covers a series of gently rolling hills, with some of the most challenging holes containing dog-leg turns or long distances which make the green invisible from the tee area. Throughout the course are challenges for the golfer, including lines of trees planted parallel to some of the fairways, sand traps, gullies, and hills landscaped with tall shrubbery which block visibility.

Hole 1, Par 4 and 340 yards, has a slight dog-leg bend, a long fairway, and a line of trees which divides this fairway from that of the adjacent holes. Hole 2, Par 3 and 110 yards, has a much shorter fairway, while Hole 3, Par 4 and 300 yards, is long and straight. Hole 4, Par 4 and 329 yards, also has a long, straight fairway, while Hole 5, Par 4 and 313 yards, is challenging because the green is up and over a hill, and is not visible from the tee. Hole 5 is also challenging because just north of the green are residences at the edge of the property. Hole 6, Par 4 and 328 yards, has a long fairway, with several rows of trees as obstacles. Hole 7, Par 3 and 140 yards, has a short fairway like Hole 2, with an easy view of the green. Hole 8, Par 5 and 405 yards, has one of the longest fairways. Even though it is straight, it is challenging

¹ These par numbers are based upon the easiest level of the men's yardages. The men's tee yardages vary slightly, based upon the skill levels of the golfers. The par 36 is consistent for the men's, with a par 38 available for the women's tees. The medium men's level total yardage of the course is 2,906; the most challenging is 3,110 yards. The women's course yardage is 2,211. There are three men's tees, a women's tee, and a youth/beginner tee. These are the only changes within the golf course design, to add a level of challenge to the course, and also to make it accessible to women and youth players.

² Each hole has the option of the differing tee distances, based upon skill level.

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due to a gully which crosses the fairway about a third of the distance to the green. Hole 9, Par 5 and 506 yards, is the longest of the fairways, with the added challenge of a dog-leg bend. The green for this hole is located close to the clubhouse, nearly adjacent to the Hole 1 tee.

Clubhouse. Contributing building. 1962. Patio added 1970; Pro shop added 1971.

Built of concrete block, with masonite board siding in the gable ends and brick facing on the facade, the clubhouse is a one-story, asphalt-covered, side-gable-roof building with a projecting front-gable-roof porte cochere supported by square posts resting on a low brick wall on the facade and a centrally located gable-roof ell at the rear. The original section of the building has a small side-gable-roof wing on its east elevation, to the rear, that connects to the shed-roof pro shop, added in 1971. Set within the "L" of the original section is the concrete patio, added in 1970. Windows on the original section are horizontal fixed windows with molded wood frames. Four are located on the west end of the facade and two are located to the east of the double-leaf entry door which is sheltered by the porte cochere. There is a large concrete block chimney on the west elevation. The rear (north) elevation of the clubhouse is five bays wide. Recessed at the northwest corner is the patio, with sliding glass doors that provide access to the great room of the clubhouse.

The eastern three bays of the rear elevation include two rear windows and a door to the pro shop addition. Windows on the pro shop are a single fixed light flanked by narrow fixed lights on the east and rear elevations, and on the front elevation, a large, multi-light, metal-frame, fixed window flanked by narrow multi-light, metal-frame casement windows and a single multi-light, metal-frame casement window flanking the entry door. The pro shop is also built of concrete block but without brick facing on its facade. A covered shed-roof patio supported by replacement square posts on a low concrete block wall shelters the entry.

The interior of the clubhouse consists of a small entry vestibule at the front, with an office to the east. A cathedral-ceilinged great room, with separate kitchen and bath/locker room facilities at its east end, is accessed through a door at the north side of the vestibule (see Exhibit A, floor plan). The ceiling of the great room is wide, unpainted flush board with four boxed beams which angle downward to connect to wood-paneled boxes located along the ceiling on the north and south sides of the room, which contain ductwork. Decorative, inverted-base, triangular, wood-paneled columns extend floor to ceiling with plain concrete block walls in between. Floors are concrete slab, covered with carpet. There is a large concrete block fireplace at the west end of the great room. Interior wood doors have three horizontal lights in the upper portion. Additional bath/locker room facilities are located in the rear ell and are accessed from the patio.

The pro shop adjoins the main building to the east through a connecting door in the women's bath/locker room facilities in the rear ell and consists of a main office/check-in area at the front and two smaller rooms at the rear. All floors are concrete slab with carpeting. A new partition wall with bifold doors has been added between the front room and the east rear room. A wall has also been added to divide what was originally one large rear room into two smaller rooms. Walls are painted concrete block and ceilings

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are dropped panel. The builder of the clubhouse was John W. Winters, a prominent black builder in the Raleigh area. All of the additions were built by A. E. Moore, George Exum, and Arthur Bunch, club members.

Storage shed. Non-contributing building. 1971.

One-story, front-gable, concrete block building with a six-panel door on the north elevation is located just east of the pro shop to the north of the covered walkway, and is currently used for storage.

Putt-putt course. Contributing site. 1962.

This eighteen-hole putt-putt course and the lake were the two main recreational features of the club until the golf course was built. The putt-putt course, built by A. E. Moore, a club member, is located east of the picnic area and is set within a wooded landscape. All walkways within the putting course are concrete, and the putting greens are outdoor carpet, recently replaced. There are a variety of obstacles on the course including some slight hills, sand traps, and water traps. In the current renovation of the course, mulch has been added outside the putting greens and the course will be fenced in.

Bathhouse. Non-contributing building. 1969.

This one-story, shallow-gable-roof concrete block building, located at the northeast corner of the pool area, houses men's and women's locker rooms. There is a shed-roof covered patio on the south side supported by iron posts. Arthur Bunch and A. E. Moore, club members, built the bathhouse.

Pump house. Non-contributing structure. 1968.

This small one-story, flat-roof concrete block building is located in the woods to the east of the pool deck and houses the pump for the swimming pool.

Swimming pool. Non-contributing structure. 1968.

Built by the Greensboro Company of Greensboro, North Carolina, the L-shaped, junior Olympic-sized concrete swimming pool surrounded by concrete decking remains in its original location but has not been in use for several years. There is a small rectangular baby pool at the northeast corner of the main pool, and there is a chain link fence on the east side of the concrete deck. In recent years, the pool has deteriorated considerably and is in poor condition, making it a non-contributing structure. As funds become available, it will be restored.

Tennis courts. Non-contributing structure. 1969.

The two clay tennis courts, located just south of the swimming pool, and extensively overgrown, are oriented in a north-south direction. Portions of the courts and the metal posts and nets are still visible, as well as a chain link fence along the east side of the far court. The tennis courts have not been in use for many years and have deteriorated considerably, making this a non-contributing structure.

Storage shed. Non-contributing building. ca. 1940s (part of original tobacco farm); alterations ca. 1970.

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Located just south of the tennis courts, near the eastern edge of the property, is a small one-story, frame storage shed which was part of the tobacco farm operation originally. This weatherboard-sided, shed-roof building has had a shed-roof equipment shed added on the south side, as well as a modern door and windows added ca. 1970.

Integrity Statement

It should be noted that the clubhouse and the golf course, both contributing elements, are the primary resources of the nomination, with the golf course occupying the majority of the acreage. However, half of the resources at Meadowbrook Country Club are non-contributing due to their deteriorated condition. These resources were built during the period of significance as a further development of the country club facilities, and have the potential to become contributing resources pending the completion of repairs to and renovation of these resources by the current owner.

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Summary

Meadowbrook Country Club meets National Register Criterion A for its association with recreation/entertainment, black ethnic heritage, and social history at the state level. It was founded and developed by the black community as an alternative venue for families who were not able to gain membership to the white country clubs due to segregation laws. This property consists of a nine-hole golf course, lake, picnic grounds, clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, and putt-putt course. The club was founded in 1959, its first contributing resource was constructed in 1961, and its period of significance extends to 1970, less than fifty years ago. The club experienced its greatest membership growth and financial stability through the 1960s and built all of the major facilities of the country club during this period. Beginning in the early 1970s, membership decreased leading to the club's financial and physical decline. The property is of exceptional significance and therefore meets National Register Criteria Consideration G, as the only known intact, private African American country club in the state of North Carolina that was founded before the Civil Rights era and the implementation of integration legislation.

Black Ethnic Heritage Context

The mid-1950s to mid-1960s, the period during which Meadowbrook Country Club was established, was a time of great social change for black citizens of North Carolina and the nation at large. While this time period in particular is known for the intensity and activity of what later came to be known as the Civil Rights Movement, these mid-twentieth-century years served as a culmination of almost one hundred years of discrimination towards black United States citizens.

Early efforts to eliminate racial discrimination in the United States led to the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, on December 18, 1865, which banned slavery throughout the country. With the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment on July 9, 1868, freed slaves were officially granted the rights of full citizenship. However, many African Americans in the South were allowed only limited rights in practice. The Fifteenth Amendment was ratified on March 30, 1870, and banned race-based voting qualifications to further reconcile the continuing disparity of citizens' rights. However, many of the early rights granted to African Americans in North Carolina and the nation were taken away at the turn of the twentieth century. The 1896 Supreme Court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (163 U.S. 537), and the *disfranchisement laws* put into place throughout the South at the turn of the twentieth century forced equality for black citizens back several steps.

Plessy v. Ferguson upheld the constitutionality of "separate but equal."³ Separate but equal affected all aspects of the lives of African American citizens including housing, schools, business, and recreation. The *disfranchisement laws* effectively prevented blacks from voting without having to change the Fifteenth Amendment. The disfranchisement amendment to the North Carolina Constitution, passed in 1900, lengthened the time of residency required before qualifying to register to vote, enacted an educational

³ <http://www.watson.org/-lisa/blackhistory/post-civilwar/plessy.html>. March 26, 2009 and Justice Henry Billings Brown, "Majority opinion in *Plessy v. Ferguson*." *Desegregation and the Supreme Court*, ed. Benjamin Munn Ziegler (Boston: D.C. Heath and Company, 1958) 50-51.

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qualification (which could be decided subjectively by a white registrar), and required the payment of a poll tax.⁴

Entertainment/Recreation Context

It was in the context of “separate but equal” that black citizens in Raleigh, and elsewhere across the state, were forced to create recreational venues of their own. Country clubs were one of these recreational venues.

The definition of a country club is “...a club for social and leisure activities with facilities for golf, tennis, or other outdoor sports, usually located in the suburbs or the country...,”as opposed to a golf club which is a club organized to play golf without additional leisure amenities.⁵ Generally, country clubs were private entities founded by wealthy white citizens. Often included in their by-laws were specific discrimination policies which forbade membership for African Americans, Asian Americans, Jews, Catholics, Hispanics, and/or other minority groups. In the last twenty years, many of these policies have been changed, but in the mid- to late twentieth century it was impossible for members of these minority ethnic and religious groups to join private clubs, with particular discrimination often extended to black citizens.

Funding for “separate but equal” facilities was limited in North Carolina municipalities, and even within the larger cities that did provide some public recreational funding for African American, the venues were often far from equal to what was available for whites. For example, in the late 1950s, in Raleigh, the North Carolina state capital, there were twenty-five public parks, a stadium, a municipal auditorium, a coliseum, an arena, an amphitheatre, three eighteen-hole public golf courses, a public tennis club, two swimming pools, a Young Men’s Christian Association, a Young Women’s Christian Association, the private Carolina Country Club, one private golf driving range, and over twenty social clubs, all for the white community.⁶ In 1959, with a population of 65, 679, thirty-two percent of which was black, there was one public park with a swimming pool, a YWCA, and a movie theater, along with other social venues for blacks.⁷

This discrepancy in the number of available recreational venues for blacks versus whites continued into the 1960s, with the development of white baseball parks, horse riding clubs, and public and private golf courses.⁸ The public park for blacks was the twenty-six acre Chavis Park, a Works Progress Administration project built in 1937, which included a carousel, a baseball diamond, picnic grounds, and

⁴ Pildes, Richard H. “Democracy, Anti-Democracy, and the Canon.” *Constitutional Commentary*, Vol. 17, 2000, p. 12 and 27.

⁵ http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_1861688439/country_club.html. July 20, 2009

⁶ Raleigh City Directory, 1959.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Raleigh City Directories, 1960 – 1965.

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a swimming pool.⁹ The park was located directly across the street from a black public housing community, Chavis Heights. Chavis Park was well-attended by the black community in Raleigh, as well as by visitors from Durham, Greensboro, Wilson, and Rocky Mount.¹⁰ Bandleader Cab Calloway swam in the Chavis Park pool while on tour in the 1930s.¹¹ Swimming lessons, water pageants, and neighborhood ball clubs playing baseball were some of the popular activities that took place there.¹² Another public park, Pullen Park, was open to blacks, but very few utilized the park, since blacks were not allowed to swim in the pool.

Raleigh had two black universities, both founded in the years immediately following the Civil War. Shaw University (founded 1865) and Saint Augustine's College (founded 1867) served as places for recreation within the black community. Both colleges offered numerous sports programs and attendance at competitive events, especially the annual Shaw-St. Augustine's football game, drew large numbers of black Raleigh residents. Both schools also had auditoriums where theater and music were entertainment options.¹³

East Hargett Street, the heart of the black business community in downtown Raleigh, also offered several entertainment venues, including a movie theater.¹⁴ The Arcade Hotel, also on East Hargett Street, often held dances and concerts. Big names in the entertainment industry played there, including Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and other big bands. The Arcade Hotel and the Lewis Hotel were two of the few hotels between Washington, D.C. and Florida where blacks could stay.¹⁵ In addition, there was the Sojourner Truth Branch of the YWCA, which served the black women of the community.¹⁶ A local chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. was founded in Raleigh in 1950. This women's organization was primarily a service club centered around children, but it also provided many social and recreational opportunities for black youth.¹⁷ Neighborhood school playgrounds, black churches, and gyms also served the black community as places for socializing and recreation.¹⁸

⁹ Little, M. Ruth. "Chavis Park Carousel Landmark Designation Report." North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. January 19, 2001, p. 4.

¹⁰ Simmons-Henry, Linda, and Linda Harris Edmisten. Culture Town: Life In Raleigh's African-American Communities. Raleigh, North Carolina: Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, 1993, p. 149.

¹¹ Shaffer, Josh. "Chavis Park a ghost of glory past." *News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), January 29, 2008. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/909001.html>. August 8, 2009.

¹² Chavis Park, p. 6.

¹³ Culture Town, p. 83.

¹⁴ Raleigh City Directory, 1959.

¹⁵ Culture Town, pp. 47, 61, and 80.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 124.

¹⁷ <http://www.jackandjillraleigh.org/chapterhistory.html>. March 31, 2009.

¹⁸ Culture Town, pp. 8 and 82.

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Recreational opportunities for blacks in other parts of the state varied, with some cities and towns offering similar numbers and types of venues as seen in Raleigh, while others offering very little. On the coast, just south of Wilmington, North Carolina, was the location of one of the few black recreational beach resorts, Sea Breeze, which thrived from the 1940s through the 1960s. Begun ca. 1940, just north of Carolina Beach, this community, which consisted of cottages, taverns, clubhouse, restaurant, pier, and beach boat taxi to a private beach, served not only as an overnight stopping point for visitors traveling along the coast, but as a full resort for families that returned annually. Sea Breeze was the only place in the Wilmington area where blacks could be on the beach and in the water, allowing visitors to fish and swim. Simple accommodations were available for those who chose to stay overnight, but there were also many day visitors from the local black community, as well as black soldiers on leave during the 1940s.¹⁹

Another coastal city, New Bern, North Carolina, historically boasted a large black population, including many freed blacks during the years of the Civil War, especially in James City, the nearby Union refugee camp and successful African American community. However, recreational venues for black citizens were nearly non-existent, even though African Americans played a large role in the development of the town, beginning in the late nineteenth century when many of its buildings, wharves, and ships, were built using a black labor force.²⁰ By the late 1870s, there were more black businesses in New Bern than anywhere else in the state, with several social/music clubs in operation such as the Newbern Clipper Club Quartette, the Mount Olive Glee and Chorus Club, and the New Berne Star Band.²¹ A popular social event in the 1890s for the black community was the Emancipation Day celebration, with a parade and brass bands.²² However, as job opportunities diminished in the 1910s, many blacks began to leave New Bern. Those who did remain supported the black commercial district known as Five Points, which was a thriving place by the 1950s, and home to the Palace Theater and a social club.²³ Henrietta, Amy, and Charlotte Rhone, members of a black family, built and operated the Rhone Hotel, located in town, from the 1920s to the 1950s. It was the only place where blacks could stay when they traveled to the area.²⁴

Beaufort, a coastal North Carolina resort town, also had a large black population throughout the nineteenth century, with the free black and slave population exceeding fifty percent in 1850.²⁵ Beaufort was under Union control from 1862 to the end of the Civil War, and many blacks sought refuge in the town. At these refugee camps, blacks went to school and learned various trades. Many remained, and at

¹⁹ "Sea Breeze Community." Survey files. North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1976.

²⁰ Hanchett, Thomas W. and M. Ruth Little. "The History and Architecture of Long Wharf and Greater Duffyfield: African-American Neighborhoods in New Bern, North Carolina." North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, April 1994, p. 1.

²¹ Ibid, p. 13.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid, p. 17.

²⁴ Ibid, p. 19.

²⁵ Sandbeck, Peter B. "Beaufort's African-American History and Architecture." North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, July 1995, p. 7.

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the end of the nineteenth century, were employed in the extensive fishing industry which served as the town's economic foundation.²⁶ Jobs for blacks through the first decades of the twentieth century included work as laborers, fishermen, construction workers, mill workers, knitting mill workers, and craftsmen. As in other small communities across the state, by the middle of the twentieth century many blacks had left for jobs in bigger cities. There was a small black commercial district in Beaufort, centered around Cedar and Pine Streets, with a movie theater, but apparently no other formal recreational venues.²⁷

Morehead City, North Carolina, was the location of the Edgewater Hotel, built in 1950, in the northwest section of town known as "Colored Town."²⁸ This hotel, like the few others scattered along the east coast, served the black traveler in the mid-twentieth century who was unwelcome at the white hotels. In the first part of the twentieth century, the black population of Morehead City was only about one-sixth of the total.²⁹ Most individuals were employed in the fishing industries or at white resort hotels as porters, cooks, maids, and laundresses. The black population rose in the summer months when white visitors to the resort community brought their maids and butlers, none of whom were able to attend any of the local white venues. There was a definite need for a recreational venue for the black community, and the Edgewater Hotel, built by Harkless Wooten, a local black man, filled the void, remaining in operation until 1979.³⁰ In contrast to the grand resort hotels of the white community that had been built into the early years of the twentieth century, the Edgewater Hotel was located in a simple frame building with a kitchen, dining room, lounge, pool hall, patio, and pier. Charter fishing boats took visitors on excursions nearby. Entertainers who performed there included Joe Louis and Sam Cooke.³¹

Durham, North Carolina, a piedmont community northwest of Raleigh, had a large black population as early as the 1870s, when blacks migrated to the area in large numbers to work in the booming tobacco industry. One of the first black neighborhoods to develop, in southeast Durham, was Hayti along Fayetteville Street, close to the tobacco factories.³² As Hayti and later neighborhoods in the twentieth century developed, churches were built and a more distinct black business community began to flourish, primarily located along Fayetteville, Elm, and Mobile Streets. As the community grew in the first three decades of the twentieth century, recreational venues were established. Some of these included the Electric Theatre, later the Rex Theatre, which was a vaudeville playhouse, and a YWCA.³³ The College View neighborhood, also in southeast Durham, developed as one of Durham's early black

²⁶ Ibid, pp. 15-16.

²⁷ Ibid, p. 33.

²⁸ Little, M. Ruth. "The Historic Architecture of Morehead City: North Carolina's First Coastal Railroad Resort." North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2001, p. 14.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "Edgewater Hotel," North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2001.

³¹ "The Historic Architecture of Morehead City", pp. 15 – 16.

³² Roberts, Claudia P. "The Durham Architectural and Historic Inventory." City of Durham and the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, 1982, p. 113.

³³ Ibid, p. 114 and 118.

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neighborhoods.³⁴ It was built around the National Religious Training School, a private institution founded in 1909 and opening to students on July 5, 1910.³⁵ This school was purchased by the state of North Carolina, in 1923, and was eventually renamed the North Carolina College for Negroes, with a focus on liberal arts and preparing teachers and principals for secondary schools, and, in 1969, the school received its final name, North Carolina Central University.³⁶ As the college grew, many cultural, athletic, and recreational opportunities were available to black residents in Durham. In the 1930s and 1940s, the auditorium at the college hosted speakers such as Paul Robeson and Roland Hayes. The Algonquin Tennis Club, also located in southeast Durham, was a popular social gathering place in the 1930s and 1940s.³⁷ Additional Durham recreational venues for blacks in the late 1940s to 1950s, located primarily along Fayetteville Street, included a Boys Club, and a lodge hall.³⁸

In Greensboro, another piedmont North Carolina city, recreational venues for blacks were fewer in number than in Durham. As in both Raleigh and Durham, a black university, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College (founded 1891 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race), served the community as a location for athletic and cultural events. The Hayes-Taylor Memorial Branch of the YMCA served the black men in the community, and there was a black commercial district on East Market Street.³⁹ Nocho Park Golf Course, a nine-hole, par 36 public course, was also open to African American golfers from its opening, in 1950, but was closed December 19, 1955, to make way for a city dump.⁴⁰

However, it was in Greensboro that a private African American county club, much like Meadowbrook Country Club, almost came to fruition amidst a segregated environment for all private clubs, golf courses, and other recreational venues. Forest Lakes Country Club, a private club originally owned by Burlington Industries and developed for its executives, was purchased by several prominent black businessmen in Greensboro and nearby towns on September 16, 1959. The club, which contained a large clubhouse, several tennis courts, a bowling alley, several lakes, and 124 acres of open land, never got off the ground. Plans were drawn up for a golf course which was never built. Concurrent with the purchase of this property, some of the other public venues in Greensboro were beginning to open up to blacks, causing the Board of Directors of the proposed country club to deem it unfeasible to maintain the club. Seventeen

³⁴ Ibid, p. 118.

³⁵ <http://www.nccu.edu/aboutnccu/History.cfm>. July 20, 2009.

³⁶ Ibid. North Carolina College was the first state-supported liberal arts college for blacks in the nation.

³⁷ "The Durham Architectural and Historic Inventory", p. 118.

³⁸ Sanborn Map Company, Durham, North Carolina, 1950.

³⁹ Sanborn Map Company, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1950.

⁴⁰ Marshall, Allan. "Missing Links: Greensboro's Nocho Park Golf Course." *Triad Golf Today*. http://www.blueridgegolftrail.com/apr2001/instruction_missing.htm. August 7, 2009.

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acres were sold to another club, and the remainder of the property was developed into Forest Lake Country Club Estates.⁴¹

Charlotte, North Carolina, as of 1953, had a black YMCA, the Henry L. McCory Branch, at the corner of South Caldwell and East Third Street, and a YWCA on South Brevard Road. East Second Street was the core of the commercial black business community, with a movie theater and one club.⁴² The population of Mecklenburg County, where Charlotte is located, was thirty percent black in 1940. Unlike Raleigh, where many blacks in the mid-twentieth century held more white collar jobs in teaching, banking, and business ownership, Charlotte offered relatively few job opportunities, and many blacks left in the mid-twentieth century to find work in other cities. Blacks resided in portions of the third and fourth wards, but the main black neighborhood in the city, Brooklyn, was located in the second ward, in the southeast section of the original town of Charlotte. Brooklyn was founded in the 1920s, but was destroyed in an urban renewal project in 1970.⁴³ Smaller African American “villages” ringed this central core of the city, including Cherry, begun in 1891 by the wealthy white Myers family as a “...model Negro housing development...” that included a community park which provided recreational activities for residents.⁴⁴ At the turn of the twentieth century, black suburban streetcar communities developed, including Washington Heights, founded in 1915, located northwest of downtown Charlotte, and including Watson Park, the first park for blacks in the city.⁴⁵ Johnson C. Smith University (founded 1867 as the Biddle Memorial Institute), like other historically black colleges across the state, served as an important recreational venue for the black Charlotte community. Social clubs in or near Charlotte’s black neighborhoods included the Montauk Society League of Charlotte, the Friday Afternoon Club, as well as the Excelsior Club, which was one of the largest black social clubs on the east coast and the “...leading private black social club in the southeast...”⁴⁶ Founded in 1944, the club was a members-only entity catering primarily to black professionals of Charlotte, such as doctors, lawyers, educators, ministers, and businessmen. Beginning with a membership of only twenty-five, the club grew to over one hundred members in a short time. Nat “King” Cole entertained there, and numerous social and civic clubs held their meetings there.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Letter from J. Kenneth Lee to Mr. H. McKelden Smith dated February 11, 1977. North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. Files for “Forest Lakes Country Club”.

⁴² Sanborn Map Company, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1953.

⁴³ Bishir, Catherine W. and Lawrence S. Early. Early Twentieth Century Suburbs in North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1985, p. 75.

⁴⁴ Ibid, and Gray, Stewart and Paula Stathakis. “Survey of African-American Buildings and Sites in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.” North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. 2001-2002, p. 25.

⁴⁵ Early Twentieth Century Suburbs in North Carolina, p. 75, and <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/whc/history.html> August 3, 2009.

⁴⁶ “Excelsior Club.” Landmark Designation Report. North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. 1985, p. 1.

⁴⁷ Ibid, p. 2.

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In 1950, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a western Piedmont community, had a YMCA and a YWCA for blacks. Like Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and Charlotte, it also supported a black college, Winston-Salem Teachers College, now Winston-Salem State University (founded 1897 as Slater Industrial and State Normal School), which had an auditorium that served as an entertainment venue for the black community. The black commercial district, located near the R. J. Reynolds factory, contained two movie theaters.⁴⁸

Asheville, the largest town in the mountains of west North Carolina, offered more recreational opportunities for blacks in the first half of the twentieth century than found in any other area of the state. Many blacks in Asheville, in contrast to much of the rest of the state, came to the area as free men and women, since there was a less slave-based economic system in the mountains. Asheville was also fortunate in that some private philanthropic funding was available through George Vanderbilt, the builder of Biltmore Estate, who invested in the black community by paying for the construction of the Young Men's Institute (YMI) in 1893-1894, essentially a black YMCA, that rapidly became the social focus for the community. The YMI boasted an orchestra consisting of a twenty-six person choir and twelve instrumentalists, and a large auditorium which hosted concerts, banquets, and dances. The basement of the building was used for boxing and wrestling matches.⁴⁹

However, even with these myriad opportunities, the white community had larger and better-equipped facilities, including several private country clubs in town: the Asheville Country Club (founded 1894 as the Swannanoa Hunt Club); the Grove Park Inn and Country Club (founded ca. 1900); and the Biltmore Forest Country Club (founded in the early 1920s). The city also developed a municipal golf course in 1927, the first in North Carolina, along with other state-of-the-art facilities, including Recreation Park (late 1920s) with a lake, swimming pool, dance pavilion, and zoo; McCormick Field (1923) for minor league baseball; Memorial Football Stadium (1923); and large public parks on South French Broad Avenue (Aston Park) and, in the Montford neighborhood, Montford Park. Both of these parks included large areas for passive and active recreation including swimming pools, tennis courts and children's playgrounds. All of these facilities were open to white citizens exclusively.⁵⁰

The historic commercial district for blacks in Asheville was located primarily around Eagle Street, at the southern edge of downtown Asheville. Here, the Star movie theater, the Asheville Social Club, the Negro Democratic Club, the Waiters and Bellmen's Club, and a gymnasium were located.⁵¹ The Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA was also located downtown.⁵² By 1920, the black population in Asheville

⁴⁸ Sanborn Map Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1950.

⁴⁹ Davis, Lenwood. The Black Heritage of Western North Carolina. Asheville, North Carolina: University of North Carolina at Asheville, University Graphics, 1984, p. 66.

⁵⁰ Argintar, Sybil. "[Asheville] Municipal Golf Course." National Register nomination. North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2004, p. 13.

⁵¹ "Eagle Street: A Look Into the Past." *Asheville Citizen*, 12 November 1982.

⁵² Sanborn Map Company, Asheville, North Carolina, 1951.

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was twenty-five percent of the total, with more blacks coming to the area for construction jobs.⁵³ The Negro Welfare Council of Asheville was formed around this time and focused on the need for recreation, playground activities, music, drama, and clubs.⁵⁴ The Council sponsored a supervised play area at Mountain Street School (a black elementary school) along with fourteen other small play areas in black neighborhoods throughout the city.⁵⁵ Another community group, the Community Recreation and Social Service League, was founded in 1933 and was located in a two-story building on Valley Street where facilities, including three game rooms, a social room, and club rooms, were available for use. The Stephens-Lee High School gymnasium, part of the only African American high school in Asheville, stands on the hill above the former League's building, and was also a place for youth to congregate for sports events, music, theater, and dances.⁵⁶ In 1937, twenty-two acres behind Hill Street School, another black community school, was purchased by the city of Asheville for development into a park/playground that was to be "...one of the finest negro parks in the state..." Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds were used to clear the site, and the city promised to install playground equipment and a swimming pool, but there is no evidence this ever took place.⁵⁷ Riverview Park and a "negro recreation center" did open in 1939, with facilities including tennis courts, horseshoe pits, a wading pool, and other recreational equipment.⁵⁸ A larger recreational facility was opened on Valley Street in 1940, built with WPA funds, which included a nursery and space for women's clubs, drama, dances, a basketball team, and a football league.⁵⁹

In 1963, the Burton Street Community Center opened, providing teenage recreational programs and civic group meeting space. The city operated five such community centers by the early 1960s. It was not until June of 1963 that city council passed an ordinance which required that "...all public and commercial facilities within the City of Asheville be desegregated..." This included the municipal golf course, and other facilities such as Recreation Park which previously had only been open to whites.⁶⁰

Recreation and the Civil Rights Movement

"Separate but equal" recreational facilities remained the norm throughout the state of North Carolina, and the rest of the South, through the mid-twentieth century. Many communities in North Carolina were active in the initial movement towards civil rights legislation, but it was an uphill battle. In 1962, the North Carolina Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights undertook a survey

⁵³ The Black Heritage of Western North Carolina, p. 33.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*, p. 34.

⁵⁵ "Caskey Lauds Work of Negro Welfare Body." *Asheville Times*, 9 October 1936.

⁵⁶ "Community Recreation and Social Service League." Flyer in vertical files of Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina. Undated and unpublished.

⁵⁷ "City will Buy 22-Acre Tract for Negro Park." *Asheville Times*, 1 December 1937.

⁵⁸ "New Negro Park Here Is Officially Opened." *Asheville Citizen*, 6 April 1939. Other newspaper articles around this time noted the fear within the white community of Negro youth being on the streets, and often youth were wrongly accused of crimes.

⁵⁹ "Young Negroes Look to Social Service Unit for Recreation." *Asheville Times*, 5 November 1943.

⁶⁰ "Asheville's City Council Calls for Desegregation." *Asheville Citizen*, 14 June 1963.

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of municipalities statewide, with the purpose of seeing what current segregation laws affected facilities funded by the state, many of which were recreational venues.⁶¹ While not every community responded, the results were a clear indicator that recreational facilities of the time, despite the changes that were supposed to be in effect due to *Brown v Board of Education* (1954), had not been integrated.⁶² For example, Greensboro and Charlotte still had segregated swimming facilities. Greensboro's municipal golf course, Gillespie Park Golf Course, which was leased to a private entity, arrested blacks who went there to play in 1956. This incident led to a ruling by the North Carolina Supreme Court that "...separation of the races in the use of public property cannot be required..." It was still a gray area, however, when a public facility was privately managed.⁶³ In Raleigh, on August 7, 1962, two white males and four black males went swimming at Pullen Park, a swimming facility that had been open to only whites. The result was that all swimming facilities were closed, including Hayes Barton, Pullen and Chavis parks, until an agreement could be worked out.

Some of the cities in the state had begun integration of their coliseums and auditoriums, but movie theaters in High Point and Durham were still segregated. These theaters were owned by the respective cities but were privately managed and were in essence considered private entities.⁶⁴ Polls about access to private facilities revealed an even greater amount of segregation. Restaurants, hotels, and motels were completely segregated. Durham still had a specific ordinance on their books to segregate restaurants, and the North Carolina Supreme Court at the time supported this by stating that "...a merchant may choose his customers and prosecute others..."⁶⁵ The 1961 code of ordinances in Charlotte stated that pool rooms, bowling alleys, and other game places must be separated by races. Wilmington required separate accommodations for races at all recreational venues.⁶⁶

Throughout the state, beginning in the early 1960s, peaceful protests and sit-ins took place to further the cause of integration of all public and private "separate but equal" facilities. Many of these occurred in Greensboro, the most famous of which was the renowned lunch counter sit-in at the local Woolworth's. On February 1, 1960, a group of four students, Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain, all freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, entered the Woolworth's building, sat down at the "all white" lunch counter, and peacefully demonstrated

⁶¹ Miscellaneous papers of Governor Terry Sanford, 1962. North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

⁶² *Ibid.* *Brown v Board of Education* overturned the earlier *Plessy v Ferguson* case ruling and declared that separate educational facilities were not equal. While *Brown v Board of Education* focused on education, it paved the way for the beginning of integration of additional public facilities.

⁶³ *Ibid.* and Marshall, Allan.

⁶⁴ Miscellaneous papers of Governor Terry Sanford, 1962.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

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against the discriminatory policies of the eating establishment.⁶⁷ A December 3, 1962 protest took place in High Point when twenty Negro teens tried to get in to the all-white Paramount Theater and the K&W Cafeteria. No arrests were made in this incident.⁶⁸ The unity and hard work of the black community to promote civil rights legislation continued throughout the state and the nation until two major laws were passed, the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, which outlawed racial segregation in schools, public places, and employment, and the *National Voting Rights Act of 1965* which outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had created the disfranchisement of African Americans since the turn of the century.⁶⁹ However, the laws and the reality were two different matters, and the struggle for integration continued throughout the latter part of the twentieth century. This is perhaps no better exemplified than in the efforts to integrate the game of golf.

Integration of the Game of Golf

Recreational facilities for the sport of golf on a national level, and especially throughout the South, were segregated at both public and private facilities from the earliest days of the sport in the late nineteenth century. While many private and municipal facilities were open to white players, it took almost one hundred years for the sport to be fully integrated and open to both races. Golf as a sport has been popular on an amateur basis within the black community from its earliest days, although the opportunities to learn and play the game were minimal. Most black golfers served as caddies to white players at the public courses and private white country clubs, where their greatest learning opportunities came from watching the game on the sidelines. Some municipal golf courses, including the Municipal Golf Course in Asheville and Clearview Golf Club in East Canton, Ohio, which was designed, built, and owned by an African American by 1946, allowed blacks to play.⁷⁰ Beginning in the mid-1950s, after the landmark *Brown v Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling, many municipal courses throughout the country began to allow blacks to play, but even this was often on a limited basis and difficult for those who "...encountered the steamy glare of intolerance..."⁷¹ It was not until the 1990s that blacks were finally offered membership in private white country clubs and began to be fully accepted into the professional golf circuit. The winning of the 1997 Masters Tournament by Tiger Woods, the first African American to win this prestigious title, was therefore monumental in scope as it symbolized full integration of blacks into the sport.⁷²

⁶⁷ <http://www.sitinmovement.org/home.html>. July 21, 2009. This protest became nationally known for what it symbolized, and the International Civil Rights Center and Museum has been established within the Woolworth's located on South Elm Street in Greensboro.

⁶⁸ Miscellaneous papers of Governor Terry Sanford, 1962.

⁶⁹ <http://www.archives.gov/education/lesson/civil-rights-act.html>. July 17, 2009 and http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/intro/intro_b.html. July 17, 2009.

⁷⁰ "[Asheville] Municipal Golf Course." Asheville's Municipal Golf Course allowed blacks to play, but only at designated times. It wasn't until the 1950s that unlimited play was allowed.

⁷¹ McDaniel, Pete. *Uneven Lies: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf*. Greenwich, Connecticut: The American Golfer, 2000, p. 9.

⁷² *Ibid*, p. 21.

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There were many black golfing pioneers who paved the way towards full integration of the sport. One of the earliest was John Matthew Shippen Jr. (born 1879) who, when the United States Golf Association (USGA) welcomed the world's top players in July of 1896 at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, New York, entered the U.S. Open Championship along with a Native American, Oscar Bunn.⁷³ There was an uprising among the rest of the playing field, which was all white. However, the president of the USGA allowed Shippen and Bunn to play.⁷⁴ Even though play was allowed, the segregation laws which were passed concurrently with Shippen's historic tournament participation (*Plessy v Ferguson*, 1896) prevented Shippen from playing the sport as a professional golfer. While he might have been allowed to play as a professional, especially at private clubs in the north, he instead chose to serve as the greens keeper and head golf pro from 1932 to 1964 at the country's first private black country club, Shady Rest Country Club in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, which was founded in 1921. Shippen died in 1968, right at the time when public courses in the South were beginning to welcome more black players. Another important early figure in the history of black golf was Joseph M. Bartholomew of New Orleans (born in 1881) who, like most blacks interested in the game, began his study of the game working as a caddie, in this case working for the all-white Audubon Golf Course in New Orleans. A white member of another club, the Metairie Golf Club near New Orleans, learned of Bartholomew's skill and interest in golf and helped sponsor him to go to New York to receive training as a golf course architect in the late 1910s. Bartholomew returned to New Orleans in 1922 and designed a new course for Metairie, which he was never allowed to play.⁷⁵ Other black citizens, although not players, contributed significantly to the game, one of the most notable of which was Dr. George F. Grant, a dentist in Boston who invented and patented the golf tee in 1899. He was not given proper credit for its invention until 1991.⁷⁶

Robert "Hard Rock" Robinson was another black pioneer in the early years of the twentieth century. Born in 1914 in Camden, South Carolina, he moved with his family in 1922 to Pinehurst, North Carolina, a nationally known golfing community which featured several Donald Ross-designed golf courses. Robinson, in his teen years, became the personal caddie and assistant to Donald Ross, and later for such famous golfers as Ben Hogan and Sam Snead.⁷⁷ Despite these connections, Robinson was not allowed to play at Pinehurst, which in the 1950s employed as many as 500 black caddies who worked sun-up to sundown carrying one bag for \$2 or two bags for \$3.⁷⁸

⁷³ Ibid, p. 26. John Shippen's racial ethnicity has been questioned for years. However, in an interview with his daughter, Clara Shippen Johnson in 1986, she conclusively stated that her father was black and her mother was a full-blooded Native American. This has been clarified in all USGA records.

⁷⁴ Ibid, pp. 23 – 25.

⁷⁵ Ibid, pp. 30 – 32.

⁷⁶ Ibid, p. 30.

⁷⁷ Ibid, p. 37.

⁷⁸ Ibid, p. 38. Working as a caddie at Pinehurst today can bring \$100 for a single loop (one bag), and most caddies are not black.

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The USGA, although it did not have a specific segregation policy, did not welcome blacks at its events. Another major golf association, the Professional Golf Association (PGA) had a “Caucasian-only” clause in its by-laws by 1934. In response to these discriminatory policies, in 1925, black golfers in Washington, D.C. started their own national association, the United Golfers Association (UGA, originally named the United States Colored Golfers Association). Many black golfers, due to the organization of the UGA, finally had a way to play the game professionally. The UGA was divided into districts, most of which were in the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Midwestern states.

Shady Rest Country Club, originally Westfield Golf Club, a white club purchased by blacks in 1921, contained a nine-hole course, tennis courts, bridle paths, trapshooting, and croquet lawn. It was the site of the first National Colored Golf Championship on July 4, 1925. A second championship game followed in 1926, at another private black club, Mapledale Country Club, founded in the 1920s in Mapledale, Massachusetts.⁷⁹

The UGA could not have existed had there not been golf and country clubs that allowed black golfers to play, even if they could not be members. However, these private country clubs were located in the Northeast and Midwest, not in the South. Some of these racially mixed clubs included Sunset Hills, Kankakee, Illinois; Douglass Park, Indianapolis, Indiana; Rackham, Detroit, Michigan; Mohansic, New York; Highland Park, Cleveland, Ohio; Cobb Creek, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Palos Park, Chicago, Illinois; and Casa Loma Country Club, Powers Lake, Wisconsin. In addition to these private venues, Langston Golf Club, a public course for blacks, was established in Washington, D. C., in 1939, and a public black country club, Clearview Golf Club in East Canton, Ohio, was founded in 1946.⁸⁰ Segregation laws were so prevalent in the South that there were very few places to play. Most black golfers left the South if they wanted to play professionally, but a few, like John Brooks Dendy, stayed and “...stood toe to toe with Jim Crow and refused to blink first...”⁸¹ Dendy, who began his career as a caddie at the Asheville Country Club in the 1920s, went pro in 1932, but could not earn enough money to continue. He returned to Asheville in 1940 and resumed his work in service at the Asheville and Biltmore Forest country clubs.⁸²

Eventually, playing in a segregated black organization became intolerable for professional black golfers. The facilities often were not as good as those of their white-only counterparts and the prize money, as Dendy had experienced, was far less than those awarded through the USGA or the PGA. Professional black golfers wanted to be able to play in fully integrated championship games. The first battle won for additional playing fields was on the public courses. It was not until the mid-1950s, however, that municipal golf courses in the South began to open their doors to integration. One of the earliest public courses to do so officially was the Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin, Texas, which formally

⁷⁹ Ibid, pp. 49 – 51.

⁸⁰ Brown, Jeffrey D. “Clearview Golf Club.” National Register nomination, 2000; and Uneven Lies, p. 66.

⁸¹ Uneven Lies: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf. Greenwich, Connecticut: The American Golfer, 2000, p. 52.

⁸² Ibid, p. 54.

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integrated in 1951.⁸³ Public municipal golf courses across the state of North Carolina were the first to open their doors to blacks, but often on a limited basis. In Asheville, as early as the 1940s, blacks were allowed to play the course on a limited basis. This usually involved designated days for black golfers to play, so in effect the course was only partially and informally integrated, and was still segregated when the white players used the course. Since the black players could only serve as caddies at the private white country clubs, the municipal course was the only place they could play in any fashion.⁸⁴ It was not until the 1954 landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v Board of Education*, which effectively ended the “separate but equal” laws of Jim Crow society, that public facilities began to be fully integrated and blacks could play the Asheville municipal course at any time. One additional Supreme Court case, *Holmes v Atlanta*, with Thurgood Marshall defending the black plaintiffs, ruled in favor of the plaintiffs leading to additional laws to desegregate public parks and golf courses.⁸⁵ Nevertheless, black players continued to be harassed and were not welcome at most public golf courses. The movement for equality of recreational facilities continued to make progress, however, and by the 1960s, most southern states had at least one golf course where the black pros were allowed to play. Tournaments and additional professional associations were formed, including the Skyview Golf Association in Asheville, North Carolina, and clubs in Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, and Knoxville, Tennessee.⁸⁶

Opening private facilities to professional black players was another battle to be won. Playing with the PGA was a major goal of many black golfers. Bill Spiller, a black golfer in the 1940s, was instrumental in causing the PGA to change its “Caucasian-only” policies. Born in 1913 in Oklahoma, Spiller, completely self-taught, was known as one of the top players in California by 1943. He won many amateur tournaments, and by 1947 decided to turn pro. He played other golf pros in two PGA tournaments which were open to blacks, one in Los Angeles, California, and one in Chicago, Illinois, but sought more equity in the game. Spiller sued the PGA in 1948 for their discrimination policies and won, and as a result blacks were allowed to play in the PGA tournament. In 1956, boxer and golf pro Joe Louis was allowed to play in the PGA, and Spiller played soon after this. But the PGA got around this policy change by making their tournaments invitationals rather than open to any pro who applied.⁸⁷ Finally, in 1961, the PGA eliminated their “Caucasian-only” policy for membership, a big step in the fight for equality. Charlie Sifford, who began his golfing career as a caddie at the Carolina Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first African American member of the PGA, receiving full membership in 1965.⁸⁸ Lee Elder, another notable black golfer, was invited to play at the Masters Tournament in 1975.

⁸³ Texas Historical Commission documentation for Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin, Texas. E-mail memo from Bob Brinkman, Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, March 31, 2009.

⁸⁴ “[Asheville] Municipal Golf Course.”

⁸⁵ Uneven Lies: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf. Greenwich, Connecticut: The American Golfer, 2000, p. 93.

⁸⁶ Ibid, p. 56.

⁸⁷ Ibid, p. 80.

⁸⁸ Ibid, pp. 89 - 90.

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As the first African American golfer to play there, his participation represented a major step in the integration of the sport of golf.⁸⁹

Some private venues were beginning to change their policies in the 1970s and 1980s, but the carrot, so to speak, for all professional black golfers, was to be able to play at the Augusta (Georgia) National Golf Club's Masters Tournament. This was significant because the Augusta National was a private all-white country club in the South and southern private clubs resisted full integration for the longest period of time. As late as 1990, private clubs such as Shoal Creek Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama, refused to open its doors, saying that "...the country club is our home and we pick and choose who we want..."⁹⁰ The PGA, however, in a major change in its outlook from earlier years, took a stand and stated that they would not pick sites that continued to institute discrimination policies.⁹¹ Shoal Creek took notice, since losing the PGA Championship game would be a major prestige and financial blow, and later in the year, Louis Willie, a black golfer, was made an honorary member.⁹² Also at this time, Ron Townsend, another black golfer, was the first non-white member to be admitted to the Augusta National Golf Club.⁹³ This was the final step in setting the stage for Tiger Woods to be the first African American to win the Masters Tournament in 1997, almost one hundred years since golf had gained popularity as a sport in the United States.

Historical Background

Meadowbrook Country Club was founded in 1959 within the "separate but equal" context of "...North Carolina, historically one of the South's most dogged disciples of segregation..." as a response by Raleigh's black business community to their denial of membership in white country clubs.⁹⁴ Meadowbrook's significance is amplified by the fact not only that it was born within a difficult social time for blacks in the South, but that it also served as a point of pride for the black community. There was only one other attempt at the development of a private black country club in the state, at Forest Lakes Country Club in Greensboro in 1959, but this club did not come to fruition.

There were forty-five charter members of Meadowbrook Country Club. Most were prominent community leaders in Raleigh, including top administrators at Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College, principals and teachers at Raleigh public schools, lawyers, dentists, physicians, business owners, bankers, developers, and contractors.⁹⁵ James Joseph Sansom Jr. (1916 – 1989) is considered one of the

⁸⁹ Ibid, p. 112.

⁹⁰ Ibid, p. 97.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid, p. 98.

⁹³ Ibid, p. 99.

⁹⁴ Ibid, p. 65. It is interesting to note that Meadowbrook was open from its founding to white members. While there were several individual that played golf there, no one from the white community ever joined as a member until the 1990s.

⁹⁵ Meadowbrook Country Club files, including minutes, newsletters, financial statements. Located at Meadowbrook Country Club, Garner, North Carolina. The members included M. Grant Batey, Fred J. Carnage, Millard Peebles, John M. Johnson,

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organizers and founders of Meadowbrook, along with M. Grant Batey. Sansom, a prominent Raleigh businessman and vice-president of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated from Laboratory High School. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Morehouse College and Atlanta University, both in Atlanta, and later earned a law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law. Sansom began his career in banking in 1939 as a teller in Durham, North Carolina, at Mechanics and Farmers Bank. He worked for Wachovia Bank in the early 1950s, and moved to Raleigh in 1958 to begin his work as vice-president of Mechanics and Farmers Bank. He worked up to the position of senior vice-president, and at the time of his death was president and chairman of the board.⁹⁶ Sansom was a community leader, serving on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system and Saint Augustine's College. He was also active in many other community and business organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Bankers Association, the Wake County Board of Elections, and the Raleigh Merchants Association.⁹⁷ M. Grant Batey moved to Raleigh in 1949 from Ohio initially to manage a ninety-seven acre farm in Kinston, North Carolina. He later sold this farm and began investing in real estate in the Raleigh area. Batey worked professionally as a teacher at several area schools, including Washington Elementary, in Raleigh; Fuquay Varina High School, in Fuquay Varina; Garner High School, in Garner; Millbrook High School, in Raleigh; and Athens Drive High School, in Raleigh. He was also a principal at Jeffreys Grove Elementary School in Raleigh.⁹⁸

The initial meeting for the founding of Meadowbrook Country Club took place at the Roberts Community Center in Raleigh, on November 6, 1958. At that time, the general goal was to "...build, develop and make available to the Negro citizenry of Raleigh and others, who show by their subscription a desire to participate, a country club to afford the members a place for wholesome recreation..."⁹⁹ At the meeting, three temporary officers were elected: J. J. Sansom, Chairman; J. M. Johnson, Secretary; and D. P. Lane, Treasurer. The group voted to call the venture "Roberts Country Club," a name which stood until the club's incorporation. Initial dues of \$100 each was collected and deposited in the Mechanics and Farmers Bank.¹⁰⁰ As would become a tradition at Meadowbrook, many of the participants present, especially those

Arthur Bunch, James Thomas, Nelson Perry, John O. White, Clarence Toole, Benjamin J. Neal, William A. Perry, Harold Coleman, Robert Young, Silas Webb, John Winters, Richard E. Wimberly, James E. Strickland, C. E. McCauley, Charles A. Haywood Sr., Prezell R. Robinson, Eugene Dunn, Arthur W. Williams, James Coefield, Roy Ballentine, Joseph J. Sansom Jr., James Boyer, James Mann, Samuel Mitchell, James Lytle, George Green, Herman Taylor, David P. Lane, J. W. Joyner, Wilbert Lassiter, A. J. Turner, Clarence Coleman, A. W. Lewis, Aulcie Evans, Herndon Toole, Nelson Harris, Harvey Alexander, C. L. Hunt, C. C. Smith, Robert R. Turner, and George Debnam.

⁹⁶ Obituary of James Joseph Sansom Jr., 1989. Memorial service program, in files at Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc., Garner, North Carolina.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Batey, M. Grant Sr., father of Daryl Batey and founding member. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar, December 5, 2008.

⁹⁹ "35th Anniversary of Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc., 1957 – 1992." Published by Meadowbrook Country Club, 1992.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

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in the legal professions at the time of the chartering of the club, gave many *pro bono* hours to see that the articles of incorporation, deeds, and transfer of property were written with legal correctness.¹⁰¹

A second meeting was held on November 13, 1958, also at the Roberts Community Center. At that time, the purpose of the club was amended slightly, to read "...the purpose of the organization shall be to establish and develop a country club whose facilities will provide social, recreational and cultural outlets for the members thereof and their friends and guests..."¹⁰² The participants agreed that a permanent charter would not be undertaken until \$10,000 had been pledged into the treasury, with a deadline set under which all pledges would be refunded in full if the goal was not met. By the end of the meeting, \$1,100 had been raised, with each person present pledging to bring a new member by the next meeting.¹⁰³

The initial goal was met, the name was changed to Meadowbrook, and Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. was officially chartered in March of 1959.¹⁰⁴ The Articles of Incorporation note the object of the club was to "...encourage the game of golf and other sports and to buy, sell, mortgage, pledge, and deal generally in such real and personal estate as may be necessary and convenient to the furtherance of said object..." The articles also noted the various membership levels, membership privileges, application process, termination of membership, annual and special meeting dates, officers and tenure of office, duties of officers, committees, guest privileges, and the creation of a capital fund.¹⁰⁵

After the incorporation, a search began to find a suitable location. Eventually a site just beyond the city limits of Garner, North Carolina, southeast of Raleigh, was identified, and the charter members moved quickly to acquire the tract. The land was a working tobacco farm, owned by Don K. and Elizabeth T. Appleton. On January 22, 1960, an option to purchase was recorded in the Wake County Register of Deeds office between the Appletons and James J. Sansom Jr., acting as agent for Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. In this agreement, for a downpayment of \$1,000 the total acreage of the farm of 136.50 acres would be available to the club if they could commit the funds no later than May 1, 1960.¹⁰⁶ The total purchase price of the property, as noted in the option to purchase, was \$27,000. The club exercised the option and the deed for the land transferred to Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. on May 3, 1960.¹⁰⁷ The

¹⁰¹ Batey, M. Grant Sr.

¹⁰² "35th Anniversary of Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc., 1957 – 1992." It is interesting to note that this amended statement of purpose removed the exclusionary aspect presented in the first draft of the club being open only to Negro citizens.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Meadowbrook Country Club files. Articles of Incorporation.

¹⁰⁶ Wake County Deed Book 1399, p. 377.

¹⁰⁷ Wake County Deed Book 1406, p. 221.

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property remained in the hands of Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. until it was sold to Saint Augustine's College on June 28, 2007.¹⁰⁸

For the first couple of years that Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. owned the property, it leased out the land for tobacco farming. The earliest building on the property, the frame storage shed, was once part of tobacco farm operations on the property. Most of the buildings and other landscape features at the club, beginning with the lake and pier in 1961, and culminating with the swimming pool and tennis courts in 1968 and 1969 respectively, were built by members, who often donated their time and materials. The members included John Kay, who built the lake pier; A. E. Moore, who built the putt-putt course and assisted with the bathhouse, the pro shop, and patio/solarium additions to the clubhouse; John W. Winters, a Raleigh developer who built the clubhouse; Arthur Bunch who helped build the bathhouse and the pro shop addition to the clubhouse; George Exum, who helped with the pro shop addition; and Herbert Harris, who built the golf cart shed.¹⁰⁹ The designers of the swimming pool, the pump house, and the golf course were hired by Meadowbrook Country Club, Inc. Greensboro Company designed the pool and pump house, and prolific North Carolina golf course designer, Gene Hamm, designed the nine-hole golf course. According to an article in *Triad Golf*, Gene Hamm was underrated for all that he contributed throughout the state in golf course designs. In the Raleigh area alone he designed five courses, including the one at Meadowbrook Country Club.¹¹⁰ The other Raleigh area courses include Cheviot Hills Golf Club, Lochmere Golf Club, Oak at North Ridge Country Club, and Wil-Mar Golf Club. Hamm designed a total of forty-seven courses in North Carolina, including four courses in Pinehurst, North Carolina, a nationally known golfing community, with additional courses in southern Virginia and the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area.¹¹¹ With a career extending from the late 1950s through the 1980s, Hamm was known for his skillful routing of a course, tending to design many shorter courses, and for "getting the most for your dollar..." Hamm was not one to add a lot of expensive features to the courses he designed, and was always conscious of the monetary constraints of his clients.¹¹² Hamm grew up in Raleigh and learned the game of golf by caddying at the Raleigh Golf Association golf course. He was employed at several golf clubs in the 1940s and early 1950s, including New Bern Country Club in New Bern, in Pinehurst, and in Mt. Airy, all in North Carolina. In 1955, Hamm helped build the Duke University Golf Course in Durham, North Carolina, with renowned golfer Robert Trent Jones. He moved from there to Delaware to continue work with Jones, and then in the late 1950s moved back to Raleigh where he began his own design career. Meadowbrook was likely one of his first independent commissions.

From its founding in 1959 through the 1960s Meadowbrook Country Club was a center of social life for the black community in Raleigh. Many of the members had learned to play golf by working as caddies at

¹⁰⁸ Wake County Deed Book 12627, p. 1537.

¹⁰⁹ Meadowbrook Country Club files. Except for Winters, none of the builders of the facilities were professionals in the trade.

¹¹⁰ "Gene Hamm's Work Underrated." *Triad Golf*. November/December 1996. Found at www.worldgolf.com/golf-architects/gene-hamm.html. November 17, 2008.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

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the whites-only Carolina Country Club in Raleigh.¹¹³ When Meadowbrook first opened, its membership consisted of the initial forty-five charter members. Membership grew quickly in the early 1960s, with fifty-seven members in 1960 and 101 by 1962.¹¹⁴ By 1966, membership numbered 146, with 186 members in 1971.¹¹⁵ In the late 1960s to early 1970s, members of black communities from Greensboro and Tarboro, west and northeast of Raleigh, each approximately seventy-five miles away, began to join the club with its complete country club facilities, including the golf course, lake, picnic grounds, swimming pool and tennis courts.

The decade of the 1960s was the heyday of success for Meadowbrook, in terms of membership and financial stability. All of the major features of the club were built in this time period, and many social activities took place every weekend. Clarence Lightner, the only black mayor of Raleigh, was also a member in the 1960s.¹¹⁶ There were four membership tiers available, from Level D, which was for those who lived outside of the county and allowing use of the golf course only, up to Level A, with a \$1000.00 fee, which included full use of the entire facility. There was something going on at Meadowbrook every weekend, including dances, card games, bingo, birthday parties, weddings, swimming, picnics, putt-putt, tennis, fishing, boating, and golfing. Community organizations could rent the clubhouse for special events, and students from Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College often played golf there.¹¹⁷ Golfing at Meadowbrook was primarily for its amateur members, but some golfers who had more professional aspirations participated in tournament play, primarily through the Skyview Golf Association's Tournament Open which was held annually at the municipal golf course in Asheville, North Carolina.¹¹⁸ Meadowbrook had its own golf pro in the 1960s, Tommy Horton, who taught the young men how to play. Notable among these was Daryl Batey, now the golf pro at Atlanta's Eastgate Golf Club.¹¹⁹ Every summer, Meadowbrook would offer golf lessons to black as well as white youth and would end the season with a Labor Day Tournament.¹²⁰ Tournaments were also held each year for youth, women, and senior members.¹²¹

¹¹³ Williams, Bernard. Long-time member, son of Meadowbrook's greens keeper Nelson "Ham" Williams. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar, December 4, 2008.

¹¹⁴ Meadowbrook Country Club files. Membership rosters.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Heartley, Harvey. Long-time member. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar, December 4, 2008 and membership rosters in files of Meadowbrook Country Club, Garner, North Carolina.

¹¹⁷ Sansom, Joseph M. and Sansom, Vivian M. Son and wife of founder James Joseph Sansom Jr. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar December 5, 2008.

¹¹⁸ The Skyview Golf Association, the longest running African American Pro AM Tournament in the United States, was founded in 1960, with fifty players participating in its first tournament in 1960. The Association, as of 1975, had 254 golfers in its annual tournament, which is still a major multiracial event in Asheville today. <http://skyviewgolfassociation.com.html>. August 3, 2009 and Batey, M. Grant Sr.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Heartley, Harvey.

¹²¹ Sansom, Joseph M. and Sansom, Vivian M.

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However, circumstances began to change in the early 1970s. In the annual report for the club, dated December 31, 1971, it was noted that the majority of the 186 members owed dues and fees to the club, with only eighty-eight paid in full. Many of these members owed hundreds of dollars, making it difficult for the club to continue operations.¹²² Two other significant events took place at this time which began to affect Meadowbrook's long-term success. First, younger generations began moving away from the Raleigh area, and secondly and perhaps more significantly, the passage of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, which outlawed racial segregation in schools, public places, and employment, began to open up private clubs to blacks for play. Wil-Mar Golf Club, on Milburnie Road in Raleigh (founded 1961) and designed by Gene Hamm, was the first to revise its policies.¹²³ While membership in private clubs didn't happen until the 1990s, many black golfers at Meadowbrook took advantage of the opportunities to play at full 18-hole courses in white country clubs which had previously been inaccessible.

Through the 1970s, the club continued to struggle financially. In the club's annual financial statement in 1978, income barely exceeded expenses, and many members had not paid in full.¹²⁴ The clubhouse, pool and tennis courts at the club were still in use, but as membership dropped and the club found it could not compete with newer facilities elsewhere in the Raleigh area, there began to be less social activity at Meadowbrook. In the 1970s and 1980s, the club became less financially stable, selling approximately sixteen acres for a modern subdivision to raise funds, and trying many different fundraising techniques, including the loaning of funds from members to the club to keep it solvent. These fundraisers worked temporarily, but as the original members died, and the younger generation moved away from Raleigh, the club was no longer able to retain its membership and funding to maintain the facilities disappeared. It was decided by the remaining members and officers, in 2007, to sell the club to Saint Augustine's College so that its legacy as a traditionally black country club would be preserved and other sources of revenue would be available for the long-term preservation of the club. Thus, with that sale, concluded an important chapter in the history of North Carolina, one born of frustration with discriminatory practices and one fraught with lessons regarding uplift and aspiration.

¹²² Meadowbrook Country Club files. Annual report and financial statement, January 1 – December 31, 1971.

¹²³ Williams, Bernard.

¹²⁴ Meadowbrook Country Club files. December 31, 1978 annual financial statement.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Additional UTM's

- 5. 17 719710 3948710
- 6. 17 719600 3949150
- 7. 17 719930 3949080
- 8. 17 719920 3949440

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A current tax map at a scale of 1" = 100' is included, showing the National Register boundary by a dotted and dashed line.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination boundary includes all of the historic acreage originally associated with the country club minus the approximately sixteen acres that was sold in the 1970s for the modern subdivision to the north.

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Meadowbrook Country Club Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs, except where noted.

Name of property: Meadowbrook Country Club
Garner vicinity, Wake County, North Carolina
Photographer: Sybil H. Argintar
Date of photos: November 2008, unless noted otherwise
Location of digital negatives: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

1. approach road, view east
2. lake and pier, view northwest
3. golf course, view southeast
August 2009
4. golf course, view south
August 2009
5. golf course, view southwest
August 2009
6. putt-putt course, view northeast
August 2009
7. clubhouse, view northwest
August 2009
8. clubhouse, view east
August 2009
9. clubhouse interior, view east
10. clubhouse interior, view northwest
11. pool and bathhouse, view northwest