

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Oswego Country Club

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925

COMMON NAME: Same

ORIGINAL USE: Club/golf course

ADDRESS: 20 Iron Mountain *Boulevard*

OWNER: Lake Oswego Country Club

PRESENT USE: Country Club/golf course

ARCH./BLDR.: Morris Whitehouse; Robertson,
Hay & Wallace, Builders

T/R/S: 2S IE 4

TAX LOT: 100

STYLE: English

Cottage

RESOURCE TYPE:

Building

THEME: Architecture;

Recreation,

Development

ADDITION: N/A

BLOCK:

LOT:

QUAD: Lake Oswego

LOT SIZE: 98.09

ZONE: (County)

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical

NO. OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete

BASEMENT: Yes

ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Truncated multiple hip

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood

STRUCTURAL FRAME: Stud

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Small multi-light casement with simple surrounds

EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Uncoursed stone; shingles

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Wrought-iron lanterns

OTHER: Massive interior brick chimney

CONDITION: Good

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Major addition added to s. elevation, (n.d.)

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Golf course; ornamental landscape materials

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: Buildings associated w/ golf course

SETTING: Located on n. side of Iron Mtn. Blvd; in area of early to mid-20th century residences.

NOTES:

RECORDER(S):

Koler/Morrison

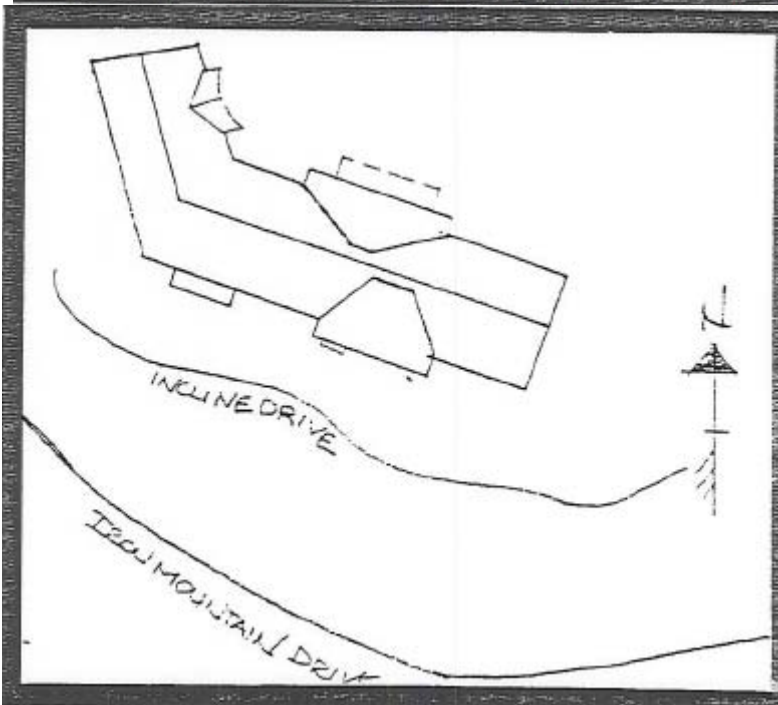
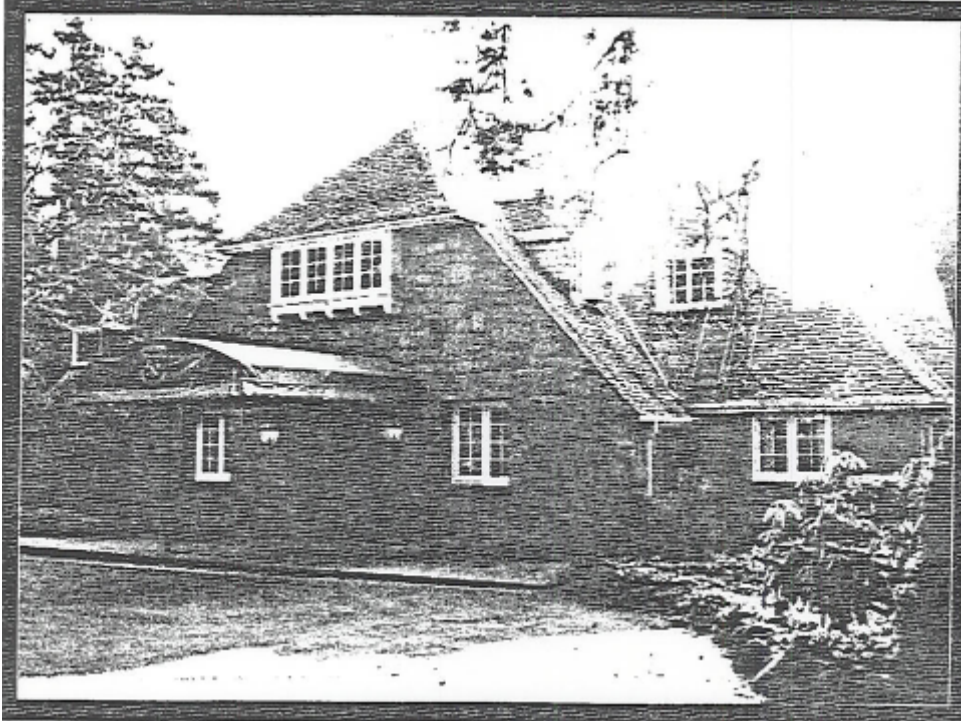
DATE: January, 1989

SHPO #: 323

FIELD #: 69

CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 20 IRON MOUNTAIN BLVD.
TAXMAP/LOT 2S IE 4/100
SHPO# _____ ROLL/FRAME# _____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: 20 Iron Mountain Boulevard

Historic Name: Lake Oswego Country Club

The Lake Oswego Country Club was founded in 1925 by Paul Murphy, Sr., a well-known developer, who hoped to attract residents to the suburban community. The Clubhouse was designed by prominent architect, Morris Whitehouse and built by Robertson, Hay and Wallace, General Contractors of Portland. The golf course was designed by H. Chandler Egan and constructed by William Tucker and Son of New York at the cost of \$500,000. Covering approximately 165 acres, a significant amount of which are fairways, the property swings gently upward from the shoreline of Lake Oswego to an altitude of roughly 400 feet. The site offers expansive views of mountains, river, lake and hills. Several of the fairways were at one time part of Iron Mountain farm and the Ladd Dairy farm managed by a Mr. Hogan.

When the course was constructed it was considered a very difficult par 73 course not only to score but difficult, literally, to climb. The 17th tee had a Pierce Arrow open touring car operating on cables to take members to the top of the hill.

A 1927 article in "The Northwest Golfer Illustrated," described the Clubhouse as "the center of social life in the District. On the lakeshore, directly below the Club House is the Club bathing beach, where a swimming pool has just been completed. Here will be held many gala water events this summer. Stone fireplaces have been built in the hillside above the lakeshore...for club members' use and will no doubt be very popular supper scenes following summer afternoons of golf and swimming."

The Country Club almost went bankrupt during World War II according to Orman Bean Jr., a long-time member and son of charter members of the club. A club scrapbook notes, "The severe change came during WWII, when loss of members (occurred) due to gasoline rationing, and the upper new property was sold. Gradually changes are being made to increase yardage and challenge." Bean credited Paul Murphy with keeping the club afloat during these hard times by not selling the land for homesites, but instead contributing his labor, along with others, to grounds-keeping. After the worst financial strain had passed Murphy sold the course plus 200 feet of Sake frontage to the members for \$50,000.

In 1945, Harry Coffey (See Harry Coffey House, 409 Edgecliff and 1850 North Shore) reorganized the club to obtain new members and the course was designed to a par 68. Oswego golf professionals associated with the club have included Boyd Bustard, Bill Kerry, Perry Smoker and Bob McKendrick, who played in numerous national tournaments.

The Clubhouse is a fine example of Arts and Crafts architecture. The building incorporates use of local stone and other rustic materials. Multi-light casement windows and projecting bays and dormers contribute to the historic character of the structure. A major addition to the building was made within the last decade, and although the facade and side elevations of the original building have been retained, the scale and mass of the addition detract from the overall historic character of the building.

The Oswego Country Club is significant for its role in the development of the Oswego area.

- Bibliography: "A Gold Flag Flies Over Country Club," Lake Oswego Review, 8/75.
Bean, Orman Jr., Unrecorded Interview with P. Kohnen, 3/9/89.
Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, Department of Transportation and Development, 1984.
"Eighteen New Holes In Oregon's Fairyland of Green," Clara S. Shepard, The Northwest Golfer Illustrated, 5/27.
Wilmot, R. W., Unrecorded Interview with J. Morrison, 3/89.