CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION:
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
SOUTH CAMPUS

1962 aerial photograph of the U of M Golf Course, photograph courtesy K. Ross Toole Archives and Special Collections, 94-0907. RH McKay Collection, Archives and Special Collections, The University of Montana.

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ABSTRACT

Western Cultural prepared this report under contract to The University of Montana to assist with the master plan planning process implemented by The University of Montana for the South Campus. This report is designed to meet the requirements under the Montana Antiquities Act (Montana Code Annotated 22-3-424) and other legislation requiring the consideration of cultural resources.

The cultural resource investigation followed three distinct approaches. The investigation included pedestrian transects along the eastern edge of the U of M golf course at the base of Mount Sentinel to search for any evidence of any American Indian burial sites. The investigation also examined any possible visual impacts to previously recorded historic resources. The investigation also examined the U of M golf course as a designed historic landscape. The field search failed to locate any evidence of American Indian use of the area. The visual impact analysis failed to discern any possible visual impacts to the existing University of Montana Historic District and the University Area Historic District. The U of M golf course has lost integrity and should not be considered as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a designed historic landscape.
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PEDESTRIAN TRANSECTS

Western Cultural archaeologist Susan L. Knudsen walked portions of the University of Montana golf course on October 26, 2007. The investigation searched for evidence of rock cairns located along the base of Mount Sentinel and the junction of the Missoula Valley floor. Several different sources, including historic USGS topographic maps and knowledgeable locals, provide some evidence that some American Indian tribes placed burial sites along the edge of the Missoula Valley floor under rock cairns. Archaeologists have considered the possibility of rock cairns serving as American Indian burial sites across the Missoula vicinity (Light et al, 1993; Knudsen et al, 2004).

The pedestrian transects were conducted in a zigzag fashion running along the base of Mount Sentinel in a north to south direction. Surface visibility was excellent, approaching 80%. The field investigation failed to locate any possible evidence of any rock cairns or any other cultural resources.
HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Early History

The earliest form of organized golf in Missoula started December 1, 1916 by a group of local enthusiasts who leased 160 acres to build a rudimentary nine-hole course. The land was leased from the South Missoula Land Company and bordered South Avenue near Higgins Avenue.

"The greens were small and round, constructed of oiled sand. Instead of flags, each green held a sweep made of carpet to smooth tracts after use. Tee boxes were small, raised earthen areas enclosed by boards, and each tee box adjoined a divided box standing on legs; one side held a bucket of sand, the other a bucket of water. The player moistened a handful of sand and formed it into a small mound on which the ball was placed for teeing. Fairways were hard – without water, the course was dry most of the year" [Rainbolt 1991:60].

These course conditions were consistent with other courses around the country at the time. In an excerpt from "The History of the PGA Tour" by Al Barkow, course conditions throughout the nation from the year 1917 were described as: “often primitive, as many of the layouts were brand new. There were a lot of sand greens, and on some instances the play was on dirt fairways” (Barkow 1989:12). This style of golf course using natural landscapes for fairways would have given golfers of the time some difficulties that modern golfers do not face. These difficulties would have included balls that bounce in random and unexpected directions and prairie grasses and shrubs that would have no doubt caused difficult lies. Rocks in the natural fairways would have also caused many problems and broken clubs as well. However, players from this early era of golf did not have to play around trees and shrubs or contend with sand traps and water hazards, all of which are typical for most modern day courses.

At about the same time as the University golf course was made, the Professional Golf Association (PGA) was created (April of 1916) which would later become the world’s largest sports organization. The PGA’s main goal was to “promote interest in the game of golf and help elevate the vocation of golf professionals” (Professional Golfers’ Association of America 2007). One of the PGA’s founding members was Rodman Wanamaker, a New York department store magnate. Wanamaker believed that the nations growing enthusiasm for golf was the start of a national trend, therefore he promoted the idea of an association to help accelerate the growth of the game. A total of 35 charter members were the first to establish the organizations objectives which were to:

1. Promote interest in the game of golf. 2. Elevate the standards of the golf professional’s vocation. 3. Protect the mutual interest of its members. 4. Hold meetings and tournaments for the benefit of members. 5. Assist deserving unemployed members to obtain positions. 6. Establish a benevolent relief fund for deserving members. 7. Accomplish any other
objective, which may be determined by the association from time to time
[Professional Golfers’ Association of America 2007].

Historical research failed to find any correlation between the establishment of the PGA and the original golf course.

After about 10 years of "prairie golfing", Country Club members desired a better location and found a suitable piece of land at Fort Missoula next to the Bitterroot River (Rainbolt 1991:60). After the Country Club moved to its new location, the University of Montana became interested in the land for use as a South Campus. Due to legislation at the time it was unable to make the purchase. The Alumni Challenge Athletic Field Corporation (ACAFC) aided the University with this dilemma. The ACAFC was formed in 1922 as a result of a proposition by UM President Charles H. Clapp (1921-1935) to the businessmen of Missoula to raise money for improvements to the athletic facilities of the University. After raising $25,000 the ACAFC expanded its powers to "promote the general welfare" of the University. This includes purchasing, holding and sale of real property (University of Montana, Summary Land Acquisitions Reports January 1935 – September 1, 1980). For 25 years, the ACAFC enabled the University to use, until purchase was possible, multiple tracts of land, including much of the land that now makes up the areas known as the South Campus (University of Montana, Summary Land Acquisitions Reports January 1935 – September 1, 1980).

The ACAFC entered into agreement with the Student Store Corporation and the Associated Students Organization to borrow sufficient money from their reserve funds to purchase the South Campus land. The land at this time was owned by the Missoula Mercantile Company, the title transferred to the ACAFC on June 30, 1928. Rental of the land to the University for the Forestry Nursery, removal of soil, and the clumping of ashes was expected to take care of the interest and taxes (Physical Plant, RG-1, Box 97, Folder "Golf Course": Memo 1933). The ACAFC paid $12,000.00 for the South Campus property. Additional improvements were made and equipment purchased at a cost of $5,871.72. An 18-hole golf course was present on the property in 1933, however usage of the back nine holes appeared to be limited to the 1930/31 seasons, and then was abandoned, costing $1615.00 (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934:4). A small clubhouse was salvaged from the University Campus and improved was erected in 1929 and a storage shed was added in 1932 (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934:4).

The first season that the ADAFC owned the golf course (1928), it was operated by the Garden City Golf Course, even though the ACAFC held title to the property. This was the only season that the course was operated as the Garden City Golf Course. After the 1928 season all funds were transferred to the ACAFC (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Audit Report 11/1/1951:2, 3). On January 28, 1949 the University obtained from the University Development Corporation 159.1 acres, described as Old Country Club, which included a club house, baseball bleachers, strip houses, caretakers cottages, and store houses. The cost was $30,000 used from the Family Housing Project Fund. A parcel of 0.9 acres had previously been acquired, in part as a gift from ASMSU and in
part from the Building Fee Fund (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Physical Plant – Baseball Park”: Memo 4/3/1953).

After purchasing the property a University Central Board committee was established to look into “re-establishing” a golf course at the site, and, in fact, a full plan was drawn up that included a golf course design crafted by an architect (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 2/7/1955:1, 3). The reduced presence of documents relating specifically to the use of the golf course after 1936 and the increase of documents referring to re-establishing or developing a golf course at the site in the late 1940s and 1950s indicates the area may not have been continually used, or at least continually maintained as an operating golf course, for some time. References to the course having been “abandoned,” a request to “renovate” the “old” course, a need for a “revival of public interest” in the course, and, “the approximately 15-year period when no public course was available,” appear to confirm the course was either closed or significantly under-utilized for an extensive period of time (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Letter 9/22/1955; Memo 8/5/1959; Memo 11/17/1959).

A baseball field and grandstand were constructed in 1934 on the northwest corner of the South Campus property. Labor and materials were provided partly through a federal work relief project and through an advance of $659.51 from the Student Store. The field was named Campbell Field and was the only municipal baseball park in Missoula (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934:4).

Changes Over Time

There have been many significant changes to the University Golf Course since its’ beginning in 1916, specifically modification to holes due to student housing construction and the planting/growth of trees, shrubs, and grasses. The first major installment of trees was in 1941 when 50 Russian Olives, 15 Evergreens, 15 Box Elders, 10 Willows, and 10 Chinese Elms were purchased, all of which were to be planted on Aber Day (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Purchase Order 4/10/1941). In 1957 a golf course planting plan included 57 native and non-native species of trees to be planted but it is unclear as to how many of each were ordered and/or planted. A total of 56 of the 57 species of trees on the 1957 Planting Plan were growing in Missoula at the time (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 11/17/1959:2).

In February 7, 1955 a new golf course was proposed with Mr. G. M. MacMillan chosen to be the architect. The original golf course plan was for 18 holes, but only nine were to be constructed initially. The course would be irrigated by a well located 60 feet east of Higgins Avenue and 120 feet south of South Avenue. The irrigation would provide mains for the first nine holes and would also serve the latter nine holes when added (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 2/7/1955:1-3). The water system was completed in August 1957 (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958:2).
A June 16, 1958 memo to President Castle from M.J. Bourke stated: “It was agreed that a nine hole course should be planned in such a way as not to conflict with present housing, yet to allow space for future University buildings, housing, or play field”. If and when the second nine holes were built, strip housing purchased from the government, currently located where present student housing is, would be removed. In late fall of 1957 the fairways were seeded and the greens built, heavily mulched with sawdust. The greens were not seeded until the spring of 1958. The fairways were constructed without the addition of new soil. To alleviate the rocky conditions manure and commercial fertilizer were used. The greens, however, needed considerable clean top soil. These soils were moved from other areas on the course. Top soil next to the base of Mount Sentinel was also utilized for this purpose. All shaping, rock picking, and mulching of the greens was completed in 1957 (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958:2).

Other improvements and changes that occurred in the late-1950’s included building a privy, installing a frost-free water fountain, and a partial fence on the south and west boundaries of the golf course. Fencing was constructed due to damage to the greens caused by children, horseback riders, and motorists. Houses nearby that were transferred to the University with the rest of the golf course property were to be used as quarters for the permanent grounds keeper and to accommodate a temporary club house and pro shop (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958:2).

Aerial photographs from 1937 to 2005 show the golf course in virtually the same location as it is today, although because of the poor picture quality of the earlier photographs it is unclear if the holes followed the same layout as they are today. The main differences that can be seen when comparing these photographs are tree growth and construction of housing. The original nine holes of the course were located in the northeast section of the 160 acre property, before any student housing was constructed. After student housing was built to the east of the clubhouse on South Avenue, holes in that area had to be moved or shortened (current holes three and four). Also, due to construction of the Lewis and Clark Villages on South Higgins Avenue, hole seven was forced to be changed twice, once in 2003 and once in 2005. In 2003 the hole was forced to become a slight dogleg left, instead of a straight hole, and safety netting was installed along the west side of the fairway to protect the apartment complex from incoming errant drives and approaches. According to Chris Anderson, University Golf Course General Manager, the netting was not high enough. The apartment buildings, especially Building 8, received considerable siding damage and many broken windows. A basketball court built just to the south of Building 8 was also directly in the landing zone of many golf shots and was a hazard for anyone playing basketball there. These problems resulted in a 2005 restructuring of hole seven from a par four to a par three. This eliminated Building 8 and the basketball court from danger from errant golf shots (Chris Anderson, personal communication, 16 November, 2007). Siding damage was still visible on buildings in the Lewis and Clark Student Villages Housing Complex as of November 2007.
1920's and 1930's University Recreation

Athletics at the University of Montana in the 1920's and 1930's were extensive, providing students with a wide variety of sports. The University's Annual Catalogue of Courses from the early 1920's to the late 1930's all state that: "The Department of Physical Education controls all of the physical activities of the University under the following divisions: 1. Division of intercollegiate athletics. 2. Division of intra-mural athletics for women. 3. Division of intra-mural athletics for men. 4. Division of physical training for women. 5. Division of physical training for men. 6. Division for training teachers of Physical Education" (Montana State University, Course Catalogues, 1920 – 1939).

The varsity sports programs that were in existence during the 1920's and 1930's, according to the course catalogues from those years, included football, basketball, baseball, track, tennis, and wrestling. As of 1932, the course catalogues added "minor sports" to the list of varsity sports. Baseball, tennis, and wrestling were eliminated as of the 1930-31 annual course catalogue from varsity sports. Intra-mural competition maintained by the University during the 1920's and 1930's included football, hockey, basketball, baseball, track, tennis, cross-country running, indoor baseball, boxing, wrestling, handball, gymnastics, and swimming (Montana State University, Course Catalogues, 1920 – 1939). It is interesting to note golf was not a varsity or intra-mural sport during this time period.

The Athletic Departments' listings in the Annual Catalogues from the 1920's through the 1930's does not list or mention golf in any way. This is perplexing due to the obvious popularity of the sport in Missoula; the presence of a golf facility so near to campus that would allow the University to take advantage of such an opportunity. In a March 12, 1936 letter to President George Finley Simmons from Business Manager J.B. Speer, stated that: "about 200 students participated in golf education, a considerable amount of which receive credit in the department of physical education for playing golf under some instructional supervision" (President's Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder "Golf Course": Memo 3/12/1936). Examination of yearbooks from this time period also showed no signs of golf as a student club or sport.

Summary

Public and private groups have benefited from the various usages the South Campus property has provided for almost 100 years. The South Campus property has proven to be a valuable asset to both the University and the community of Missoula. Student housing in the area provides a relatively cheap alternative for renters to take advantage of while remaining close to the University. The golf course has been owned, maintained, and used by many different organizations to provide the Missoula area with access to one of the most popular sports in the history of America.
VISUAL ASSESSMENT

A visual assessment of the University Area and University of Montana’s (UM) Historic Districts from and towards the UM South Campus was conducted on October 26, 2007. This assessment was conducted to determine the potential visual impact to the two historic districts by development at the UM South Campus. The University Area Historic District encompasses approximately 1,830 acres and includes 611 buildings. It is roughly bounded by South 4th Street East on the north, Arthur Avenue on the east, Beckwith Avenue on the south, and Higgins Avenue on the west (National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]). The UM Historic District encompasses approximately 3,300 acres and includes 17 buildings. It is roughly bounded by Beckwith Avenue on the south, Arthur Avenue on the west, Connell Avenue on the north, and the ridgelines of Mount Sentinel to the east (NRHP).

Methodology

The analysis was conducted in two phases. Phase one included recording existing views of the two historic districts in relation to the South Campus from various locations along the south boundary of both historic districts and the north boundary of the South Campus complex. A topographic map of Missoula depicting the full boundaries of the two historic districts and the South Campus was used to document six locations where the two districts were most likely to be visible from the South Campus and/or the South Campus might be visible from the districts (Figure 1). High-resolution digital photographs were taken from these locations and a photo log was kept (Figures 2 – 7).
Figure 1. Southeast Missoula 24K topographic map.
Digital photograph locations, Figures 2 – 7, the two historic districts, and the University’s South Campus are depicted.

Phase two of the assessment included analysis of the photographs from and towards the two districts to determine the level of visual impact. The visual analysis is based upon information presented during a conference on historic landscapes offered by the USDA Forest Service and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (Faced With Reality: A Workshop on Cultural Landscape Documentation, Evaluation, and Management, 1994). The visual character and quality of visibility of the two districts from and towards the South Campus can be expressed in terms of pattern elements and pattern characters. Pattern elements are described as form, line, color, and texture. Pattern characters are described as dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity. The presence or absence of these patterns was used to determine the undertaking’s level of impact. In order to facilitate the visual analysis, pattern element and pattern character can be quantified on a relative scoring scale from absent (0) to present (1) to moderate prominence (2) to high prominence (3). The resulting overall visual analysis score indicates the visual effect that would be produced by development in the South Campus area on the two historic districts if the potential development stays within the current line-of-sight venue.
Analysis

Due to the large visual area involved, specific relevant views were used to analyze the visual impact of development of the South Campus area on the two historic districts (Figures 2 – 7). The locations of these specific views are indicated on the topographic map of Missoula (Figure 1). The University Area Historic District and the UM Historic District touch along Arthur Avenue and both roughly use Beckwith Avenue as their southern boundary. This southern boundary runs from Higgins Avenue on the west to the farthest east end of Beckwith where it turns into Campus Drive at the toe of Mount Sentinel. This is the closest portion of these two districts to the UM South Campus. The South Campus uses South Avenue from Higgins Avenue to Maurice Avenue as its northern boundary. Relevant views were photographed from the two historic districts towards the South Campus at the southwest corner of Higgins and Beckwith, the southeast corner of Arthur and Beckwith, and at the 1000 block of Beckwith where it turns into Campus Drive at the toe of Mount Sentinel (See Figures 2 – 4). Relevant views were also photographed towards the two districts from the South Campus at the northwest corner of the South Campus complex located at Higgins and South, near the center of the South Campus north boundary at Helen and South, and the northeast corner of the Campus located at South Avenue and Maurice at the toe of Mount Sentinel (Figures 5 – 7).

Figure 2. View from Higgins and Beckwith looking southeast towards South Campus.
Figure 3. View from Arthur and Beckwith looking south towards South Campus.

Figure 4. View from the east end of Beckwith looking south towards South Campus.
Figure 5. View from Higgins and South Avenue looking northeast towards the two historic districts.

Figure 6. View from Helen and South looking north towards the two historic districts.
Figure 7. View from south end of Maurice Avenue at northeast corner of South Campus property looking north towards UM Historic District.

Results

Figures 2 through 4 show the views from the two historic districts towards the South Campus. Direct views of the Campus were not possible due to the distance and visual interference present. The best possible manner in which to provide a full understanding of the visual quality from the districts to the Campus was to photograph along streets that ran directly between these areas. Existing power lines, trees, and rooflines serve to block these views as well. The pattern elements scoring scale for these views are: form = 0, line = 0, color = 0, texture = 0. The pattern characters scoring scale for these views are: dominance = 0, scale = 0, diversity = 0, continuity = 0. This format of scoring was used for each of the key views analyzed. The scores are based on the distance to the South Campus from the two districts and the vegetation, structures, and utility lines that obscure the viewed.

The same results occurred when analyzing Figures 5 through 7. This indicates that, as the current viewed exists and barring any major alteration to the existing line of view, the visual impact of the potential development of the South Campus will have no negative impact on the University Area or UM historic districts. This finding is based on the heavy vegetative growth, power lines, and structural interference currently evident in the key views analyzed.

A Master Plan presenting architectural design guidelines was developed for the University in 2002. The guidelines were developed to assist architects in "understanding the design and planning issues affecting The University of Montana-Missoula campus," (The University of Montana-Missoula Master Plan 2002). These guidelines are to be followed for the South Campus development as well (Stephanie Lauer, personal communication, 22 October, 2007). According to these guidelines, buildings should be simple rectangular forms or combinations of rectangular forms "exhibiting comparable heights and continuity of trim coursing and cornice lines." To help define open space and
long views buildings should have common “setback” lines and sit parallel or perpendicular to street grids and other transportation networks such as established footpaths or bike paths (The University of Montana-Missoula Master Plan 2002). In addition, the guidelines state that “no building should exceed the profile of existing major tree coverage on campus.” Following these guidelines, development at the South Campus area should have no additional impact on the existing viewshed.
HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Introduction

In 1916 the Missoula Country Club constructed a nine-hole golf course on property located at South Avenue. At present, the University of Montana (UM) maintains a nine-hole golf course on this same property. Because of the historic use of this property, it was assessed for its potential as a historic designed landscape for the NRHP. The NRHP defines a historic designed landscape as:

A historic property consciously designed or laid out by a master gardener, landscape architect, architect, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an owner or other amateur using a recognized style or tradition in response or reaction to a recognized style or tradition (United States Department of the Interior [USDI] NRHP Bulletin 18:2).

Historic designed landscapes have specific features that comprise their overall character. These include both natural and manmade features such as spatial relationships, vegetation, original property boundary, topography/grading, site-furnishings, design intent, architectural features, and circulation system (USDI NRHP Bulletin 18:6). These features are used to identify and document the character of a designed landscape over time. The degree to which the overall landscape and its significant features are still present today provides the basis for evaluating the property's integrity.

Golf courses often consist of specific features unique to their style of construction and design intent. These include a variety of fairways, roughs, greens, tees, and hazards. This section of the report examines the historic designed landscape features of the University Golf Course site at South Avenue and evaluates its overall integrity.

Spatial Relationships

The original 1916 configuration of the fairways, greens, and tees at the University Golf Course is not definitively known. Even so, an aerial photograph of the University Golf Course area from July 1, 1937 clearly depicts the golf course area, including fairways and greens (Figure 8). Historical references make no mention of the original configuration having been altered prior to the 1937 aerial photograph.

A 1955 aerial photograph of the same location also shows the South Avenue golf course area as well as additional housing constructed in the northeast portion of the property, and additional housing in the area east of Campbell field and west of the golf course clubhouse (Figure 9). Although the fairways are not as distinct in the 1955 photograph, most likely due to lack of use and maintenance, circular white dots clearly depict the location of the tees and greens. These same dots, including the two on the lower slope of Mount Sentinel, can be identified on the 1937 photo in the same locations as circular black dots that appear to be in direct correlation to existing fairways (See Figures 8 and 9).
Figure 8. Aerial photograph of the University Golf Course site, 1937, plan view. South Avenue is towards the top of the photo; Higgins Avenue is on the left (Missoula County Surveyors Office File 177 #18).

Figure 9. Aerial photograph of the University Golf Course site, 1955, plan view. South Avenue is on the top of the photo; Higgins would be along the left border (Missoula County Surveyors Office File BBC #58).
The additional small white dots evident on the left half of the property depicted in the 1937 photograph are most likely remnants of an additional nine holes that were established by the Alumni Challenge Athletic Fields Corporation when the golf course was under their jurisdiction. These additional nine holes were only utilized for the 1930 and 1931 seasons, after which, they were abandoned (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934). These same elements are not evident in the 1955 photograph. This is most likely due to the fact that they were only used a short period of time and left no long-lasting discernable mark on the landscape.

A 1962 aerial photograph shows the golf course configuration after a new design of the South Avenue course was implemented in 1957 (See Figure 10).

![Aerial photograph of the University Golf Course site, 1962, looking southeast. South Avenue is on the left and Higgins is along the bottom of the photo (94-0907, R. H. McKay Collection, Courtesy of The University of Montana Mansfield Library, K. Ross Toole Archives).](image)

An aerial photograph from July 31, 1995, shows the University Golf Course prior to additional changes implemented in 2003 (See Figure 11). These changes were in response to the construction of student housing (Lewis and Clark Villages) south of Dornblazer stadium. Hole 7, located south of Dornblazer Stadium on the west edge of the University Golf Course, was redesigned and changed from a par 4 to a par 3 due to the construction. The changes in the course configuration, and specifically to hole 7, can be clearly seen when comparing the 1995 photo (Figure 11) with a 2005 aerial photograph of the same area (See Figure 12).
Figure 11. Aerial photograph of University Golf Course, 1995.
South Avenue is at the top and Higgins is on the left of the photograph.
The 7th fairway is on the left edge of the course, south of the stadium
(Montana Natural Resources Information Services [NRIS], Black and White Aerial 7/31/1995).

Figure 12. Aerial photograph of the University Golf Course site, 2005.
South Avenue is at the top and Higgins Avenue is on the left of the photo
(Montana NRIS, Color Aerial 8/6/2005).
Using a further comparison of the more current 2005 photograph of the University Golf Course site with the 1937 photo, a rough estimate of the comprehensive changes to the original configuration can be identified (See Figure 13). The course layout depicted over the 1937 photograph is an estimation of where the fairways may have originally existed; it is not definitive. In the 2005 photograph, the fairways are more clearly defined. Due to the addition of housing in the area, it appears the north end of fairways 3 and 4 have been moved south of their original location and the north end of fairway 1 has been moved slightly east. Bends have been added to fairways 4 and 6, and the bend in fairway 8 appears to be sharper. In addition, the fairways for holes 7 and 8 have been moved east and the south end of fairway 9 has been angled east to accommodate additional housing.

Figure 13. Comparison of aerial photographs, 1937 and 2005, oriented north with South Avenue on the top of each.
Changes to the golf course area conducted in 1957 and continuing into the present have altered parts of the original arrangement of the course. Even so, the original configuration of the course, as depicted in the 1937 aerial photograph, is still identifiable within the current course. The alterations to the course overtime have not changed the basic orientation and spatial arrangement significantly enough to fully erase the essence of its original configuration.

**Vegetation**

The original golf course consisted of native prairie grasses, most likely dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass and rough fescue. Other vegetation may have included Wood’s rose, serviceberry and snowberry (Marilyn Marler, personal communication, 19 November, 2007). The Missoula Country Club history notes that in addition to prairie grass and weeds the original course also had sunflowers (Rainbolt 1991:60). As there was no water available for irrigation, the natural vegetation present on the property was left in place. There are no indications of how, or if, the original fairway vegetation was differentiated from the rough (“rough” in this sense means any part of the course that is not a fairway, green, or tee).

The first evidence of a major installment of trees at the golf course comes from a purchase order dated April 10, 1941. The order indicates 100 trees, included 50 Russian Olives, 15 Evergreens, 15 Box Elders, 10 Willows, and 10 Chinese Elms, were obtained from the Forestry Nursery and were intended to be planted at the golf course site on Aber Day, 1941 (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Purchase Order 4/10/1941).

The redevelopment of the South Avenue course in 1957 included a planting plan. This plan called for 57 native and non-native species of trees to be planted. However, it is unclear how many of each were ordered and/or planted. A total of 56 of the 57 species of trees on the 1957 Planting Plan were growing in Missoula at the time the list was compiled (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Planting Plan 12/28/1957). In addition to adding trees to the course, the 1957 redevelopment design called for seeding the fairways and greens with grass. Historical references did not mention the exact type of grass used. A memo dated November 17, 1959 states that over 300 trees were transplanted to the course during that year but there is no data on the exact species (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 11/17/1959:2).

At present, the course has Bluegrass turf cut to various lengths to distinguish between the fairways and rough, and the tees and greens. Mature trees including Ponderosa pine, Spruce, Douglas fir, Willow, Cottonwood, Elm, and Maple currently dot the course (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007).

**Original Property Boundary**

In 1916 the Missoula Country Club established a nine-hole golf course near the toe of Mount Sentinel on leased land between South Avenue on the north and Higgins Avenue on the west (Rainbolt 1991:60; Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet
There are no historical references that state the exact acreage used specifically for the course (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934:4). Although several documents pertaining to the early use of the golf course refer to the entire 160-acre parcel as “the golf course property,” it is the land utilized solely for the golf course that defines the original property boundary. Since no definitive course design outlining the original boundary has been located, a rough estimate of the original boundary is depicted in Figure 14 using the 1937 aerial photograph.

The exact original course acreage is unknown but most likely covered at most 80 acres (Physical Plant, RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934:4). It is possibly the course covered as few as 65 acres (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007).

![Figure 14. Original golf course boundary.](image)

The current course (Figure 15) covers approximately 50 acres (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007). A memo dated June 16, 1958 indicates a strip of land 200-feet deep on the south and west sides of the original 160-acre parcel was left clear during redevelopment of the golf course in 1957. These strips of land were to be held for future use by the University (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958). This altered the original boundary of the golf course. In addition, the introduction of student housing also impacted the original course boundary.
Topography/Grading

The original nine-hole course was constructed on flat open prairie south of the main town of Missoula (Rainbolt 1991:60). Other than the mounding of dirt for tee boxes and course hazards, the site was not appreciably altered (Rainbolt 1991:60). The University Golf Course site was first graded during implementation of the new course design drafted in 1957. At that time, a water line was installed and the fairways and greens were disked and then seeded (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958). During the alterations conducted in 1957, manure and commercial fertilizer were used to enhance the soil of the golf course site; however, no new soil was added. The greens were formed with topsoil moved from other areas of the course and rocks and debris from the fairways and greens were cleared by hand (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958). No historical references mention when the rough was initially graded and seeded. At present, the entire course area has been smoothed and shaped by grading followed by the introduction of specialty grass cover.

Site-Furnishings

The original course consisted of a clubhouse, rough, fairways, greens, tees, and street access from South Avenue. It is assumed access between tees included footpaths. There are no indications that any site furnishings for the original course including signage, decorations, water fountains, park benches, or other amenities existed. During renovations of the course in the late-1950s improvements and changes included the installation of a frost-free water fountain (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958). It is not known where this fountain was located but currently two water fountains exist on the course. One is located at the 8th tee and the
other between tees 2 and 5. In addition to the two fountains, there is at least one park bench at each of the tees, flowerbeds scattered within the rough, memorial plaques at the base of several trees, and signs providing information for each hole (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007).

**Design Intent**

The original 1916 layout at the University Golf Course site was designed for nine-holes situated on a rocky dry flat that provided a “prairie golfing” experience (Rainbolt 1991:60). Members of the Missoula Country Club most likely developed the design of this original nine-hole course. In 1927, when the club left the South Avenue site and moved to an area near Fort Missoula, three members of the Club designed the new course at their new location. Given the Club’s ability to design their own courses, it is probable club members were responsible for the original design at the South Avenue location (Tom Graves, personal communication, 7 November, 2007; Rainbolt 1991:60).

In 1957, when the University decided to redevelop the golf course at South Avenue, a Mr. G. M. MacMillan was hired to draft the new design (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Memo 6/16/1958:1). This historic reference gave Mr. MacMillan’s address at the time of hiring as 427 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, Montana. The Helena City Polk Directories for 1956 and 1958 listed Gregor M. MacMillan as living at that address (R. L. Polk & Co.). It is likely Gregor MacMillan was the architect hired by the University to draft the new design. Although the University had planned to leave room for 18 holes at the golf course, the design developed by Mr. MacMillan was for nine (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Map 1957). The design intended for the course to have trees delineating the fairways and rough (Figure 16).

![Figure 16. University Golf Course Design, 1957. The design is oriented with the north arrow pointing towards the base of the image.](image)
Gregor MacMillan was a civil engineer for the State Highway Commission at the time he was hired by the University to redesign the University Golf Course (Polk Directory Helena 1956:193; 1958:330).

In 1935, MacMillan worked as the acting Chief Engineer for the United States Rural Electrification Survey (Helena City Polk Directory 1935:23, 156). In the early 1940s, he worked for the Federal Services Administration (Polk Directory Helena 1941-42:169). In 1944 he worked for the Helena Chamber of Commerce and in 1947 he worked as a training specialist for the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison (Polk Directory Helena 1944:163; 1947:176). He is also listed as the architect for the golf course at the Anaconda Country Club. The Anaconda course is noted as having been originally built in either 1908 or 1918 (The Golf Courses 2007; World Golf 2007; Best City Guides 2007). It was redesigned into a nine-hole course with grass greens instead of oiled sand greens in 1954 (Mark Torney, personal communication, 26 November, 2007). It is possible MacMillan was responsible for the redesign in 1954, which is similar to what he was hired to do for the University Golf Course on South Avenue in Missoula.

A file on MacMillan in the Lewis and Clark County Records Department in Helena indicates his father was named John and his mother was named Elizabeth (Lewis and Clark County Records Department: File #264). The only other information listed in the file is his date of birth, date of death, and occupation as a civil engineer for the State Highway Commission. In the 1956 Helena City Polk Directory, a renter is listed for the 427 North Benton, Helena, address where MacMillan lived with his wife Inez. The renter is listed as John C. MacMillan and is most likely related to Gregor (Polk Directory Helena 1956:193). MacMillan was still working for the State Highway Commission in 1965 as Assistant Project Controlman (Polk Directory Helena 1965:256). By 1972 he had retired and he died at age 77, January 2, 1973 (Polk Directory Helena 1972; The Independent Record, Helena, MT, Jan. 3, 1973:6; Lewis and Clark County Records Department: File #264).

In 2003, Carl Thuesen, a professional golf course architect, was hired to redesign hole 7 at the University Golf Course (Chris Anderson, personal communication, 16 November, 2007). The fairway, tee, and green all needed to be adjusted due to loss of space from development. Hole 7 was changed from a par 4 to a par 3 due to the presence of tall student housing structures on the southwest edge of the course (See Figure 17).
Figure 17. 7th tee and fairway, ca. 2003, altered due to student housing; tall netting added as protection from golf balls. (Photo courtesy of the University Golf Course website http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/cere/index.cfm/name/golfcoursehome).

Architectural Features

Original course features that were crafted specifically for the game of golf included the fairways, greens, tee boxes, and course hazards. The 1916 course used oiled sand to delineate the greens. Research on the construction of oiled sand greens indicates they could have been flat or, mounded as grass greens are today. The sand greens, circular in form, most likely covered about 6,000 square feet of space. Light fuel oil would have been used to keep the sand compacted but pliable (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007; Taylor 1931:1; Pasture Golf 2007). Ball cups were most likely of metal (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007). A small piece of carpet was kept at the greens to be used to “sweep” the green clear of tracks after use. A mounded area to the left of the current 8th tee may be the remains of an earlier green (Tom Burt, personal communication, 19 November, 2007).

Tee boxes were constructed of mounded dirt enclosed by boards (Rainbolt 1991:60). The boards would have been layered with mounded earth in the interior rising above the level of the boards to provide a raised platform for teeing. An example of the type of tee boxes most likely used at the original course can be seen in a photograph from the second Missoula Country Club site at Fort Missoula (Figure 18, Missoula Country Club Collection). According to Tom Burt, Superintendent at the University Golf Course, a mounded area on the slope above the tee for hole 3 is the remnants of one of the original tee boxes (personal communication, 19 November, 2007).
Prior to using small portable wood tees, players used small molded mounds of sand. These small mounds of sand were called “teaz” in Scotland (Peterson 2007). During the time the Country Club ran the South Avenue course, players were provided with a box on legs located next to the mounded tee box. This wooden box on legs had a divider that held sand on one side and a bucket of water on the other. This allowed players a convenient way to form the small molded sand “tees.” The original course also had a few earthen mounds for crude bunker hazards but there are no indications as to where these original hazards were located (Rainbolt 1991:60).

It was most likely during the redevelopment of the course in 1957 that the oiled sand greens and tee boxes were removed or remodeled. The 1957 design called for grass greens, fairways, and tees. The new design also added sand traps as hazards. According to a memo dated November 17, 1959, sand traps had been roughed out with a backhoe then trimmed and readied for sand (President’s Papers, RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”; Memo 11/17/1959).

At present, there are two man-made ponds on the course, one at the north end of hole 3 and the other on the north of the dog-leg bend in the fairway for hole 8. Earthen bunkers have been added near most of the greens. Other elements added to the course include a driving range, nine-hole putting green, and chipping green area with artificial turf.

**Circulation System**

There is no indication that roads running directly through the golf course were ever constructed. It is not clear when the paths between the tees were formally established. Presumably, the paths originated as dirt footpaths that may have been intentionally
groomed after the redevelopment of the course in 1957. Currently, the paths between the tees are paved and for use by golf carts and maintenance vehicles.

**Integrity**

The integrity of a historic property is measured using the seven aspects of integrity as defined by National Register guidelines (USDI NRHP 15 2002). These aspects of integrity include: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Location**: Evidence exists indicating a golf course was laid out in 1916 at the same location where the current University Golf Course now sits. As previously stated in the early history section of this report, the University Golf Course may not have been fully operational for an undetermined period of time. Although there is evidence indicating the course in this location may not have been continually utilized as a full operating golf course, the 1937 through 2005 aerial photographs (Figures 8 – 12) indicate its location did not change. Therefore, the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has retained integrity of location.

**Design**: The design of a historic property results from conscious decisions made during the original conception and planning of the property and includes such elements as organization of space, the orientation, layout, and spatial relationships between major features, their proportion, and scale. The configuration of the first course can be surmised from the 1937 aerial photograph (See Figure 8).

There is no evidence indicating the 1916 configuration of the course was altered prior to the time the aerial photograph was taken in 1937. Directly comparing this configuration to a more current configuration, it appears the two are similar but not exactly the same (See Figure 13). The current orientation of the fairways is similar to the original, but changes in the locations of tees and greens, which are the starting or ending points of the fairways, has slightly shifted the overall orientation of the original course. This also applies to the original course layout and the overall spatial relationship between the fairways, tees, and greens. These slight changes have also impacted the original proportion and scale of these features, indicating the configuration of the course has been altered, perhaps not dramatically, but it has been changed over time. Even so, the original configuration of the course is identifiable as reasonably similar to the configuration that currently exists at the course. Therefore, the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has retained integrity of design.

**Setting**: The setting of a historic property pertains to the physical environment in which a property is situated. This includes the topography and vegetation within the property itself as well as the physical relationship of the property to the surrounding area.

As the early photographs of the site reveal, the University Golf Course was situated on an open prairie boxed by two main transportation arteries, Higgins Avenue on the west and South Avenue on the north, and by landforms, including Mount Sentinel on the east and the low hills of the Pattee Canyon drainage on the south (See Figure 10). The installation
of a watering system for the property, the grading and shaping of tees, greens, and fairways, seeding of grass that is not similar or in-kind to the original course, addition of trees and shrubs that were not originally present at the site, the shaping of earthen bunkers, ponds, and sand traps as hazards, and the paving of the paths between the tees has dramatically altered the original open prairie setting of the course. In addition, increasing development within the 160 acres that contained the original golf course site has dramatically altered the surrounding environment on the north, west, and south (See Figures 8 – 13). Therefore, the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has lost integrity of setting.

Materials: The aspect of materials pertains to “the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property,” (USDI NRHP Bulletin 15 2002). The materials used in the original construction of a site “reveals the preferences of those who created the property and indicate the availability of particular types of materials and technologies,” (USDI NRHP Bulletin 15 2002).

The materials used for the 1916 construction of the course includes oiled sand to delineate the greens, small pieces of carpet used to sweep the green clear of tracks after use, tee boxes of mounded dirt enclosed by boards, and wooden divided boxes on legs for forming a tee, hazards constructed of mounded dirt, and fairways of dry rocky prairie (Rainbolt 1991:60). Although these materials may have influenced the retention of the original design of the course, none of these original materials are still evident. Therefore, the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has lost integrity of materials.

Workmanship: Workmanship is the physical evidence of the labor and skill required to construct a historic resource. The craftsmanship revealed by historic resources is often evident in the details. Although evidence of the spatial arrangement of the original course has been retained, the skill involved in the construction of the spatial arrangement would be revealed in the details on the ground. As the original materials and setting of the course have been eliminated or dramatically altered, these details, such as the sand greens, tee boxes, and open prairie, no longer exist. Therefore, the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has lost integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The National Register Bulletin 15 defines the aspect of “feeling” as:

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. For example, a rural historic district retaining original design, materials, workmanship, and setting will relate the feeling of agricultural life in the 19th century. A grouping of prehistoric petroglyphs, unmarred by graffiti and intrusions and located on its original isolated bluff, can evoke a sense of tribal spiritual life (USDI NRHP 15 2002).
Although the University Golf Course site at South Avenue has retained its original design, it has lost the aspects of setting, materials, and workmanship and can no longer express the full aesthetic or historic sense of its original timeframe. Therefore, the course site at South Avenue has lost integrity of feeling.

Association: The aspect of association pertains to a historic property having a direct link to a significant historic event or person. This historic link exists if the historic event or activity occurred at the site and if the site is “sufficiently intact to convey that relationship to an observer,” (USDI NRHP Bulletin 15 2002).

Although the person or persons responsible for the initial design of the golf course at the South Avenue location were most likely members of the original Missoula Country Club, their identity, and therefore their historic significance on a local, state, or national level, is unknown. There is no evidence that MacMillan, who redesigned the course in 1957, is a historically significant individual and his design timeframe is outside the period of significance for this landscape. There is no evidence indicating the original design of the golf course is historically unique or that there were any historically significant events or persons associated with the course. Therefore, the aspect of association has no bearing on the University Golf Course site at South Avenue.

Conclusions

There are four main criteria of significance used for historic resources to determine eligibility for listing with the National Register of Historic Places. Historic designed landscapes are most often assessed under criterion C (USDI NRHP Bulletin 18:6). This means the landscape embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or it represents the work of a master, or it possesses a high artistic value, or it represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (USDI NRHP Bulletin 18:6).

According to the National Register Bulletin 15, Chapter VIII, “How to Evaluate the Integrity of a Property:”

A property significant under Criterion C must retain those physical features that characterize the type, period, or method of construction that the property represents. Retention of design, workmanship, and materials will usually be more important than location, setting, feeling, and association. Location and setting will be important, however, for those properties whose design is a reflection of their immediate environment (such as designed landscapes and bridges).

There has been a golf course present at the University Golf Course location since 1916. The basic spatial relationship of the original design is still evident. Even so, alterations to its setting, the loss of evidence of the original materials, and the lack of expression of its original timeframe, indicate the site has lost most of its integrity as a historic resource.
Because the University Golf Course site has had a significant loss of integrity, and because it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess a high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, as necessary to be eligible for the NRHP, the University Golf Course site is not a historic designed landscape and is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.
SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The investigation searched for evidence of rock cairns along the base of Mount Sentinel and the junction of the Missoula Valley floor. The pedestrian transects conducted for this portion of the investigation were done in a zigzag fashion running along the base of Mount Sentinel in a north to south direction. The field investigation failed to locate any possible evidence of any rock cairns or any other cultural resources.

The investigation assessed the potential of a negative visual impact on two Missoula County historic districts, The University of Montana Historic District and the University Area Historic District, from development of the University South Campus property. As the current viewshed exists and barring any major alteration to the existing line of view, the visual impact of the potential development of the South Campus will have no negative impact on the University Area or UM historic districts. This finding is based on the heavy vegetative growth, power lines, and structural interference currently evident in the key views analyzed.

Because of the historic use of the University Golf Course site, it was assessed for its potential as a historic designed landscape. The historic designed landscape assessment examined specific features of the University Golf Course site, evaluated their overall integrity, and assessed the site using the NRHP criteria of significance. Historic designed landscapes are most often assessed under criterion C, which means the landscape must either: embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess a high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The conclusions of the landscape assessment determined the University Golf Course site is not a historic designed landscape and recommended it as not eligible for listing with the National Register.
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Collection Name: Physical Plant
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  RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Balance Sheet 6/30/1934
  RG-39, Box 1, Folder 4: Purchase Order 4/10/1941

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Collection Number:
  RG-1, Box 97, Folder “Golf Course”: Letter 3/12/1936
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USDA Forest Service

USDI National Park Service


Website Access Information

The Best City Guides Website

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2007  Access to Pasture Golf information pertaining to oiled sand greens at http://www.pasturegolf.com/courses/sandgreens.htm

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Cultural Resource Investigation
Conducted by:

Western Cultural, Inc.
Building 28, Suite 2
Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
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