

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Coosa Country Club Golf Course

2. Location: 110 Branham Avenue SW, Rome, Floyd County, Georgia

3a. Description: The Coosa Country Club Golf Course, located at 110 Branham Avenue, just to the west of downtown Rome, Georgia, sits along the banks of the Coosa River, west of the forked split that forms the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers. The flow of the river has defined the landscape that first hosted a nine-hole golf course in 1910. The landscape has been adapted over time, most significantly with a redesign by widely regarded master golf course architect George Cobb that initially opened in 1962, and for which a second phase of landscape design was completed in 1972. The course is currently an 18-hole, 6,924-yard, par-72 golf course. Located near the Branham Avenue entrance are the parking area, clubhouse, tennis courts, and swimming pool, near the 1962 driving range. All of the buildings and structures on the property, including the tennis building, the driving range building (Golf Academy), the pool house and nearby pump house, a restroom building between holes 13 and 14, along with the clubhouse, first constructed in 1959 and remodeled in 1985 and 1998, are noncontributing. As befits what was a former flood plain and cow pasture, the course is mostly flat with wide fairways. Multiple sand traps and rows of oak, crabapple, maple, and pine trees line the fairways, creating the primary hazards and forming all the edges of the course property. The course design, circulation patterns, and landscape retain a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, and association representing the work of master golf course architect George W. Cobb (1914-1986). The course also retains substantial integrity of feeling and setting to the period of significance.

3b. Period of Significance: 1962-1972

3c. Acreage: Approximately 175.45 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary represents the current legal boundary of Coosa Country Club Golf Course.

4a. National Register Criteria: C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Landscape Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance:

The Coosa Country Club Golf Course is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for its design, which has remained mostly unchanged since the completion of a redesign by master golf course architect George W. Cobb in 1962, with ongoing landscape enhancements through 1972. First formally laid out as a nine-hole course in 1910, and expanded to an 18-hole course in 1932, the original design of the course, in which the natural features were maintained, was of typical construction for courses of this early period of golf course design in Georgia, before the availability of large earth-moving equipment. In 1962, Cobb retained and reworked some existing holes while relocating and reconstructing others to include hazards, along with formally landscaping the course, creating a water feature, and designing cart paths. Cobb designed within the challenging existing terrain limitations of the nearby Coosa River while also creating a course experience that was more like walking through a park, without obvious gimmicks, unnatural shapes, or unnatural materials for the hazards and greens. The result is exemplary of a combination of two different golf course design styles — Links and Parkland. The philosophy of George Cobb regarding the games of golf is evidenced in this stylistic approach, with a focus accommodating players of various skill levels and the enjoyment of golf as a therapeutic endeavor. Between 1942 and 1985, Cobb designed over 130 courses in the United States for private, resort, public, municipal, and military organizations, primarily along the east coast and largely in the southeast. Cobb was consulting architect at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia from the 1950s through 1977. It was during the period that he designed the Coosa Country Club Golf Course that Cobb's influence on the profession of golf course design was most prolific. Televised broadcast of the Masters Tournament, beginning in 1956, helped to establish the design of Augusta National as the American standard of golf design, and although Cobb did not design Augusta National, his 1959 design of the Par 3 Short Course there, as well as general association with Augusta National Golf Club, elevated his renown.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Coosa Country Club Golf Course is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for its course design, which has remained mostly unchanged since the completion of a redesign by golf course architect George W. Cobb between 1962 and 1972.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by Michael S. Williams, President, Coosa Country Club, and nomination materials were prepared by T. Michelle Williams, Michael S. Williams, Janet Byington, and Dean Baker.