

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Desert Golf Course **DRAFT**

Other names/site number: Thomas O'Donnell's Desert Golf Course; O'Donnell Golf Club

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 301 North Belardo Road

City or town: Palm Springs State: California County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> <u>does not meet</u> the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Spanish Revival/Mediterranean Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: foundation: concrete ; walls: concrete cement
plaster; roof: variegated clay tile

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Oil tycoon Thomas O'Donnell began construction on his first residence and golf course in 1925. The National Register-listed Thomas O'Donnell House, *Ojo del Desierto* (Eye of the Desert), was the first Palm Springs building to be constructed above the valley floor, approximately 200 feet above the village, on the lower slopes of the San Jacinto Mountains. This nomination presents the golf course and six additional Spanish Colonial revival style buildings—including O'Donnell's second residence—as equally significant contributors to the emergence of the village of Palm Springs on the national desert resort scene, and the development history of Palm Springs. The approximately 33-acre district includes the Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, Gate Lodge, Third Green Restrooms, Golf Shop, Golf House (O'Donnell's second residence), Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, and Golf Course. The golf course and surrounding buildings retain all aspects of historic integrity.

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Narrative Description

O'Donnell's Desert Golf Course and adjacent buildings are located within the original village of Palm Springs, on the perimeter of downtown, adjacent to the former Desert Inn. The Desert Inn (1908-1966) was a small health resort hotel that blossomed into a large Spanish style hotel complex. Designed by William Charles Tanner, the resort included Palm Springs' first large built-in swimming pool. The hotel owner was Nellie Coffman, whose ability, determination, and charm enhanced the resort's reputation, and guests came from all over the world.¹ Thomas O'Donnell began staying there as a guest in the 1920s, and established a lifelong friendship with Nellie Coffman. After the demise of the Desert Inn's Mashie Course, O'Donnell's Desert Golf Course became the oldest existing golf course in the Coachella Valley.

The property is located at the base of the San Jacinto Mountains, with dramatic views of the mountain and has remained largely unchanged since O'Donnell opened the course to the public in 1932. The original residence of Thomas O'Donnell, *Ojo del Desierto*, (Eye of the Desert), lies 200' above and to the south of the golf course and adjacent buildings. It is designated locally as a Class 1 Historic Site, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 33.16-acre site is irregularly shaped, composed of four parcels with a dramatic view of the San Jacinto Mountains. To the north is West Alejo Road, to the west are the San Jacinto Mountains, to the south is the property of the Palm Springs Art Museum, and to the east is Belardo Road with the aforementioned buildings on the opposing side. The placement of the golf course property is bordered by landscape on three sides, and a mountain range on the fourth side.

The district's six contributing buildings include the Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment (1925), Gate Lodge (1926), Third Green Restrooms (1933), Golf Shop (1933), Golf House (1936), and Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office (1936).

A. Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment

One Contributing Building

Designed by William Charles Tanner at the time he was working on *Ojo del Desierto*, the detailing is the same. The simple, two-story stucco building has a gabled roof clad in variegated clay barrel tile. Just below the point of the roof gable is an attic vent created using the same barrel tiles as the roof. Five garage bays originally featured wooden double doors, adorned with a Moorish-inspired star pattern, replaced with flat panel garage doors in 2015.

The second-floor apartment has a long, covered balcony, with wooden posts and beam, the balcony rail featuring the same vertical detail as *Ojo del Desierto*. Wood-framed casement windows are covered by insect screens. The exterior of the Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment features wrought-iron lanterns.

Originally, the driveway of *Ojo del Desierto* was oriented to the adjacent Desert Inn. After O'Donnell finished his golf course, he created a new driveway from Alejo Road (North Road at

¹ Patrick McGrew, *Desert Spanish: The Early Architecture of Palm Springs* (Palm Springs: Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, 2011), 20.

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the time). Before he had a Golf Shop built with a locker room and space for caddies, one of the garage bays served double duty as a locker room and golf equipment storage.

B. Gate Lodge

One Contributing Building

After O'Donnell purchased the thirty-three acre parcel to create his private golf course, he changed the primary access to *Ojo del Desierto* from the Desert Inn, south of the property, to 421 Alejo Road, north of the property. From Alejo, a majestic driveway, lined on one side with Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), hugged the adjacent hillside through the golf course, leading to the Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment and up the hill. At the north entrance to O'Donnell's property, William Charles Tanner designed a Gate Lodge inspired by the low, rambling haciendas of the Andalusian region of southern Spain. Tanner's design features an irregular plan with low, horizontal massing, which results in an interesting, asymmetrical façade. Though it was designed and built at one time, the varied gabled roofs, covered in variegated clay barrel tiles, suggest the rustic house had grown over time. Exterior walls are cement plaster, the wide expanses pierced with wood-framed multi-light casement windows, many adorned with plank wood shutters. Windows have wooden lintels above and projecting wood sills. The house, for the most part, turns its back to the street, with all primary rooms opening on to the golf course. A gracious covered porch has vertical wood posts supporting a wooden beam on one section, with large windows featured on other sections of the house.

After completion, O'Donnell's friend and groundskeeper John Kline moved into the Gate Lodge with his family, living there until 1946. O'Donnell appointed Kline the Desert Golf Course's first manager, a position he held for twenty years. In 1948, the Committee of Twenty-Five, a private men's club, was formed and began leasing the building from the city of Palm Springs, which had purchased the lot. Alterations include 1948 Clark & Frey kitchen addition, 1967 E. Stewart Williams addition, and 1991 James Cioffi addition (**Figure 1**).²

The 1948 Clark & Frey kitchen addition is in the center of the building, does not detract from the 1926 construction, and has acquired significance in its own right. The 1967 E. Stewart Williams addition is located at the dining room facing the golf course, and pays homage to the historic resource, designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. If the addition were removed, the essential form and integrity of the historic resource and its environment would be unimpaired. The 1991 James Cioffi addition is to the east on a non-primary façade, is clearly differentiated, and could be eliminated without disturbing the integrity of the historic resource.

C. Third Green Restrooms

One Contributing Building

The building is presumably designed by William Charles Tanner, though no documentation positively identifies its designer. The small building near the Third and Fourth Holes of the golf course is constructed of brick and features a gabled roofline with simple curved rafter tails. The roof is covered in flat terra cotta tiles. The tiles were originally the same variegated barrel roof tiles as seen on the other Golf Club buildings, and were replaced at an unknown date sometime

² Steve Vaught, *The Committee of Twenty-Five: The First Sixty-Five Years, 1948-2013* (Palm Springs: Committee of Twenty-Five, 2014), 15, 26, 73-74.

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after O'Donnell's passing in 1945. Discreetly tucked into a landscaped area on a low rise just above the green, a men's restroom faces east, while the women's restroom faces west.

D. Golf Shop

One Contributing Building

After O'Donnell opened the golf course to Palm Springs residents in 1932, it became necessary to have a dedicated Golf Shop, with locker room, space for golf club storage, and a room for caddies. Similar to the Restrooms building, no documentation of the designer has been verified. Due to the overall project design of the Golf Club, William Charles Tanner is likely, since he designed all of O'Donnell's other buildings, as well as those of the adjacent Desert Inn. The small gabled one-story Spanish-Colonial Revival building has cement plaster walls with a roof clad in variegated barrel tiles. A series of large, identical wood-framed square multi-light windows create a rhythm around the façade. The front door is set back underneath the tile roof, with one vertical wood support.

The Golf Shop was described in 1935 as "operated after the English style of club. Not expensive, but a place to change shoes, keep clubs without charge, it carries a full line of golf equipment at regular Los Angeles prices, making it possible to purchase anything in the golf line. Lessons or playing lesson can be obtained from George Howard, resident professional".³ In 1936, John Kline announced that several changes would be made to the course, including enlarging the Golf Shop, "providing considerable room which is badly needed."⁴ In 1945, a garage was added, and the Golf Shop was again enlarged. Character defining features of the original Golf Shop and 1945 addition include cement plaster exterior, one-story gabled form, variegated barrel roof tiles, and wood-framed multi-light square windows. Electric golf carts were introduced at the club in 1954, so the following year a much larger storage garage was built to house them. The entire interior of the Golf Shop building was remodeled concurrently (**Figure 2**). The original character defining features of the building and 1945 addition remain intact, and the 1954 addition is easily identified due to building configuration and materials.

E. Golf House

One Contributing Building

O'Donnell's second residence was designed by William Charles Tanner, adjacent to the golf course. By the mid-1930s, O'Donnell's health began to fail, and he found it difficult to navigate the two-story *Ojo del Desierto*. Because the O'Donnells were spending more time in the desert, the new house would be completely air-conditioned, one of the first houses so equipped in Palm Springs. Prior to construction, O'Donnell installed an enormous iron aviary, fifty feet in diameter and forty feet high. He stocked the aviary with more than forty different kinds of birds. Flowering vines covered the aviary to keep it cool. The new residence was built adjacent to the aviary, replacing the formal garden that had been there since 1927.⁵ The O'Donnells named their new home Golf House.⁶

³ "Real Golf Course on Desert Makes a Big Hit," *Desert Sun*, October 8, 1958, 1.

⁴ "Changes and Improvements to be Made at Desert Golf Course During the Summer," *Desert Sun*, May 1, 1936, 1.

⁵ "O'Donnell Aviary, City Landmark, Dismantled," *Desert Sun*, July 31, 1952, 1.

⁶ Steve Vaught, Inspiration Point Class 1 Historic Site Nomination (Palm Springs: Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, 2019), 57.

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Designed to harmonize with the Spanish-influenced architecture of the adjacent Desert Inn and O'Donnell's other buildings, the informal house was inspired by the sprawling haciendas of the Andalusian region of Spain. It was built using rustic brick, some sections covered in cement plaster. Vertical board and batten detailing adorn the end gables, each vertical board having a "V" shaped end. The house has a staggered, low-pitched roofline covered in variegated terra cotta barrel tile. A long screened-in covered arcade, supported by a series of vertical heavy masonry and wooden double posts run the entire length of the main section of the house, a pleasant shady spot from which the O'Donnells could enjoy watching friends and guests playing golf.

The north wing, which juts out at an angle, has an attractive bay window, covered with a stylized scalloped steel roof. Decorative wrought-iron bars enclose the bay's steel casement windows. Another wing to the south of the house, the sunroom, with large steel casement windows on three sides, extends outward from the main volume of the house at a right angle. The remainder of the house has multi-light steel casement windows. A service wing, including a tall circular tower with tile-roofed cupola and an adjacent garage with shed-roofed kitchen and staff quarters, was demolished and replaced by a parking lot in 1969.

At the front of the house is a spacious lawn, bordered by a long bed of flowering color along the driveway. O'Donnell had three groupings of twin cottonwoods planted in the front of the house for shade, with a single cottonwood planted near Dr. O'Donnell's office. Large Canary Island palm specimens were planted near the service wing. At the base of the residence, a compact and neatly clipped hedge hugged the foundation, while the double vertical posts supporting the covered arcade were planted with flowering vines.

When the city acquired the Golf House in 1969, it was leased back to the Club, which adaptively reused the building to serve as its clubhouse. By this time O'Donnell's aviary had been removed (1952). The south service wing was demolished for parking, the covered arcade enclosed with aluminum-framed windows, and the interior spaces turned into rooms for use by the members of the O'Donnell Golf Club. Apart from the demolition of the service wing, the house exhibits a high level of integrity. The mature planting in front of the house was replaced with a patio for dining, shaded by enormous ficus trees (**Figure 3**).

F. Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office

One Contributing Building

North of the main residence is Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's physiotherapy office. Dr. O'Donnell, Thomas' second wife, was a leading and respected osteopath, and her office has a sunny reception room with fireplace, an office, and an examining room. Outside is a walled patio. The office building has the same architectural detailing as the main house, including a simple, gabled single story constructed of rustic brick and cement plaster. Vertical board and batten wood adorn the end gables. Also extant are carved wood doors, variegated terra cotta barrel roof tiles, fireplace, and steel framed multi-light casement windows..

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G. Golf Course

One Contributing Site

The landscape featured a limited palette of drought-tolerant trees, appropriate to the Sonoran Desert, as a means of defining the fairways, tees, greens, and holes of the golf course. Long rows of a single species—Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), native California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), and Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*)—lined fairways, and framed views and vistas. The two lines of tall, narrow palm trees were interplanted with fuller trees and shrubs to screen out adjacent fairways. Between each Mexican fan palm along O'Donnell's long driveway, red and white Oleander were planted, offering a display of flowering color. The line of native California fan palms had a single Arizona cypress specimen planted between each slender tree, the shrubby, conical form contrasting with the tall palms (**Figure 4**).

When O'Donnell bought the large parcel, an existing windbreak of tamarisks (*Tamarix ramosissima*) had been planted, the mature trees nearly enclosing the entire site. O'Donnell augmented those existing trees with more tamarisks along the perimeter, as well as using tamarisk as an accent tree within the golf course itself.

Scattered around the golf course are clusters of these same species—two, three, four or more—planted as punctuation marks, as well as for wayfinding, for hazards, and for marking the ends of long fairways. O'Donnell added date palms to the palette, generally planted in single specimens or in small clusters. Several groupings of cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) O'Donnell had planted for shade have since died or been removed.

One of O'Donnell's first landscape projects was to find a grass suitable to carpet the Coachella Valley's first large-scale golf course, doing research to find something appropriate to the harsh desert climate. After touring many courses around the country, he learned that the greens had to be built up from a Bermuda base, requiring many tons of seed. This was over seeded during the winter with rye seed, and unlike much of Palm Springs at the time, O'Donnell never allowed his turf to die off in the summer. The intact Bermuda and rye greens are maintained regularly.

Built at the very edge of the San Jacinto Mountains, the course's greens and fairways curve in and out against the mountainside, the unspoiled natural backdrop becoming an important design element. The spectacular foot of San Jacinto encroaches out into the course, meeting the greens and becoming part of the challenge of the famous Fifth Hole.

The Desert Golf Course was not designed by one of the premier landscape architects or golf course designers of the time. It was instead laid out by O'Donnell himself, working with a good friend and fellow oilman, Captain J. F. Lucey. Both men had played the best courses around the world for decades, so they knew what constituted a well-designed golf course. They also had a clean slate. O'Donnell had bought the land and the site was cleared and graded, then he and Lucey got to work. In a 1945 *Desert Sun* article, the year of O'Donnell's death, the newspaper described it as a:

considerable task. It was quite an undertaking to mold this arid desert ground soil into what we now know as the scenic and beautiful O'Donnell golf course and it took great

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vision on the part of its originator, for at that time this strip of land was a bit of the vast desert terrain of rolling sand dunes, strange rock formations and many washes from the canyons of the bordering Mt. San Jacinto range. Mr. O'Donnell stood on the plot that was to be the number one tee, used his driver, then an iron shot and where the ball landed, he planted the first green. In the preceding manner, they laid out the nine holes of play. Knowing the maximum distance he could get with every club in his bag, Mr. O'Donnell made the length of the fairways in accordance with his game so as to put all clubs into play at some time during the round.⁷

When they were done, they had a par-thirty-five, nine-hole course, and with the addition of a double set of tees, it allowed "ambitious players the ability to do a full eighteen holes if desired." Completed in 1927, the finished course was officially named the Desert Golf Course. Almost instantly, it was affectionately dubbed O'Donnell's.

Originally intended just for O'Donnell and his closest friends, he soon allowed guests of the adjacent Desert Inn access to play and opened the course to the public in 1932. At first, there were no sand traps, the greens were fifty feet in diameter, and the only water hazard was the old Whitewater Ditch that ran alongside O'Donnell's stately driveway. Several portions of the driveway are extant. When he opened the club in 1932, O'Donnell changed the locations of the first tee, and the sixth and ninth holes. In 1941, the *Desert Sun* described other changes that had taken place at the golf course since it opened to the public in 1932:

With increased interest and play on the course, improvements have been made yearly. The greens have been enlarged from 75 to 90 feet in width, fairways have been lengthened and there are now 19 traps guarding the several greens. A large putting green was added in 1937 which has proved extremely popular, not only for those who do not play the usual 18 holes but for practice putting as well.⁸

Post-period of significance:

In 1977, Clinton Burnett [an O'Donnell Golf Club trustee] suggested connecting the club's water system to the Desert Water Company's main near the seventh hole practice green to supply instant water when the Whitewater supply was inadequate. That connection is currently in place. The board approved construction of a pond or reservoir west of the sixth tee at a cost of \$15,000. Lake Burnett, with a capacity of 360,000 gallons, was born!⁹

The historic configuration—of holes, greens, tees, and fairways—remains (**Figure 5**). Views and vistas from the golf course to the unspoiled mountains beyond are extraordinary. Groupings of

⁷ "Tom O'Donnell's Love of Golf Gave Palm Springs Noted Course; Desert Converted Into Now Famous Sport Strip," *Desert Sun*, February 16, 1945, 11.

⁸ "History of the Thomas O'Donnell Desert Golf Course is Related," *Desert Sun*, February 7, 1941, 8.

⁹ Terry Dean and Judy Dickinson, *O'Donnell Golf Club, Jewel of the Desert for 65 Years*, (Palm Springs: O'Donnell Golf Club, 2010), 13.

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palms, tamarisks, and Arizona cypress are extant. A memorial service for Thomas O'Donnell was held on the fairway of the eighth hole, on February 21, 1945, and a memorial plaque placed on one of the course's rocks shortly thereafter.

Integrity

The Desert Golf Course retains all seven aspects of integrity. The golf course design remains unchanged. The historic designed landscape retains much of its plant material, hardscape, layout, and configuration from its period of significance with relatively minor modifications.

Additionally, aside from the loss of one wing of the Golf House residence, and interior modifications made to turn the residence into a golf clubhouse, the Golf House remains substantially intact. The other contributing buildings also retain a high level of integrity.

The property remains where it was originally designed and constructed, and therefore retains integrity of location. The setting continues to reflect the original design relationship of landscaped site and built environment. The important views and vistas from the golf course to the mountains beyond are for the most part unchanged from the period of significance and remain an important character-defining feature of the landscape. The Desert Golf Course was constructed in the heart of Palm Springs Village, and remains in the heart of Palm Springs' downtown.

The district reflects historic functions as well as aesthetics. The structural systems, massing, arrangement of spaces, patterns of fenestration, textures and colors of surface materials, and type and amount of ornamental detailing remain intact. The configuration of tees, greens and holes, hardscape and landscape features, style and overall form, plan, space, architectural style, and scale of buildings remain intact. The property retains integrity of design.

The pattern and configuration of materials in the landscaped grounds and Spanish Colonial-Revival architecture survive intact. A majority of the drought tolerant plantings typical of the period remain extant, as well as plantings used to define golf course features. Architect William Charles Tanner used high-quality materials typical of the Spanish Colonial-Revival style, extant in the Carriage House/Chauffeurs Apartment, Gate Lodge, Third Green Restrooms, Golf Shop, Golf House, and Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office.

The landscape featured high-quality specimens, expertly planted, which remain largely intact and in excellent condition. The buildings are comprised of simple materials of cement plaster, brick, wood, steel and glass, with terra cotta roof tiles. With the exception of the loss of the Golf House south wing, the buildings continue to express a high degree of quality workmanship typical of the period, and the property retains integrity of workmanship.

Sited on a prominent lot in downtown Palm Springs, the Desert Golf Course takes advantage of panoramic, relatively unspoiled mountain views to the west. The associated landscape retains a high degree of integrity from the period of significance, i.e. the original rows of Mexican fan palm and California fan palm remain nearly intact; as do the tamarisk windbreak and the long

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row of Arizona cypress. The Golf Course configuration and associated buildings remain largely unchanged, and the property retains integrity of feeling.

The Desert Golf Course is the oldest extant golf course in the Coachella Valley, in a region known around the world for its golf courses. Built by legendary Palm Springs pioneer and philanthropist Thomas O'Donnell, the golf course continues its association with recreational events that have made a meaningful contribution to the community, and retains integrity of association.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1925-1945

Significant Dates

1925

1936

1945

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tanner, William Charles (Architect)

Hicks, Alvah (Builder)

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

The Desert Golf Course is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the growth of Palm Springs into an international desert resort destination for leisure activities in the Coachella Valley. Situated prominently at the base of Mount San Jacinto in downtown Palm Springs, the Desert Golf Course promoted the tourist boom in the 1930s that perpetuated the city's claim as one of America's leading fashionable winter resorts. The 1925 to 1945 period of significance encompasses construction from 1925 to 1936, through O'Donnell's close involvement and patronage ending with his death in 1945.

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

The relatively short history of Palm Springs can be organized into several distinct periods, as defined by the Historic Resources Group's *Citywide Historic Context Statement and Survey Findings*.

- Native American Settlement to 1969
- Early Development (1884-1918)
- Palm Springs between the Wars (1919-1941)
- Palm Springs During World War II (1939-1945)
- Post-World War II Palm Springs (1945-1969)

The Desert Golf Course is evaluated within the context of Palm Springs between the Wars (1919-1941).

In the 1920s and '30s, a number of architects and designers from Los Angeles and elsewhere worked in Palm Springs, designing Spanish and Mediterranean Revival-style residences primarily as winter homes for seasonal residents. As the focus on regional expression through architecture evolved, period and exotic revival styles took hold throughout California. Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival examples prevailed, in large measure due to the Panama-California Exposition, held in San Diego in 1915. Well suited to the region's warm, dry climate, the Spanish Colonial and Mediterranean Revival styles appealed to many Southern California residents for their exotic appearance and sense of history.¹⁰

This context explores the transformation of Palm Springs from a modest spa town into a luxury winter resort in the years between the First and Second World Wars. By 1918 Nellie Coffman

¹⁰ Architectural Resources Group, *City of Palm Springs Citywide Historic Context Statement and Survey Findings*, 2015.

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and her sons, George Roberson and Earl Coffman, understood the town's potential, not as a health spa for asthmatics and consumptives, but as an exclusive winter resort for the well-to-do, and set about transforming their sanatorium into the luxurious Desert Inn, one of the most renowned hostelrys in the country. Their success inspired the development of two equally spectacular hotels in the 1920s and cemented the town's growing reputation as one of the country's premier luxury winter resorts. The Oasis Hotel, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Jr. (known as Lloyd Wright) opened in 1925 by Pearl McCallum McManus; and the grand Hotel El Mirador, designed by Walker & Eisen in a sumptuous Spanish Colonial Revival style and opened in 1927.

Automobile tourism played an early and important part of the success and growth of Palm Springs as a destination. In 1914, highway bonds were passed in Riverside County for extensive road improvements and construction of new routes. As part of these efforts, the highway connecting Los Angeles and Palm Springs was completed in October 1916. Pavement of the highway through to Indio was completed in 1924, allowing travelers to drive all the way from Los Angeles to Palm Springs in less than 4 hours, all on paved roads.

In the 1920s, business tycoons, industrialists, and other wealthy businessmen, along with the Hollywood elite discovered the desert and began to transform Palm Springs into an international resort. While the movie stars primarily stayed at the resort hotels when visiting Palm Springs, other wealthy residents and seasonal visitors started building architect-designed estates and drawing increased attention to the growing resort town.

The 1930s saw Palm Springs blossom, as more and more celebrities made it their winter weekend getaway, and more development sprang up to house and entertain them. By the start of World War II, Palm Springs had so long been thought of as a movie star's playground that some of the neighborhoods were described as "Beverly Hills in the desert." One section was so filled with film notables, the neighborhood was ultimately dubbed the "Movie Colony."

In the 1930s important figures in finance and business continued to flock to the desert in the winter, helping to cement the village's reputation as one of the nation's top winter resort destinations.

Architecturally, the Spanish and Mediterranean Revival styles were the town's dominant architectural expression during this period. In addition, there are examples of simplified Ranch houses featuring rustic details and board-and-batten exterior walls. Beginning in the 1930s, prominent Modernist architects began making significant contributions to the architectural landscape in Palm Springs.

The O'Donnell Desert Golf Course exemplifies a particularly important period in local history between World War I and II. It possesses distinctive design characteristics of the simplified Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. It was designed by noted architectural designer William Charles Tanner who also designed O'Donnell's first residence, *Ojo del Desierto*, located on the mountainside above the O'Donnell Desert Golf Course, and listed on the National

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Register of Historic Places. The O'Donnell Desert Golf Course is the oldest surviving golf course in the Coachella Valley. The property's period of significance of 1925-1945 reflects construction of the buildings until the death of Thomas O'Donnell who resided there during this period.

Thomas Arthur O'Donnell

Thomas Arthur O'Donnell (1870-1945) was an Irish American pioneer in the California oil industry. O'Donnell was nationally known as one of the Big Four along with Edward L. Doheny, Charles A. Canfield, and Max H. Whittier. Born in Bradford, Erie County, Pennsylvania, Thomas O'Donnell had a strong entrepreneurial streak from an early age, working as a newsboy until age twelve when the family left Pennsylvania for Colorado. There, he worked for two years as a grocery store clerk. His ambition took him next for five years to work in a gold mine, using a pick and shovel. In 1889, at the age of nineteen, he had the urge to go west, arriving in California, and securing a position at the Union Oil Company in Ventura, where he received an education in the oil business.

In 1893, O'Donnell moved to Los Angeles, and met Edward L. Doheny, going to work for Doheny as a field superintendent. During his year with Doheny, O'Donnell recognized that his fortunes were to be made in oil, going into a partnership with Max H. Whittier to drill oil wells. After five years with Whittier, O'Donnell ventured out on his own, becoming an independent oil driller, operator, and land speculator. In 1897, O'Donnell met and married Lillian Constance Wood. They had two daughters, Ruth O'Donnell Davis (1898-1985) and Doris O'Donnell Connolly (1901-1977).

As his success blossomed, O'Donnell organized several oil companies, financing many himself. He helped form the American Petroleum Company, followed by the American Oil Fields Company, which at the time, were among the largest independent oil concerns in the country. In 1912, the two companies merged, forming the California Petroleum Corporation, known as CALPET. O'Donnell served as its president and board chairman until it was sold to the Texas Company (later known as Texaco). O'Donnell became a director in the Texas Company, later retiring from that position. During World War I, O'Donnell became national director of oil production for the U.S. Federal Fuel Administration and served on the Fuel Conservation Board. In 1919, he became the first president of the American Petroleum Institute, the largest national trade association representing the industry, serving in that role until 1924.

O'Donnell separated from his wife Lillian, and divorced in 1924. She received a property settlement of \$750,000 in cash and securities. A year later he married Dr. Winifred Willis Jenney (1880-1969), a Long Beach osteopath. Jenney was one of the most prominent osteopaths in Southern California and considered a leader in the country.

In the early 1920s, O'Donnell began spending time in Palm Springs, seeking relief for his respiratory ailments. He stayed at the Desert Inn owned by Nellie Coffman, then a simple boarding house with bungalows. O'Donnell appreciated Nellie Coffman's hospitality, and the two became friends.

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One of Thomas O'Donnell's passions was golf, which he had taken up in 1900.¹¹ At the time O'Donnell began staying at the Desert Inn, there was nowhere to play golf in the desert. In 1923, O'Donnell had brought his golf clubs to the desert, hoping to keep up his game. As reported a few years later in the *Desert Sun*, "Being a real golf bug and knowing the value of practice, he started out to look for a place to drive balls. The only place available was in front of the No. 1 lodge of the Desert Inn."¹² Soon, a few short holes were developed between the cottages of the hotel. Not satisfied, O'Donnell sought more space dedicated to the game. With Nellie Coffman's encouragement, he and John Kline, who had most recently served as O'Donnell's chauffeur, took over a meadow adjacent to the Desert Inn. The ground was cleared, and the burr clover, two feet tall, was cut by means of the old fashioned horse-drawn sickle used as a mower. The result was a short nine hole course put into play, called the nine-hole Mashie Course.¹³ The simple pitch and putt course, designed around the existing trees in the old pasture, was enclosed in 1924 by a native stone wall.¹⁴

After a few seasons at the Desert Inn, O'Donnell's and Coffman's friendship, mutual trust, and respect facilitated an advantageous business arrangement. Coffman had wanted to expand and modernize the Desert Inn, using the Spanish Colonial-Revival architecture then in vogue. O'Donnell agreed to loan Coffman the funds, in exchange for her building a house for him and Winifred. William Charles Tanner, the "architectural artist" Coffman had retained to design the new Desert Inn, designed the Thomas O'Donnell House, *Ojo del Desierto*. The National Register-listed 4,100 square foot Spanish Colonial-Revival home remained the highest hillside house in Palm Springs for more than forty years.

Enjoying the design of his beautiful house, situated on nearly half an acre, and still yearning for his daily game of golf, O'Donnell pursued development of his private golf course. Between May and December of 1925, O'Donnell assembled the additional 33.16 acre parcel he needed to build his own private nine-hole golf course.¹⁵ The parcels he sought were directly adjacent to the Desert Inn, as well as to the driveway of *Ojo del Desierto*. The largest section was bought from Palm Springs pioneer P.T. Stevens. While O'Donnell had originally inquired about purchasing several acres to create his own small pitch and putt course, Stevens was only interested in selling a large thirty-acre block.¹⁶ It was a blank slate, an ideal site on which to build a custom course, with a most advantageous setting.

Once O'Donnell had acquired the land, a considerable task lay ahead. O'Donnell had vision, seeing beyond the vast desert terrain with its rolling sand dunes, deep washes, clusters of cacti

¹¹ "400 Attend O'Donnell's Golf Party", *Desert Sun*, April 29, 1938, pg. 8.

¹² "On the Golf Course", *Desert Sun*, December 10, 1937, p.12.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "*Palm Springs Golf*", Larry Bohannon, p. 14, History Press, Charleston, S.C., 2015.

¹⁵ Original deeds are #1098, on 25 May, 1925, recorded 14 May, 1927, book 717, pg. 72, County of Riverside; and #1099, on 21 December, 1925, recorded 14 May, 1927, book 717, pg. 73, County of Riverside, CA. O'Donnell Golf Club brochure, 1967. Palm Springs Historical Society.

¹⁶ "How Golf Came to the Desert", by Mar J. Pohl, *Palm Springs Villager*, March 1952, clipping at the Palm Springs Historical Society.

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and scrub, and dramatic rock formations. With John Kline in charge, rocks and boulders were moved off the site, greasewood and catclaws cleared, and the entire thirty-three acre site was graded. Before modern bulldozers were widely available, especially in a small village like Palm Springs, the most common way to build a site was to first plow the land with a horse-drawn plow. After the plowing was complete, the site was scraped flat with the use of a Fresno Scraper, powered by a team of horses, the scraper resembling a giant steel dustpan.

The first thing O'Donnell did when the site had been cleared and graded was to create an impressive new driveway to his hillside house from Alejo Road (known then as North Road). When *Ojo del Desierto* was completed in 1925, O'Donnell had originally accessed the house from the adjacent Desert Inn. From the service road at the hotel, the steep driveway had a tricky hairpin turn at its base. The monumental new driveway provided a safer and more gradual approach alongside the existing Whitewater ditch, following the contour of the adjacent mountainside, and traversed the entire length of his planned golf course.¹⁷

O'Donnell again commissioned architectural designer William Charles Tanner, this time to build a Gate Lodge at the entrance to the site from Alejo Road. Styled like an Andalusian farmhouse, the Spanish-Colonial Revival building was designed to harmonize with *Ojo del Desierto*, without imitating it. John Kline and his family moved into the Gate Lodge in 1927.

William Charles Tanner

William Charles Tanner (1876-1960) was the son of English immigrants who arrived in Canada in 1875. The family soon immigrated to the United States, ultimately settling in Elgin, Illinois. By the age of seventeen, Tanner found work as an illustrator for Christian children's book publisher David C. Cook Publications.

By 1890 Tanner had moved to Chicago where he met and married Charlotte Mae "Lottie" Whitney, with whom he had two daughters. Tanner studied art in Chicago (1903-1908), Boston (1908-1909), New York (1909-1911), and Paris and Giverny, France (1911-1914). At the age of thirty-eight, Tanner relocated his family to Riverside, California. He is mentioned briefly in Esther Klotz' definitive *The Mission Inn: Its History and Artifacts*, as having loaned paintings to the hotel, which were hung with their collection of Mexican and Spanish paintings.¹⁸ To supplement his income as an artist and art teacher, in 1921 Tanner opened an architectural practice located in Riverside at 624 Main Street. Although the California Architectural Registration Board confirmed that Tanner was never licensed in the State; he is credited with having designed houses in Riverside, as well as workers' cottages for the Southern Sierra Power Company. In 1924, the Tanners moved to Hollywood where he worked as a draftsman in the office of architect G. Vincent Palmer (1902-1992). The twenty-two-year-old Palmer—born in Fabian, Indiana and died in San Bernardino at age ninety—had just completed his Bachelor of Science in Architecture at University of Southern California. He immediately established his practice, employing the forty-two-year-old Tanner as a draftsman, a position Tanner held for thirty-five years. An obituary in the *Los Angeles Times* confirms the death of "architectural artist

¹⁷ "O'Donnell: It Basks in Tradition," *Palm Springs Life*, 1960 Annual, clipping at Palm Springs Historical Society.

¹⁸ Esther Klotz, "*The Mission Inn: Its History and Artifacts*," January, 1993.

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and draftsman” Charles Tanner at the advanced age of eighty-three, in Santa Monica on October 13, 1960.¹⁹ He was survived by Lottie and their daughters.

Although Tanner is credited with the design of several more Spanish Colonial Revival style houses, it is unknown how Tanner managed to transform his education as an American impressionist painter into the skills required to work as a building designer without a formal education or work experience as an architect.

In Palm Springs, Tanner is credited with the design of the Carrie Birge House, later the Ingleside Inn (1922); George Roberson House, later Le Vallauris Restaurant (1924); O’Donnell House *Ojo del Desierto* (1925); and the huge, sprawling reconstruction of the Desert Inn (1922-27, demolished 1966). All four of these projects were designed and built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which between 1920 and 1930 was the dominant style of California architecture. The three extant buildings are locally designated Class 1 Historic Sites.

In 1936, Tanner designed his only non-Spanish Colonial Revival Palm Springs project, the First Community Church, an early modernist design created through a novel use of decorative concrete block. Like Tanner’s other Palm Springs projects, this was designated a local Class 1 Historic Site. Lottie Tanner was the Assistant Chair of the extant Palm Springs Woman’s Club in the 1930s during the time that Mrs. O’Donnell was Chair. Palm Springs City Directories indicate the Tanners maintained a Palm Springs residence in the Los Hacienditas Tract (Movie Colony) from 1935 to 1937.

Alvah Hicks

The builder/contractor of O’Donnell’s *Ojo del Desierto* and the buildings surrounding the golf course was Alvah Hicks (1884-1944). He achieved exceptional importance in his adopted town during his lifetime, and successive generations of his family still reside in Palm Springs. A New Yorker by birth, Hicks moved to Los Angeles in 1912, and the following year resettled in Palm Springs with his wife Theresa and his two small sons, Harold and Milton. The growing village had few skilled carpenters, so the industrious and hardworking Hicks became known for the quality of his work leading to a successful career as a contractor; he soon began investing in desert land. Partnering with Prescott Stevens, the two were amongst the town’s earliest developers, building and selling quality homes. Hicks built about twenty of the area’s most beautiful extant Spanish Colonial Revival houses. The house he built for his family, Villa Theresa at 501 North Belardo Road, became better known as the one-time home of the flamboyant concert pianist Wladsiu Liberace.

By 1940, Thomas O’Donnell’s deteriorating health made climbing stairs at *Ojo del Desierto* difficult. The situation was resolved by the construction of another house—only single story—located on the flat land overlooking his beloved golf course. He commissioned William Charles Tanner to design it, and Alvah Hicks to build it.

¹⁹ Obituary, *Los Angeles Times*, October 13, 1960.

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Following the O'Donnells move to the Golf House, *Ojo del Desierto* was leased and ultimately purchased by the second owners, perfume importers Nathan and Virginia Milnor. Upon Mrs. Milnor's death in the 1970s, the house was acquired by Howard Ahmanson, through his Home Savings and Loan Company as part of the property assembled to build the Desert Fashion Plaza, a downtown shopping center. In 1974, the property was part of a land swap resulting in ownership by the Palm Springs Art Museum, which used it as a painting studio. In 1993, the house was purchased by Ken Shellan, who sold it in 2000 to owners who removed the unsympathetic alterations and restored it.

Timeline:

May-December 1925 O'Donnell acquired 33.16-acre parcel, as well as another parcel for a maintenance yard

1926-27 Land graded and golf course laid out; Gate Lodge built; course landscaped

1927 O'Donnell acquired parcel for private reservoir

1927 Course opened as a private golf course for O'Donnell and his friends

February 1932 Course opened to the public

1932-33 Golf Shop and Third Green Restrooms built

1936 Golf Shop enlarged, and modifications made to several greens and tees

1936 Golf House, O'Donnell's second residence, and Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office built adjacent to golf course

1937 Putting green added

1937 Palm Springs Golf Club incorporated

1943 O'Donnell sold *Ojo del Desierto* and Lots 702 and 47 to Nate and Virginia Milnor and Pat Daugherty

1944 O'Donnell promised golf course as a gift to the city with a 99-year lease

1945 City Council voted to accept the gift, and course became private golf club; Thomas O'Donnell died

1945 Golf House sold by Mrs. O'Donnell to the Milnors, who then sell the house to Pat Dougherty; deed changed for Lot 47 for ownership shared by the Milnors and Dougherty, who used the same driveway

1945 Permit pulled for Golf Shop garage, \$4,100, and an addition to the Golf Shop, \$1,000

1946 Traps added, old ones enlarged and re-shaped; trees and shrubs added

1947 City bought 50 x 1127-foot strip of land adjacent to the course at its northern boundary (Lot 47) along Alejo Road

1954 Electric golf carts introduced

1955 Storage building for electric golf carts added to the Golf Shop, which was remodeled, expanding pro shop

1969 City of Palm Springs acquired Lot 702 (Carriage House) and Lots 688, 689, and 690 (Golf House, turned into Golf Club Clubhouse)

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"The 19th Hole." February 8, 1935, 4.

"400 Attend O'Donnell's Golf Party." April 29, 1938, 8.

"Changes and Improvements to be Made at Desert Golf Course During the Summer." May 1, 1936, 1.

"History of the Thomas O'Donnell Desert Golf Course is Related." February 7, 1941, 8.

"Improvement of Golf Course Seen in Council Action." July 8, 1947, 1.

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- “Last Rites Said at Noon Today for Pioneer Oilman.” February 23, 1945.
- “The Life Story of Nellie N. Coffman, Mother of Palm Springs.” June 16, 1955.
- “O’Donnell Aviary, City Landmark, Dismantled.” July 31, 1952, 1.
- “O’Donnell Gives Golf Course to City.” December 29, 1944, 1.
- “O’Donnell Golf Club, First in City, is Booming.” October 8, 1959, 11.
- “On the Golf Course.” December 10, 1937, 12.
- “Real Golf Course on Desert Makes a Big Hit.” January 25, 1935.
- “Roads Built on O’Donnell Estate; Sites are Leveled.” September 27, 1935, 1.
- “Sun Spots.” April 22, 1938, 4.
- “Swarm of Golfers at O’Donnell Course Brings About New Rules Governing Daily Play.” January 26, 1945, 11.
- “Tom O’Donnell’s Love of Golf Gave Palm Springs Noted Course; Desert Converted into Now Famous Sport Strip.” February 16, 1945, 11.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register [#123860501 O’Donnell, Thomas, House]
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Palm Springs Historic Society, O’Donnell Golf Club, City of Palm Springs, Palm Springs Public Library, Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): #19, City of Palm Springs

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 33.16 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.826944 | Longitude: -116.550025 |
| 2. Latitude: 33.829927 | Longitude: -116.552975 |
| 3. Latitude: 33.829978 | Longitude: -116.548247 |
| 4. Latitude: 33.825826 | Longitude: -116.548228 |

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

The property boundaries are all of Lots 30, 32, 47, 688, 689, 690, and 702, as illustrated on Assessor's Map, Book 513, Page 7, in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. Assessor's Parcel Number 513-070-009.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those of the 33.16-acre parcel acquired by Thomas O'Donnell in 1925.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Secoy Jensen, Architect, AIA, M.Arch., with Steven Keylon

organization: Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

street & number: 160 South Cypress Street

city or town: Orange state: CA zip code: 92866

e-mail: susan@secoyarchitects.com

telephone: (714) 639-4367

date: January 2020; Revised April 2020, May 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Desert Golf Course
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
State: California
Photographer: Susan Secoy Jensen
Date Photographed: October-November 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 35 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking northwest
- 2 of 35 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking west
- 3 of 35 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking northeast
- 4 of 35 Gate Lodge and addition, looking northeast
- 5 of 35 Gate Lodge, looking north
- 6 of 35 Gate Lodge, looking south
- 7 of 35 Gate Lodge, looking southeast
- 8 of 35 Third Green Restrooms, looking southwest
- 9 of 35 Third Green Restrooms roof, looking northwest
- 10 of 35 Third Green Restrooms, looking west
- 11 of 35 Golf Shop, looking southeast
- 12 of 35 Golf Shop, looking northeast
- 13 of 35 Golf Shop, looking northeast, window detail

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- 14 of 35 Golf Shop, looking northeast
- 15 of 35 Golf Shop, looking northeast, eave detail
- 16 of 35 Golf House, looking northwest
- 17 of 35 Golf House, looking west, window detail
- 18 of 35 Golf House, looking southwest
- 19 of 35 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking west
- 20 of 35 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking northwest
- 21 of 35 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking south
- 22 of 35 Golf House, looking southwest
- 23 of 35 Golf House, interior, looking north
- 24 of 35 Golf House, interior, looking south
- 25 of 35 Fairway #2, looking east
- 26 of 35 Fairway #2, looking southwest
- 27 of 35 Fairway #2, looking northwest, towards Gate Lodge
- 28 of 35 Fairway #6, one of the longest fairways, looking south, near tee
- 29 of 35 Fairway #6, looking north
- 30 of 35 Fairway #6, looking south near putting green
- 31 of 35 Fairway #8, looking west, towards Golf House
- 32 of 35 Fairway #8, looking east, towards Golf Shop
- 33 of 35 Fairway #9, looking north
- 34 of 35 Green #9, O'Donnell marker, looking northwest
- 35 of 35 Fairway #5, looking north, towards Gate Lodge

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Location Map

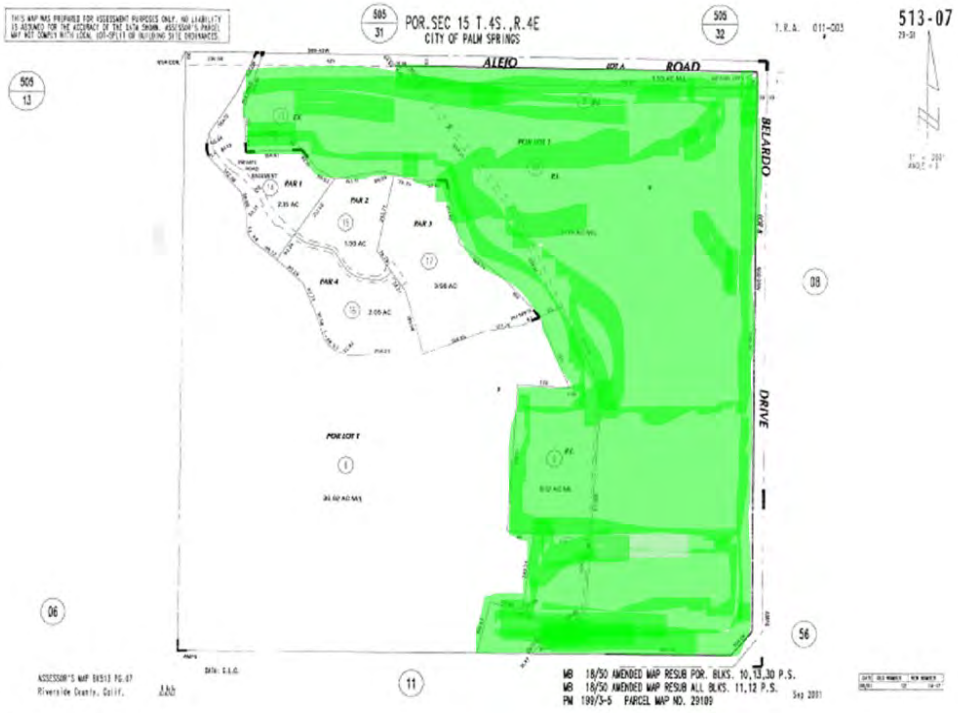
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| 2. Latitude: 33.829927 | Longitude: -116.552975 |
| 3. Latitude: 33.829978 | Longitude: -116.548247 |
| 4. Latitude: 33.825826 | Longitude: -116.548228 |



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Site Map (City of Palm Springs)



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Sketch Map (Buildings)

- A. Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment (1925)
- B. Gate Lodge (1926)
- C. Third Green Restrooms (1933)
- D. Golf Shop (1933)
- E. Golf House (1936)
- F. Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office (1936)



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Photo Key 1 of 6—Carriage House/Chauffer’s Apartment (A)



Photo Key 2 of 6—Gate Lodge (B)



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Photo Key 3 of 6—Third Green Restrooms (C)



Photo Key 4 of 6—Golf Shop (D)



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Photo Key 5 of 6—Golf House (E) and Dr. Winifred O’Donnell’s Office (F)



Photo Key 6 of 6—Golf Course (G)



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Figure 1 Gate Lodge Alterations (Google Map, annotated by author, 2019)



Figure 2 Golf Shop Alterations (Google Map, annotated by author, 2019)



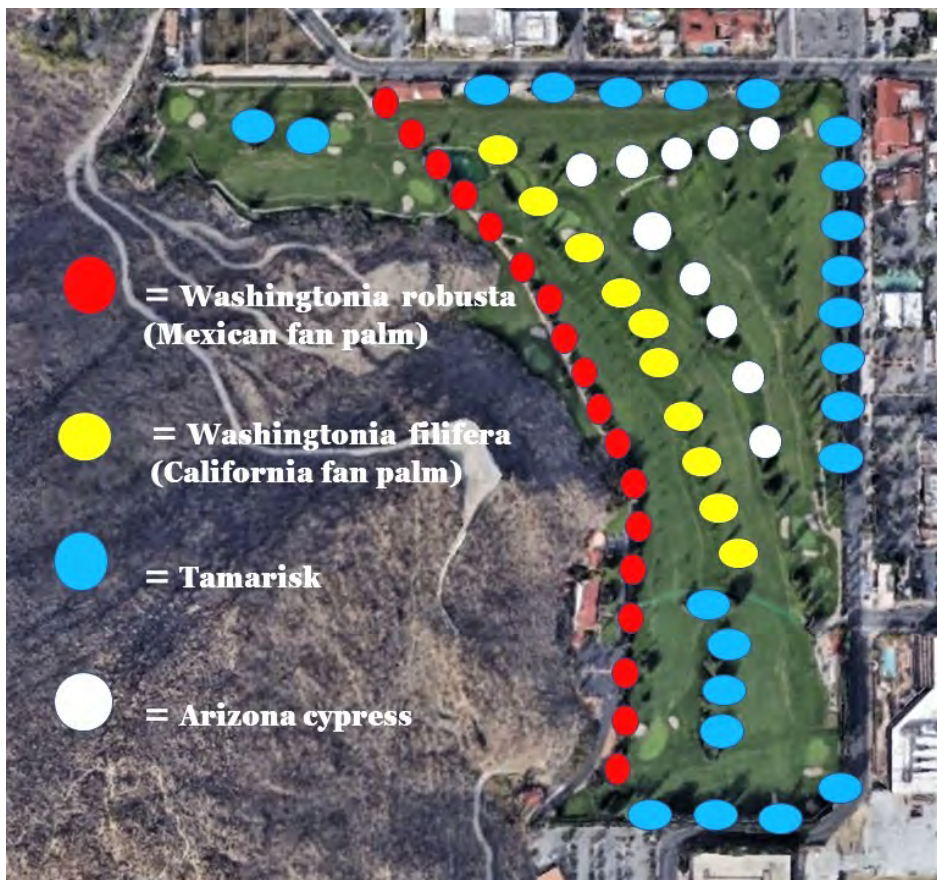
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Figure 3 Golf House Alterations—Aviary and Service Wing Removed (Google Map, annotated by author, 2019)



Figure 4 Landscape Plan 2019 (Google Map, annotated by author, 2019)



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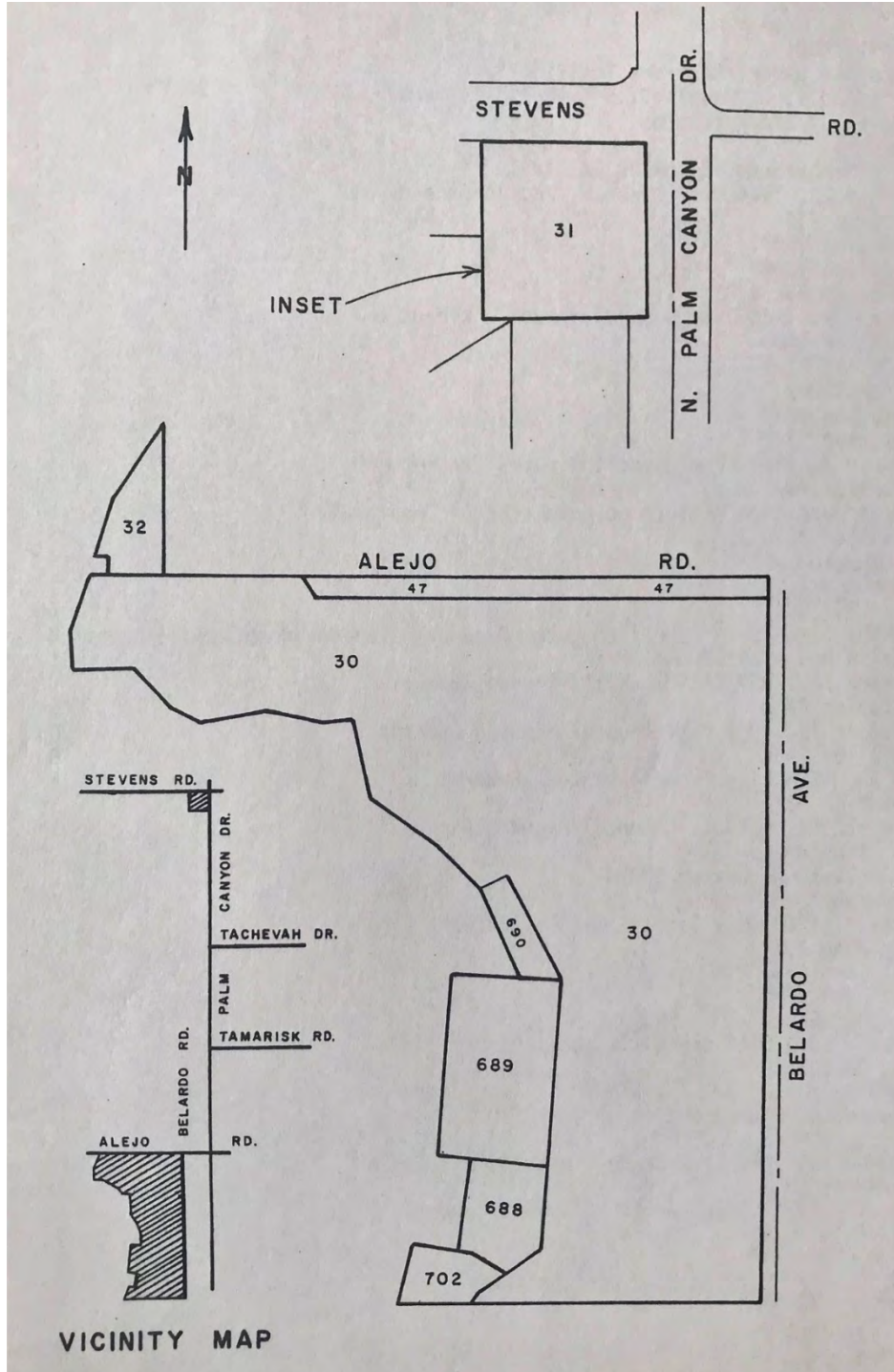
Figure 5 Fairway and Green Layout, Nine-Hole Course (Google Map, annotated by author, 2019)



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Figure 6 Vicinity Map and Parcels, 1977. From report commissioned by the City of Palm Springs to understand the terms of the O'Donnell gift to the City.



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Figure 7 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, 1925, O'Donnell in front of his Cadillac, watching stonemasons building the road to *Ojo del Desierto*, photographer unknown



Figure 8 Winifred and Thomas O'Donnell, circa 1925, photographer unknown; O'Donnell family tree, Ancestry.com



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Figure 9 Looking north towards Gate Lodge, 1926, Gayle's Studio; courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society



Figure 10 Thomas O'Donnell, circa 1935, Gayle's Studio; courtesy Tracy Conrad Archives



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Figure 11 Looking southeast over Golf House, Golf Course, and Palm Springs, including adjacent Desert Inn, adjoining the southerly property line, circa 1935; postcard



Figure 12 Looking south at Ninth Hole, Golf Shop beyond, circa 1935, photographer unknown; courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society



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Figure 13 Looking southwest towards Golf House, 1936, photographer unknown; courtesy Tracy Conrad Archives



Figure 14 Advertisement, December 3, 1937, *Desert Sun*

An advertisement for golf clubs. At the top, there is a detailed illustration of a set of golf clubs, including several irons, a putter, and a driver. Below the illustration, the text reads: "The Finest Gift for Any Golfer", "A Set of", "GOLF CLUBS". Below this, there is a bullet point: "● We Have a Complete Line of GOLF SUPPLIES". At the bottom, the text reads: "THE DESERT GOLF CLUB", "At the East End of Amado Road".

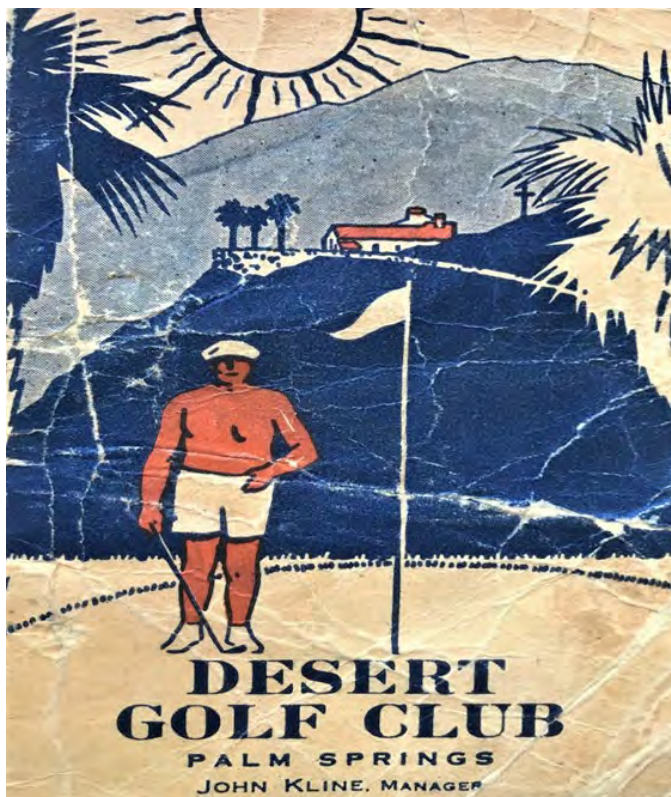
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Figure 15 Gate Lodge left of driveway; long rows of tamarisks, palms and Arizona cypress; Third, Fourth, and Fifth Holes at right, looking southeast, circa 1938, photographer unknown; courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society



Figure 16 Cover of early scorecard, circa 1940; O'Donnell, who often played wearing little more than shorts and a hat, is depicted on his nine-hole course, with his hillside residence, *Ojo del Desierto*, above him



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Figure 17 Looking northwest towards Gate Lodge, 1948 (building was leased to newly formed Committee of Twenty-Five); courtesy *Palm Springs Villager*

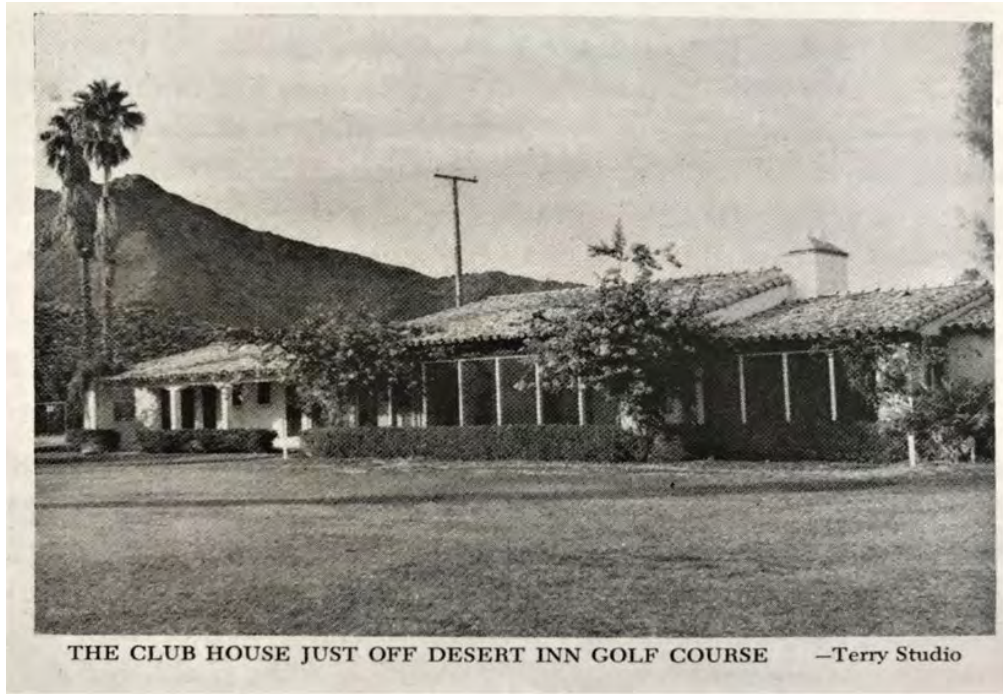


Figure 18 Looking southeast at Golf Shop, after garages were added to store electric golf carts, 1955, photographer unknown; courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society



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Figure 19 Looking southeast over Golf House and Golf Course, before south wing demolished for parking, circa 1955; postcard



Figure 20 Looking southeast over Golf House and parking lot, which replaced the aviary, circa 1975, photographer unknown; courtesy Palm Springs Historical Society



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Photo 1 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking northwest



Photo 2 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking west



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Photo 3 Carriage House/Chauffeur's Apartment, looking northeast



Photo 4 Gate Lodge and addition, looking northeast



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Photo 5 Gate Lodge, looking north



Photo 6 Gate Lodge, looking south



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Photo 7 Gate Lodge, looking southeast



Photo 8 Third Green Restrooms, looking southwest



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Photo 9 Third Green Restrooms roof, looking northwest



Photo 10 Third Green Restrooms, looking west



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Photo 11 Golf Shop, looking southeast



Photo 12 Golf Shop, looking northeast



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Photo 13 Golf Shop, looking northeast, window detail



Photo 14 Golf Shop, looking northeast



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Photo 15 Golf Shop, looking northeast, eave detail



Photo 16 Golf House, looking northwest



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Photo 17 Golf House, looking west, window detail



Photo 18 Golf House, looking southwest



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Photo 19 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking west



Photo 20 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking northwest



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Photo 21 Dr. Winifred O'Donnell's Office, looking south



Photo 22 Golf House, looking southwest



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Photo 23 Golf House, interior, looking north



Photo 24 Golf House, interior, looking south



Desert Golf Course
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Photo 25 Fairway #2, looking east



Photo 26 Fairway #2, looking southwest



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Photo 27 Fairway #2, looking northwest, towards Gate Lodge



Photo 28 Fairway #6, one of the longest fairways, looking south, near tee



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Photo 29 Fairway #6, looking north



Photo 30 Fairway #6, looking south near putting green



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Photo 31 Fairway #8, looking west, towards Golf House



Photo 32 Fairway #8, looking east, towards Golf Shop



Desert Golf Course
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Photo 33 Fairway #9, looking north



Photo 34 Green #9, O'Donnell marker, looking northwest



Desert Golf Course
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Photo 35 Fairway #5, looking north, towards Gate Lodge

