

Did You Know?

Glebe Road

A glebe was a piece of public land set aside in colonial times for the support of the established Anglican Church. According to the web-site “Ghosts of DC” (ghostsofdc.org) “(Glebe Road) dates back to at least the mid-18th century and initially was known as the “Road to the Falls” taking travelers from Alexandria to Great Falls. The road also linked the glebe lands of The Falls Church and Christ Church and eventually became known as Glebe Road.” The name may have also been derived from the proximity of the road to The Glebe, an historic house (4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA) built in 1815 which served as the house of the Fairfax Parish glebe (originally 500 acres). At the time ANCC was founded, the route of Glebe Road made two 90 degree turns along the southern boundary of our property, essentially following today’s 24th Road South and Shirlington Road. In 1949 the Club lost 4.597 acres to facilitate the straightening of Glebe Road. This land condemnation resulted changes to holes #15 and #16 (today’s White #6 and White #7).

The loss of the 4.597 acres (for which the Club was compensated \$79,282.25) forced the reconfiguration of the golf course. We know of two re-routing plans. One plan was submitted by J.B. McGovern, Donald Ross’s principal associate, in May 1944 (less than one month after Ross’s death) and called for changes to seven holes. The second (undated) plan was submitted by Robert Trent Jones and called for changes to four holes. In the end, neither plan was adopted with the Club limiting the changes to the two holes directly affected by the condemnation. Hole #15 (White #6) was shortened from 447 to 321 yards (the original green was located across Glebe Road on land now occupied The Harlowe Apartments). Hole #16 (White #7, a.k.a. “The Eisenhower Hole”) saw its tee move from a position across today’s Glebe Road to its current position. If one considers the configuration of White #7’s fairway, one can see that the hole was designed for a tee in the original position.

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