



NHL Executive Summary



Name of Property:	Winged Foot Golf Club
City, State:	Mamaroneck, New York
Period of Significance:	1922–1929
NHL Criterion:	4
NHL Theme:	III. Expressing Cultural Values; 5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
Previous Recognition:	National Register of Historic Places, May 7, 2019 (100004089)

National Historic Context: N/A

NHL Significance:

- Designed by golf architect A. W. Tillinghast, Winged Foot Golf Club embodies the distinctive characteristics of the strategic school of golf course design, a hallmark of the Golden Age of course construction, which extended roughly from the turn of the twentieth century to the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- Tillinghast is recognized as a master golf architect whose career, although relatively short, had an outsized impact on the philosophy of golf course design. Tillinghast published on the subject of course design in both popular and trade publications.



- Winged Foot embodies Tillinghast’s philosophy of providing options for each hole – risk versus reward – through careful placement of hazards and by creating sightlines that suggest alternative pathways between tee and green. Tillinghast was known for use of high-sided bunkers and subtly contoured greens.
- The two eighteen-hole courses at Winged Foot Golf Club are seen by many as the ultimate expression of Tillinghast’s career. The courses’ reputation as a true test of the game has stood the test of time. Winged Foot hosted many national championships beginning in 1929 and most recently in 2020.
- Golf periodicals and publications consistently rank the two courses at Winged Foot among the best courses in the United States, with the West Course consistently in the top ten.
- The two courses wrap around the clubhouse, designed by noted architect Clifford Wendehack. Wendehack and Tillinghast worked together to create a harmonious relationship between the course and the clubhouse.

Integrity:

- The courses have a high degree of historic integrity. As landscapes, they have changed over the years as advances in turf management and maintenance have led to the ability to create a more manicured appearance. Nevertheless, the courses exemplify Tillinghast’s design intent and retain the character-defining features of his philosophy of course design.
- The club was recently “restored” to Tillinghast’s original design, from green contours to bunker shape and profile. Advances in golf equipment technology necessitated changes to the physical layout of some aspects of the courses in order to maintain the design intent. Because of these advances, hazards such as bunkers that were in play in Tillinghast’s time and that formed part of the strategy of course play were no longer a factor. The restored design intent necessitated moving and re-creating these obstacles for modern play.
- The clubhouse complex has grown by accretion, but still retains a high degree of design integrity. Interior and exterior materials, circulation patterns, layout, and uses are intact.
- Intrusions such as service facilities and the pool complex are sited along the periphery of the property and do not impact the courses or their design. Amenities on the courses such as shelters are small and unobtrusive and do not impact the integrity of design.

Owner of Property: Winged Foot Golf Club, C/O Board of Governors, Robert Williams III, President

Acreage of Property: 280

Origins of Nomination: Public (owner) inquiry.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

Owners are supportive of the nomination.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

None known.



Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 12, 2024):

- Gilbert S. Hanse, President, Hanse Golf Course Design
- John Pritts, Historian, Village of Mamaroneck, NJ
- James G. Rogers III, former president, Yale Golf Association
- R. Daniel Mackay, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Identify Warren Manning as the primary landscape architect of the Pinehurst resort.
- Clarify how many clubhouses in South America Wendehack designed.
- Strengthen and expand paragraphs on golf culture and patterns of discrimination. Identify when professional golf organizations that played at Winged Foot began allowing non-White golfers to compete and provide context on professional golfers of color competing in tournaments at private clubs such as Winged Foot that denied them membership because of their race.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior designation of Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, as a National Historic Landmark with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation:

The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, as a National Historic Landmark.