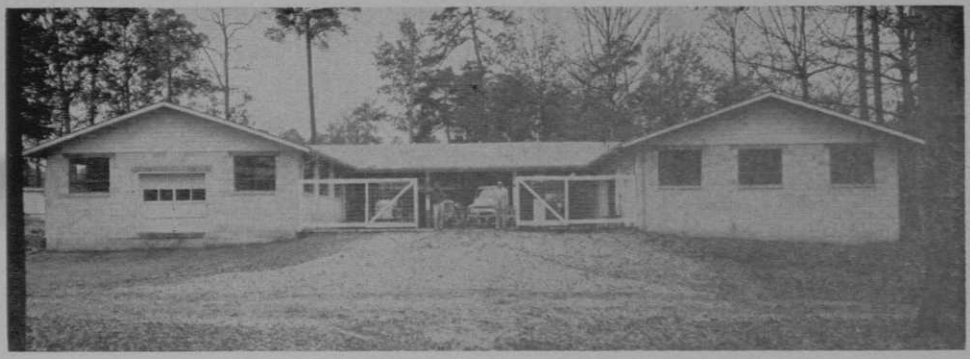


Planned to make work faster, better and more economical, and to keep equipment operating well, this new maintenance headquarters at Druid Hills, also is a great visual improvement over the old patched-together barn. At left is Everitt A. (Sarge) Shields, the club's course superintendent, and at right, Armand C. Chapeau, Druid Hills' general manager.

Druid Hills Builds for Modern Maintenance

By E. A. SHIELDS
Supt., Druid Hills Golf Club, Atlanta, Ga.

COURSE superintendents, far more than club officials, realize it would be utterly impossible to keep courses up to desired condition and stay within a reasonable budget if machinery hadn't replaced manual labor to a great extent in course maintenance.

Machine maintenance has been a life-saver to American golf.

If we had to pay today's wages for as much manual work as was done on a good golf course 20 years ago very few clubs could afford such expense. And the old results of maintenance work mainly by manual labor wouldn't be acceptable to golfers now accustomed to the uniform high quality of machine work.

The progress to machine maintenance isn't clearly enough recognized by club officials and players generally. And that, I believe, is the reason for the continued unsatisfactory and costly use of so many patched-together old sheds as course maintenance headquarters.

Officials See Need

Our club presents an excellent example of what great advance in efficient operation can be made when officials become keenly aware of modern requirements.

Druid Hills now has probably the model set-up of course maintenance buildings. The cost was surprisingly moderate, about $13,000 for the equipment building and a separate soil processing shed. As in many cases when any phase of course costs are considered, this $13,000 figure possibly is one that can mislead. Bids for the construction ranged from $21,000 to $23,000.

Our gen. mgr., Armand C. Chapeau, became, in a way, general contractor for the job, hired a building construction supt., handled the material buying and payrolls, and came out with the $13,000 cost.

The improvement, in every respect, has been most welcome.

The old barn is no more. The hedge rows, undergrowth and shrubbery have been pruned down so everyone can see our new buildings. There is no further need to hide the "barn" as an unsightly eye sore!

We are all very proud of our new buildings, and believe that the more efficient operation as a whole made possible by these maintenance buildings will compensate many times in savings for our club.

For Mules, Not Machinery

The old barn was inherited with the property when the club was organized in 1910. The building was erected about

1890 and was the logical place for the mules and what little equipment that was needed in those days.

Each succeeding superintendent had his ideas as to what could be done to the old building to make it fit his requirements.

There was no shop for repairing our equipment. By putting the tractor outdoors we could utilize tractor storage space for mechanical work. Rainy day work was at a minimum. It was impossible to keep dry under the leaky roof. The rafters were too rotten for economical repair. Our only fire was an oil can that was in the old blacksmith shop. Toilet and shower facilities were nil.

Hope Long Deferred

When I went to work for Druid Hills the Green chairman at that time was most optimistic about our chances of getting needed facilities. The club had been having its troubles during the war years but had initiated a long range building program. Adequate facilities and equipment would be forthcoming, my chairman hoped.

In the eight years that followed, many improvements were made about the club and we received reasonably adequate maintenance equipment but the maintenance building was still on the table.

However, in June, 1954, our general manager told me there was a possibility of a new building being approved and suggested I start putting some of my ideas on paper — just in case.

Looking Ahead

This I did, keeping in mind economy and practicality yet endeavoring to anticipate future needs so the building would be adequate for years to come.

The Board of Directors approved plans as submitted in early July, and called for bids. At a special meeting immediate construction was authorized. Within six weeks we had moved into the new buildings and this winter are getting our shelving and storage problems worked out.

To my way of reasoning, 5000 sq. ft. of floor space will be adequate for maintenance and storage requirements for years to come as our soil building is independent from the main building.

Most of our inside work will be done in the north wing which is sealed, heated, and has a floor space of approximately 30 ft. by 56 ft. The shop area is approximately 20 ft. by 34 ft. and can be entered from either north or south by overhead doors.

Tools are stored in an area by the south door — hand tools on one side and shovels and long handled implements on the other. These storage areas have racks and are the answer to convenient and safe storage where they can be seen and inspected.

Interior of the shop. In the room to the right is Shields' office. Note tool storage to the right of the main door. This view was taken Saturday noon when equipment was outdoors.

My office, 9 ft. by 11 ft., is in the east corner of the shop area.

Conveniences for Employees

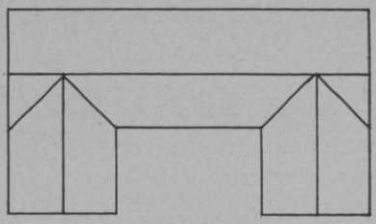
The men's locker room, toilets and shower facilities are also in this section. Their room opens from the storage yard through the shop and tool storage areas.

The remaining room in this wing of approximately 20 ft. by 20 ft. is for greens mower storage, pipe work and painting. In one section of this wing we have a space for miscellaneous small storage, which is shelved to the ceiling on both sides of the 9 ft. by 13 ft. area.

The general storage section is approximately 40 ft. by 30 ft., opens from the storage yard which is approximately 40 ft. by 26 ft. The storage shed is roofed, whereas the yard area is not.

The general storage has a solid wall in the back with a 2 ft. by 40 ft. ventilation of ¼ in. mesh hardware cloth. There are no windows in this section and doors to every room in the building open into this shed area.

We can go throughout the entire building in inclement weather without leaving shelter. Our gas pump and tool wash rack are the only stationary things in the outside storage yard. As you can see in the picture the yard section is fenced, and



ROOF PLAN

WINDOW SCHEDULE

A = 3'-4" X 4'-6"
B = 3'-0" X 2'-0" TRANSOM SASH

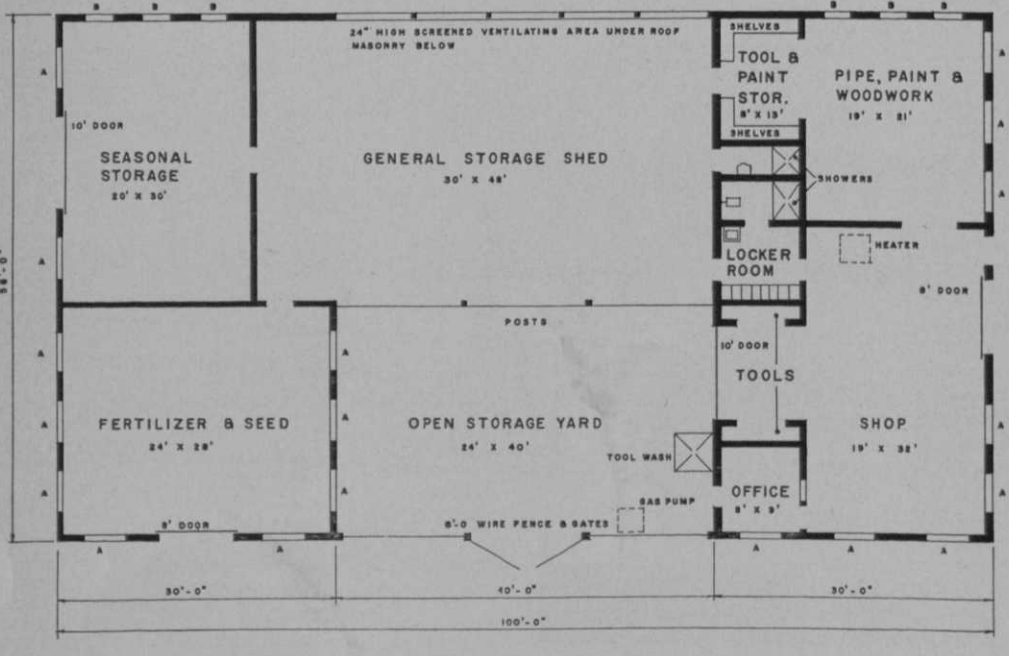
NOTES:

8" CONCRETE BLOCK WALLS
4" CONCRETE FLOORS
210 LB. ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOF
TRUSSED ROOF

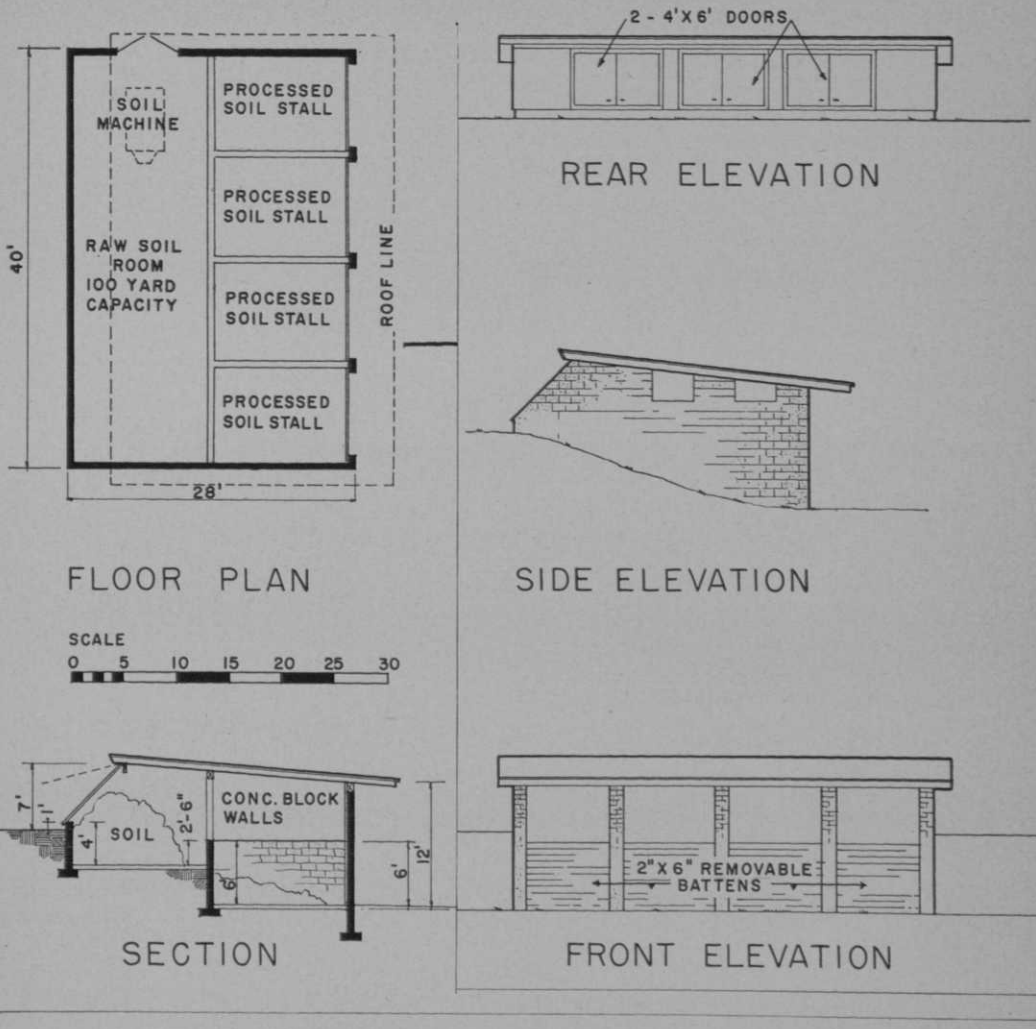
SCALE

0' 5' 10' 15' 20' 25' 30'

Plans of the Druid Hills course maintenance headquarters building and the soil processing plant on the opposite page show all details carefully considered for modern operating conditions.



FLOOR PLAN



everything within the fence and building has concrete floors.

The south wing section has two rooms. The east one is approximately 26 ft. by 30 ft. and is used for fertilizer, seed, lime, fungicides, etc. By keeping the above-named materials away from our motors and equipment I hope to minimize oxidation. This room has an 8 ft. overhead door that opens to the east, and is graded down to truck level for easier loading and unloading. The remaining room in this wing is approximately 20 ft. by 30 ft. and will be used for storage of seasonal equipment and a garage in cold weather.

Separate Building for Soil

Our second building is for soil processing and soil storage. It is the answer to a superintendent's prayer in many ways.

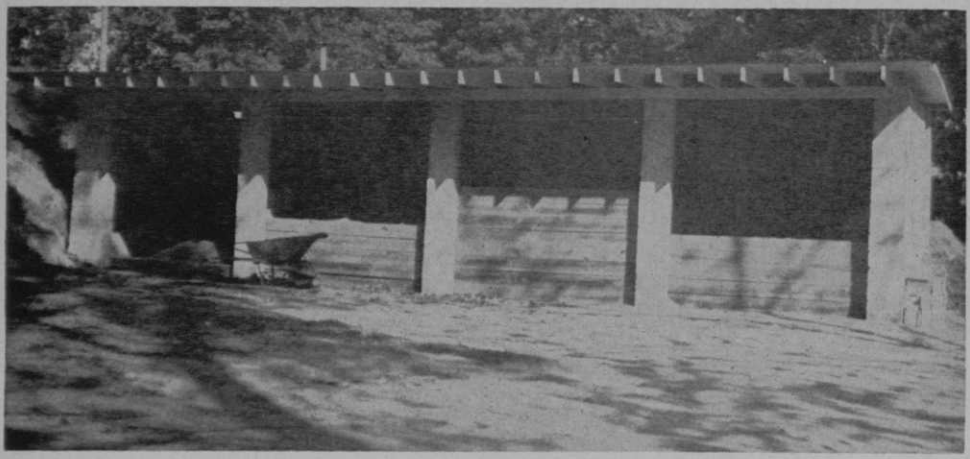
In planning this building I hoped to eliminate a highroofed building that is necessary for dump trucks. Also, I wanted the soil where we could get to it without having to move it three or four times within the building.

I did not want a soil processing room to be jammed in with the shop, or used as a catch-all or garage.

Our raw soil storage is 13 ft. by 35 ft. with capacity of 100 yds.

We have three sets of swinging trap doors for dumping raw soil into the sifting room. (See drawing for particulars.) After soil is sifted it goes to a lower level of four bins of approximately 6 ft. by 9 ft. by 11 ft., which have a capacity of about 100 yds. of finished topsoil mixtures.

This building has cement floors, cinder



Back of the soil processing building, showing the four compartments for processed soil.

block walls, tar paper roof. I hope to be able to MC-2 my soils, all transferring being done with the back end loader on the tractor. We use a Converse, with ½ hp motor for our power. The soil screening operation is speeded up about a third with two less men doing the work.

What Is Gained

It is my hope that in writing this I might aid some other superintendent in acquiring adequate maintenance facilities. It is just not good business to own several thousand dollars worth of course equipment and not have proper storage and maintenance facilities to take care of it. A goodly portion of the equipment

Front of soil processing building, photographed prior to finishing of road areas. The trap doors are for receiving the dumped raw soil.

is seasonal and will deteriorate more rapidly when idle than when being actively used.

In planning these buildings I tried to allow:

Room for proper maintenance and storage of all foreseeable golf course maintenance;

A separate soil building so that dust and grime accumulation in machinery will be minimized;

Fertilizer storage away from equipment storage so as to minimize oxidation;

And buildings that are not unsightly, but which will fit into the landscape and be a source of beauty and pride to the club.

Druid Hills has been most fortunate in the post war years in that it has continued to move forward under the able leadership of progressive men who have served and now are serving on the board of directors, elected officers who are farsighted in their vision of the club's future, a manager who is co-operative and a credit to his profession, and a pro efficient in the handling of his part of the club's operation.

We are most thankful to all those who had a part in making our maintenance buildings become a reality.

Liberty, N. Y. in its Sullivan County G&CC, claims the most beautiful 9-hole course in the world. The course is a little longer than 3,000 yds., situated in a plateau about 1500 ft. high and surrounded by hills. A wandering brook makes tee shots and approaches interesting. Several tees are elevated. Greens are in excellent condition at all times. Scenic vistas abound.

Casual survey of a newspaper golf writer had golfers giving as reasons for slow play: tee markers too far back for majority of golfers, holes in difficult positions for same class, and double-caddying.