

The Life and Work of Wayne Stiles



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Foreword by Geoffrey Cornish

North Haven Golf Club



North Haven, ME

Established 1916

Stiles & Van
Kleek, new 9, 1925

9 holes

The North Haven Golf Club is quite possibly the most intact of the 72 Stiles courses that still exist. Its location on an island in Penobscot Bay has kept it relatively inaccessible, but the trip is well worth taking. The original clubhouse sits besides the present fourth tee, formerly the first hole.

Golf was formalized on the island in 1916 when the club was first organized. The site of the former Oren Waterman farm was purchased and the newly formed Club took out a mortgage for \$15,000 to construct the clubhouse and improve the grounds. That was a considerable sum in those days, but the expense was clearly well worth it.

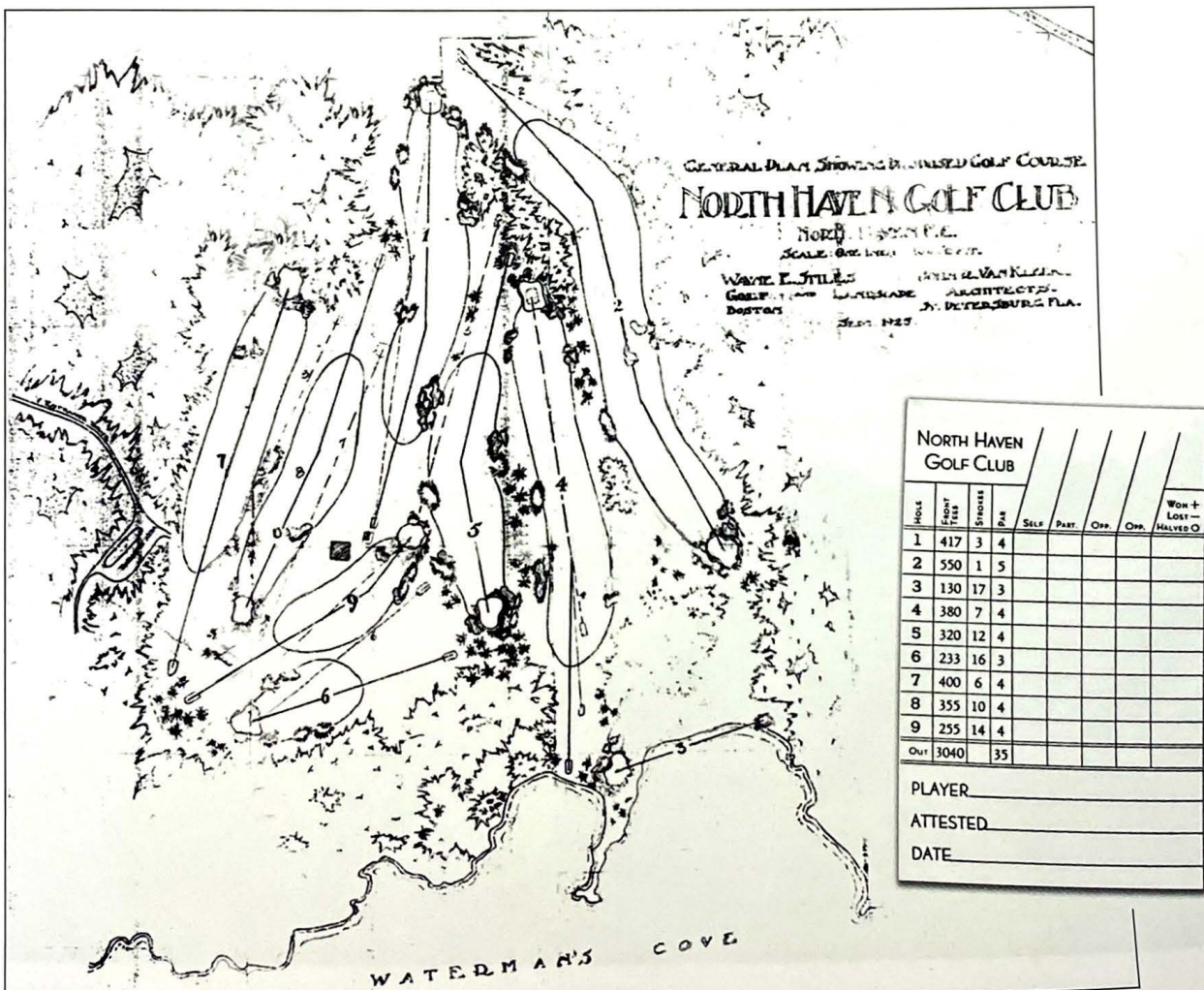
When Stiles visited the island, he found an existing 9-hole course that dated back to 1914; architect unknown. Stiles was able to incorporate almost all the terrain he found into his layout, and was able to use additional land to design the wonderful par-3 sixth hole playing across a portion of Waterman's Cove. He combined two holes into what is now the fifth hole. The course routing as set out in Stiles' 1925 plan is intact, although some bunkers have been removed.



In 1993, Wes Newman and Amber Quinn took over management of the course, and they have maintained this island gem in classic fashion. When they arrived, the entire property had been mown to fairway length. This may have been what the course looked like in its early days, but its presentation today is a model for what short courses can be. There is a timeless quality to the course that can only be found in those rare places where change for the sake of change is not valued. Stepping off the ferry is like stepping into another world without the internet or cell phones. Throughout its history the summer enclave has seen its share of well known golfers who have served in various capacities for the club. Among those names can be found a Cabot, a Saltonstall or two, a Pingree and even John D. Rockefeller 3rd.

An old cemetery sits near the fourth tee and no doubt its inhabitants, if they were golfers, would recognize much of the course that exists today. Elevated greens with false fronts, stone walls and ocean breezes abound. The approach to the seventh green is vintage Stiles with a left to right slope for the approach protected by a bunker. The green sloping that same direction adds to the challenge and the Stiles greenside mounding carries onto the putting surface. No visit to Maine would be complete without playing, and perhaps just enjoying the view from the tee on the classic oceanfront sixth hole. In the early 1970s the hole was listed as one of the outstanding par threes in the country by *Sports Illustrated*.

Though the routing has not changed since this 1925 map, the holes have been renumbered.





*Above: Shaggy mounds cradle the first green.
Right and below: Two views of the stunning waterside sixth at the North Haven Golf Club.*

