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Golf Course Graveyards Part 2
By
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What Club Would You Hit?

As I said in "Golf Course Graveyards Part 1," over the years I've had the opportunity to play and photograph many golf courses. Unfortunately, some of the golf courses in question have closed.

In Part 1, I covered Virginia Oaks in Gainesville, VA, and Canon Ridge in Fredericksburg, VA.





Here are other golf courses that I have photographed that are now closed.

The Colonial Golf Course



When the Colonial golf course in Torrington, VA, opened in 1995, it was the first upscale daily-fee golf course in the Williamsburg, Virginia, area. Being the new kid on the block, the golf course got immediate attention from the national and area golf magazines. In the January 1996

issue, Golf Magazine rated it one of Virginia's ten best golf courses. Golf Digest rated it one of the ten best courses anyone (fee-paying) can play.



After the initial attention, reality raised its ugly head. It was easy to get a tee time because, being so far off the beaten path, it wasn't busy. The lack of play meant the Colonial Golf Club encountered many problems. Quickly, Colonial Golf Course ran into financial difficulties. The original owner was removed, and loan payments stopped, forcing the bank to take over the property. Colonial Golf Course closed in 2012.

Virginia National



Virginia National is located on the banks of the Shenandoah River and complemented by breathtaking views of the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bluemont, VA. Designed by golf architect Jerry Matthews, it features a par-3 from which, on a clear day, you can see standing in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Virginia National is another victim of the economic challenges faced by many golf courses during the 2008 recession. Golfers could not afford to play golf. Virginia held on until 2012 when it closed. Shenandoah University purchased the land to expand its campus with athletic fields and a park to honor the place's history.



Source -

Virginia National Golf Club's Transformation: From Golf Course to Shenandoah University Site & Civil War Memorial

Buene Vista



"Location, location, location" is an old real estate saying that was the problem with Vista Links Golf Course in Buena Vista, Virginia. is a few miles off I-81 in the Southwest section of Virginia. At 6,855 yards, this was a gem carved over rolling slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains by designer Rick Jacobs.

The digital paintings of the 4th hole is called "the Old Barn." As the signature hole of the golf course, it's not long, only 334 yards from the tips, but routed across a ravine to a generous green framed by an old barn in the background; this hole offers several options off the tee that will make you think.

Because it was so far off the beaten track, it never got the play it deserved. When economic pressures arose due to the 2008 recession, Vista Links Golf Course permanently closed. The city officially retired the municipal course and resolved its long-standing construction debts.

This column, digital paintings, and photograph were adapted from a chapter in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the Golf Photography Gallery Section of pbsstudios.com

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings in the series based on photographed golf holes.

Give me a like and leave a comment. Let me know what you think about the series.

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