

Maxwell Course Closing at Cushing - J. Kelly

Buffalo Rock Golf and Gun Club, (1927 Maxwell designed 9 holes) recently posted to Facebook that December 30 2018, would be their last day in operation. This a few months after owner David Hough unexpectedly passed away due to an accident at his home.

Until 2014 the course was owned and operated as the Cushing Country Club. Hough bought the property in part because of his dedication to the grounds but also in hopes that its proximity to Cushing, a major player in the oil pipeline industry, would provide opportunity for travelers to have a play a golden age course.

Several holes on the course are worthy of study as they show tendencies Maxwell frequently employed.

Let's start with #1, a par five. The tee box is a few steps from the pro shop doors. Large restaurant windows also allow dinners to see how players handle the downhill, dogleg left tee shot. A creek bisects the fairway at 275 yards. While the odd tree on the second shot seems to get the most attention, the terrain on this hole is a more common element of Maxwell design: Downhill lie to a target sitting uphill from the player. For example, he laid out holes with similar elevation challenges at Old Town (#1), Southern Hills (#18), and Muskogee (#10). Even for talented players this situation demands a well struck ball. The green at one time was 45 yards closer to the tee. One might wonder if Perry intended this hole to be a difficult par four without a tree obscuring the green.

Hole #8 shows how Maxwell used natural features and designed challenging doglegs. Again, the same creek we saw on #1 cuts through this fairway. If you can place a draw around the tree on the left and challenge the creek you are rewarded with a mid to short iron. If you choose to play safe to the right, you have plenty of room, though face 180-200 yards uphill into the prevailing wind.





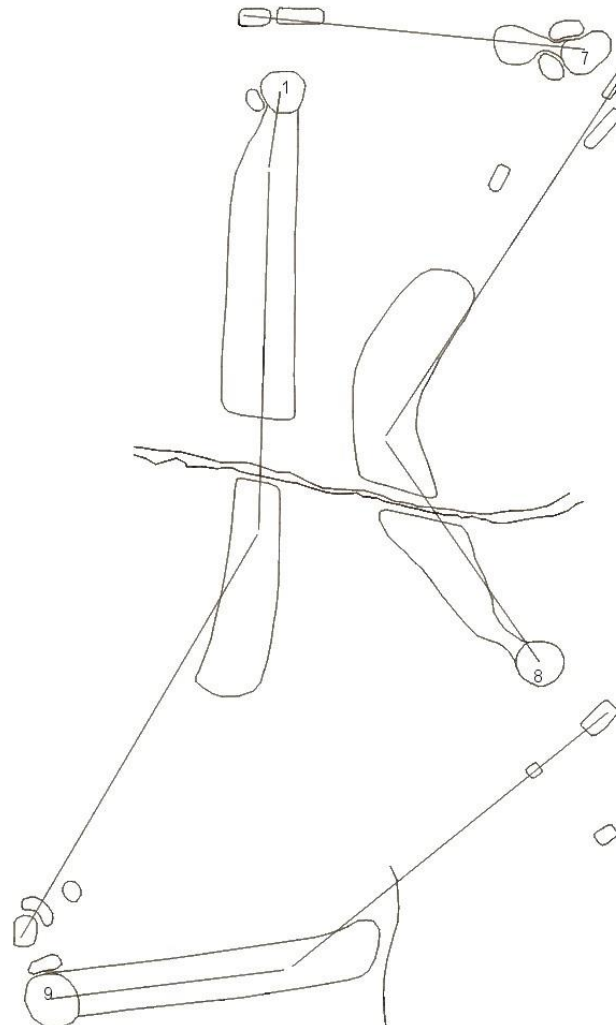
#9 has classic Maxwell finishing hole written all over it, though this one not as brutal in length. Players drive over a valley to a landing area that begins to bend right. Though second shots usually range from 90-140 yards, due to the hole playing 45 feet uphill from tee to green these shots play significantly longer. It's a great walk to a blind putting surface in which player's wonder how well they judged the distance. The green sits steps from the clubhouse and the first tee.

When these holes are played with the par three seventh, it creates a four hole loop that's perfect for settling bets or just to

get in a few more holes. This is another trademark of Maxwell, 3 or 4 hole loops that return to the clubhouse.

Labron Harris Sr designed the second nine, some tree removal would certainly help this side. The terrain is excellent, maybe even more interesting than the front. A drivable 17th has plenty of room to layup, but those tempted face a fairway that vaults shots into the canyon right of the green.

The course overall is a stand out in the state in relation to its surrounding population density. The 9 holer at Drumright also recently shut down, this community will be very underserved. The closing asks questions such as how to promote the game in rural areas - how to promote the value and legacy of Maxwell that incites travelers to visit these locations - and business practices that balance operational costs with design integrity? While the property's future is uncertain, hopefully another owner or municipality will step up to continue nearly 100 years of history



Cushing Four Hole Loop - #1, #7, #8, #9.