Mount Airy Fairgrounds

The Virginia-Carolina Fairgrounds, also called the Mount Airy Fairgrounds, held an annual county fair since the early 1900s. Displays of farm equipment, produce, fruit, baked and canned goods, handicrafts, art work, farm animals, cattle, horse shows and races, games and entertainment, educational exhibits and contests were all a part of this popular event. At the 1919 fair, a military exhibit was presented featuring machine and field guns, army shoes, and war implements used by the Germans along with a huge display of posters explaining the advantages of being in the Army. Local soldiers were on hand to give demonstrations of the Browning machine gun along with providing a fireworks show featuring trench rockets, mortars and star shells. Horse shows became a widely popular, separate event in 1941 and were first sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Veterans Memorial Park

In 1946, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars joined together to purchase the 36 acre Taylor farm and began to create what is now called Veterans Memorial Park. On July 4, 1947, a grand opening featured a parade with 20 floats, nationally known speakers, war veterans, county and city officials and a large livestock show. A circus, rodeos, fairs, and festivals such as the Mount Airy Fiddlers Convention have been held at Veterans Park over the past 65+ years.

This site, a part of the “Geocaching for History” program, was researched and placed on the Emily B. Taylor Greenway by the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History in partnership with Kids in Parks-Track Trails System – Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina Foundation and the North Carolina Humanities Council. The goal of this program is to encourage physical activity and exploration of the history of our community.

1917 Fair Season Ticket



1917 Surry County Fair Premium List



Mt. Airy News 1919 Fair grounds advertisement

THE MOUNT AIRY NEWS, August 28th, 1919.

Mt. Airy Fair Grounds

Thursday 1 Day Only Sept. 4th

The Only Circus That Will be Here This Year

Rhoda Royal Circus

Trained Wild Animal and Old Buffalo Wild West Exhibition —A Historical, Ethnological and Eduational Exhibition. Greater, Nobler and Grander Than Ever Before.



See ROYAL'S Famous Herd of Performing Elephants Who Have Delighted the Hearts of Thousands of Spectators.

THE MILITARY HORSE DRILL, A Picturesque Equestrian Novelty Introducing the Famous Royal Black Horse Huzzars.

FRONTIER DAYS—A Great Wild West Show Full of Thrills, Famous Rough Riders, Daring Cow Boys, Cow Girls, Rope Spinners, Lasso Throwers, Champion Trick and Fancy Riding.

PROF. WHITE'S Famous Troupe of Trained Donkeys, Dogs, Goats, Ponies and Little Henry that Cute Bucking Mule.

Two Bands, Free Concert at Noon. Free Open Air Exhibitions on Grounds at 1 and 7 P. M. Performances at 2 and 8 P. M.

Under Water Proof Tents. Doors Open One Hour Earlier

See Bulletin Boards and Hand Bills

Lack of Space forbids Entire Particulars Covering This Big Enterprise.

Taylor Farm house

ESTABLISHED IN 1880 Mt Airy Times 5-2-1947

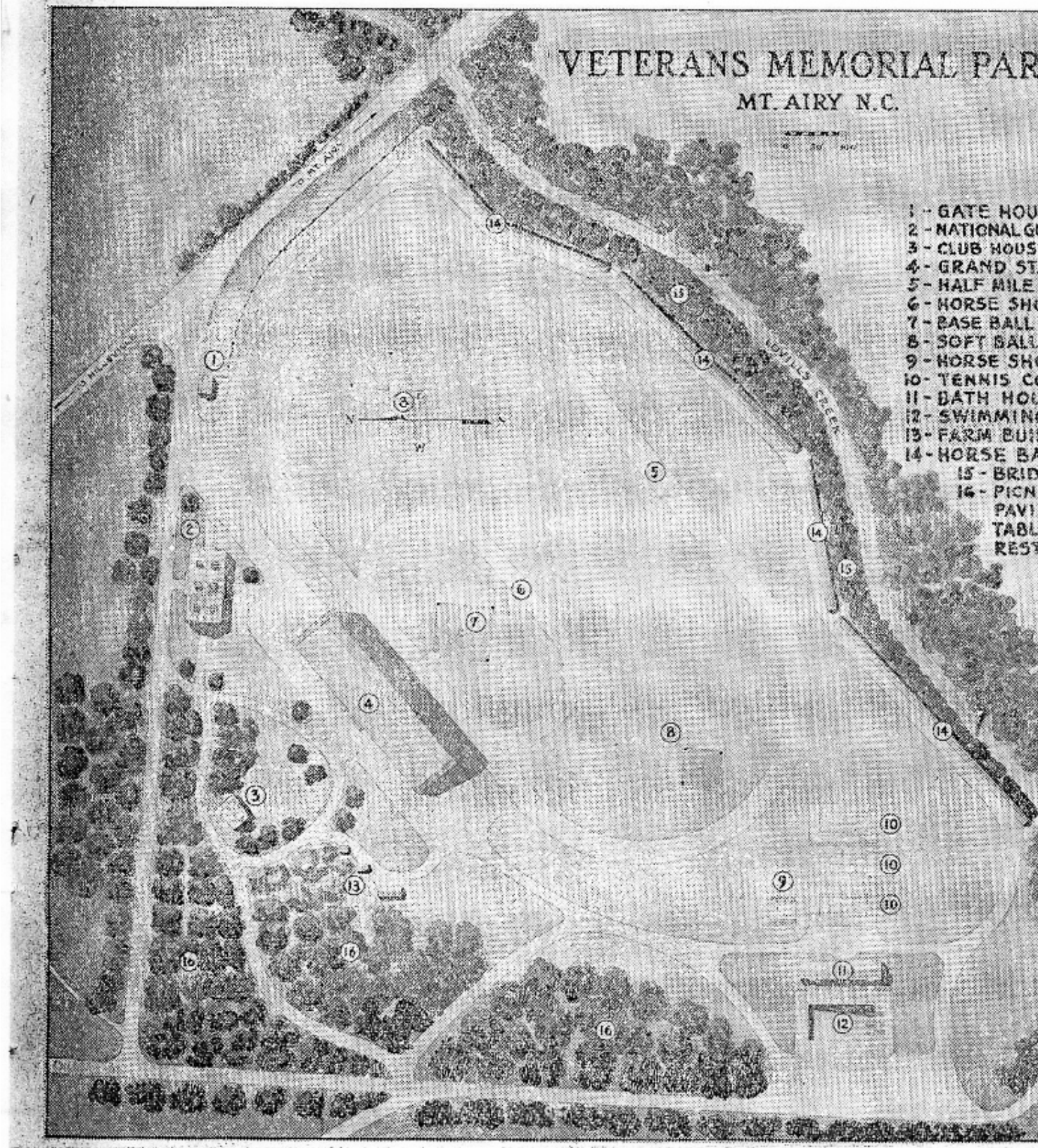
NEW RECREATION CENTER FOR AUXILIARIES



What was once the fashionable farm home of C. W. Taylor has been converted into a recreation center for the Auxiliaries of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Headquarters of Veterans Memorial park will also be located in this building.

Early plans for Veteran's Memorial Park

ESTABLISHED IN 1880 Mt Airy Times 12-6-1946 MOUNT AIR

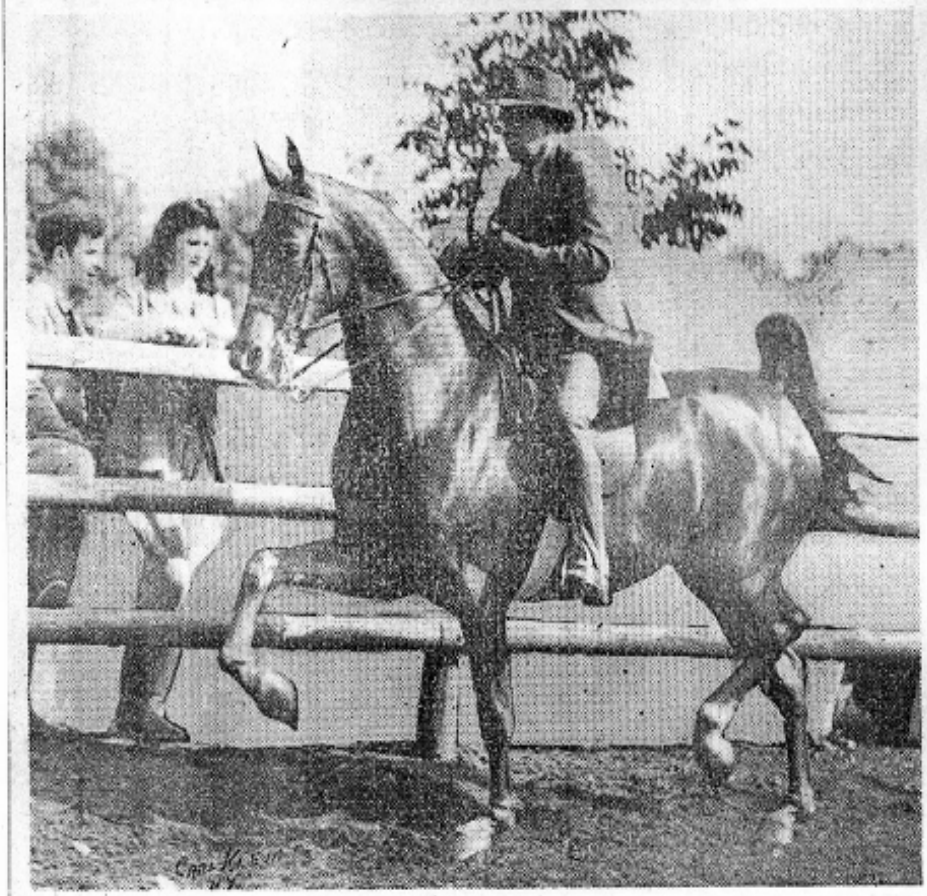


The above drawing shows how the two veterans' organizations in Mount Airy, the VFW and American Legion, have consolidated in proposing to build a park as a memorial to the local war dead. To be known as Veterans Memorial Park, it is estimated that the development of the property, known as the C. W. Taylor farm and located on the Fancy Gap highway just outside the city limits, would be $100,000. This amount is to be raised by don public and business concerns. Once the developme the park would be self-functioning from revenue fro pool, fairs, horse shows and other amusement events. the park would be open to the public, thereby fu needed recreation program here.

Horse Show

JULY 9, 1943 7-9-1943 Mt Airy Times $1.5

FINE HORSE SLATED TO BE AT MOUNT AIRY SHOW



Golden Promise, shown above with Raymond Coden up, is slated to appear in the Mount Airy Horse Show at the fair grounds on Friday and Saturday of this week. Golden Promise, one of the outstanding three-gaited performers in the country, is owned by Miss Dorothy Hopkins Ritterbush, of Barnardsville, N. J.

Mount Airy Horse Show Here Today & Saturday

The Mount Airy Horse Show, which is to be staged at the fair grounds here on Friday and Saturday of this week under the auspices of the Jesse B. Jones Post of the American Legion, the Mt. Airy Kiwanis Club and the Mt. Airy Lions Club, promises to be one of the biggest and best shows in North Carolina this year.

Despite the wartime travel restrictions, the management of the Granite City show is assured of over one hundred of the South's finest show horses in the fifty-five showing classes, and the prize money of more than $2,000 is the largest total paid by any show in the state to date this year.

Four Big Programs

There will be four big programs, including afternoon and night shows on both Friday and Saturday. The afternoon programs will start at 2 o'clock each day, while the night events get underway at 8 o'clock. The show is being staged under the management of W. J. "Bill" Dillon, well known horseman of Greensboro.

The Mount Airy show is a benefit event, with all proceeds from the show to be divided equally between the American Red Cross and the U. S. O. The refreshment stand at the upper end of the grandstand will be under the direction of the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Large Entry List

The large entry list already includes fine horses from seven states, with exhibitors from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama, expressing their intentions to have their horses in Mount Airy for the event.

Of special interest will be a horse sale to be held at the stables at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. The plans also call for a banquet for the exhibitors to be held at the Blue Ridge hotel after the night show on Friday.

Fifty-Five Classes

The two-day show will feature fifty-five classes, according to plans outlined in the 116-page show booklet published by the TIMES. The Friday afternoon show features the following classes: saddle yearlings, local ladies' pleasure horses, saddle colts and fillies, ladies' five-gaited horses, open hunters, junior walking horses, local three-gaited ponies, junior five-gaited horses, local pleasure horses, green hunters, novice three-gaited horses, local walking horses with owners in saddle, thorough- and half-bred hunters, and combination five-gaited horses.

The Friday night show features open jumpers, junior fine harness, open children's horsemanship, road hack, open three-gaited ponies, children's hunters, three-gaited horses, knock down and out, ladies' fine harness, roadsters, five-gaited mares, ladies' three-gaited horses, walking mares and five-gaited stallions and geldings.

The Saturday afternoon program will show junior three-gaited horses, working hunters, three-gaited horses, amateur five-gaited stake, ladies' hunters, three-year-old walking horses, novice five-gaited horses, scurry, local children's horsemanship, combination three-gaited horses, walking stallions and geldings, horses suitable to become hunters, pony race, amateur three-gaited stake, and hunter stake.

The final program on Saturday