

Look Up, Jersey Shore

**Walking Tours of 5
New Jersey Beach Towns**

A Walking Tour of Atlantic City, New Jersey **from walkthetown.com**

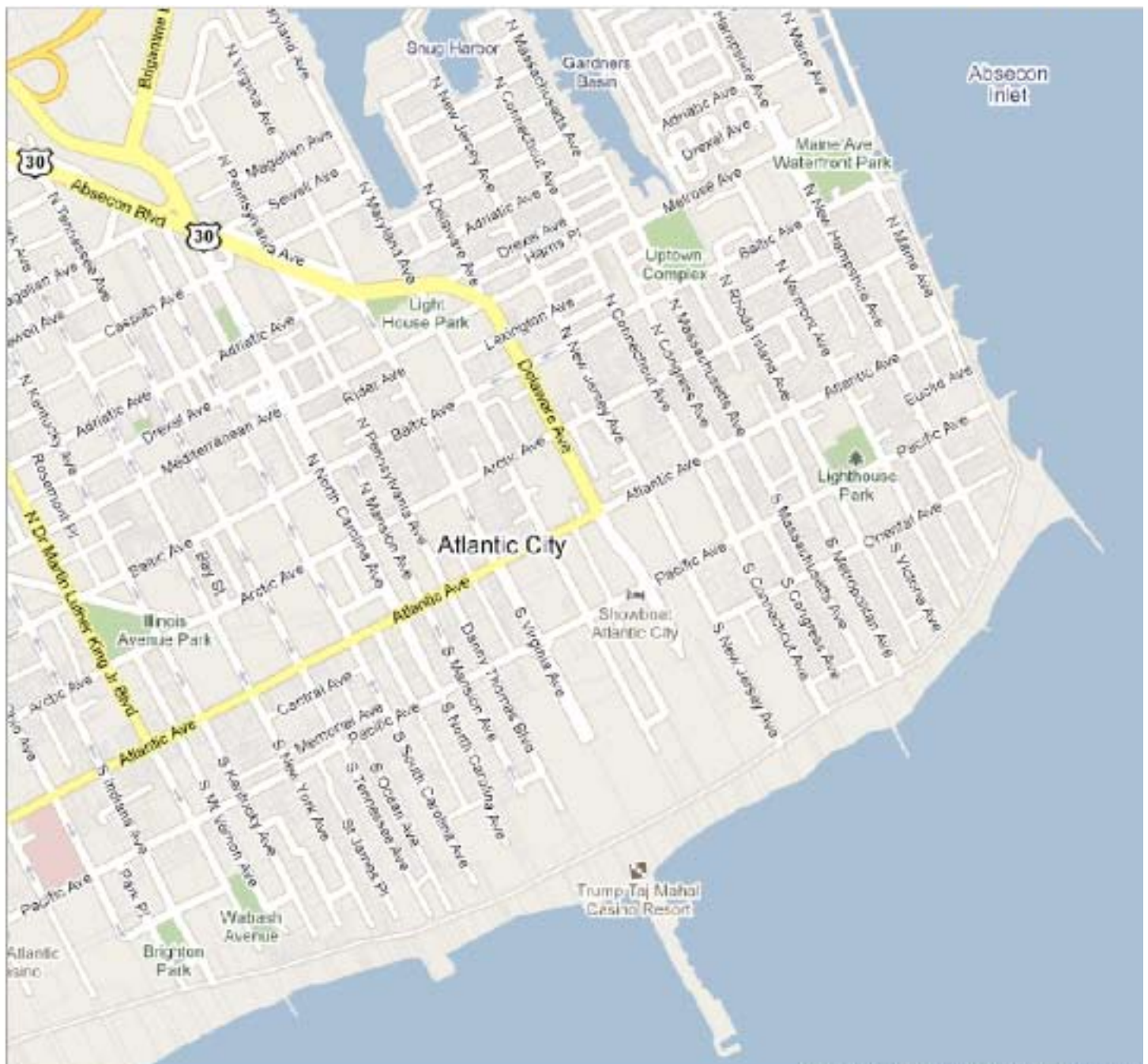
The first inhabitants of Absecon Island were the Lenni Lenape Indians who believed that you could no more own land than own the sky or the sunshine. The first European to hold an actual deed to what would become Atlantic City was an Englishman named Thomas Budd in the 1670s. His property on the mainland was valued at 40 cents an acre, the land over by the beach was worth only four cents and acre. Unlike others who would follow him, Thomas Budd was not a developer. Nothing much happened on Absecon Island for over a hundred years except when hunters arrived to take a few birds.

Jeremiah Leeds erected the first permanent structure on the island in 1785 and set about planting corn and rye and grazing cattle. By 1850 there were still only seven homesteads on Absecon Island, all but one a descendent from Leeds Plantation. About that time Jonathan Pitney, a prominent physician, and Richard Osborne, a Philadelphia engineer, got the idea that the salt air might be a health boon to the denizens of sooty Philadelphia. They launched the Camden-Atlantic City Railroad and on July 5, 1854 the first train chugged onto the island after a 150-minute trip.

Osborne got to name the new town and Pitney named the grid of streets so the streets running parallel to the ocean would be called after the earth's great bodies of water and the cross streets would be named after the existing states. The first hotel, the Belloe House, was already in business by the time that first train arrived and massive block-hogging hotels would soon follow.

But these new hotel owners were having a problem they never encountered back in Philadelphia. There was sand all over the hotel carpets and passenger cars on the trains. Alexander Boardman (could that have been his real name?) got to thinking about the problem and he proposed creating an eight-foot wide wooden walkway from the beach to the town. The world's first boardwalk was laid in 1870; it was taken up and stored every winter. Today's Boardwalk, placed in a herringbone pattern of two-by-fours made of Bethabara hardwood from Brazil and Longleaf Yellow Southern Pine, of today is 60 feet wide, and 6 miles long.

By 1900 there was electricity in town and trolleys and rolling chairs on the Boardwalk amusement piers stretching ever further into the Atlantic Ocean. The population was 27,000 - a far cry from fifty years earlier. The name "Atlantic City" had the same magic that "Disney" now has. Our walking tour will try to find some remnants of that age scattered among the multi-billion dollar casinos that began arriving in 1976 with the mission of restoring the glitz of "America's Favorite Playground"...



1. Absecon Lighthouse
31 South Rhode Island Avenue



This is the tallest lighthouse in New Jersey and the third highest light in the United States; you can climb the 228 steps to the top. The tower was constructed on the highest dune on the island in 1857 and lit with mineral oil to reflect through a Fresnel lens custom-made for the Absecon Light in Paris. Its light could be seen 19.5 nautical miles out to sea. The tower and keeper's house have both been restored.

WALK DOWN RHODE ISLAND AVENUE TO THE OCEAN. ONCE ON THE BOARDWALK, TURN RIGHT.

2. Revel Casino Hotel
Boardwalk & New Jersey Avenue



From the tallest lighthouse to the tallest structure - in Atlantic City at least. The newest boardwalk casino - if it gets finished - boasts a hotel tower of 47 stories, 710 feet high. It is the second tallest in the state of New Jersey and would be the second tallest casino tower in the country.

3. Garden Pier Boardwalk & New Jersey Avenue



It was more than its uptown location that set the Garden Pier apart from its cousins further down the boardwalk. Rather than amusements its centerpiece was a dignified B.F. Keith's Theater that was the rival of any Broadway house. The Spanish Renaissance architecture and landscaped gardens lured an upscale crowd who could enjoy one of the city's largest ballrooms. Garden Pier was not without its kitsch, however, for many years the Underwood Company displayed its "World's Largest Typewriter" here. Ultimately its "remote" location caused its commercial downfall and the pier closed in the 1940s. It was resurrected in 1953 as the home of the Atlantic City Art Center and in 1985 came the Atlantic City Historical Museum.

4. Atlantic City Showboat Boardwalk & New Jersey Avenue



The Mardi Gras-themed Showboat opened in 1987, emphasizing a "family theme" hotel and casino. It was the only Atlantic City casino to have a bowling center. It soon abandoned its family destination strategy however and found more success as the first boardwalk casino to offer simulcasting, the first to open a poker room and the first to add keno.

5. Trump Taj Mahal Boardwalk & Virginia Avenue



The Taj Mahal opened in 1990 as the third property for Donald Trump in Atlantic City. The casino has the biggest poker room on the boardwalk and the most table games in Atlantic City. The poker

room was also featured in the 1998 movie *Rounders*.

6. **Steel Pier** **Boardwalk & Virginia Avenue**



The Steel Pier came by its name honestly, being the first Atlantic City pier to be built on iron pilings and steel girders when it opened in 1898. It became the most famous of all the amusement piers helped by such iconic acts as Rex The Wonder Dog, a water-skiing canine and the High Diving Horse. William “Doc” Carver “invented” the idea of horse diving exhibitions in the 1880s after a bridge collapsed under him in Nebraska and his steed dove into the water. He toured the country with the act but it found a permanent home on the Steel Pier in the 1928. The diving horse shows ended in 1978 and the last two horses, Gamal and Shiloh were rescued by The Fund for Animals. In 1991, the movie *Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken* told the story of a teenager in the Depression who rides diving horses based on the Carvers in Atlantic City. Six horses were trained for the movie, and although horses originally dived heights of up to 40 feet, the movie horses never jumped more than 10 feet. You can still see horses diving today but never with a rider and never from such heights.

In the golden age of Atlantic City a typical season would find one million visitors to the Steel Pier. The pier used to be much longer, but a December 1969 fire shortened its size by about a third. The original wooden pier with steel underpinnings was destroyed in a 1982 fire; the current concrete structure dates from 1993 and still host rides and amusements.

7. **Resorts International** **Boardwalk & North Carolina Avenue**



Resorts International began life as an offshoot of the Mary Carter Paint Company of Tampa, Florida that was looking to diversify in the 1960s. The stodgy paint company started running small casinos in the Caribbean. In 1968, the Mary Carter Paint Company was sold for \$9.9 million and three months later Resorts International was hatched with visions of owning and operating casinos around the world. In Atlantic City bills were introduced in the 1970s to revitalize the resort with casino gambling. On the fourth try, in 1976, gambling was legalized. In 1974, anticipating

that the bill would pass someday, Resorts was the first company to bring cash to the table when it began buying land on the boardwalk, including \$2.5 million for the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, a Quaker-owned hotel that at one point refused to sell alcohol. The hotel was the only one in Atlantic City that could meet the 500-room minimum set forth in the legislation to open a casino. While everyone else had to build a casino from scratch, Resorts was able to open a year ahead of its rivals. During that year of 1978 people would line up as early as 9:00 in the morning and wait for the 10:00 opening. But as other newer, flashier casinos opened Resorts could no longer do such fabulous business in the older facility and was their turn to play catch-up. In 1988 entertainer Merv Griffin poured \$90 million into updating Resorts that launched about 15 years of renovating and expanding.

TURN LEFT ON NORTH MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON THOMAS STREET TO HEAD UP THE HILL BACK TOWARDS BENEFIT STREET.

**8. Atlantic City Beach Patrol
Boardwalk & South Carolina Avenue**



The Atlantic City Beach patrol formed the nation's first professional life guard service in 1892 with 20 men. Before that time "constables of the surf" consisted of volunteers and part-time police officers. Today the highly trained lifeguard patrols cover up to 50 stations along the beach.

**9. Boardwalk National Bank
1000 Boardwalk**



The Boardwalk National Bank took its first deposits on the ground floor of the Schlitz Hotel on the boardwalk at the corner of Ocean Avenue. It was the only bank of the boardwalk. Later the bank moved into this Spanish-influenced, limestone-faced building with a prominent barrel-vaulted two story entrance portal decorated with tile. The building now houses the Casino Control Commission.

10. Boardwalk National Bank 1441 Boardwalk



Robert LeRoy Ripley was a travel journalist who collected odd facts from around the world that began appearing in cartoon panels in 1929. In 1933 Ripley displayed some of his oddities at the Chicago World's Fair and attracted over two million visitors before the fair closed. Ripley's collection then hit the road as trailer shows across the country which led to permanent "Odditoriums." Many, like the one on the boardwalk, feature appropriately odd construction.

11. James Candy 1519 Boardwalk at New York Avenue



Right off the top - salt water taffy is not made from salt water. You do need some salt and some water to make a batch of taffy, however. But the name "salt water taffy" doesn't come from the ingredients either.

No one knows where the name "salt water taffy" came from. The most popular story of origin involves a shopkeeper on the Atlantic City Boardwalk named David Bradley. A tidal surge from a summer storm in 1883 swamped Bradley's store and buried his inventory in sea water. As he was cleaning up the following day a girl walked into his store and asked for a bag of taffy. Bradley was supposed to have sarcastically invited his young customer to help herself to his "salt water taffy." Bradley's mother thought his grumpy remark to be catchy and encouraged him to begin selling his candy as "salt water taffy."

Historians record the first mention of "salt water taffy" in Atlantic City business directories in 1889 so the Bradley story may be apocryphal. The term was never trademarked, however, and whatever its origins it became the accepted way to market taffy.

Just as no one knows who first called the sweet candy "salt water taffy," there is no record of who boiled the first vat of sugar, corn syrup, water, cornstarch, butter and salt to make the first taffy. Taffy is thought to have been a popular confection at country fairs in the Midwest by the 1880s and

it was certainly being sold in America's first seaside resort by that time - Atlantic City.

Salt water taffy is the quintessential souvenir of a trip to the seashore and for that we have a confectioner named Joseph Fralinger to thank. Built in 1870 by railroad conductor Alexander Boardman, the Atlantic City Boardwalk was originally designed to prevent sand from creeping into hotel lobbies as well as the passenger cars of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad. Atlantic City became the Queen of American resorts and Joseph Fralinger was the King of Salt Water Taffy.

It was his idea to sell the candy to bathers and strollers along the Boardwalk in boxes that could be carted home as a souvenir. He was so sure of his idea that he purchased 200 boxes and filled them with his slender, finger-sized logs of taffy. He started selling his souvenir boxes on a Saturday evening and by Sunday morning he had sold out his entire supply to departing vacationers.

It did not take long for Fralinger's competitors to notice his success. Enoch James left his home in the Midwest to join the taffy wars with his square bite-size serving of salt water taffy. Both men prospered and more than 100 years later James Salt Water Taffy and Fralinger's are still two of the biggest suppliers of salt water taffy on the Jersey Shore.

12. The Claridge **1519 Boardwalk at New York Avenue**



The Claridge was a Colonial Revival 400-room hotel designed by Philadelphia architect John McShain and opened in 1930. With the Great Depression on the horizon it became the last of the great hotels to be built near the boardwalk. The luxury Claridge was the only hotel to offer guests hot and cold fresh or salt water in their rooms. When the casino wave swept Atlantic City it also became the last of the great hotels to be refurbished as a gambling hall. It was the smallest of the Atlantic City casinos, a circumstance that gave the Claridge a marketing hook but hindered its long-term success and it was swallowed by Bally's at the beginning of the 2000s.

13. Brighton Park **Boardwalk at Park Place**



This was the location Jeremiah Leeds chose for his homesite when he founded Atlantic City. In the 1920s it was also the site of Charles Brace Darrow's summer home. Darrow was a domestic heater salesman from Philadelphia who lost his job following the Stock Market Crash of 1929. While in Atlantic City he developed the final version of Monopoly, designing the iconic images and naming the properties for Atlantic City streets. Monopoly would make Darrow the first million-game designer ever and the Guinness Book of World records would eventually call it "the most played board game in the world." Today Brighton Park is the site of the New Jersey State Korean War Memorial.

14. Ballys **Boardwalk at Park Place**



When Bally's came to Atlantic City in the late 1970s there was a mandate to build spanking new casinos, not merely "patch and paint" existing hotels. Ballys' bought two landmark hotels: the Marlborough-Blenheim hotel and the Dennis hotel. The Marlborough-Blenheim, the first hotel in Atlantic City to provide hot and cold running water and a private bath in every room, was dutifully torn down but Bally's decided to renovate the Dennis. The Dennis began as a cluster of wooden cottages on the beach in the 1850s. Its final incarnation arrived in the 1920s when the hotel was re-designed in the French Second Empire style with flamboyant twin mansard roofs. After a \$60 million infusion by Ballys the Dennis is one of the few boardwalk buildings remaining to provide a glimpse to Atlantic city the way it used to be.

15. **Ballys Wild Wild West Casino** **Boardwalk at Park Place**



In 1929, Harry Warner, one of the founding brothers of Warner Bros. film studio in Hollywood, built one of the company's most opulent theaters on the boardwalk in 1929 with seating for over 2,000 patrons. It was considered Atlantic City's most beautiful movie palace. By the 1950s, with the coming of television and suburban shopping malls, downtown theaters hit hard times. It was indicative of the age that when the Warner Theater was sold in 1958 and the terms of sale required the name be changed the new owner called it the "Warren" so he could save money by only changing two letters on the marquee. When Ballys purchased the property it kept the glorious terra cotta facade and used it as the centerpiece for its old west-themed casino.

16. **Caesars Atlantic City** **Boardwalk at Arkansas Avenue**



Caesars got started in Atlantic City in 1977 by renovating a 1960s Howard Johnson's motor lodge. The casino hotel is attached to the Pier Shops at Caesars, which opened as the Million Dollar Pier in 1906. John Young, who began his working life as a carpenter and did a stint on the Atlantic City police force, cut his entertainment teeth on the Applegate Pier, later called the Ocean Pier at Tennessee Avenue. He promised to build a pier that would "cost a million dollars" and thrust a third of a mile into the Atlantic Ocean. Festooned with towers and home to entertainers like Harry Houdini, the Million Dollar Pier was a mainstay for Atlantic City visitors. One of the biggest attractions was the Deep Sea Net Haul where twice a day a netload of fish would be spilled on the deck and Young would reverentially describe the "wonders of the sea."

17. Trump Plaza Boardwalk at Mississippi Avenue



Donald Trump, the name most associated with Atlantic City casinos, actually came late to the party. The Plaza, his first, opened in 1984 as the boardwalk's tenth casino. Trump has closed many deals in the town since but one he couldn't seal was with Vera Coking. In 1993 Trump sought to build a parking lot designed for limousines and bought several lots adjacent to the Plaza. Coking, a retired homeowner, who had lived in her house at that time for about 35 years, refused to sell. She turned down a million dollars for her modest three-story vernacular building. When Coking refused to sell to Trump, the city of Atlantic City condemned her house, using the power of eminent domain. Her designated compensation was to be \$251,000 and she fought the local authorities and eventually won the right to stay in her house in a court of law.

18. Boardwalk (Convention) Hall Boardwalk at Mississippi Avenue



When Convention Hall was conceived in 1926 the assignment given to the architectural firm of Lockwood, Greene & Co. was to "build the world's largest auditorium." When it was completed in 1929 it was the largest free-standing building in the world and is still one of the world's largest interior spaces. Convention Hall was best known as the home of the Miss America Pageant but a Democratic National Convention was held here (1964) and a college football bowl game and a horse-racing steeplechase and many other events and concerts. You can also find the world's largest pipe organ here. With more than 33,000 pipes ranging in size from 3/16 of an inch to 64 feet in length, it is the largest musical instrument ever concocted.

A recent \$90 million renovation has yielded a new name - Boardwalk Hall - and preserved the Beaux Arts exterior. The multi-story Romanesque arcade above the broad Boardwalk entrance is flanked by tall pylons. Above are inscriptions to sum up what takes place inside: EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CONVENTIONS, ART, INDUSTRY, FESTIVITIES, MUSIC, PAGEANTRY, DRAMA, ATHLETICS.

Note: You have walked nearly two miles down the boardwalk. The tour finishes with a loop along the blocks adjoining the ocean. Much of this land has been cleared for casino parking or retail stores and restaurants. Every now and then there is a building of historic interest. If you would rather just walk back up the boardwalk you can complete the tour that way. Otherwise...

TURN RIGHT PAST BOARDWALK HALL AND LEAVE THE BOARDWALK. WALK OVER TWO BLOCKS TO ATLANTIC AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT.

19. Sun Bank
northeast corner of Atlantic Avenue and Arkansas Avenue



This Neoclassical building from 1913 was built for the Equitable Trust Company and later acquired by the Boardwalk Bank. Its latest master, Sun Bank, shuttered the building in 2010 and it appears headed for its 100th birthday as a restaurant for The Walk shopping outlets.

TURN RIGHT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD.

20. Carnegie Library Center
northeast corner of Pacific Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (formerly Illinois Avenue)



In 1902 the City purchased this land specifically for a library and the following year, as part of his mission to endow public libraries across the country, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie provided funds to build it. Albert R. Ross won a design competition and he provided a Neoclassical plan that was heavy on natural light for an art gallery, museum and meeting rooms. The exterior of the three-story corner building was outfitted with gleaming white marble, granite and terra cotta - an appearance that library users from 1903 would recognize today. The Atlantic City Free Public Library departed for bigger digs in 1985 and after the building, ranked among the top 150 buildings in New Jersey by the American Institute of Architects, was used half-heartedly by the City for a few years it stood vacant for a decade. It was rescued by the Casino Reinvestment

Development Authority, the City of Atlantic City, and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to serve as its Carnegie Library Center. Next door is the Civil Rights Garden, considered to be the only one of its kind in the Northeast.

TURN LEFT ON PACIFIC AVENUE.

**20. Victory First Presbyterian Church
northwest corner of Pacific Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue**



The First Presbyterian Church of Atlantic City was founded in 1856 and has fostered the organization of four daughter churches within the resort as well as fifty other Presbyterian churches in South Jersey. It is an excellent example of English Norman Church architecture.

**21. Community Synagogue
southwest corner of Maryland Avenue and Pacific Avenue**



The first Jewish house of worship In Atlantic City was constructed for the Beth Israel congregation in 1872. The congregation moved to this synagogue in 1914. Its original home still stands although it was converted to apartments in the 1930s.

**CONTINUE DOWN PACIFIC AVENUE TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE
ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE.**

Cape May, New Jersey Walking Tour

In 1620, the same year the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, Dutch Sea captain Cornelius Jacobsen Mey sailed into the Delaware Bay aboard his ship “Blijde Boedschap (Good Tidings).” Mey and his crew surveyed the Delaware River and traded for furs with the local Indians. He also named the prominent peninsula at the southern tip of what would become New Jersey after himself. Decades later the spelling would be changed to Cape May.

Wealthy Philadelphians began building summer getaways around Cape May in 1761 and it became the first seashore resort in America. By the early 1800s the largest hotels in the world were being built along the wide, white Cape May sand beaches. Presidents James Buchanan and Franklin Pierce vacationed here. Abraham Lincoln was a visitor before being elected 16th President of the United States.

On November 9, 1878, at seven o’clock in the morning, fire broke out in a hotel attic near the center of town. Winds at over 50 miles per hour allowed the fire to jump over roads from one block to the next. The fire department did not have enough water – as a bucket brigade stretching from the ocean to the water was their main supply. Sadly a request for more funds to buy more fire-fighting equipment had been denied only a few months earlier.

The fire (hereafter referred to as the “Great Fire”) raged for over eleven hours. When dawn broke the following day, 40 acres of downtown Cape May were destroyed. Although other resorts at the time were built in a more modern fashion – Cape May officials decided to rebuild in the same traditional Victorian style of the hotels that the fire had destroyed. This decision has reverberated ever since - Cape May has the greatest number of picturesque Victorian structures in America and in 1976 the entire town was officially designated a National Historic Landmark City, one of only five in the nation. (*SEE APPENDIX FOR IDENTIFYING ELEMENTS OF VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE*)

Our tour will start at the Mid-Atlantic Center For The Arts at 1048 Washington Street, site of the Emilen Physick Estate, five blocks north of the Cape May’s commercial center...

HEAD SOUTH ON WASHINGTON STREET (ocean on your left)

1. 1048 Washington Street Emlen Physick Estate



Built in 1879 from designs by Philadelphia architect Frank Furness, it is considered by some to be one of the finest examples of Victorian “Stick Style” architecture in America. Back in its heyday, the Physick Estate housed a rather unusual household: Dr. Emlen Physick, who never married; his widowed mother, Mrs. Ralston; and his Maiden Aunt Emilie. Dr. Physick’s grandfather, Dr. Philip Syng Physick (1768-1837) was known as the Father of American Surgery. Emlen Physick followed family tradition by completing medical training, but he never practiced. He lived the life of a country gentleman and animal breeder. He is remembered for having the first automobile in Cape May. The exterior of the Estate is distinguished by Furness’ trademark oversized features, including gigantic upside-down corbelled chimneys, hooded “Jerkin-Head” dormers, and the huge stick-like brackets on the porch.

2. 1033 Washington Street Ralston Physick House



The Ralston Physick House traces back to circa 1850, showing framing of the same type as in the “Colonial House” (Historical Society) located at 653 1/2 Washington Street. It’s visible structure today leads to the conclusion that the older part of the house is at the center. This graceful Italianate building is known for its historical connection to the prominent Physick family. The original house was built across the street from its present location at the Emlen Physick Estate, Cape May’s only Victorian House Museum. The main house and land was owned by Mrs. Francis M. Ralston (Dr. Emlen Physick’s mother). Dr. Emlen Physick then purchased the land from her and had the house moved to its present location so he could build his home.

**3. 1002 Washington Street
Henry Walker Hand House**



Modest but handsome Queen Anne, circa 1893, built for a local ship captain. Note the corner tower with a Witch's Cap roof and sharply sloping main roof.

**4. 915, 917 & 921 Washington Street
Pilots' Row**



Delaware River boat captains congregated on this block of Washington Street and these three are typical of their homes.

**5. 821 Washington Street
Wedding Cake House**



A simple Federal-style vernacular frame house, circa 1850, was gussied up 30 years later after owners grew tired of their plain house among its flowery neighbors and piled decoration upon decoration.

6. 817 Washington Street The Duke of Windsor



The home was built in 1896 by the York Brothers for Delaware River boat pilot Harry Hazelhurst and his wife Florence. Since Harry and his wife were grand in scale (both were over six feet tall), the rooms are large and airy, and the stairway that vaults three stories is extra wide and gracious. The house was used as a hospital during World War II; then suffered years of neglect until it was converted into a Bed and Breakfast Inn in 1982. Erected in the age between the popularity of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival, the house shows elements of both.

7. 720 Washington Street The Southern Mansion



In 1863, the Philadelphia hat merchant George Allen built an American bracket- post-beam villa on the island of Cape May where he was the main investor in the town's first railroad.. Designed by the internationally acclaimed architect Samuel Sloan and constructed by Henri Phillipi, this seaside palace was used by Allen and his descendants as a country estate for the next 83 years. After World War II the property became a boarding house and maintenance lagged until its license was revoked in the 1980s. Restored as a private hotel in 1996, the rotting main beams were replaced with new I-beams to support the Mansion and straighten the rolling hallway floors. Outside, the entire house was ground down to the bare wood and repainted in the original earth-tones and all five chimneys were rebuilt using the original bricks. The slate and tin roofs, copper gutters, brackets, porches, soffits, trims, moldings and fascia boards were replaced. Finally, the finial was re-gilded, the entire grounds were tamed and the Italian gardens were re-established. Inside, all of the original architectural elements, furnishings, including the gasolier fixtures, walls, ceilings, floors, stairs, doors and windows have been restored to their original splendor. Southern Mansion and the Physick Estate are the only two multi-acre estates in the town of Cape May.

8. Corner of Washington & Franklin The Episcopal Church of the Advent



Designed in 1869 by noted Philadelphia church architect Henry Sims, this handsome example is a Carpenter Gothic, the medieval style rendered in wood. The stain glass windows are original.

9. Corner of Washington & Franklin Fireman's Hall History Museum



The fire department has built a small colonial style museum to house a 1928 American Lafrance fire engine as well as other vintage engines, photographs and other pieces of fire fighting history. Their modern firehouse with all of the latest technology is next door but what is amazing is that they continue to use the Gamewell Diaphone, a cog system from the 1920s that will ring a bell a number of times to let the fire fighters know what vicinity the fire is in.

10. 653 1/2 Washington Street Colonial House



This simple, heavy timber-framed house, one of over 600 remaining in Cape May County, was built circa 1800 and moved to this location in 1982. It was originally a tavern and the family house of Revolutionary War Patriot Memucan Hughes. Today it serves as headquarters for the Greater Cape May Historical Society.

**11. 653 Washington Street
Alexander's**



Built in 1883 as a private residence and now an inn. Notice the bands of colored tile on the mansard roof.

**12. 643 Washington Street
Cape May City Hall**



The building was originally Cape May's High School built in 1917. It became the seat of city government in 1961. Cape May's original City Hall was built in 1899 and could be found on the corner of Franklin and Washington where today the Fire Museum resides. The original City Hall building was home to the fire department, police station and municipal court. It was torn down in 1970.

**13. 526 Washington Street Mall
New Jersey Trust & Safe Deposit Company**



The bank building erected in 1895 in the Renaissance Revival style with its trademark arches. Note the elaborate trim and nautical seashell in the doorway keystone.

14. 525 Washington Street Mall Our Lady Star of the Sea Church



The first Catholic Church in Cape May County was opened in 1848 in a simple frame building located opposite the site of the present church. The first Mass in the new edifice was celebrated in 1913 and finishing touches continued for five years. Cast in a transitional Medieval revival style, the church is constructed of Holmesburg granite, trimmed with buff Indiana limestone. Round arches of the Romanesque style co-exist comfortably with angular arches of the Gothic. These features are replicated in the borders of the large stained-glass windows. The steeple houses a 650-pound bell.

15. Washington Street Mall Information Booth



The Information Booth originally functioned as a guardhouse for the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. In the 1970s the Philadelphia Park System was demolishing these guardhouses, but the Cape May Cottagers Association stepped in to save this significant part of history. They moved it to Cape May and presented it to the City after the Washington Street Mall was completed in 1971. The booth retains its grid pattern of stick work on the exterior walls, indicative of the Victorian Stick Style architecture.

CONTINUE DOWN THE PEDESTRIAN MALL AND TURN RIGHT ON JACKSON STREET. TWO BLOCKS AHEAD IS LAFAYETTE STREET.

**16. 405 Lafayette Street
Cape May Stage Theatre**



In January of 1853, the trustees of the Cape Island Presbyterian Church purchased a lot on the north side of Lafayette Street, at the corner of what is now Bank Street. Local builder Peter Hand designed and built their church, completing it by July with dedication services on July 17th. Hand designed a Georgian-vernacular style building with an oddly graceful onion-curved, mosque-like, cupola. The Church moved in 1898 and the building was saved to serve as the Cape May Information Center and home for the Cape May Stage.

**17. 219 Jackson Street
Richardson's Hotel**



Built to cater to a middle class black clientele, the hotel is noticeably located just away from the town center.

**18. 305 Jackson Street
Swain's Hardware Store**



A Cape May landmark since 1896, this sprawling, wood building covers two blocks and looks more like the OK Corral than a hardware store.

Optional Detour: West Cape May

One of four jurisdictions that comprise Cape Island, West Cape May was home to Mayflower descendents, former slaves, riverboat pilots and whalers. The borough features many examples of Victorian workman's cottages. Noted for its agriculture, the area was once known as the "Lima Bean Capital East of the Rockies."

TO TOUR WEST CAPE MAY, CONTINUE ON PERRY STREET AND TURN RIGHT ONTO MYRTLE AVENUE, OTHERWISE TURN LEFT ON PERRY STREET AND WALK TOWARDS THE OCEAN AND PICK UP THE TOUR AT #19.

A. 133 Myrtle Avenue Wilbraham Mansion



A simple farm house in 1840, the property was acquired in 1900 by John W. Wilbraham who enlarged and Victorianized the house by adding a wing.

B. 127 Myrtle Street Albert Stevens Inn



Built by a local physician circa 1898 for his bride, the house has oak interior woodwork and a floating staircase extending to a third floor tower room. Double parlors and wraparound porch provide the spaciousness for relaxed living found in homes of this period.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH BROADWAY.

C. 115 North Broadway
Lizzee Richardson Home



This handsome old home built in 1908 is now Buttonwood Bed and Breakfast.

D. 121 North Broadway
Old Cape May Life Savings Society



This organization pre-dates the Coast Guard. The building was Captain James Eldredge's home.

E. 131 North Broadway
Aaron W. Hand House



The house was part of the James Hilden Plantation beginning in 1822. It is presently the Highland House Bed and Breakfast.

F. 139 North Broadway
Former Post Office for West Cape May



Established as Eldredge Post Office in 1898 the name was changed to West Cape May in 1909.

G. 209 North Broadway
Eldredge Home



Captain William C. Eldredge, who lived in this house beginning around 1800, was the oldest in age and membership of the Delaware River Pilots of New Jersey. His grave is found at Cold Springs Cemetery and has a boat carved on the gravestone.

H. 307 North Broadway
Former Plantation



Once part of a large plantation farm in the 1850s, the house once was a refuge for runaway slaves fleeing north. A unique interior closet gives witness to its part on the Underground Railroad.

I. 417 North Broadway
The Eldredge House



Built in 1780 at Jackson and Lafayette streets in Cape May, this is one of the few Colonial houses in this area. It was moved here in 1850. When additions were constructed in the late 1800s old bills, written records and a golden lock of hair were found in the walls of the attic.

J. 515-517 N. Broadway
Store



Built in 1850, this building has been in continuous use as a store for more than 150 years.

TURN AROUND AND WALK BACK DOWN BROADWAY.

K. 500 North Broadway
The Union Chapel



The church was moved to its present location in 1883, about a decade after it was built in affiliation with the “Old Brick Presbyterian Church” of Cold Spring.

L. 222 North Broadway
Home of Dr. Clarence Eldridge

M. 102 Gold Beaten Alley (between Second and Third avenues)

Hastings Gold Beater Company

In 1864 George Reeves began a business of beating gold blocks of 23K gold by hand into sheets of gold leaf for decoration and ornamentation. The business moved to this location in 1881 and operated until 1961.

N. 218 North Broadway

T.W. Reeves Home

Home of Theofore Reeves who managed the gold-beating business after his father's death.

O. Broadway and Third Avenue

Judge Henry Eldridge House

The elegant house built in 1906 belonged to Judge Henry H. Eldridge.

P. 116 North Broadway

Nineteenth Century Home

This handsome old house from the 1850s is currently the only African-American owned Bed and Breakfast on the island. Named Akwaaba, meaning "welcome," the rooms are named for local Black community leaders such as William J. Moore, Stephen Smith, Dolly Nash, Helen Dickerson, and Woody Woodland.

Q. 110 North Broadway

Former Boarding House

This hostelry dates to 1870.

R. 416 South Broadway

Whaler's Cottage



Also known as the T. Newkirk House, circa 1680 - the oldest occupied building in Cape May. The oldest part contains a giant fireplace that was said to be the base for the Town Bank Whalers. Later it is known to have housed Revolutionary War wounded. The front section was added in the 1870s.

TURN AROUND AND RETURN TO PERRY STREET AT THE INTERSECTION. TURN RIGHT AND RETURN FOUR BLOCKS TO CAPE MAY.

19. 223 Perry Street
The Bayberry Inn



The back portion of the original house, believed to have belonged to a whaling captain, was built circa 1800. The front of the house, a Carpenter Gothic, was built in the 1850s by Joseph Q. Williams, a local builder and mayor of Cape May during the terms of 1862, 1868, and 1877. The Great Fire stopped just short of the “Mayor’s Hearth” leaving this as one of the town’s oldest homes. Look for the delicate acorns that hang from the cornice.

CONTINUE TO SOUTH LAFAYETTE AND TURN RIGHT TO THE INTERSECTION WITH CONGRESS STREET.

20. southwest corner of South Lafayette and Congress
The Joseph Leedom Houses



Built on “The Bluff” - at 14 1/2 feet above sea level, the highest spot in Cape May - Joseph Leedom built the white Queen Anne with dramatic witch’s hat tower for himself in 1881 and the varied-roofline house next door as a speculative property. Each is wrapped in fish-scale shingles.

28. 28 Congress Street Levy-Neafie House



John Levy, a very prominent Philadelphia businessman and controlling partner of the Levy-Neafie Shipyard, built this elaborate twin structure. His partner, Jacob Neafie occupied #30 while Mr. Levy occupied #28. Together they operated one of the country's largest shipyards during the Civil War, building many famous warships and some of the world's earliest submarines. Neafie is credited with inventing what would become the modern day propeller for the shipping industry. Levy died before his American bracketed villa summer home was completed. The railings of this variation of the Italianate villa are taken from ship rails and are intended to soften harsh lines as your eye is drawn up to the cupola through the decorative gingerbread and curved arches. Gingerbread arches on first and second floor arches do not match.

29. 22 & 24 Congress Street Steiner Cottages



Built between 1848 and 1851, these antebellum twin cottages built from Gothic pattern book designs are Cape May's earliest summer homes. This style marked the beginning of the "summer resort cottage" that became popular in other Jersey shore communities. It was reported that the cottages were built by a Southern visitor for his two daughters.

WALK DOWN CONGRESS PLACE ACROSS THE STREET.

30. 203 Congress Place E.C. Knight House



Perched on this corner is one of Cape May's grandest summer cottages, constructed after the Great Fire for successful businessman E.C. Knight who passed it down to his daughter, Annie Knight. The family fortune was powered by a Cuban sugar company and she became Cape May's richest and most powerful woman. Among the many properties Annie Knight owned was the grand neighboring Congress Hall Hotel and the 7 Sisters facing the beachfront on North and Windsor Ave. She was a colorful figure, influential in Cape May politics, who drove her own horse carriage and held teas and dances in the Congress Hall for the young ladies and gentlemen to learn ballroom dancing and the genteel arts. When Miss Knight died in the late 1930s, she endowed many hospitals and societies for the poor. In the deed for the property she made it law that nothing would be built to block the view of the ocean from the house and it remains so today.

31. 207 Congress Place Joseph Evans House



Built on a design by influential architect Stephen Decatur Button in 1881-82. Wildly popular in Cape May before the Great Fire, the fervor for the architect's simply ornamented Italianate designs had cooled by the time of this commission in the massive rebuilding era after 1878.

32. 209 Congress Place Dr. Henry Hunt Cottage



One of Cape May's most exuberant houses, you can see five Victorian architectural styles in play on this 1881 cottage: Queen Anne massing, Italianate bracketing, Second Empire mansard roof, Gothic gables, and Stick Style ornamentation.

WALK TO THE END OF CONGRESS PLACE, TAKING NOTE OF THE YELLOW LANDMARK CONGRESS HALL AND TURN RIGHT.

33. 33 Perry Street The Pink House



One of the best known homes in Cape May, the Pink House, or Eldridge Johnson House, is said to possess the fanciest porch trim in town. The 1892 house is characterized by pierced wooden balusters, a two-story porch, bargeboard and finial on the gable end, decorative cornices on the first and second story windows and round arched windows on the second story. Pink was not a color popular during the Victorian era when houses would have been painted with more subdued earth tones. It was moved to its Perry Street location from Congress Street in the 1970s.

34. Perry Street
Carpenters Square Mall
Site of the Great Fire of 1878



The fire that ultimately destroyed soem of the most valuable and beautiful property in Cape May on November 9, 1878 erupted in the attic of the Ocean House on Perry Street. Stiff winds and an inadequately supplied fire department allowed the fire to spread quickly get out of control. It has been noted that Civil War hero Colonel Henry Sawyer was the person who sounded the alarm, thus preventing the destruction from being absolute. They were finally able to put out the fire with the assistance of the nearby Camden Fire Department. The decision to rebuild in modest Victorian style allowed Cape May to maintain a distinct romantic ambience that is largely what makes it such a popular resort destination, even to this day.

35. 9 Perry Street
King's Cottage



This three-story “Stick Style” Victorian Cottage is an exquisite example of the work of noted architect Frank Furness. Set in the railings are ceramic tiles which were part of the Japanese exhibition from Philadelphia Centennial of 1876.

AT BEACH DRIVE TURN RIGHT TO VIEW THE CONGRESS HALL HOTEL. THEN TURN AROUND AND WALK NORTH ON BEACH DRIVE (ocean on your right) AND MAKE A LEFT ON JACKSON STREET.

36. Beach Drive & Perry Street Congress Hall Hotel



It began life in 1816 as a simple boarding house for summer visitors to one of America's earliest seaside resorts. Its owner, Thomas H. Hughes, called his new boarding house "The Big House". The local people had other ideas, though. Convinced the building was far too large to ever be a success they nicknamed it "Tommy's Folly".

In this first incarnation it was a quite different affair. Downstairs was a single room that served as the dining room for all the guests, who stayed in simply partitioned quarters on the two upper floors. The walls and woodwork were bare and supplies of provisions were at times unreliable. Guests were undeterred by the Spartan conditions and summer after summer the new hotel was packed to bursting. In 1828 Hughes had been elected to Congress and in honor of his new status his hotel was renamed Congress Hall.

After the Great Fire the hotel in brick rather than wood, and business blossomed once again. The hotel and Cape May proved so popular that they gained renown as a summer retreat for the nation's presidents. Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan all chose to vacation here. President Benjamin Harrison made Congress Hall his "summer White House" and conducted the affairs of state from the hotel.

The hotel fell into disrepair and remained closed for more than a dozen years, sometime between 1905 and the early 20s, after a long and bitter dispute between owner Annie Knight and the city council. Finally, an agreement to repave the roads around Congress Hall was reached and the hotel reopened in the early 20s, with a stunning renovation. Congress Hall went on to open Cape May's first post-Prohibition cocktail bar (where the Brown Room sits now) in 1934.

With many of Cape May's landmarks being demolished to make way for modern motels, the present owners purchased the building in 1995 with the goal of undertaking a complete renovation to return Congress Hall to its former glory.

37. 10-20 Jackson Street
Seven Sisters



The house was constructed in 1891 and designed by Stephen Decatur Button. These “Seven Sisters” are uniquely situated, facing a communal open space so that the parlors and porches have an ocean view. It is the only site planning in Cape May that doesn’t follow the street grid. The house’s entrance was placed in the center, leading guests into a large foyer flanked with a hand carved spiral staircase winding up to the third floor.

38. 15 Jackson Street
John McConnell House



This multi-faceted Queen Anne was built in 1893 and features simulated half-timbering, decorative gables and scale shingles.

39. 17 Jackson Street
Poor Richards Inn



Built in 1882 as the private residence of a Cape May hotel owner, it has been run as an inn since 1977. Note the black and red tiles in the mansard roof.

**40. 19 Jackson Street
Carroll Villa**



Built in 1882 as a seaside escape for families, the Carroll Villa was built in the Italian villa or American bracketed villa style. The Carroll Villa was on the cover of the Cape May handbook as an architectural example of this style which presents an imposing, sweeping porch, tall front windows, a symmetrical facade, and often a cupola, as does the Carroll Villa. The history of the Carroll Villa shows that about a decade later a second section was added to the main building .

**41. 22 Jackson Street
Inn At 22 Jackson**



This charming Queen Anne design was erected in the 1890s.

**42. 24 Jackson Street
Windward House**



This late Victorian was built in 1905 with three porches and multiple types of windows; designed to blend in with seashore.

**43. 25 Jackson Street
Virginia Hotel**



This small hotel is of a kind that was once much more widespread; the white-porched Italianate-design dates to 1879.

**44. 42 Jackson Street
The Merry Widow**



The Merry Widow, formerly the J. Henry Edmonds House, is one of Cape May's most historic and distinctive Victorian properties that began life as a simple farmhouse. The roof was added in 1879 and the towers were shipped here.

**45. 45 Jackson Street
Christopher Gallagher House**



Built after the Great Fire in the Second Empire Style, the mansion features grand floral patterns in the mansard roof and a majestic iron fence.

TURN RIGHT ON CARPENTERS LANE AND RIGHT AGAIN ONTO DECATUR STREET.

46. 132 Decatur Street

Aaron Roseman House

Built around 1895, the Roseman House is a combination Queen Anne and Steamboat Gothic. The building has stained-glass windows, an octagonal tower, and a façade filled with intricately turned spindles. According to one source, “This demure lady wears her lacy cream bargeboard like a scarf to protect her from the sea breezes.”

47. First Presbyterian Church of Cape May corner of Hughes Street and Decatur Street



In 1844, with generous support from summer visitors, the Presbyterians residing on Cape May Island erected a church building costing \$4,000 on Washington Street, which was called The Visitor’s Church. By 1892, more space was needed by the congregation and the Holland lot on the corner of Hughes and Decatur Streets was purchased for \$6,500. In 1898, the present stone building was completed, a fine example of Gothic Revival, at a cost of \$21,500.

48. 114 Decatur Street

Sugarplum Cottage



This simple 1880s Victorian, is probably from a pattern book, as was popular after the Great Fire.

49. 106 Decatur Street

The Merion Inn

In the summer of 1885, Patrick Collins opened on Decatur Street “...a fine marine boarding villa, convenient to the Iron Door and the big hotels, and a first class establishment.” By 1900, Collins Cafe was advertising its fine old whiskies, fresh seafoods, Milwaukee beers and “neatly appointed rooms for ladies.” Andrew Zillinger, chief steward of the Merion Cricket Club on Philadelphia’s Main Line, purchased the inn in 1906 and changed its name to The Merion.

**50. 11 Decatur Street
Elward House**



This wood frame rental property has been in the same family for over 100 years.

**51. Beach Drive and Decatur Street
Cabanas**



From this old Italianate patrons enjoy the “best view at the beach.”

**TURN LEFT ON BEACH DRIVE AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO OCEAN STREET AND
TURN LEFT.**

**52. Inn of Cape May
Ocean Street & Beach Drive**



In the fall of 1894, William H. Church, a contractor and builder of West Cape May, began work on a 60-room boarding house at the foot of Ocean Street opposite the Star Villas, one of the most delightful locations on the beachfront. The structure was to be four stories high with a French roof and roomy porches from which there would always be an unobstructed view. The house was to be fitted throughout with steam heat in order to remain open all year. Gas lights were installed and an electric ball system. Special family rates were offered. One hundred thirty-five guests could be accommodated. It was to be known as the Colonial and to be operated by the builder himself.

53. 22 Ocean Street
Leith Hall



Columbia House, that once occupied the entire block burned in 1878; this is one of several Victorians that went up in its stead.

54. 24 Ocean Street
The Celtic Inn



Another Cape May Inn built after The Great Fire of 1878.

55. 26 Ocean Street
Columbia House

The original Columbia House, built in 1846, was a large hotel built by Captain George Hildreth. Its grounds stretched from what is currently Hughes Street straight through to Beach Avenue, since Columbia Avenue did not yet exist. By 1850, the Columbia House had expanded to be the largest and most “aristocratic” on Cape Island. In 1878 it burned in the Great Fire.

It was during this time that the Victorians built their opulent summer “cottages” with great attention to detail and architectural diversity. The streets of Cape May quickly became lined with Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and Renaissance Revival homes. On the grounds of the original Columbia House hotel, William Essen chose to erect a magnificent Queen Anne style cottage as his summer home complete with a majestic turret, a rounded veranda, and ocean views. Built in 1886, it is this structure which is currently known as the Columbia House.

William Essen, a German immigrant, made his fortune selling ice cream and baked goods. The Essen family enjoyed entertaining guests on the veranda of their summer cottage and their parties often made the social pages of the newspapers at the time. The bakery that the Essen family opened in 1872 is still in existence today on Washington Street in Cape May and is currently called “La Patisserie.”

**56. 19 Ocean Street
Coll's Sea View House**



Another post-fire Victorian.

**57. 23 Ocean Street
Beauclaire's Bed and Breakfast**



This beautiful Queen Anne was built in 1879 after the original house was destroyed by the Great Fire. It was maintained as a private summer home and many stories concerning those who lived and visited here abound. Many of Cape May's tours state that Wallace Warfield, later to become the Dutchess of Windsor, summered here but this has not been substantiated.

**58. 25 Ocean Street
Inn On Ocean**

This post-fire structure went Second Empire.

**59. 29 Ocean Street
Humphrey Hughes House**



Captain Humphrey Hughes arrived in Cape May in 1692 and soon became one of the area's original landowners. A few decades later, his son, Humphrey Hughes II, added to the family holdings and purchased the ground on which the Humphrey Hughes House now stands. The first structure built on the property was moved to another location, and the current Queen Anne was erected in 1903. The home remained in the Hughes family hands until Dr. Harold Hughes' death in 1980. Now an inn.

**60. 102 Ocean Street
The Queen Victoria**



The Queen Victoria was built in 1881 by Douglas Gregory, a Cape May native and Delaware river pilot, as a home for his small family. He purchased the land for his home for \$3,500 from Philadelphia merchants Charles Potts and paid about \$4,000 for the construction of the home with projecting mansard roof. The building sits on the former site of the huge Columbia Hotel, which burned down in the Great Fire.

Across the street is the The House of Royals, designed and built in 1876 by Charles Shaw, the builder of the Chalfonte Hotel and the Physick Estate. The first floor was originally a general store offering stationery, sundries, and patent medicines (some refer to it as "Ware's Drug Store"). The second floor, with its high 11-foot ceilings and 9-foot doors, unusual in a residential setting, was a gentleman's gambling club, including a large common room and several smaller private gambling parlors. The third floor was a series of bedrooms, probably for the ladies who entertained the gamblers. The House of Royals is the only building of The Queen Victoria quartet that pre-dates the Great Fire. In fact, the fire fighters finally held their line at Ocean street just in front of the building, with the sparks flying into the roof.

**61. 111 Ocean Street
Fairthorne Cottage**



Built in 1892 by a whaling captain this Colonial revival-style Cape May Inn features a gracious wraparound veranda.

**62. 202 Ocean Street
Captain Mey's Inn**



Captain Mey's Inn was built in 1890 by Dr. Walter H. Phillips who was a homeopathic physician and a true native of Cape May. This textbook Colonial Revival features a large wraparound porch and smooth, round columns. Today this Victorian Inn is named after Capt. Cornelius J. Mey. He found the climate charming, as has each succeeding generation. It was the greatest compliment when Dutch explorers, both home-loving and adventuring people, declared that the climate of the Delaware was "like that of Holland," as good as home. Captain Mey confirmed the compliment by giving his name to these shores.

**63. 208 Ocean Street
Ocean Street Gallery**



This 1864 structure is the lone survivor that was in the inferno's path in 1878.

TURN AROUND AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO THE LAST INTERSECTION AND TURN LEFT ON HUGHES STREET, HEADING NORTH (the ocean will be on your right).

64. 608 Hughes Street
Memucan Hughes House



This 1847 home anchors the town's oldest residential street.

65. 609 Hughes Street
The Wooden Rabbit



This Federal vernacular home looks much the same as it did when built in 1838.

66. 619 Hughes Street
The White Dove Cottage



Built in 1866, the house is a Second Empire style with a beautiful mansard roof faced with original octagonal slate tiles.

67. 633 Hughes Street



This 1880s home is a fine example of Stick Style architecture with Jerkin-Head roofs.

68. 637 & 641 Hughes Street



These two houses were once matching Federal houses built in 1849; #641 was converted into a Colonial Revival.

69. 644 Hughes Street Girls Friendly Society House



Built in 1868 as the Baltimore House and one of only 17 hotels remaining after the Great Fire; it was the last of the big boxy style. The Girls Friendly Society, an organization of the Episcopal Church, acquired the property in 1911. At the time the Girls' Friendly Society had 21 "Holiday Houses" and 14 lodges in multiple states. Today, only this one remains.

**70. 645 Hughes Street
Joseph Hall Cottage**



The Joseph Hall Cottage is a knockout example of a Carpenter Gothic/Italianate hybrid, painted a cheery golden yellow with blue shutters and abounding with cupolas and gables and gingerbread trim - one of the first painted in Victorian colors and not the standard white with green trim. It was built in 1868 for Joseph Hall, a wheelwright, who lived there with three wives, though not all at the same time.

**71. 655 Hughes Street
J. Stratton Ware House**



A fine example of the Gothic/Italianate hybrid that was popular in Cape May in the late 1860s when this house was built.

**72. 664 Hughes Street
Spicer Leaming House**



Another example of the Gothic/Italianate hybrid with elaborate porch trim.

TURN AROUND AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO THE LAST INTERSECTION AND TURN LEFT ON STOCKTON PLACE, TOWARDS THE OCEAN. MAKE A RIGHT ON COLUMBIA AVENUE.

73. 635 Columbia Avenue
The Mainstay Inn & Cottage



Designed in the Italianate style by famous Philadelphia architect, Stephen Decatur Button, and built in 1872 as a private gambling club known as Jackson's Club House, the Clubhouse operated until the late 1890's when gambling was made illegal.

74. 621 Columbia Avenue
Delsea

617 Columbia Avenue
Pharo's

613 Columbia Avenue
Summer Cottage Inn



These triplets were identical Italianates designed by Stephen Decatur Button in 1867.

75. 606 Columbia Avenue
The Abbey & Cottage



This structure was commissioned by Pennsylvania coal baron John B. McCreary in 1869, and was built by architect Stephen Decatur Button as a summer retreat. The dominant features of the Gothic Revival structure are its 60-foot tower, as well as its unique windows. Notice the varied roof shapes and shingle patterns in the gables.

In 1873, John's son, George D. McCreary built his summer home next to his father's. This building was built in the Second Empire style and with a convex mansard roof.

76. Columbia Avenue and Gurney Street
Cape Island Baptist Church



Spanish mission style architecture has long been popular at seashore resorts to evoke the sunny feel of California but there are only two examples in Cape May. This one was built in 1937 for a congregation that began in 1844.

WALK DOWN GURNEY STREET TOWARDS THE OCEAN.

**77. 12-30 Gurney Street
Stockton Row Cottages**



These Carpenter Gothic Revival structures are typical examples of the Cape May cottage, distinguished by its wealth of wood ornamentation - the enormous wood acroterion, the carved vergeboards and spandrel arches. Built as cottages for the Stockton Hotel that was constructed in 1869 and was the largest hotel in the world at the time with 475 rooms. The hotel escaped the flames of the Great Fire of 1878 but was razed in 1910.

CONTINUE WALKING TO BEACH DRIVE AND TURN LEFT. GO TWO BLOCKS TO HOWARD STREET.

**78. Beach Drive and Howard Street
Macomber Hotel**

The Hotel Macomber is a family run Old Seashore Hotel built at the turn of the century. The grand Shingle Style mansion was the last Historic Landmark building erected in Cape May and the largest frame structure for its time east of the Mississippi River!

**79. 301 Howard Street
The Chalfonte Hotel**

Colonel Henry Sawyer, builder of the Chalfonte in 1876, turned in the alarm for the Great Fire. The conflagration never reached his grand new hotel and the Chalfonte has continued to welcome guests to its gingerbread-trimmed verandas ever since.

TURN RIGHT ON COLUMBIA AVENUE.

80. 705 Columbia Avenue
Majestic Star

719 Columbia Avenue
Bacchus Inn

725 Columbia Avenue
The Linda Lee



Examples of Cape May tract housing from 1870s with prominent center gable and vergeboards.

81. 712 Columbia Avenue
Jacob Leaming House



Constructed in 1879 at the time the railroad was offering a free pass to anyone who built a \$2000 house. When the cost of his home came in at \$1800 Leaming had elaborate trim, gazebo and canopy added to qualify for the free pass.

**82. 800 Columbia Avenue
Dormer House**



The Dormer House is a center hall Colonial Revival built in 1899 for a rich marble dealer John Jacoby of Philadelphia. Mr. Jacoby, founder and first Commodore of the Cape May Yacht Club, built the cottage for his family as a summer house for “gracious living and entertaining.”

**83. 803 Columbia Avenue
Buttercup Cottage**



This 1878 house was floated down the beach on a log raft to arrive here.

**GO TWO BLOCKS TO MADISON STREET AND TURN LEFT. AFTER TWO BLOCK
TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET TO RETURN TO THE PHYSICK ESTATE.**

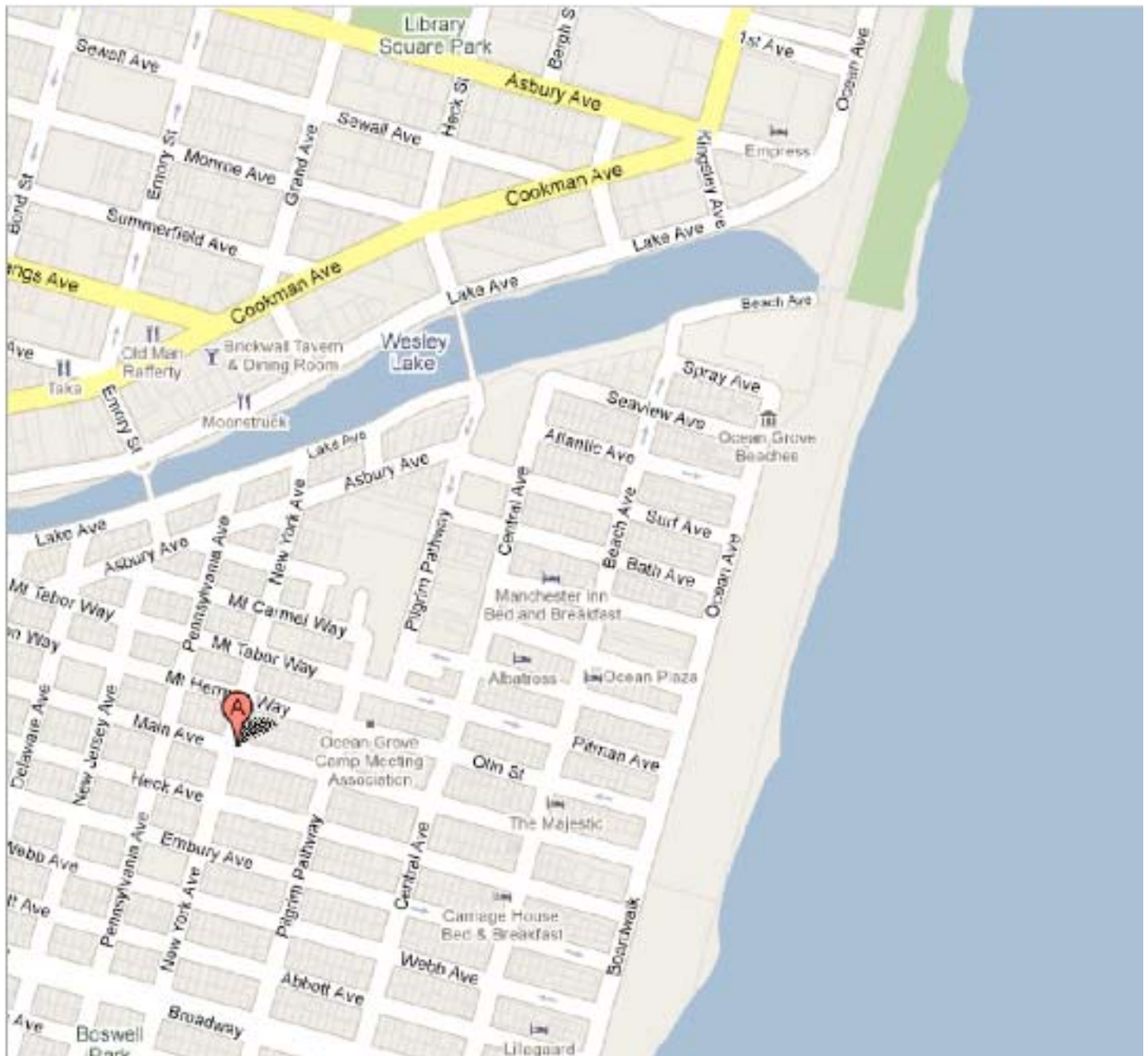
A Walking Tour of Ocean Grove, New Jersey from **walkthetown.com**

Religious camp meetings, often led by Methodists, can find their roots in America as far back as 1799 but the movement really exploded after the Civil War. In the 1860s East Coast beaches were not vacation havens but generally regarded as bug-infested wastelands. At the time only four residents were living between Long Pond and Goose Pond, now known as Wesley Lake and Fletcher Lake respectively. Only a single sand road penetrated the dense forest, scarcely wide enough for a horse and buggy to squeeze through. So when the Reverend William B. Osborn of Farmingdale went scouring the Jersey shore for a place for a new camp meeting in 1869 he found abundant cheap land here (his 11-acre deed would cost \$50) - and precious few mosquitoes. One other thing he was looking for was pine trees in which to build the camp for the annual prayer meeting.

With easy access from Philadelphia and New York City via the New York and Long Branch Railroad, the Ocean Grove camp meeting proved an immediate hit. The 1874 meeting attracted 40,000 people. Records indicate that in 1877 alone, 710,000 tickets were sold for the Ocean Grove-Asbury Park train station. In a generation the town went from a population of four to a fully developed community that was known as the “Queen of the Victorian Methodist Camp Meetings.”

The Camp Meeting Association owns all the land in town and leases it to homeowners and businesses for 99-year renewable terms. Until 1981, when it was folded into Neptune Township, the Association also wrote the rules of Ocean Grove. Among its requirements were strict blue laws prohibiting business and banning all driving on the streets on Sundays. This certainly put a crimp on the summer exodus from the cities that was inundating the shore in the age of the automobile. The town crept sleepily along without much change from its founding a century before. The result is that Ocean Grove now boasts the greatest number of Victorian structures in New Jersey.

Our walking tour will begin where the founders prayed in February 1869, although hopefully not in knee-high snow as covered the ground when Reverend Osborn first visited...



1. Founder's Park Central Avenue and Surf Avenue



It was in today's Founder's Park that the first Camp Meeting was held in Ocean Grove on July 31, 1869. With Dr. Elwood Stokes presiding over about 20 attendees. Walk over to Wesley Lake and look at the outstanding Victorian homes that line the water.

WALK DOWN PILGRIM PATHWAY THAT FORMS THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE PARK. THE OCEAN WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT.

2. Grand Auditorium Pilgrim Pathway at Ocean Pathway



This was the fourth auditorium for the Camp Meeting, beginning with a "Preacher's Stand" in a grove of trees. It took 90 days to construct the Great Auditorium in 1894 and it has been the heartbeat of Ocean Grove ever since. Considered to be the most impressive and largest enclosed auditorium in New Jersey, the building is constructed completely of wood on top of iron trusses laid across stone foundations. The Auditorium is ringed with barn door-type entrances that open for ventilation. Inside an arched ceiling enables preachers and evangelists to be heard without amplification. Concerts, exhibitions, and other entertainment are also held in the auditorium. The Auditorium's pipe organ is one of the world's largest; it was installed in 1908 and built by Robert Hope-Jones who is considered to be the inventor of the theatre organ. Although it has been vastly enlarged in the past 100 years it is one of the few Hope-Jones organs still in existence.

3. Tent City Auditorium Park around Great Auditorium



After the Camp Meeting was founded in 1869 there grew to be 600 tents. Only 114 remain today. The tents are attached to rustic wooden shed that contain a kitchen and bathroom. In September when the meeting ends the canvas tents are stored in the shed. In May the canvas parlors are taken out again and placed over wooden frames. Want to rent one for a summer? Put your name on a list and you may get a call in ten years or so - some of the tent families are into their fifth or sixth generation.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET AND WALK UP THE HILL TO BENEFIT STREET. TURN RIGHT.

4. Young People's Temple Pilgrim Pathway and McClintock Street



The first Young People's Meeting was staged in 1879 in a small building and by 1887 it had been enlarged twice and a new temple was constructed for \$7,500 on plans by Ocean Grove's first police chief, Major John Patterson. Capacity was now 1,500 and that structure served for 90 years until it burned to the ground in 1977. Today's temple is a reproduction of the 1887 building.

WALK ACROSS TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF AUDITORIUM PARK (THE WEST SIDE).

5. Bishop Janes Tabernacle
Founders Park at Mt. Carmel Way



The tabernacle began as a tent supported by twenty-seven cedar poles in 1875. In 1877 it became the camp's first permanent structure, seating about 1,000 camp goers. It was dedicated to the memory of Bishop Edmund S. Janes who preached the dedicatory sermon eight years before.

6. Beersheba Well
Founders Park at Mt. Tabor Way



All the fresh salt air and sparkling sand will not do a seaside community any good without fresh water. The Beersheba Well provided just that to the Ocean Grove camp meeting site when it was drilled in 1870. Temperance crusader Carrie Nation gave a lecture at the Beersheba Well on August 20, 1904.

CONTINUE WALKING THROUGH THE PARK, AWAY FROM THE GREAT AUDITORIUM.

7. Thornley Chapel
northwest corner of Mt. Carmel Way and Mt. Tabor



This building was reworked as a Victorian chapel in 1889 as a memorial to Dr. James Thornley, a charter member of the Camp Meeting Association who passed that year. The cost, including a small organ, was \$2,774.58. Dr. Thornley believed a structure should be dedicated to the services of the youth in the community and daily Children's Meetings are still held here.

CONTINUE STRAIGHT ON PILGRIM PATHWAY (IT IS THE SAME PILGRIM PATHWAY THAT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PARK. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN AVENUE.

**8. St. Elmo Hotel
77 Main Avenue**



With a distinguished history dipping back into the 19th century, the St. Elmo Hotel was already well established by 1901 when it was purchased by Reverend William Jones, a Baptist preacher from Belmar. Southside Johnny got his first job washing dishes at the St. Elmo Hotel when he was 15 and the Asbury Jukes were just getting under way.

TURN AND WALK EAST ON MAIN AVENUE, TOWARDS THE OCEAN.

**9. Post Office
59 Main Avenue**



Once upon a time the original Camp Meeting Association offices were quartered here. So was the town's jail and the post office. Save for the post office all are gone, as is the ornate Victorian tower that once loomed over the streetscape. The alien one-story brick shop building is an obvious later addition.

TURN LEFT ON CENTRAL AVENUE.

10. Washington Fire Co. 1
50 Olin Street at Central Avenue



Despite its small size - less than one square mile - Ocean Grove boasts three fire companies. The first was Washington Fire Company No. 1, incorporated in 1870. The eye-catching two-story firehouse with fancy brickwork and wood trim was erected in 1883.

11. Centennial Cottage
northwest corner of McClintock Street and Central Avenue



This Stick Style house was erected in 1879 by Elizabeth Fell, who took advantage of the Camp Meeting Association's edict that permitted married women to own their own real estate. In 1969 the house was donated to the Association and moved to this corner to serve as a 19th century living history museum.

TURN RIGHT ON OCEAN PATHWAY. IN ITS DAY OCEAN PATHWAY, LINED WITH VICTORIAN BUILDINGS WAS LAUDED AS ONE OF THE PRETTIEST STREETS IN AMERICA.

12. Boardwalk Pavilion
Ocean Avenue at Ocean Pathway



Billed as "Music and Worship by the Sea," the open air venue plays host to concerts and Sunday morning services.

TURN LEFT ON THE BOARDWALK AND WALK NORTH TOWARDS ASBURY PARK.

**13. Asbury Park Boardwalk
Atlantic Ocean**



In 1869 James A. Bradley was vacationing in Ocean Grove when he began dreaming about the sandy dunes and the virgin maritime forestlands he saw stretching to the north. In 1871 he picked up 500 acres of oceanfront property for about \$90,000 and began plans to construct a wooden walkway for visitors to stroll along the shore. He named the town Asbury Park after the founder of Methodism in America: Francis Asbury. By 1877 there were several large hotels occupying spacious lots that Bradley had sold to accommodate those visitors. In 1885 the nation's second electric trolley system was constructed to bring ever more visitors to the shore. Iconic buildings like the Casino and Convention Hall rose along the boardwalk.

WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED EXPLORING THE BOARDWALK RETURN TO THE PAVILION AND WALK BACK UP OCEAN PATHWAY.

**14. Stokes Statue
Ocean Pathway**



This rendering of first Camp Meeting leader Ellwood Stokes was rendered in bronze by Paul W. Morris. It was installed in 1905. Stokes remained president of the Meeting until his death in 1897 at the age of 83.

TURN RIGHT ON CENTRAL AVENUE TO RETURN TO THE TORU STARTING POINT IN FOUNDER'S PARK.

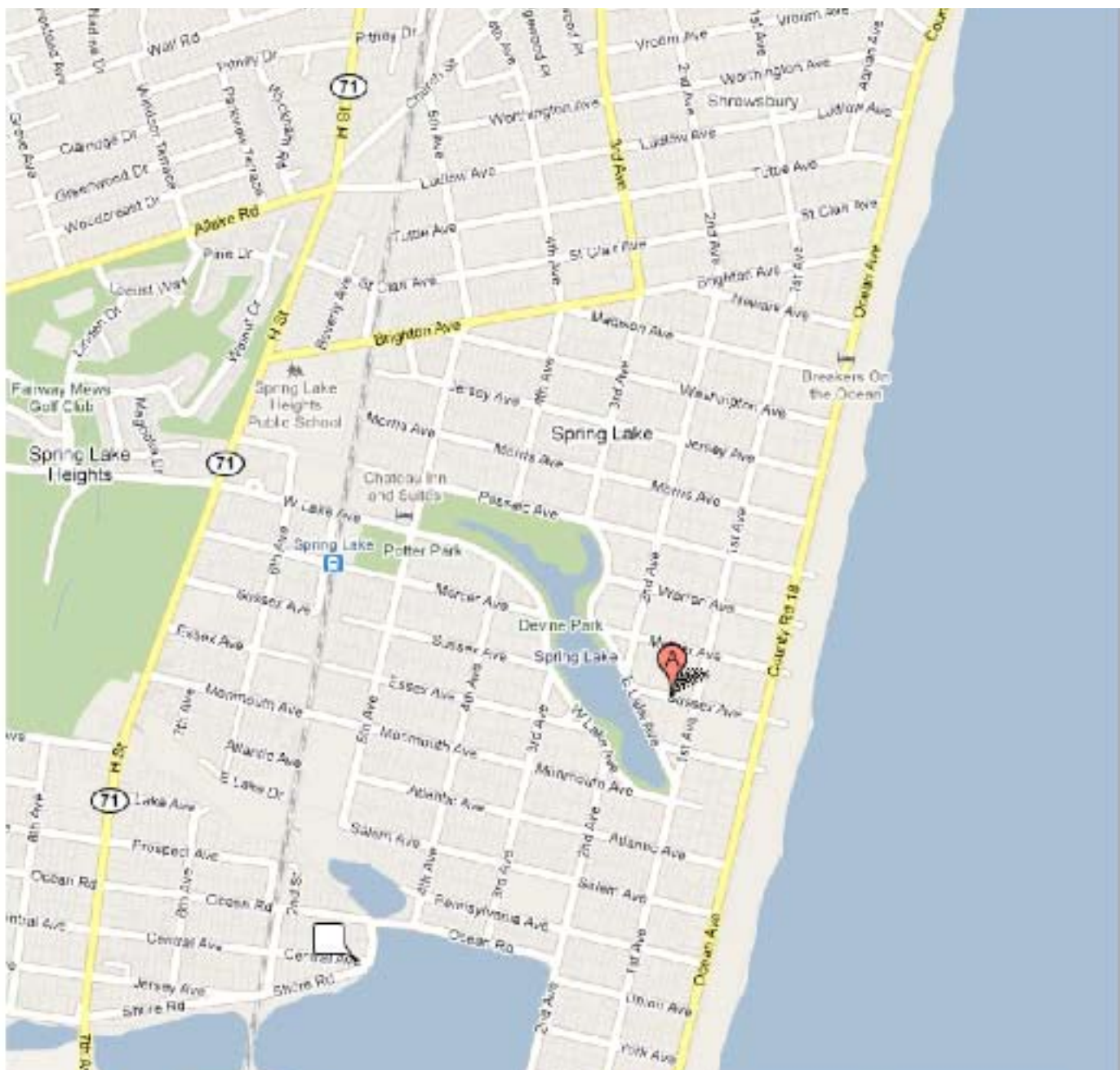
A Walking Tour of Spring Lake, New Jersey **from walkthetown.com**

The Spring Lake Beach Improvement Company organized shortly after the New York & Long Branch Railroad reached the area in 1873. At the time, the area consisted of a handful of farms and the scattered shacks of local fishermen. The group purchased 285 acres of land from Formon Osborn in 1875 which had near its center a small lake fed by pure spring water just a few hundred yards from the Atlantic Ocean.

The developers set about building the luxurious Monmouth House hotel on the oceanfront and summer visitors began work on their own places. At about the same time the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia was breaking down and as the fair buildings were dismantled the deep-pocketed Spring Lake pioneers had lumber and fixtures shipped by rail and steamer to their building sites. In some cases entire Centennial buildings - the Missouri State Building (Ocean Road) and the Portugese Government Pavillion (a guest house on Atlantic Avenue for over 100 years) for instance - ended up in Spring Lake. Even the main comfort station was shipped to Spring Lake where it became the Lake House Hotel in 1877 with 92 rooms, large dining parlors and a bowling alley. It was demolished in 1904 and was replaced by a public park.

In 1892 four of the fledgling seashore developments were welded into the town of Spring Lake. Many of the wealthy summer visitors came from prosperous Irish businessmen from New York and Philadelphia, so many that the town came to be known as the "Irish Riviera." But the massive hotels were costly to run and more Jersey shore communities were competing for summer beach-goers and Spring Lake evolved into a town of a few thousand year-round residents and boutique inns.

Today Spring Lake boast the longest non-commercial boardwalk on the Jersey shore - more than two miles - and home lots characterized by grassy lawns and shade trees. Many of those lots house multi-million dollar mansions. Our walking tour will pass by quite a few, tour the downtown business district and look in on some of the surviving Victorian inns and hotels and we will begin with the last remaining dowager from Spring Lake's Gilded Age...



**1. Essex and Sussex
700 Ocean Avenue**



At one time three grand hotels greeted visitors along the unspoiled Spring Lake boardwalk; only the Essex and Sussex remains standing. The largest of the trio, the Monmouth Hotel was razed in 1975 and the Warren Hotel was dismantled in 2001. Each was replaced with multi-million dollar waterfront houses. This rambling hotel with four-story high white pillars and gold cupola atop was built in 1914 for \$500,000 and covered the entire block between Essex and Sussex streets. In 1981 the hotel stood in for early Atlantic City in the movie *Ragtime* starring Jimmy Cagney. But its glory days were near an end by that time. The building stood vacant for almost 20 years before it was renovated for use as luxury senior condominiums.

WALK NORTH ON OCEAN AVENUE (THE OCEAN WILL BE ON YOUR RIGHT). YOU CAN WALK ON THE BOARDWALK OR THE SIDEWALK.

**2. Spring Lake Bath and Tennis Club
1 Jersey Avenue at Ocean Avenue**



The prestigious private club was founded in the 1898 and is one of America's oldest lawn tennis clubs. It features a tunnel under the road and boardwalk to the beach for members.

3. Breakers Hotel
1507 Ocean Avenue



The grande dames from the Victorian era are all gone from the Spring Lake seashore and this is the only 19th century hotel that survives on the ocean. It opened as the Wilburton and has been the Breakers for over 100 years.

TURN LEFT ON NEWARK AVENUE. BEAR LEFT ON BRIGHTON AVENUE. TURN LEFT ON THIRD AVENUE.

4. Spring Lake Memorial Community House
1501 Third Avenue



Farmingdale-born Oliver Huff Brown was one of the biggest boosters of a nascent Spring Lake business community. He bought three lots on 3rd Avenue to set up his furniture store where he could “cater to people of refinement and culture.” He was elected Mayor of Spring Lake while simultaneously serving in the New Jersey State Senate. Brown donated the land and the building for the Community House that would contain a theater, a library and classrooms. The Spring Lake Theatre Company produces Broadway-quality musicals, comedies, and dramas marked by lavish sets and costumes and has attracted such talent as Paul Newman to its stage.

5. The Bottle Shop
1400 3rd Avenue



This Art-Deco inspired retail building was completed in 1959. The Bottle Shop was the first business to move in.

6. Who's On Third
1300 Third Avenue



Daniel Hills was a pioneering businessman in Spring Lake, opening Hills' Drug Store in 1890 at Atlantic and First Avenue. A fire swept through the First Avenue business district in 1900 and the next year he built this drug store which he operated successfully while also serving in town council and as mayor. Hills' would remain on Third Avenue well into the 1950s.

7. Main Pharmacy
1206 Third Avenue



Historically this tile-decorated building was the Burke Brothers Drug Store; the Burkes weren't just brothers, they were identical triplets. The drug store sported a popular soda fountain for many years.

8. Centennial Clock
Third Avenue and Morris Avenue



This clock was installed for Spring Lake's 100th birthday party in 1992. In front of the clock is a time capsule that will be cracked open in 2042 to reveal a video of the town and pictures drawn by the town's school kids.

9. First National Bank/Wachovia Bank
1123 Third Avenue



The First National Bank began in 1901 with Oliver H. Brown at the helm. The brick Classical Revival building has lost its Ionic capitals on the entry pillars and some decoration through various remodelings but it still projects an aura of solidity and safety a century later.

10. Marucci Building
1112 Third Avenue



Otto Morris showed up in Spring Lake in 1882 and opened a Shaving Parlor near the train station. He eventually refused to return to his Italian immigrant family in New York City so his father, Orazio Marucci (he did not "Americanize" his name) came to Spring Lake as well and started a tailoring and dry cleaning business. Frank Marucci, Otto's brother, took over the family business after apprenticing at Brooks Brothers in New York City. In 1910 he built this commercial brick building, half of which he rented out. Frank Marucci was a councilman for 20 years and mayor for another 20, winning 40 consecutive elections until he died in 1956.

11. ALU Building
1100 Third Avenue



J.A. Osborn operated a livery on this location that was the first stop for most visitors to Spring Lake to secure the services of a horse or buggy. Charles Lewis purchased the land and erected this retail/office building in 1920.

CONTINUE ACROSS PASSAIC AVENUE ONTO EAST LAKE AVENUE AND FOLLOW ALONG SPRING LAKE.

12. Spring Lake
East Lake Avenue



The clear spring waters are on display courtesy of fountains in the eight-foot deep lake.

TURN LEFT ON SUSSEX AVENUE.

13. Ashling Cottage
104 Sussex Avenue



Ashling Cottage was one of the Spring Lake homes built from materials from the landmark Agricultural Hall from the Philadelphia Bicentennial. Developers James and Thomas Hunter bought half the lumber from the enormous exhibit and there was enough to construct eight homes, a railroad station and a 900-foot long bridge over Wreck Pond Inlet. James Hulett, a popular Philadelphia Victorian architect, did the design honors on the projects.

14. Ocean House
102 Sussex Avenue



The highlight of this historic inn is on the inside - a staircase that was used in the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.

TURN RIGHT ON FIRST AVENUE. TURN RIGHT ON SALEM AVENUE.

15. Spring Lake Inn
104 Salem Avenue



In the 1800s, before the days of complicated electrical wiring and plumbing, it was not unusual for buildings to be moved around from place to place - so long as you had plenty of strong oxen. This is the third location for this historic building which was built in 1888 as Timothy Hurley's Grand Central Stables Carriage House. It was a stagecoach stop with lodging rooms on the top floors for coachmen. Looking at the multi-gabled, turreted inn today it is easy to imagine the horses smiling when they pulled into this fashionable livery.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO FIRST AVENUE AND TURN LEFT. WALK BACK ONE BLOCK TO ATLANTIC AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT.

16. The Sandpiper Inn
7 Atlantic Avenue



Noted for its wrap-around second-story porch, this Victorian showplace was built about 1888 as the summer residence for Manual De Azpiroz, the Mexican ambassador to the United States.

TURN LEFT ON OCEAN AVENUE TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

A Walking Tour of Toms River, New Jersey

from **walkthetown.com**

The early English settlers found plenty of ways to make a living in this area in the 1700s - there were abundant woodlands for lumber and charcoal, the sea yielded fish and whales and there was bog ore to process into iron. At the head of navigation on the Goose Creek River, a small village formed here. It was "Tom's River" by the time of the American Revolution and the village had fifteen houses.

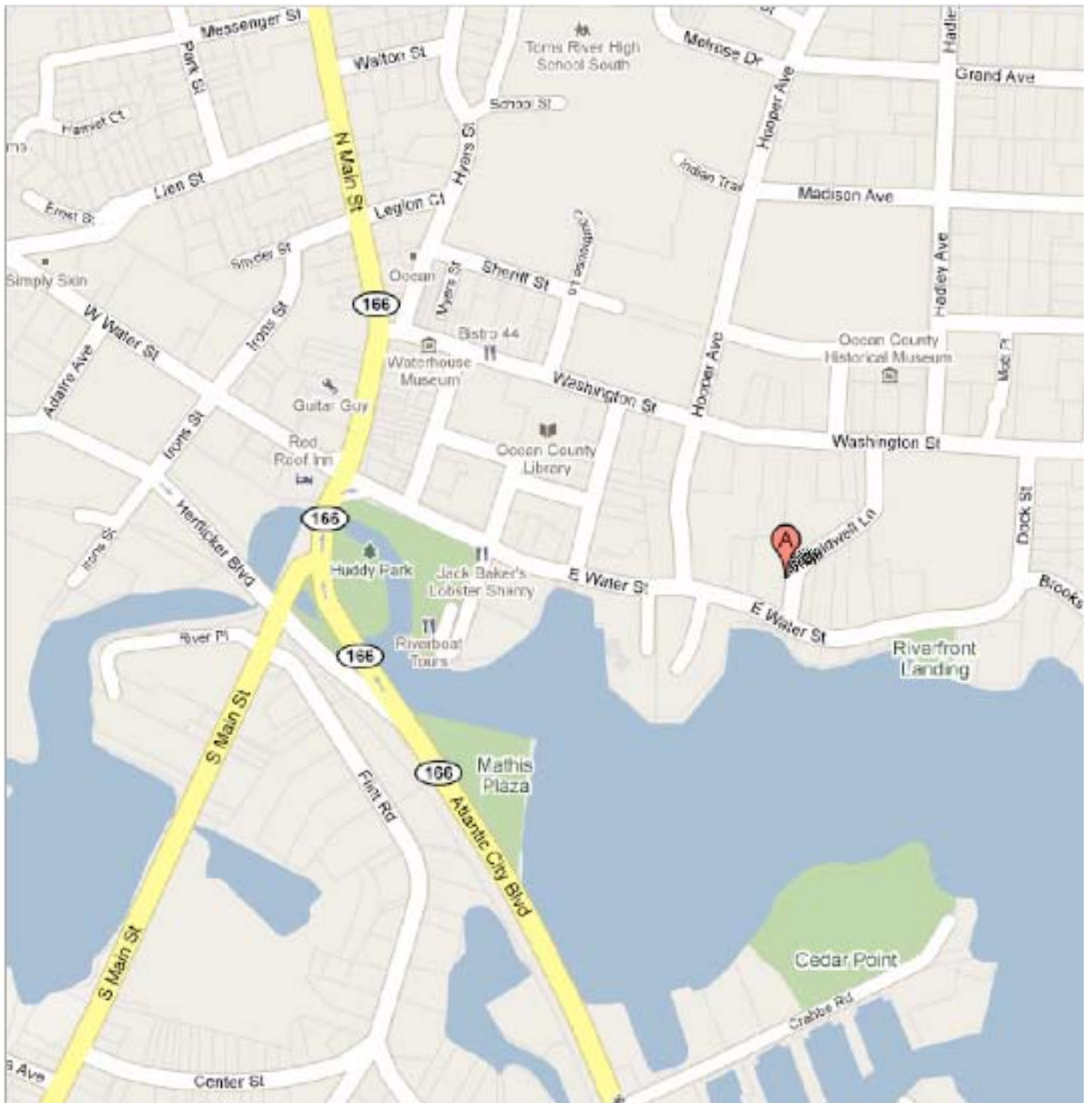
Toms River, behind a long barrier island, was a haven for privateers feasting on British shipping in the War for Independence, but it gained prominence by an incident that occurred just after the cessation of hostilities. A band of Tories, seeking saltworks, surprised Captain Joshua Huddy on March 24, 1782 as he defended a protective blockhouse. The blockhouse and the entire town were burned to the ground and Huddy hanged on April 12, apparently in retribution for his having killed a Tory leader.

Angry patriots were incensed at what they considered an illegal execution and demanded the surrender of Loyalist captain Richard Lippincott, the leader of the hanging party. When the band refused to produce him another British captain was selected by lot by the Americans to die. The sacrifice was 20-year old Sir Charles Asgill. Back in England, Lady Asgill sailed to France to plead for the life of her only son, and indeed Congress finally ordered him released. While America was embroiled in its first International imbroglio that was mucking up peace talks to end the Revolution, the good folks in Toms River were left to figure out how to rebuild their town from ashes.

But rebuild they did and Toms River was for awhile known as an important port until a major storm in the early 1800s sealed off the Cranberry Inlet and blocked access to the ocean. By the middle of the 1800s the town could boast of no more than 50 houses. In 1850 Toms River was selected as the county seat for newly created Ocean County and the government set up shop about the same time as the railroads began bringing wealthy vacationers to town.

Toms River began serving as a retirement center and resort and bedroom community as its economy became retail and professional-based. In the 1950s, with the completion of the Garden State Parkway, Toms River went on steroids. The new commuters swelled the population from 7,000 in 1950 to 90,000 in the year 2000. One thing the new homesteaders brought with them were good young baseball players. In the 1990s Toms River East Little League went to the Little League World Series three times and in 1998 captured the title with a 12-9 win over Japan, carrying the Toms River name around the world.

Our walking tour will begin by the water near where Captain Huddy gave his life to protect some salt so many years ago...



1. Huddy Park

Main Street and Water Street



Joshua Huddy was an unlikely character to live in on as a martyred hero. He spent much of his life brushing up with the law and at the age of 21 he was booted out of the Friends Society in Salem by Quakers who could no longer abide his “disorderly” conduct. During the Revolutionary War he was given a commission to captain The Black Snake to harass British shipping vessels. He was captured by Loyalists and was able to escape the hangman’s noose only by executing a daring escape. On February 1, 1782 Huddy was given command of the blockhouse in Toms River that was built to protect the local salt works. On March 24, a large force of Loyalists overwhelmed Huddy’s small band of defenders, capturing and burning the fort, salt works, wharves and all but two houses in the village. Area commander Major John Cook, six militiamen, and two loyalist officers were killed. Captain Huddy and thirteen men were taken prisoner. He was taken prisoner and accused of murdering a Loyalist refugee. This time he was hanged. Ironically, after a lifetime of assaults and thefts and, most likely, the murder of British Loyalists, Huddy was almost certainly not guilty of this crime. His execution ignited outrage among the Americans and derailed ongoing peace talks in Paris in what is considered the first “international incident” in American history. A re-enactment of the fight at Toms River takes place every year in the park where the small fort was located.

The pedestrian bridge in Huddy Park is named after Thomas Luker, an early European settler and whom it is believed by many to be the “Tom” of Toms River. Others credit Captain William Toms or Old Indian Tom. No one really knows but when the bridge was dedicated in 1992 Luker got the official endorsement.

WALK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HUDDY PARK CAR LOT.

2. **Stoutenburgh Place** **Robbins Parkway**



John Stoutenburgh was commodore of the Toms River Yacht Club for 23 years. The anchor in the small greenspace named for him is from the USS Randolph, one of 24 “long-hull” aircraft carriers built during World War II for the United States Navy. Named for Peyton Randolph, president of the First Continental Congress, she was commissioned in October 1944, and served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning three battle stars. During the 1960s the Randolph was a recovery ship for two Mercury space missions and plucked John Glenn out of the ocean after he became the first American to orbit the earth in 1962. She was decommissioned in 1969 and in 1975 she was towed to Kearny and broken up for scrap.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK DOWN TO THE WATER.

3. ***River Lady*** **Toms River at foot of Robbins Parkway**



The River Lady is an 85-foot authentic reproduction of a stern-wheeler riverboat, the only one in New Jersey. The interior of the cruise boat is mahogany and brass in the Victorian style of a 19th century Mississippi River paddle boat.

4. Toms River Yacht Club/Lobster Shanty
4 Robbins Parkway



On July 1, 1871 the Toms River Yacht Club organized and within a month was racing its first regatta from Long Point to Forked River and back. The winner scored a handsome silver trophy designed by club member Joseph Chattellier and crafted by Tiffany's in New York City for a cost of \$175. The competition has been staged on Barnegat Bay every year since and the Toms River Challenge Cup is the oldest racing trophy in the United States. In 1911 a new clubhouse was built on this site and served until the club moved out to Money Island in 1968.

LEAVE THE PARK AND WALK UP TO WATER STREET. TURN RIGHT.

5. Horner House
44 East Water Street



This is the oldest house in Toms River, the core of which was constructed in 1824 with two stories and two rooms on each floor.

6. Crawford House
46 East Water Street



Look closely into the trim, modern materials and you can see the original three-bay Federal-style house built by Richard Crawford in 1827. At various times it has been enlarged to serve as a rooming house for visiting yachtsmen.

7. Stewart House
57 East Water Street



Captain Samuel C. Dunham, the Toms River dockmaster, built this house in 1849; Charles Stewart enlarged it into a boarding house a decade later. On July 6, 1871 the Toms River Yacht Club adjourned its first meeting here.

TURN LEFT ON HOOPER AVENUE.

8. Toms River Seaport Society
78 East Water Street at Hooper Avenue



Joseph Francis was building award-winning boats by the time he was 18 years old, when he copped a prize for a rowboat from the Massachusetts Mechanical Institute. The promise he showed as a precocious boat designer in 1819 was realized when he improved wooden life boats by including self righting and self bailing. By 1841 all government vessels and nearly all merchant ships sailing from New York City had been provided with his life boats. In 1843 he invented the Francis Life-car, a ten-foot long corrugated metal boat with an enclosed chamber that rescued shipwreck victims by setting up a life line over the surf from the distressed ship to the shore. In the next dozen years his life-cars would be credited with saving some 2,500 lives. The first life-car ever used rescued 200 of 201 people from the wreck of the Ayrshire in 1850 and is today on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

The Boston-born Francis set up his business in Long Branch and lived in an estate here. In 1890 the United States Congress conveyed a gold medal, designed by the famous American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the largest medal ever granted by Congress, to Francis in gratitude for his inventions. He died three year later at age 92 while summering at Otsego Lake in New York. The Seaport Society was founded in 1976 to preserve the sailing heritage of the Jersey coast, especially those watercraft designed for the shallow estuaries and bays. The museum is housed in the 1868 carriage house of the Francis estate. Outdoor storage sheds were added to the property and

now contain part of the collection of wooden boats.

9. Old Burying Ground
southeast corner of Washington Street and Hooper Avenue



There are not many towns in New Jersey where you can stand on the steps of the court house and see gravestones. But this cemetery remains on prime real estate near the center of Toms River at what was traditionally the main crossroads of town. It was established in 1828 when the Methodists built the first church building in Toms River on this site. The congregation would later move across the street and across to the street again before moving out of downtown in the 1970s but the burying ground has not moved in over 180 years. Beneath the marble and limestone headstones lie prominent sea captains and also Revolutionary War veterans.

TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

10. Captain Amos Birdsall House
226 Washington Street



Amos Birdsall enjoyed a thriving business building four and six-masted schooners on the Jersey before moving to Camden, Maine. Upon returning to New Jersey in the 1870s he settled in Toms River and built this Georgian Revival manor house. Birdsall was said to have amassed one of the largest fortunes in Ocean County and was elected President of the First National Bank at Toms River in 1897. he died on the final day of 1909 at the age of 80.

TURN LEFT ON HADLEY AVENUE.

11. Ocean County Historical Society
26 Hadley Avenue



This house began life a block away on Hooper Avenue in 1820 a single room with an upstairs sleeping loft. In the 1840s later owners were able to add a large room to each floor and in 1867 when the house was purchased by Samuel V. Pierson, a ship captain of means, it received a fashionable Victorian make-over. In 1971 when Ocean County decided to build a new administration building three houses, including this one, stood in its way. The house was sold at auction and the Ocean County Historical Society was the high bidder at \$1.00. Presumably, it was the only bid. The house was then moved to this location and restored as the county museum.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO WASHINGTON STREET. TURN RIGHT AND CONTINUE ACROSS HOOPER AVENUE.

12. Ocean County Courthouse
118 Washington Street



After the southern half of Monmouth County was lopped off in 1850 to form Ocean County in 1850, Toms River was selected as the new seat of government over Lakehurst by a single vote. It has remained so ever since. The Greek Revival courthouse, fronted by a picket of fluted Doric columns, was ready by 1851 as was the Sheriff's House, with ten attached jail cells, built behind the Courthouse by Robert Aitken for \$4250. The Sheriffs and their families occupied this building for over 75 years. In 1950 the first of two additions were made to the west wing of the original Courthouse and as the county continued to grow the original building now anchors an entire mid-town complex.

13. Bishop Memorial Library 39 Washington Street



Nathaniel H. Bishop, a tall, slight man with red hair and beard, was born in Medford, Massachusetts in 1837 and became one of the 19th century's greatest adventurers and writers of his experiences. He began by hiking across South America at the age of 17 that spawned the book *The Pampas and Andes: A Thousand Miles' Walk Across South America*. Canoe trips of 2,500 miles from Quebec to the Gulf of Mexico and 2,600 miles down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers also became books. When he wasn't galavanting across the Western Hemisphere he was growing cranberries in some 60 properties he owned in Ocean County, where he moved in 1872. Bishop would own homes on Water Street in Toms River, Lake George, New York, Lake Worth, Florida and Montovia, California. When he died in 1902 his will funded this public library, which was finally dedicated in 1941. With construction of a new library in the 1857 Presbyterian church next door this Colonial Revival building became a reading room.

14. Town Hall 33 Washington Street



This was the location of the Toms River blockhouse that was overrun by Loyalist troops seeking prized saltworks in the waning days of the American Revolution. Later Captain John Holmes built a Greek Revival brick home here that became Town Hall. The Town Hall, like several locations around Toms River took a star turn in the movies in 1979 when a house at 18 Brooks Drive was selected to stand-in for the Long Island, New York house in the Amityville Horror.

TURN LEFT ON ROBBINS STREET.

**15. Toms River Volunteer Fire Company Number One
24 Robbins Street**



The Toms River Volunteer Fire Company Number One was forged from tragic circumstances in 1896 following a deadly Christmastime blaze the previous year. To get started the company purchased 200 galvanized iron buckets and later that year raised \$600 to purchase a Howe hook-and-ladder truck that was proudly painted red, white and blue. The first fire house was a two-story frame building on Horner Street; the current building was constructed in 1913 and remodeled in 1959.

CONTINUE DOWN TO WATER STREET AND COSS OVER INTO HUDDY PARK TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Recognizing Early American Architecture:

Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)

- * steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- * small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- * massive chimney
- * vertical board (batten) door
- * little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- * one room deep

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)

- * side-gabled roof
- * usually one story
- * batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- * little or no eave overhang

French Colonial (1700-1830)

- * steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
- * one story
- * tall, narrow door and window openings
- * doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- * walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)

- * low-pitched or flat roof
- * normally one story
- * few small windows
- * multiple external doors
- * walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- * long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

Georgian (1700-1780)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- * row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- * while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

Greek Revival (1825-1860)

- * gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- * entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
 - Doric: plain capitals
 - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
 - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- * narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- * cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture:

General Victorian Features (1840-1910)

- * roof ornaments
- * bay (protruding) windows
- * three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- * gingerbread porch trim

Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)

- * high-pitched center gables
- * pointed arch windows and doors
- * pendants and finials extending from roof

Italianate Style (1840-1885)

- * brackets under roof cornices
- * cupolas on the roof
- * narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- * tall, slender windows

Second Empire Style (1855-1885)

- * mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- * molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- * eaves normally with decorative brackets below

Stick Style (1860-1890)

- * stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- * stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- * Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- * pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- * decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- * wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)

- * asymmetrical facade
- * patterned shingles
- * turned porch posts and trim
- * corner towers and turrets
- * wraparound porch
- * steeply pitched, irregular roofline

Shingle Style (1880-1900)

- * shingled walls without interruption at corners
- * multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- * extensive porches
- * walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)

- * based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- * round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- * most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- * always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- * facade usually asymmetrical

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)

- * accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- * symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- * windows with double-hung sashes
- * large dormers
- * round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

Neoclassical (1895-1950)

- * facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- * facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- * revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- * often very large

Tudor (1890 -1940)

- * massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- * facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
- * decorative half-timbering often present
- * steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- * tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- * walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

French Chateausque (1890-1930)

- * busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- * steeply pitched hipped roof
- * multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- * walls of masonry, usually stone

Beaux Arts (1890-1930)

- * wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- * masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- * facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- * first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- * facade symmetrical

Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)

- * shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- * porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- * commonly with red tile roof covering
- * widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- * wall surface usually smooth stucco

Pueblo Revival (1910-present)

- * flat roof with parapeted wall above
- * stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- * projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- * wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- * unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- * tile or brick floors

Prairie Style (1900-1920)

- * low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- * two stories with one-story porches or wings
- * massive square porch supports
- * detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- * hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- * one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

Craftsman (1905-1930)

- * low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- * roof rafters usually exposed
- * porches supported by square columns
- * decorative braces or false beams under gables
- * columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- * generally one or one-and-a-half stories

Art Deco (1920-1940)

- * zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- * towers and other vertical projections
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

Art Moderne (1920-1940)

- * streamline, curved corners
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- * horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- * windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- * glass-block windows or sections of the wall

International (1925-present)

- * no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- * smooth, unornamental wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- * windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls