

WO-327
Pier Building
Ocean City
Public

c. 1926

The Pier building in Ocean City has been a long-time site of entertainment along the resort's boardwalk. The extant two-story, nine-bay by five-bay frame building is enhanced by tapered pilasters that define the corners of the structure as well as the principal elevation. As the only Atlantic coast resort in Maryland, Ocean City's Colonial Revival pier building is a rare example of entertainment-related seaside architecture. Although the building no longer provides the space for dancing on the second floor, it serves commercial interests for various shops on the first floor. For security measures the first floor shop fronts have been altered with the addition of metal tambour-style doors.

Erected around 1926, the current pier building stands in the same location as the first pavilion, finished in July 1907. Fronting the entrance to the city pier, the pavilions at this site have been a focal point for entertainment and commercial activity since the early twentieth century. Historic photographs of the boardwalk indicate the 1907 pavilion had a long arched roof with large round arched windows lighting the first and second floors. The completion of the first pier and pavilion was announced in the Salisbury Advertiser on July 6, 1907,

One of the greatest improvements Ocean City has ever had is the big ocean pier which is not completed and open to visitors. The new building compares favorably with structures of this class as at any of the larger seaside resorts and is a credit to the promoters and builders who had the courage and energy necessary to organize and complete an enterprise of this magnitude...A dancing pavilion, skating rink, bowling alleys, pool room and refreshment booths are also provided and will no doubt be liberally patronized. The project promises to be a success.

The 1907 pier building lasted until December 1925 when fire destroyed the Atlantic and Seaside hotels as well as the pier pavilion. Shortly afterwards the extant building was erected to serve the same needs.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic PIER BUILDING OR PAVILION

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The Boardwalk ___ not for publication

city, town Ocean City ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Buddy Jenkins, leasee

street & number Newport Farm telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Maryland state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-327

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ocean City Pier building is a large two-story rectangular frame structure that stands at the entrance to the municipal pier in the heart of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The building faces west and is covered by a low pitched hip roof.

Built around 1926, the two-story, nine-bay by five-bay rectangular frame building is surrounded by a poured concrete boardwalk, and it is sheathed with weatherboard siding. A parapet wall disguises the low pitched hip roof that covers the structure.

The west (main) elevation is a nine-bay facade with pairs of tapered pilasters defining each bay. The first floor has been altered with the introduction of sliding metal garage-style tambour doors. An original hanging awning, however, supported by chains attached to each pilaster, remains in place. The second floor is marked by boarded over window openings. The windows behind the advertisements are nine-over-nine sash with narrow three-pane windows above. Finishing the top of the two-story structure is a classical entablature.

The north and south sides of the pier building have been altered on the first floor with the addition of board advertisements covering the original window openings. Under the signage large-size nine-over-nine sash windows are topped by three-pane transom windows.

The east elevation has been altered with the addition of an amusement park between the pier building and the fishing pier.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-327

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Pier building in Ocean City has been a long-time site of entertainment along the resort's boardwalk. The extant two-story nine-bay by five-bay frame pier building is enhanced by tapered pilasters that define the corners of the building as well as the principal elevation. As the only Atlantic coast resort in Maryland, Ocean City's boardwalk-sited pier building is a rare example of entertainment-related architecture. Although the building no longer provides the night-time dancing on the second floor that it once did, it serves commercial interests for various shops on the first floor. For security measures the first floor shop fronts have been altered with the addition of metal tambour doors.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Erected around 1926, the current pier building stands in the same location as the first pavilion, finished in July 1907. Fronting the entrance to the city pier, the pavilions at this site have been a focal point for entertainment and commercial activity since the early twentieth century. Historic photographs of the building indicate the large frame pavilion had a long arched roof with large round arched windows lighting the first and second floors. ~~The~~ The completion of the first pier and pavilion was announced in the Salisbury Advertiser on July 6, 1907,

One of the greatest improvements Ocean City has ever had is the big ocean pier which is now completed and open to visitors. The new building compares favorably with structures of this class at any of the larger seaside resorts and is a credit to the promoters and builders who had the courage and energy necessary to organize and complete an enterprise of this magnitude...A dancing pavilion, skating rink, bowling alleys, pool room and refreshment booths are also provided and will no doubt be liberally patronized. The project promises to be a success.

The 1907 pier building lasted until the December 1925 fire which destroyed the Atlantic and Seaside hotels as well as the pier pavilion. Shortly afterwards the extant building was erected in serve the same needs.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-327

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
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organization	Worcester County	date	2/26/90
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street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	632-1194
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city or town	Snow Hill	state	MD 21863
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Pien Building

MHT Inventory Number: NO-327

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT

2) Geographic Orientation:

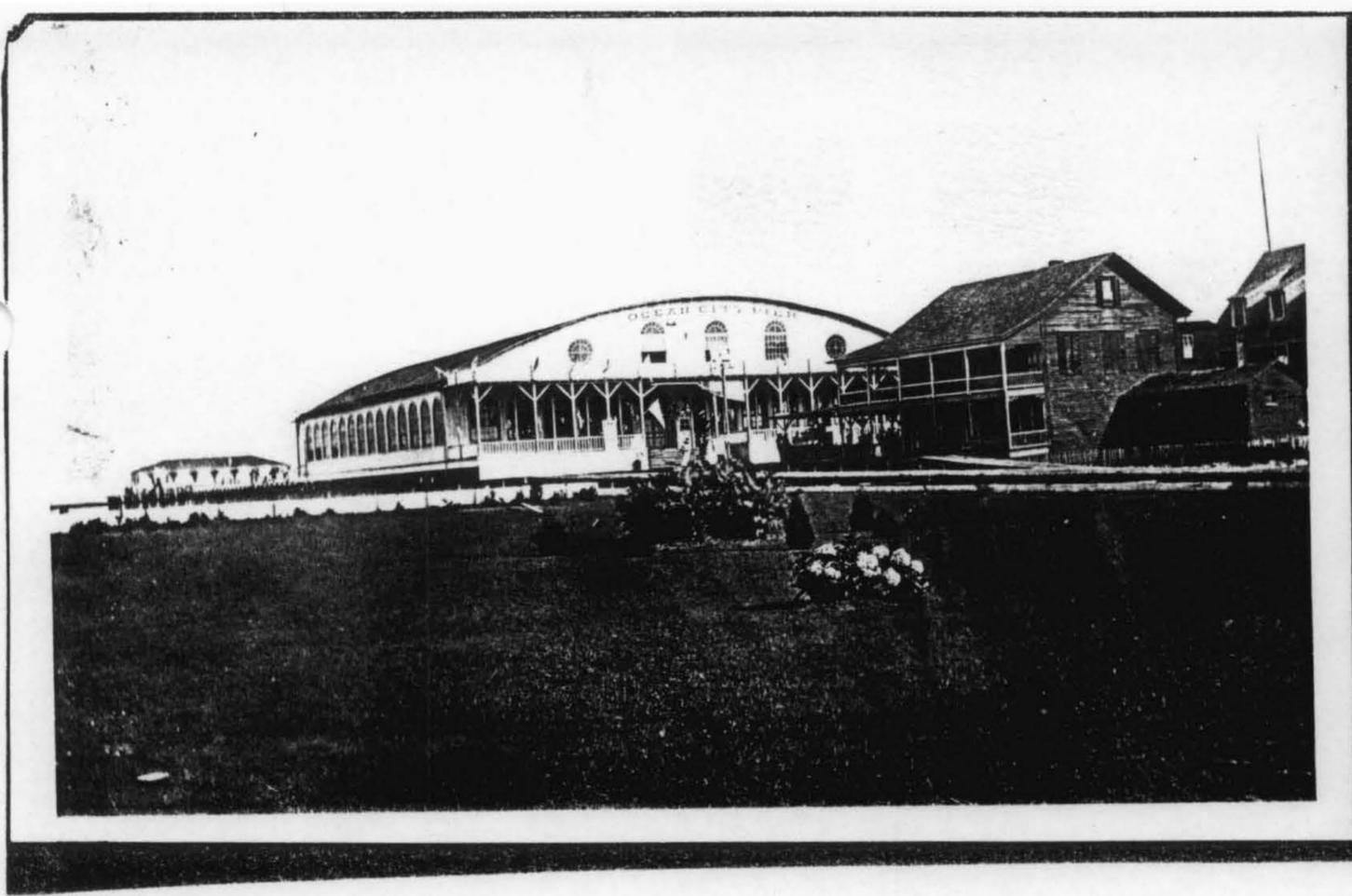
EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
(1870-1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE
1. FORMER DANCING PAVILION

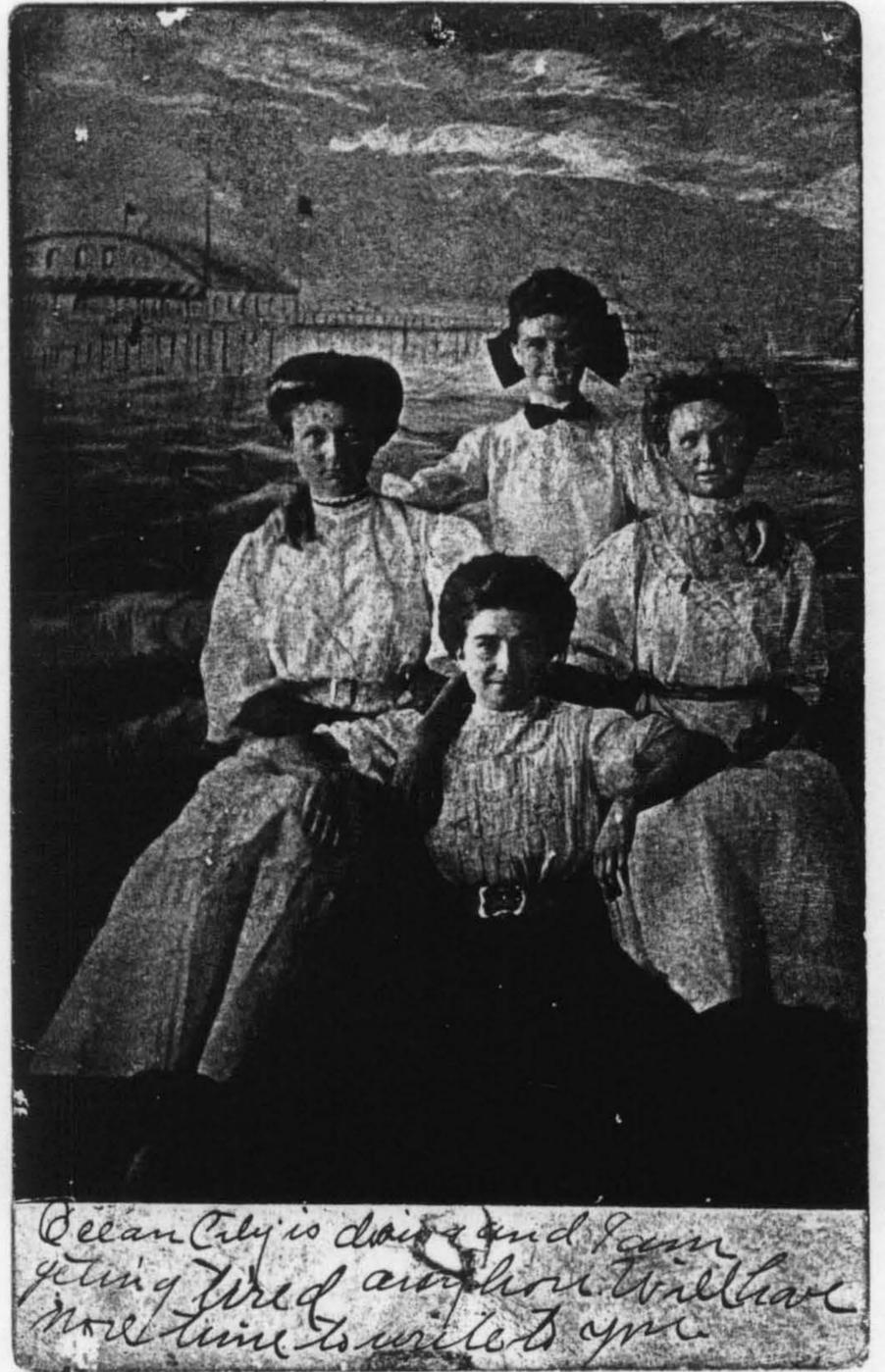


No. 339

Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum
Collection

NO-327

Pien Building



Ocean City is down and I am
getting tired and hope will have
more time to write to you

c. 1912

1st Prof 0-100

NO-327

Pier Building
OCEAN CITY LIFESAVING STATION
MUSEUM COLLECTION

STOCK REMEDIES OF ALL KINDS

This is another line that we have kept working on until it is very complete.

- Remedies for Horses
- Remedies for Cattle
- Remedies for Hogs
- Remedies for Poultry
- Remedies for Sheep
- Remedies for Dogs

ALSO

Remedies for getting rid of insects and animal pests about the Orchard, Garden, Meadow and Barnyard.

Come right to us for goods of this class. We try to know what we are selling and take every precaution against handling any remedies that are unreliable, harmful or of imaginary value.

WHITE & LEONARD

Druggists, Stationers, Bookbinders,

Cor. Main and St. Peter's Streets,
SALISBURY, MD.

OCEAN PIER COMPLETED.

New Building Is Great Improvement To Ocean City.

One of the greatest improvements Ocean City has ever had is the big ocean pier which is now completed and open to visitors. The new building compares favorably with structures of this class at any of the larger seaside resorts and is a credit to the promoters and builders who had the courage and energy necessary to organize and complete an enterprise of this magnitude. In planning the interior arrangements of the pier all has not been sacrificed to commercial interest but due care has been exercised to provide for the comfort, convenience and safety of patrons particularly those accompanied by small children as the entire building is not only enclosed by a waist high railing, but is rendered doubly secure by the addition of stout wiring, making it practically impossible for children to pass through. Large space has also been reserved for the use of the general public and free tables and chairs are also provided for families or parties who wish to take their lunch with them and enjoy the cool sea breezes and good music which is also furnished by the management. Besides the attraction which the Ocean naturally affords excellent fishing is found from off the pier and is much indulged in, some record catchers being made. A dancing pavilion, skating rink, bowling alleys, pool room and refreshments booths are also provided and will no doubt be liberally patronized. The project promises to be a success.

Death of Mrs. Roberts.

Mrs. Laura Roberts, wife of Mr. Augustus Roberts died at her home on Poplar Hill Ave., early Monday morning. Mrs. Roberts was a Miss Majors before her marriage being a daughter of the late Kendall and Henrietta Majors. Mrs. Roberts had a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county among whom she was deservedly very popu-

ORGANIZATION IN KENT

County Heavily Scored In Democratic Primaries. Allowed Republicans To Help Them, It Is Charged.

A movement has been started in Kent looking to the defeat in primaries of all candidates who use money in Democratic primaries. It is proposed to form an association throughout the county, by districts and to pledge themselves to vote against every candidate who shall in any wise countenance the use of money in the primary election. A number of citizens of character have expressed their approval of this plan and many others will join. Every good citizen should aid in this most excellent movement and it is hoped that it will not be allowed to drop. There is no sense or reason in Democrats using money in a family fight and if the end has come to this disgraceful custom then Kent county will have made a long stride toward the goal of success.—Kent News.

The above suggestion is a most excellent one, and should be encouraged by all those who have the best interests of the Democratic party at heart. We are more than sure that the People's wing of the party will co-operate with all those citizens in the county regardless of faction, who really desire to see honest politics and to have fair and peaceful Democratic primaries. But there is another evil being practiced in our democratic primaries that is equally as demoralizing and detrimental to the success of the Democratic party as is the use of actual cash in primary contests. It is that Republicans are permitted to vote in Democratic primaries. It is safe to say that at least 200 Republicans, people never recognized as Democrats, were allowed to vote in the recent primaries, and nearly every one of these votes was thrown to the organization. It is just as demoralizing for a man to perjure himself to be what every one recognizes him not to be, and it is equally as demoralizing and corrupting for men of standing and reputation in the community to lend their assistance to these republicans in their efforts to vote as it is to purchase a man's franchise with money. We do not have to go far to prove our statement that republicans

ORGANIZATION

And The Old System Of The County System Of Direct By Self-Select

Again the "self constituting" Wicomico County see fit to county for the Crawford each Democratic voter a date whose name goes on

This system of direct who are now in office as whose rejection of it as pretending Democracy enunciated by clare for equal rights as

Now unless the so-called cajoling the people to be well to windward to yet they talk harmony.

as Republican acts, they should be Democratic P office, and then, hark! about nothing. They fellows, if they are poor very busy working at whom? In themselves be by themselves with they feel it absolutely themselves through.

The people are wide well and apparently that they are honest and feel

The so-called leaders the Primary System in ring-delegate-convention

The people should help elect a ticket they candidates.

All fair minded men system here. Three of Crawford County System Wicomico, in its effort permitted to be at the daily scheming, self-interest their own way.

The Advertiser desire One blunder has been they be worked into present voice or vote in so

In the expressions received and published note. The people will is a fore runner of the and on the ticket again The main spring and

A. G. TOADVINE & SON.

