

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Players Boat Club

other names/site number Shrewsbury River Yacht Club

2. Location

street & number 925 River Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Fair Haven, Borough of

☐ vicinity

state New Jersey

code 034

county Monmouth

code 025

zip code 07704

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this ☒ nomination

☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property

☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

6/17/19

Players Boat Club
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

As attached.

8 Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) As attached.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Attached

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1928-1938

Significant Dates

1928, 1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arend, Ernest A., architect; S.S. Thompson Co., pilings;
Hawkins, George A., builder

Primary location of additional data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Players Boat Club
Name of Property

Monmouth, New Jersey
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) Latt: 40 degrees, 22', 9"; Long. 74 degrees, 1', 51"

1	18	582354	4469098	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Fair Haven, Borough of, Block 51, Lot 6

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randall Gabrielan (monmouthhistory@comcast.net)
organization _____ date March 27, 2018
street & number 14 Fox Hill Road telephone 732 275-1550
city or town Middletown state NJ zip code 07748

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Shrewsbury River Yacht Club
street & number 925 River Road telephone 732 747-9873
city or town Fair Haven state NJ zip code 07704

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PLAYERS BOAT CLUB – DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The Players Boat Club building is located on the south shore of the Navesink River on Block 51, Lot 6, in the Borough of Fair Haven, Monmouth County. It consists a rectangular, wood-framed building with associated walkways and boat docks. A sitting area with a bench and flagpole are located adjacent to the sidewalk at the western side of the lot (Photograph 1). Adjacent to the sitting area is a staircase that descends to walkway which accesses the clubhouse. This structure, which passes over the north end of the lot and the river bank, is a nine-foot, four-inches-wide, 145 feet-long, walkway built on wood pilings (Photograph 2). It is connected to a porch in front of the south-facing facade. A pedimented canopy stands before a front door, a replacement of the original. The building retains the architectural character of its original construction (Photograph 3).

Description

The Players Boat Club clubhouse is a thirty by seventy-foot building built over a forty by eighty-five-foot deck (Photograph 4). The building, erected on wood pilings and supported by four H-columns, is constructed of fir timber, two-inch by six-inch exterior studs and two-inch by four-inch interior studs sheathed in eight-inch North Carolina pine. Exterior cladding is western cedar, twelve-inch-long shingles with white pine cornices. Partitions are double plates and single sill. Floors are set on steel beams. A second story is supported by balloon framing on which are one and one-quarter by eight-inch ribbon board, second story beams.

The roof has a slight pitch at six inches, provided by two-inch by six-inch ripped furring set on top of rafters and hipped at the ends of the building, although for practical purposes, the roof is visually flat. A five-foot wide walkway constructed of two-inch by four-inch fir runs along the east and west sides of the clubhouse, sloping slightly downward adjacent to the rear corners of the building and extends to the dock area. The dock extends from the northeast corner of the building and is bordered by capped cylindrical pilings and metal bollards with battered bases square in plan and projecting, square, pyramidal caps. Boats are moored, bows in, on either side of the walkway, and a perpendicular T-dock extends to either side of the north end of the main walkway. A total of fifty boat slips are provided. The main docks are constructed of Ipe decking on Ipe stringers (cross bracing) attached to greenheart pilings. The T-dock and smaller floating docks are decked with pressure treated lumber. The docks were constructed in 2004 and repaired in 2013 following Superstorm Sandy.

Original construction included a one-story porch on the clubhouse north elevation. This porch was later enclosed and expanded to two stories (Photograph 5 and 6). The northwest elevation of the enclosed first story is fenestrated with three rectangular, single-light, fixed windows shaded by three roll-down canvas awnings anchored at the eaves. The central awning is emblazoned with "SRYC." The side walls of the enclosed porch are fenestrated with paired, rectangular, single -light, fixed windows. The second level of the porch addition consists of an open roof deck with a low knee wall, and simple railing consisting of dimensioned lumber vertical and horizontal members. The vertical members are equally spaced. The building was constructed with white pine sash windows. Over the years in order to take advantage of the site's spectacular views (Photograph 7), a number have been replaced with larger-pane glass.

In the interior, a lobby occupies the south end of the first floor (Photograph 8). On the west, or left on entering, is a staircase leading to a second-story balcony. This boxed stringer staircase part of the original construction of the clubhouse features a prominent wood newel, square in cross-section, and closely spaced, plain wood balusters.

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The room is decorated with paneled wood wainscoting, and has a wood floor that was replaced following Superstorm Sandy flooding. This floor is decorated with the circular yacht club logo. Double 15-light, wood-framed doors with brass kickplates provide access to the dining room and are enclosed within a molded wood surround. The lobby ceiling consists of acoustic tile with flush cylindrical light fixtures. Rest rooms are located on the east side of the lobby.

Most of the remainder of the first floor consists of a single open rectangular space with a perimeter balcony that references the building's houseboat antecedents (Photographs 9 and 10). Whereas in prior structure, this space was used for rehearsals and performance, the space is now occupied for dining and social functions (Photographs 11 and 12). Exit doors, later constructed on the side elevations open to the exterior walkways and accommodate contemporary building exit requirements. The central portion of the floor is wood and includes a ornament with a star placed within a circle. The portions of the space beneath the balcony are carpeted, usually equipped with tables for dining, and are lighted both with large, fixed, single-light windows providing panoramic views of the river and with recessed light fixtures enclosed in the lower surface of the balcony Paired fifteen-light, wood doors, placed near the north end of the east wall provide access to the east exterior deck. A bar located is fixed in place on the north end directly in front of the porch, although it is removable and not part of the structure. The first floor porch accommodates seating in season.

The balcony structure is supported by four H-columns and four girder beams. Steel columns help stabilize and strengthen the railing, as well as provide additional support to the roof structure. The balcony's wide fascia is decorated by framed yachting pennants.(Photographs 13 through 15). It is accessed by a north-facing flight of stairs adjacent to the west wall of the lobby (Photograph 16) A kitchen and service facilities are located off the southeast side of the balcony, while the sides and north end are furnished in season with tables to accommodate diners. The open second floor of the north porch is accessed by paired, single-light wood doors placed in the center of the rear wall of the balcony.

Although significant portions of the fabric of the clubhouse were replaced due to flooding incidents and the exterior and interior of the building has undergone periodic episodes of improvement and modernization, the building retains its historic character as shown in the historic images and clearly references the earlier history of the present club and its predecessor club. The building retains integrity of design, setting, feeling, location, and association.

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SUMMARY PARAGRAPHS

The Players Boat Club clubhouse, completed in 1929, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the social, recreational and political development of the Borough of Fair Haven and under Criterion C as a well-preserved, purpose-built boating organization headquarters. The Players' clubhouse is one of few New Jersey purpose-built clubs of its era to remain in its original use as time and the elements have taken a heavy toll of maritime recreational buildings. In addition, insofar as many headquarters were occupied after adaptive use, the purpose-built headquarters merits greater significance as a building type. As the centennial of the present Players Boat Club clubhouse approaches, the building has gained stature as one of New Jersey's oldest, minimally-changed, purpose-built clubhouses. The design of the building by respected New Jersey architect Ernest A. Arend gives a nod to a historical antecedent of the building, a houseboat adapted for the social and professional activities of the vaudeville actors who founded the Players Boat Club in 1910.

The functional design of the building, a rectangular plan sited over the water, has long-facilitated and continues to facilitate both maritime activity and the social interaction that has proved so important to yacht club survival.

The clubhouse is also notable under Criterion A for its association with the world of performing arts and the establishment and growth of the borough of Fair Haven. The actor-founders of the Players Boat Club made the town an important off-season center of like-minded entertainers. Many of these individuals were community activists and played an important role in the shaping of the town's character and the subsequent establishment of Fair Haven borough.

The period of significance of the clubhouse extends from the 1928 date of construction of the building to its 1938 reorganization as the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club.

BACKGROUND OF YACHTING IN NEW JERSEY

"Yachting in America may really be said to date from the victory of the *America* in 1850." The earliest boating organizations in New Jersey originated around the third quarter of the nineteenth century, located north of the Raritan River, typically in and around Hudson and Essex counties and their local waters. Maritime groups later organized to the south of the Raritan River. The source of the quotation, *Scribner's Monthly*, August, 1872, Vol. IV, No.4, claimed that there were at the time only thirty-five yacht clubs in the United States. They included seven in New Jersey: Bayonne Yacht Club, Hoboken Yacht Club, Newark Yacht Club, Oceanic Yacht Club (Jersey City), Jersey City Yacht Club, Shrewsbury Yacht Club and the Toms River Yacht Club. (One on their list was in Nova Scotia.) Only the Toms River Yacht Club is extant, a group that occupies a 1968 clubhouse. In order to evaluate the historic stature of the organizations and their clubhouses, they are grouped in three classes by age: **Pioneer, 1900 and prior, Classic, 1901-1940 and Modern, 1941 and later.** The survey revealed fifty yacht clubs in New Jersey of which 10 fall into the pioneer period, 22 into the Classic period, and 18 into the Modern period.

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The early history of yacht clubs in New Jersey is obscure. Many organizations existed only for short periods; the very existence of some others are buried in obscurity. This realization reinforces the significance of early groups' long-term survivorship. Although a number of vintage organizations survived, some of their clubhouses did not. Some vintage clubhouses do not reflect maritime origin. Today numerous older organizations and some of more recent origin occupy adaptively-used club houses. As the elements have taken a heavy toll of waterfront property, a number of older clubs have had to either rebuild their homes or build new club houses. These factors mandate a need to redefine the classic period for maritime organization club houses. The discovery in 2018 of an early *Shrewsbury Yacht Club* reinforces the "buried in obscurity" point. The club of this name is not an antecedent of any extant similarly named club or the short-lived c.1890 club of the same name in Red Bank, but was organized by John VanTine. A hotel keeper and mariner in Fair Haven, Van Tine was known to have been the foremost proponent and organizer of water sports during the mid-nineteenth century on the Navesink. The exact structure of this club has not been discovered; its headquarters were likely on his hotel grounds near the waterfront. The revelation of one of the earliest yacht clubs in America on the Navesink River, earlier known as the North Shrewsbury, and the continued presence of two other maritime organizations, reinforces the significance of this waterway in yachting annals. An analysis of the statewide yacht club environment may be necessary to consider and make firm the era of the classic club house. The following analysis is in two parts, the first a detailed review of past maritime organizations on the Navesink River that demonstrates a dismal survivorship rate and reinforces the stature of the century-plus old organizations. The second is a narrative that analyzes the age and origins of current yacht clubs and the age of their clubhouses. The analysis places in clearer focus the historic merits of the little-changed, architect-designed home of the Players Boat Club (Shrewsbury River Yacht Club).

SURVIVING BOAT CLUBS ON THE NAVESINK RIVER

While one nineteenth century yacht club endures (the Monmouth Boat Club), most that were established on the Navesink River failed. The Red Bank Yacht Club operated from a floating clubhouse after their organization in 1896, but by the 1920s they sought a permanent mooring through the acquisition of property in eastern Red Bank. The club lost their site to their lender, disbanded in 1936, then reconstituted themselves the same year, but saw their existence decline to a vestigial organization known as the Old Red Bank Yacht Club. The group still maintains an organizational structure, probably to retain guest privileges at clubs, but engages in virtually no maritime activity. A second Shrewsbury Yacht Club, which is not to be confused with the later name of the Players Boat Club, organized around 1890, built a substantial clubhouse in eastern Red Bank, but a lack of cohesiveness caused the club to disband after a few years. Their headquarters was soon sold, then torn down in the early twentieth century for residential development. The Red Bank Motor Boat Club organized and incorporated in 1911, held races during its first year and achieved a success that resulted in notice in the national boating publication *Motor Boating*. While they reportedly remodeled a barn for a clubhouse, the group appears not to have survived the decade. Across the Navesink River, the Locust Point Yacht Club was formed in the early years of the twentieth century. The club reportedly had a clubhouse, probably a

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temporary building, but by the end of the 1910s they were adding small sums from regatta proceeds to their building fund. This unincorporated group was not heard from during the 1920s and presumably were disbanded by then.

The Fair Haven Yacht Club, which was incorporated in 1935 and secured a small clubhouse a few blocks west of the Players Boat Club, also operated for only a short time. They were reported to have merged for racing functions with the Monmouth Boat Club in 1941 (*Register* May 29, 1941), when the latter was racing Lightning sailboats under the Fair Haven Yacht Club charter (*Register*, July 5, 1941). Earlier that year the Fair Haven clubhouse was remodeled into a dwelling which suggests their dissolution (*Register*, March 1, 1941). It is believed that remnants of the Fair Haven Yacht Club continued as a program to teach young people maritime skills.

The popularity of Fair Haven as a boating center is exemplified by two ancillary establishments. Around 1916 summer boarders, a number of whom met in the Atlantic Hotel, the former headquarters of the actors, established a "Pearl Street Yacht Club" However, despite its name, it was not a boating club but adopted maritime trappings for its existence as a social group. Their level of activity varied during the 1920s, while the club appears to have ceased operation in the early 1930s.

In 1927 Arthur B. Brown built "a private residential park for those who love water sports" on a plot he acquired on Gillespie Avenue, a prime riverfront location a short distance west of the Players Boat Club. (*Register* October 5, 1927). His small development became individually-owned homes.

The Neptune Club, founded in 1850 at the eastern stem of the Navesink River known as Rocky Point, as a city gentlemen's sport and leisure club also had a noteworthy boating operation which conceivably made it the river's first maritime organization. Their clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1910 within weeks of the opening of the Players Boat Club. The Sea Bright Yacht Club, which was established around 1936 at the Shrewsbury River's confluence with the Navesink River, used a former residence for a clubhouse until it was destroyed by fire in 1954.

The casualty rate among ice yacht groups is similarly high despite the river having recognition as a national center for the sport with the North Shrewsbury Ice Boat and Yacht Club having had a demonstrable record of long-term success and a position likely dominant in New Jersey. The Navesink River was also home to several short-lived ice boating clubs. The Independent Ice Yacht Club was organized around 1910 and incorporated four years later. According to the *Register* of August 30, 1911, they planned to build a clubhouse on pontoons. Available evidence indicates that they remained active for much of the 1910s. It may have been that the clubhouse on pontoons proved impractical, and they were forced to cease operation. A Fair Haven Ice Boat Club also organized in 1910 and was similarly short-lived.

NEW JERSEY YACHT CLUBS AND THEIR HOMES

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A careful survey reveals 50 bona fide yacht clubs in New Jersey. This number does not include non-maritime organizations with "yacht club" in their names in the manner of several catering businesses, marinas that are primarily docking places which are absent the member-social component that defines a true yacht club and one old organization, the Rahway Yacht Club, which no longer appears to be a true yacht club.

There are *eighteen Modern clubs* which were eliminated for the analysis of their clubhouses since by definition a post-1940 organization cannot have a purpose-built headquarters. A Modern club may have a vintage building, the Patten Point Yacht Club is a fine example. The organization occupies an 1890s residence, a building with integrity as a residence rather than a club.

The *ten Pioneer organizations* present a varied mix of clubhouses which reflect the perils of long-term exposure on the water. Five Pioneer clubs occupy modern or reconstructed buildings, while two are adaptive use. Only three Pioneer clubs have headquarters that date from their era. The Raritan Yacht Club and the Red Dragon Canoe Club occupy adaptively used buildings, both Second Empire former mansions.

Five Pioneer clubs have modern buildings or the remnants of older buildings sufficient altered to lack historical character. They include Bay Head Yacht Club, founded in 1889, which built a clubhouse in 1928 that was extensively damaged in 2012, raised, moved back from the water and rebuilt. The Island Heights Yacht Club, founded in 1898, built a clubhouse in 1900 which, after frequent remodel and expansion projects has no visual reminder of the original building. The 1899 Manasquan Yacht Club rebuilt its clubhouse in 1962. The Surf City Yacht Club, generously placed in the Pioneer category from a claimed c.1894 origin as a group of informally gathered sportsmen, incorporated in 1940 and occupies a 1954 clubhouse. The 1871 Toms River Yacht Club built a clubhouse in 1968 that was extensively damaged in 2012.

Three Pioneer clubs occupy buildings that date from the nineteenth century;, each of whose significance is compromised by changes. The Riverton Yacht Club, founded in 1865 and incorporated in 1880, built in the latter year what is arguably the most artistic yacht club building in New Jersey, located at the end of a pier on the Delaware River. The building retains its integrity, but now is virtually an appendage at the end of the pier as many activities necessary to maintain a maritime organization are conducted in another building on the shore. The 1880 North Shrewsbury Ice Boat and Yacht Club (organized as the Shrewsbury Ice Boat Club) occupies a vintage headquarters, probably its original home, a vernacular building that has been moved, perhaps twice. While details on its origin have not been found, the building, according to a *Register* item on February 1, 1893 was given a twenty-foot square, one-story addition then. The 1879 Monmouth Boat Club built is headquarters in 1895, then expanded with a wing on the west in 1930. Changing operation involved a significant change in the first floor from which craft used to be launched into the water. After they ceased launching craft from the building, a large opening on the façade was enclosed and the first floor interior repurposed. These observations on the three clubs do not diminish their stature or the merits of their clubhouses, but point out that the changing maritime activity may regularly require modifying buildings.

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Classic era clubs number twenty-two; only the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club and the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club occupy buildings from the classic era. Little Egg Harbor, founded in 1912, built a clubhouse in 1916. Their present headquarters looks as if it is the old building. The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club headquarters is described in detail in Section 7.

The timing and causes for changes and/or destruction of the clubhouses among the twenty others vary. One, Keyport Yacht Club, lost its old clubhouse to fire. Details of change for some clubhouses may not be specified on accessible sources but visual inspection, even of photographs, reveal that some older buildings have lost their character. A number attained modern building status by having been extensively rebuilt. They include the Barnegat Light Yacht Club, the Bordentown Yacht Club, the Mantoloking Yacht Club, the National Park Boat Club, the Spray Beach Yacht Club and the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor. Stone Harbor may be a rebuilt adaptively-used building.

Later construction by Classic era clubs varies from a need to replace structurally unsound buildings or raze them for other reasons, the factors for the Ocean City Yacht Club, Ocean Gate Yacht Club, the Pine Beach Yacht Club and the Sea Isle City Yacht Club and perhaps others. In other instances the reason for construction in the Modern era is not definitely known such as with the Beachwood Yacht Club, the Green Pond Yacht Club, the Hackensack Yacht Club, the Lake Mohawk Yacht Club, the Lavallette Yacht Club, the Long Branch Ice Boat and Yacht Club, the Metedeconk River Yacht Club, the Shrewsbury Sailing and Yacht Club and the Greater Wildwood Yacht Club. There are likely instances of construction following a post-lapse period of renewed activity or expansion.

This review demonstrates that only five of fifty yacht clubs have purpose-built, integrity-intact headquarters that pre-date 1941, an observation that should re-define the concept of what constitutes a vintage maritime organization building. The three vintage clubhouses make the Navesink River arguably New Jersey's most important leisure boating waterway.

THE PLAYERS ORGANIZE: FIRST AND SECOND CLUBHOUSES

A group of vaudeville actors and other figures from the performing arts, whose crucial presence to the founding of Fair Haven borough is outlined later, met on May 31, 1910 to organize as the Players Boat Club. The *Register* reported the next day that twenty-seven charter members planned to buy a houseboat which they would fund through a big vaudeville show, an event that proved a major success. On July 4th the club sent a band of twenty-five performers to greet arriving guests at the dock. Major festivities were held there and continued at Abe Bennett's Atlantic Hotel, the actors' informal headquarters, prior to the opening of the clubhouse. Two days later the *Register* reported that membership had grown to over one hundred. The houseboat, the first of two club floating headquarters, is important to the present building as its architectural antecedent.

The players acquired a second floating clubhouse in the fall of 1915 as "the club's membership has constantly increased and this necessitates larger quarters" as the *Register* reported on July 7, 1915 when

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members were putting on a fund-raising show to pay for the craft. Local contractor Arthur E. Smith remodeled their new home between the seasons, about which the *Register* declared on February 23, 1916. "The clubhouse is one of the finest ever seen in eastern waters." The thriving organization planned to occupy this clubhouse for the foreseeable future.

THE CLUBHOUSE IS DESTROYED – 1928 YEAR OF DECISION

A gale that struck on September 19, 1928 spelled disaster for the players. The storm, the remnant of a hurricane that had blown its way from Puerto Rico to Florida during the previous week, in time reached the Navesink environs. The storm inflicted significant damage on the clubhouse which the club initially expected was repairable. However, the projected cost of repairs proved prohibitive which forced members to make an unanticipated, but necessary decision that would determine the future of the club.

The demands of building a clubhouse would force the performers to effect organizational changes in order to secure funds. The cost of building a permanent clubhouse would be greater than was able to be raised by feasible fund-raising events. While the players remained a thriving coterie of performers, their numbers were admittedly in decline. Thus, the players decided to seek outside support; this decision was neither easy nor unanimous. Effective leaders with foresight instilled the courage and confidence that led to the construction of the present clubhouse, a building which as time evolved permitted this community of performers to transform themselves into a full-fledged maritime organization.

THE PLAYERS BROADEN THEIR SUPPORT

A permanent clubhouse required both the ownership of their lot and a significant amount of construction funds. To raise the necessary funds, the players organized a real estate corporation to sell stock that would finance construction. Members Tony Hunting, Clarence A. Legg and Augustus Wulfinf incorporated the Players Boat Club Realty Company on March 3, 1929 which was authorized to sell common and preferred shares. Most of the common stock, which had voting rights, was controlled by the Players Boat Club, an ownership reality that demonstrated that the players were in charge of their destiny, although the preferred shareholders would have first claim on assets if the club failed. The players' efforts were given strong reinforcement by Fair Haven mayor Ferdinand S. Salmon, whose vision perceived the significance of the club and the value the club brought to the town. Salmon expressed his endorsement through a major financial commitment, and became the largest shareholder of the realty company (1). Although a major benefactor, Salmon's role was brief as he resigned his position in 1933 to move to New York where family members had significant property holdings. Salmon died four years later. His brother Walter remained a major figure in real estate and thoroughbred horse racing circles after his brother's death. The boat club's grounds, which had been earlier secured by Tony Hunting and conveyed to the Players Boat Club, were transferred to the Players Boat Club Realty Company. (2), Non-player investors were given another inducement in addition to a stock certificate, the ability to join the Players Boat Club as associate or non-voting members. In the parlance of the club, they were known as "lay members." The lay membership group ultimately became the nucleus that assured the viability of the club in the post-Player era.

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ERNEST AREND DESIGNS THE PERMANENT CLUBHOUSE

The floating clubhouses, while not permanent buildings, had become deeply rooted in club tradition. The simple rectangular plan was well-suited both for social activity and organizational work. In the design for the new building, club members sought to pay homage to the earlier houseboats. They commissioned Asbury Park architect Ernest A. Arend to design a new Colonial Revival building that would draw inspiration from the earlier crafts.

Arend, who was born in Trenton in 1870, began to practice architecture with Samuel A. Brouse around 1896. The firm maintained offices in Trenton and Asbury Park. Brouse ran the Trenton office, while Arend staffed Asbury Park office. In 1902, the firm dissolved with Arend remaining in Monmouth County as a sole practitioner. His career would be centered in the environs of this office and his Red Bank residence. Arend was a master of the Colonial Revival, his preferred style, but designed in most of the then-current revival styles. His vast output and the quality of his designs make Arend arguably the preeminent practitioner in Monmouth County during the first third of the twentieth century. His best-known early commission was perhaps the 1900 Neptune High School, located on the east side of Main Street, the western border with Ocean Grove, a three-story structure that at the time was likely the largest public school in the county. The building was adapted for a new public use as the Jersey Shore Arts Center after a restoration that rescued the building from decrepitude.

A second acclaimed Arend Asbury Park educational commission was described by the *School Board Journal* in its February, 1914 issue:

A school building which gives evidence of much study and care, not only by the architects but also by the school board committee and which involves the solution of a peculiar local problem is the Bangs Street School, opened in September, 1913 at Asbury Park, N.J. The building is a 32-room school, plain and massive in design, fireproof in construction, complete in appointments for every possible school activity, sanitary in its heating, lighting and plumbing and arranged for community use outside of school hours.

After describing its two separate constituencies, the *Journal* went on to point out: "The building is in fact two independent and complete schools connected by an assembly hall accessible to both."

Arend's stadium at the Asbury Park High School, a second published scholastic work, was described and pictured in the February 5, 1928 issue of *The American Architect*. Arend likely designed the school as well. Among Arend's many Asbury Park projects was an early and unusual expression of the Colonial Revival: a wood-framed firehouse designed for the first North Asbury Park Company. This work, published in the April 1906 *Architects' and Builders'* magazine, is extant, though altered, in adaptive use at the 1500 block of Park Avenue.

Much of Arend's work, as noted, was designed in the Colonial Revival, a style that during his career was at the peak of national prominence. The Colonial Revival also had special prominence in Monmouth

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County. The County was the site of the Revolution's Battle of Monmouth which had long-ago instilled veneration of its colonial roots. In the educational realm, the Colonial Revival-influence was reflected in his early work in Red Bank including the 1913 four-room Beech Street School and a four-room addition to the Oakland Street School which was followed in 1917 by the new high school, a building on Harding Place that was later made part of the town's middle school. In Middletown he designed a 1920 addition to the Leonardo High School, built only a few years after initial construction was completed. This project was a follow-up to his earlier work for that board, the modest Port Monmouth elementary school. A 1931 project in Middletown Township, the Leonardo Grade School, is one of the finest Colonial Revival designs in the area.

Arend's output also embraced the other then-current revival styles. His 1928 Long Branch High School is arguably the finest Collegiate Gothic building in Monmouth County. The 1923 municipal hall for the Borough of Deal was designed in the Tudor Revival style that characterized so many of the town's residences in that era. The Italian Renaissance Revival was his preferred residential style which he used for his own home on Broad Street, Red Bank and numerous others including a 1914 mansion for Everett Brown on the Navesink in Middletown. Named "Blossom Cove" for its surroundings, the house at 44 Blossom Cove Road was a center for the croquet sport in recent years." A full accounting of Arend's career would also include distinguished commercial, banking and ecclesiastical work (3.)

CONSTRUCTION AND OPENING

Construction of the new clubhouse required the issuance of permits and the granting of riparian rights. The club obtained a riparian grant from the State of New Jersey on November 19, 1928, mere weeks after the destructive storm. The War Department affirmed that the new construction would not interfere with navigation. In addition, required permission from the New Jersey Board of Commerce and Navigation was issued on February 21, 1929, only three days after application was filed.

Heavy pilings for the clubhouse were placed sufficiently distant from the shore to permit docking of deeper-draft vessels. They were sunk by S.S. Thompson & Company, a then-prominent contractor that participated in many major area projects including the erection of their own five-story building at 170 Monmouth Street, Red Bank.

The raising of the new building was eagerly awaited and became major local news. On April 24, 1929, the *Register* described the architect's plans and included a rendering of the completed building. The first floor of the two-story, thirty feet by seventy feet structure would contain a reception room, a serving room, a club room and comfort rooms. A promenade that would surround the entire first floor was to be enclosed with a wire mesh and painted to resemble the rope netting that secured deck enclosures on private yachts. Second floor plans included a large card room, a modern kitchen and a gallery promenade that overlooked the first floor clubroom. The two levels were to be connected by a front stairway. Fifty windows were planned to provide adequate natural light to the interior. On the north or water end, large doors were to open directly onto the promenade; a gangway led from the promenade to the mooring field. Exterior cladding was 12-inch, western cedar shingles. The building was built by George A.

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Hawkins of Fair Haven (8).

FOUNDING FATHER, TONY HUNTING

The opening of the new clubhouse on July 3, 1929 reinforced the leadership and celebrity of founding father Tony Hunting who organized a dance and cabaret, an event which attracted a social gathering that taxed the capacity of the building. The new building enhanced the Players Boat Club's reputation as the social community center of Fair Haven and provided an ongoing platform for the presentation of vaudeville. The *Register*, which cited their earlier full description of the clubhouse, declared it on July 10 to be "an elaborate affair," with "interior decorations (that) are most inviting." President Hunting's opening address acknowledged that the club had made fine progress, but also reminded that there had been some voices of dissent. His speech was so effective and motivational that he attracted purchase of additional shares of stock. The presence and leadership of Hunting, the foremost figure in club history, links the three clubhouses and the performing arts period with the maritime era.

THE HISTORICALLY INFLUENTIAL PLAYERS

The importance of the performers to Fair Haven pre-dates their founding of the Players Boat Club and the incorporation of this former rural district of northern Shrewsbury Township on the Rumson Neck peninsula as a borough.

The Fair Haven area, about mid-way between the earliest settlement on the river, Black Point, to the east and Red Bank on the west, was the last on the peninsula to develop as a distinctive settlement. The sparsely settled area did not grow in a significant manner until the construction of a dock in the mid-nineteenth century. The central location of Fair Haven on the peninsula would be a factor in its incorporation in 1912 and an influence in the later development of the town. The importance of the vaudevillians both in the in the establishment of the community and their long-term presence contribute to the property's significance under National Register Criterion A.

The genesis of the theatrical community in Fair Haven is generally attributed to Henry C. Miner, a major New York theatre owner and producer who owned a large waterfront estate west of the Fair Haven maritime center (5). (His estate is in the Borough of Fair Haven but was west of the early village.) Following the opening of the dock the name "Fair Haven" was chosen for an area previously called "DeHaertsville" or simply, "Doughty's Store." The community grew southward from the waterfront in an area roughly bordered by Fair Haven Road on the west and Gillespie Avenue on the east. While the earliest boarding house pre-dated the dock era, a number of lodging places opened in the late nineteenth century, most notably the 1889 Atlantic Hotel on Fair Haven Road. This extant building, substantially altered in recent years, attracted a large theatrical population after it opened.

The **social and residential** local climates of this middle of Rumson Neck area, or Fair Haven prior to incorporation, made the area attractive to the theatrical community, in large part due to the nature of a career in vaudeville. By contrast, in the 1890s Red Bank to the west was a thriving port, a business, professional and population center. Professional people, business owners and the employed tended to

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live in-town in which new housing and streets were regularly developed. Rumson to the east had boomed since the 1870 opening of the first Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge. This span provided connections to nearby steamer and rail travel options and became the major spur to the growth of the eastern end of Rumson Neck. This section took the character of landed estates of the wealthy. While a year-round service population grew in a locale behind the Navesink River dock in the Oceanic section, most of the town was transformed from an agrarian region to a series of fine, costly, often lavish, country estates. Neither Red Bank nor Rumson would appear to be a potential base for the regularly transient theatrical performers, but Fair Haven was ideal.

While other areas nearby on the Jersey Shore had been discovered by actors and actresses some decades earlier, such as Long Branch, these parts were surrounded by significant estates and constituted an environment in which the vaudeville crowd would not be comfortable. Fair Haven, however represented a different milieu as the place had a small town, socially-tolerant ambiance.

Vaudeville, which thrived in the 1890s, was a low-brow form of entertainment where performers were encouraged, often mandated, to create original, zany and often bizarre acts to amuse audiences. Since acts typically had limited runs in any given venue, performers were required to travel constantly over a long performing season in order to reach new audiences. By the time of theatre's warm-weather break, the tired vaudevillians sought needed respite at a place that would rejuvenate them for the next season.

The earliest identified description of the growing Fair Haven vaudeville presence was presented in the *Red Bank Register* issue of August 30, 1905, which described the past five years as having brought "quite a theatrical colony there." The reporter detailed home ownership patterns by the actors, but also noted that these vacationers filled the hotels and that Fair Haven was "growing larger year by year and the actors have become an important factor in the development of the place." The writer continued with the town's appeal by taking note:

These theatrical folks like Fair Haven because of its freedom from restraint, either social or official. They are somewhat Bohemian in their tastes and they find at Fair Haven an atmosphere and a society alike congenial.

One of the charms of Fair Haven to the theatrical people is the fact that they can dress as they like without being considered in bad taste. They go about with their sleeves rolled up and if the day is very hot they take off their collars and neckties. The river is also a great attraction to these people, most of them being fond of fishing and bathing. When they go bathing they don their bathing suits at their homes and walk in them to the river. Fair Haven, unlike the average summer resort, puts no ban on this manner of bathing. It is a combination of these free and easy methods that makes Fair Haven popular with the actors.

All the theatrical folks who have located at Fair Haven are people of recognized ability in their respective lines.

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The actors supported the community, notably the fire department, even prior to the organization of the borough or the club. The benefit show they put on for the firemen on June 21, 1905, organized by well-known theatrical manager Frank Martineau, was described by the *Register* the following week as “one of the best entertainments of its kind ever given in the town.” At least one of their number, Tom Morrissey, held a company officership, the vice-presidency in 1906 and, perhaps, at other times. A number of his colleagues were planning a street fair for the firemen at the time in 1906 that Morrissey’s selection was announced.

The actors provided a second civic-beneficial assist by their informal service as “patrolmen”, or at the least, crowd-control officers at Fair Haven events. Early and long-enduring club member Ralph Smith recalled how three of their number served: “Policemen were needed so we dug into the wardrobes we had put together in our years on the stage and produced the necessary patrolmen’s suits. That made us the police force.” If a question lingers over that recollection, it may stem from Smith’s having told it late in life to the folklorist Henry C. Beck who tapped Smith’s memories for “Fair Haven Once Famed As a Colony of Stage Stars” that was reprinted in the *Red Bank Register* September 14, 1950.

It was logical and natural for the close-knit gregarious Fair Haven actors to organize a club. Their penchant for the water developed into the informal Fair Haven Fishing Club around 1905, a time when the actors became fixed as the social center of the town. This role was highlighted at their annual barn dance at Arthur E. Smith’s barn. The *Red Bank Register* on July 29, 1908 and July 28, 1909 depicted fun-filled affairs that showcased the vaudevillians’ zaniness, events that drew 400 guests. In an era when serious fishermen built fishing clubhouses on the Monmouth ocean shore, the actors, who also needed rehearsal space for their summer tryouts and included watercraft owners among their numbers, opted for a boat club in 1910. The opening was the formal prelude to the players becoming an entertainment fixture in Fair Haven and the surrounding area. They performed annually to enthusiastic crowds, entertainments that became an eagerly anticipated draw. The 1912 performance was a “big success” in which “some of the very best acts in vaudeville were presented” (*Register*, July 3, 1912). The summer of 1913 displayed the players’ devotion to both their organization and the community. After earlier giving a benefit for St. James Church, (*Register*, June 25, 1913) the club’s annual show on June 26 was supported by “some of the actors (who) gave up a week’s engagement” (and meaningful income) for the cause (*Register*, July 2, 1913). One co-founder, Tony Hunting, previously noted as a key figure in the building of the clubhouse, having been elected president in 1915, would emerge as the crucial leader who would be present at every juncture of the club’s progress for two decades. Hunting was not only at the heart of the organization but played a central role in vaudeville activity in the entire surrounding area.

This singular nature of the middle of the peninsula was a factor in the 1912 incorporation of the Borough of Fair Haven. After Rumson was incorporated as a borough in 1907 and Red Bank attained borough status in the following year, Fair Haven remained part of Shrewsbury Township although it was then geographically isolated from the rest of that municipality. Distinctions among the three boroughs is a fascinating story, but beyond the ambit of this study other than for the realization that the actors’ relaxed lifestyles fit the character the newly emerging Fair Haven borough (6).

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After the organization of the Players Boat Club the most incisive recounting of the players' origins was given by the *Red Bank Register* in a July 15, 1914 article, *ACTORS AT FAIR HAVEN* which noted:

The actors' colony was started at Fair Haven about twenty years ago when one or two actors bought places there. They were charmed with the locality and told their friends about the pretty little village directly on the Shrewsbury River, where a good time was to be had in the summer at comparatively small expense. They invited some of their actor friends to their homes and these friends became as enthusiastic over the beauties of Fair Haven as the original comers. They bought places there, and the fame of Fair Haven spread among the actor people until it has become the most popular and most populous actors' resort in the whole country.

The actors as a rule are a clean-living lot. They have to work hard and their ability in their profession depends on a quick and alert brain as well as on a body which will give an immediate and hearty response to the nerve centers. Only people who live clean and wholesome lives can pass the test and can 'come through' with the hard tasks which actors have to accomplish. The establishment of an actors' colony at Fair Haven gives the actors a delightful home in a delightful neighborhood, where the natural attractions and the people of the neighborhood combine to provide an attractive outing, and where they can find the rest and diversion which puts them in condition to stand another long season of campaigning.

THE CLUB MATURES AS THE PLAYERS PROSPER

The club grew and matured in the years following its founding. As was noted earlier, they would require a larger clubhouse to accommodate their growing numbers and activities. In addition, the nucleus of a maritime organization was under formation during the nineteen-teens. Club members became avid boaters in a town which had been the pioneering maritime locale on the Navesink. Not long after the club and borough organized, a May 12, 1915 report by the *Register* reviewing the coming season observed that: "Fair Haven in proportion to its population has more motor boat owners than any place along the Shrewsbury. There is a big colony of actors there, and almost every theatrical family owns a motor boat, in addition to the motor boats owned by the natives."

They supported a boat building industry that long-endured as the same article took note that "the Shrewsbury River is returning to its old-time popularity and the indications are that this season will be the greatest ever known in pleasure boating, and especially in motor boating".

The article noted that several craft were under construction for actors at W.G. Poulson's boat works in Fair Haven and continued "...vacation time at Fair Haven is looked forward to by the actors as the best part of their lives." This focus on the vaudevillians was apt as during the prior year (July 15, 1914) when a reporter observed: "...the fame of Fair Haven spread among the actor people until it has become the most popular and most populous actors' resort in the whole country."

The role of the players remained unchanged and was at the core of the ethos of the newly incorporated town. They retained their presence as an endearing and enduring social-entertainment focal point for the

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remainder of the decade and into the era of the present clubhouse. Indeed, the founding of the club and borough came at about the mid-point of the golden age of vaudeville which Donald Travis Stewart in his 2005 *No Applause – Just Throw Money or The Book That Made Vaudeville Famous* depicted as spanning 1881-1932. An enthusiastic public eagerly awaited their annual vaudeville show. A few highlights from the period merit mention if only to bridge the years to the construction of the present clubhouse and to demonstrate the players' on-going vitality. The 1915 show "of a very high standard (which) evoked much applause" paid for the club's second houseboat (*Register*, July 7, 1915). In 1917, an article noted "Big Attendance at Performance at the Empire Theater," indicating "the acts were the pick of the vaudeville stunts of the members of the boat club, most of whom are professional actors." A new member, the former heavyweight champion prize fighter James J. Corbett, took part in that event, (the boxer began and ended his long career on the stage.) (*Register*, July 4, 1917).

Similar references to the players' annual performances appeared regularly, but in 1924 the local production was halted on account of the need for larger theaters to accommodate the growing cost of production. With reference to the Red Bank venue, "There is considerable regret among theater goers that the show is not be given this year" (*Register*, July 16, 1924). However, the players enhanced their reputation as a regional draw by continuing to play elsewhere. They performed in Atlantic Highlands and Perth Amboy later that month (*Register*, July 23, 1923). They had been performing in the Keyport-Matawan area, their 1923 show the latest in a fifteen-year annual run (*Matawan Journal*, July 13, 1923). The players provided support during the Great War. In July 1917 they gave a benefit to aid blind Italian soldiers and a second for the Red Cross (*Register*, July 4, 1917). Tony and Corinne Hunting spent months in Europe entertaining troops. Quotes from a letter home were published in the *Register* June 4, 1919 which included Corrine's recounting her having entered an enemy trench a mere eleven hours after the Germans left.

THE PLAYERS ENDURE – A PERMANENT CLUBHOUSE IS BUILT

The decades before and after the founding of the club are arguably the most colorful period in the Players' history. As new and diverse forms of entertainment developed and took hold, the prominence of vaudeville slipped, so the players were no-longer the prime headline makers. However, they maintained active presence and relevance throughout the 1920s. This narrative examines closely the players and the local role of vaudeville during that span in order to reinforce the significance of both at the time they built the present clubhouse. As background, The Roaring Twenties brought profound change both to American society, lifestyles and the world of entertainment. The Carlton Theatre (renamed the Count Basie), "a marvel of beauty, convenience and comfort" opened in Red Bank on November 21, 1926 when Keith-Albee vaudeville stars presented the shows (*Register* November 20, 1926). Vaudeville was a subsidiary part of the early Carlton years, a house built primarily for motion pictures. The dominance of film was reinforced in 1927 with the release of the first motion picture with voices, the Al Jolson famed "talkie," *The Jazz Singer*, and in 1928 when the Carlton installed a sound projection system. With respect to vaudeville, the Club's history stated that at the end of the decade "this entertainment form was performing a slow disappearing act," the view must be taken only in retrospect. The work also acknowledges that "many entertainment forms that broadly fell under the rubric of vaudeville would endure for at least another two decades" (7). This time was still within the period of vaudeville

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dominance as a popular entertainment form (8).

If the golden age of vaudeville was not quite as bright as the 1920s decade waned, it must be realized that a determined, vigorous group of players demonstrated their vitality after a freak act of nature destroyed their clubhouse. This point is reinforced by studying a number of Players Club performing members who were active in 1928, members that reflect a broad cross-section of the vaudeville world. Foremost among them was founding father Tony Hunting, then in the thirteenth year of his twenty-year presidency. Hunting, who was responsible for both club performances and the instilling of vaudeville as an area entertainment form, would lead the campaign to erect the permanent clubhouse and bridge the transformation of a players group to a maritime organization. By 1928, Hunting was serving his third term as borough councilman while his business interests included theatre ownership. Hunting by then was a community legend.

The builders of the present clubhouse include these representative performer members who were active in 1928-9: Franklin Parkes Beale who performed on the Keith circuit for many years as Frank DeWitt, a member of the team of DeWitt, Burns and Torrance.

The career of Frederick V. Bowers was embracing a national audience. While on a vaudeville tour in California "to take part in talking motion pictures" Bowers said, "the talking picture field is very uncertain" (*Register*, May 15, 1929). While he may not have been an accurate prognosticator of the film industry, Bowers became known through his successful songwriting and singing performance career as "The Ambassador of Radio."

Charles Grapewine, a top Broadway comedian in his early years, was enjoying a second career in film. Hapgood "Hap" Handy was widely known for his performance with a soap bubble act, an important representation in the vaudeville subset known as "bizarre acts."

Longtime club stalwart Lon Haskell who enjoyed a varied career including a stint as playwright was opening a new play at the same time the clubhouse opened (*Register*, July 10, 1929).

Frank Herbert, who was "the senior member of Herbert and Carron, one of the best-known acrobatic teams in vaudeville" (*Register*, January 10, 1912) performed widely in Europe. Around the time the new clubhouse opened, Herbert and his wife, "well-known in the vaudeville circuits of the east" were then engaged in "a professional tour of several weeks through the New England states" (*Register*, October 16, 1929).

Ernie Otto, an organizer of the club, traveled throughout the United States with musical and monologue acts, remained active in 1929. Otto, also chaired the house committee and became a short-term president in 1935.

Ernie Van and his brother formed a comedy-musical team that toured the United States and Europe for over twenty-five years. Ernie was a long-time club activist (*Register*, May 23, 1946).

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George Watts, whose career began early in the twentieth century, teamed with Jack Ryan in a talking-singing act, then joined with a number of other singers prior to enjoying a stage and film career. (*Register*, July 9, 1941). The club honored one of its brightest luminaries with celebratory dinners in 1932 and 1933 (*Register* August 17 1932 and September 13, 1933).

Harry "Scream" Welsh, a pioneer club member who enjoyed a varied career, was in fine form in 1930 when his monologue at the club entertained for over an hour with witty sayings and snappy stories (*Register*, December 24, 1930).

The Players remained active, in control of the club and able to determine its future at the time of construction of the present building.

THE CLUBHOUSE OPENS AS ACTORS DOMINATE THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE TOWN

The opening of the clubhouse was a prelude to a series of social events, often dances, many with themes chosen to attract outside visitors. Their "Circus Night" on August 21 "eclipsed all former affairs of this mature," saw the clubhouse transformed into a circus big top (*Register*, August 21). Some of the large crowd drawn to a Thanksgiving eve dance on November 27 stayed past midnight at an event where club vaudeville talent entertained between dance numbers. The Players Boat Club members entertained and served as host to other organizations such as the Rumson Lions Club at their September 25, 1929 installation event (*Register*, October 2).

At the start of the 1930 season it was reported by the *Register* on April 23 that "the season of 1929 was one of the most successful in the history of the club," while officers anticipated even greater success for the coming year. Their expectations were fulfilled in July when an "exceptionally well-attended" dance on the 12th saw "every seat on the main floor of the clubhouse being taken (as) a number of dancers sat in the clubhouse balcony" as the *Register* reported on the 16th. The crowd expanded a week later when the Players Boat Club put on an old-time entertainment for its twentieth anniversary celebration, one titled the "Panics of 1930," viewed "by nearly three hundred persons, the largest assembly ever seen at the club." The new clubhouse helped reinforce the club's role as the social center of town. Club members became known for their support of local charities.

A lengthy account in the November 6, 1932 *Asbury Park Sunday Press* headlined, "Monmouth's Most Unique Club, Gay and Frolicsome Group is Fair Haven's Colony of Actors, Tho The Colorful Escapades of Past Are Lacking" depicted the stature of the club as social center and provided a nostalgic retrospective of the antic-filled club history.

The club practically is the center of the social life of the village. Every Wednesday and Saturday evenings programs are staged, usually impromptu. Once in a while one of the members feels genius burning and an original sketch is presented. One of the members will contribute a turn, this fires another and soon a show is in progress staged by stars whose services for a like program on the stage would command large sums.

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Generous to a fault to money matters as well as in lending their efforts in aid of worthy causes, the Fair Haven players often have been called upon to stage charity shows, assist in benefits or lend expert assistance or props to amateur organizations. Scarcely a beneficial or charitable organization of Red Bank or vicinity but what has asked aid, which has been gladly given, often at a real sacrifice of time and labor. The Fair Haven firehouse is one of the monuments which testifies to the actors' efforts.

The players demonstrated a high level of social consciousness, aid to the community and responsiveness to personal hardship. The Great Depression could have placed the club in peril. To the benefit of both community and club, sound management kept the club in a condition to both prosper and aid local organizations. Indeed, the realty organization, able to pay its six-percent annual dividend in 1932, reflected a group well-positioned to help others. While the club was sound, they addressed the hardship that had affected some members by sending each a paid-up dues card for the 1933-4 season with the expectation that the strapped members would remit what they could when they were able (*Register*, April 12, 1933). The club's "Eleven-cent parties" that year, a depression-inspired reduced cover charge, reinforced the nature of the times. The first of a series began July 19, 1933 (*Register*, July 12, 1933).

Highlights among the many Players Boat Club events during this period included the 1932 Rotary Night to honor one of the community's most prominent service organizations (*Register*, August 3 and 10, 1932). The Players regularly visited the state home for boys at Jamesburg during the 1930s (*Register* August 10, 1932 and September 5, 1934. The latter described the trip as the third annual.) In 1932, and perhaps at other times, they also performed for residents of the county nursing home in Freehold. During the Great Depression the Club donated clothing to the firemen's Christmas drive (*Register*, December 28, 1932). The local business community, hard-hit by the Great Depression, found itself unable to provide support for the Red Bank Chamber of Commerce. The Players Boat Club provided crucial support to the Chamber by putting on a heavily promoted vaudeville performance, a "Monster Show for Chamber Benefit," (*Register*, March 31, 1935) which presented a "Galaxy of Stars of Screen, Stage, Radio," (*Register*, April 25, 1935) during which "a wonderful presentation" packed the house for "a successful affair," (*Register*, May 2, 1935). The players saved the organization that held together the Red Bank business community. The clubhouse as community center was reinforced in October, 1937 when both major political parties held campaign events there (*Register*, October 14 and 21, 1937). Club benefits in the 1930s that aided the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals came at a critical time as that organization was purchasing a new animal shelter to facilitate humane treatment of strays (*Register*, August 10, 1939).

THE DOMINATION OF MARITIME ACTIVITY

While the Players produced a fine record for community service during the Great Depression, they also positioned themselves to become a major maritime organization. As was discussed earlier, yacht club survival was perilous. Many early clubs ceased operations due to ineffective management or inadequate facilities while numerous later boating organizations were short-lived.

The Players Boat Club siting enhances its distinctiveness by its placement over the river in a manner that

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enables a rare and satisfying relationship with the water. The setting in a sheltered cove promotes and enhances the design antecedent of the floating clubhouses and the feeling of the players' shorefront environment. Design features are also functional in a manner that has aided its long-term survival. They include boat access adjacent to the clubhouse and an open floor plan that promotes the socializing and member interaction and which help seal the bonds of a participatory organization

In addition, the Players Boat Club has attained stature as one of the oldest purpose-built yacht clubhouses in the State of New Jersey. The *Red Bank Register* reported prophetically on May 23, 1935:

The clubhouse was been redecorated throughout and on account of the deep water and other advantages for boat owners the club will cater more to boat owners in the future and expects to revise their by-laws to provide for marine officers ... Request for sanction will be made to the American Power Boat Association, of which the club is a member, for the holding of power boat and outboard races and other yacht clubs who are members of this association will be extended the courtesies of the club and anchorage.

Sanction from the American Power Boat Association would help position the club to become a leader in power boating which dominated the post-World War II boating world. To qualify, the club needed to reorganize. While the admission of "lay members" in 1929 was a concession to the exigencies of fund-raising, the club later faced a new reality regarding the composition of its membership when the number of performer members declined. Some, such as Charles Grapewine moved west to continue their careers in Hollywood. Death took a toll while the fading world of vaudeville could not produce new performer-members. At the club's April 19, 1935 meeting, long-time president and guiding light Tony Hunting stepped down. It appeared that he was unwilling to preside over the inevitable change that would result from the growing number of non-performer members who would demand a voice in the direction of the club. Hunting's gesture may be seen as foresight to aid survival. The key for lay-members was securing a vote in the administration of club affairs including the election of officers. The newly empowered boaters reflected the reality of the club's constituency and future direction by changing its name. When the change of name to Shrewsbury River Yacht Club was announced in 1938, the *Red Bank Register* noted on October 13:

Location of the clubhouse in a sheltered cove with deep water available, has been an inducement to yachtsmen to join the club. The fleet of boats owned by club members has increased steadily. With the reorganization as a yacht club, activities will be centered on yachting and a program of expansion is already under way.

Not long after the club changed its name Corinne Hunting, one of the performing *Four Huntings* and wife of club legend Tony, waxed nostalgic as her memory flowed in anticipation of a forthcoming fire company fair. She shared her recollections in the *Register* of July 24, 1941 in a harkening back to the origins of the fire company, the borough and the club: "The small but 'anxious to grow' fire company was the outlet for the actor to do his bit for 'his village' and the shows that were put on each summer to raise money for the fire company were given many times by the cream of the theatrical profession." Hunting cited the stature of the club: "This was the Mecca for the actors' social activity" where "Every man and woman of prominence in show business had, at some time, been a member or guest of this Club

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which is now a memory – but what a memory.”

At the crossroads of the club's two eras, Hunting's decades-long memories of performance achievement bridged the player and boating incarnations of the club. A brief recounting of early club members illustrates the club's original strong ties to vaudeville. Brother acts on the club roster included Ernie and Joe Van who toured Europe and America for over twenty-five years and the *Otto Brothers*. Ernie was a former club president while the pair also enjoyed a long span as touring performers. Harry Blocksom, one of the earliest actors in Fair Haven, had a successful act as Blocksom and Burns, while he often used the stage name J. Henry Stockley. He was also the second husband of Annie Hart, one of the most renowned of the players; her stature earned her the honorific “the sheriff of Fair Haven.” Other members of the club were successful musicians who included Frederick V. Bowers, a composer whose oeuvre included the standards “Because” and “Always.” The big-voiced Maggie Cline could engage and rile-up crowds.

As vaudeville waned other players moved to the screen such as George Watts who also played on the stage with Helen Hayes and Jimmy Durante, and Charles Grapewine whose film credits included “Johnny Apollo” and “The Grapes of Wrath.” The former heavyweight prizefighter “Gentleman Jim” Corbett was a member, a reminder that he began as an actor and resumed the calling after his days in the ring. Prominent club visitors were legion. Among them were James Barton, Ben Bernie, Irving Cobb, Reginald Denny, Eddie Dowling, Julian Eltinge, Charlotte Greenwood, Al Jolson, Dorothy Jordan, Jack Norworth, Charles J. Ross (of the Asbury Park Ross-Fenton Farm), Will Rogers and Jim Thornton (9).

The redirection of the club, which came just prior to the World War II-effected hiatus in power boating, provides a juncture to revisit the survivorship of maritime organizations on local waters, a subject detailed under the justification under Criterion C. By the time the present clubhouse of the Players Boat Club was ten years old, each maritime organization on the Navesink River except two had failed or in one instance was about to fail. Defunct clubs included the Neptune Club, the Locust Point Yacht Club, the Red Bank Motor Boat Club, the Shrewsbury Yacht Club, the Red Bank Yacht Club and the Fair Haven Yacht Club. During the first ten years of its new clubhouse the Players Boat Club reinforced its standing as the social center of the town and its members as major charitable donors. In the post-war period, the Club would enhance its stature as a leading maritime organization.

THE SHREWSBURY RIVER YACHT CLUB

The reorganized club was an active participant and supporter of the July 22-23, 1939 Fair Haven Days. This town-wide celebration of local pride showcased Fair Haven's public and civic organizations. Sunday's highlight was a regatta which enabled Shrewsbury River Yacht Club members to demonstrate that the club was becoming a serious maritime organization. During the event their Sherman Critchfield and Harry Crowhurst took first and second places in a special sea skiff race. This powered sea skiff race reflected the increasing role of power boating which was becoming a major presence. This was a field in which Shrewsbury River Yacht Club would be the dominant local force.

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In the post-World War I years sailing craft were dominant locally, notably the ice yachts that reigned supreme on the Navesink River, based on the number of significant local ice boaters, the superiority of their craft and their national prominence in the sport. The lower cost of operation was, of course, a major factor in the preeminence of sail. As the 1930s progressed, the boating industry took a cue from the automotive field by developing smaller, lower-cost engines such as the small-bore engine Chrysler designed for maritime use, a development which facilitated power operation in the smaller vessels that were within the reach of a wider public (*New York Times*, January 19, 1936). As the *Times* observed in the prior year (January 25, 1935), "the general trend now seems toward the medium-size cruiser" in a recreational field where, "Uppermost is the realization that motor boating is principally for relaxation, for cruising and for sightseeing, rather than competitive racing, which after all, attracts something less than two-tenths of one percent of all boat owners in this country." A prime example of the cited narrow-field competitive racing was the National Sweepstakes Regatta which was raced a few miles to the west at Red Bank and became a widely-followed spectator sport.

Competitive runs in cruisers would enjoy a renaissance with a skill-based race known as "predicted log" where knowledge of one's craft and the event's course would be the determining qualities of the race rather than speed. Although the Long Branch Ice Boat and Yacht Club sponsored the first local predicted log races in the 1930s, the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club would become predominant in the post- World War II era when this competition was a major draw in the world of leisure boating. Indeed, the club would excel in a number of emerging activities which according to the *Times* is promoted by "The American Power Boat Association (which) is expanding much effort toward the encouragement of cruiser races, club runs, interclub cruiser rendezvous and other cruising activities, especially in its New York region."

The rising stature of the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club coincided with the enhanced appeal of local waters as the *Times* noted on July 14, 1940 when their reporter observed that the Red Bank area was rivaling Lloyd Harbor, Long Island as a rendezvous destination where "millions of Federal, State, county and municipal funds have gone into the Shrewsburies during recent years." Various local interests enjoyed this expansion including "the yacht clubs that have mushroomed all along the Shrewsbury Rivers." The failure of many of these clubs to endure underscores the significance of survivorship. Thus, the very ability of a club to survive long-term is a testament and contribution to historic significance.

The onset of World War II imposed major constraints on boating activity. These mandates could have proved particularly difficult to an organization in transformation from an entertainer-oriented group to a maritime organization. All along the coast yachts were lent to the government, often with local owners serving on them as shore patrols. New war-imposed regulations constrained the ability to move along regulated waters. Where the mariner was permitted to venture, sparse fuel allotments further limited activity by power craft, so leisure boating suffered a temporary precipitous decline.

The club endured during World War II although the imposed circumstances obviously led to a spell of diminished maritime activities. The Coast Guard organized Flotilla 311 to serve major coastal patrol responsibilities, a group that selected club commodore Charles Rau as its vice-commander. Social

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activities had war-related themes such as a July 4, 1943 party hosted for a survivor of the *USS Wasp* which had been sunk off Guadalcanal, while on July 17, 1943 a Shangri-La Party offered as a prize a bond purchased to aid construction of a new aircraft carrier of that name. Indeed, the social events that provided an essential ingredient to club life were then particularly important as club secretary Franklin P. Johnson declared at the 1943 opening, "It is felt that under the stress of wartime conditions, the relaxation and congeniality which have always characterized our Club Life will mean more to each one of us than ever before." When peace returned, the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club emerged with new vigor as a maritime organization.

Leisure boating boomed with the return of peace. Several factors boosted the return of mariners to the waters including pent-up demand, the evolution in boat manufacture which began prior to the war and a spirit of adventure that filled so many servicemen who had returned from distant parts of the world. Indeed, in addition, the increased availability of powered craft, the dropping of fuel restrictions along with improved smaller engines made boating accessible to more sportsmen than ever before. The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club thrived under these conditions.

The growth in mariners' interest in the skilled handling of watercraft which emerged in the 1930s expanded into prominence in the post-war period through the rise of the predicted log race which became arguably the most widely followed event in power boating. In this area the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club excelled.

The predicted log race was developed to invigorate interest in racing the family cruiser, a type of motor boat that comes in such a wide variety of sizes, power and speed that the handicapping systems in use proved unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons. These combined to dim interest in cruiser racing. The predicted log eliminated inexact handicapping since each racer estimated, or predicted, his time for each segment of a race which he based and then fulfilled on his knowledge, familiarity and skills. The skipper's preparation is focused on his estimation of the time it will take to navigate to each of the course's many check-points. These times will vary among participants for a variety of reasons beginning with the aforementioned capabilities of the boat and the skill of the boater who is not permitted to carry or look at a timepiece during the competition. To reinforce an arcane concept, the onboard observer, as the skipper calls out each check-point, records the actual time to the second that was elapsed between check-points. After completion, the observer is given the contestant's predicted times, which are entered into the observer's log. He then calculates accuracy by dividing the total time in seconds elapsed into the number of seconds in error. The lowest error percentage wins, or the calculation of the finishing times can also be expressed as a percentage of accuracy. The skipper, while on the course, is not aware of how well he may be doing and learns only after the calculations are made following completion. Over years of competition, the skill of some log participants has resulted in consistent winning records, while at times, newcomers were able to win in their first efforts.

In 1951, the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers gave the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club the distinct honor of designation for the award of the Association's Express Cruiser trophy. One of the oldest awards in motor boating, this trophy was first awarded in 1906. The National Association was

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organized as a trade group in 1904 at New York by 44 manufacturers which aimed to promote member business conditions. Over the next two years they donated a number of trophies for award in annual competitions. While the Express Cruiser trophy was offered for competitions at various venues over the decades, there were lengthy spells for which there were no races for the trophy.

The *Register* outlined the trophy's background when describing the planned Shrewsbury River Yacht Club race on July 19, 1951, "The Express Cruiser Trophy, retired in 1928, was put back into competition in 1948 at which time it was won by R.M. Disbrow, Long Branch, in *Ila-way*, in the annual Long Branch Ice Boat and Yacht Club regatta." A week earlier, the paper's sports columnist Hy Cunningham, who would frequently cite the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club, claimed the log event demonstrated the Club "was getting to be a lively organization." Cunningham also noted that the aforementioned Donald Stone would not have to be competed against. He removed himself as a strong local competitor by serving on the race's committee. The July 28, 1951 race over the Club's forty-six mile course on waters of Raritan, Sandy Hook and Lower New York Bays was won by former commodore Alfred P. Boyce while the club's Dr. Anson G. Hoyt finished second. Hoyt, who became arguably the most skilled predicted log racer at Shrewsbury River Yacht Club, attained national prominence in the field.

Cunningham, in announcing the 1952 race in the May 15 *Register*, took note of standardized rules and coordination of race schedules to maximize any mariner's participation, and declared that there was "a great significance of this race" at the club and "that it is considered a national affair." The record of club events is filled with widely-followed racing activities through the period of significance.

As the *New York Times* reported on June 23, 1947, the legions of former servicemen who had traveled the globe during the war returned home with a spirit of adventure that transformed distant boat travel from a great adventure to a regular leisure activity. During the latter years of the period of significance the Shrewsbury River Yacht Club organized distant sails with rendezvous at a variety of eastern ports.

The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club (Players Boat Club) clubhouse possesses significance both from design by a distinguished New Jersey architect, placement above the water, a siting that maximizes boating and social function and its high degree of integrity. The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club (Players Boat Club) is one of the least altered older yacht clubs in the State of New Jersey.

Appendix to Significance

The maritime organizations in the statewide survey included:

Pioneer era: Bay Head YC; Island Heights YC; Manasquan River Yacht Club; Monmouth Boat Club; North Shrewsbury Ice Boat and Yacht Club; Raritan YC; Red Dragon Canoe Club; Riverton YC; Surf City YC and Toms River YC

Classic era: Barnegat Light YC; Beachwood YC; Bordentown YC; Green Pond YC; Hackensack YC;

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Keyport YC; Lake Mohawk YC; Lavallette YC; Little Egg Harbor YC; Long Branch Ice Boat and YC; Mantoloking YC; Metedeconk River YC; National Park Boat Club; Ocean City YC; Ocean Gate YC; Pine Beach YC; YC of Sea Isle City; Shrewsbury River YC; Shrewsbury Sailing and YC; Spray Beach YC; YC of Stone Harbor and Greater Wildwood YC

Modern era: Atlantic Highlands YC; Atlantic YC; Avalon YC; Barnegat Inlet YC; Brant Beach YC; Brigantine YC; Cooper River YC; Corinthian YC; Garden State YC; Hunterdon Sailing YC; Lagoon View YC; Liberty YC; Normandy Beach YC; Patten Point YC; Shark River Beach and YC; Shore Acres YC; South River Boat Club and Union Lake Sailing and Tennis Club.

Endnotes

- (1) Brown, Thomas Irving, "A Short Talk on Fair Haven History," Fair Haven, Dads of Fair Haven, Inc., 1955
- (2) Transfer of real estate from Players Boat Club to Players Boat Club Realty Co., Monmouth Deeds, Book 1478, p.317, dated April 25, 1929; Incorporation of Players Boat Club Realty Co., March 1, 1929; Monmouth Incorporations, Book P, p.324
- (3) Gabrielan, Randall, *Birth of the Jersey Shore, The Personalities & Politics that Built America's Resort*, Charleston, S.C., The History Press, 2015
- (4) Monmouth County Building Contract, No.13275, filed with county clerk April 29, 1929/
- (5) McMahon, T.J., "Fair Haven – Thespian Hideaway of the 1900s," *Two River Times*, December 5, 1990
- (6) The effort to incorporate Fair Haven was covered extensively in the *Red Bank Register*, including February 1, March 8, March 22, April 19, and May 22, 1911, January 3, March 11, and April 24, 1912; Snyder, John P., *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries 1606-1968*, p.179, Trenton, N.J., Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969
- (7) Gabrielan, Randall, *100 Years on the Navesink – The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club – A History*, Fair Haven, N.J., Shrewsbury River Yacht Club. 2010
- (8) Trav, S.D., (Stewart, Donald Travis) *No Applause – Just Throw Money or The Book That Made Vaudeville Famous*, New York, N.Y., Faber and Faber, 2005
- (9) Accounts and notations of visitors appear in many places. The best source is the *Asbury Park Sunday Press*, November 6, 1932 Feature Section.

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Major Bibliographical References

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Building Contract 13275. April 29, 1929.

Monmouth County Clerk's Office (Freehold, New Jersey)
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Incorporations, Book P, p. 324

Newspapers and Periodicals

(citations to specific issues are provided in the nomination text)

Motor Boating
Red Bank Register
The New York Times

Secondary Sources

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2010 *100 Years on the Navesink—The Shrewsbury River Yacht Club—A History*. Shrewsbury River Yacht Club, Fair Haven, New Jersey.

2015 *Birth of the Jersey Shore: The Personalities and Politics that Built America's Resort*. The History Press, Charleston, South Carolina.

McMahon, T.J.
1990 "Fair Haven—Thespian Hideaway of the 1900s." *Two River Times*. December 5.

Trav, S.D. (Stewart, Donald Travis)
2005 *No Applause—Just Throw Money or the Book That Made Vaudeville Famous*. Faber and Faber, New York.

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Section 10. Geographical Data

Boundary Justification

The boundary selected, Fair Haven Borough Block 51, Lot 6 represents the area historical and currently associated with the Club.

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Photographs

Name of Property: Players Boat Club

County and State: Monmouth County, New Jersey

Photographer: Randy Gabrielan, Photographer

Date Photographed: November 2016

- 1 of 16. View from River Road toward northwest.
- 2 of 16. Pilings at southwest corner of building.
- 3 of 16. Façade toward northwest.
- 4 of 16. Southwest elevation toward southeast/
- 5 of 16. Northwest elevation toward south showing two-story porch.
- 6 of 16. Close-up of porch on northwest elevation toward south.
- 7 of 16. View northwest from upper level of porch showing Shrewsbury River landscape.
- 8 of 16. Lobby, inside of door, toward northwest.
- 9 of 16. Interior, central open space, view northwest, toward bar.
- 10 of 16. Interior, central open space, view southeast toward lobby.
- 11 of 16. Interior, toward northeast, arranged for banquet.
- 12 of 16. General interior view toward southwest wall.
- 13 of 16. View from northwest end of balcony toward southeast.
- 14 of 16. View from southwest end of balcony looking north toward bar.
- 15 of 16. View of southwest side of balcony toward northwest.
- 16 of 16. View of stairway to balcony, southwest side of lobby toward northwest.



Players Boat Club



National Register Nomination
Fair Haven Borough,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Scale: 1:1,000

0 37.5 75 150 Feet

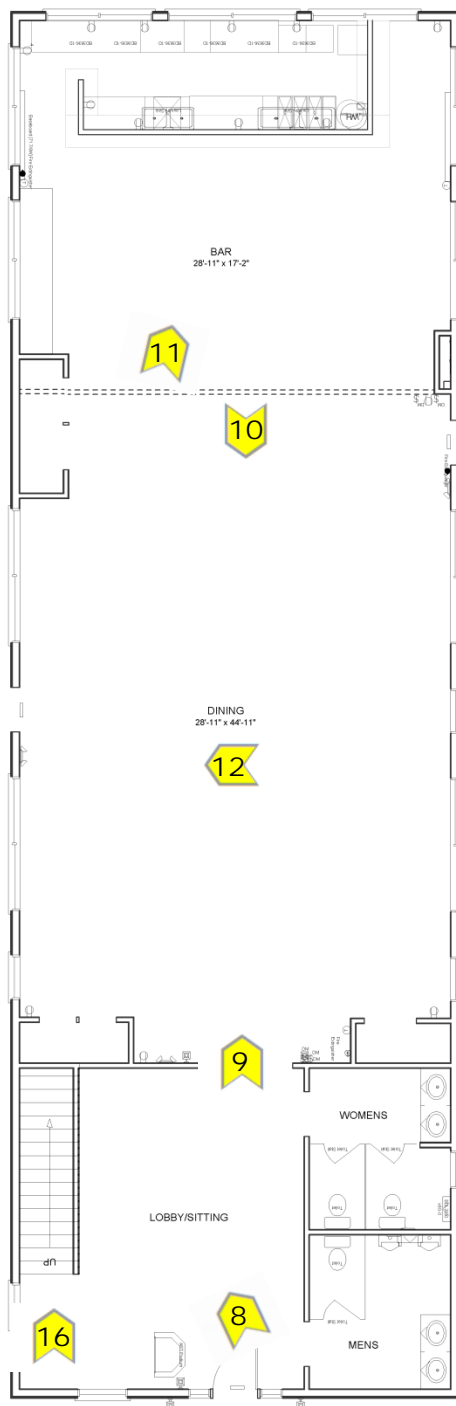
Legend

-  NR Boundary
-  Tax Parcels

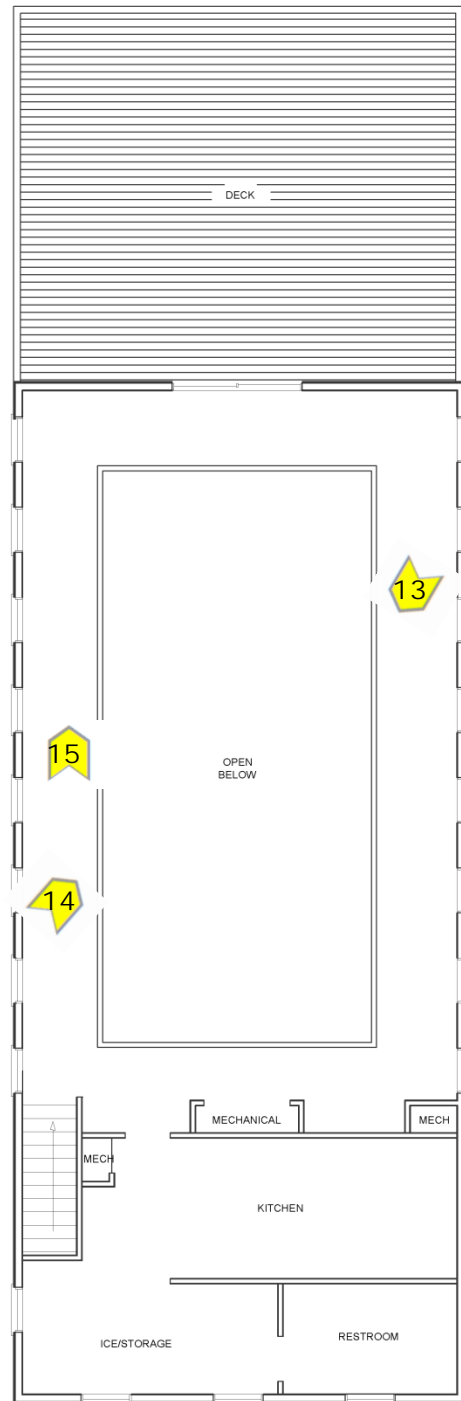
0.67 Acres



NJDEP,
Historic Preservation Office
July 2017



1st Floor



2nd Floor

Players Boat Club
National Register Nomination
Fair Haven Borough,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Photo Location Map

No Scale

Legend



Photo Locations

0.67 Acres



NJDEP,
Historic Preservation Office
July 2017

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Historic Photograph 1. – Floating Clubhouse (destroyed 1928)



Historic Photograph 2. Historical image of façade

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Historic Photograph 3. West elevation, historical image



Historic Photograph 4. East elevation, historical image

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Historic Photograph 5. North porch before enlargement to two stories.



Historic Photograph 6. Interior. View north toward bar, c. 1960s.

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Photograph 1. View from River Road toward northwest..



Photograph 2. Pilings at southwest corner of building.

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Photograph 3. Façade toward northwest.



Photograph 4. Southwest elevation toward southeast.

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Photograph 5. Northwest elevation toward south showing two-story porch.



Photograph 6. Close-up of porch on the northwest elevation toward south.

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Photograph 7. View northwest from upper level of porch showing Shrewsbury River landscape.



Photograph 8. Lobby, inside of door, toward northwest.

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Photograph 9. Interior, central open space, view northwest, toward bar.



Photograph 10. Interior, central open space, view southeast toward lobby.

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Photograph 11. Interior, toward northeast, arranged for banquet.



Photograph 12. General interior view toward southwest wall.

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Photograph 13. View from northwest end of balcony toward southeast.



Photograph 14. View from southeast end of balcony looking north toward bar.

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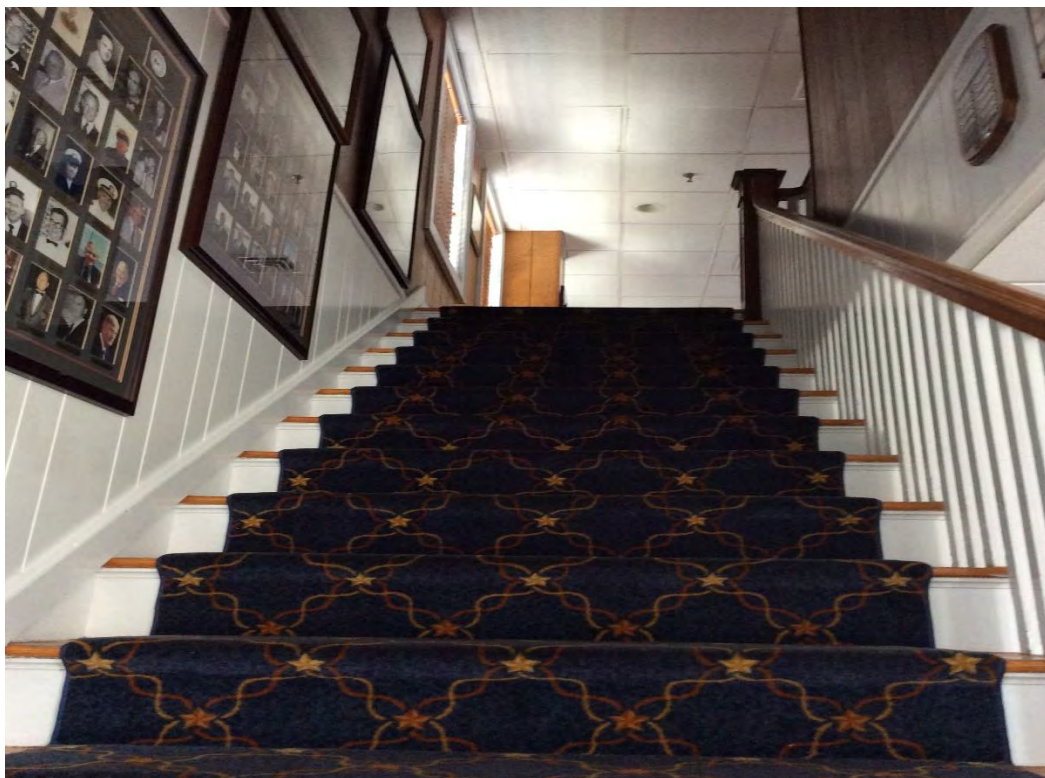
County and State

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Photograph 15. View of southwest side of balcony toward northwest.



Photograph 16. View of stairway to balcony, southwest side of lobby, toward northwest.









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WHITE



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Players Boat Club

Multiple Name:

State & County: NEW JERSEY, Monmouth

Date Received:
5/1/2019

Date of Pending List:
5/16/2019

Date of 16th Day:
5/31/2019

Date of 45th Day:
6/17/2019

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004058

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

☐ Appeal

☐ SHPO Request

☐ Waiver

☐ Resubmission

☐ Other

☐ PDIL

☐ Landscape

☐ National

☐ Mobile Resource

☐ TCP

☐ CLG

☒ Text/Data Issue

☐ Photo

☒ Map/Boundary

☐ Period

☐ Less than 50 years

☒ Accept

☐ Return

☐ Reject

6/17/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary AOS: Entertainment/Recreation, Social History, Architecture; POS: 1928-1938; LOS: local
Comments:

Recommendation/ NR Criteria: A & C
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 6/17/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



HPO Project# 15-3129-8
HPO-I-2018-207

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

RAY BUKOWSKI
Assistant Commissioner

September 27, 2018

Julie Earnstein, Acting Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Earnstein:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Players Boat Club located at 925 River Road in Fair Haven Borough in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Katherine J. Marcopul, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call her at (609) 984-5816.

Sincerely,

Ray Bukowski
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer