

N.J. Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, 109 W. State Street,  
Trenton, N.J. 08625 609-292-2023

Prepared by Heritage Studies, Inc. Princeton, N.J. 08540 609-452-1754

RR-0508-  
Survey #11-8

## NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAILROAD STATION SURVEY

### 1. IDENTIFICATION

- A. Name: Common Ocean City <sup>34th St. Station</sup> 34th St. Line: Philadelphia Division  
Historic (Ocean City Branch)  
formerly Pennsylvania Reading  
Seashore; Atlantic City RR
- B. Address or location:  
~~S of 34th St. ca. 1/3 mile~~  County: Cape May  
SE of Bay Ave. Municipality: Ocean City  
Ocean City, NJ Block & lot: part of: 3404
- C. Owner's name: NJ Transit  
Address: Newark, NJ
- D. Location of legal description: Recorder of Deeds, Cape May County  
Courthouse, Cape May, N.J. 08204
- E. Representation in existing surveys: (give number, category, etc.,  
as appropriate)

HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ ELRR Improvement \_\_\_\_\_ NY&LB Improvement \_\_\_\_\_

Plainfield Corridor \_\_\_\_\_ NR(name, if HD) \_\_\_\_\_

NJSR (name, if HD) \_\_\_\_\_

NJHSI (#) \_\_\_\_\_

Northeast Corridor \_\_\_\_\_

Local \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)

Modernization Study: site plan  floor plan \_\_\_\_\_ aerial photo \_\_\_\_\_

other views  photos of NR quality?

### 2. EVALUATION

A. Determination of eligibility: SHPO comment? \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)  
NR det.? \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)

B. Potentially eligible for NR: yes  possible \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
individual \_\_\_\_\_ thematic

C. Survey Evaluation: 130/140 points

FACILITY NAME: Ocean City - 34 th St.

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### 3. DESCRIPTION--COMPLEX IN GENERAL

Describe the entire railroad complex at this site; mention all buildings and structures, with notation of which are not historic. Check items which apply and discuss in narrative:

- Moved buildings (original location, date of and reason for move)
- Any non-railroad uses in complex (military recruiting, etc.)
- Any unusual railroad building types, such as crew quarters, etc. (specify)
- Known threats to complex or individual structures

Surroundings:  urban  suburban  scattered buildings  open space  
 residential  woodland  agricultural  industrial  
 downtown commercial  highway commercial  other (specify)

Relationship of station grade to track grade:  
 Station and track grade at same level  Station at street grade, track depressed  
 Station spans track  Track elevated above street grade, multi-level station

# of tracks: 1  
 Pedestrian access across tracks:  
 Pedestrian bridge:  at street grade  elevated  
 Pedestrian/vehicular bridge:  at street grade  elevated  
 Tunnel  
 None provided

Discuss character of vehicular and pedestrian approaches to complex; landscaping; relationship to parking. Refer to, and key with, site plan.

The Ocean City - 34th St complex, consisting of a one-story Stick style station with platform, is located on a relatively open suburban site bordered on the E by a dirt road. There is a small ambiguously defined and unpaved parking area E of the station and dirt road. Pedestrian access is unrestricted, and there is no landscaping.

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## 3. DESCRIPTION--PLATFORMS AND CANOPIES

 Inbound Outbound 146' cinder platform. No lighting. Canopy is discussed as part of the station. Between tracks

Nature and extent of existing original material and alterations: roof type, material, supports; freestanding or attached to building; seating; lighting; signage; other.

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4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, site plan.  
Account for original materials and finishes where different from existing.

Station   x   Shelter        Freight House        Other        (specify)

General architectural description, including style, shape, roof type, # stories, # bays, orientation to track, location of entrances, etc.

The station at Ocean City - 34th St., located E of the tracks, consists of a 3-bay wood frame gabled roof supported on a single row of wood columns and shaped wood brackets. Gable ends are enclosed and have diagonal bracing. Built into the N bay is an enclosure, open on the W (track) side. Roofing consists of metal sheeting. Materials appear to be original.

FACILITY NAME Ocean City - 34th St.

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR) CONTD.

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility.

Station  X  Shelter   Freight House   Other   (specify)

EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS:

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Structural system:	<u>wood frame</u>	<u> </u>
Foundation:	<u>unknown, raised board floor in enclosure</u>	<u> </u>
Base course:	<u>none</u>	<u> </u>
Walls:	<u>vert. boards</u>	<u>(red, brown paint)</u>
Trim:	<u>wood diag. bracing in gable ends, shaped brackets</u>	<u>(int. &amp; ext.) (red paint)</u>
Doors:	<u>none</u>	<u> </u>
Roofing:	<u>metal sheeting</u>	<u>(black paint)</u>
Soffit:	<u>none</u>	<u> </u>
Windows:	<u>none</u>	<u> </u>
Lighting:	<u>incand. fixs.</u>	<u> </u>
Signage:	<u>unknown</u>	<u>"Crossings Motor Inn" (either end)</u>
Drainage:	<u>metal leaders</u>	<u>(red paint)</u>
Other:	<u>double board bench (ext.) single board bench (int.)</u>	<u>(brown paint)</u>

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5. SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLEX (ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL):

Architect	unknown, std. Reading design source	
Date	probably ca. 1885-95	Alteration dates _____ Source _____
Style	stick	
# passenger trains/day (present)	2 (winter)	Peak (#, Yr.) 4 (winter)
yes Original station on site	4 (summer) in 1980	17 (summer) in 1940 (PRSL) 6 (winter) 14 (summer) in 1915 (ACRR)

The Ocean City - 34th St. station is probably the only surviving New Jersey example of a late nineteenth century Reading "standard" shelter. Similar shelters on the ACRR once stood at Yorkship (Camden), West Wildwood, and Whiteboro. Others may be found out of state on former Reading lines across the tracks from the station. In 1903 the 34th St. shelter was moved from 10th St. Camden (Cook) and was one of several "flag" stations\* in Ocean City. Most of the business here has always been during the summer.

\* Trains made stops only if a flag was displayed, indicating that a passenger was waiting to board.

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## 6. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal boundary description (if Block/Lot not available)

Boundaries are outlined on the site plan.

Acreage: less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre.

UTM coordinates: Zone: 18/Easting: 5 3 3 3 5 0/Northing: 4 3 4 4 5 8 0  
USGS Quad Ocean City Scale 1:24 000

## 7. REFERENCES

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC:

Cook, W. George and William J. Coxey, Atlantic City Railroad, West Jersey Chapter, NRHS, Ambler. PA, Crusader Press, 1981, p. 79.

### ICONOGRAPHIC:

none known

## 8. PHOTO

Negative index # 1028 or NJT photo # -- slide # 11-8  
Date 1978 Photographer Richard Browne Assocs.  
Loc. of negative NJ Transit Direction of view: station from west.

FACILITY NAME: Ocean City - 34th St.

## 9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

## A. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- i. Associated with important events or broad movements  
in history
- |            |     |      |
|------------|-----|------|
| nationally | ___ | (30) |
| state-wide | ___ | (25) |
| locally    | ___ | (20) |
- ii. Representative of significant changes in railroad history  
and/or technology
- |         |     |      |
|---------|-----|------|
| rare    | ___ | (30) |
| unusual | ___ | (25) |
| common  | ___ | (10) |
- iii. Original station on site X (15)
- iv. Representative of a line's standard design X (10)
- v. Constructed prior to 1900 X (15)
- vi. Junction station \_\_\_ (10)
- vii. Former long-distance service \_\_\_ (10)
- viii. Other \_\_\_ (10)
- ix. Less than 50 years old \_\_\_ (-30)

40

## B. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- i. STYLE                      Stick
- a. Example of a particular architectural style (check one)
- |             |          |      |
|-------------|----------|------|
| Outstanding | ___      | (50) |
| Excellent   | ___      | (40) |
| Very good   | ___      | (30) |
| Good        | <u>X</u> | (20) |
| Fair        | ___      | (10) |
- b. Rare survivor of style
- |            |          |      |
|------------|----------|------|
| nationally | ___      | (20) |
| state-wide | ___      | (15) |
| locally    | <u>X</u> | (10) |
- c. As example of railroad architecture
- |                  |     |      |
|------------------|-----|------|
| rare             | ___ | (30) |
| unusual or early | ___ | (15) |

FACILITY NAME: Ocean City

CRITERIA CONT.

ii. ARCHITECT (check one)

a. building by architect important

nationally \_\_\_\_ (25)  
state-wide \_\_\_\_ (20)  
locally \_\_\_\_ (15)

b. building designed by railroad and is known or appears to be the work of the supervising architect or engineer or chief designer

\_\_\_\_ (20)

c. building designed by railroad and is known or appears to be the work of the staff

X ( 5)

d. architect identified but not considered to be of special importance

\_\_\_\_ ( 5)

iii. OVERALL ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY (check one)

a. Outstanding composition, siting, or craftsmanship

\_\_\_\_ (40)

b. Notable composition, siting, or craftsmanship, or possessing especially picturesque or unusual exterior detailing

\_\_\_\_ (25)

c. Possessing some detail(s) of particular interest and/or quality

X (15) brackets, stick work

d. Average quality or interest

\_\_\_\_ ( 5)

iv. SPECIAL QUALITIES

a. Noteworthy overall interior design or detailing

\_\_\_\_ (15)

b. Some noteworthy interior detailing  
( \_\_\_\_ interior not accessible)

\_\_\_\_ ( 5)

c. Part of cohesive complex

1) station and shelter

\_\_\_\_ ( 5)

2) more than two buildings

\_\_\_\_ (10)

v. CONSTRUCTION

a. Noteworthy example of particular construction method

\_\_\_\_ (30)

b. Rare or early survivor of particular method

\_\_\_\_ (20)

c. Interesting example of method

\_\_\_\_ ( 5)

FACILITY NAME: Ocean City - 34th St.

## CRITERIA CONT.

## C. CONDITIONS

## i. INTEGRITY

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| a. Original condition   | <u>  X  </u> (40)   |
| b. Alterations and/or additions,<br>beneficial  | <u>      </u> (30)  |
| c. Alterations and/or additions, not<br>detrimental                                       | <u>      </u> (20)  |
| d. Minor detrimental alterations and/<br>or additions, not affecting overall<br>integrity | <u>      </u> (10)  |
| e. Detrimental alterations and/or<br>additions, reversible at considerable<br>expense     | <u>      </u> (-25) |
| f. Detrimental alterations and/or additions,<br>essentially irreversible                  | <u>      </u> (-75) |

## ii. PHYSICAL CONDITION

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Excellent             | <u>      </u> (10)  |
| b. Good                  | <u>      </u> ( 5)  |
| c. Fair                  | <u>  X  </u> ( 0)   |
| d. Poor                  | <u>      </u> (-10) |
| e. Severely deteriorated | <u>      </u> (-25) |

## iii. RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Pivotal building           | <u>      </u> (40) |
| b. Integral part of townscape | <u>      </u> (30) |
| c. Compatible with townscape  | <u>      </u> (20) |
| d. Unrelated to townscape     | <u>  X  </u> ( 0)  |
| e. Incompatible               | <u>      </u> -30) |

## iv. SUITABILITY FOR ADAPTIVE USE

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Excellent                 | <u>      </u> (30) |
| b. Very Good                 | <u>      </u> (25) |
| c. Good                      | <u>      </u> (20) |
| d. Average                   | <u>      </u> (15) |
| e. Possible, with difficulty | <u>  X  </u> (10)  |

50

TOTAL

140



FACILITY NAME: Ocean City - 34th St.

Attach copy of site plan

\_\_\_\_ continuation sheets attached

FORM PREPARED BY: Richard Meyer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: July, 1981

HERITAGE STUDIES, INC.  
RD 4 Box 864, Mapleton Road  
Princeton, N.J. 08540  
609-452-1754

10<sup>TH</sup> STREET (CIVIL CITY)

LINDEN C.D.

34<sup>TH</sup>

STREET

OPEN SHELTER  
14' x 8'

CANOPY  
20' x 13'6"

CINDER PLATFORM  
146' x 8'

— PARKING

← DIRT ROAD

10<sup>TH</sup> STREET (CIVIL CITY)

LINDENW. I.D.

34<sup>ST</sup>

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OPEN SHELTER  
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— PARKING

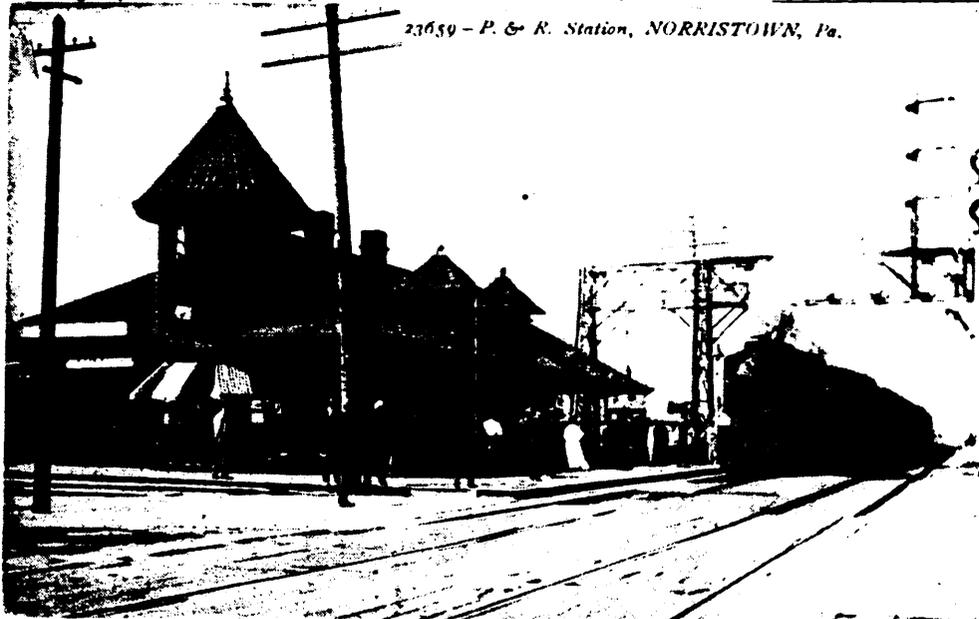
← DIRT ROAD

Thematic Nomination of  
Operating Passenger  
RR Stations in New Jersey

Ocean City RR Station (34th Street)  
Ocean City, Cape May County



11-7 Ocean City (10th Street) Railroad Station (Gardner, Jersey, Reading, Mauch, n.d.)



23659 - P. & R. Station, NORRISTOWN, Pa.



NORTH WALE, Pa.

North Wales, Pa.

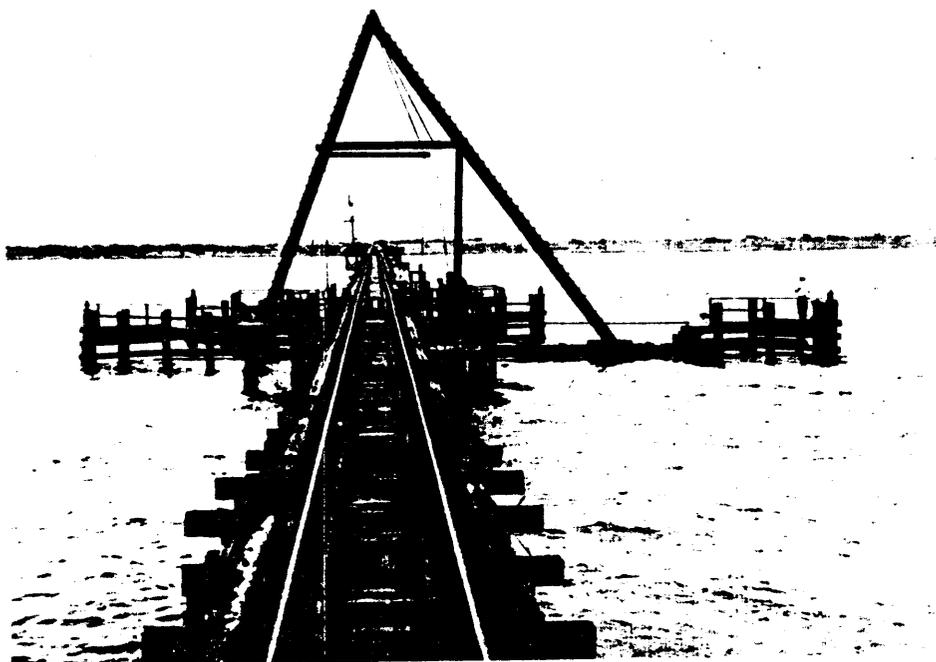


PHILADELPHIA & READING R. R. DEPOT OCEAN CITY, N. J.



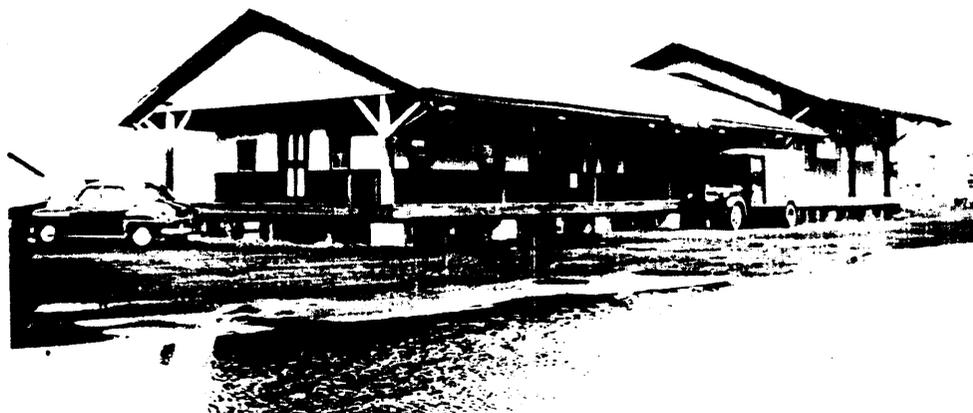
*C. Elston, Palmer collection*

[TOP:] Fifty-first Street was the first of seven station stops in Ocean City. As seen in 1956, the station was still in use and housed an agent-operator. This was the junction for Sea Isle City branch until 1942. After the branch was abandoned, a Public Service bus handled passengers for Sea Isle City and Townsend's Inlet. [RIGHT:] Sea Isle City passengers were treated to a mini-sea voyage on the long trestle over Corson's Inlet between Ocean City and Strathmere. In 1939, rear platform passengers on the slowly-moving P-70 coach get a clear view of the manually-operated A-frame swingbridge at the boat channel. [BELOW:] Ocean City had a combination Railway Express and freight house located adjacent to the 10th Street station.



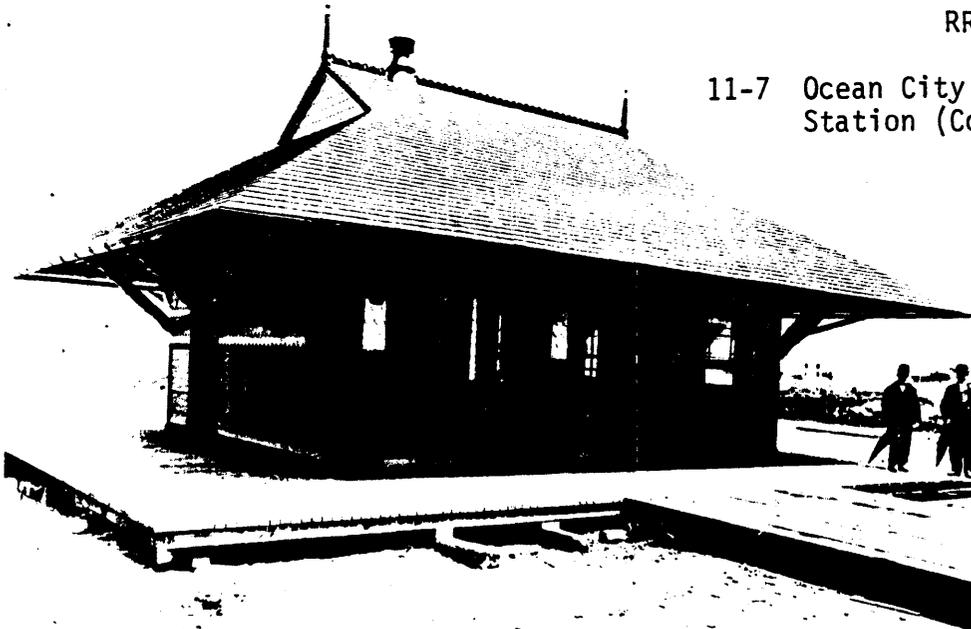
*R. T. Loane*

11-7 Ocean City (10th Street) Railroad Station Freight House (Kramer, p. 57)



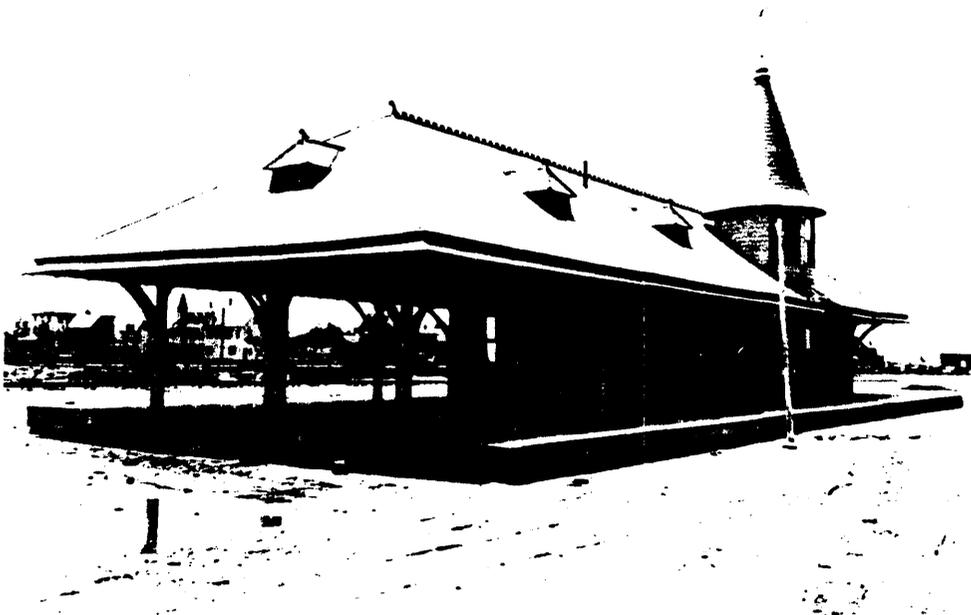
*F. C. Kozempel*

11-7 Ocean City (10th Street) Railroad Station (Cook and Coxey, p. 72)



Collection of Theodore A. Xaras

*The newly constructed Fourth Street station in Ocean City was situated adjacent to the engine service yard where a turntable and water tank were located. Note the platform extension that led to a short track-side platform.*



Collection of Theodore A. Xaras

*Shortly after the Ocean City Railroad was extended in 1898, the Reading built a new passenger station at Ninth Street, Ocean City. Apparently, the newly constructed depot was not yet in service as the track-side platform had not been built.*

*At the same time the Ninth Street depot was built, a new freight house was also completed.*



Collection of Theodore A. Xaras