

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 20 1978  
DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Shelburne Hotel  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Michigan Avenue and the Boardwalk  
CITY, TOWN  
Atlantic City  
STATE  
New Jersey

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
34  
COUNTY  
Atlantic  
CODE  
001

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. Gary Malamut  
STREET & NUMBER  
Shelburne Hotel - Boardwalk and Michigan Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Atlantic City  
STATE  
New Jersey

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Atlantic County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Mays Landing  
STATE  
New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory  
DATE  
March 1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
109 west State Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Trenton  
STATE  
New Jersey

--- FEDERAL  STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shelburne Hotel is a brick and limestone skyscraper formed of Georgian motifs with a tower and cupola. The front section, which faces the Atlantic City Boardwalk, dates from 1922. Five bays wide and nine bays deep, this section rises from a two (2) story base five (5) floors to a full entablature, with an additional story forming the parapet. The great mid-section, which dates from 1926, is by far the largest single portion of the hotel. Beginning with a similar two (2) story base, it rises eight (8) floors to a wide entablature which comprises an additional story. The heavy cornice is surmounted by a penthouse which is surmounted in turn by the tower and cupola. This section is eight (8) bays deep with every other bay incorporated into a three (3) sided window projection.

There is also a diminutive asphalt sided frame portion on the rear with a Mansard roof. Structurally weakened, this section is all that remains of a once sprawling late 19th century hotel with wide porches and sun parlors. There is also a dining room on the side.

The hotel rooms are serviced by a central corridor on each floor which runs from front to rear of the building. All major public rooms are on the ground floor. The main lobby, which occurs in 1926 section, is entered from the north side of the building on Michigan Avenue. Its elaborate plaster ceiling is cut into great rectangular panels framed with denticular cornices and inscribed with foliated molded oval motifs. The room has a heavily carved entablature with foliage motifs, and deeply incised raised oak paneling. Especially notable are the English baroque style chandeliers. East of the lobby (toward the beach) is the elevator corridor, a wide room with a Jacobean strapwork ceiling, and a fine oak check-in desk with a carved pedimented top. Further east is the dark oak paneled drawing room which has a beam ceiling with canvas panels formed in Jacobean strapwork motifs. Access to the Boardwalk is provided by a wide corridor with a heavy beamed ceiling, articulated in the manner of the California missions.

Just north of the lobby is a small dining room with red silk paper and a heavy cornice formed of pairs of gold leaf dolphins with tails crossed.

To the rear of the lobby through a paneled corridor is the main hall which was decorated in 1954 with marbled mirrored walls, cut into panels with large inset sunburst motifs covered in gold leaf.

Of particular note is the aforementioned 12th floor penthouse with its great frontal drawing room which has a marble Adams type fireplace and coffered ceiling. The dining room has a Georgian fireplace and raised oak paneling. The bathrooms retain their period fixtures, and all have art deco striped opaque glass wall covering.

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The exteriors reflect the 1920's Georgian taste with most of the ornamentation on the ground floor, and the upper first and second floor. The Boardwalk front has a limestone arcade. The frontal 1922 section has a central pavilion, articulated with brick pilasters, surmounted by a rounded pediment with an inscribed coat of arms. The 1926 (middle) section has a double cornice which inscribes an upper story which forms a rough entablature. The upper cornice has carved drapery and running Vitruvian scroll motifs.

This configuration is surmounted by the penthouse, whose main front is articulated in a tri-part arch motif whose side arches are inscribed in pedimented pavilions. The arch windows are interspersed with slender rectangular windows surmounted by carved medallions. The penthouse is surmounted by a balustrade with prominently placed urns. The tower rises from a heavy base, with flanking dolphins, to a tall narrow pavilion with corinthian columns set within the opening. The molded cap has a coat of arms and terminates in a metal sculpture spire.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1922, 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Warren and Wetmore

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shelburne Hotel is one of about six of the most notable old hotels of Atlantic City, a nationally significant resort.

The hotel's largest section was designed by Warren and Wetmore, a well known architectural firm of the first 3rd of this century. Visually prominent, its boisterous, Georgian revival composition, is totally in keeping with the opulent spirit of the 1920's, an effect which is heightened by an unusually fine set of eclectic interiors.

The old Shelburne built its reputation on its cuisine. One of its most famous residents was James Buchanan Brady or "Diamond Jim". He paid one thousand dollars a week for his enormous apartment which faced the ocean, and an additional 36 thousand dollars for a glass veranda to be built around it. In the autumn of 1916 Brady became ill with gastric ulcers and died the following April in the Shelburne.

In the 1920's a rebuilding program began and the section nearest the Boardwalk was demolished and replaced by the present nine (9) story structure. The architect of this section is not known. In 1926 the twelve (12) story mid-section was built, under the architects Warren and Wetmore of New York.

The Shelburne continued to cater to the health resort business which built many of the early Atlantic City hotels. People came and stayed the entire summer, ostensibly to bask in the sun, bathe in the health giving waters, and regenerate themselves. Early brochures clearly emphasize this aspect rather than vacationing for pleasure, though the later aspect received attention as well. Each room had piped in hot and cold salt as well as fresh water. Taking extended salt water baths was considered healthy, but the pipes rusted and ultimately the salt water system was removed. The military took over the hotel in World War II after which it was returned to civilian occupancy. The owners at that time set about demolishing most of the remains of the old frame structure, leaving only the aforementioned rear wing. In 1950 the hotel was taken over by National Inns and renovations began on the building to accommodate a rising new market, the sales convention trade.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William White, The Making of the President - 1964  
 Parker Morell, Diamond Jim, The Life and Times of James Buchanan Brady  
 Architectural plans filed in the hotel.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 1/2 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	5, 4, 8, 7, 5, 0	4, 3, 5, 6, 2, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area encompasses an area 600 feet by 200 feet on the south side of the intersection of Boardwalk and Michigan Avenue (long side facing Michigan Avenue).

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jonathan Fricker, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2024

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

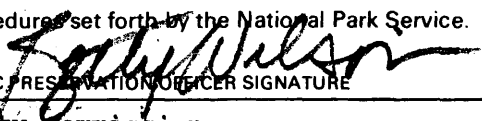
NATIONAL

STATE XX

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



3-7-78

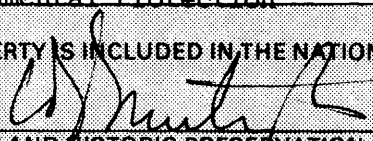
TITLE Deputy Commissioner

DATE

Department of Environmental Protection

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

3/19/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:



DATE

5-3-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The aforementioned ballroom was built and decorated by Dorothy Draper, in 1953, to answer the need for more display space. A number of modern hotel rooms were also built to the rear of the property.

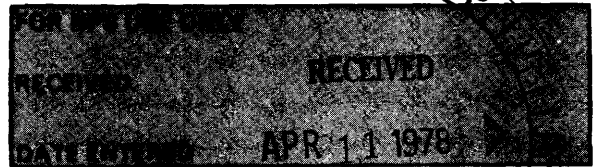
Over the years the Shelburne has received much notables as "Diamond Jim Brady," Lillian Russell, and Irving Berlin. More recently, the hotel was a focal point of the 1964 National Democratic Convention. William White in his book The Making of the President - 1964 reports, "...the hawkers, the knockdown discount auctions, the hotels where room service did not function and where prices soared, the restaurants where one could not be seated and food was bad, the honky-tonk and the tawdriness combined to produce an immediate aphorism. 'This is the original Bay of Pigs'. One or two of the hotels - notably such hoteleries as the Shelburne and Haddon Hall - rose to the occasion with grace and efficiency. But most accustomed to smaller conventions....broke down under the demands of a political convention."

It's clear from this, that the Shelburne ranked then, and continues to rank, as one of the most important hotels of Atlantic City.

Because of this, and because of its architectural significance, the Shelburne Hotel warrants inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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SHELBURNE HOTEL

Description - #7

To the south of the main portions of the Shelburne Hotel is a wood frame restaurant designed as a ship. This section dates from the construction of the old Shelburne. The interior of the restaurant continues the ship motif by employing canvas that has been coated with whitewash. The seating is arranged so that patrons can view the sea through the windowed front.

Along the front of the hotel, on the boardwalk, is a strip of commercial shops built in reinforced concrete. These retail shops do not contribute to the significance of the Shelburne.

Significance - #8

The Shelburne Hotel is principally significant for its architectural style and size. Built by the architectural firm of Warren and Wetmore, who also designed Grand Central Station, the hotel receives visual prominence from the proliferation of detail on the upper floors. Georgian Revival in conception, the Shelburne Hotel is a particularly fine example of this style that was prominent during the 1920's. As one of the three largest hotels along the boardwalk, the Shelburne Hotel is a major contributor to the Atlantic City skyline.

Notable, also, are the fine eclectic interiors. Done principally in the Georgian Revival and Jacobean styles in keeping with the exterior, there are also art deco interiors. The wide corridor that gives access to the boardwalk is articulated in the California Mission style.



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