

This heritage trail is dedicated to Long Branch native, Beth Duze Woolley. As the founder of Peaceable Kingdom Monument Company, Beth's interest in preservation led her to research her town's history and share that knowledge with anyone who would listen. It was fascinating listening to all her stories. As Program Coordinator for the Long Branch Historical Association, she kept many audiences enthralled with wonderful pictures and stories over the years.

Educated as a graphic artist, Beth envisioned a style of markers fitting to Long Branch's Gilded Age history. She designed beautiful bronze plaques that now make up the majority of the new Long Branch Heritage Trail. Her marker on the corner of Brighton Ave and the boardwalk has been officially entered into the Monmouth County Archives as an example of artistic craftsmanship in history.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the 7 Presidents Heritage Trail.

Special thanks to...



COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

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WHALE POND BROOK
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



LONG BRANCH
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



LONG BRANCH
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Long Branch

Historical Trail

The Long Branch Historical Trail



1 CHURCH OF THE PRESIDENTS
1260 Ocean Ave

Built in 1879 for St. James Episcopal Church in East Long Branch. Trenton Diocese deconsecrated the chapel in 1953, when ownership was passed to the Long Branch Historical Museum Association. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, its name is in recognition of U.S. Presidents who are associated with Long Branch.



2 PRESIDENT JAMES GARFIELD HISTORIC MARKER
Garfield Rd & Ocean Ct

When the newly inaugurated President was shot as he was boarding a train to Long Branch, it was decided to send the frail president to the ocean cottage

where he and his wife summered. The problem was he might not be able to make the trip from the train station to the cottage in a horse drawn ambulance. In a truly miraculous feat, that would capture the nation's attention, residents built a spur from the station to the front door of his cottage. Thousands of men worked through the night and on Sept 5, 1881 "Garfield's Spur," as it became known, was completed and the mortally wounded president was transferred to his bedroom in his cottage.



3 GRANT'S COTTAGE
932 Ocean Ave

President's love of Long Branch began in the 1860's when several of the industrialists, who already summered here, offered their oceanfront cottages. Eventually Grant would own his own summer residence that would be coined "The Summer Capitol".



4 TAKANASSEE LAKE & LIFE SAVING STATION #5
Ocean Ave & Lake Dr

The Jersey Shore was once known as the "Ship Graveyard" for more than 3000 ships that wrecked off its coast. The Newell Act in 1848 began the Life Saving Service that today is the US Coast Guard.



5 ROSS ISLAND
20 Elinore Ave

Sanford Ross, Essex Co. Executive, created the Takana estate in 1899. The estate included the island that still exists today and where the Stone Hut can be seen. Built in 1916 it was restored with grants from the Monmouth Co. Historical Commission. Today there are native & pollinator gardens, and on special occasions a raft takes visitors over to the island.



6 DOROTHY PARKER BIRTHPLACE
732 Ocean Ave

Writer, poet, critic, and member of the famous Algonquin Round Table (1919-1929). Dorothy's parents summered at the cottage in the West End section of Long Branch, and it was where she was born on August 22, 1893. The

site is designated a Literary Landmark by the Friends of the Libraries, USA.



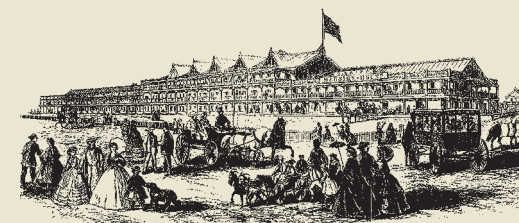
7 THE GRAND HOTELS
Ocean Ave & Brighton Ave

While several of the Grand Hotels stood on this site, The Stetson House (later West End Hotel) was perhaps the grandest one of all. With 300 rooms it wasn't the largest, however, it boasted of the most modern conveniences for the times. When it became the West End, 15 room cottages were added and it was the first hotel in NJ to have an elevator & telegraph services to the NY Stock Exchange. Famous guests included Lillian Russell, Horace Greely, Gen. Sherman, & Oscar Wilde. The marker on this site was included in Monmouth County Archives Day as an example of excellent craftsmanship in history.



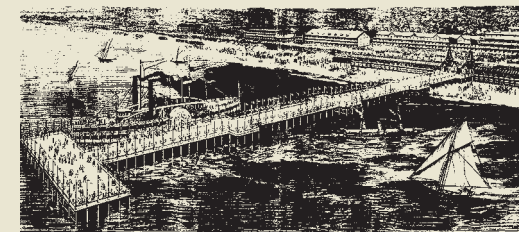
8 SCARBOROUGH HOTEL & NORMAN MAILER
Ocean Ave & South Bath Ave

In 1882 the big news of the summer season was the construction of The Scarborough Hotel. It was a Queen Anne styled hotel with 200 rooms, 4 stories, and an attic. Pulitzer Prize author, Norman Mailer summered and worked at the hotel during his teen years.



9 GRAND HOP AT THE MANSION HOUSE
The Boardwalk between Laird Ave & Chelsea Ave

In 1861 the Mansion House was visited by First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. In her honor there was a Grand Hop, and her visit drew national attention to Long Branch, making it a fashionable Gilded Age Resort. When the hotel burned in 1884, it was torn down to make way for a new pier.



10 THE GREAT IRON PIER 1879
Chelsea Ave & Centennial Dr

The Great Iron Pier is long gone, but need not be forgotten. Go to the center of Pier Village Plaza, at the gazebo on the promenade & look up. There is the imprint of the majestic twin towers that once stood at the entrance to the Iron Pier. Fashioned after the West Pier in Brighton England, it is by far the grandest of the Long Branch piers. Constructed to accommodate the large steam ships of the day, tourists could enjoy a round trip for 60 cents. Today, the Pier Village towers are a memory marker of a by-gone era, but not a forgotten dream.



11 PRESIDENT GALLERY
The Boardwalk between Laird Ave & S. Broadway

Ulysses S. Grant
18th President, 1869-1877
Vacationed as for 12 years at 991 Ocean Avenue which was known as "The Summer Capital".

Rutherford B. Hayes
19th President, 1877-1881
Thought to have summered at the Elberon Hotel.

James A. Garfield
20th President, 1881
After being shot in Washington DC, he was transported to Long Branch where he died of the assassin's bullet.

Chester A. Arthur
21st President, 1881-1885
Visitor to Long Branch and property owner of a lot on Park Avenue.

Benjamin Harrison
23rd President, 1889-1893
Vacationed at Elberon Beach Club.

William McKinley
25th Presiden, 1897-1901
Visited Long Branch at his Vice President's cottage.

Woodrow Wilson
28th President, 1913-1921
Summered at McCall's Shadow Lawn where he launched the campaign for his 2nd term as president. Today it is part of Monmouth University's campus known as the Great Hall at Shadow Lawn.