



Coast Guard Station Named to National Register of Historic Places

The historic United States Coast Guard Station building located at 40 Inlet Drive was named to the National Register of Historic Places in March 2021. Known as the Old Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet and Coast Guard Lifeboat Station #105, the building, which is the first in Point Pleasant Beach/Boro to be named to the National Register of Historic Places, will be preserved for generations to come.

The building replaced five coastal lifeboat stations when constructed from 1936 to 1937: Squan Beach Station in Manasquan, Bay Head, Mantoloking, Chadwick Beach, and Toms River. The original boathouse was constructed in 1939 and the original crew quarters in 1976. Both of those buildings suffered severe damage from Superstorm Sandy in 2012, were razed in 2015, and replaced with the current state-of-the-art facility across the street from the historic station building.

According to the application filed with the National Park Service, the building was officially commissioned on January 30, 1938 and occupies approximately 0.13 acres. The building is an example of the "Roosevelt Design," a standardized set of specifications named after President Franklin D. Roosevelt and used in constructing 46 Coast Guard stations in the United States from 1936 to 1949. The two-and-a-half story wood frame building features Colonial Revival styling, a rectangular main block with front porch, and one-story wings at each end.

The structural character of the Old Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet remains essentially the same as when it was commissioned in 1938, including its white exterior and red roof.

The building survived Superstorm Sandy in 2012 but did experience a flooded basement, torn siding, broken windows, and interior wind/water damage. The electrical and HVAC systems needed to be replaced, but all repairs and renovations were completed while honoring the building's historic character.

The building is significant in its place among Point Pleasant, Ocean County, New Jersey, and maritime history. The Old Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet is representative of the cooperative network of Coast Guard facilities established along the state's shoreline to promote and provide safety and security for commercial shipping, public recreation, and other maritime activities, according to the application.

Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet's missions have included port, coastal, and Intracoastal Waterway security, search and rescue, recreational and commercial boating safety law enforcement, pollution response, short range aids to navigation, and defense readiness. The station provided national defense activities during World War II, including rescuing survivors from the burning oil tanker *R.P. Resor*, which was torpedoed by a German submarine, and reporting on enemy submarine activity.

Point Pleasant Beach Mayor Paul Kanitra, who was instrumental in the process to name the building to the National Register of Historic Places, told both the *Ocean Star* and members of the Point Pleasant Historical Society at April's meeting that that he hopes to eventually relocate the PPHS Museum to the building.

Our May meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, May 10, 2021** starting at **7:00 PM!** The meeting will feature a presentation about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum. Please see the Virtual Meeting Link and Protocols below for meeting expectations and details.

Virtual Meeting Link and Protocols:

Zoom Meeting Link:

<http://bit.ly/PPHSMAY2021>

Type the link exactly as it is written above in your browser to join the meeting.

Please use your first and last name (if possible) so we know who you are.

Please keep your microphone on MUTE in order to reduce noise feedback during the meeting and presentation.

Only the first 100 guests will be admitted to the meeting due to account restrictions.

The meeting will last 40 minutes, also due to account restrictions. Because of the short duration, PPHS is unable to provide technical assistance to users during the meeting. If you are unsure how to use ZOOM, there are plenty of tutorials available on the Internet.

Please keep all chat messages and commentary professional.

Anyone posting or saying anything inappropriate and/or causing a disruption to the presentation will be removed from the meeting.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding and look forward to seeing you at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 10, 2021!



Old Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet.
Image: USCG Archives.



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Point Pleasant Historical Society
Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach

*There's Something
 About May...*

Her colors are brighter and her aromas more delicious, her longer days and warmer nights spark a wave of nostalgia...

After the cold, harsh winter, summer is finally within our reach.

Nature is awake with newness and vivid greens that wash away the memories of leafless, barren trees and brown, frosty lawns.

The breeze drips with the essence of salt air, coconut sunscreen, new blossoms, and cotton candy sweetness.

May, however, she is a merry prankster and deceives us into thinking this summer will last forever. We blissfully believe in her early season promise of eternity as we ebb and flow with life's changing tides.

Before the crowds arrive, we watch the boats scream through the Inlet and out to sea and gaze upon the tapestry of colors cast upon the river by the declining sun, tomorrow's sunrise vowing superiority to today's.

Summer is our season, with May the harbinger of the best of vibes that spans generations and unites us all.

- Jill Ocone, © 2021

In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and our concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum will remain closed to visitors until further notice.

Mark Your Calendar for our next meeting: June 14, 2021!
Look for details in the June Newsletter!

The History of Memorial Day

Contributed by Sal Marino

**Memorial Day
 (or Decoration Day)**

Is a federal holiday in the United States for **remembering and honoring persons who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.** The holiday is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day was previously observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Memorial Day is the unofficial start of the summer vacation season in the United States, while Labor Day marks the end on the first Monday of September.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day, particularly to honor those who died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Two other days celebrate those who serve or have served in the U.S. military: **Veterans Day**, which celebrates the service of **all** U.S. military veterans; and **Armed Forces Day**, a minor U.S. remembrance celebrated earlier May, specifically honoring those **currently serving** in the U.S. military.

The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War.

In 1865, following President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, commemorations were widespread. The more than 600,000 soldiers of both sides who died in the Civil War meant that burial and memorialization took on new cultural significance. Under the leadership of women during the war, an increasingly formal practice of decorating graves had taken shape. In 1865, the federal government began creating national military cemeteries for the Union War dead.