

REHOBOTH BEACH HISTORIC SOCIETY ILLUMINATION NIGHT

PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

4 Wilmington, The Royal Treat, Scott Fornwalt - tenant, FUNLAND Family - owner
The building was built in the early 1900's. In its early years it was Thawley's B&B and later became The Royal Hotel. Mr. Fornwalt opened The Royal Treat in 1981.

26 Wilmington, Ocean Gallery, Joe & Adele Kroat - owner
The cottage was built circa 1894 as a private residence and it is believed it was home to a local sea-captain. Ocean Gallery has operated in Ocean City, MD. for 54 years and opened the Rehoboth Beach Gallery in 1990.

17 Delaware, the Wade, Lionberger & Allen Families
The house was built between 1895 and 1897 as a Meeting House with two large rooms downstairs and bedrooms upstairs. The wrap around porch was originally not screened. Frank and Libby Wade bought the house in 1952 and their 3 children are the current owners. The house was one of the first homes built on Delaware Avenue.

18 Delaware, Lee & Jean Ardis
The house was built in the early 1900's and the Ardis's bought it in 1985. As was common at that time, rooms at the rear of the house were built to accommodate servants. The house at one time served as the home and office of a local doctor. Aside from the fireplaces, when the Ardis's bought the property, the first floor was heated by a propane furnace located in the crawl space which provided warmth via 1 large floor grate.

9 Brooklyn, Funland Family (Lisa Ginder)
The house was built in the 1920's and purchased by the family in 1971. A second floor was added later. The shed initially served as a residence for Rehoboth Beach Lifeguards.

15 Brooklyn, Holly Haven Rooms, Haide & Bill Earl
The two lots on which Holly Haven is built were laid out by "The Rehoboth Beach Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church". The home was built in 1913 and used by the Stephenson family as their home. In 1941 Al and Marie Leaman bought the property, added the 3 story addition of 12 rooms and began renting rooms during the season. Haide and Bill Earl bought the property in 1999 and have carefully preserved and restored much of the original building. Their desire is that their guests experience the wholesome and quiet lifestyle that prevailed when Rehoboth Beach was founded.

27 Brooklyn, The Inn of Rehoboth, Joe & Carol Scanio
Joe and Carol are from the Chicago area and began staying at the Inn in the early 1970's. As regulars they grew a relationship with the owners - the Epsteins - and when the Epsteins decided to sell in 1997 they gave Joe and Carol the first opportunity to buy the property. The Epsteins daughter, Kathy Lee, married Frank Gifford and later became a TV personality. So it is in this house that Kathy Lee Gifford spent her summers at the beach! The house was built sometime between 1872 and 1885 and to this day has no heat so it is not habitable year round, The

bathrooms were added in the early 1900's.

15 Laurel, Dan & Katie Maguire

Dan and Katie are from Great Falls Virginia and they spend summers with their 3 children at 15 Laurel Street. The house was built in 1921 and the Maguires became the third owners when they purchased it in 2007. The house is constructed of "sand block" which was manufactured at a plant on Philadelphia Street at the Boardwalk.

43 Baltimore, Spahr, Scott Spahr - tenant, Bill & Mary Moore - owners

This building is one of the original Methodist Camp Meeting cottages built by the owner's grandfather, Reverend Joe Buckson, who was a "Circuit Riding Methodist Minister". He and his wife lived in the cottage until their deaths. He built the larger cottage at 44 Maryland but never lived in it and he moved the building to the left and behind Spahr from the backcountry to its current location. Because Delaware was so rural and the population so dispersed, Methodist Ministers would take on a "Circuit" of country churches and travel to them regularly to minister to the members. Since the Methodist Church was not able to provide financial support for the retirement of their ministers, the Reverend Todd decided to offer lots in the "Rehoboth Beach Camp Meeting Association Plan of Lots" to Ministers at greatly reduced prices. This real estate served as a "Real Estate Trust" and source of income to the Ministers for their later years. The Reverend Buckson acquired a number of lots in Rehoboth in this way and the properties served him well in providing for his family.

44 Maryland, Bill & Mary Moore

The house was built by Bill's grandfather, Joe Buckson, in the early 1920's and rented from 1926 to 1962 by Charles Mills, a local person of history. When the Mills moved to Henlopen Acres the house was occupied by Bill's parents until their deaths. Bill and Mary have lived here since 1979. Mr Mills was a Quaker from Tennessee who was brought here by Van de Camp Foods to manage the procurement and canning of local oysters and produce. He made Rehoboth Beach his home and became a local philanthropist. He was responsible for the Landscaping and Daylily Plantings in the median of "Old Route 1" before it was rebuilt and widened.

25 Baltimore, The Wooden Indian, Paul Roscosky & Joseph Yasik -proprietors and owners

This is a classic "Four Square" built as a family home in the early 1900's. The interior finishes are residential in character and are original. There is a rental apartment on the second floor. Paul and Joe are the 4th owners of the property and opened the business in 1977.

2 Stockley, Burt Dukes

The Duke's have a history in this area going back to Burt's great-grandfather - a country doctor in Dagsboro Delaware. The house was built in the 1930's by Judge Knox from Denton Maryland. Burt's grandfather, a successful businessman in the distribution of Ralston Purina feedstock to the chicken growing businesses in Delaware, bought the property in 1941. Burt's parents occupied the house from 1947 to 1997 after which Burt and his wife moved in. Burt's father served in the Coast Guard during WWII and patrolled the beach on horseback watching for German submarines.

221 Stockley, Don and Pat Fisher

Don and Pat are from Millford Delaware and spent summer vacations in Rehoboth as they were raising their family. The house was built as a summer cottage in the early 1930's and over the years remained unchanged until Don and Pat bought it in 1988. The cottage is unusual in that it has a basement. The Fishers added central heat and air conditioning and re-clad the exterior. The interior remains much the same as when it was built with panelled walls and wooden floors. The design of the cottage (shape, size and roofline) is typical of early cottages built in Rehoboth and as you look down Stockley Street you can distinguish the original cottages from newer development.

57 ½ Baltimore, Daneen Corbin

Daneen is from Uniontown Ohio (near Akron) and makes the 10 hour drive to Rehoboth as often as she can. She purchased the home in 1974 and has updated the kitchen and bath, and put in new hardwood floors and pine panelled walls. The house was built sometime before 1890 and was one of a long row of similar "Tent Homes" along that stretch of Baltimore Avenue. The Anna Hazard House was next door where Mark Showell is now located and on the other side was/is the Tent House incorporated into the Aqua Grill. Daneen says her interior is identical to that of the Anna Hazard House and noted that though now enclosed, her house had a front porch in it's early days.

61&63 Rehoboth Avenue, The Back Porch Cafe, Keith Fitzgerald - Proprietor, Margaret Kelly and David Bunch - owners.

The building was built directly across the street from the train station between 1895 and 1900 as The Hotel Marvel. The hotel remained in operation until 1973. In 1974 the hotel's front porch was removed and the first floor was expanded and renovated for retail uses. The Back Porch Cafe was the building's first retail tenant.

134 Rehoboth Avenue, The Purple Parrot, Hugh Fuller & Troy Roberts - owners.

The main house was moved to this location in 1890 from Baltimore Avenue at the ocean. It was combined with an adjoining house and cottage in the 1950's for apartment use and changed to retail in the 1970's. High and Troy bought the property in 2003, restored the building and relocated The Purple Parrot Grill from another location.