

**1. Ocean City Tabernacle (500 Block of Wesley-Asbury):** This is the site where the founding fathers established Ocean City as a Christian seaside resort in 1879. The island’s first house of worship was a wooden structure built here in 1881. It was rebuilt after the original structure was damaged by the 1944 hurricane. In 1957, it was replaced by this modern brick building that still provides religious services to a non-denominational congregation.

**2. Simon Lake House (411 5th Street):** Simon Wesley Lake’s home, just north of the Tabernacle, looks much as it did in 1880. Mr. Lake was one of the founders of Ocean City.



**3. 300 Block of Central Avenue:** This street is a good example of the way Ocean City looked in the late 1800’s, both in the architecture of the homes and the large collection of cedar, pine and holly trees still growing there. Some fine examples of the various types of architecture that were popular at this time can be seen here, including Late Folk Victorian, Second Empire Mansard, American Four-square, and Colonial Revival.

**4. The Parkside (501 Fifth Street):** A charming Second Empire Victorian seaside hotel built in 1880. Wealthier tourists stayed here, across from other camp-goers who slept in tents. This structure was renovated in 2008.

**5. The New Brighton Inn (519 Fifth Street):** This Queen Anne style Victorian was built in 1882 by one of Ocean City’s founders, Reverend William Burrell. It was called the “marrying house” because of the hundreds of weddings he performed there. One story is told that the first Tabernacle meeting was held on the side lawn using a barrel as a pulpit.



**6. Lake Memorial Park (400 Block of Wesley):** This is the site of the circa 1913 Wesley Avenue School, turned Arts Center and Historical Museum, which was torn down in 1988. Through the efforts of local citizens, the empty lot was transformed into a park filled with examples of Ocean City’s natural vegetation and the Library’s Children’s Story Walk.

**7. U.S. Life Saving Station No. 30 (Fourth Street and Atlantic Avenue):** The restored U.S. Life Saving Station, built in 1885, is the



only one of the three stations built in Ocean City that is still standing. In the winter months, the stations were manned by a captain and crew of six men who could handle life boats in rough surf in order to save lives of those whose ships were wrecked off our coast. In the summer, the men mostly saved drowning bathers at the beach. It was originally surrounded by dunes, but in later years houses were built over most of the land between the station’s life boat doors and the ocean. The restored station is open for tours. For hours and information, see [uslifesavingstation30.com](http://uslifesavingstation30.com).

**8. Original Tabernacle Cottage (408 Ocean Ave)** Visitors who came here for camp meetings would rent these cottages



and others like them built by the Tabernacle Association. There were 22 of them located on the dunes by the corner of 4th and Atlantic, which was beachfront at the time. There are still a few cottages remaining along alleys in the Historic District, although most have been altered throughout the years. The cottage is best viewed from the alley between Ocean Avenue and Wesley Avenue.

**9. Capt. Mackey Corson House (420 Ocean Avenue):** This Folk Victorian was built in 1895 by the captain of the 4th Street Life Saving Station. The house stayed in the Corson family until the late 1930s. It was then owned by Al and Lavinia Senior of Senior Studios from 1939 to 1972. Many of the historic photos of Ocean City we have today were taken by Al Senior.

**10. Veterans Memorial Park (500 Block Wesley-Ocean):** This site was originally used as a campground for all the tents which sprang up every summer during the Methodist camp meetings held

from 1880 to the early 1890s. Tents were rented from the Ocean City Association by visitors for 4 week periods at a cost of \$1 to \$5.25 per week depending on the size of the tent. As the tent dwellings became obsolete, the grounds became a Veteran’s Memorial and is preserved as such today, honoring those who served in WWI & II, Korea and Vietnam.

**11. The Gingerbread House (604 Sixth Street):** This gem was built by a ship’s carpenter in the Philadelphia area and brought to Ocean City by boat, where sections were then bolted together. It was used during the early camp meetings at Tabernacle in the 1880’s. The front porch of this unique structure is graced by intricate “lacework” gingerbread and the remainder of the house is covered with board and batten vertical siding.



**12. The Voss House (705 Central Avenue):** This Folk Victorian home was built in 1891 for John Voss and his wife Elizabeth, who was the daughter of Parker Miller, one of the first permanent residents of the island. The Millers settled in Ocean City in 1859. Parker was hired as an agent for marine insurance companies to protect their interests in abandoned ships wrecked off our coast. He also raised cattle and farmed the land near his home which stood on the site of today’s Hoys 5 & 10 at 732 Asbury Avenue.

**13. Doctor’s Row (800 Block of Wesley Avenue):** This features some of the best preserved examples of Victorian architecture built here in the late 1800s. This block earned its moniker of “Doctors Row” as it housed the town’s medical doctor’s offices on the first floors, with many living in the homes above.

