



PRIVATE RESIDENCES

AND

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

FROM THE

CARL FISHER ERA

MONTAUK, NEW YORK

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Prepared for
A Carl Fisher Era House Tour
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Cover illustration: Montauk Manor

Carl Graham Fisher and Montauk

Carl Graham Fisher was the most influential man in the development of Montauk. He created the Montauk of the 1920's, and it is a tribute to his genius that most of the buildings and roads he made still stand today. Best known as the developer of Miami Beach, Fisher was a self-made man, a great salesman and showman. As a youth he went from selling bicycles to selling automobiles (he once dropped an automobile from a three story building and drove it away evincing an early entrepreneurial nerve). He developed a significant fortune as President of the Prest-O-Lite Company, a supplier of acetylene gas for headlamps. He built the Indianapolis Speedway and the Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental highway in the United States. Fisher had a flair for publicity and always dreamed big. He went to Miami on vacation in 1913, when there was no Miami Beach, only a tangle of mangroves and sawgrass in Biscayne Bay. Largely as a result of his vision, work and money, it grew from literally nothing to a famous resort. He hired a publicity organization to publicize "America's Greatest Winter Playground." When the Florida boom started in the early Twenties, his fortunes, and those of the city he founded, were made.

At about this time he visited Montauk and found much here to his liking. Except for a small fishing village at Fort Pond Bay, a few houses and inns, the Lighthouse and life saving stations, Montauk was undeveloped. Three hundred years of sheep and cattle grazing had worn down the vegetation, leaving rolling hills and clear vistas of sparkling sea. To Carl Fisher's eyes Montauk had all the romance of the English moors. Fisher and a few of his friends bought 9,000 acres of Montauk land for two and one-half million dollars. He intended to make Montauk the Northern parallel of his greatest success, Miami Beach.

Fisher followed close on the heels of Robert Moses who had his own vision for Montauk as the first park site in the newly formed Long Island State Park Commission of which he was President. Fisher and Moses vied for ownership of much of the land. Moses won the two park sites that he wanted under the State's right of eminent domain, Hither Hills and the area near the Lighthouse, provoking much concern among local people that they were losing control over their land.

Carl Fisher envisioned an English village on these rolling hills. Sparing no expense, he brought from Miami most of his crew and his chief engineer, Tom Ringwood. His penthouse office in the Tower Building overlooked all of Montauk. He planned the Manor, the golf course, the polo fields at Indian Field, a bathing club, a yacht club, office buildings, a school and private homes, in short, an entire community. His own fervor for tennis, yachting, automobile racing, polo and golfing dictated the type of sports centered community he desired.

He dynamited a channel through the northern end of Lake Montauk, a fresh water lake, to make Montauk Harbor. The creation of Montauk Harbor, a causeway to Star Island and the dredging of the lake along with the building of the Yacht Club, enabled Fisher to fulfill his dream of a yacht basin. The Gold Cup Races for speedboats were held on Lake Montauk in 1931 and 1932. Fisher's fascination with racing of all kinds led him to create an automobile race course around the Golf Course on what is now Fairview Avenue. Fisher stabled his polo ponies in what is now Edward Albee's Foundation.

Miami Beach Club members would have full privileges at the Montauk Clubs; hence the expression "Montauk in Summer and Miami Beach in Winter." A visitor to the Montauk Manor would dine in the elegant restaurant, swim at the Surf Club, play tennis in the Tennis Auditorium, visit the Yacht Club, and enjoy a variety of sporting activities and entertainment.

Fisher had grand ideas; he wanted Montauk to be the main port for passenger ships coming from and going to Europe. Travel time from Europe to New York could be cut by a day with fast train service. Fisher worked hand in glove with the titans of the time on this project.

Besides making Montauk a stylish and sophisticated village, Fisher also cared about his workers' community environment. The beautiful Montauk School, perched on a hill and commanding spectacular views, was built for the growing population. Under Fisher's influence, large Tudor-style houses were built on the hillsides surrounding the golf course, smaller Tudor-style houses in Upper Shepherd's Neck for his professional staff, and more modest Tudor style homes in Lower Shepherd's Neck for his workmen. He laid roads, installed water pipes, brought in professional landscapers and surveyed the whole hamlet. He employed up to 800 men, always hiring the most skilled craftsmen and professionals, during this astonishing period of rapid growth from 1926 to 1930. Many of their descendants still live in Montauk today.

Carl Fisher was never to see his grand vision for Montauk village completed. In 1926, Miami Beach was devastated by a hurricane necessitating massive rebuilding. This financial setback, followed in 1929 by the stock market crash, put an end to his plans, leaving many of his projects unfinished, including two other "hotel-castles by the sea." Fisher's wealth, once valued at approximately \$20,000,000, had diminished to a mere \$40,000 at his death in 1939.

Photographs, newspaper articles and booklets pertaining to Carl Fisher and his Era in Montauk are in the collection at the Montauk Library. A special exhibit of these articles is on display from September 16 - 24, 1995 at the Montauk Library.



Photo from files of the Historical Association of Southern Florida

Carl Graham Fisher was known for his casual, sometimes eccentric dress, more akin perhaps to a future age than to the conservative attire of his own time. This picture was taken in Miami at the peak of his career.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Akin
North Farragut Road



The stately west facade with its portico, columns and terrace reflects a gracious classical symmetry.



Early photograph of the east facade of Carl Fisher's home.

"It was dawn now on Long Island and we went about opening the rest of the windows downstairs, filling the house with a gray-turning, gold-turning light. . . . There was a slow pleasant movement in the air, scarcely a wind, promising a cool, lovely day."

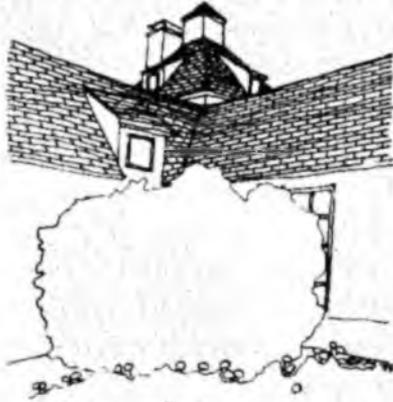
Originally set on twenty-seven acres, Carl Fisher's home has a panoramic view of Montauk. It was designed by architect Arthur W. B. Wood in 1928. The colonial style shingled roof and stately columns are similar to Wood's own Windmill House nearby and reflect Fisher's admiration for Mount Vernon. Built on the second highest point in Montauk, it was designed to withstand hurricanes and heavy winds.

The two story columns of the veranda frame a large wooden door at the eastern entrance. The gracious foyer, paneled in pine, as are the other main rooms on the first and second floors, is dominated by a sculptural staircase. In the living room, to the left, note the old photographs of Fisher. The floors throughout the first floor are a faux tile pattern made of poured concrete. As Fisher spent his winters in Miami Beach, the house was not insulated. Exposed wood beams form the coffered ceilings in the living room, dining room, foyer and second floor library. The staircase, bathed in light from above, leads to an unusual pocket window on the landing above and a porch which has a western sunset view.

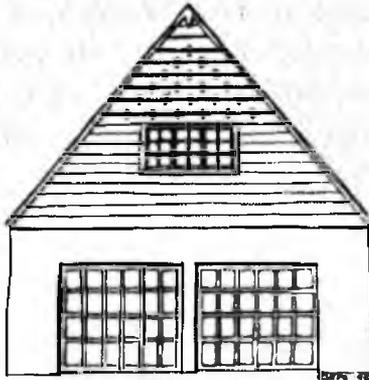
The kitchen, renovated in the 1950's, features nautical hardware. The third floor, which originally housed Fisher's servants, was destroyed by fire several years ago. It was painstakingly renovated into three separate suites for the current owners' children.

The estate also included a large garage with guest quarters above and a separate caretaker's cottage.

Rev. Ronald Ciaravolo / Mr. Roger Carbo
213 Fairview Avenue



The interesting geometries of rooflines, dormers and chimneys at the rear of the house are surrounded by lush greenery and flowers.



The garage and living quarters are capped by a steep gable roof, and the wood lap siding is punctuated by a pyramid of twenty-one homes for birds.

"The shadow of a tree fell abruptly across the dew and ghostly birds began to sing among the blue leaves."

Originally accessed from the east side, these adjacent houses on Fairview Avenue were built in 1927-8. They were owned by the Wells and Bonner families for many years.

The gently curving ridge of the roof lines is a direct borrowing of French Farmhouse style. Montauk lore tells us that the original builders misread the drawings and built the ridges straight, only to have to rebuild them with their subtle bows.

Abundant flowers and a soothing fountain in the garden pool lend a feeling of tranquility to the Ciaravolo house which could easily be tucked away in an Italian Hill town.

At the Carbo residence next door, note the sculptural detail on the central tower portion of the house running horizontally and along the eaves of the steeply pitched gable roof.

The dovecote for nesting birds is a charming addition to the farmhouse motif.



1928 photo of what is now the Carbo residence

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dinkel
196 Essex Street



The front entry with its sweeping asymmetrical gable roof has distinctive Tudor elements of timber, stucco and divided light windows.

"Now it was a cool night with that mysterious excitement in it which comes at the two changes of the year. The quiet lights in the houses were humming out into the darkness and there was a stir and bustle among the stars."

This half-timbered, English Tudor home on a sloping hill exemplifies the architecture that Fisher envisioned to accent Montauk's rolling landscape.

The house features a unique pattern of exterior woodwork and windows which playfully interweave, lending visual interest to the front elevation of this prominent house. The current owners have maintained the house meticulously and have kept the original feeling of the landscape with its minimal vegetation. Set on its corner hillock, this is very similar to what Montauk looked like at that time.

Note the successful interplay of gable, shed and truncated hip roofs with curving eaves, supported by decorated carved timber brackets.

Mr. Arthur Eichner
40 Fairview Avenue



A gently curving chimney, rhythmic vertical woodwork and the combination of hip, shed and gable roofs accent the front of this house.

"We walked though a high hallway into a bright rosy-colored space, fragilely bound into the house by French windows at either end. The windows were ajar and gleaming white against the fresh grass outside that seemed to grow a little way into the house."

Designed by Richard Webb in 1926, this house was once called Windy Hill. Like the other homes on the Fairview Avenues, it was situated with a view of both the Golf Club and the Manor.

Note the brick pillars surrounding the entranceway. Whimsical brick work on the stucco chimney lends the house an air of old English architecture. The strong verticals of the half timbering are tempered by the jaunty interplay of rooflines and the delicate rhythm of the divided light windows.

The once open porch is now enclosed to create a warm reading room and the informal main entry to the house. Original interior features include extensive dark wood paneling, custom casework, double hung windows, wood floors and unique light fixtures in the foyer and dining room.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kahn
224 West Lake Drive



Shingles, timber and brick eloquently unite to create a serene welcome at the front entrance.

"There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars."

Nestled among oak trees and flowers, the peaceful home of Elaine and Richard Kahn has a festive history. Built by architect A. J. Thomas in 1929-30, the house was a secluded retreat for New York Mayor Jimmy Walker and his mistress, actress Betty Compton in the 1930s. Many older Montauk residents recall their first tastes of oysters and champagne from the porch fountain when the house was owned by the Janssen family in the 1940's and 1950's. The Kahns bought the house, once known as "Oakwood" and later "8 Oaks," in 1966.

The exterior of brick and shingle is entirely original although the roof shingles have been replaced. Note the fanciful brick work above the front door. This is one of very few houses of the period in Montauk where the original steel casement windows have been retained.

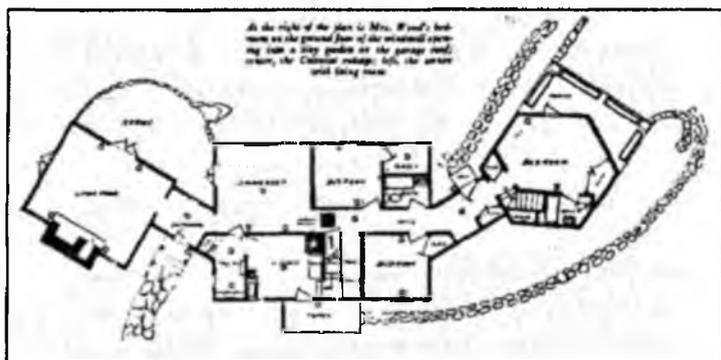
In the interior of the house, Mediterranean influences are found in the arched doorways, stucco walls and Italian tiles which accent the dining room and foyer floors. In the living room, heavy timber beams line the ceiling; the original mantelpiece has been inverted and recreated into a window seat. Originally a porch, the now glass-enclosed sunroom looks out over a long lawn and gardens to Lake Montauk. It is capped by a copper roof. Original custom light fixtures accent different ceilings of the house; made of wrought iron, they feature sea creatures including a dolphin, starfish, crabs and dragons. The kitchen features the original sink; the stove, no longer functional, now makes a decorative storage piece in the sunroom.

Adjacent to the seawall was a boat house which was enclosed and turned into a separate residence many years ago. The glass greenhouse which stood to the south side of the house was not salvageable and has been made into a patio overlooking the gardens.

Mrs. Mary Gosman
Windmill House
Fairview Avenue



The whimsical windmill with its private terrace can be viewed from the back garden.



a photo of a floor plan from Wood's original plans

"And as the moon rose higher the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors' eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world."

One of the most pleasant surprises in Montauk as you round a sharp curve on Fairview Avenue is the Windmill House. Designed and built in 1926 by architect-owner Arthur W.B. Wood, it is near Carl Fisher's own home.

This unique home meanders pleasantly over a ridge and enjoys views of the golf course, Lake Montauk, and the Atlantic Ocean.

Architecturally, what seem to be disparate elements blend together to form a coherent three part dwelling. The shingle skin and detailing unite the central cottage, flanked by the hexagonal windmill and the European style farmhouse living room.

The living room is dominated by the enormous hearth, reminiscent of the days when all cooking and heating depended on the fireplace. Its French doors lead out to a terrace overlooking the golf course.

The central cottage with its kitchen, formal dining room and bedrooms is paneled in pine wainscoting. The shed dormers are recent additions. The decorative windmill with its bedrooms and bath have sloped walls that are not plumb, following the slope of the exterior.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Prager
5 North Farragut Road



The front of this agreeably rambling home with its varied dormers boasts curved half-timbering and unusual stone work.



Early photo of LeBoutillier house.

"With enchanting murmurs Daisy admired this aspect or that of the feudal silhouette against the sky, admired the gardens, the sparkling odor of jonquils and the frothy odor of hawthorn and plum blossoms and the pale gold odor of kiss-me-at-the-gate."

Long Island Rail Road Vice-President George Le Boutillier's home was built in 1927-8 by local engineer Richard Webb.

Three U.S. Coast and Geodetic markers (in the living room and two outside landmarks) cite the house as the highest point in Montauk. In 1911, the markers were used as the benchmark for the land survey of the East End of Long Island. The second owner, Harry McLeod, owned and operated the Island Club, located on Star Island next to the Yacht Club. The McLeod residence was the lookout point during Prohibition. It was an excellent place to watch for the police on their way to raid the Casino. In the event of a raid, alcohol was whisked off to the McLeod home where it was locked in the hallway closets; the gaming tables were stashed offshore.

The original red-tiled roof was the first visible sign of land to fishermen on the water. The sixty-foot flagpole, once one hundred feet high, is now the first landmark for fishermen returning to Montauk.

This house hugs the hilltop and appears less imposing than some of the more vertical Tudor structures. Large goldfish swim about in the secluded lotus and lily pond at the bottom of the property. The beautifully manicured grounds are encircled by carefully sculpted privet hedges. The house has recently been enlarged, the result of a thoughtful collaboration among the current owners, the late Norman Jaffe, their architect, and builder Dave Webb, son of the original engineer.

Ivy Rose Cottage
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Dickinson
93 South Elroy Drive
Shepherd's Neck



In one of the idyllic corners of the grounds stand a Tudor garden shed, dog house and bird houses surrounded by prancing and motionless canines, manicured flowers in beds and baskets, and perfect walls of privet hedge.



Early photos of typical Shepherd's Neck cottages.

"The lawn . . . ran toward the front door. . . jumping over sundials and brick walks and burning gardens—finally when it reached the house drifting up the side in bright vines as though from the momentum of its run."

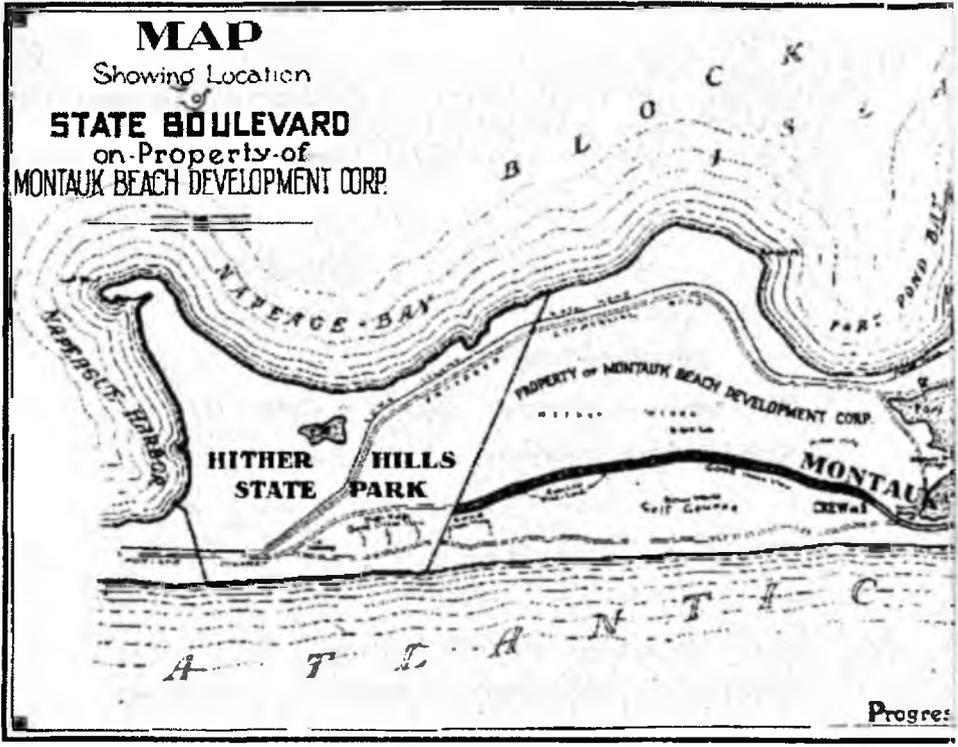
The simple picket gate leads into a magical interpretation of the English Cottage Garden. This enchanting stucco cottage was one of many built in Shepherd's Neck for Fisher's workers in the late 1920's. These intimate cottages, although not built with long-term occupation in mind, still form a cozy year-round community.

In keeping with the style of the house, the Dickinsons added French doors, half-timbering, and diamond shaped wood window mullions. An original facade of the house is on the west side.

Cherry, sycamore, blueberry, and pear trees grace the garden. Hydrangea, roses and ivy abound. A remarkable privacy is afforded by the tall privet hedge and tree placement. Geometric pruning of the shrubs lends an air of fantasy to the cottage.

A delightful addition to the property is the Tudor style dog house, home for Lily, Katie, Emma, Jessie and Bessie. Note the bird-houses on the shed replete with brick chimney and detail.

The cottages, built as a small community at the edge of Fort Pond, were known as Shepherd's Neck Village. While Upper Shepherd's Neck (above the school) was built for the professional staff, these smaller homes were for the workers. A walk around the loop formed by South Elroy Drive and a return through South Eldert Lane will reveal a variety of these cottages, most of which have been renovated.



A map from Carl Fisher's Montauk Beach Development showing the location of the new Montauk State Boulevard, where the highway will go, and noting where along the highway you could get a good view of the ocean.

A. The Montauk School



The Montauk School replaced the small school which was located near the present Fire House. It was built in 1928 by the Pearson Construction Company at a cost of \$88,000. It originally had 5 classrooms and an auditorium seating 450 people. In 1965 more classrooms and a gymnasium were added.

The building was situated high above Fort Pond with breathtaking views of bays and ocean and conveniently located between Upper and Lower Shepherd's Neck where Fisher's professional staff and workers resided. It was built with typical Tudor detailing, a distinctive arched entryway and cupola, lending the building a warm welcoming facade.

Builder's Record of Progress

Photographic Record of Progress:

CONTRACTOR *Walter P. Hill School* OWNER _____
ESTABLISHED *Prison Trust Co.* ADDRESS _____



W.P.H. DATE TAKEN *June 15th 1928*



Stuck DATE TAKEN *June 15th 1928*

PROPERTY OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER OFFICE OF MONTAUK COUNTY ENGINEER

A page from the Builder's Record of Progress, a photographic record kept of many of the houses built in these years. It is an interesting chronicle of the extraordinary activity of the years 1927-28 in Montauk.

B. The Shepherd's Neck Inn



The Montauk Arms, as the Shepherd's Neck Inn was originally named (later the Chalet), was built in 1929 by the Pearson Construction Company at a cost of over \$100,000. Each of the apartments was completely furnished. Fisher built these apartments for the use of his management personnel and their families. It originally consisted of 24 large apartments.

The building is extremely long and narrow, which afforded each apartment abundant light. The repetitive gabled entries pleasantly interrupt the length of the facade.

The Shepherd's Neck Inn has been in use ever since its construction and is now an active hotel of 65 rooms.

C. The Community Church



In 1928, Carl Fisher's Montauk Beach Development Corporation donated land for the Community Church. Parishioners quickly raised the money needed for construction. Architect A.G. Lamont, a representative from National Missions, was consulted regarding the design, and Richard Webb was given the task of making the working drawings, details and specifications for the new building. The Pearson Construction Company was given the contract for \$40,800 and ground was broken on November 12, 1928. The cornerstone was set on December 31, 1928.

Only part of the original church design was executed. A large nave on the east end of the tower was never built, because anticipated population growth never occurred.

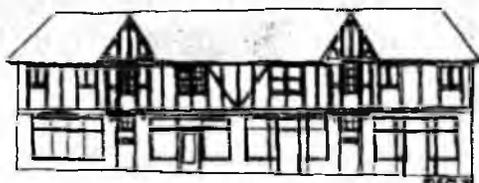
Local stones used in the construction of the bell tower were gathered by the men of the church from Indian Field in Montauk. Note the Tower with its random stone work, corner buttresses, arched entryway and crenellation at the top. In the chapel is a charming stained glass window depicting Montauk's pastoral landscape, a gift of Mrs. E.P. Maynard in memory of her parents, Samuel Stratton and Gloria Conklin Stratton who were keepers of Third House.

The bell from the lost ship *John Milton*, shipwrecked in 1859, graces the entrance to the Church. It had previously tolled eerily where it was caught in the the rocks on the shore.

The Building Council of the Church consisted of Perry B. Duryea, E.V. Conway, S.T. Honey, Albin Pearson, T.E. Ringwood, Dr. F.L.R. Satterlee and others.

D. *The Montauk Library (for map purposes only)*

E. *Sears Market and Tea Room*



Built by partners Pospisil and Pearson Construction, this building is still used as originally intended for a meat and grocery store and a restaurant. A Tea Room once occupied the site of what became the Montauk Tavern and is now the popular Shagwong Tavern. The original butcher George Sears sold his business to Bob Hyle, who in turn sold to current owner Herb Herbert. Apartments occupy the entire upper level of the building.

The interiors of both the businesses retain many original features such as old woodwork and pressed tin ceilings. The Shagwong displays an interesting collection of photographs and memorabilia of old Montauk.

E. The Theater



Architecturally mirroring the market and tea room directly across the street was Fisher's Movie Theater, built in 1927. Local residents recall opening night at the theater celebrated with contests and prizes and a showing of Al Jolson's first "talkie".

White's Drug Store and Pop Honey's Hardware Store flanked the theater. After the 1938 hurricane blew out the back wall of the theater the Post Office was relocated to this site.

Presently White's Liquors, the Montauk Beach Store and Montauk Printing occupy the ground floor, with offices above.

G. The Montauk Realty and Security Building



The Montauk Realty and Security Building was built for offices by Pearson Construction. It housed the office of the Struct Construction Company, one of several contractors active at that time. The building is now occupied by a popular local tavern and shops, offices and apartments.

It is the only public building to have a facade specifically intended to face the circular public green.

H. The Tower



Carl Fisher's seven story Tower was Suffolk County's first skyscraper. Built in 1928, Fisher planned to use it as his office building. Architects Schultz and Weaver used the same plans for the Tower that they had drawn for the Fisher Building on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach, Florida, now demolished. Since the entire Montauk landscape was visible from the top of the Tower, Fisher brought prospective clients to view home sites from his penthouse office.

Fisher's Montauk Beach Development Corporation used the Tower until 1934. During World War II, the Tower, like other Montauk public buildings, was utilized by the Navy for barracks and a hospital. Montauk Improvement Inc., a real estate company, took over the building in the 1940's. The seven story structure was never fully occupied, however.

Locally referred to as the "White Elephant," the building remained empty through the early 1980's, when it was renovated into condominium apartments. At that time, the original southern entrance was moved to the west side, and five balconies were added to the front facade.

I. St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church



From 1927-30 Catholics in Montauk worshipped in the lobby of the Manor or the Theater Building. In the spring of 1930, the St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church was constructed by the D. Marinucci Corporation. McKenna and Irving were the architects. Fisher's Montauk Beach Development Corporation donated the land.

As in many of the Tudor style houses, the exterior is punctuated by fanciful random brickwork. Note the pretty rose window on the front facade.

Currently the Church is closed in anticipation of renovation.

J. The Surf Club



Built by Carl Fisher in 1928, the Surf Club was intended as an exclusive Beach Club. It consisted of an elaborate bathing pavilion with two pools—one a 150 foot salt water pool. Dramatically located on the ocean beach, this bathing casino was fronted by a boardwalk 40 feet wide and 1600 feet long.

Such Mediterranean influences as repetitive shallow archways, colonnades and a gently sloping tile roof, set it apart from other buildings in Montauk.

There were 60 cabanas, 400 dressing rooms, and a restaurant and bar.

The boardwalk was lost in the hurricane of 1938. The club remained active into the early 1960's. A new condominium development was built on the site in the mid- 1980's.

K. The Long Island Rail Road Station



Rumored to be the third fastest train in the country at the time, the Montauk Special brought visitors to Montauk via public transportation on the Long Island Rail Road.

The Rail Road was an integral part of Fisher's plan to make Montauk an important trans-Atlantic port.

Upon arriving by train, passengers would be escorted up the hill to the imposing hotel, the Montauk Manor.

L. The Montauk Manor



The Montauk Manor was built on the site of the old Montauk Inn which burned in 1926. The stone foundation of the original Inn can still be seen behind the Manor. The flagpole marks the center of the old Inn.

The new hotel, built in 1927, was a million-dollar fireproof building. The owners were Fisher's Montauk Beach Development Corporation.

It was the first of three hotel-castles by the sea envisioned by Carl Fisher. Its complex H-shaped floor plan and grandiose Tudor facade with turrets and spires was intended to evoke the dignity of a large English Manor. With 178 rooms and dining space for 500, the Manor attracted the high society of the time; entertainment was on a grand scale. Such luminaries of the time as Eddie Rickenbacker, Johnny Weissmuller, Jimmy Walker, Caleb Bragg, Alexandra Gardiner and Consuelo Vanderbilt enjoyed the opulence of the Manor. Polo games, fox hunts and nearby golf and tennis were among many sporting activities enjoyed by the guests of the Manor. The Manor had its own stables, now the site of Edward Albee's Foundation for artists and writers.

During the Second World War the Manor was given over to the army as a barracks. After the War, the Manor was restored and became a hotel again. It remained a very popular resort into the 1960's when it closed its doors. After several unsuccessful attempts to reopen the hotel, the Manor was converted to condominium apartments in the late 1980's.

It also continues to operate as a hotel with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts and a restaurant. Although the grand ballrooms are no longer there, the sumptuous lobby with its enormous exposed timber framing, oversized fireplaces and stone flooring, still evokes the excitement of the 1920's.

M. The Playhouse



The Playhouse was built in 1929 for the use of guests of the Manor. It housed two indoor tennis courts, a boxing ring and a stage for dramatic events. The floor area was 157' x 160', the height was of a four story building and it had two huge glass roofs over the courts. It could accommodate 6,000 spectators and was said to be the largest auditorium erected primarily for tennis in the world at that time.'

Surrounding the massive gabled roofs which cover the tennis courts are two linear sheds which randomly unite a tower, stone chimneys and gables.

In the 1960's and early 1970's this building served as the local movie theater. Sadly the Playhouse has fallen into disrepair and awaits a new use.

N. The Montauk Downs Golf Club



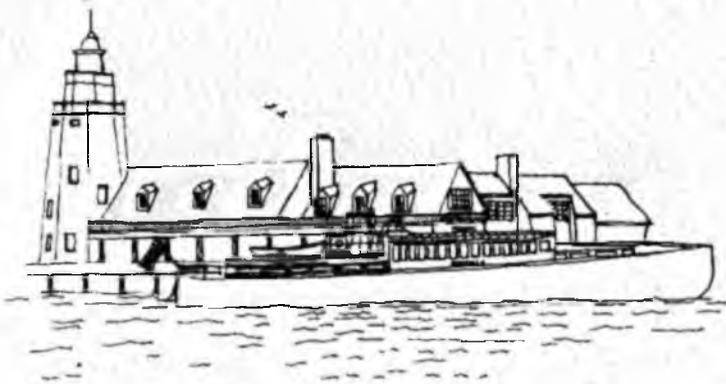
According to George Trevor of the New York Sun, writing on Tuesday July 24, 1928,

"There are some stretches of land that one has only to glance at to exclaim, 'There's a natural golf course!' The dune-broken terrain about Sandwich, England is such a spot; the rolling moorlands of Montauk Downs out at the easternmost tip of Long Island is another. Nature fashioned the Montauk peninsula in the mold of a gargantuan golf links. It's the sort of broken country that just sits up and begs for tees, fairways, and greens. Thanks to the organizing genius of Carl Fisher and the architectural skill of Capt. Tippet, English course designer, Montauk now boasts of the sportiest eighteen hole links in the metropolitan region. Nature's promise has been fulfilled by man."

The Montauk Downs Golf Club overlooked a 175 acre course. It was the site of many tournaments which drew prominent golfers from all along the eastern seaboard. In 1929 the total purse for one golf tournament was \$3,000; the entry fee was five dollars.

The colonial style frame building had a dramatic soaring ceiling that was noteworthy architecturally. That building and a subsequent clubhouse both burned. The existing clubhouse was built in the sixties. The original course design was modified in 1968 by the renowned design firm, Robert Trent Jones. The present Montauk Downs State Park is one of the top 50 public courses in the country.

O. The Montauk Yacht Club



Opened in 1929, the \$100,000 Montauk Yacht Club on Star Island was designed by architects Walker and Gillette and built by Cornell Brothers Construction. According to the Huntington Bulletin of August 7, 1929 it was "one of the finest anchorages for small craft and the largest privately owned yacht harbor in the United States." The Yacht Club was at one time accessed by a bridge to Star Island.

It was a low, rambling frame building with a 60 foot watchtower built in the likeness of the Montauk Lighthouse. A beacon light was to be lit at all times to guide yachtsmen.

The Yacht Club quickly became a popular spot for the exclusive social set that summered in Montauk in the late 1920's. Opening night of the Yacht Club was celebrated with an open house and fireworks on the lake. Fisher was appointed Commodore, and other prominent men such as LeBoutillier, Wasey, and Bragg filled similar roles. Fisher's yacht, the "Shadow K," seen in the above drawing, was an impressive sight.

The Yacht Club had New York dockage at Fifty-Second Street and the East River, from which many prominent New Yorkers sailed their yachts to Montauk Harbor.

In 1930, one hundred yachts were moored in the harbor one August weekend. Montauk yachtsmen, interested in the International Yacht Races off Newport, Rhode Island, made day-sailing trips to the triangle course. Many house parties were planned in preparation for Race Week 1930.

The small lighthouse tower is still the centerpiece of the present day Montauk Yacht Club and Marina.

P. The Island Club



The Montauk Island Club on Star Island, casually known as the "Supper Club," was the social gathering place for summer visitors. There they could lounge in the indoor and outdoor tea rooms, dance, and gamble in the casino. During this era of Prohibition, the Casino was a popular haunt of famous New Yorkers, such as Jimmy Walker and the so-called "smart set". The illegal entertainment put patrons at risk because of the frequent raids by local authorities.

From the New York Evening World, August 26, 1930:

Deputy sheriffs of Suffolk County who informed District Attorney Blue that they saw Mayor Walker in the Montauk Casino at Montauk Point, when twenty-five of them raided it Saturday night were not openly disputed by the Mayor today.

Mayor Walker admitted that he was at Montauk Saturday night, but he denied the imputation that he would be sucker enough to ask that he be allowed to go because he was Mayor of New York - as one of the deputy sheriffs alleged.

The deputy sheriffs said the Mayor not only proclaimed his identity, but that they heard a woman say: "Isn't it lucky that Jimmy got away." When this was called to the Mayor's attention today he was quite unperturbed.

"I was at Montauk," he said, "but if I had been at the Casino and someone had asked me if I was Mayor Walker I would not have identified myself as Mayor Walker."

A group of anglers, dissatisfied with service at the Yacht Club next door, purchased the Island Club building in 1961 for use as a sport fishing club and marina. Named the Deep Sea Club, it was in active use for many years. It burned to the ground in the 80's after it had been acquired by the Yacht Club.

Q. The Caleb Bragg House (Star Island Villas at the Montauk Yacht Club)



To anyone entering Montauk Harbor the steeply pitched green glazed tile roofs of the Caleb Bragg houses are a familiar and welcoming sight. Together with the neighboring red roofed U.S. Coast Guard Station they form a scene that has changed little over the years.

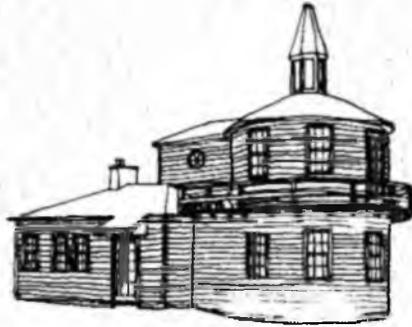
Caleb S. Bragg, known as "the millionaire racing driver," built what he called a group of "Camp Buildings" in 1929. The architects were Walker and Gillette and the builders were Young and French, all of New York City. Locally Bragg's idea was referred to as "The House of Seven Houses" and caused quite a stir due to its unique concept.

Two of the structures were gate houses containing accommodations for servants and guests' servants; one functioned as a kitchen, pantry and dining room; one was a living room; one comprised a playroom for adults with a dance floor; and other houses served as bedrooms and music rooms. The construction cost was approximately \$175,000.

One of the most striking aspects of this compound is the site planning and the way the buildings interact with each other to create a serene harmony. This arrangement is only enhanced by the stark color contrast between crisp white walls and columns and the rich forest green roofs and trim. Such whimsical details as curved pilaster capitals and brackets, decorative wrought iron railings and sculptural recesses in the stucco facades, lend visual excitement to one of the most appealing architectural events in Montauk.

Known more recently as The Villas, these buildings are now part of the Montauk Yacht Club and Marina complex.

R. The Harbormaster's House



In 1926 when Lake Montauk was opened to Long Island Sound and Montauk Harbor was formed, Fisher built the Harbormaster's House to monitor boat traffic.

One local story says that Charlie Bonner, owner of the local gas station at the time, was given the deed to the Harbormaster's House by Carl Fisher in payment for his gas bill. Bonner later sold it to the Gosman family where it is now located at the center of the Gosman's Dock complex.

The charm of this little gem of a building lies in its circular shape with its functional curving wood balcony and railing from which the harbormaster could easily view activity on the water. Note the conical roof and cupola which aptly cap the round portion of the building lending it the feeling of a lighthouse at the entrance to the harbor.

Gasoline fittingly figured in Fisher's one known episode of his having been duped. As the story goes, a grifter came to Montauk and convinced him to try a new substitute for gasoline in one of his own cars. The miracle fuel was in pellet form. Fisher emptied the gasoline from one of his cars and put in the pellets. The car ran fine and Fisher paid an advance of \$20,000 to the con man who left on the next train. The pellets turned out to contain none other than gasoline!

Notes



MONTAUK LIBRARY

Established 1980

The new Montauk Library building opened in 1991. The facility includes a Mezzanine reading room with view of the hamlet of Montauk and the Atlantic Ocean. The Mezzanine also contains the Adult fiction collection as well as the Spanish Language collection. Computers for Internet access are located here, as well as the William DePouli reading area.

The Main level of the Library contains the Children's Room, Shakespeare, Biography and Non-Fiction Collections, as well as Large Print, Young Adult and Magazine collections. Circulation Desk, and staff offices.

The Lower Level houses the Suzanne Koch Gosman Room, an AIA award winning room where concerts, recitals, lectures, workshops, Bridge, exercise and various community functions are conducted. The Archival Room containing the history of Montauk in many forms: diaries, scrapbooks, photos, memorabilia, artifacts and historical documents. is available by appointment with our Archivist. Art exhibits are mounted by artists for the community and guests to peruse.

The Association House Tour in 1994 and Carl Fisher Events in 1995 were integral parts of the fundraising drive to complete the Montauk Library. Ongoing donations are welcome to: Montauk Library Special Fund, P.O. Box 700, Montauk, NY 11954.