
THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL- ATLANTIC CITY (HISTORICAL TIMELINE)

1920-1921: 600 room facility designed by New York architectural firm of Warren and Wetmore who designed **New York's famous Grand Central Terminal**. The General Contractor assigned to the project was the Thompson-Starrett Company. Warren and Wetmore designed several hotels for The Ritz-Carlton chain, including the New York City and Montreal branches. In addition, the firm also designed additions to the Ambassador, Shelburne, and St. Charles Hotels in Atlantic City. Of interest, the interior marble throughout the facility was executed by Brooklyn Steam Marble Company. Original furnishings (inclusive of rugs and carpets) of the property were supplied by B. Altman & Company a high-end department store based in New York City that closed in the 1989. The Interior Designer assigned to the property was John B. Smeraldi. Additional construction information is as follows:

- Painting: W.P. Nelson, Company
- Structural Steel and Cast Iron: McCormick Brothers
- Elevators: Atlantic Elevator Company
- Fire Alarm System: The Atlantic City Auxiliary Fire Alarm Company
- Generators: Moore Steam Turbine Corporation
- Wood Floors: Jas. McBride Flooring Company
- Plastering, Art, Travertine Stone, Botticino Art, and Marble: Louis Bloom Studios

Note: Original estimated cost in 1921- \$8,000,000. S.W. Straus & Company arranged to underwrite 6% serial bonds, secured the first mortgage on the property.

In addition to the main building the original PR announcement in the New York Times, September 30, 1919 (page 16) also called for what was termed "*The Ritz's California Bungalows*". The article states that the bungalows were a joint management effort between The Ritz-Carlton and Ambassador Hotels (both located on opposite sides of Iowa Avenue and the Boardwalk). A recent postcard on eBay® termed the bungalows as the "*Ambassador Bungalows*" which appeared to have been located on the site of the present Ascot Motel. Lastly, the article references The Ritz-Carlton Apartments (used exclusively for employees of the Ritz and Ambassador Hotels) and Roof Garden situated east of the main hotel and across the street from the bungalows. If this ever occurred is unknown at the present time. The site in question is most likely the current Belmont Avenue parking lot.

June 24, 1921: Grand Opening of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlantic City. Gustave Tott was the Resident Manager assigned to the property. Albert Keller was the Managing Director.

Late 1940's: Property acquired by *Schine Hotels*. The Schines were brothers who operated high-end properties. In addition to The Ritz-Carlton, Atlantic City they owned and managed the following properties:

- Boca Raton Club, Boca Raton, Florida
- Roney Plaza Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida
- Ten Eyck Hotel, Albany, New York
- Hotel Northampton, Northampton, Massachusetts
- Wiggins Tavern, Northampton, Massachusetts
- McAllister Hotel, Miami, Florida
- Breakwater Court Hotel, Kennebunkport, Maine

1952- Earl Wall, General Manager (as per a 1952 tourism guide map)

Late 1950's-Early 1960's: Property changes ownership. Owner of record yet to be determined. Two marketing pieces refer to The Ritz-Carlton Hotel as, "*Ritz-Carlton Motor Hotel*". One brochure indicates that many improvements have been made to the property including a new swimming pool providing a "*Glass Enclosed Tropical Climate*". Frank T. Moss was the Managing Director during this period.

1958- Sheraton Hotel Corp. purchases The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlantic City for \$4.2 million. (Note: This was less than the original cost of the property)

Late 1960's: The Sheraton, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlantic City purchased by renowned builder A.P. Orleans (Note: Alfred P. Orleans was a prominent Jewish immigrant who resided in Philadelphia, PA), whose primary offices are located in Pennsylvania. The property undergoes yet another modernization. After renovations are complete, The Ritz-Carlton is termed an "*Apartment Hotel*".

1968- The Ritz is the home to the first "*Miss Black America Pageant*". (pageant went national in 1969 and moved from Atlantic City to New York City's - Madison Square Garden)

1980- Ritz-Carlton Associates acquire The Ritz-Carlton Apartment Hotel and officially closed and vacated the facility. Residents who resided there on a full-time basis needed to relocate during the conversion process and were offered first selection of the new "Condominium Units" when the Association was granted approval from the State/City to operate as a condominium. Brian Smith, our current General Manager, was the Site Engineer during the conversion process.

1982- Ritz-Carlton Associates receive official approval to operate the condominium association termed, *The Ritz-Carlton, a Condominium*. Simultaneously, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Corporation objected to the Association's use of The Ritz-Carlton name by a condominium. The Association was paid by The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Corp. not to use The Ritz-Carlton trademarked name. Hence, The Ritz Condominiums were born! Joe Zenobby was the Property Manager assigned to the building during that time period.

2002 to Present- Ritz Board of Directors goes through a massive restructuring. The new Board has in unison been devoted to restoring the property to its original grandeur along with updating and adding amenities for residents and their guests! We are committed to offering "*First Class*" service thus making 2715 Boardwalk Atlantic City's premier address! During this period, Brian Smith was contracted under the position of General Manager.

Summer 2008- New pool addition opens!

Architect: William McLees Architect

- Note: The goal of both the Board and the architect was to unify the building's architecture

Contractor: T.N. Ward

- Note: T.N. Ward was the contractor who built the new pool at Harrah's. T. Newton Ward, Jr., founder of T. N. Ward, was also the contractor who built the *Brighton Casino*, more recently known as the *Sands Casino* in Atlantic City.

2008-09- CRDA (Casino Redevelopment Authority) to begin the new Boardwalk façade program at The Ritz!

- Architect: Lammey and Giorgio Architects

Famous Guests of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J.

- Al Capone
- Calvin Coolidge
- Warren G. Harding
- Herbert Hoover
- Enoch "Nucky" Johnson
- Lucky Luciano
- Lawrence Tibbett
- Sophie Tucker
- Mayor Jimmy Walker (Beau James)

The original historical information obtained was provided by Anne Walker, Peter Penoyer Architects, 432 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor, NY, NY 10016 (212-779-9765). However, they suggested contacting the Avery Library at Columbia University who is in possession of the Warren and Wetmore Collection. Our contact there for additional information is Julie Tozer in Manuscripts and Archives Department. Her contact number is 212-854-4110 or via email at jet2114@columbia.edu.

In addition, several historical records, news articles, post cards, and tourism brochures were utilized in this research.
