

SHORELINES – October 2004

As presented to the Island Review Magazine.

Our fourth and final summertime parking and access tour of Bogue Banks comes to a close in this edition of *Shorelines* with a review of the eastern half of Emerald Isle (EI). In the process, we will also take a quick look at EI's town history that actually extends almost 100 years into the past.

Otherwise known as the "historic section" of town, the eastern edge of EI is distinguished from the remainder of the community by a series of streets numbered 1st to 25th heading west from Indian Beach into town. These numbered streets are roughly sandwiched between the sites of the old Indian Beach and EI Piers that met their ultimate demise in the series of hurricanes that impacted Bogue Banks in the mid-1990s, most notably *Bertha* and *Fran*.

As discussed last month, the Old EI Pier is now the site of one of EI's "flagship" parking and access facilities, the Eastern Regional Access (see map). The 3rd Street Park also provides parking along the eastern half of EI and there are literally dozens of boardwalk crossovers dispersed along this area of the beach.

Many of the "old timers" remember the dirt road that used to lead into EI from the east and terminated near the "dogleg" close to the Eastern Regional Access, or the old EI Pier location. This same area is one of the sites where Town Hall was situated before the current municipal complex was constructed in 1984. The other site of Town Hall was near East Landing Dr. Also, let's say that some of the "not so old-timers" remember that the western passage to EI prior to the seventies was generally confined to a boat ferry service (Old Ferry Road provides a little clue).

Of course, a big turning point for the town was the construction the Cameron Langston Bridge in 1971 that provided quick automobile access to EI and western Bogue Banks in general. But that's not the first bridge that was conceived to lead visitors to EI.

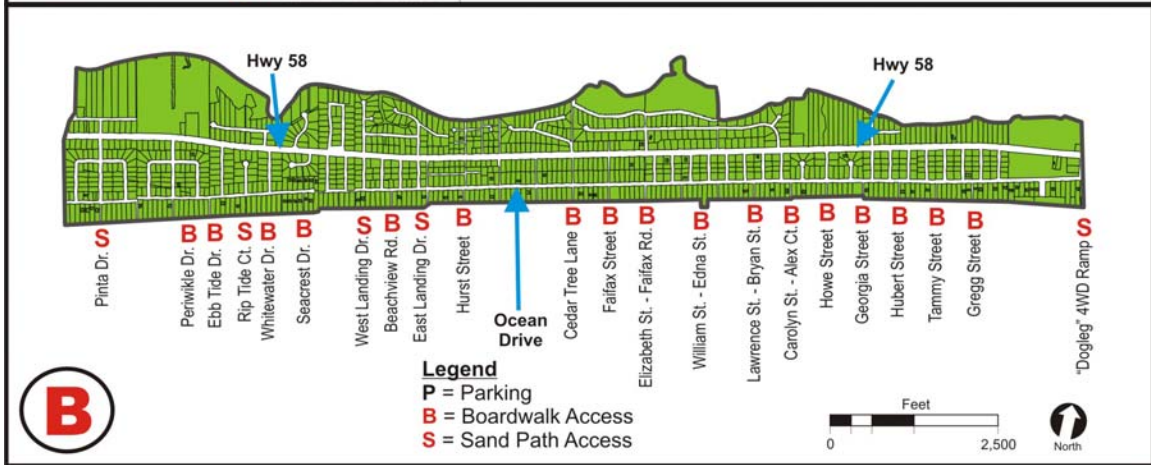
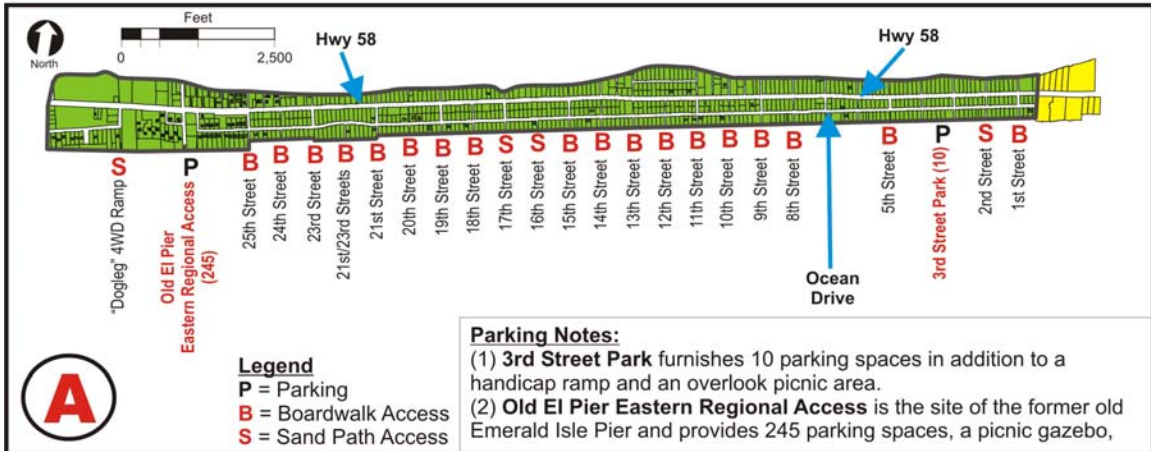
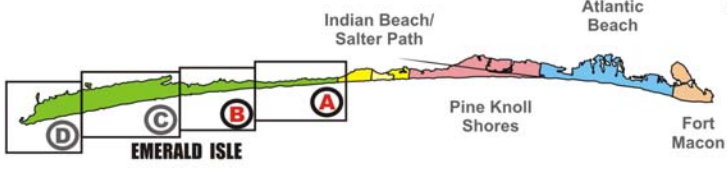
Actually western Indian Beach and EI in the early part of the 20th century was owned by Henry Fort, a Philadelphian who had plans for a giant resort along Bogue Banks that would have been analogous to Atlantic City, New Jersey. However a permit to build a bridge from the mainland to his property was denied by the State, and the Great Depression punctuated the end of any resort planning on Mr. Fort's property (EI and west Indian Beach).

Mr. Fort's property was subsequently sold by his daughter, Anita Fort Maulik, in 1951 to seven investors from the Red Springs area of North Carolina. Emerald Isle was incorporated as a town shortly thereafter in 1957, and let's say that the rest is history.

SHORELINES – October 2004

As presented to the Island Review Magazine.

BEACH PARKING & ACCESS LOCATION MAP EASTERN EMERALD ISLE Bogue Banks, Carteret County



Please visit www.protectthebeach.com/parking.html for a complete set of island-wide maps.