

Boardwalk Hall

Coordinates: 39°21′18″N 74°26′19″W﻿ / ﻿39.355°N 74.439°W﻿ / 39.355; -74.439

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Boardwalk Hall, formally known as the **Historic Atlantic City Convention Hall**, is an arena in Atlantic City, New Jersey, United States. It was Atlantic City's primary convention center until the opening of the Atlantic City Convention Center in 1997.

Boardwalk Hall contains the world's largest musical instrument, a pipe organ of over 33,000 pipes, 8 chambers, its console the world's largest of 7 manuals and over 1000 stop keys, and one of two actual 64' stops (the other found in the Sydney Town Hall). Also included in this organ are pipes which are on 100 inches of pressure, the Grand Ophicleide being the loudest and also most famous. The Guinness Book of World Records states the following "...a pure trumpet note of ear-splitting volume,.. six times louder than the loudest train whistle." However, these stops are actually well refined and are not overpowering in Boardwalk hall due to its massive interior size. The organ now lies mostly unplayable due to lack of routine maintenance, water damage from the leaking roof, and careless maneuvers during the restoration of Boardwalk Hall itself. The relays were severed, pipes were stepped on, windlines cut, and tremendous amounts of concrete dust fell during the replacement of the Hall's seating. The cost of the complete restoration and repairs is estimated at around \$15 million.

It was declared a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1987.^{[3][4]}

The venue seats 10,500 people for ice hockey, and can accommodate over 17,000 for concerts.

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Boardwalk Hall

U.S. National Register of Historic Places

U.S. National Historic Landmark

New Jersey Register of Historic Places



Historic Atlantic City Convention Hall



Location: 2301 Boardwalk,
Atlantic City, New
Jersey, United States

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History

Edward L. Bader, mayor of Atlantic City from 1924-1929, lead the initiative to acquire the land for Convention Hall, now Boardwalk Hall, and construction was underway at the time of his death.^[5] The hall, designed by the architectural firm Lockwood Greene, was built in 1926.

Various uses

The Miss America pageant, a competition which awards scholarships to young women and was founded in 1921 in Atlantic City, used Boardwalk Hall from the hall's opening until 2004.

It was also the venue for the August 1964 Democratic National Convention that nominated U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson as the Democratic Party's candidate for the 1964 U.S. presidential election, nine months after the assassination of his predecessor, John F. Kennedy, in November 1963.

The following week, The Beatles held one of their largest concerts on their first U.S. tour at the hall.

The hall was also the venue for the classic (and widely bootleg recorded^[*citation needed*]) concert by The Rolling Stones in 1989. The concert, which was shown on pay-per-view television, is widely remembered by fans for a mishap where viewers were cut off from the performance during the song "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction".

Sporting events

Boxing

Mike Tyson fought in Boardwalk Hall several times as Heavyweight Champion including four of his seven defenses as Undisputed Champion. Among his title defenses in Boardwalk Hall was a Fourth Round TKO over former champion Larry Holmes on January 22, 1988. His most famous bout at the venue was the 91 second Knockout of former champion and previously undefeated Michael Spinks on June 27, 1988.^[6]

On April 19, 1991, Undisputed Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield defeated former champion George Foreman in his first title defense.

Other fighters who have had boxing matches (many of which were title fights) in Boardwalk Hall include Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar De La Hoya, Roberto Duran, Lennox Lewis, Roy Jones Jr., Floyd Mayweather

Built:	1926
Architect:	Lockwood-Greene & Co.
Governing body:	Local
NRHP Reference#:	87000814
NJRHP #:	390 ^[1]
Significant dates	
Added to NRHP:	February 27, 1987 ^[2]
Designated NHL:	February 27, 1987 ^[3]
Designated NJRHP:	March 2, 1993

Boardwalk Hall

Former names Convention Hall

Opened 1929

Tenants

Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies (ECHL) (2001-2005)

Atlantic City CardSharks (NIFL) (2004)

Albany Devils (AHL) (2010-2011) (Four games)

Trenton Devils (ECHL) (2011) (One game)

Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Tournament (NCAA) (2008-present)

ECAC Hockey Men's Championship (NCAA) (2011-present)

Jr., Bernard Hopkins, Riddick Bowe, Julio César Chávez, Héctor Camacho and Arturo Gatti.^[7]

In September 2007, it was the venue for the Kelly Pavlik - Jermain Taylor boxing match for the World Boxing Council, World Boxing Organization and *The Ring* magazine's middleweight championships.

Liberty Bowl

In 1959, A. F. “Bud” Dudley, a former Villanova University athletic-director, created the Liberty Bowl, an annual post-season college-football bowl game in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The game was played at Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, but as the only cold-weather bowl game, it was plagued by poor attendance. Atlantic City convinced Dudley to move his game from Philadelphia to Boardwalk Hall for 1964 and guaranteed Dudley US\$25,000.

It was the first bowl game played indoors and was also the first indoor football game broadcast nationwide on U.S. television.

Since artificial turf was still in its developmental stages and was unavailable for the game, the hall was equipped with a four-inch-thick grass surface with two inches of burlap underneath it (as padding) on top of concrete. To keep the grass growing, artificial lighting was installed and kept on twenty-four hours a day. The entire process cost about \$16,000. End-zones were only eight-yards long instead of the usual ten yards.

6,059 fans saw the Utah Utes rout the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Dudley was paid \$25,000 from Atlantic City businessmen, \$60,000 from ticket sales, and \$95,000 from television revenues, for a \$10,000 net profit.^[8]

Other sporting events

Boardwalk Hall was also the venue of the former Boardwalk Bowl post-season college-football games from 1961 to 1973.

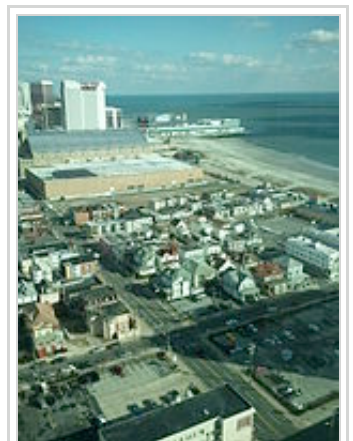
In 1996, the hall was used for the women's tennis Fed Cup during which the U.S. beat Spain 5-0 in the Fed Cup women's tennis. This event was Monica Seles's return to tennis following her 1993 stabbing.

It played host to the Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies, an ice-hockey team, from 2001-2005, and the Atlantic City CardSharks, a professional, indoor-football team, in 2004.

It hosted the World Wrestling Entertainment's WrestleMania IV and V in 1988 and 1989, respectively, although on the television coverage it was referred to as "Trump Plaza" because the adjacent casino hotel was the primary sponsor.^[citation needed] Many WWE shows have also been held with both *WWE Raw* and *WWE Friday Night SmackDown* making appearances.

The PBR hosted a Built Ford Tough Series bull riding event at Boardwalk Hall during the 2003 season.

Since 2007, the Atlantic 10 Conference has held its men's basketball championships at Boardwalk Hall and



View of Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall and ocean, 2011

will continue to do so through at least 2012.

In 2010, Boardwalk Hall will host four home games for the Albany Devils and one home game for the Trenton Devils both affiliated with the New Jersey Devils.

Beginning in 2011, the ECAC Hockey will hold its men's ice hockey championship at Boardwalk Hall.

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association uses the hall to host the annual individual state wrestling tournament.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship has held 3 events in the hall, UFC 41: Onslaught in 2003, UFC 50: The War of '04 in 2004 and UFC 53: Heavy Hitters in 2005.

Pipe organ

Main article: Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ

When built in 1929, it became the home of the world's-largest pipe organ, the Main Auditorium Organ, as listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records*. The Midmer-Losh-manufactured organ has approximately 33,000 pipes and requires approximately 600 horsepower (450 kW) of blowers to operate. However, the condition of the organ was allowed to deteriorate and is no longer fully functional. Dust from the hall's renovation has also been problematic.

Boardwalk Hall's attached ballroom has a 55-rank theater/concert pipe organ — originally installed to accompany silent movies — which was severely damaged during the hall's renovation. Compared to the Main Auditorium organ, this organ looks tiny. But in reality, the Ballroom organ is actually one of the largest of its kind.

Restoration efforts are underway, overseen by the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society and are funded by private donations and federal Save America's Treasures grants.

2001 Restoration and awards

A \$90-million restoration designed by EwingCole was completed in 2001^[9] and received several awards, including the 2003 National Preservation Award and *Building* magazine's 2002 Modernization Award.

Other awards

Billboard magazine recognized Boardwalk Hall as the top-grossing mid-sized arena in the U.S. in 2003 and 2004.

See also

- Atlantic City Convention Center
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Atlantic County, New Jersey

References

- ↑ "New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places - Atlantic County" (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/atlantic.pdf>) . NJ DEP - Historic Preservation Office. June 2, 2011. p. 1. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/atlantic.pdf>. Retrieved July 12, 2011.
- ↑ "National Register Information System" (http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreg/docs/All_Data.html) . *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service. 2007-01-23. http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreg/docs/All_Data.html.
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} "Atlantic City Convention Hall" (<http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=1982&ResourceType=Building>) . *National Historic Landmark summary listing*. National Park Service. <http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=1982&ResourceType=Building>. Retrieved 2007-10-13.
- ↑ James H. Charleton (1985-06-17). *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination: Atlantic City Convention Hall* (<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NHLS/Text/87000814.pdf>) . National Park Service and Accompanying 12 photos, exterior and interior, from 1977, 1985 and undated. (<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NHLS/Photos/87000814.pdf>) PDF (2.75 MB)
- ↑ <http://casinoconnectionac.com/issue/november-2010/article/crossing-the-goal-line>
- ↑ 'I'm Gonna Hurt This Guy' And Mike Tyson did, knocking out Michael Spinks at 1:31 of Round 1 Sports Illustrated 1988-07-04 (<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1067481/index.htm>)
- ↑ Notable Boxing Events at Boardwalk Hall Boardwalkhall.com (<http://www.boardwalkhall.com/boxingevents.asp>)
- ↑ Antonick, John (2005-06-22). "Unique Game" (<http://www.msnsportsnet.com/page.cfm?section=8032>) . *West Virginia Mountaineers* (MSNsportsNET.com). <http://www.msnsportsnet.com/page.cfm?section=8032>. Retrieved 2009-04-26.
- ↑ <http://www.boardwalkhall.com/pastevents.asp>

External links and sources

- boardwalkhall.com (<http://www.boardwalkhall.com/index.asp>) , Boardwalk Hall's official website
- acchos.org (<http://www.acchos.org/>) , Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society's official website

Events and tenants		
Preceded by None	Miss America Venue 1921 – 2004	Succeeded by Theatre for the Performing Arts at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, Paradise (Las Vegas Strip), Nevada
Preceded by Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Home of the Liberty Bowl 1964	Succeeded by Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, Memphis, Tennessee
Preceded by Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, Los Angeles, California	Host of the Democratic National Convention 1964	Succeeded by International Amphitheatre, Chicago, Illinois

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boardwalk_Hall"

Categories: 1926 architecture | 1926 establishments | Atlantic City, New Jersey | Basketball venues in New Jersey | Boxing venues | College basketball venues in the United States | Convention centers in New Jersey | Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks | Indoor arenas in the United States | Indoor ice hockey venues in the United States | National Historic Landmarks in New Jersey | National Register of Historic Places in New Jersey | NCAA bowl game venues | Sports venues in New Jersey | Buildings and structures in Atlantic City, New Jersey | Visitor attractions in Atlantic County, New Jersey

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