

2400 BLOCK OF N LINCOLN MEMORIAL DRIVE - BRADFORD BEACH - LAKE MICHIGAN PARKWAY N

 wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI100425

January 1, 2012

Historic Name: Bradford Beach Bathhouse

Other Name: Bradford Beach Pavilion

Contributing: Yes

Reference Number: 100425

Location (Address): 2400 BLOCK OF N LINCOLN MEMORIAL DRIVE - BRADFORD BEACH - LAKE MICHIGAN PARKWAY N

County: Milwaukee

City: Milwaukee

Year Built: 1949

Survey Date: 2011

Historic Use: pavilion

Architectural Style: Contemporary

Structural System: Unknown

Wall Material: Brick

Architect: Grunwald and Behrens

Demolished?: No

Shaped like a ship, this pavilion seems ideally suited to its location on a popular swimming beach. The city built the bathhouse to provide restroom, changing, and bathing facilities. Architects Grunwald and Behrens decked out the two-story, brick and concrete structure with maritime motifs. The upper story opens onto a ship-like promenade deck. The enclosed lower story resembles a ship's hull, perforated only by doors and glass-block ribbon windows. A curving prow forms the front of the pavilion, and a flagpole rises like a mast. A long, rail-enclosed sundeck trails off to the stern, its twisting staircase descending to the beach.

Before the 1920s this site lay beneath Lake Michigan. In the late 1920s, city crews began to fill the Milwaukee lakeshore out from the lakefront bluffs for Lincoln Memorial Drive. The outer part became Bradford Beach and the Milwaukee's other sandy beaches.

2011-

Appearance unchanged from 1990. The pedestrian bridge over Lincoln Memorial Drive in c.1951, wrapped around the east elevation. A concrete deck was constructed on the second story with a concrete staircase providing access to the beach on the north elevation. The handrail around the pavilion was altered at this time. Date of construction from the Milwaukee County database.

Additional Information: 1990-
Original entry.