

The Telegraph

New York's Pier A to re-open to public

New York's historic Pier A will be brought back to life with a new bar and restaurant complex this July



Pier A's Harbour House will house a bar and restaurant complex

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Completed in 1886, the pier was once a station for the New York department of docks and harbour police, and was the arrival site of King George VI when he visited New York for the 1939 World's Fair.

The harbour house on the pier, a three-floor Beaux Arts building, will now house a visitor centre and beer hall, casual oyster bar and a high-end restaurant flanked by two further bars, after developers sealed a deal with city authorities to lease the space.

The pier is state-owned and the harbour house opened in 1909 as the offices of the New York docks department. From 1960 to 1992 it was used by the New York Fire Department as a fireboat station.

From 1992 onwards the site has been empty and this development is the first time the pier and harbour house will be open to members of the public.

Development on the pier, just off Battery Park with panoramic waterside views including of the Statue of Liberty, has been a long time coming. Numerous earlier plans from different prospective developers were scrapped and the harbour house and pier have remained unused by anyone since 1992.

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Peter Poulakakos, Danny McDonald and Michael Jewell, the team behind award-winning Dead Rabbit cocktail bar and the financial backer the Dermot Company gained permission for the re-development in 2007 and this summer their \$41 million plan (£23.6 million) will finally come to fruition.

The regeneration will celebrate the history of the pier, retaining original features such as the clock tower, a First World War memorial erected in 1919.