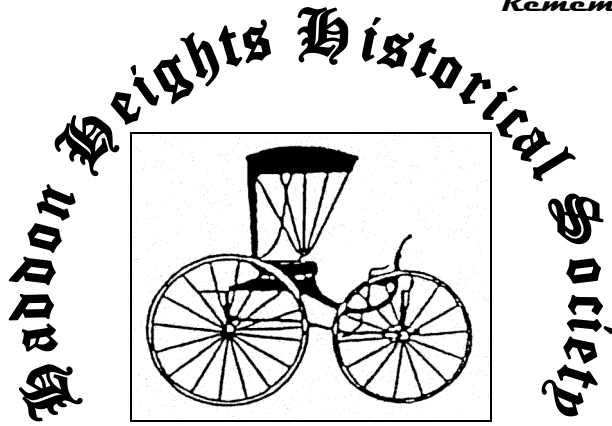


" Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow "



Bulletin

P.O. Box 118 • Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

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July 2023

We meet on the 3rd Monday- April, July, & October. 4th Monday- January: 7:00pm- Haddon Heights Library

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- "Oh, the summer night, has a smile of light, and she sits on a sapphire throne." — Bryan Procter I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful days and evenings of summer. The rain has turned our grass to beautiful shades of green and the plants are flourishing with vibrant colors. The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a vibrant and exciting Society. We are currently working on three additional interpretive signs to illustrate our interesting History as a community. We have planned an interesting program for our July 17th meeting. Joel Spector, Archivist, will present a power point history on Temple Beth Sholom. The program will include photographs of Temple Beth Sholom both interior and exterior. Temple Beth Shalom was highlighted on one of the four signs we currently installed. Temple Beth Shalom was an important part of our community for many years. I look forward to seeing all of you on July 17th as we explore our rich heritage.

Elena Hill, President

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH- If you have traveled the White Horse Pike in Haddon Heights, you are familiar with this religious landmark near Kings Highway. With a decreasing congregation size, St. Mary's has had to make some difficult decisions over the last few years. Those decisions have made the news as part of the recently enacted Redevelopment regulation in our town. While this process is intended to allow owners to improve their properties (and improve our town) while receiving certain benefits from the Borough, it also provides an opportunity for property owners to make alterations to or even demolish part or all of some of our historic structures. Last issue, I covered the proposed demolition of the buildings at 501 and 503 Station Avenue in favor of a three storey apartment/retail building, to sit right on the corner of White Horse Pike and Station Avenue.

This time around, I wanted to draw your attention to what is going on with the church and property owned by Saint Mary's Episcopal Church as they begin to work through the Redevelopment process. While I will not address the specifics of the proposed partial demolition in this newsletter, I suggest each of you do your own

research and become informed about what is going on. Below, I am sharing research into the history of St. Mary's. This was completed by our President Elena Hill, in preparation for a future Historical Interpretive marker. Thanks, Elena!



The movement to establish to establish an Episcopal Church in the area that is now Haddon Heights was spearheaded by Mr. and Mrs. D. Mason Godwin, Sr. in 1900. This was four years before the incorporation of the Borough of Haddon Heights and nine years before the formal incorporation of Saint Mary's Church. The small band of Episcopalians who met for services at the Godwin home was considered a mission of Grace Church and became known as "Grace Mission." Between 1903 and 1906 a choir and St. Mary's Guild was formed. The Godwin house which hosted the area's first Episcopal service was located on the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Green Street. This property was later purchased by Saint Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church.

Having outgrown the Godwin home, the faithful Episcopalians met in the Town Hall (the current site of the library), above Condon and Patton's plumbing establishment, as well as in private homes. The Presbyterian Church offered use of their chapel on Green Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues for special services.

In August, 1909, the vestry approved a letter to the Standing Committee of the Diocese of New Jersey requesting permission to borrow \$3,000 to erect a "Parish Building." Ground was broken on September 19, 1909, with the cornerstone of the new building laid October 10, 1909. In January of 1910, the cedar-shingled frame church building was completed. In 1912, the vestry requested and received permission from the Diocese to place an additional mortgage on the parish property to erect a rectory. The original rectory still stands next to the church. Sometime in the early 1920's, the wooden folding chairs in the church were replaced by pews.



In August, 1933, a proposed addition was explained to a special meeting of members of the parish. After a vote, the vestry was authorized to proceed with construction of the addition. The addition included the sanctuary, the basement (with church-school rooms), the parish hall, a new side entrance, and a new oil-fired steam boiler. The new brick addition was dedicated on March 11, 1936. The pride of the congregation was the "rose" window depicting the resurrection of Jesus. It was placed in the east wall over the altar.

In 1939, a Young People's Fellowship was organized which became very active. Their

Saturday night dance was a very popular activity and it became the social event of the week in the area. Attendance often reached 400 when overflows had to be turned away.

To accommodate the growing congregation an extensive construction program was undertaken in 1953. The Stester property, which adjoined St. Mary's on the Atlantic Avenue side was acquired. The rectory was moved to the rear of the property and construction began. The Nave was enlarged to seat 450, a new meeting room, the "West Room" also provided seating for an additional 100 people. An entrance wing included offices, and the basement was completed with modern lavatories, choir dressing rooms and a large church-school kindergarten room. The work also included facing the original cedar-shingled church with brick.

Most of the furnishings of the renovated nave were given as memorials, including the stained-glass windows. The windows were made by Mr. Bachlor of Haddonfield who had his workshop in his home. The window in the back of the nave was installed. The circular "Holy Spirit" window, that once adorned the wall above the altar of the original St. Mary's Church, was incorporated into the top of a new "Triumphal Entry" window. The circular window and the corner stone are the only visible artifact from the 1909 church structure.

St. Mary's Church school was quite large in 1956 with an enrollment of 525 children led by 44 teachers.

In 1959 ground was broken for a new addition to house a Christian day school. The day school was opened in 1961. The school was fully accredited by the state. At its peak, the day school had an enrollment of 150 pupils, with classes from pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. The school remained open until 1976.

During this period a house at 201 Bellmawr Avenue was purchased and donated to the parish for a rectory by Miss Linda Bunting. The older Rectory on the Church property was torn down. In 1964 St. Mary's acquired the property at 14 White Horse Pike adjacent to the church. The three story house was rented out. The land around the house at #14 WHP was used for additional church parking.

Saint Mary's received a gift from Miss Linda Bunting in 1968 to purchase a custom-built Schantz pipe organ. The gift initiated the complete alteration and refurnishing of the chancel. The altar was moved away from the wall so the celebrant could face the congregation. By 1971 the chancel renovations were completed and the Schantz organ had been built and installed. In 1969 St. Mary's acquired the property at 105 East Atlantic Avenue to be used as rectory and sold the property at 207 Bellmawr Avenue. The House at 14 White Horse Pike was torn down but the garage was kept at the back of the parking lot.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST- I have a large number of local business



ads from the "Old Days"... I believe they may be from old "Ad Books" which supported local school plays and activities. Here are a few from 1936. Enjoy!



Ray Cathrall's Orchestra

"The Nice Place for Nice People"
"THE DANSORIUM"
East Beachwood Ave.
Oaklyn
DANCING
Every Friday,
Saturday, Sunday
at 9 P. M.
Ray Cathrall's
Orchestra
Children's Classes Sat.
Afternoon
Beginners at 3 P. M.
Advanced at 4 P. M.

OAKWOOD
for Economical Transportation



SALES & SERVICE
1130 White Horse Pike
Oaklyn, N. J.
Coll. 461-462
Good Selection of Used Cars

HELP WANTED: Please review the last page of the newsletter to see the Historical Society Board Member and assistants opportunities. We are looking for a few people willing to help with scheduling speakers, programs, and nominations for elected Historical Society Board officers. No experience is required! YOU (Yes.... I mean you!) can make a difference if you are willing to step up and help. If you are unable to assist, maybe you can think of someone who might be interested. Ask them to contact any Board member. We are looking for new members as well, so if you have new neighbors, please tell them about YOUR Historical Society, and the quarterly meetings. The more people with whom you share our news, the more opportunity for us to grow and become even more representative of our town! By the way, extra copies of this newsletter can be found at the Library.

2023 Membership Application / Renewal- Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ E-Mail _____

Membership Type: Single- \$10.00 Household- \$15.00 Additional tax deductible donation of: \$ _____

COMING EVENTS

H. H. Historical Society Meetings– Fall meeting Monday October 16th. Election of Officers All meetings begin at 7:00pm– Haddon Heights Library– lower level

MEMBERSHIP DUES– Please remember to renew your membership in the Haddon Heights Historical society and send in your 2023 dues. Your dues help us keep history alive. It is important to note that only “paid-up” members will continue to receive this highly informative and insightful (in my humble opinion) HHHS Newsletter!

Your “Paid Through” year is highlighted on your mailing label. Dues help defray Society costs and support our mission. Please return the membership form on page 3 to the P.O. Box and remain a member in good standing.

Those members who provide us an e-mail address, will also receive an electronic color copy of the newsletter in advance of the mailing.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE– www.hhhistorical.org. Check out our archived material. Thanks to Gianna Hill, Webmaster, for keeping us current !

2023 Historical Society Board

<u>President-(2022-2024)</u>	Elena Hill
<u>Vice-President-(2022-2024)</u>	Bob Hunter
<u>Past President-</u>	Margaret Westfield
<u>Treasurer-(2022-2024)</u>	David Somerville
<u>Secretary- (2021-2023)</u>	Lauren McBeath
<u>Trustees- (2022-2025)</u>	Ken Funkhouser
	Anne McAdams
	Peter Hill

COMMITTEES / CHAIRS

<u>Newsletter Ed.-</u>	Ken Funkhouser
<u>Membership Chair-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Web Master-</u>	Gianna Hill
<u>Nominating Comm.-</u>	Bob Hunter/ Peter Hill
<u>Borough Council Liaison</u>	Rose Fitzgerald
<u>Historical Society Affairs-</u>	VACANT
<u>Merch/Fund Raising-</u>	Joan Rossler
<u>Programs/Publicity-</u>	Peter Hill
<u>Programs/Publicity- Asst.</u>	VACANT
<u>Digital Photographer</u>	Amy Schmidt

Contact the Board : WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG
Mail correspondence- P.O. Box 118 Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Please keep us in mind as you plan your charitable donations. Make History by Making us part of Your Legacy...

I hope you find this newsletter informational and entertaining. I am always looking for input/reminiscences and stories from our members. Please consider sending me your memories so we can share them with other members!

Thanks for listening! Ken Funkhouser, Editor– since April 1994 (29 yrs.)- I could use a break! ...Really!

