



"Remembering Yesterday For The People Of Tomorrow"

Bulletin

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

WWW.HHHISTORICAL.ORG

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**January's meeting is Monday, January 26 at 7:00pm– Haddon Heights Library
We meet on the 3rd Monday- April, July, & October**

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January 26 Meeting:

“Asserting Their Just Rights” – New Jersey’s Declaration of Independence

The Provincial Congress of New Jersey in Burlington on July 2, 1776 declared our State independent of Great Britain. This was two days before the Continental Congress down the river in Philadelphia adopted the Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen United States. The Haddon Heights Historical Society begins 2026 with this introduction to the American Revolution in New Jersey and “New Jersey’s Declaration of Independence” adopted 250 years ago.

Paul Francis Soltis is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s historian for Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites, George Washington’s Headquarters and the historic home of the founder and first president of Rutgers, in Somerville. Paul contributes to **Revolution NJ**, New Jersey’s official observance of the 250th anniversaries of the American Revolution.

THE DESIRABLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN

Few people would suggest that the year 1925 was a very significant time for Haddon Heights. The year 1904 is the date that might come to mind since that was when the New Jersey legislature allowed the borough to be formed from Center Township and parts of Haddon township. However, on April 21, 1925, a hotly contested **double** election took place in Haddon Heights and in Mt. Ephriam to decide if the area known as Fairfield Estates would be allowed to secede from Mt. Ephriam (the last remaining part of Center Township) and become part of Heights. Fairfield residents favoring joining Heights wore high hats during the election because those against annexation referred to Heights as “the high hat crowd”. Of the 276 people living in Fairfield Estates, 158 voted for and 98 against the proposal. 617 Heights voters favored accepting Fairfield Estates and 173 against.

This vote nearly doubled the size of Haddon Heights and increased ratables. While the Great Depression slowed development, houses continued to be built from Bellmawr Avenue to the Black Horse Pike. The post-World War boom in housing on the West side of town would have been part of Mt. Ephriam but for the significant election in 1925. This also explains why some streets do not line up or connect on Bellmawr Avenue as you try to travel west to the Black Horse Pike.

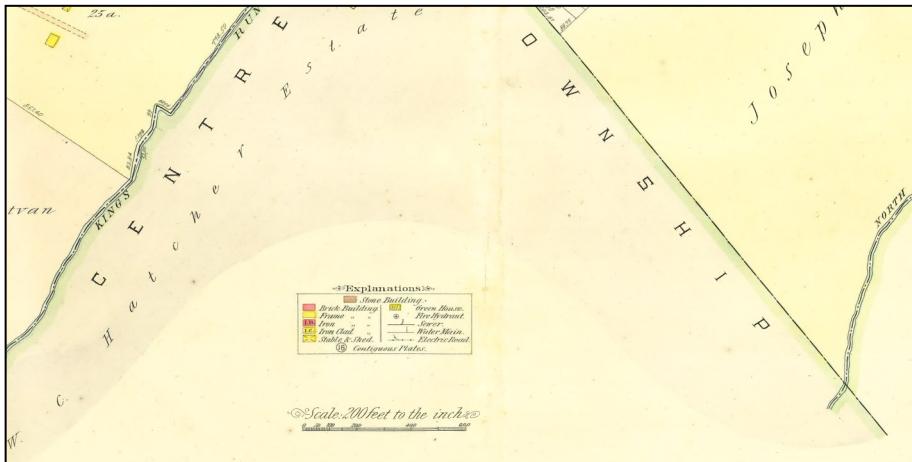


PHOTO: This map shows the north and south boundaries of the Fairfield Estates are bounded by Kings Run on the north and Little Timber Creek on the south, water often being a natural line of demarcation.

FAIRFIELD ESTATES STARTED

Article from 24 Oct 1925 ~ Evening Courier (Camden, NJ)

The Fairfield Estates was the first largest development anywhere in the Greater Camden area. It was opened back in 1915, by the Fairfield Estates Corporation, composed of William P. Hallinger, J. Lukens Anderson and Thomas Gordon Coulter.

At the time these men bought the beautiful farms which border the Kings Highway, and extend from, the Black Horse Pike over to Kings Highway, they went backwards. They really felt that because Haddon Heights was "good" from a real estate standpoint, that the Haddon Heights lots would sell off first. They thought that the Black Horse Pike was the back of the property, instead of the front of the property. They even built a great wide boulevard through the tract to connect up with Station Avenue, in Haddon Heights. As a matter of fact, because transportation was near at hand on the Black Horse Pike by buses, and the Mt.

Ephraim station of the Reading Railroad just a few blocks away, the building of homes started on the Black Horse Pike end before it came to the Haddon Heights end. The Black Horse Pike frontage in the Fairfield Estates in the opening days, sold at \$900 to \$1,000 for a 50 foot lot. This means that the frontage on the Black Horse Pike was worth only \$20 per front foot. Today, conservatively, it is worth \$75 to \$150 per front foot, with corners even higher. When the Fairfield Estates was first opened, it did not have water; it did not have gas; it did not have electricity; it did not have sidewalks, nor graded streets.

As the streets were graded and then cemented, sidewalks were laid. Then Coulter built some houses on one of the streets, and he decided that they ought to have water in them, so he brought a water pipe clear across the tract from Haddon Heights. Although the lots had been sold without water, he decided to change his plan of

selling and to put water mains in every street. Those who bought here first were fortunate in buying lots without improvements and having the improvements given to them. In the development of the subdivision, there were always delays and disappointments; financing and freight delays of water pipe, and shortage of men, but today the Fairfield Estates has become such a thriving community and has so many beautiful homes, that Haddon Heights wanted to get these taxables within its control, so they expanded and took in the Fairfield Estates, which practically doubled the size of the well-known Borough of Haddon Heights.

Whether you ever realize it or not, all of the three quarters of a mile frontage on the Black Horse Pike which has been known as the Fairfield Estates, is actually the Borough of Haddon Heights, just as much as the Haddon Heights that borders on the White Horse Pike. The first hundred or so houses that were built, were built without any idea or promise of gas, but last year, the writer of this advertisement while driving down the Black Horse Pike, found a number of red lights. Being naturally inquisitive, he stopped to find out what was going on and he learned that the Public Service Gas. Company, finding that there were enough customers to make a gas line profitable in Mt. Ephraim and the Fairfield Estates, had extended gas to this community.

Since the Fairfield Estates has been annexed by Haddon Heights; the Borough of Haddon Heights has announced that a sewer will be built and that the main pipe will be on the boulevard. In another year from now, the Fairfield Estates will be solidly built up, with streets paved, and it will be an integral part of the rich and prosperous Borough of Haddon Heights.

The Greatest Recent Real Estate Development in the East!

FAIRFIELD



Mt. Ephraim section of Fairfield Estates. Sycamore St. in foreground, homes on Park Boulevard and West High St. in background.

LAST ADDITION NOW OPEN!

Fairfield Estates is the largest and most successful suburban development in South Jersey, because the people recognize a big value. Located on one of the widely traveled main highways of this section and stretching across high, well-drained country, connecting Mt. Ephraim with Haddon Heights, its possibility for a home or a future investment immediately appeals to all who visit this tract.



Mt. Ephraim section of Fairfield Estates. Bryn Mawr Avenue, just being completed. Houses from \$4900 to \$5200. Note street, sidewalks, electric wiring, etc., etc.

Only 350 Lots In This New Addition

And when they are gone your opportunity to get one of these desirable lots at first cost, will be lost. Some of the lots purchased in the old section when the tract first opened, eighteen months ago, are now being resold by the original purchasers at a nice profit.

COME OUT TOMORROW!

\$350,000 already spent for improvements by the owners.
2500 lots already sold to over 800 satisfied purchasers.
Eleven miles of streets and 22 miles of sidewalks now being laid.
Fifty homes and six apartments now completed and many occupied. Fifty more homes to be erected in spring.

Values Will Double When the Bridge Comes

It's a real possibility—the Delaware River Bridge will be here within a few years and when that great improvement is completed the values at Fairfield Estates will nearly double.

Fairfield Estates Corporation

Wm. P. Hallinger, President
J. Lukens Anderson, Vice-President
T. G. Coulter, Secretary and Treasurer

Salesmen on ground all day including Sunday from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m.

'Come Out Sunday'

BY AUTO BUS from KAIGNS AVE. FERRY EVERY HALF HOUR

Bell Phone 1372 539 Market Street Keystone 41

Salesman will call and take you out by auto if you phone us.

To reach Fairfield Estates by train, Phila. & Reading to Haddon Heights or Mt. Ephraim—walk four blocks west on Station Avenue, Haddon Heights.

By trolley, Haddon Heights car to Station Avenue.

By Auto, Mt. Ephraim Pike to Park Boulevard, 1½ miles beyond City Line, or 5 miles from City Hall.

A Little History of West Haddon Heights

Margaret Bende Kirkpatrick, written circa 1990

When my family decided to move to FAIRFIELD ESTATES in the year 1925, to me, as a three-year-old,

I remember it as a neat adventure coming on a horse and wagon tour new home. I can still picture it. My brother was 15 months younger, and Mom was expecting a third child.

It all came about when my father for extra work. He had this friend who had moved from Dad's home town, Williamstown. He had purchased lots on Sycamore Street, and was to build a house there. My Dad worked for three different builders in town digging the cellars by hand. Lots cost \$500.00 each to build on.

A builder by the name of Heath was to build our house which, at the time, was a bungalow with an open porch, which we loved.

There was just a house here and there in the area and any open fields all around us. Across the street, which was not paved until 1927, was the Lafferty family. There were no electricity, no sewers nor gas in the area until the streets were put in. Mom still had the huge brass kerosene lamp they used. My daughter latched on to that.

Our house was heated by coal. When the sewers were put in and the streets paved, whatever householders that were in the Fairfield Estates were presented with a utility bill. Some families could not pay, so they lost their homes and, from then on, these homes were rented.

We had a neighbor who owned a cow. The Cinnelli family on 1922 Maple Ave. also owned a cow. We got our milk and cheese from these families. Also, chickens were allowed, so we had chickens.

The mail was delivered by a mail truck. The mailman ride to each house. He did not walk the way they do today. Our first mailman was Weldon Rourke. Before that, you went to the Mt. Ephraim post office.

What is now our Camden County Park, off of Prospect Ridge, was a big swamp. The Park was built by WPA workers in the Roosevelt Era. Next to that, where homes are built in the park, was known as the Hatcher House, and there were loads of apple and pear trees. You were invited to pick all the fruit you could reach, so we did, and Mom canned them. Also,

along Glover Avenue, grew sickle pears. Then, if we went back along the Black Horse Pike, where 295 exits on to the Pike, was the Big Timber Creek, where wild blueberries grew. Everyone went ice skating in the winter and swimming in the summer in the Creek.

In the Winter and Fall, the borough would block off West High and Park off Maple, so the children could roller skate after school. But, traffic in those days was not too frequent, not many people could afford cars.

We were bused to Kings Highway and Seventh Avenue schools. The Kings Highway school was the High School until 1927 when the High School was built.

During the Depression, houses in our area could be bought for the Price of \$1,500.00.

Buses ran the Black Horse Pike to Camden, where you took the ferry to Philadelphia, until they built the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Years later, the # 67 bus line was put in service along Prospect Ridge, down Sycamore Street, to Station Avenue, and on to Philadelphia.

On Maple Avenue, in the 1800 block, is a large home that looks like a mansion, sits on the corner, and was known as the Di Polo home. It has a swimming pool which was unheard of in 1924. The Di Polo's operated the Loann Restaurant in Westmont.

Then there was the Cinnelli home in the center of that same block. They would hold picnics in the Summer for busloads of family members from Philadelphia. They operated Cinnelli's restaurant in Cherry Hill for many years. We were all like one big happy family on the West Side of town. But nothing stays the same, as they say. After the Second World War, many more homes were built on lots in the 1800 block filling up all of the empty fields.

As we grew older, my family became very active in the Haddon Heights Schools. Two of my brothers were drum majors for the High School Band for four years. My sister was home coming Queen. Brother Les Bende, Doctor of Podiatry, had his practice on Station Avenue for 25 years, until his death.

2026 Membership Application / Renewal - Haddon Heights Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (H): _____ (C): _____ Email: _____

Membership Type: _____ Single-\$10 _____ Household-\$15 Additional tax deductible donation of: \$ _____

Send your email to Info@HHHistorical.org to receive future Bulletins directly to your inbox for free!

COMING EVENTS

H. H. Historical Society Meetings:

- **Winter Meeting: Mon., January 26, 2026**
- **Spring Meeting: Mon., April 20, 2025**

All meetings begin at 7:00 pm
Haddon Heights Library – lower level

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

We invite you to renew your membership to help the Historical Society maintain operations and advance our mission. Membership dues enable us to continue providing this informative newsletter exclusively to current members. Please complete and return the membership form on **Page 3** to maintain your membership status.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.hhhistorical.org.

WE NEED YOU!

Be part of something meaningful! We're a close-knit group of volunteers passionate about our mission, and we'd love to have you join us. Whether you can volunteer your time or help us connect with new members, every contribution strengthens our community.

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...

Send your email to Info@HHHistorical.org to receive future Bulletins directly to your inbox for free!

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P.O. Box 118 Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

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