



Frequently Asked Questions about the New Historical Society of Haddonfield Archives Center

How far along are you in the planning of the new building?

We've finished the planning stage, received town approval for our building design, and are now raising the money needed for construction.

The new Archives Center will be built on the site of an existing garage on the Society's property. The new two-story building was designed by Haddonfield resident Eduardo Guzman of DCM Architecture and Engineering, and reinterprets an earlier barn that had stood on the site. The design received acclaim from both the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Board during the design-review process, and the Zoning Board approved the proposal in November 2015.

Why do you need this new building? Couldn't you just adapt another building in town instead of building something new?

The Archives Center is currently housed in the circa 1736 Samuel Mickle House, which was moved to the Society's property at 343 Kings Highway East in the 1960s. While the Mickle House is a historic treasure, we have far outgrown the available space in the building.

In 2014, approximately half of the Society's 725 linear feet of archival collection materials was moved out of the building to allow for some structural repairs and building improvements. But even when that work is completed in 2016, structural engineers have recommended that we do not return these collections to the Mickle House to preserve it for the long term.

Therefore, the Society's Archives Center requires new space. Given the importance of the collections, the Society's board believes that a new building on HSH property is the best and most cost-efficient option. The new building will allow the Society to reunite its important archival and print holdings in one location that is easily accessible to researchers, and do so in a temperature- and humidity-controlled, secure structure that is ADA compliant and has room to grow.

What types of collections do you have?

The Historical Society's collections focus on the 300+ year history of Haddonfield and its environs in South Jersey, including its people, its businesses, its institutions, and more. Archives Center holdings include correspondence, photographs, diaries, scrapbooks, maps, pamphlets, printed ephemera, privately published books, genealogy and local history resources, audio-visual materials, and more.

The Center is home to dozens of collections of family papers, including the Gill, Hopkins, Stoy, Evans, Brigham, Tatem and Moore families. We also hold the papers of Samuel Nicholson Rhoads, one of the Society's founders and a founding member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Society. Among other interests, Rhoads was a naturalist who collected extensively for the Academy of Natural Sciences in



Historical Society of Haddonfield

Partners in Preservation Campaign

Philadelphia. His field notes from collecting trips to South America are an important record of this work for the Academy in the early twentieth century.

Our large photograph collection documents a changing Haddonfield and surrounding area, and provides important documentation of historic properties in the borough. Our city directories, borough property tax records, and Rowand Insurance records also provide much additional information about the area's residents and structures. We hold collections related to organizations like the Haddon Grange, cemetery records from Haddonfield Baptist Cemetery and Mt. Peace Cemetery of nearby Lawnside, New Jersey, and records from assorted other businesses and organizations.

Who uses the Archives Center?

Most of our researchers are genealogists investigating family history, town residents interested in learning more about the history of buildings and properties in town, and academic researchers investigating specialized topics. We also support several history classes from Haddonfield Memorial High School, who complete research projects using the Archives Center's collections.

How big is the new Archives Center building? Will it give you room to grow in the future?

The new building design offers 1416 square feet of finished space, with an additional 680+ square feet of unfinished basement space. The building will include a research area, an ADA-compliant bathroom, compact shelving units, and a basement for isolating new accessions and processing work.

The new building will allow us to grow the existing collection by at least an additional 1,200 linear feet, providing a total of at least 2,000 linear feet of collection storage. That gives us more than 100 percent room for growth.

How much will the new building cost, and how will you pay for it?

The new Archives Center will cost approximately \$900,000. The Society is currently accepting donations in support of the new building to allow us to complete construction without the burden of a major loan. Fortunately, the Society received a major bequest in 2009 from Elizabeth A. Lyons that endows its archival work and enables the Society to financially sustain the new Archives Center.

What will happen to the Samuel Mickle House after you move into the new Archives Center?

The Society plans to shift its use of the Samuel Mickle House to educational programs and interpretation of life in Haddonfield in the eighteenth century, when the town served as a center of commerce for the large, successful farms of South Jersey. It will not be a house museum, but instead will host visiting classes, tours and special programs as a remarkable example of vernacular architecture in Camden County.



Frequently Asked Questions about the Role of the Haddon Township Historical Society

Why is the Historical Society of Haddonfield reserving space for Haddon Township Historical Society's archival collections in its planned new building?

Haddonfield and Haddon Township share a long history. In fact, Haddonfield was once part of Haddon Township!

The Historical Society of Haddonfield is fortunate to already hold a variety of archival documents, including photographs, maps, correspondence, and other manuscripts, related to the history of Haddon Township. Now, thanks to a gift from the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation, we will also be able to reserve 80 linear feet of space for Haddon Township Historical Society's archival collections in our planned new building.

We are tentatively referring to the new building as the Historical Society of Haddonfield's Archive of the Haddons to reflect this cooperative interest with Haddon Township Historical Society. As described above, the state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant building will allow us to significantly improve preservation and access to the collections stored there, including providing space for class visits and student and adult researchers.

Is the Haddon Township Historical Society merging into the Historical Society of Haddonfield?

Absolutely not. The Haddon Township Historical Society will continue to exist as a vibrant 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and will continue to hold its meetings, events, and exhibits at the Haddon Township Environmental & Historical Center, located at 143 E. Ormond Ave., Haddon Township.

In fact, this new cooperation will allow the Haddon Township Historical Society to further its mission of honoring and protecting the history of Haddon Township. It will improve environmental conditions and security for Haddon Township Historical Society archival collections, and it will create regular public access to the collections with the oversight of the professional part-time archivist employed by the Historical Society of Haddonfield.

How will people access Haddon Township archival collections?

Researchers are welcome at the Historical Society of Haddonfield's archives center at 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, during public research hours (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am, and the first Sunday of the month, 1-3 pm) or by appointment. There is no charge for admission.

Haddon Township Historical Society archival collections will be transferred to the new building once construction is complete. We expect to break ground later in 2018. In the meantime, the two historical



Historical Society of Haddonfield

Partners in Preservation Campaign

societies will be creating a formal agreement about how the storage space will be used, how the collections will be cared for, etc.

Will Haddon Township residents or municipal government be required to contribute funding for construction of the new building or its operation thereafter?

No! Of course, donations are always welcome. For more information about the building project and how to donate, visit www.haddonfieldhistory.org/archivescenter

As of February 15, 2018, the Historical Society of Haddonfield had raised more than \$690,000 toward its fundraising goal of \$900,000. It already has a separate restricted endowment that employs a professional archivist, Dana Dorman, and covers other expenses of the archives center as well.

I have family papers or other records about the history of Haddon Township. Who should I talk to about donating these items to your repository?

You can contact either the Haddon Township Historical Society or the archivist at the Historical Society of Haddonfield to talk about how to make a donation. You can reach Haddon Township Historical Society's Sandy White-Grear at info@haddontwphistoricalsociety.org or 856-854-7391. You can contact the Historical Society of Haddonfield's archivist Dana Dorman at library@haddonfieldhistory.org or 856-429-7375.