



**Archives Center & Research Library  
Finding Aid**

**Haddonfield Civic Association records, 1911-1992 (bulk 1912-1987)  
Collection #2015-059**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Haddonfield Civic Association was established in 1911 as a non-partisan, all-male organization dedicated to “the Promotion of Civic Pride and the Betterment of this Town’s Welfare.” This collection includes the Civic Association’s records from 1911 to 1992, including correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, and other organizational documents. Major subjects include the Civic Association’s efforts to preserve Haddonfield’s historic character, its effort to “colonialize” the business district, its activities during the Great Depression and World War I, and local controversies about taxation, school improvement proposals, and zoning and development.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

Collection #: 2015-059  
Collection title: Haddonfield Civic Association records  
Creator: Haddonfield Civic Association  
Type of collection: Corporate  
Date of materials - Earliest: 1911  
Date of materials - Latest: 1992  
Bulk dates: 1912-1987  
Number of boxes: 2 standard archival boxes  
Other: 8 volumes  
Extent: 1.8 linear feet

Provenance: Gift of Haddonfield Public Library, 2014

Any restrictions on access? No restrictions

Language(s): English

Related collections:

\* Historical Society of Haddonfield: Haddonfield Civic Association records, HSH Small Accession #1991-019

Other internal notes:

This collection was originally part of accession 2014-001 from the Haddonfield Public Library.

Finding aid author: Sophie Hamilton and Elizabeth Hilgen

Date finding aid created: April 16, 2019

**SUBJECTS / ACCESS POINTS:**

**Geographic names**

Haddonfield (N.J.)

Camden County (N.J.)

**Source?**

lsch

lsch

**Names**

Bacon, Charles R.

Bradshaw, Robert

Coshland, Helen

Cox, Walter S.

Creamer, Richard M.

Driscoll, Alfred E., 1902-

Driscoll, Peter E.

Galt, James H.

Goettleman II, Louis H.

Goettleman, Louis H.

Hadley, Charles H.

Hartel, Joseph N.

Haydock, Jesse G.

Hinski, Eugene V.

Holl, Earl B.

Irving, Robert A.

Kaufmann, Harry Townshend

Laudenslager, William H.

Nobel, James J.

Paul, Robert J. Tait

Pennypacker, James Lane, 1855-1934

Read, C. Carlton

Reisner, John

Reynolds Jr., William W.

Riebel, Joseph S.

Schultz, Edward

Smith, Frank A.

Stuckert, Beatrice S.

Tatem, J. Fithian

Von Uffel, George

Westermaier, F. Victor

Wood Jr., John S.

York, Clarence N.

**Source?**

local

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<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Source?</b>
Bancroft Training School (Haddonfield, N.J.)	lsch
Civic engagement (Education)	lsch
Civic improvement	lsch
Civil defense	lsch
Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)	lsch
Great Depression	lsch
Haddon Fortnightly	local
Haddonfield Board of Education	local
Haddonfield Public Library (Haddonfield, N.J.)	lsch
Historic districts	lsch
Historical Society of Haddonfield	lsch
King’s Highway (N.J. and Pa.)	lsch
Law Day U.S.A.	lsch
Local taxation	lsch
New Deal, 1933-1939	lsch
Public schools	lsch
Real estate development	lsch
Red Cross	lsch
Referendum	lsch
Urban beautification	lsch
Voting	lsch
World War I	lsch
Zoning	lsch

**BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The Haddonfield Civic Association was established in 1911 as a non-partisan organization dedicated to “the Promotion of Civic Pride and the Betterment of this Town’s Welfare.” Its first president was Frank A. Smith, and its expansive focus can be seen in its inaugural committees: Civic Pride, Education, Health, Law and Order, Membership, Municipal Affairs, Public Utilities, and Publicity.

The Haddonfield Civic Association has long encouraged community involvement: urging Haddonfield residents to vote in elections, attend public meetings on municipal matters, and support community resources like schools and the public library. It also played a major role in the “colonialization” of the business district and the establishment of Haddonfield’s historic district, among other accomplishments.

Established as an all-male organization, the Civic Association did not admit women until 1972, and maintained a friendly rivalry with the Haddon Fortnightly, a women’s civic and social club in Haddonfield. In 1922, the Civic Association and the Haddon Fortnightly jointly purchased Artisans Hall (301 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield). In 1931, the Civic Association sold its share of the building to the Fortnightly, which continues to use it as a meeting place.

The Civic Association has hosted an annual Haddonfield Town Dinner since 1911, first at Artisans Hall, and in more recent years at Tavistock Country Club. In 1927, the Civic Association began holding an annual Robert Bradshaw Memorial Essay Contest for senior boys (now open to all seniors), named for the Civic Association’s 1920-1925 president.

**Bibliography:**

Haddonfield Civic Association. "About the HCA." <https://haddonfieldcivic.com/about-the-hca/> (accessed January 9, 2019).

The Haddon Fortnightly. "Our History." <https://thehaddonfortnightly.org/our-history/> (accessed January 9, 2019).

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This collection includes the organizational records for the Haddonfield Civic Association from its founding in 1911 until 1992, including meeting minutes, correspondence, and other organizational documents, as well as news clippings about the Civic Association and its activities. The collection is generally arranged by type of record, with some special topics like the proposed Cross County Freeway and Kings Highway Beautification arranged in separate folders.

The Association’s meeting minutes range from 1911 to 1992 and are recorded in bound ledgers. The minutes also include lists of the Board of Governors members, committees, and treasurers’ reports.

The correspondence files, dating from 1912 to 1979, provide a deeper picture of the Civic Association’s work. A major theme in these files is the Civic Association’s effort to preserve Haddonfield’s historic character by collaborating with the Shade Tree Commission, advocating the establishment of the Historic District, and campaigning against liquor licenses and high-rise developments. Another major theme is the Civic Association’s promotion of community engagement, as demonstrated by its support for the public library, the community pool, and a proposed youth center. The Civic Association also encouraged citizens to vote in all elections and to attend town meetings, and publicized elections and other political events through mailers and advertisements in the local paper. Other subjects of interest include civilian activities during World War I, establishment and improvement of Haddonfield public schools, and relief efforts during the Great Depression.

The “Reporter” newsletters provide useful summaries of the Civic Association’s accomplishments and activities from 1954 to 1977.

The Town Dinner file contains the programs for the 1920-1987 dinners, where the Civic Association hosted various speakers and honored individuals and organizations for their service to the community.

**CONTAINER LIST / INVENTORY:**

Correspondence Files, January 1912-January 1916	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondence Files, February 1916-October 1917	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence Files, January 1920-December 1933	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence Files, January 1934-December 1940	Box 1	Folder 4
Correspondence Files, January 1941-October 1941	Box 1	Folder 5
Correspondence Files, May 1942-October 1946	Box 1	Folder 6
Correspondence Files, January 1947-November 1951	Box 1	Folder 7

Correspondence Files, January 1952-June 1953	Box 1	Folder 8
Correspondence Files, June 1953-December 1956	Box 1	Folder 9
Correspondence Files, January 1957-November 1966	Box 1	Folder 10
Correspondence Files, January 1967-June 1972	Box 1	Folder 11
Correspondence Files, March 1973-March 1979	Box 1	Folder 12
Cross County Freeway, 1952	Box 1	Folder 13
Kings Highway Beautification Committee, 1944-1958	Box 2	Folder 1
Law Day, 1976	Box 2	Folder 2
Minutes, February 1911-April 1920	Volume 1	
Minutes, May 1920-April 1930	Volume 2	
Minutes, May 1930-May 1943	Volume 3	
Minutes, May 1943-December 1954	Volume 4	
Minutes, January 1955-November 1957	Volume 5	
Minutes, December 1957-December 1970	Volume 6	
Minutes, January 1971-May 1988	Volume 7	
Minutes, June 1988-1992	Volume 8	
“Reporter” [newsletters], January 1954-December 1977	Box 2	Folder 3
Robert Bradshaw Memorial Award Essays, 1954-1987	Box 2	Folder 4
School Referendum, 1969-1971	Box 2	Folder 5
Town Dinner, 1920-1947	Box 2	Folder 6
Town Dinner, 1948-1963	Box 2	Folder 7
Town Dinner, 1964-1987	Box 2	Folder 8
Zoning and Planning Referendum and Resolution, 1970	Box 2	Folder 9