

Timeline of Haddonfield History

1682 – Francis Collins of Burlington built a brick home named Mountwell on 500 acres that extended southwest from today’s Ellis Street. Collins did not stay at Mountwell long, instead turning it over to his son Joseph and family.

1701 – At the age of 21, Elizabeth Haddon came from England to claim land her father John Haddon had purchased here. The following year, she married John Estaugh, an English Quaker.

1713 – Elizabeth and her husband John Estaugh built a large house called New Haddonfield Plantation for her parents. Elizabeth’s parents never came, so John and Elizabeth lived in the house instead.



New Haddonfield Plantation

1721 – Elizabeth’s father John Haddon gave land for a Quaker Meetinghouse and cemetery near today’s Haddon Avenue and Kings Highway. Over time, the village of “Haddonfield” became a center of commerce for the large farms in south Jersey.

1764 – Village residents formed a fire company in town, known today as Haddon Fire Company No. 1. It is the second oldest volunteer fire company in the United States.



Indian King Tavern

1777 – The New Jersey Assembly met at the Indian King Tavern on Kings Highway East and declared that this was no longer the “Colony” of New Jersey, but was now the state of New Jersey and adopted the State Seal.

1777 – Quakers James Cooper and John Tatum were appointed to visit fellow members of the Haddonfield and Woodbury Meetings to encourage them to free their enslaved. Some Quakers complied, but others were not interested.

1786 – Quakers founded the first school in Haddonfield near today's Haddon Avenue and Lake Street. The school continues today as Haddonfield Friends School.

1803 – Haddonfield residents organized the first library in town: the Haddonfield Library Company. By this time, the village included about 50 houses.

1804 – State lawmakers passed the state's Gradual Abolition Act. Unfortunately, it did not free enslaved people, and created different barriers to freedom for children born of enslaved mothers.



Grove School

1809 – The Grove School was built at the corner of Grove and Lake Streets. Little is known about the school's early years, but it was probably not free to attend.

1818 – The Baptist Church built its first meetinghouse in Haddonfield on Kings Highway East, across from today's Haddonfield Memorial High School. This building was eventually demolished for a new church.

1829 – The Methodist Church congregation began holding regular services in the Grove School building. The church would build its first permanent home in 1835.

1841 – The first Episcopal services were held in Haddonfield in the Grove School building. The congregation built its first church in 1842 on Kings Highway East.

1842 – The original New Haddonfield Plantation house burned down in a fire. The new house built to replace it is still standing today, at what is now 201 Wood Lane.

About 1850 – About 40 years after it first opened, Grove School switched to become a free public school. Only white students were allowed to attend.

1854 – The railroad came to Haddonfield. The Camden and Atlantic Railroad was built through town as it connected Philadelphia to Atlantic City, and helped draw first summer visitors and eventually new residents here.

1858 – After learning about dinosaur bones found at a Haddonfield farm, William Parker Foulke and Joseph Leidy discovered the first nearly intact dinosaur ever found anywhere in the world. It was named *Hadrosaurus foulkii*.



1865 – Haddonfield became part of the newly formed Haddon Township, which had split off from the long-established Newton Township.

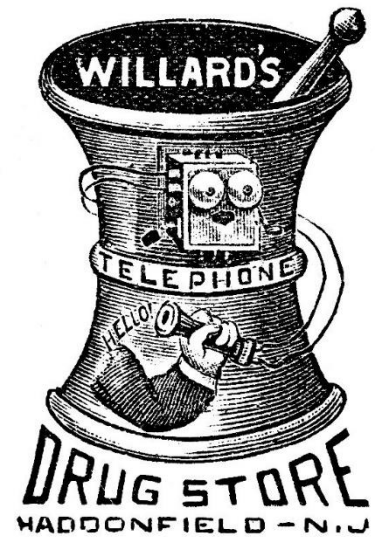
1868 – A few years after the Civil War, public school trustees agreed to open a school for black students. The first classes were held in rented space in Odd Fellows Hall, which was located at Kings Highway East and Colonial Avenue.



1875 – Haddonfield split off of Haddon Township and became its own borough. The original boundaries of Haddonfield were smaller than today, and did not include neighborhoods like West Haddonfield; the Gill Tract; and the Birdwood, Estates, Fargo and Farwood sections.

1883 – Margaret Bancroft opened a school for children with learning and emotional difficulties on Chestnut Street. It was the first private school of its kind in New Jersey and one of the earliest in the nation.

1884 – The first telephone was installed in Haddonfield, in Willard's Telephone Drug Store on Kings Highway East (on the corner of Mechanic Street). Rowland Willard named the store to convince the phone company to install the first telephone there, and it worked! It took at least 30 minutes to connect to another caller.



A trolley on Kings Highway East

1894 – While most people still used horses and carriages to get around (and would for a couple more decades), a street trolley was built to connect Haddonfield to Camden and ran for more than 40 years.

1913 – Kings Highway was paved for the first time. For Haddonfield's first 200 years, the street was a dirt road.

1917 – The Haddonfield Public Library broke ground on its new building at the corner of Haddon Avenue and Tanner Street, originally shared with the Historical Society of Haddonfield and the Haddonfield Library Company.

1921 – The borough of Tavistock and Tavistock Country Club were founded to allow golfers to avoid Haddonfield's blue laws that prevented the playing of golf on Sundays.

1926 – The Delaware River Bridge opened (today known as the Benjamin Franklin Bridge), connecting South Jersey to Philadelphia. The new bridge would bring many changes to Haddonfield.

1927 – The new Haddonfield Memorial High School opened, named in honor of those who served in World War I.

1944 – Haddonfield Civic Association launched a campaign to “colonialize” downtown shops to unify and beautify Kings Highway, Tanner Street, and Haddon Avenue. This effort continued for 30+ years and served as a model for other business districts on the east coast.



Lincoln School

1948 – The Haddonfield school system stopped separating black and white elementary students and closed the all-black Lincoln School on Lincoln Avenue. Older students already attended the same (and only) high school.

1969 –PATCO opened the “Hi-Speed Line,” replacing the railroad that had run through Haddonfield for more than 100 years.

1971 – Haddonfield voters approved a Historic District law that gave town leaders tools to protect some buildings in town from being torn down or changed without their permission.

1984 – Haddonfield resident Chris Brees marked the *Hadrosaurus* dig site on Maple Avenue as his Eagle Scout project. Ten years later, the site was recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

2013 – Haddonfield celebrated its 300th anniversary as a community.