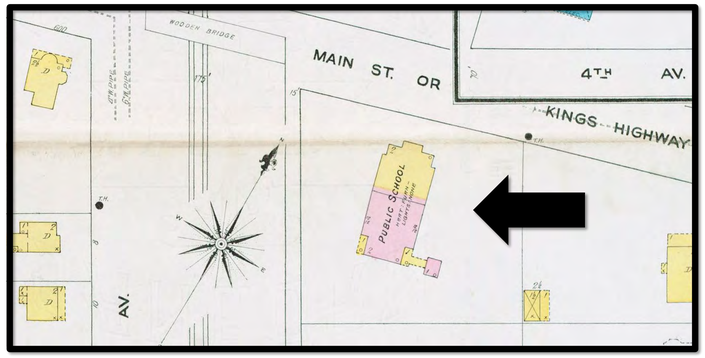
# Kings Highway School

◆ Built 1902 ◆ Demolished 1963 ◆




The first school in Haddon Heights occupied this location in 1902. The original structure comprised a four-room, wood-framed building that educated students up through the eighth grade. Students from Haddon Heights and Orston (Audubon) attended the school.

With Haddon Heights incorporated as a borough in 1904, the school's population continued to grow. In 1907, the school board added a new brick annex to the rear of the frame building, allowing the school to educate students through grade 12. By 1910, school officials encouraged voters to support a tax to provide funds for "building and repairing the school houses." In that same year, Haddon Heights graduated its first class of high school students.

In 1911, the borough replaced the original four-room, frame building with a new twelve-room brick building and auditorium adjoining the brick rear annex to create a "T" shaped school. The school's façade had a frontage of 127 feet parallel to Kings Highway. Reporting on the new school, *The Morning Post* stated in February 1912:

> The annex to the old school building ... cost $30,000 ... There are sixteen rooms in the entire building. The auditorium will comfortably seat an audience of 350 after providing accommodations for an orchestra and stage. Over $3,000 worth of new furniture has been placed in the building. This school is the only one in Camden county south of Haddonfield and Collingswood that gives a high school training in connection with the other grades under instruction.




The map from 1909 by Sanborn Insurance Co. shows the original school's location. Note the frame front and brick back. The photo on top shows the original frame school built in 1902. The photo on the bottom shows the new brick school. The aerial view shows the High School along Kings Highway.

In memory of Lynn Laitman
Haddon Heights Historical Society

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In 1924, Haddon Heights opened a new high school, which still stands today on Second Avenue. As a result, the Kings Highway School became an elementary school. In fall 1961, the Board of Education issued a $550,000 bond for a proposed new school to be constructed behind the Kings Highway School on Atlantic Avenue. The plan stated that the Kings Highway school was outdated, a fire hazard, and a poor location for a school due to the adjacent traffic lanes. The plans called for the Kings Highway School's demolition.

The vote to construct a new school and demolish the old school narrowly passed. In August 1963, the contractor completed the Atlantic Avenue School after an expenditure of $275,000. It provided an education to students from kindergarten to sixth grade.

Demolition of the old Kings Highway school reached its completion in September 1963. The area where the school once stood was an empty grass field before becoming a blacktop playground with basketball courts. In 2004, the Board of Education asked for $19 million to update their schools, including the addition of a gymnasium to the Atlantic Avenue School. The gymnasium now stands in the area that once contained the rear brick attached to the Kings Highway School. Today, the area where the brick front of the school once stood provides students at the new Atlantic Avenue School with a fence-enclosed playground.

