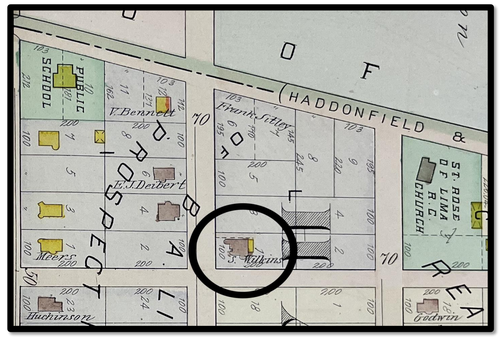
Benjamin A. Lippincott House

Temple Beth Sholom ◆ 19 White Horse Pike ◆ Built 1893

The home of Benjamin Abraham Lippincott (1854-1930) and his wife Laura Peterson (1860-1943) once stood here. Benjamin A. was the son of a successful farmer and well regarded citizen, Benjamin Lippincott and Priscilla (Nicholson). A farmer, real estate developer, Board of Education member, and the first mayor of Haddon Heights, Benjamin A. is known as Haddon Heights "first citizen."

The Hinchman family originally owned the land Benjamin A.'s house occupied. In 1762, Isaac Hinchman's widow sold over 100 acres to David Hurley and it remained in the family until they sold it to the Glover family. In 1888, Benjamin A. Lippincott gained title to the land to build his villa.





In the 1890s, Benjamin A. created a plan to develop a section of Haddon Township into a community called "Prospect Ridge." Lippincott's goal was to create an affluent residential community. All deeds contained restrictive covenants, including a minimum lot size of 100 by 200 feet. Lippincott enticed affluent families through financing a standard Atlantic City Railroad station, the Haddon Heights Inn, and the electrification of the town.

When construction ended in the 1890s, the house served as a showpiece for the community. The home reflected Queen Anne style architecture, including an asymmetrical façade with a front-facing gable, a front porch covering the entrance, differing wall textures with both shingles and stone, a single turret, and slate roofing. According to the *Haddonfield News*, Lippincott paid the princely sum of $12,000 for the home's construction. In 1896, he sold the home to John Carroll.



Left: Portrait, Benjamin A. Lippincott in Alfred M. Heston, *South Jersey A History*; Detail, G.M. Hopkins, Vicinity of Camden, 1907
Top Center: Lippincott House c. 1895
Bottom Center: Temple Beth Sholom in Lippicott house
Right: Temple Beth Sholom c. 1950s

Haddon Heights Historical Society

In memory of Lynn Laitman

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In 1940, a newly incorporated religious organization known as Temple Beth Sholom acquired the property. For the next decade, Temple Beth Sholom used the property to host dances, meetings, and as a synagogue for worship services. Rabbi George Vida led the synagogue through the Second World War, taking a hard stance against anti-semitism and the Holocaust pogroms against people of Jewish faith throughout Europe.

Rabbi Albert L. Lewis led Temple Beth Sholom from 1948 to 1992. During his 44-year tenure, the synagogue expanded to over 1,000 families. To accommodate their growing membership, Temple Beth Sholom broke ground on a new $100,000 synagogue in 1951 at the site of the Lippincott villa after its demolition.



The new synagogue opened in 1953. New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Albert E. Burling spoke at the synagogue's dedication. Among the members of the newly-constructed synagogue was a young Steven Spielberg, whose family lived in the Crystal Terrace development of Haddon Township. Other well-known members of the Haddon Heights synagogue included actor Michael Landon and writer Mitch Albom.

To gain more space for the growing synagogue, Temple Beth Sholom removed from Haddon Heights to a new building in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, incorporating numerous elements from the original Haddon Heights synagogue. The old synagogue now serves as a medical provider facility.