First Church of Christ, Scientist

301 Station Avenue ◆ Built 1925



The images above show the church's various stages of construction in 1925. The rightmost image shows the church holding its first Sunday School service. The image below show the completed first and second phase. The map from 1922 by Sanborn Insurance Co. shows the location of the old and new Church.

The Haddon Heights branch of the Church of Christ, Scientist formed in 1916 when individuals from Philadelphia and Camden decided to create a church body in Haddon Heights. The first building the members used stood on the corner of White Horse Pike and Station Avenue. Members offered weekly Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., followed by regular services at 11 a.m. The church also held "free lectures" at the New Century Theater in Audubon, where members of the sect from around the country presented to the general public.

By the 1920s, church membership increased significantly. To accommodate the growing membership, the church purchased an empty lot of land from Mary P. Lippincott at Third and Station Avenues in 1921, where the current church now stands.

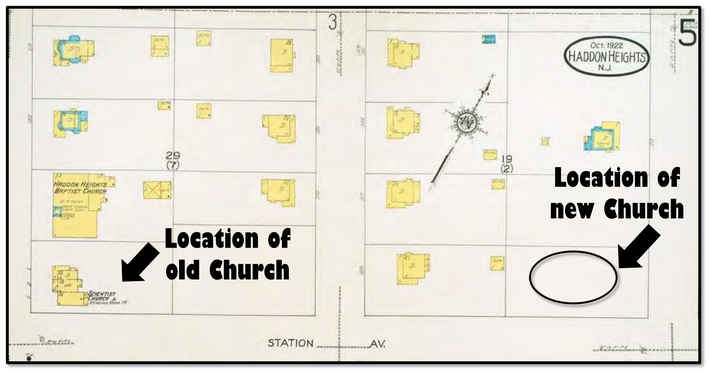
In 1925, Parklap, Incorporated, began construction at 301 Station Avenue. Renowned architect Bernhardt E. Muller of New York City and a member of the Church of Christ, Scientist designed the structure. Muller's design included a unique English cottage aesthetic. The church's construction occurred in two phases. The first phase involved building a Sunday School complex for 150 individuals at a cost of $35,000, while the second phase comprised the main church building with a capacity of 300 individuals at a cost of $45,000.

A description of the completed Sunday School wing appears in a 1926 article from Camden's *Morning Post*:

> The entire church suggests antiquity. The roof is of colored slate that has been so arranged as to give the impression of being worn and warped and twisted by the ravages of time and the elements. The church is of brick, stone and stucco, presenting the appearance of being many times repaired. A bit of mortar suggests that the wind has blown down the chimney and that it has been rebuilt. A bit of brick inserted into the exterior walls deceives one into believing that here again repairs have been made necessary.
>
> All the woodwork in the church is warped and bent and even the colored windows have been cracked in places to give the appearance of age. They contain many colors and are said to reproduce the glass windows in the home of Benjamin Franklin, which, made of cheap glass of that day, changed colors in places.
>
> The Sunday School section which has been completed has an old English entrance and a large room on the first floor. On the second floor is a reading room with an old-fashioned fire place. In the basement are wash rooms and cloak rooms. The interior walls have been finished to represent patched plaster such as done by plasterers of another day when the method was to put on the plaster by hand.

The second phase of construction was completed in 1950. In the Christian Science faith, a church edifice cannot be dedicated until it has no mortgage. In 1966, an official dedication service occurred. Members used the church until 2018, when the church disbanded and sold their building to become a private residence.





Haddon Heights Historical Society

In memory of Lynn Laitman

Funding provided by the:

CAMDEN COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION AT CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE

CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE