Hoyle-Butcher Post No. 149

◆ 6 West Atlantic Avenue ◆

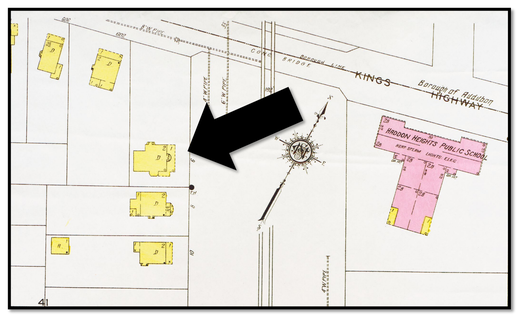
In December 1926, Haddon Heights Borough leased a house at this location to the Hoyle-Butcher Post No. 149 that served as the organization's headquarters.

Veterans of the Great War (1914-1918) formed the American Legion organization in 1919. In the same year, 47 military veterans in Haddon Heights formed the Hoyle-Butcher Post 149. The post home also had a Women's Auxiliary, created to "aid the American Legion toward its activities and to be charged with phases of work more suitably performed by women." During the Post's burgeoning years, members gathered at homes throughout the community and at Borough Hall. In 1927, the Borough moved the Post's home back from Kings Highway to accommodate the new railroad bridge. The Post hosted over 2,500 guests at Haddon Heights High School to commemorate Memorial Day and the opening of the renovated building in 1928. A local newspaper called the post "one of the finest homes in South Jersey."



Post 149's name honors the first two male veterans that died during the First World War, William Hoyle and Carl Butcher. William Hoyle, a cook for the 504th Section Ambulance Service in France, died of pneumonia on October 11, 1918. Fireman Second Class Carl Butcher served in the United States Naval Reserves Forces and passed away at the age of 21 on October 11, 1918, from influenza. Although not commemorated in the name of the post, another Haddon Heights resident, American Red Cross Nurse Elizabeth Weimann, passed away while serving in France on November 6, 1918, from pneumonia (1918 Pandemic) and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. She is the only woman in Camden County to die during the First World War.

Detail, 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co.



Haddon Heights Historical Society
In memory of Lynn Laitman

Funding provided by the:
CAMDEN COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION AT CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE
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Exemplifying patriotism through community service was a vital tenet throughout the Post's history. For example, the Post sponsored medical research, an ambulance corps, including purchasing an ambulance, scout groups, 4-H clubs, Brownie troops, student scholarships, Girls/Boys State, clothing drives, American Legion baseball teams, and many other community organizations. The Post also hosted Memorial Day ceremonies and its color guard led Memorial Day and 4th of July parades and hosted initiatives like the poppy program and flag disposal. Members supported local servicemen and women by sending letters and care packages overseas during wartime.

Post 149 dedicated a granite monument to veterans of the First World War in 1930 and placed a contemporary field piece with it. The Borough demolished the first home and constructed the current structure which opened in 1972. Dwindling membership caused Post 149 to eventually disband. Since 2010, the Haddon Heights Sons of Italy Lodge #2311, established in 1974, has occupied the former post building.



Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; and safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.