



A Philadelphia schoolteacher who had a particular interest in children with developmental disabilities founded the Bancroft School in 1883. Rejecting the prevailing ideas of the day, Margaret Bancroft believed that every child could learn but special children needed special schools. A visionary educator, Bancroft was also a fiercely determined woman. Quitting her job as a public school principal, she decided to found her own school, which became one of the first schools to serve children with special needs. Bancroft selected Haddonfield, a thriving country town near Philadelphia, as a nurturing location for her pioneering school. She began in rented quarters with two pupils. The school quickly grew, and a few other locations in town soon followed. In 1892, the home housing her school was destroyed by fire. When all seemed hopeless, Charles Lippincott of Philadelphia, in exchange for the lifetime care of his daughter, purchased a large home on Kings Highway on the eastern edge of town. The school reopened at the home, known as the Lindens, in 1893. The building burned while being demolished in 1968.

In the early 20th century, numerous buildings, including another nearby large mansion, Lullworth Hall, were added to the growing school. Bancroft died in 1910, but the school has remained a leader and innovator in the ever-developing field of special education. The photograph to the right shows a speech therapist with one of the school's students. Below is an early gym class. Bancroft was a strong advocate of physical education as a part of the curriculum. Known today as Bancroft NeuroHealth, the school has greatly expanded its mission and now serves over 1,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, autism, and other neurological impairments. The organization now includes many locations, but the Haddonfield campus remains its headquarters. (Courtesy of Bancroft NeuroHealth.)





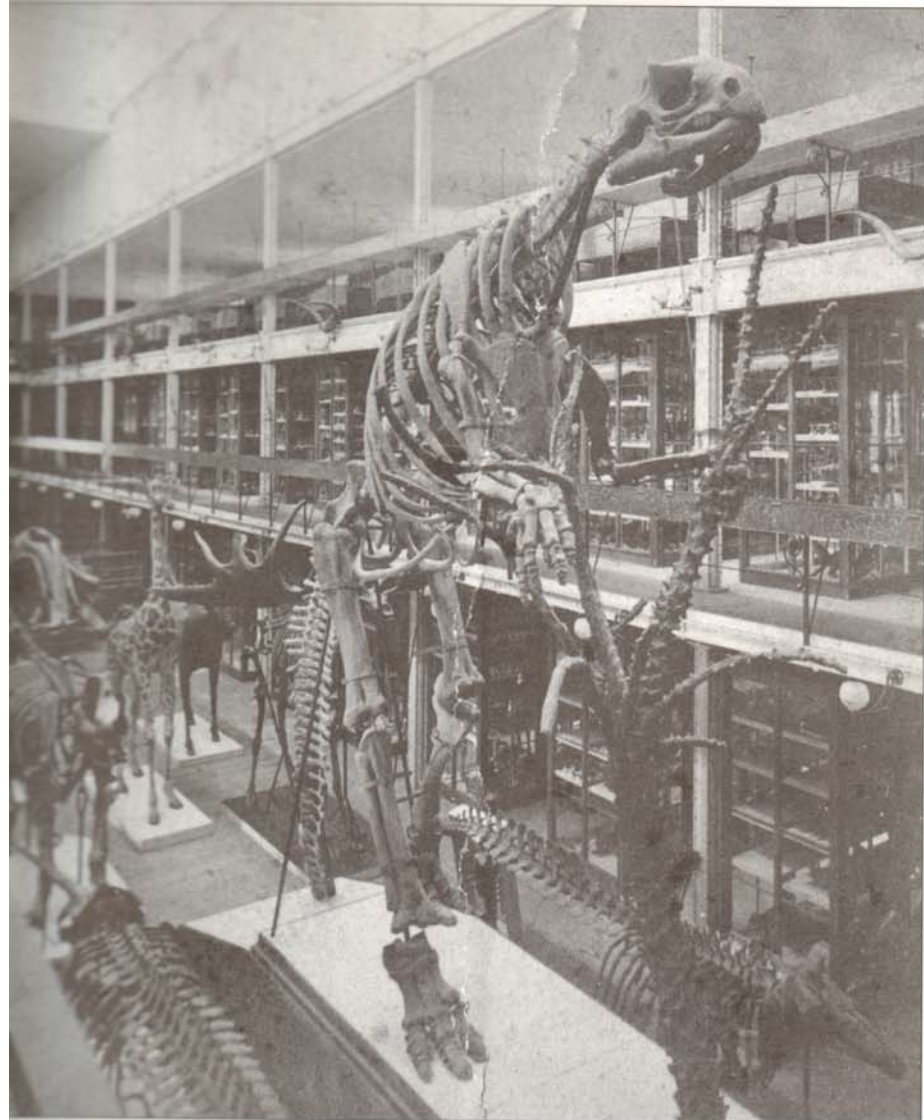
In 1816, John Roberts, owner of the Indian King Tavern, built the house on Kings Highway East opposite Greenfield Hall. Built as a farmhouse, it was renovated and enlarged into a brick mansion in both the 19th and 20th centuries. The house has served as the home of prominent residents, including David Stern, who gave Isadore Feinstein, later known as I. F. Stone, his first newspaper job.



Lullworth Hall was the name given to this imposing Victorian mansion built on the corner of Kings Highway East and Hopkins Lane by Charles Mann about 1886. This was the first house in Haddonfield to have electric lights. It became part of the Bancroft School complex in 1919 and serves today as the headquarters building for Bancroft NeuroHealth.

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HADDONFIELD



1858, one of the major scientific discoveries of the 19th century took place in Haddonfield when William Parker Foulke visited Birdwood, the home of John Estaugh Hopkins, and saw a dinosaur bone being used as an umbrella stand. Foulke received permission to dig for more remains in the marl bed where the bones had been found 20 years earlier. Foulke sent word to the Academy of Natural Sciences asking Dr. Joseph Leidy to come to Haddonfield to examine the find. They were rewarded with the first nearly intact dinosaur skeleton found anywhere in the world. As a result of his studies, Leidy correctly deduced that the dinosaur stood on two legs rather than four and, in 1868, had the specimen mounted for display at the Academy of Natural Sciences, as seen in this photograph. (Courtesy of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Ewell Sale Stewart Library.)

the cover: Please see page 53. (Courtesy of the Historical Society of Haddonfield.)

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with the Historical Society of Haddonfield

