



435 Kings Highway East

Courtesy Bancroft School

BANCROFT SCHOOL

The Bancroft School was founded in 1883 by Margaret Bancroft, a teacher in the Philadelphia school system, who became interested in the education of children with learning and emotional problems. The original name of her school was the "Haddonfield Training School for the Mentally Deficient and Peculiarly Backward." It was the first private school of its kind in New Jersey and one of the earliest in the nation.

First housed in Miss Hillman's school on Chestnut Street, three other locations in town soon followed. The school, already plagued by financial problems, was destroyed by a fire in 1892. However, Charles Lippincott of Philadelphia purchased a large mansion, "The Lindens", and deeded it to Miss Bancroft, allowing her to continue the school.

"The Lindens" (shown above), located on Kings Highway east of Hopkins Lane, was built in 1852 by William Coffin. Coffin had built a fortune in the South Jersey glass industry. He was also one of Haddonfield's earliest land developers and was influential in the building of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad.

The Lindens was the focal building on the Bancroft School campus for many years, housing administrative offices, classrooms, therapy rooms, kitchens, dining areas and living quarters for staff and pupils. By 1968, it had become obsolete for the school's needs. The Lindens burned on July 16, 1968 while it was in the process of being demolished.

LOST HADDONFIELD

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