

150004 – Drexel Hill Middle School



150004; Drexel Hill Middle School. This school is located at 3001 State Road, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, in Upper Darby Township, Delaware County. It is part of the Upper Darby School District. The 1957 main school building is set back from State Road behind a pick-up/drop-off driveway and a "safety zone" of grass and trees. A paved parking area is tucked into the east side of the school building. Playing fields, surrounded by chain-link fencing, are located at the rear of the school. They include facilities for sports including baseball, track, and football. A paved enclosure adjacent to the fields has been converted from tennis courts and is now used for roller hockey. The property features low stone retaining walls around the front entrance and stairs, grassy lawns with scattered trees and bushes, low brick walls, and paved drives. An interior courtyard features a slate floor, low brick walls, a small pond/fountain, trees, and a flower garden.

The original school building is a rough T-plan building with classrooms located along interior hallways. It is two stories tall and has an underground level. It was built in 1957. A gymnasium is located off of the western end of the T. A cafeteria is located at the base of the T, on the underground level. An auditorium is centrally located along the base of the T on the first floor. A 1972 two-story addition to the original 1957 structure is appended to the northeast end of the 1957 T. One-story modular classroom units are located at the rear (northwestern side) of the building. These were added to the property in 1999 and 2002. The main school building is a steel structure with concrete block and brick walls. Stucco, brick veneer, stone veneer, and aluminum siding clad various areas of the building. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation. The flat roof is covered with built-up tar. There is a brick chimney. The main entrance contains multiple ca. 2000 metal and glass doors set under a modern flat-roof canopy with I-beam supports. Circa 2005 replacement picture windows with hopper sash and Exterior Insulation Masonry System panels light the structure. These panels replaced porcelain enameled steel (Michael Miele, pers. com., April 7, 2006). Glass block lights the gymnasium.

The main entrance lobby features a tile floor, acoustic ceiling tiles, walls with tile and wood paneling, metal display units, and wood benches. Hallways feature tile floors, walls with tiles, original and replacement lockers, and water fountains. The auditorium features original permanent seating, board-and-batten walls, concrete floors, replacement "popcorn" ceiling material, and a proscenium stage. The gymnasium features an original wood floor, permanent sports equipment (except for a modern "rock wall"), wood bleachers, a wrestling room, and girls and boys locker rooms. The library features carpeting, acoustic ceiling tiles, original wood tables, chairs, and bookshelves. The cafeteria features a tiled floor, tiled walls, and tiled support columns, acoustic ceiling tiles, and movable tables with chairs. Specialized classrooms include, or have included, wood and metal shops (converted to technology labs), home economics rooms, music rooms, and science labs.

At the time the school was built in 1957, there were two school districts in the current Upper Darby District. Due to a boom in population in this area in the late 1950s, a need for a second school for middle grades was identified, and this school building was constructed. It was completed in 1958. At the time, the school was surrounded primarily by open land. The school was originally known as the Drexel Hill Junior High School. In 1972, an addition was added to the main structure. In 1975, the two districts merged. Modular classrooms were added to the property in 1999 and 2002. Architectural elements, including windows and doors, were replaced ca. 2000 and 2005. Other changes, such as replacement canopies and construction of a new elevator, are in progress.

(Jonathan Ross, Principal, and Michael Miele, Facilities Manager, pers. com., April 7, 2006.)

United States Geological Survey

1992 *Lansdowne NE, PA Aerial Photograph*. USGS Reference Number 40075-B3-02-PHT. Created on April 14, 1992.

1994 *Lansdowne, PA Quadrangle*. 7.5 minute series. Topography by planetable surveys 1939-1940. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967. Revised 1994. Denver, CO or Reston, VA.



Aerial View of Drexel Hill Middle School

More Photos of Drexel Hill Middle School

