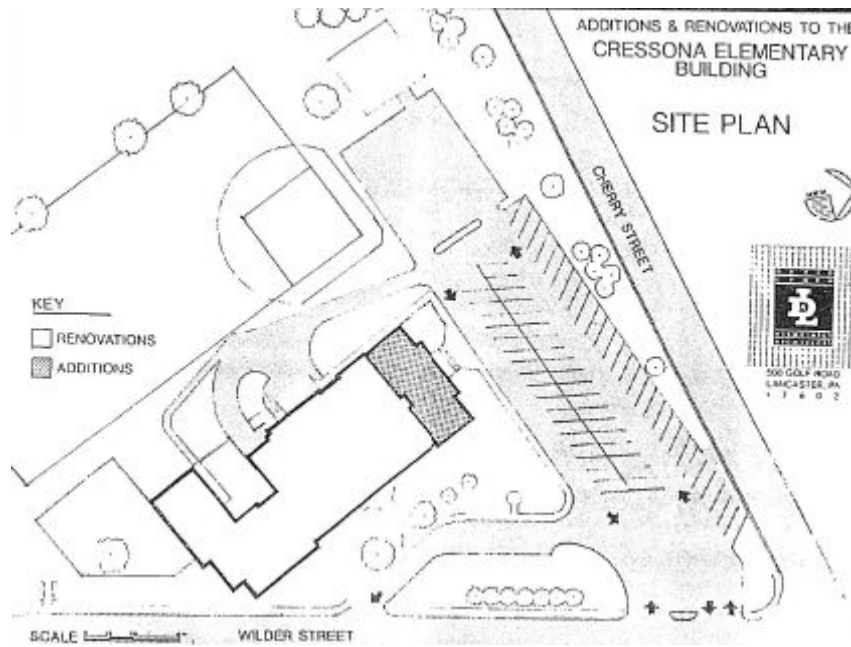
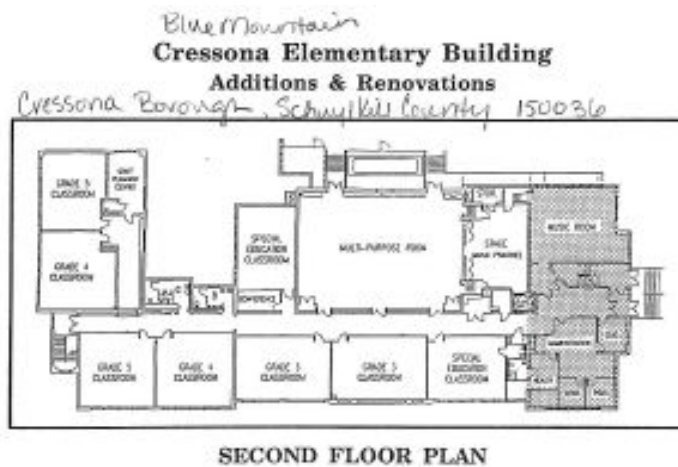


150036 – Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School





Site Plan for Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School



Floor Plan of Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School

150036; Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School. This school is located at 45 Wilder Street, Cressona, Pennsylvania, in Cressona Borough, Schuylkill County. It is part of the Blue Mountain School District. The 1929 school is skewed to Wilder Road. It is set back from the roadway on a banked hill behind a circular driveway. The school was historically oriented towards Wilder Street. Its main entrance is now in a modern addition at the northwest end of the building, facing a large paved parking lot. A playground and open field, with a softball diamond, paved ball court, and playground equipment, are located at the rear of the school. A small enclosed kindergarten playground is located southeast of the school. The lot is surrounded by a chain link fence with access openings at the rear of the lot. The property also features a staircase flanked by stone walls, scattered trees and bushes, a flag pole, modern storage sheds, and a small courtyard situated between the original core building and an addition.

The 1929 core of the school is a two-story rectangular building with linear interior hallways. The original entrance was centered on the ground floor. Additions are appended to the northwest and southeast ends of the building. The 1929 school is a frame structure clad in brick. The building sits on a stone foundation. Built-up tar covers the flat roof, which features a parapet with a cast stone cap. The school has a brick chimney. The two-story structure features decorative brickwork. The center bays of the original front façade feature cast stone arched lintels and flat keystone lintels, and sills with decorative brackets. The original main entrance is sheltered inside an enclosed loggia with brick columns and modern metal-frame glass doors and windows. The entrance contains similar modern metal-frame glass doors installed in 1994. This is now a "bus entrance." Two-story additions constructed in 1954, 1967 and 1993 are all stylistically reflective of the original school building. They are located at the southeast and northwest ends of the 1929 core.

The main entrance is now located at the northwest end of the school, in the 1993 addition. The lobby and hallways feature carpeted floors (over wood in the 1929 core), acoustic ceiling tiles (on dropped ceilings in the core), fluorescent lights, and replacement wood classroom doors. A hallway in the 1954 addition features lockers and an inset display case. An early wood stairwell has been replaced with fire-proof materials. All classrooms in the building were completely renovated in 1993 and no original elements remain. A cafeteria and kitchen are located on the ground floor. These were redesigned and renovated in 1993. The gymnasium/auditorium on the second floor features walls with sections of brick, glazed tile, and drywall. The floor is carpeted. Window bays have been in-filled with concrete block and brick. A wood proscenium stage is located at one end of the room. The room also features wood bleachers and suspended basketball hoops. A library located in the 1993 addition features wood shelves dating to the 1950s. An addition constructed in 1954 added classrooms and bathrooms to the southeast end of the school. A four-classroom addition with a short hallway was constructed perpendicular to the main structure and earlier additions in 1967. The 1993 addition includes offices, a health suite, music room, art room, elevator, and library. Specialized classrooms include, or have included, manual training and industrial arts shops, laboratory, domestic science and home economics rooms, recitation room, kindergarten rooms, and computer lab.

Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School was opened as a high school for Cressona Borough in 1929. Specialized classrooms and bathrooms were added to the building in 1954. In the late 1950s the local municipalities consolidated into a jointure of local school districts. In 1956, enrollment at Cressona High School expanded district-wide. When a new district-wide junior/senior high school for the Blue Mountain Jointure/School District opened in 1961, Cressona High School was converted to an elementary school. A second addition in

1967 added four classrooms. In 1989 the school was closed, although the building was maintained by the district. Five years later, after construction of another addition and a complete renovation, the school reopened again as an elementary school in response to increased enrollment needs in the district. The school is still a neighborhood school serving the local Cressona Borough community. Most children still walk to the school, with the exception of students who are bused for safety reasons.

(Jeffry Ritschel, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, pers. com., December 11, 2006)

Bazar, Jean (Trometter)

1994 *Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School Rededication Ceremony Brochure, Cressona High School: 1929-1956*. Provided by Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School.

United States Department of Agriculture

1938 Aerial Photograph AQS-17-8. Created on November 3, 1938. On file at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Record Group 31, Records of the Department of Commerce, State Planning Board Collection.

United States Geological Survey

1992 *Pottsville SW, PA Aerial Photograph*. USGS Reference Number 40076-F2-04-PHT. Created on April 6, 1992.

1995 *Pottsville, PA Quadrangle*. Compiled by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1942. Field checked 1944. Revised from imagery dated 1992 and other sources. Field checked 1994. Map edited 1995. Denver, CO or Reston, VA.



Aerial View of Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School

More Photos of Blue Mountain Cressona Elementary School

