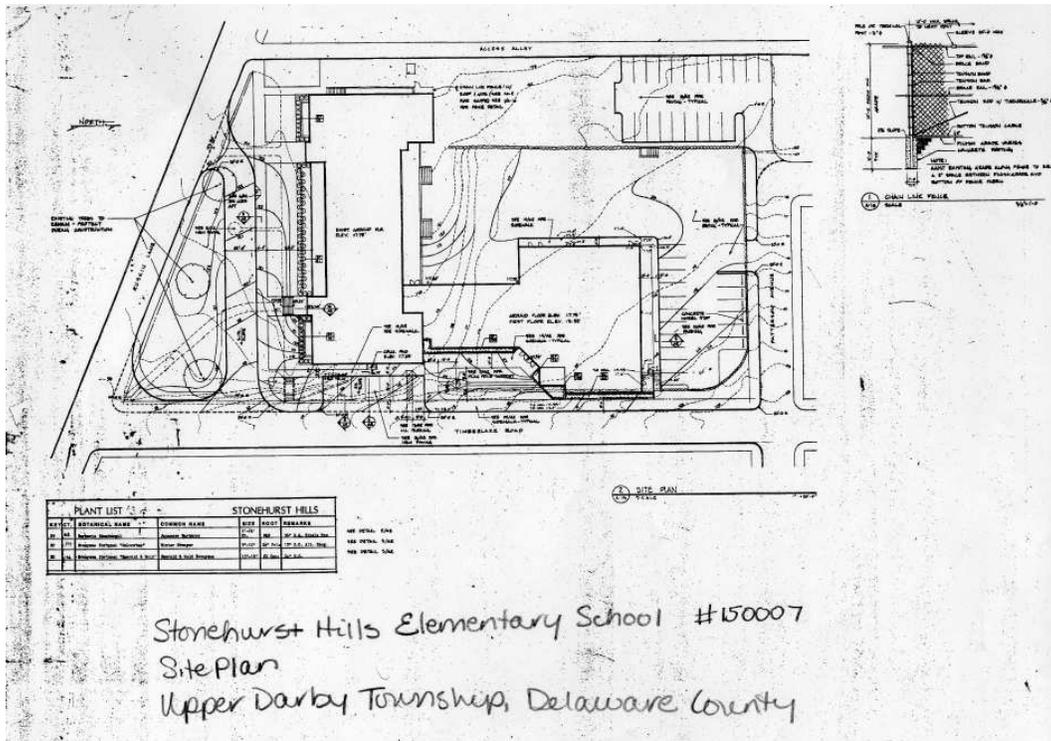
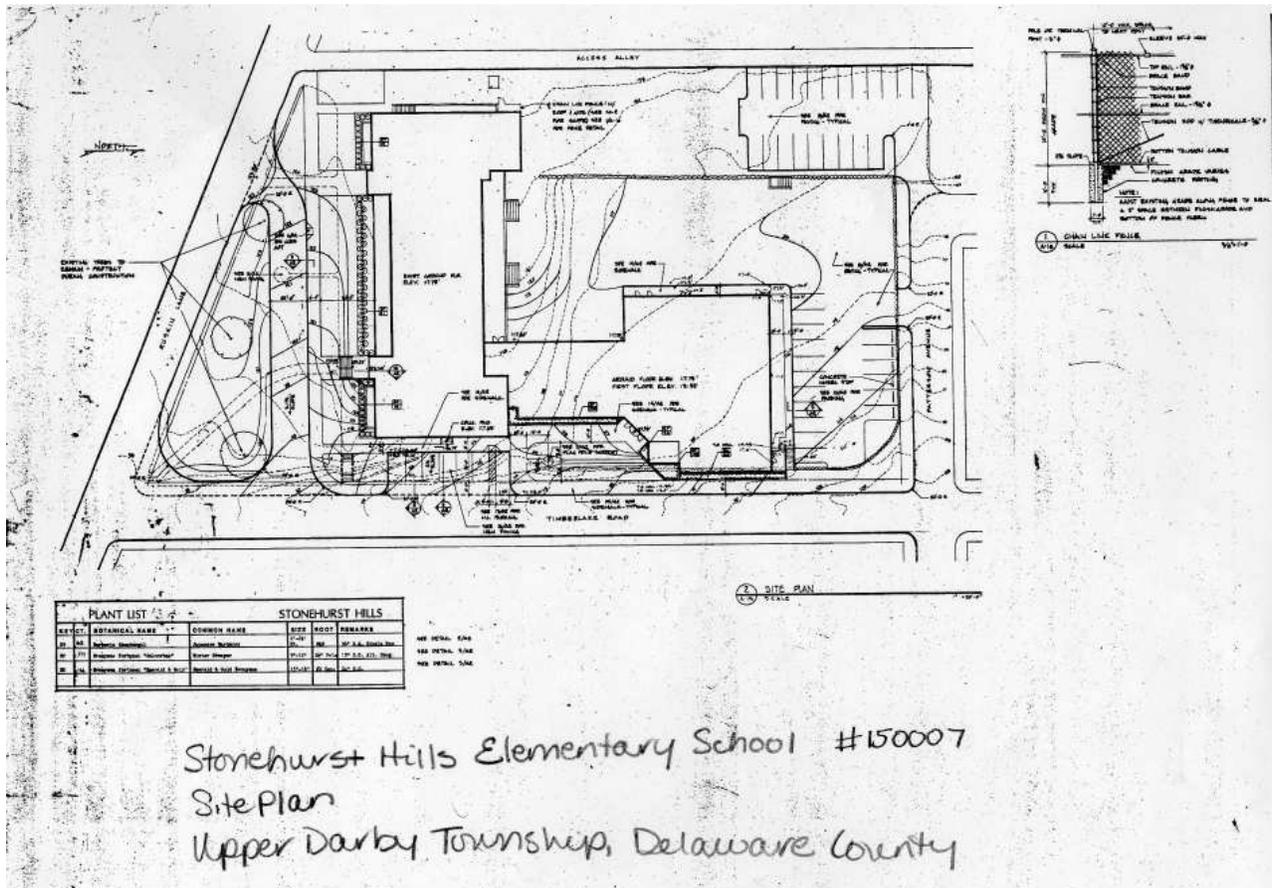


150007 – Stonehurst Hills Elementary School





Site Plan for Stonehurst Hills Elementary



Floor Plan for Stonehurst Hills Elementary

150007; Stonehurst Hills Elementary School. This school is located at 7051 Ruskin Lane, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, in Upper Darby Township, Delaware County. It is part of the Upper Darby School District. The 1926 school building is set on a rectangular lot surrounded by a neighborhood of early twentieth-century row homes. The original front façade is set back from Ruskin Lane by a landscaped area and a ca. 1960s circular driveway. A narrow strip of grass with shrubbery is located between the circular driveway and the building. A "tot lot" play area separates the west side of the building from an alley. A parking area is located between the east side of the building and Timberlake Road. A 1980s addition extends from the rear of the building. The rear lot contains an upper play area with modern playground equipment and mulch, a ground-level paved play area, paved parking areas, and modular classroom buildings. Stone retaining walls dating to 1926 surround the upper play area and other graded areas on the lot. The rear lot is enclosed by chain-link fencing. A 1980s flagpole located on the east side of the addition replaced one located on the north south side of the school (James Wigo, Principal, pers. com., May 12, 2006).

The original 1926 school was a three-story tall H-plan building with a sunken ground floor. The main entrances of the 1926 school lead directly to staircases. Classrooms are located along interior hallways. The original gymnasium/auditorium was centered on the ground floor, with the original cafeteria and shop rooms. The Gothic Revival stone structure sits on a stone foundation. Walls feature decorative cast stone details, including a 1926 datestone. A flat roof is covered with built-up tar and gravel. A stone exterior chimney is located on the north side of the school. The roof features parapets, towers, lightening rods, and copper gutters. The original entrances are located in two stair towers on the south façade. Replacement metal double-doors dating to the 1950s-60s are inset into decorative surrounds with original multi-pane pointed-arch wood transoms. The building is lit by replacement metal double-hung windows dating to the 1970s. A two-story concrete-block with brick veneer addition is appended to the east end of the rear of the original building. The addition dates to 1987-88. The addition contains a lobby, main office suite, health office, library and media center, classrooms, and combination gymnasium/auditorium/cafeteria. A one-story ca. 1980 concrete-block addition for maintenance storage is located at the northwest corner of the original school building. Two 1980s gabled modular classrooms are located in an "L" formed by the 1926 school and 1987-88 addition. A similar modular classroom is located at the rear of the addition.

There was no formal lobby in the original school. Hallways feature carpet-covered hardwood floors, brick walls, pane-and-panel wood doors with closed transoms, transom windows, modern dropped acoustic ceilings with fluorescent lights, and replacement water fountains with tile backsplashes. Staircases feature original wood handrails with brass details. The original cafeteria was converted to a music room with modern construction materials. The original gymnasium/auditorium was located on the first floor between two sets of extant pane-and-panel wood double-

doors. The area was converted in the 1980s to classrooms with concrete-block walls and other modern construction materials. Specialized classrooms include, or have included, music, home economics, and metal and shop rooms.

This school building is located on the site of two mills. In 1923 the second of the mills, Millbank Mills, was removed to accommodate development. Post-World War I population expansion in the area resulted in the development of new row-house neighborhoods in the Upper Darby Township areas of Cardington, Bywood, and Stonehurst Hills. Within a few years, overcrowded conditions at Cardington-Stonehurst School spurred the construction of "sister" schools Bywood and Stonehurst Hills, which are similar in design. Stonehurst Hills Elementary School was designed by Horace W. Castor and constructed in 1926 by the Bowden Construction Co. It was strictly a neighborhood school until the 1960s, when children began to be bussed to the building. It also served a variety of community functions, such as a voting station, a baby clinic, and a local branch of the Upper Darby Library. Landscape changes occurred primarily in the 1960s and 1980s. In 1987-88, a multi-purpose addition was constructed and interior spaces were altered to accommodate new uses. Modular classrooms were added to the property in the 1980s.

(James Wigo, Principal, pers. com., May 12, 2006.)

Burns, Thomas E.

1984 *Upper Darby Tercentennial 1684-1984*. Upper Darby, PA: s.n.

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.

United States Department of Agriculture

1937 Aerial Photograph AHL 49-68. On file at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Record Group 31, Records of the Department of Commerce, State Planning Board Collection.



*Aerial View of Stonehurst Hills Elementary School*

## More Photos of Stonehurst Hills Elementary School

