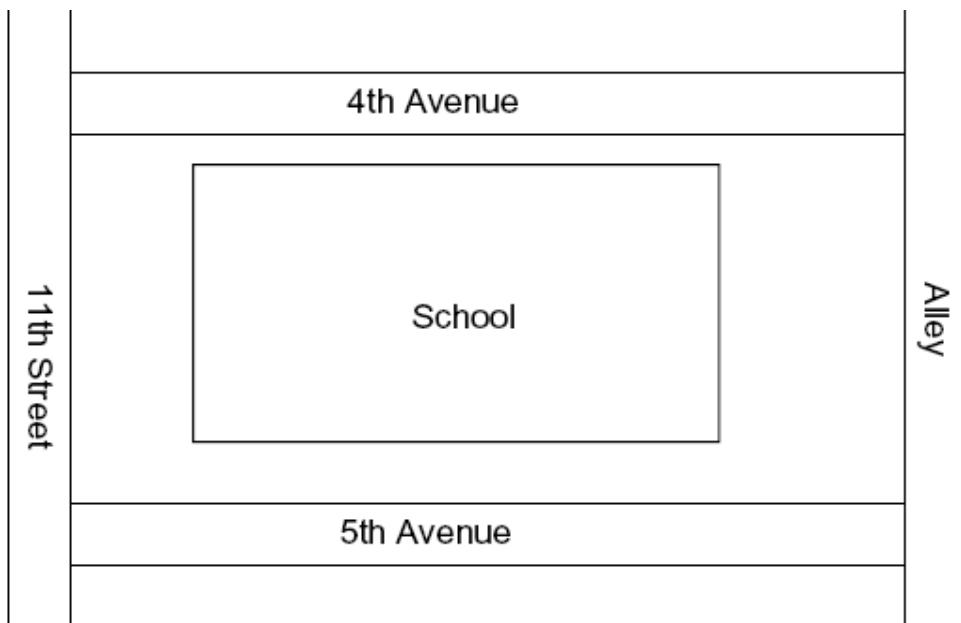
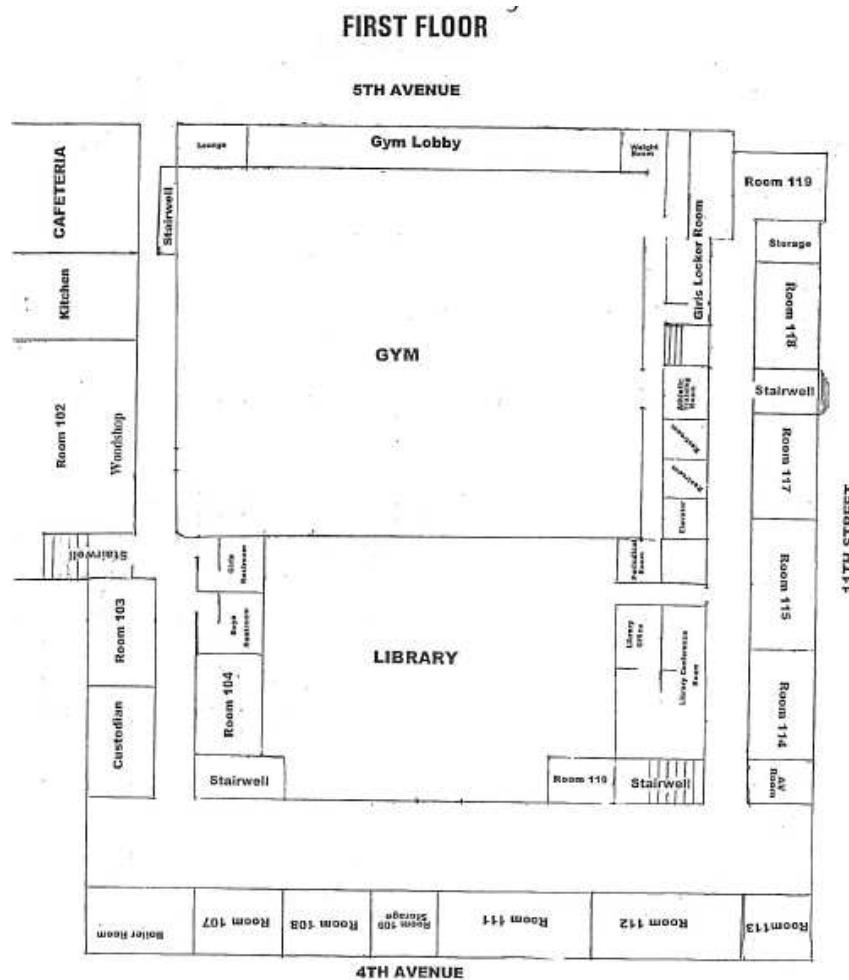


150040 – Ford City High School





Site Plan of Ford City High School



Floor Plan of Ford City High School

150040; Ford City High School. This school is located at 1100 Fourth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania in Ford City Borough, Armstrong County. It is part of the Armstrong School District. The 1908-09 school building is situated within the southwestern half of an urban block. An alley separates the school property from housing located in the other half of the block. The school is set back from Fourth Avenue and 11th Street on its northwest and southwest sides, separated from these roadways by municipal sidewalks, narrow lawns with mature landscaping, trees, concrete walkways, and brick retaining walls. A "memorial gun" and bench are located near the western corner of the property. The southeast side of the school building abuts the municipal sidewalk. An alley and a maintenance parking lot are located on the northeast side of the school. The school's main parking area is located off-site, on the northwest side of Fourth Avenue. The parking area and an adjacent basketball court are located on the site of a junior high school that was closed in 1985 and razed ca. 2001.

The 1908-09 main building is a three-story rectangular structure. A U-plan interior hallway flanked primarily by classrooms wraps around a large central space. The large space houses a library on the first floor. The second and third floors feature an auditorium and its balcony. The main entrance, which is centered on the front, or northwest, façade accesses the main lobby directly across from the auditorium on the second floor. In the 1930s a wing appears to have been added to the southwest end of the rear of the building. It is similar in construction materials and design to the original building. It appears that the gymnasium was constructed in the early twentieth century, as a separate structure, at the rear of the core, within the "L" formed by the core and wing. Renovations and alterations to the school in 1985-86 appear to have connected the gymnasium to the main building, and added a gymnasium lobby, and a three-story brick addition with a cafeteria. The 1908-09 core is a Classical Revival brick structure set on a brick foundation with a stone water table. The building features a variety of decorative sandstone elements including sills, carved medallions, and pedimented door surrounds. The Fourth Avenue side of the school features a combination of rooflines. A centered side-gabled section is flanked by hipped projections. The roof features parapets. Decorative cornice elements have been removed. The remainder of the school is covered with a flat roof. The roof is covered with a combination of terracotta tiles and vinyl covering. The building has a brick interior chimney. The main entrance is centered on the front façade. It contains a set of wood-frame glass double doors (replaced in 1985) set under a transom into a Classical surround. The building is lit by modern picture and awning or hopper windows. A portion of each window bay is in-filled with solid panels. The additions to the building are clad in brick and feature porcelain enameled steel.

The main entryway features a set of wood double doors set into a decorative wood surround with carved lintel, a mosaic floor, brick and plaster walls, wood crown molding and chair rails. The entryway leads to a wide main lobby/hallway in front of the school auditorium. The auditorium features carpeting, acoustic ceiling panels, a variety of light fixtures, seating replaced ca. 2003, a proscenium stage, and a balcony. The gymnasium features brick walls covered partially with padding, wooden floors, rollaway bleachers, a ceiling with acoustic tiles and a truss system, suspended light fixtures, wall-suspended

basketball hoops, and a sliding fabric room divider. The cafeteria, located in an addition, features two brick walls and two plaster walls, linoleum tile floors, acoustic ceiling tiles, and suspended decorative light fixtures. Renovations in 1986 included covering wood floors throughout the school with linoleum. Specialized classrooms include, or have included, wood and metal shops and a band room.

Construction of Ford City High School began in 1908 and was completed in 1909. The school appears to have been built on an open lot in the vicinity of scattered dwellings. A wing was subsequently added to the rectangular core between the 1920s and 1939. The gymnasium was also constructed by 1939. It may date to the original school construction period, as the school notes that basketball has been an integral part of the school's history since 1910. Construction and renovations ca. 1986 include a new gymnasium lobby, classroom and cafeteria addition, and aesthetic alterations. Although the school is still identified by the District primarily as Ford City High School, junior high grades moved to the school in 1985 upon the closure of a separate junior high school nearby. "Ford City Jr.-Sr. High School" is attached in metal letters to the rear of the school by the gymnasium entrance.

Historical information found through the Armstrong School District website.

United States Department of Agriculture

- 1939 Aerial Photograph ASJ-53-16. Created on May 2, 1939. On file at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Record Group 31, Records of the Department of Commerce, State Planning Board Collection.

United States Geological Survey

- 2000 *Kittanning, PA Quadrangle*. 7.5 minute series. Derived from imagery taken 1991 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1998. Survey control current as of 1992. Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 2000. Denver, CO.

- 1994 *Kittanning SE, PA Aerial Photograph*. USGS Reference Number 40079-G5-03-PHT. Created on April 21, 1994.



Aerial View of Ford City High School

More Photos of Ford City High School

