


Hazleton Castle Intermediate School

 Project involves significant historic preservation, restoration & rehabilitation

 Complete Restoration/Refurbishment of Auditorium, Stage & Balcony

 Project is currently in design with building completion for Fall 2006

The town of Hazleton grew because of the coal industry, with the first school being built in 1837 by the Hazleton Coal Company. The decline of this industry had a direct impact upon the stagnation of the region. Hazleton today is experiencing renewed growth because of the development of Interstates 81 and 80. The region, known as the cross roads of tomorrow, is conveniently situated two hours west of New York City, and an hour and a half north of both Philadelphia and Harrisburg. New industry has located here and the population has swelled with the availability of new jobs.

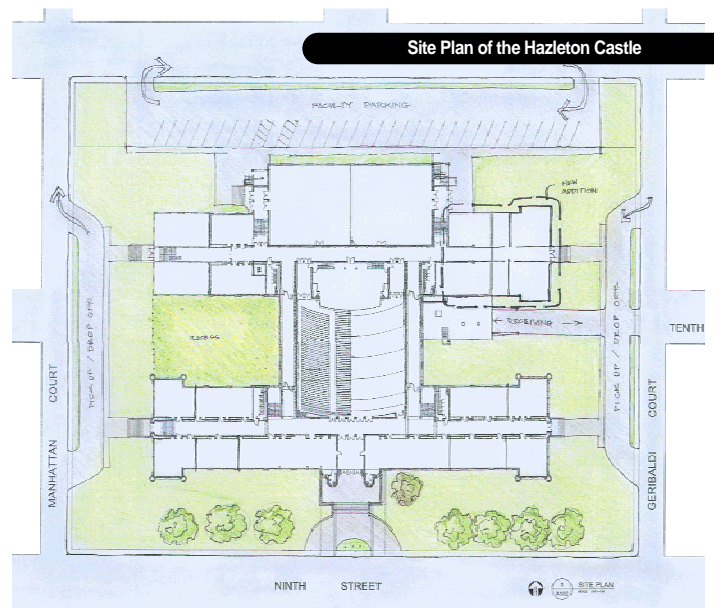
In 1928, Hazleton Senior High School was built at a cost of \$1,114,378.77, the first school to exceed the million-dollar mark in the State of Pennsylvania. The school became known as the *Castle on the Hill*. Tragically, Hazleton High School eventually

succumbed to a diminished economy, increased cost of repair, and the mindset that a new building was needed to revive the school district. The doors were closed in the early 1990's, and an auction was held to remove anything deemed valuable, before the building was to be demolished. Thankfully, a grassroots effort was launched by the local historical society to save the building and reclaim many of the auctioned items. A swell of community support, as many graduates of the former high school still reside in the region, coupled with the need for additional facilities to accommodate the population increase, has brought the high school back into the spotlight for inclusion in the District.



Front Entrance of the Hazleton Castle

In 2003, McKissick Associates, PC, was retained by the District to provide a comprehensive facilities evaluation. In the study, the former high school was identified as cost effective rehabilitation to provide much needed space for the District, and would easily reconfigure into a school for grades three through eight. As equally important, the study also identified the



Site Plan of the Hazleton Castle

Contact Information

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Project Statistics

Architectural Services Started..... Summer 2001
 Construction Period..... 2/2005 - 12/2005

Architectural Services

A complete district-wide educational and feasibility study was performed generating over 20 options. Three architectural design and service projects are currently underway.

architectural significance of the old high school, and the sense of pride associated with it by many residents. As a result, a fund has been established by the District to receive donations for the rehabilitation of the Castle.

The nearby Arthur Street School, built in 1917, and recently rehabilitated, will serve the community's Kindergarten through Second Grades students. The former high school will be internally subdivided to create two schools within a school, one serving grades three through five, and the second serving grades sixth through eight. The three-story construction of the Castle will locate kindergarten and first grade at the ground floor, adjacent to play facilities, and pick up and drop off areas. Second and third grades will reside on the first floor west wing, with sixth and seventh grades on the first floor east wing, fourth and fifth grades on the second floor west wing, and eighth grade and an art/science suite on the second floor east wing.

Demolition is proposed for the series of annexes constructed onto the rear of the Castle, which will in turn create space for off street parking, and allow the "side yards" to function as secure play areas, and the front yard to maintain the grace of the Castle on the hill. A 12,000 square foot addition will be built onto the Castle to house mechanically intensive functions such as science, kitchen and central mechanical room. The workscope encompasses replacing the roof, window upgrades, masonry work, and demolition of the former annex at the rear of the building leaving 126,500 square feet of the original building.



Arial View of the Hazleton Castle