



Entire School/
Campus Building
Renovation/Addition/
Restoration

MCKISSICK ASSOCIATES

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DESIGN TEAM

Vern L. McKissick III, AIA
Principal-in-Charge

Thomas Reed
Project Manager

Kristen P. McKissick
Interior Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

Hazleton Area School District
Hazleton, PA

Anthony Ryba, Business Manager
570/459-3111

Type of School and
Grades Served:
Intermediate Elementary/
Middle School, 3-8

Capacity: 1,086 students

Size of Site: 3.9 acres

Area of Building:
139,304 square feet

Space per Student:
128 square feet

Cost per Student: \$19,009

Square Foot Cost: \$148

Cost of Construction:
\$20.6 million

Total Project Cost: \$24.3 million

Contract Date: May 2005

Completion Date: Jan. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOLS

Hazleton Castle Elementary/ Middle School

Hazleton, Pennsylvania

McKissick Associates

Vacated in the 1990s and slated for demolition in 1997, the former Hazleton High School was considered one of the top 10 most threatened historic structures in Pennsylvania. Originally constructed in 1926 and known to local residents as the Castle, it was the first million-dollar high school in the state. In the course of a comprehensive feasibility study to determine how to address a



MAIN FACADE RESTORED



MAIN CORRIDOR, BEFORE



MAIN CORRIDOR, AFTER

sudden surge in enrollment, McKissick Associates suggested converting the school into an intermediate/elementary school. The fast-tracked renovation project enabled students to be accommodated almost a year sooner than new construction would have allowed.

A large component of the project involved restoring

original building finishes and fixtures and reproducing, recovering, and reinstalling architectural features that had been removed from the building and auctioned before the planned demolition.

The three-story structure is configured in an H, with four classroom wings and a central core housing a 1,500-seat auditorium, gymnasium,

and cafeteria. The core spaces separate the building into two three-story schools: one side for grades 3-5 and the other for grades 6-8. Some 70,000 square feet of additions dating from the '40s, '50s, and '60s were demolished to reveal the original building and to accommodate parking and circulation within the compact urban site. ■

PHOTOS: TOP, VERN L. MCKISSICK III, AIA; BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT, MCKISSICK STAFF